

# Council Meeting Minutes

7 February 2023

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 Antoinette Briffa JP (Mayor)

Cherry Lake Ward

### Councillors:

Cr Diana Grima (Deputy Mayor)

Wetlands 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

Aaron van Egmond  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hobsons Bay City Council

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## 1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement

The Chairperson welcomed members of the public and acknowledged the 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.

Nil

## 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 9.1.1 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.**

## 4 Confirmation of Minutes

### 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 13 December 2022 (copy previously circulated).

#### **Motion**

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

**That Council confirms the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 13 December 2022.**

**Carried unanimously**

## 5 Councillor Questions

**Cr Daria Kellander requested clarification regarding the fees and charges for releasing a lost pet, as a resident had contacted her saying it had cost almost \$1,000 to retrieve her dog after it had been captured by Council, despite the dog being microchipped, registered and desexed.**

Mr Andrew McLeod, Director Corporate Services, explained that this is a recovery charge – the dog reported was as stray out of hours on a Saturday evening, and out-of-hours responses are managed through a third party, an animal ambulance service which takes the stray animal to the Lost Dogs' Home to care for the animal until it is claimed. Both services have fees and charges which are passed to the owner of the animal rather than being charged to ratepayers.

**Cr Daria Kellander asked about road maintenance on state-managed roads in Hobsons Bay. A recent post on social media suggested that the Newland Street exit from the Princes Freeway in Altona Meadows was “getting a makeover” as workers were there with equipment, but it seems that they have simply mowed over the weeds and garbage without cleaning it up first. Cr Kellander asked what Council is doing to get action on the matter.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, said that Council is working closely with the Department of Transport (DoT) and other state agencies to improve service delivery. Mr Manivasagasivam said that it has been an ongoing advocacy item for more money to be allocated for maintenance of state roads, and that Council officers had a meeting planned with DoT the following week.

**Cr Matt Tyler requested an update on Council’s progress and advocacy efforts to engage with the Victorian Government regarding the Queen Street Bridge.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, noted that the bridge is a Victorian Government responsibility, but because it was a community priority, Council undertook the design work for the bridge and has worked with DoT to progress the work. The bridge is now fully designed and ready to construct but needs funding from the government to continue because it is their responsibility.

Mr Manivasagasivam said that Council is working with the government and DoT through their budget process to get the project funded.

**Cr Matt Tyler asked what Council has done, and what it plans to do, about the stolen statue on Bladin Street near McCormack Park in Laverton.**

Ms Pene Winslade, Director Sustainable Communities, said that the statue was stolen a few weeks ago and the plinth was also damaged. The theft has been reported to police and insurance company, and metal recyclers have also been informed so it can be identified if someone tries to sell it.

Ms Winslade added that the mould for the statue still exists so a new copy can be cast, but it is a long process to get access to a foundry. In the meantime, the plinth has been made safe, although it is likely to be six to twelve months until the statue is restored.

**Cr Matt Tyler asked what the timeline is for the Council+ rollout plan for Seabrook Community Centre and what community members can expect.**

Mr Andrew McLeod, Director Corporate Services, responded that the soft launch of Seabrook Council+ services would occur this week. Mr McLeod added that a date would soon be confirmed for a special event hosting a number of community-based activities encouraging people to come and learn more about how Council+ works. Frequent site visitors will be given "VIP" invitations to participate and come as a group.

**Referring back to Cr Kellander's question regarding the Newland Street exit, Cr Matt Tyler asked whether there is anything that community members can do to relay their concerns and build awareness for the issue.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, said that the community can contact VicRoads or the Department of Transport hotline to report the issue. Council passes on any complaints directly, so there is a record of those complaints and that would help Council's advocacy on this issue.

Cr Briffa added that she would be happy to directly contact Mr Mathew Hilakari MP, the state representative for Point Cook, regarding the issue.

**Cr Diana Grima asked about Council's advocacy and financial commitment for the Western Aquatic Centre.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, said that this is a high priority advocacy item, and Council is advocating to both the Victorian and Australian governments. As part of its 2022 budget process, Council committed \$20 million for the facility and also expected \$20 million each from the Victorian and Australian governments, and is working with both governments to secure funding.

**Cr Peter Hemphill asked about two locations along Millers Road where traffic was not flowing well, and whether VicRoads could improve the design of these locations.**

- 1. For the right-hand turn from Millers Road into Mason Street, there is currently a red arrow strictly preventing right turns when the arrow is not green, and there is often a queue of five or six cars waiting to turn. Cr Hemphill suggested that it should instead have no red arrow, allowing drivers to make the turn at any time if the road is clear and the other light is green.**

**Cr Hemphill noted that this design is already in place at the nearby intersection of Millers Road and Cabot Drive to enter Millers Junction, and commended VicRoads for it working well there.**

- 2. When travelling west on Blackshaws Road, the road splits into two lanes at the intersection with Millers Road, with one lane straight ahead and one for turning right. However, due to increased traffic related to West Gate Tunnel Project diversions, the right turn lane is not long enough for the number of cars turning right, and they overflow into the other lane and block traffic travelling straight ahead or turning left.**

**Cr Hemphill recalled that there may have been some talk of fixing this intersection in relation to Precinct 15.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, said that he would pass both issues on to VicRoads and work with them on solutions.



## 6 Public Question Time

**Sandra Wilson**

**Q What was the rate of waste diversion from landfill at June 2022, given the public data shows that since the reintroduction of weekly rubbish collections in November 2021 diversion has decreased and landfill has increased?**

A The 2021-22 year saw a diversion rate of 52.5 per cent, with a service change introduced in November 2021. This compares with 59 per cent diversion in 2020-21, and an average of about 40 per cent in previous years under the previous kerbside collection model.

**Q Was the goal of 54 per cent achieved as stated in Council's Waste and Litter Management Strategy 2025, and if not, when is it anticipated given the current trends?**

A The 2022 target of 54 per cent was initially exceeded in 2020-21, and is currently close to being achieved (as stated previously).

**Q What was the total cost for the Waste Levy borne by ratepayers in 2021-22 for 15,900 tonnes of landfilled waste (13,800 tonnes in 2020-21) and what is the anticipated total cost for 2022-23?**

A The landfill levy last year was set by the Victorian Government at \$105.90 per tonne, so Council paid about \$1.6 million in landfill levies for waste in 2020-21.

As you have noted, the landfill levy rate has increased in 2022-23. Approximately \$2.2 million is provisioned in the 2022-23 budget, but the actual amount will always vary somewhat based on seasonal variation and actual population growth.

**Geoff Dean**

**Q Why is Council now spending so many resources on surveys and canvassing secondary and broad stakeholders to justify the 320 trees planted along the Bay Trail rather than relocating them, when Council didn't even contact the primary stakeholders prior to planting as per Council policy?**

A Council undertook the planting of 320 advanced trees along the Bay Trail in Altona Meadows last season. The plantings were a continuation of similar plantings along the Skeleton Creek Trail that took place the previous season.

