

The cover features a large black triangle on the left side. To its right is a blue brick wall texture that recedes into the distance. The top of the page is divided into light blue and grey geometric shapes. A white rectangular frame is positioned above the main title.

Council Meeting Minutes

9 August 2022

Council Chamber
Hobsons Bay Civic Centre
115 Civic Parade, Altona

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 Bunurong People 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 Peter Hemphill (Mayor)

Strand Ward

Councillors:

Cr Diana Grima (Deputy Mayor)

Wetlands Ward

Cr Tony Briffa JP

Cherry Lake Ward

Cr Daria Kellander

Cherry Lake Ward

Cr Jonathon Marsden

Strand Ward

Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud

Strand Ward

Cr Matt Tyler

Wetlands Ward

Aaron van Egmond
Chief Executive Officer
Hobsons Bay City Council

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 August 2022 at 7pm.

Present

Chairperson

Cr Peter Hemphill (Mayor) Strand Ward

Councillors

Cr Diana Grima (Deputy Mayor)	Wetlands Ward
Cr Tony Briffa JP	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Daria Kellander	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Jonathon Marsden	Strand Ward
Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud	Strand Ward
Cr Matt Tyler	Wetlands Ward

Officers

Mr Aaron van Egmond	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Andrew McLeod	Director Corporate Services
Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam	Director Infrastructure and City Services
Ms Penelope Winslade	Director Sustainable Communities
Ms Diane Eyckens	Manager Corporate Integrity and Legal Counsel
Ms Briony Davis	Governance Officer and Minute Secretary

1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement

The Chairperson welcomed members of the public and acknowledged the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways.

2 Apologies

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

Motion

Moved Cr Tony Briffa, seconded Cr Matt Tyler:

That Council accepts an apology from Cr Diana Grima.

Carried unanimously

3 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.

Cr Matt Tyler disclosed an interest relating to Item 8.2.1 Mayoral Focus Update through his work as Executive Director with the Men's Project at Jesuit Social Services, which conducts workshops through the Sons of the West program mentioned in the report. Cr Tyler stated that he did not regard the interest as a material conflict of interest and did not leave the room during debate on the item.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 12 July 2022 (copy previously circulated).

Motion

Moved Cr Jonathon Marsden, seconded Cr Tony Briffa:

That Council confirms the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 12 July 2022.

Carried unanimously

5 Councillor Questions

Cr Daria Kellander requested an update on the current works and business closure on Pier Street, Altona, including the anticipated completion date.

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, responded that the works involve improvements to Pier Street, the footpath and neighbouring parks, and are scheduled to finish by September 2022.

Cr Jonathon Marsden requested an update on progress with Council's advocacy to have the community compensated for the delay of the West Gate Tunnel Project.

Cr Peter Hemphill sought clarification that Cr Marsden was referring to the request to the West Gate Tunnel Authority in relation to topping up the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund. Cr Marsden confirmed that he was.

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, responded that the West Gate Tunnel Project's response to Council's request for additional funds to be allocated to the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund indicated that while the initial commitment of \$10 million was available and the second round of grants currently open, there was no commitment for further funds.

Cr Jonathon Marsden asked what Council would now do to secure that, in his opinion, the community should receive as a result of the delay to the project.

Cr Peter Hemphill responded that Council may need to consider campaigning for it in the lead-up to the state election, and noted that when the conversation was initiated in April 2022, it was to discuss that the original package – shared between Hobsons Bay and Maribyrnong and intended for not-for-profit organisations – had not yet been spent, although it should have been. Cr Hemphill added that, given that the project had been blown out by three years, he thought it was only fair for Council to ask and collectively pursue it on behalf of the community over the coming weeks.

Cr Matt Tyler noted that the funding for the new Western Aquatics and Early Years Centre in Bruce Comben Reserve remains uncertain and asked why, when the prior Council adopted the Aquatic Strategy in 2019, Council did not pursue an approach to both retain the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre and build the new facility.

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, responded that the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre was built in the 1970s and refurbishment was a challenge due to the use and age of the facilities.

Mr Manivasagasivam stated that Council had done a number of assessments in 2017-18 which identified that while patch-up works were possible, it would be a waste of ratepayers' money as it would not extend the life of the building, and Council would need to spend about \$30 million to rebuild it to a modern standard.

Mr Manivasagasivam added that the site lacks the catchment to make it more viable, meaning that if it were to remain operational, it would cost more to ratepayers every year.

Mr Manivasagasivam stated that Council had investigated what the most viable options were for an aquatics facility, and that the site at Bruce Comben Reserve was selected due to the size of the available land and catchment area providing greater viability and better value for the community.

Cr Peter Hemphill requested an update on what Council has been doing and its current status regarding electric vehicle (EV) charging stations on nature strips.

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, responded that Council began working on this in 2018 and installed three public EV charging points in 2019-20, and has since investigated options around both enabling residents to charge their vehicles privately and providing public charging stations. Mr Manivasagasivam stated that the options under consideration included Council carrying out the works, partnering with the Victorian or Australian governments, or going into a private-public partnership.

Mr Manivasagasivam stated that at the time Council first looked into the matter, the necessary technology to meet Australian standards was not available in the Australian market, but that a product was now available. In addition, Mr Manivasagasivam stated that Port Phillip City Council was undergoing a two-year trial with their residents on kerbside charging, and Council officers were working with them to understand how the trial is working with a view to implement a similar trial in Hobsons Bay at a later stage once all the details have been worked through.

Cr Peter Hemphill asked to confirm that Council would use Port Phillip's findings to guide its direction on implementing EV charging.

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, responded that this was correct – that Council would need to clarify details such as what sort of models to use, which permits to obtain, what the cost would be, who would be responsible for any incidents, insurance and so on – and that the Port Phillip trial would help Council officers to understand those details and shape Council's direction on EV charging.

Cr Peter Hemphill noted that Port Phillip City Council was using technology patented by a Williamstown resident, Mr Rod Walker.

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, responded that this was correct and that Council had also been working with Rod Walker since 2018.

Cr Peter Hemphill requested confirmation that Port Phillip City Council was using Rod Walker's technology only at the moment?

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, confirmed that he believed this to be the case.

6 Public Question Time

Geraldine Kavanagh

Q As part of the “Plastic Free July” campaign, Council has recommended to take your own reusable containers into restaurants for takeaway. This could be a health and safety issue if the containers are being taken into a private kitchen facility, as they may not be clean.

Can Council please advise which hospitality traders were consulted, and confirmed participation, prior to advertising the suggestion?

A Council is committed to supporting our community to reduce waste and regularly promotes waste education initiatives to businesses and residents. Council has supported Plastic Free July for a number of years and has not conducted specific consultation this year with hospitality traders. The program was promoted to businesses through Council’s usual communication channels including social media and the e-works business newsletter.

Many businesses in Hobsons Bay accept reusable containers and keep cups. These food premises are responsible for putting in place measures that ensure that food is safe for the community. This might include protocols that minimise contact or the cleaning and sanitising of containers.

Stuart Norman

Q Has Council investigated how on-street EV charging is being executed in the UK, and has Council considered how on-street EV charging can be integrated into its current parking technology infrastructure?

A Council is aware of the need for a policy in this space and is in the early stages of considering its policy position for the provisions of on-street EV charging within the municipality. This will involve examination of practices elsewhere in Australia and overseas. As part of the process Council will consider options for minimising impacts to the street environment, such as keeping footpaths clear of obstructions and consideration of how any infrastructure will be financed and maintained.

Council is currently working with other M9 councils on advocacy and options for EV charging.

Sandra Thorn

Q Can Council please clearly outline the environmental benefits of the proposed full-scale removal of the *Lagunaria patersonia* trees, especially in light of the recently-released State of the Environment report which includes an urban component regarding opportunities to increase, not remove, green spaces in municipalities?

A The replacement of *Lagunaria patersonia* with appropriate canopy tree species will ultimately increase the Hobsons Bay tree canopy cover over the longer term, as the

new trees become established. Lagunaria have relatively narrow canopies, typically averaging about 10 metres in diameter. The proposed replacement tree species will attain up to 15 metres in diameter.

Properties have reported resorting to electric means of drying their laundry where lagunarias exist near their properties, due to the fibres blowing on to the washing. The replacement of the lagunarias will remove this problem and will reduce energy consumption.

Maria McGuane

Q What is the origin of the funds to be used in the removal and replacement of more than 200 lagunaria trees in Hobsons Bay, and what is the total cost of this project?

A The funding to be used is part of the capital works budget allocation for implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy.

In line with the Urban Forest Strategy Action Plan, the total cost for the lagunaria removals will be about \$150,000 for the 2022 season.

The total expenditure on planting and maintaining new trees as part of the strategy is about \$2.1 million, during the same period.

Q As the decision to remove the trees is an action plan of the Urban Forest Strategy, have funds provided to increase the tree canopy in Hobsons Bay been redirected and ratepayers' funds misused?

A The funds have not been redirected from the tree planting program, nor have ratepayers' funds been misused to manage the lagunaria tree population.

The costed action was included in the adopted Urban Forest Strategy and funds allocated accordingly.

The lagunaria replacement program will include the removal of approximately 150 trees during the 2022-23 financial year. A total of approximately 8,000 advanced trees and a further 20,000 tube stock trees will be planted during the same period. The survival rate of these trees is 98 per cent. This will be repeated for the subsequent years.

Q Given that the existing Lagunaria trees have stood the test of time in what are often harsh coastal conditions in Hobsons Bay, would it not be wiser of Council to retain their excellent tree canopy for as long as possible for residents and wildlife and only replace them when they come to the end of their life, in the meantime continuing to plant as many trees as possible?

A Council is continuing to plant as many new trees as possible to increase the tree canopy in Hobsons Bay.

Each removed lagunaria will be replaced by at least one advanced canopy tree. Where space allows, Council will seek to plant additional appropriate canopy trees. In Twyford Street for example, a total of 32 replacement advanced trees are scheduled to be planted to replace the 16 proposed removals. These plantings will provide much more canopy than the existing lagunaria, as the trees become established.

Individual lagunaria trees that have not been requested by residents to be removed will be retained until the end of their useful life and will be replaced with a more appropriate species at that time.

Rowena Joske

Q The Planning Panel Report for Precinct 15 includes plans for a connection via Aloha Street to link with Spotswood Railway Station to the east.

