



# Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 23 June 2020

Council Chamber  
Hobsons Bay Civic Centre  
115 Civic Parade, Altona

**HOBSONS  
BAY CITY  
COUNCIL**



## THE COUNCIL'S MISSION

We will listen, engage and work with our community to plan, deliver and advocate for Hobsons Bay to secure a happy, healthy, fair and sustainable future for all.

## OUR VALUES

Respectful

Community driven and focused

Trusted and reliable

Efficient and responsible

Bold and innovative

Accountable and transparent

Recognised

Council acknowledges the peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

### Chairperson:

Cr Colleen Gates (Mayor)

Wetlands Ward

### Councillors:

Cr Angela Altair

Strand Ward

Cr Peter Hemphill

Strand Ward

Cr Jonathon Marsden

Strand Ward

Cr Tony Briffa

Cherry Lake Ward

Cr Sandra Wilson (Deputy Mayor)

Cherry Lake Ward

Cr Michael Grech

Wetlands Ward

Aaron van Egmond  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hobsons Bay City Council

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**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 23 June 2020 at  
7.04pm in the Council Chamber, Hobsons Bay Civic Centre,  
115 Civic Parade, Altona.**

**PRESENT**

**CHAIRPERSON:**

Cr Colleen Gates (Mayor) Wetlands Ward

**COUNCILLORS:**

Cr Angela Altair Strand Ward

Cr Peter Hemphill Strand Ward

Cr Jonathon Marsden Strand Ward

Cr Sandra Wilson (Deputy Mayor) Cherry Lake Ward

Cr Michael Grech Wetlands Ward

**OFFICERS:**

Mr Aaron van Egmond Chief Executive Officer

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam Director Infrastructure and City Services

Ms Penelope Winslade Director Sustainable Communities

Mr Andrew McLeod Director Corporate Services

Ms Briony Davis Governance Officer/Minute Secretary

## 1 Council Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed members of the gallery and acknowledged the people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of this land.

## 2 Apologies

### Motion

Moved Cr Angela Altair, seconded Cr Jonathon Marsden:

That an apology be accepted for Cr Tony Briffa JP.

Carried unanimously

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## 3 Disclosure of Interests

In accordance with sections 77A, 77B, 78 and 79 of the *Local Government Act 1989* Councillors are required to disclose a "conflict of interest" in a decision if they would receive, or could be reasonably perceived as receiving, a direct or indirect financial or non-financial benefit or detriment (other than as a voter, resident or ratepayer) from the decision.

In accordance with section 79B of the *Local Government Act 1989* Councillors who consider that they have a personal interest that is in conflict with their public duty in relation to a matter may, if they do not have a conflict of interest as described above, apply to Council to be exempted from voting on the matter.

Disclosure must occur immediately before the matter is considered or discussed.

Nil.

## 4 Minutes Confirmation

### 4.1 Ordinary Council Meeting

Confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Hobsons Bay City Council held on 9 June 2020 (copy previously circulated).

### Motion

Moved Cr Angela Altair, seconded Cr Jonathon Marsden:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 9 June 2020 be confirmed.

Carried unanimously

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## Recommendation

**That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Hobsons Bay City Council held on 9 June 2020 be confirmed.**

## 5 Councillors' Questions

**Cr Angela Altair, speaking of the Victorian Government's recent decision to lower the rail line at Ferguson Street, asked what Council's next steps would be, and requested comment on the community consultation for the Ferguson Street Precinct Plan.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, responded that Council is currently gathering community feedback on the Ferguson Street Precinct Plan, with the final plan coming to the 14 July 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting for Council's endorsement. Mr Manivasagasivam said that the precinct plan would then be submitted through the Level Crossing Removal Project's (LXRP) community engagement process, after which Council would advocate for the Victorian Government to fund the precinct plan.

**Cr Angela Altair requested confirmation that the final precinct plan to be presented at the 14 July 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting would incorporate the feedback received from local residents through the community consultation process.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, affirmed that the final precinct plan would incorporate all community feedback.

**Cr Angela Altair, noting complaints received about noise coming day and night from Webb Dock, asked what Council could be doing, given the port is outside Council's jurisdiction.**

Ms Penelope Winslade, Director Sustainable Communities, acknowledged a number of complaints had been received from residents. Ms Winslade said that the Planning team is currently working closely with the responsible body, the Environmental Protection Authority, to determine the source of the noise, and that Council was keeping residents informed.

**Cr Peter Hemphill congratulated the Williamstown community on the rail under road result for the Ferguson Street Level Crossing and asked how quickly the LXRP was moving on the project.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, responded that the LXRP is moving quickly and wishes to start construction by the end of 2020, so there is a time critical aspect to Council's advocacy on the Ferguson Street Precinct Plan.

**Cr Peter Hemphill asked whether Council officers have any details on the motive behind the Williamstown Maritime Precinct Plan which the Victorian Government recently issued funding to complete.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, responded that Council did not have any further information, but that the Victorian Government had invited a Council officer to be part of the Project Steering Committee, which is to meet on 1 July 2020, so Council may have more information after that meeting.

**Cr Peter Hemphill asked who the invited officer was.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, responded that it was Jake Trevaskis.

## **6 Public Question Time**

**Gavin Mountjoy – Transition Hobsons Bay Climate Action Group**

**Q. I would like to ask the following question regarding the proposed Council Budget 2020-21, on behalf of Transition Hobsons Bay Climate Action Group:**

**We commend Council for proposing \$1 million for solar panels across 43 buildings and funding for the transition of fleet vehicles to electric vehicles in the proposed 2020-21 Council budget. However, as we read the Proposed Budget we can't see funding for a Climate Emergency Project Officer position.**

**Why can't Council find the resources for a dedicated Climate Emergency Project officer working with Council staff, residents and the extensive community and businesses networks to raise awareness about the climate emergency and help all residents, community and businesses transition to a safe climate?**

A. Council has a number of officer roles committed to improving environmental outcomes and responding to climate change, in particular within the Environment and Sustainability team. This is done through existing roles and specific cross-organisational projects, including the large scale solar project.

**Diana Grima**

**Q. Will Council consider waiving the pet registration up to six months due to many residents who are facing hardship i.e. job losses due to the coronavirus?**

A. Council's COVID-19 response package has been incorporated into the draft budget which is being considered for release for public consultation this evening. The waiver of animal registration fees is not explicitly recommended, however should individual residents require financial support, they are encouraged to apply through Council's Financial Hardship Policy arrangements which are also being considered under tonight's agenda.

**Q. Can Council give an update regarding Curlew Community Park?**

A. All works at Curlew Community Park, including landscaping and signage are now complete. The park was officially opened in December 2019.

**Q. Will Council consider naming Altona Sports Centre, Altona Meadows Sports Centre?**

A. Council has no plans of renaming the Altona Sports Centre at this time. In circumstances where Council receives a formal request that demonstrates community support to rename a venue, it would be considered in accordance with Council's Naming Policy and the Victorian Guidelines for Geographic Names. Council's Naming Policy can be found on the Council website under Policies, Strategies and Plans.

**Kalliopi Hogg**

**Q. Will Council give an update on the cost of private rubbish collection?**

A. Council does not undertake private rubbish collections. Many Hobsons Bay businesses and multi-unit dwellings choose to have their rubbish collected by private contractors. Council is not part of these arrangements.

**7 Petitions/Joint Letters**

**Nil.**



## 8 Business

### 8.1 Corporate Services

#### 8.1.1 Proposed Annual Budget and Rating Strategy 2020-21

**Directorate:** Corporate Services

**Councillor Portfolio:** Not applicable

**Appendices:** 1 Proposed Annual Budget 2020-21  
2 Fees & Charges 2020-21  
3 Detailed Capital Works 2020-21  
4 Proposed Rating Strategy 2020-21

#### Purpose

To present to Council the Proposed Annual Budget for the 2020-21 financial year (Appendices 1-3), in accordance with section 127 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act), and the Proposed Rating Strategy 2020-21 (Appendix 4).

#### Motion

**Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Sandra Wilson:**

**That Council:**

1. **Endorses the Proposed Annual Budget 2020-21 to be placed on public exhibition for four weeks.**
2. **Endorses the Proposed Rating Strategy 2020-21 to be placed on public exhibition for four weeks.**
3. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
  - a. **Give public notice of the preparation of the Proposed Annual Budget and Proposed Rating Strategy for 2020-21.**
  - b. **Make available for public inspection the information required by regulations 9 and 10 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.**
4. **Considers and hears any comments received in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 11 August 2020.**

**Carried unanimously**

## Recommendation

### That Council:

1. **Endorses the Proposed Annual Budget 2020-21 to be placed on public exhibition for four weeks.**
  2. **Endorses the Proposed Rating Strategy 2020-21 to be placed on public exhibition for four weeks.**
  3. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:**
    - a. **Give public notice of the preparation of the Proposed Annual Budget and Proposed Rating Strategy for 2020-21.**
    - b. **Make available for public inspection the information required by regulations 9 and 10 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.**
  4. **Considers and hears any comments received in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act* 1989 at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 11 August 2020.**
- 

## Summary

The Proposed Annual Budget 2020-21 is based on an operational surplus of \$25.3 million for the year, although this does not include Council's significant investment in capital expenditure of \$67.866 million for 2020-21.

Operating surpluses are required to ensure that Council remains financially viable to fund current and future commitments, including the Ten Year Capital Works Program. After funding capital works and other non-operational or non-cash items, a \$3 million financial (funding determination) deficit has been calculated.

Despite the predicted operational surplus a decline in Council's cash and investment reserves of \$21.556 million is expected during 2020-21.

The financial result has been effected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Council has used the additional time provided by the Victorian Government to complete its budget and to evaluate the impact of COVID-19. This includes a third Community Support Package estimated at over \$3 million, which provides support for businesses and economic recovery (\$1.965 million) and community recovery (\$943,000). The third package continues to provide interest free rate deferrals for any resident or business suffering financial hardship as a result of COVID-19, in-line with the recently reviewed Hardship Policy and provides relief to those most impacted by COVID-19.