This was in line with Council's policy and strategy, and following extensive consultation, the community was advised about the planting plans through multiple channels.

Council has subsequently received some complaints about the plantings. To address these concerns, Council is seeking further feedback from the community on the implementation.

**Stephen Dean**

**Q Are there any plans for Council to plant the same regularity and spacings of continuous lines of trees, along both sides of walking trails at Williamstown Foreshore Reserve Trail, L.E. Burgoyne, Greenwich, Cyril Curtain, Gloucester, Rifle Range and Jawbone Reserves as Bay Trail West in Altona Meadows?**

A All tree plantings are delivered in accordance with Council's policy and strategy. The planting of trees along active transport corridors such as cycleway links and shared paths is identified as a priority of the Urban Forest Strategy 2020, the Hobsons Bay City Council Tree Policy and the Canopy Delivery Plan.

Community consultation will continue to be undertaken for tree planting along trails.

**Q What is the expected reduction of rates to residents has Council planned for, due to decreased values of properties, by extreme overplanting of trees in front of currently uninterrupted outlooks ranging from Westgate Bridge including the city and the Dandenongs right through to Point Cook?**

A Property values are assessed annually by an independent valuer on behalf of the Victorian Government. Council's rates are then determined based on relative property values, within the established rate cap.

Studies have found increased tree planting improves the amenity of an area, and accordingly has a positive effect on property values and saleability.

**Q Has Council referred to the Point Cook Coastal Park and Cheetham Wetlands Future Development Plan, as these trees are within the Cheetham Wetlands Boundary - Ramsar Protected Area?**

A As this area is near to the environmentally significant Cheetham Wetlands, our conservation and biodiversity teams approved the tree selection, as did the landowners, Parks Victoria.

Parks Victoria supported Council in the planting of these trees to assist meeting objectives as set out in the Urban Forest Strategy as well as improving the environmental values of the space.

**Robyn Dean**

**Q Did Council follow a crime prevention plan relating to clear open spaces when considering the planting of 320 trees on the Bay West Trail?**

A The planting of trees along public open space trails will encourage more people to use the trail, particularly during the warmer summer months. This will increase passive surveillance and safety in the area.

**Q Will Council maintain the path, removing hazardous debris from the trees, to ensure it is safe for all bike riders and walkers?**

A Council is responsible for maintaining the path and about 1 metre either side of it. This includes removing any hazardous debris to ensure it is safe for all users. Users are welcome to contact Council's Customer Service Team if any hazardous debris is noticed on the path and it will be removed by officers.

**Rowena Joske**

**Q Can Council please confirm if the endorsed plan (under permit PA220094), for the new signalised intersection of Blackshaws Road and the Precinct 15 road, named Fabric Drive, shows a final design for a single pedestrian crossing located on the east side of Fabric Drive?**

A The endorsed plans under Planning Permit PA220094 show a pedestrian crossing from Fabric Drive on the east side of the new signalised intersection at this stage.

**Q Can Council advise what options are available to community members wishing to seek an improved pedestrian crossing that connects to the planned walking and cycling path and the future Town Centre, which are on the west side of Fabric Drive?**

A The Comprehensive Development Plan ultimately requires a pedestrian crossing on the western side of this intersection. However, there is currently no scope to install a crossing on this side, as the land required to deliver this connection is an operating business with existing use rights and an existing vehicle entrance where the crossing would be located in future.

The eastern crossing in the endorsed plan ensures that pedestrians and cyclists can cross Blackshaws Road safely in the meantime.

**Q Has Council checked that this proposed intersection is compliant with the relevant Objectives and Walking and Cycling Requirements of the Altona North Comprehensive Development Plan being O7, O9, R21 and R22.**

A The proposed intersection has been assessed by Council and it meets the objectives and requirements of the CDP.

## 7 Petitions and Joint Letters

### 7.1 Petitions and Joint Letters Received

#### 7.1.1 Petition - Commit to Funding Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre for the Next Generation

<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Corporate Integrity and Legal Counsel
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Corporate Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil

### Purpose

To receive a written petition containing 784 signatories, requesting that Council commit to funding building renewal works for the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre if Council is not successful in obtaining grants from the Victorian and Australian governments to fund the construction of the proposed Western Aquatic and Early Years Centre in Altona Meadows.

### Motion

**Moved Cr Diana Grima, seconded Cr Matt Tyler:**

**That Council:**

- 1. Receives and notes the petition in relation to funding building renewal works for the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre if Council is not successful in obtaining grants from the Victorian and Australian governments to fund the construction of the proposed Western Aquatic and Early Years Centre in Altona Meadows.**
- 2. Receives a further report on this matter at a future Council meeting.**

**Carried unanimously**

### Recommendation

**That Council:**

- 1. Receives and notes the petition in relation to funding building renewal works for the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre if Council is not successful in obtaining grants from the Victorian and Australian governments to fund the construction of the proposed Western Aquatic and Early Years Centre in Altona Meadows.**
- 2. Receives a further report on this matter at a future Council meeting.**

## Summary

The petition was received on 2 February 2023 and acknowledged on 3 February 2023. It has been reviewed to verify that it meets the minimum requirement of 25 valid signatories in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules and can therefore be dealt with by Council.

The petition reads as follows:

We, the undersigned, petition Hobsons Bay City Council to commit to the following:

If by February 2023, after the review period of the Western Aquatic and Early Years Centre preliminary design is complete, and HBCC are not successful in obtaining the \$40 million in grants from state and federal governments, we request that:

- \$3.8m from the \$20m HBCC provisioned for the “Western Aquatic and Early Years Centre/Bruce Comben Reserve Masterplan” to be redirected to LSFC (Laverton Swim & Fitness Center) - to complete the building renewal works (as described in the document Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre Update – February 2017”
- HBCC commit to ensuring LSFC is fit for purpose, maintained, and open to the public for the next 20+ years.

## 7.1.2 Petition - Request for Removal of Recently Planted Trees on Bay West Trail

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

### Purpose

To receive a written petition containing 345 signatories, requesting that Council remove all recently planted trees along the Bay Trail West from the rear of 61 Sommers Drive to the rear of 8 Gaskell Court in Altona Meadows.

### Motion

**Moved Cr Matt Tyler, seconded Cr Diana Grima:**

**That Council:**

1. **Receives and notes the petition in relation to removing all recently planted trees along the Bay Trail West from the rear of 61 Sommers Drive to the rear of 8 Gaskell Court in Altona Meadows.**
2. **Receives a further report on this matter at a future Council meeting.**

**Carried unanimously**

### Recommendation

**That Council:**

1. **Receives and notes the petition in relation to removing all recently planted trees along the Bay Trail West from the rear of 61 Sommers Drive to the rear of 8 Gaskell Court in Altona Meadows.**
2. **Receives a further report on this matter at a future Council meeting.**

### Summary

The petition was received on 2 February 2023 and acknowledged on 3 February 2023. It has been reviewed to verify that it meets the minimum requirement of 25 valid signatories in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules and can therefore be dealt with by Council.

