**Council AGENDA**

**Wednesday 13 April 2022**

**Commencing 7 pm**

**Council Chamber, Moreland Civic Centre, 90 Bell Street, Coburg**



**Acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the City of Moreland**

Moreland City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways in the area now known as Moreland, and pays respect to their elders past, present, and emerging, as well as to all First Nations communities who significantly contribute to the life of the area.

**Information about Council Meetings**

These notes have been developed to help people better understand Council meetings. All meetings are conducted in accordance with Council’s Governance Rules.

**WELCOME** The Mayor, who chairs the meeting, formally opens the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES** Where a Councillor is not present, their absence is noted in the minutes of the meeting. Council may also approve leaves of absence in this part of the meeting.
2. **DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS INTERESTS** A Councillor has a duty to disclose any direct or indirect financial or other interests, they may have in any matter to be considered by Council that evening.
3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES** The minutes of the previous meeting are put before Council to confirm the accuracy and completeness of the record.
4. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS** At each Council Meeting provision of 10 minutes will be made in the Agenda for the Mayor and Councillors to acknowledge and recognise achievements of local individuals and organisations; and raise matters considered important to Council.
5. **PETITIONS** Council receives petitions from citizens on various issues. Council formally accepts petitions at Council meetings.
6. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** This is an opportunity (30 minutes), for citizens of Moreland to raise questions with Councillors.
7. **COUNCIL REPORTS** Council officers prepare detailed reports, which are considered by Councillors and a Council position is adopted on the matters considered. The Mayor can invite firstly Councillors, secondly Officers, and then citizens in attendance to identify Council reports which should be given priority by the meeting and considered in the early part of the meeting.
8. **NOTICES OF MOTION** A motion which has been submitted to the Chief Executive Officer no later than 12 pm (noon) 10 days prior to the meeting which is intended to be included in the agenda. The motion should outline the policy, financial and resourcing implications.
9. **NOTICE OF RESCISSION** A Councillor may propose a motion to rescind a resolution of the Council, provided the previous resolution has not been acted on, and a notice is delivered to the CEO or delegate setting out the resolution to be rescinded and the meeting and date when the resolution was carried. If a motion for rescission is lost, a similar motion may not be put before the Council for at least one month from the date it was last lost, unless the Council resolves that the notice of motion be re-listed at a future meeting.
10. **FORESHADOWED ITEMS** This is an opportunity for Councillors to raise items proposed to be submitted as Notices of Motion at future meetings.
11. **URGENT BUSINESS** The Chief Executive Officer or Councillors, with the approval of the meeting, may submit items of Urgent Business (being a matter not listed on the agenda) but requiring a prompt decision by Council.
12. **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS** Whilst all Council meetings of Council are open to the public, Council has the power under the *Local Government Act 2020* to close its meeting to the public in certain circumstances which are noted where appropriate on the Council Agenda. Where this occurs, members of the public leave the Council Chamber or Meeting room while the matter is being discussed.
13. **CLOSE OF MEETING** The Mayor will formally close the meeting and thank all present.

**NEXT MEETING DATE** The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 May 2022 commencing at 7 pm, in the Council Chamber, Moreland Civic Centre, 90 Bell Street, Coburg. The next Planning and Related Matters meeting will be held on Wednesday 27 April 2022.

**WELCOME**

**1. APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**2. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**3. MINUTE CONFIRMATION**

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 March 2022 be confirmed.

**4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS**

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**9. Notice of Rescission**

Nil.

**10. Foreshadowed Items**

Nil.

**11. URGENT BUSINESS**

**12. Confidential Business**

12.1 Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Contract No D060125 - Panel for Park and Playground Equipment

*Pursuant to section 3(1)(a)(g(ii))and (k), and of the Local Government Act 2020, this report has been designated as confidential because it relates to Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released, private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage, and information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information for the purposes of this definition.*

*MAV request for the document to be private and confidential because it contains confidential tender evaluation details and commercial in confidence information.*

12.2 Chief Executive Officer Employment Matters

*Pursuant to section 3(1)(f) of the Local Government Act 2020 this report has been designated as confidential because it relates to personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.*

**5. Petitions**

**5.1 On Leash Dog Area - Campbell Reserve**

A petition (D22/142086) has been received containing 174 signatures requesting Council change Campbell Reserve to an On Leash designation.

**Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Receives the petition, requesting Council change Campbell Reserve to an On Leash designation.

2. Refers the petition requesting Council change Campbell Reserve to an On Leash designation to the Director City Infrastructure for consideration and response.

**Attachment/s**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Campbell Reserve On Leash petition | D22/142086 |  |

**7. Council Reports**

7.1 Hosken Reserve – East Field Proposal

**Director Community Eamonn Fennessy**

**Community Wellbeing**

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the options presented in the report in relation to the Hosken Reserve East Field.

2. Endorses Option 2 to apply to the East Field once the North and the South fields are formally upgraded, which reduces the hours of sports training and games and maintains the East Field as a flexible, shared space predominantly used for informal community use and junior training and games.

**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

Hosken Reserve provides valued open space and recreational opportunities and facilities for the community. Following extensive community engagement in 2020 and 2021, a refreshed Hosken Reserve Masterplan was adopted by Council at its October 2021 meeting to guide the planning, improvement and management of the reserve.

The Masterplan defines the East Field of Hosken Reserve as a shared space, both unfenced and unformalised, with an improved grassed surface, lighting and the ability to support some active recreation as well as informal community use. The direction of the Master Plan is consistent with Councils May 2021 resolution that *‘confirms that the North and East playing areas at Hosken Reserve are to be shared spaces by the Pascoe Vale Football Club and the general community’*.

The East Field is currently used in the winter season for junior soccer team training from Tuesday to Friday in the evenings and for games on Sundays, supporting 16 training sessions and games. This involves approximately 320 junior players (various under 9s, 10s, 11s and 12s teams).

At its November 2021 meeting, Council resolved to *‘receive a report on proposals to amend the Hosken Reserve Masterplan* *to establish the East Field as a dedicated community park rather than a third soccer pitch to take effect once the upgrades to the North and South Fields are complete so that junior soccer games currently scheduled for the East Field can be relocated to the upgraded North and South fields’*.

In response to this resolution four options have been developed:

**Option 1** - Maintains the Council endorsed Hosken Reserve Masterplan (2021) with no change.

**Option 2 (recommended)** – Maintains the Council endorsed Hosken Reserve Masterplan (2021) but with a reduction in the amount of sports training and games in the East Field:

 Reduced number of hours and days of active recreational use with a total 16 hours of use

 8 training sessions relocated to Richards Reserve North Coburg

 East Field remains as a flexible, shared space that can be utilised for some training and junior games but will predominantly be available for informal community use once the North and the South fields are formally upgraded.

**Option 3** (not recommended) – Relocate all training from the East Field but maintain Sunday competition games

 12 training sessions relocated to Richards Reserve North Coburg. This equates to 35 hours of use which would require a significant upgrade to the playing surface estimated at $1.8M +

 Sports field lighting upgrade not required on Hosken Reserve East Field (reduction of $200,000)

**Option 4** (not recommended) – Relocate all training and competition from the East Field and manage as informal open space

 16 training session and games involving approximately 320 junior players relocated to Richards Reserve North Coburg.

