



# Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday 26 August 2025  
Commencing at 7.00 PM

Council Chamber  
Hobsons Bay Civic Centre  
115 Civic Parade, Altona

**HOBSONS**  
**BAY CITY**  
COUNCIL



## OUR MISSION

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

## OUR VALUES

Respectful

Community driven and focused

Trusted and reliable

Efficient and responsible

Bold and innovative

Accountable and transparent

Recognised

Council acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

### Chairperson:

Cr Daria Kellander (Mayor)

Altona Ward

### Councillors:

Cr Rayane Hawli (Deputy Mayor)

Altona North Ward

Cr Diana Grima

Altona Meadows Ward

Cr Paddy Keys-Macpherson

Laverton Ward

Cr Kristin Bishop

Spotswood Ward

Cr Lisa Bentley

Williamstown Ward

Cr Michael Disbury

Williamstown North Ward

Kerry Thompson  
Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Hobsons Bay City Council

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## **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**

Confirmation of the minutes of the Council Meeting of Hobsons Bay City Council held on 29 July 2025 (copy previously circulated).

## **5 Councillor Questions**

Councillors will have the opportunity to ask questions of Council officers.

## **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**

#### **7.1.1 Petition: Hick Street pedestrian and bike crossing**

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and City Services  
**Responsible Officer:** Governance Officer  
**Reviewer:** Director Infrastructure and City Services  
**Attachments:** Nil

#### **Purpose**

To receive an electronic petition containing 90 signatories, requesting Council to support the future of the pedestrian rail crossing between Hick Street and Stephenson Street, Spotwood and work to improve the state of the crossing.

#### **Recommendation**

**That Council:**

- 1. Receives and notes the petition in relation to the Hick Street pedestrian and bike crossing.**
- 2. Receives a further report on this matter at a future Council meeting.**

#### **Summary**

The petition was received on 6 August 2025 and acknowledged on 13 August 2025 It has been reviewed to verify that it meets the minimum requirement of 25 valid signatories in accordance with the Hobsons Bay Governance Rules and can therefore be dealt with by Council.

The petition reads as follows:

This petition was set up to show how much the community cares about this crossing, request better, clear and consistent communication and to demonstrate the impact of the decisions you are making and how it is affecting the capacity for this community to have active transport which is so critical for our future. See attachment 2 for previous communication with Council.

This petition asks that Council:

1. Commits to supporting the future of the crossing. It's not good enough to just claim that its future is uncertain and thus plan for it to be neglected and use discouraged. Please see attached email text from the interim CEO of Hobsons Bay Council which states that "the long-term status of the existing Hick Street pedestrian rail crossing remains uncertain"

2. Commit to working with VicTrack and on the Development Plan to reinstate a good quality shared path to connect Stephenson St and the crossing. Please note that the path connecting from Stephenson Street on VicTrack land will be removed as part of the new residential development on the adjacent land.
3. work with VicTrack to get the crossing DDA compliant

Please find 401 signatures at the petition link (<https://www.change.org/p/will-we-lose-hick-street-connection-between-spotty-and-south-kingsville>) and comments (attachment 1). Please table this petition at the September Council meeting.

## **7.2 Responses to Petitions and Joint Letters**

### **7.2.1 Response to Petition: Better West, Birmingham St separated bike and pedestrian paths (UPDATED)**

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

#### **Purpose**

To respond to the petition seeking that Council construct separated cycling and pedestrian paths along Birmingham Street between Melbourne Road and Hick Street, Spotswood.

#### **Recommendation**

**That Council:**

- 1. Constructs a 3.5-metre-wide shared path along Birmingham Street between Melbourne Road and Hick Street, Spotswood to facilitate the safe movement of cyclists and pedestrians.**
- 2. Advises the lead petitioner of the outcome.**

#### **Summary**

Taking into consideration the physical site constraints of the area as well as the cost to ratepayers and benefit to the community, the most reasonable and effective solution for improving cycling and pedestrian facilities along Birmingham Street is the delivery of a 3.5-metre-wide shared pathway.

This solution provides a safe travel route for both pedestrians and cyclists, is cost effective, and aligns with the overall vision for the GreenLine proposal as well as the relevant planning permit conditions for development adjoining Birmingham Street.

Funding for this infrastructure is included in Council's 2025-26 capital works program and will be scheduled for delivery, subject to consideration of this report

#### **Background**

In March 2021, the Priority Projects Standing Advisory Committee Report was completed for the Spotswood Yards development at 571-589 Melbourne Road, Spotswood. This report found that a separated path along Birmingham Street would be a “gold standard” and that a 2.5m shared path would be an acceptable alternative. It was determined that the developer would deliver this on behalf of Council.



In September 2023, Council received a joint letter from community members advocating for the construction of a separated bike path and a separate footpath within the existing nature strip reserve on the southern side of Birmingham Street as part of the development of Spotswood Yards.

Council's resolution in response to this petition was to pursue the delivery of a separated path; Council officers collaborated with the developer of the Spotwood Yards property and amended the planning permits, which then sought a financial contribution towards public works along Birmingham Street in lieu of constructing a 2.5-metre shared path. \$168,711.50 was paid to Council by the developer which was the estimated cost of the delivery of the shared path as Council now sought to deliver a separated path with those funds.

Over the following months, Council officers commenced detailed design work from the concept stage to improve cycling and pedestrian facilities along Birmingham Street between Melbourne Road and Hick Street. This design process involved the review and investigation of physical site constraints including the location of major underground assets, conducting a site survey to confirm the dimensions of the existing road reserve and connectivity with the active transport network. Cost estimates to deliver the upgrade works were also reviewed during this time.

Taking into consideration the physical constraints of the site, the preferred solution to upgrade pedestrian and cycling facilities is now a 3.5-metre-wide shared pathway to safely accommodate all users.

In March 2025, Council received a further petition requesting for Council to construct separated cycling and pedestrian paths along Birmingham Street between Melbourne Road and Hick Street.

## Discussion

Council officers have undertaken extensive design work to develop a feasible solution for improved cycling and pedestrian facilities along Birmingham Street. This design process has considered the planning permit conditions associated with the adjoining development to the south of the road, as well as the broader vision of the GreenLine proposal, which aims to improve connections within Spotswood and South Kingsville.

The most appropriate solution to deliver this improved outcome is the construction of a 3.5-metre-wide shared path. The key considerations that have informed this proposed approach include:

- **Road reserve width constraints:** The available road reserve on the southern side of Birmingham Street is limited and does not allow for the inclusion of two fully separated paths without altering the existing road pavement, kerb and channel and compromising other public assets. Modifying these assets, which are currently in good condition, would incur significant additional costs and could also lead to other impacts such as the loss of more parking spaces.
- **High-pressure gas infrastructure:** A previous version of this report noted that due to the levels of this asset, a separated path would not be feasible. The gas main authority has since confirmed their levels, and this is no longer a constraint to the project. However, changing the existing plans would require new approvals from the gas authority, costing time and money.

- **Network integration:** There is currently no connected network of separated facilities to the east or west of this section. Constructing a high-standard but isolated separated path would provide limited benefit to the broader transport network. The proposed 3.5-metre-wide shared path offers a fit-for-purpose solution that integrates effectively with the existing infrastructure and provides flexibility for a range of users.

While it is Council's intention for the GreenLine East-West link to provide a high standard cycling connection in the future, the demand is not currently there due to large residential development to the west not yet being delivered.

- **Road safety context:** According to VicRoads' road crash statistics, there have been no reported crashes along Birmingham Street in the last 10 years. While proactive safety measures are important, there is no evidence of a high-risk crash profile that would necessitate separated infrastructure at this location.
- **Compliance with Australian Standards:** If a separated trail were pursued as proposed in the petition, there would not be sufficient space between parked cars on the north side of Birmingham Street and the path. Standards specify this must be a minimum of 0.5m to allow for car doors to be opened safely.
- **Integration with future works:** As part of Council's longer-term plan to alleviate congestion and improve pedestrian and cycling connectivity along Birmingham Street, two stages of works are proposed. This shared path recommended in this response is stage 1 of those works. Stage 2 sees raised zebra crossings (wombat crossings) being installed, new kerb and channel, new drainage and dedicated parking bays. Along with this the road will be changed to be one-way, which will resolve the traffic issues that are currently observed along this road.

If a separated path is pursued in the short term, all of these works would need to be done together as they cannot be effectively split across two projects. It would be highly likely that due to needing more width for the path and appropriate offsets, there would not be enough space for parking bays. Any proposal to remove the current parking bays would need to go to community consultation and it is anticipated this would be received negatively by the existing community.