The petition reads as follows:

We, the undersigned, petition Hobsons Bay City Council to:

Remove all recently planted trees along the Bay Trail West from the rear of 61 Sommers Drive section of Skeleton Creek Trail to the rear of 8 Gaskell Court along Bay Trail West for the following reasons:

1. No consultation with neighbouring properties before trees were planted, nor with related nearby properties who could reasonably be expected to be frequent users of the path and grasslands
2. No obvious environmental risk assessment (impact on Ramsar-protected bird species; introduction of trees into the wetlands area with no history of trees from European records back into the mid-1800s)
3. No obvious economic risk assessment cost of watering programme to keep trees alive in their early phase: cost of additional grass maintenance due to tractors not reaching all areas; replacement of cracked concrete path whose life is shortened due to tree roots)
4. No obvious assessment of the risk to human life (impact of falling branches from a mature tree would seriously injure or kill, & smaller twigs and rubble risk to bike riders)
5. No obvious assessment on the Council Budget (risk of class action by ratepayers whose land was a premium value above surrounds until the arrival of these trees – a conservative estimate is a 10% loss of land value x about 54 properties, or \$5.4m)
6. No obvious consultation with Parks Victoria (on whose land the trees were planted, and who is responsible for maintenance. HBCC may be responsible for breaching the Ramsar International Treaty)

## 7.2 Responses to Petitions and Joint Letters

### 7.2.1 Response to Petition - Advocacy for Funding the Kororoit Creek Trail Connection Between Cherry Lake and Altona North

<b>Directorate:</b>	Office of the Chief Executive
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Communications, Engagement and Advocacy
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil

#### Purpose

To respond to a petition regarding advocacy to the Victorian and Australian governments for funding of Stages 4 and 5 of the Kororoit Creek Trail.

#### Motion

**Moved Cr Daria Kellander, seconded Cr Jonathon Marsden:**

**That Council:**

- 1. Continues its advocacy to the Victorian and Australian governments for funding of Stages 4 and 5 of the Kororoit Creek Trail.**
- 2. Writes to the lead petitioner advising of the outcome.**

**Carried unanimously**

#### Recommendation

**That Council:**

- 1. Continues its advocacy to the Victorian and Australian governments for funding of Stages 4 and 5 of the Kororoit Creek Trail.**
- 2. Writes to the lead petitioner advising of the outcome.**

#### Summary

On 28 September 2022, Council received a petition from the Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek group signed by 40 people requesting it advocate to the Victorian and Australian government for funding of Stages 4 and 5 of the Kororoit Creek Trail.



## Background

The petition reads as follows:

We, the undersigned, Members of Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek, petition the Hobsons Bay City Council, to advocate to both levels of Government, before the next State and Federal Budgets, to financially support the building of the shared bicycle/walking trail between Barnes Road Altona North and Cherry Lake, with the aim to complete this section of the trail by the end 2024.

## Discussion

As articulated in its current advocacy priorities, Council is seeking Victorian Government funding for Hobsons Bay's top 10 shared trail and cycling projects. These projects will deliver critical missing links across all of Hobsons Bay and thereby promote increased cycling uptake, reduced vehicle commuter trips, improved health and wellbeing outcomes, and the provision of greater connections for the community to enjoy.

Funding for Stages 4 and 5 of the Kororoit Creek Trail is identified as the top funding priority on the project list.

Completion of these final stages of the trail will connect the communities of Altona and Altona North to the key commuter link of the Federation Trail and unlock direct access to the city and suburbs throughout western Melbourne, including linking the activity centres of Sunshine and Footscray to Altona and Altona North.

The trail will also connect people to the natural environment of the Kororoit Creek, increasing passive recreation access and greater health and wellbeing outcomes.

## 8 Certificate Presentations

### 8.1 Certificate of Recognition – Mrs Sharon Walsh

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

#### Purpose

To present a Certificate of Recognition to Sharon Walsh.

#### Motion

Moved Cr Daria Kellander, seconded Cr Diana Grima:

That Council presents a Certificate of Recognition to Sharon Walsh for her significant contribution to the Altona community, particularly in her role with the Altona Village Traders Association.

Carried unanimously

#### Motion

Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Matt Tyler:

That Council suspends standing orders in order to present the certificate.

Carried unanimously

#### Motion

Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Jonathon Marsden:

That Council resumes standing orders.

Carried unanimously

#### Recommendation

That Council presents a Certificate of Recognition to Sharon Walsh for her significant contribution to the Altona community, particularly in her role with the Altona Village Traders Association.

## Summary

At the Council Meeting held on 9 August 2022, Council resolved to recognise Sharon Walsh for her contribution to the Altona community, particularly in her role with the Altona Village Traders Association.

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.

The Mayor will present the certificate to Mrs Walsh at the Council Meeting to be held on 7 February 2023.

## 9 Business

### 9.1 Office of the Chief Executive

#### 9.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations

<b>Directorate:</b>	Office of the Chief Executive
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. CEO Report on Operations [9.1.1.1 - 49 pages]

Cr Diana Grima left the meeting at 8.02pm and returned at 8.04pm. She was present for the vote on item 9.1.1.

#### Purpose

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

#### Motion

**Moved Cr Matt Tyler, seconded Cr Diana Grima:**

**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 December 2022 and 31 January 2023 is provided in this month's report.

## 9.2 Corporate Services

### 9.2.1 2022-23 Mayoral Program

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

#### Purpose

To update Councillors and the community on the areas of focus for the 2022-23 mayoral term of Cr Antoinette Briffa.

#### **Motion**

**Moved Cr Matt Tyler, seconded Cr Jonathon Marsden:**

**That Council notes the proposed 2022-23 mayoral focus areas of the Mayor, Cr Antoinette Briffa.**

**Carried unanimously**

#### **Motion**

**Moved Cr Jonathon Marsden, seconded Cr Peter Hemphill**

**That Council suspends standing orders [to allow Cr Briffa to speak].**

**Carried unanimously**

#### **Motion**

**Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Matt Tyler**

**That Council resumes standing orders.**

**Carried unanimously**

#### **Recommendation**

**That Council notes the proposed 2022-23 mayoral focus areas of the Mayor, Cr Antoinette Briffa.**

## Summary

In November 2022, Council elected Cr Briffa to lead Council as Mayor for the 2022-23 mayoral term.

Cr Briffa has identified that she will focus on strengthening the relationship between Council and the community by seeking to celebrate the diversity and unique spirit of the Hobsons Bay community, and offering the community a greater voice and more opportunities to participate in Council activities. She intends on strengthening Council's relationships with the Victorian and Australian governments as well as building stronger connections and purposeful engagement with the business community, sister cities, members of parliament and neighbouring councils. She will promote awareness of First Nations people through Council's relationship with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire friendship alliance and exploring support for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. She will also seek to make Hobsons Bay a greener, more environmentally proactive and liveable city. This report outlines the areas of particular interest and provides details of the initiatives and activities that Cr Briffa intends to support over the course of her mayoral term.

## Background

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.

