



Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday 13 November 2018
Commencing at 7.00pm

Council Chamber
Hobsons Bay Civic Centre
115 Civic Parade, Altona

**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**



THE COUNCIL'S MISSION

Working with our community to plan, deliver and advocate for the services and infrastructure that will achieve a healthy, connected and sustainable future in Hobsons Bay.

OUR VALUES

Respectful

Community driven and focused

Trusted and reliable

Efficient and responsible

Bold and innovative

Accountable and transparent

Recognised

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

Councillors:

Cr Tony Briffa	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Sandra Wilson	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Angela Altair	Strand Ward
Cr Peter Hemphill	Strand Ward
Cr Jonathon Marsden	Strand Ward
Cr Colleen Gates	Wetlands Ward
Cr Michael Grech	Wetlands Ward

Aaron van Egmond
Chief Executive Officer
Hobsons Bay City Council

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AGENDA

1 Council Welcome and Acknowledgement

The Chairperson will welcome members of the gallery and acknowledge the people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of this land.

2 Apologies

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

3 Disclosure of Interests

In accordance with sections 77A, 77B, 78 and 79 of the *Local Government Act 1989* Councillors are required to disclose a "conflict of interest" in a decision if they would receive, or could be reasonably perceived as receiving a direct or indirect financial or non-financial benefit or detriment (other than as a voter, resident or ratepayer) from the decision.

In accordance with section 79B of the *Local Government Act 1989* Councillors who consider that they have a personal interest that is in conflict with their public duty in relation to a matter may, if they do not have a conflict of interest as described above, apply to Council to be exempted from voting on the matter.

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

4 Minutes Confirmation

4.1 Ordinary Council Meeting

Confirmation of the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Hobsons Bay City Council held on 9 October 2018 (copy previously circulated).

5 Councillors' Questions

6 Public Question Time

Public question time provides an opportunity for the public to ask questions related to items on the agenda of the Council meeting or any other matter within Council's responsibility. Questions must be put in writing and received by 4pm on the day of the Council meeting

7 Petitions/Joint Letters

8 Business

8.1 Office of the Chief Executive

8.1.1 Chief Executive Officer - Report on Operations

Directorate: Office of the Chief Executive

Councillor Portfolio: Nil

Appendices:

- 1 Chief Executive Officer - Report on Operations - October 2018
- 2 AOC - Integrated Transport PAC 12 September 2018
- 3 AOC - OCM 9 October 2018
- 4 AOC - CBS 16 October 2018
- 5 AOC - CBS 30 October 2018

Purpose

To provide Council with a regular update from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on the recent initiatives, projects and performance undertaken.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Receive and note the Chief Executive Officer's Report on Operations, including details of recent activities and initiatives undertaken by the organisation**
 2. **In accordance with section 80A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989* incorporate into the minutes of this meeting the written Record of Assembly of Councillors held on 12 September and 9, 16 and 30 October 2018.**
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Summary

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

Discussion

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

Strategic Alignment

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

This report specifically addresses the following priorities of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision:

Priority 6: An accessible and connected community.

This report specifically addresses the following goals and objectives of the Council Plan 2017-21:

Goal 4: A Council of excellence

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

Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

8.2 Corporate Services

8.2.1 Quarterly Financial Report - Period Ended 30 September 2018

Directorate: Corporate Services

Councillor Portfolio: Nil

Appendices:

- 1 Appendix 1 - Quarterly Financial Report - September 2018
- 2 Quarterly Financial Report - September 2018 - CWP

Purpose

To present Council with the financial results for the period ended 30 September 2018, and the revised 2018-19 annual forecast projections following completion of the September forecast review.

Recommendation

That Council notes the financial report for the period ended 30 September 2018 and the revised 2018-19 annual forecast.

Summary

The financial report for the period ended 30 September 2018 and a detailed report on the position of the Capital Works Program are attached as appendices. The September forecast review focuses on carryovers and timing differences that occur between the 2017-18 and 2018-19 financial years. This report has been received and noted by Council's Audit Committee at its meeting on 31 October 2018.

The operational budget surplus for 2018-19 of \$17.011 million has increased to a \$19.654 million forecast.

The increased forecast surplus of \$2.643 million is largely a result of additional income (\$2.503 million) expected to be received throughout the year. Operational expenditure is forecast to be under budget by \$140,000. This includes projected savings in employee costs and depreciation (non-cash).

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

Despite the increased operational forecast surplus, a balanced financial (rate determination) result continues to be calculated. It is pleasing that this balanced result has been achieved despite \$1.3 million less funding required (compared to the current year's budget) from the infrastructure reserve for capital works.

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

Background

The overall financial results show improvements when compared to budget. Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) has been updated and highlights that Council remains in a reasonable financial position and is financially sustainable in the short term.

Whilst the forecasts in 2018-19 predict a strong operational surplus, it should be noted that surpluses are expected to decline in future years of the LTFP. Despite that, the LTFP predictions are slightly better than when the financial report was last presented to Council.

When compared to previous financial plans, current and projected income has been dramatically reduced as a result of rate capping. There is also limited movement predicted in relation to income funding streams such as contributions, operating grants, user charges and fees. Council needs to address these issues, which in turn impacts Council's ability to maintain critical community assets.

Council will continue to monitor the impact of the financial results in relation to Council's overall financial viability. Current long term financial planning includes future forecasts of rating levels increasing in line with the 2.25 per cent cap applied in 2018-19.

Strategic Alignment

The Quarterly Financial Report specifically addresses the following goals and objectives of the Council Plan 2017-21:

Goal 4: A Council of excellence

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

The interim financial report is also directly aligned to the Council's annual budget, LTFP, strategic resource plan and capital works program.

Policy and Previous Council Reports

Council considers quarterly financial reports at the end of the September, December (mid-year budget review), March and June (year-end) financial periods. The quarterly financial report for September 2018 is the first report considered as part of the 2018-19 financial year.

Legal/Statutory Obligations/Risk

It is good financial practice and a requirement of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) that Council is presented with regular reports on its financial performance and position during the year.

Section 138 of the Act requires that a set of financial statements be presented to an open Council meeting on a quarterly basis.

Financial and Resource Implications

The operational budget surplus for 2018-19 of \$17.011 million has increased to a forecast surplus of \$19.654 million.

The increased forecast surplus of \$2.643 million is largely a result of additional income (\$2.503 million) expected to be received by Council. The increased income forecasts are spread reasonably evenly across the various income types, but most notable is the additional capital income forecast to be received (\$858,000) that will be used to fund further capital works.

Operational expenditure is forecast to be under budget by \$140,000 and includes projected savings in relation to employee costs and depreciation (non-cash). Materials and services have been forecast to increase, but further analysis will be conducted during the December 2018 midyear budget review.

Balanced financial results are reflected in the rate determination statement, which is calculated by adding non-operational items such as capital expenditure, loan principal repayments and reserve transfers to the operational result and removing non-cash items such as depreciation. A balanced financial result is forecast to be achieved despite \$1.3 million less funding (compared to the budget) required from the infrastructure reserve to fund capital works.

The summary cash flow statement indicates that Council's cash and investment balance was \$67.184 million as at 30 September 2018. The original budget of \$63.394 million for 30 June 2019 has been increased to \$65.35 million due to the revised forecast. The increased forecast level of cash at year end when compared to the budget (\$1.956 million) is generally a result of:

- improved forecast financial result expected for 2018-19 (\$2.165 million) after the non-cash depreciation 'saving' has been removed
- net capital works to be carried over to next year's program (\$2.75 million)
- improved financial result (\$1.6 million) adjusted for VGC funding and non-cash items, including the fair value asset adjustment and depreciation
- updated balance sheet forecast adjustments (\$4.137 million) to year end receivables, payables and employee benefits

It is important to note that Council's cash reserves are generally increasing to cover future loan principal repayments, waste requirements (both of which are held in reserve) and growing future creditor and employee leave commitments. In addition, operational and capital works savings are being transferred to an infrastructure reserve to fund future capital works. Therefore increasing cash reserves should not be seen as an opportunity to increase spending.

The working capital ratio (current assets/current liabilities) indicates the amount that Council's short term assets exceed its short term obligations and thus Council's ability to fund its short term operations. This ratio was 266 per cent at 30 September 2018 and is expected to be 247.5 per cent by the end of 2018-19 compared to the original budget of 216.5 per cent. A current ratio over 100 per cent generally indicates a manageable short term financial position.

Capital Works Result

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

Capital works expenditure for the period ended 30 September 2018 was \$5.89 million compared to the year to date budget of \$5.611 million. The initial budgeted capital expenditure for 2018-19 of \$44.091 million has been increased to a forecast of \$45.133 million, mainly due to capital expenditure that was delayed from the previous financial year.

Capital income for the period ended 30 September 2018 was \$928,000. The initial budgeted capital income for the 2018-19 financial year of \$1.94 million has increased to a year end forecast of \$3.246 million.

Consultation and Communication

Council's Audit Committee, at the meeting held on 31 October 2018, received and noted the financial report for the period ended 30 September 2018 and the revised 2018-19 annual budget projections.

Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

8.2.2 Audit Committee - Membership, Fee Structure and Charter

Directorate: Corporate Services

Councillor Portfolio: Nil

Appendices:

- 1 Audit Committee Charter - March 2015
- 2 Draft - Audit Committee Charter November 2018

Purpose

To review the independent membership of the Audit Committee, the fee structure and amending the Charter accordingly.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Endorse a per meeting fee structure for newly appointed members of \$1,250 for independent members and \$1,500 for the Chair.**
 2. **Adopt the revised Audit Committee Charter.**
 3. **Commence advertising for independent members and receive a further report with recommended appointments.**
 4. **Acknowledge and thank outgoing Audit Committee Members Mr Ashmore and Mr Gibbs for their valued contribution and expertise.**
-

Summary

This report will address three issues relating to the Audit Committee being membership, fee structure and review of the current Audit Committee Charter.

Background

Council's Audit Committee is an advisory committee of Council, appointed under section 139 of the *Local Government Act* 1989. The committee comprises three independent members and two Councillors. The chair is an independent member, who has the casting vote. The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer are non-voting members.

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

Discussion

Membership

The current Charter states that Council will review its representatives on the Committee in conjunction with the annual "Review of Council Committees and Community Groups Appointment of Delegates" and will consider the positions of the three independent representatives at the expiration of their appointed terms.

Individual Councillor representatives will be appointed as delegates to the Audit Committee after the Mayoral Election in November 2018.

The terms of independent members have been reviewed with the intention to seek expressions of interest for appointment followed by consideration and selection by Council.

Best Practice Audit Committee Guidelines recommend that periodic rotation be encouraged enhancing the independence, skill base and capacity of the Audit Committee. However, to ensure continuity, ideally no more than one member should leave the Audit Committee in any one year.

The current independent members and associated expiry date is as follows:

- Mr David Ashmore, current Chairman – expires 2018
- Mr David Gibbs – expires 2018
- Mr Rod Page – expires 2019

Both Mr Ashmore and Mr Gibbs have been long serving members of the Audit Committee, having both served multiple terms on the committee.

