

# Council Meeting Minutes

20 June 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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## Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 June 2023 at 7.08pm.

### 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

#### Officers

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

## 1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement

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

## 2 Apologies

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

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 8.1.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations through his work as Executive Director with the Men's Project at Jesuit Social Services, which has been contracted in the past by the Sons of the West program mentioned in the report to deliver a number of workshops. Cr Tyler stated that he did not regard the interest as material or a 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 9 May 2023 (copy previously circulated).

#### **Motion**

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

**That Council confirms the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 9 May 2023.**

**Carried**

## 5 Councillor Questions

**Cr Matt Tyler requested an update on the work being done on mental health advocacy, noting that significant service gaps exist in Hobsons Bay and the west more generally.**

Ms Pene Winslade, Director Sustainable Communities, said that advocating for the Headspace youth mental health service in Hobsons Bay is a high advocacy priority for Council, and that she was pleased to report significant progress on that priority – in the last six months there have been meetings with all the key decision makers and stakeholders including the Western Primary Health Network, local state and federal representatives, Origin, Headspace and a range of other stakeholders.

Ms Winslade said that in the previous week Council representatives had attended the Australian Local Government Association conference at Parliament where they met with the federal Minister's office, and Council has also lodged a request with the Department and will soon be launching a community campaign to involve the community in signalling how important that priority is to Hobsons Bay and the community.

Cr Antoinette Briffa added that she and Mr Andrew McLeod, Director Corporate Services, participated in the meeting at Parliament last week and that they are advocating at all levels and any opportunity because they are very much essential services and there is a huge gap in Hobsons Bay.

**Cr Matt Tyler referred to residents' frustration regarding entry to Hobsons Bay's suburbs, noting that freeway on and off ramps are a matter for the Victorian Government. Recalled that at a prior Council Meeting held on 20 April 2021 reference was made to a "gateways program", Cr Tyler asked how that was progressing and what Council can do to improve the state of the entries to the municipality's suburbs.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, affirmed that most of the gateways are the Victorian Government's responsibilities, and noted that while Council is trying to work with them where possible to improve these locations, getting permits and approval would take some time.

As an example, Mr Manivasagasivam said that Council wanted to plant more trees along the Kororoit Creek Road median strip, but it took two years to get permits from the Victorian Government and other authorities. Mr Manivasagasivam added that those permits were now approved and the trees would be planted during the 2023 planting season.

Mr Manivasagasivam said that Council is working on redesigning a number of other gateway areas to try to minimise the number of permits and approvals needed to carry out works, and will gradually work on each area.

**Cr Matt Tyler asked for an update on the waste service and Council's terms of engagement with Cleanaway.**

Ms Pene Winslade, Director Sustainable Communities, said that the kerbside service is now running as normal, with all collections running on time over the past few weeks. There has been a significant and continuing issue with driver shortages and Council will continue to monitor this closely.

**Cr Diana Grima asked for an update on the Altona Meadows Learning Centre and when works will be completed.**

Mr Andrew McLeod, Director Corporate Services, said that the Altona Meadows Library is on track for a “soft” public opening on 31 July, which will have full public access and will be a fully serviceable facility though not all technological additions may be in place. Mr McLeod said that the full formal launch is anticipated for late August or early September, subject to VIP availability and the delivery of technological elements.

**Cr Peter Hemphill asked about the electric Beam bikes that have been placed around the municipality, firstly asking the other Councillors how many bikes they had seen in use.**

Councillors discussed among themselves and concluded some had seen small numbers of the bikes in use (between three and six), while Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud, Cr Daria Kellander and Cr Matt Tyler had not seen any being used.

**Cr Peter Hemphill said that he suspected the bikes were used very little in this municipality, and that he had received a number of complaints about the bikes blocking driveways, lying on nature strips and using public space for a private company that operates them. Cr Hemphill asked whether Council could contact Beam and have them come to Council to discuss how the bikes are being used.**

Cr Antoinette Briffa said she would be happy to invite Beam to a briefing and have a discussion about it.

**Cr Peter Hemphill noted that the closure of Chamipon Road in Newport/Williamstown has been a sensitive issue which Council has been seeking to engage the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) on, but that the LXRP is now about to commence a community consultation process, and expressed surprise that there had not been a meeting with Council first.**

**Cr Hemphill asked whether Council has had any engagement with LXRP recently.**

Mr Aaron van Egmond, Chief Executive Officer, said that Council has recently met with the Chief Executive Officer of the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) and another senior executive to discuss a range of things, an invitation had been extended (as per previous invitations) to attend a meeting with Councillors, preferably a Councillor briefing, to discuss the project as has occurred for previous level crossing removals. Mr van Egmond noted that although the timeframe had yet to be confirmed, the LXRP CEO seemed amenable to the offer.

**Cr Peter Hemphill asked whether any information had been provided regarding these level crossing removals, in terms of whether the separated crossing would be rail over or rail under the road.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, said that the LXRP has not provided exact information, but from media releases it appears that their plan for Maddox Road is rail over road, while their preferred approach for Champion Road is to close it. Mr Manivasagasivam added that the upcoming community consultation, which Council understands to be an initial stage of community consultation, is to understand how the community uses those two roads and which transport modes they are using.



**Cr Peter Hemphill asked to confirm that Council was setting up its own advisory group separate to the LXP community consultation.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, confirmed that Council will establish two community reference groups for Maddox and Champion Road and also for Hudsons Road in Spotswood, similar to the process for previous level crossing removals, and a detailed report would be brought to Council at the July Council Meeting.

**Cr Peter Hemphill asked whether Council gets many complaints from residents about foxes, as he has seen them around and has recently received a complaint about them – they are around even in the middle of the day and often attack dogs.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, said that Council doesn't get many complaints about foxes, but does get some about foxes seen on public lands, and that these are managed through targeted programs twice yearly. Mr Manivasagasivam noted that there are challenges involved because of public use of the land and domestic animals in the area, so Council needs to be conscious of what they do there.

Mr Manivasagasivam added that the management programs are mostly carried out in conservation areas rather than open spaces, and that anything in private properties would be the private property owner's responsibility to manage.

**Cr Peter Hemphill mentioned Gordon Lescinsky's *Little Spirits* digital art exhibition at the Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre, which features a piece titled "Duck Warrior, Slayer of Foxes". The exhibition ran from 10 June to 29 June 2023 and has now closed.**

**Cr Antoinette Briffa asked for an update on the implementation of changes brought about by the decriminalisation of sex work in Victoria (effective 1 December 2023) including changes that ensure Council treats sex service businesses like other businesses.**

Ms Pene Winslade, Director Sustainable Communities, said that sex service businesses will be treated as shops under the new Victorian Government planning laws, so planning advice to these businesses will be the same as planning advice to all other shops, which is already an established form of advice, and that Council does not anticipate any specific changes to the way the advice works.

Ms Winslade said that Council staff know the legislation is coming into force in December and preparation is underway to ensure the team is ready for enquiries from a new category of shop.

**Cr Antoinette Briffa asked whether Council has communicated with any of the current sex work providers regarding the changes, what Council is doing and what they need to do.**

Ms Pene Winslade, Director Sustainable Communities, said that currently these businesses are all licensed by the state so Council does not have a lot of contacts or visibility into how the transition will work, but is intending to work with the Business Licensing Authority over the coming months to ensure a smooth transition, make contact with the existing businesses and engage with any new ones.

Cr Briffa added that she hopes the businesses are aware that Council is friendly to them and can be contacted.

**Cr Antoinette Briffa asked for an update on the crossovers that had been removed from Azalea Avenue, Brooklyn about 18 months ago, and whether there was an update on when they will be reinstated.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam, Director Infrastructure and City Services, said that the challenge is in getting permits from utility authorities, as there are electricity lines running under the crossovers, so Council is working with electricity providers to get the permits to do the works.

Mr Manivasagasivam added that this is happening with all of Council's projects – it normally takes 12-18 months to get any approvals at this stage due to volumes of works and a staff shortage on the part of the utility authorities, which is how Council projects tend to get delayed because it does take that long. Mr Manivasagasivam added that as soon as Council gets the permits, the works will be done in a short period of time.

**Cr Briffa asked who the electricity provider is and whether there was a way to escalate the issue, as residents have to cross over unpaved gravel every time they enter and exit their houses.**

Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam said that the provider is Jemena.

**Cr Briffa repeated her request to contact them and enquire about escalating.**

## 6 Public Question Time

Kaylene O'Shea

**Q What costs have been incurred by Council in removing every second tree on the Bay Trail?**

(Cr Briffa clarified that trees were only removed from a section of the trail and not the entire trail.)

A The removal and replanting of the trees along the Bay Trail was completed by Council's internal team. The associated labour costs were approximately \$3,500.

**Q I draw Council's attention to the parlous state of the reserve north of Charles Street that used to be a pleasant grassed area but is now covered with dead trees and extremely coarse and inappropriate mulch. What plans does Council have to remediate this wasteland?**

A The area at the end of Grieve Parade (north of Charles Road, Altona) suffered significant tree losses due to inundation with water from the wet springs in 2021 and 2022, which was unable to drain away.

Some trees were removed last month, weed growth has been mowed. Increased weed and grass control maintenance has been implemented and will continue at the site.

Rowena Joske

**Q It is great to see the pedestrian crossings, bike and walking paths and traffic calming measures are currently being delivered on Blackshaws Road in Newport and South Kingsville as part of the Precinct 16 development in Strand Ward. Can a description of this infrastructure please be provided?**

A Public works for Precinct 16 East are staged and aligned to construction activities on site. The endorsed staging of public works is available on Council's website, a link for which will be provided in the minutes of this meeting.

Below is the list of public works and expected delivery:

<https://hbcc.greenlightopm.com/public/detail/12230222fe3eCfJxY>

**Q If this bike and walking infrastructure can be provided on Blackshaws Road in Newport for residents in Strand Ward, is it fair that Council won't provide similar safe infrastructure for Altona North residents in and around the Precinct 15 development in Cherry Lake Ward?**

A There appears to be a misunderstanding of the developments underway at Precinct 15. Similar pedestrian and cycling facilities are planned in Precincts 15 and 16. However, on brownfield sites, works can only be undertaken as land becomes available to Council. Landowners have existing use rights and cannot be compelled to move until they choose to. As a result, staging of works will vary precinct by precinct depending on the activities of landowners.

**Q How can the early provision of this infrastructure be designed and funded when there are not yet any people living in Precinct 16, yet Council claim the required pedestrian and cycling infrastructure for Precinct 15 won't be designed and funded until well after the Mirvac development is fully populated with a new community?**

**A** There is no early provision of infrastructure where a site is not under development.

The provision of infrastructure for a development is aligned to the schedule of construction works by that developer. The occupation of dwellings does not occur until the associated infrastructure is available for that stage of development.

**Rosa McKenna**

**Q How are the Better Places Themes “Changing how we move” in Spotswood and South Kingsville and “Places that are easier and safer to move around” in Brooklyn and Altona North currently being delivered by Council in the new residential developments and associated road and transport infrastructure in Precincts 15, 16, 17 and the McLister Street development?**

**A** The new residential development in Precincts 15, 16 and 17 follow the necessary requirements in the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme and Planning Permits.

The Better Places program seeks to respond to specific community needs of each suburb while integrating with the established requirements in these precincts.

In Spotswood and South Kingsville for example, site investigations are underway for The Greenline project which will deliver active movement corridors to help facilitate east/west and north/south connections throughout the two suburbs.

## 7 Petitions and Joint Letters

### 7.1 Petitions and Joint Letters Received

#### 7.1.1 Petition – Fabric Drive, Altona North

Cr Daria Kellander tabled a joint letter containing five signatories which read as follows:

We, the undersigned residents of Hobsons Bay and members of Better West are disappointed in Council's response to the better West petition which asked Council to fix Fabric Drive and its intersection with Blackshaws Rd. Rather than make any changes to improve Fabric drive, Council has determined to proceed with the plan for the intersection, which removes the pedestrian crossing and refuge on the west side of Fabric Drive and provides a shared pedestrian path instead of the required separated bike path on the southern section of the road, before connecting to a short section of separated bike path.

In the absence of a connecting crossing of Blackshaws Road or ramp access on the west side of Fabric Drive, it doesn't make any sense to locate the shared/bike path on that side of the road because it doesn't connect to anything and would not be at all useful to any pedestrians or cyclists.

