

Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday 8 June 2021
Commencing at 7.00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER

Virtual Meeting

HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL



OUR MISSION

We will listen, engage and work with our community to plan, deliver and advocate for Hobsons Bay to secure a happy, healthy, fair and sustainable future for all.

OUR VALUES

Respectful

Community driven and focused

Trusted and reliable

Efficient and responsible

Bold and innovative

Accountable and transparent

Recognised

Council acknowledges the peoples 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 Jonathon Marsden (Mayor)

Strand Ward

Councillors:

Cr Daria Kellander (Deputy Mayor)

Cherry Lake Ward

Cr Tony Briffa JP

Cherry Lake Ward

Cr Peter Hemphill

Strand Ward

Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud

Strand Ward

Cr Matt Tyler

Wetlands Ward

Cr Diana Grima

Wetlands Ward

Aaron van Egmond
Chief Executive Officer
Hobsons Bay City Council

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1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement

The Chairperson will welcome members of the public and acknowledge the people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of this land.

2 Virtual Meeting Protocols

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, this Council Meeting is being conducted virtually in accordance with subsection 4.6 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, and will be livestreamed on the Council website at <http://webcast.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au>

2.1 Voting Method

Voting will be conducted by show of hands, as in the Council Chamber.

2.2 Absence From Meeting

If a Councillor leaves the meeting at any time for any reason other than for a conflict of interest, the Councillor will stand to indicate their intention to leave and then walk away.

If a Councillor needs to leave the meeting due to a declared conflict of interest, the Chairperson will remove the Councillor from the virtual meeting until the matter under discussion has been resolved. The Chairperson will then invite the Councillor back into the meeting.

If a Councillor cannot be seen or heard due to technical issues and cannot carry on as a participant in the meeting, the meeting will continue as long as a quorum remains.

If the quorum is lost, the meeting will be adjourned until the quorum can be returned.

The time that any Councillor leaves and returns to the meeting will be recorded in the minutes regardless of the reason for absence.

3 Apologies

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

4 Disclosure of Interest

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

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

5 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 11 May 2021 (copy previously circulated).

6 Councillor Questions

7 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.

8 Petitions and Joint Letters

8.1 Petitions and Joint Letters Received

8.1.1 Petition - Continuation of the Hobsons Bay has Heart Outdoors Trading Program

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

Purpose

To receive a written petition containing 193 signatories, of which 89 were valid, requesting that Council continue the Hobsons Bay Business has Heart Outdoors Trading Program in Pier Street, Altona for a further trial period to 30 June 2022.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the petition in relation to continuing the Hobsons Bay Business has Heart Outdoors Trading program in Pier Street, Altona for a further trial period to 30 June 2022.**
- 2. Notes the extension of the Hobsons Bay Business has Heart Outdoors trading area pilot program to 31 May 2022.**
- 3. Writes to the lead petitioner advising of the outcome.**

Summary

The petition was received on 25 May 2021 and acknowledged on 27 May 2021.

The petition reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, petition Hobsons Bay City Council to continue the Hobsons Bay Has Heart Outdoors Trading Program in Pier Street, Altona, between Queen Street and Railway Street South, for a further trial period until 30th June 2022.

For the following reasons:

1. The Program has proved to be extremely popular with residents of and visitors to Altona.
2. It has provided a huge boost to the cultural, social and business activities in Pier Street as well as traffic calming and improved pedestrian safety.

3. I have spoken to many people and close to 100% of them have said that the Program is excellent and should be continued.
4. Local residents have become accustomed to the reduced car parking opportunities in Pier Street.
5. In hindsight, this Program should have been in place years ago and Covid, coupled with great foresight by the authorities, has provided the incentive to commence what is a most successful and rewarding local initiative.”

9 Variation of Business

In accordance with rule 6.1.5 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, the Chief Executive Officer has varied the normal order of business in order to allow members of the public who requested to be heard on their submissions on the Annual Budget 2021-22 and Rating and Revenue Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25 to do so ahead of other Council business.

9.1 Presentation of Annual Budget 2021-22 and Revenue and Rating Plan Submissions 2021-22 to 2024-25

Directorate: Corporate Services

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Reviewer: Director Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. Budget Submissions 2021-22 [9.1.1 - 157 pages]

Purpose

To present the submissions received by Council in relation to the Proposed Annual Budget 2021-22 and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25 and to hear from submitters requesting to be heard in support of their submission as a result of the public exhibition process.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the submissions following the public exhibition period for the Proposed Annual Budget 2021-22 and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25.**
- 2. Hears from those submitters requesting to be heard by Council in support of their submission.**
- 3. Responds to submitters as part of the final budget deliberations at the Council Meeting on 29 June 2021.**

Summary

The Proposed Annual Budget 2021-22 and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25 were placed on public exhibition following formal consideration at the Council Meeting held on 20 April 2021.

In accordance with the Hobsons Bay Community Engagement Policy 2021, Council has engaged with the community to seek feedback that will be considered during the planning and development stages of the Annual Budget.

Council received 56 responses at the close of the public exhibition period. A copy of each submission is attached to this report. Eleven of the parties that provided feedback have requested to be heard by Council at the Council Meeting.