Can Council please explain the process that led Council to change its position on the Aloha Street bike connection, after Ministerial and Council endorsement of the Development Plan, to determine that it was appropriate to be permanently blocked off?

A The answer to this question was previously provided at the Council Meeting on 12 April 2022.

Q Why has Council not endorsed the Hobsons Bay Transport Planning Study, nor put its name on the Study's Network Challenges Report?

A The Hobsons Bay Transport Planning Study was conducted by the Department of Transport for the Victorian Government as part of the West Gate Tunnel Project.

Victoria Mikula

Q Was the question ever posed to the community whether they would prefer the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre to be updated or renovated versus replaced? The \$3.8 million suggested in the draft budget for Stage 3 could be used to cover the cost of the update/renovation to the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre.

A Council's strategic position on the future of the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre was identified as part of the Aquatic Strategy adopted by Council in 2019 after an extensive community consultation.

The McCormack Park Master Plan process has been an opportunity for the community to provide further input into reimagining the future of McCormack Park as a staged upgrade. The decommissioning of the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre will only occur following opening of the new Western Aquatic and Early Years Centre at Bruce Comben Reserve.

Due to the current condition of the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre, it would require closer to \$30 million to rebuild to a modern standard and all-inclusive facility.

Q Is Council concerned that the feedback received as part of the Hobsons Bay Aquatic Strategy Public Exhibition – Consultation Summary Report states that the majority of respondents did not support the future facility at Bruce Comben Reserve?

A The community were asked several questions about the Draft Aquatic Strategy during its public exhibition period to understand levels of support. Council acknowledges that this is a complex issue and that there are a range of views held by members of the community. Council is confident that these views have been considered and that the chosen direction will be of the greatest benefit to the overall community.

Q With respect to the feedback on the removal of the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre, is Council concerned that only 76 responses were received from a catchment of around 5,000, of which most actually provided feedback reflecting the need/want to keep and update the pool rather than remove it altogether?

A Over 1,800 people participated in the two-stage consultation process on the development of the Aquatic Strategy. The first round of consultation included a resident survey, and a survey that users of Bayfit Leisure Centre and Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre could fill in. In total 697 surveys were received as part of this process.

The public exhibition of the Draft Aquatic Strategy was the second stage of consultation. It was widely promoted to existing users and members of Council's aquatic facilities and the Hobsons Bay community. In total, 1,140 people visited the Draft Aquatic Strategy page on Participate Hobsons Bay. Seventy-six people completed an online survey, nine submissions were received and approximately 45 people attended the three community drop-in sessions held during April 2019.

After considering all responses from the community, the Hobsons Bay Aquatic Strategy was adopted at the 9 July 2019 Council Meeting.

Christine Harris

Q When and how was consultation conducted on the GreenLine through South Kingsville?

A The high-level proposal for the GreenLine through South Kingsville was identified as a project as part of the Spotswood and South Kingsville Better Places strategic plan. Consultation on the Better Places plan took place between February and April in 2021 and was endorsed by Council in October 2021. Further consultation on the GreenLine in South Kingsville will take place in future as the project is considered in greater detail.

In addition to this, the GreenLine was extensively consulted on as part of the Local Area Movement Plans for the area.

Q Why is Brunel Street not being prioritised as a bus route, as per the CDP?

A The CDP provides for a future east-west bus route connecting Kyle Road to Brunel Street. There has been no change to the bus route through Precinct 15 in Altona North.

This bus route crosses four different properties which will be developed at different times. The bus service along this route cannot be provided until the full length of the road through Precinct 15 is built. The delivery of the bus service will be determined by the Department of Transport once the road is built and available for use. There is no indication that the Department of Transport won't support the alignment as planned.

Eileen Gardner**Q Will Cooraminta Children's Centre Inc be automatically offered the role of the approved provider of the early years facility on the Bruce Comben Reserve?**

A Legislation and Council policy govern the appropriate tender process when a lease or licence expires. An assessment will be undertaken, as with all existing leases and licence arrangements, to determine fair and equitable process once the development is close to completion.

Q Will Cooraminta Children's Centre be able to remain in its current building while the new facility is being constructed?

A This has not yet been confirmed. Council would always relocate any existing tenants if and when any Council facility requires refurbishment or redevelopment. Council will make an appropriate assessment when the timings and construction method to be associated with the development of the Western Aquatic and Early Years Facility are known.

Q How does Council justify demolishing a "for purpose building" to be replaced with a "like" facility, how does this fit in line with the Hobsons Bay City Council sustainability strategy?

A Cooraminta Children's Centre was originally built in the 1980s to deliver kindergarten services to the local community in the short and medium term. While the facility may continue to meet needs in the short term, the early years reforms recently announced by the Victorian Government will require substantial increases in capacity that cannot be delivered from the current facility. The initial master plan and concept plans for the Western Aquatic and Early Years Centre will enable the increased kindergarten requirements to be met by increasing the number of places available.

7 Petitions and Joint Letters**7.1 Petitions and Joint Letters Received**

Nil

7.2 Responses to Petitions and Joint Letters

7.2.1 Response to Petition - Objection to Social Housing at Curlew Community Park, Laverton

Directorate: Sustainable Communities
Responsible Officer: Manager Strategy, Economy and Sustainability
Reviewer: Director Sustainable Communities
Attachments: Nil

Purpose

To respond to the petition objecting to the proposed affordable housing development and loss of open space at Curlew Community Park in Epsom Street, Laverton.

Motion

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

That Council:

- 1. Notes previous planning, consultation and development of the Epsom Street site, which has sought community feedback on open space needs and proposed affordable housing.**
- 2. Notes that further community consultation will be undertaken to inform future stages of the Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project, if successful in obtaining Victorian Government funding for the development.**
- 3. Writes to the lead petitioner advising of the outcome.**

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Notes previous planning, consultation and development of the Epsom Street site, which has sought community feedback on open space needs and proposed affordable housing.**
- 2. Notes that further community consultation will be undertaken to inform future stages of the Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project, if successful in obtaining Victorian Government funding for the development.**
- 3. Writes to the lead petitioner advising of the outcome.**

Summary

The issues raised in the petition have been addressed through previous consultation, open space planning, and the planning and provision of recreational facilities in the local area. However, it is recognised that some residents have ongoing concerns, and there will be further community consultation on the draft design of the proposed affordable housing development if the project advances to the next stages by receiving Victorian Government funding.

Background

In 2014, Council purchased the former Laverton Primary School site at 7-43 Epsom Street, Laverton for the purpose of creating open space and exploring the feasibility of providing affordable housing on the site. Council subsequently purchased a single residential lot at 45 Epsom Street to enable a more holistic design for the overall development.

A master plan for the site was developed with community input which nominated the central portion of the site for open space and allocated the northern and southern sections of the site for housing. In December 2019, the first stage of the project (Curlew Community Park) was delivered as the open space component of the master plan.

With the formation of the Hobson Bay Housing Trust and the potential for Victorian Government funding, Council has continued work to realise the affordable housing component of the master plan. In March 2022, Council sought feedback through a community consultation process on the Draft Epsom Street Affordable Housing Design Guidelines. The guidelines have subsequently been revised in response to community feedback on a range of elements, including height, density, car parking, vehicle access, and delineation between the private (housing) and public (park) realms.

At the Council Meeting on 10 May 2022, Council formally received a petition stating the following:

“We, the undersign[ed], residents of Hobsons Bay object to the planned construction of social housing at the ends of Curlew Park, Laverton. We believe it should remain open land and integrated with the park. The land behind the new fire station should be used for sports such as tennis courts.”

The petition was signed by 32 people of whom 25 identified as Laverton residents, six were from other suburbs of Hobsons Bay, and one lived outside of the municipality. Council officers have followed up with the lead petitioner to further understand the concerns raised. The lead petitioner confirmed a key concern was the protection of open space at Curlew Community Park which is a much loved and highly utilised community asset.

Discussion

Previous consultation

Since Council's purchase of the site in 2014, both open space and affordable housing have been the subject of several consultation programs. In 2015 and 2016, a Masterplan Context Plan Development process was undertaken, including community consultation workshops.

In 2018, Council undertook a further master plan process to develop the elements of open space and affordable housing, which also involved community consultation. During this phase, a master plan was created which established a community park at the centre of the site and parcels designated for future affordable housing to the north and south of the community park.

In 2020, further community consultation occurred to inform the development of the Better Places Laverton Place Guide which identified a range of potential projects and initiatives, including the delivery of affordable housing on the Council-owned site at Epsom Street.

Open space planning

Council's Open Space Strategy 2018-28 identifies the Laverton area as having good overall coverage of open space, with just 4.4 per cent of residents living outside a walkable catchment to open space. In total, 7.8 per cent of the Laverton precinct is accessible open space, which is in line with the Hobsons Bay average (7.9 per cent) and above the average for metropolitan Melbourne (6.6 per cent). However, open space per capita is forecast to decrease from 25.9 square metres in 2016 to 17.3 square metres by 2036 due to population growth.

During the master planning stage, the space allocated to open space was carefully considered and evaluated against the size of other precedent parks to ensure that the community park was of an appropriate size. At 9,152 square metres, the park is classified as a "local park" under Council's Open Space Strategy, being between 2,000 and 10,000 square metres.

Recreational facilities

The petition suggests that the land behind the new fire station should be used for sports such as tennis courts. This land directly east of the fire station is owned by Fire Services Victoria so its future use is not a decision for Council. However, Council is able to advocate to the Victorian Government and Fire Services Victoria regarding the potential future uses of this land.

More broadly, the Hobsons Bay Tennis Needs Assessment (adopted in 2018) reviewed the provision and condition of tennis facilities across the municipality. It found that continual growth of the Laverton Park Tennis Club (located about one kilometre from the site) would require additional courts in the medium to long term, and any additional courts would be provided at the club's existing location. There was also a recommendation that no new public access courts are required in Hobsons Bay and that tennis participation across the western suburbs is being met by the current facilities.

Additionally, Curlew Community Park already incorporates various recreational facilities and opportunities for sporting activity. The park includes two outdoor exercise equipment stations; a "pump track" for scooters, bicycles and skateboards; a table tennis table; and a half-court area with basketball and netball goals.

Recent and future consultation

In March 2022 Council undertook further consultation with the local community on Draft Design Guidelines that would inform any future development on the site. Council extensively promoted the consultation process and offered a range of opportunities to provide feedback,

including an online survey, focus group, and community drop-in sessions (with two held on site at Curlew Community Park).