 Sports field reconstruction required to accommodate 35hours plus of use at an estimated cost of $1.8M+

 Additional and upgraded facilities will be required such as appropriate change rooms, public toilets and car parking to support games at an estimated cost of $3.5M+

 Sport field lighting and field surface upgrade not required on Hosken Reserve East Field (reduction of $340,000)

Option 2 is recommended as it continues with implementation of the endorsed 2021 Hosken Reserve Masterplan. Option 2 also reduces allocations for training and games, making the East Field available for informal community use most of the time while minimising the need for significant reallocation of training and games to other grounds and the consequential need for significant capital investment in upgrading sports field surfaces and other supporting infrastructure.

Options 3 and 4 are not recommended because they require significant and unbudgeted capital works to rebuild the playing surface and improve associated facilities such as change rooms, car parking and general amenity to support a significant increase in training and games use at Richards Reserve North Coburg.

In developing these options officers have examined the capacity for training and games to be relocated across Moreland’s 56 other sports fields. All sports fields are currently at capacity in terms of allocated and sustainable hours of use per week. There are no suitable unallocated alternative sites that can sustainably accommodate 16 training and game sessions and 320 juniors players without significant capital investment in sports ground and facility construction or improvement.

The development of the Hosken Reserve Masterplan resulted in considerable discord amongst residents and the formal users of the reserve. Council acknowledges that the process was difficult at times and that it has not been possible to meet the aspirations of all stakeholders.

**Previous Council Decisions**

**Hosken Reserve Master Plan -** November 2021

That Council:

1. Receives a report on proposals to amend the Hosken Reserve Masterplan to establish the East Field as a dedicated community park rather than a third soccer pitch to take effect once the upgrades to the North and South Fields are complete so that junior soccer games currently scheduled for the East Field can be relocated to the upgraded North and South fields.

**Hosken Reserve Master Plan Refresh**- October 2021

That Council:

1. Thanks the community for their contribution to the public exhibition process.

2. Adopts the Hosken Reserve Masterplan at Attachment 1 to this report.

3. Approves the implementation of Hosken Reserve Masterplan.

4. Notes the total estimated cost of the Masterplan is $7,554,673 with an existing allocation of $2,804,745 in the current five-year Capital Work Program and/or base budgets.

5. Refers the $4,749,378 to the Capital Works budget process for consideration, brings funds forward, with a view to completing implementation by 2023/24.

6. Authorises the submission of grant applications for Federal and/or State government funding opportunities to support the implementation of the Hosken Reserve Masterplan.

7. Install a water tap at the picnic ground location.

**Hosken Reserve Master Plan Refresh** *–* July 2021

That Council:

1. Thanks the Refresh Group participants for their significant contribution to the draft masterplan design;

2. Notes the Refresh Group Process Report and the Refresh Group Design excerpt summary reports; and

3. Approves release of the draft Hosken Reserve Master plan concept for public exhibition from 19 July to 15 August and a report back to Council in September 2021. As part of the consultation, there be targeted consultation with residents adjacent to the reserve.

4. Clarifies to the community that Point 6 of the 12 May 2021 resolution titled ‘Hosken Reserve Synthetic Playing Field’ regarding dogs on Hosken Reserve is consistent with Moreland’s current rule about dogs at sportsfields and off-leash reserves which states that:

‘As a dog owner, you must also be able to control your dog at all times using a chain, cord or leash if your dog is within 15m of any playground or children’s play equipment or the main location of an organised sport activity or community event/festival. This would mean that if a game or training is not taking place on a game day, that dogs are allowed.’

**Hosken Reserve Masterplan Refresh - Engagement Report and Options** – 12 May 2021

That Council:

1. Thanks local residents, club members and other community members for their involvement and input into the Hosken Reserve Refresh community engagement process;

2. Notes the Background Report and Engagement Summary Report by the independent consultants;

3. Retains the North oval and East field as natural grass and installs a hybrid surface on the South field;

4. Installs a low-level 1.1m black chain mesh fence, with gates that will not be locked, to formalise a football pitch on the North Oval that meets Football Victoria standards;

5. Confirms that the North and East playing areas at Hosken Reserve are to be shared spaces by the Pascoe Vale Football Club and the general community.

6. Confirms that no dogs are to be permitted on to the playing areas on game days and at training times in accordance with the General Local Law 2018; and

7. Resolves that the Refresh Group process will commence as soon as possible to inform the design options for a refreshed masterplan for Hosken Reserve.

**Hosken Reserve Synthetic Playing Field** – 9 December 2020

That Council:

1. Conducts an independent, robust and broad community engagement process in 2021 on a refresh of the Hosken Reserve Master Plan.

2. Receives a report by May 2021 on the outcomes of the Hosken Reserve community engagement with options to determine future action.

## 1. Policy Context

**Council Plan 2021-2025**

The 2021-2025 Council Plan integrates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. Relevant themes to this report include theme 3:

 A healthy Caring Moreland aims to support Moreland to become a more inclusive, connected, healthy and caring community through providing equitable access to community facilities and services, facilitating local partnerships and programs, mitigating the effects of climate change and supporting the community to adapt and build climate resilience.

The Moreland Council Action Plan 2021/22 contains annual actions that support Council Plan delivery aligned with key themes. The following action supports the delivery of the Hosken Reserve Masterplan:

 (Action 40) Implement the Hosken Reserve masterplan priorities.

**Hosken Reserve Masterplan 2021**

On the 13 October 2021 Council endorsed the Hosken Reserve Masterplan. The Masterplan provides a clear and community informed strategic framework to guide the planning and improvement of Hosken Reserve, to support both formal sport and informal recreation for the benefit of the community.

At the May 2021 Council meeting, Council endorsed the East Field as a shared space.

“*Confirms that the North and East playing areas at Hosken Reserve are to be shared spaces by the Pascoe Vale Football Club and the general community”*

The East Field is a flexible, shared space that can be utilised for training and some junior games but will predominantly be available for informal community use.

The Hosken Reserve Masterplan Refresh project was informed by a range of policies and strategies including, but not limited to:

 Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-21

 Sports and Active Recreation Strategy

 Open Space Strategy

 North West Region - Football Venue Strategic Review and Feasibility Study

 Park Close to Home: A Framework to Fill Open Space Gaps

 Hybrid and Synthetic Sports Surface Needs Study

 Zero Carbon Moreland Climate Emergency Action Plan

 Urban Heat Island Action Plan

 Urban Forest Strategy

 Integrated Transport Strategy

**Moreland Sports and Active Recreation Strategy 2020**

Relevant key strategic directions include:

 Increasing participation by Moreland residents in sport and active recreation and fostering strong relationships with local recreation clubs, associations, peak bodies and government agencies;

 Ensuring Council’s approach to sport and active recreation provision is underpinned and well informed by robust policies, strategies and plans;

 Ensuring an adequate supply and distribution of good quality sporting infrastructure used in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

## 2. Background

Hosken Reserve has a long history as a valued sporting and community reserve dating back to the 1930’s. In December 2020, Council resolved to conduct an independent, robust and broad engagement process on a refresh of the Hosken Reserve Master Plan.

An extensive community engagement process was undertaken in February and March 2021, which was considered at the May 2021 Council meeting.

