



Council Meeting

Agenda

Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Friday 11 November 2022
Commencing at 7.00 PM

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.

Councillors:

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

Aaron van Egmond
Chief Executive Officer
Hobsons Bay City Council

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement.....	4
2 Welcome to Country.....	4
3 Apologies	4
4 Disclosure of Interest.....	4
5 Confirmation of Minutes	4
5.1 Confirmation of Minutes.....	4
6 Leaves of Absence	5
6.1 Leave of Absence Request - Cr Daria Kellander.....	5
7 Mayoral Focus.....	6
7.1 Mayoral Focus - End of Term Report	6
8 Election of the Mayor	19
8.1 Determination of Mayoral Term	19
8.2 Election of the Mayor	19
8.3 Mayoral Response	19
9 Election of the Deputy Mayor	20
10 Close of Meeting	20

In accordance with rule 2.4 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, the Chief Executive Officer will be the temporary Chairperson for proceedings relating to the election of the Mayor.

1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement

The Chief Executive Officer will open the meeting, welcome Councillors, honoured guests and members of the gallery, and acknowledge that Council is gathered on the traditional land of the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation and offers its respect to elders past, present and emerging.

2 Welcome to Country

The Chief Executive Officer will introduce the Welcome to Country, which will be delivered by an Elder of the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

3 Apologies

The Chief Executive Officer will call for apologies received from Councillors who are unable to attend this meeting.

4 Disclosure of Interest

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

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

5 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 11 October 2022 (copy previously circulated).

6 Leaves of Absence

6.1 Leave of Absence Request - Cr Daria Kellander

Directorate: Corporate Services
Responsible Officer: Manager Corporate Integrity and Legal Counsel
Reviewer: Director Corporate Services
Attachments: Nil

Purpose

To consider a leave of absence from Council duties requested by Cr Daria Kellander for the period from 1 November 2022 to 27 November 2022.

Recommendation

That Council acknowledges and supports Cr Daria Kellander's requested leave of absence from 1 November to 27 November 2022.

7 Mayoral Focus

7.1 Mayoral Focus - End of Term Report

Directorate:	Corporate Services
Responsible Officer:	Manager Corporate Integrity and Legal Counsel
Reviewer:	Director Corporate Services
Attachments:	Nil

Purpose

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

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.

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 community development, including supporting Council's Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year in their community work and continuing Council's commitment to sister cities in Buloke, Yarrabah and Anjo

This report is the final in a series of regular quarterly updates on the progress made on these initiatives and activities since November 2021 when Cr Hemphill was elected Mayor. Cr Hemphill's term as Mayor concludes on 11 November 2022.

Discussion

Heritage

The **Newport Railway Workshops** are home to some of Victoria's remarkable railway heritage buildings and moveable heritage items (such as locomotives and carriages) and is included on the Victorian state heritage register. Cr Hemphill championed heritage assessment work underway seeking to recognise significant rail heritage artefacts at the Newport Railyards. Following community work on possible additional heritage significance of the site, Council is undertaking a review to identify possible opportunities to better protect moveable heritage items at the workshops.

In recognising the cultural value of Newport rail heritage, Cr Hemphill facilitated connections in the creative industries.

A new public art and heritage app, **Experience Hobsons Bay Creative City**, includes the locations of signs installed under the Cultural Heritage Street Signs program. The app is designed to encourage people to explore the Hobsons Bay through its many art sites.

One of the sites promoted on the app is the heritage-listed Tide Gauge House at Commonwealth Reserve in Williamstown, which recently underwent conservation works.



Figure 1: Cr Hemphill at the Tide Gauge House in Commonwealth Reserve, Williamstown

Cr Hemphill worked with the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Defence Force to support and participate in the celebration of the **80th anniversary of the HMAS Castlemaine** on 9 October 2022. Cr Hemphill visited on board the HMAS Castlemaine, engaged with volunteers and spoke at the official welcome held at the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria. About 3,500 people visited on the day, and the event was covered on television and metropolitan media.



Figure 2: Cr Hemphill with the President of the Maritime Trust Australia, Dennis Gale

The **100th anniversary of the Old Laverton School honour board** was held on 24 October 2022. Cr Hemphill spoke, along with family historian Rob Newlands, about the board's history of the board and the significance of two new plaques installed in the grounds at a community event held at the Old Laverton School in Altona Meadows. The event was attended by local historians, descendants of the Hyde and Newland families, residents and members of the Laverton Point Cook Rotary Club, which has been involved in protecting the building for the last 35 years.