Feedback indicated that most participants supported the proposed high-quality and modern design that would be facilitated through the draft guidelines. However, participants did raise some concerns (such as car parking, height and density). The amount of open space was also raised by a small number of participants.

The Design Guidelines have been revised in response to community feedback, with changes made to height and density of the development, delineation between private and public realm, car parking, vehicle access and safety/crime prevention.

As outlined in a related report to the 9 August 2022 Council Meeting (Item 8.3.1 Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project Funding Application), Council will consider providing in-principle approval for the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust to enable submission for Victorian Government funding to deliver the proposed Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project. Subject to the receipt of funding, a further round of consultation will be undertaken on the draft design of the proposed affordable housing development. Council would work closely with Housing Choices Australia (as the Trustee of the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust) to deliver this round of consultation. The outcomes of this process would be incorporated into the final design, which would subsequently be considered by the Victorian Government, with the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change required to take account of community feedback in determining the application.

7.2.2 Response to Petition - Removal of *Lagunaria Patersonia* Trees in Twyford Street, Williamstown

Directorate: Infrastructure and City Services
Responsible Officer: Manager City Services
Reviewer: Director Infrastructure and City Services
Attachments: Nil

Purpose

To address a petition regarding the removal of *Lagunaria patersonia* trees in Twyford Street, Williamstown.

Motion

Moved Cr Jonathon Marsden, seconded Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud:

That Council:

- 1. Implements the *Lagunaria patersonia* replacement program in Twyford Street, Williamstown with a revised focus on only replacing individual trees that are directly affecting residents.**
- 2. Writes to the lead petitioner advising of the outcome.**

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Implements the *Lagunaria patersonia* replacement program in Twyford Street, Williamstown with a revised focus on only replacing individual trees that are directly affecting residents.**
- 2. Writes to the lead petitioner advising of the outcome.**

Summary

Council received a petition of 79 signatories from Hobsons Bay residents, including 10 signatories from residents in Twyford Street, Williamstown, which was tabled at the Council Meeting held on 28 June 2022. The petitioners request that Council reverse the decision to remove the *lagunaria* trees from Twyford Street.

Further to this petition, Council has received nominations and written submissions from residents of 21 properties in Twyford Street who are in support of the program and six properties in Twyford Street who have voiced concerns regarding the program.

In response, Council proposes to amend the replacement program to solely replace lagunaria where they are directly affecting properties. This revised approach will only replace lagunaria that have been nominated by the community and will reduce the number of scheduled lagunaria replacements in Twyford Street from 27 to 16. Further requests for the replacement of lagunaria where they are causing harm to residents will be accommodated on a case-by-case basis in ensuing years, in accordance with Action 2.5 of the Hobsons Bay Urban Forest Strategy 2020.

Background

The petition reads as follows:

“We, the undersigned, petition Hobsons Bay City Council to immediately reverse its proposal to remove the valuable Lagunaria street tree canopy in Williamstown.”

The lagunaria replacement program comprises Action 2.5 of the Hobsons Bay Urban Forest Strategy 2020.

Lagunaria is now regarded as an unsuitable street tree in many parts of Australia, including Hobsons Bay.

Despite the species having many beneficial attributes, the release of fine hairs from the tree’s seed capsules can provide extensive discomfort to residents living near them, earning them the nickname of “itchy bomb trees”. These hairs can cause respiratory and skin irritations. The species also provides significant management issues when located underneath powerlines, as it produces vigorous regrowth following pruning activities and therefore often requires extensive pruning.

During an eight-week community consultation period from October to November 2021, Council received nominations for the replacement of 17 lagunaria in Twyford Street. Given that this formed the majority of this tree species within the street, the entire Twyford Street lagunaria population was selected for replacement.

This year marked the initial year of the lagunaria replacement program. Within the Williamstown area, Tobruk Crescent, Bayview Street and Twyford Street comprised the initial streets where lagunaria were scheduled to be replaced, due to the large number of resident requests.

Discussion

The lagunaria replacement program has proved to be quite contentious, particularly in Twyford Street, with a minority of residents in opposition and with a majority of directly affected residents in support.

Since an initial letterbox drop to approximately 83 Twyford Street households regarding the program, Council has received written submissions from 15 properties that are in support of the program and submissions from six properties that have voiced concerns about the program.

Submissions that were in favour of the replacement program cited the following issues associated with the species:

- the trees exacerbating pre-existing allergies
- the fibres from the trees causing distress to children, adults and animals by lodging in their skin and having to be removed
- impacts on residents' ability to fully utilise their private open space areas due to the presence of the fibres
- the fibres blowing onto outdoor clotheslines, making the clothes very itchy to wear and bed linen itchy to sleep in

Submissions that voiced concerns regarding the replacement program cited the following issues associated with the program:

- concerns regarding all lagunaria trees being removed from the street at once and the impacts this will have to native fauna and streetscape appeal
- the use of an exotic replacement tree species
- concerns that the removal of this species could set precedent for the removal of other trees that are perceived as causing nuisance

Council officers attended an on-site meeting in Twyford Street on 20 June 2022 to discuss the concerns with the residents.

Following the on-site meeting and upon reviewing the various submissions from Twyford Street, changes were made to the program so that removals will only occur where a lagunaria tree has been nominated by a resident. Trees which have not been nominated will not actively be removed.

These changes have reduced the numbers of lagunaria to be replaced in Twyford Street in 2022 from 27 to 16. The replacement species will be carefully selected, planted and maintained to ensure the restoration of canopy in a timely manner.

As indicated in the initial proposal, each removal will be replaced by at least one advanced canopy tree. Where space allows, Council will seek to plant additional appropriate canopy trees. A total of 32 advanced trees are scheduled to be planted to replace the 16 removals.

The proposed replacement species for most locations within the street is *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* Cimmarron. It is a large canopy tree species that is suited to this environment and is expected, once established, to provide greater canopy cover and shade than the existing lagunaria provides.

The *Fraxinus* species has a proven ability to perform within Twyford Street. As shown in Figure 1, a large established specimen is located outside of 53 Twyford Street. The canopy of this tree measures approximately 16 metres in diameter, which is substantially larger than the typical 10-metre diameter canopy of an established lagunaria.



Figure 1: Comparison of tree canopy sizes

An aerial image showing the extent of canopy provided by the *Fraxinus* sp. that is adjacent to 53 Twyford Street, in comparison to three *Lagunaria patersonia* that are scheduled for replacement.

The selection of the *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* Cimmarron species aligns with the tree species targets of the Urban Forest Strategy: no more than 5 per cent of one tree species, no more than 10 per cent of one genus and no more than 20 per cent of one family. Further, as the tree is deciduous, it is expected to provide ample shade during the warmer summer months while allowing sunlight to penetrate through during the cooler winter periods.

An ecologist has inspected all the trees for evidence of animal presence, and a handler will be present on site when the removals are taking place, to ensure any impacts to wildlife are minimised during the process.

Council is mindful that the replacements of currently nominated lagunaria may generate additional community requests for the replacement of this species in future years, which will be accommodated on a case-by-case basis.

This revised approach continues to be supported by Action 2.5 of the Hobsons Bay Urban Forest Strategy and by Section 4.8 (Part 3) of the Hobsons Bay City Council Tree Policy and will balance the needs of the community.

Having a defined Action within the Urban Forest Strategy that addresses the replacement of this unsuitable species will prevent the scheduled replacements setting precedent for community requests to remove other species. All community requests to remove species other than lagunaria will continue to be assessed strictly in accordance with the Hobsons Bay City Council Tree Policy 2021.

Approximately 8,500 advanced canopy trees have been scheduled to be planted across the municipality this year, with a further 20,000 indigenous tube stock trees being planted in natural areas. The lagunaria replacement program will involve the replacement of approximately 200 trees during the same period.

Increased resources have been allocated to the management of Council's Street Tree Planting Program this season. A senior member of the Arboriculture team will be dedicated to overseeing the planting and maintenance activities. The officer will work closely with our tree planting contractors, will carry out increased audits, and will apply recent learnings to ensure these new trees are provided adequate care during their establishment period.

8 Business

8.1 Office of the Chief Executive

8.1.1 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 - July 2022 [8.1.1.1 - 41 pages]

Cr Matt Tyler disclosed an interest relating to Item 8.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations through his work as Executive Director with the Men's Project at Jesuit Social Services, which conducts workshops through the Sons of the West program mentioned in the report. Cr Tyler stated that he did not regard the interest as a material conflict of interest and did not leave the room during debate on the item.

Purpose

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

Motion

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

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 July 2022 and 31 July 2022 is provided in this month's report.

8.2 Corporate Services

8.2.1 Mayoral Focus Program Update

Directorate:	Corporate Services
Responsible Officer:	Coordinator Governance and Information Management
Reviewer:	Director Corporate Services
Attachments:	Nil

Purpose

To update Councillors and the community on the areas of focus for the 2021-22 mayoral term of Cr Peter Hemphill.

Motion

Moved Cr Jonathon Marsden, seconded Cr Tony Briffa:

That Council notes the progress made on initiatives and activities that were identified as focus areas for the 2021-22 mayoral term by Cr Peter Hemphill.

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council notes the progress made on initiatives and activities that were identified as focus areas for the 2021-22 mayoral term by Cr Peter Hemphill.

Summary

The Mayoral Program provides an opportunity for the Mayor to support the implementation of key strategic actions that will serve the best interest of the Hobsons Bay community and align with the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision and the Council Plan 2021-25.

Recent activities in the current mayoral focus areas include:

- **Heritage:** Open House Melbourne, a new heritage street sign and the Hidden Histories project (currently seeking participants)
- **Environment:** continued work on the rooftop solar program and tree planting activities
- **Infrastructure:** updates on various projects in progress
- **Community building:** IDAHOBIT flag raising, Sons of the West program, NAIDOC Week events and citizenship ceremony

Background

In November 2021, Council elected Cr Peter Hemphill as Mayor for the 2021-22 mayoral term, and at the Council Meeting held on 8 February 2022 resolved to note the proposed 2021-22 Mayoral Program.