At the May 2021 meeting, in response to local resident opposition to synthetic turf on the North Oval, Council resolved that the North Oval and East Field would remain natural turf, with the South Field to have a hybrid surface installed. That meeting also resolved that the North Oval would be fenced with gates to remain unlocked, meeting Football Victoria standards. This set some framework for considerations of a Refresh Group.

The Refresh Group, consisting of 25 community members, was established and met four times between 19 May 2021 and 9 June 2021. The Refresh Group did not agree on all elements of the Masterplan, as fully set out in the consultation report received at the July Council 2021 meeting.

A revised Masterplan was subsequently prepared, informed by the deliberations of the Refresh Group. At the July Council meeting, Council authorised its release for public exhibition.

Extensive community feedback was received. On the 13 October 2021 Council endorsed the Hosken Reserve Masterplan Refresh. The Masterplan provides Council with a strategic document to guide the planning, provision, promotion and advocacy of sport and informal recreation at Hosken Reserve.

Community feedback is set out in detail in the Council report for 13 October 2021.

At its November 2021 meeting Council resolved to receive a report on ‘*proposals to amend the Hosken Reserve Masterplan to establish the East Field as a dedicated community park rather than a third soccer pitch to take effect once the upgrades to the North and South Fields are complete so that junior soccer games currently scheduled for the East Field can be relocated to the upgraded North and South fields’*.

## 3. Issues

Council has 56 sports grounds available to support sporting activities across the municipality. These grounds are heavily subscribed by a variety of user groups including sports clubs, sports associations, schools, community groups and residents. The demand on grounds and facilities is ever increasing, with club membership, community sports participation and diversity growing annually.

In addition to the 56 turf surfaces, Council has one synthetic hockey pitch located at Brunswick Secondary College and two community synthetic soccer pitches, one located at Clifton Park, Brunswick and the second at John Fawkner College, Fawkner. All sportsgrounds and synthetic pitches are currently used to their full capacity.

From a supply perspective, the majority of sporting grounds in Moreland can sustain a maximum of 15 hours of usage per week. This is a moderate but sustainable usage level informed by condition and sports field construction factors such as turf type, soil type and drainage and use. To manage a sustainable level of use many clubs access multiple grounds across the municipality to satisfy their requests for participation.

Faced with these pressures, Council officers will continue to explore ways to allow for greater utilisation of its sportsgrounds, and plan for the growth that will continue to occur into the future. Due to many competing land use demands and significant land values, it is extremely difficult for inner-city municipalities to provide new sports reserves or alter the distribution of existing facilities without a considerable financial impost on the community.

When not allocated or in use for sports training and games, most sports fields are also shared spaces that can support other valued forms of informal community use – from dog walking and play, to picnicking and quiet reflection.

In response to community feedback, Hosken Reserve Master Plan (2021) sets out the East Field as a shared space, that is unfenced and unformalised, with an improved grassed surface, lighting and the ability to support some active recreation as well as informal community use.

There are no suitable unallocated alternative sports fields that can sustainably accommodate the 16 training and game sessions and 320 juniors players who use the East Field without significant capital improvement to both playing surfaces and supporting facilities.

**Pascoe Vale Football (Soccer) Club (PVFC)**

The club formed in 1966 and relocated to Hosken Reserve in 1992. In 2022, the club’s membership base consists of a total of 30 teams:

 NPL TEAMS: 9 Teams (2 seniors male / 7 juniors male)

 State League Teams: 5 Teams (1 senior female/ 4 junior female)

 Mini Roo's Teams: 16 Teams (15 boys / 1 girls)

**Hosken Reserve Current Sportsfield Usage**

**East Field**

 The PVFC usage of the East Field currently equates to 26 hours per week

 Tenancy – Annual AllocationExisting Open Space Area (East Field): 80m x 40m = 3,200m2Under the adopted Hosken Reserve Masterplan allocated space has reduced to 65m x 40m = 2,600m2

**North Field**

 Current field recommended hours of usage 11- 15 hours per week

 Actual hours of usage = 30 hours per week (not sustainable).

 Tenancy - Annual Allocation

 Australian International Academy also access the North Field for their school sporting curriculum activities - 2 to 3 times a week.

 The PVFC usage of the North Field is used on an average of 30 hours per week - Training 20 hours per week / 10 hours Competition

 Existing Open Space Area (north field): 400m oval= 12,600m2

 Under the adopted Hosken Reserve Masterplan allocated space has reduced to 105m x 68m = 7,140m2

 Once the spatial area of the north field is reduced, the displaced 7 junior trainings sessions (10.5 hours) will be accommodated at the upgraded south field (40 hours of use)

**South Field**

 Current field recommended hours of usage capacity 11 - 15 hours per week.

 The PVFC usage for the South Field is on average 30 hours per week

 Tenancy - Annual Allocation

**Hosken Reserve Masterplan East Field Options (Attachment 1)**

**Option 1 – Maintains the Council endorsed Hosken Reserve Masterplan (2021) with no change**

 Implement the Masterplan as adopted in October 2021.

**Option 2 - Maintains the Council endorsed Hosken Reserve Masterplan (2021) but with a reduction in the amount of sports training and games (recommended)**

 Implement the Masterplan as adopted in October 2021

 Reduced number of hours and days of sporting use with a total 16 hours of use

 Winter seasonal allocation only

 Wednesday & Friday Training to be relocated for the displaced 8 training sessions to Richards Reserve. (this equates to 10 hours of use in addition to the current 15 hours of use at Richards Reserve)

 East Field remains as a flexible, shared space that can be utilised for some training and junior games but will predominantly be available for informal community use once the North and the South fields are formally upgraded

 PVFC access to the East field would equate to 16 hours per week. (refer to table below, proposed usage in blue/grey)

 Sports field lighting to be operational on non-club training evenings for community access throughout the winter months up until 9pm.

 No further budget implications

 The proposed allocated hours of use for training and junior games in the winter season would be Tuesdays 4pm-9pm, Thursdays 4pm-9pm and Sundays 8am-2pm (16 hours in total).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MON** | **TUES** | **WED** | **THURS** | **FRI** | **SAT** | **SUN** |
| 8am - 4pm | 8am - 4pm | 8am - 4pm | 8am - 4pm | 8am - 4pm | 8am - 4pm | **8am - 2pm**  **Club**  **Competition** |
| 4pm - 9pm | **4pm - 9pm**  **Club Training** | 4pm - 9pm | **4pm - 9pm**  **Club Training** | 4pm - 9pm | 4pm - 9pm | 2pm - 9pm |

**Option 3 – Relocate all training from the East Field but maintains Sunday competition (not recommended)**

 Maintain Sunday competition games on East Field. (6 hours use)

 Sports field lighting upgrade not required. ($200K).

 Relocate 12 training sessions to Richards Reserve. This will equate to a total of 35 hours of use at Richards Reserve, which is not possible with the fields current surface structure, as the recommended hours of use between 11 – 15 hours.

 Richards Reserve - currently used 9 -10 hours a week.

 Limited access to changerooms as the facility is leased to the Coburg Cycling Club & subleased to the Coburg Boxing Club.

 The field at Richards Reserve will require an upgrade to accommodate the additional hours of use safely and sustainably.

 Officers recommendation is to reconstruct a hybrid or synthetic field to accommodate a minimum of 40 hours of use per week.

 This option has significant financial and capital works implications that are not currently budgeted for - $1.8M+.