## Discussion

Recognising that the Hobsons Bay community is still recovering from the impacts of COVID-19, Cr Briffa has indicated that she will be supporting programs and initiatives during her mayoral term that will focus on strengthening the relationship between Council, the community, the business sector and government:

1. Celebrating the diversity and community spirit of Hobsons Bay
2. Greater community voice and opportunities to participate in Council activities
3. Strengthening the relationship between Council and the Victorian and Australian governments
4. Stronger connections and purposeful engagement with the business community, sister cities, members of parliament and neighbouring councils
5. Promoting awareness of First Nations people through Council's relationship with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council friendship alliance and exploring support for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament
6. Making Hobsons Bay a greener, more environmentally proactive and liveable city

## Celebrating the diversity and community spirit of Hobsons Bay

Hobsons Bay is a proud, diverse community. Cr Briffa would like to celebrate this diversity through events marking International Women's Day, the staging of events focused on all abilities, and support for the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) Program with a particular focus on women in STEAM.



**Figure 1: Councillors and Hobsons Bay Citizens of the Year 2023**

Deputy Mayor Cr Grima, Cr Tyler, Citizen of the Year Naserah Khan, Mayor Cr Briffa, Young Citizen of the Year Mia Boonen, Cr Sutton-Legaud and Cr Hemphill at the 2023 Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards and Citizenship Ceremony

An important initiative is to establish a Community Liaison Group to guide engagement with the community supporting LGBTIQ+ young people and their families. This could include for example a series of workshops and panel discussions. This will culminate in an event celebrating LGBTIQ+ young people in Hobsons Bay and the West which could include a Queer Ball, Street Festival or other significant event.

Cr Briffa would also like to support an initiative that would include an Open Day for all sporting and community clubs across the municipality, allowing residents and club members to connect to promote their clubs, share ideas and foster new relationships. This event would be held at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre.



**Figure 2: Mayor Cr Briffa with the Hon Melissa Horne MP at the Royal Yacht Club Victoria National and World Championships held in Williamstown in January 2023**

### **Greater community voice and opportunities to participate in Council activities**

Cr Briffa welcomes the opportunity for community groups to meet with Councillors and promote the work they do in the community. Opportunities proposed include invitations to Councillor Briefing Sessions and Council Meetings and working with Council to produce short videos showcasing the work carried out by community groups to be shared via Council's social media.



**Figure 3: Mayor Cr Briffa and the Hon Melissa Horne MP meeting with representatives of the Altona East Phoenix Soccer Club**

### **Strengthening the relationship between Council and the Victorian and Australian governments**

Cr Briffa will work to build stronger relationships between Council and the Victorian and Australian governments and their agencies and advocate for investment in infrastructure, programs and services that meet the needs of the Hobsons Bay community.

Under Cr Briffa's leadership, Council will continue to advocate for state and federal support for priority projects such as the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre and the Western Aquatic and Early Years Centre, as well as investment in vital areas such as youth mental health and improved public transport options.





**Figure 4: Mayor Cr Briffa with Cr Sutton-Legaud, His Excellency Tim Mawe, Ambassador of Ireland to Australia, and members of the Irish Famine Orphan Girls Committee at the Irish Famine Orphan Girls Commemoration held in Williamstown in November 2022**

### **Stronger connections and purposeful engagement with the business community, sister cities, members of parliament and neighbouring councils**

Cr Briffa is keen to support and promote the many industrial, commercial and retail businesses in Hobsons Bay through:

- Business Visitation Program – Cr Briffa would like to continue this program as part of Council’s engagement with the business community, which would also include staging networking events
- establishing “Meet the Mayor” initiatives with local businesses, industry and trader representatives
- Business Roundtables – Council regularly meets with members of the Hobsons Bay business community including hosting business roundtables where Council can hear directly from businesses about particular issues and sector-based impacts and opportunities
- Business Awards in 2023 – the biennial Business Awards will occur in 2023

Cr Briffa is also keen to build on existing connections with other councils through events such as Midsumma Westside, the regular meetings between western region Councils, through collaboration around the MAV State Council motions and groups such as M9.

Cr Briffa intends to extend Council’s engagement and connection with its sister cities of Anjo City, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire and Buloke Shire through:

- participating in an official delegation to Anjo City, Japan for the upcoming thirty-fifth anniversary of the sister city agreement with Council
- hosting a reciprocal visit including a civic reception for a delegation from Anjo City later this year
- continuing to support operational connection and assistance by Council staff
- arranging a Council visit to Buloke Shire to enhance collaboration and connection

Cr Briffa will continue to uphold the close working relationship with local members of parliament, relevant ministers and other dignitaries through:

- regular scheduled meetings to discuss matters of importance to Hobsons Bay
- inviting local ministers and members of parliament to attend Council briefings twice a year

**Promoting awareness of First Nations people through Council's relationship with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council friendship alliance and exploring support for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament**

A key issue in 2023 will be the referendum on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament – a commitment of the Australian Government in supporting the implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Cr Briffa supports the Uluru Statement from the Heart and will make it a priority during this mayoral term to raise community awareness and explore support for the Voice to Parliament. This will include participating in broader campaigns, such as participating in discussions with other Mayors for the Voice to Parliament Public Statement, as well as seeking to directly consult with both the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council.



**Figure 5: Mayor Cr Briffa with Deputy Mayor Cr Grima, Kobi Sainty from the Bunurong Land Council and event curator Yohann Naviere at the launch of the *Colours of the Rainbow in a Diverse Community* exhibition held in January 2023**

## Making Hobsons Bay a greener, more environmentally proactive and liveable city

Council recognises the importance of environmental protection to improve the quality of the water and air and the need to continue to plant trees to reduce the temperature of our planet and reduce global warming.

As part of her Mayoral Program, Cr Briffa seeks to:

- coordinate a Brooklyn Air Quality Community Forum, bringing together community, government agencies and business
- continue the School Environment Engagement Program and the Trees in Schools Program
- promote a new initiative, the Habitat Gardens program, which will commence in April and encourage local residents to participate and learn about using native plants in their own properties
- promote and champion the benefits of Council's Virtual Power network and expanding renewable capacity



**Figure 6: Mayor Cr Briffa and Cr Sutton-Legaud, Cr Hemphill and Cr Marsden with representatives of the Australian Islamic Centre at the opening of Blenheim Road Reserve in Newport**

## 9.2.2 Recognition of Hobsons Bay Residents in 2023 Australia Day Honours List

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

### Purpose

To acknowledge the achievements of two Hobsons Bay residents, Ivo Havard and Anne Hooker, who have been recognised in the Australia Day 2023 Honours List.

### Motion

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

**That Council:**

- 1. Sends letters of congratulations from the Mayor to Ivo Havard OAM and Anne Hooker OAM on being recognised in the Australia Day 2023 Honours List.**
- 2. Invites the award recipients to attend a future Council Meeting.**

**Carried unanimously**

### Recommendation

**That Council:**

- 1. Sends letters of congratulations from the Mayor to Ivo Havard OAM and Anne Hooker OAM on being recognised in the Australia Day 2023 Honours List.**
- 2. Invites the award recipients to attend a future Council Meeting.**

### Summary

The Australia Day Honours List recognises the outstanding service and contributions of Australian citizens nationwide each year. Two residents of Hobsons Bay have been recognised among the 1,047 Australians honoured in 2023. This report acknowledges their achievement and service to the community.