Background

The annual budget process commenced in late 2020 when Council undertook its 2021-22 pre-budget consultation, providing an opportunity for community members to submit their ideas. The proposed budget brings together all the elements that have influenced its development, including:

- community consultation process
- strategic priorities
- Capital Works Program
- Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25 and rate modelling
- operational budget
- fees and charges

The Proposed Annual Budget 2021-22 and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25 were presented at the Council Meeting on 20 April 2021. In accordance with the requirements of the LG Act 2020, the Proposed Annual Budget 2021-22 was placed on public exhibition. The Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25 was also placed on public exhibition and comments invited in relation to both documents from interested members of the community. The exhibition period was for 28 days and closed on 23 May 2021.

Interested parties who have provided comment could request to present to Council at the Council Meeting to be held on 8 June 2021. Eleven requests have been made to address Council at the meeting.

Discussion

A schedule of the submissions on the budget is attached to this report. The following interested parties have requested to be heard in support of their submission:

- Miriam Teunen is requesting an upgrade of cycleways from Brooklyn to Altona and continuing the cycleway along Kororoit Creek
- Alison Peake is requesting an increased budgetary figure for the redevelopment of the Brooklyn Hall
- Geoff Mitchelmore is requesting that funding be allocated for Stages 4 and 5 of the Kororoit Creek Shared Trail
- John Sultana is requesting upgraded pitch lighting at Kim Reserve
- Zac Lewis is requesting a grant of \$90,000 over three years to Western Chances to provide scholarships to youth in Hobsons Bay
- Caroline Baldwin is opposing the rate increase
- Alex Tyrrell representing the Altona Hockey Club is requesting that Council complete a design phase for the facility at the Altona Hockey Club
- Olivia Bartolo is requesting funding for the design of the Altona City Soccer Club's new facilities at Kim Reserve, Altona
- Kate Alder is requesting that consultation be conducted prior to Altona foreshore works
- Dean Hurlston representing Ratepayers Victoria Inc. is opposing the rate increase and suggesting various changes to the budget
- Adam Longshaw is requesting upgrade works at the Paisley Park Soccer Complex

Following the meeting, Council will consider all submissions and presentations in final preparation of the Annual Budget 2021-22 and Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25. Both documents will be presented to Council for adoption at the Council Meeting on 29 June 2021.

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 2017-21

Goal 4: A Council of excellence

Objective 4.2: Be a more efficient and effective organisation by having a strong focus on continuous improvement, innovation, strategic planning and responsible financial management.

Policies and Related Council Documents

Any consideration of the matters raised will be in the context of Council's Annual Budget, Revenue and Rating Plan, Financial Plan and Ten Year Capital Works Program priorities.

Individual submissions may pertain to a specific Council policy or strategy and if appropriate, will be reflected in the formal consideration of that submission.

Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

Council has complied with the requirements of the Hobsons Bay Community Engagement Policy 2021 to engage with the community to seek feedback and participation, which is considered during the planning and development stages of the Annual Budget. This process accords with section 223 of the LG Act 1989, which remains in force and provides the right to make submissions to Council. No risks are associated with this process.

Financial and Resource Implications

Any changes that may be made due to the comments received will be factored into the Annual Budget 2021-22 and Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25 that will be formally considered by Council at the Council Meeting on 29 June 2021.

Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

The receiving and hearing of submissions contained within this report has no direct environmental, social or economic impact to note. The specific impacts of any submission will be considered as part of formal consideration of that submission.

Consultation and Communication

The Proposed Annual Budget 2021-22 and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25 were placed on public exhibition as part of the legislated four week consultation period. Both documents were made available for inspection and comment until 16 May 2021, to allow any person to make written comment on any proposal contained within.

Council also conducted an additional pre-budget community consultation process. This was undertaken in line with Hobsons Bay Community Engagement Policy 2021 and ensures that community considerations are considered within the Proposed Annual Budget 2021-22 and Proposed Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-22 to 2024-25.

Consistent with the advertisement placed in the *Herald Sun* on 23 April 2021 and the *Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay Star Weekly* newspaper on 28 April 2021, any submissions received will be included in a register of submissions received. Submissions (including any personal information) form part of the public record of the meeting and will be published on Council's website (accessible worldwide) for an indefinite period. A hard copy will also be made available for inspection by members of the public at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre.

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.

10 Business

10.1 Office of the Chief Executive

10.1.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations

Directorate:	Office of the Chief Executive
Responsible Officer:	Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
Reviewer:	Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	1. CEO Report on Operations [10.1.1.1 - 40 pages]

Purpose

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

Recommendation

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

Summary

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

Discussion

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

In accordance with rule 10.7.1 of the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules, Council maintains records of meetings attended by Councillors in the CEO's Report on Operations to ensure transparency and equity of information. A summary of meetings for the period between 1 May 2021 and 31 May 2021 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 2017-21

Goal 4: A Council of excellence

- 4.3 Provide excellent customer service while ensuring all our communications are clear and easy to understand.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act* 1989 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.

10.2 Corporate Services

10.2.1 Review of Mayoral and Councillor Allowances

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

Purpose

To advise Council in relation to Councillor and Mayoral allowances and to formally commence the required review and determination of allowances in accordance with section 39(6) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the LG Act 2020) and section 74 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the LG Act 1989).

