

# Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday 12 December 2023  
Commencing at 7.00 PM

Council Chamber  
Hobsons Bay Civic Centre  
115 Civic Parade, Altona

**HOBSONS  
BAY CITY  
COUNCIL**



COUNCIL CHAMBER

## 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 Matt Tyler (Mayor)	Wetlands Ward
-----------------------	---------------

### Councillors:

Cr Antoinette Briffa JP	Cherry Lake Ward
-------------------------	------------------

Cr Diana Grima	Wetlands Ward
----------------	---------------

Cr Daria Kellander	Cherry Lake Ward
--------------------	------------------

Cr Peter Hemphill	Strand Ward
-------------------	-------------

Cr Jonathon Marsden	Strand Ward
---------------------	-------------

Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud (Deputy Mayor)	Strand Ward
--	-------------

Aaron van Egmond  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hobsons Bay City Council

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>2 Apologies</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3 Disclosure of Interest</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>4 Confirmation of Minutes</b> .....	<b>5</b>
4.1 Confirmation of Minutes .....	5
<b>5 Councillor Questions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>6 Public Question Time</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>7 Petitions and Joint Letters</b> .....	<b>5</b>
7.1 Petitions and Joint Letters Received .....	5
7.2 Responses to Petitions and Joint Letters .....	6
7.2.1 Response to Petition - Request to remove parking lines on Davies Street, Altona ..	6
7.2.2 Response to Petition - Request to alter parking restrictions on the Esplanade, Altona to improve access for kayaking .....	9
7.2.3 Response to Petition and Council Motion - Altona Lifesaving Club - Request for volunteer parking passes .....	12
<b>8 Business</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>8.1 Office of the Chief Executive</b> .....	<b>16</b>
8.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations - November 2023.....	16
<b>8.2 Corporate Services</b> .....	<b>18</b>
8.2.1 2023-24 Mayoral Program .....	18
8.2.2 Amended Council Meeting Timetable 2024 .....	25
8.2.3 Appointment of Councillor Delegates and Proxies to Council and Community Committees .....	29
8.2.4 Contract 2023.13 Telecommunications .....	32
<b>8.3 Sustainable Communities</b> .....	<b>36</b>
8.3.1 Adoption of A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024-28 .....	36
8.3.2 Adoption of Economic Development Strategy 2023-28 .....	44
8.3.3 Provision of Landfill Services - Contract Extension .....	53
<b>8.4 Infrastructure and City Services</b> .....	<b>56</b>
8.4.1 Adoption of the Hobsons Bay Biodiversity Strategy 2024-34 .....	56
8.4.2 West Gate Tunnel Project Update - December 2023 .....	61
<b>9 Committee and Delegate Reports</b> .....	<b>69</b>
9.1 Committee Reports .....	69
9.1.1 Delegated Planning Committee Update - Q1 and Q2 2023-24.....	69
9.2 Delegate Reports .....	74

<b>10 Notices of Motion</b> .....	<b>77</b>
10.1 Notice of Motion No. 1248: World Heritage Potential for the Newport Railway Workshops.....	77
<b>11 Urgent Business</b> .....	<b>79</b>
<b>12 Supplementary Public Question Time</b> .....	<b>79</b>
<b>13 Close of Meeting</b> .....	<b>79</b>

## **1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement**

The Chairperson will welcome members of the gallery and acknowledge that Council is gathered on the traditional land of the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation and offers its respect to elders past, present and emerging.

## **2 Apologies**

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

## **3 Disclosure of Interest**

In accordance with sections 127 and 128 of the *Local Government Act 2020* Councillors and staff 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.

## **4 Confirmation of Minutes**

### **4.1 Confirmation of Minutes**

Confirmation of the minutes of the Council Meetings of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 10 November 2023 and 14 November 2023 (copies previously circulated).

## **5 Councillor Questions**

## **6 Public Question Time**

Public Question Time provides an opportunity for the public to ask questions related to items on the agenda of the Council Meeting or any other matter within Council's responsibility.

Questions must be put in writing and received by 12pm on the day before the Council Meeting. The submitted questions and Council's responses will be read out by the Chairperson during the meeting.

In accordance with rule 13.1.11 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, the person who submitted the question must be present in the public gallery during Public Question Time for their question to be read out.

## **7 Petitions and Joint Letters**

### **7.1 Petitions and Joint Letters Received**

No petitions or joint letters were received at the time of printing the Council Meeting agenda.

## 7.2 Responses to Petitions and Joint Letters

### 7.2.1 Response to Petition - Request to remove parking lines on Davies Street, Altona

<b>Directorate:</b>	Infrastructure and City Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Capital Works
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Infrastructure and City Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil

#### Purpose

To receive and provide a response to a petition relating to on street parking bays in Davies Street, Altona.

#### Recommendation

##### That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the petition requesting that Council removes the parking bay line marking in Davies Street, Altona, between Railway Street South and the Esplanade.**
- 2. Works with residents to modify the line marking at specific locations where appropriate.**
- 3. Writes to the lead petitioner advising of the Council decision.**

#### Summary

This report considers the receipt of and response to a petition requesting that Council remove existing parking bay line marking in Davies Street, Altona to increase available parking capacity in the street.

It is acknowledged that there are some opportunities in Davies Street to alter the line marking to create additional parking without compromising access or safety requirements. Officers have spoken with the lead petitioner and advised that the amendment of line marking will be discussed with impacted residents where opportunities exist prior to making these changes.

#### Background

The petition was received by Council in hard copy by post and via email on 18 October 2023.

Twenty-seven signatures were collected from eleven properties.

The petition reads as follows:

*Background:*

*Recently, the Council has placed 2P parking signs (valid from November to March) and drawn white parking lines across the length of Davies Street, Altona. This undoubtedly was done with the intention of curtailing the street parking issues for residents during the busy periods of the summer e.g. beachgoers and visitors to Pier Street.*

*Unfortunately, the lines that have been drawn have resulted in less on-street parking options for residents as they do not utilise the entire length of the kerb. For example, some kerbs have 1 space drawn but could fit 3 cars. It is the belief of the undersigned that simply having the 2P signs would be sufficient.*

*Aim:*

*The removal of the white painted spaces along the entire length of Davies Street, Altona.*

## Discussion

The existing parking restrictions and line marking were introduced by Council in early 2023 as part of a broader strategic parking plan to better manage the parking issues in the area, including parked vehicles obstructing driveways and parking too close to intersections. This issue had been raised by local residents as it was impacting their ability to access their properties. The line marking helps control the location of parked vehicles for more effective enforcement purposes and helps guide motorists to park safely.

It is acknowledged that in some instances along the street, opportunities may exist to alter the line marking to create additional parking without compromising access or safety requirements. It is therefore recommended that officers consult with impacted community members to assess and amend line marking where possible.

Officers have spoken to the lead petitioner on this matter.

## Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

### **Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision**

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

### **Council Plan 2021-25**

#### **Objective 4: Visionary community infrastructure Strategy**

**Strategy 4.1:** Ensure the transport network is safe and efficient for all users with a focus on pedestrians and cyclists and optimise the balance between encouraging active transport and facilities to support car users

## **Policies and Related Council Documents**

This report has taken into consideration Council's Integrated Transport Plan in addressing parking demand and management, road safety and residential amenity.

## **Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk**

Personal details of the signatories to a petition are dealt with in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules and the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.

Council's Local Laws Branch is responsible for enforcing parking restrictions in accordance with *Road Safety Road Rules (Victoria) 2009*.

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

Costs associated with this report are met from Council's 2023-24 operating budget.

## **Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts**

Effective parking management along the foreshore aims to balance competing high summer parking demand, road safety and protecting and enhancing residential parking amenity.

## **Consultation and Communication**

The local community was consulted on the foreshore parking strategy, and it is proposed that any further changes will include consultation with those affected. A discussion has occurred with the lead petitioner, and they will be formally advised of Council's decision.

## **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

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



## 7.2.2 Response to Petition - Request to alter parking restrictions on the Esplanade, Altona to improve access for kayaking

<b>Directorate:</b>	Infrastructure and City Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Capital Works
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Infrastructure and City Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil

### Purpose

To provide Council with a response to the petition requesting modifications to existing paid parking restrictions on The Esplanade, Altona from Bayview Street to Millers Road near Flemings Pool to improve access for kayaking.

### Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Makes no changes to the existing parking restrictions on The Esplanade, Altona from Bayview Street to Millers Road at this time.**
- 2. Assesses the future parking requirements in this space with the findings of surveys and observations being conducted before and after the introduction of parking meters.**
- 3. Writes to the lead petitioner advising of the Council decision.**

### Summary

This report considers the petition requesting that Council modify existing paid parking restrictions in the Esplanade, Altona to provide free parking for the kayak fishing community and others before 10am and after 4pm and to allow for trailer parking in the Esplanade near Flemings Pool.

No changes to parking within the Flemings Pool area are recommended; however, an assessment of future parking requirements will be considered with the findings of traffic surveys and observations that are being conducted as part of the introduction of paid parking within the precinct.

The lead petitioner has been advised of the above response and has been notified of the nearby launching alternatives at Altona Boat Ramp and Altona Yacht Club, both of which can facilitate boat and trailer parking.

## Background

A petition was received by Council in September 2023 containing 61 signatures requesting Council to:

Update the parking restrictions on the Esplanade from Bayview Street in an easterly direction (towards the city) to change the meter to 10am-4pm. In addition, outside of metered hours, a provision to allow for vehicles with trailers to allow for the kayak fishing community to utilise the Flemings Pool area for safe access to the water avoiding the dangerous boat traffic entering and exiting the Altona Boat ramp.

## Discussion

The existing paid parking restrictions were introduced by Council in early 2023 as part of a broader strategic parking plan. At the 13 December 2022 Council Meeting, Council resolved to “document the findings of parking surveys and observations before and after the introduction of the meters”. A review of these surveys and observations will occur once completed to determine the need for any future changes to the parking arrangements in the Flemings Pool precinct.

While the access ramp to Fleming Pool was designed to cater for the occasional launching of small non-motorised watercraft, it is not considered suitable as a key launching point for larger fishing kayaks given the constrained location and lack of suitable parking for boat trailers. However, there is unrestricted free parking available along the esplanade immediately east of the Flemings Pool access ramp.

Alternative locations also exist in the area that provide safe convenient launching facilities and large parking areas for trailers including the Altona Boat Ramp and potentially the Altona Yacht Club ramp. With these alternatives located within one kilometre of Flemings Pool, the recommendation is not to make any immediate changes, and only consider future changes following the review of parking surveys and observations.

Officers have contacted the lead petitioner and discussed the matter with him.

## Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

### **Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision**

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

### **Council Plan 2021-25**

#### **Objective 4: Visionary community infrastructure**

**Strategy 4.1:** Optimise the balance between encouraging active transport and facilities to support car users

## **Policies and Related Council Documents**

This report has taken into consideration Council's Integrated Transport Plan in addressing parking demands, residential amenity and facilitating access to sustainable transport options.

## **Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk**

Personal details of the signatories to a petition are dealt with in accordance with the Governance Rules and the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.

Council's Local Laws Branch is responsible for enforcing parking restrictions in accordance with *Road Safety Road Rules (Victoria) 2009*.

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

Costs associated with this report are met from Council's 2023-24 operating budget.

## **Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts**

Effective parking management along the foreshore aims to balance competing high summer parking demand while protecting and enhancing residential parking amenity.

## **Consultation and Communication**

Officers have spoken with the lead petitioner in relation to this report to advise him of the current available parking opportunities in the Flemings Pool precinct, and the nearby boat launching facilities at the Altona Boat Ramp and Altona Yach Club.

The lead petitioner will be informed of the outcomes of the assessment into the introduction of parking meters, involving on-site surveys, which is due to occur in 2024. Any changes recommended within this precinct as a result of this assessment will be shared with the lead petitioner.

## **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

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

### **7.2.3 Response to Petition and Council Motion - Altona Lifesaving Club - Request for volunteer parking passes**

<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 provide Council with a response to the petition requesting that Altona Lifesaving Club (ALSC) be provided with Council-issued parking permits for volunteer lifesavers for additional parking, and also provide a response to the Council motion requesting the formation of a Summer Foreshore Safety Parking Policy.

#### **Recommendation**

##### **That Council:**

- 1. Notes that the Altona Lifesaving Club and Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club already had provisions for dedicated parking on their Council-provided club sites.**
- 2. Provides alternative parking options, including an additional six dedicated parking spaces for the volunteer lifesavers.**
- 3. Notes that signage will be erected, and Life Saving Volunteer permits will be provided to the clubs valid throughout the summer lifesaving patrol period.**
- 4. Notes that enforcement will be undertaken by Council officers to ensure that parking spaces are used exclusively for lifesaving volunteers during this period.**
- 5. Writes to the lead petitioner advising of the outcome.**

#### **Summary**

The submitted petition requested that volunteer lifesavers at ALSC be provided with parking permits exempting them of the time restrictions and the fees associated with parking in Altona while on duty as volunteer lifesavers.

## Background

### Petition

The petition was tabled and accepted at the 12 September 2023 Council Meeting, and reads as follows:

We, the undersigned, Altona Lifesaving Club Committee, financial members, HBCC ratepayers & community supporters, hereby petition the Hobsons Bay City Council to consider the below request at an ordinary council meeting.

The issuance of Parking Passes, to the care of ALSC Committee, for distribution to Volunteer Lifesaving Patrol members on rostered shifts, at Altona Beach throughout the registered 2023-24 patrol season.

The recent installation of parking meters in Altona, will see our volunteer patrolling members unable to park in the vicinity of the clubhouse & beach as patrol shifts of 6-8hrs exceed the allowable parking limit. In addition, many patrolling members do not reside in HBCC catchment, however, give of their time to patrol our community beach. These members are not entitled to free parking with limitation in this area.

Patrol members may not have ready access to their vehicles & should not fear financial penalty due to being unable to move vehicles, as time expires, should they be detained by an incident. Patrol members should not have to leave their team depleted to move vehicles nor should they have to walk alone, following their shift, to return to a vehicle some distance away.