Council proposes to increase its general rates by 2 per cent, in accordance with the Victorian Government rate cap legislation. Given the circumstances and requirements brought about as a result of COVID-19, Council has determined an amount exceeding 150 per cent (approximately \$3 million) will be returned directly back to the community through Council's third Community Support Package.

Whilst waste service charges are exempt from the rate cap, an increase of 2 per cent is also planned for the base waste service charge. The charges for 2020-21 do not cover the cost of

providing the waste service as Council has decided to recoup its considerable investment in expanding its waste service over a number of years.

This year's rates will be based on new 2020 valuations, meaning rate increases will vary across the differential rating categories and individual properties. The overall average property valuation in Hobsons Bay has decreased by 0.93 per cent, while the average residential property valuation has decreased by 1.87 per cent.

While the 2020-21 operational surplus is a strong result, there is a shortfall in the funding available for the Ten Year Capital Works Program. The program has therefore been reduced in line within the current financial limitations. Council is working to reduce this funding gap, but a number of projects in future years remain unfunded at this point in time.

Council has a strong history of being financially sustainable and managing service delivery within its means. As revenue constraints outside of Council's control are applied and as the level of organisational maturity increases in the area of asset management, a higher degree of work is required on service planning. This work should ensure that Council remains in a reasonable financial position throughout the duration of its LTFFP and delivers the most relevant mix of services to support the Hobsons Bay community.

## Background

The annual budget process commenced in September 2019 when Council undertook its 2020-21 pre-budget consultation, providing an opportunity for community members to submit their ideas. The Proposed Annual Budget 2020-21 brings together all of the elements that have influenced its development, including:

- community consultation process
- strategic priorities
- Capital Works Program
- borrowing strategy
- rating strategy and rate modelling
- operational budget
- fees and charges

The Proposed Annual Budget 2020-21 and the Proposed Rating Strategy 2020-21 were initially presented to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 14 April 2020.

At the meeting Council noted the Victorian Government extension for councils to complete their budgets by 31 August 2020 and resolved to use the additional time to analyse and further revise the Proposed Annual Budget 2020-21.

The Victorian Government has implemented an inflation-based rate cap, the Fair Go Rates System, which has been overseen by the Essential Services Commission since 2016-17. The rate cap for 2020-21 is 2 per cent, down from 2.5 per cent in 2019-20.

## Discussion

In preparing the Proposed Annual Budget 2020-21, effort has been taken to maintain service levels as much as possible. Council's operations reflect delivery of a significant number of services and has been constructed to ensure continuity of services, noting that some adjustments to internal resourcing have been made to meet organisational needs and ensure that the organisation can continue to respond to community expectations.

During budget preparations significant operational savings were identified in order to fund a number of new and appropriate initiatives. This rigorous process, will result in better service outcomes to the community. Initiatives have been reflected in the budget document.

The Proposed Annual Budget 2020-21 contains a total capital spend of \$67.866 million. Highlights include:

- **roads and drains** (\$15.605 million) – including the road rehabilitation program (\$6.307 million), road resurfacing program (\$2 million), local area movement plans (\$1.23 million) Black Spot funding program (\$1.488 million), the drainage renewal program (\$1.03 million) and new/upgraded drainage program (\$530,000)
- **footpaths and cycleways** (\$1.515 million) – including the footpath renewal program (\$1.07 million), new footpaths \$150,000) and the shared trails upgrade program (\$100,000)
- **recreation and open space** (\$16.333 million) – including parks, open space and streetscapes (\$7.982 million), recreational, leisure and community facilities (\$8.001 million), off street carparks (\$195,000) and bridges (\$155,000)
- **buildings** (\$29.958 million) – including sporting and recreational facilities (\$21.4 million), civic and community facilities (\$4.96 million), building renewal program (\$1.39 million), greenhouse strategy (\$1 million) and the public toilet program (\$275,000)
- **plant and equipment** (\$4.455 million) – including scheduled replacement of Council's vehicle and plant fleets (\$2.39 million), library resources (\$930,000) and information technology (\$865,000)

### Valuation changes

The Proposed Rating Strategy 2020-21 is based on valuations and waste levies provided on 27 May 2020. It is based on the current rating structure (i.e. no changes to differentials) and waste service charges that will not fully recover costs for a number of years.

The strategy highlights that the average residential property valuation has decreased, while the average industrial and commercial properties have experienced slight property value growth. The overall average valuation decrease is 0.93 per cent, but this varies for each rating category as follows:

- residential ▼ 1.87 per cent decrease
- residential vacant land ▼ 3.21 per cent decrease
- commercial ▲ 2.45 per cent increase
- industrial ▲ 7.27 per cent increase
- petrochemical ▼ 0.27 per cent decrease
- cultural and recreational ▼ 0.08 per cent decrease

### Rate changes

The average general rate increase is 2 per cent, consistent with the rate cap. The average rate changes vary for each rating category as follows:

- residential ▼ 0.48 per cent decrease
- residential vacant land ▼ 1.85 per cent decrease
- commercial ▲ 3.89 per cent increase
- industrial ▲ 8.78 per cent increase
- petrochemical ▲ 1.14 per cent increase

- cultural and recreational ▲ 1.38 per cent increase

The effect of the revaluation is that the rates burden will shift to the industrial and (less so) the commercial properties. Council has attempted to mitigate the additional rates to these properties by providing significant financial relief to businesses through the third Community Support Package, which equates to a reduction of Council attributable fees. This includes rebates for food safety fees (\$767 average), footpath trading permits (average ranging between \$208 and \$794) and health premises registrations (\$261 average) for each applicable property.

Should additional assistance be required, it can be provided through Council's revised Financial Hardship Policy and/or COVID-19 Financial Assistance Policy.

Rate notices will also include the waste services charges and the Fire Services Property Levy that Council collects on behalf of the Victorian Government. This levy is not regarded as Council income and is not included within the figures outlined in the Proposed Rating Strategy 2020-21. Additionally, the levy is not subject to the rate cap.

## 8.1.2 Hobsons Bay Financial Hardship Policy Review

**Directorate:** Corporate Services

**Councillor Portfolio:** Social Wellbeing and Community Services - Cr Tony Briffa and Cr Colleen Gates

**Appendices:**

- 1 Hobsons Bay Financial Hardship Policy 2020
- 2 Hobsons Bay COVID-19 Financial Assistance Policy 2020

### Purpose

To seek Council's endorsement of the revised Hobsons Bay Financial Hardship Policy 2020 and the Hobsons Bay COVID-19 Financial Assistance Policy 2020.

### Motion

**Moved Cr Jonathon Marsden, seconded Cr Angela Altair:**

**That Council:**

1. **Adopts the revised Hobsons Bay Financial Hardship Policy 2020.**
2. **Adopts the Hobsons Bay COVID-19 Financial Assistance Policy 2020.**
3. **Revokes the Hardship Policy dated 10 July 2012.**

**Carried unanimously**

### Recommendation

**That Council:**

1. **Adopts the revised Hobsons Bay Financial Hardship Policy 2020.**
  2. **Adopts the Hobsons Bay COVID-19 Financial Assistance Policy 2020.**
  3. **Revokes the Hardship Policy dated 10 July 2012.**
- 

### Summary

The revised Hobsons Bay Financial Hardship Policy 2020 provides Council with a consistent framework for the processing of financial hardship applications. It remains consistent with current legislation and Council's operational needs.

While the endorsement of the Hobsons Bay Financial Hardship Policy 2020 supports the rollout of Community Support Packages in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the policy has been written to endure beyond this period and will be reviewed after two years.

In addition to the Hobsons Bay Financial Hardship Policy 2020, Council has also developed the Hobsons Bay COVID-19 Financial Assistance Policy. This policy addresses temporary

financial hardship due to impacts of COVID-19 in addition to the Hobsons Bay Financial Hardship Policy 2020.

## Background

Managing financial hardship is a shared responsibility and Council has a part to play while ensuring that it maintains the necessary cash flow to deliver critical services to the community, especially in times of emergency such as with the current worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Council has a range of remedial powers in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* such as the power to defer, reduce, waive or refund rates, interest on rates, waste charges, fees and user charges.

The Hobsons Bay Financial Hardship Policy 2020 provides the framework for individual members of the community, businesses, sporting clubs and community groups who need assistance from the impacts of financial hardship. The Hobsons Bay COVID-19 Financial Assistance Policy specifically addresses the financial impacts of COVID-19.

Council's existing Hardship Policy was endorsed by Council on 10 July 2012.

The COVID-19 pandemic and declared State of Emergency is having a significant impact on the community and economy worldwide. All communities and businesses have been impacted by the pandemic and associated prevention measures to a greater or lesser extent.

The Australian and Victorian Governments have both announced a range of social and economic measures providing significant economic support to assist vulnerable individuals, community groups and businesses.

Council has also released two Community Support Packages to support some of the city's most vulnerable residents as well as small businesses struggling with the impacts of the pandemic, and a third package is currently proposed.

## Discussion

Rates, fees and charges are the primary source of revenue for Council to ensure the ongoing delivery of a range of important services to the local community.

The Hobsons Bay Financial Hardship Policy 2020 applies to all monies owed to Council including rates, interest, rent, fees and charges, although it does not extend to monies owed as a result of any fines issued in accordance with Council's Community Local Laws.

The purpose of the Hobsons Bay Financial Hardship Policy 2020 is to:

- provide aid to those experiencing financial hardship
- provide assurance that all applications for support will be treated in a consistent, equitable and confidential manner
- provide clearly defined options when applying for a deferment or waiver of fees and charges
- provide a transparent consistent decision-making framework for Council officers when assessing hardship claims
- ensure that the policy is fair to all
- ensure that Council's debt collection practices are sensitive and responsive to financial hardship issues
- demonstrate Council's constructive culture and core values

## 8.2 Sustainable Communities

### 8.2.1 Recycling 2.0 Review

**Directorate:** Sustainable Communities

**Councillor Portfolio:** Environmental Sustainability - Cr Jonathon Marsden and Cr Sandra Wilson

**Appendices:** 1 Recycling 2.0 Interim Review Report

#### Purpose

To bring an initial review of the first few months of the Recycling 2.0 program to inform Council on progress and opportunities to refine.