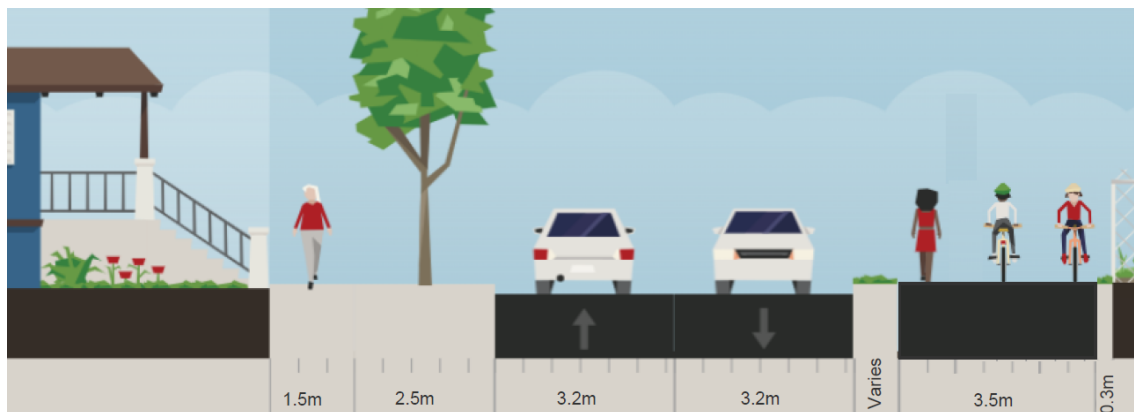
- **Cost:** The estimated cost of construction of the proposed shared path is currently \$400,000 which is within the allocated budget for FY 2025-26. The estimated cost of the construction of Stage 1 and 2 together is \$1.2 million. This has not been budgeted in the five-year Capital Works Plan.
- **Funding Profile:** The section of Birmingham Street between Melbourne Road and Hick Street is the only portion of the East-West GreenLine corridor currently funded for construction. This is made possible by a \$168,711.50 contribution from the developer of the Spotswood Yards (Precinct 17) in lieu of constructing a 3.5-metre-wide shared path, with the balance funded through Council's capital works program.

Council officers had already undertaken a thorough review of potential solutions for improved cycling and pedestrian facilities along Birmingham Street prior to the petition being lodged in March 2025. The preferred solution remains unchanged following consideration of this petition.

The diagrams below provide a cross-section view between what was requested within the petition and the first stage of what is being recommended for delivery.



**Figure 1:** Dedicated cycling facilities separated from pedestrian facilities as proposed in the petition. This would require the delivery of both Stage 1 and 2 together, making the street one-way and having dedicated parking spaces.



**Figure 2:** 3.5m-wide shared pathway approach that is programmed for delivery. This is Stage 1 of the works only, and does not propose any changes to the road or parking at this stage.

The recommended solution within this report does not inhibit potential implementation of separated facilities in the future, should they be warranted. Council can revisit this position once all further sections of the GreenLine are constructed and cycling usage data is known.

The delivery of the 3.5-metre-wide shared path is funded within Council's 2025-26 Capital Works Program and construction can be scheduled following the outcome of this report.

## 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

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

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

## **Policies and Related Council Documents**

This matter aligns with Council's adopted policies and strategies that support safe, accessible, and well-connected transport infrastructure including:

- **Hobsons Bay Integrated Transport Plan** – Supports the delivery of infrastructure that promotes safe and accessible travel for all road users, particularly pedestrians.
- **Community Engagement Policy** – Ensures that community members are consulted and provided with opportunities to contribute to projects that may affect them.
- **Asset Management Strategy** – Guides the sustainable delivery and maintenance of infrastructure assets that support community wellbeing and service needs.

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

All design and construction activities will be undertaken in compliance with relevant legislation and best-practice engineering standards, including the *Road Management Act 2004*, *Road Safety Act 1986* and *Australian Standards*. Careful coordination with asset managers and utility providers is required to avoid undue risk during implementation.

By proceeding with a shared path model, Council has mitigated significant risks associated with underground services and construction complexity, while still delivering a high-value community outcome.

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

The Birmingham Street shared path project is funded through a combination of developer contributions and Council capital investment. Any alternative design requiring the separation of facilities would necessitate substantial additional funding, design work and approvals which are not currently available.

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

The 3.5-metre-wide shared path will encourage increased active travel in the area, reduce reliance on cars and support healthier and more sustainable lifestyle options. While not fully separated, the wide shared path will comfortably accommodate a range of user groups and contribute positively to the public realm. It represents a pragmatic approach to delivering meaningful community benefits within current financial and physical constraints.

## **Consultation and Communication**

The development of the GreenLine proposal was subject to community consultation and the proposed solution aligns with this vision. Communication with local residents will be undertaken 4-6 weeks prior to the commencement of works for the delivery of the shared pathway project.

## **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: Install Traffic Management Treatments to Osborne Street, Williamstown**

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

### **Purpose**

To respond to the petition requesting traffic management treatment in Williamstown at the intersection of Osborne Street and Garden Street.

### **Recommendation**

**That Council:**

- 1. Integrates the proposed traffic treatment into the future traffic capital works project for traffic improvement work along Railway Crescent.**
- 2. Considers funding for this project as part the annual budgeting process.**
- 3. Nominates this project as one of a number of project proposals for consideration under the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) Local Government Grant Program.**
- 4. Writes to the lead petitioner informing them of the outcome of the initial consultation and Council's proposed course of action.**

### **Summary**

This report presents Council's response to a community petition requesting traffic management improvements along Osborne Street near Fearon Reserve in Williamstown.

An initial round of community consultation was undertaken in March 2025, during which Council proposed a raised zebra crossing. This proposal received no support and one objection.

Council also received a petition with 53 signatures requesting that the project be considered for inclusion in the Capital Works Program.

In response to the limited feedback, Council undertook broader community consultation from 26 June to 25 July 2025, targeting properties within a 160-metre radius of the proposed project area to better gauge community feedback. The second round of consultation yielded positive support, and officers recommend programming these works as part of a future capital works project.

## **Background**

On 12 August 2024, Council received a petition requesting traffic management treatment along Osborne Street near Fearon Reserve. Prior to this, Council had also received community concerns regarding pedestrian safety along Osborne Street, particularly near Fearon Reserve. Residents expressed a need for improved traffic treatments to facilitate safer pedestrian crossings in the area.

## **Discussion**

In response to these concerns and the petition, Council officers conducted an investigation which identified a need to improve pedestrian connectivity between the Bay Trail and Williamstown Beach Railway Station. The investigation also noted that the 85th percentile speed along Osborne Street was 52 km/h, slightly exceeding the posted speed limit of 50 km/h.

To address these issues, officers developed a proposal for the installation of a raised zebra crossing, a treatment widely recognised as an effective treatment for enhancing pedestrian safety and managing vehicle speeds. The treatment was designed to improve local amenity and road safety, particularly for pedestrians travelling along Garden Street towards Williamstown Beach Railway Station.

A community consultation process was undertaken from 1 March to 28 March 2025, focusing on residents along Garden Street and those adjacent to the proposed treatment site on Osborne Street. Despite efforts to engage the community, Council did not receive any supportive feedback. One objection to the proposal was submitted.

Given the low level of community response during the initial engagement, Council undertook a broader community consultation from 26 June to 25 July 2025. This round targeted all properties within a 160-metre radius of the proposed project area to better understand the level of community support for the initiative.

The second round of community consultation for the proposed project was completed, with a strong level of engagement received. Council received a total of 50 submissions, of which 35 were supportive, seven were unsupportive and eight provided general feedback without indicating a clear position on the proposal.

Officers recommend that Council seek funding from the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) Local Government Grant program to deliver this project. This project would be a suitable candidate for this type of funding, and similar projects that have previously been delivered in the municipality have been funded using this grants stream. There will also be cost efficiencies in undertaking this work in conjunction with works on the adjacent Railway Crescent which include traffic calming and pedestrian safety improvements.

Council officers will continue to develop the design for both projects and put it forward for funding consideration as part of annual budgeting process.

## 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

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

## Policies and Related Council Documents

This matter aligns with Council's adopted policies and strategies that support safe, accessible, and well-connected transport infrastructure. While no previous Council reports have been presented specifically in response to this petition, the proposed traffic treatment is consistent with the following guided documents:

- **Hobsons Bay Integrated Transport Plan** – supporting the delivery of infrastructure that promotes safe and accessible travel for all road users, particularly pedestrians.
- **Community Engagement Policy** – ensuring that community members are consulted and have the opportunity to provide input into projects that may affect them.
- **Asset Management Strategy** – guiding the sustainable delivery and maintenance of infrastructure assets that support community wellbeing and service needs.