In the interest of public safety, & the safety of our members, we request your favourable consideration of the above so that Patrols may continue uninterrupted & our members are supported in their volunteer service to our community.

The petition focuses on volunteers providing an essential service to the community and the inability to move their vehicle to adhere to timed parking while on duty with Altona Life Saving Club and in the interest of public safety and the safety of members, they are requesting parking permits so that patrols may continue uninterrupted, and their members are supported in their volunteer service to the community.

### Council Motion

At the 14 November Council Meeting, Cr Daria Kellander moved that Council:

1. Requests officers to provide an urgent report detailing the formation of a Summer Foreshore Safety Parking Policy.
2. In developing the policy, considers the operational and support needs of both the Altona Life Saving Club (ALSC) and Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club (WSLSC) organisations including the issuance of permits to enable the operational needs of the club as follows: 10 free seasonal permits issued each to the ALSC and WSLSC, valid from 1 November to 30 April each year, exempt from both hourly charges and timed parking limits. The permits are to be transferrable to volunteers of the club for the purpose of patrol activities and related purposes.
3. Provides the Summer Safety Parking Policy to Council at its December 2023 Council Meeting for consideration.

This motion was passed unanimously.

## Discussion

Council officers have reviewed the petition and the Councillors' motion and make the following response:

Designated parking bays will be provided for both lifesaving clubs, with signage to be installed advising that the designated parking bays are for ALSA and WSLSC on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays during the summer safety period from November to March.

ALSC will be provided with six designated parking spaces in the Weaver Reserve car park in addition to the four parking spaces currently allocated to them at the ALSA site. Council will provide the club with 10 parking permits to be displayed in vehicles at all times when parked in the designated parking spaces at either location.

WSLSC will be provided with an additional six designated parking spaces in the WSLSC car park near the four bays currently allocated to them. Council will provide 10 parking permits to be displayed in vehicles at all times when parked in the designated parking spaces.

The lifesaving clubs are to manage the distribution of the parking permits to their volunteer lifesavers. The permits are only valid in the signed, designated parking bays.

## Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

### Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

**Priority 2:** Community wellbeing and inter-connection

### Council Plan 2021-25

**Objective 1: Healthy, equitable and thriving communities**

**Strategy 1.3:** Foster community safety including family violence prevention

## Policies and Related Council Documents

The Summer Safety Parking Permit Policy has been created to address the items raised.

## Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

Personal details of the signatories to a petition are dealt with in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules and the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.

Council's Local Laws Branch is responsible for enforcing parking restrictions in accordance with *Road Safety Road Rules (Victoria) 2009*.

## Financial and Resource Implications

Costs associated with this report are met from Council's 2023-24 operating budget.

## **Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts**

The proposal does not have significant environmental, social or economic impacts.

## **Consultation and Communication**

### **Consultation with lead petitioner**

A meeting was held on 2 November 2023 with the president of the ALSC and the Little Nippers/Youth Program Organiser and representatives of Hobsons Bay City Council to understand the position of the Altona Life Saving Club regarding the petition that was submitted.

Another meeting was held on 29 November 2023 with the president of the ALSC, the Club Captain and representatives of Hobsons Bay City Council. The purpose of this meeting was to inform ALSC of Council's resolution. The club was appreciative of the resolution and commented that the designated parking spaces exceeded their expectations.

## **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

## 8 Business

### 8.1 Office of the Chief Executive

#### 8.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations - November 2023

<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 - November 2023 [8.1.1.1 - 52 pages]

#### Purpose

To present the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO's) Report on Operations for November 2023.

#### 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 November 2023 and 30 November 2023 is provided in this month's report.

#### Strategic Alignment

Council provides a wide range of services to the community of Hobsons Bay as well as developing and delivering actions to ensure community assets are maintained and service the needs of the community. Each month this report highlights these activities, initiatives and projects and provides a high-level performance summary.



This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

**Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision**

**Priority 2:** Community wellbeing and inter-connection

**Council Plan 2021-25**

**Objective 5: A High Performing Organisation**

**Strategy 5.4:** Enhance transparency, accountability and good governance practice

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

## 8.2 Corporate Services

### 8.2.1 2023-24 Mayoral Program

<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Communications, Engagement and Advocacy
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Corporate Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil

### Purpose

To update Councillors and the community on the areas of focus for the 2023-24 mayoral term of Cr Matt Tyler.

### Recommendation

**That Council notes the proposed 2023-24 mayoral focus areas of the Mayor, Cr Matt Tyler.**

### Summary

In November 2023, Cr Matt Tyler was elected Mayor by Council for the 2023-24 mayoral term.

Cr Tyler has identified several areas of focus that will enhance the contribution of Council to supporting residents, businesses, and community service organisations.

This report outlines the initiatives that Mayor Tyler will prioritise during his mayoral term. Cr Tyler's mayoral program will be focused on the following six themes.

1. Enabling greater opportunities, particularly for people facing disadvantage
2. Pursuing a cleaner and greener Hobsons Bay
3. Building inclusion, cohesion, and connection
4. Progressing reconciliation with First Nations people
5. Promoting Hobsons Bay as a tourism destination and facilitating activation of key trading strips
6. Making ongoing improvements to customer service and raising awareness of Council services

### Background

Building on the Council Plan and the priorities of preceding Mayors, the mayoral program provides an opportunity for the Mayor of the day to prioritise key strategic themes and associated initiatives that will progress the ambitions of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision.

## Discussion

Recognising that the 2023-24 mayoral term is the last year for this Council term, Cr Tyler would like to recognise and acknowledge the contribution of previous mayors and all Councillors during this Council term. The mayoral program seeks to build on this prior work by continuing with a number of existing themes, while also introducing new initiatives.

Each theme will incorporate a variety of key initiatives and actions. Some of these are highlighted in this report.

### **Focus Area 1: Enabling greater opportunities, particularly for people facing disadvantage**

Raised by his single mother and trained as an economist, Cr Tyler has committed his professional life to making governments and social services work better. Unfortunately, there are many across the Hobsons Bay community who at times face disadvantage or significant challenges. In many cases, these people are offered a helping hand by incredible workers and volunteers, who contribute so much, with no fanfare and often receiving little acknowledgment. Cr Tyler wants to explicitly recognise these people who work to provide greater opportunities for those facing disadvantage.

While a tough trot can strike anyone at any time, the impact on young people who face disadvantage can be profound. The knock-on impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic linger including as it relates to mental health, social connections and the labour market. The youth unemployment rate is over twice the overall unemployment rate, and the reality is that too often “without a start, you don’t get a start”. Families and young people have variable access to the networks, that are unfortunately often required to secure a decent job, and resources provided for careers guidance are stretched. While many young people just need their first break, many businesses are simultaneously crying out for workers.

With this context in mind, informed by what Council has heard from research and young people including as part of What Youth Want, Cr Tyler intends to host the inaugural Hobsons Bay Youth Employment and Engagement Fair. Working closely with schools, businesses, community organisations and Council officers, this multi-day event will showcase businesses, career streams, employment specialists, job vacancies on offer and community groups, with the aim of facilitating employment and engagement for young people across Hobsons Bay. All young people and their families will be welcome, with a particular emphasis on young people with a disability, representing 8.2% of young people across the community. As part of this effort, Council will continue to make a direct contribution to the employment of young people through its employment of trainees, apprentices and school leavers.

Cr Tyler will also prioritise continued advocacy for improved youth mental health services and increased affordable housing. Hobsons Bay needs local, timely and affordable services in the west, including a psychologist-run mental health support service, such as a Headspace in Hobsons Bay. Separately, we are in the midst of a housing crisis, with a dire need for additional affordable housing across the Western suburbs. Cr Tyler wants to see Council do everything possible to increase the supply of community housing. This includes continuing to advocate for funding to support construction of the proposed Epsom Street Affordable Housing Project in Laverton.

## **Focus Area 2: Pursuing a cleaner and greener Hobsons Bay**

The environment where we live has a direct impact on our mental health and well-being. Little things matter, and Cr Tyler wants to place emphasis on giving a few places a lift. This will include supporting the implementation of the Better Places programs, which include a cleaning blitz for Seabrook and Altona Meadows. Cr Tyler will also look to prioritise the beautification of municipal roundabouts where Council has responsibility.

For many years Council has recognised the importance of protecting our environment, with efforts related to mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change. Cr Tyler will continue this focus on implementing several key environmental initiatives and programs, including the second phase of Council's Virtual Power project during Cr Tyler's term. This project involves installing 4 megawatts of green power to power Council operations.

Mindful of Hobsons Bay's coastal geography, Mayor Tyler wants to elevate the importance of climate change adaptation. Subject to being adopted by Council, the updated Biodiversity Strategy will see direct action undertaken to support the preservation of Council's waterways, grasslands, beaches and wetlands. This sits alongside Council's Response to Climate Change Action Plan which includes initiatives such as the Urban Forest Strategy, as Council aims to plant 20,000 plants, trees and shrubs. Cr Tyler will also progress advocacy efforts on the proposed Wetlands Centre.

## **Focus Area 3: Building inclusion, cohesion, and connection**

Feeling connected to our community, being included, and having a sense of unity are things we all aspire to. Cr Tyler recognises that diversity within a community is essential, but it is not always easy to ensure that everyone feels a sense of connection. Belonging for all in the community, regardless of cultural or religious background, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or other, will be a continued theme during Cr Tyler's term.

Cr Tyler will seek to engage leaders of Hobsons Bay's religious groups in dialogue, to share respective traditions and foster connection. He will continue his support of the work undertaken by Cr Briffa during her mayoral term, including ongoing engagement with and support for the Hobsons Bay Pride Community Liaison Group. Council will again participate in the Midsumma Pride March and continue to actively support of Hobsons Bay's LGBTIQ+ community. Cr Tyler will also convene residents and community service organisations to seek feedback on how inclusion and accessibility could be improved in Hobsons Bay for people with a disability.

The value and importance of the interconnectedness brought about by Council's friendship alliance, will also be a focus this year. Since its commencement in 2006, the Buloke Shire and Council friendship alliance has seen many visits and exchanges and the sharing of resources and expertise. Cr Tyler is keen to continue strengthening the friendship alliance by building on existing connections between the local government organisations and the respective communities, by arranging a Council visit to Buloke Shire.

#### **Focus Area 4: Progressing reconciliation with First Nations People**

With a clear focus of adopting and implementing Council's new Reconciliation Action Plan this term, Council's support of reconciliation with First Nations people remains a key priority.

Cr Tyler will seek to strengthen the relationship between Council and the traditional owners of the lands of Hobsons Bay, the Bunurong of the Kulin Nation, by prioritising time, focus and opportunities to meet and engage with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation formally or informally on matters important to them.

Celebrating First Nations people's histories and cultures and promoting the broader community connection and positive engagement with First Nations people, Cr Tyler will aim to increase the available books, art, education and awareness programs available to our community via our libraries and programs.

#### **Focus Area 5: Promoting Hobsons Bay as a tourism destination and facilitating activation of key trading strips**

A recent report by Victoria University found that tourism in the west of Melbourne was harder hit by COVID-19 than many other areas and yet, in Hobsons Bay, our natural assets, heritage and multicultural community presents tremendous opportunities. Cr Tyler wants to increase visitation to Hobsons Bay, sharing the best of the city with Australia and the world, and in doing so, support local businesses.

While the city's beautiful beaches and parklands are visitor drawcards in summer, it also has much to offer during the colder months. Supporting local traders and community, Cr Tyler will promote to a winter activation program in key entertainment precincts.

Further, adopting and promoting Council's 2024 Tourism Strategy will be a major step forward in promoting awareness and creating even more reasons to come to Hobsons Bay. This will include improving residents' and visitors' awareness of and ability to navigate Hobsons Bay's various bike paths and shared trails through improved active transport network mapping and wayfinding signage.

Hobsons Bay has a strong connection to the heritage of Melbourne, and Cr Tyler will be an active supporter of the Heritage Hobsons Bay festival program that is delivered in partnership with local history networks and groups, as part of the National Trust heritage program.

#### **Focus Area 6: Making ongoing improvements to customer service and raising awareness of Council services**

Cr Tyler is a strong advocate for ensuring that the services Council provides residents are the best they can be. Focusing on Council doing its best to "get the basics right" and strengthening communications with community will be a key focus for Cr Tyler this term. This will be done through his support of the Community Excellence, Council+ and Hobsons Bay 360 programs.

Community Excellence is a multiyear program that looks to streamline customer service and enhance the ease with which the community can transact with Council. Having already achieved significant improvement through Council's "Closing the Loop" initiative, the next key component of this program will be the launch of Council's new Community Relationship Management system. This new system will enable public transparency about the progress of enquiries and will focus on improving the timeliness of status updates for service enquiries.

The community will be invited to publicly test and provide feedback on this new system at each Council+ site throughout December.

Similarly, through his support of the Council+ initiative, Cr Tyler will aim to highlight the opportunities created by enabling service access and programs at all Council sites, closer and more conveniently to where people live.

Finally, building on the work of Cr Briffa's mayoral term, Cr Tyler will launch Hobsons Bay 360. Hobsons Bay 360 is an opportunity for Council to share with the community an in-depth understanding of the more than 100 vital services we offer for people of all backgrounds, interests and ages – from newborns right through to our older residents. Cr Tyler hopes the community will be encouraged to reach out to Council more often by gaining a better awareness of the services we provide.

## Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

### Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

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

### Council Plan 2021-25

#### Objective 1: Healthy, equitable and thriving communities

**Strategy 1.1:** Celebrate the diversity of our community and provide equitable opportunities for all

**Priority a)** Implement A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2019-23

**Priority b)** Strengthen and promote First Nations culture, identity and opportunities in Hobsons Bay

**Priority c)** Deliver more social and affordable housing

**Strategy 1.2:** Improve the health and wellbeing of our community – particularly our young, vulnerable and older community members

**Priority a)** Expand the range of mental health, employment preparedness, life skills services and opportunities available to Hobsons Bay young people

**Strategy 1.4:** Enable participation and contribution to community life, learning and inter-connection

**Priority c)** Increase customer service centres and libraries participation through establishing centres of excellence in different lifelong learning skills

## Objective 2: Environment

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

**Priority a)** Foreshore and riverine assets are upgraded to meet predicted impacts of climate change, maintain existing recreational uses while improving conservation values

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

## Objective 3: Vibrant place and economy

**Strategy 3.2:** Increase economic and tourism opportunities that capitalise on our cultural and creative strengths

**Priority a)** Implement the Experience Hobsons Bay Tourism Strategy 2019-24

**Strategy 3.3:** Continued commitment to the delivery of the Better Places program

**Priority a)** Deliver neighbourhood scale placemaking with projects identified within each of the Better Places Place Guides

## Objective 5: A High Performing Organisation

**Strategy 5.1:** Improving the quality of our communication and engagement to ensure that our community is informed of and encouraged to contribute to issues in a diversity of ways most suited to them and to advocate for the areas of greatest need

**Priority a)** Implement interactive platforms that enable access to services, show where events and points of interest are located and raise community awareness of Council's projects and delivery timelines

## Policies and Related Council Documents

All relevant Council policies have been considered in preparing the current initiatives outlined within this Mayoral Report.

This report is the first in a series of four update reports on the 2023-24 Mayoral Program. There are no previous Council reports on the 2023-24 Mayoral Program.

## Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

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

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

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

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

The initiatives in the Mayoral Program can be supported through the existing budget.

## **Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts**

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

## **Consultation and Communication**

Relevant Council departments have been consulted about potential projects to assist the Mayor in achieving the aims of the Mayoral Program. If community consultation is required for any part of the program, it will be carried out appropriately.

## **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

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



## 8.2.2 Amended Council Meeting Timetable 2024

<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 adopt the amended 2024 Council Meeting Timetable.

### Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Adopts the Council Meeting Timetable to 31 December 2024 as listed in the report.**
- 2. Provides appropriate public notice of the Council meeting dates, including by publication on Council's website, in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules.**

### Summary

This report proposes Council meeting dates for 2024 for Council's consideration.

### Background

Council is required to fix the date, place and time of all Council meetings and reasonable notice must be provided to the public.

This report was initially presented at the 14 November 2023 Council meeting, but Councillors resolved to defer the motion until the December meeting due to concerns regarding meetings around the 2024 election period.

### Discussion

The proposed Council Meeting Timetable for 2024 has been reviewed and updated, and the amended version is listed in this report.

The 2024 timetable includes one Council meeting per month. It is proposed that Councillor Briefing Sessions and meetings of Council's Delegated Planning Committee continue to be held on the alternate weeks.

No Council meeting is scheduled in 2024 for the hearing of budget submissions, as section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* is no longer a statutory requirement of the budget process. Instead, written submissions on the Proposed Annual Budget will be considered by Councillors at the Councillor Briefing Session scheduled on 21 May 2024.

All Council meetings will be held in the Council Chamber at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre unless otherwise notified. Councillor Briefing Sessions will be a combination of virtual and face-to-face meetings unless otherwise notified. Any Councillor Briefing Session held in person will be held at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre and will commence at 6.30pm.

<b>2024 Council Meeting Timetable</b>		
Tuesday 30 January	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 6 February	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 13 February	7pm	Council Meeting
Tuesday 20 February	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 27 February	6pm	Delegated Planning Committee
Tuesday 5 March	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 12 March	7pm	Council Meeting
Tuesday 19 March	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 26 March	6pm	Delegated Planning Committee
Tuesday 2 April	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 9 April	7pm	Council Meeting Endorsement of Proposed Budget 2024-25
Tuesday 16 April	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 23 April	6pm	Delegated Planning Committee
<b>Tuesday 30 April</b>		<b>No meeting – fifth Tuesday of the month</b>
Tuesday 7 May	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 14 May	7pm	Council Meeting
Tuesday 21 May	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 28 May	6pm	Delegated Planning Committee
Tuesday 4 June	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 11 June	6pm	Council Meeting
Tuesday 18 June	7pm	Delegated Planning Committee
Tuesday 25 June	6pm	Council Meeting – Adoption of Budget 2024-25
Tuesday 2 July	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 9 July	7pm	Council Meeting
Tuesday 16 July	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 23 July	6pm	Delegated Planning Committee

<b>Tuesday 30 July</b>	<b>No meeting – fifth Tuesday of the month</b>	
Tuesday 6 August	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 13 August	7pm	Council Meeting
Tuesday 20 August	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 27 August	6pm	Delegated Planning Committee
Tuesday 3 September	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 10 September	7pm	Council Meeting
<b>Tuesday 17 September</b>	<b>No briefing</b>	
<b>Tuesday 24 September</b>	<b>No meeting – fifth Tuesday of the month</b>	
Tuesday 1 October	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 8 October	7pm	Council Meeting
<b>Tuesday 15 October</b>	<b>No briefing</b>	
<b>Tuesday 22 October</b>	<b>No meeting – Election Period</b>	
<b>Saturday 26 October</b>	<b>Local Council Elections – new Councillors elected</b>	
<b>Tuesday 29 October</b>	<b>No briefing</b>	
<b>Tuesday 5 November</b>	<b>No meeting – Melbourne Cup public holiday</b>	
Friday 8 November	7pm	Council Meeting Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor
Tuesday 12 November	7pm	Council Meeting
Tuesday 19 November	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 26 November	6pm	Delegated Planning Committee
Tuesday 3 December	6pm	Councillor Briefing Session
Tuesday 10 December	7pm	Council Meeting
Thursday 17 December	6pm	Delegated Planning Committee

## Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

### Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

This report does not relate to a specific priority of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision.

## **Council Plan 2021-25**

### **Objective 5: A High Performing Organisation**

**Strategy 5.4:** Enhance transparency, accountability and good governance practice

## **Policies and Related Council Documents**

The current Council meeting cycle of two Councillor Briefing Sessions and one Council Meeting per month has been in place since 2017.

## **Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk**

Rule 4.2.3 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules requires that Council prepare a schedule of Council meetings at least once each year, and that the schedule be made available to the community at Council's Customer Service Centres and by publication on Council's website.

If it is necessary to alter the published schedule, rules 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules permit Council to change the date, time and place of any Council meeting that has been fixed and require that the public be provided with reasonable notice of the changes. Such notice is to be made on Council's public noticeboards, at Hobsons Bay Libraries, on Council's website, and by any other means deemed necessary.

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

There are no financial or resource implications resulting from this report.

## **Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts**

Council meetings are an effective approach to decision making that provides community access and participation in the public process.

## **Consultation and Communication**

Public notice of the Council Meeting dates will be given on Council's website and made available from Council's Customer Service Centres in accordance with rule 4.2.3 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules.

## **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

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

## 8.2.3 Appointment of Councillor Delegates and Proxies to Council and Community Committees

<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Corporate Integrity and Legal Counsel
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Corporate Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Appointment of Councillor Delegates and Proxies to Council and Community Committees [8.2.3.1 - 3 pages]

### Purpose

To formally appoint Councillor delegates and proxies to Council committees, community committees and other committees and groups for 2024.

### Recommendation

**That Council appoints Councillor delegates and proxies to Council, community and other committees and groups for 2024, as attached.**

### Summary

An annual review of Councillor delegates and proxies appointed to Council, community and other committees and groups has been undertaken in order for Council to appoint delegates and proxies for 2024.

### Background

Council has a number of internal committees and also nominates representatives to various groups, both locally and regionally. Use of committees, advisory groups and representation on external groups is an effective way for Council to be well informed, enlist the expertise of independent members and represent Hobsons Bay City Council on strategic issues.

### Discussion

The proposed committee delegate appointments for 2024 need to be determined by Council.

Where no delegate or proxy representative is specifically nominated for a committee, the appointment will default to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor without requiring resolution at a Council meeting.

The committees and groups are divided into the following categories:

- appointments for Mayor of the Day
- appointments for other Council and community committees and groups

## Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

### Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

This report does not relate to a specific priority of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision.

### Council Plan 2021-25

#### Objective 2: Environment

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

**Priority b)** Advocate to relevant stakeholders and land managers to develop a partnership approach to foreshore management

#### Objective 3: Vibrant place and economy

**Strategy 3.2:** Increase economic and tourism opportunities that capitalise on our cultural and creative strengths

**Strategy 3.5:** Ensure land use and development supports high amenity, sustainability, exemplary design and responds to neighbourhood context

#### Objective 4: Visionary community infrastructure

**Strategy 4.1:** Ensure the transport network is safe and efficient for all users with a focus on pedestrians and cyclists

**Priority d)** Advocate to reduce dangerous driving and speeding behaviour in local streets for improved safety for all road users

**Priority e)** Optimise the balance between encouraging active transport and facilities to support car users

## Policies and Related Council Documents

A review of Councillor delegates and proxies appointed to Council committees, community committees and other committees and groups is undertaken annually.

Council last nominated Councillor delegates and proxies at the Council meeting held on 13 December 2022.

## Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

In accordance with subsection 63(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, at least two Councillors must be appointed to delegated committees established by Council.

The Delegated Planning Committee is currently Council's sole delegated committee, with Councillors assigned to the committee on a rotating roster throughout the year.

In accordance with section 64(3) of the Act, at least one Councillor must also be appointed to joint delegated committees established by Council. Council is a member of one joint delegated committee, LeadWest.

Council may also be required to nominate Councillor delegates and proxies for other Council, community and other committees and groups in accordance with the terms of reference, operating guidelines or charters of the respective groups.

## Financial and Resource Implications

Costs associated with the operation of Council and community committees are accommodated by existing operational budgets.

## Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

The Council and community committees and groups have a key focus on the built, economic, social and natural environment within Hobsons Bay.

## Consultation and Communication

Councillors and officers have been consulted in relation to the appointment of delegates and proxies to Council and community committees.

## Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

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

## 8.2.4 Contract 2023.13 Telecommunications

<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Digital Services
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Corporate Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil

### Purpose

To seek Council approval for the provision of Telecommunications Services from Telstra Limited through the Victorian Telecommunications Services State Purchase Contract.

### Recommendation

**That Council awards Contract 2023.13 for Telecommunications to Telstra Limited on a Schedule of Rates basis at an estimated total sum of \$2,530,070 (two million, five hundred and thirty thousand and seventy dollars) including GST for the contract period of five years.**

### Summary

By leveraging the Victorian Government's Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) Victorian Telecommunications Services (VTS) State Purchase Contract, Council will benefit significantly in terms of costs savings by receiving lower and more competitive telecommunications pricing from Telstra over the next five years.

### Background

Telecommunications products and services have been provided to Council by Telstra for many years, which has served Council well, but the existing agreement has expired and the associated pricing is outdated.

A Request for Quotation (RFQ) was issued to four select suppliers through the VTS State Purchase Contract, which allows government agencies and other approved entities to purchase a range of telecommunications products and services.

The VTS State Purchase Contract has been set up to combine demand for telecommunications products and services, enabling Council to make the most of economies of scale when buying from the marketplace and leads to better value for money using the Victorian Government's buying power.

Approved providers sign up to the VTS agreement with DPC and this represents a standing offer to supply products and services under the terms of the agreement. Mandated agencies and other eligible entities can then enter into purchase contracts with the panel suppliers and raise purchase orders for specific products and services.



## Discussion

Council sought suppliers to provide telecommunications products and services to meet Council's current requirements with the capacity to cater for future telecommunications needs. This RFQ was limited to a total of four approved suppliers registered on the VTS Contract across the following four categories (Towers):

1. Data and Internet Services
2. Fixed Voice Services
3. Mobility Services
4. Unified Communications and Contact Centre Services

Whilst it was preferable to have one supplier provide telecommunications products and services across all four towers, it was also possible to select multiple suppliers based on these towers if pricing and other criteria were compelling enough to justify this decision.

In the pursuit of best value, Council conducted a thorough evaluation of the VTS approved telecommunications suppliers. Council's Tender Evaluation Panel concluded that Telstra demonstrated best value as the sole supplier of telecommunications products and services to Council.

Telstra is Australia's largest telecommunications provider that meets Council's current telecommunications needs and provides significant cost savings in the delivery of Council's telecommunications needs into the future.

## Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

### Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

**Priority 3:** Growth through innovation, access to local jobs, technology and education

Telecommunications is the foundation of Council's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) network, providing data, internet, voice and mobile services. Council's ICT network connects a wide range of Council buildings and delivers telecommunications services to the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre and all public facing sites including Libraries, Community Hubs, Williamstown Town Hall, Williamstown Visitor Information Centre, Maternal and Child Health Centres, and Planned Activity Group. In this way, telecommunications supports many aspects of the Council Plan. More specifically, this contract supports the following Objective, Strategies and Priorities in the Council Plan.

### Council Plan 2021-25

#### Objective 5: A High Performing Organisation

**Strategy 5.1:** Improving the quality of our communication and engagement to ensure that our community is informed of and encouraged to contribute to issues in a diversity of ways most suited to them and to advocate for the areas of greatest need

**Strategy 5.2:** Transform residents' experience across all Council services through simplifying our processes, fostering a customer first culture and enhancing digital services

**Priority a)** Enhance Council's online services to enable community access to easy user-centric self-service options, status and information updates, service performance reporting and more

**Priority b)** Increase the number of customer service centres across the municipality to promote more convenient face to face access to Council's services

**Priority d)** Implement the Digital Strategy 2018-22 to leverage the best digital technology to deliver a high-quality public service experience

**Priority e)** Develop a Smart City project plan to identify high value Internet of Things initiatives to intelligently automate applicable Council functions

**Strategy 5.3:** Deliver value for money – continuous improvement while safeguarding the long-term financial sustainability of Council

## **Policies and Related Council Documents**

The tender evaluation process was undertaken in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy.

## **Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk**

Compliance with Council's many statutory and regulatory obligations relies on the availability of telecommunications and an ICT network that will support Council's operational and strategic priorities, and risk management.

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

In the pursuit of best value, Council's Tender Evaluation Panel conducted a thorough evaluation of the VTS approved telecommunications suppliers and concluded that Telstra demonstrated best value in supplying telecommunications products and services to Council. The VTS State Purchase Contract will provide lower and more competitive telecommunications pricing and will deliver significant budget and cost savings over the next five years.