### Option 4 – Relocate all training and competition from the East Field and manage for informal recreation only (not recommended)

 Remove all training and competition games from East Field.

 East field becomes informal recreational area only.

 Sports field lighting and field surface upgrade not required. ($340K)

 Relocate all 16 training sessions involving 320 juniors and competition games to Richards Reserve.

 This will equate to a total of 35 hours of use at Richards Reserve, which is not possible with the fields current surface structure, as the recommended hours of use between 11 – 15 hours.

 Sports field reconstruction required to accommodate 35 hours plus of use safely and sustainably at an estimated cost of $1.8M+.

 Officers recommendation is to reconstruct a hybrid or synthetic field to accommodate a minimum of 40 hours of use per week.

 Additional and upgraded facilities will be required to support Football Victoria competition games at an estimated cost of $3.5M+, including:

 2 x female friendly changerooms and amenities

 Referee change rooms and amenities

 First aid room

 Canteen/kiosk

 Storage

 Public toilets

 Additional car parking will be required

 Precinct amenity upgrades

 Sport field lighting and field surface upgrade not required on East Field (less $340,000).

 This option has very significant financial and capital works implications that are not currently budgeted for.

### Community impact

Council has a strong commitment to providing its diverse community with a broad range of sporting and recreational opportunities. The elements within the adopted Masterplan will deliver significant benefits to the local resident community by providing contemporary facilities and services that support health and wellbeing outcomes.

The Masterplan allocates a variety of informal recreational spaces, an active recreation zone and upgrades to paths in and around the reserve for walking, running, rollerblading and cycling.

The development of the Hosken Reserve Masterplan resulted in considerable discord amongst residents and the formal users of the reserve. Council acknowledges that the process was difficult at times and that it has not been possible to meet the aspirations of all stakeholders.

### Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications

The adopted Masterplan proposes a number of design elements that contribute to addressing climate change, most notably the creation of a defined shared user path throughout the reserve to encourage active transport choices, significant tree planting to increase tree canopy cover and mitigate urban heat island effects, the use of LED and sensor lighting, and inclusion of various Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) treatments.

The preferred option in this report minimises the need for the development and renewal of additional sports fields and associated change rooms, support facilities and carparking at Richards Reserve by containing use within the one site.

### Economic sustainability implications

The economic sustainability of the options presented in this report have been considered.

Option 1 and 2 maintains planned capital works expenditure that is within a Council endorsed master plan and has been considered in the development of future years capital works programs and budgets.

Options 3 and 4 would involve significant new and unbudgeted capital expenditure and associated increases in both sports field and building maintenance budgets once works were completed.

### Legal and risk considerations

There are no legal or risk issues arising from the recommendations of this report.

### Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been considered in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and the engagement undertaken supports Sections 12 and 18 of the Human Rights Charter which relate to freedom of movement and taking part in public life.

## 4. Community consultation and engagement

This report has been developed with input from officers in Recreation Services, Open Space Maintenance and Building Projects Unit. Pascoe Vale FC and Football Victoria have also been consulted in the preparation of the report.

Prior to this report, an extensive community engagement process was undertaken to inform the Hosken Reserve Masterplan Refresh which commenced in February 2021 and was completed in August 2021 over three stages:

 Stage 1 – February to March and this engagement had a reach of 5,082 page visits to the Conversations Moreland project page, 467 surveys completed, 216 Q&A contributions, 13 submissions, 6 stakeholder interviews, and 4 on-site pop up sessions held with 153 unique engagements.

 Stage 2 – February/March to May included a Refresh Group consisting of 25 community members was established and met four times between 19th May 2021 and 9 June 2021. The outcome of this process has been the establishment of draft design recommendations for Council consideration. The draft design recommendations were developed in alignment with Council policy, management practices and operational procedures.

 Stage 3 – July to August 2021 included a public exhibition of the refreshed Masterplan, seeking feedback from the community.

An internal working group also met frequently throughout the life of this project which included staff from the Recreation, Open Space, Transport, Strategic Planning, Sustainable Built Environment and Community Engagement teams.

**Affected persons rights and interests**

The interests of residents, sporting clubs and the adjacent school was the primary focus of the Hosken Reserve Masterplan refresh. Each group have had numerous opportunities to express their views through a variety of engagement methods during the development of the adopted Master Plan including a Conversations Moreland project page, community survey, on-site pop-up sessions, stakeholder interviews, online Q and A forum, Refresh Group process and numerous emails from residents requesting information and clarifications.

## 5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

## 6. Financial and Resources Implications

The below table outlines the infrastructure requirements and estimated project costs based on previous projects and current industry costing benchmarks.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Option* | *Project requirements* | *Estimated Cost* |
| **Option 1** - Maintain East Field as per the adopted Masterplan | Upgrade sports field surface & construction of sports field lighting on the East field. | Approximately $340,000+ (within current draft estimates) |
| **Option 2** - Maintain East Field as per the adopted Masterplan but with reduced sports hours | Upgrade sports field surface & construction of sports field lighting on the East field. | Approximately $340,000+ (within current draft estimates) |
| **Option 3** - Maintain one day usage East Field | Hybrid or synthetic field reconstruction to Richards Reserve | Approximately $1.8M+ |
| **Option 4** - East Field as a dedicated community park | Hybrid or synthetic field reconstruction to Richards Reserve ($1.8M+)  Facility construction ($1.7M+) | Approximately  $3.5M+ |

The estimated cost of $340,000 for Option 1 was endorsed by Council through the Hosken Reserve Masterplan Report in October 2021 and has been referred to the 2022/23 Council draft budget process.

Options 3 ($1.8M+) and Option 4 ($3.5M+) have not yet been included in forward budgeting and capital works programs. These costs are preliminary and approximate only and would require additional detailed design and investigation to determine exact funding requirements for budget considerations.

## 7. Implementation

Subject to Council’s decision, Council officers will:

 Write to residents within 800m of Hosken Reserve, Merlynston Tennis Club,

Pascoe Vale Soccer Club and Australian International Academy and respondents to inform them of Council’s resolution;

 Update the Conversations Moreland website with Council’s resolution.

## Attachment/s

There are no attachments for this report.

**7.2 Kerbside Waste Reform Multi-Unit Dwelling 4-Stream Waste Trial**

**Director City Infrastructure Anita Curnow**

**City Services**

**Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Approves the implementation of a six-month trial of 4-stream waste services at Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) and selected neighbouring single unit dwellings as described in this report.

2. Receives a further report in December 2022 to include an interim evaluation of the trial, and considering the continuation of the trial services beyond six months.

3. Notes that the final evaluation of the trial and the recommended range of service solutions for MUDs in the broader rollout of the Kerbside Waste Reform from mid-2023 will be presented to Council in early 2023.

**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

Council at its 8 December 2021 meeting committed to introducing a 4-stream waste collection to all eligible properties in Moreland. The new 4-stream waste service, including weekly garbage, fortnightly recycling, weekly food organics and garden organics (FOGO) and a monthly glass collection will commence in mid-2023.

Through comprehensive engagement on a new *Kerbside Waste Service and Charge Policy* 431 residents living in Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) responded and there was a consistent concern raised about how the new waste services would work for them, especially at sites where bin storage, kerb frontage or access are limited or where resident engagement is low.