Considering that lack of sense in the approved design, **this joint letter requests that the design for Fabric Drive is modified to shift the separated bike path to the eastern side of the road.**

A path on the east side of the road would:

1. Connect to the pedestrian crossing that has been approved for the east side of Fabric Drive,
2. Provide excellent active transport connections to the residents of Mirvac's high density Mekko apartments, proposed to be located on the east side of Fabric Drive,
3. Provide a much more direct connection to the shared path bike connection will run east-west through the Mirvac development to connect with Aloha Street, via New Street.
4. Allow the separated bike path and other active transport infrastructure to be delivered in the short term as part of the Mirvac development.

We sincerely hope that you will accept our request to plan and build a safe and properly interconnected public active transport network for the communities of Precinct 15 and its surrounding neighbourhoods."

## **Motion**

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

**That Council:**

- 1. Receives and notes the joint letter in relation to Fabric Drive, Altona North.**
- 2. Subject to a review of the joint letter in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, receives a further report on this matter at a future Council Meeting.**

**Carried unanimously**

## 7.1.2 Petition - Williamstown Beach Redevelopment - Please Upgrade Public Facilities

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

### Purpose

To receive an electronic petition containing 940 signatories, requesting that Council upgrade the public facilities in the Williamstown Beach precinct.

### Motion

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

**That Council:**

- 1. Receives and notes the petition in relation to upgrading the public facilities in the Williamstown Beach precinct.**
- 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 upgrading the public facilities in the Williamstown Beach precinct.**
- 2. Receives a further report on this matter at a future Council meeting.**

### Summary

The petition was received on 13 June 2023 and acknowledged on 16 June 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:

The Williamstown Beach precinct is being redeveloped by Hobsons Bay City Council at a cost of more than \$14 million (including \$11.2 million from the Victorian government). You can read all about it here on the council's website.

Hundreds of swimmers use the beach and the public facilities every day. Despite being one of Melbourne's most popular swimming beaches, the showers, the toilets and the areas where swimmers meet are sub-standard, crowded and no longer fit for purpose.

Other beaches feature windbreaks, lockers and public change rooms for swimmers (Port Melbourne), hot baths (St Kilda), steam rooms (Brighton) and meeting and gathering spaces close to the shore.

Please sign and share this petition to the Mayor and councillors of Hobsons Bay City Council asking for:

- 1) Upgraded showers, toilets, change-rooms and public facilities for swimmers that are well away from the outdoor dining area of The Kiosk and preferably closer to the beach.
- 2) Meeting places / gathering spaces with shelter, shade and wind breaks for the public at the western end of Williamstown Beach.



## 7.2 Responses to Petitions and Joint Letters

### 7.2.1 Response to Petition - Fix Fabric Drive and its Intersection with Blackshaws Road

<b>Directorate:</b>	Sustainable Communities
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Planning, Building and Health
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Sustainable Communities
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. DCP Project IN-02 and RD-02 - concept plan with dimensions [7.2.1.1 - 1 page] 2. Proposed Stage 9 Functional Layout Plan - IN-02 and RD-02 - Mirvac Site Only [7.2.1.2 - 1 page]

#### Purpose

To respond to the petition asking Council to fix Fabric Drive and its intersection with Blackshaws Road in Precinct 15, Altona North.

#### Motion

Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Jonathon Marsden:

That Council:

1. Notes the approved intersection of Fabric Drive and Blackshaws Road in the Mirvac development.
2. Notes that the approved intersection does not preclude future opportunities for a pedestrian crossing over Blackshaws Road on the western side of the intersection and for the delivery of separate footpath and bike path on the western side of the southern end of Fabric Drive.
3. Writes to the lead petitioner advising of the outcome.

Carried unanimously

#### Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the approved intersection of Fabric Drive and Blackshaws Road in the Mirvac development.
2. Notes that the approved intersection does not preclude future opportunities for a pedestrian crossing over Blackshaws Road on the western side of the intersection and for the delivery of separate footpath and bike path on the western side of the southern end of Fabric Drive.
3. Writes to the lead petitioner advising of the outcome.

## Summary

Council received a petition from Better West Inc, including 154 signatories from Hobsons Bay residents, which was tabled at the 14 March 2023 Council Meeting. In summary, the petitioners request that Council redesign a proposed intersection of Blackshaws Road and a new north-south road (Fabric Drive) in the Mirvac development. The proposed redesign includes a pedestrian crossing on Blackshaws Road on the western side of the intersection, and a separate off-road bike path and pedestrian footpath on the western side of Fabric Drive.

The Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) incorporated into the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme provides an overall vision for development within Precinct 15 in Altona North. The CDP also guides the delivery of integrated transport within Precinct 15.

The delivery of the proposed Blackshaws Road intersection and the proposed north-south road (Fabric Drive) relies on most of the land being contributed from Mirvac, along with a small area of land from the adjoining property to the west. The development of the Mirvac land is well underway, and Mirvac aims to deliver the proposed intersection and part of Fabric Drive in the near term. The adjoining land to the west is still being operated as an industrial use and has an internal driveway along its eastern boundary with a crossing for heavy vehicle access to and from Blackshaws Road on the western side of the proposed intersection. The land required from this property to contribute to the delivery of the intersection and the southern end of Fabric Drive is presently unavailable. The CDP designates this site as the future local town centre.

To allow for the earlier delivery of the intersection, Mirvac has received approval for an interim intersection design located entirely within its land. The plan endorsed under the planning permit shows a pedestrian crossing on Blackshaws Road on the eastern side of the intersection only and a shared path on the lower (southern) end of the western side of Fabric Drive.

The western side pedestrian crossing, and the separate off road bike path and footpath on the southern end of the western side of Fabric Drive, will be provided when the adjoining land is redeveloped.

## Background

At its meeting of 14 March 2023, Council formally received a petition stating the following:

We the undersigned ask Council to please redesign the intersection of Fabric Drive and Blackshaws Road, to comply with the requirements on the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP). Then go further to design and endorse the safest and most convenient pedestrian crossing possible to make cycling and walking a great way to travel through Altona North. Do this by:

1. Including a pedestrian crossing of Blackshaws Road connecting to the west side of Fabric drive (as required to comply with the CDP).
2. Including a two-way separated bike path of at least 3 metres width on the west side of Fabric Drive (as required to comply with the CDP).
3. Include a separate foot path of at least 1.8 metres width on the west side of Fabric Drive (as required to comply with the CDP).

4. Reduce the planned width of the road lane on the west side of Fabric Drive to the minimum required width (3.5 m) to calm traffic and allow the bike and foot paths as well as lots of trees to fit into the property boundary.
5. Increase the road lanes on the east side to 3.5 metres so that they are 'bus capable' (as required to comply with the CDP).
6. Include well designed kerb bumpout crossings at Blackshaws Road and along Fabric Drive and painted crossings and other design that prioritises pedestrian and cyclists safety and make this active transport route even better.

The Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) and accompanying Development Contributions Plan (DCP) for Precinct 15, incorporated in the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme, guide the delivery of this road and intersection.

## Discussion

Council's Industrial Land Management Strategy 2008 (ILMS) identified Precinct 15, the land generally bounded by Blackshaws Road, Kyle Road, New Street and the West Gate Freeway in Altona North and South Kingsville, as having the potential for most of the land to change from industrial uses to residential uses.

Council worked with landowners within Precinct 15 to rezone the land to facilitate a largely residential outcome for the precinct. The rezoning included the preparation of a CDP and accompanying DCP by the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA). The VPA became involved in the planning scheme amendment process following approaches from landowners to the Minister for Planning and the VPA. The VPA drafted the amendment documentation for public exhibition.

The CDP provides specific guidance on the future development of Precinct 15. The CDP is incorporated in the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme and includes a vision and objectives for Precinct 15. The CDP requires consideration of built form and character, housing, employment and local centres, community facilities, open space or parks, transport, utilities and services and infrastructure delivery (such as roads, intersections, and bike paths).

The associated DCP is also incorporated in the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme and identifies a range of infrastructure projects to be delivered as part of the future development of the precinct, funded by development contributions collected from developers in the precinct.

The two projects raised in the petition are road project RD-02 and intersection project IN-02 under the CDP and DCP.

RD-02 (Fabric Drive) is a north-south connector road with a 25 metre wide road reservation. The CDP includes conceptual road cross-sections for this road reserve width (refer to Attachment 1) showing:

- a 1.8 metre wide pedestrian path on each side of the road
- a 3 metre wide two-way off-road bike path on one side of the road
- 2.1 metre wide indented parking bays on each side of the road
- 3.5 metre wide traffic lanes, together with nature strips between the paths and the roads

The cross-sections in the CDP should typically be adhered to, although alternative cross-sections can be considered subject to meeting certain requirements listed in the CDP.

The DCP also includes concept plans for how the roads and intersections might be designed. The concept plan for IN-02 shows a signalised T intersection of RD-02 (Fabric Drive) with Blackshaws Road. It includes pedestrian crossings on both sides of the intersection on Blackshaws Road, as well as a left turn slip lane on the west side of the intersection and a line marked right turn lane on the east side of the intersection.

As these plans are conceptual in nature, detailed designs are required for the actual construction of the road and intersection projects. This in turn may result in changes to the design and, in the case of the intersection, the plans are also subject to the approval of the Department of Transport.

Council has been in discussion with Mirvac about the construction of IN-02 and part of RD-02 to allow for the earlier delivery of these infrastructure items.

The concept plans in the DCP show that both projects rely on an area of the adjoining property to the west for their complete delivery. This property is still operating as an industrial business and can continue to do so. The CDP designates the southern half of this property as a future town centre site. The timeframe for its redevelopment is currently unknown.

To enable the earlier delivery of IN-02, Mirvac has a planning permit which delivers an interim intersection design located entirely within their own land – refer to Attachment 2. This design does not show a pedestrian crossing over Blackshaws Road on the western side of the intersection. The extra crossing will be able to be added once the adjoining land to the west is redeveloped and the additional land in question for the intersection is available, subject to the approval of the Department of Transport.

For RD-02, as part of the development of a future stage (Stage 9) in the Mirvac development, the separated bike path and pedestrian path will be provided as far south as Primrose Avenue (refer to Attachment 2). South of Primrose Avenue the separate paths combine to become a shared path for both pedestrians and bikes as there is insufficient width to accommodate both paths until the extra land to the west becomes available. Once this land is available, a 1.8 metre wide footpath can be installed, and the section of shared path can change to a dedicated bike path.

Precinct 15 encompasses a large area and includes various constraints, one of which is that the land holdings are in many different ownerships. Interim arrangements must be accommodated given that development of the land in the precinct will occur in different stages. The capital funds required to deliver all projects within Precinct 15 are equivalent to Council's capital works program for an entire financial year. Delivering the connections and long term outcomes early and at a higher cost, as the land is not available, would be poor and irresponsibly planning. There are some projects or parts of projects that will be delivered when adjacent land becomes available. This approach was discussed during the Panel hearing.

The following responses are offered regarding other matters raised by the petitioners:

- the width of Fabric Drive, including its approach from Blackshaws Road, is generally consistent with the widths shown in the DCP. The width of the road lane on the western side of Fabric Drive also accommodates the required vehicle swept paths
- RD-02 is not a future bus route in the DCP, but the width of the roads is consistent with those shown in the CDP and DCP. The proposed future bus route traverses

east-west through the middle of Precinct 15 and connects Brunel Street in South Kingsville to Kyle Road (south of Marigold Avenue), Altona North

- no kerb outstands are proposed or required by the CDP or CDP on Blackshaws Road or Fabric Drive. The roads will be provided with markings consistent with the CDP and DCP for vehicles and pedestrian traffic

## 8 Business

### 8.1 Office of the Chief Executive

#### 8.1.1 Adoption of Hobsons Bay Community Engagement Policy 2023

<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>	1. Hobsons Bay City Council Community Engagement Policy 2023 [8.1.1.1 - 8 pages]

### Purpose

To seek Council's endorsement of the Hobsons Bay Community Engagement Policy 2023 (Attachment 1).