It is proposed to commence advertising for independent members to replace those whose terms expire in 2018. The two appointments would be recommended for a two and three year term respectively to ensure the terms are staggered for continuity of service on the Audit Committee. A further advertisement would occur in 2019 at the conclusion of the term of the third Audit Committee member.

Fee Structure

The current remuneration structure is based on an hourly rate however it is intended that this structure be changed to a meeting rate e.g. four meetings per year.

Currently independent members can claim an hourly rate of up to \$225 for meeting attendance as well as reading time up to a maximum of three hours. On average this equates to around \$1,575 per meeting for independent members, with the chair receiving an approximate meeting payment of \$1,900.

As part of the review of the Charter and membership, a benchmarking exercise has been undertaken with like size and neighbouring councils which reflects audit committee payments ranging from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per annum for independent members and payments to Chairpersons ranging from \$8,000 to \$9,000 per annum.

It is recommended that new appointments to the Audit Committee are appointed on a per meeting basis of \$1,250 for independent members and \$1,500 for the chair.

Charter

Good Governance and Best Practice supports the development and maintenance of an Audit Committee Charter. Officers have reviewed the existing Charter and propose a number of changes that ensure the Charter remains contemporary and supports exceptional governance practices. The new Charter retains the majority of the current Charter content. Key proposed changes relate to membership renewal terms and support current Best Practice principles. The existing Charter and the proposed Charter are attached for reference.

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses the following priorities of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision:

Priority 6: An accessible and connected community

This report specifically addresses the following goals and objectives of the Council Plan 2017-21:

Goal 4: A Council of excellence

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

Policy and Previous Council Reports

Section 139 of the *Local Government Act* 1989 provides for an Audit Committee, with Council's Audit Committee Charter providing internal guidance as to the running and function of the Audit Committee. With the current review of the *Local Government Act* 1989, further review of the Audit Committee Charter may be necessary, however is not likely until 2019 at the earliest.

Legal/Statutory Obligations/Risk

Adoption of the Audit Committee Charter, structure committee governance and termed periods of independent membership ensures compliance with statutory obligations.

Financial and Resource Implications

Financial implications include the membership fees payable to independent members and the Chairperson as outlined in this report. Budget is provided out of Council's operating budget. Staffing resource is provided as secretariat for the committee.

Environmental/Social/Economic Impacts

There are no environmental, social or economic impacts as a result of this report.

Consultation and Communication

At the conclusion of multiple terms, independent membership is renewed. Public advertising is undertaken to ensure an extensive and transparent process is undertaken to attract high calibre candidates for consideration.

Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

8.3 Strategic Development

8.3.1 Draft Newport Structure Plan - Consideration of Submissions

Directorate: Strategic Development

Councillor Portfolio: Planning

Cr Tony Briffa and Cr Michael Grech

Appendices: 1 Draft Newport Structure Plan Summary of Submissions

Purpose

To consider the submissions made to the Draft Newport Structure Plan following community consultation.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Consider all submissions received regarding the Draft Newport Structure Plan.**
 - 2. Having considered all submissions make changes to the Draft Newport Structure Plan generally in accordance with the appendices.**
 - 3. Write to all submitters advising them of Council's decision.**
 - 4. Receive a further report to consider the adoption of the Newport Structure Plan.**
-

Summary

The Draft Newport Structure Plan (the Plan) has been prepared over a number of years. During this time there have been several consultation periods that have each shaped the Plan.

The Plan was placed on public exhibition from 11 July to 31 August and Council received 42 submissions from community members, authorities and other stakeholders detailing varying reactions (a summary of submissions is contained in appendix 1).

The key issues raised in submissions relate to the proposed increase in height and density, potential traffic issues created by increased population and existing parking concerns. There was support for proposed amenity improvements.

In response to submissions a number of modifications will be made to the Plan including: reassess the proposed priorities within the implementation plan to better align with the community's vision; review building heights to ensure they align with the recently revised Neighbourhood Character Study; further investigate connections between the Williamstown Junction area and the train station/Hall Street precinct, and provide a stronger focus on advocacy projects, particularly Melbourne Metropolitan Rail Project 2. Submitters will be notified in writing of Council's decision.

Background

The Newport Local Structure Plan was prepared in 1999. Although the overarching strategic direction remains the same, crucial policy changes at state and local level have occurred since then and needed to be addressed in a revised Newport Structure Plan.

A detailed background and context review was undertaken during 2013 and 2014 including an in depth policy review which identified gaps relating to economic and market feasibility, access and mobility, urban design guidelines, heritage and social impacts. Substantial background research and work was undertaken to address these gaps and inform the Plan. In 2014 community and stakeholder consultation was undertaken to ensure community ideas are appropriately captured in the future vision for Newport.

Work stalled on the project during the second half of 2015 as clarity was required around how the Victorian Government required new development that abuts pipelines and Major Hazard Facilities (MHF) to be considered within the structure plan. There have been several ongoing issues and challenges for Victoria's land use planning framework in protecting the safety and amenity surrounding MHF and ensuring the ongoing viability of MHFs.

In response an MHF Advisory Committee was established to consider the challenges around development abutting MHFs. The Advisory Committee report was released on 17 March 2017. The report suggested that a new overlay should be applied around MHFs restricting development and that further research is required into land use planning around pipelines. This is particularly critical for Newport and the development of the structure plan, as several planning decisions for higher density housing or sensitive uses have been overturned by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) because of their proximity to MHFs. Other parts of Newport within proximity to pipelines have restricted development potential because operators consider density to be inappropriate. The Minister for Planning responded to the Advisory Committee recommendations in late 2017 and released new guidelines in October 2018.

Discussion

Following community consultation 42 submissions were received. The key issues arising from submissions are summarised below:

Increase in density

Many of the submissions received from community members opposed the proposed increase of density within Newport suggesting that an increase in density may impact on Newport's heritage and amenity.

A large proportion of the respondents who opposed the proposed increased density were residents of Durkin Street. These submissions raised concerns about the proposed three to four storey preferred building height in Durkin Street, citing a change to the area's visual aesthetic.

Some submitters supported the proposed heights as they see the need for growth and felt that the heights were consistent with the existing buildings within Newport Activity Centre.

Response

While it is acknowledged that there is public apprehension to increased heights and density, every attempt has been made to balance the needs of existing residents and those of future generations. The draft Housing Strategy (currently out for community consultation) indicates that Newport will need to accommodate in the order of 900 new residents over the coming eighteen years. Newport is trending towards an increase in lone person households and

households comprising couples without dependents and will require housing to accommodate these residents.

The Victorian Government has a policy to encourage '20 minute neighbourhoods' which aims to supply a resident with the ability to meet most of their everyday needs including access to shops, childcare and schools, parks, doctors and public transport, within a 20 minute walk, or alternatively cycle or local public transport trip from their homes.

Housing densities proposed in the Plan are based on a number of factors, including heritage and neighbourhood character; a need to provide more diverse housing in proximity to public transport and services. Durkin Street's central location, adjacent to a range of services and activity on Mason Street and Melbourne Road, provides the rationale behind Council's proposal for this area. A growing population should have a diverse range of residential opportunities in prominent locations such as Durkin Street.

Regarding heritage, the Plan recommends the preparation of a heritage gap study for Newport to ensure all heritage significant properties are appropriately considered and protected.

Taking into account the items above, the proposed heights and densities will be reviewed in light of the recently released Draft Neighbourhood Character Study and reviewed Heritage Study to ensure they align and are consistent with the proposed Housing Framework Plan.

Road network and traffic

Concerns were raised about increased traffic associated with a higher population of residents and visitors to Newport. High use roads including Melbourne Road and Mason Street have been identified as being susceptible to an increase in congestion as they already carry large volumes of traffic, especially during peak times. There is concerns for the safety of pedestrians, particularly in the vicinity of the train station, that may be exposed to higher traffic volumes. Several submissions identified that the Melbourne Road overpass hinders Newport's east/west connectivity.

Response

The Plan recognises the road network and traffic challenges that arise through increased population and that improvements are required, especially around Melbourne Road and Mason Street. Any works in these areas will require input from VicRoads, Metro Trains and Transport for Victoria as they are all major stakeholders.

As part of the implementation section of the Plan, a key action is to 'liaise with VicRoads to develop a Smart Roads Strategy for the Newport Activity Centre'. A Smart Roads Strategy would aim to free up the roads and increase participation in active transport.

The Plan, through proposed works such as shared spaces that connect to the train station and entry points to the centre, intends to reduce the dominance of the Melbourne Road overpass and increase pedestrian traffic and improve connectivity. Such works are an example of the Plan's support for safer more pedestrian friendly spaces in Newport.

Many of the issues raised in submissions are addressed in Council's Integrated Transport Plan 2017 (ITP) which focuses on improving accessibility for all modes of transport. As the Plan is implemented it is envisaged some of the main concerns will be addressed. Responses to key submitters will outline where there concerns are addressed in the ITP.

Additionally, there is a possibility to consider the redesign of the train station and the Melbourne Road overpass during master planning of the Metropolitan Rail Project 2 and

Council will continue to advocate for an improvement in the traffic and amenity conditions of this area.

Parking provision

Submitters identified the need to address parking issues, particularly citing a lack of parking spaces near to high use locations such as the train station. Whilst multiple submitters support the provision of at grade parking, contention surrounds any development of multi-storey parking facilities. There were concerns about the possible amenity impacts of multi-storey parking structures in central locations and residential areas. Submitters also questioned the implications of paid parking, safety impacts and potential increase in traffic accessing parking spaces.

Response

The Plan acknowledges the significant role car parking plays in the centre of Newport. Any provision of new parking facilities will require a feasibility analysis to be undertaken before more detailed plans can be considered. The Plan takes into account a range of factors including issues of convenience, aesthetic, pedestrian safety and cost, all of which are involved when assessing proposals to increase parking spaces. The implementation plan includes the preparation of a car parking strategy to determine long term parking needs.

The at grade commuter car park on the western side of the rail reserve occupies the single largest site in Newport, and represents a substantial underutilisation of valuable Activity Centre space. At grade car parking to the south of Paine Reserve also presents an opportunity to better utilise the space that is otherwise lost.

The Plan recommends upgrades to Newport's public realm to improve pedestrian and cyclist linkages, which aligns with the Hobsons Bay Integrated Transport Plan 2017.

Additionally, the document recommends strong advocacy for improved public transport within Newport including Melbourne Metropolitan Rail Project 2, and physical improvements such as new access to platform 2 around the train station. The concerns raised in the submissions will also be used to inform future advocacy matters.

Closure of Newport RSL

Several submitters raised concerns regarding the closure of the Newport RSL and offered ideas about potential uses on the site.

Response

The Newport RSL was closed during the exhibition process of the Plan. Numerous short term strategies have been identified within the Plan to activate the central area of Newport including the RSL. The former RSL is located on Crown owned land and Council officers are currently discussing the future of this site with relevant agencies. The Plan will be updated accordingly. Future master planning will ensure the former RSL, scout hall and bowling club are appropriately incorporated into the precinct.

For more detailed responses to all submissions including those from community members, authorities and stakeholders, refer to appendix 1.