While the default service for MUDs in the Policy is to have all four waste streams using shared bins is, a trial will help to refine the service offer to provide the most practical and cost-effective option for MUDs. Council is designing an agile waste trial to test service options for different types of MUDs from both the customer perspective and through an operations lens.

The trial sample includes 52 MUD sites across both north and south of the municipality:

 Precinct-style development – 283 households to trial use of a single glass collection point added to their existing 3-stream service (Brunswick site)

 High density streets – 242 households to trial the full proposed 4-stream waste service to retain existing shared bin arrangements and adjust FOGO to weekly and recycling to fortnightly (Pascoe Vale and Hadfield streets)

 Apartments – 285 households in low-rise apartments (Brunswick West, Glenroy and Coburg) and 149 households in medium- to high-rise apartments (Brunswick East and Brunswick) to trial a full 4-stream waste service using a fully shared service customised to the site

The value of targeting these sites is that we can work with residents, owners and owners’ corporations to further refine the new service and develop a service model for MUDs that can be rolled out in the municipal-wide implementation of the Kerbside Waste Reforms.

The three high density streets will also provide lessons relating to the more conventional street-by-street waste collection services that apply to most streets in the municipality.

**Previous Council Decisions**

**Kerbside Waste Reform - Proposed Kerbside Waste Service And Charge Policy**- 8 December 2021

1. Thanks the community for the 4,259 contributions across the fourteen weeks (three stages) of community consultation about reform of Council’s kerbside waste service.

2. Recognises the great efforts of the community to recover food waste for composting through the opt-in Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service, which diverted 13,052 tonnes (a 9% increase) of food and garden organics from landfill last financial year.

3. Notes the community feedback from the completed Stage 3 engagement and associated officer response, including officer supported revisions reflected in the proposed Policy (refer Section 3 and 4 and Attachments 1 and 2).

4. Adopts the Kerbside Waste Service and Charge Policy as presented at Attachment 3 noting that this is reflective of an ‘End State’, with implementation to occur in stages:

a) 2022 – commence new booked hard waste service.

b) 2023 – transition to 4-bin service, introducing weekly FOGO, fortnightly Recycling, monthly Glass, BUT maintaining weekly Garbage collection as a transition stage.

c) from 2023 to 2025, undertakes a number of trials, education programs, evaluation of waste patterns including:

 an assessment about the usage of the weekly FOGO bins and whether the FOGO bins are used sufficiently to make the shift to fortnightly landfill collection feasible

 assessment of changes in patterns of dumping of rubbish, including additional household rubbish in park bins

 a trial of fortnightly landfill collection is conducted at two sites, one in the south and one in the north.

d) 2025 (TBC) – following the actioning of resolution 4c) above, receives are port which includes an assessment of the trials, usage of the FOGO bins and reporting on any increase in dumping of rubbish, including additional household rubbish in park bins in order to inform a decision to switch to fortnightly Garbage collection as standard, achieving the End State defined in the Policy.

5. Notes that a decision on the timing of the switch to fortnightly Garbage collection and two booked hard waste collections would be subject to a future Council decision.

6. Notes that to achieve the timeframes to implement 4a) and 4b) above, Council officers will now:

a) Plan for the commencement of the trial of a new booked and one hard waste service by mid-2022;

b) Enter into negotiations with existing collection, receival and bin supply contractors; on adjustments to current contracts as required;

c) Commence procurement of bin supply and fleet as required;

d) Participate in collaborative procurement on recycling and glass receival and look for further opportunities for collaborative procurement; and

e) Progress public awareness and behaviour change programs timed to complement the implementation schedule and facilitate the best outcomes.

7. Notes the updated analysis on reusable nappy and sanitary rebate options (refer Attachment 4) and intent to participate in a nappy subsidy program for 12 months, at a cost of $10,000, from within the existing waste education budget.

8. Authorises the Director City Futures to make final amendments to the final Kerbside Waste Service and Charge Policy to reflect Council resolutions.

**1. Policy Context**

**Council Plan 2021-25**

**Strategic Objective 1**: To strive for maximum protection of people’s health, plants and animals through leading as urgent response to the climate emergency and a regeneration of our natural environment.

**Strategies**:

 1.1: Lead by example and partner with others to accelerate the shift to zero carbon emissions in energy, transport and waste in ways that are efficient, financially responsible, healthy and socially fair.

 1.6: Strive for zero waste to landfill with best practice municipal waste minimisation through reform of kerbside services, community education and innovation

 1.7: Foster a more circular economy through implementing kerbside waste reform, supporting community initiatives and businesses, minimising waste generated by Council activities and using collaboration to influence markets and advocate for greater commitment of state and/or federal governments

**Major Initiatives and Priorities**:

Finalise and implement Kerbside Waste Reform (including Policy)

**Waste and Litter Strategy 2018-2022**

The Waste and Litter Strategy has a target of zero waste to landfill by 2030, with a commitment to introduce a universal kerbside food and garden waste collection service.

**Zero Carbon Moreland (ZCM)**

The ZCM Climate Emergency Action Plan includes a target that by 2025 ‘Council’s food and garden organics waste service is delivering ‘best in class’ outcomes in the Victorian context.’

**State policy - Recycling Victoria: A New Economy 2020 – 2030**

The State Government action plan on waste, Recycling Victoria – A New Economy 2020 – 2030, requires councils to introduce an organics service to all households by 2030 and a Glass service by 2027. In order to deliver these services, additional bins will need to be stored at properties and collected from kerbsides.

The state plan includes targets to divert 80 per cent of waste from landfill and to cut total waste generation by 15 per cent per capita by 2030. Additional actions to reach these targets include significant increases to the Waste Levy and the introduction of a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS), for glass, plastic and aluminium drink containers, which is due to be operational by 2023. The CDS is projected to reduce the volume of beverage containers in the commingled Recycling bin (yellow lid) as well as the volume of glass bottles in the Glass bin (purple lid) when it is introduced.

***Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* and Recycling Victoria (new Waste Authority)**

The *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021,* was assented in December 2021. The Act provides for the establishment of Recycling Victoria to provide stewardship and oversight of waste, recycling and resource recovery services in Victoria and empowers the State to set requirements for municipal residual waste and municipal recycling services including changing kerbside waste services to include four waste streams.

**2. Background**

At its December 2021 meeting Council resolved to move towards a four-stream waste collection service in 2023, to support both its aspiration for zero waste to land fill and support the Victorian Government’s requirement to introduce four waste streams before 2030.

Moreland is home to over 80,000 households. Over 35,000 properties across Moreland are in a block of 3 or more units. Most of these are in the category of 3-7 units on a lot, but denser sites are growing across the municipality and the urban landscape has, and will, continue change. Most of these properties receive a council waste service, and owners, owners’ corporations, and residents have all expressed a desire to remain with a council service.

Many inner-city councils, including Moreland, are grappling with how to continue Council waste collection services to MUDs where sites have not been designed with our bins in mind and storage, accessibility and risk of contamination is high.

The *Waste Service and Charge Policy* adopted in December 2021 anticipates that shared bins would be the ‘default’ service for all waste streams for properties with four or more dwellings where an Owners Corporation manages the common land (referred to as Multi Unit Dwellings or ‘MUDs’). It is recognised that tailored service models are needed for sites where the default shared bin service is not viable.

Councillors were advised as part of the December 2021 report that to ensure the waste management needs of residents living in these diverse properties could be met reasonably and equitably, a trial was under development.

