

Council Meeting Minutes

8 June 2021

COUNCIL CHAMBER

Virtual Meeting

HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL



OUR 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 Jonathon Marsden (Mayor)

Strand Ward

Councillors:

Cr Daria Kellander (Deputy Mayor)

Cherry Lake Ward

Cr Tony Briffa JP

Cherry Lake Ward

Cr Peter Hemphill

Strand Ward

Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud

Strand Ward

Cr Diana Grima

Wetlands Ward

Cr Matt Tyler

Wetlands Ward

Aaron van Egmond
Chief Executive Officer
Hobsons Bay City Council

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1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement

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

2 Virtual Meeting Protocols

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, this Council Meeting was conducted virtually in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, and was livestreamed on the Council website at <http://webcast.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au>

2.1 Voting Method

Voting will be conducted by show of hands, as in the Council Chamber.

2.2 Absence From Meeting

If a Councillor leaves the meeting at any time for any reason other than for a conflict of interest, the Councillor will stand to indicate their intention to leave and then walk away.

If a Councillor needs to leave the meeting due to a declared conflict of interest, the Chairperson will remove the Councillor from the virtual meeting until the matter under discussion has been resolved. The Chairperson will then invite the Councillor back into the meeting.

If a Councillor cannot be seen or heard due to technical issues and cannot carry on as a participant in the meeting, the meeting will continue as long as a quorum remains.

If the quorum is lost, the meeting will be adjourned until the quorum can be returned.

The time that any Councillor leaves and returns to the meeting will be recorded in the minutes regardless of the reason for absence.

3 Apologies

The Chairperson called for apologies received from Councillors who are unable to attend this meeting.

Nil

4 Disclosure of Interest

In accordance with sections 127 and 128 of the *Local Government Act 2020* Councillors are required to disclose a general or material conflict of interest. A conflict of interest must be disclosed in accordance with rule 15.3 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules.

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

5 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 11 May 2021 (copy previously circulated).

Motion

Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Tony Briffa:

That Council confirms the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 11 May 2021.

Carried unanimously

6 Councillor Questions

Cr Matt Tyler asked what Council is doing to address the 16-18 week wait time for youth counselling services, as highlighted in the Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations.

Ms Pene Winslade, Director Sustainable Communities, affirmed that youth mental health services are an advocacy priority for Hobsons Bay and an area where more services are needed from every tier of government. Ms Winslade confirmed that with the impact of COVID-19, the wait lists for Council's youth counselling service, which are offered as part of the youth program, had become very long. Ms Winslade said that Council is currently seeking to engage an additional counsellor for at least the next few months to bring the waitlist down, while noting that it is a challenging time to find the right skills in the market as other councils face similar issues.

Cr Matt Tyler requested an update on whether any funding for the Queen Street pedestrian and cycling bridge had been allocated in the State Budget and asked what Council's plans are to progress efforts to fund the project.

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, responded that there is no funding in the State Budget for the construction of the bridge in the next financial year, but that the Minister had advised that the project has been placed within the pipeline projects, meaning that Council needs to work with the Department of Transport (DoT) to understand the design and planning process over the next financial year.

Mr Manivasagasivam stated that Council would work closely with DoT to understand the process and would continue to advocate to the Victorian Government for the construction of the project.

Cr Matt Tyler requested an update on capital improvements and maintenance plans on the Princes Freeway exit onto Newland Street.

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, responded that, after numerous discussions with VicRoads and DoT, Council has been advised that there is no

funding allocated for any significant improvements at this stage, due to competing priorities. Mr Manivasagasivam added that the DoT is currently only committed to maintain the site at a minimum standard. Mr Manivasagasivam added that Council would continue to work with VicRoads and DoT and would investigate other options for improving the site.

Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud requested clarification of the thinking behind the annual costs for the itinerant mobile vendors within the Draft Hobsons Bay Mobile Vendors Policy 2021, and asked how it compared with other councils.

Ms Pene Winslade, Director Sustainable Communities, responded that the costs took into consideration a range of factors, including costs for bricks-and-mortar businesses to operate, including both rates and the cost of owning and operating their business. Ms Winslade added that extensive benchmarking of costs against the fees charged by other councils, including neighbouring councils, had been done to inform the draft policy. Ms Winslade noted also that it is a draft policy and that Council would review feedback on everything, including the costs, in the coming weeks.

Cr Peter Hemphill, noting that the Williamstown Lifesaving Club had successfully secured \$11 million from the Victorian Government towards a \$14 million renovation of their facilities on the Williamstown foreshore, asked whether Council has given any undertakings to contribute to that project, or whether it was in Council's budget or five-year plan.

While acknowledging that it was a great outcome for the club to have secured the \$11 million from the Victorian Government, Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, responded that Council has no undertaking in relation to the project and had not committed any funding for it to date, having so far only developed three options and concept plans. Mr Manivasagasivam added that Council was working with the relevant department to understand Council's commitments and the terms and conditions associated with the additional funding, and would consider the project in a future budget process after those requirements are understood.

Cr Peter Hemphill noted that there have been many discussions over recent years about the poor state of Williamstown Lifesaving Club's facilities and asked whether the club had at any point offered money for the project as well.

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, responded that when the building audit was done, Council identified a number of renewal works that were required, and carried them out as part of Council's renewal program.

Mr Manivasagasivam added, that the project was identified as a long-term priority within the Sports Facility Needs Analysis, and that Council had allocated a contribution of \$3 million as part of that process.

Cr Diana Grima, noting community feedback about a lack of clarity and understanding of the questions provided in the consultation survey regarding the Draft Hobsons Bay Mobile Vendors Policy 2021, asked how Council supported residents who were either unable to understand the survey questions or could not complete the survey in full.

Ms Pene Winslade, Director Sustainable Communities, responded that, regarding partial survey responses, any feedback received would be included and considered by Council; respondents didn't need to fill out every section to have their say. Concerning support for people who may have struggled with the format of the survey, Ms Winslade outlined several

ways that Council provides support for people to have their say in any community consultation, including:

- Language Line information included in surveys to allow people to contact Council in multiple languages
- written responses accepted on paper where respondents were unable to use digital forms. Ms Winslade noted that Council was accepting some paper responses beyond the deadline due to the fact that lockdown restrictions prevented them from being submitted on time
- contact details provided on the Participate Hobsons Bay website for a designated Council officer to whom people could address questions, provide verbal feedback and have their say if the channel provided by Council doesn't meet their needs

Cr Diana Grima asked whether Councillors would still be meeting with local state representatives, specifically the Member for Altona, the Hon. Jill Hennessy MP.