Recommendation

That Council:

1. In accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, publicly advertises and seeks submissions for a period of 28 days on its intention to:
 - a. Fix the Councillor allowance at \$26,245 (twenty-six thousand, two hundred and forty-five dollars)
 - b. Fix the Mayoral allowance at \$81,204 (eighty-one thousand, two hundred and four dollars)
 - c. Provide the Mayor and Councillors with an amount equivalent to the Superannuation Guarantee Contribution (currently 9.5 per cent) of the relevant allowance
2. Authorises the Manager Corporate Integrity (Legal Counsel) to carry out the administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* in relation to the review of the Councillor and Mayoral allowance.
3. Schedules a meeting at 6pm on Tuesday 20 July 2021 at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre at 115 Civic Parade, Altona to consider and, if requested, hear any submissions received in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
4. Receives a further report following the hearing of public submissions with the intention of making a final decision at the Council Meeting to be held on 10 August 2021.

Summary

Both the LG Act 2020 and the LG Act 1989 currently apply to Mayoral and Councillor allowances. In the absence of an initial Determination by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (the Remuneration Tribunal) in accordance with section 39 of the LG Act 2020 by 30 June 2021, Council is required to review and determine the Mayoral and Councillor allowance and consider any submissions to the review before determining the level of allowances for 2021-22.

The allowances are proposed to be retained at the same level as for the previous Council term until the Remuneration Tribunal's initial Determination.

Background

The LG Act 2020 deems that allowances for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors will now be set by the Remuneration Tribunal. Previously, section 74 of the LG Act 1989 required councils to review and determine Mayoral and Councillor allowances either within six months of a general election or by the following 30 June, whichever was later. Section 74 was repealed as of 6 April 2020 but remains in effect for the purposes of a review that precedes the first Determination of the Remuneration Tribunal in accordance with subsection 39(6) of the LG Act 2020.

Immediately following the local government general election in October 2020, Local Government Victoria (LGV) advised councils that the Remuneration Tribunal would meet in early 2021 to make a Determination in regard to the allowances. In the absence of further advice at the time, allowances for the Mayor and Councillors remained the same as for 2019-20. The Remuneration Tribunal was required to meet before 30 June 2021 in accordance with the LG Act 2020.

LGV recently advised that the Remuneration Tribunal would not meet and make a determination by 30 June 2021 and accordingly requested that councils commence a process of review and determination of the Mayoral and Councillor allowances under section 74 of the LG Act 1989.

The minimum and maximum levels for Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor allowances are determined by the Minister for Local Government in accordance with section 73B(2) of the LG Act 1989. Council is required to determine the level of allowance within the range set by the legislation.

There are currently three categories of councils based on size, budget and population, with Category 1 being lowest and Category 3 being highest. Hobsons Bay City Council has been designated a Category 2 council by the Minister for Local Government. As a Category 2 council the minimum and maximum ranges are:

- Councillor allowances being an amount between \$10,914 and \$26,245
- Mayoral allowances being an amount up to \$81,204

It is recommended that the Mayor and Councillor allowance remain unchanged from the previous Council term.

Discussion

The process of review requires Council to determine the proposed allowance amounts for the Mayor and Councillors (within the allowable limits and ranges), then publicly advertise its intention to pay those allowance amounts and accept submissions for a minimum of 28 days in accordance with the requirements of section 223 of the LG Act 1989. Council must also allow a hearing for any submitters who wish to speak in support of their submission before making a final decision in relation to the allowance amounts.

The LG Act 2020 allows for a Councillor to elect to receive their allowance in full, in part, or not at all. This is a decision for each Councillor and not a decision for Council. Councillors must notify the Chief Executive Officer in writing if they want to receive only part or no allowance.

The details of the Mayoral and Councillor allowances are made available to the public on Council's website and reported in the Annual Report pursuant to the LG Act 2020.

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 2017-21

Goal 4: A Council of excellence

Objective 4.2: Be a more efficient and effective organisation by having a strong focus on continuous improvement, innovation, strategic planning and responsible financial management.

Objective 4.4: Actively seek the community's views by providing a range of opportunities for the community to contribute to Council's decision making.

Policies and Related Council Documents

Council last reviewed the Councillor and Mayoral allowance on 14 March 2017.

Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

The delay by the Remuneration Tribunal in making a Determination and the late subsequent update from LGV regarding this delay means that many councils cannot meet the 30 June 2021 deadline for the conduct of a review of Mayoral and Councillor allowances within the timeframe required by section 74 of the LG Act 1989 while also meeting the public exhibition and submission requirements of section 223. In light of LGV's advice, the review must be undertaken nevertheless. Council is proposing to adhere to the requirements of section 223 to ensure full and appropriate engagement with the community.

Financial and Resource Implications

At present, the Councillor and Mayoral allowances are set at the following amounts:

	Councillor	Mayor
Allowance	\$26,245*	\$81,204*
Amount equivalent to superannuation guarantee contribution	\$2,493	\$7,714
Total	\$28,738	\$88,918

*An amount equivalent to the superannuation guarantee contribution under Commonwealth taxation legislation (currently 9.5 per cent) is payable in addition to the allowance amounts.

The total annual cost of allowances is \$261,348, being for one Mayor and six Councillors. This amount includes the amount in lieu of superannuation at 9.5 per cent.