Common issues raised by MUD residents both during the engagement and in day to day customer service requests are:

 Collection access and kerb congestion

 Appropriate storage options

 Amenity and compliance (caretaking & contamination)

 Bin loss, damage and collection related issues

 Alternate collection points

 For garbage – capacity, inequitable use and over full bins

 For recycling – contamination, capacity and overfilling with carboard

 For FOGO – Smell, insects and contamination

Different types of housing stock each present their own challenges when rolling out additional waste services.

Effective implementation and ongoing maintenance of a 4-stream waste service at MUDs has been identified as a significant implementation issue and is a high risk to successful implementation of the broader Kerbside Waste Reform program.

**3. Multi-Unit Dwelling 4-Stream Waste Trial (MUD Trial)**

The MUD trial will investigate options for providing a 4-stream waste service across a selection of sites chosen as representative of the types of MUDs across Moreland.

**Objectives**

The trial objectives are:

 To develop a 4-bin waste service that enables the future waste service model to be provided by Council to residents of as many of Moreland’s diverse MUD types as possible

 To test our hypotheses related to the problems experienced at MUDs regarding waste collection and develop solutions with residents, owners’ corporations and managers and waste service providers

 To better prepare for Municipal wide changes due to come into effect from mid 2023.

**Principles**

The service principles used in developing the trial are:

 **Equality of access**: Residents living in MUDs have access to a 4-waste stream service

 **Cost effectiveness**: The service to MUDs can be delivered at a reasonable cost to both Council and residents

 **Service effectiveness**: The service delivery model is efficient and effective and can be sustained ongoing

 **Policy alignment**: The service design supports Council’s journey to achieving zero waste to landfill

**Design Parameters**

The trial has been designed to test:

 Customer experience and ease of service

 Waste stream contamination

 Resident behaviour, education, and awareness

 Waste capacity requirements for each stream

 Most appropriate bin types (size, single user, shared bins)

 Collection models (access, fleet, bin size, collection points and to a lesser extent frequency)

 Cost of service

The trial also presents the following additional opportunities:

 To trial paper bin liners for FOGO Services

 To better understand issues related to four waste streams, including contamination, sentiment and collection and processing challenges

 Trialling smaller side and rear loading fleet options.

 Testing signage education and communication available on bins and in storage areas to reduce contamination

**Trial Delivery Model**

The trial will be delivered using an agile model so that after three months we will seek feedback and if necessary, modify and test for a further three months. This model provides opportunities for our customers to influence their waste services.

**Trial Participants**

The trial sample includes 52 sites across 9 streets (5 in the north, 4 in the south). A total of 959 households will be involved in the MUD trial. Some 283 of these (202 MUDs and 81 single unit dwellings) will only trial a glass collection point within their **precinct-style development** with no other changes to service.

The remaining 676 households in the trial (617 MUDs and 59 single unit dwellings) will experience Moreland’s proposed transition to end state waste service, with a weekly FOGO collection and monthly glass collection included in the trial design. This is made up of 3 **high density streets** and 5 **apartment sites** of various configurations.

**Precinct-style development**

Precinct-style developments generally include a combination of small single unit dwellings, townhouses and low to mid rise buildings that are connected by small streets. Sites such as these often have insufficient storage and kerb space to house an additional bin and an onsite collection point is likely to be the most appropriate solution for the glass bin. The Brickworks precinct-style development in Brunswick has been selected for a trial of a glass bin collection point. It includes 283 households (202 apartments and 81 single unit dwellings) across the following:

 Brickworks Drive;

 Pottery Court;

 O'Briens Sisters Way

 80 Dawson Street (Apartment Building)

A central glass collection point using a 120 litre bin will be tested, with fortnightly collection. No other changes will be made to existing waste collection services in this precinct.

***High density streets***

Included in this sample are 3 high density streets that contain a high number of residential units and townhouses including:

 Bristol Road, Hadfield

 View Street, Pascoe Vale

 Pascoe Street, Pascoe Vale

In these settings the whole street (135 MUDs and 59 single unit dwellings) will participate in the trial.

The waste collection offered at these sites will all be on Thursdays and include:

 Garbage: Weekly collection individual or shared bin from kerb (utilising existing bins at site – no changes to bins)

 FOGO: Weekly collection of 120 or 240 litre shared bin from kerb with compostable paper bags provided

 Recycling: Fortnightly 240 litre individual or shared bin (depending on capacity needs of development) from kerb

 Glass: 4-Weekly collection of 120 litre shared bin from kerb (frequency may need to be adjusted due to storage constraints)

***Apartments***

Included in this sample are five sites, comprising 285 households in low-rise apartments and 149 households in medium- to high-rise apartments:

 848-854 Pascoe Vale Road, Glenroy (low-rise)

 2-8 Peterson Avenue, Coburg (low-rise)

 550-568 & 608-616 Moreland Road (low-rise)

 191-197 Lygon, Brunswick East (medium- to high-rise)

 6 & 9 Florence Street, Brunswick (medium- to high-rise)

All sites selected are using a shared bin arrangement at the current site.

The waste collection at these sites will be shared for all streams and collected on Thursdays as follows:

 Garbage: Weekly 240 litre kerb-collected bin or Weekly 660 litre bin collected from on-site collection point

 FOGO: Weekly collection of 120 or 240 litre bin from kerb, with compostable paper bags provided

 Recycling: Weekly 240 litre kerb-collected bin or Weekly 660 litre bin collected from on-site collection point

 Glass: 4-Weekly collection of 120 litre bin from kerb (frequency may need to be adjusted due to storage constraints)

**Community impact**

Through the Stage 3 engagement for the Kerbside Waste Reform – Waste Service and Charge Policy, and from day to day feedback from residents of MUDs receiving Council waste services at present, it is clear that there are already significant challenges with the 3-stream waste service and introducing a fourth stream adds to these challenges.

Council is required by Victorian policy to offer a 4-stream waste service to all households eventually, and so finding a range of solutions that work for MUDs and also address some of the existing challenges is a priority. Households in the trial will be receiving a 4-stream waste service about a year earlier than other residents in Moreland. Whether the trial finishes after the 6 months or continues through to the commencement of the municipal-wide 4-stream service is to be determined, depending on trial outcomes and available funding.

The trial has been designed to minimise the impact on those taking part, and to respond to their feedback iteratively. The intent of the trial is to positively impact residents involved by improving services to these properties.

Because the cost of the trial is spread across the whole cohort of households who pay a waste charge (approx. 72,000), there will be no additional costs applied to trial properties even though service levels will be increased overall for them.

**Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications**

This trial supports Council’s climate emergency and environmental sustainability targets as outlined in the Policy section.

**Legal and risk considerations**

The MUD trial is designed as a measure to mitigate risk associated with the implementation of the 4-stream waste service across the municipality. While there is risk inherent in the trial, there is also a heightened alertness to those risks and agility built into the trial methodology to allow any realised risks to be addressed through continuous minor adjustments and a structured review after three months.

**Human rights and gender equality considerations**

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. We will ensure that as part of this trial, we protect people’s Human Right to privacy and we encourage residents to exercise their Human Right for Freedom of Expression.

Gender equality considerations were assessed as part of the development of the Kerbside Waste Service and Charge Policy through a full Gender Impact Assessment. The end-state policy makes provision for new concession categories that will address disadvantage where women are overrepresented.