Mayor Cr Jonathon Marsden responded he believed the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) had a meeting scheduled shortly, and certainly that there was a meeting in a similar vein scheduled with the Member for Williamstown, the Hon. Melissa Horne MP, and that those meetings would continue.

Cr Diana Grima clarified that she was referring to a meeting between the Hon. Jill Hennessy MP and all Councillors.

Mayor Cr Jonathon Marsden stated that he understood that both representatives were invited to a future Councillor Briefing Session.

Mr Aaron van Egmond, CEO, clarified that the Mayor and CEO meet regularly with the local state members, on a different cycle for each member. In relation to the request for the local members to meet with Council, Mr van Egmond added that convenient dates were still to be arranged that fit with both Council's calendar and the local members' schedules, but that there was a commitment for the meeting to happen as soon as possible, and Councillors would receive further advice once it had been arranged.

Cr Diana Grima asked whether a date had been set for completion of the design of the Queen Street Bridge.

Mr Aaron van Egmond, CEO, responded that, as mentioned by Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam earlier, Council is still trying to get a commitment as to when that design work would likely take place, and that while Council and the community would be advised as soon as possible, at this stage no date had been set in relation to that design work.

Cr Diana Grima asked, given the public perception that there was a design for the Queen Street Bridge and that two wards were affected, whether Council could commit to addressing publicly, such as through leaflets or social media, the fact that there is no design.

Mr Aaron van Egmond, CEO, took on notice the question of what Council would do moving forward, but responded that Council had made some clarifications on what work has been done. Specifically, Mr van Egmond referred to recent media releases on Council's website that indicated the design work that had taken place were not detailed engineering designs that would enable the bridge to be constructed, but concept designs or architectural images for the purposes of lobbying for investment from the Victorian Government in those works.

7 Public Question Time

Geraldine Kavanagh

Q How many residents (excluding businesses) received rates waivers in the 2020-21 financial year and what was the total dollar value of those rate waivers? (Not interest free rates deferrals, but an actual rate waiver only.)

A In 2020-21 nine residents on JobSeeker received a rate waiver of \$200 for a total of \$1,800. Demand was below Council's expectations, irrespective of how intensively the available relief was promoted.

Due to the minimal uptake of the waivers so far, the Community Support Package Focus Group has recommended that the eligibility criteria be eased to increase uptake and consideration of amounts to be waived in certain instances.

Brian Long

Q After meeting with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Director Infrastructure City Services on Tuesday 18th May to discuss Council's 20-plus years of long term neglect [of Brooklyn], the lack of funding and lack of capital works in the area was noted and acknowledged by CEO and Director Infrastructure City Services, as per evidence presented at this meeting. Although being noted, it was also stated that Brooklyn has not been a priority and will not be a priority in the immediate future, as there is no funding allocated in the next budget (2021-22).

Is the Council not charged with the upkeep and maintenance of the amenities of the area?

A Brooklyn has received and will continue to receive funding within the Capital Works Program to deliver ongoing renewal and upgrade projects. In recent years major open space upgrades in Duane Reserve, Rowan Reserve and Brooklyn Reserve have delivered improved playgrounds, open space amenities including shelters and seating, a new dog park and provision of public toilets. Brooklyn has also received funding towards the delivery of continual road, footpath and drainage renewal works.

The proposed 2021-22 Capital Works Program has identified funding towards projects such as the Brooklyn Hall redevelopment, urban greening works that will deliver increased trees and vegetation across the suburb, court renewal works on existing tennis courts and the continuation of annual road, footpath and drainage renewal programs.

Q When do the CEO and Director Infrastructure City Services think Brooklyn will become a priority – if not in the past, as acknowledged, and not in the immediate future, as acknowledged, when?

A All of Council's strategic planning seeks to deliver fair and equitable outcomes across the entire municipality. Council has successfully developed and implemented Better Place guides to coordinate this strategic planning work across the diverse areas of services and assets Council manages, with the unique needs of individual suburbs. This seeks to provide a more holistic and integrated approach to thinking about and designing for change.

It is anticipated that Brooklyn and Altona North will be the next suburbs targeted in the Better Places program, following completion of the Spotswood and South Kingsville Place Guide. This will ensure that the needs of Brooklyn continue to be maintained and the positive changes the community desires can be captured and translated into real improvements into the future.

Q Can an explanation be given as to why Brooklyn has had a lack of funding allocated to maintenance and capital works over the last 20-plus years?

A Recent analysis over the past four years of the capital works renewal and maintenance programs has identified that about 3 per cent of funding has been invested directly into Brooklyn on average each year. This is consistent with the asset base for Brooklyn, which represents about 3 per cent of the total roads, footpaths and drainage infrastructure assets across the entire municipality. Based on this there is no indication that a lack of funding for renewal and maintenance works has been allocated to Brooklyn in recent years.

Ruth Cronin

Q Will Council consider advocating to remove the Right Turn Ban option out of Primula Avenue, Brooklyn onto Millers Road, as this would not be a supported option for the community?

Additional to this question, when speaking with West Gate Tunnel Project representatives at a recent pop-up session at McIntyre Reserve, West Gate Tunnel Project representatives said that this option had been removed, and yet it appears as a current option for consideration in the report from Council Meeting on 11th May 2021. Brooklyn residents request that they are far more considered and consulted regarding changes to traffic conditions in our suburb which greatly impact our liveability and movement around said suburb.

A The Department of Transport has discussed with Council options to further improve the safety and performance of the intersection following the recent line marking changes. These include traffic signal modifications and additional line marking. Council acknowledges the importance of maintaining all existing traffic movements at the intersection and is not advocating for a right turn ban from Primula Avenue.

Q Is Hobsons Bay City Council able to provide detailed financial records of Open Space Contributions paid on land purchase by developers in Brooklyn, specifically, as a total amount and locations across Hobsons Bay municipality where these monies have been spent, and green space enhanced?

A Funding obtained from Public Open Space Contributions are spent on priority actions and growth zones identified in the Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy. In Brooklyn, this funding contributed towards the Brooklyn Reserve Play Space upgrade in 2017 and Brooklyn Reserve Dog Park in 2018. The Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy will continue to determine where Public Open Space Contributions are spent in Hobsons Bay.

Rowena Joske

Q What action has been taken by Council over the past few years to advocate for the reinstatement of a train station in Altona North on the Werribee line?