Ivo Havard of Seabrook was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to cricket and football. Anne Hooker of Brooklyn was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community, particularly to youth.

## Background

The Australia Day Honours List comprises a number of honours and awards, including for the General Division and Military Division of the Order of Australia, Meritorious Awards, Distinguished and Conspicuous Service Awards and Bravery Awards.

The Hobsons Bay recipients for 2023 received honours within the General Division of the Order of Australia, which recognises Australians who have demonstrated outstanding service or exceptional achievement.

The Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) is awarded for service worthy of particular recognition.

## Discussion

### Ivo Havard OAM

Ivo Havard OAM was honoured with a Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to cricket and football, having made significant contributions to local and state football and cricket over more than 50 years as a player, volunteer and administrator. He has shown a particular commitment to fostering junior and female players.

Mr Havard played for the Werribee Football Club in the Victorian Football League from the mid-1960s to 1984, then becoming a dedicated volunteer until 2010 and serving as a board member for the past 10 years. He became a life member in 1994 and was inducted into the club's Hall of Fame in 2014.

Mr Havard has also been involved with the Point Cook Football Club in the Western Region Football League (WRFL). Between 2007 and 2014 he served as head coach/coordinator for the Auskick program. He has been a Director on the WRFL Junior Board since 2016.

Mr Havard joined the Point Cook Football Club committee in 2012 and served in a number of roles, including as President from 2017 to 2019, during which time the club won 10 premierships and six league Best and Fairest awards, introduced its first Senior Women's and Netball sides and integrated the Auskick program, and grew its membership by almost 75 per cent. Mr Havard again became president in 2022.

In 2018 Mr Harvard received the WRFL's Lindsay Patching Memorial Trophy for club official of the year. He became a life member of the Point Cook Football Club in 2022 and continues to serve as a coach and as Director, Female Football.

Mr Havard has been involved with the Werribee Cricket Club for over 50 years in various capacities and became a life member in 1985. He was in First XI for 206 out of the 409 club games he has played. Mr Havard served as club president from 2014 to 2016 and is currently Vice-President. He received the Eddie Marriott Award for Best Club Person in 2021-22.

Mr Havard has also been heavily involved in supporting junior cricket. He is a life member of the Werribee Junior Cricket Club and has served as a junior coach for 45 years. He has been a board member of the Western Region Junior Cricket Association since 2018.

Mr Havard is a life member of the Victorian Cricket Association and Victorian Sub-District Cricket Association, for which he has formerly acted as a coach for various representative squads. He is also a member for the 200 Game (First XI) Club.

In 2019 Mr Harvard received the Cricket Victoria/Australia 50 Year Service Award. In 2000 he received the Australian Sports Medal in recognition of his outstanding contribution and service to cricket as a life member of the Werribee Cricket Club and Werribee Junior Cricket Club.

### **Anne Hooker OAM**

Anne Hooker OAM was honoured with a Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to the community, particularly to youth.

Ms Hooker has been the Youth Development Officer at Port Phillip Prison in Laverton since 1999 and supervisor of the prison's Youth Unit since 2005. She was previously Centre Manager and Senior Community Corrections Officer from 1985 to 1998 and a Community Corrections Officer for Corrections Victoria from 1979 to 1999.

Ms Hooker runs Port Phillip Prison's youth unit, which supports young, first-time offenders through innovative programs such as Servin' Time Inc, a T-shirt printing business run by young offenders which donates all its profits to charity, and the *Stories from the Inside* DVD, designed to deter young people from committing crime. The unit's focus is to prevent suicide and self-harm and to reduce rates of reoffending through rehabilitation; at the time it was implemented, it was the only example in the world of a youth unit being run within a maximum-security prison.

In 2010 Ms Hooker appeared in *The Age's* list of 100 Most Influential People. She was awarded a National Medal in 2013 and received an Inspirational Women Award from Council in 2014. In 2015 she was awarded Outstanding Correctional Service Employee by the International Corrections Professionals Association in 2015.

Ms Hooker is a current member of the Churchill Fellows Association of Victoria, and previously served as President from 2017 to 2019. She was awarded a Churchill fellowship in 2010.

### 9.2.3 Memorial Plaque Request - The Late Mrs Jessie Williams

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

#### Purpose

To consider the installation of a memorial plaque in recognition of the late Mrs Jessie Williams.

#### Motion

**Moved Cr Jonathon Marsden, seconded Cr Hemphill:**

**That Council, having considered the significant contribution made by the late Mrs Jessie Williams to the Hobsons Bay community:**

- 1. Approves the installation of a memorial plaque on an existing seat in Paine Reserve, facing Mason Street.**
- 2. Notes that the cost of the memorial plaque will be borne by the applicant.**

**Carried**

#### Recommendation

**That Council, having considered the significant contribution made by the late Mrs Jessie Williams to the Hobsons Bay community:**

- 1. Approves the installation of a memorial plaque on an existing seat in Paine Reserve, facing Mason Street.**
- 2. Notes that the cost of the memorial plaque will be borne by the applicant.**

#### Summary

Council has received a request from the family of the late Mrs Jessie Williams for a memorial plaque to be placed on one of the new bench seats in Paine Reserve, facing Mason Street.

## Background

Council has adopted a policy for the installation of memorial plaques and the scattering of ashes in public places. The policy aims to commemorate individuals who have contributed to the cultural, political or social aspects of Hobsons Bay's development or shared community history.

## Discussion

Mrs Williams was a long-time resident of Newport, having lived in the same house for 73 years from 1948 until her passing in January 2021, aged 96.

She arrived in Australia from Scotland as a two-year-old, and her family first lived in Williamstown and then Newport. She married George Williams in 1948.

Mrs Williams was involved in a number of clubs and activities around Newport, including:

- volunteering at the Newport Elderly Citizens Club since she was 37, and remaining active there well into her nineties
- performing with the Willy Minstrels to entertain residents at aged care homes
- volunteering with the Newport Baseball Club and the Newport Baseball Cricket Club, mainly in the kitchen and organising functions

Her achievements include:

- Life membership – Newport Baseball Club
- Life membership – Newport Baseball Cricket Club
- Life membership – Newport Elderly Citizens Club
- Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of voluntary services to the community awarded in 2001 by the Hon. Steve Bracks MP, Premier of Victoria
- Award of Merit for twenty years of service in the Willy Minstrels Entertainment Group, presented in 2004 by Cr Bill Baarini, Mayor of Hobsons Bay

She was well known around the Mason Street shops, often referred to as the little old lady that pushed a shopping jeep. She loved to help others and her involvement with the various groups mentioned also provided a great way for her to socialise and meet new friends and maintain lifelong friendships.