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses the following priorities of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision:

Priority 1: Visionary, vibrant, accountable urban planning

This report specifically addresses the following goals and objectives of the Council Plan 2017-21:

Goal 3: A well designed, maintained and environmentally sustainable place

- 3.1 Work with all levels of government, key stakeholders and the community to ensure urban development is appropriate and considers neighbourhood character and heritage

Policy and Previous Council Reports

Council considered the Plan at its Ordinary Meeting of Council on 10 July 2018 and resolved to undertake community consultation.

Council was updated on community consultation findings at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 16 December 2014. Council was updated on the progress of the Plan at a Council Briefing in May 2014 and 2017.

The Plan aligns with state policy direction set out in Plan Melbourne, Victorian Urban Design Guidelines, Better Apartment Design Standards, new residential zones and Victoria's 30-year Infrastructure Strategy.

Plan Melbourne directions regarding '20 minute neighbourhoods' and diversity of medium and higher density development in proximity to jobs and services, are reflected in the strategies and objectives of the Plan.

The Victorian Urban Design Guidelines and Better Apartment Design Standards provide practical guidance for future land use planning and development outcomes. The Plan provides a local policy response to these directions.

Victoria's 30-year Infrastructure Strategy acknowledges the Melbourne Metropolitan Rail Project 2, which connects Newport with Clifton Hill. While further planning is required, this project is important for Newport and long term land use planning.

At a local level, the Plan aligns with the Housing Strategy Background Report, Residential Design and Character Review (Background Report) and Activity Centres Strategy (Technical Report). Recommendations of the Industrial Land Management Strategy 2008 and Guidelines for Infill Development in Heritage Areas 2006 have been considered in the preparation of the Plan.

Legal/Statutory Obligations/Risk

The Plan was prepared in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and was guided by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Practice Note 58: Structure Planning for Activity Centres. The practice note sets out reasons for structure planning in activity centres, the policy context, and possible inputs and outputs of the process.

Financial and Resource Implications

Consultation of the Plan was funded within existing operational budgets. The final Plan will also include actions to be completed which will need to be costed and resourced accordingly. This includes infrastructure changes which will require funding through the Capital Works budget.

Environmental/Social/Economic Impacts

The Plan has taken into account a range of environmental, social and economic issues.

It aims to encourage environmental principles in future development and promote sustainable travel choices and the inclusion of environmentally sustainable design into development.

It sets out recommendations for housing, business mix, economic and retail requirements for Newport to ensure a viable and economically sustainable future.

The Plan also considers projections of need for social infrastructure including community centres, health providers and schools.

Consultation and Communication

Consultation was extended to seven weeks from Wednesday 11 July to Friday 31 August 2018. It involved a range of measures including:

- postcards delivered to letterboxes of every resident within the Newport Structure Plan area, detailing the intent of the Plan and advertising public consultation forums
- drop in sessions were held on Thursday, 19 July 2018 from 4pm to 7pm and Saturday, 28 July from 10am to 1pm. The drop in sessions were well attended with approximately 60 people attending the sessions
- a Participate webpage that included all the Plan documents and an opportunity to participate in a short survey that referred to the plans, objectives and vision of the Plan. Most of the submissions were received through this method
- several notices advertising the consultation were in local papers
- Council staff were available at the Traders Association meeting to answer questions and respond to feedback
- structure plan related documents were made available at the Newport Community Hub and Hobsons Bay Civic Centre

Notices of the consultation period also were sent to previous submitters, stakeholders and relevant authorities.

Following Council adoption of the Newport Structure Plan, the preparation and formal exhibition of a planning scheme amendment will occur within the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The amendment will implement the land use planning actions within the final Newport Structure Plan.

Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

8.3.2 Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy Statement

Directorate: Strategic Development

Councillor Portfolio: Environmental Sustainability

Cr Jonathon Marsden and Cr Sandra Wilson

Appendices:

- 1 Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy Statement - Summary of Submissions
- 2 Draft Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy Statement

Purpose

To present the draft Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy Statement, following consultation, to Council for adoption.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Note and consider the submissions received following the public exhibition of the draft Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy.**
 2. **Note the changes made in response to submissions.**
 3. **Adopt the Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy Statement.**
 4. **Write to submitters informing them of Council's decision.**
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Summary

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council 14 August 2018, Council resolved to place the draft Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Policy Statement on public exhibition.

The public exhibition period was promoted through Participate Hobsons Bay and to the local community through Council's environmental networks. 137 visitations were made to the Participate Hobsons Bay website to view the policy and four submissions were received during the public exhibition period (see appendix 1).

In response to the key issues raised in the submissions some modifications have been made to the ESD Policy Statement.

Background

The Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision identified the need for Council to activate sustainable practices and to plan for visionary, vibrant and accountable urban planning for its residents. The policy statement and background paper provides support for Council's decision on 13 March 2018 to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to amend the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme, primarily to introduce an ESD Policy. On 15 October 2018 Council received advice from the Minister for Planning that the Planning Scheme amendment is approved which introduces an ESD Policy into the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme.

The ESD Policy Statement establishes the basis for Council's role as a leader in ESD, which can only be achieved through the application and showcasing of best practice ESD design standards for Council buildings and infrastructure. The Policy Statement also provides Council with a strategic approach to establishing the social, economic and environmental standards that empower the community to demand higher ESD outcomes for homes, businesses and their community. The Policy Statement assists Council in reaching its commitment of zero net emissions by 2020 and the community reaching carbon neutrality by 2030.

Discussion

A summary of feedback received during the public exhibition period and Council's response is provided at appendix 1. A key component of this summary includes an analysis of all weaknesses and issues raised by each respondent along with comments on whether the draft Policy Statement should be amended or not.

The key items identified as weaknesses of the ESD Policy Statement are:

1. Does not address the potential to retro-fit existing housing stock to enable residents to adapt homes to climate change factors
2. Inability to include the phase out of heavy industry in its development plans
3. Beef up and tighten the planning side of the ESD Policy given the risk of exposure to high levels of pollution (air and waterways/sea) and explosion/fire with extreme impact
4. Concerns that the Policy does not contribute to affordable housing

The following recommendations and changes to the draft Policy Statement (see appendix 2) have been included:

1. The Policy Statement recommend that a review of the Industrial Design and Development Guidelines 2008 to further embed ESD requirements.
2. A recommendation added to the current review of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan to address issues of retrofitting buildings.
3. A life cycle analysis and an evaluation of the potential savings achieved through the application of ESD principles be developed and promoted through Council's website and information brochures.
4. A recommendation incorporated into the Climate Change Adaptation Plan to address crisis response and clean up in response to extreme events, including floods, fires and drought.
5. The trigger point for requiring a sustainability report from two units to five units be evaluated following one year of implementation.
6. The development of a stricter stormwater detention policy be investigated in line with leading municipalities, including review of the discharge flow rates for Hobsons Bay.

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses the following goals and objectives of the Council Plan 2017-21:

Priority 5: Activate sustainable practices

This report addresses the following priority of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision:

Goal 3: A well designed, maintained and environmentally sustainable place**3.2 Deliver and maintain well-designed, accessible and environmentally sustainable community assets**

The community has indicated that they want Council to activate sustainable practices. The Policy Statement will give Council the statutory weight to mandate 'Best Practice' during the planning application process. This will maximise sustainable design outcomes and minimise costs associated with retrofit and poor design. Environmental benefits include reducing energy consumption and greenhouse emissions from the residential sector, promoting integrated water planning in new developments and reducing the community's vulnerability to climate change impacts.

Implementation of the ESD Policy Statement will enhance the number of high quality and environmentally friendly buildings and an urban environment – both in residential and non-residential areas – that has long term benefits for the municipality. It will result in better resource management thus reducing the impact on the local environment

Policy and Previous Council Reports

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council Meeting 13 March 2018, Council moved to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to introduce a local policy into the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme that addresses Environmentally Sustainable Development.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council 14 August 2018, Council resolved to place the draft Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy on public exhibition.

Amendment GC110 will address issues identified in a number of Council policies, strategies and initiatives. This includes reducing energy consumption and greenhouse emissions from the residential sector, promoting integrated water planning in new developments and reducing the community's vulnerability to climate change impacts. A list of relevant current policies that supports the need for an ESD Policy Statement includes:

- Hobsons Bay Advocacy Strategy 2014-18
Advocating to the Victorian Government for stronger sustainable design requirements.
- Community Greenhouse Strategy 2013-30
Focussing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from our community.
- Integrated Water Management Plan 2014-19
Promoting integrated water planning in new developments.
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2013-18
Planning for appropriate responses and resilience to climate change impacts.
- Corporate Greenhouse Strategy 2013-20
Establishing Council as a leader and setting high environmentally sustainable design standards for Council buildings and works.
- Hobsons Bay Housing Strategy (2017) – Volume One: Background Report (2016)
Identifies the specific need to formally adopt the SDAPP process and assess more developments for ESD standards.

Legal/Statutory Obligations/Risk

There are no known restrictions or infringements on the substantive rights outlined in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Financial and Resource Implications

Incorporating ESD elements into planning and design often provides cost efficiency over the life of an asset. This includes reduced operating costs (energy and water savings), reduced maintenance and avoided upgrade and retrofit costs. Whilst some ESD elements can come at an increased up-front premium, the benefits throughout an asset can far outweigh these costs.

Considering ESD early in the planning stage of any project is essential. By the time the design for most infrastructure is completed but before they have actually been built, about 80-90 per cent of their life cycle economic and ecological costs have already been made inevitable (Amory Lovins et al, 1999).

Implementation of the ESD Policy Statement will have a financial cost to Council for staff to undertake referrals in response to a Planning Permit application. It is intended to undertake a review within 12 months of the successful Planning Scheme amendment process.

Environmental/Social/Economic Impacts

The proposed policy statement will have a positive effect in terms of minimising the impact of development on the environment throughout the lifespan of the development by considering environmental sustainability from the design stage of a building to construction and ongoing management.

Applications for larger scale developments constructed to a high ESD standard will have multiple benefits for occupants in terms of cost savings on utilities, a healthier indoor environment and reduced impact on the environment such as in regard to stormwater management and waste management.

The proposed introduction of the policy statement will have community benefits by achieving more sustainable outcomes and reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, particularly in relation to heating and cooling.

Potential operational savings and increased productivity due to healthier buildings may free up resources to be reinvested in additional projects or support other services.

Well planned development will allow Council to avoid unnecessary investment that may be required in future to adapt to the impacts of climate change. This may include reinforcing structures, increased maintenance on drainage infrastructure, relocation and/or retreat.

Consultation and Communication

The Community Engagement Framework 2015 was used to guide development and delivery of the engagement process. The Draft ESD Policy Statement and Background Report were placed on public exhibition for six weeks from 15 August to 25 September 2018. Residents were advised of the exhibition of the draft ESD Policy Statement through environmental networks and were directed to Participate Hobsons Bay. The project page included: a survey seeking responses to a range of questions and copies of the draft Background Report and the ESD Policy Statement.

137 visitations were made to Participate Hobsons Bay, with 37 people downloading the ESD Policy Background Report and 30 people downloading the ESD Policy Statement along with two residents who sought assistance through the language line. Four written responses were received with respondents generally showing support for the policy, with the majority highlighting the important link between ESD and climate change.

Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

8.4 Infrastructure and City Services

8.4.1 West Gate Tunnel Status Update Report

Directorate: Infrastructure and City Services

Councillor Portfolio: Integrated Transport

Cr Jonathon Marsden and Cr Sandra Wilson

Appendices: Nil

Purpose

To provide Council with a current status report on the West Gate Tunnel Project and Council's current advocacy activities on the West Gate Tunnel Project.

Recommendation

That Council request that the Western Distributor Authority funds allocated for the play space and public art proposed to be located within the triangle portion of land north of Watson Street adjacent to the West Gate Tunnel southern portal, Altona North be provided to Council for utilising in future in accordance with Council's open space and play space strategies and also to benefit those communities most impacted by the West Gate Tunnel Project.

Summary

Early stage construction works and final design development on the West Gate Tunnel Project (the Project) are progressing. The CBHJH Joint Venture (JV) and Western Distributor Authority (WDA) continue to seek Council approval to access Council owned and/or managed land and infrastructure and input to specific project design and community outcomes.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the current status of the Project across a range of aspects in accordance with the governance and decision making framework. Discussion is provided on the Project's proposal to establish a new play space and public art in the proposed open space adjacent to the southern portal, north of Precinct 15. The status of Council's committed advocacy activities that specifically relate to the Project are also included within this report.

Background

Council has received a number of reports on the development and planning process associated with the Project and as the Project enters into the construction phase monthly status reports will continue to be provided to Council. This report provides an update on current Project activities, items currently lodged with Council by the JV seeking approval, Council advocacy activities, governance arrangements including communications and engagement and capital works to be undertaken by Council as a result of the Project.

Discussion

Current construction activity in the western section is focused in the areas highlighted on the Figure 1 below.

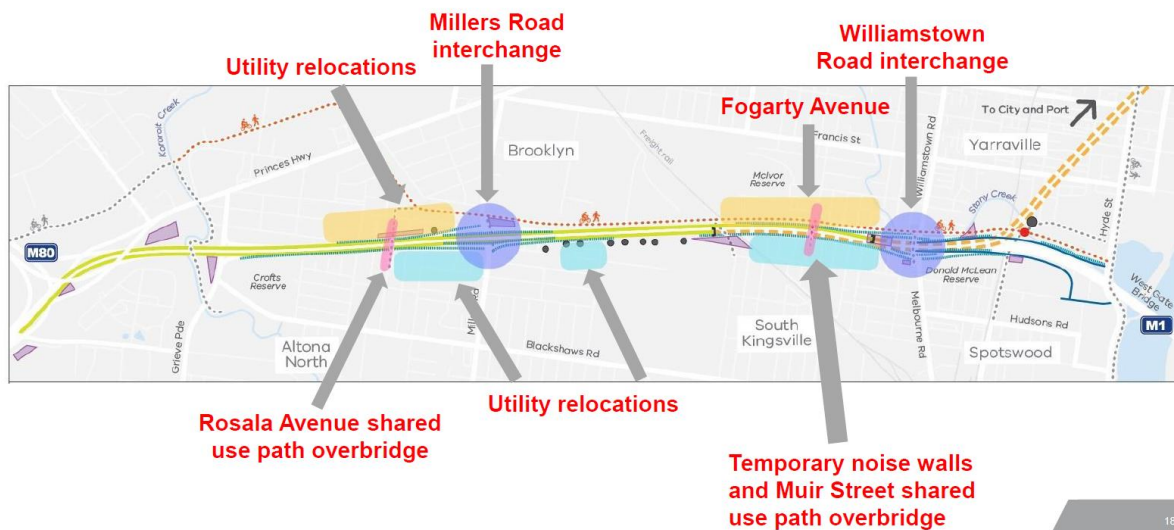


Figure 1

As the Project progresses through the final design development phase and further into construction there are a number of current Project activities undertaken by the JV as outlined below.

1. Following consultation with the Millers Road businesses, the temporary closure of Paringa Road at Millers Road has been implemented to allow works to occur at the Millers Road freeway west bound on ramp and for noise wall construction. The JV are seeking a permanent closure at Paringa Road which will be subject to a separate report.
2. Notifications have been sent to residents of Kyle Road regarding the Project traffic using the road (via Blackshaws and Millers Roads, Altona North) for the purposes of accessing work sites on the southern side of the freeway and around the southern tunnel portal structure. Up to 40 trucks per day are estimated during the preparatory construction phase during the hours 7am-5pm Monday to Friday.
3. Notifications have been sent to residents of Beevers Street between Millers Road and the Italian Social Club by the JV in regards to upcoming 66KV power utility relocation works. Sections of the road will be closed in a staged manner that will result in vehicular access restrictions to properties. The JV will work with the residents to provide for individual requirements, including access options for the duration of the works.

Current and Short Term Traffic Impacts

Figure 2 below highlights the current traffic impacts and work locations. For the latest updates and detour route information:

www.westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/travel disruptions

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda

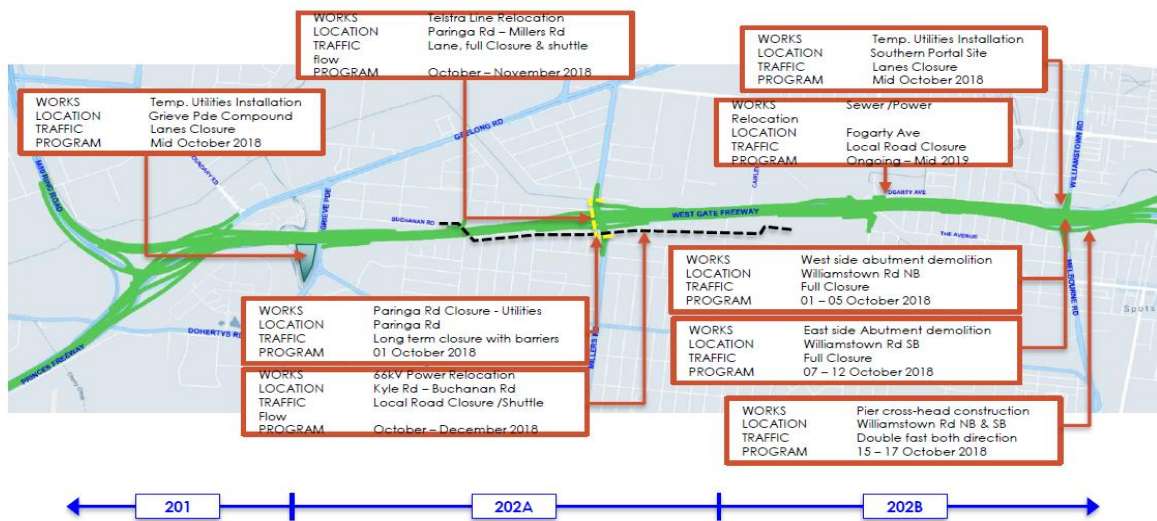


Figure 2

Construction Compounds

Consistent with the Project Tender Design a number of construction compounds are being established along the Project corridor for the term of the Project. Specifically within Hobsons Bay eight locations are proposed at:

- Grieve Parade, Altona North (Council land) - now established
- Geelong Road, Altona North (VicRoads land) - now established
- Lynch Road Reserve, Brooklyn (Council land) – under preparation
- Millers Road, Brooklyn east side adjacent to Freeway on ramp (VicRoads land) - under preparation
- South of Freeway west of New Street, Altona North, (Project land) - to be established
- Melbourne Road, Spotswood (VicRoads land) - established
- Hall Street, Spotswood. (Project land) – to be established
- Stony Creek Reserve, Spotswood (Council land) – to be established

In considering these locations current use, access, impacts to trees and vegetation, community impacts including noise and regulatory planning requirements are taken into consideration in accordance with the Project controls and requirements. The JV has requested to lease a section of The Avenue Reserve, South Kingsville located adjacent to the Freeway and The Avenue for an additional construction compound for up to two years. This site is outside the project area and as its use as a construction depot is prohibited under the Planning Scheme, was not approved by Council.

Sports and Open Space Enhancement Package

This Package was endorsed at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 13 February 2018 and is supported by the state government through a \$5M contribution and nearly \$3M Council contribution. Project Managers are appointed for the design, procurement and delivery of the following projects:

- upgrades to Duane, Brooklyn and Rowan Avenue Reserves, Brooklyn
- development and implementation of the revised masterplan for Donald McLean Reserve, Spotswood
- development and implementation of a masterplan for WLJ Crofts Reserve, Altona North including a new pavilion.

Project scope for each site and commencement of the procurement process for design development will be under way mid-October. The procurement for the Brooklyn Reserves open space enhancement program commenced in October with a further report proposed for December 2018 detailing the approach to the design and construction for a range of elements to improve the amenity within these reserves.

The development of the new master plan for Crofts Reserve will occur between November – May 2019 and review of the existing Donald McLean Reserve Master Plan will occur November to March 2019. Both projects include community and stakeholder consultation and engagement. Preliminary consultation with the reserve tenants was undertaken in early October 2018 providing an update on the status of this funding package and the associated timelines.

The timelines and design details of the new Donald McLean Reserve Sports Pavilion to be provided as a part of the Project are yet to be confirmed by the JV.

Land Acquisition

WDA has advised Council that it intends to permanently acquire small sections of Council land:

- adjacent to Hope Street, Spotswood (for 220KV power line easement)
- in Primula Avenue, Brooklyn (small area of 25 sqm for noise wall establishment)
- in Lynch Road Reserve (for power poles and service requirements)
- in WJ Crofts Reserve, Altona North (minimal area on the north boundary for the purposes of noise wall establishment).

Several parcels of Crown land administered by the Council required as part of the Project works will be the subject of a section 140 Order under the Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009. Responsibilities that Council has as Committee of Management or otherwise as land manager for these parcels will end.

Decisions regarding land acquisition are strategic and will be presented to Council for consideration.

Council Advocacy

Council has commenced engagement with Transport for Victoria (TfV) on the development of an Integrated Transport Plan to address the shortfalls in public transport options across all modes. A draft scope for the development of this Plan has been established and the governance details are currently being finalised. It is intended that first meetings of the Project Steering and Working Groups will be held over the coming weeks. Further information will be provided in future updates.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed and signed between Council and the Western Distributor Authority to reflect the organisational roles and responsibilities and to support the ongoing resources from the state government to support Officers in project delivery for the term of the Project.

Proposed play space and public art in new open space area near southern tunnel portal

Council has provided comment to the Project advocating for the relocation of the proposed 'nature' play space proposed within the triangle portion of land north of Watson Street adjacent to the WGT southern portal (refer to figure 3 below) to a more appropriate and accessible location that provides a better community outcome. The proposed site is considered a poor site location for a play space, between and amongst infrastructure (rail line, freeway overpass and power and fuel utilities). Edwards Reserve play space is approximately 400m to the east and subsequently easily accessible to the local community east of New Street.