Council will continue to refer to these documents to ensure consistency in decision-making and alignment with broader strategic objectives when assessing community petitions and proposed infrastructure upgrades.

## Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

The recommendations outlined in this report have been developed in accordance with relevant legislative and technical standards, including:

- Road Management Act 2004
- Road Safety Act 1986
- Austroads Guidelines
- Australian Standards (AS 1742 – Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices)

There are no known legal risks associated with the current recommendations. However, should the proposed traffic treatment proceed without adequate community support or consultation, there is a reputational risk to Council in relation to community expectations and transparency. This risk is being mitigated through adherence to the Community Engagement Policy and a proposed broader consultation process.



## Financial and Resource Implications

At this stage, no funding has been allocated for the delivery of traffic management treatments along Osborne Street.

Funding will be required for detailed design, approvals and construction. The estimated costs will be subject to further investigation and scoping and would need to be considered as part of future Council capital works budget planning or external grant applications.

Council resources have been utilised to undertake preliminary investigations, community consultation and reporting. Any future progression of the project will be subject to Council consideration in annual budgeting processes.

## Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

The proposed treatment is expected to have minimal environmental impact while improving pedestrian safety and connectivity. Socially, it supports walkability and access to key destinations. Economically, it provides community benefits without negative financial implications. Overall, the project promotes safer, more accessible infrastructure with no significant adverse impacts identified.

## Consultation and Communication

Council conducted consultation in accordance with its Community Engagement Policy to assess community support for the proposed treatment. Engagement targeted affected properties within a 160-metre radius of the proposed project area.

The outcome of the second round of consultation indicated a positive community response, with the majority of submissions expressing support for the proposed project. Council received a total of 50 submissions, comprising 35 in support, seven opposed and eight providing general feedback without stating a definitive position.

Council officers have liaised with the lead petitioner throughout this process to ensure they are fully informed of developments. The petitioner has expressed their support and provided positive feedback during the second round of community consultation.

## 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 Joint Letter: Formal Recognition and Protection of the Message Tree Site**

**Directorate:** Sustainable Communities

**Responsible Officer:** Manager Arts Culture Community

**Reviewer:** Director Sustainable Communities

**Attachments:**

1. Message Tree 2025 Site Map [7.2.3.1 - 4 pages]
2. Draft Letter to New Message Tree Alliance [7.2.3.2 - 2 pages]

#### **Purpose**

To note the completion of the Message Tree Interpretation Site Project at the intersection of Thompson Street and Nelson Place, Williamstown and correspondence with the New Message Tree Alliance and its stakeholders who contacted Council during 2024-25 requesting recognition of an additional site.

#### **Recommendation**

**That Council:**

1. **Receives and notes this report on the completion of the Message Tree Interpretation Site Project at the corner of Thompson Street and Nelson Place, Williamstown.**
2. **Responds to the joint letter to Council from the New Message Tree Alliance titled “Formal Recognition and Protection of the Message Tree Site” received by Council on 29 August 2024 and considered at the Council Meeting on 10 September 2024.**

#### **Summary**

Council received a joint letter to Council from the New Message Tree Alliance titled “Formal Recognition and Protection of the Message Tree Site”, relating to Council’s delivery of the Message Tree Interpretation Site Project. The request in the letter for Council to plant a tree on the opposite side of the street at 120 Nelson Place is not supported by Council.

Council has recognised the significant story of the Message Tree by delivering the Message Tree Interpretation Site Project at the corner of Thompson Street and Nelson Place, Williamstown. The project was completed in August 2024 and included appropriate consultation with Traditional Owners and community stakeholders.

Council thanks the New Message Tree Alliance for their engagement in the project and commitment to Reconciliation in Hobsons Bay and welcomes members to participate in future activation and promotion activities.

## Background

Council received the Joint Letter to Council from the New Message Tree Alliance titled 'Formal Recognition and Protection of the Message Tree Site' on 29 August 2024 and considered at the Council Meeting on 10 September 2024. Council resolved to receive a further report on the matters raised in the letter including its request to formally recognise and protect a site outside 120 Nelson Place.

The Message Tree, a She-oak/casuarina tree located "at the foot of Thompson Street" was known as a meeting point for First Nations people and for colonial settlers. It was removed in 1857 to make way for the extension of Nelson Place. There is no definitive evidence of the exact location of the original Message Tree.

A network called Alliance for Shared History was auspiced by a local group Get Up Out West to receive funding through Council's community grants program to research the story of the Message Tree. The research project that the group was funded for was completed, with the "Message Tree Project Outcomes Report" (the Outcomes Report) noted by Council in 2019. Members of the Alliance for Shared History and Get Up Out West went on to form the group New Message Tree Alliance.

## Discussion

Council undertook a detailed site analysis to determine the best location for the interpretation based on the research provided through the Outcomes Report and taking site conditions into consideration. Members of Get Up Out West and then the New Message Tree Alliance engaged with staff on the interpretation and approved use of materials from the Outcomes Report in the project planning.

The Message Tree Interpretation Site on the corner of Nelson Place and Thompson Street tells the story of the Message Tree featuring information panels, seating and a newly planted She-oak/casuarina tree.

Council engaged with First Nations representatives, including the Boon Wurrung Foundation and the Bunurong Land Council. Mid-project, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation was announced as the Registered Aboriginal Party for the lands and water of Hobsons Bay. This provided Council with the opportunity to undertake additional consultation. This included site visits and review and endorsement of the material.

The Message Tree Interpretation Site Project has created a prominent First Nations presence in a part of Nelson Place that people can safely gather in and engage with.

The request of the New Message Tree Alliance for Council to plant a tree on the opposite side of the street, on the grass verge outside the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria carpark at 120 Nelson Place is not supported by Council. The area outside 120 Nelson Place has many constraints for a new tree and for effective interpretation of its story. The location comprises a very busy shared use footpath and kerbside, and safety and risk hazards were considered. Horticultural staff expressed concerns about the success and suitability of this location for a new tree, including impacts on the existing tree canopy.

Through the joint letter, representatives of the New Message Tree Alliance have further referenced Council undertaking to "protect a significant site". Council has undertaken to interpret the story of the Message Tree, not to replicate it and not to protect a site. There is no information, including in the Outcomes Report research, on the exact location of the original tree. Images of the site are included in Attachment 1.

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

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

### Council Plan 2021-25

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

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

**Objective 3: Vibrant place and economy**

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

**Priority c)** Increase opportunities for people to experience the arts in diverse and accessible ways in the Hobsons Bay Creative City

## Policies and Related Council Documents

### Hobsons Bay Creative City Arts and Culture Plan

#### Program 5: Telling our Stories

**Objective 5.1** Acknowledgement and respect of our Indigenous history

**Objective 5.2** The heritage of Hobsons Bay is interpreted through the development of programs and partnerships with local groups and experts

## Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

There are no legal, statutory obligations or identified risks in the work undertaken to interpret the story of the Message Tree. If Council was to undertake protection of a significant site, it would be required to consider different obligations. These are not in the scope of the work undertaken.

## Financial and Resource Implications

Council allocated funds in 2024-25 for the Message Tree Interpretation Site Project. Council does not support funding a new project at an additional site.

## Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

The existing Message Tree Interpretation Site Project meets the principles of the Burra Charter, which recommends that cultural interpretation should be accessible to the broader community to ensure everyone can experience the story and its significance.

The Message Tree Interpretation Site Project creates a First Nations presence in a prominent site on Nelson Place where people can be encouraged to gather or pause and contemplate the story of The Message Tree. Tour guides are utilising the site and its interpretive materials. Council is pleased to see the site embraced in this way and welcomes engagement the New Message Tree Alliance Group and other community stakeholders on opportunities to further activate, promote, and celebrate it. As proposed in 2024, Council also plans to commission an acknowledgment panel recognising the contribution of the group and their research project on the story of the Message Tree.

The design complements other interpretation in public space including the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail markers. Along with the Hobsons Bay public art collection, the Bay Trail markers provide wayfinding and storytelling through the city in ways that encourage visitors and local community to explore. Cultural heritage is one of the contributors to the visitor economy in Hobsons Bay and elements are utilised frequently in event and marketing promotion for the city.

## Consultation and Communication

Council engaged with Traditional Owners on plans for the Message Tree Interpretation Site Project. Council engaged with the Senior Elder and Chairperson of the Boon Wurrung Foundation. Consultation was undertaken with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC), the Registered Aboriginal Party for the lands including Hobsons Bay.