#### Motion

**Moved Cr Sandra Wilson, seconded Cr Jonathon Marsden:**

**That Council:**

1. **Notes the initial review of Recycling 2.0 and key findings including: good outcomes for food organics and garden organics and glass, some pressure on garbage volume for some households, and significant work needed to reduce contamination in comingled recyclables.**
2. **Endorses ongoing monitoring and review of garbage performance data and volumes over the first year of Recycling 2.0, during which period the 2020-21 COVID-19 upsize relief package offers an interim alternative for households with more substantial garbage needs.**
3. **Endorses the adoption of a consistent offering and pricing for Hobsons Bay community groups (including schools, clubs, kindergartens and community organisations), as outlined in the report.**
4. **Notes that partial refunds have been provided to residents who have had a service reduced as a result of Recycling 2.0, to achieve the equitable charges committed to in October and December 2019 Council reports.**
5. **Notes and endorses further work occurring on:**
  - a. **Reducing contamination levels in comingled recycling.**
  - b. **Continuing to expand the range of items that can be accepted in comingled recycling, which have local end use markets.**
  - c. **Developing options for further flexibility for households (e.g. sharing glass bins or downsizing comingled bins).**
  - d. **Expanding the engagement program including working more closely with the business community.**

**Carried unanimously**



## Recommendation

### That Council:

1. **Notes the initial review of Recycling 2.0 and key findings including: good outcomes for food organics and garden organics and glass, some pressure on garbage volume for some households, and significant work needed to reduce contamination in comingled recyclables.**
2. **Endorses ongoing monitoring and review of garbage performance data and volumes over the first year of Recycling 2.0, during which period the 2020-21 COVID-19 upside relief package offers an interim alternative for households with more substantial garbage needs.**
3. **Endorses the adoption of a consistent offering and pricing for Hobsons Bay community groups (including schools, clubs, kindergartens and community organisations), as outlined in the report.**
4. **Notes that partial refunds have been provided to residents who have had a service reduced as a result of Recycling 2.0, to achieve the equitable charges committed to in October and December 2019 Council reports.**
5. **Notes and endorses further work occurring on:**
  - a. **Reducing contamination levels in comingled recycling.**
  - b. **Continuing to expand the range of items that can be accepted in comingled recycling, which have local end use markets.**
  - c. **Developing options for further flexibility for households (e.g. sharing glass bins or downsizing comingled bins).**
  - d. **Expanding the engagement program including working more closely with the business community.**

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## Summary

Recycling 2.0 commenced February 2020. Despite extended impacts of COVID-19 since March 2020, excellent outcomes have been achieved with the food organics and garden organics (FOGO) and glass streams. Garbage volumes have also reduced by 2,500 tonnes over four months. A key area for improvement is high comingled recycling contamination levels. There is also some pressure on garbage bin volumes for some households.

The COVID-19 pandemic has substantially impacted household waste volumes, with more people at home generating waste for their kerbside bins. This has amplified pressure on garbage bins. Council has responded to this challenge by offering a weekly Saturday garbage drop-off for two months, and by rolling out a free 240L garbage bin upsizing program for eligible households.

A wide a range of community views have been expressed about the program. This includes a petition with over 1,100 signatures calling for the reinstatement of weekly garbage collection, as well more than triple the normal volume of compliments provided to Council's customer service on the program, and over 350 residents volunteering to champion the program in the community.

This initial review recommends further actions to address comingled contamination, and that the Recycling 2.0 system remain in place in its current form for at least twelve months. This will allow the system to be properly established and tested, and for substantial disruptions to garbage and recyclables to stabilise once COVID-19 lockdown arrangements are eased.

## Background

Recycling 2.0 was developed in response to the SKM recycling crisis, and strong community feedback seeking that Council act quickly to develop a sustainable recycling solution for Hobsons Bay. On 8 October 2019, Council endorsed the immediate rollout of a revised waste and recycling service, including four bins for kerbside source separation, a focus on local recycling and resource use, a revised kerbside collection schedule, and an intensive community engagement program.

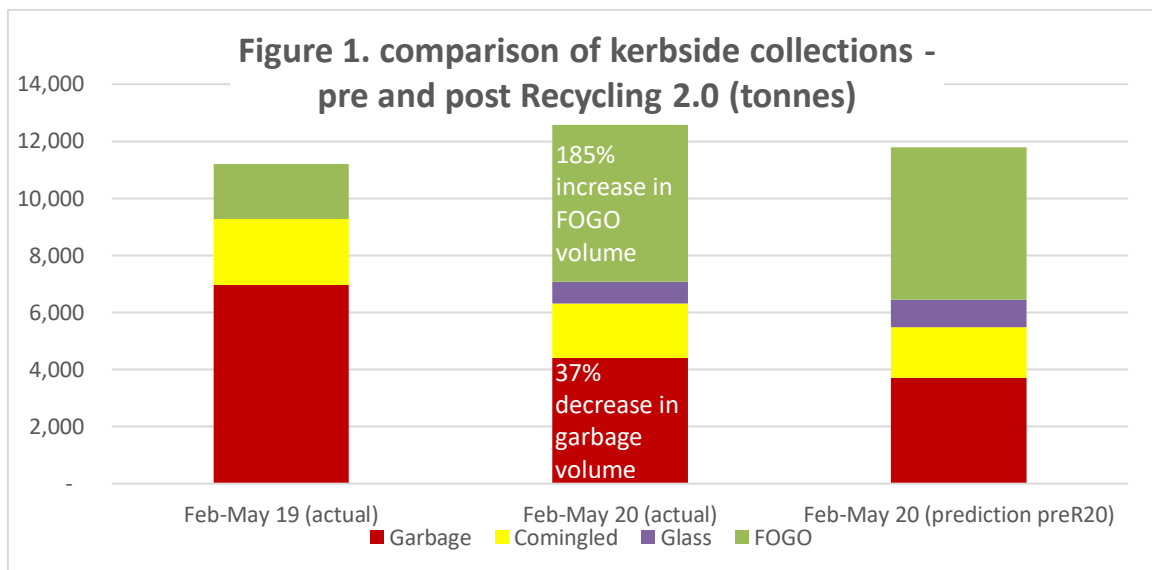
This brought forward key elements of Council's Waste and Litter Management Strategy 2025 (adopted in August 2019), including introducing a FOGO service and improving kerbside source separation. Recycling 2.0 is in line with the directions of the Victorian Government's circular economy policy.

## Discussion

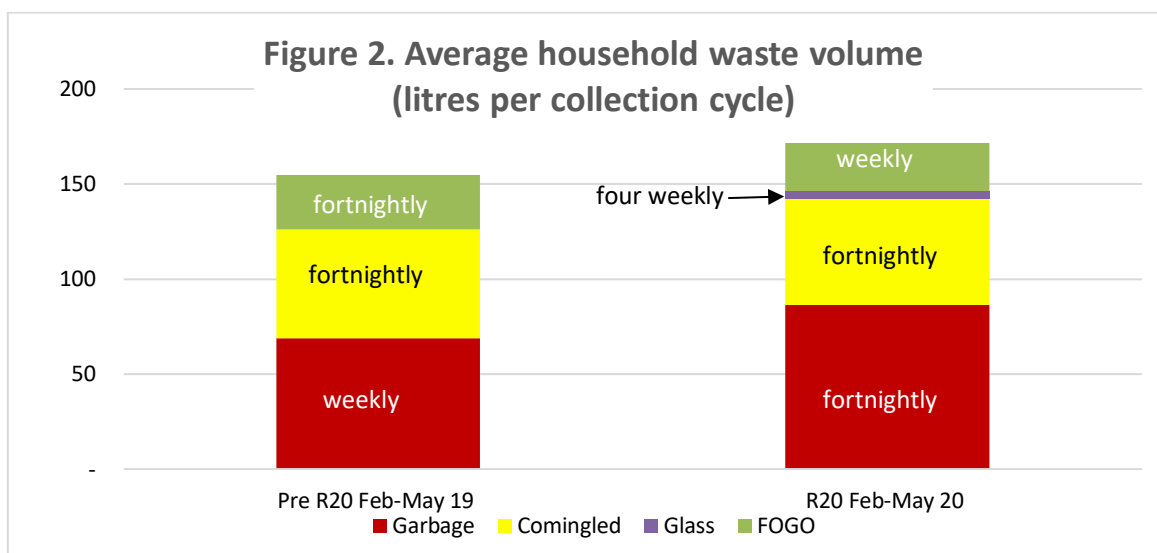
Recycling 2.0 commenced in February 2020. During the first four months of the program:

- recycling and FOGO made up 65 per cent of total waste collection volume (compared with 38 per cent in 2019)
- garbage volume reduced by 2,548 tonnes (37 per cent)
- the combined comingled recycling and glass collection has increased by 347 tonnes (15 per cent), although this volume would be less if adjusted for contamination
- FOGO has increased by 3,571 tonnes (185 per cent)
- average household bin volumes across collection cycles have not substantially changed, with household garbage collection averaging 86L per fortnight compared with previous 69L per weekly collection in 2019

Figure 1 summarises these changes and compares performance with predicted Recycling 2.0 outcomes. Figure 2 details household average volume changes.