- A The reinstatement of a train station in Altona North on the Werribee line continues to be a key advocacy priority of Council. Meeting requests to both the Victorian and Australian Government representatives have been lodged over the last few years and more recently through discussions with the local members for Hobsons Bay, Jill Hennessy (Altona district) and Melissa Horne (Williamstown district).

Council's publicly endorsed Advocacy Priorities 2020 for Hobsons Bay included Melbourne Metro 2, and this item specifically addresses the addition of a station in Altona North. Council's recently endorsed MAV State Motions again included Melbourne Metro 2.

Council adopted two Notices of Motion previously this year on this matter. As per the resolution, Council has requested further meetings with the local state members on the issue.

- Q Can it be outlined how the state government Landfill Levy has, and will, affect residential waste service charges in Hobsons Bay?**

- A The Victorian Government Landfill Levy, currently \$65.90 per tonne, will almost double over the next two years to \$105.90 per tonne in 2021-22 and \$125.90 per tonne in 2022-23. Previously the Landfill Levy had increased at a slower rate, from \$44 per tonne in 2011-12 to \$64.30 per tonne in 2018-19.

These increases will have a significant impact on waste budgets for councils across Victoria. In the 12 months from February 2020 to January 2021 Council collected about 14,500 tonnes from kerbside landfill bins. If the same volume is collected in 2021-22, that would equate to roughly \$0.6 million in additional landfill levy costs, and almost \$0.9 million in 2022-23. Those additional costs would be shared across the waste service charge for 40,000 households.

Council aims to increase the volume of waste diverted from landfill to help minimise the impacts of the landfill levy. In the last 12 months about 33 per cent of landfill has been diverted from the landfill stream through the introduction of the food organics and garden organics (FOGO) bin.

Landfill levy pricing is detailed on the EPA's website at:

<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/find-a-topic/landfill-guidance/landfill-and-prescribed-waste-levies>

- Q The minutes of the West Gate Tunnel Community Liaison Group show that the Hobsons Bay Transport Planning Study has been presented to that group. Can Hobsons Bay City Council make this study available to the public, as we were previously told that it would be available prior to consultation on the Local Area Movement Plan - Northern Package?**

- A The Department of Transport provided an update briefing on the Hobsons Bay Transport Planning Study to the WGTP Community Liaison Group (West) Meeting on 15 April 2021. The Department of Transport is finalising the Study.

A copy of the presentation to the Community Liaison Group can be found at:

<http://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/clg>

8 Petitions and Joint Letters

8.1 Petitions and Joint Letters Received

8.1.1 Petition - Continuation of the Hobsons Bay has Heart Outdoors Trading Program

Directorate:	Corporate Services
Responsible Officer:	Governance Advisor
Reviewer:	Director Corporate Services
Attachments:	Nil

Purpose

To receive a written petition containing 193 signatories, of which 89 were valid, requesting that Council continue the Hobsons Bay Business has Heart Outdoors Trading Program in Pier Street, Altona for a further trial period to 30 June 2022.

Motion

Moved Cr Daria Kellander, seconded Cr Tony Briffa:

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the petition in relation to continuing the Hobsons Bay Business has Heart Outdoors Trading program in Pier Street, Altona for a further trial period to 30 June 2022.**
- 2. Notes the extension of the Hobsons Bay Business has Heart Outdoors trading area pilot program to 31 May 2022.**
- 3. Writes to the lead petitioner advising of the outcome.**

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the petition in relation to continuing the Hobsons Bay Business has Heart Outdoors Trading program in Pier Street, Altona for a further trial period to 30 June 2022.**

2. **Notes the extension of the Hobsons Bay Business has Heart Outdoors trading area pilot program to 31 May 2022.**
3. **Writes to the lead petitioner advising of the outcome.**

Summary

The petition was received on 25 May 2021 and acknowledged on 27 May 2021.

The petition reads as follows:

“We, the undersigned, petition Hobsons Bay City Council to continue the Hobsons Bay Has Heart Outdoors Trading Program in Pier Street, Altona, between Queen Street and Railway Street South, for a further trial period until 30th June 2022.

For the following reasons:

1. The Program has proved to be extremely popular with residents of and visitors to Altona.
2. It has provided a huge boost to the cultural, social and business activities in Pier Street as well as traffic calming and improved pedestrian safety.
3. I have spoken to many people and close to 100% of them have said that the Program is excellent and should be continued.
4. Local residents have become accustomed to the reduced car parking opportunities in Pier Street.
5. In hindsight, this Program should have been in place years ago and Covid, coupled with great foresight by the authorities, has provided the incentive to commence what is a most successful and rewarding local initiative.”

9 Variation of Business

In accordance with rule 6.1.5 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, the Chief Executive Officer has varied the normal order of business in order to allow members of the public who requested to be heard on their submissions on the Annual Budget 2021-22 and Rating and Revenue Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25 to do so ahead of other Council business.

9.1 Presentation of Annual Budget 2021-22 and Revenue and Rating Plan Submissions 2021-22 to 2024-25

Purpose

To present the submissions received by Council in relation to the Proposed Annual Budget 2021-22 and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25 and to hear from submitters requesting to be heard in support of their submission as a result of the public exhibition process.

Motion

Moved Cr Matt Tyler, seconded Cr Daria Kellander:

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the submissions following the public exhibition period for the Proposed Annual Budget 2021-22 and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25.
2. Hears from those submitters requesting to be heard by Council in support of their submission.
3. Responds to submitters as part of the final budget deliberations at the Council Meeting on 29 June 2021.

Carried unanimously

Motion

Moved Cr Tony Briffa, seconded Cr Daria Kellander:

That Council suspends standing orders to hear the public submissions to the Proposed Annual Budget 2021-22 and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25.

Carried unanimously

The following submitters, having so requested, were heard by Council:

- Miriam Teunen
- Alison Peake
- Geoff Mitchelmore OAM
- Zac Lewis – Western Chances
- Caroline Baldwin
- Alex Tyrrell and David Burns – Altona Hockey Club
- Olivia Bartolo and Tania Oddi – Altona City Soccer Club
- Kate Alder
- Dean Hurlston - Ratepayers Victoria Inc.
- Adam Longshaw – Altona Magic Soccer Club and Lauren Harries – Altona East Soccer Club

In accordance with rule 6.6.7 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, Mayor Cr Jonathon Marsden called a ten minute break at 9.10pm until 9.20pm.

Motion

Moved Cr Tony Briffa, seconded Cr Daria Kellander:

That Council resumes standing orders.