## 9.2.4 Mid-Year Budget Review 2022-23

<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Chief Financial Officer
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Corporate Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Financial Report 2022-23 [9.2.4.1 - 16 pages] 2. Capital Works Program 2022-23 [9.2.4.2 - 2 pages]

### Purpose

To present Council with the financial results for the period ended 31 December 2022, and the revised 2022-23 annual forecast projections following completion of the December (mid-year) budget review.

### Motion

**Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Daria Kellander:**

**That Council:**

- 1. Notes the financial report for the period ended 31 December 2022.**
- 2. Endorses the revised 2022-23 annual forecasts.**

**Carried unanimously**

### Recommendation

**That Council:**

- 1. Notes the financial report for the period ended 31 December 2022.**
- 2. Endorses the revised 2022-23 annual forecasts.**

### Summary

The quarterly financial report for the period ended 31 December 2022 and a detailed report on the Capital Works Program are attached.

An extensive financial mid-year budget review has been conducted resulting in the operational budget surplus for 2022-23 of \$26.339 million being decreased to a forecast of \$23.371 million. The operational surplus does not include Council's significant investment in capital expenditure, forecast to be \$69.965 million in 2022-23.

When compared to budget, income is expected to increase by \$4.741 million and operational expenditure is expected to increase by \$7.709 million.

The forecast result of the Capital Works Program compared to budget is a balanced financial result after forecast adjustments and carryovers are considered.

Quarterly financial reporting provides accountability and transparency in relation to Council's operations and capital works. Council budgets are subject to internal scrutiny, driven by regular reports to the Executive Leadership Team and meetings with managers.

## **Background**

When compared to previous financial plans, current and projected income funding streams such as user charges and statutory fees have been and continue to be impacted by the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is difficult to assess how long it will take for these income streams to recover. These assumptions will affect the amount of funding expected to be available in future years of the Financial Plan to be used by Council to maintain critical community assets.

Council will continue to monitor the impact of the financial results in relation to Council's overall financial viability. The Financial Plan has been updated to reflect the 3.5 per cent rate cap for 2023-24 recently announced by the Victorian Government.

## 9.2.5 Second Quarter Report - Council Plan Initiatives Progress Update and Half Year Local Government Performance Reporting Framework Results

<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Corporate Integrity and Legal Counsel
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Corporate Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Half Year Progress Report Council Plan Initiatives and LGPRF Indicators 2022-23 [9.2.5.1 - 17 pages]

### Purpose

To provide Council with the second quarter update on the progress of the initiatives to support the achievement of the Council Plan 2021-25 and the half-year results of the mandatory Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) indicators.

### Motion

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

**That Council:**

- 1. Notes the progress made on the 2022-23 initiatives for the Council Plan 2021-25.**
- 2. Notes the half-year results for the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework indicators.**

**Carried unanimously**

### Recommendation

**That Council:**

- 1. Notes the progress made on the 2022-23 initiatives for the Council Plan 2021-25.**
- 2. Notes the half-year results for the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework indicators.**

### Summary

Each financial year, Council's performance is measured against the progress of initiatives and the indicators prescribed in the LGPRF. This half-year progress report provides updates on how Council is progressing on both these measures for the period 1 July to 30 December 2022.

For the 2022-23 financial year Council nominated 21 initiatives to support the delivery of Council Plan 2021-25, of which 14 are carried over from the previous year. To date Council has completed two initiatives, the Hobsons 2.0 Risk Management Framework and Newport Gardens Early Years Centre with the remaining 19 initiatives progressing to plan.

The LGPRF half-year results indicate that Council is tracking to achieve similar or better results compared to the same period of the last financial year in 24 out of the 52 reportable indicators in this period and will need to improve on 28 to achieve similar results as the previous year.

## Background

The Council Plan is developed every four years in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act). It guides the work of Council by setting objectives, strategies and priorities that are achieved through the delivery of Council services and initiatives.

The Council Plan 2021-25 was adopted by Council on 12 October 2021. It consists of five strategic objectives that are made up of 19 strategies, 59 priorities and 10 large multi-year initiatives which describe what Council will do for the period. Other initiatives that support the delivery of the Council Plan objectives are identified in the annual budget process. The reporting of the initiatives is a requirement under the Act. Council reports quarterly on the progress to ensure they are on track throughout the financial year.

The LGPRF is a mandatory system of reporting requiring all councils to report on their service performance in a consistent format as a part of their Annual Report and previously was reported via Local Government Victoria's Know Your Council website, The Know Your Council website and reporting system is no longer available. There are plans to transition to a new site with improved navigation and functionality where the full year results will be reported. The framework consists of several performance indicators that are comparable between councils. The half-year report is an internal reporting tool for Council to monitor and manage progress.

## Discussion

In 2022-23 Council nominated 21 initiatives to support the delivery of Council Plan 2021-25. Some are multi-year projects that will progress beyond several financial years.

Council has completed two initiatives, the Hobsons 2.0 Risk Management Framework and Newport Gardens Early Years Centre, four initiatives are on track to be completed within this financial year with the remaining 15 initiatives progressing to plan.

Council has similar or better results than the same period last year in 24 of the 52 reportable LGPRF indicators in this reporting period.

The details of the progress of the initiatives and LGPRF indicator results can be found in the attachment.

## 9.4 Infrastructure and City Services

### 9.4.1 Adoption of the Hobsons Bay Play Space Strategy 2023-33

<b>Directorate:</b>	Infrastructure and City Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Active Communities and Assets
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Infrastructure and City Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Play Space Strategy - Final Draft February 2023 [9.3.1.1 - 100 pages]

#### Purpose

To seek Council's endorsement of the Hobsons Bay Play Space Strategy 2023-33 (Attachment 1).

#### Motion

**Moved Cr Jonathon Marsden, seconded Cr Peter Hemphill:**

**That Council:**

- 1. Adopts the Hobsons Bay Play Space Strategy 2023-33.**
- 2. Writes to all who submitted feedback on the draft strategy to thank them for their contribution.**

**Carried unanimously**

#### Recommendation

**That Council:**

- 1. Adopts the Hobsons Bay Play Space Strategy 2023-33.**
- 2. Writes to all who submitted feedback on the draft strategy to thank them for their contribution.**

#### Summary

Following approval by Council at the 13 September 2022 Council Meeting, the Draft Hobsons Bay Play Space Strategy was placed on public exhibition for four weeks from 28 September 2022 to 28 October 2022. This report outlines feedback from the community following the public exhibition period and outlines the changes to the strategy that have been made as a result of this feedback.

The need to develop an updated Play Space Strategy was required following the adoption of the Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy (OSS) in 2018. The Hobsons Bay Play Space Strategy 2023-33 has been developed to align with the park hierarchy identified in the OSS and is being presented for Council's final adoption.

## Background

Following approval at the 13 September Council Meeting, the Draft Hobsons Bay Play Space Strategy was placed on public exhibition for four weeks from 28 September to 28 October 2022.