Figure 3: Cr Hemphill with Cr Grima, Cr Tyler and attendees at the 100th anniversary celebration of the Old Laverton School honour board

Assisted by the Mayor, Council established a connection with local resident **Phyllis Murphy AM**. Mrs Murphy was acknowledged as a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

In addition to being noted for expertise as an architect and heritage conservator, Mrs Murphy has built a significant collection of heritage wallpaper. The collection will have a permanent home in the Living Museum of Sydney in 2023.

The opportunity to stage a local exhibition from this collection, featuring a curated collection of samples from the 1840s to the 1930s, was supported and announced in November 2022. The exhibition, titled "Off The Wall", is to be held at the Williamstown Town Hall in December.



Figure 4: Phyllis Murphy AM shows Cr Peter Hemphill her heritage wallpaper collection

Environment

Phase one of Council's ambitious **rooftop solar program** is nearly complete, with 1.7MW of new solar panels installed across the building portfolio. When added to existing solar assets this exceeds 2.2MW of solar panels which, modelling suggests, will generate over 3,000MWh of renewable electricity after a full year of operation.

Recent buildings to receive solar within the program include the Newport Gardens Early Years Centre (now complete) and the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre car park (currently under construction).

Towards Council's target under the **Urban Forest Strategy** of achieving 30 per cent canopy cover by 2040, 8,000 semi-mature trees were planted across Hobsons Bay streets and reserves in 2022. Council also gave away over 2,700 tube stock trees to residents for planting on private land at various events throughout the year, which will further contribute to the future canopy cover of Hobsons Bay.

In addition, Council undertook a tree planting program in partnership with the Department of Environment, Land and Water that resulted in an additional 20,000 tube stock trees being planted across open spaces within the municipality.

The **Green Streets program** allows Council to educate on and promote the importance of street trees while providing residents with an opportunity to contribute to tree selection and the future look of their street.

In 2022 the three streets selected to participate in the program were:

1. Grace Street, Laverton: 44 trees, a mix of *Corymbia maculata* "ST1" Lowanna and *Jacaranda mimosifolia*
2. Hancock Street, Altona: 25 *Lophostemon confertus*
3. Bayview Street, Williamstown: 79 *Corymbia maculata* "ST1" Lowanna



Figure 5: Residents meeting with Council's Urban Forest Engagement Officer at a Green Streets engagement session

An **online tree planting dashboard** was developed and went live as part of the 2022 tree planting program. The dashboard can be found on Council's website at: www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Services/Trees-Nature-Strips/Tree-planting-and-requests/Street-tree-planting

Infrastructure

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

Council and the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Group continue to strongly advocate to all major political parties for project funding for the **Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre**. The Hon Melissa Horne MP, the Hon Jill Hennessy MP and the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP visited the site of the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre on 15 June 2022 to discuss the importance of the project and the wetlands area.

Community consultation on the preliminary concept plan for the **Western Aquatic and Early Years Centre** took place from 15 August to 23 September 2022. As part of the consultation period, a household survey was delivered to residential properties in Altona Meadows, Laverton, Seabrook and parts of Altona, and the same survey was hosted online at Participate Hobsons Bay. Two onsite drop-in sessions were also held during the consultation period to provide residents with the opportunity to discuss the plans in more detail.

Feedback from the community is being reviewed and the concept plan is will be updated before being released to the community. Concurrently, Council has been running a “Float our Pool” advocacy campaign which has attracted 862 signatures from the community. A video for the campaign is available on Council’s YouTube channel at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=orZxLLL1DiY

Council has engaged architects to prepare designs for the future upgrade of the **Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club facility**. Site investigations have commenced along with engagement with the club and other project stakeholders on concept design options. Community consultation on the concept plan is expected to occur in early 2023.

The **WLJ Crofts Reserve Pavilion** was completed in late September 2022. An event to mark the formal opening of the pavilion was hosted on 22 October 2022 by Cr Hemphill with the Member for Williamstown, the Hon Melissa Horne MP, in attendance. The Williamstown Superules Football Club also held their end of season event within the facility, which was a great success with over 150 attendees.



Figure 6: Cr Peter Hemphill with Member for Williamstown the Hon Melissa Horne MP and representatives of the tenant sporting clubs at the official opening of the WLJ Crofts Reserve Pavilion

At **Digman Reserve**, construction of the east to west path from Home Road through to Douglas Parade has been completed. This was a key priority identified within the Digman Reserve Master Plan to ensure connection between the Newport Train Station and the Bay Trail. Open Space works at the western end of the reserve remain ongoing. Implementation of the Digman Reserve Master Plan will be complete upon finalisation of these works.

The W & M Couch Pavilion at **Donald McLean Reserve** was completed in time for the end of the football season. The Spotswood Football Club hosted their final home match of the season with access to the new pavilion, which was well attended by members of the community. An opening event was hosted by Cr Hemphill on 22 October 2022 with Member for Williamstown, the Hon Melissa Horne MP, in attendance. Car park works are being finalised along with the open space upgrades at the western end of the reserve.