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Receives and notes the submissions following the public exhibition period for the Proposed Annual Budget 2021-22 and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25.
2. Hears from those submitters requesting to be heard by Council in support of their submission.
3. Responds to submitters as part of the final budget deliberations at the Council Meeting on 29 June 2021.

Summary

The Proposed Annual Budget 2021-22 and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25 were placed on public exhibition following formal consideration at the Council Meeting held on 20 April 2021.

In accordance with the Hobsons Bay Community Engagement Policy 2021, Council has engaged with the community to seek feedback that will be considered during the planning and development stages of the Annual Budget.

Council received 56 responses at the close of the public exhibition period. A copy of each submission is attached to this report. Eleven of the parties that provided feedback have requested to be heard by Council at the Council Meeting.

Background

The annual budget process commenced in late 2020 when Council undertook its 2021-22 pre-budget consultation, providing an opportunity for community members to submit their ideas. The proposed budget brings together all the elements that have influenced its development, including:

- community consultation process
- strategic priorities
- Capital Works Program
- Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25 and rate modelling
- operational budget
- fees and charges

The Proposed Annual Budget 2021-22 and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25 were presented at the Council Meeting on 20 April 2021. In accordance with the requirements of the LG Act 2020, the Proposed Annual Budget 2021-22 was placed on public exhibition. The Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25 was also placed on public exhibition and comments invited in relation to both documents from interested members of the community. The exhibition period was for 28 days and closed on 23 May 2021.

Interested parties who have provided comment could request to present to Council at the Council Meeting to be held on 8 June 2021. Eleven requests have been made to address Council at the meeting.

Discussion

A schedule of the submissions on the budget is attached to this report. The following interested parties have requested to be heard in support of their submission:

- Miriam Teunen is requesting an upgrade of cycleways from Brooklyn to Altona and continuing the cycleway along Kororoit Creek
- Alison Peake is requesting an increased budgetary figure for the redevelopment of the Brooklyn Hall
- Geoff Mitchelmore is requesting that funding be allocated for Stages 4 and 5 of the Kororoit Creek Shared Trail
- John Sultana is requesting upgraded pitch lighting at Kim Reserve
- Zac Lewis is requesting a grant of \$90,000 over three years to Western Chances to provide scholarships to youth in Hobsons Bay
- Caroline Baldwin is opposing the rate increase

- Alex Tyrrell representing the Altona Hockey Club is requesting that Council complete a design phase for the facility at the Altona Hockey Club
- Olivia Bartolo is requesting funding for the design of the Altona City Soccer Club's new facilities at Kim Reserve, Altona
- Kate Alder is requesting that consultation be conducted prior to Altona foreshore works
- Dean Hurlston representing Ratepayers Victoria Inc. is opposing the rate increase and suggesting various changes to the budget
- Adam Longshaw is requesting upgrade works at the Paisley Park Soccer Complex

Following the meeting, Council will consider all submissions and presentations in final preparation of the Annual Budget 2021-22 and Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25. Both documents will be presented to Council for adoption at the Council Meeting on 29 June 2021.

10 Business

10.1 Office of the Chief Executive

10.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations

Directorate: Office of the Chief Executive

Responsible Officer: Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer

Reviewer: Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. CEO Report on Operations [10.1.1.1 - 40 pages]

Motion

Moved Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud, seconded Cr Matt Tyler:

That Council extends the meeting time by 30 minutes to 10pm.

Carried

Purpose

To present the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO's) Report on Operations.

Motion

Moved Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud, seconded Cr Matt Tyler:

That Council receives and notes the Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations, including details of recent issues and initiatives undertaken by the organisation.

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations, including details of recent issues and initiatives undertaken by the organisation.

Summary

The attached CEO's Report on Operations provides Councillors and community with a regular update from the CEO on key initiatives, projects and performance.

Discussion

The purpose of this report is to inform Council and the community of recent issues, initiatives and projects undertaken across Council. The report is provided on a monthly basis.

In accordance with rule 10.7.1 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, Council maintains records of meetings attended by Councillors in the CEO's Report on Operations to ensure transparency and equity of information. A summary of meetings for the period between 1 May 2021 and 31 May 2021 is provided in this month's report.

10.2 Corporate Services

10.2.1 Review of Mayoral and Councillor Allowances

Directorate: Corporate Services

Responsible Officer: Coordinator Governance and Information Management

Reviewer: Director Corporate Services

Attachments: Nil

Purpose

To advise Council in relation to Councillor and Mayoral allowances and to formally commence the required review and determination of allowances in accordance with section 39(6) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the LG Act 2020) and section 74 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the LG Act 1989).

Motion

Moved Cr Tony Briffa, seconded Cr Daria Kellander:

That Council:

1. In accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, publicly advertises and seeks submissions for a period of 28 days on its intention to:
 - a. Fix the Councillor allowance at the level of the current year equating to an amount of \$26,245 (twenty-six thousand, two hundred and forty-five dollars)
 - b. Fix the Mayoral allowance at the level of the current year equating to an amount of \$81,204 (eighty-one thousand, two hundred and four dollars)
 - c. Provide the Mayor and Councillors with an amount equivalent to the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution (currently 9.5 per cent) of the relevant allowance
2. Authorises the Manager Corporate Integrity (Legal Counsel) to carry out the administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 in relation to the review of the Councillor and Mayoral allowance.
3. Schedules a meeting at 6pm on Tuesday 20 July 2021 at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre at 115 Civic Parade, Altona to consider and, if requested, hear any submissions received in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

4. **Receives a further report following the hearing of public submissions with the intention of making a final decision at the Council Meeting to be held on 10 August 2021.**

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **In accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, publicly advertises and seeks submissions for a period of 28 days on its intention to:
 - a. **Fix the Councillor allowance at \$26,245 (twenty-six thousand, two hundred and forty-five dollars)**
 - b. **Fix the Mayoral allowance at \$81,204 (eighty-one thousand, two hundred and four dollars)**
 - c. **Provide the Mayor and Councillors with an amount equivalent to the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution (currently 9.5 per cent) of the relevant allowance****
2. **Authorises the Manager Corporate Integrity (Legal Counsel) to carry out the administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* in relation to the review of the Councillor and Mayoral allowance.**
3. **Schedules a meeting at 6pm on Tuesday 20 July 2021 at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre at 115 Civic Parade, Altona to consider and, if requested, hear any submissions received in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.**
4. **Receives a further report following the hearing of public submissions with the intention of making a final decision at the Council Meeting to be held on 10 August 2021.**

Summary

Both the LG Act 2020 and the LG Act 1989 currently apply to Mayoral and Councillor allowances. In the absence of an initial Determination by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (the Remuneration Tribunal) in accordance with section 39 of the LG Act 2020 by 30 June 2021, Council is required to review and determine the Mayoral and Councillor allowance and consider any submissions to the review before determining the level of allowances for 2021-22.