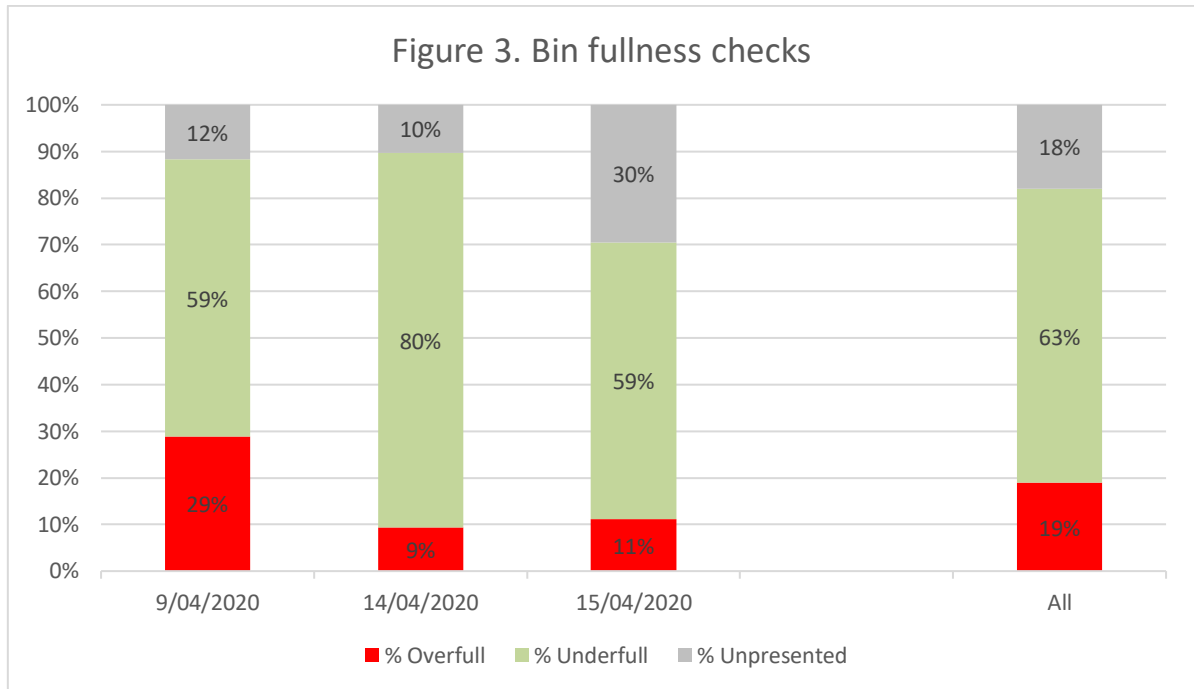
**Figure 1. Comparison of kerbside collections pre and post Recycling 2.0**



**Figure 2. Average household waste volume pre and post Recycling 2.0**

Despite an overall reduction in garbage collected since the rollout of Recycling 2.0, there is obviously variation across households. Some residents who are producing more than 120L of garbage per fortnight and require more capacity. Recycling 2.0 recognises this and offers the option to upsize to a larger 240L bin at a modest additional cost. Other residents have contacted Council to advise that they are very happy with the changes, and a range of positive feedback has also been received about the new collection frequency and volume.

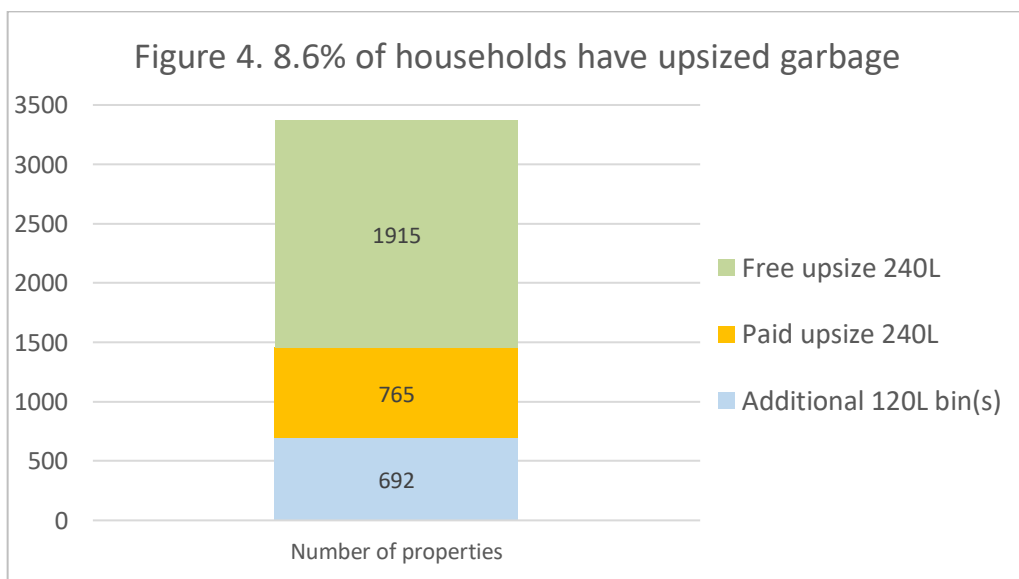
It has been difficult to obtain precise data on the extent of bin fullness as planned bin and contamination checks have been put on hold during COVID-19 restrictions. It is also acknowledged COVID-19 restrictions immediately put substantially more pressure on garbage bins with more people at home more of the time. A visual assessment program undertaken in April suggests that about 20 per cent of households were regularly finding the 120L fortnightly garbage volume to be insufficient at the peak of the COVID-19 lockdown.



**Figure 3. Bin fullness checks**

In response to this information and additional COVID-19 volumes Council is providing a free interim upsized garbage bin until June 2021, to larger households and those with significant volumes of nappies or medical waste needs. As at 16 June 2020, 3,372 or 8.6 per cent of households have chosen to have either an upsized garbage bin or an additional garbage bin (Figure 4). Of this number, 1,900 (or about 22 per cent of eligible households) have applied for the COVID-19 free upsize.

While the upsize program was being arranged and additional bins secured, Council provided an immediate short-term option with a weekly garbage drop-off event at its Operations Centre. This had high initial uptake and eased off to an average of around 200 cars per week until it wrapped up on 13 June 2020.



**Figure 4. 8.6 per cent of households have upsized garbage**

## Recycling 2.0 contamination levels

Recycling 2.0 has produced positive results in particular for FOGO and glass streams. Council's FOGO stream has average contamination of 4.25 per cent. By comparison in September 2019, contamination in the green waste system was 4.02 per cent. The 0.2 per cent increase, which follows the introduction of major changes with the inclusion of food organics and roll out to all households, is significantly lower than the expected contamination level predicted when the program commenced. Plastic bags have been identified as the largest volume contaminant. Note that while extensive discussions have been held with Council's FOGO partner, it is unlikely that biodegradable bags will be introduced in the FOGO stream.

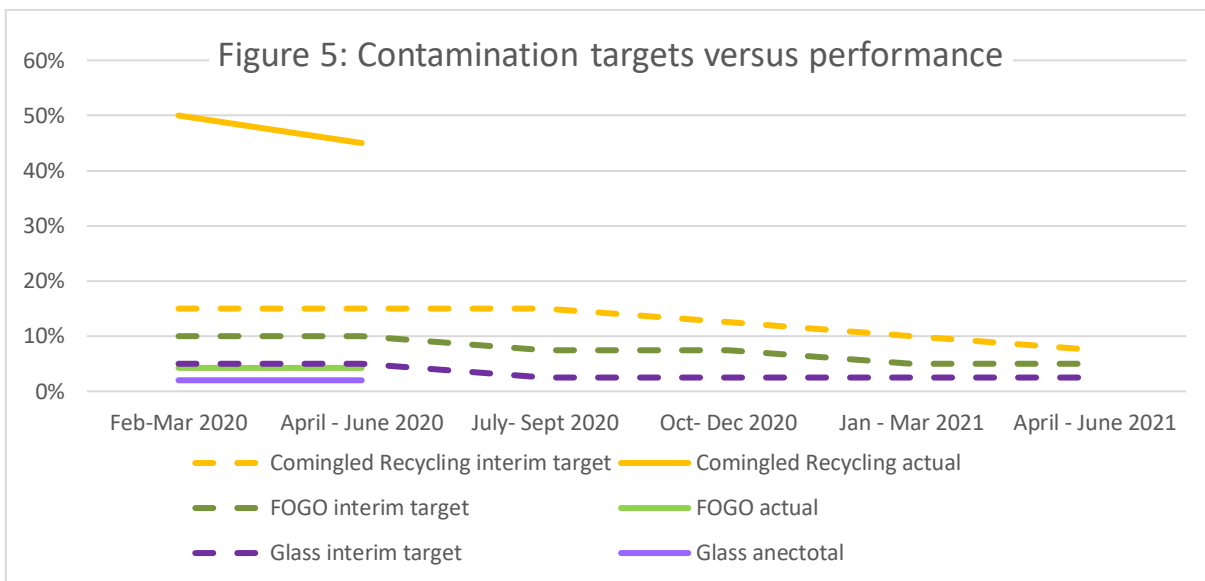
Council is currently partnering with Alex Fraser to process glass into building materials. Extremely low levels of contamination of around two per cent have been achieved very quickly for the new glass.

Contamination has been much higher than predicted with comingled recyclables. Visual checks of comingled bins from mid- February to mid-March 2020 checked about 28,000 bins (about 72 per cent) across the municipality. Contamination was identified in about 17 per cent of bins. The main contaminants were plastic bags, lids and rubbish, and 13 per cent of contaminated bins contained glass.

These inspections only looked at materials at the top of bins and could not be used to estimate total contaminant volumes. However, visual inspections of trucks during this period indicated very high contamination levels of 35 to 50 per cent of total volume. As a result, the majority of comingled recyclables collected in February, March and April 2020 were rejected to landfill. Of the materials that have been accepted and processed by APR between March and May 2020, contamination was measured and on average exceeded 45 per cent.

While statewide comingled contamination data is not available, it is understood that high contamination is currently being experienced by many councils. An area of improvement over the four months of Recycling 2.0 has been a reduction in glass contamination. Glass present in the comingled recycling bin can badly damage other materials. Once the Hobsons Bay community reduced glass contamination levels, it was possible to work with Council's comingled supplier to agree to temporarily process and recycle Hobsons Bay comingled materials that are contaminated at much higher levels than the maximum contractual threshold. This is occurring on the understanding that intensive contamination inspections and community engagement will recommence as soon as possible.

Figure 5 shows the contamination targets set for the introduction of Recycling 2.0. Targets were based on available data and sector experience, noting that Hobsons Bay was the first to introduce a four bin system. The chart also shows the actual performance to May 2020. As previously mentioned the outcome for FOGO and Glass outcomes are positive, however there is much room for improvement in the comingled recycling stream



**Figure 5. Contamination targets versus performance**

**Recycling 2.0 successes and implementation challenges**

The Recycling 2.0 program has worked through a range of challenges since its inception in response to an urgent crisis in August 2019. A detailed table outlining challenges, responses and outcomes is provided in the Appendix. Key challenges include tight timeframes; program delivery; community education (particularly post-lockdown); differing community views about the program from very positive to very negative; delays to fulfilling requests for upsized or changed bins; and very high comingled recycling contamination levels.