Cr Hemphill nominated four key mayoral focus areas: heritage, environment, infrastructure and community building. These include:

- preserving important heritage in Hobsons Bay such as the former Newport Railway Workshops, the Hobsons Bay Heritage Street Signs program and the historical significance of Altona Pier
- showcasing and advocating for expansion of the Virtual Energy Network
- rolling out the Urban Forest Strategy including a virtual dashboard for the community
- advocating and supporting delivery of critical infrastructure including:
 - continued advocacy for important projects such as the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre at HD Graham Reserve and the Western Aquatic Facility at Bruce Comben Reserve, both in Altona Meadows
 - collaborating with the Victorian Government to upgrade facilities at the Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club
 - continuing to work in partnership with the Victorian Government and the West Gate Tunnel Project to deliver the WLJ Crofts Reserve Pavilion in Altona North and new facilities at Donald McLean Reserve in Spotswood
 - a new pavilion at JT Gray Reserve in Williamstown North
- supporting Council's Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year in their community work

This report outlines the areas of particular interest and provides an update on the initiatives and activities that Cr Hemphill intends to support over the course of his mayoral term.

Discussion

Heritage

Heritage was front and centre in the Hobsons Bay program for **Open House Melbourne**. Over the weekend of 30-31 July 2022 people were able to visit unique locations across Melbourne in a celebration of design and the built form, giving an opportunity for Council to showcase the impressive and diverse design and architecture across the municipality.

Cr Hemphill was pleased to promote Open House Melbourne with a focus on local stories and sites, providing a chance for community members to discover some of the area's hidden gems.

Local sites with open days included the Old Laverton School in Altona Meadows, the Williamstown Town Hall, Blunt's Boatyards and the Morgue at Seaworks in Williamstown, among others.

Open House Melbourne official site: <https://openhousemelbourne.org/weekend-2022/>

List of featured locations in Hobsons Bay: www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ohm



Figures 1 to 3: Blunt's Boatyards, Old Laverton School in Altona Meadows and the Williamstown Town Hall

Mayor Cr Peter Hemphill was pleased to see a new addition to the list of Heritage Street Signs. Lady Nelson Crescent in Altona Meadows is the latest addition to the existing collection in Altona Meadows. The street was nominated through Council's Community Pitch program and able to be delivered through Council's cultural program. It acknowledges the maritime history of the *Lady Nelson* to complement the stories already told through the street signs at Alma Doepel Drive, Argonaut Place, Huia Close and Piri Grove.

A full list of heritage street signs is available at:

<https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Arts-Culture-Heritage/Cultural-Heritage/Heritage-Street-Signs>

Council's Hidden Histories program, curated as part of Better Places Spotswood and South Kingsville, is under way with a call out to people to share their stories as part of a short film. The aim is to gather stories and capture people's experiences, with local people speaking about the history of the area.

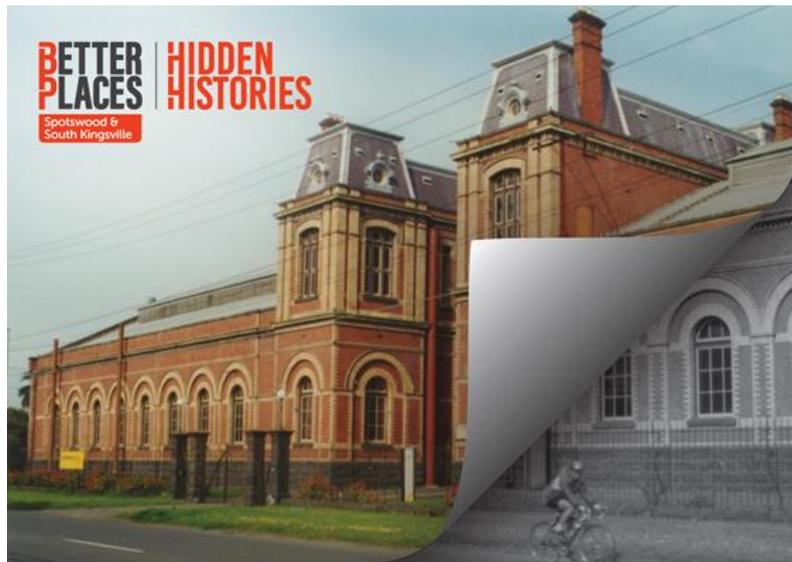


Figure 4: Poster for the Hidden Histories program

Environment

Council is continuing to roll out its ambitious **rooftop solar program** across Council buildings with 1,500 kW now installed via this project building on the previously existing 560kW of solar installed.

Council now boasts a total of 2,060kW or just over 2MW of solar power across Council-owned buildings.

Recent completed works include installations at:

- JK Grant Reserve
- Newport Athletics Track
- KC White Reserve
- Williamstown CYMS Social Room

Design works have also commenced for the installation of a solar car park structure at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre which will add another 100kW to the virtual energy network and result in over 400kW of solar being installed across the Civic Centre precinct.

Cr Hemphill continues to support the implementation of the **Hobsons Bay Urban Forest Strategy** with the online tree planting dashboard now live on Council's website and the **Green Streets** program under way. Streets participating in this year's program include Bayview Street in Williamstown, Hancock Street in Altona and Grace Street in Laverton.

Great progress has been made with the planting of approximately 3,000 advanced trees in Council's parks, reserves and streets. Progress is on track to reach the annual program goal of 8,500 advanced trees.

Other significant plantings across the municipality include:

- 18,000 native tube stock trees planted across Hobsons Bay through the More Trees For a Cooler Greener West grant funding, including at the Pines Scout Camp, Altona Coastal Park, Doug Grant Reserve, Truganina Park and Cherry Lake
- 22,500 indigenous tube stock grasses, wildflowers, understorey and trees planted in conservation reserves by Council staff, Friends groups, schools and volunteers as part of planting days

Infrastructure

Cr Hemphill has continued to advocate, support and collaborate for the delivery of the following critical infrastructure across the city.

The Wetlands Centre: Council and the Hobsons Bay Wetlands group continue to strongly advocate to state election candidates for project funding. The Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre prospectus was launched at the Open Day on 7 May 2022. A site visit was held on 15 June with various ministers (Melissa Home, Jill Hennessy, Lily D'Ambrosio).



Figures 5 and 6: Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre site visit

The Western Aquatic Facility: Council continues to advocate for funding partnerships with all major political parties in the lead up to the state government election. The design of the facility is continuing with community engagement on a preliminary concept taking place for five weeks from 15 August 2022. The “district level” facility will include an eight-lane 25 metre pool, a learn-to-swim pool, an aqua play area, a toddler pool and a warm water pool. The facility will also house a gymnasium, an early years centre, a café, offices, change facilities and amenities. Engagement with key site stakeholders has occurred and will continue throughout the design process.

Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club: A recommendation for the design consultancy tender for the Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club (WSLSC) project is being presented to Council for endorsement in August. Following this appointment, the process will commence to undertake concept designs for public exhibition over the summer period. Regular meetings to progress the project are taking place in accordance with the project’s agreed governance structure.

WLJ Crofts Reserve Pavilion: Works are progressing to complete construction of the new sports pavilion, with the clubs preparing to move in throughout August. Car park works are continuing and the open space upgrades will start towards the end of 2022.

Digman Reserve: Works to upgrade the new pavilion and both the east and west sports fields with floodlighting have been completed, with sporting clubs and the community now enjoying the upgraded space. The open space redevelopment and construction of the northern path will commence in late 2022.

Donald McLean Reserve: Pavilion redevelopment works are scheduled for completion during August and the tenant clubs are already moving their stored equipment into the new storage areas. The Creek Street car park works are continuing and will include lighting, club storage and rain gardens. The open space works are well under way, with new footpaths and playground equipment installed, and are scheduled for completion in September 2022.

JT Gray Reserve: The sports pavilion slab has been poured and the structural steel and precast wall panels will be arriving for installation in August. Construction of the new cricket nets are under way, with car park works and a floodlight upgrade to take place later in 2022. The project is scheduled for completion in April 2023.

Community Building

On 17 May, along with Cr Tony Briffa, Cr Hemphill took part in the flag raising for the **International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia**. The ceremony recognised that 31 years ago the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from the Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems.

In early June, Cr Hemphill attended the graduation of the **Sons of the West program** run by the Western Bulldogs. This is an excellent program which focuses on men's health. It includes regular walks by participants, nutritional advice and a focus on mental health. Cr Hemphill was fascinated to learn that, collectively, the Hobsons Bay participants had walked just shy of 8 million steps, which is almost 6,100 kilometres. In total, over 53 million steps (40,300km) were walked across all groups. A total of 47 local men from Hobsons Bay graduated from the program.

On 7 July, along with Cr Sutton-Legaud, Cr Hemphill took part in the **NAIDOC Week** celebration, including a flag raising ceremony outside the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre. This year there was a special treat for attendees, with a performance by cultural dancers from Council's friendship alliance with the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council in Queensland. This is a special friendship and possibly the only one between a Victorian council and an Aboriginal council. There is likely to be a long-overdue reciprocal visit by the Hobsons Bay council representatives to Yarrabah before the end of the year.



Figure 7: Council representatives and Yarrabah cultural dancers at the NAIDOC Week flag raising ceremony

Later that night, Cr Hemphill presided over the first in-person **citizenship ceremony** since April 2021. There were a record 108 residents who sought naturalisation that night, largely due to many forgoing the virtual ceremonies Council has been running since April 2021 to wait for the recommencement of in-person formalities.

8.2.2 Audit and Risk Committee - Amendment to the Charter and Appointment of the Chair

Directorate:	Corporate Services
Responsible Officer:	Manager Corporate Integrity and Legal Counsel
Reviewer:	Director Corporate Services
Attachments:	1. Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes - 25 May 2022 [8.2.2.1 - 7 pages] 2. Audit and Risk Committee Charter - Proposed Amendment [8.2.2.2 - 14 pages]

Purpose

To update Council regarding issues considered at the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 25 May 2022 and to seek endorsement of an amendment to the Audit and Risk Committee Charter and appointment of the Chair.

Motion

Moved Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud, seconded Cr Jonathon Marsden:

That Council:

- 1. Notes the matters considered by the Audit and Risk Committee at the meeting held on 25 May 2022 (minutes attached as Attachment 1).**
- 2. Approves the proposed amendment to the Audit and Risk Committee Charter (endorsed by Council on 8 February 2022) allowing specifically for a Chairperson to chair meetings for more than three consecutive years.**
- 3. Approves the appointment of Lisa Tripodi as the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for the period from August 2022 to December 2022 subject to the Audit and Risk Committee accepting the amendment as put forward by independent member John Watson at the meeting held on 25 May 2022.**

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Notes the matters considered by the Audit and Risk Committee at the meeting held on 25 May 2022 (minutes attached as Attachment 1).**
2. **Approves the proposed amendment to the Audit and Risk Committee Charter (endorsed by Council on 8 February 2022) allowing specifically for a Chairperson to chair meetings for more than three consecutive years.**
3. **Approves the appointment of Lisa Tripodi as the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for the period from August 2022 to December 2022 subject to the Audit and Risk Committee accepting the amendment as put forward by independent member John Watson at the meeting held on 25 May 2022.**

Summary

This report provides an update of discussions from the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 25 May 2022 and seeks Council's endorsement on two specific matters: an amendment to the Audit and Risk Committee Charter and the appointment of the Chair for the remainder of 2022.