The strategy has been developed to specifically address the following key issues in relation to the upgrade and development of play spaces within Council's public spaces:

- review the current vision, core values and principles and expand on these as necessary, particularly in relation to Council's Universal Design Policy Statement for parks and playgrounds (2018)
- align the Play Space Strategy with the parks hierarchy established in the OSS
- review the progress of the original implementation program against actual delivery over the past five-year period, and the true costs associated with play space development
- develop a revised 10-year play space program that aligns with the community parks upgrade program established from the OSS
- develop a realistic cost estimate in relation to the development and upgrade of play spaces and include in the 10-year program
- strengthen standards in relation to natural and constructed natural shade, drinking water access and fencing

## Discussion

The public exhibition period of the draft strategy was hosted on Participate Hobsons Bay. At the conclusion of the four-week period, the project page received 351 individual visits and 14 written submissions were received.

Apart from requests for the upgrade of play spaces at specific locations (a total of six requests), the following requests were made for Council's consideration and action, when upgrading or developing play spaces in the future.

### Shade at existing play spaces

Fifty-seven per cent of all respondents stated the need for shade at existing play spaces either from tree canopy cover or shade sails.

### Safety and accessibility

- install additional all abilities car park spaces and better footpath connections
- implement measures to reduce anti-social behaviour including rubbish dumping and hooning
- more seating and bins

**Improvements to existing spaces**

- improve play spaces along the beach areas and incorporate water play
- improve play spaces along the shared trail networks
- relocate the basketball court at Craig Street Reserve to Donald McLean Reserve, Spotswood

**Play spaces for young children and all age ranges**

- provide more play spaces suitable for young children (five years and younger)
- provide more imaginative play spaces in general
- address safety for younger children at existing play spaces

All six playgrounds mentioned within the submissions are listed in the 10-year Capital Works Program for playground upgrades and development.

The assessment and inclusion of built shade at specific play space locations and an assessment of shade for playgrounds in general is a recommended action within this strategy.

The assessment and inclusion and upgrade of footpath connections, all abilities car parking, seating, bins and drinking water are included in the strategy service standards and universal design principles for playgrounds, and will be assessed for each playground upgrade project.

Creative, sustainable and safe design of play spaces that cater for a range of children's ages and abilities are a focus of this strategy as well as catering for the needs of carers and adults. The inclusion of water play is considered in accordance with the playground location and its context within the play space hierarchy, however, given the expense of installing and maintaining specific water play parks, these larger initiatives are considered in the context of Council's Aquatics Strategy and the proximity of swimming beaches and public pools.

Play spaces located along the shared trail networks will be assessed, designed, and developed from a precinct perspective, to facilitate a connected play experience that encourages families to visit and play at several destinations along the trail. Points of difference in terms of play opportunities and good wayfinding signage specific to the play trail will also be included. This action has been incorporated into the draft strategy.

The relocation of the basketball court from Craig Street Reserve due to noise complaints has not been supported. New half courts are being installed within the precinct as part of Council's current and future Capital Works Program which will help disperse the intensity of use this court receives. In addition, measures have been put into place to minimise the use of this court outside of daylight hours which will be closely monitored.

## 10 Committee and Delegate Reports

### 10.1 Committee Reports

#### 10.1.1 Audit and Risk Committee Update - November 2022

**Directorate:** Corporate Services

**Responsible Officer:** Manager Corporate Integrity and Legal Counsel

**Reviewer:** Director Corporate Services

**Attachments:** 1. Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes - 23 November 2022 [10.1.1.1 - 8 pages]  
2. Audit and Risk Committee Annual Self-Assessment 2022 [10.1.1.2 - 12 pages]

### Purpose

To update Council regarding issues considered at the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 23 November 2022, including the results of the Annual Self-Assessment report.

### Motion

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

**That Council:**

1. Notes the matters considered by the Audit and Risk Committee at the meeting held on 23 November 2022.
2. Receives and notes the Audit and Risk Committee Annual Self-Assessment 2022.

**Carried unanimously**

### Recommendation

**That Council:**

1. Notes the matters considered by the Audit and Risk Committee at the meeting held on 23 November 2022.
2. Receives and notes the Audit and Risk Committee Annual Self-Assessment 2022.



## Summary

This report provides an update of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 23 November 2022 to ensure that Council is informed of the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee. It provides Council with an opportunity to explore any issues that have been considered.

Also included in this report is the Audit and Risk Committee Annual Self-Assessment 2022, in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* (LG Act 2020). This is the third year that Council has undertaken a formal Audit and Risk Committee Self-Assessment.

## 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.

The Committee meets quarterly throughout the year and has a Charter that addresses responsibilities that include risk management, control frameworks, external accountability, legislative compliance and internal and external audits.

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter states that members shall be appointed for a term of three years, with the option of a second three-year appointment at the discretion of Council.

In accordance with section 54 of the LG Act 2020, an Audit and Risk Committee must undertake an annual assessment of its performance against the Charter, the results of which are to be provided to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at a future Council meeting.

## Discussion

On 13 December 2022, Council approved the reappointment of Mr John Watson as an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee for a second three-year term.

The overall rating of the Audit and Risk Committee annual self-assessment undertaken in September 2022 was positive, with respondents rating Committee performance at 83 per cent (compared to 88 per cent in September 2021 and 81 per cent in 2020). Several continuous improvement opportunities were identified and noted.

The 23 November 2022 meeting addressed the following items:

- review and endorsement of the Audit and Risk Committee Annual Work Plan
- Chief Executive Officer's update
- outstanding audit recommendations
- Enterprise Digital Strategy update
- review of the Audit and Risk Committee annual self-assessment 2022
- Internal Audit Program including completed audit reports and endorsement of the Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2023 - 2026
- risk and insurance update

- occupational health and safety update
- VAGO final management letter, quarterly financial report, and cash and investment balances
- Capital Works quarterly report

## 10.2 Delegate Reports

### Purpose

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

### Motion

**Moved Cr Jonathon Marsden, seconded Cr Matt Tyler:**

**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:** 7 December 2022

This report provides an update on the regular meeting at the Metropolitan Transport Forum.

### Background

The Metropolitan Transport Forum is a monthly meeting attended by a Councillor and Council representative from 26 councils across Melbourne as well as representatives from the other transport-related bodies and advocacy groups, such as the Department of Transport, Public Transport Users Association and Victoria Walks.

These meetings are an opportunity for councils to discuss and advocate for improvements to the transport system by sharing knowledge, with a focus on integrated transport. They are also a way for Council to stay informed on transport matters across the metropolitan area and pass this information on to the Hobsons Bay community.

The meetings generally involve a presentation from a technical expert and then councils are given an opportunity to provide updates on key integrated transport projects and activities.

### Presentation

Peter Parker from the Victorian Transport Action Group gave a detailed overview of public transport issues that arose through the 2022 state election. The Victorian Transport Action Group is a community group advocating for better active and public transport in Victoria.

In particular, Mr Parker noted the clear preference of parties for infrastructure delivery over service upgrades and extensions. He noted that some bus routes have not received a service upgrade for several decades and still operate to meet retail trading hours of the pre-deregulation era in the second half of last century.