Despite the challenges, overall Recycling 2.0 has had many successes, delivering a full kerbside reform to 39,000 households, reducing garbage volumes by about 37 per cent (equivalent of 7,000 to 8,000 tonnes annually), a high quality glass stream (2 per cent contamination) and FOGO stream (about 4 per cent contamination), development and deployment of new digital tools to improve services, extensive community engagement and the introduction of Code 5 plastics to the comingled stream.

**Areas for focus and further refinement**

Contaminated comingled recycling levels is the most significant challenge to focus on going forward. Exceeding 45 per cent on average, contamination is well above the maximum threshold for Council’s processing partner. Transparent comparable data is not available, however it is likely that reported contamination levels were well below actual contamination levels in the previous system.

Since the introduction of Recycling 2.0 and more transparent processing, Council has been working closely with APR to reduce contamination and enable more material to be processed. Council and APR have agreed to an interim arrangement to process Hobsons Bay comingled recycling materials regardless of the volume of contamination. Loads are being processed separately with a more intensive and costly sorting process. This is not a sustainable solution, but during the COVID-19 period where direct education options are limited, it means recyclables are being processed and detailed data collected to support ongoing work to reduce contamination.

Tackling comingled contamination will be a key focus over the next 12 months. Council has undertaken significant communication specifically targeting improvements in comingled recycling. This will continue to be the primary focus of contamination efforts going forward.

Council will work actively with APR as well as other councils and the Victorian Government to continue to ramp up engagement and education and incentivise change.

While FOGO contamination levels are excellent, there is still room to improve. One issue which is regularly raised by the community is the use of compostable bags in the FOGO stream. Council and Veolia have worked on this issue at length. There are a number of reasons why Veolia cannot accept compostable plastic bags:

- plastic bags can hide serious contamination inside the bag, including dangerous goods such as asbestos and syringes. Given the end market for Veolia's products includes community uses and retail this risk is considered too high
- some councils provide fully compostable bags to their residents. However, evidence has shown that the community will not use only the provided bags, thus introducing non-compostable plastics into the waste stream
- many bags labelled as compostable do not actually meet strict Australian standards and compost too slowly, or produce microplastics when they do break down

### **Review of garbage volumes and options**

Council has undertaken an extensive review of options to address feedback about garbage bin fullness, collection frequency, bin sizing and costs. A detailed overview of the options assessed is available in Appendix 1. Options considered include changes to the charges for larger bins (from full cost to lower cost to free), changing the standard garbage bin size to 240L and offering a discount for downsizing, as well as introducing a new weekly service.

Whilst it is evident that some households are struggling with the standard 120 L fortnightly garbage bin, there is insufficient information on the variation of individual household volumes and needs. COVID-19 restrictions have put contamination and other bin checks on hold, and have also led to significant (temporary) increases in waste volumes in the order of 5-10 per cent (based on estimates from *The Age* and feedback from Council's kerbside partner). This is likely to be unevenly distributed. For example, households that have children in nappies who are normally at child care during the day will be impacted more acutely than households without nappies. Council's bin fullness audits suggest around 20 per cent of households may currently find a 120 L fortnightly garbage volume insufficient.

Each option would have flow on effects to the waste service charges required in future years in order to balance the Waste Financial Reserve over time. Additional charges for every Hobsons Bay household (on top of Recycling 2.0) for key alternative garbage models are estimated as follows:

- free upsized garbage bins to more residents – from \$2-\$8 per household per year
- changing the standard garbage bin to a 240L bin – from \$11-\$13 per household per year
- introduction of a weekly collection would cost \$41 more per household per year

On balance, this review recommends it is too early to make any permanent changes to the Recycling 2.0 service offering for garbage. The interim COVID-19 upsized bin will address identified immediate need in the community for a period that is likely to extend well beyond the current lockdown period. An ongoing review is recommended for up to 12 months.

### **Expanding materials accepted in comingled recycling**

A key aim of Recycling 2.0 is to partner with local suppliers in local markets. Prior to Council's Recycling 2.0 much of the collected plastic in Victoria was not recycled locally, and often stockpiled (not recycled at all), or shipped overseas contributing to global waste issues. The Recycling 2.0 program only accepts materials for which there is a genuine local market,

moving away from the lack of transparency about garbage contamination and end uses, and dangerous behaviours such as stockpiling of unrecyclable materials, which led to SKM's collapse. While the new comingled service accepts fewer materials than accepted by SKM, Council has committed to working with comingled provider APR to expand the materials accepted in the recycling stream over time.

A significant step to meeting this commitment occurred in April 2020 when Council and APR announced a local recycling outcome has been secured for plastics coded 5 (yoghurt, ice cream and butter/margarine containers).

#### **Minor equity changes to waste service charges**

To ensure equitable outcomes partial refunds have been issued to households that had a service reduced as result of the changes, including residents who had an existing additional garbage bin. The total value of these refunds is about \$54,000. Refunds have been incorporated into fourth quarter rates notices for 2019-20, for the 739 households affected.

#### **Harmonising services to sports clubs and community groups**

Following the introduction of Recycling 2.0, a model has been developed for providing the four bin system to sports clubs, schools, and other community facilities. These groups and facilities will receive at no additional cost:

- sports clubs and recreational facilities will receive two 240L comingled recycling bins and three 120L glass bins
- community centres, and not-for-profit kindergartens and child care centres will receive two 240L garbage bins, two 240L recycling bins, one 240L FOGO bin and one 120L glass bin
- schools will receive three 240L recycling bins, one 240L FOGO bin and one 120L glass bin

Ongoing provision of these bins at no additional cost will be subject to no contamination being found during bin inspections. Additional bins and services available for additional bin fees.



## 8.2.2 Response to Petition - Reinstate Weekly General Rubbish Waste Collection

**Directorate:** Sustainable Communities

**Councillor Portfolio:** Environmental Sustainability - Cr Jonathon Marsden and Cr Sandra Wilson

**Appendices:** Nil

### Purpose

To respond to the petition calling on Council to reinstate weekly general rubbish waste collection.

### Motion

**Moved Cr Angela Altair, seconded Cr Sandra Wilson:**

**That Council:**

1. **Notes the wide range of options available for Council's general rubbish collection service as part of the Recycling 2.0 program.**
2. **Notes that while almost 40 per cent of garbage volume is now being disposed of in the food organics and garden organics (FOGO) stream, the average household garbage bin volume in Hobsons Bay has increased from about 69L per week to 86L per fortnight. This includes an additional 5 to 10 per cent volume estimated as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown measures.**
3. **Notes that current interim measures in place for larger households during the COVID-19 pandemic, which offers free larger garbage bins to larger households and those with substantial medical needs for the duration of 2020-21, substantially eases garbage bin volume pressure being experienced by household with higher needs.**
4. **Notes that the cost of introducing a weekly garbage collection is likely to be an additional annual cost of about \$40 per household.**
5. **Acknowledges that more time is needed for the Recycling 2.0 program to bed down, and for household bin volumes to settle as pandemic lockdown restrictions gradually ease.**
6. **Endorses continuing with the current Recycling 2.0 model and interim COVID-19 upsized garbage bin program for the time being, with ongoing review of needs and garbage bin volumes.**
7. **Advises the lead petitioner of the outcome.**

**Carried unanimously**

## Recommendation

### That Council:

1. **Notes the wide range of options available for Council's general rubbish collection service as part of the Recycling 2.0 program.**
  2. **Notes that while almost 40 per cent of garbage volume is now being disposed of in the food organics and garden organics (FOGO) stream, the average household garbage bin volume in Hobsons Bay has increased from about 69L per week to 86L per fortnight. This includes an additional 5 to 10 per cent volume estimated as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown measures.**
  3. **Notes that current interim measures in place for larger households during the COVID-19 pandemic, which offers free larger garbage bins to larger households and those with substantial medical needs for the duration of 2020-21, substantially eases garbage bin volume pressure being experienced by household with higher needs.**
  4. **Notes that the cost of introducing a weekly garbage collection is likely to be an additional annual cost of about \$40 per household.**
  5. **Acknowledges that more time is needed for the Recycling 2.0 program to bed down, and for household bin volumes to settle as pandemic lockdown restrictions gradually ease.**
  6. **Endorses continuing with the current Recycling 2.0 model and interim COVID-19 upsized garbage bin program for the time being, with ongoing review of needs and garbage bin volumes.**
  7. **Advises the lead petitioner of the outcome.**
- 

## Summary

The petition containing 1,120 signatures was submitted on 7 April 2020, acknowledged on 8 April 2020 and received at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 14 April 2020.

The petition reads as follows:

"We the undersigned residents of Hobsons Bay petition the Hobsons Bay City Council to reinstate the weekly general rubbish bin collection.

We believe the removal of the weekly general rubbish waste collection is both inadequate and unsatisfactory, and should not have been done without widespread community consultation and engagement. We understand the need to reduce the amount of landfill waste, and acknowledge composting more waste is a viable means to help reach this goal. However, collecting food scraps for composting does not require reducing the general rubbish collection to every other week. Further, the reduction of items which can now be recycled in the Recycling waste bin has not materially decreased the amount of rubbish requiring disposal in the General Rubbish waste bin."

The Recycling 2.0 system has been in place for four months, since February 2020. In that time, the total general garbage volume has reduced by 37 per cent. However, it is clear some residents are struggling to fit their garbage into a 120L bin each fortnight. Residents can upsize to a larger 240L bin, which delivers an identical volume to the previous system. This is

free for eligible residents or available to all other residents for a fee. Currently (as at 17 June 2020), about 8 per cent of residents have requested a 240L bin, including those eligible for a free bin and those choosing to pay.

At this meeting, a review of the first four months of Recycling 2.0 has also been tabled. The petition's recommendations and concerns have been considered in detail as part of the Recycling 2.0 Review, including a detailed appendix outlining ten alternatives for garbage collections.