Background

The Hobsons Bay City Council Audit and Risk Committee is an independent Committee of Council. The Committee comprises three independent members and two Councillors. The Chairperson is an independent member who has the casting vote. The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer are non-voting members.

A Council resolution is required for any amendment to the Audit and Risk Committee Charter and the appointment of external independent Committee members and the Chair.

Councillor members of the Audit and Risk Committee are appointed annually by Council as part of the process of appointing Councillor delegates and proxies to Council and community committees and groups at the final Council Meeting of each year.

Discussion

At the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 25 May 2022, independent member John Watson nominated Lisa Tripodi as the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, noting this could only be as the acting interim chair for the meeting, pending a formal review of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter and the endorsement of Council.

In accordance with section 3 of the current Audit and Risk Committee Charter, *"the Chair shall be appointed annually and may only chair meetings for three years consecutively"*.

The current Charter would need to be amended to specifically allow for Lisa Tripodi to chair a fourth consecutive year as she has already served as the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee for the period from 2019 to 2021.

To allow for Lisa Tripodi to continue in the role of Chair for a fourth consecutive year, the following amended wording is proposed (refer to Attachment 2):

The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed annually and may only chair for ~~three years consecutively~~.

Section 12 of the current Charter requires Council to endorse any amendment to the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

Section 3 of the current Charter provides that *“only the Council can formally appoint the Chair, which will be subject to a formal resolution at a Council Meeting”*.

8.3 Sustainable Communities

8.3.1 Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project Funding Application

Directorate:	Sustainable Communities
Responsible Officer:	Manager Strategy, Economy and Sustainability
Reviewer:	Director Sustainable Communities
Attachments:	1. Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project - Design Guidelines - July 2022 [8.3.1.1 - 6 pages] 2. Draft Plan of Subdivision - 7-45 Epsom Street, Laverton [8.3.1.2 - 2 pages]

Purpose

To seek in-principle approval for the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust to apply for Victorian Government funding for the Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project and for the transfer of land parcels at 7-45 Epsom Street, Laverton to the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust, subject to the receipt of funding for the future development.

Motion

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

That Council:

- 1. Provides in-principle approval for the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust to apply for Victorian Government funding to deliver the proposed Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project.**
- 2. Endorses the revised Design Guidelines for the Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project that will guide future development on the site.**
- 3. Resolves to consider a proposal to transfer the parcels of land at 7-45 Epsom Street, Laverton (the land) to Housing Choices Australia, in its capacity as the trustee of the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust, subject to:**
 - a. Housing Choices Australia securing funding for the future development of the land as social housing**
 - b. Council complying with its obligations under section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020***
- 4. Notes that if funding is secured, a separate report will be presented to Council seeking approval to commence the necessary statutory processes under section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.**

(continued next page)

- 5. Notes that further community consultation will be undertaken to inform future stages of the Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project.**

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Provides in-principle approval for the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust to apply for Victorian Government funding to deliver the proposed Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project.**
- 2. Endorses the revised Design Guidelines for the Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project that will guide future development on the site.**
- 3. Resolves to consider a proposal to transfer the parcels of land at 7-45 Epsom Street, Laverton (the land) to Housing Choices Australia, in its capacity as the trustee of the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust, subject to:**
 - a. Housing Choices Australia securing funding for the future development of the land as social housing**
 - b. Council complying with its obligations under section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020***
- 4. Notes that if funding is secured, a separate report will be presented to Council seeking approval to commence the necessary statutory processes under section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.**
- 5. Notes that further community consultation will be undertaken to inform future stages of the Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project.**

Summary

Council has a long-standing commitment to encouraging and supporting increased supply of social and affordable housing in Hobsons Bay. This is reflected in Council's development of the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust and extensive planning and consultation to inform the development of the Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project on Council-owned land at 7-45 Epsom Street, Laverton.

With funding now available through the Victorian Government, in-principle approval of the project is sought to enable the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust to apply for funding to deliver the project. In-principle approval is also sought for Council to transfer parcels of land on the site to the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust, subject to the receipt of funding for the future development.

Background

Policy basis

The Hobsons Bay Council Plan 2021-25 includes a priority to “deliver more social and affordable housing”, which contributes to the broader health and wellbeing priority of building and maintaining a “safe, healthy and equitable society”. Additionally, Council’s Affordable Housing Policy Statement 2016 articulates Council’s commitment to ensuring all households in the municipality can live in affordable, secure and appropriate housing that meets their needs, particularly those with low and moderate incomes.

The policy statement also proposes to establish an affordable housing trust as a flexible and funded tool to implement the development of affordable housing in Hobsons Bay. The Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust (the Trust) has been subsequently developed and Housing Choices Australia (HCA) was appointed as the Trustee in June 2020.

Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project

Council has been planning and consulting on the Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project for several years. In 2014, Council purchased the former Laverton Primary School site at 7-43 Epsom Street, Laverton for the purpose of creating open space and exploring the feasibility of providing affordable housing on the site. Council subsequently purchased a single residential lot at 45 Epsom Street to enable a more holistic design for the overall development.

In 2018, a master plan for the site was finalised which nominated the central portion for open space and allocated the northern and southern sections of the site for affordable housing. Various community consultation activities were undertaken to inform the master plan. In December 2019, the first stage of the project was delivered with the opening of the Curlew Community Park.

In March 2022, Council sought feedback on the Draft Design Guidelines for the Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project. Council extensively promoted the consultation process and offered a range of opportunities to provide feedback, including an online survey, focus group and community drop-in sessions, including two held on-site at Curlew Community Park.

Feedback indicated that most participants supported the proposed high-quality and modern design that would be facilitated through the draft guidelines. However, participants did raise some concerns (such as car parking, height and density). The guidelines have been subsequently revised, with community feedback informing changes on a range of elements including height, density, car parking, vehicle access, and delineation between the private (housing) and public (park) realms. Further detail is provided in the Discussion section below.

Council’s principal contribution to the next stages of the project is intended to be the parcels of land at the southern and northern ends of the site, which were identified for affordable housing in the 2018 master plan. Transfer of Council-owned land to the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust for the project will be subject to the receipt of project funding and statutory requirements under the *Local Government Act 2020*, including a period of public engagement.

Discussion

Funding application

On 15 July 2022, the Victorian Government issued a “Request for Proposal” for the Social Housing Growth Fund – Build and Operate Program Round Two (BOP Round Two). The Social Housing Growth Fund was established to provide funding to the community housing sector to grow the supply of social housing and complements the Victorian Government’s Big Housing Build program.

It is proposed that the Trust apply for funding through the BOP Round Two. Council will work in partnership with HCA to develop the application, which will be consistent with previous planning and community consultation. HCA will oversee the future development of the site including construction, maintenance and tenancy management.

Revised Design Guidelines

Following extensive community consultation, the Epsom Street Affordable Housing Design Guidelines were revised, with key revisions to height, density (number of dwellings), car parking and vehicle access requirements.

The revised design guidelines (Attachment 1) will inform all elements of the project’s design. It is recommended the guidelines be endorsed by Council and included in the proposed funding application. Key design requirements outlined in the guidelines include:

- **Best-practice and high-quality design** – socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable and universally accessible design with materials and architectural response to ensure integration with surrounding context.
- **Environmentally sustainable design** opportunities maximised with 7-star average NaTHERS energy rating.
- **Height** – maximum of four storeys (southern site) and three storeys (northern site), with the built form to step down in height on the street and park edges.
- **Density** to vary across the site, responding to site opportunities and constraints. Dwelling sizes will be primarily one and two bedrooms, and it is anticipated that total yield for the project will be 60-65 dwellings.
- **Car parking** – all car parking provision for the development is to be included on the site. Visitor car parking and accessible parking also to be provided on site.
- **Vehicle access points** will be minimised, with access to be provided from both Epsom and Fitzroy Streets.
- **Impact on Curlew Community Park** – development will complement the park, utilising active frontages to facilitate passive surveillance, accessible pedestrian links to and through the park, and transitional heights towards park edges to minimise overshadowing. Boundaries between housing and the public park will be clearly delineated to show that Curlew Community Park remains a public place.
- **Acoustic treatment** to address impacts of freeway and rail freight noise.

Planning approval

It was initially anticipated that the project would seek funding through the Big Housing Build and be subject to planning approval by the Minister for Planning through a streamlined planning process. However, the BOP Round Two funding stream sits outside of the Big Housing Build and additional steps are required to confirm the project's planning pathway.

There are a number of ways that planning assessment and approval could be achieved for the project and these options are being reviewed. All options would require some degree of support or intervention by the Minister for Planning, and consultation will be undertaken with the local community as part of any future planning process. Council will work in partnership with HCA to deliver and facilitate this consultation process to ensure that feedback from residents continues to inform the design of the project.

Transfer of land

Subject to HCA receiving funding for the development, and Council complying with its obligations under section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council is proposing to transfer relevant parcels of land (as per the draft plan of subdivision – Attachment 2) to the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust for nominal consideration, i.e. "peppercorn rate".

The following reasons and circumstances underpin the proposal to transfer the land for nominal consideration:

- **Site purpose** – the site was purchased by Council with the dual purpose of providing open space and affordable housing. This is reflected in the 2018 master plan, which was informed by community consultation. Subsequent consultation on the draft Design Guidelines has refined the proposal and reinforced the intent to deliver affordable housing on the site.
- **Viability** – The transfer of land at nominal cost is critical to the financial viability of the project and greatly enhances the prospect of securing Victorian Government funding.
- **Policy** – Council's Affordable Housing Policy Statement 2016 includes a guiding action to "consider affordable housing outcomes when making decisions concerning Council assets, land and land use". Additionally, the development of the land by HCA is supported by the Council Plan 2021-25, which includes a priority to "deliver more social and affordable housing" in Hobsons Bay. The Trust is a charitable trust established by Council as a tool for delivering this policy.
- **Local need** – there is a growing need for affordable housing in Hobsons Bay, particularly for people with local family and social connections who find it increasingly difficult to find safe, secure and affordable housing in the municipality.
- **Council oversight** – the provisions of the deed which established the Trust ensure Council will have oversight over the ongoing development and use of the Land by HCA as trustee of the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust.