As separate GIA was not undertaken for the MUD trials. However, with a focus on higher density sites including older-style units and the DFFH facility in Peterson Street, the trials will provide an opportunity to understand barriers to participating in a 4-stream waste service for occupants of these accommodation types. The communications approach will be sure to accommodate all genders and identify particular measures that will help to overcome gender inequality that may exist in these dwelling types, in addition to more generally addressing social disadvantage among this residential cohort.

**4. Community consultation and engagement**

Significant engagement has occurred as part of the development of the *Kerbside Waste Reform - Kerbside Waste Service and Charge Policy* and the detail of the Stage 3 engagement was presented to Council in December 2021. The Stage 3 consultation included insights from 431 residents living in MUDs.

Many were uncertain about how a shared waste service would work for them. Some 63 per cent of survey respondents living in MUDs did not think shared bins would work at their property, however residents already using shared bins were more likely to find the arrangement suitable. Concerns about sharing bins related to contamination, poor understanding of what goes in each bin, overflowing bins, rubbish dumping and lack of ‘ownership’ or surveillance. Community members felt that more information was needed about how shared bins and other alternatives would apply to different types of MUDs given their diversity and varying needs.

The feedback also indicated that there is a willingness to explore solutions to ensure their waste needs can be met reasonably and equitably, including glass drop off points.

The initial trial design to be tested in the first three months has considered all this feedback.

**Affected persons rights and interests**

Before making a decision that affects a person’s rights, Council must identify whose rights may be directly affected and provide an opportunity for that person (or persons) to convey those views regarding the effect on their rights and consider those views.

The MUD trial will, by design, seek views of residents involved in the trial and listen to and consider those views both within the trial duration and when finalising the service delivery model for 4-stream waste services for MUDs municipal-wide.

As outlined below, the communications plan will include a range of methods of communication to ensure that affected persons have the opportunity to take part and be heard.

**Communications**

A communications plan is being developed and the nature of the project model relies on engagement to modify and improve the trial.

The communications approach will define the role of proactive engagement, e.g. seeking specific feedback through surveys, broader communications e.g. Conversations Moreland content and responding to matters raised by residents who contact Council and raise a request through the Customer Response System (CRS).

Initial opportunities to review and provide feedback on the trial design will be created through delivery of printed materials, hosting “pop-up” information booths, engagement through property managers, owners’ corporations, and direct resident communications e.g. door knocking and letterbox drops.

Throughout the trial there will be:

 A Conversations Moreland page, which will enable a closed and more targeted opportunity for feedback

 CRS tagging of trial related calls so we can link feedback directly to the trial

 Targeted surveys for residents

We will also review demographic data for the trial areas to ensure we can engage with our culturally and linguistically diverse residents, residents who may not be digitally engaged and residents of all abilities to understand how we can best enable their participation in the trial.

**5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

**6. Financial and Resources Implications**

As outlined under Community Impact, there are no cost implications for participants in this trial as the elements trialled are included in current waste charge. Council will also supply paper bin liners to support FOGO uptake.

The costs of the trial are itemised below.

| Item No. | Item Description | Cost (Ex GST) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Collection costs (to be handled as a variation to the current citywide collection contract). | $60,000 |
| 2 | Infrastructure costs - Bins | $60,000 |
| 3 | Receival Costs – Glass only (including load audits) | $20,000 |
| 4 | Education Costs | $20,000 |
| 5 | Reporting, evaluation & Audit | $30,000 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **$190,000** |

The MUD trial can commence with engagement activities in 2021/22 through Kerbside Waste Reform funding, although is planned to be mostly conducted in 2022/23. The draft budget for 2022/23 reflects the costs associated with running this trial.

**7. Implementation**

| Milestone | Target date for completion |
| --- | --- |
| Consultation to commence owners’ corporations, owners and residents. | Apr 22 |
| Independent trial audit, evaluation (survey material) | Apr 22 |
| Finalise contract variations with Citywide and SULO | Apr 22 |
| Engagement and consultation with Owners’ Corporations, Owners and residents complete (Pop-Ups + pre-survey) | May 22 |
| Deliver trial communication package web and paper. Including pre-survey material, conversations material | May 22 |
| Engagement and consultation with Owners’ Corporations, Owners and residents complete (Pop-Ups + pre-survey) | Jun 22 |
| Pre-survey results received and closed. | Jun 22 |
| Finalise trial design (using community consultation) | Jul 22 |
| Bins delivered, removed and retrofitted as detailed in the specification | Jul 22 |
| Commencement of 4-bin trial service | Jul/Aug 22 |
| Interim results prepared, analysed and necessary modifications made to the trial design | Oct 22 |
| Post Survey results received and closed | Nov 22 |
| Trial transition plan prepared and agreed (includes agreement by OC’s and residents at the sites) | Nov 22 |
| Recommendation to continue beyond 6 months | Dec 22 |
| Trial final report and recommendations prepared. | Feb 22 |
| Learnings integrated into the broader Kerbside Waste Reform project. | Mar 23 |

**Attachment/s**

There are no attachments for this report.

7.3 Climate Risk Strategy - draft for community engagement

**Director Place and Environment Joseph Tabacco**

**Sustainability and Climate**

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the draft Climate Risk Strategy (Attachment 1) for community and stakeholder engagement.

2. Notes that a final draft of the Climate Risk Strategy will be presented for adoption at the November 2022 Council Meeting.

**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

Council officers have developed a draft Climate Risk Strategy (the Strategy). Council endorsement is sought to take the draft Strategy for community and stakeholder information and engagement during May - June 2022 (5-week period).

Council has climate change roles and responsibilities under Victorian legislation:

 The [*Climate Change Act 2017*](https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/legislation/climate-change-act-2017) requires that decision-makers have regard to climate change.

 The [*Local Government Act 2020*](https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance/local-government-act-2020) requires local governments to plan for climate change risks.

Moreland Council has also made proactive commitments that build on these legislated obligations.

In 2020, Council requested an independent audit of our climate adaptation action (Crowe, November 2020). This Audit found that while Council has a record of climate adaptation, it needs to better plan and coordinate its efforts. It recommended we develop a strategic approach to climate adaptation, risk and resilience.

The Strategy acknowledges that climate will increasingly impact on Council services. High heat days are already impacting Council’s work outdoors and maintaining green spaces and tree establishment is challenging in a hotter and drier climate. Drainage infrastructure has difficulty coping with increasingly extreme rainfall events.

Meanwhile, climate change increases community vulnerability and will significantly impact on vulnerable cohorts. For instance, extreme heat is associated with poor outcomes for infants and the elderly, as well as increases in family violence.

Because global action to cut greenhouse gas emissions has been inadequate, further climate impacts over coming decades are inevitable.

Council has already achieved significant impact, through striving towards a Zero Carbon Moreland, as well as achievements implemented through, for example, Urban Forest Strategy, Integrated Water Management Strategy and the Urban Heat Island Action Plan.

However, the need to responsibly manage climate risk and adapt to impacts is clear.

The major benefits expected from the Climate Risk Strategy include:

 Positioning Council to effectively support the Moreland community in building climate resilience.

 Building resilience to chronic and acute climate impacts, such that Council can continue providing the community with appropriate services during these events and in their aftermath, including by supporting recovery.