## Background

Recycling 2.0 was developed in response to the SKM recycling crisis and strong community feedback seeking for Council to act quickly to develop a sustainable recycling solution for Hobsons Bay. On 8 October 2019 Council endorsed a revised waste and recycling service, including four bins for kerbside source separation, preference for local recycling and resource use, revised kerbside collection schedule, and an intensive community engagement program. Recycling 2.0 brought forward key elements of Council's Waste and Litter Management Strategy 2025 (adopted in August 2019), including implementation of a FOGO service and improvements to kerbside source separation. The approach is in line with the directions of the Victorian Government's circular economy policy.

## Discussion

### Petition and feedback

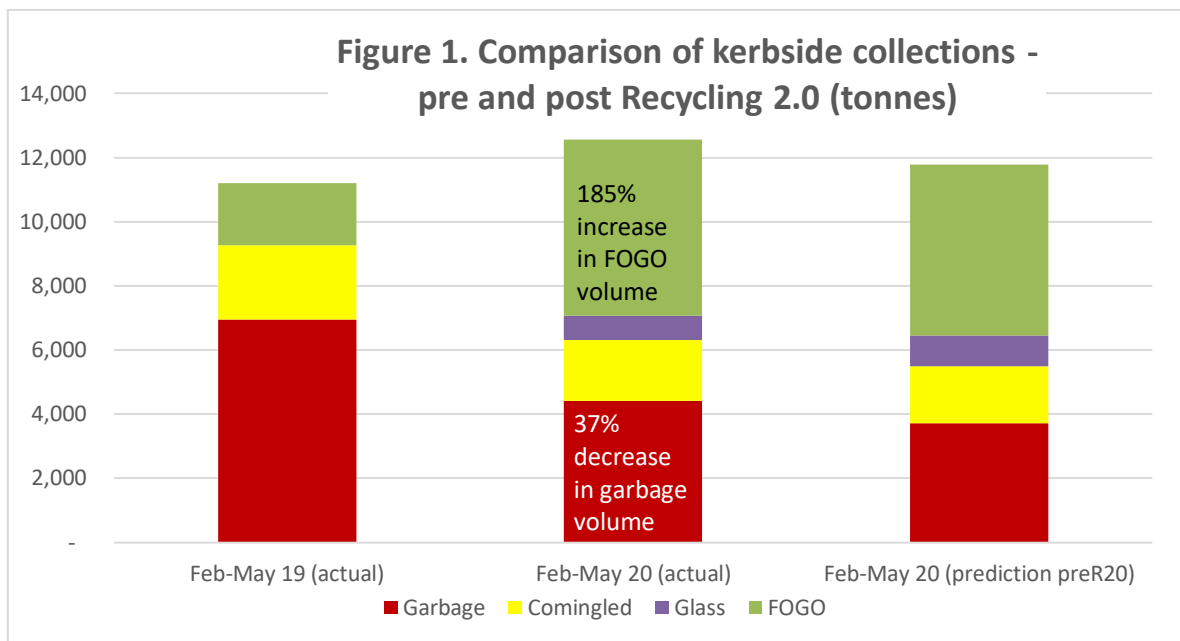
The key points raised by the petition include:

- petitioners feel fortnightly garbage collection is inadequate and unsatisfactory
- there was not enough community consultation regarding the changed garbage collections program
- collecting food waste in the FOGO bin does not sufficiently reduce the volume of rubbish in the garbage bin
- the reduction of accepted recyclable items in the yellow-lid comingled recycling bin has increased the amount of rubbish in the garbage bin

There are a wide range of views and opinions expressed about the Recycling 2.0 program by Hobsons Bay community members. In addition to the petition, Council has received extensive feedback from community members in relation to the changes, particularly the change to a weekly FOGO service and fortnightly garbage service. While some residents are unhappy with the collections schedule, others are very happy with the changes, and a range of positive feedback has also been received about the new collection frequency and volume.

### Garbage, FOGO and recycling volume

Since the introduction of Recycling 2.0 the total tonnes of garbage collected has reduced by 37 per cent, while the amount of FOGO waste collected has increased by 185 per cent. Figure 1 below provides a snapshot of the volume changes collected alongside long term predictions made prior to the commencement of Recycling 2.0.



**Figure 1. Comparison of kerbside collections – pre and post Recycling 2.0**

Average household bin volumes for each collection cycle have not substantially changed. It is acknowledged that the change to fortnightly garbage collections has put more pressure on garbage bin volumes. However, the increase is around 25 per cent and the average fortnightly volume is 74 per cent of the total bin capacity. Average household garbage volume on a fortnightly collection cycle is now 86L, compared with an average of 69L per household in the previous weekly collection cycle. Naturally, some households will exceed 120L and may need other options, while others will use substantially less than the average. Recognising that some households will need more than 120L of garbage per fortnight, Recycling 2.0 offers the option to upsize to a larger 240L bin at a modest additional cost.

In the first four months of the program it has been difficult to gain a comprehensive understanding of the extent of bin fullness across the municipality. A program of bin and contamination checks commenced in February 2020 and was to inform a full picture of bin volumes and contamination, but was put on hold and delayed in March 2020 as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

The COVID-19 pandemic also put substantially more pressure on bin volumes, with many people at home more of the time. It is understood that COVID-19-related garbage volume increases in Melbourne are likely to be in the order of 5 to 10 per cent (based on estimates from *The Age* and from the experience of Council’s kerbside partner). This is likely to be unevenly distributed – for example, households that have children in nappies who are normally at child care during the day will be impacted more acutely than households without nappies. Council’s bin fullness checks to date suggest that during COVID-19, around 20 per cent of households are regularly finding a 120L fortnightly garbage volume to be insufficient.

As a result of the information obtained on overfull bins and additional COVID-19 volumes, Council introduced a free interim upsized garbage bin to households most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This free upsize has been offered to larger households and those with significant needs due to nappies or medical waste, until the end of June 2021. Demographic data indicates at least 8,500 households are eligible for this free upsize.

As at 16 June 2020, 3,372 or 8.6 per cent of all Hobsons Bay households have elected to upsize their garbage volume to 240L. Approximately 1,900 of those households have

upsized through the free interim upsize offered in response to COVID-19, or around 22 per cent of potentially eligible households. The program has been widely advertised including in newsletters and individual letters sent to all households in April 2020. However further marketing will be undertaken and, when bin contamination checking commences again, targeted communications will be introduced where teams identify over-full bins.

Reductions to the plastics accepted in yellow-lid comingled recycling bins is acknowledged as a significant change. The Recycling 2.0 program only accepts materials for which there is a genuine local recycling market. This ensures that Hobsons Bay has transparency about its recycling contamination levels and end uses, and that it will no longer contribute to dangerous activities, such as stockpiling of unrecyclable materials, which led to SKM's collapse. While the new comingled service accepts fewer materials than accepted by SKM, Council has committed to working with comingled provider APR to expand the materials accepted in the recycling stream over time.

Recycling 2.0 has also substantially reduced the waste being sent to landfill, recovering food waste that previously made up about 45 per cent of the weekly garbage stream. Since the introduction of Recycling 2.0, comingled recycling partner APR has also been able to confirm a successful partnership with an end user for plastics with the code 5 (e.g. yoghurt, ice cream and margarine containers). This has been immediately rolled out to the community in April 2020, increasing the accepted items in the comingled bin.

### **Response to petition**

As part of its initial review of the Recycling 2.0 program, Council has considered and modelled a wide range options to address the petition's concerns about garbage volume and frequency. It is clear some households are struggling with the standard 120L fortnightly garbage bin. However, it is also clear many households are responding well to the fortnightly service.

Options to increase garbage collection volumes and/or frequency all come with a considerable cost increase. Modelled options range from reducing the additional charge applied for bin upsizes, to a standard charge for all households regardless of the bin sizes they choose, to the introduction of a weekly garbage service. The per-household cost to deliver these options ranges from as little as \$3 per household to \$41 per household.

These costs would be in addition to standard annual waste charge increases, and additional costs that households will face as a result of landfill levy increases recently announced by the Victorian Government. It is also likely there would be further increases in garbage volume if the frequency were increased.

As noted previously, it has been difficult to obtain extensive data on variation across households, as volumes have been substantially impacted by both the initial change process in February 2020, and then by the impact of COVID-19 lockdown policies since March 2020. Relatively low demand for the free interim larger bins program may be an indicator that the percentage of households needing additional volume is relatively small.

On balance, officers recommend that it is too early to make a long term decision and further permanent changes to the Recycling 2.0 service, including garbage collection frequencies. The interim COVID-19 free bin upsizing program will address the bulk of any immediate need in the community for a period that is likely to extend well beyond the current lockdown period. An ongoing review is recommended for up to 12 months, to continue to monitor garbage volume needs and review options to best meet the needs of residents).

## 8.3 Infrastructure and City Services

### 8.3.1 Response to Petition - Williamstown Football Club's Oval Reconstruction Proposal

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and City Services

**Councillor Portfolio:** Active and Inclusive Communities - Cr Michael Grech and Cr Peter Hemphill

**Appendices:** Nil

#### Purpose

To respond to the petition from the Williamstown Football Club (WFC) requesting that the reconstruction of Downer Oval, Williamstown (also known as the Williamstown Cricket Ground) be brought forward to commence in October 2020.

#### Motion

**Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Angela Altair:**

**That Council:**

1. **Brings forward the reconstruction of Downer Oval, Williamstown (also known as the Williamstown Cricket Ground) to the 2020-21 financial year.**
2. **Ensures the Williamstown Cricket Club is provided with adequate alternative arrangements for the 2020-21 summer season.**
3. **Advises the lead petitioner of the outcome.**

**Carried unanimously**

#### Recommendation

**That Council:**

1. **Brings forward the reconstruction of Downer Oval, Williamstown (also known as the Williamstown Cricket Ground) to the 2020-21 financial year.**
2. **Supports the Williamstown Cricket Club to seek alternative arrangements for the 2020-21 summer season.**
3. **Advises the lead petitioner of the outcome.**

#### Summary

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 12 November 2019, a petition containing 394 signatures was received from WFC requesting that ground reconstruction works be brought forward from 2022-23 to commence in October 2020.