### Motion

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

That Council:

1. Adopts the Hobsons Bay Community Engagement Policy 2023.
2. Revokes the Hobsons Bay Community Engagement Policy 2021.

Carried

### Division

For: Cr Jonathon Marsden, Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud, Cr Peter Hemphill, Cr Antoinette Briffa, Cr Diana Grima, Cr Matt Tyler

Against: Cr Daria Kellander

Carried

### Recommendation

That Council:

1. Adopts the Hobsons Bay Community Engagement Policy 2023.
2. Revokes the Hobsons Bay Community Engagement Policy 2021.

## Summary

Following approval by Council at the 11 April 2023 Council Meeting, the Draft Community Engagement Policy was placed on public exhibition for four weeks from 12 April 2023 to 10 May 2023.

This report outlines feedback from the community following the public exhibition period.

## Background

The Community Engagement Policy is to guide all forms of engagement undertaken by Council officers, Councillors, and consultants and contractors acting on behalf of Council.

The policy articulates the principles, commitments, and various levels of engagement that Council will undertake to ensure a clear process for community engagement in Council's decision-making processes.

The Community Engagement Policy is one component of Council's broader Community Engagement Framework, along with Council's internal-facing Community Engagement Toolkit 2023.

The revised Community Engagement Policy:

- provides clarity around recommended levels of engagement for various Council programs and processes, including those that were previously subject to section 223 of the *Local Government Act* 1989, and specifies the processes and programs for which a "formal submission process" under section 223 will continue to apply, including:
  - Council decision to change system of valuation
  - special rates
  - rebates and concessions
  - regional library agreements
  - concentration or diversion of drainage
  - drainage of land
  - a range of traffic and road related matters
- is consistent with other Council policies in style and content

## Discussion

The community was invited to provide feedback either online (via Council's Participate Hobsons Bay website) or in-person (via a "pop-up" consultation held at Grazeland Melbourne, Spotswood). Twenty-seven people provided online feedback from the 357 visits registered on the Participate website, while 47 people provided feedback in person.

Respondents suggested that good community consultation included prominent advertising with significant lead time and opportunities for both online and in-person feedback, and that feedback should be genuinely considered and/or acted upon.

Respondents said they were made aware of upcoming and current consultations through e-newsletters/emails (60 per cent), social media (27 per cent) and the Participate website (13 per cent). Preferred channels for providing feedback were online (38 per cent), in-person (23 per cent), paper-based surveys (18.5 per cent), online meetings (14 per cent), and telephone calls (6.5 per cent).

Changes to the Draft Community Engagement Policy 2023 placed on public exhibition provide further clarity on how Hobsons Bay will meet its statutory requirements when conducting community engagement activities. Specifically, the policy now clearly identifies those matters for which Council will conduct formal submission processes (as per Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*).



## 8.1.2 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 [8.1.2.1 - 46 pages]

### Purpose

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

### Motion

**Moved Cr Diana Grima, seconded Cr Jonathon Marsden:**

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

**Carried unanimously**

### Recommendation

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

### Summary

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

### Discussion

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

In accordance with rule 10.7.1 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, Council maintains records of meetings attended by Councillors in the CEO's Report on Operations to ensure transparency and equity of information. A summary of meetings for the period between 1 May 2023 and 31 May 2023 is provided in this month's report.

## 8.2 Corporate Services

### 8.2.1 Recognition of Hobsons Bay Residents Awarded King's Birthday Honours

<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 acknowledge the achievements of Hobsons Bay residents John Arnold OAM, Fairlie MacLaine OAM, Kelly Rogers OAM and Bartholomew Willoughby OAM, who have been recognised in the King's Birthday 2023 Honours List.

#### Motion

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

That Council:

1. Sends letters of congratulations written under the signature of the Mayor to the following Hobsons Bay residents on being recognised in the King's Birthday 2023 Honours List:
  - John Arnold OAM
  - Fairlie MacLaine OAM
  - Kelly Rogers OAM
  - Bartholomew Willoughby OAM
2. Invites the award recipients to attend a future Council Meeting, in accordance with the Council Recognition of Australian Honours and Awards Recipients Procedure.

Carried unanimously

#### Recommendation

That Council:

1. Sends letters of congratulations written under the signature of the Mayor to the following Hobsons Bay residents on being recognised in the King's Birthday 2023 Honours List:
  - John Arnold OAM
  - Fairlie MacLaine OAM
  - Kelly Rogers OAM
  - Bartholomew Willoughby OAM

2. Invites the award recipients to attend a future Council Meeting, in accordance with the Council Recognition of Australian Honours and Awards Recipients Procedure.

## Summary

The King's Birthday Honours List recognises the outstanding service and contributions of Australian citizens nationwide each year. Four residents of Hobsons Bay have been recognised among the 1,192 Australians honoured in 2023. This report acknowledges their achievement and service to the community.

Mr John Arnold of Altona Meadows was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the welfare of veterans.

Ms Fairlie MacLaine of Williamstown was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community through a range of organisations.

Associate Professor Kelly Rogers of Altona was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to medical research.

Mr Bartholomew Willoughby of Altona North for service to the performing arts, particularly through music

## Background

The King's Birthday Honours List comprises a number of honours and awards, including for the General Division and Military Division of the Order of Australia, Meritorious Awards, and Gallantry, Distinguished and Conspicuous Service Awards.

The Hobsons Bay recipients for 2023 all received honours within the Order of Australia, within which there are four levels of award: Companion (AC), Officer (AO), Member (AM) and Medal (OAM). The Hobsons Bay recipients for 2023 each received the Medal of the Order of Australia, which is awarded for service worthy of particular recognition.

Mr John Arnold AM was awarded in the Military Division, while Ms Fairlie MacLaine, Associate Professor Kelly Rogers and Mr Bartholomew Willoughby were awarded in the General Division of the Order.

## Discussion

### Mr John Arnold OAM

John Arnold of Altona Meadows has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the welfare of veterans.

Having served in the Australian Army from 1965 to 1972, Mr Arnold has received various service medals, including the Australian Active Service Medal, which he was awarded in 1998. Subsequently he became involved in supporting veterans through his work with associations including the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association and the Vietnam Veterans' Federation of Australia.

Mr Arnold has been a pensions officer for the 173rd Brigade Association for 20 years and served as secretary of Chapter 27 of the association between 2002 and 2020. Mr Arnold has been State President of the Victoria Branch of the Vietnam Veterans' Federation of Victoria for 22 years and is a member of the National Executive Committee.

### **Ms Fairlie MacLaine OAM**

Fairlie MacLaine is a Williamstown resident who has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to the community through a range of organisations.

Ms MacLaine has been a committee member of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Association (Victoria) since 1997. A foundation member and organiser in the social group for over 30 years, she has been association luncheon co-ordinator and Vice President since 2015.

Ms MacLaine joined the Australian Defence Force in 1967 where she became a member of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps until 1971. In 1975 she became a member of the Australian Army Reserve until 2019.

She has been a member of the Brighton Antique Club for 30 years and has had a variety of roles there including President, Vice President, door monitor and membership secretary.

Ms MacLaine has been a member of the Schnauzer Club of Victoria for over 15 years and has been secretary since 2014. She is also the current treasurer and fosters dogs as well as participating in dog shows.

In addition to all her work in these clubs she has been a key member of the community, participating in various community organisations. Currently she is a member of the Altona Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia and a volunteer with Meals on Wheels.

### **Associate Professor Kelly Rogers OAM**

Associate Professor Kelly Rogers of Altona has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to medical research. An Associate Professor of Medical Biology within the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne whose research over the past two decades has focused on innovating multi-dimensional imaging techniques to create highly detailed visualisation of biology.

Associate Professor Rogers previously worked as a postdoctoral researcher with the Molecular Embryology Unit at Institut Pasteur, Paris, in 2002, where she established a unique microscopy platform and genetically encoded Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensors to study neural network connectivity. She went on to become a Research Associate for the Institut's Platform for Dynamic Imaging in 2007, until she returned to Australia to establish the Centre for Dynamic Imaging at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI), which is closely affiliated with the University of Melbourne, in 2009. She has served as Head of the centre since its establishment and was appointed laboratory head in 2017. In 2019 she was also appointed Head of WEHI's Advanced Technology and Biology Division.

She has been a researcher for two projects funded by the Australian Research Council since 2012, and Chief Investigator for three grants funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council since 2021.

## Mr Bartholomew Willoughby OAM

Altona North musician Bartholomew Willoughby has been awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his service to the performing arts, particularly through music. Mr Willoughby is known for pioneering a distinctive Indigenous Australian sound, a fusion of Jamaican reggae with traditional Indigenous influences. He has founded a number of bands, mastered multiple instruments and written 120 songs spanning a range of genres.

Mr Willoughby, 63, started learning music at the University of Adelaide's Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music at the age of 14, and began his musical career in 1978. He is a founding member of multiple bands including No Fixed Address (founded in 1979), Mixed Relations (later known as the Bart Willoughby Band) (1989) and Black Arm Band (2006). He has been a drummer for Goanna (1982), Coloured Stone (1985-1986) and Yothu Yindi (1988).

Mr Willoughby became a musical instructor at Yalata Anangu School in South Australia in 1995 and has continued to support emerging Australian musicians over many years.

Mr Willoughby has also had an impressive career in film, television and stage. He first took on an acting role in the movie *Wrong Side of the Road*. He went on to compose the soundtrack for Indigenous filmmaker Madeleine McGrady's documentary *Always Was – Always Will Be*, screened on SBS in 1989, and in 1990 was cast in the film *Until the End of the World*. In 1992, Mr Willoughby became the first Aboriginal person to compose, play and direct the music track of a feature film with *Jindalee Lady*. Between 2013 and 2014, Mr Willoughby was also the band leader for the Malthouse Theatre's touring production of *Shadow King*, a contemporary retelling of Shakespeare's *King Lear* as a tragedy centred on two Indigenous Australian families in the Northern Territory.

Mr Willoughby received the inaugural Indigenous Music Award for Lifetime Achievement to Indigenous Music at the Australian Music Awards in 1993. He received the Australia Council's National Indigenous Art Award in 2016.

## 8.2.2 Adoption of Annual Budget 2023-24

<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Chief Financial Officer
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Corporate Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Annual Budget 2023-24 [8.2.2.1 - 148 pages] 2. Annual Budget Submissions 2023-24 [8.2.2.2 - 144 pages]

### Purpose

To formally receive and note the submissions made in relation to the Proposed Annual Budget 2023-24 (Attachment 2), adopt the Annual Budget 2023-24 (Attachment 1), and declare rates and charges for the year ending 30 June 2024.

### Motion

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

**That Council, having given public notice of the preparation of the Proposed Annual Budget 2023-24 in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy 2021:**

- 1. Receives and notes the submissions following the public exhibition period for the Proposed Annual Budget 2023-24.**
- 2. Notes that submissions were considered in finalising the Annual Budget 2023-24.**
- 3. Adopts the Annual Budget 2023-24 annexed to this report in accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.**
- 4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of the decision to adopt the Annual Budget 2023-24.**
- 5. Declares Rates and Service Charges totalling \$130.584 million (one hundred and thirty million, five hundred and eighty-four thousand dollars) (refer to section 4.1.1 of the Annual Budget 2023-24) for the year ending 30 June 2024 in accordance with section 158(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* as follows:**
  - a. Declares general rates in respect of the 2023-24 financial year, raised by the application of differential rates as follows:**
    - i. A general rate of 0.201839 cents in the dollar on capital improved value (CIV) of all rateable residential properties**
    - ii. A general rate of 0.322943 cents in the dollar on CIV of all rateable vacant residential properties**
    - iii. A general rate of 0.464229 cents in the dollar on CIV of all rateable commercial properties**

- iv. A general rate of 0.686253 cents in the dollar on CIV of all rateable industrial properties
  - v. A general rate of 0.807356 cents in the dollar on CIV of all rateable petrochemical properties
  - vi. A rating concession of 0.090828 cents in the dollar on CIV of all rateable recreational properties
- b. Under section 171(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, provides a waiver of:
- i. \$100 for all residential properties occupied by a ratepayer who is an eligible Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card recipient; OR
  - ii. \$75 for all residential properties occupied by a ratepayer who is an eligible Centrelink pension card recipient (excluding healthcare)
- c. Declares an annual service charge on properties in accordance with section 158(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* for the collection, disposal and processing of garbage, recycling, food organics and garden organics (FOGO) and hard waste for the year ending 30 June 2023 to be raised as follows:

\$295.10	Standard (base waste service charge for four bins: 120L garbage, 120L FOGO, 120L glass, 240L mixed recycling)
\$250.24	Shared (replaces standard base charge for properties in multi-unit dwellings/apartments/villages with shared bins)
\$116.85	U1 – Upsize to 240L garbage bin
\$38.96	U2 – Upsize to 240L FOGO bin
\$0.00	UF1 – Free upsize to 240L garbage bin
\$0.00	UF2 – Free upsize to 240L garbage bin for medical reasons
\$298.64	A1 – Additional 240L garbage bin
\$181.78	A2 – Additional 120L garbage bin
\$116.85	A3 – Additional 240L recycling bin
\$181.78	A4 – Additional 240L FOGO bin
\$142.83	A5 – Additional 120L FOGO bin
\$77.91	A6 – Additional 120L glass bin
\$265.59	BRF – Business Reduce Service with FOGO bin

\$265.59	BRG – Business Reduce Service with Glass bin
\$265.59	BRS – Business Reduce Service
\$280.34	BSH – Business Shared

6. In accordance with section 158(4) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, requires that general rates and annual service charge must be paid by four instalments made on or before the following dates:

Instalment 1	30 September 2023
Instalment 2	30 November 2023
Instalment 3	29 February 2024
Instalment 4	31 May 2024

7. In accordance with section 172 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, requires persons to pay interest on any general rate or annual service charge, which that person is liable to pay and which has not been paid by the date specified for payment.
8. Authorises the Team Leader Rates of Council to levy and recover the general rates, annual service charges and interest where applicable in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.
9. Responds in writing to all submitters to the budget under the signature of the Director Corporate Services.