The allowances are proposed to be retained at the same level as for the previous Council term until the Remuneration Tribunal's initial Determination.

Background

The LG Act 2020 deems that allowances for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors will now be set by the Remuneration Tribunal. Previously, section 74 of the LG Act 1989 required councils to review and determine Mayoral and Councillor allowances either within six months of a general election or by the following 30 June, whichever was later. Section 74 was repealed as of 6 April 2020 but remains in effect for the purposes of a review that precedes the first Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal in accordance with subsection 39(6) of the LG Act 2020.

Immediately following the local government general election in October 2020, Local Government Victoria (LGV) advised councils that the Remuneration Tribunal would meet in early 2021 to make a Determination in regard to the allowances. In the absence of further advice at the time, allowances for the Mayor and Councillors remained the same as for 2019-20. The Remuneration Tribunal was required to meet before 30 June 2021 in accordance with the LG Act 2020.

LGV recently advised that the Remuneration Tribunal would not meet and make a determination by 30 June 2021 and accordingly requested that councils commence a process of review and determination of the Mayoral and Councillor allowances under section 74 of the LG Act 1989.

The minimum and maximum levels for Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor allowances are determined by the Minister for Local Government in accordance with section 73B(2) of the LG Act 1989. Council is required to determine the level of allowance within the range set by the legislation.

There are currently three categories of councils based on size, budget and population, with Category 1 being lowest and Category 3 being highest. Hobsons Bay City Council has been designated a Category 2 council by the Minister for Local Government. As a Category 2 council the minimum and maximum ranges are:

- Councillor allowances being an amount between \$10,914 and \$26,245
- Mayoral allowances being an amount up to \$81,204

It is recommended that the Mayor and Councillor allowance remain unchanged from the previous Council term.

Discussion

The process of review requires Council to determine the proposed allowance amounts for the Mayor and Councillors (within the allowable limits and ranges), then publicly advertise its intention to pay those allowance amounts and accept submissions for a minimum of 28 days in accordance with the requirements of section 223 of the LG Act 1989. Council must also allow a hearing for any submitters who wish to speak in support of their submission before making a final decision in relation to the allowance amounts.

The LG Act 2020 allows for a Councillor to elect to receive their allowance in full, in part, or not at all. This is a decision for each Councillor and not a decision for Council. Councillors must notify the Chief Executive Officer in writing if they want to receive only part or no allowance.

The details of the Mayoral and Councillor allowances are made available to the public on Council's website and reported in the Annual Report pursuant to the LG Act 2020.

10.2.2 Review of Domestic Animal Management Plan

Directorate:	Corporate Services
Responsible Officer:	Team Leader – Animal Management
Reviewer:	Director Corporate Services
Attachments:	Nil

Purpose

To provide an overview of the process to update Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) for 2021-25.

Motion

Moved Cr Daria Kellander, seconded Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud:

That Council consults with the community and other stakeholders for four weeks in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Community Engagement Policy 2021 to inform the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-25.

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council consults with the community and other stakeholders for four weeks in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Community Engagement Policy 2021 to inform the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-25.

Summary

The *Domestic Animals Act* 1994 (DA Act) requires all Victorian councils to develop and maintain a DAMP in consultation with residents, members of the public and other stakeholders.

The DAMP 2017-21 was adopted by Council in November 2017 and has been in effect since that date. The DAMP must be reviewed and updated every four years.

Background

Victorian Government legislation requires councils to formulate and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years. The plan is used to manage and evaluate animal safety and welfare, community safety and compliance priorities and welfare and authorised Council officer enforcement practices.

Some key elements of the DAMP are:

- promoting responsible pet ownership and the welfare of dogs and cats in the community
- protecting the community and the environment from nuisance cats and dogs
- identifying a method to evaluate whether the animal management services provided are adequate
- outlining the training programs for authorised officers to ensure they are capable in administering and enforcing the provisions of the DA Act

Council is committed to developing and implementing a DAMP that captures community concerns and priorities surrounding pet ownership, animal and community welfare and the environmental impact caused by domestic pets. By seeking community feedback, Council can ensure that it creates a plan that includes the lived experience of the wider community, both pet and non-pet owners.

Discussion

The management of domestic animals in Hobsons Bay affects the entire community. The DAMP is designed to respond strategically to the needs of the whole community.

Council's obligation to ensure community safety and compliance means that pet owners are expected to employ responsible pet ownership practices and minimise the potential for nuisance or safety issues occurring. Council provides a range of information and education initiatives and works with the community to achieve positive outcomes. Council also performs legislative functions to ensure compliance where required, in accordance with enforcement procedures.

The DAMP 2017-21 was developed in consultation with Council's Animal Management Unit and informed by community consultation, research and benchmarking activities with other councils.

The DAMP provides a sound basis and direction from which Council can plan and make future decisions over the next four years and relates back to the wider Council policy context.

The DAMP also builds on the foundation established by the DA Act. Under this Act, every Victorian council must prepare a DAMP that:

- sets out a method for evaluating whether animal control services provided by Council are adequate to give effect to the requirements of the Act and Regulations
- outlines programs for the training of Authorised Officers
- outlines programs, services and strategies to:
 - promote and encourage responsible ownership of dogs and cats
 - ensure that people comply with the Act, Regulations and legislation
 - minimise risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals
 - address overpopulation and high euthanasia rates for cats
 - encourage registration and identification of dogs and cats
 - minimise potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance and

- effectively identify all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs and to ensure that these dogs are kept in compliance with Act and Regulations
- provides for review of existing and relevant Local Laws made under the Act
- provides for review of any other matters related to management of domestic animals
- provides for annual evaluation of the Plan

The DAMP describes how Hobsons Bay will fulfil its regulatory responsibilities and deliver animal management services in accordance with the DA Act.

10.3 Sustainable Communities

10.3.1 Appointment of Councillor Delegate to the Western Melbourne Tourism Board

Directorate:	Sustainable Communities
Responsible Officer:	Coordinator Economic Development and Social Policy
Reviewer:	Director Sustainable Communities
Attachments:	Nil

Purpose

To appoint a Councillor delegate and proxy to the Western Melbourne Tourism (WMT) Board.