There are existing issues with the ground surface at Downer Oval resulting in high ongoing maintenance costs and concerns for participant safety when the ground receives high levels of rainfall.

The ground reconstruction (including cricket net upgrades) was due to occur as part of Council's Draft 2022-23 Capital Works Program, with design to occur in 2020-21. Given the high costs required to maintain the ground to the necessary standard and the impact of games needing to be rescheduled, it is recommended that the ground reconstruction occur as part of the 2020-21 Capital Works Program.

The completion of this project in 2020-21 will impact on Williamstown Cricket Club's 2020-21 summer season and WFC's access to the ground during the 2021 winter season. Alternative fixtures will be required during this period.

## **Background**

In August 2019, a consultant appointed by AFL Victoria inspected the ground after concerns were raised about the quality of the surface during heavy rainfall earlier in that month. The venue was to host both Victorian Football League (VFL) and Victorian Football League Women's (VFLW) televised games in August 2019, but AFL Victoria's consultant deemed the surface unsafe for play. Consequently, these games were rescheduled at alternate venues, with the VFL game taking place in Werribee and the VFLW game in Bundoora. WFC claims that it lost an estimated \$94,400 of takings and advertising value from these rescheduled games.

In 2017, Council completed a Sportsground Condition Audit on all sports grounds in the municipality. The audit helped inform Council's 10 year Sports Ground Renewal Program. As part of this program, the reconstruction of Downer Oval was scheduled to occur in 2022-23, with design to occur in 2020-21.

The long time from commencement of design through to construction was given to ensure the unique constraints, features and heritage aspects of the site were sufficiently considered. WFC has been advocating for the reconstruction of the ground to occur simultaneously with their planned works to expand the pavilion.

## **Discussion**

### **Williamstown Football Club proposal**

On 21 August 2019, Council officers met with WFC representatives to discuss the potential for funding to be brought forward to redevelop the ground. WFC views this project as a priority due to player safety concerns and financial losses caused by relocating matches and training sessions to alternative venues.

WFC claims that the financial loss from the relocation of the televised matches was significant. In addition to a calculated actual loss of \$9,400 including gate takings, merchandise sales, canteen, and bar takings, WFC believes an estimated corporate value of \$42,500 for each televised game was lost across their corporate sponsors, including Downer which has naming rights to the facility.

Letters of support for the ground reconstruction from the Hon. Melissa Horne MP, State Member for Williamstown, and Mr Tristan Salter, Head of Talent Pathways and State League Competitions for the AFL, have also been provided by WFC.

**Ground overview and maintenance**

In 2010-11, the ground was redeveloped as part of the overall upgrade of facilities on-site, at an approximate cost of \$200,000. The project included earthworks to reshape the ground, installation of an irrigation system and turf establishment, but did not include any corrections to the subsurface, provision of underground drainage, or other best practice systems available at the time.

The ground's subsoil has a reactive heavy clay layer that expands and shrinks depending on moisture content and temperature. Given the clay's ability to hold water, it develops unstable surface conditions in various areas which is problematic in winter. The swelling of the clay also leads to the formation of mounds and ridges on the playing surface.

The ground subsurface does not react well to standard ground maintenance practices such as heavy rolling, and deep aeration is not achievable. To achieve a similar outcome, shallow aeration is implemented more frequently. Additional products are used to make the clay less reactive, further increasing maintenance costs.

**AFL Victoria inspection reports**

Inspection audits conducted on behalf of AFL Victoria were completed in 2016 and 2019. The 2016 report advised that undulations across the surface were a major concern, with the best form of rectification being to completely reconstruct the ground. During the 2019 inspection, tests of surface hardness, traction, and stability were not conducted, as all three were visibly below the acceptable levels. Both reports indicated that a lack of suitable drainage contributed to standing water on the surface and unsafe playing conditions.

The Williamstown Cricket Club (WCC) is aware that Council has received a petition and the recommendation is that ground reconstruction works commence in October 2020. Officers will work closely with the WCC to facilitate alternative arrangements for the 2020-21 summer season while the ground reconstruction occurs. Improvements to the cricket nets will occur as part of this project but will commence following the completion of the 2020-21 summer season to ensure that WCC's training activities are not impacted during their season.



## 9 Delegates Report

Directorate: Corporate Services

### Purpose

To consider reports by Councillors who have been appointed as delegates to Council and community committees.

### Motion

Moved Cr Jonathon Marsden, seconded Cr Sandra Wilson:

That Council receives and notes the recent Delegates Report.

Carried unanimously

### Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the recent Delegates Report.

## Delegates Report - Metropolitan Local Government Waste Forum

**Councillor Delegate: Cr Colleen Gates**

**Date of Meeting: 11 June 2020**

This meeting of the Metropolitan Local Government Waste Forum focused on adding value from kerbside materials and how the Victorian Government's kerbside reforms and councils and industry could contribute to this. The Victorian Government, industry and councils provided insight into their work in this space.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) provided an overview of the Recycling Victoria program and funding with particular focus on the kerbside reforms. These reforms include a four bin waste and recycling system or access to services for combined food and garden organics by 2030, glass recycling by 2027, plastics, cardboard and metals recycling and household waste. DELWP noted that the timeframes for reforms have factored in the delivery of more capacity in the processing infrastructure and allowance for the number of bins that need to be manufactured. An overview of the development of DELWP's transition planning framework was provided. Aims include identifying opportunities for procurement activities and regional solutions that deliver circular economies and jobs as well as improving environmental outcomes and diversifying and building the sector capacity to prevent issues of the past.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council provided an overview of the implementation of their glass recycling system including their pathway from banning glass in the comingled recycling system in August 2019, to installing public place and transfer station drop-offs and then the commencement of the four bin system in February 2020.

Alex Fraser Group presented their work in the glass recycling space including their sustainability hub in Laverton, which recycles construction materials and is the first for Victoria. The facility produces recycled glass for replacement sand in construction and drainage projects and recycled asphalt for greener roads.

Sustainability Victoria presented their recycling contamination campaign which has a focus on items that are incorrectly placed in the comingled recycling stream. The campaign has been developed following research into people's behaviours and feedback from councils and industry. High level objectives are to rebuild community trust in the recycling system, encourage people to keep up to date and prepare them for the Victorian recycling reforms.

DELWP provided an update on the establishment of the Victorian Waste Authority and the development of a new waste and recycling Act by 2021. The Act will look at lifting the performance of the Victorian recycling sector, how to achieve ambitious resource recovery targets and ensure services are reliable and meet community expectations. In addition, the Act will ensure greater transparency and delivery of key service standards while allowing innovation, and better govern the waste and recycling system by ensuring that service providers are held accountable to prevent disruptions. Formal consultation will occur later in 2020.

**10 Notices of Motion**

Nil.

**11 Supplementary Public Question Time**

Nil.

## 12 Urgent and Other Business

### Motion

Moved Cr Angela Altair, seconded Cr Sandra Wilson:

That Council considers the items of Other Business.

Carried unanimously

### 12.1 Brimbank Planning Scheme - Planning Permit Application P412/2019 - 6/600 Geelong Road, Brooklyn - Use of the Land for a Warehouse (Chemical Storage)

**Directorate:** Sustainable Communities

**Councillor Portfolio:** Planning - Cr Tony Briffa and Cr Michael Grech

**Appendices:** 1 Planning Permit Application P412/2019 - Submission to Brimbank City Council

### Purpose

To seek Council's agreement to lodge an objection to a planning permit application in Brimbank City Council for a chemical storage warehouse at 6/600 Geelong Road, Brooklyn.

### Motion

Moved Cr Sandra Wilson, seconded Cr Jonathon Marsden:

That Council advises Brimbank City Council:

1. That it objects to the retrospective planning permit application P412/2019 for the use of the land for a chemical storage warehouse, on the following grounds:
  - the proposal does not meet state planning policy, particularly Clause 13.07 of the Brimbank Planning Scheme as the use is not compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses
  - the proposal does not meet the local planning policy of the Brimbank Planning Scheme, particularly the Industrial Land Use Policy at Clause 21.09 of the Brimbank Planning Scheme, which relates to best practice community safety and environmental standards
  - the proposal does not meet the purpose of Clause 33.01 (Industrial 1 Zone) of the Brimbank Planning Scheme, as the use will affect the safety and amenity of the local community

- the proposal does not meet the requirements of Clause 65.01 of the Brimbank Planning Scheme, as it fails to provide for the orderly planning of the area.
2. Should Brimbank City Council refuse the retrospective application, that the use must cease operating from the site within a short period of time.

**Carried unanimously**

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## **Recommendation**

**That Council advises Brimbank City Council:**

1. That it objects to the retrospective planning permit application P412/2019 for the use of the land for a chemical storage warehouse, on the following grounds:
- the proposal does not meet state planning policy, particularly Clause 13.07 of the Brimbank Planning Scheme as the use is not compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses
  - the proposal does not meet the local planning policy of the Brimbank Planning Scheme, particularly the Industrial Land Use Policy at Clause 21.09 of the Brimbank Planning Scheme, which relates to best practice community safety and environmental standards
  - the proposal does not meet the purpose of Clause 33.01 (Industrial 1 Zone) of the Brimbank Planning Scheme, as the use will affect the safety and amenity of the local community
  - the proposal does not meet the requirements of Clause 65.01 of the Brimbank Planning Scheme, as it fails to provide for the orderly planning of the area
  - the proposal is inconsistent with the Brooklyn Evolution Strategy, as it will be incompatible with the intended transition to uses with reduced amenity impacts
2. Should Brimbank City Council refuse the retrospective application, that the use must cease operating from the site within a short period of time
- 

## **Summary**

Council has been notified of a planning permit application lodged with Brimbank City Council under the Brimbank Planning Scheme. The application is a retrospective application for the use of the land for the storage of biocides and automotive products at 6/600 Geelong Road, Brooklyn. The application was advertised on 11 June 2020, and the advertising period will close on 2 July 2020.