Carried

#### Division

For: Cr Jonathon Marsden, Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud, Cr Peter Hemphill,  
Cr Antoinette Briffa, Cr Diana Grima, Cr Matt Tyler

Against: Cr Daria Kellander

Carried

## Recommendation

That Council, having given public notice of the preparation of the Proposed Annual Budget 2023-24 in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy 2021:

1. Receives and notes the submissions following the public exhibition period for the Proposed Annual Budget 2023-24.
2. Notes that submissions were considered in finalising the Annual Budget 2023-24.



3. Adopts the Annual Budget 2023-24 annexed to this report in accordance with section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.
4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice of the decision to adopt the Annual Budget 2023-24.
5. Declares Rates and Service Charges totalling \$130.584 million (one hundred and thirty million, five hundred and eighty-four thousand dollars) (refer to section 4.1.1 of the Annual Budget 2023-24) for the year ending 30 June 2024 in accordance with section 158(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* as follows:
  - a. Declares general rates in respect of the 2023-24 financial year, raised by the application of differential rates as follows:
    - i. A general rate of 0.201839 cents in the dollar on capital improved value (CIV) of all rateable residential properties
    - ii. A general rate of 0.322943 cents in the dollar on CIV of all rateable vacant residential properties
    - iii. A general rate of 0.464229 cents in the dollar on CIV of all rateable commercial properties
    - iv. A general rate of 0.686253 cents in the dollar on CIV of all rateable industrial properties
    - v. A general rate of 0.807356 cents in the dollar on CIV of all rateable petrochemical properties
    - vi. A rating concession of 0.090828 cents in the dollar on CIV of all rateable recreational properties
  - b. Under section 171(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, provides a waiver of:
    - i. \$100 for all residential properties occupied by a ratepayer who is an eligible Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card recipient;  
OR
    - ii. \$75 for all residential properties occupied by a ratepayer who is an eligible Centrelink pension card recipient (excluding healthcare)
  - c. Declares an annual service charge on properties in accordance with section 158(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* for the collection, disposal and processing of garbage, recycling, food organics and garden organics (FOGO) and hard waste for the year ending 30 June 2023 to be raised as follows:

<b>\$295.10</b>	<b>Standard (base waste service charge for four bins: 120L garbage, 120L FOGO, 120L glass, 240L mixed recycling)</b>
<b>\$250.24</b>	<b>Shared (replaces standard base charge for properties in multi-unit dwellings/apartments/villages with shared bins)</b>

\$116.85	U1 – Upsize to 240L garbage bin
\$38.96	U2 – Upsize to 240L FOGO bin
\$0.00	UF1 – Free upsize to 240L garbage bin
\$0.00	UF2 – Free upsize to 240L garbage bin for medical reasons
\$298.64	A1 – Additional 240L garbage bin
\$181.78	A2 – Additional 120L garbage bin
\$116.85	A3 – Additional 240L recycling bin
\$181.78	A4 – Additional 240L FOGO bin
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\$77.91	A6 – Additional 120L glass bin
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\$265.59	BRG – Business Reduce Service with Glass bin
\$265.59	BRS – Business Reduce Service
\$280.34	BSH – Business Shared

6. In accordance with section 158(4) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, requires that general rates and annual service charge must be paid by four instalments made on or before the following dates:

Instalment 1	30 September 2023
Instalment 2	30 November 2023
Instalment 3	29 February 2024
Instalment 4	31 May 2024

7. In accordance with section 172 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, requires persons to pay interest on any general rate or annual service charge, which that person is liable to pay and which has not been paid by the date specified for payment.
8. Authorises the Team Leader Rates of Council to levy and recover the general rates, annual service charges and interest where applicable in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.
9. Responds in writing to all submitters to the budget under the signature of the Director Corporate Services.

## Summary

Council's recommended Annual Budget 2023-24 is provided as an attachment to this report and is presented for adoption. A schedule of the submissions on the budget is also attached. Council has considered all submissions in final preparation of the recommended Annual Budget 2023-24.

The budget as presented has been amended since it was proposed and advertised for public comment. Changes have been made to reflect adjustments required to operating and capital items. In addition, changes have been made in response to submissions made by the community.

The recommended budget is based on an operational surplus of \$16.468 million for the year, although this does not include Council's significant investment in capital expenditure of \$64.685 million for 2023-24.

Operating surpluses are required to ensure that Council remains financially viable to fund current and future commitments, including the Capital Works Program. Council's cash and investment reserves are projected to decline by \$4.878 million during 2023-24.

The Annual Budget 2023-25 is based on an increase to general rates of 3.5 per cent, in accordance with the Victorian Government rate cap legislation. This year's rates will be based on new 2023 valuations, meaning rate increases will vary across the differential rating categories and individual properties.

Waste service charges are exempt from the rate cap and an increase of 7.7 per cent is planned for waste service charges. The charges do not cover the cost of providing the waste service as Council has decided to recoup its considerable investment to introduce a four-bin system in 2019-20.

While the 2023-24 budgeted operational surplus is a strong result, there is a shortfall in the funding available for the Ten Year Capital Works Program. The program has therefore been reduced in line with the current financial limitations. Council is working to reduce this funding gap, but some projects in future years remain unfunded.

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

Council will continue its advocacy work towards other levels of government to identify future funding opportunities that will help to deliver an ongoing high standard of services and infrastructure. Council is actively advocating for projects that will bring economic, environmental and social benefits to the city of Hobsons Bay, such as the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre and the Western Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

## Background

The annual budget process commenced in late 2022 when Council undertook its 2023-24 pre-budget consultation, providing an opportunity for community members to submit their ideas.

There were eight budget briefings in relation to developing the Proposed Annual Budget 2023-24, before it was approved to be placed on public exhibition after the Council Meeting held on 11 April 2023. Submissions in relation to the proposed budget were invited from the public and 115 were received. A further two budget briefings have since been held to discuss the community budget submissions and to provide direction to develop the recommended Annual Budget 2023-24.

The Victorian Government has implemented an inflation-based rate cap, the Fair Go Rates System, which has been overseen by the Essential Services Commission since 2016-17. The rate cap for 2023-24 is 3.5 per cent, compared to the 1.75 per cent cap in 2022-23.

The rate cap is well below the All-Groups CPI of 7.0 per cent over the 12 months to the March 2023 quarter. Inflation has reduced Council's real level of income from rates when compared to the increases in costs that have occurred. This has created significant pressure on Council's ability to deliver services and infrastructure projects. This is a challenge that has been carefully considered in forming the budget in 2023-24 and the rate increase in line with the cap.

## Discussion

The recommended Annual Budget 2023-24 as attached has been changed since it was proposed and advertised for public comment. The operational surplus of \$16.469 million is a slight increase (\$966,000) over what was proposed.

Changes made to income include:

- **Rates and charges** have increased by \$428,000, with general rates reflecting the finalisation of the 2023 annual revaluation process (\$408,000) and waste charge income reflecting the increased uptake of the service (\$20,000).
- **User fees** have increased by \$84,000, mainly due to the reinstatement of debt recovery income. This is offset by an increase in expenditure outlined below.
- **Operating grants** have increased by \$16,000, due to a weed management grant carried over from 2022-23.
- **Capital grants** have increased by \$1.538 million due to carryovers from 2022-23 (\$1.061 million) and an additional grant expected for Phase 4 of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funding program (\$477,000).

Changes made to operational expenditure include:

- **Employee costs** have increased by \$878,000. The most significant increase relates to Council's Workcover premium (\$502,000). Temporary positions have also been included for a Corporate Wellbeing Officer, IT systems developers to focus on customer related system, and a Waste and Recycling Operations Lead.
- **Materials and services** have increased by \$212,000. The most significant increases are for Corporate Wellbeing (\$250,000), the reinstatement of debt recovery costs – offset by the increase in income noted above (\$80,000), carryover of Strategic Planning projects from 2022-23 (\$60,000), increased weed management expenditure (\$30,000), and postage costs (\$20,000). The most significant savings are for a reduction in the capital works carryover not associated with assets that will be capitalised (\$196,000) and a reallocation to employee costs for Pitch Your Project.
- **Other expenses** have increased by \$10,000, to account for the legislated increase to Councillor allowances (\$8,000) and audit fees (\$2,000).

Capital works expenditure has been increased by \$6.610 million to \$64.685 million, due to further projects from 2022-23 now expected to be completed in 2023-24 (\$5.060 million).

The following projects have also been included in the Capital Works Program after further refinement of project scopes:

- Stage 1 of the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre, including temporary facilities, café, and walking paths (\$600,000)
- Major renewal and maintenance work on the Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre (\$500,000)
- Refurbishment of the Williamstown Mechanics Institute cottage (\$450,000)

One hundred and fifteen responses were received because of the public exhibition process in relation to the Proposed Annual Budget 2023-24. All submitters will receive an individual response following Council consideration of the final budget.

### Valuation changes

The average rateable property's capital improved value (CIV) in Hobsons Bay has increased by 5.86 per cent in the past 12 months. Property valuation changes have varied considerably between individual properties and across the differential rating categories as follows:

- residential ▲ 4.78 per cent increase
- residential vacant land ▲ 1.59 per cent increase
- commercial ▲ 4.74 per cent increase
- industrial ▲ 16.82 per cent increase
- petrochemical ▼ 3.81 per cent decrease
- cultural and recreational ▲ 15.28 per cent increase

There is a common misconception that as properties are revalued, Council receives a "windfall gain" of additional revenue. This is not the case, as the revaluation process results in a redistribution of the rate burden across all properties in the municipality. Total income from rates (excluding waste service charges) is determined by the rate cap. In simple terms, as property values increase, the rate in the dollar is reduced.

### Rate changes

The average general rate increase is 3.5 per cent, consistent with rate cap, but the changes to valuations above mean that average rate increases vary for each rating category as follows:

- residential ▲ 0.83 per cent increase
- residential vacant land ▼ 2.24 per cent decrease
- commercial ▲ 0.79 per cent increase
- industrial ▲ 12.41 per cent increase
- petrochemical ▼ 7.43 per cent decrease
- cultural and recreational ▲ 10.94 per cent increase

The rates notice will include service charges for the collection, disposal and processing of garbage, recycling, glass, garden and food waste and hard waste. Service charge increases (which are not subject to the rate cap) of 7.7 per cent in 2023-24 will help cover the cost of Council's considerable investment to introduce a four-bin system in 2019-20, which is being

progressively recovered over subsequent years. As a result of the increased investment, it is anticipated that the “waste management” reserve will be in deficit of approximately \$4 million by 30 June 2023.

Rate notices will also include the fire services property levy that Council collects on behalf of the Victorian Government. This levy is not regarded as Council income and is not included within the figures outlined in the Annual Budget 2023-24.

Should further financial assistance be required, it can be provided through Council’s Financial Hardship Policy. Council has included \$100,000 in the budget to provide this assistance.