Alternative options for siting this play space include:

- a. A central location within Precinct 15. This is within proximity to the proposed site but in a far more advantageous location in terms of community access and convenience. Timing of the development of Precinct 15 may be an issue.
- b. Donald McLean Reserve, Spotswood (replacing the existing play space) in accordance with the master plan.
- c. Other sites along or near the freeway corridor consistent with Councils open space and play space strategies, e.g. Mary Street Reserve, Spotswood or Newport Lakes Park.

It is recommended that the WDA funds allocated for this play space be provided to Council for utilising in future in accordance with Council's open space and play space strategies and also to benefit those communities most impacted by the West Gate Tunnel Project.

The JV is required to deliver public art, interpretative signage in feature areas and wayfinding signage along the shared use paths. Three large public art installations are proposed in the western section – two in Footscray near the Maribyrnong River and one in Altona North in the southern portal open space (near the new play space). Council officers recommend that the proposed public art piece in this area would be better located in a more visible gateway location such as on Melbourne Road near the WGF interchange in the Don McLean Reserve, as with the play space funding. Council officers recommend that the funding allocated for the public art be provided to Council to manage the procurement, commissioning and siting.

Officers believe that the open space reserves adjacent to the tunnel ventilation structure and freeway should be treated as landscape buffer areas and passive recreational places (e.g. dog walking areas) with shared use path links through the landscape buffer areas.

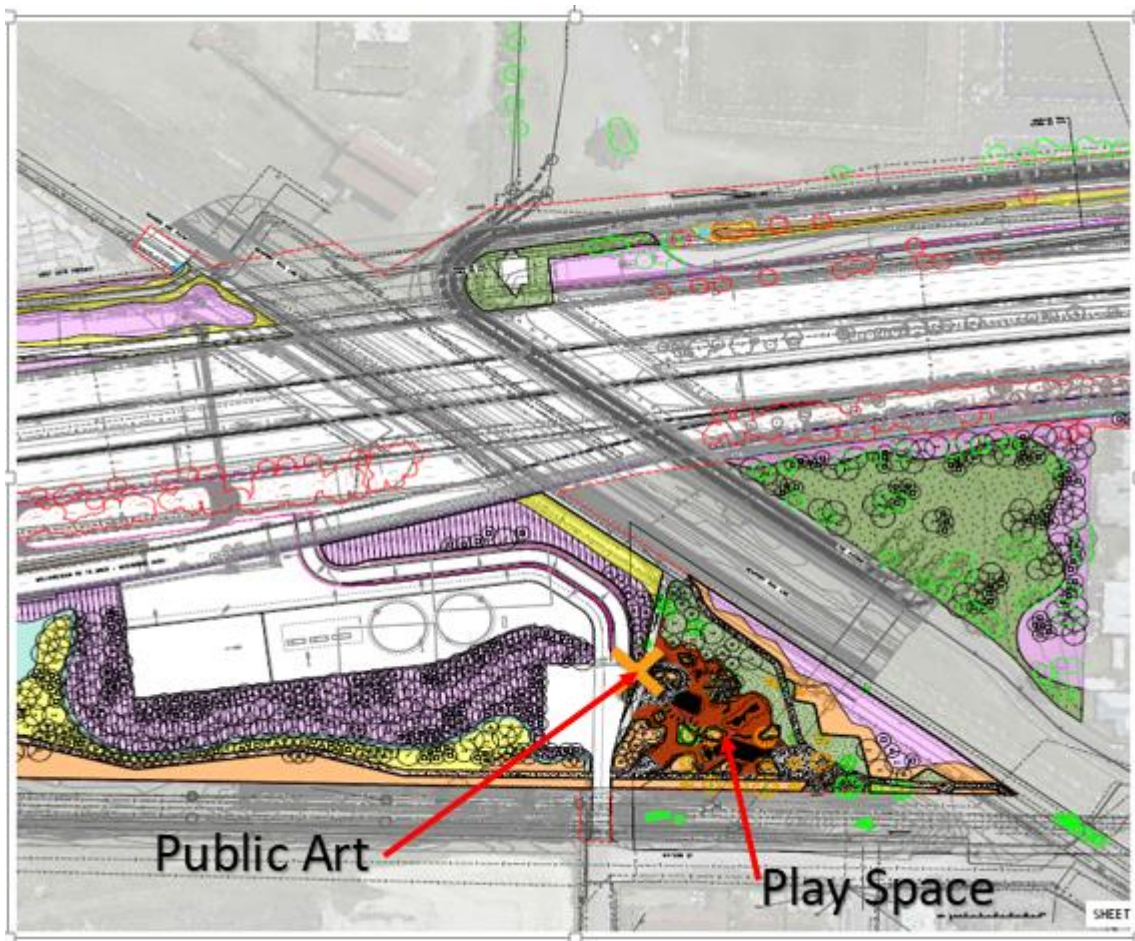


Figure 3

Community Involvement and Participation Plan

A Community Involvement and Participation Plan (CIPP) is being developed by WDA which includes a state funded grants and partnership program to fund community led social legacy outcomes and initiatives, e.g. capital projects, community programs and events. The governance structure, available funding and proposed implementation plan is being finalised and will be reported on when available. The CIPP is proposed to operate over the life of the Project. Officers have advised WDA that Council does not support Council administering this program but would promote the funding opportunity to the community.

Inner West Air Quality Community Reference Group

The state government announced the establishment of the Inner West Air Quality Community Reference Group in July this year. This Group will give community members the opportunity to provide community insight and input to future improvements for air quality in the inner west. Recruitment to the Community Reference Group is via invitation to some groups as well as by an expression of interest process. Council will have a representative on the Group. The recruitment period will close at 5pm Monday 15 October.

A draft Terms of Participation will be reviewed and finalised by the Community Reference Group at its first meeting. The following link has further information on the process:

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/sustainability/inner-west-air-quality-reference-group>

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses the following priorities of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision:

Priority 2: Community wellbeing and inter-connection

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

This report specifically addresses the following goals and objectives of the Council Plan 2017-21:

Goal 1: An inclusive and healthy community

This report specifically addresses the following priorities of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision:

- 1.3 Ensure all community members will have access to quality community, sport and recreation facilities, cultural experiences and open spaces to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle

Goal 2: A great place

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

Goal 3: A well designed, maintained and environmentally sustainable place

- 3.2 Deliver and maintain well-designed, accessible and environmentally sustainable community assets

Goal 4: A Council of excellence

- 4.1 Collaborate with all levels of government, service providers, not for profit organisations and the private sector to address the concerns of our community

Policy and Previous Council Reports

On 26 August 2016 Council adopted the updated Hobsons Bay Position and Recommendations for the Western Distributor Project. Several Council policies and strategies were considered in the establishment of the adopted position on the Project and have been considered to inform the ongoing review of the preferred design and submission to the Environment Effects Statement for the West Gate Tunnel. Council has received numerous reports regarding officer assessments of the Project design development, community engagement and advocacy activities undertaken in response to the Project. More recently Council endorsed the decision making framework for Council's consideration of strategic requests from the Project and considered a number of strategic issues at the Ordinary Meeting of Council 9 October 2018.

Legal/Statutory Obligations/Risk

Legal and statutory obligations and risks have been identified throughout Council's review and input to the Project. These obligations and opportunities will continue to be monitored and assessed.

A report and formal submission on the preferred design and the EES was adopted by Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council 27 June 2017. This report considered legal, risk and statutory obligations for the Project. A statutory process for the acquisition of Council land has commenced.

Council approval is not required for works within the Project Area as defined under the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009*. Under the Planning Scheme Amendment, the construction and operation of the project must be generally in accordance with the plans and in accordance with the Environmental Performance Requirements (EPRs). The Project Co (Transurban) must work within the Project Scope and Requirements and also the Construction Licence entered into with the State Government.

For works on Council land outside the Project Area, the contractors CPBJH Joint Venture must negotiate directly with Council to gain approval for its use and comply with conditions that Council may impose.

Financial and Resource Implications

Significant officer time has been committed in responding to the Project requests for advice, information and comment. Design packages are still being reviewed and daily requests are being received now that construction is underway. A resource funding agreement has been entered into between HBCC and WDA that assists Council in responding to the Project.

Environmental/Social/Economic Impacts

The environmental, social and economic impacts of the project to the Hobsons Bay community have been described in detail through the EES and will be monitored and mitigated through the implementation of the EPRs for the Project. Local procurement, jobs and business development will be a key objective for the further planning and delivery of the works.

Consultation and Communication

The West Gate Tunnel Project includes a consultation and communication process. A Project EPR requires the development of a detailed Communications and Community Engagement Plan which will link closely with the proposed EPR's requiring a Traffic Monitoring and Management Plan, Business Involvement Plan and Community Involvement and Participation Plan.

Council officers continue to have regular deputations with the Project and the respective State Government department representatives.

Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

8.4.2 Response to Petition - Request for Basketball Hoops/Court in the Altona area

Directorate: Infrastructure and City Services

Councillor Portfolio: Active and Inclusive Communities
Cr Peter Hemphill and Cr Michael Grech

Appendices: 1 Den Dulk Reserve, Altona

Purpose

To advise Council of the proposed actions to be undertaken in response to a petition regarding a request for a basketball/netball half court facility at G. Den Dulk Reserve, Altona

Recommendation

That Council:

1. **Approve the development of a basketball/netball half court facility at G. Den Dulk Reserve.**
 2. **Refer these works to the 2019-20 Capital Works Program.**
 3. **Advise the lead petitioner of the outcome.**
-

Summary

A petition has been received requesting that Council develop a basketball/netball half court facility at G. Den Dulk Reserve, Altona.

The Hobsons Bay Open Space Strategy (HBOSS) recommends an assessment and the development of a park improvement plan to upgrade G. Den Dulk Reserve as a local community park. The service standards described for local parks include appropriate self-directed activity such as a half court facility.

Background

On 9 September 2018 Council received a petition seeking Council “*to provide a community accessible basketball court and/or hoops in Altona in a location such as the reserve at Somers Parade, Altona*”. The petition was signed by 121 people of which 96 per cent were residents of Hobsons Bay.

Located between Somers Parade and Blyth Street Altona, G. Den Dulk Reserve is a linear local park that is surrounded primarily by residential properties. G. Den Dulk Reserve is zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ). The Somers Parade Kindergarten and Latitude (a young people’s outreach service.) are located at the eastern end of the reserve. With the exception of a small play space located between these two buildings, the rest of the linear park land contains no other play or self-guided recreation activities.

Discussion

The HBOSS recommends an assessment and the development of a park improvement plan to upgrade G. Den Dulk as a local community park.

The service standards described for local parks include appropriate self-directed activity such as a half court facility. Council's Play Space Strategy (2013-2023) has the play space listed for a full upgrade in 2023. The current playground is in reasonable condition, however, it could be better located further west within the reserve to serve the needs of young families in the immediate vicinity.

Relocation of the play space (to the west and larger area of the reserve) would provide Council with the opportunity to construct a half court facility in the same location and provide for a better range of family and social recreation opportunities for the local community.