Section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* provides that, prior to considering a proposal to sell land, Council must publish notice of its intention to sell or exchange land, obtain a valuation of the land within six months of the proposed transfer, and conduct a public engagement process to seek community feedback on the proposal.

Two small parcels of land within the southern site are subject to an administrative adverse possession application which is being processed and will need to be finalised alongside the transfer of land process. In the unlikely event that this process is unable to be resolved, it could be addressed through minor design revisions.

Community consultation

The Epsom Street site has been subject to multiple community consultation processes since Council first purchased the site in 2014 as detailed in the Consultation and Communication section of this report. Most recently in March 2022, Council undertook an extensive community consultation process to seek feedback on the Epsom Street Affordable Housing Draft Design Guidelines. As noted, feedback has helped to shape the revised design guidelines, which inform all aspects of the project design, including building height, density, car parking, vehicle access, and delineation between the private (housing) and public (park) realms.

Subject to funding approval, further community consultation will be undertaken as part of the planning approval process. Consultation will be led by HCA, as the Trustee of the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust and funding applicant, in partnership with Council. Detailed consultation and engagement planning will be undertaken following any successful funding announcement. However, it is expected that consultation will provide opportunities for community feedback on the draft design. Based on currently available information and subject to funding approval, this phase is expected to occur in early to mid-2023.

A separate consultation process would also take place regarding the proposed transfer of land parcels to the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust. Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must conduct a public engagement process to seek community feedback on the proposal. It is proposed that Council officers will undertake this process in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy 2021. Based on currently available information and subject to funding approval, this consultation process is expected to occur in mid to late 2023.

8.4 Infrastructure and City Services

8.4.1 Draft McCormack Park Master Plan

Directorate:	Infrastructure and City Services
Responsible Officer:	Manager Active Communities and Assets
Reviewer:	Director Infrastructure and City Services
Attachments:	1. Draft McCormack Park Master Plan [8.4.1.1 - 1 page] 2. Draft McCormack Park Master Plan- Background Report [8.4.1.2 - 17 pages]

Purpose

To update Council on the development of the Draft McCormack Park Master Plan and seek approval to place it on public exhibition for six weeks.

Motion

Moved Cr Matt Tyler, seconded Cr Tony Briffa:

That Council:

1. Approves the Draft McCormack Park Master Plan for public exhibition from 15 August 2022 until 23 September 2022.
2. Receives a further report following the public exhibition period.

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves the Draft McCormack Park Master Plan for public exhibition from 15 August 2022 until 23 September 2022.
2. Receives a further report following the public exhibition period.

Summary

The need to develop a master plan for McCormack Park in Laverton was initiated following the adoption of the Hobsons Bay Aquatic Strategy 2019-30, which recommended the decommissioning of the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre.

The Draft McCormack Park Master Plan (Attachment 1) and its associated Background Report (Attachment 2) has been developed following two rounds of community consultation:

- Stage 1: Issues and opportunities (July to September 2021)
- Stage 2: Ideas Map (April/May 2022)

A public exhibition period of the draft master plan will be hosted on the Participate Hobsons Bay website and a drop-in session will be held at the park. The community will be notified via a letterbox drop and via Council's social media platforms.

Following the closure of the public exhibition period, feedback will be reviewed and the updated master plan will be presented for Council's final consideration.

Background

McCormack Park is approximately 10ha and located off Jennings Street in Laverton. The park is bordered by Jennings Street to the north, the M1 Princess Freeway to the east, Bladin Street and Laverton P-12 College to the west and predominantly residential housing to the south. Laverton Creek runs through the site.

McCormack Park is a valuable community asset used for a variety of purposes. It has open green spaces with established trees, creek, wildlife and birdlife, offering a connection to nature and a valuable refuge from the urban busyness. The park also offers valuable passive recreation opportunities at the existing play space and skate park area which is well serviced with public toilets, picnic facilities and an extensive path network. These components provide a place for the community to play, exercise, walk their dog, relax, socialise and meet people from the local community.

McCormack Park also includes the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre and a car park area that services it. The Hobsons Bay Aquatic Strategy 2019-30 was endorsed by Council in July 2019. The strategy recommended the construction of a new aquatic facility at Bruce Comben Reserve in Altona Meadows and the decommissioning of the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre at McCormack Park, which would be replaced by new water play park and youth facilities.

As a result of the recommendation to decommission the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre at McCormack Park, the McCormack Park Master Plan is being developed to undertake a holistic planning approach that will guide the future use and upgrade of the site.

Discussion

Two rounds of community consultation have occurred to help inform the draft master plan. From July to September in 2021, the first round of consultation occurred to commence the master plan process. A survey was developed and delivered to all residential properties in Laverton to help understand what the community views as the key issues and opportunities for the site. The same survey was also hosted online at Participate Hobsons Bay. In total, 166 survey responses were received.

A key outcome from the first round of consultation was that the community did not want to see an indoor youth facility as proposed in the Aquatic Strategy. They did not want to see overdevelopment of the site and some concerns were also raised on the loss of the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre. Positive feedback was received about incorporating outdoor water

play opportunities and other social, family and recreation improvements to further improve the community connection with the site.

The second round of consultation occurred throughout April and May 2022. The consultation summarised the feedback from the first stage in the form of an “ideas map” with image examples of possible future improvements for consideration. The consultation was hosted online at Participate Hobsons Bay and two face-to-face drop-in sessions were held. In total 192 people visited the Participate Hobsons Bay page with 13 completed surveys returned, and about 45 people visited the two drop-in sessions to discuss the ideas map.

The ideas map was broken into five sections. Feedback on the online survey was graded from positive, mixed, neutral to negative. Below is a summary of the feedback on each section:

- water play elements (61.5 per cent positive, 7 per cent negative)
- bush trail and creek connections (15 per cent positive, 15 per cent negative)
- social hubs and expanded picnic facilities (61.5 per cent positive, 7 per cent negative)
- active recreation areas (15 per cent positive, 15 per cent negative)
- car park and amphitheatre (15 per cent positive, 7 per cent negative)

Throughout each of the two stages of consultation, there has been feedback from some members of the community who have expressed their concerns about the loss of the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre. All communication material throughout the consultation on the master plan to date has clearly identified the intent of the Aquatic Strategy that was adopted in 2019, in that the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre will be decommissioned following the opening of a new centre at Bruce Comben Reserve. The consultation processes to date have also asked the community how the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre could be acknowledged onsite with future works implemented as part of this master plan. Ideas provided from the community include:

- water play facilities
- monument
- sculpture
- memory tree
- photo wall
- annual event

Some of the key elements have been included in the draft master plan while other items will be considered further throughout detailed design for these spaces.

The public exhibition period will commence on 15 August 2022 and will run until 23 September 2022.

8.4.2 Western Aquatic and Early Years Centre - Preliminary Concept Plan

Directorate:	Infrastructure and City Services
Responsible Officer:	Manager Active Communities and Assets
Reviewer:	Director Infrastructure and City Services
Attachments:	1. Western Aquatic and Early Years Centre- Preliminary Concept Plan [8.4.2.1 - 6 pages]

Purpose

To update Council on the preliminary concept design for the Western Aquatic and Early Years Centre prior to community consultation.

Motion

Moved Cr Matt Tyler, seconded Cr Tony Briffa:

That Council:

- 1. Notes the preliminary concept design being released for public exhibition for six weeks from 15 August to 23 September.**
- 2. Continues to advocate to the Australian and Victorian governments for funding contributions towards construction.**

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Notes the preliminary concept design being released for public exhibition for six weeks from 15 August to 23 September.**
- 2. Continues to advocate to the Australian and Victorian governments for funding contributions towards construction.**

Summary

Following the adoption of the Hobsons Bay Aquatic Strategy (the Aquatic Strategy) in 2019 and the Bruce Comben Reserve Master Plan in 2020, preliminary concept plans (Attachment 1) for the Western Aquatic and Early Years Centre (WAEYC) at Bruce Comben Reserve in Altona Meadows have been developed for community consultation.

The preliminary concept plan includes the facility components that were identified in the Aquatic Strategy. The facility will also have a strong focus on providing for people with a disability, and more specifically catering for people on the autism spectrum.

Consultation will occur for six weeks commencing on Monday 15 August and will include opportunities for community members to provide feedback via a hard copy survey delivered to residents in Altona Meadows and Laverton, an online survey hosted on Participate Hobsons Bay, or in person at one of two onsite drop-in sessions.

The WAEYC is a key advocacy priority for Hobsons Bay leading into the 2022 Victorian Government election. Council intends to contribute \$20 million towards the facility's \$60 million construction cost, contingent on funding contributions from the Australian and Victorian governments.

Background

The Aquatic Strategy was developed to meet current and future aquatic facility needs of the community. The strategy recommended the provision of two major (district level) aquatic centres, one to service the east of the municipality (Bayfit Leisure Centre) and a new facility at Bruce Comben Reserve to service the western areas of Hobsons Bay. The Aquatic Strategy also recommended the decommissioning of the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre once the new facility at Bruce Comben Reserve opens to the public.

To appropriately plan for the new aquatic facility, the Bruce Comben Reserve Master Plan was developed in consultation with existing users of the reserve, nearby residents and the broader community, and was adopted by Council in September 2020. The master plan provides a vision for the future of Bruce Comben Reserve and identifies the footprint and location for the new aquatic facility.

A concept design process has commenced for the WAEYC to deliver on the Aquatic Strategy and the Bruce Comben Reserve Master Plan.

Discussion

The Aquatic Strategy recommends the development of a district level aquatic facility at Bruce Comben Reserve. The Aquatic Strategy noted that the new facility would include:

- an eight lane 25m pool
- aqua play splash pad, leisure water and toddler pool
- learn to swim pool
- wellness centre with warm water pool, spa and sauna
- gymnasium and group fitness rooms
- entry, café (indoor and outdoor servery) and social seating areas
- change rooms including group change rooms and a change village
- administration area and offices
- early years and maternal child health facility provision
- car parking
- construction of new playing fields to offset fields impacted by new facility

A preliminary concept plan has been developed for community consultation that includes the facility components that were identified in the Aquatic Strategy. The facility will also have a strong focus on providing for people with a disability, and more specifically catering for people on the autism spectrum. Engagement with key groups and agencies to help achieve this vision will occur throughout the concept design stage and continue during future design stages.