## **Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts**

Council is heavily dependent on telecommunications to enable the delivery of essential public services.

## **Consultation and Communication**

Requests for Quotation were sought via eProcure on 11 August 2023 and a detailed Tender Evaluation Report was presented to and approved by Council's Tender Board on 26 October 2023.

## **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

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

## 8.3 Sustainable Communities

### 8.3.1 Adoption of A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024-28

<b>Directorate:</b>	Sustainable Communities
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Strategy, Economy and Sustainability
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Sustainable Communities
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024 28 Final [8.3.1.1 - 53 pages]</li><li>2. A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024-28 - Summary of Public Consultation [8.3.1.2 - 8 pages]</li><li>3. A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024-28 - 2023-24 Action Plan [8.3.1.3 - 6 pages]</li></ol>

#### Purpose

To seek adoption of A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024-28 and to note the 2023-24 Action Plan.

#### Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Notes the feedback received on the draft integrated social policy framework, A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024-28.**
2. **Adopts A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024-28, updated in response to public consultation and feedback.**
3. **Writes to submitters thanking them for their feedback and advising them of Council's decision.**
4. **Notes the 2023-24 Action Plan.**

#### Summary

A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024-28 is Council's updated integrated social policy framework. It replaces the previous iteration, A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2019-23. The updated policy aims to ensure that fairness and equity continue to be embedded in all of Council's decisions and activities. It is informed by community and stakeholder feedback, academic research, and local data.

Feedback was sought on the draft policy during a four-week consultation period in September and October 2023. A total of 17 responses were received, primarily from Hobsons Bay residents. A final draft has been prepared in response to feedback and is recommended for adoption. The 2023-24 Action Plan is also attached for noting.

## Background

### A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2019-23

In October 2019, Council adopted A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2019-23 (the 2019 Policy), which combined and updated the following policies into one integrated social policy framework:

- Ageing Well Strategy 2007-17
- Disability Access and Inclusion Strategy 2013-17
- Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18
- Multicultural Policy 2016-20
- Gender Equity Policy Statement 2014

The 2019 Policy also incorporated Council's Disability Action Plan (DAP), which is required under the *Disability Act 2006*.

The 2019 Policy was supported by a vision, as well as a series of themes, objectives and strategies which were delivered through a fixed four-year action plan. All demographic groups from Council's previous social policies were incorporated into the 2019 policy as "priority populations", along with First Nations people. These priority populations were selected as research, data and lived experience show that people in these groups experience social and economic disadvantage more often and to a higher degree than the broader population.

Key achievements of the 2019 Policy have been published each year in Council's Annual Report and include:

- integration of universal design principles into community infrastructure
- expansion of the Accessible Beaches program
- delivery of inclusive events that recognise and celebrate priority populations
- capacity building for local sporting clubs to reduce barriers for women and girls
- delivery of inclusive arts programs
- staff training on various topics such as family violence, disability awareness and Acknowledgement of Country

### Draft A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024-28

#### ***Evaluation***

In late 2022, work commenced to update the 2019 Policy. An internal evaluation was undertaken to measure progress and inform the next iteration of the policy. The evaluation identified that 94 per cent of the 67 actions had been completed or partially completed, a significant achievement given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also recommended that the updated policy continue to incorporate Council's DAP; introduce a more flexible approach to implementation; and test themes, objectives, and strategies through targeted consultation with priority populations.

### ***Preliminary engagement***

To inform the development of the Draft A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024-28 (the Draft Policy), preliminary engagement was undertaken with priority populations and the broader community between March and June 2023. Focus groups and interviews and follow-up meetings were conducted with representatives from all priority population groups from the 2019 Policy, alongside a community survey which attracted more than 150 responses. A range of organisations also supported or participated in preliminary engagement and were acknowledged in the Draft Policy.

Participants provided insights into barriers that affect their health and wellbeing and offered suggestions as to how these can be reduced or overcome. Feedback was collated, analysed, and used as the basis to update the Draft Policy. Key themes identified through preliminary engagement included raising awareness of local programs and services; promoting respect for diversity; and supporting local communities to manage the increasing cost of living.

### ***The Draft Policy***

Drawing on evaluation and preliminary engagement, the Draft Policy was prepared. It retained the structure used in the 2019 Policy, with minor updates to the vision, themes, and objectives. Some strategies were also updated, added or incorporated into other strategies, including those relating to financial independence and adapting to the impacts of climate change (new strategies); affordable housing and homelessness (updated strategies); and digital literacy and equitable allocation of Council resources (incorporated into other strategies).

The Draft Policy retained the eight priority populations from the 2019 Policy and added an additional priority population: people in low-income households. Preliminary engagement highlighted the need to add this additional group. The Draft Policy also introduced a more flexible approach to implementation and evaluation. Rather than a fixed four-year action plan, a series of outcomes were listed against each theme and objective, with implementation and evaluation to be aligned to these outcomes. Updated “indicators of change” were also included to monitor progress and inform the final evaluation, with key achievements to continue being published in Council’s Annual Report.

The Draft Policy also continued to incorporate Council’s DAP, with additional detail provided to demonstrate alignment between the legislated purposes of a DAP and the strategies within the Draft Policy. Additionally, it recognised Council’s responsibility to complete gender impact assessments when undertaking new or updated policies, programs and services, as required by the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

On 12 September 2023, Council resolved to make the Draft Policy available for a period of public consultation. The outcomes of the consultation process and the proposed changes in response to feedback are discussed below. The feedback from this consultation has been considered in the development of A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024-28 (the Final Draft), which is included at Attachment 1.

## **Discussion**

### **Public consultation**

The Draft Policy was placed on public consultation from 18 September until 16 October 2023. Feedback was sought through a survey on Council’s Participate Hobsons Bay website, which also provided supporting materials including the Final Draft, policy summary,

and priority population data snapshots. Consultation was promoted to preliminary engagement participants and through Council's publications and social media platforms, as well as at several drop-in sessions at Council facilities.

A total of 17 responses were received, primarily from Hobsons Bay residents. Feedback is summarised at Attachment 2, alongside Council officer recommended changes to the Draft Policy. The key themes to emerge from the public consultation include:

- **Integrated approach** – some submissions suggested that the Draft Policy's integrated approach is too broad and makes it difficult to address the needs of specific priority populations
- **Implementation** – some submissions suggested that there is limited detail explaining how the policy will be implemented and monitored
- **Location** – some submissions highlighted disparity between suburbs and the importance of considering different locations when Council makes decisions
- **Carers** – some submissions noted that carers are not included in the Draft Policy, highlighting their experience of social exclusion and barriers to employment and accessing services
- **Engagement** – some submissions highlighted the need for Council to provide more opportunities for priority populations to be included in community engagement activities.

## Revisions to the Draft Policy

The following revisions have been made in response to feedback received from public consultation.

### ***Disability Action Plan***

The method by which the Final Draft incorporates Council's DAP have been clarified and strengthened. A new section has been added to outline the process in more detail. It specifically shows how the legislated purposes of the DAP link to the strategies and actions within the Final Draft and subsequent action plans. Additionally, all relevant strategies have been clearly aligned to one of the four DAP purposes, as outlined in the *Disability Act 2006*, with minor changes to the wording of Strategies 1.1 and 1.5 to provide better alignment. An action to explore the potential to resource and establish a Disability Advisory Committee has also been included in the 2023-24 Action Plan.

### ***Carers***

Carers have been incorporated into the "People with a disability" priority population group to acknowledge the critical role that they play in Hobsons Bay, as well as the range of barriers and disadvantage they can experience. Carers were included in preliminary engagement and their perspectives were considered in the development of the Draft Policy. However, carers were not specifically highlighted in the Draft Policy, and this has been addressed through their inclusion as a priority population alongside people with a disability. Additionally, local data relating to carers has also been added to Final Draft, with an action also included in the 2023-24 Action Plan to identify appropriate local venues and spaces for programs or other activities for carers and people with dementia.

### ***Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation***

The Final Draft has been updated to clarify the alignment between the policy's outcomes, themes, strategies, and annual action plans. The 2023-24 Action Plan is also attached for noting. More detail is provided below under "Implementation and next steps" (see below).

### **Other changes**

Other minor changes have been made in response to feedback, including:

- Fair Access – added a statement showing how the Final Draft assists Council to meet its responsibilities under the Victorian Government’s Fair Access Policy Roadmap, which aims to ensure equitable access to sporting facilities for people of all genders
- Outcomes Framework – updated the wording of the Indicators of Change to ensure they are presented clearly, and are consistent with the presentation of indicators in other Council plans, policies, and strategies
- Barriers and issues – made minor changes to some strategies to ensure they address key barriers and issues impacting priority populations
- Readability – updated wording to improve readability, as required.

Overall, due to the extensive preliminary engagement undertaken to inform the Draft Policy, minimal revisions were required to update the Final Draft.

### **Implementation and next steps**

Implementation of A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024-28 will occur through annual action plans, commencing with the 2023-24 Action Plan (Attachment 3). Action plans will be prepared each year by Council Officers, with actions to be delivered by a range of teams across Council.

All actions will be aligned to the policy’s strategies and longer-term outcomes. For example, the outcome for Theme 1 (Accessible and connected neighbourhoods) is that “public infrastructure, community facilities and local neighbourhoods are more accessible, safe and connected, and Hobsons Bay residents have better access to affordable housing and support services”. This approach ensures that all actions are focused on delivering broader long-term outcomes, while also being able to respond to emerging trends and opportunities. Whether the policy has achieved the outcomes will be determined by a series of “Indicators of Change” included in the Outcomes Framework within Table 1 of the Final Draft.

Most actions will be delivered through operational budgets. Where additional resources are required, these will be subject to Council’s annual budget processes and/or external funding opportunities. An internal working group will continue to meet regularly and advise any emerging issues and priorities. Reporting will also continue to be completed via Council’s Annual Report.

The 2023-24 Action Plan is attached for noting, which includes 50 actions to be delivered by 10 Council departments. All actions will be resourced through existing operational budgets.

### **Strategic Alignment**

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

#### **Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision**

**Priority 2:** Community wellbeing and inter-connection



## Council Plan 2021-25

### Objective 1: Healthy, equitable and thriving communities

**Strategy 1.1:** Celebrate the diversity of our community and provide equitable opportunities for all

### Other Council Strategies

The Draft Policy is aligned with a wide range of other Council policies, guidelines, plans and strategies, including:

- Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision
- Council Plan 2021-25 (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan)
- Affordable Housing Policy Statement 2023
- Gambling Harm Prevention Policy Statement 2023
- Hobsons Bay Response to Climate Change Action Plan 2022
- Community Engagement Policy 2023
- Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy 2018-28
- Hobsons Bay Advocacy Strategy 2021-25
- Community Services and Infrastructure Plan 2020-30
- Universal Design Policy Statement 2017
- Sports Facilities Needs Analysis 2018
- Hobsons Bay Public Toilet Strategy 2023-33
- Urban Forest Strategy 2020
- Asset Plan 2022-32
- Volunteering Strategy 2018
- Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-20
- Economic Development Strategy 2023 (in development)

Please refer to the Draft Policy for a full list of related policies, plans and strategies.

## Policies and Related Council Documents

Relevant previous Council reports include:

- **8 October 2019** – Council notes the changes made to the Draft A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2019-23 in response to submissions and adopts A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2019-23
- **12 September 2023** – Council endorses the Draft A Fair Hobsons Bay for All 2024-28 policy to be placed on public exhibition for four weeks.

## Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

All legal and statutory obligations and risks have been assessed as a part of developing the Final Draft. It continues to meet Council's obligation to prepare a Disability Action Plan, as required by the *Disability Act 2006*. Council also committed to update the 2019 Policy as a condition of being granted an exemption by the Department of Health to integrate the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan into the Council Plan 2021-25.

Additionally, the Final Draft acknowledges Council's responsibility to complete gender impact assessments as required by the *Gender Equality Act 2020*. It also assists Council to meet its responsibilities under the Victorian Government's Fair Access Policy Roadmap to ensure equitable access to sporting facilities for people of all genders.

## Financial and Resource Implications

All financial and resource implications have been considered as part of the development of the Final Draft. Implementation will be resourced through existing operational budgets. Additional resources may also be sought through external funding opportunities or future Council budget cycles, as required.

## Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

The Final Draft will have a range of positive social impacts in seeking to ensure fairness and equity are considered and embedded in all of Council's decisions and activities. For example, it will encourage and support social connections; foster a sense of community, place and belonging; and support increased access to services.

The Final Draft also aims to support positive environmental impacts, including through improved access to open space; supporting efforts to respond to the impacts of climate change; and supporting local food production and urban gardening. It will also support positive economic impacts by encouraging volunteering and employment opportunities; supporting lifelong learning and business development opportunities; and working towards increasing the supply of affordable housing in Hobsons Bay.

## Consultation and Communication

Consultation undertaken to develop the Final Draft includes:

- **Preliminary engagement (March to June 2023)** – focus groups, interviews and follow up meetings were conducted with representatives from all priority population groups from the 2019 Policy, alongside a community survey which attracted more than 150 responses. A range of organisations also supported or participated in preliminary engagement and have been acknowledged in the Final Draft
- **Public consultation (September to October 2023)** – the Draft Policy was made available for public comment via Council's Participate Hobsons Bay website and promoted through targeted emails to preliminary engagement participants, as well as Council publications and social media platforms. Key themes are noted above.

## **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

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

### 8.3.2 Adoption of Economic Development Strategy 2023-28

<b>Directorate:</b>	Sustainable Communities
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Acting Manager Strategy, Economy and Sustainability
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Sustainable Communities
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Economic Development Strategy 2023-28 FINAL [8.3.2.1 - 28 pages]</li><li>2. Economic Development Strategy - Summary of open responses to feedback survey [8.3.2.2 - 3 pages]</li></ol>

#### Purpose

To report on the outcomes of community consultation and recommend adoption of the Economic Development Strategy 2023-28.

#### Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Notes the feedback received on the Draft Economic Development Strategy 2023-28.**
2. **Adopts the Economic Development Strategy 2023-28.**
3. **Writes to submitters thanking them for their feedback and advising them of Council's decision.**

#### Summary

The Hobsons Bay Economic Development Strategy 2023-28 (the strategy) will guide Council's work to support the growth of the local economy over the coming years (refer Attachment 1). The strategy has been informed by preliminary engagement and analysis of economic change in a post-COVID context. It builds on the significant advantages of Hobsons Bay and proposes three key pillars as a framework to drive a strong and resilient local economy.

Feedback was sought on the draft strategy via a public consultation period from 11 October to 10 November 2023. This feedback has been reviewed by officers but has not resulted in any changes to the strategy, as most comments were focussed on how the document would be implemented. The strategy is now proposed for adoption.

#### Background

Through its economic development functions, Hobsons Bay City Council plays an active role in enabling business activity across the municipality, and in the wider western region. The Hobsons Bay Economic Development Strategy is therefore a key policy document for Council as it guides economic growth and development in the city.

Over the past five years the economy in Hobsons Bay has been impacted by several global factors including the recent global pandemic. A new economic development strategy is needed to respond to change in a post pandemic economy.

### **Preparing the Draft Economic Development Strategy 2023-28**

Earlier this year a new draft economic strategy was prepared to replace the outdated 2015-20 strategy. This strategy was informed by extensive research and analysis of the existing economic context including global macro and national trends, local opportunities and challenges.

Research identified that despite economic challenges over the last five years, the local economy has continued to perform well. This is despite the loss of the car manufacturing industry in 2017 and changes in the petrochemical industry since the closure of the Mobil oil refinery in 2021. Continued economic growth has been driven by:

- the strategic location of Hobsons Bay in the Western Region, with proximity to regional freight routes and the Port of Melbourne
- state significant industrial precincts that support close to 50 per cent of total jobs and economic output in Hobsons Bay
- a network of activity centres that support residential growth and skilled workers
- the value of significant environmental assets, in particular the coastline and Cheetham Wetlands

### ***Preliminary Engagement***

In preparing the draft strategy officers undertook extensive preliminary engagement between November 2022 and February 2023 with businesses and key stakeholders. Feedback was sought via a survey hosted on Council's participate website as well as individual meetings with key stakeholders.

A total of 225 survey responses were received. This included 101 surveys responses from businesses and 124 resident survey responses. Council officers also held meetings with 15 businesses, six external key stakeholders such as Invest Victoria and Western Melbourne Tourism and local trader associations. Other methods of obtaining feedback included drop-in business workshops held across Hobsons Bay as well as online.

Feedback from the preliminary engagement as well as research informed the following key opportunities, advantages and challenges within Hobsons Bay.

### ***Advantages and Opportunities***

Research and preliminary engagement identified Hobsons Bay can leverage significant key assets, businesses and skills to support the local economy including:

- strategic location close to Melbourne's CBD, Port of Melbourne, major road networks (Princes Freeway, West Gate Freeway, Western Ring Road) and rail freight lines
- access to commuter rail with stations at Newport, Altona, Seaholme, Spotswood, Williamstown and Laverton
- significant natural assets, open space (approx. 24 per cent) including Newport Lakes, Cherry Lake, Williamstown Botanic Garden, and 20km of coastline and beaches

- state significant industrial precincts in Brooklyn, Spotswood, Williamstown North, Altona and Altona North that form part of the Western State Significant Industrial Precinct (SSIP)
- leading state tourism destinations such as Scienceworks, Grazeland, Seaworks Maritime Precinct and the Substation
- a network of activity centres including four Major Activity Centres (Altona beach, Williamstown, Altona North and Altona Meadows) which support residential growth, diverse precincts and tourism
- established specialised industries (advanced manufacturing and petrochemical)
- Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre with the potential to be an ecological hotspot in Melbourne's west
- changing workforce and more skilled workers

Hobsons Bay can also promote opportunities for growth through:

- investment in environmental tourism such as the Hobsons Bay Wetlands centre
- building industrial areas with the potential to support new and emerging industries (advanced manufacturing, new energy, digital industries, circular economy)
- supporting access to new energy infrastructure such as the Toyota Hydrogen Centre in Altona North
- precinct revitalisation and investment via the Better Places program
- increasing population-serving economy and enhanced residential growth around activity centres
- enhancing cycle (both commuter and recreational) connectivity across Hobsons Bay and to Melbourne CBD
- increased investment in and utilisation of coastline and waterway assets

### **Challenges**

Preliminary engagement and research also identified a number of challenges that would need to be considered and addressed in the strategy including:

- balancing biodiversity protection with industrial growth objectives
- local impacts of major regional infrastructure projects (e.g. West Gate Tunnel)
- the impacts of industrial pollution
- planning around Major Hazard Facilities
- managing the interface between residential and industrial areas
- supporting residents in reskilling with decline in some key industry sectors (e.g. petroleum refinement and manufacturing)
- climate change and sea level rise impacts

## The Draft Economic Development Strategy 2023-28

### *Alignment with other Council Policies and Strategies*

In preparing the draft strategy Council officers had regard to key Council policies and strategies. The document has been prepared alongside the development of the draft Industrial Land Management Strategy that aims to guide investment, development and land use planning in Hobsons Bay's industrial precincts over the next 15 years.

Other key strategies include the Experience Hobsons Bay Tourism Strategy 2019-24 (currently under review) and the Hobsons Bay Activity Centres Strategy 2019-36, which supports business growth and development by ensuring the creation of accessible, vibrant and high quality activity centres.

### *Vision*

Research and preliminary engagement informed a draft vision for the strategy. The vision is closely aligned with the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision and the objectives of the Council Plan 2021-25:

By 2030 Hobsons Bay City Council will have a network of resilient business precincts that leverage and enhance the valued natural, built and cultural assets of the city in particular our desirable location by Port Phillip Bay. The municipality will support existing and emerging industries and be the preferred location in Melbourne's west for businesses investing in the circular economy, renewables and zero carbon that are committed to making the city an attractive, green and enjoyable place to work, live and visit.

### *Key Pillars*

Three key pillars are proposed in the draft strategy as a framework to guide Council's actions and activities to grow the local economy. They are summarised below.

#### **Pillar 1 – Grow:** *to build strong and resilient precincts by supporting local networks and local community enterprise*

Hobsons Bay is home to many vibrant and diverse business precincts ranging from major activity centres to micro centres which are at the heart of local communities providing hospitality, retail services and a place for social interaction.

These precincts exist alongside industrial precincts of both local and state significance and provide much of the city's jobs and economic growth. Hobsons Bay will continue to be a place where vibrant precincts and highly liveable neighbourhoods reside together.

The objectives under this pillar aim to invest, promote and strengthen businesses and business precincts so they can adapt to changes within the community, digital and technological advancements and environmental conditions.

The highlight actions under this pillar include developing a streamlined business customer service program and building on Council's existing Better Places program.

**Pillar 2 – Elevate:** *to enhance and promote our valued natural, built and cultural assets across the city, to leverage the strategic advantages they present to the Hobsons Bay economy*

Hobsons Bay has a rich and valuable natural environment with 24 per cent of the municipality being open space and over 20 kilometres of coastline. This includes significant coastal wetlands, five creek systems, remnant native grasslands and important flora and fauna habitats. This natural environment sits alongside significant local cultural assets and the vital economic, environmental asset of Port Phillip Bay.

The objectives under this pillar aim to promote Hobsons Bay as the ideal place to work, live, visit and invest, focusing and building on valuable natural, built and cultural assets across the municipality.

The highlight actions under this pillar include development of an investment attraction prospectus focused on promoting the city's natural built and cultural assets as well as continuing to advocate for the Hobsons Bay Wetlands centre.

**Pillar 3 – Transform:** *to support green businesses and the broader economy to transition to a new green future, that includes circular economy and zero carbon industries*

Hobsons Bay has a diverse mix of state, regional and locally significant industrial precincts alongside significant open space, coastline and natural assets. The proximity to Melbourne's CBD, the Port of Melbourne and major road and rail assets make it an enviable location to live, work and invest.

Building on these strengths this pillar aims to support Hobsons Bay's transition to a sustainable, circular, and green economy. The important role of the city's industrial past and the ongoing value of this sector for the future of the municipality is recognised.

The industrial sector is undergoing significant change alongside a move towards a more service and skills-based economy, supported by a highly skilled resident workforce which all provide an opportunity to transition to a greener future.

The objectives of this pillar recognise the need to address the impacts of climate change and commit to creating a new shared vision for a circular and greener economy, building skills and knowledge, and partnerships to implement this vision.

The highlight actions under this pillar include developing a circular economy roadmap and providing opportunities for businesses to their reduce emissions.

The draft strategy was placed on public consultation in October and November this year. The below section discusses the outcomes of this consultation and feedback received.

## Discussion

At the 10 October 2023 Council meeting, the Draft Economic Development Strategy 2023-28 was endorsed for public consultation. Consultation was held from 11 October to 10 November 2023.

Feedback was gathered via an online survey hosted on Council's participate webpage. Consultation on the Draft Strategy was advertised via the Hobsons Bay Business e-newsletter, direct emails to project stakeholders, a media release and promotion via Council's social media channels. Trader association presidents were also notified.



Two online drop-in sessions and pop-up consultations at Pier Street and Grazeland were also conducted.

Overall, the participate webpage received 285 page views and 74 downloads of the Draft Economic Development Strategy document and Council received 21 survey submissions. Feedback was provided via a mix of survey questions and open text responses. A summary of the open text responses to this survey is included at Attachment 2.

When analysing the survey results:

- 61 per cent of respondents indicated they were local businesses
- 71 per cent indicated they live in Hobsons Bay
- 52 per cent that they work locally

### Feedback from Public Consultation

Overall the majority of feedback received from the online survey was positive and in support of the strategy, vision and key pillars. Refer to Figure 3 below.

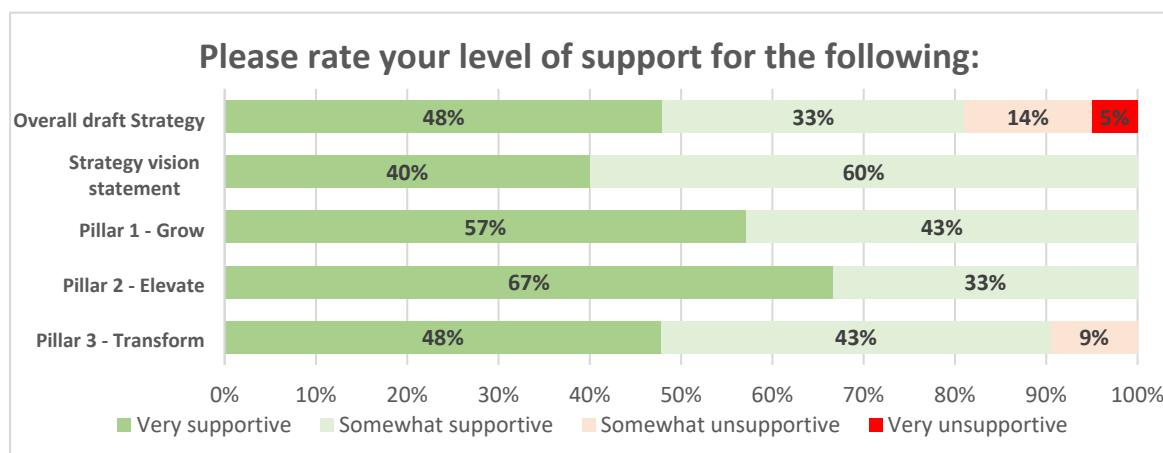


Figure 1: Response to online survey seeking feedback on the draft strategy

When respondents were asked to rate their overall level of support for the strategy, 81 per cent of survey respondents were supportive, with a combination of “very supportive” (48 per cent) or “somewhat supportive” (33 per cent), with a weighted average of 3.24 on a 4-star satisfaction scale.

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for different elements of the Strategy (see Figure 1). The Strategy vision statement, Pillar 1 – Grow and Pillar 2 – Elevate had similar results, with 100% of respondents either “very supportive” or “somewhat supportive”. For Pillar 3 – Transform, less than 10 per cent (two respondents) were “somewhat unsupportive”.

When reviewing the open text responses to this survey the following key feedback was identified (Refer Attachment 2). The feedback recommended that Council:

- capitalise on social and sustainable procurement initiatives
- enhance protection of the environment within industrial areas
- encourage more circular economy and sustainable business practices
- continue to collaborate with business leaders and the community to ensure future growth

- be transparent in decision making and in measuring the success of the strategy
- increase funding for tourism-related activities

## Next Steps

After reviewing all stakeholder feedback, officers have not proposed any changes to the draft strategy. Feedback overall was positive and supportive of the vision, pillars, and strategic directions within the document. This is reflective of the extensive preliminary engagement and research that was undertaken to inform the draft. Written feedback received was focused on suggestions for how Council can better implement the strategy, which will be considered as part of the implementation phase.

Subject to Council's endorsement, the implementation of the Economic Development Strategy 2023-28 will commence with the preparation of a year one action plan that will be monitored and reviewed. This action plan will align with the key pillars in the strategy and will include the highlight actions in the document. The success of the strategy will rely on partnerships between government, business and community.

## Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

### Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

**Priority 3:** Growth through innovation, access to local jobs, technology and education

### Council Plan 2021-25

#### Objective 3: Vibrant place and economy

**Strategy 3.1:** Support diversification and growth of our local economy in response to significant changes in land use and the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

**Priority a)** New investment and job creation opportunities flow from a major update to the Hobsons Bay Industrial Land Management Strategy

**Priority b)** Support existing and emerging local businesses through activation, promoting buying local and local business-to-business activity

**Priority c)** Encourage local start-ups to use collaboration spaces and public facilities in Council buildings and service centres

**Strategy 3.2:** Increase economic and tourism opportunities that capitalise on our cultural and creative strengths

#### Objective 5: A High Performing Organisation

**Strategy 5.1:** Improving the quality of our communication and engagement to ensure that our community is informed of and encouraged to contribute to issues in a diversity of ways most suited to them and to advocate for the areas of greatest need

**Strategy 5.3:** Deliver value for money – continuous improvement while safeguarding the long-term financial sustainability of Council

## Policies and Related Council Documents

The following Council reports are relevant:

- **10 October 2023** – Draft Economic Development Strategy endorsed for public consultation

The following Council policies influence the development of strong and resilient business precincts:

- Activity Centres Strategy 2019-36
- Better Places Guides
- Events and Festivals Plan 2016-21
- Gender Equality Action Plan 2021-25
- Industrial Land Management Strategy 2023 (in development)
- Mobile Vendor Policy 2023
- Procurement Policy 2021

Recognising and promoting the natural, built, and cultural assets across the city is in line with:

- Biodiversity Strategy 2017-22
- Creative City Arts and Culture Plan 2030 (in development)
- Experience Hobsons Bay Tourism Strategy 2019-24
- Open Space Strategy 2018-28

Supporting the transition to a sustainable green economy is in line with:

- Response to Climate Change Action Plan 2030

The following key Council strategies are also relevant to this report:

- Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision
- Reimagining our Industrial Areas 2021

## Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

The Economic Development Strategy 2023-28 has been developed with consideration of Council's legal and statutory obligations including the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

## Financial and Resource Implications

Implementation of the strategy will be undertaken within Council's operational budget.

## Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

The Economic Development Strategy 2023-28 is expected to have positive environmental, social and economic impacts including:

- equitable business support and development
- preserving and enhancing natural ecosystems
- promoting local environment, cultural assets and tourism
- supporting the transition of industries towards sustainable green economy
- supporting local jobs and vibrant activity centres

## Consultation and Communication

Preliminary consultation was carried out between November 2022 and February 2023 to inform preparation of the draft strategy.

The draft strategy was then developed by Council officers and endorsed for public consultation at the 10 October 2023 Council meeting, for a period of four weeks until 10 November 2023.

## Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

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

### 8.3.3 Provision of Landfill Services - Contract Extension

<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 confirm Council's landfill arrangements from 1 April 2025.

#### Recommendation

**That Council:**

- 1. Enters into a two-year contract extension for landfill services commencing on 1 April 2025 with Cleanaway Pty Ltd to be administered by the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action on a non-guaranteed basis with an estimated maximum value of \$2,000,000 (two million dollars) excluding GST and landfill levy costs.**
- 2. Notes that Hanson Landfill Services Pty Ltd will be listed as a contingency provider also on a non-guaranteed basis.**
- 3. Delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the power to vary the contract within the requirements of the Procurement Policy if necessary.**

#### Summary

Council is currently in a four-year collaborative contract for landfill services with Cleanaway Pty Ltd until 31 March 2025.

Cleanaway has provided pricing for a two-year extension to this contract for Council to consider.

#### Background

In 2021 the former Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG) conducted a collective procurement process for landfill services on behalf of 26 metropolitan councils.

The procurement's objective was to enable metropolitan councils to access services for the disposal and transfer of waste that cannot be recovered or reused through other means.

Through this process, Council joined a collaborative contract with Cleanaway Pty Ltd to use the Melbourne Metropolitan Landfill (MRL). The initial four-year contract term commenced on 1 April 2021, with options to extend the contract for two further terms of two years.

The contract extensions need to be agreed by Council and Cleanaway following a methodology set out in the tender documentation.

Council has taken up the “non-guaranteed tonnes” price option. This allows Council to vary the number of tonnes sent to the landfill if other alternative options become available or if the community reduces the amount they put into the general waste bin.

Following the dissolution of the MWRRG, the contract administration transferred to the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action.

## Discussion

The contract requires that Cleanaway provide proposed pricing for the first extension by 30 September 2023 and that participating councils communicate their intentions by 31 December 2023. This is fifteen months in advance of the extension start date of 1 April 2025.

Cleanaway has proposed a price increase of \$1.24 per tonne along with relevant CPI for the extension.

If Council continues to send approximately 15,000 tonnes to landfill, the impact of the proposed price increase is less than \$50,000. This is approximately 2.5% of the modelled contract value of \$2 million over the two years.

Cleanaway has also provided an option to “guarantee” the tonnes that will be sent to the landfill. This is a lower price but will prevent Council from taking up alternative options during the life of the contract extension.

## Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

### Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

This report does not relate to a specific priority of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision.

### Council Plan 2021-25

#### Objective 2: Environment

**Strategy 2.1:** Increase resource recovery and reducing landfill across Council’s waste services and improve the customer experience of waste services

## Policies and Related Council Documents

- Waste Service Charge and Reserve Policy (2022)
- Waste and Litter Strategy 2025

## Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

The Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action have facilitated councils to manage this contract and provided advice about the appropriateness of the request for extension procedure. Council’s own Procurement and Contracts team have confirmed that this Report aligns with Council’s Procurement Policy.

## Financial and Resource Implications

Council's kerbside collection and processing of waste and recycling is funded through the Waste Reserve. The Reserve consists of funds collected via the annual Waste Service Charge paid by all residential ratepayers and non-residential ratepayers that opt-in to the service.

The landfill contract is budgeted at \$3 million in 2022-23. Landfill costs consist of a "gate fee" per tonne charged by the landfill operator and the landfill levy set by the Victorian Government. Gate fees increase each year by CPI.

## Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

Council has a commitment to achieving a 66 per cent diversion rate from landfill and will continue education efforts in the community to encourage the correct use of the four-bin system. By selecting the non-guaranteed option, Council is able to actively explore other alternatives to reduce the tonnes sent to landfill.

## Consultation and Communication

Council has collaborated with other participating councils to assess the pricing proposal and determine that it is good value for the Hobsons Bay community.

## Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

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

## 8.4 Infrastructure and City Services

### 8.4.1 Adoption of the Hobsons Bay Biodiversity Strategy 2024-34

<b>Directorate:</b>	Infrastructure and City Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Parks
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Acting Director Infrastructure and City Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Biodiversity Strategy 2024-34 [8.4.1.1 - 24 pages]

#### Purpose

To seek Council's endorsement of the Hobsons Bay Biodiversity Strategy 2024-34.

#### Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Adopts the Hobsons Bay Biodiversity Strategy 2024-34.**
2. **Writes to all submitters on the draft strategy to thank them for their contribution.**

#### Summary

The Draft Biodiversity Strategy was placed on public exhibition for four weeks from 13 September 2023 to 11 October 2023. This report outlines feedback from the community following the public exhibition period and the changes that have been made to the draft strategy in response to the feedback.

The Biodiversity Strategy provides a long-term vision for the protection and enhancement of Hobsons Bay's biodiversity and outlines strategic goals over a ten-year period.

#### Background

Hobsons Bay has a rich natural environment, that includes remnant grassland, five waterways, significant wetlands and foreshore areas. Council currently manages over 330 hectares of conservation area across 28 sites with considerable biodiversity values that encompass nationally and internationally significant ecosystems and species.

Since European settlement there has been extensive change to the natural environment in Hobsons Bay, the adoption and implementation of Hobsons Bay's first Biodiversity Strategy in 2017 was aimed at protection of biodiversity.

A comprehensive review of the previous strategy and condition of biodiversity within the municipality was undertaken in preparation of the Strategy. Hobsons Bay's native vegetation and biodiversity continues to be impacted due to development and land use changes, and threats from climate change, pest plants and animals.



A comprehensive community consultation on the Draft Biodiversity Strategy 2024-2034 was undertaken from 13 September 2023 to 11 October 2023. In total, 909 people visited the Draft Biodiversity Strategy page on Participate Hobsons Bay. Community members also had the opportunity to attend three community drop-in sessions, and conservation volunteers had the opportunity to provide feedback at the Friends Group end of year celebration event. The feedback received during the public exhibition period has been considered and has informed the updated Biodiversity Strategy being presented for Council's consideration.

The Biodiversity Strategy 2024-34 is designed to be Council's key strategic document to guide the long-term preservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Hobsons Bay.

## Discussion

The Biodiversity Strategy will provide strategic direction to safeguard biodiversity within Hobsons Bay and to ensure ongoing commitment to protection and enhancement for current and future generations.

The Strategy incorporates four key goals – Protect, Restore, Engage and Collaborate – with deliverable actions to ensure a focused and responsible approach to biodiversity preservation and enhancement, planning for the long-term management and protection of ecosystems in their entirety and prioritising restoration of remaining significant biodiversity areas.

A four-week consultation period was undertaken from 13 September to 11 October 2023. At the conclusion of the public exhibition period, Participate Hobsons Bay received 909 site visits, 59 completed surveys and 62 contributions to the interactive map. A further 58 contributions were made during the in person drop-in sessions and an additional eight emailed submissions were received.

Community feedback on the four goals were:

- Protect – 87.5% strongly agree and 5.36% agree
- Restore – 80.77% strongly agree and 9.62% agree
- Engage – 69% strongly agree and 17.86% agree
- Collaborate - 80% strongly agree and 14.55% agree

The key themes from community feedback related to:

- cat curfews and domestic animal issues impacting biodiversity
- increased enforcement and resourcing for grassland protection and domestic animal issues
- prioritisation of the Environment Significance Overlay (ESO) project and assessment of native grasslands
- increased native plantings along corridors of significance in both public and private areas

All feedback received during the public exhibition period was considered for inclusion in the updated Biodiversity Strategy. The key items amended were:

- strengthened recommendations for domestic animal issues affecting significant biodiversity areas
- the inclusion of an action to pursue regular parks enforcement activities to ensure greater protection of biodiversity
- strengthened recommendations for native plantings in public and private areas prioritising remnant areas and corridors of significance
- a breakdown of Council's environmental strategies
- an overview of National and State legislation and strategies that protect biodiversity
- updates to the Biodiversity Significant Areas map.

## Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

### Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

**Priority 1:** Visionary, vibrant, accountable urban planning

**Priority 4:** Proactive enrichment, expansion and conservation of the natural and urban environment

**Priority 5:** Activate sustainable practices

### Council Plan 2021-25

#### Objective 2: Environment

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

**Priority a)** Foreshore and riverine assets are upgraded to meet predicted impacts of climate change, maintain existing recreational uses while improving conservation values

**Priority b)** Advocate to relevant stakeholders and land managers to develop a partnership approach to foreshore management

**Priority c)** Foster increased community engagement with world class environmental areas across the municipality including through supporting the work of community organisations

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

### Urban Forest Strategy 2020

Objective 1: Increase tree canopy in Hobsons Bay to 30% by 2040.

Objective 2: A diverse and healthy urban forest.

Objective 4: Educate and foster care for urban trees.

## **Open Space Strategy 2018**

Priority 4: Proactive environmental and urban enrichment, expansion and conservation will occur.

## **Biodiversity Strategy 2017**

A comprehensive review of actions and goals within the Biodiversity Strategy 2017 identified current and emerging threats and key achievements. The Biodiversity Strategy 2024-34 will address key threats and opportunities to improve biodiversity within Hobsons Bay and is an extension of the previous strategy.

## **Policies and Related Council Documents**

### **Coastal and Marine Management Plan 2021**

3.2 Protect and Enhance the marine and coastal environment

3.3 Respect natural processes and strengthen resilience to climate change

3.5 Promote stewardship and collaborative management

### **Hobsons Bay Response to Climate Change Plan**

Theme: Adaptation. Manage risk and prepare for a changing climate

Theme: Community. Support the community to respond to climate change

## **Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk**

The Biodiversity Strategy is Council's key strategic document to lead protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Hobsons Bay. It follows the previous Biodiversity Strategy that was endorsed and implemented from 2017 to 2022. This strategy will continue to guide and prioritise the protection and enhancement of biodiversity within Hobsons Bay for the next ten-year period while engaging and collaborating with community for greatest benefit.

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

The Biodiversity Strategy will be delivered by the Parks Department, with majority of funding for implementation coming from existing operational budgets. The total cost to implement the strategy over the next ten-year period is approximately \$3.5 million. Some actions are scalable subject to partnership and grant funding and annual budget allocation for both operational and capital funding.

Following adoption of the strategy, additional operational resources may be required from Strategic Planning for Planning Scheme amendments and Animal Management to implement controls to minimise impacts of domestic animals on biodiversity.

## Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

Implementing the Biodiversity Strategy will benefit the environment by mitigating threats, enhancing ecosystems and resilience while contributing to the long-term sustainability for current and future generations. The Biodiversity Strategy will further develop and engage community through a range of socially inclusive conservation activities and enable collaboration with Traditional Owners for cultural land management and connectedness.

The vision of the strategy to “value and protect our unique biodiversity for current and future generations” highlights the importance of safeguarding the environment whilst protecting areas of highest biodiversity significance.

## Consultation and Communication

A comprehensive four-week community consultation process was undertaken from 13 September until 11 October 2023. The consultation period provided several ways for community to provide feedback to the draft Biodiversity Strategy. These included:

- three in-person community drop-in sessions
- one conservation volunteer drop-in session during the Conservation Volunteer end-of-year gathering.
- a survey hosted on Council’s online engagement platform, Participate Hobsons Bay
- an interactive map to allow community to highlight significant conservation areas on Council’s online engagement platform, Participate Hobsons Bay
- conservation stakeholder email through Ranger Ramblings

At the conclusion of the public exhibition period, Participate Hobsons Bay received 909 site visits and 121 contributions, 59 completed surveys and 62 contributions to the interactive map. A further 58 contributions were made during the drop-in sessions and an additional eight emailed submissions.

Community feedback on the strategy was very positive. All feedback received during the public exhibition period was reviewed and considered for inclusion in the updated strategy presented for final approval.

## Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

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

## 8.4.2 West Gate Tunnel Project Update - December 2023

<b>Directorate:</b>	Infrastructure and City Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Strategic Projects Specialist
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Infrastructure and City Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil

### Purpose

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

### Recommendation

**That Council receives and notes this update on the 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 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 commenced in March 2018 and is due for completion in late 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 report was presented at the September 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

Throughout the design and construction stages of the Project, Council has advocated for outcomes and improvements wherever possible that are consistent with its adopted position to optimise beneficial community outcomes. Council officers have advocated on behalf of community members in relation to project issues through various forums including regular meetings with the Project partners, including on:

- traffic management and detour routes
- removal of vegetation and reinstated landscaped areas
- amenity and environmental impacts such as noise and dust
- open space improvements
- shared use paths and general public access
- reinstatement of public assets
- road safety

### 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 30 November 2023 with discussion focused on the construction progress and traffic disruptions, shared use paths, graffiti management and upcoming works, particularly in the eastern section of the Project (Footscray Road and City connections).