BLCAC representatives visited the site, including BLCAC management and a Senior Elder. Council also engaged BLCAC to review the proposed text for the panels for the site, and to endorse the wording for the interpretive panels, containing research as prepared by the group in the Outcomes Report.

The design for the Message Tree Interpretation Site Project was discussed with members of Get Up Out West and the New Message Tree Alliance during various stages prior to installation. It has the support of groups including the Williamstown Historical Society and the Williamstown Tree Group.

## 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 Business**

### **8.1 Office of the Chief Executive**

Nil reports

## 8.2 Corporate Services

### 8.2.1 Draft Governance Rules and Community Feedback

<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Consultant Governance - Special Projects
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Interim Director Corporate Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Governance Rules - summary of submissions [8.2.1.1 - 10 pages]</li><li>2. Governance Rules 2025 - FINAL [8.2.1.2 - 53 pages]</li></ol>

### Purpose

To seek Council's endorsement of the Governance Rules 2025 for adoption following the completion of public consultation.

### Recommendation

**That Council:**

1. **Notes the summary of public submissions contained in this report and full text of submissions at Attachment 1.**
2. **Notes a number of changes have been made to the proposed rules following public consultation and further discussion with Councillors as outlined in this report.**
3. **Endorses the Governance Rules 2025 for publication and application from the next meeting of Council.**
4. **Authorises officers to make final minor editorial changes including essential formatting and version control prior to publication.**

### Summary

The Governance Rules include a mix of essential updates to ensure the rules align with the *Local Government Act 2020* and improvements which reflect the intended approach by Council to management of decision making and public engagement.

The draft Governance Rules were endorsed for public consultation at the Council meeting on 1 July 2025. The public consultation process resulted in 22 public submissions.

A number of changes have been made to the proposed Governance Rules following public consultation.

### Background

Council's Governance Rules were due for review in 2023. A range of issues were identified with the current set of rules outlined in the previous Council report which required a complete rework of the provisions.

## Discussion

The review of the Governance Rules has taken into account the governance principles articulated in the Act, broader principles around good decision making and practical considerations related to the transaction of Council business.

### Responses to public submissions

The public submissions raise a number of issues summarised below which have prompted changes to the proposed rules including:

- **Questions regarding the opportunity to make public submissions (as distinct from public questions)**

Officers advise that typically, submissions in relation to substantive policy matters should properly be part of a consultation process conducted in a manner consistent with Council policy well prior to the presentation of a report to Council. However, for matters on which public consultation has not been undertaken separately it would seem appropriate in the absence of any other formal forum for hearing submissions that the Council agenda make provision for receiving public statements as required.

This provision has also been extended to explicitly address the need to allow for public submissions on statutory planning and strategic land use planning matters.

- **A question regarding the need for individuals who have registered questions with Council to be present in person**

Officers note the argument that this could discriminate against members of the public who cannot attend a meeting in person due to accessibility requirements or unforeseen circumstances. The proposed rules have been amended to provide the Mayor the discretion to read out registered questions should a member of the public not be able to attend. This will be supported by additional guidance for members of the public who register questions.

Public submissions also addressed other issues which have not prompted a change to the proposed rules including:

- **A view that petitioners should only be permitted to submit if they are local residents**

Officers note this proposal would prohibit exclude non-residents and other classes of ratepayers from accessing Council.

- **Concerns expressed around the removal of the item entitled Councillor Questions**

Officers who have prepared the Draft Governance Rules have done so noting that Council meetings are a formal decision-making forum and a meeting agenda must balance public questions with the business of decision making, keeping in mind that there is a time limit to meetings.

There are range of methods Council uses to engage the community outside the formalities of a Council Meeting. The draft Governance Rules have only proposed to remove Councillor Questions as a separate agenda item and do not remove the right or obligation of councillors to ask questions which is indeed an important part of a Councillor's role.



Councillors are able to ask questions on items for decision on the agenda at the start of each item and also have unlimited opportunities to ask questions of officers on any matter during Councillor briefings which are held weekly. Benchmarking across the sector indicates that an agenda item equivalent to Councillor question time is rare, with only three examples having been found in a review of all M9 councils noting that one neighbouring council does incorporate this practice.

- **A concern expressed around the proposal to remove Supplementary Public Question Time**

Officers advise that members of the public are encouraged to submit public questions about any agenda items and these can be addressed at the start of the meeting, before decisions are made. It is not consistent with the principles governing sound decision making for discussion to be reopened immediately on matters which have been the subject of consultation, questions, public statements, councillor debate and Council resolution. Benchmarking work conducted by officers has not found any other councils which adopt this particular practice.

### **Changes recommended by Council officers**

Additional changes proposed to be made include a number of minor changes to align more closely with the application of the Act and to address matters further raised in Councillor discussions including:

- the removal of references to informal meetings which have been retained by some councils to continue discontinued provisions in the old Act around assemblies of Councillors. Any need for managing recording of those meetings may be addressed by Council policy.
- additional guidance on the Mayor's role including a duty to outline procedure on complex procedural matters.
- provisions for submissions to be made in Council meetings on statutory and strategic land use planning matters.
- noting that the CEO may put forward at item of urgent business for Council to resolve to enter into the agenda.
- amendments to the form of address.
- adjustments to the rules regarding procedural motions to allow procedural motions to be written as necessary and not be bound to a predetermined list.

### **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 Governance Rules are supported by a range of complementary policy and procedural documents including those relating to conflicts of interest, public transparency and community engagement.

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

This review meets the obligation on Council to periodically review policies to check alignment with legislative requirements and contemporary standards of practice. The review of the governance rules has had regard to the risk of continuing to manage Council business with rules that do not tightly align to the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and which are difficult to navigate and which do not align with a streamlined governance practice. It is noted that the sector is anticipating the release of a set of model rules at some point in the future and that this may further necessitate changes to the adopted rules.

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

## **Consultation and Communication**

The consultation period of four weeks was consistent with the requirements in Council's community engagement policy.

## **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 Introduction of Working With Children Checks for Councillors

<b>Directorate:</b>	Corporate Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Acting Manager Corporate Integrity
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Interim Director Corporate Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil

### Purpose

To recommend that all Councillors obtain a Working With Children Check to better align with the National Child Safe Standards and the Council's Child Safe Policy.

### Recommendation

**That Council:**

- 1. Adopts the new position of requiring all Councillors to obtain a Working With Children Check to better align with the National Child Safe Standards.**
- 2. Authorises officers to amend Council's Child Safe Policy to include this requirement.**

### Summary

This report outlines the recommendation for all Hobsons Bay City Councillors to obtain a valid Working With Children Check (WWCC) as part of Council's broader commitment to child safety. While WWCCs are already mandatory for Council staff working in child-related roles, this requirement has not previously extended to Councillors.

Implementing this measure strengthens alignment with the Hobsons Bay Child Safe Policy (2022), enhances compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards and brings Council in step with sector best practices. Other councils including Alpine Shire, Casey City, Glen Eira City and Port Phillip Council have already adopted this position for Councillors as part of their child safety responsibilities.

Councillors will be expected to maintain a current WWCC (at a minimum, a Volunteers WWCC), throughout their term as a Councillor.

### Background

Hobsons Bay City Council is committed to creating a safe environment for all children and young people in the municipality. This commitment is formalised through the Child Safe Policy and the Working With Children Check procedure, which reflect obligations under the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005*, the Victorian Child Safe Standards, and the Reportable Conduct Scheme.

Currently, there is no formal requirement for Hobsons Bay Councillors to hold a WWCC despite their active engagement with schools, early years centres, youth programs and community events. In addition to public-facing interactions, Councillors regularly make decisions that directly impact the wellbeing and safety of children and young people.

A growing number of Victorian councils now require Councillors to obtain a WWCC. Examples include Alpine Shire, Glen Eira, City of Casey and Port Phillip.

Hobsons Bay's adoption of this initiative would reflect this emerging standard.

## **Discussion**

Requiring all Councillors to obtain a WWCC serves multiple objectives:

- reinforces Council's commitment to being a child safe organisation
- demonstrates leadership and accountability in upholding community safety
- aligns with Standard 6 of the Victorian Child Safe Standards, which relates to screening and supporting people in child-related work
- promotes consistency between Councillors and staff in meeting safety expectations
- minimises reputational and legal risk.

This initiative also ensures Council is aligned with leading practices among peer councils.