As identified in the Bruce Comben Reserve Master Plan, the WAEYC is positioned in the north-eastern corner of the reserve. The Cooraminta Children's Centre currently located in this area will be removed and replaced with new early years facilities as part of the new WAEYC. Ensuring there is continuity of an early years service throughout any future construction works is a key principle for this site and will be worked through in future design stages and construction methodology discussions.

The WAEYC is not fully funded and is a key advocacy priority for Hobsons Bay. It has strong alignment with state and federal government interest and funding streams, including the Victorian Government's Infrastructure Victoria Strategy 2021-51, Plan Melbourne 2017-50, the Victorian Sport and Recreation Victoria Better Pools Fund, Community Sports Infrastructure Loans Scheme, and Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.

Council's advocacy plan includes ongoing engagement with state and federal government ministers, MPs and government department representatives. Council is also actively engaging the community to add its voice to efforts to attract funding from the Australian and Victorian governments.

8.4.3 Contract 2022.02 Altona North Childcare Centre Expansion and Renewal Works

Directorate: Infrastructure and City Services
Responsible Officer: Manager Capital Works
Reviewer: Director Infrastructure and City Services
Attachments: Nil

Purpose

To seek Council approval for the awarding of Contract 2022.02A for the construction works of Altona North Childcare Centre Expansion and Renewal Works.

Motion

Moved Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud, seconded Cr Tony Briffa:

That Council awards Contract 2022.02A, for Altona North Childcare Centre Expansion and Renewal Works, to Loaram Constructions Pty Ltd at a fixed lump sum price of \$2,275,939 (two million, two hundred and seventy-five thousand, nine hundred and thirty-nine dollars) including GST.

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council awards Contract 2022.02A, for Altona North Childcare Centre Expansion and Renewal Works, to Loaram Constructions Pty Ltd at a fixed lump sum price of \$2,275,939 (two million, two hundred and seventy-five thousand, nine hundred and thirty-nine dollars) including GST.

Summary

An open tender process has been carried out for the procurement of these works with three submissions received.

Loaram is the only tenderer out of the three tender submissions received who complies with Council's mandatory requirements and their price is the lowest among all the tender submissions received.

Following the evaluation of this tender, a report was presented to the Tender Board on 14 July 2022, recommending award of the contract to Loaram Constructions Pty Ltd.

Background

The One Tree kindergarten and childcare service at Altona North consists of two separate buildings on a triangular site at the southern end of WJ Irwin Reserve. The southern kindergarten building was originally constructed in the 1950s and was extended in 2006-07 to include a second room. The northern building was built in 1992 as a purpose-built childcare facility.

The two buildings, which operated for many years as separate services, are now run by a single service provider. This has led to issues preventing integration and connection between the two buildings due to separate entries and playgrounds separated by a fence, which prevents supervision.

Considering the demand for licensed places, Council has decided to expand this facility. Council has a funding agreement with the Victorian Government for \$600,000 towards this project. The expansion comprises a new children's room, extension of the adjacent children's room in the south building, new permanent staff room and a corridor connecting the north and south building along with associated play area upgrades to suit the new construction.

The renewal of the north building is also included in the project scope as the facility has aged and needs to be brought up to par with the new construction. The licensed capacity will be increased by 36 places once expanded.

Discussion

The tender for this contract was advertised on 4 April 2022, with submissions closing on 20 May 2022. The documents were downloaded by six companies and three tender submissions were received. Of the three, two were found to be noncompliant with mandatory requirements and hence only the submission from Loaram Constructions Pty Ltd was evaluated. Loaram Construction also submitted the lowest price.

Since the submission included several qualifications, these were clarified through tender interview and online meetings. Loaram's revised submission was evaluated by the Tender Panel.

Loaram Construction have undertaken several projects for Council in the past and have worked on many early years centres; this has resulted in many learnings which were documented and clarified in their tender submission. This project will also be managed by a Senior Project Manager who has managed multiple early years developments for Council.

Following the evaluation, a report was presented to the Tender Board on 14 July 2022, recommending award of the contract to Loaram Constructions Pty Ltd.

8.4.4 Contract 2022.09 Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club Redevelopment - Consultancy

Directorate: Infrastructure and City Services
Responsible Officer: Manager Capital Works
Reviewer: Director Infrastructure and City Services
Attachments: Nil

Purpose

To seek Council's endorsement for the awarding of Contract 2022.90 for the Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club Redevelopment – Consultancy Works.

Motion

Moved Cr Jonathon Marsden, seconded Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud:

That Council awards Contract 2022.09 Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club Redevelopment – Consultancy to Canvas Projects at a fixed lump sum of \$1,209,940 (one million, two hundred and nine thousand, nine hundred and forty dollars) including GST.

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council awards Contract 2022.09 Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club Redevelopment – Consultancy to Canvas Projects at a fixed lump sum of \$1,209,940 (one million, two hundred and nine thousand, nine hundred and forty dollars) including GST.

Summary

The Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club Redevelopment - Consultancy contract is to appoint a lead architect and consultancy team to design the new and refurbished facility, utilising funds in Council's annual capital budget and grants from the Department of Justice.

An open tender process has been carried out with 17 submissions received. Following the tender evaluation process, a report was presented to the Tender Board on 14 July 2022, recommending the contract be awarded to Canvas Projects.

Background

The Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Clubhouse is located at the east side of the intersection of The Esplanade and Victoria Street, Williamstown.

Williamstown Swimming and Lifesaving Club was founded in 1920 and has patrolled and resided on Williamstown Beach for over 100 years. The facility consists of a main heritage weatherboard building, a number of outbuildings and storage facilities, and a café.

The scope of design works of this project includes:

- retain the tower of the clubhouse and existing leadlight with heritage significance
- design a four-lane indoor pool facility with a gymnasium, multipurpose space, changing facilities, observation room, administration office, kitchen and toilet amenities
- other buildings to include public toilets, parents' toilets and public shower facilities

additional beach ramp and pedestrian upgrade

Discussion

The open tender was formally advertised in *The Age* on 7 May 2022 with submissions closing on 2 June 2022. Seventeen tender submissions were received by the tender deadline. Eight of these submissions were deemed to be non-conforming. The Tender Evaluation Panel evaluated the remaining submissions and shortlisted four tenderers for interviews on 17 June 2022. The tenderers were re-evaluated based on the outcome of the tender interviews. Reference checks were performed on the highest scoring tender.

Based on the evaluation process and reference checks, the Tender Evaluation Panel recommended Canvas Projects as the preferred tenderer. Their submission provided best value for money, a deep understanding of the project scope, extensive experience in similar projects, and demonstrated the ability to meet timelines and financial constraints.

9 Delegate Reports

Purpose

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

Motion

Moved Cr Tony Briffa, seconded Cr Jonathon Marsden:

That Council receives and notes the recent Delegate Reports.

Carried unanimously

Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the recent Delegate Reports.

Metropolitan Transport Forum

Directorate: Infrastructure and City Services

Councillor Delegate: Cr Jonathon Marsden

Date of Meeting: 1 June 2022

Regular meeting of metropolitan councils to discuss and advocate for improvements to the transport system, particularly for sustainable transport.

Presentation by Ombudsman for Public Transport in Victoria

Public Transport Ombudsman Simon McKenzie outlined the core service areas for his role, which includes providing an important independent complaints avenue for the public. The role was created following the privatisation of the public transport system and is intended to provide checks and balances where the free market does not respond effectively.

The core services of the ombudsman include:

- unresolved complaints
- systemic issues
- information and assistance
- public interest reports

Council Updates

Each month four participating councils provide a presentation to the forum.

Strategic Transport Planner Craig Griffith outlined Moreland City Council's 10-year capital works planning list for active transport. The plan was due to be voted on at the next Council meeting.

Russell Tricker, Strategic Transport Planner for the City of Whittlesea, outlined multiple actions including shared trail advocacy, refreshes for transport strategies and reviewing their COVID-19 fund for transport projects.

Melissa Falkenberg, Manager City Transport for Wyndham City Council, outlined the challenges for the fastest growing municipality in the country. Multiple strategies and plans are in development along with constant advocacy to higher level governments for assistance.

Cr Edward Crossland and Principal Strategic Transport Planner Philip Mallis from Yarra City Council outlined their draft transport strategy, which is heavily focused on road space re-allocation for sustainable transport, greening and placemaking.

Truganina Explosives Reserve Advisory Committee

Directorate: Infrastructure and City Services

Councillor Delegate: Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud

Date of Meeting: 14 June 2022

The Truganina Explosives Reserve Advisory Committee continues to advocate for the renewal of the Truganina Explosives Reserve Master Plan and the Coastal Management Plan. The group discussed future booking arrangements for the Underkeeper's Quarters and Keeper's Quarters to be included in the updated master plan and Coastal Management Plan.

Restoration works are close to completion, particularly the Underkeeper's Quarters and the remnant testing laboratories located within the natural space inside the reserve. The two laboratories will house interpretative material for both the natural and heritage values found here.

The Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre will host the Ramsar Steering Committee which was originally managed by the Port Phillip Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA). The PPWCMA has now been merged into Melbourne Water but still manages projects around Ramsar values for the region surrounding Hobsons Bay – Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula. The Steering Committee assists in the protection of and advocacy for Ramsar sites and critical adjacent areas.

The Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre and Council's Conservation team have met with representatives from the Bunurong Land Council to discuss potential collaboration opportunities within Hobsons Bay.

The Truganina Explosives Reserve Working Group has secured a large restoration project at the Newport Railway Workshops and also has been engaged by the Hobsons Bay Art Society to build 15 miniature-scale art galleries for a project called FLAG: Free Little Art Galleries. These will be decorated with miniature artwork and sculptures by the Arts Society, funded through a Hobsons Bay Make It Happen grant.

Deakin University has started a research project aimed at developing techniques and protocols for surveying waterbirds from drones. The team have conducted several flights to test a range of drones at different heights while simultaneously measuring disturbance in birds. All flights have animal ethical approvals and drone operations are managed under Deakin University's own drone policies.