In response to members concerns about signage on the freeway area in the lead up to the Williamstown Road inbound exit ramp, the JV representative advised that there will be new overhead signage installed in coming months that will help with this issue.

It was noted that WGTP workers have been parking along The Avenue, Spotswood to access the Williamstown Road outbound exit ramp worksite. The JV agreed to advise workers to park in the designated areas.

Regarding graffiti removal, it was noted that all panels including the noise walls will have anti-graffiti coating from ground level up to 3 metres in height to assist in the effectiveness of graffiti removal.

A member sought an update on the future plans for the section of Millers Road between the West Gate Freeway and Geelong Road. WGTP MTIA advised that this request will be referred to the Department of Transport and Planning and considered at a future meeting of CLG.

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 Project contribution was made towards funding the W & M Couch Pavilion at Donald McLean Reserve.

Council contributed the majority of the funding and managed the design and delivery of these projects that are now completed and providing significant benefit to the local community and sports clubs. The final landscaping and pathway works at WLJ Crofts Reserve were completed in October 2023.

## 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 consisted of four rounds of funding (two partnerships and two community grants rounds). A wide range of projects are eligible including those that celebrate heritage, history or diversity, focus on arts and culture, emphasise learning and development, or enable greater participation of community members. To date the fund has supported 128 community projects valued at more than \$8.5 million.

The latest funding round closed on 1 August 2023 with successful applicants now announced for two types of funding available:

1. Partnership projects seeking over \$50,000 that deliver a lasting benefit for the community, e.g. infrastructure, capital equipment and programs that improve community connection and meet a community need.
2. Active Community Grants for projects seeking up to \$100,000 for local sport groups, scout clubs and girl guides in the west.

Local community groups will share in almost \$1.6 million worth of funding as the recipients of the latest round of Partnerships and Active Community Grants. Nine larger partnerships were awarded to community groups and council to the value of almost \$900,000 for projects that connect the community and provide a lasting legacy.

Council's application for the rejuvenation of the shared use path bluestone bridge over Kororoit Creek was successful. However, Council's applications for Altona North Community Library and the continuation of artwork along Kororoit Creek were not successful.

The following list contains the name of the successful applicants, the project title and the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund contribution.

### Partnership Projects over \$50,000

- Inner West Community Bike Hub - Community Bike Hub - Riverside Re-Cycle - \$126,818
- Seaworks Foundation - Reactivating the Former Williamstown Morgue - \$150,000
- Yarraville Community Centre - Kitchen and technology upgrades to improve community usage - \$189,072

(list continues on next page)

- Footscray Community Arts Centre - Tarnuk-ut Baany - \$90,000
- Diesel Electric Rail Motor Preservation Association of Victoria - Hobsons Bay Take a Ride Back in Time - \$87,579
- Hobsons Bay City Council - Blue Stone Bridge Rejuvenation - \$80,000
- Foodbank Victoria - Upgrade to Foodbank Victoria Brooklyn Warehouse - \$69,798
- Altona Miniature Railway - 'The Tram Stop' Community Pavilion - \$50,000
- East African Women's Foundation - Ilays Community Connect - \$50,000

#### **Active Communities Grants – Minor Facilities Upgrades**

- Newport Power Junior Football Club - Bryan Martyn Oval, Newport – Behind Goal Safety Netting - \$50,000
- Power House Junior Rugby Union Football Club - "A Try" for a Scoreboard - \$19,440
- Altona Tennis Club - Save Our Skin - \$40,000
- Altona City Soccer Club - Install new electronic scoreboard - \$27,027
- Spotswood Sports Club Incorporated - Seating improvements at Donald McLean Reserve - \$38,644
- Altona Junior Football Club - New Electronic Scoreboard for Kirk Oval - \$25,000
- The Scout Association of Australia, Victoria Branch - The Pines Scout Camp - Gazebos and Camp Kitchen Upgrades - \$33,000
- 2nd Footscray Scout Group - Kitchen Upgrade - \$12,993
- Girl Guides Victoria - Hobson's Bay District - Guide Hall Improvements - \$32,623
- Newport Bowls Club Inc. - 100 Year Legacy - Restoration of Ladies Pavilion - \$38,279
- Footscray Baseball Club - A Pavilion Area For All - \$5,523
- Altona Hockey Club, Inc. - Altona Hockey Club Scoreboard - \$48,000
- The Scout Association of Australia, Victorian Branch - Hoadley Hall Restoration Works - \$55,000.00
- Altona North Soccer Club - Duane Reserve Pavilion Upgrades - \$25,000
- Williamstown Bowling Club - Bowling Green Sun Shelter - \$42,000
- Footscray Hockey Club - Footscray Hockey Club Scoreboard and Grandstands - \$100,000

In addition, 22 local sports clubs obtained up to \$2,500 in the Active Communities Grants - Equipment and 8 local sports organisations obtained up to \$10,000 in the Active Communities Participation Program.

There will be a final round of funding in early 2024. Further information and successful project 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.

Road pavement on the new ramp from West Gate Freeway to Princes Freeway is complete, which will take traffic from the express lanes through to Princes Freeway. Final pavement and line marking of M80 interchange ramps is to be completed in the next few months. Feature light poles have been installed at the M80 interchange.

The Hyde Street inbound off ramp recently had a new tolling gantry installed and the final green side panels are being installed with painting and finishing works undertaken on both the ramps.

Williamstown Road interchange has had landscaping work completed, including around the widened Williamstown Road inbound entry ramp. Final bridge signage is to be installed at the end of the year along with final surfacing of the pavement. Road repair work and litter cleaning is occurring along the Williamstown Road outbound exit ramp and the JV is currently completing the noise wall panels along the Donald Mclean Reserve area. A second left hand turn lane has also been opened on the ramp which is part of the ultimate design for the intersection.

Works have commenced on a new shared walking and cycling path along Hall Street adjacent to the railway line between Stony Creek Reserve and Hudsons Road. Parking along the rail corridor and the southbound traffic lane on Hall Street, south of Simcock Avenue, will be temporarily removed for the duration of the works with alternative parking available. Parallel parking will be reinstated along the path when works are completed.

The Kororoit Creek shared user path is effectively completed, with final landscaping to be undertaken in the autumn planting season (refer to Figure 1).



Figure 1: New SUP over Kororoit Creek

## Planned Traffic Disruptions

Over coming months there will be multiple overnight closures of the West Gate Freeway and Princes Freeway within the boundaries of the West Gate Bridge, Boundary Road on the M80 Ring Road, and Kororoit Creek Road on the Princes Freeway, including:

- Williamstown Road under the West Gate Freeway overnight closures for asphalt resurfacing works nightly to mid-December. Work hours are Monday to Thursday, 8pm to 6am. Friday to Saturday, 8pm to 8am.
- Hyde Street / Douglas Parade - A single lane in both directions until January 2024 for completion of the new ramp connection.
- West Gate Freeway between Millers Road and the M80 interchange - one lane closed in both directions from mid-January to early March 2024. At times there will be 24/7 ramp closures at the M80 interchange, Grieve Parade and Millers Road.
- West Gate Bridge - three of five citybound lanes closed from 9pm, Tuesday 26 December to 6am, Thursday 4 January 2024 for annual pavement works by the Department of Transport and Planning. All outbound lanes remain open.

Council will continue to assist WGTP by sharing information about these planned traffic disruptions via its website and social medial platforms. 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>

## Tunnels

Both road decks in the tunnels have been completed. Seven tunnel cross passages have been completed that involve a ground freezing technique used for some cross passages, to ensure ground stability. Preparation is underway to install the large timber eel net structure that will sit above the inbound tunnel entrance. The outbound tunnel exit ventilation structure is currently over 30 metres high. The two 50-metre-high ventilation structures will be built of concrete with a steel frame and diagonally placed panels wrapped around the outside. The large green 500 tonne gantry crane is being dismantled at the southern inbound portal.

Information on tunnel ventilation and air quality, including the latest air quality monitoring report released in April 2023 can be found online at: <https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/library/west-gate-tunnel-project/fact-sheets/tunnel-ventilation-and-air-quality>

## Tree Planting and Trail Upgrades

Reinstatement and landscaping of Project-occupied sites is progressing. 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. Offset planting is expected to commence in the 2024 autumn planting period.

## Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

### Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

**Priority 6:** An accessible and connected community

## Council Plan 2021-25

### Objective 4: Visionary community infrastructure

**Strategy 4.1:** Ensure the transport network is safe and efficient for all users with a focus on pedestrians and cyclists

## Policies and Related Council Documents

On 26 August 2016, Council adopted the updated Hobsons Bay City Council's Adopted Position and Recommendations for the then Western Distributor Project.

Several Council policies and strategies were considered in establishing the adopted position on the Project and have been considered to inform the design and the Environmental Effects Statement (EES). Council has received reports regarding officer assessments of the Project design development, construction activities, community engagement and advocacy activities undertaken in response to the Project.

## Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

Legal and statutory obligations and risks have been identified throughout Council's review and input to the Project. These obligations and opportunities will continue to be monitored and assessed. A report and formal submission on the preferred design and EES was adopted by Council at the Council Meeting on 27 June 2017. This report considered legal, risk and statutory obligations for the Project.

The latest report summarising the environmental audit findings of the Independent Reviewer and Environmental Auditor (IREA) for the Project is available on the Project website at: <https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/library/west-gate-tunnel-project/planning-documents>

The report covers the six-monthly audit of the Environmental Management Strategy, quarterly Construction Environmental Management Plan audits, and monthly audits of the Worksite Environmental Management Plans which occurred during the construction period from September 2022 to February 2023. This is the tenth IREA Minister's Report, which is required to be issued every six months to the Victorian Minister for Planning. No adverse findings were raised with Project Co during the audit. The report states that Project Co / D&C Subcontractor is generally compliant with the Environmental Performance Requirements.

## Financial and Resource Implications

A Memorandum of Understanding has been established between Council and WGTP MTIA to provide for Council staff to assist in the management and delivery of the Project and the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund.

Updated design packages are still being reviewed and requests received by Council to consider and respond to construction work issues and minor design changes. Handback of relevant assets and land from the Project to Council is being undertaken where Project works are completed.

## Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

The environmental, social and economic impacts of the Project to the Hobsons Bay community have been described in detail through the EES. They are monitored and mitigated through the implementation of the Environmental Performance Requirements for the Project and audited by the IREA.

The IREA has been appointed to provide independent oversight of design engineering, construction, program and environmental performance of the Project. The IREA undertakes audits and surveillance of Project activities to assess whether conformance with Project requirements are being achieved.

Air quality monitoring for the Project has been established at six Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations. The latest Project air quality monitoring reported no exceedances of the air quality objective at the six stations for the reporting period. The report is available at: <https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/library/west-gate-tunnel-project/air-quality-monitoring-reports>

## Consultation and Communication

Council has assisted in sharing information on the Project including planned traffic disruptions through its website and social media. Council officers continue to assist the community where possible in responding to or referring requests and issues relating to the Project.

Recent communications on Project activity in the west section has informed residents abutting the freeway about ongoing major works, including freeway road and ramp closures. An information pop-up at Spotswood train station was held to inform businesses and commuters about the works on the Hall Street walking and cycling path.

Latest notifications can be found at:

<https://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/construction/work-notifications>

## Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

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

## 9 Committee and Delegate Reports

### 9.1 Committee Reports

#### 9.1.1 Delegated Planning Committee Update - Q1 and Q2 2023-24

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

#### Purpose

To provide an update on the outcomes of the Delegated Planning Committee (DPC) for Quarter 1 and 2 of 2023-24.

#### Recommendation

**That Council notes the outcomes of the Delegated Planning Committee for Quarter 1 and 2 of 2023-24.**

#### Summary

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

Two meetings of the DPC (on 24 October 2023 and 28 November 2023) were held for Quarter 1 and 2 of 2023-24.

The DPC made determinations on three planning permit applications, supporting the officer recommendation on two applications. The third application, relating to a Childcare Centre, was refused.

#### 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 1 and 2 of 2023-24, DPC meetings were held virtually via Zoom. Members of the public, including applicants and objectors, were invited to attend and participate in these meetings. All agendas and minutes 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)

The table below outlines the applications considered at each DPC meeting held in Quarter 1 and 2 of 2023-24.

### DPC Meeting – 24 October 2023

Item 1	
<b>Application:</b>	PA220611
<b>Address:</b>	5, 7 & 9 Jamison Street, Laverton
<b>Proposal:</b>	Construction of two or more dwellings on a lot under clause 32.08-6 (10 dwellings)
<b>Officer Recommendation:</b>	Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit
<b>DPC Decision:</b>	Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit

### DPC Meeting – 28 November 2023

Item 1	
<b>Application:</b>	PA230894
<b>Address:</b>	183 & 185 Melbourne Road, Williamstown
<b>Proposal:</b>	Use and development of a childcare centre, alteration of access to a road in a Transport Zone 2 and demolition of all buildings on site
<b>Officer Recommendation:</b>	Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit
<b>DPC Decision:</b>	Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Planning Permit
Item 2	
<b>Application:</b>	PA230666
<b>Address:</b>	870 Kororoit Creek Road, Altona North
<b>Proposal:</b>	Buildings and works for the development of warehouses, reduction of the associated car parking requirement, removal of native vegetation, display of signage and creation of access to a road in a Transport Zone 2
<b>Officer Recommendation:</b>	Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit
<b>DPC Decision:</b>	Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit

## **Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) outcomes**

There have been no appeals of a DPC determination in Quarter 1 and 2 of 2023-24 lodged with VCAT.

An appeal from a previous quarter was considered.