## 8.3 Sustainable Communities

### 8.3.1 Uluru Statement from the Heart and First Nations Voice to Parliament

**Directorate:** Sustainable Communities  
**Responsible Officer:** Acting Manager Arts, Culture and Community  
**Reviewer:** Director Sustainable Communities  
**Attachments:** Nil

In accordance with rule 3.1.4.8 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, Cr Antoinette Briffa allowed a message to be played from Mayor Cr Ross Andrews of Hobsons Bay's sister city, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, on what the Uluru Statement From the Heart and the upcoming referendum means to the Yarrabah community and many First Nations people across the country.

#### Purpose

To update Council on the Uluru Statement from the Heart including the planned referendum for a First Nations Voice to Parliament (the Voice) to be enshrined in the Constitution of Australia.

#### Motion

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

The Council extends Cr Peter Hemphill's speaking time by two minutes.

Carried unanimously

#### Motion

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

That Council extends the meeting time by 30 minutes.

Carried unanimously

#### Motion

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

That Council extends the speaking time of each speaker by two minutes.

Carried unanimously

**Motion**

Moved Cr Peter Hemphill, seconded Cr Matt Tyler:

That Council:

1. Recognises the significance of the referendum for the Hobsons Bay community and for wider Australian society, and encourages the community to become informed about the issue prior to the referendum.
2. Endorses the Uluru Statement from the Heart and notes the Australian Government's plans for the upcoming referendum on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.
3. Recognises Council's ongoing commitment to reconciliation through its relationship with Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire formalised in 2006, its Reconciliation Policy endorsed in 2011 and the subsequent Reconciliation Action Plan endorsed in 2018.
4. Supports the Yes vote for the introduction of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.
5. Promotes information and resources throughout Council managed buildings and publications to help the community become informed about the Voice.

Carried

**Division**

For: Cr Jonathon Marsden, Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud, Cr Peter Hemphill, Cr Antoinette Briffa, Cr Diana Grima, Cr Matt Tyler

Against: Nil

Abstained: Cr Daria Kellander

Carried

**Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Recognises the significance of the referendum for the Hobsons Bay community and for wider Australian society, and encourages the community to become informed about the issue prior to the referendum.
2. Endorses the Uluru Statement from the Heart and notes the Australian Government's plans for the upcoming referendum on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.



3. **Recognises Council's ongoing commitment to reconciliation through its relationship with Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire formalised in 2006, its Reconciliation Policy endorsed in 2011 and the subsequent Reconciliation Action Plan endorsed in 2018.**
4. **Supports the Yes vote for the introduction of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.**
5. **Promotes information and resources throughout Council managed buildings and publications to help the community become informed about the Voice.**

## Summary

A referendum on a Voice to Parliament for First Nations people is to be put to the people of Australia in 2023. This is one step identified in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. While the referendum is led by the Australian Government, Council has a role to help the community become informed and prepare for a significant period in Australia's history.

Council's endorsed Reconciliation Action Plan sets out a vision for reconciliation where the broader community is positively engaged with and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and peoples. The 2023 Mayoral Program commits to exploring support for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Voice to Parliament and engagement with key traditional owner representatives for Hobsons Bay.

Following a range of engagement this report recommends that Council continue to support reconciliation and recognition of First Peoples' culture and history spanning over 65,000 years through supporting the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the introduction of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

## Background

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is the culmination of extensive consultation undertaken by a group called the Referendum Council, consisting of over 250 First Nations delegates from across Australia, which was established by the Australian Government in 2015 to advise on progress towards a referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian Constitution. It was formalised and its recommendations affirmed at the National Constitutional Convention held at Uluru in May 2017.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart responds to the historical exclusion of First Peoples from the original process that led to the adoption of the Australian Constitution 122 years ago. The Uluru Statement makes two proposals: that a First Nations Voice to Parliament be enshrined in the Constitution of Australia and a Makarrata Commission be established to supervise a process of agreement making and truth telling.

In 2018, a Joint Select Committee of Parliament into Constitutional Recognition submitted a detailed report on the proposal for a Voice to Parliament. The report made four recommendations: that the Voice to Parliament be codesigned by the government with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, that legislative and constitutional options be considered, that the government support a process of truth-telling, and that a National Resting Place be established in Canberra.

The Australian Government has announced it will hold a referendum on the Voice to Parliament between October and December 2023. On 12 May 2023, a further report from the Joint Select Committee was tabled, confirming the government's approach to the referendum.

The only way to change the Australian Constitution is by holding a referendum. Voting in a referendum is compulsory for people who are enrolled to vote. The last referendum in Australia was held in 1999, meaning that no Australians under the age of 42 or naturalised since 1999 will have voted in a referendum before.

## Discussion

The referendum on the Voice to Parliament is a key element of the Australian Government's commitment to fully implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which calls for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution. The Voice would create a constitutionally protected body of First Nations people which would advise the Australian Parliament and government on laws and policies as they are being developed.

The 2023 referendum will ask Australians to vote on the principle that a First Nations Voice to Parliament be recognised in the Constitution. It would then be the role of Parliament to legislate the specific detail of how it is applied and translated. This would be informed by the 2018 report of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament into Constitutional Recognition, and a 2023 report from the same committee, which outline in extensive detail the purpose of the Voice to Parliament and how it would work. However, it is clear that the Voice to Parliament would have an advisory role with legislation and policy, and particularly policy relating to First Nations matters. The Voice to Parliament would not have a veto power or deliver services.

Key messages in Council's discussions with First Nations stakeholders about the Voice to Parliament have indicated that its overall importance is to bring more autonomy and empowerment to Australia's First Nations communities. This is an important step to enable First Nations people to play a stronger role in turning around the "data" and outcomes experienced by First Nations people across many areas of social and economic wellbeing. It will also bring a deeper perspective in Australian policy making to recognise and value the 65,000 years of history, culture, and stories of Australia's First Nations people.

Council also recognises and appreciates that there are different views about the Voice to Parliament across the diverse networks of First Nations people. For many it is a vital step towards recognition and reconciliation; for some it is not enough, and not all First Nations organisations and people will be in agreement about it – just as there will be different views across the entire Australian community.

The Constitution Alteration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice) 2023 Bill was introduced to Parliament on 30 March 2023. Should the Bill pass both Houses of Parliament, a date for the referendum will be set, and the specific wording of the question on the ballot paper will be finalised.

The current draft referendum question is: *"Do you support an alteration to the Constitution that establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice?"*

## Council and roles for local government

Council has a long-standing endorsed policy position in support of reconciliation and recognition.

Local government also plays an important role in helping communities prepare for the referendum. The Voice to Parliament is an important issue in the Hobsons Bay community and community members will have a range of perspectives, questions and feelings about the proposed change. Council can play a role in helping people to find information and familiarise themselves with the referendum and its implications.

Many local governments have taken a leadership role in supporting the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Voice to Parliament. For example, in June 2022, the Australian Local Government Association passed a motion supporting the Uluru Statement from the Heart at its National General Assembly in Canberra. Some councils are independently endorsing a position in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart including the Voice to Parliament, while recognising people will have differing views, the right to be informed and to choose how to vote.

Given the importance of reconciliation to Council for over two decades, it is recommended that Hobsons Bay endorse a position in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and in support of the yes vote for the Voice to Parliament.

It is also important to acknowledge that different views will be held across the community, and the importance of Council encouraging community members to inform themselves over the coming months.

On 4 May 2023, the Australian Government announced more than \$1 million in funding for a neutral civic education program ahead of the referendum. Funding of \$500,000 has been provided to the Constitution Education Fund Australia (CEFA), and \$1 million to the Museum of Australian Democracy (MoAD).

Campaign materials developed by these non-government authorities will play a key role in helping the community make informed decisions at the referendum. The educational materials will include resources for digital platforms, libraries and other public institutions.

Campaign organisations and the Uluru Dialogues (<https://ulurustatement.org/>) have information about community activities and gatherings relating to the referendum and Voice to Parliament. The Voice website (<https://voice.gov.au>) is a central point for factual online resources about the referendum and will continue to be updated with information and resources in the lead up to the vote.

### 8.3.2 Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project - Approval for Community Engagement Process

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

#### Purpose

To seek approval to commence a statutory process in accordance with section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* for the proposed sale of part of the former Laverton Primary School, known as 7-45 Epsom Street, Laverton, for non-monetary consideration.

#### Motion

Moved Cr Matt Tyler, seconded Cr Diana Grima:

That Council:

1. Revokes resolution 8.3.1 (4) of Council meeting 9 August 2022:

That Council notes that if funding is secured, a separate report will be presented to Council seeking approval to commence the necessary statutory processes under section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

2. Undertakes a community engagement process in accordance with section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and its Community Engagement Policy to seek public feedback on the proposed transfer of land at 7-45 Epsom Street, Laverton, for a non-monetary consideration to Housing Choices Australia Ltd as trustee for the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust.
3. Notes that a transfer of land is subject to external funding.
4. Notes that the consultation relates to the transfer of land only, and not to the use of the site which has been previously determined following community consultation.

Carried unanimously

## Recommendation

### That Council:

**1. Revokes resolution 8.3.1 (4) of Council meeting 9 August 2022:**

**That Council notes that if funding is secured, a separate report will be presented to Council seeking approval to commence the necessary statutory processes under section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.**

- 2. Undertakes a community engagement process in accordance with section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and its Community Engagement Policy to seek public feedback on the proposed transfer of land at 7-45 Epsom Street, Laverton, for a non-monetary consideration to Housing Choices Australia Ltd as trustee for the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust.**
- 3. Notes that a transfer of land is subject to external funding.**
- 4. Notes that the consultation relates to the transfer of land only, and not to the use of the site which has been previously determined following community consultation.**

## Summary

Council has a long-standing commitment to encouraging and supporting an increased supply of social and affordable housing in Hobsons Bay.

The Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust was established through extensive planning and consultation, as part of Council's Affordable Housing Policy. It is a vehicle to manage Council's social and affordable housing portfolio.

Approval is now being sought for Council to undertake a statutory process in accordance with section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* for the proposed sale of part of the land at 7-45 Epsom Street to Housing Choices Australia in their capacity as Trustee.

The land is contained within six certificates of title:

### 7-43 Epsom Street

Lot 2 on Plan of Subdivision 405697Y	Certificate of Title Volume 11356 Folio 752
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### 45 Epsom Street

Lot 1 on Title Plan 968351G	Certificate of Title Volume 2243 Folio 590
Lot 1 on Title Plan 812794S	Certificate of Title Volume 9000 Folio 434
Lot 1 on Title Plan 812799G	Certificate of Title Volume 9549 Folio 406
Lot 1 on Title Plan 968350J	Certificate of Title Volume 2090 Folio 949
Lot 1 & 2 on Title Plan 812797L	Certificate of Title Volume 2243 Folio 590

There is additional land in the form of a footway and former road.

## Background

The land known as 7-45 Epsom Street is located in the suburb of Laverton, approximately 20 km west of the Melbourne CBD. Public transport is readily accessible, with bus services operating throughout the locality and Laverton Station providing access to the CBD.

There is a growing need for affordable housing in Hobsons Bay, particularly for people with local family and social connections who find it increasingly difficult to find safe, secure and affordable housing in the municipality.

In 2018, a master plan for the site was finalised which nominated the central portion of the site for open space, allocating the northern and southern sections for affordable housing.

Various community consultation activities were undertaken to inform the master plan and in December 2019 the first stage of the project was delivered with the opening of the Curlew Community Park. In 2020, the Laverton Better Places program confirmed the northern and southern sections of the site as future social and affordable housing for the community.

In March 2022, Council undertook extensive community consultation seeking feedback on the Epsom Street Affordable Housing Draft Design Guidelines. The draft guidelines and plans to apply for State government funding to deliver a social housing project, were endorsed in the chamber in August 2022.

## Discussion

Council has a long-standing commitment to encourage and support increased supply of social and affordable housing in Hobsons Bay. Council created the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust as the vehicle to deliver affordable housing dwellings within the municipality. Council has appointed Housing Choices Australia Ltd as the Trustee. Housing Choices Australia Ltd is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

This report is seeking approval for Council to undertake the statutory process in accordance with section 114 of the *Local Government Act 2020* for the proposed sale of part of the land at 745 Epsom Street to Housing Choices Australia in their capacity as Trustee.