Figure 7: Cr Peter Hemphill with Member for Williamstown Melissa Horne MP at the official opening of the W & M Couch Pavilion at Donald McLean Reserve

Pavilion redevelopment works at **JT Gray Reserve** remain ongoing and are scheduled for completion in March 2023, in time for the start of the winter season. The new cricket nets and storage areas have been handed over for club use, and preparation for the redevelopment of the internal car park is ongoing. Planning continues for minor floodlighting upgrades to the site.

A new cricket practice facility was opened at **JK Grant Reserve** in October 2022, which will be utilised by the Altona Cricket Club. The facility features six synthetic wickets that complement the existing four wicket turf nets, and retractable netting to create flexible and multi-use spaces. The facility was delivered in partnership with the Victorian Government and Cricket Australia, which contributed \$90,000 and \$30,000 respectively to support Council’s investment in the project of \$454,000.



Figure 8: Cr Peter Hemphill with representatives of the Altona Cricket Club and the Member for Williamstown, the Hon Melissa Horne MP

Community Building

Cr Hemphill worked actively with Council's **2022 Citizens of the Year** to engage actively with Council in a range of areas. Young Citizen of the Year Tahlia Kotia spoke at a number of Council events including, for example, International Women's Day and the Hobsons Bay Youth Change Makers group. Citizen of the Year Kate de Marco became actively involved in Council projects including championing the Epsom Street Social and Affordable Housing project. Cr Hemphill also worked with Ms de Marco on a range of advocacy for people with disabilities in the community, leading to a commitment from Metro Trains to upgrade two pedestrian rail crossings in the municipality.



Figure 9: Cr Hemphill, Young Citizen of the Year Tahlia Kotia and Chief Executive Officer Aaron van Egmond at the Hobsons Bay Youth Change Makers Challenge forum

Council maintains a formal relationship or friendship alliance with three **sister cities**. Each was instigated and developed through reciprocal activities including community connections, information exchange, and at times direct support.

Yarrabah in Queensland is one of the most significant Aboriginal communities in Australia. The **Hobsons Bay and Yarrabah alliance** is recognised for strengthening Indigenous partnerships.

Cr Hemphill visited Yarrabah on 31 October 2022 to further the relationship between Council and the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and to build connections between the two communities. This marked the first mayoral visit to Yarrabah since 2012.

Yarrabah Mayor Cr Ross Andrews and interim Chief Executive Officer Richard Wright hosted the visit, which included meeting with Councillors and staff representatives, an overview of the Yarrabah Leaders Forum, exploring challenges and opportunities for knowledge sharing, collaboration and community engagement. The visit also involved conversations with community representatives including the principal of the Yarrabah State School and the rangers from the Prescribed Body Corporates, and visits to sites such as the Yarrabah Cultural Centre and community facilities.



Figure 10: Cr Hemphill with Councillors and staff representatives from Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

Buloke in Victoria is a regional rural shire. The **Hobsons Bay and Buloke alliance** was formalised in 2006 to help break down the “urban/rural divide” and is recognised for its strength in community planning.

Cr Hemphill was to host and speak at the official functions for the annual Buloke and Hobsons Bay bowling club tournament at the Altona Bowling Club in September 2022. However, the visit and tournament were cancelled due to being scheduled during the week of the royal funeral and on the day proclaimed as a public holiday for the National Day of Mourning. Plans are underway to reschedule the visit, potentially in March 2023.

During October, Cr Hemphill was in contact with the Mayor of Buloke Shire Cr Daryl Warren to gain an understanding of the impacts of the flooding occurring, especially around the Avoca River, and potential impacts on the township of Charlton in particular. Offers of support were also made by the organisation, including ways for staff to volunteer skills and time. Some staffing support has now been requested and is being provided to assist Council’s sister city in responding to the sustained impacts of the flooding and work as quickly as possible to help residents get back into their homes.

Due to COVID-19 the **Junior Council** program was placed on hold throughout 2020 and 2021, so it was a welcome return to the Council Chamber on 2 November 2022 for the first face-to-face Junior Council Meeting in nearly three years. Cr Hemphill was impressed by the outstanding altruistic community spirit and the incredible fundraising efforts of all schools in the municipality raising money for a myriad of good causes such as flood victims, vulnerable communities in Ethiopia, Caritas and Autism Spectrum Australia.



Figure 11: Cr Hemphill with school representatives attending Junior Council

Cr Hemphill presided over seven **citizenship ceremonies** during his mayoral term, conferring some 445 new Australian citizens. Virtual citizenship ceremonies were held on 30 November 2021, 26 January 2022, 22 February 2022 and 26 April 2022, with a return to face-to-face ceremonies on 7 July 2022.