### ***1 Hudsons Road, 1 Booker Street and 30 Craig Street, Spotswood 3015***

On 21 February 2023, the DPC considered and determined two applications for the property 1 Hudsons Road, 1 Booker Street and 30 Craig Street, Spotswood 3015. The applications proposed a mix of uses including industry, manufacturing sales, office and retail premises.

The applications were considered by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) in late May 2023. VCAT has now issued its decision directing a planning permit be granted for both applications. The key issues considered were:

- risk to health and safety, due to the proximity of the land to the Newport Major Hazard Facilities (MHF)
- off-site amenity impacts
- urban design.

Prior to and during the VCAT hearing the applicant amended their plans resulting in the urban design issues in dispute being largely resolved and conditions included where needed.

The Tribunal was satisfied any amenity impacts could be managed by the inclusion of an acoustic wall and conditions requiring an updated acoustic assessment and a venue management plan to be submitted. VCAT was also satisfied with the proposed car parking provision and traffic impacts.

Most of the decision focuses on the issues of risk and safety. WorkSafe objected to both proposals except in relation to the office and industrial building proposed for the northeast corner of the site. VCAT noted the planning scheme required the issue of risk and safety to be considered but that WorkSafe is not a referral authority under the Planning Scheme. It also noted there is no legislative requirement to consider or apply WorkSafe's 2022 Guidance "Land Use Planning near a Major Hazard Facility". Despite this, VCAT did take into account, and was quite critical of, the 2022 Guidance.

In particular, the Tribunal was critical of the lack of transparency of the information on which the 2022 Guidance is based, including how both the population sensitivity categories and the safety area dimensions were derived. This in turn had implications for the weight to be given to WorkSafe's objections based on its approach compared to the site-specific expert risk and safety evidence presented by the parties.

The Tribunal ultimately accepted the evidence of the risk experts and found that the level of risk posed by the proximity of the MHFs to the site and its future occupants was acceptable and that the applications should not be refused for safety and risk reasons.

## Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

### Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

**Priority 1:** Visionary, vibrant, accountable urban planning

The DPC provides accountable urban planning by ensuring that planning permit applications with significant community and special interest are heard and decided by Council. This allows members of the community to present their views to Council.

### Council Plan 2021-25

**Objective 3: Vibrant place and economy**

**Strategy 3.5:** Ensure land use and development supports high amenity, sustainability, exemplary design and responds to neighbourhood context

**Priority b)** Significantly uplift processing times and customer service in statutory planning functions while maintaining consistent, strategic and efficient standards

The DPC and related functions are an additional layer of customer service in the statutory planning area. The DPC ensures consistent decision making on planning permit applications of significant community or special interest.

## Policies and Related Council Documents

The DPC is required to make decisions in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme and its policies in relation to planning permit applications.

## Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

Determining planning permit applications is a statutory obligation on Council under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The DPC is required to decide on planning permit applications that have not been delegated to officers to decide.

## Financial and Resource Implications

The DPC is a committee delegated to consider planning permit applications. Operational costs associated with the DPC are accommodated through the approved annual budget.

## Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

Environmental, social and economic impacts (if applicable) of each planning permit decision are considered at the time of making the decision.



## Consultation and Communication

This report provides information on the outcomes of the DPC meeting to Council. Public consultation occurs on each planning permit application as required by the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

## Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

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

## 9.2 Delegate Reports

### Purpose

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

### Recommendation

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

### Metropolitan Transport Forum

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and City Services

**Councillor Delegate:** Cr Jonathon Marsden

**Date of Meeting:** 4 October 2023

**Attachments:** Nil

The Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF) is a monthly gathering that allows councils to collaborate and discuss ways to improve the transport system by sharing knowledge and focusing on integrated transport. The forum is attended by 26 councils in Melbourne, as well as individuals from other transport-related organisations and advocacy groups such as the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), the Public Transport Users Association and Victoria Walks.

### Presentation

Doctor Niki Vincent, Victorian Gender Commissioner, described the processes her team is putting in place to ensure that all public sector areas, including local government and universities comply with gender equity legal requirements. She spoke about the work her team has commissioned, including research to explore how the whole person's needs and experiences are considered in government programs and projects. Dr Vincent noted that traditional planning is based on a heterosexual norm, which is no longer valid.

Dr Vincent noted that the RMIT research looking at the internal structure of DTP has resulted in a road map to achieving gender equity in the organisation. A report on DTP's progress is expected in early 2024. Importantly, DTP are also developing "tip sheets" which will be applied in planning processes to improve design outcomes, in response to 45% of female transport users not feeling safe. These tip sheets will be released before Christmas 2023.

### Council Updates

Mr Isuru Thilakarathne (Frankston City Council) updated members on Frankston's transport program, based on the Integrated Transport Strategy. Other work includes the Bicycle Strategy and the Nepean Boulevard Master Plan. Work continues on the Suburban Rail Loop and level crossing removal projects.

Mr Richard Smithers (Melbourne City Council) outlined projects including engagement for Future Streets, consultation for bicycle infrastructure in Arden and Macaulay, improvements to Grattan Street associated with Metro works and reducing Grattan Street to a single lane. Work also continues around the Metro 2 advocacy and the extension of trams to Fishermans Bend.

Mr Michael Smith (Melton City Council) outlined their advocacy and grant efforts with a view to achieving improved active transport. They have also been investigating how to achieve improved roads around developments, having found limitations with the current DCP processes. Mr Smith noted that Melton Council has commenced its e-scooter pilot with Beam.

## Western Melbourne Tourism Board

<b>Directorate:</b>	Sustainable Communities
<b>Councillor Delegate:</b>	Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 November 2023
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil

The Western Melbourne Tourism (WMT) Board joint Annual General Meeting and General Board meeting was held on Friday 17 November 2023.

The Annual General Meeting key agenda items included:

- Chair Report highlights
- Financial Report for the 2022-23 financial year
- Approval of Board Nominations and Election of Office Bearers
- Board Focus 2024

The General Meeting key agenda items included an executive report from Richard Ponsford, Executive Officer WMT:

- Visitor Services Fund – WMT was successfully awarded the Namaste Westside project valued at \$190,000 to be delivered over 18 months to grow the value and profile of the Indian tourism market within the West.
- Titanic Exhibition Seaworks – Seaworks located in Hobsons Bay was unsuccessful in securing the Titanic Exhibition despite several months of negotiation due to conflicts with the Titanic Artefact Exhibition at Melbourne Museum
- Eat Drink Westside 2024 / Westside Wanders – WMT continued to provide support for Eat Drink Westside 2024
- Yarra Trams – WMT will partner with Yarra Trams to deliver a City Villages campaign promoting metro lines within western suburbs

## 10 Notices of Motion

### 10.1 Notice of Motion No. 1248: World Heritage Potential for the Newport Railway Workshops

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

**There are no apparent legal implications at this time.**

Cr Peter Hemphill has given notice of the following motion:

**That Council calls on VicTrack to:**

- a. Carry out an updated Conservation Management Plan for the Newport Railway Workshops site.**
- b. Prepare a Strategic Land Use Plan and a Heritage Interpretation Plan for the site.**
- c. Work with Heritage Victoria, Council, heritage rail groups and any other relevant party to carry out all necessary work to lay the groundwork for a UNESCO World Heritage Listing for the Newport Railway Workshops.**

## Background

The Newport Railway Workshops were built between 1886 and 1888 based on British railway workshop designs. It was originally built for maintenance and repairs of existing steam locomotives and carriages but soon transformed into a significant site for the manufacture of locomotives. The first locomotive produced at the Newport Workshops was a Z class engine No. 526 and is stored at Scienceworks in Spotswood and is only rarely on display.

After the explosion of railway lines into regional Victoria in the 1880s, the Newport Railway Workshops expanded rapidly. Hundreds of railway workers from smaller workshops in Williamstown were transferred to the Newport site as the buildings were opened in the late 1880s. There was further accelerated expansion between 1902 to 1915 as the Victorian railways modernised its operation.

During the Second World War, the workshops were used for the manufacture of military equipment, including Bren gun carriers, aircraft fuselages and ship hulls. About 5000 employees worked at the site during this period, of which about 35 per cent were women. After the war ended, the workshops reverted to its initial task of producing rail rolling stock. Locomotive manufacture ceased in the 1950s, but carriages were still being produced for some decades later. By the late 1980s, the workshops were being phased out of operation.

About 20ha of the Newport site was placed on Heritage Victoria's heritage register in 1994 and designated as H1000. The National Trust put the H1000 overlay on the National Heritage Register in 1997, the same year as Hobsons Bay City Council put it on its heritage register.

The workshops are significant in that some of the rolling stock housed in the 1888 buildings were built on site. It also includes belt powered machinery from the late 19th or early 20th century and other equipment, such as the 1860s Kirkstall steam hammer and crane, but also rope operated overhead cranes from the 1880s. Its paint mixing room has high heritage significance.

In 1988, highly qualified industrial engineers, Carl and Margaret Doring completed a report for the then State Transport Authority. Their conclusion highlighted the Newport Railway Workshops' position in global rail infrastructure: "... there is no doubt that Newport is one of the best surviving 19th Century railway workshops in the world, and one of this country's most outstanding items of industrial heritage. The planning of Newport's future must take due account of its past. The plans must ensure that its heritage value, which has taken 100 years to acquire, is conserved and utilized, and not destroyed for the sake of short-term expediency."

A 1992 report by a working party set up by then Minister for Transport Peter Spyker concluded "the Newport Railway Workshops site and buildings represented an unprecedented opportunity for the establishment of a world class railway preservation facility which will be important to Victoria in both historical and tourism terms".

Preservation of the workshops and the rolling stock and manufacturing equipment on the site is under increasing threat of degradation and loss.

## **11 Urgent Business**

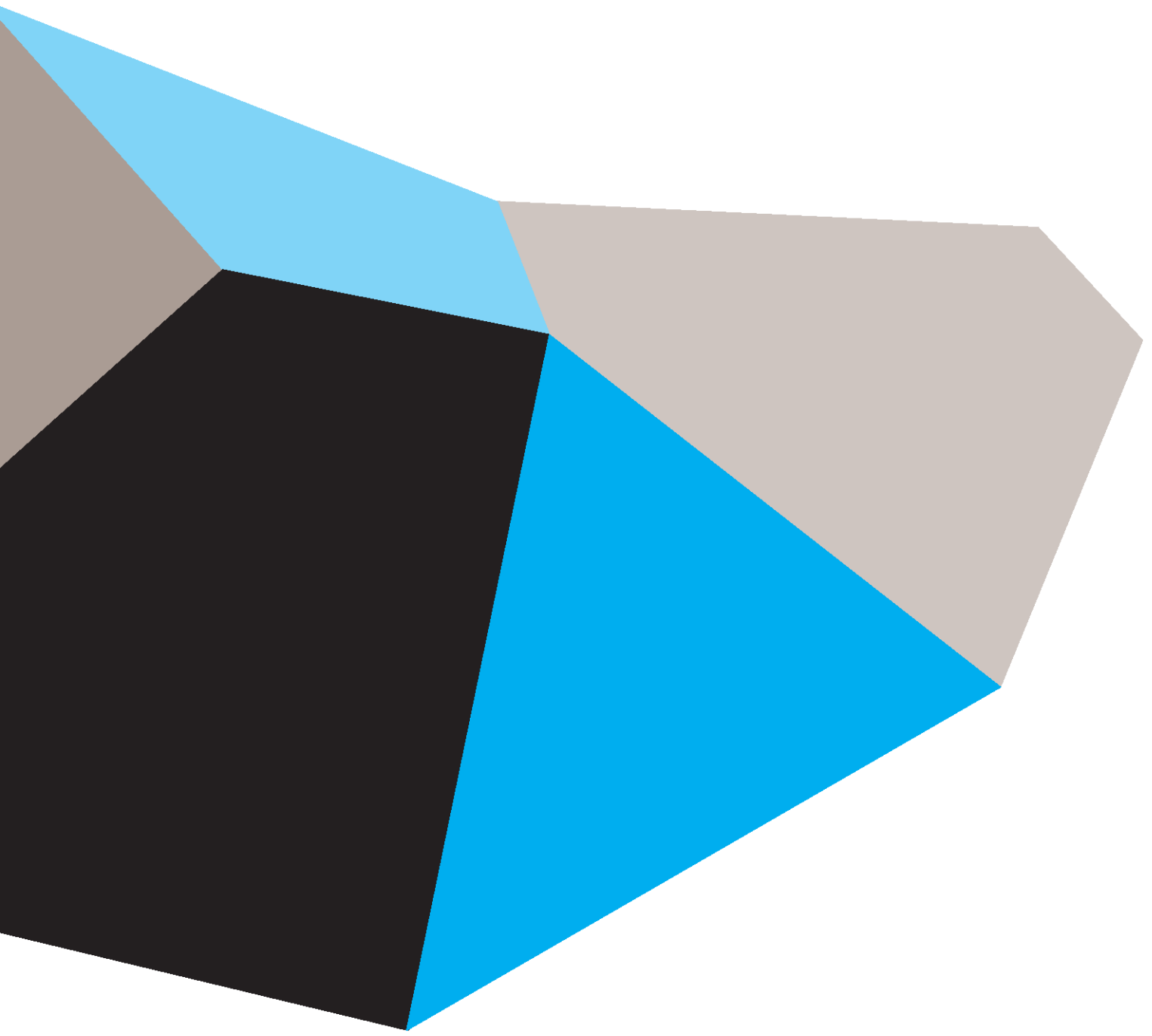
## **12 Supplementary Public Question Time**

Supplementary Public Question Time provides an opportunity for the public to ask questions directly related to items on the agenda that have arisen during the evening's proceedings.

Where it is not possible to provide a response during the meeting, a written response to the question will be provided promptly.

Written public questions received during the Council Meeting that are not related to items on the agenda will be taken on notice and responded to in writing by the appropriate Council officer, or referred to the next Council Meeting for a public response if so requested by the questioner.

## **13 Close of Meeting**



---

**HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL**

---

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)

---

 [www.twitter.com/HobsonsBayCC](http://www.twitter.com/HobsonsBayCC)

---

 [www.facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil)

---

 [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

---