It would also provide potential opportunity to develop a community garden space within the park area currently containing the play space. (Attached as Appendix 1)

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses the following priorities of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision:

This report specifically addresses the following goals and objectives of the Council Plan 2017-21:

Goal 1: An Inclusive, Resilient and Healthy Community

- 1.3 Ensure all community members will have access to quality community, sport and recreation facilities, cultural experiences and open spaces to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle

Policy and Previous Council Reports

This report aligns with Council's HBOSS and Council's Play Space Strategy (2013-2023).

Legal/Statutory Obligations/Risk

There are no risks associated with the installation of a half court facility at this location, however, it is considered best for family and social recreation activities that they be relocated in the western portion of the reserve.

Financial and Resource Implications

The cost of a half court facility, relocation and upgrade to the play space will be finalised as part of the design phase. Elements of the existing play space will be repurposed and used in the upgraded play space. This project is included in the planning for the 2019-20 Capital Works Program. This program is subject to Council approval.

Environmental/Social/Economic Impacts

Council has obligations under the *Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* to seek, protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing. The provision of facilities that encourage the community to participate in sporting, recreational and community activities is a fundamental role of Council.

Consultation and Communication

Pending Council's approval of the recommendations, officers will undertake a comprehensive consultation and community engagement with the local community regarding the development of a half court facility to the west end of the reserve and the potential co location of the community play space.

Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

8.5 Community Wellbeing

8.5.1 Naming of Altona Early Years Hub

Directorate: Community Wellbeing

Councillor Portfolio: Nil

Appendices: Nil

Purpose

To advise Council of the outcome of the public advertising process and to finalise the naming of the Altona Early Years Hub.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the name Altona Early Years Hub for the new early years facility being constructed on the Altona P- 12 Secondary College site.

Summary

The report summarises the outcome of the public advertising process in relation to the naming of the Altona Early Years Hub.

Background

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council 11 September 2018, a report was presented to Council recommending the endorsement of the name Altona Early Years Hub for the new early years facility being constructed on the Altona P-9 Secondary College site, and that a public advertisement be undertaken inviting comments from the community.

On 19 September 2018 a Public Notice of Council's intention to name the facility Altona Early Years Hub was published in the Maribyrnong & Hobsons Bay Star Weekly newspaper inviting comments from residents and the community. On 17 October 2018 the Public Notice submission period expired. There have been no submissions received through this process.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council 11 September 2018, a public question time question was received asking if "Could Council suggest a name that carries weight with the traditional owners of this place and invite all traditional owners to come up with a name?"

Discussion

The Council, as the naming Authority, is required to resolve on geographic place names in the municipality guided by Council's Naming Policy.

The proposed place name, Altona Early Years Hub, is in keeping with Council's Naming Policy and is consistent with the Victorian Guidelines for Geographic Names. Altona Early Years Hub meets the need for the place name to be easy to pronounce, spell and write, and that the name does not compromise public safety and operational safety for emergency services, or cause confusion for transport, communication and mail services. In addition, the

criteria stipulates that infrastructure names should be the same as their locality to promote local identity and avoid confusion.

The new building is located next to the Altona P-12 College; the similarity in the names brings in a sense of uniformity and collaboration, promotes local identity and maintains the name that the community has associated with the building for a number of years. The inclusion of the words “Hub” and “Early Years”, highlights the multi-functional characteristics of the building as well as the focus on early years education and care, which is important in what has become a competitive market for care and education.

The Naming Policy also indicates that recognition and use of traditional indigenous names may be considered subject to agreement from relevant indigenous communities. As the facility is scheduled to be handed over to the service provider in late October and open in January 2019 the timeframe in which Council would have to secure agreement from all three indigenous groups of the region would not allow for the respectful and considered discussions this would require.

The draft Reconciliation Action Plan provides the opportunity to acknowledge traditional owners through the installation of signage within buildings, and the suggestion to explore the use of an indigenous name for the facility will be incorporated into the post-opening phase of the project. In addition, after the opening of the facility, Council will work in partnership with the service provider, local families and children to include design and practice elements that foster and increase community recognition of the traditional owners of the land into the facility.

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses the following priorities of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision:

Priority 6: An accessible and connected community

This report specifically addresses the following goals and objectives of the Council Plan 2017-21:

Goal 1: An Inclusive, Resilient and Healthy Community

1.1 Provide a range of accessible, high quality services and social supports.

Policy and Previous Council Reports

The proposed place name has been considered alongside Council’s Naming Policy which is consistent with the Victorian Guidelines for Geographic Names.

Legal/Statutory Obligations/Risk

Council as a Naming Authority under the *Geographic Place Names Act 1998*, is required to resolve on all geographic place names in the municipal district, with the exception of geographic places with the exception of geographic places of state significance.

In the consideration of naming requests, Council is required to be guided by the Victorian Guidelines for Geographic Names and register all endorsed names with the Registrar of Geographic Names.

Financial and Resource Implications

The cost of signage is incorporated in the 2018-2019 capital allocation for the early years hub.

Environmental/Social/Economic Impacts

The proposed name provides a geographic reference for families who seek local education and care options for children. This may act as a social and economic stimulus and promote local identity.

Consultation and Communication

Public notice of the intention to name the facility Altona Early Years Hub was advertised in local newspapers from 19 September to 17 October 2018 inviting comments from residents and the community.

Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

8.5.2 2019 Community Grants Recommendations

Directorate: Community Wellbeing

Councillor Portfolio: Social Wellbeing and Community Services
Cr Tony Briffa and Cr Colleen Gates

Appendices: Nil

Purpose

To endorse the allocation of the 2019 Community Grants Program funding.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Approve the allocation of \$169,526 to fund 98 projects.**
- 2. Write to all applicants confirming the outcome of the Community Grants Program and display a list of the grant recipients on Council's website.**
- 3. Provide unsuccessful applicants an opportunity to obtain feedback on their application.**
- 4. Open the 2019 Quick Response Grant round on 4 February 2019 closing on 3 April 2019 to allocate a reserved amount of \$128,563 to emerging projects across all four grant funding categories in the remainder of the 2018-19 financial year.**
- 5. Receive a Council Grants review report before the announcement of the 2020 Grants Program.**

Summary

Council received 117 applications for the Community Grants Program in four grants categories. Vibrant Grants, Small Expenses Grants, Toyota Equipment Grants and Invested Together Grants with a total funding request of \$298,089. There are 98 applications recommended for funding, totalling \$169,526.

This year there has been a lower than usual allocation of funding through the initial Community Grants Program. It is recommended that officers bring a report to Council before the 2020 program is conducted to consider a refreshed and or revised program considering all the Council grant programs.

Background

Council's 2018-19 budget for community grants is \$298,089 including administration of \$20,000 pledged by the Toyota Motor Corporation Australia for equipment grants.

A sum of \$128,563 is reserved for disbursement in a Quick Response Grant round during the 2018-19 financial year. The round will open for a period of up to two months on 4 February 2019 with the intent of disbursing the funds under officer delegation before the end of the financial year with a report on those funded to be brought back to Council.

A sum of \$11,590 is allocated to the second year partnership projects from the 2018 Community Grant Round, approved in the 2017-18 grant program.

Discussion

The 2019 Community Grants Program opened on 4 June 2018 and closed on 1 August 2018. The grants scheme was advertised in the local newspapers, on Council's website and through social media, as well as through an extensive email list to previous applicants and community groups.

Council staff offered two information and grant writing sessions which were well attended by 40 residents representing local community groups and organisations. The Community Grants Officer also provided a grants information session to 21 residents attending the Cultivate Women's Leadership program.

Assistance was provided to an additional eight groups through local libraries to complete the application form online.

Recommendations for the 2019 Community Grants Program have been formulated following a robust assessment process that has included initial eligibility, assessment scoring by Council staff across a range of portfolio areas (youth, diversity, arts, culture and heritage, multicultural, early years, environment/sustainability, sport and recreation, parks, libraries, aged and disability, community development, volunteers, health and wellbeing and social policy) and a further assessment and shortlist by the Community Development team. An applicant's ability to demonstrate alignment with the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision priorities was part of the assessment process. The final stage included a review by a Council appointed review panel. All applications and recommendations were provided to all Councillors for comment prior to the Community Grants Councillor Review Panel meeting.

The Toyota Equipment Grants were assessed by four employees from Toyota's Port Melbourne location in accordance with partnership arrangements.

Year one

acquittal reports will be reviewed for three partnership projects approved with last year's grant program prior to disbursing the \$11,560 for second year funding.

The recommended grant projects focus on local community development activities including supporting newly arrived communities, water safety for children, indigenous awareness projects, cultural activities, community arts projects, social connection projects, increasing female participation in sport, governance training, youth activities, and volunteer initiatives and supporting seniors' activities.

A total of 39 individual organisations received small expenses grants to support the administration of their groups and a further 23 organisations were supported to purchase equipment through the Toyota Equipment Grant program.

A total of 98 applications are recommended with an allocation of \$169,526.

This year the initial allocation of funding is lower than previous years with more funding to be allocated through the Quick Response Grant round. Council has been running a similar Community Grants Program for a number of years with slight variations in the guidelines approved by Council. The lower level of allocation through the initial round suggests that the program should be reviewed and or refreshed to stimulate a higher level of response. Council also provides grants through a number of other programs including sustainability grants and festival grants. The Hobsons Bay Community Fund also conduct a separate grant

allocation program. It is therefore recommended that officers undertake a review of grant funding and bring a report back to Council before the 2019-2020 program is conducted.

Community Groups Matching Investment and Program Examples

A review and analysis of the 2016 and 2017 community grants funded project outcomes has provided some insights regarding the Community Grants Program. The Community Grants Program is a highly competitive process with demand outstripping available funds over the course of the full financial year. For every dollar Council provides in funding the community group/organisation/club contributes a further \$3. Community wellbeing, capacity and sense of belonging (Health and Wellbeing Plan 2014-2017) was the predominant Council priority pursued, followed by the provision of a range of opportunities that support people to engage in healthy and active lifestyles. Volunteer hours were recorded in 2017 as 23,032 hours. The total number of people participating in projects over the two years was 64,059. The majority of projects drew participants from across the municipality even when located in a specific suburb. The most popular funding category was the Vibrant Community Project category (up to \$5,000 funding).

Some examples of programs include a healthy community lunch program at Williamstown Community and Education Centre that provided the opportunity for Centre users from diverse backgrounds to mix and socialise, increased the use of Centre's garden beds and instigated a produce swap stand; a capacity building project amongst a group of sports clubs focusing on strategic planning and governance; the establishment of a local dialysis support group for people suffering renal failure; a series of workshops which culminated in an exhibition of stories, memories and feelings from the LGBTIQ community; many different sporting clubs including cricket, football and soccer clubs employing strategies to increase the participation of women in sport and an Aboriginal project to increase cultural connectedness amongst the local aboriginal community through a possum skin cloak project.

2019 Quick Response Grants

An amount of \$128,563 will be available through the Quick Response Grants. The Quick Response Grant (QRG) has been operating for the past three years from February to April each year with applications across two grant categories, small expenses and vibrant community project.

The 2019 QRG round proposes to pilot offering all four funding categories that are also available through the community grants round. These four categories include small expenses (\$500), equipment and resources (up to \$1,000), vibrant community project (up to \$5,000) and invested together projects (up to \$10,000 over two years). Groups will be eligible to submit only one application for each category. Groups already in receipt of funding from the 2019 Community Grants Program will be ineligible to receive a grant in the same funding category through the 2019 QRG round.