In accordance with section 114(2)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council will undertake a community engagement process in relation to its intention to sell the proposed land to Housing Choices Australia as the Trustee of the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Trust for “non-monetary” consideration by:

- publishing notice of its intention to sell the property, also to be advertised in the local paper and on Council's website, detailing the proposal
- notification of immediately adjacent properties
- undertaking community engagement at a minimum “consult level” in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy and Operational Framework
- considering submissions prior to resolving to sell the subject land in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy
- obtaining a valuation of land in accordance with section 114(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 2020* which is made not more than six months prior to sale or exchange

## 8.4 Infrastructure and City Services

### 8.4.1 Electricity for Large Council Sites and Unmetered Street Lighting

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

**Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud left the meeting at 9.45pm, returned at 9.47pm and was present for the vote on Item 8.4.1.**

#### Purpose

To pre-approve the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute a long-term contract that is above his financial delegation for the supply of electricity for large Council sites and unmetered street lighting due to the strictly limited time offer condition that is standard in the energy market.

#### Motion

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

**That Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to enter a multi-year contract for the supply of electricity for large Council sites and unmetered street lighting of up to \$4,000,000 (four million dollars) excluding GST.**

**Carried unanimously**

#### Recommendation

**That Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to enter a multi-year contract for the supply of electricity for large Council sites and unmetered street lighting of up to \$4,000,000 (four million dollars) excluding GST.**

#### Summary

The contract for supply of electricity to large metered sites expired 31 December 2022. Due to the volatility in the market at that time, Council could not secure any reasonable price for the supply of electricity for these sites.

All energy retailers place an expiry of four business days on any offer they submit, which is not negotiable in the current market. Given that Council's current approval process for awarding a contract takes about 31 days, delegating authority to the CEO can expedite the decision-making process.

## Background

In February 2020, Council appointed MAV Procurement to act as its agent for conducting and managing the public tender process for the Supply of Electricity for large sites and unmetered public lighting.

As a result of the tender process, ERM Power Retail Pty Ltd (ERM) was awarded Contract 2020.07 as the sole supplier for large sites and street lighting for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2022. Furthermore, the contract was made with the intent that Council would run its own procurement process to secure a new contract that would commence on 1 January 2023.

Market testing through the public tender process conducted in November 2021 confirmed that retailers were reluctant to commit to technology solutions such as a Virtual Energy Network (VEN) or provide net metering solutions across a portfolio of sites.

Without market competition in the VEN, it was decided to engage the market for standard electricity supply resulting in best price per term (such as 12, 24, 36 or 48 months) for the combined usage across all large sites and unmetered street lighting.

## Discussion

In December 2022, Leading Edge Energy were engaged to act as a commercial energy broker to facilitate the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for electricity supply to large Council sites such as the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre, Altona Sports Centre and Community Hubs, in addition to unmetered street lighting. The objective of the RFP was to secure a new agreement that would commence on 1 January 2023, replacing the existing agreement with ERM that expired on 31 December 2022.

Based on Council's requirements, Leading Edge Energy approached the energy market and received responses from four key retailers: AGL, Energy Australia, Momentum Energy and Shell Energy. The offers were evaluated by comparing each offer against the current retailer for each term of 12, 24, 36, 48 and 60 months.

As Council is unable to meet timelines due to the strictly time-limited condition of four business days to accept the recommended retailer offer for a long-term contract, this will result in Council continuing to pay the default electricity rate which is about 20 per cent higher than the contractual rates. Generally, Council's process from the review of the evaluation report by the Tender Board to contract execution (including acceptance of offer) takes about 31 days.

Once authority is delegated to the CEO, Leading Edge Energy can request the four retailers to revalidate their pricing based on the RFP that was conducted in December 2022. This allows the retailers to provide revised pricing recommendations, considering any changes that may have occurred since the initial RFP.



## 8.4.2 Draft Mary Street Reserve Master Plan

<b>Directorate:</b>	Infrastructure and City Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Active Communities and Asset Planning
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Draft Mary Street Reserve Master Plan June 2023 [8.4.2.1 - 1 page]

### Purpose

To place the Draft Mary Street Reserve Master Plan on public exhibition for four weeks from 23 June 2023 to 21 July 2023.

### Motion

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

**That Council:**

- 1. Places the Draft Mary Street Reserve Master Plan on public exhibition for four weeks from 23 June 2023 to 21 July 2023.**
- 2. Receives a further report to adopt the Mary Street Reserve Master Plan at a future Council Meeting following the public exhibition period.**

**Carried unanimously**

### Motion

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

**That Council extends the Council by 30 minutes to 10.30pm.**

**Carried unanimously**

### Recommendation

**That Council:**

- 1. Places the Draft Mary Street Reserve Master Plan on public exhibition for four weeks from 23 June 2023 to 21 July 2023.**
- 2. Receives a further report to adopt the Mary Street Reserve Master Plan at a future Council Meeting following the public exhibition period.**

## Summary

The development of a master plan for Mary Street Reserve in Spotswood is supported by the Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy 2018 (OSS), and the Place Guide for Better Places Spotswood and South Kingsville (BPSSK).

The Draft Mary Street Reserve Master Plan (Attachment 1) has been developed following three rounds of community consultation:

- Stage 1: Preliminary site opportunities (May to June 2022)
- Stage 2: Community ideas (October to December 2022)
- Stage 3: Master plan framework (February to March 2023)

The public exhibition period of the draft master plan will be hosted on Participate Hobsons Bay, with opportunities for input promoted via Council's social media platforms and through established clubs and networks in the local community.

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

## Background

The OSS assessed the status of all Council owned and managed public parklands across the municipality, and identified the below priority action in relation to Mary Street Reserve:

That Council develops a concept plan for Mary Street Reserve to improve passive recreation opportunities and implement priority improvements that incorporate:

- an assessment of all public space within the precinct including Spotswood RSL and Veterans Reserve
- an investigation about the potential to collaborate with the RSL to develop improved activation and integration with nearby parks.

Since the adoption of the OSS, Council has also developed a Place Guide for Spotswood and South Kingsville through its Better Places Program. The development of the Place Guide was informed by extensive consultation with the local community and identified the need to develop a landscape master plan for this site.

## Discussion

The development of the Draft Mary Street Reserve Master Plan has been completed parallel with a lease negotiation process with the Spotswood South Kingsville RSL (RSL). While this report does not include details on the lease negotiations, the draft master plan identifies the new lease boundary for the RSL and outlines the open space upgrades that will occur in the new public spaces created as a result of these lease negotiations.

The draft master plan has been informed by a detailed site analysis and consultation with onsite stakeholders and the local community. The plan assumes demolition of the northern car park, the old fenced-in bowling green and the old tennis pavilion onsite that is currently used by the Braybrook-Newport Motorcycle Club. The removal of this infrastructure opens up the reserve and provides more passive green space for the local community to enjoy.

Community consultation has been completed in three stages which commenced in May 2022. The purpose of the third stage of consultation was to gain community feedback on

a master plan framework which showed the intended placement of different open space functions within the reserve. The master plan framework received positive feedback overall, with suggestions also received about relocating street access into the southern car park from Mary Street, instead of where it was shown on Cullen Street. This suggestion has been supported and incorporated into in the draft master plan presented for approval to place on public exhibition.

### 8.4.3 Draft Place Guide - Better Places Seabrook and Altona Meadows

<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. Draft Place Guide - Better Places Seabrook and Altona Meadows [8.4.3.1 - 81 pages]

#### Purpose

To place the Draft Place Guide for Better Places Seabrook and Altona Meadows (BPSAM) on public exhibition for four weeks from 21 June 2023 to 23 July 2023.

#### Motion

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

**That Council:**

- 1. Places the Draft Seabrook and Altona Meadows Place Guide on public exhibition for four weeks from 21 June 2023 to 23 July 2023.**
- 2. Receives a further report to adopt the Seabrook and Altona Meadows Place Guide at a future Council Meeting following the public exhibition period.**

**Carried unanimously**

#### Recommendation

**That Council:**

- 1. Places the Draft Seabrook and Altona Meadows Place Guide on public exhibition for four weeks from 21 June 2023 to 23 July 2023.**
- 2. Receives a further report to adopt the Seabrook and Altona Meadows Place Guide at a future Council Meeting following the public exhibition period.**

#### Summary

The Draft Place Guide for BPSAM (Attachment 1) includes projects and initiatives identified as part of the visioning phase for Seabrook and Altona Meadows. All projects identified in the plan will go on to have further consultation and involvement from community. The Draft Place Guide steps the reader through the Better Places process from start to finish so they can understand how the outcomes were determined.

Public exhibition of the Draft Place Guide is proposed as the final engagement stage for four weeks across June and July 2023, and will be hosted on Participate Hobsons Bay.

## Background

The Better Places model is focused on a design-led and place-based approach to projects. It helps to provide a clear vision and understanding of the elements required to make better places, and therefore provides better outcomes for the community.

It is ultimately about moving to a more collaborative and multi-disciplinary approach that moves away from the traditional model of delivering projects as “pieces” to an approach where the whole “place” is considered and driven by a community vision for the suburb.

Better Places Laverton was the pilot project for this new approach to planning projects and working with the community. This approach provides the community with greater ownership of their neighbourhood by encouraging them to be actively involved in steering the future direction of their suburb. The Laverton Place Guide was endorsed in September 2020, which was then followed by the Place Guides for Spotswood and South Kingsville in October 2021 and Brooklyn and Altona North in December 2022.

The success of Better Places is due to actively involving the community to help shape the places they live in and use. Feedback and ideas gathered during multiple stages of community consultation informs the development of a Place Guide that includes practical, on-the-ground projects and initiatives the community has asked for.

The development of the Draft Place Guide for BPSAM commenced in May 2022 and has included three stages of community consultation to date.

## Discussion

Stage one consultation commenced with the community and key stakeholder group workshops throughout May and June 2022. The community was asked to share their thoughts and ideas on three questions: what they love, what they might want to see change and any ideas in relation to their suburbs of Seabrook and Altona Meadows. This feedback was sourced through a reply paid, returnable flyer survey mailed out to all Seabrook and Altona Meadows properties and was also available on Participate Hobsons Bay. Over 2,300 responses were received in this stage.

From the feedback received, the community views were shaped into a shared vision which was supported by the below key themes:

- Pride of place and local identity
- Bringing the community closer together
- A place that is easier and safer to move around

These themes describe what the Seabrook and Altona Meadows community value most, as well as the elements that they want to see protected and improved into the future.

Stage two consultation was undertaken between September and October 2022 when the shared vision and the three key themes were on public exhibition for feedback. Initial project ideas based on the key themes were also sourced from the community as part of this process. A key consultation activity in this stage was the Out and About Festival held at Bruce Comben Reserve in Altona Meadows. Overall, 87 per cent of the responses received from this stage of consultation supported the draft vision, and the three key themes received strong support.

Stage three consultation occurred throughout March and April 2023 where Draft Place Projects shaped from community feedback in Stage 2 were placed on public exhibition. In total, almost 250 responses were received. Feedback from this consultation was overwhelmingly positive with some comments and suggestions adopted into the current Draft Place Guide.

The Draft Place Guide is the result of the Better Places process that starts with wide-ranging, open-ended questions then narrows down to a set of projects and programs designed to help the local community move towards a shared vision for the future. The BPSAM Draft Place Guide includes a “next steps” section that helps define exactly how each project will transition from planning into implementation.

### 8.4.4 West Gate Tunnel Project Update

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and City Services  
**Responsible Officer:** Strategic Projects Specialist  
**Reviewer:** Director Infrastructure and City Services  
**Attachments:** Nil

**Cr Jonathon Marsden left the meeting at 9.58pm and was not present for the vote on Item 8.4.4.**

#### **Purpose**

To provide a quarterly status report on the West Gate Tunnel Project (the Project) and associated initiatives, projects and advocacy activities.

#### **Motion**

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

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

**Carried**

#### **Recommendation**

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

#### **Summary**

This report includes progress updates on the Project works, traffic impacts and strategic advocacy items, Sports and Open Space Enhancement Package and a progress report on the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund.

#### **Background**

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

Construction on the Project has been underway since March 2018 and is due for completion in 2025. Recent construction activities in the western section have been focused on completing the rebuilding and widening of the West Gate Freeway and associated infrastructure, including noise walls, bridges, ramps and the tunnel portals.

Reports providing updates on various aspects of the Project have been tabled through Council Meetings since early 2018. The most recent previous report was presented at the 14 March 2023 Council Meeting. Previous reports can be accessed via the Council website at: <https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/Council-Meetings/Minutes-and-Agendas>

## Discussion

### Community feedback and advocacy

Council officers have advocated on behalf of community members in relation to project issues through various forums including regular meetings with the project partners.