Assuming allowances paid to the Mayor and Councillors remain unchanged following this review, there will be no impact on the budget.

The allowance decided upon by Council pursuant to the review process will apply from the date of Council's resolution and will continue to apply until the first Determination made by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal under section 23A of the *Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019* comes into effect.

Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

There are no specific environmental, social or economic impacts arising from the review of Mayoral and Councillor allowances.

Consultation and Communication

Subsection 74(4) of the LG Act 1989 provides the public with the right to make submissions on the review of the Mayoral and Councillor allowances in accordance with section 223 of the Act. The period provided for under section 223 must be no less than 28 days after the date of public advertisement of the submission period. Any person wishing to be heard should state this in their submission.

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.

10.2.2 Review of Domestic Animal Management Plan

Directorate:	Corporate Services
Responsible Officer:	Team Leader - Animal Management
Reviewer:	Director Corporate Services
Attachments:	Nil

Purpose

To provide an overview of the process to update Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) for 2021-25.

Recommendation

That Council consults with the community and other stakeholders for four weeks in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Community Engagement Policy 2021 to inform the Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-25.

Summary

The *Domestic Animals Act* 1994 (DA Act) requires all Victorian councils to develop and maintain a DAMP in consultation with residents, members of the public and other stakeholders.

The DAMP 2017-21 was adopted by Council in November 2017 and has been in effect since that date. The DAMP must be reviewed and updated every four years.

Background

Victorian Government legislation requires councils to formulate and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan every four years. The plan is used to manage and evaluate animal safety and welfare, community safety and compliance priorities and welfare and authorised Council officer enforcement practices.

Some key elements of the DAMP are:

- promoting responsible pet ownership and the welfare of dogs and cats in the community
- protecting the community and the environment from nuisance cats and dogs
- identifying a method to evaluate whether the animal management services provided are adequate
- outlining the training programs for authorised officers to ensure they are capable in administering and enforcing the provisions of the DA Act

Council is committed to developing and implementing a DAMP that captures community concerns and priorities surrounding pet ownership, animal and community welfare and the environmental impact caused by domestic pets. By seeking community feedback, Council can ensure that it creates a plan that includes the lived experience of the wider community, both pet and non-pet owners.

Discussion

The management of domestic animals in Hobsons Bay affects the entire community. The DAMP is designed to respond strategically to the needs of the whole community.

Council's obligation to ensure community safety and compliance means that pet owners are expected to employ responsible pet ownership practices and minimise the potential for nuisance or safety issues occurring. Council provides a range of information and education initiatives and works with the community to achieve positive outcomes. Council also performs legislative functions to ensure compliance where required, in accordance with enforcement procedures.

The DAMP 2017-21 was developed in consultation with Council's Animal Management Unit and informed by community consultation, research and benchmarking activities with other councils.

The DAMP provides a sound basis and direction from which Council can plan and make future decisions over the next four years and relates back to the wider Council policy context.

The DAMP also builds on the foundation established by the DA Act. Under this Act, every Victorian council must prepare a DAMP that:

- sets out a method for evaluating whether animal control services provided by Council are adequate to give effect to the requirements of the Act and Regulations
- outlines programs for the training of Authorised Officers
- outlines programs, services and strategies to:
 - promote and encourage responsible ownership of dogs and cats
 - ensure that people comply with the Act, Regulations and legislation
 - minimise risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals
 - address overpopulation and high euthanasia rates for cats
 - encourage registration and identification of dogs and cats
 - minimise potential for dogs and cats to create a nuisance and
 - effectively identify all dangerous, menacing and restricted breed dogs and to ensure that these dogs are kept in compliance with Act and Regulations
- provides for review of existing and relevant Local Laws made under the Act
- provides for review of any other matters related to management of domestic animals
- provides for annual evaluation of the Plan

The DAMP describes how Hobsons Bay will fulfil its regulatory responsibilities and deliver animal management services in accordance with the DA Act.

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 2017-21

Goal 2: A great place

Objective 2.1: Protect and promote public health and community safety.

Policies and Related Council Documents

The DAMP is supported by Part 6 of the Hobsons Bay Community Local Law 2015 which relates to animals including nuisance animals and control.

The Dogs in Public Places Policy is a guideline to assist the community in responsible and safe management of dogs in public places.

Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

All Victorian Councils are required to enforce Victorian Government legislation, Regulations and Codes of Practice in the management and control of domestic animals. In accordance with section 68A of the DA Act every council must prepare a DAMP. The plan must be reviewed annually and amended where necessary.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Animal Management service is provided for in the unit's operational budget. While initiatives implemented in the last four years have resulted in cost savings, the use of a contractor, such as the Lost Dogs Home means there is a future risk involved regarding price fluctuation.

Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

The Biodiversity Strategy 2017-22 was adopted by Council on 13 June 2017. The Strategy is informed by a Technical Report and identifies feral cats as a concern given their role in the extinction of at least seven mammal species as well as several bird species. The management of feral cats requires both a technical response that includes trapping and a focus on responsible ownership and the management of domestic cats.

The provision of discounted desexing programs, participation in the Municipal Association of Victoria's desexing voucher scheme and the provision of discounted registration fees for eligible residents allows us to support residents who may be at a social or economic disadvantage.