RoadSafe Westgate Community Road Safety Council

Directorate: Infrastructure and City Services

Councillor Delegate: Cr Diana Grima

Date of Meeting: 15 June 2022

RoadSafe Westgate Updates

Updates were provided for the ongoing actions of the group including the positioning of the road safety billboard and social media activities.

An update was provided on the Green Light Initiative, which is the Fit to Drive Foundation's interactive road safety education program for young road users.

Community Road Safety grants approved by the Department of Transport:

- Banners - \$4,400
- Looking After Our Mates - \$1,300
- Mobile Billboards - \$10,000
- Safer Drivers and Passengers Innovation - \$11,500

Hobsons Bay City Council Updates

Council provided updates on the ongoing delivery of capital works projects throughout the municipality, with planning underway for the next financial year.

Other Council Updates

Other council delegates provided updates on local road safety matters.

Other Matters

The road incident support and education service Road Trauma Support Services Victoria has changed its name to Amber Community.

LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee

Directorate: Office of the Chief Executive

Councillor Delegate: Cr Matt Tyler

Date of Meeting: 15 June 2022

The June meeting of the LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee was hosted by Wyndham City Council.

The following items were discussed.

Review of the LeadWest Strategic Plan

Premier Strategy, LeadWest secretariat provided an update regarding the review of the LeadWest Strategic Plan and the outcomes of the introductory meetings held between Premier Strategy and member councils. Items included an opportunity to review the core purpose and focus, and to refresh the objectives and goals of LeadWest.

Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action update

Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action provided background information and detailed key issues regarding the Victorian Climate Resilient Council and the Planning for Safe Climate projects.

Western Melbourne Tourism Board

Directorate: Sustainable Communities
Councillor Delegate: Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud
Date of Meeting: 22 July 2022

Due to technical difficulties in delivering a hybrid meeting virtual attendees, including Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud, were apologies for the meeting.

The following key items were discussed.

Aiden Mullens, Executive Manager for Transforming Brimbank, presented on the Sunshine Priority Precinct Vision 2050, which outlines the importance of developing the Sunshine precinct in line with the Melbourne Airport Rail development.

Brendan McRae, Manager Transport Precincts, presented on the Department of Transport (DoT) plans to develop an economic development strategy focused on maximising economic impacts from the Melbourne Airport Rail project. The strategy is estimated to be completed mid-2023 and will support the DoT economic impact analysis and funding bids for the development of the Sunshine precinct. The Visitor Economy is identified as a sector of interest.

Richard Ponsford, Executive Officer WMT, also provided updates on the WMT's second round of PRIME Mentorship and WMT's branding and website development.

The WMT 2022-23 budget was presented and approved.

10 Notices of Motion

10.1 Notice of Motion No. 1238 - Acknowledgement - Sharon Walsh

Section 8.15.5 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules requires the Chief Executive Officer to inform Councillors about the legal and cost implications of any proposed notice of motion. Accordingly, the costs of implementing this notice of motion will be accommodated within the existing operational budget.

There are no apparent legal implications at this point in time.

Cr Tony Briffa has given notice of the following:

Motion

Moved Cr Tony Briffa, seconded Cr Daria Kellander:

That Council acknowledges the significant contribution of Sharon Walsh to the Altona community, particularly in her role with the Altona Village Traders Association, and presents her with a certificate at a future Council meeting.

Carried unanimously

That Council acknowledges the significant contribution of Sharon Walsh to the Altona community, particularly in her role with the Altona Village Traders Association, and presents her with a certificate at a future Council meeting.

Sharon Walsh has recently retired from the Altona Village Traders Association and has been involved in organising and marketing for various local events and businesses over many years, including the Altona Beach Market, Australia Day in Altona, Council events such as Movies By the Bay, and the Boomerang Bags initiative. She was previously honoured as Hobsons Bay Citizen of the Year in 2012.

10.2 Notice of Motion No. 1239 - Kerbside Charging

Section 8.15.5 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules requires the Chief Executive Officer to inform Councillors about the legal and cost implications of any proposed notice of motion. Accordingly, the costs of implementing this notice of motion will be accommodated within the existing operational budget.

There are no apparent legal implications at this point in time.

Cr Daria Kellander has given notice of the following:

Motion

Moved Cr Daria Kellander; no seconder:

That Council:

- 1. Investigates options to accommodate residents and businesses who do not have access to an off-street parking space to safely charge their electric vehicle using their domestic power supply, including but not limited to:
 - a. A trial based on Port Phillip's kerbside vehicle charging model**
 - b. Partnerships with Jemena and Powercor to supply charging facilities on their electrical distribution poles**
 - c. Additional public charging facilities provided on residential streets at a shared location, funded via private/commercial or Victorian/Australian Government investment****
- 2. Prepares a report presented back to Council on the above items prior to the December 2022 Council Meeting.**

Lapsed

That Council:

- 1. Investigates options to accommodate residents and businesses who do not have access to an off-street parking space to safely charge their electric vehicle using their domestic power supply, including but not limited to:
 - a. A trial based on Port Phillip's kerbside vehicle charging model**
 - b. Partnerships with Jemena and Powercor to supply charging facilities on their electrical distribution poles**
 - c. Additional public charging facilities provided on residential streets at a shared location, funded via private/commercial or Victorian/Australian Government investment****
- 2. Prepares a report presented back to Council on the above items prior to the December 2022 Council Meeting.**

11 Supplementary Public Question Time

Nil

12 Urgent Business

Motion

Moved Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud, seconded Cr Tony Briffa:

That Council considers items of Urgent Business relating to:

12.1 Condolence Motion – The Late Ray Horsburgh AM

Carried

12.1 Condolence Motion – The Late Ray Horsburgh AM

Cr Daria Kellander left the meeting at 9.15pm, was not present for the vote on item 12.1, and did not return to the meeting.

Motion

Moved Cr Jonathon Marsden, seconded Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud:

That Council acknowledges the recent passing of Williamstown resident, business leader, former Essendon Football Club president and former AFL Victoria chairman, Ray Horsburgh AM, and sends a letter of condolence written under the signature of the Mayor to his family.

Carried

Mr Horsburgh passed away in Romania on 6 August 2022 while on a business trip. He spent his working career in the glass and steel industries before becoming a director of various companies both in Australia and overseas. He was a highly regarded businessman but was also a good community member, having a long involvement with Westbourne Grammar and past president and lifelong member of the Williamstown Rotary Club.

In the 2006 Australia Day Honours List, Mr Horsburgh was awarded an Order of Australia for services to the steel industry and disadvantaged youth.

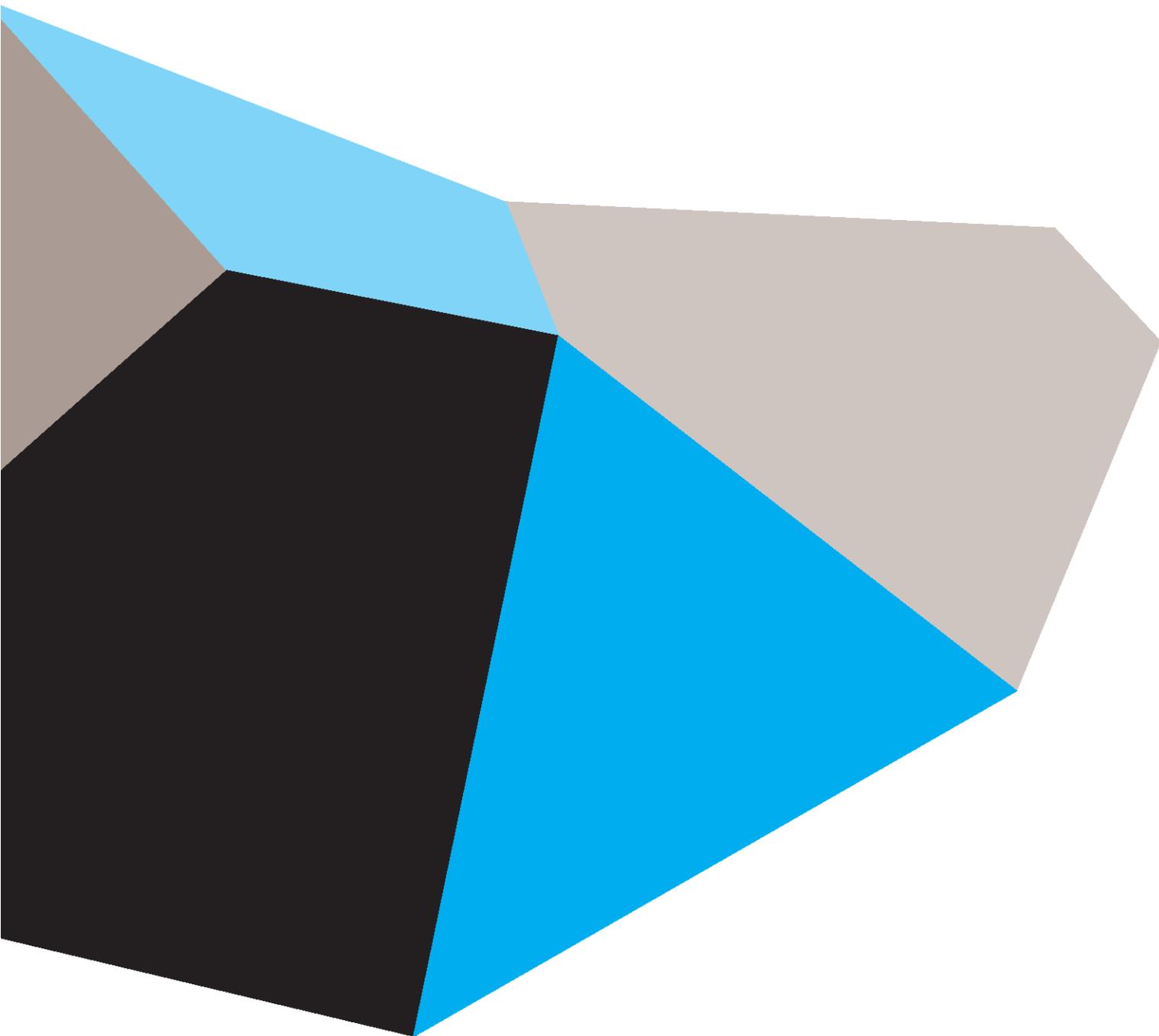
13 Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9.26pm.

Chairperson – Cr Peter Hemphill

Signed and certified as having been confirmed.

13 September 2022



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