Strategic Alignment

The grants program is consistent with the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision. Applicants may cover one or more of priorities 2 to 5 within the Community Vision.

This report specifically addresses the following priorities of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision:

Priority 2: Community wellbeing and inter-connection

Priority 5: Activate sustainable practices

This report specifically addresses the following goals and objectives of the Council Plan 2017-21:

Goal 1: An Inclusive, Resilient and Healthy Community

1.1 Provide a range of accessible, high quality services and social supports.

In addition to addressing the projects alignment with the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision, applicants are also asked to describe any Council policy or direction that the project addresses.

Policy and Previous Council Reports

A Council report was endorsed at the Ordinary Meeting of Council 10 April 2018 to approve the Community Grants Program guidelines, budget, timelines and initiation of the program.

Legal/Statutory Obligations/Risk

Disbursement of the funds will be in accordance with Council's accounting practices and funding is required to be acquitted for in keeping with the conditions of the receipt of the funds.

Projects are assessed against key criteria and recommendations made.

Financial and Resource Implications

Council approved \$290,000 in the 2018-19 budget for allocation in the Community Grants Program. This includes the sum of \$20,000 pledged by Toyota Australia for new equipment and/or resources. Toyota Australia has committed these funds each year for the next three years.

Environmental/Social/Economic Impacts

The implementation of SmartyGrants has eliminated all paper based copy applications and enabled the assessment process to be undertaken via the online process.

Consultation and Communication

The Community Grants Program is one of the mechanisms Council can use to strengthen relationships with local community groups. Community engagement opportunities it provides include grant information/drop in sessions, project development and grant writing workshops, face to face consultations and feedback opportunities. This engagement can improve Council's knowledge of community groups and enable information to be gathered regarding the community's needs and aspirations and can also be reflected in future grant priorities and allocations.

Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

8.5.3 Status Resolution Support Service Membership and Contribution Proposal

Directorate:	Community Wellbeing
Councillor Portfolio:	Social Wellbeing and Community Services Cr Tony Briffa and Cr Colleen Gates
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 The Agenda Group - SRSS Public Advocacy Media and Communication Support Services Proposal2 Proposal for Financial Contribution from Taskforce Member Councils for SRSS Letter to CEO

Purpose

To confirm the contribution of \$5,000 for an advocacy campaign to the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum on joint advocacy to reverse changes to the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS).

Recommendation

That Council provides \$5,000 to the Status Resolution Support Services campaign to support the joint advocacy campaign actions of the Mayoral Taskforce Executive.

Summary

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council 11 September 2018 Council resolved to work with other Victorian councils advocating on the issue of SRSS program reductions and their impact on people seeking asylum and the broader community. As part of the actions agreed, Council has written to the Australian Prime Minister and the Federal Minister for Home Affairs seeking a reversal of the SRSS program changes and outlining the impact on the Hobsons Bay community and service providers.

City of Greater Dandenong has initiated a Mayoral Taskforce with an Executive Member and General Membership levels to jointly formulate options for combined advocacy and discuss strategies to better coordinate emergency and ongoing material aid resources at municipal and regional levels. The Taskforce is comprised of Councillors from 17 municipalities including our western region neighbours Brimbank City Council. Hobsons Bay City Council has been invited to join the Executive Membership.

The purpose of the taskforce is to coordinate joint state-wide advocacy by Victorian councils and share resources and practical responses by Victorian communities to the issues caused by the SRSS cuts. By accepting this opportunity to join the Executive Membership of the Taskforce, Hobsons Bay City Council will nominate a Councillor to attend monthly meetings commencing 31 October 2018 in Brimbank, sometimes along with Council Officers.

The role of the Executive Member Council is to drive the implementation of the objectives, strategic priorities and make key decisions, particularly relating to the advocacy campaign and materials. Post the Ordinary Council Meeting of 11 September a request was received from Dandenong Council to contribute \$5,000 towards the budget for this joint advocacy campaign.

Background

The Australian Government's national SSRS program provides people formally seeking asylum within our community with a basic living allowance worth about \$247 a week, (approximately 89 per cent of the Newstart Allowance), casework support, and access to torture and trauma counselling. It is delivered by not-for-profit agencies and according to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) approximately 13,000 people across Australia were receiving SRSS prior to June 2018.

In June 2018 the Australian Government reduced the number of people eligible for the SRSS. Income support stopped for 1,500 people on 27 July 2018 and from 1 August to November, a further 5,500 people will be notified of cuts to their support.

The changes will significantly affect a number of people seeking asylum that live in Hobsons Bay. People seeking asylum are already seeking emergency assistance from local community organisations in increasing numbers and these cuts will only add to this.

Discussion

Council has a strong history of welcoming refugees and people seeking asylum into the community. We are a multicultural municipality; over 30 per cent of our residents are born overseas and the municipality has a growing population of migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum.

Council actively supports the Hobsons Bay Settlement Network and Hobsons Bay Interfaith Network, both which provide coordinated settlement support to refugees and people seeking asylum.

In addition Council supports community groups such as the Hobsons Bay Refugee Network and West Welcome Wagon initiatives that support people affected by the SRSS reductions.

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses the following priorities of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision:

Priority 2: Community wellbeing and inter-connection

This report specifically addresses the following goals and objectives of the Council Plan 2017-21:

Goal 1: An Inclusive, Resilient and Healthy Community

- 1.2 Deliver, support and facilitate projects and programs that encourage equity and diversity, so everyone can reach their full potential

Policy and Previous Council Reports

On 17 June 2014 Hobsons Bay City Council signed the Refugee Welcome Zone Declaration, an initiative of the Refugee Council of Australia. This highlighted Council's continued commitment to welcoming and supporting refugees, upholding human rights and demonstrating compassion for refugees.

These commitments are echoed in Council's Multicultural Policy 2016-20.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council 11 September 2018 Council confirmed commitment to the joint advocacy campaign.

Legal/Statutory Obligations/Risk

No legal or statutory ramifications and implications have been addressed.

Financial and Resource Implications

As part of this commitment Hobsons Bay City Council is requesting to make a contribution of \$5,000 towards this joint advocacy campaign.

Environmental/Social/Economic Impacts

The current SRSS reductions will impact the social wellbeing and economic opportunities of people seeking asylum in Hobsons Bay. This in turn will place further pressure on volunteer organisations in the emergency and relief and material aid.

Consultation and Communication

No direct community consultation has been undertaken on this matter although officers work closely with local settlement service providers who share the same concerns as Council in relation to the SRSS reductions.

Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

8.5.4 Reconciliation Action Plan

Directorate: Community Wellbeing

Councillor Portfolio: Social Wellbeing and Community Services
Cr Tony Briffa and Cr Colleen Gates

Appendices: 1 Hobsons Bay City Council Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2021

Purpose

To present the Hobsons Bay City Council Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2021 for formal adoption.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2021.

Summary

The Hobsons Bay City Council Reconciliation Action Plan 2019-2021 (RAP 2019-2021) will articulate Council's role in promoting respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, celebrating Indigenous cultures and histories, and improving access to social, economic and civic opportunities, including activities within all areas of Council.

Background

Hobsons Bay City Council recognises that reconciliation between First Nations Peoples and the broader Australian community is paramount in advancing relationships, respect and opportunities for Indigenous Australians in line with the Federal government's *Closing the Gap* objectives. Council also recognises that due to systemic disadvantage and the legacy of colonisation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons and communities experience barriers to accessing economic, social and civic opportunities.

Hobsons Bay has a rich and complex representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Statistically, 488 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members reside in Hobsons Bay. In addition to this, there is also a diverse representation of traditional owner organisations who claim ancestral ties to the lands and waterways within the municipality; Boon Wurrung, Bunurong and Wurundjeri.

As the level of government closest to the community, local government is well placed to promote and foster reconciliation. Council has a key leadership role in acknowledging our First Nations Peoples and in promoting awareness, understanding, respect and recognition of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The RAP 2019-2021 is modelled on the template set out by Reconciliation Australia, the national expert body on reconciliation. The Reconciliation Australia frameworks provide organisations with a structured approach to advance reconciliation. There are four types of RAP that an organisation can develop: Reflect, Innovate, Stretch or Elevate. Each type of RAP is designed to suit an organisation at different stages of their reconciliation journey.

The Hobsons Bay RAP is based on the Innovate stage and is prescribed for a two year period in keeping with the framework during which time a commitment is made to the action plan items. Council can repeat the two year Innovate stage should this be the desired

direction or work toward the next stages. The broad principles and objectives of Relationships, Respect and Opportunity outline the framework for a formally endorsed Reconciliation Action Plan.

At the community level, Council seeks to foster greater visibility and inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and persons. Over many years, Council has observed Reconciliation Week and has also celebrated NAIDOC in partnership with local traditional owner organisations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and the wider Hobsons Bay community.

Council has undertaken various activities and campaigns to advance reconciliation within the municipality to promote greater awareness and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and peoples. The RAP 2019-2021 will further consolidate a whole of Council approach to achieving the overarching principles of developing stronger relationships, fostering respect and creating opportunities with our First Nations Peoples. All Council departments play a role in implementing the RAP 2019-2021 and these commitments will be reflected in departmental Service Plans.

The adoption and implementation of the RAP 2019-2021 is a celebration of the next milestone in our local reconciliation journey.

Strategic Alignment

This report specifically addresses the following priorities of the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision:

Priority 2: Community wellbeing and inter-connection

This report specifically addresses the following goals and objectives of the Council Plan 2017-21:

Goal 4: A Council of excellence

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

This policy statement will serve as the Council's statement of commitment to the reconciliation process between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The policy statement provides a basis for strategies and actions to be delivered by the Hobsons Bay City Council to support reconciliation initiatives and objectives.

Policy and Previous Council Reports

The policy aligns with existing Council plans and strategies such as the Advocacy Strategy 2014-18, Events and Festivals Plan 2016-21, Economic Development Strategy 2015-20, Sport and Recreation Strategy 2014 and Draft Customer Focus Strategy 2016-18 and the Learning Communities Strategy 2016-19.

Legal/Statutory Obligations/Risk

The RAP 2019-2021 acknowledges and is consistent with *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*. It also helps to meet Council's requirements under the *Local Government Act 1989* to provide equitable access to services and facilities, foster community cohesion and encourage active participation in civic life.

Financial and Resource Implications

The implementation of the RAP 2019-2021 will be achieved within existing operational budgets and resources.

Environmental/Social/Economic Impacts

The RAP 2019-2021 will have a positive impact on Hobsons Bay's built, natural, social and economic environments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader community. This will be achieved in various ways, including through inclusive and accessible Council facilities, welcoming public places and spaces, cultural festivals and events, opportunities to feel socially connected, employment and business pathways.

Consultation and Communication

The RAP 2019-2021 was developed using a targeted engagement and consultation strategy. Consultation was carried out with all three Traditional owner organisations, the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the wider Hobsons Bay community during the public exhibition period.