Mr Parker attempted to contact every candidate in the lead-up to the state election with an offer to meet and discuss public transport priorities, but very few agreed to the invitation. He suggested that councils should take a leading role in reviewing public transport services and advocating to the Victorian Government for improvements.

### **Council updates**

Daniele Ranieri from Manningham City Council outlined major transport projects and their impact on the municipality, including the North East Link. He noted that the council is investigating transport-oriented development around some of the project components such as the Doncaster Park and Ride.

Ross Evans from Monash City Council provided an update on ongoing transport projects in the City of Monash including the implementation of the 2017 Integrated Transport Strategy, installation of EV charging and impacts from the Suburban Rail Loop.

## LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee

<b>Directorate:</b>	Office of the Chief Executive
<b>Councillor Delegate:</b>	Cr Matt Tyler (apology)
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	14 December 2022
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. LeadWest 2022 Review [10.2.2.1 - 4 pages]

The December meeting of the LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee was hosted by Brimbank City Council.

The following items were discussed.

### **Election of LeadWest Committee Chair and Deputy Chair, and Finance Subcommittee Chair**

Cr Sophie Ramsey of Melton City Council was elected as LeadWest Chair with Cr Peter Maynard of Wyndham City Council elected as Deputy Chair. Cr Peter Maynard was also elected Chair of the Finance Subcommittee.

### **Election results**

The election results were discussed, noting that Brimbank Cr Trung Luu was elected for the Western Metropolitan Region. It was also noted that the Liberal party had made over \$1.2 billion worth of election commitments in the west, which was unprecedented.

### **Commonwealth Games involvement**

It was agreed that LeadWest approach the Commonwealth Games Committee to discuss involvement opportunities.

### **LeadWest 2022 activity overview**

An overview of activities conducted on behalf of the LeadWest Committee for 2022 was provided and is attached to this report.

## 11 Notices of Motion

No notices of motion were received.

## 12 Urgent Business

Nil

## 13 Supplementary Public Question Time

**Q** Will HBCC undertake an ecological study on the impacts of the current tree planting or any future or proposed tree plantings along the Bay Trail that could have an impact on the Cheetham Wetlands and wildlife/bird environments. These wetlands are internationally known and protected under the Ramsar Convention and therefore this matter needs to be given serious consideration.

**A** The question will be taken on notice and responded to in writing.

## 14 In Camera Business

### Motion

Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Jonathon Marsden:

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with section 66(2)(a), section 3(1)(a) and section 3(1)(g) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as it relates to private commercial information and information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:

14.1 Review of Confidential Status of In Camera Council Reports

Carried

### Recommendation

That Council considers the confidential report(s) listed below in a meeting closed to the public in accordance with section 66(2)(a), section 3(1)(a) and section 3(1)(g) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as it relates to private commercial information and information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:

14.1 Review of Confidential Status of In Camera Council Reports

Council considered the report and discussed the matter in camera.

## 15 Close of Meeting

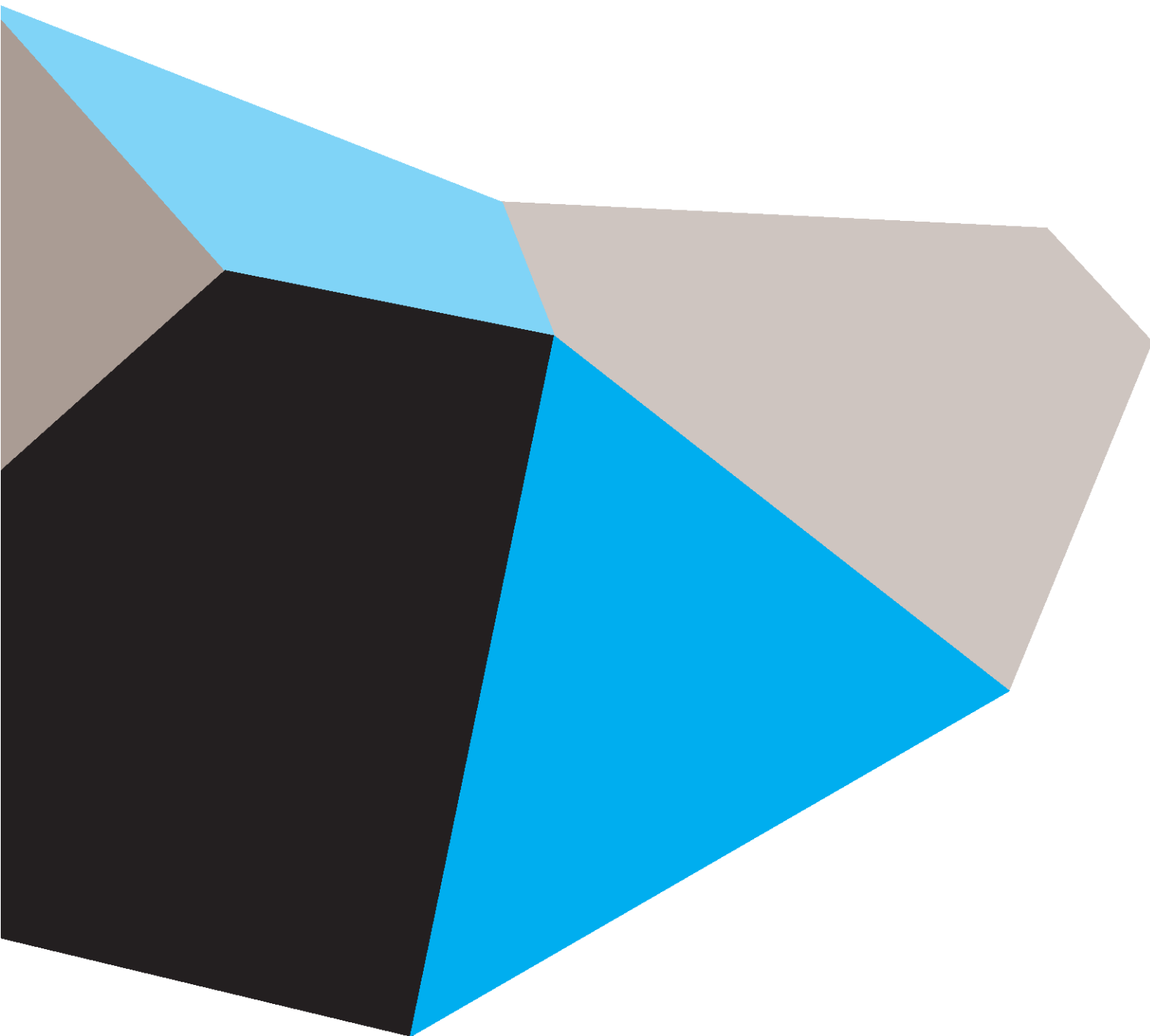
There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9.08pm.

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Chairperson – Cr Antoinette Briffa

Signed and certified as having been confirmed.

14 March 2023



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**HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL**

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