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

## **Policies and Related Council Documents**

- Hobsons Bay City Council Child Safe Policy (2022)
- Hobsons Bay City Council Working With Children Check Procedure (2022)
- Code of Conduct – Councillors

## Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

While Councillors are not currently required by legislation to obtain WWCCs, adopting this requirement:

- proactively addresses obligations under the Child Safe Standards and Reportable Conduct Scheme
- demonstrates strong governance and leadership in safeguarding children
- mitigates reputational and legal risk.

The proposal is consistent with the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* and related legislation. No legal advice has been sought to date.

## Financial and Resource Implications

The financial impact is minimal. A volunteer WWCC is free, while an employee WWCC costs \$135.50. If an employee WWCC is required (yet to be determined), the cost will be fully covered by Council as part of its commitment to child safety. Administrative requirements will be managed within existing resources.

## Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

Socially, the initiative promotes community confidence in Council's role as a child safe organisation. There are no adverse environmental or economic impacts.

## Consultation and Communication

Benchmarking was conducted with other Victorian councils to inform this proposal. Internal consultation included People & Culture and Governance. If endorsed by Councillors, the requirement will be implemented with appropriate guidance and communication to support compliance.

## 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 Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum

<b>Directorate:</b>	Sustainable Communities
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Arts, Culture and Community
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Interim Director Sustainable Communities
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Taskforce Terms of Reference [8.3.1.1 - 3 pages]</li><li>2. Taskforce Key achievements [8.3.1.2 - 1 page]</li><li>3. Taskforce reference copy ALGA National Assembly NOM [8.3.1.3 - 3 pages]</li></ol>

### Purpose

To provide information to Council on the role of the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce for People Seeking Asylum and for Council to consider nominating a delegate as its representative on the Taskforce Executive Member Council.

### Recommendation

**That Council:**

- 1. Notes the role of the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce for People Seeking Asylum and its advocacy program for community benefit.**
- 2. Nominates a delegate as its representative on the Taskforce Executive Member Council.**
- 3. Includes the appointing of a Taskforce delegate in future processes for appointment of Councillor delegates and proxies to Council and community committees.**

### Summary

The Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce for People Seeking Asylum (the Taskforce) enables a coordinated advocacy position to help improve basic rights and better support for people seeking asylum. Council supports the Taskforce through membership, and this includes a delegate role for Mayor or Councillor. Council's engagement in this issue is a powerful and positive support for the community sector which works to assist some of the most vulnerable people in the Hobsons Bay and wider community.

### Background

The Taskforce was established in 2018 and is chaired by Greater Dandenong Council. It is currently made up of over 40 councils and endorsed by more than 80 community organisations nationwide. Hobsons Bay City Council was a founding member of the Taskforce. Council can appoint a Councillor delegate to be its representative on the Executive Member Council. Council would include the Taskforce in future process for delegate appointments to Council and community committees.

## Discussion

The aim of the Taskforce is to continue to identify and highlight policy and systemic deficiencies and advocate for positive change, to benefit people as they transition from arrival in Australia to being able to participate and contribute in the community.

Issues of unreasonable delays see in some cases people who have waited several years for an application to be finalised. This contributes to poor individual and community outcomes when people, many of whom are already vulnerable, are unable to access support services such as health care, accommodation, education and material aid.

Since its inception, the Taskforce has advocated through federal and state government and through its dedicated “Back Your Neighbour” advocacy campaign platform. A motion titled “Supporting People Seeking Asylum Within Our Communities” was passed at the Australian Local Government Association National Assembly in June 2025; a copy of this is attached to the report (Attachment 3) along with a summary of the work the Taskforce undertakes (Attachment 2).

Council has been a longstanding supporter of the work of the Taskforce, and it is recommended to consider a Mayor or Councillor delegate to join the Taskforce Executive Member Council. This would require the active participation of the Mayor or Councillor delegate, working collaboratively with local government partners, establishing priorities, engagement in the work, and through attendance at its meetings. Council has an allocation of funds in its operational budget to support the Taskforce in 2025-26. Terms of Reference for the role and further information about membership is included at Attachment 1.

The Australian Federal Government has responsibility for immigration policy and providing people seeking protection with a clear and efficient process, with adequate support mechanisms for those in need.

Council has a crucial role to advocate for better outcomes for the vulnerable people in the community. Engagement in the work of the Taskforce will demonstrate Council support to the local community sector, the agencies and groups working in the community that are critical resources for people seeking asylum and other humanitarian needs.

## 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

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

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

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

## **Policies and Related Council Documents**

At the Council Meeting of 25 February 2025, Council considered the report titled Appointment of Councillor Delegates and Proxies to Council and Community Committees. If Council supports becoming an Executive Member, it is recommended that the Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce for People Seeking Asylum is referred to future reports that establish delegate roles.

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

There are no legal considerations, statutory obligations or risks identified in formalising Council's support for the Taskforce.

The Australian Federal Government has responsibility for immigration policy and providing people seeking protection with a clear and efficient process and adequate support mechanisms for those in need.

The role of the Taskforce is to advocate for positive outcomes for vulnerable people in the community, through creating dialogue about practical change.

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

Funding to enable membership of the Taskforce is allocated in Council's 2025-26 operational budget. Staff time required to support Council's role is within existing resourcing capacity. Being an Executive Member requires the engagement of the Mayor or a Councillor delegate. Attendance at meetings has a requirement of two hours, generally every two months, commencing in September 2025.

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

When vulnerabilities are created in the community, local government has a role to respond. The policy context of people seeking asylum, refugee support and other humanitarian channels are set at a federal level. The impacts of people not being able to access support or participate in the community and the stresses that flow from this are then carried by not-for-profit, community sector, relief agencies, faith groups and in homelessness support and family violence services.

Council taking an advocacy role along with other local governments is a powerful and simple measure of support for the local community sector. There are no additional resources or economic impacts for Council in undertaking this advocacy role.



## **Consultation and Communication**

There will be opportunities for Council to report on outcomes and its role including through the Hobsons Bay Interagency Network and other community and services forums and to engage with the sector on advocacy and related plans.

## **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 Nominate a Council Delegate (non-voting) to the Board of The Substation**

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

#### **Purpose**

To nominate a Council Delegate (non-voting) to represent Council on the Board of The Substation for the period of the extended Hobsons Bay City Council and The Substation Funding Agreement 2022–2025 (extension 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026).

#### **Recommendation**

**That Council nominates [Cr XXX] to be the Council Delegate (non-voting) to The Substation Board as part of the funding conditions of the Hobsons Bay City Council and The Substation Funding Agreement 2022–2025 (extension 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026).**

#### **Summary**

The Hobsons Bay City Council and The Substation Funding Agreement 2022–2025 (the Agreement) is being extended to June 2026 while future funding plans are considered. As part of the funding conditions, Council has the option to take up a position on The Substation Board (the Board).

To ensure appropriate probity and avoid conflicts of interest, Council has amended this condition to enable the nomination of a Council Delegate (non-voting). This role allows for participation in Board discussions and access to Board papers while not conferring voting rights or decision-making responsibilities.

#### **Background**

The Substation is a contemporary arts organisation and destination in a building owned by VicTrack located at 1 Market Street, Newport. Council provides funding to support the operation of The Substation. The requirements of the funding are established in funding agreements, most recently the 2022-2025 Agreement.

The Agreement sets out conditions and key performance indicators which The Substation is required to report against twice each year. The Substation provides written reports including data as required, and Council can request a briefing at any time. One of the conditions Council includes in the funding agreements with The Substation is that The Substation agrees to appoint a Council-nominated Councillor representative to a non-elected position on The Substation Board (previously Committee of Management) for the duration of the agreement.

To avoid a conflict of interest, the delegated position will be a Council Delegate (non-voting) to the Board. This means that the nominated Councillor will not hold a director, office bearer or voting position, but will participate in Board discussions and receive relevant papers. The delegate will also provide updates between the Board and Council to support ongoing communication and accountability.

## **Discussion**

The 2022-2025 Agreement concluded on 30 June 2025. In a submission to Council's 2025-26 budget, The Substation requested a twelve-month extension of its current agreement to enable it to continue to operate and so that Council and The Substation could work on future funding plans. At the 23 June 2025 Council Meeting, Council supported the request and included the funding in its 2025-26 budget. Council officers are now preparing the extension of the funding agreement in line with governance needs. Council has included The Substation board delegate role in its Council and Community Committees delegations.

The responsibilities of the Council Delegate (non-voting) will include:

- attending meetings of The Substation Board as a non-voting participant
- receiving Board papers and other relevant documents
- contributing constructively to Board discussions
- providing updates from the Board to Council and sharing relevant Council information with the Board where appropriate
- declaring and managing any conflicts of interest in line with Council and legislative requirements
- maintaining confidentiality of information provided by both Council and the Board where required
- refraining from undertaking any director, office bearer or decision-making responsibilities.