Consultation and Communication

Council will engage the community in consultation for four weeks online via Participate Hobsons Bay and virtual pop-ups, in line with the Hitting the Streets initiative. This feedback will be used to inform the draft of the DAMP 2021-25.

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.

10.3 Sustainable Communities

10.3.1 Appointment of Councillor Delegate to the Western Melbourne Tourism Board

Directorate:	Sustainable Communities
Responsible Officer:	Coordinator Economic Development and Social Policy
Reviewer:	Director Sustainable Communities
Attachments:	Nil

Purpose

To appoint a Councillor delegate and proxy to the Western Melbourne Tourism (WMT) Board.

Recommendation

That Council appoints a Councillor delegate and proxy to the Western Melbourne Tourism Board for 2021 as nominated by Councillors at the 8 June 2021 Council Meeting.

Summary

A delegate and proxy need to be appointed to represent Hobsons Bay City Council on the Western Melbourne Tourism Board.

Background

WMT is a regional tourism board that aims to develop a stronger and more competitive tourism industry in Melbourne's west. Hobsons Bay City Council, along with Brimbank, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Valley and Wyndham councils, provides annual funding to support the work of WMT and is represented at monthly board meetings.

Discussion

WMT is an urban regional tourism board established to develop a stronger more competitive tourism sector in Melbourne's west. WMT embraces the municipal boundaries of Hobsons Bay, Brimbank, Maribyrnong, Melton, Moonee Valley and Wyndham. Hobsons Bay has been a member of WMT since 2006.

The WMT Board's mission is to increase the recognition and contribution of tourism to the region's economy, ensuring potential visitors are aware of the unique factors that make Melbourne's west a compelling place to visit and converting this interest to visitation growth.

WMT focuses on working collaboratively with key stakeholders to support local industry operators, advocate to government, and undertake steps to grow the capability of the sector and the quality of the visitor experience in the region. WMT meets about ten times a year on Friday mornings and has a strategic plan that tightly frames the work and deliverables.

While the board has historically sought representation from Council officers, there has been a recent shift to seek Councillor representation. To ensure appropriate representation, a Councillor delegate and proxy are required to be appointed to represent Hobsons Bay City Council on the WMT Board.

Strategic Alignment

Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision

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

Council Plan 2017-21

Goal 2: A great place

Objective 2.4: Deliver, support and promote arts, cultural, heritage, recreational and sporting events and programs that foster a sense of belonging and contribute to the liveability of the city.

Policies and Related Council Documents

Council's ongoing partnership with and support of WMT aligns with the Experience Hobsons Bay Tourism Strategy 2019-24, endorsed by Council at the 14 May 2019 Council Meeting.

Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

Council is required to nominate Councillor delegates and proxies for 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

WMT is funded through annual contributions of about \$29,000 from each of the six western metropolitan councils. Hobsons Bay's contribution is allocated through Council's operational budget.

Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

WMT focuses on increasing the recognition and contribution of tourism to the region's economy, ensuring potential visitors are aware of the unique factors that make Melbourne's west a compelling place to visit and converting this interest to visitation growth.

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

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

10.4 Infrastructure and City Services

10.4.1 West Gate Tunnel Project Update

Directorate:	Infrastructure and City Services
Responsible Officer:	Senior Technical Advisor
Reviewer:	Director Infrastructure and City Services
Attachments:	Nil

Purpose

To provide an update report on the West Gate Tunnel Project including the status of advocacy activities and project initiatives.

Recommendation

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

Summary

This report includes strategic advocacy items and progress updates on the Sports and Open Space Enhancement Package and the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund.

Background

The Project commenced in 2018 and is expected to be completed in 2024. 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).

Monthly reports providing updates on various aspects of the Project are tabled through Council Meetings. Previous reports can be accessed via the Council website at: <https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Council/Council-Meetings/Minutes-and-Agendas>

Project operational updates including traffic disruption information can be accessed via: <https://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/disruptions>

Discussion

Sports and Open Space Enhancement Package

Following completion of the new cricket practice nets and the two northern irrigated ovals at WLJ Crofts Reserve, works on the sporting pavilion are well underway with the concrete slab installed and frame being erected (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Sporting pavilion at WLJ Crofts Reserve

The steel framework has been erected for the new WH Couch Pavilion at Donald McLean Reserve (Figure 2) with the roof currently being installed. A design is being developed for the reconstruction of the four synthetic cricket practice pitches and nets impacted by the JV works adjacent to the four existing turf pitches.



Figure 2: WH Couch Pavilion under construction

West Gate Neighbourhood Fund

As reported in March 2021 the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund Partnership Grants successful projects have been announced. Funding will be distributed, and projects will commence when funding agreements from WGTP MTIA are finalised.

The second category within this funding program is the community grants funding stream, which is now open. WGTP MTIA have held planning information sessions and grant writing workshops that will help not-for-profit organisations to apply for these grants. The grants will support projects that celebrate heritage, history or diversity, focus on arts and culture, emphasise learning and development, or enable greater participation of community members.