Motion

Moved Cr Tony Briffa, seconded Cr Diana Grima:

That Council appoints Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud as delegate, and Cr Matt Tyler as proxy, to the Western Melbourne Tourism Board for 2021.

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council appoints a Councillor delegate and proxy to the Western Melbourne Tourism Board for 2021 as nominated by Councillors at the 8 June 2021 Council Meeting.

Summary

A delegate and proxy need to be appointed to represent Hobsons Bay City Council on the Western Melbourne Tourism Board.

Background

WMT is a regional tourism board that aims to develop a stronger and more competitive tourism industry in Melbourne's west. Hobsons Bay City Council, along with Brimbank, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Valley and Wyndham councils, provides annual funding to support the work of WMT and is represented at monthly board meetings.

Discussion

WMT is an urban regional tourism board established to develop a stronger more competitive tourism sector in Melbourne's west. WMT embraces the municipal boundaries of Hobsons Bay, Brimbank, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Valley and Wyndham. Hobsons Bay has been a member of WMT since 2006.

The WMT Board's mission is to increase the recognition and contribution of tourism to the region's economy, ensuring potential visitors are aware of the unique factors that make Melbourne's west a compelling place to visit and converting this interest to visitation growth.

WMT focuses on working collaboratively with key stakeholders to support local industry operators, advocate to government, and undertake steps to grow the capability of the sector and the quality of the visitor experience in the region. WMT meets about ten times a year on Friday mornings and has a strategic plan that tightly frames the work and deliverables.

While the board has historically sought representation from Council officers, there has been a recent shift to seek Councillor representation. To ensure appropriate representation, a Councillor delegate and proxy are required to be appointed to represent Hobsons Bay City Council on the WMT Board.

10.4 Infrastructure and City Services

10.4.1 West Gate Tunnel Project Update

Directorate:	Infrastructure and City Services
Responsible Officer:	Senior Technical Advisor
Reviewer:	Director Infrastructure and City Services
Attachments:	Nil

Purpose

To provide an update report on the West Gate Tunnel Project including the status of advocacy activities and project initiatives.

Motion

Moved Cr Diana Grima, seconded Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud:

That Council receives and notes this update report on the West Gate Tunnel Project and Council's advocacy on aspects of the Project.

Carried

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes this update report on the West Gate Tunnel Project and Council's advocacy on aspects of the Project.

Summary

This report includes strategic advocacy items and progress updates on the Sports and Open Space Enhancement Package and the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund.

Background

The Project commenced in 2018 and is expected to be completed in 2024. The Project is delivered through a partnership between the Victorian Government and Transurban (Project Co), managed by the West Gate Tunnel Project – Major Transport Infrastructure Authority (WGTP MTIA) and built by construction contractors CPB Contractors and John Holland as a joint venture (the JV).

Monthly reports providing updates on various aspects of the Project are tabled through Council Meetings. Previous reports can be accessed via the Council website at:

<https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/Council-Meetings/Minutes-and-Agendas>

Project operational updates including traffic disruption information can be accessed via: <https://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/disruptions>

Discussion

Sports and Open Space Enhancement Package

Following completion of the new cricket practice nets and the two northern irrigated ovals at WLJ Crofts Reserve, works on the sporting pavilion are well underway with the concrete slab installed and frame being erected (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Sporting pavilion at WLJ Crofts Reserve

The steel framework has been erected for the new WH Couch Pavilion at Donald McLean Reserve (Figure 2) with the roof currently being installed. A design is being developed for the reconstruction of the four synthetic cricket practice pitches and nets impacted by the JV works adjacent to the four existing turf pitches.



Figure 2: WH Couch Pavilion under construction

West Gate Neighbourhood Fund

As reported in March 2021 the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund Partnership Grants successful projects have been announced. Funding will be distributed, and projects will commence when funding agreements from WGTP MTIA are finalised.

The second category within this funding program is the community grants funding stream, which is now open. WGTP MTIA have held planning information sessions and grant writing workshops that will help not-for-profit organisations to apply for these grants. The grants will support projects that celebrate heritage, history or diversity, focus on arts and culture, emphasise learning and development, or enable greater participation of community members.

Grants are available to incorporated not-for-profit groups that are based, or operate, within the Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay council areas. Funding is available in three streams:

1. Connecting Neighbourhoods grants – Up to \$10,000 for a one-off project or activity
2. Celebrating Neighbourhoods grants – Up to \$20,000 for festivals, events and installations
3. Transforming Neighbourhoods grants – \$20,001 to \$100,000 for improvements to local community facilities

Grant applications are open from 7 May to 18 June 2021 via www.westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoodfund

Project Works Update

Recent Project construction works have progressed in the west zone, with extensive works underway at the Williamstown Road and Millers Road interchanges and the M80/Western Ring Road interchange area. Noise wall works continue along both sides of the freeway corridor.

Williamstown Road works

Williamstown Road under the West Gate Freeway will involve temporary closure to safely build the two new Hyde Street ramps that run over the top of Williamstown Road. The works include:

- building the columns that will support the ramps
- installing the beams that will form the structure of the ramps to be installed mid-year prior to pouring the concrete to create the new roadway and install concrete barriers.
- the installation of lighting, technology and signs to occur in late 2021
- removal of old timber noise walls along Fogarty Avenue, between Newport Rail Bridge and Williamstown Road

Millers Road works

Works in the area proposed through to August 2021:

- construction of new centre road lanes on the freeway
- remove scaffolding following successful installation of bridge beams

- set up new site access areas to the Millers Road exit and entry ramps for finishing works
- install support panels underneath the West Gate Freeway
- build the new walking and cycling path on Millers Road underneath the freeway
- install new noise walls along the Millers Road ramps (Figure 3)