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

#### **Objective 3: Vibrant place and economy**

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

## **Policies and Related Council Documents**

The Hobsons Bay City Council and The Substation 2022-2025 Funding Agreement was endorsed by Council in May 2022.

The Substation's most recent presentation to Council was in September 2024.

At the Council Meeting of 25 February 2025, Council considered a report titled Appointment of Councillor Delegates and Proxies to Council and Community Committees including The Substation. At the Council Meeting of 25 February 2025, Council considered the report Appointment of Councillor Delegates and Proxies to Council and Community Committees, which included The Substation.

Council endorsed an extension to the terms of the funding at the Council Meeting of 23 June 2025, as part of the adoption of the Hobsons Bay City Council 2025-26 budget.

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

There are established reporting and engagement conditions that frame Council's funding relationship with The Substation.

Council previously sought legal advice on the appropriateness of a Councillor being appointed as a Board member. That advice highlighted potential risks, or perceptions of conflict of interest, if a Councillor were to take up a decision-making or office-bearing role.

Accordingly, it is proposed that Council nominate a Councillor as a Council Delegate (non-voting) to The Substation Board, rather than as a formal Board member. This arrangement enables participation and communication while maintaining probity and minimising conflict of interest risks.

The Council Delegate (non-voting) will also be bound by Council's governance framework, including obligations relating to conflict of interest, confidentiality, and the Councillor Code of Conduct, further strengthening risk management.

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

Aside from time commitments, there are no resource implications from a delegate role. The Substation is overseen by a skills-based volunteer board that meets between six and eight times each year.

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

There are no specific environmental, social or economic impacts arising from the appointment of a Councillor as a Council Delegate (non-voting) to The Substation Board. The role provides opportunities to strengthen connections with people contributing to the city's arts and creative industries, supporting cultural activation, community participation, and creative sector development.

## **Consultation and Communication**

Council staff engage with The Substation staff and Board chair on the funding conditions including Council requirements.

Council officers will support the delegated Councillor by facilitating communication between The Substation and Council, confirming meeting invitations, assisting with reports and information management, and providing officer advice and briefings on matters arising, as required.

## **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 Use of Electronic Devices and Images Policy

<b>Directorate:</b>	Sustainable Communities
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Acting Manager Community Life
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Interim Director Sustainable Communities
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Use of Electronic Devices and Images [8.3.3.1 - 9 pages]

#### Purpose

To seek Council's endorsement of the Council's Occasional Care's Use of Electronic Devices and Images in Early Years Services Policy, which outlines requirements to protect children's safety, privacy and wellbeing when capturing, storing and sharing images or recordings.

#### Recommendation

**That Council:**

- 1. Adopts the Use of Electronic Devices and Images in Early Years Services Policy as attached to this report.**
- 2. Notes that the policy will be reviewed three years from the date of endorsement, or earlier if required.**

#### Summary

The Use of Electronic Devices and Images in Early Years Services Policy has been developed to ensure Council meets its obligations as a child safe organisation and complies with relevant privacy legislation. The policy sets clear requirements for the appropriate use of service-issued electronic devices, restrictions on personal devices, and processes for obtaining, storing and sharing images and videos of children in Early Years programs.

The policy aims to minimise risks to children, protect personal and sensitive information, and ensure that images and recordings are used only for authorised educational and promotional purposes, with appropriate oversight, consent and secure storage.

#### Background

As a child safe organisation, Council is committed to promoting the safety, wellbeing, and privacy of children in its care. The Occasional Care service uses images and recordings of children as part of educational programming and to engage families in children's learning experiences.

While such use can enhance learning and communication, it also carries privacy and safety risks if not managed appropriately. This policy formalises existing practices, aligns with the Children's Services Regulations 2020 and the new Education and Care Services National Regulations commencing on 1 September 2025 and the National Quality Standard commencing on 1 January 2026, and reflects Council's broader privacy and child safety commitments.

## Discussion

The policy sets out clear operational boundaries, including:

- restricting the use of image-taking to service-issued devices (iPads) and prohibiting personal devices in children's spaces
- defining consent processes for internal and external use of images
- establishing secure storage and periodic review of images and recordings
- ensuring only authorised educators or approved individuals can capture or access images
- providing guidance on inappropriate images and scenarios where images cannot be taken.

These measures align with best practice in early childhood education, uphold Council's legal obligations, and protect children from potential harm including online exploitation and misuse of personal information.

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

**Objective 2.3** – Provide and maintain safe, inclusive, and accessible community spaces, services, and programs

### A Fair Hobsons Bay for All

**Theme 2:** Inclusive and Supportive communities

## Policies and Related Council Documents

- Hobsons Bay City Council Privacy Policy
- Hobsons Bay City Council Using Corporate Images and Logos Policy
- Altona Meadows Occasional Care Enrolment Form

## Legal/Statutory Obligations and Risk

The policy ensures compliance with:

- Children's Services Regulations 2020, Part 7, Division 3, Subdivision 4 – Confidentiality and Storage of Records
- New National Model Code – Taking Images in Early Childhood Education and Care 2025
- The Education and Care Services National Regulations commencing on 1 September 2025
- The National Quality Standard commencing on 1 January 2026
- Child Safe Standards
- Relevant privacy and child safety legislation

Risks associated with misuse or unauthorised access to images are mitigated through clear controls, restricted device use, and regular oversight by the Approved Provider.

## Financial and Resource Implications

Implementation of the policy will be managed within existing operational budgets and staffing resources. No additional funding is required.

## Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

The policy strengthens child safety practices, builds community trust, and supports respectful engagement with children and families.

No significant environmental or economic impacts are anticipated.

## Consultation and Communication

Internal consultation was undertaken with Early Years staff as the Approved Provider to ensure alignment with existing and new upcoming child safety and privacy procedures.

The policy will be communicated to staff, families, and relevant stakeholders through the enrolment process, staff induction, and service information materials.

## 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 Sunshine Superhub Council Submission

<b>Directorate:</b>	Infrastructure and City Services
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Strategic Project Specialist
<b>Reviewer:</b>	Director Infrastructure and City Services
<b>Attachments:</b>	1. Planning Submission Sunshine Superhub.v2 [8.4.1.1 - 26 pages]

#### Purpose

To consider a planning submission to the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) engagement process on the Sunshine Superhub Project (SSP).

#### Recommendation

**That Council endorses the attached planning submission (Attachment 1) on the Sunshine Superhub Project.**

#### Summary

Planning Consultation for the SSP commenced on 30 June 2025, and LXRP invited submissions from the community and key stakeholders including Council on the project. Feedback from the community closed on Sunday 27 July 2025. Council was granted an extension to allow sufficient time to prepare the submission for consideration at the 26 August 2025 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Council officers have prepared a detailed submission (Attachment 1) that encompasses relevant aspects of the SSP in response to Council's invitation to provide a formal submission on the project.

Council provided feedback on a range of planning matters, including the Project boundary and area (relevant to Hobsons Bay), environmental management, heritage, tree and vegetation removal, amenity, traffic management, construction related impacts and advocacy of rail infrastructure required to cater for increased population in the west.

One of the key primary approvals relevant to the Project is public consultation and submission of a consultation report and project boundary to the Minister for Planning per Clause 52.03 of the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPPs) under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

All Council feedback will be included in a LXRP Consultation Report which will inform the Minister for Planning's assessment of the Project under Clause 52.0 of the VPPs.

## Background

In September 2024, the Government announced a \$63.5 million investment to commence planning for the redevelopment of Sunshine Station, creating capacity for a future rail link to Melbourne Airport and future rail upgrades in Melbourne's west. The planning phase identified a recommended solution at Sunshine Station to deliver these benefits.

In late February, the Federal and State governments announced a joint investment of more than \$4 billion to build a Sunshine Superhub that will untangle Melbourne's most complex rail junction, unlock capacity for more passenger services and create space for a rail line to Melbourne Airport and an electrified line to Melton.

It is planned that concepts will be released late 2025, major construction commencing mid 2026 with project completion in 2030.

Declaration of the Project under the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009* (MTPF Act) occurred on 31 July 2025. Declaration of the Project grants delivery powers to LXP to streamline and facilitate construction, including the ability to:

- acquire interests in private land including stratum interests
- acquire Public Authority and Council land
- close roads permanently and temporarily and to declare roads
- establish restricted access areas to ensure public safety and prevent disruption to works and services to ensure project delivery timeframes
- temporarily amend local laws for the purpose of the Project
- utilise Victoria Planning Provision Clause 52.03 Level Crossing Removal Project.