Grants are available to incorporated not-for-profit groups that are based, or operate, within the Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay council areas. Funding is available in three streams:

1. Connecting Neighbourhoods grants – Up to \$10,000 for a one-off project or activity
2. Celebrating Neighbourhoods grants – Up to \$20,000 for festivals, events and installations
3. Transforming Neighbourhoods grants – \$20,001 to \$100,000 for improvements to local community facilities

Grant applications are open from 7 May to 18 June 2021 via www.westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoodfund

Project Works Update

Recent Project construction works have progressed in the west zone, with extensive works underway at the Williamstown Road and Millers Road interchanges and the M80/Western Ring Road interchange area. Noise wall works continue along both sides of the freeway corridor.

Williamstown Road works

Williamstown Road under the West Gate Freeway will involve temporary closure to safely build the two new Hyde Street ramps that run over the top of Williamstown Road. The works include:

- building the columns that will support the ramps
- installing the beams that will form the structure of the ramps to be installed mid-year prior to pouring the concrete to create the new roadway and install concrete barriers.
- the installation of lighting, technology and signs to occur in late 2021
- removal of old timber noise walls along Fogarty Avenue, between Newport Rail Bridge and Williamstown Road

Millers Road works

Works in the area proposed through to August 2021:

- construction of new centre road lanes on the freeway
- remove scaffolding following successful installation of bridge beams
- set up new site access areas to the Millers Road exit and entry ramps for finishing works
- install support panels underneath the West Gate Freeway
- build the new walking and cycling path on Millers Road underneath the freeway
- install new noise walls along the Millers Road ramps (Figure 3)

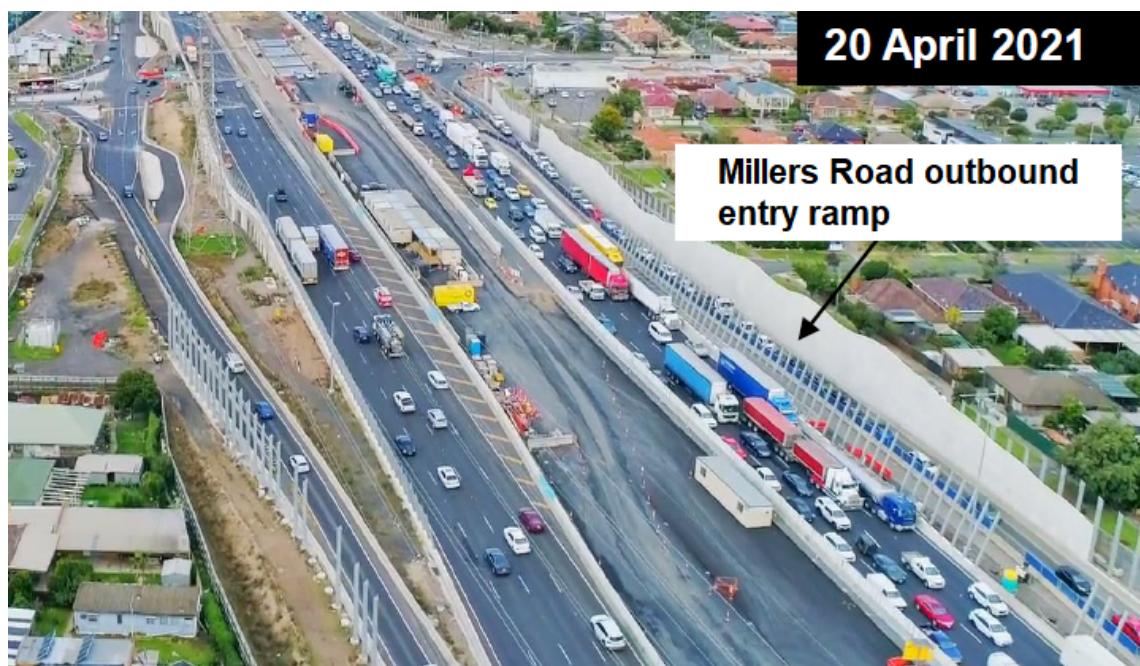


Figure 3: Noise walls under construction

Traffic Monitoring

Under the environmental performance requirements, WGTP MTIA is to undertake traffic monitoring in selected streets prior to construction, at six-monthly intervals during construction and up to two years after construction is complete. This is to be done in consultation with VicRoads and local councils as well as implementing local area traffic management works as required.

Traffic performance on the West Gate Freeway is required to be monitored in real time with up-to-date traffic information made available to road users via Variable Message Signs (VMS) to enable informed decision making on route choice. Road corridors have been identified for monitoring based on preferred routes to the city and locations that may be impacted by the construction activities associated with the WGTP MTIA. The latest report provides a summary of traffic monitoring undertaken during the October-November 2020 period versus available baseline data collected during October-November 2017.

Traffic volume results for the locations where pre and post construction data is available (25 sites) has revealed the following:

- a significant decrease in average weekday daily traffic volumes (14.76 per cent)
- AM peak volume decrease of 13.75 per cent
- PM peak volume decrease of 16.82 per cent

In the West zone there has been an average daily traffic volume reduction of 14.71 per cent with AM and PM peak reductions of 5.00 per cent and 9.87 per cent respectively.

Geelong Road between Francis Street and Grieve Parade was found to experience a decrease in traffic volumes of 42.23 per cent during the AM peak period, while Millers Road between Geelong Road and the West Gate Freeway was found to experience a decrease in traffic volumes of 26.41 per cent during the AM peak period. Similarly, Williamstown Road between Francis Street and the Westgate Freeway experienced an average daily reduction of 23.51 per cent when compared to baseline data.