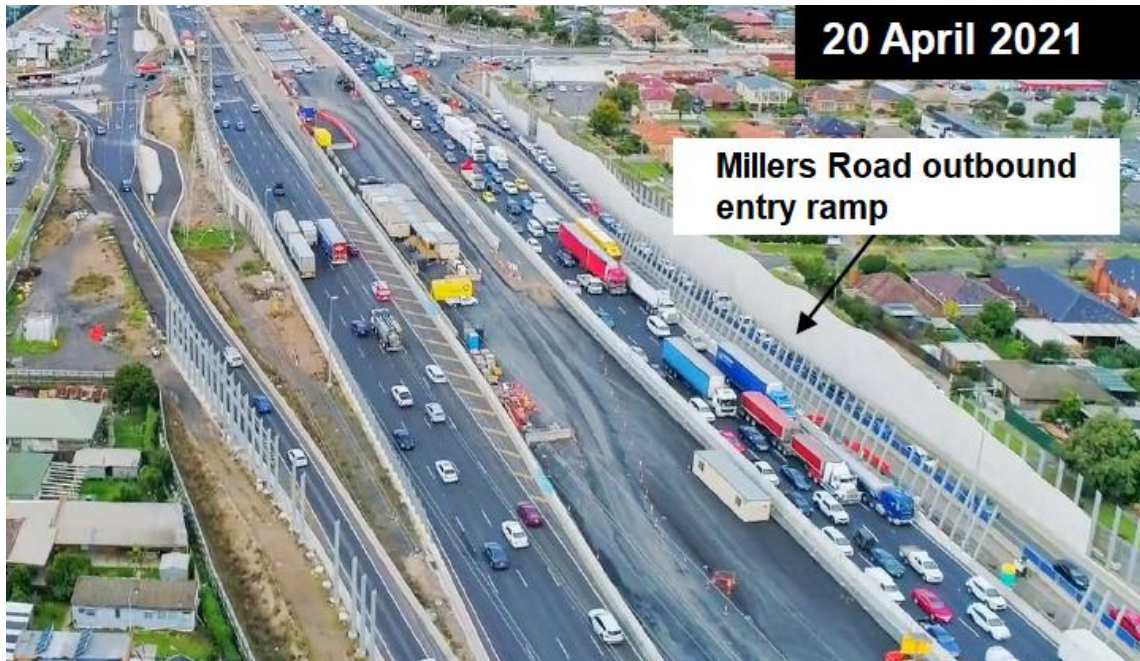


Figure 3: Noise walls under construction

Traffic Monitoring

Under the environmental performance requirements, WGTP MTIA is to undertake traffic monitoring in selected streets prior to construction, at six-monthly intervals during construction and up to two years after construction is complete. This is to be done in consultation with VicRoads and local councils as well as implementing local area traffic management works as required.

Traffic performance on the West Gate Freeway is required to be monitored in real time with up-to-date traffic information made available to road users via Variable Message Signs (VMS) to enable informed decision making on route choice. Road corridors have been identified for monitoring based on preferred routes to the city and locations that may be impacted by the construction activities associated with the WGTP MTIA. The latest report provides a summary of traffic monitoring undertaken during the October-November 2020 period versus available baseline data collected during October-November 2017.

Traffic volume results for the locations where pre and post construction data is available (25 sites) has revealed the following:

- a significant decrease in average weekday daily traffic volumes (14.76 per cent)
- AM peak volume decrease of 13.75 per cent
- PM peak volume decrease of 16.82 per cent

In the West zone there has been an average daily traffic volume reduction of 14.71 per cent with AM and PM peak reductions of 5.00 per cent and 9.87 per cent respectively.

Geelong Road between Francis Street and Grieve Parade was found to experience a decrease in traffic volumes of 42.23 per cent during the AM peak period, while Millers Road between Geelong Road and the West Gate Freeway was found to experience a decrease in traffic volumes of 26.41 per cent during the AM peak period. Similarly, Williamstown Road between Francis Street and the Westgate Freeway experienced an average daily reduction of 23.51 per cent when compared to baseline data.

A summary of overall traffic volume changes for the project areas over the monitoring periods is shown below (Figure 4).

SURVEY PERIOD	AVERAGE WEEKDAY TRAFFIC VOLUME CHANGE	AVERAGE WEEKDAY AM PEAK VOLUME CHANGE	AVERAGE WEEKDAY PM PEAK VOLUME CHANGE
Apr-Aug 2018 (20 count sites)	- 2.13%	- 4.85%	- 3.38%
Oct/Nov 2018 (23 count sites)	- 1.01%	- 2.00%	- 5.27%
May 2019 (23 count sites)	- 3.56%	+ 4.28%	- 1.77%
Oct/Nov 2019 (25 count sites)	+ 1.32%	+ 5.79%	-0.01%
May 2020 (25 count sites)	-25.26 %	-25.00 %	-22.39 %
October 2020 (25 count sites)	-20.28%	-17.22%	-18.38%

Figure 4: Traffic monitoring summary

Travel times during the peak periods have also reduced with an average decrease of 27.5 per cent and 23.9 per cent during the AM and PM peak periods respectively.

It is noted that the above results extend across the entire project area and have been heavily influenced by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic than by the impacts of the project.

Soil Disposal Approvals

Before any facility can be used to safely manage tunnel soil for the project, which is expected to contain low levels of PFAS, an approvals process is in place to ensure the community and environment is protected. This requires any site that has put forward a proposal to obtain the relevant environment and planning approvals before any site can start receiving tunnel soil.

Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) has approved Environment Management Plans for three Victorian landfills to receive soil from the Project with the latest approval for Cleanaway's Spoil Management and Reuse Facility in Ravenhall. EPA does not expect there to be further applications. The JV is running a tender process to choose a site for the disposal of the soil from tunnelling.

Pedestrian Bridge Naming Competition

WGTP MTIA is running a competition to name the new bridges that replaced the two walking and cycling bridges that link Yarraville with Spotswood and Altona North with Brooklyn (Figure 5). Suggested names should reflect the spirit of the inner west community, such as honouring a significant historical person or event, referencing local plants, wildlife, or geographical features, or highlighting the diversity of past inhabitants, cultures, or activities in the area. More information and application details are available on the competition webpage at: <https://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/community/name-your-bridges-comp>



Figure 5: Pedestrian bridge images

Up-to-date information on planned road closures and detours can be found at Victoria's Big Build website: <https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/disruptions>

Other Items

A meeting of the Community Liaison Group (CLG) – West was held on 15 April 2021. Further information on the CLG including copies of meeting notes and presentations can be found at: <http://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/clg/>

The West Gate Tunnel Project's Community Information Centre has reopened with information available at <https://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/contact/information-centre>

The WGTP air quality monitoring report for March 2021 has been published at:
<https://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/about/keytopics/tunnel-ventilation-and-air-quality>

Ambient air quality monitoring results were less than the respective air quality objectives for all parameters measured for all stations.

11 Delegate Reports

Purpose

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

Motion

Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud:

That Council receives and notes the recent Delegate Report.

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the recent Delegate Report.

Metropolitan Transport Forum

Directorate: Infrastructure and City Services

Councillor Delegate: Mayor Cr Jonathon Marsden

Date of Meeting: 5 May 2021

The Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF) meeting on 5 May 2021 focused on the Suburban Rail Loop project rationale and background, updates and next steps.