While the site is located in the middle of a large industrial precinct to the north of Geelong Road, to the south of Geelong Road the residential suburb of Brooklyn in Hobsons Bay is located only about 400m away from where the chemicals are being stored. There are a number of concerns about locating this facility so close to residential housing. It is recommended that Council objects to the proposal due to the site's proximity to Brooklyn residents within Hobsons Bay City Council.



**Figure 1. The site subject to retrospective planning permit application P412/2019**

## Background

A town planning permit application was lodged with Brimbank City Council by FBT Transwest to use the land for a chemical storage warehouse. Brimbank City Council subsequently notified Hobsons Bay City Council of the application on 11 June 2020 under Section 52(1)(b) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, seeking comment.

The site is located within an existing industrial area, surrounded by a number of industrial uses, and adjoins the Federation Trail on its south-western border. To the south on the opposite side of Geelong Road is the suburb of Brooklyn, located within the municipality of Hobsons Bay. The warehouse that holds the chemical storage facility is located about 123m from the Federation Trail and about 422m from the closest residential dwelling (measured from the centre of the facility).

The application seeks retrospective approval for the use of the land to store biocides and automotive chemical products in the following dangerous goods classes and maximum quantities:

- dangerous goods class 8 (corrosive substances): 10,000L
- dangerous goods class 9 (miscellaneous dangerous goods and articles): 200,000L
- dangerous goods class C1 (combustible liquid): 200,000L

The site is used for the temporary storage of dangerous goods before further distribution. All material is stored within an existing warehouse building located in the rear north-western corner of the site.

The plans and details submitted with the application are attached in Appendix 1. Under the planning system, it is possible to lodge an application for a planning permit to seek retrospective approval for uses that are already operating.

The land is located within an Industrial 1 Zone and is covered by a Design and Development Overlay (Schedule 11) and a Development Contribution Overlay (Schedule 2). A planning permit is not triggered under the overlays.

A planning permit is required pursuant to Clause 33.01-1 (Industrial 1 Zone) of the Brimbank Planning Scheme for the use of the land, as the type of use does not meet the threshold distance listed within Clause 53.10 (Use with Adverse Amenity Impacts) of the Brimbank Planning Scheme. The planning report submitted with the application identifies that the dangerous goods to be stored on site generally fall under the category of *Chemical, Petroleum and Coal*, which have the following threshold distances applicable:

- biocide production and storage: threshold distance 1,000m
- chemical products other than those listed within this group: threshold distance of 300m

The recent amendment to the Victorian Planning Provisions introduced on 25 May 2020 (VC175) has made changes to the threshold distances identified under clause 53.10. Further clarity about the specific substances proposed to be stored will be required as part of the assessment of the application, to confirm whether any of these changes apply. However, there has been no change to the biocide production threshold distance of 1,000m, and a planning permit is still triggered under the Brimbank Planning Scheme regardless of these recent amendments.

## Discussion

Clause 13.07-1S of the Brimbank Planning Scheme (Land Use Compatibility) includes a strategy to *ensure that use or development of land is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses*.

Clause 21.09 of the Brimbank Planning Scheme (Industrial Land Use) outlines the vision for Brimbank's industrial areas. It identifies *best-practice community safety and environmental standards should be a feature of future industrial development, to mitigate any off-site environmental impacts and provide appropriate threshold distances from nearby sensitive uses*.

This clause also includes a number of objectives and strategies, including:

- *Strengthen and consolidate Brimbank's role as a location for transport, logistics and distribution, manufacturing, wholesale industries and resource recovery and recycling industries through strategies including: reduce amenity impacts from the Brooklyn Industrial and Commercial Precinct*
- *Provide a buffer between industry and sensitive land uses, by strategies including: the location of new development considers the proximity and interface with existing commercial, residential, open space and other sensitive uses*
- *To ensure industrial activity minimises environmental risks on-site and to nearby sensitive uses by requiring the precautionary principle to be applied when deciding on appropriate mitigation measures to consider future implications to health and/or the environment*

The purpose of the Industrial 1 Zone is to *provide for manufacturing industry, the storage and distribution of goods and associated uses in a manner which does not affect the safety and amenity of local communities*. Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority

must consider (amongst other things): *The effect that the use may have on nearby existing or proposed residential areas or other uses which are sensitive to industrial off-site effects, having regard to any comments or directions of the referral authorities.*

The above policies identify a need to separate heavy industry away from sensitive uses through appropriate thresholds. Although located within an Industrial 1 Zone, the storage of these types of chemicals at such large quantities at this location is not precautionary and poses an unacceptable risk to the community. While to the west, east, and north of the site there is a large industrial area within Brimbank City Council, to the south in the Hobsons Bay suburb of Brooklyn there is a large residential area located opposite the site on the other side of Geelong Road. With the nearest properties only about 400m away, these residents would be significantly negatively impacted should an unexpected event occur. The proposed use is suited to a more appropriate zone, such as an Industrial 2 Zone or a Special Use Zone, and located further away from sensitive uses.

The Brooklyn Evolution Strategy identifies the historical amenity issues that residents of Brooklyn have experienced due to the proximity and outdated industry practices in the area, particularly relating to dust, odour, and noise. The longer term objective of the strategy is to address amenity issues by facilitating transition of land uses over time to uses with reduced amenity impacts, such as light industry, warehousing and commercial uses.

The proposed use is inconsistent with the strategy as it sustains a risk to the Brooklyn community and will become incompatible with these lighter industries and commercial uses. Sitting within Precinct 1, the Strategy proposes the southern part of this site to form a *well-developed edge addressing Geelong Road, creating a new interface to the precinct based on new offices, clean industry, showrooms and large format retail*. These types of uses will draw people to this area, exposing more individuals to risk.

The application also lacks details on the proposed volume of traffic movements to and from the site. Although the transport of hazardous goods is administered under different legislation, the transport of these goods to and from the site will increase the risk to the community.

### **Conclusion**

The location of the proposed chemical storage facility within proximity to the Brooklyn residential area will pose an unacceptable risk to these residents. The storage and distribution of these chemicals is more suited to a location much further away from residential or other sensitive uses.

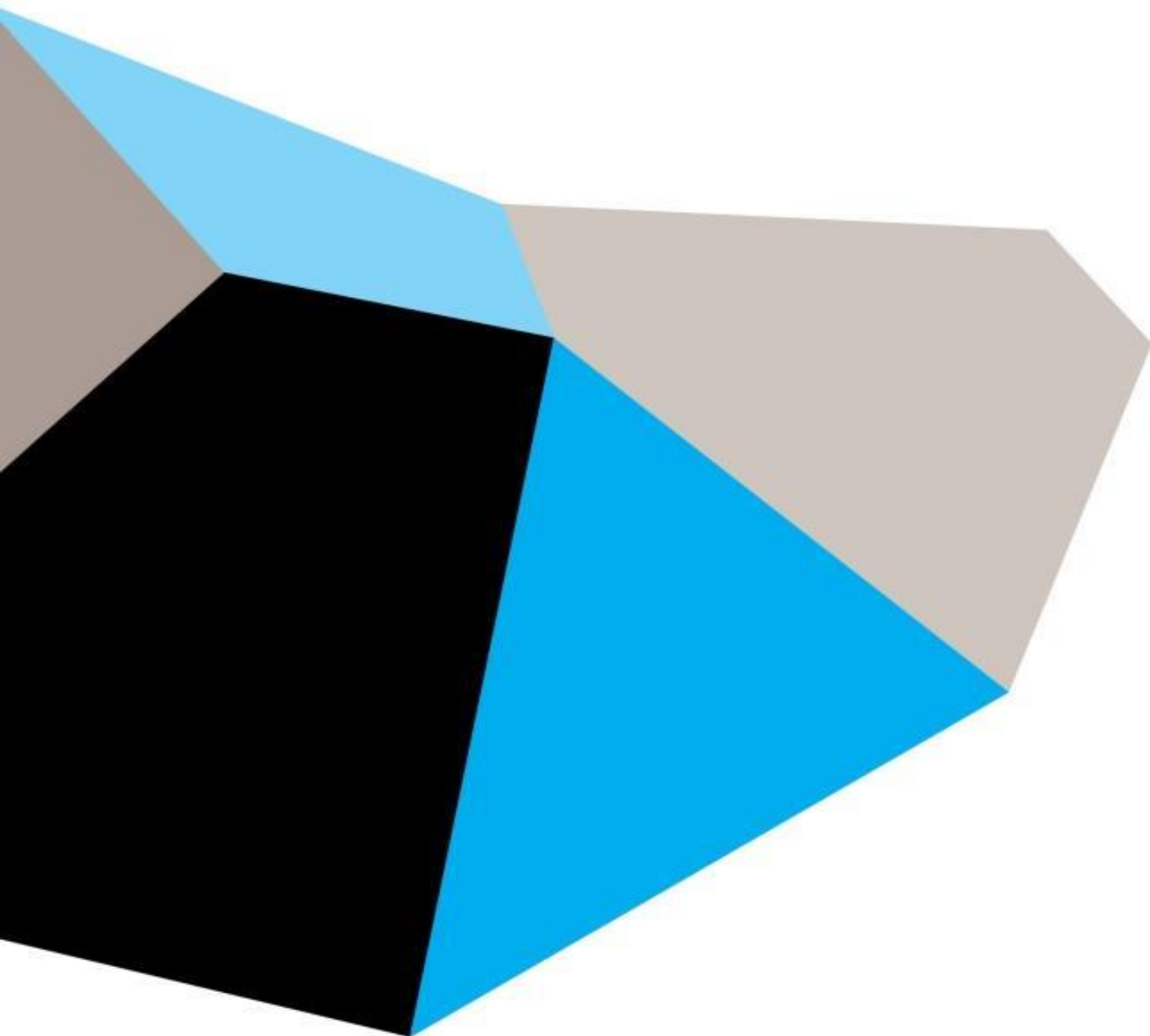
As this planning application is seeking retrospective approval, Council should also seek that the use on the site cease immediately should a determination be made to refuse the application.



There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9.28pm

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Chairperson – Cr Colleen Gates  
Signed and certified as having been confirmed.  
14 July 2020



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**HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL**

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