Following lengthy delays and ongoing construction impacts to some residents living adjacent to the freeway, reinstatement works between Grieve Parade and Melbourne Road are now progressing well. Temporary barriers and construction fencing are being replaced with permanent landscaping and fencing. Damaged sections of road within the Project works site are being reconstructed and reopened for public use. To reduce wind noise impacts on residents, replacement fascia panels have been installed on the Muir Street pedestrian overpass, with the Rosalla Avenue overpass to be completed in coming weeks.

### Community Liaison Group

The Community Liaison Group (CLG) was established at the commencement of the Project to provide an avenue for community representatives to learn more about the Project, share community insight with the project team and help support community engagement activities.

The last meeting of the CLG was held on 11 May 2023 with discussion on the construction progress and traffic disruptions in the west zone, shared use paths, and upcoming works. As a follow up to the April meeting, the following environmental issues associated with the Project were presented by the JV's Environment and Sustainability Manager:

- design sustainability
- environmental performance requirements
- air quality monitoring – progress and results
- ventilation structures – design and progress
- landscape design packages and status

CLG meeting documents can be obtained at:

<https://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/community/community-liaison-groups>

### Sports and Open Space Enhancement and Access Package

As part of the Project, the Victorian Government agreed to partner with Council to fund the delivery of capital improvements up to the value of \$5 million towards the implementation of master plan works on Donald McLean Reserve in Spotswood and WLJ Crofts Reserve in Altona North and towards upgrades to Brooklyn Reserve, DN Duane Reserve and Rowan Avenue Reserve in Brooklyn. In addition, a contribution was made towards funding the W & M Couch Pavilion at Donald McLean Reserve.

While some landscape works are being finalised at WLJ Crofts Reserve, the improvement works and new facilities are completed and the reserves and pavilions are now open for public use.



## West Gate Neighbourhood Fund

The West Gate Neighbourhood Fund is a \$10 million community grants program established by WGTP MTIA to support communities in Melbourne's inner west. This consists of four rounds of funding (two partnerships and two community grants rounds).

The final Partnership Funding Round is expected to open for applications by mid-2023. This will provide funding for larger projects over \$100,000 that:

- deliver lasting benefits for the community
- enable projects such as community infrastructure, capital equipment and programs that improve community connection

More details can be found at: <https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/west-gate-tunnel-project/community/west-gate-neighbourhood-fund/grants>

## Project works update

Major works by the JV on widening the West Gate Freeway from eight lanes to 12 in Altona North, Brooklyn, South Kingsville and Spotswood continued over the past three months. Works continue at the inbound and outbound tunnel portals, the Williamstown Road and M80/Western Ring Road freeway interchange areas, the Hyde Street ramps and the various paths and landscaping.

Key activities undertaken over the period include:

- an additional southbound lane opened on Millers Road
- some gantries installed along the freeway
- all precast beams installed for the bridge over Williamstown Road and decks poured with parapet works underway
- Lynch Road reserve reinstated and open to the public
- The Avenue slip lane reopened at Melbourne Road
- six court bowls along The Avenue and the reconstruction of the connection road between Muir Street and Andrews Street connection completed with some landscaping works remaining
- cladding works completed on the Muir Street pedestrian overpass on both north and south sides

Tunnel boring works for the twin tunnels between the Maribyrnong River and the West Gate Freeway have now been completed with Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) No.1 breaking through at the outbound southern portal near New Street, South Kingsville in early May. Both 90-metre long TBMs are being dismantled, retrieved and trucked via the freeway to storage facilities. The ventilation structure is under construction at the southern outbound portal. Crews will continue building road deck and installing electrical, lighting and safety systems to prepare the tunnel for completion in 2025.

The Project is due to carry out major construction activities on or next to the West Gate Freeway between Newport Rail Line and Hyde Street, as well as freeway ramp closures at Williamstown Road to mid-2023. Works in Hyde Street are proposed to be completed by end of July 2023. The Simcock Avenue closure will likely continue until late 2023.

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

**Westgate Tunnel Project incident – underground collapse**

In the early hours of 2 June 2023, work was halted on the West Gate Tunnel Project due to a minor underground collapse.

It was reported that high moisture levels caused the ground where the tunnel was being built in Yarraville to become unstable. The collapse happened about 1km in from the tunnel entrance at Yarraville and between 300m and 500m underground.

Workers were evacuated without any reports of injury. The Australian Workers' Union advised that construction would remain halted until rectification work is completed and the ground can be stabilised.

Geotechnical assessments have begun to determine what is needed to make the ground safe.

**Tree planting and trail upgrades**

Construction is nearing completion on the new section of the Kororoit Creek Trail between Old Geelong Road and GJ Hosken Reserve with landscaping remaining.

Reinstatement and landscaping of occupied sites has commenced. An offset tree plan has been developed with input from Council and community stakeholder groups that identifies suitable locations for offset tree planting outside the designated Project area.

## 9 Committee and Delegate Reports

### 9.1 Committee Reports

#### 9.1.1 Delegated Planning Committee Update

<b>Directorate:</b>	Sustainable Communities
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Planning, Building and Health
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Sustainable Communities
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil

Cr Jonathon Marsden returned to the meeting at 10pm and was present for the vote on 9.1.1.

#### Purpose

To provide an update on the outcomes of the Delegated Planning Committee (DPC) for Quarter 3 of 2022-23.

#### Motion

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

That Council notes the outcomes of the Delegated Planning Committee for Quarter 3 of 2022-23.

Carried unanimously

#### Recommendation

That Council notes the outcomes of the Delegated Planning Committee for Quarter 3 of 2022-23.

#### Summary

The DPC is delegated by Council to consider and determine planning permit applications.

One meeting of the DPC was held on 21 February 2023 for Quarter 3 of 2022-23.

The DPC made determinations on two planning permit applications, supporting the officer recommendations in both applications.

#### Background

The DPC was formerly known as the Special Planning Committee. This change was made in August 2020 to align with the new *Local Government Act 2020*.

The DPC considers and determines planning permit applications where either:

- there are 11 or more individual objections to that application
- in other special circumstances, an application is referred to the DPC by the Director Sustainable Communities for a decision

Where a DPC meeting has been scheduled but no applications requiring consideration have been received, the meeting is cancelled.

The quorum required to hold a DPC meeting is three Councillors.

## Discussion

For Quarter 3 of 2022-23, one DPC meeting was held virtually via Zoom, being 21 February 2023. Members of the public, including applicants and objectors, were invited to attend and participate.

Agendas and minutes of DPC meetings can be viewed on Council's website at: [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Services/Planning-Building/Town-Planning-Services-and-Delegated-Planning-Committee/Delegated-Planning-Committee](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Services/Planning-Building/Town-Planning-Services-and-Delegated-Planning-Committee/Delegated-Planning-Committee)

At the meeting held 21 February 2023, the DPC considered and decided on two applications, being:

Item 1	
<b>Application:</b>	PA220336
<b>Address:</b>	1 Hudsons Road, 1 Booker Street and 30 Craig Street, Spotswood VIC 3015
<b>Proposal:</b>	Use and development of the land for the purpose of industry and manufacturing sales, a reduction in the statutory car parking requirement, the display of signage and the sale and consumption of liquor
<b>Officer Recommendation:</b>	Refuse to grant a planning permit
<b>DPC Decision:</b>	Refuse to grant a planning permit

Item 2	
<b>Application:</b>	PA220337
<b>Address:</b>	1 Hudsons Road, 1 Booker Street and 30 Craig Street, Spotswood VIC 3015
<b>Proposal:</b>	Use and development of the land for the purpose of industry, office and retail premises and a reduction in the statutory car parking requirement.
<b>Officer Recommendation:</b>	Refuse to grant a planning permit
<b>DPC Decision:</b>	Refuse to grant a planning permit

## VCAT outcomes

Of the 11 DPC determinations made in 2021-22 and Q1-Q3 of 2022-23, 10 were challenged at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). VCAT agreed with five of the eight DPC determinations, with two applications currently before VCAT. This equates to 62.5 per cent of the DPC decisions being "affirmed" by the VCAT.

The following table outlines the applications considered at each DPC meeting including the decisions made by the DPC and subsequently by VCAT on review.

Meeting Date	Application	Address	Proposal	Officer Rec.	DPC Decision	VCAT Outcome
22 June 2021	PA1841550	37-45 Ajax Road, Altona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>subdivision of the land into two lots</li> <li>buildings and works associated with stormwater management and site remediation</li> <li>removal of native vegetation</li> </ul>	Approve	Refuse	<b>Refuse</b>
24 Aug. 2021	PA210026	31 Tatman Drive, Altona Meadows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>construction of four double storey dwellings</li> </ul>	Approve	Refuse	<b>Approve</b>
10 Nov. 2021	PA1944089-1	30 Craig Street, Spotswood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>amendment of operating hours from 7am-5pm Monday-Friday to 6am-6pm Monday-Saturday</li> <li>use of a vacant building and surrounds for additional storage purposes</li> </ul>	Approve	Approve	<b>N/A</b>
10 Nov. 2021	PA2048400	571-589 Melbourne Road, Spotswood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use and development of the land for the construction of a staged mixed use development including dwellings, shops, supermarket, food and drink premises (including café and bar), restricted recreation facility (gym), residential hotel, childcare centre, office and medical centre, and associated buildings and works</li> <li>use of part of the land for the sale and consumption of liquor</li> <li>vegetation removal</li> <li>partial demolition of and alterations to the existing heritage building</li> <li>reduction in the bicycle parking requirement</li> <li>creation and alteration of access to a road in a Road Zone, Category 1</li> </ul>	Refuse	Refuse	<b>Approve</b>

Meeting Date	Application	Address	Proposal	Officer Rec.	DPC Decision	VCAT Outcome
30 Nov. 2021	PA210113	9 Fenfield Street, Altona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>construction of two or more dwellings on a lot under clause 32.08-6 (two dwellings) in accordance with the endorsed plans</li> </ul>	Approve	Refuse	<b>Refuse</b>
30 Nov. 2021	PA2048405	1/239 Esplanade, Altona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>construction of one dwelling on a lot under clause 32.08-5 (General Residential Zone)</li> <li>construction of building and carrying out of works under clause 43.02-2 (Design and Development Overlay)</li> <li>reduction of the statutory car parking provisions of Clause 52.06-5 (waiver of second car space) in accordance with the endorsed plans</li> </ul>	Approve	Refuse	<b>Refuse</b>
29 Mar. 2022	PA210026	31 Tatman Drive, Altona Meadows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>construction of four double storey dwellings (VCAT Amended Plans)</li> </ul>	Refuse	Refuse	<b>Approve</b>
21 June 2022	PA210113	9 Fenfield Street, Altona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>demolition of the existing dwelling</li> <li>construction of two dwellings</li> </ul>	Refuse	Refuse	<b>Refuse</b>
26 July 2022	PA2048405	1/239 Esplanade, Altona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>construction of one dwelling on common property</li> <li>construction of a building or to construct or carry out works</li> </ul>	Refuse	Refuse	<b>Refuse</b>
21 Feb. 2023	PA220336	1 Hudsons Road, 1 Booker Street and 30 Craig Street Spotswood VIC 3015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use and development of the land for the purpose of industry and manufacturing sales, a reduction in the statutory car parking requirement, the display of signage and the sale and consumption of liquor</li> </ul>	Refuse	Refuse	<b>VCAT heard this matter on 22 May 2023. Decision pending</b>
21 Feb. 2023	PA220337	1 Hudsons Road, 1 Booker Street and 30 Craig Street Spotswood VIC 3015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use and development of the land for the purpose of industry, office and retail premises and a reduction in the statutory car parking requirement</li> </ul>	Refuse	Refuse	<b>VCAT heard this matter on 22 May 2023. Decision pending</b>

## 9.2 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 Pamela Sutton-Legaud:**

**That Council receives and notes the recent Delegate Reports.**

**Carried unanimously**

### Recommendation

**That Council receives and notes the recent Delegate Reports.**

## RoadSafe Westgate Community Road Safety Council

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and City Services

**Councillor Delegate:** Mayor Cr Antoinette Briffa

**Date of Meeting:** 19 April 2023

Hobsons Bay City Council, Maribymong City Council, Melton City Council, and Wyndham City Council are working together on road safety initiatives. They are using a platform provided by RoadSafe Westgate Community Road Safety Council.