Mick Douge, Director of Rail and Infrastructure, and Lissa van Camp, Director of Land, Planning and Environment from the Suburban Rail Loop Authority provided a project update on the Suburban Rail Loop project. The 90km Suburban Rail Loop will link every major rail line from the Frankston to the Werribee line via Melbourne Airport. Three transport super hubs at Clayton, Broadmeadows and Sunshine will connect regional services to the Suburban Rail Loop, so passengers outside Melbourne won't have to travel through the CBD to reach destinations in the suburbs.

The first stage, Cheltenham to Box Hill, will deliver a 26km twin tunnel standalone line with six underground stations and a dedicated fleet of high-tech trains, integrated with the existing ticketing system, to provide a turn-up-and-go service. The line will connect to existing stations at Cheltenham, Clayton, Glen Waverley and Box Hill and create new stations at Monash and Burwood.

Stage one will include an Environmental Effects Statement (EES). The authority is currently preparing the EES, and the panel inquiry process will commence in late 2021, will be followed by the minister's assessment and an outcome will be determined in the third quarter of 2022.

While the Suburban Rail Loop project is not located within the City of Hobsons Bay, the Suburban Rail Loop will reshape Melbourne's transport network having positive flow-on effects for the local community in Hobsons Bay and its transport network once complete.

Other business

The MTF Executive confirmed that the June meeting would be held in person at the Melbourne Town Hall with guest speaker Minister for Public Transport, Roads and Road Safety Ben Carroll.

The MTF Executive discussed plans for face-to-face advocacy campaigns such as "Mayors on Bikes" and "Mayors on Buses" with the continuing easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

12 Notices of Motion

12.1 Notice of Motion No. 1227 - Condolence - The Late Jessie Hodgson

Cr Peter Hemphill has given notice of the following:

Motion

Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Tony Briffa:

That Council acknowledges the passing of former Williamstown City Councillor, the late Jessie Hodgson, and sends a letter of condolence written under the signature of the Mayor to her family.

Carried unanimously

That Council acknowledges the passing of former Williamstown City Councillor, the late Jessie Hodgson, and sends a letter of condolence written under the signature of the Mayor to her family.

13 Urgent Business

Nil

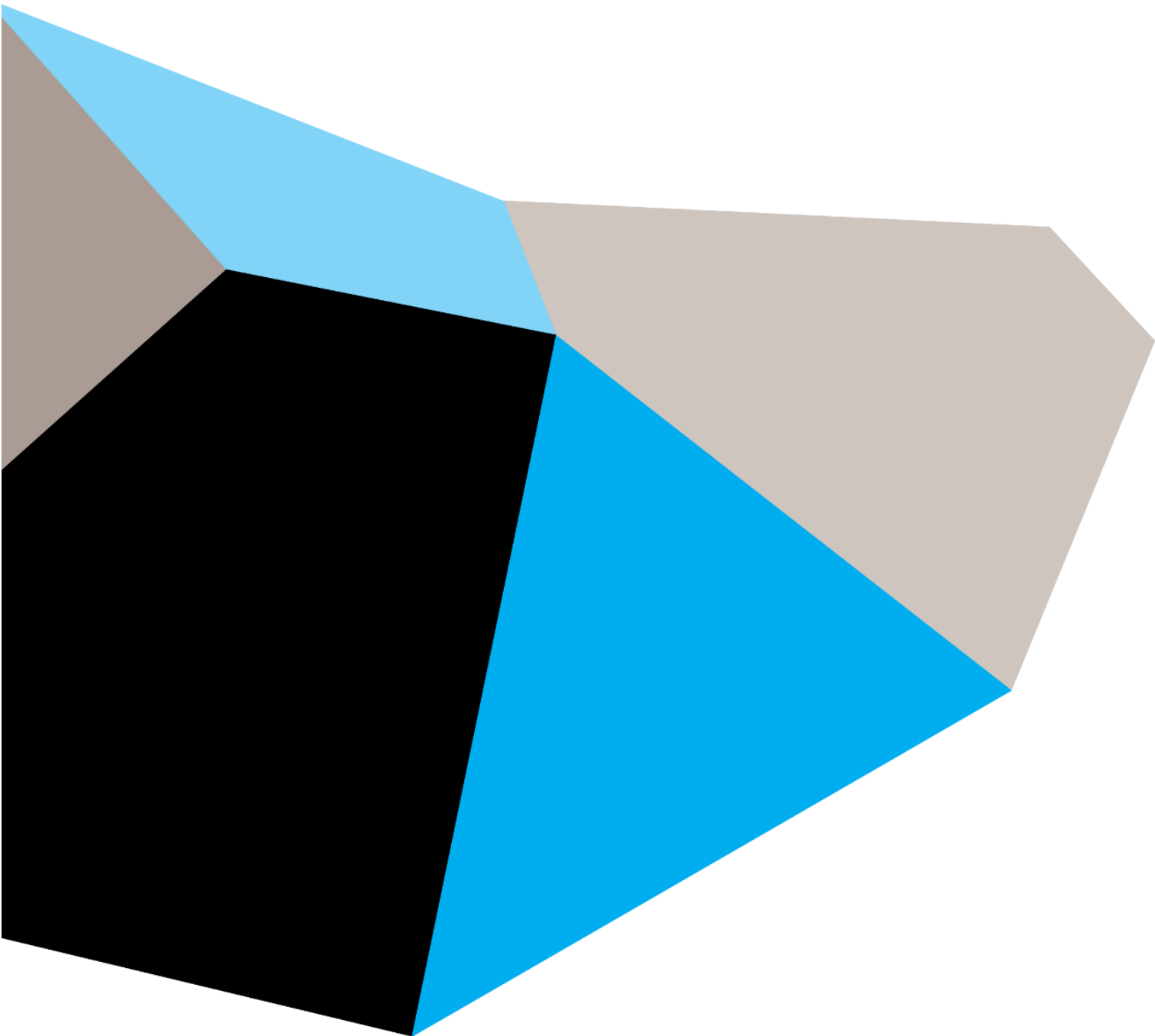
14 Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9.52pm.

Chairperson – Cr Jonathon Marsden

Signed and certified as having been confirmed.

29 June 2021



HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

115 Civic Parade, Altona

PO Box 21, Altona 3018

Phone (03) 9932 1000

Fax (03) 9932 1039

NRS phone 133 677 and quote 03 9932 1000

Email customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

 www.twitter.com/HobsonsBayCC

 www.facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil

 www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au