Figure 12: Cr Hemphill and Cr Grima at the Citizenship Ceremony held on 23 August 2022

Cr Hemphill was thrilled to host the **Daughters of the West** Graduation Ceremony on 5 October 2022.

Daughters of the West, an initiative of the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation, is a free health program for all women aged 18 or over living, working and recreating in Victoria's West. The 10-week program aims to improve women's health and wellbeing through a series of workshops, presentations and healthy activities. Hobsons Bay City Council is a proud partner in delivering the Daughters of the West program.



Figure 13: Graduates of the 2022 Daughters of the West Program for Hobsons Bay

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

This report relates to all priorities within the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision.

Council Plan 2021-25

Objective 2: Environment

Strategy 2.2: Enhance protection, preservation and promotion of our coastal environment and wetlands/waterways, biodiversity and natural areas

Priority d) Advocate for the establishment of a wetlands centre, promoting environment and tourism at the Hobsons Bay Ramsar rated wetlands

Strategy 2.3: Increase tree canopy cover within Hobsons Bay to reduce the urban heat island effect, improve air quality and enhance general amenity

Priority a) Deliver increased tree canopy outcomes across the municipality within streets, open space reserves and appropriate public realm locations

Strategy 2.4: Continue to reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions by increasing the use of renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency and implementing Council's zero net emissions strategy

Priority a) Deliver the endorsed solar program across the municipality for increased renewable energy consumption

Objective 3: Vibrant place and economy

Strategy 3.4: Increase participation in recreation activities across the community

Priority c) Support increased participation opportunities by providing infrastructure which meets the needs of the sporting community

Policies and Related Council Documents

All relevant Council policies have been taken into account in preparing the current initiatives outlined within this Mayoral Focus report, the final in a series of updates on the 2021-22 Mayoral Program. Preceding reports were noted by Council on 8 February 2022, 10 May 2022 and 9 August 2022.

Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

The Mayoral Program is an important activity: as the leader of Council the Mayor has a number of roles which are both legislative and functional. The legislative requirements are outlined in sections 18 and 19 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Mayor not only takes precedence at all municipal proceedings within the municipality but must also take the chair at all meetings of Council at which they are present.

As reflected in the Mayoral Program, the Mayor's role extends well beyond officiating at Council meetings or other municipal proceedings. It includes providing leadership, promoting positive relationships and modelling good governance.

The requirements of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* have been considered when writing this report.

Financial and Resource Implications

The initiatives in the Mayoral Program are supported by the existing budget.

Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

The Mayoral Program has a strong focus on environmental sustainability and a community focus on access and social inclusion.

Consultation and Communication

Relevant Council departments have been consulted for an update on the progress on the activities and initiatives included in the 2021-22 Mayoral Program.

If community consultation is required for any part of the program, it will be carried out appropriately.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff to disclose any general or material conflict of interest in matters to be considered at a Council meeting.

Council staff involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

8 Election of the Mayor

The procedure for the election of the Mayor will follow section 25 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and section 2 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules.

8.1 Determination of Mayoral Term

In accordance with section 26 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and rule 2.1.2 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, Council must resolve whether the Mayor is to be elected for a one-year or a two-year term.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Resolves the Mayoral term to be a period of one year commencing upon the election of the Mayor on 11 November 2022.
2. Notes that the next election of the Mayor, to be determined when Council adopts its annual timetable of meetings, must be held on a day that is:
 - a. As close to the end of the one-year term as is reasonably practicable
 - b. After the fourth Saturday in October and no later than 30 November 2023, in accordance with rule 2.2.1 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules
3. Notes that the date and time of the next election of the Mayor will be determined when Council adopts its annual timetable of meetings in accordance with rule 2.3.1, and published on Council's website in accordance with rule 4.2.3, of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules.

8.2 Election of the Mayor

The Chief Executive Officer will invite nominations for the Office of Mayor.

In accordance with section 25(6) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, if only one Councillor is nominated, the meeting must declare that Councillor to be duly elected as Mayor.

Where two or more nominations are received, Council shall vote to elect the Mayor by show of hands, in accordance with rule 2.6.6 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules.

The Mayor, once elected, will be robed in the Council Chamber by the Chief Executive Officer and will be presented with the Mayoral Chain of Office. The Mayor will then chair the remainder of the meeting.

8.3 Mayoral Response

The Mayor will address the meeting and invite other Councillors to respond.

9 Election of the Deputy Mayor

The Mayor will invite nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor.

In accordance with rule 2.8.2 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, the election of the Deputy Mayor will follow the same process as for the election of the Mayor.

10 Close of Meeting

HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL





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