## Discussion

### Proposed Position of Council

Support in principle for the Sunshine Superhub Project as it will untangle Melbourne's most complex rail junction, unlocking capacity for more passenger services and creating space for a rail line to Melbourne Airport and an electrified line to Melton.

Support of the planned works, particularly the major changes to the rail network around Sunshine Station that will:

- enable more trains travelling through Sunshine every hour
- involve works spanning more than 6km from West Footscray to Albion
- create space for a future rail line to Melbourne Airport and a future electrified line to Melton
- create new platforms to unlock capacity for more services for the growing communities of Melton and Wyndham Vale, and to the airport
- create better connections for people travelling to the city and regional areas.

Support in principle for the scope of works within Hobsons Bay which is limited to minor rail infrastructure works within the rail corridor, including combined services routes (CSR) and signalling. However, Council asks LXP to consider the concerns and requests contained in the submission.

## Council Advocacy for Better Transport in Hobsons Bay

Council recognises the significant transport challenges facing Melbourne's west as the population continues to grow.

While Council has previously considered a range of rail proposals, its current focus is on ensuring that improved transport outcomes remain a priority. Council continues to advocate for better connections across Hobsons Bay and the western metropolitan area, including investment in new stations, planning for future rail links, and ensuring that current projects do not limit opportunities for future improvements.

## Council's Planning Submission

Key issues and items of note included in the draft submission (refer attachment) are:

- Support in principle for the Sunshine Superhub Project and the scope of works within Hobsons Bay which is limited to minor rail infrastructure works within the rail corridor.
- Advocacy to Government supporting the need for early planning and investment in transport infrastructure that keeps pace with growth and strengthens future rail connections across Melbourne's west.
- LXP to:
  - advise the Hobsons Bay streets and any potential land that will be utilised for delivery of the Project.
  - liaise and consult with impacted businesses and landowners regarding implications resulting from the Project.
  - engage and work with Council to understand and address the impacts the Project will have on heritage precincts and items of heritage significance and proposed developments located near the rail corridor.
  - engage and work with Council to address any impacts the Project may have on HO136 Newport Railway Station, HO 186 Former Newport Flour Mill, DDO10 38-48 Blackshaws Road, South Kingsville and the land at 571-589 Melbourne Road, Spotswood
  - engage and work with Council to minimise tree and vegetation removal particularly along the railway corridor in the vicinity of the proposed works where they provide screening and other amenity benefits. Specifically, Council is concerned about the following areas of biodiversity and make the following requests:
    - The preservation of trees within the above mentioned HO136 – Newport Railway Station Heritage Precinct. In addition to the station buildings, the existing trees (peppercorn and lilly pilly) are identified in the heritage citation as being of significance. Council is opposed to removal of these significant trees.
    - The preservation of trees along the rail and within the corridor, especially next to Moresby Street and Montgomery Crescent as these plantings are well advanced and provide screening and amenity value.
  - engage and work with Council to develop an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to address site-specific risks, management of environmental impacts during all project phases, and ongoing monitoring strategies.

- implement measures to control dust and emissions during construction and operation. Consider using low-emission construction equipment, dust suppression methods, and strategies to reduce airborne pollutants that could impact both human health and local ecosystems.
- engage and work with Council to effectively manage traffic and transport impacts resulting from the Project.
- engage and work with all affected residents, businesses, and community groups about proposed road closures or impacts on access to private property.
- engage and work Council to minimise construction impacts to the community.
- ensure local streets are not used for heavy vehicle and haulage operations associated with the Project. Only arterial roads and major roads are recommended for construction activities associated with the Project.
- ensure access to all surrounding properties by emergency service vehicles are not compromised or reduced.

## **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**

The March 2016 Hobsons Bay Grade Separation Principles and Guidelines have been integral in informing Council's response to the Project. Officers have referred to various Council plans, strategies, heritage overlays and precincts, and design and development overlays in preparing Council's submission.

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

Legal and statutory implications and risks associated with the design and construction of the project site will be further considered as the Project progresses.

Council, as a key stakeholder, has an interest in the LXP's design, specifically in relation to the local transport network, assets owned and managed by Council, shared use paths, drainage and open space outcomes including impacts on conservation, heritage and development zones and significant trees.

## Financial and Resource Implications

Unlike previous LXR projects, Council will not be negotiating a formal agreement with the LXR for provision of resource support to Council to enable input to the Project design development since the major project works are outside of the Hobsons Bay area. However, Council will be utilising its own resources to monitor project progress, provide input to minimise construction impacts on the community, temporary conditions during construction and review and approval of potential works on assets which Council will continue to manage.

## Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

Environmental, social and economic issues and opportunities will be further considered as the Project progress and in have been included in the draft submission. The Hobsons Bay Grade Separation Principles and Guidelines acknowledge the environmental, social and economic values and opportunities for further consideration with this Project.

## Consultation and Communication

Council's understanding of the Project has been informed by the information the LXR has published and provided on its website and a LXR information session held specifically for Council officers.

On 27 June 2025, LXR provided a high-level presentation to Council officers introducing the Project. This included a project overview, required planning approvals, zones and overlays, planning consultation process and the powers the Project has under the MTPF Act.

Planning consultation for the SSP commenced on 30 June 2025, and LXR invited submissions on the Project from the community and key stakeholders including Council. Feedback from the community closed on 27 July 2025. Council was granted an extension to allow sufficient time to prepare the submission for consideration at the 26 August 2025 Council meeting.

LXR has invited Council to submit feedback on a range of planning matters, including the Project boundary and area (relevant to Hobsons Bay), environmental management, heritage, tree and vegetation removal, amenity, traffic management and construction-related impacts.

All Council feedback will be included in a consultation report which will inform the Minister for Planning's assessment of the Project under Clause 52.0.

## 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 Association of Bayside Municipalities - Fees and Membership

**Directorate:** Infrastructure and City Services  
**Responsible Officer:** Acting Manager Active Communities & Assets  
**Reviewer:** Director Infrastructure and City Services  
**Attachments:** Nil

### Purpose

To seek Council's endorsement of the proposed 2025-26 Association of Bayside Municipalities membership fee increase for Hobsons Bay City Council.

### Recommendation

**That Council supports the proposed 2025-26 membership fee for Hobsons Bay City Council of \$12,374.31, representing an increase of \$1,334.56 from the current year's fee.**

### Summary

The Association of Bayside Municipalities (ABM) has a tiered membership fee structure, calculated based on each member council's rate revenue. For Hobsons Bay City Council, the proposed 2025-26 membership fee is \$12,374.31, which represents an increase of \$1,334.56 (12%) compared to the current fee.

ABM is seeking member feedback on both its updated governance recommendations and the proposed membership fee structure. These matters will be presented for member voting at a meeting scheduled for late August 2025.

### Background

ABM is an association comprising the councils which have frontage to, and are influenced by, the tidal environment of Port Phillip Bay. Hobsons Bay City Council has been a long-time member of the ABM.

ABM serves as a strong and unified voice for the Bay, bringing member councils together to support evidence-based decision-making for the long-term health of the Bay and to strengthen ongoing community connections with this important environmental and recreational asset.

## Discussion

Through the recent strategic governance review process, ABM members acknowledged the need to increase membership fees and adopt a budget that will support the sustainable operations of the association. A key driver of this change is the requirement to attract and recruit an effective Program Advisor, which is considered critical to delivering on ABM's objectives.

To achieve this, a tiered fee structure has been proposed, designed to balance equity among member councils with the necessity of increasing contributions to meet an annual operating budget of \$112,000.

ABM remains committed to a broad range of environmental, cultural and community outcomes for Port Phillip Bay. This includes working with Traditional Owners and fostering partnerships to protect environmental values. ABM is also focused on improving water quality and the surrounding coastal environment.

ABM acts as a conduit and catalyst for information exchange on the impacts of climate change for bayside councils including sea level rise, storm surge and inundation. It further supports appropriate and sustainable coastal planning, development and land use, while advocating for effective governance arrangements for the Bay.

Hobsons Bay has a large coastline and the management requirements that fall to Council are significant. Council realises significant benefits as a member of this committee, including partnering with other councils that encounter similar environmental conditions for advocacy, information sharing on like challenges and participating in shared projects for wider community benefit. Remaining within the association is recommended.

Cr Keys-Macpherson is Council's current delegate on this committee and has been involved in recent discussions to update the governance structure and refine the strategic vision for the next four years.

## Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses priorities from the following strategic documents:

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

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

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

#### **Objective 2: Environment**

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

## Policies and Related Council Documents

Hobson's Bay Coastal and Marine Management Plan 2021-2031

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

Council's ongoing membership in the ABM ensures it remains actively engaged in current and emerging advocacy efforts, while also reinforcing strategic partnerships with neighbouring bayside councils to address shared coastal and environmental priorities.

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

The cost of this membership is budgeted for in Council's Operational Budget 2025-26 which also allows for the increase in fees.

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

Ongoing membership in the ABM enables Council to advocate as part of a unified local government voice on critical matters relating to the health, protection and sustainable management of Port Phillip Bay. This collaboration is particularly important given Hobsons Bay's extensive 20 kilometres of coastline and foreshore areas, which are central to the municipality's identity and liveability.

## **Consultation and Communication**

ABM is undertaking a consultation process with all member councils over an eight-week period, providing adequate time for feedback and engagement. Through the strategic governance review process, there has been a broad recognition of the need to increase membership fees and adopt a revised budget to support the ongoing sustainability of the ABM's operations.

## **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

Nil reports

### 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:**

- **Western Melbourne Tourism Board – 11 July 2025**

#### Western Melbourne Tourism Board

**Directorate:** Sustainable Communities

**Councillor Delegate:** Cr Lisa Bentley

**Date of Meeting:** 11 July 2025

The Western Melbourne Tourism (WMT) Board met for an interim board meeting on Friday 11 July 2025 with the purpose of approving the draft budget.

Key agenda items included:

- Review and approval of the 2025-26 Budget and draft Action Plan

Richard Ponsford, Executive Officer of WMT, also provided updates on:

- Website project and brand/website launch plans
- Marketing planning
- Namaste Westside project update

## **10 Notices of Motion**

### **10.1 Notice of Motion No 1276: Community Safety and Crime Prevention**

Cr Lisa Bentley has given notice of the following motion:

**That Council:**

- 1. Notes with concern that criminal incidents in Hobsons Bay increased by 35% in the year to March 2025, causing distress among residents and impacting the sense of safety and wellbeing in our community.**
- 2. Urges the Premier and the Victorian Government to urgently address staffing challenges facing Victoria Police, including shortages that affect station accessibility, patrol capacity, targeted issue responses, and community visibility; and calls on the State Government to ensure police services across Hobsons Bay are adequately resourced to meet community needs at all service sites and stations.**
- 3. Calls on the State Government to increase funding for community safety and crime prevention programs, with a focus on early intervention, youth engagement, and neighbourhood outreach.**
- 4. Requests that Mayor Kellander write to the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister for Police Community Safety and Victims, and local Members of Parliament, expressing Council's concerns and advocating for immediate action to address rising crime rates and strengthen both enforcement and preventative safety measures in Hobsons Bay.**

## **10.2 Notice of Motion No 1277: Expression of Solidarity with the Hobsons Bay Community Regarding the Situation in the Middle East**

Cr Rayane Hawli has given notice of the following motion:

**That Council**

- 1. Recalls that Council has an obligation under section 8 of the *Local Government Act 2020* to “provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community”.**
- 2. Acknowledges the pain, suffering and trauma of many residents of Hobsons Bay, who have lost loved ones over the last 22 months in Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria. Celebrating the diversity of our multicultural and multifaith community means standing with those community members, not ignoring them. Further, mourns the horrific and unacceptable loss of civilian life, noting that at least 60,000 Palestinians have been killed and at least 146,269 have been injured by the Israeli Government in Gaza since October 2023, and the 1,162 people killed in Israel on 7 October 2023.**
- 3. Notes that the most authoritative and prestigious international human rights organisations and legal experts, such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and United Nations experts, have concluded that Israeli Government officials have committed and are continuing to commit the crime of genocide and crimes against humanity, including ethnic cleansing and extermination, of Palestinians in Gaza. Notes further that highly esteemed and expert Israeli human rights organisations B’tselem and Physicians for Human Rights Israel have reported that Israel is committing the crime of genocide in Gaza. Notes finally that the International Court of Justice has issued a preliminary ruling that the State of Israel is plausibly committing the crime of genocide against the Palestinian people and that the International Criminal Court has also issued arrest warrants for Israeli Government officials for crimes against humanity and war crimes.**
- 4. Notes that the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) has warned that the “worst-case scenario of Famine is now unfolding in the Gaza Strip”. Notes further that Human Rights Watch has recognised the deliberate killing of civilians seeking aid and the deliberate displacement of Palestinian civilians in Gaza are also war crimes and crimes against humanity.**
- 5. Recognises the suffering of civilian hostages and their families, who suffer daily without knowing whether their loved ones survive, including Israeli hostages. Recognises also the nearly 10,000 detained Palestinians, including hundreds of children.**
- 6. As part of a diverse, multicultural and multifaith community, deplores and actively stands against all forms of racism, including anti-Palestinian, anti-Semitism, and anti-Muslim racism.**

## 10.3 Notice of Motion No 1278: Council's Human Rights Obligations

Cr Rayane Hawli has given notice of the following motion:

**That Council:**

1. **Recalls the role of local government in upholding human rights standards in all of its work and that Council has an obligation under section 8 of *the Local Government Act 2020* to “provide good governance in its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community”.**
2. **Requests a report to Council by December 2025, detailing all existing contracts and investments through financial institutions between Council and any entity identified in the following United Nations report<sup>\*</sup>:**  
<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session31/database-hrc3136/23-06-30-Update-israeli-settlement-opt-database-hrc3136.pdf>  
**and having regard to any other such reputable sources or database as relevant.**
3. **As part of its ongoing review into Council's procurement practices, requests a report to Council by December 2025 on the incorporation of best-practice human rights protections and risk mitigation into procurement, investment and related policies, so as to reduce the use of Council resources to aid, abet, or materially contribute to human rights violations, including but not limited to discrimination, modern slavery, and international crimes including crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide.**
4. **For the avoidance of doubt, where there is no reasonable alternative to a good or service credibly linked to human rights breaches, such as where the cost of an alternative good or service is considered unreasonable with regard to Council resources, such goods and services would be obtained or used.**

<sup>\*</sup> *“OHCHR update of database of all business enterprises involved in the activities detailed in paragraph 96 of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem”.*

## **10.4 Notice of Motion No 1279: Advocacy for the Situation in Palestine to the Federal Government**

Cr Rayane Hawli has given notice of the following motion:

**That Council:**

- 1. Condemns the targeting by the Government of Israel of civilians, health care workers, aid workers, journalists and other protected persons under international humanitarian law, which are war crimes.**
- 2. Notes that Council has written, and considered writing, on successive occasions to the State and Federal governments on issues of importance to the Hobsons Bay community, on issues which are the clear and sole responsibility of those other levels of government, including on matters relating to public transport, air pollution, infrastructure funding, and policing. Recognises therefore that advocacy to the State and Federal governments is within the normal work of Council.**
- 3. Writes to the Prime Minister of Australia, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, calling on the Australian Government to:**
  - a. Clearly condemn the international crimes carried out by the Israeli Government against the Palestinian people including the crime of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, noting that the international crimes of Hamas have hitherto repeatedly and clearly been condemned by the Australian Government,**
  - b. Call for the immediate lifting of the siege on Gaza to allow Palestinians in Gaza to have unlimited access to aid, including food, water, fuel, electricity, medical supplies, materials to repair damaged homes and civilian infrastructure, in line with Australia's obligations under international law,**
  - c. Take concrete action such as imposing sanctions in response to these violations if they are not remedied immediately, in line with Australia's clear obligations under international law,**
  - d. Swiftly recognise the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people as part of a two-state solution, which has been the formal position and bipartisan consensus of every Australian Government since the founding of the State of Israel. Noting further that Australia was the first country to vote in favour of the 1947 UN Partition Plan which led to the creation of Israel as a state and which necessarily requires recognition of a State of Palestine.**

## **11 Record of Assembly of Councillors**

An internal process has been carried out and Council is required to table the record of assembly of councillors.

The record of assembly of councillors is provided as a final attachment in any agenda.

Council officers recommend that Council formally receive the relevant assembly records, as this is regarded as good governance practice.

### **Recommendation**

**That Council receives the record of assembly of councillors for:**

- **Pre Council Meeting 29 July 2025**
- **Councillor Briefing 05 August 2025**
- **Councillor Briefing 12 August 2025**
- **Councillor Briefing 19 August 2025**

## **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 Urgent Business**

## **14 Close of Meeting**

**HOBSONS**  
**BAY** CITY  
COUNCIL





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**HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL**

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