RoadSafe West Gate actively promotes road safety by facilitating communication and collaboration among traffic engineers and road safety experts. They share information, discuss challenges, and work towards the common goal of making roads safer. The council supports the implementation of effective road safety measures through partnerships with relevant stakeholders. Their aim is to reduce the number and seriousness of traffic crashes over time.

### RoadSafe Westgate update

RoadSafe Westgate provided updates on the VicRoads Community Road Safety Grants program. The program is initiated by the Parliament of Victoria and encourages local governments to apply for grants to fund community road safety programs that impact road safety behaviours on vulnerable road users.

A report on the expenditure and income related funds was provided by the Werribee Magistrates Court Fund to the Magistrates Court.

Information and updates on road rules were provided. Road rules relating to distracted drivers and mobile phone and seatbelt detection cameras were explained.

### **Council Updates**

Officers from Hobsons Bay City Council, Maribyrnong City Council, Melton City Council and Wyndham City Council provided an update on road safety projects, local area traffic management projects and progress on grant projects.

Highlights included:

- road safety community grants in collaboration with state and federal government authorities
- bicycle network behaviour change program
- installation of solar lighting along shared user path
- proposal submissions to the Department of Transport and Planning for new school crossings for 2024

### **Police updates**

Victoria Police provided an update on road safety related operations. Statistically there was an increase of 14.4 percent in behavioural related offences compared to previous data.



## Metropolitan Transport Forum - 5 April

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and City Services

**Councillor Delegate:** Cr Jonathan Marsden

**Date of Meeting:** 5 April 2023

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

### Casual Vacancy Filled

Cr Sarah Race from the Shire of Mornington Peninsula was appointed to a casual vacancy position on the board of the Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF). The MTF now has a full complement of Executive members.

### Ambassador Roles Filled

Nominations have been received for four of the six Ambassador roles that are part of the 2023 Strategic Action Plan. Cr Bernadette Thomas was appointed as Bicycle Ambassador, Cr Anna Chen of Manningham City Council as Bus Ambassador, Cr Richard Stockman of Nillumbik Shire Council as Walking Ambassador and Cr Steve Staikos of Kingston City Council as Train Ambassador.

### Presentation

Peter Kartsidimas, Director Networks and Planning at Infrastructure Victoria (IV), presented IV's bus project report. The aim of the project is to improve bus service for users, expand the network reach, and improve service efficiency. Target issues included the need to increase average bus speeds from 15km/h, improve boarding rates, and to ensure that bus routes are economically viable.

### Council Updates

Each month a select number of councils are invited to present to the forum.

- Mr Doug Rowland of Stonnington City Council gave an overview of projects including the successful safe routes to school, active transport behaviour change, and electric vehicle charging
- Cr Amanda McNeill of Whitehorse City Council spoke about issues including the Surrey Hills Level Crossing Removal Project, cycling Easy Route Rides, and lower speed limits
- Mr Russell Tricker at Whittlesea City Council explained the area's high growth and car dependency and actions that hope to provide remedy
- Ms Melissa Falkenberg at Wyndham City Council spoke about major transport projects including FlexiRide buses and advocacy for a new Transport Study

## Metropolitan Transport Forum - 3 May

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and City Services

**Councillor Delegate:** Cr Jonathan Marsden

**Date of Meeting:** 3 May 2023

The Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF) is a monthly gathering attended by representatives from 26 councils in Melbourne, as well as individuals from other transport-related organisations and advocacy groups such as the Department of Transport and Planning, the Public Transport Users Association and Victoria Walks.

These meetings allow councils to collaborate and discuss ways to improve the transport system by sharing knowledge and focusing on integrated transport. Additionally, the MTF meetings serve as a means for Council to stay informed on transport-related matters across the metropolitan area and to communicate this information to the Hobsons Bay community.

Matters discussed at the 5 April 2023 MTF meeting are outlined below.

### Additional Ambassador Roles

Further to the meeting held on 5 April 2023, two additional members have been nominated to fill ambassador (advocacy) positions. These are Cr Amanda McNeill (Whitehorse) as Ambassador for Access, and Cr Susanne Newton (Darebin) as Ambassador for Trams.

### Presentation

Amy Child and Daniel Kowalczyk from the Department of Transport and Planning presented on the recent restructure of the department. This included the incorporation of the planning arm and redefining the Greater Melbourne area into two distinct regions, Inner Metro and Outer Metro. Hobsons Bay is included in the Inner Metro region. They went on to define the key governance functions for each region and gave a spotlight on active transport projects.

### Council Updates

Each month a select number of councils are invited to present to the forum.

This month updates were presented by Banyule and Bayside councils on the transport actions they are undertaking to progress their four-year plans. Planned presentations by Boroondara and Yarra councils were postponed to the next meeting.

## 10 Notices of Motion

### 10.1 Notice of Motion No. 1245 - Condolence - The Bush Lawyer

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

At the time of receiving this notice of motion, there are no apparent legal implications to be considered.

Cr Antoinette Briffa has given notice of the following:

#### **Motion**

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

**That Council acknowledges the recent passing and significant contribution of the Bush Lawyer and extends its sincerest condolences to his family and the Yarrabah community.**

**Carried unanimously**

**That Council acknowledges the recent passing and significant contribution of the Bush Lawyer and extends its sincerest condolences to his family and the Yarrabah community.**

Cr Briffa described the Bush Lawyer as a pivotal figure in the law around recognising Aboriginal people and their rights in Australia, being instrumental in the 1967 referendum (for which he received an OAM) and is parent of two mayors of Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, and was also instrumental in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. He was 100 years old – a life truly well lived, contributing significantly to his community, his family and this country in helping to make things right.

## 11 Urgent Business

### Motion

Moved Cr Diana Grima, seconded Cr Peter Hemphill:

That Council considers items of Urgent Business relating to:

11.1 Condolence – Giuseppe Joe Inserra OAM

Carried unanimously

### 11.1 Condolence – Giuseppe Joe Inserra OAM

### Motion

Moved Cr Diana Grima, seconded Cr Matt Tyler:

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the recent passing of Guiseppe Joe Inserra OAM.
2. Sends a letter written under the signature of the Mayor expressing Council's sincerest condolences to Mr Inserra's family.

Carried unanimously

Cr Grima said that she met Mr Inserra 20 years ago when he worked with Cr Grima's father to establish a Bendigo Bank branch to revitalise the local community. She described him as a mentor and a kind-hearted, patient person, and talked of the amount of work he put into supporting the cause and the community.

Cr Tyler, Cr Hemphill and Cr Briffa also shared their thoughts.

## 12 Supplementary Public Question Time

Catherine Curtain

**Q** Given that the Altona Meadows community states that more tree planting and greening of the suburbs is an important focus for Better Places, how will future trees planted be protected from vandalism, as many trees on the Bay Trail have recently been vandalised even after half of them have been removed.

**A** We have reported the vandalism to the Victoria Police at the Altona Police Station. The police have recommended the installation of CCTV and Council is looking into this at that site, and will also explore an information pack for nearby residents on this issue. A sign will be erected at the location regarding the vandalism.

Rowena Joske

**Q** The plans shown in Attachment 7.2.1.1, which the Director Sustainable Communities believes is the CDP, shows that while the footpath is not within Mirvac's property boundary, the pedestrian crossing is. Can this be confirmed please.

**If agreed the pedestrian crossing is within Mirvac's property boundary, can it be explained why it can't be built within the intersection now?**

**A** Two pedestrian crossings are able to be delivered within Mirvac's property boundary now. The third crossing on the western side requires land from the adjoining property which is an operating industrial business. It cannot be delivered until that land is available.

Sandra Wilson

**Q** Given the \$600,000 allocation to stage 1 of the Wetlands Centre, how can it be better connected with the Altona Meadows/Seabrook strategy as it has only been referenced once in the draft document, so greater awareness about its potential use is required.

**A** The Draft Altona Meadows and Seabrook Place Guide has been adopted at this meeting and the draft is open for consultation. Once the concept plan for stage 1 is developed, there will be community information and engagement which will happen in Altona Meadows – this will increase the awareness of this project and activities provided from this site.

### **13 Close of Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 10.23pm.

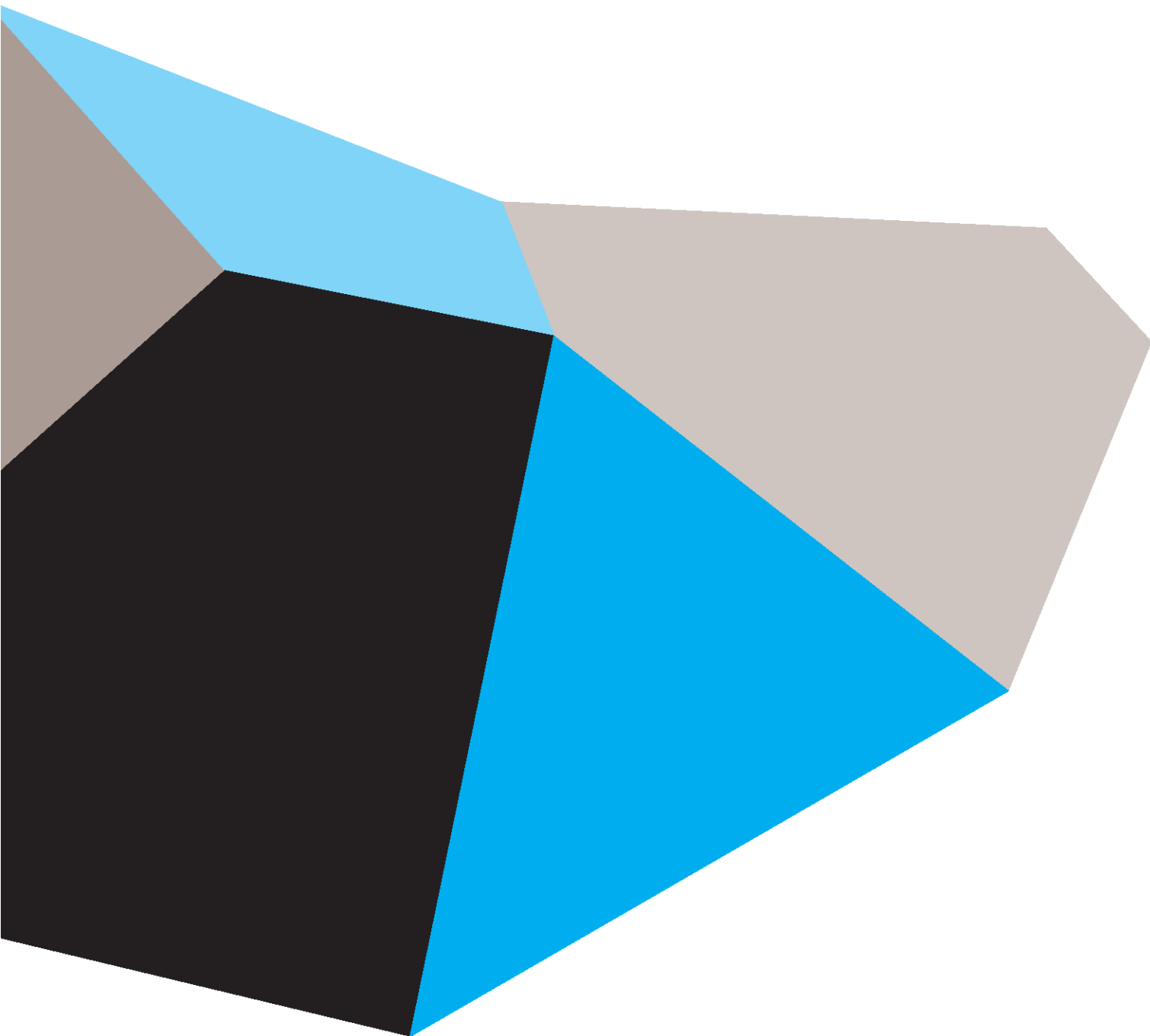
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Chairperson – Cr Antoinette Briffa

Signed and certified as having been confirmed.

11 July 2023





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**HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL**

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115 Civic Parade, Altona

PO Box 21, Altona 3018

Phone 1300 179 944

Fax (03) 9932 1039

NRS phone 133 677 and quote 1300 179 944

Email [customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)



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