An Indigenous consultant was engaged to support Council officers in undertaking a comprehensive, targeted consultation process with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and representatives from Traditional Owner Organisations.

Historically, Council only had a relationship with Boon Wurrung Foundation. Given the intention of this action plan is to foster reconciliation broadly across the municipality, it was important to provide an opportunity for each group to participate in this process in a culturally safe and respectful manner. With this in mind, an Indigenous consultant was critical to the consultation process and each group was consulted individually.

Three key stakeholder groups in the Aboriginal community within Hobsons Bay were engaged in the community consultation process; the Local Aboriginal Network, Balit Gulinya Elders PAG group and Wangal United.

Feedback provided during formal consultation was integrated into the draft document and once again presented to the internal Reconciliation Steering Committee. The updated draft document was then sent to Reconciliation Australia for review.

Community consultation took place during a six week public exhibition which ran from 15 May to 26 June 2017. Feedback received during this period was considered and minor amendments to the document were made in consultation with Reconciliation Australia.

Our sister city Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council was also invited to provide feedback on the draft document. Further to this, Yarrabah local and 2017 National NAIDOC Artist of the Year, Elverina Johnson, was commissioned to develop the artwork for the RAP 2019-2021.

Conversations with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and stakeholder organisations will continue during the life of the RAP 2019-2021 to ensure it remains relevant and responds to emerging issues.

Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act* 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council, to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

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

9 Delegates Report

Directorate: Corporate Services

Purpose

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

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the recent Delegates Report.

Delegates Report - Metropolitan Transport Forum Councillor Delegate: Cr Jonathon Marsden

Report

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 3 October 2018

Steven Huxtable, Policy Officer for Road User and Vehicle Access at VicRoads, and Ashley Cook, Manager of Regulatory Policy, Policy and Reform Division at Transport for Victoria presented on autonomous vehicles. An autonomous vehicle is defined as one that has an automated driving system (ADS) that can perform the entire dynamic driving task and includes light vehicles, buses, freight vehicles, delivery drones and robots.

The State Government and relevant agencies have developed the ADS permit scheme to provide policy guidance for the testing of autonomous vehicles in Victoria. A permit to test autonomous vehicles will be a requirement and applicants will need to demonstrate that they have considered all relevant safety risks and have strategies in place to mitigate them. This includes a safety management plan and public liability insurance. All permits will be subject to conditions that includes the use of the vehicle, record keeping and reporting. Local Government and other stakeholders will be consulted on autonomous vehicle trials as required.

An update on the pre-election local transport forums was provided. Unfortunately, the Hobsons Bay and Inner West Forum scheduled for 17 October 2018 was cancelled due to timetabling clashes. This meant no high-profile candidate from the Government could be confirmed so close to the election.

The Billions4Bus campaign will soon be launched at www.billions4bus.melbourne. Billions4Bus is a Metropolitan Transport Forum (MTF) joint advocacy campaign seeking a small percentage of the billions committed to larger infrastructure projects to position buses as a viable transport alternative by rebranding, investing in new high capacity electric buses, and running them on direct express routes across Melbourne. Thirty bus routes are being proposed and the MTF will ask Council to produce a local media release for the campaign.

Delegates Report - LeadWest
Councillor Delegate: Cr Jonathon Marsden

Report

Date of Meeting: 10 October 2018

The October meeting of the LeadWest Board was hosted by Hobsons Bay City Council and held at the Newport Community Hub. The following business was progressed:

- noting the revised Transport Strategy for Melbourne's West
- approval of the LeadWest 2018-19 budget as endorsed by the Finance Committee
- consideration of the draft list of federal advocacy priorities and agreement that the top three advocacy issues should be Freight Infrastructure Investment Plan, more transport options for Melbourne's West and kindergarten funding
- agreement to receive a presentation from Western Melbourne Tourism at a future board meeting
- recommendation to refer the request from the Greening the West Steering Committee for an allocation of \$80,000 to the LeadWest budget process for next year
- discussion around the State Government's announcement of funding for a new Footscray hospital and the campaign for a new hospital in Melton. It was agreed that LeadWest should prepare a consolidated view of health and hospital advocacy needs for the West over the longer term, but in the interim that LeadWest provide a letter of support to the Build Melton Hospital campaign

**Delegates Report - RoadSafe Westgate Community Road Safety Council Inc.
Councillor Delegate: Cr Sandra Wilson****Report****Date of Meeting: 17 October 2018**

The Roadsafe Westgate Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Roads, The Hon. Luke Dunnellon and VicRoads CEO Mr Michael Malouf raising concerns about the recent changes to the road side maintenance service agreements.

The Committee is concerned about road safety particularly for drivers due to poor visibility due to the increased height and density of vegetation growth on roundabouts and road verges. Copies of the letter will also be provided to local members of Parliament. Each of the member councils raised their concerns on this matter and indicated support for the development of the correspondence to the Minister.

An update on the progress of the Hobsons Bay Local Transport and Movement Plans for Laverton, Altona Meadows and Seabrook was received noting a discussion paper will be made available for community consideration in November.

Maribyrnong City Council received a report from the Victorian Transport Association which includes a range of recommendations pertaining to heavy vehicle access throughout the western metropolitan region. Hobsons Bay has not received a copy of this report from the VTA but requested a copy from Maribyrnong City.

The Committee noted that Transport for Victoria in collaboration with Hobsons Bay City Council continues to develop the project brief and governance structure for the Local Transport and Movement Plans for Altona North, Brooklyn and Spotswood. The development of these plans is expected to be completed by mid-2019.

10 Notices of Motion

10.1 Notice of Motion No. 1206 - Review of Property Rates and Charges

Cr Tony Briffa has given notice of the following:

“That Council officers undertake a comprehensive review of property rates and charges as part of the development of the 2019-2020 Rating Strategy and budget reporting to Council that considers the impact of increasing property values as well as available options including for changes to differential rating structures.”

In recent years property valuations across Hobsons Bay have increased substantially which has, and continues to, cause financial pressure on residents. Residents are feeling financial stress as a result of wage increases not keeping pace with the cost of living pressures such as power, water, insurances and rates.

Council understands that rates are a property tax and residents experiencing significant rates increases are also generally experiencing a high increase in the value of their property, however council also understands the direct struggle of ratepayers needing to find funds within their personal budgets to pay the bill.

Long term Hobsons Bay residents in particular are seeing property values outstrip affordability, not just for those who are seeking to buy into the area, but for those who have lived here their whole lives and cannot continue to afford cost of living increases. Some residents and families have had to make the decision about whether or not to sell a family home because they are unable to afford to continue to live in Hobsons Bay. This is not a situation unique to Hobsons Bay, however Council has a strong focus on responding to these challenges if possible as we understand that property valuations are likely to continue to rise given the proximity to the CDB and desirability of our city.

As part of its 2018/19 Annual Budget, council developed an internal Revenue Strategy which identifies the variety of sources of income and places focus on ensuring that all revenue sources are maximised in an effort to lessen the reliance on rate increases. As part of this review, officers will ensure the Revenue Strategy considers property affordability issues.

For residents experiencing difficulty in making a rates payment, Council has a hardship policy that can assist residents, but this should also be reviewed in light of the current stress on residents. Other options can include automatic options to pay rates in equal monthly instalments.

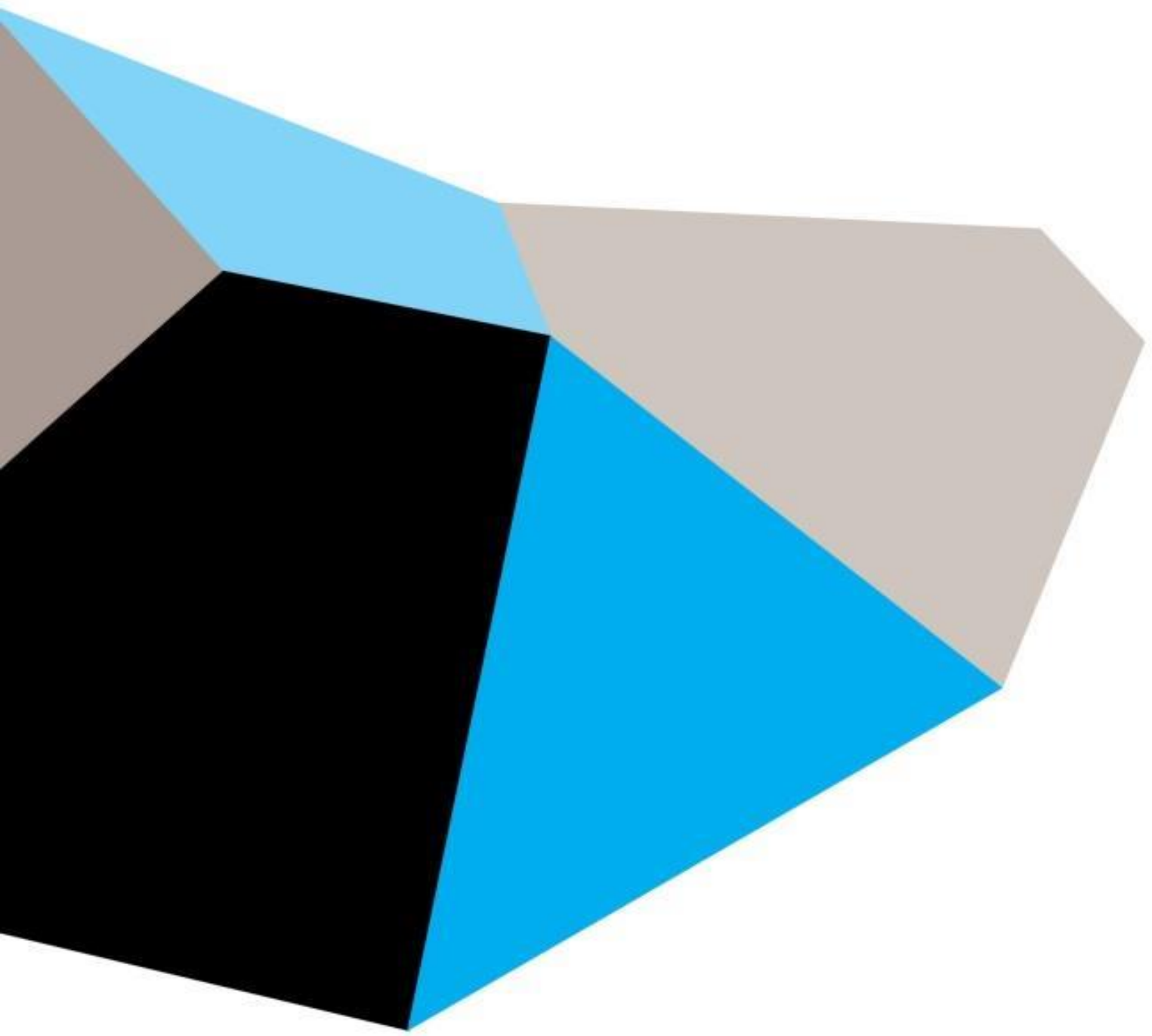
11 Supplementary Public Question Time

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 Ordinary Council meeting for a public response if so requested by the questioner.

12 Urgent and Other Business



HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

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