A summary of overall traffic volume changes for the project areas over the monitoring periods is shown below (Figure 4).

SURVEY PERIOD	AVERAGE WEEKDAY TRAFFIC VOLUME CHANGE	AVERAGE WEEKDAY AM PEAK VOLUME CHANGE	AVERAGE WEEKDAY PM PEAK VOLUME CHANGE
Apr-Aug 2018 (20 count sites)	- 2.13%	- 4.85%	- 3.38%
Oct/Nov 2018 (23 count sites)	- 1.01%	- 2.00%	- 5.27%
May 2019 (23 count sites)	- 3.56%	+ 4.28%	- 1.77%
Oct/Nov 2019 (25 count sites)	+ 1.32%	+ 5.79%	-0.01%
May 2020 (25 count sites)	-25.26 %	-25.00 %	-22.39 %
October 2020 (25 count sites)	-20.28%	-17.22%	-18.38%

Figure 4: Traffic monitoring summary

Travel times during the peak periods have also reduced with an average decrease of 27.5 per cent and 23.9 per cent during the AM and PM peak periods respectively.

It is noted that the above results extend across the entire project area and have been heavily influenced by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic than by the impacts of the project.

Soil Disposal Approvals

Before any facility can be used to safely manage tunnel soil for the project, which is expected to contain low levels of PFAS, an approvals process is in place to ensure the community and environment is protected. This requires any site that has put forward a proposal to obtain the relevant environment and planning approvals before any site can start receiving tunnel soil.

Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) has approved Environment Management Plans for three Victorian landfills to receive soil from the Project with the latest approval for Cleanaway's Spoil Management and Reuse Facility in Ravenhall. EPA does not expect there to be further applications. The JV is running a tender process to choose a site for the disposal of the soil from tunnelling.

Pedestrian Bridge Naming Competition

WGTP MTIA is running a competition to name the new bridges that replaced the two walking and cycling bridges that link Yarraville with Spotswood and Altona North with Brooklyn (Figure 5). Suggested names should reflect the spirit of the inner west community, such as honouring a significant historical person or event, referencing local plants, wildlife, or geographical features, or highlighting the diversity of past inhabitants, cultures, or activities in the area. More information and application details are available on the competition webpage at: <https://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/community/name-your-bridges-comp>



Figure 5: Pedestrian bridge images

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

Other Items

A meeting of the Community Liaison Group (CLG) – West was held on 15 April 2021. Further information on the CLG including copies of meeting notes and presentations can be found at: <http://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/clg/>

The West Gate Tunnel Project's Community Information Centre has reopened with information available at <https://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/contact/information-centre>

The WGTP air quality monitoring report for March 2021 has been published at: <https://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/about/keytopics/tunnel-ventilation-and-air-quality>

Ambient air quality monitoring results were less than the respective air quality objectives for all parameters measured for all stations.

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 2017-21

Goal 2: A great place

Objective 2.5: Work with all levels of government and other stakeholders to improve our transport network and to address gaps and capacity in public transport, our roads, foot paths and cycling routes.

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 the establishment of the adopted position on the Project and have been considered to inform the design and Environmental Effects Statement (EES). Council has received many reports regarding officer assessments of the Project design development, 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. A statutory process for the acquisition of Council land has commenced.

Financial and Resource Implications

Design packages are still being reviewed and requests received to consider and respond to construction works. A Memorandum of Understanding has been established between Council and WGTP MTIA to support Council staff in the management and delivery of the Project and the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund.

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 and will be monitored and mitigated through the implementation of the Environmental Performance Requirements for the Project and audited by the Independent Reviewer and Environmental Auditor (IREA).

Consultation and Communication

Throughout the design and construction stages, Council has advocated for outcomes and improvements wherever possible that are consistent with its adopted position to optimise beneficial community outcomes. Council has assisted in sharing information on 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. Construction issues and impacts arising from the JV works such as noise, vibration and dust are being closely monitored by WGTP MTIA and IREA to detect and respond if permitted levels are exceeded.

Notifications are issued to directly impacted areas prior to works commencing.

Latest notifications can be found at:

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

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

11 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 Report.

Metropolitan Transport Forum

Directorate: Infrastructure and City Services

Councillor Delegate: Mayor Cr Jonathon Marsden

Date of Meeting: 5 May 2021

The Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF) meeting on 5 May 2021 focused on the Suburban Rail Loop project rationale and background, updates and next steps.

Mick Douge, Director of Rail and Infrastructure, and Lissa van Camp, Director of Land, Planning and Environment from the Suburban Rail Loop Authority provided a project update on the Suburban Rail Loop project. The 90km Suburban Rail Loop will link every major rail line from the Frankston to the Werribee line via Melbourne Airport. Three transport super hubs at Clayton, Broadmeadows and Sunshine will connect regional services to the Suburban Rail Loop, so passengers outside Melbourne won't have to travel through the CBD to reach destinations in the suburbs.

The first stage, Cheltenham to Box Hill, will deliver a 26km twin tunnel standalone line with six underground stations and a dedicated fleet of high-tech trains, integrated with the existing ticketing system, to provide a turn-up-and-go service. The line will connect to existing stations at Cheltenham, Clayton, Glen Waverley and Box Hill and create new stations at Monash and Burwood.

Stage one will include an Environmental Effects Statement (EES). The authority is currently preparing the EES, and the panel inquiry process will commence in late 2021, will be followed by the minister's assessment and an outcome will be determined in the third quarter of 2022.

While the Suburban Rail Loop project is not located within the City of Hobsons Bay, the Suburban Rail Loop will reshape Melbourne's transport network having positive flow-on effects for the local community in Hobsons Bay and its transport network once complete.

Other business

The MTF Executive confirmed that the June meeting would be held in person at the Melbourne Town Hall with guest speaker Minister for Public Transport, Roads and Road Safety Ben Carroll.

The MTF Executive discussed plans for face-to-face advocacy campaigns such as "Mayors on Bikes" and "Mayors on Buses" with the continuing easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

12 Notices of Motion

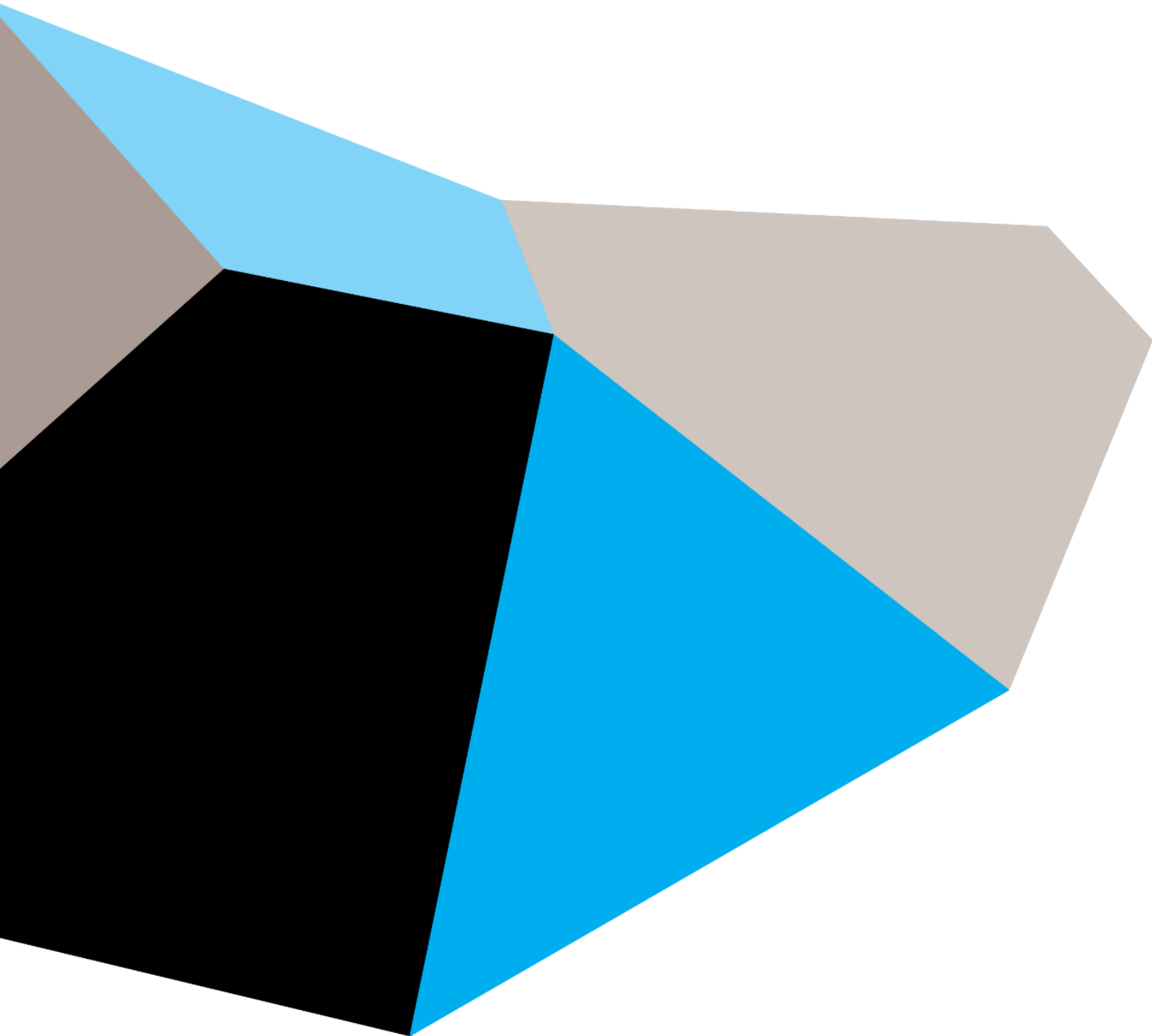
12.1 Notice of Motion No. 1227 - Condolence - The Late Jessie Hodgson

Cr Peter Hemphill has given notice of the following:

That Council acknowledges the passing of former Williamstown City Councillor, the late Jessie Hodgson, and sends a letter of condolence written under the signature of the Mayor to her family.

13 Urgent Business

14 Close of Meeting



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