 Limiting Councils exposure to legal and financial liability resulting from a failure to appropriately plan, adapt and build resilience to unavoidable climate change.

 Reducing Council’s future costs by proactively managing its climate risk exposure (including by mitigating, managing and transferring risk) and making early and informed choices about its climate adaptation pathway.

 Allowing Council to strategically prioritise funding those assets and services where climate resilience will deliver the greatest benefits with available financing, while also making efforts to understand and reduce the adaptation financing gap.

 Building on Moreland City Council’s track record of leadership in the urgent transitioning to zero carbon, to also establish Council as a leader in climate risk management.

A final Climate Risk Strategy, and 4-year foundational action plan, is due to Council’s Audit and Risk Committee in December 2022 to reflect our response to the audit findings.

## Previous Council Decisions

Not applicable.

## 1. Policy Context

The Climate Risk Strategy supports delivery of Council’s climate-related regulatory obligations under the:

 *Local Government Act 2020*, which requires Councils promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including by planning for climate change risks. The Act also requires that Councils ensure the transparency of their decisions, actions and information. This is strongly aligned with Management’s commitment to voluntarily disclose Council’s climate-related risk.

 *Climate Change Act 2017*, which lays out a long-term framework for climate change adaptation action and requires decision-makers have regard to climate change for specific decisions and actions.

 Broad requirements that Councils appropriately discharge their duty of care. The threat of climate change is now clearly established through legislation, national and *state* policy and international agreements. It is therefore likely a court will construe that the risks and impacts of climate change are now reasonably clearly foreseeable. Therefore, Councils have a clear duty of care in the context of climate change adaptation.

 *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, which sets out some of the accountabilities and *opportunities* in relation to local climate change adaptation, as land use planning plays a key role in managing responses to climate risks and natural hazards including bushfires, flooding, heatwaves, sea-level rise, and storm surges.

The Strategy also aligns with the growing expectation that public sector organisations assess, disclose and change their climate-related risks in a manner broadly consistent with growing best practice in the private sector established through the work of the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).

The Strategy complements the Community Vision, in particular:

*Council and community working together proactively and transparently to continue to create a vibrant, safe, healthy, resilient, innovative, and regenerative community.*

It is also our delivery mechanism for Council Plan 2021/22-24/25 Strategy 3.3, to:

*Strategically invest in Council’s community services and assets to increase our resilience and adapt to climate change risks and impacts that are now unavoidable (such as severe heatwaves, flash flooding, unreliable rainfall).*

*Major Initiative/Priority 15. Develop and implement a Climate Resilience Strategy (including climate adaptation).* (Note: since retitled as Climate Risk Strategy)

And it contributes to achieving Council Plan Strategic Objective 3, namely:

*To support Moreland to become a more inclusive, connected, healthy and caring community through providing equitable access to community facilities and services, facilitating local partnerships and programs, mitigating the effects of climate change and supporting the community to adapt and build climate resilience.*

The Strategy also supports achieving Council Plan Strategic Objective 1:

*To strive for maximum protection of people’s health, plants and animals through leading an urgent response to the climate emergency and a regeneration of our natural environment.*

## 2. Background

In 2019, Council’s independent auditors (Crowe) were commissioned to audit Council against the newly developed *ISO14090-2019 –* *Adaptation to climate change – Principles, requirements and guidelines* (the Audit). Crowe recognised Council’s strong record on climate change mitigation action (that is, action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are causing global heating). The Audit found that Council was in the early stages of climate risk and resilience planning and recommended that climate adaptation controls be strengthened. Management agreed to the recommendations of the independent Audit and is acting on these under the oversight of Council’s Audit and Risk Committee.

A Climate Resilience Integration Board (CRIB), was established to deliver on management’s Audit commitments, including the development of the Strategy by December 2022. CRIB members are:

 Director, Place and Environment (CRIB Chair)

 Director City Infrastructure

 Director Business Transformation

 Director Community

 Chief Financial Officer

 Branch Manager, Governance and Strategy

 Branch Manager, Sustainability and Climate

The CRIB also oversees several separate, but strongly aligned processes, driving the integration of climate risk and resilience within Council including:

 Council and management’s interest and desire to actively manage and govern its exposure to a range of strategic risks, including those arising from climate change. In mid-2020, Council and Executive agreed a Risk Appetite Statement rating their tolerance for climate-related and other environmental risk as low.

 A review of the Climate Emergency Strategic Risk, which revealed that Council’s understanding of its exposure to climate risk was incomplete and that the risk required regular executive level review and active management.

The CRIB has led a process to establish the vision, goals, objectives and desired outcomes for Council to manage the impacts of climate change, adapt to the changing climate and build our climate resilience. These are articulated in the draft Climate Risk Strategy.

The Strategy describes Council’s integrated approach to:

 Managing climate-related risks to Council, its assets and the services it provides.

 Adapting Council’s infrastructure, open spaces, natural environments and community services to climate change, while also supporting the Moreland community’s adaptation journey.

 Building resilience within Council and across the municipality.

It is envisaged that the long-term goals, objectives and outcomes of the Strategy will be delivered through 4-year action plans aligned with each Council Plan period. This approach allows actions to be tailored to progress the goals and vision of the Strategy, considering changing circumstances and informed by the outcomes of monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems.

A foundational action plan is currently being developed to define how Council will establish:

 Strong systems to monitor, report on and evaluate changing vulnerability, exposure and climate hazard.

 Baselines of existing Council and community climate vulnerability and exposure.

 Processes to make cost-effective decisions about how best to manage climate risk and drive adaptation action.

## 3. Issues

### Risk of lock-in decisions and perverse outcomes

There is a risk that decisions, particularly in infrastructure investment, will lock-in or constrain future adaptation choices. In especially unfortunate cases, investments have been known to result in perverse or maladaptive outcomes e.g. increasing urban heat driving the uptake of air-conditioning to manage the thermal comfort of buildings.

The Climate Risk Strategy embeds an adaptation pathways approach of iterative decision-making to manage this issue. This approach requires regular review and, if necessary, realignment of actions to respond to changing conditions as Council moves towards its intended vision of the future. At each point in time, the approach supports:

 Assessing options to make a cost-effective decision;

 Choosing a sound pathway;

 Preparing for future decisions; and

 Avoiding decisions likely to lock-in future emissions or limit adaptation options.

### Better data is needed to inform decision-making

The adaptation pathways approach is best implemented in conjunction with a sound monitoring, reporting and evaluation system to inform climate-risk management decisions. Without a more complete evidence base, it is not possible to assess priority climate risks across the organisation, evaluate the benefit-cost ratio of decisions or ensure investments cost-effectively reduce risk.

The Climate Risk Strategy recommends Council establish data collection and decision-making systems as foundational actions within the first 4-years of the Strategy. This will allow Council to baseline existing climate risk and inform substantial actions to address these during the subsequent 4-year period.

### Adaptation financing deficit

Both State and Federal policy places significant burden of climate adaptation action on local government. To date, this has not been accompanied by significant funding (or regulatory) support. The cost of adaptation action being transferred to Australian local governments sits within the broader context of an estimated global adaptation finance deficit of US$90 trillion in infrastructure investment to 2030 to build resilience to climate impacts (World Bank, 2019). The same study estimated that each US$1 invested would yield US$4 in benefits, both through new economic opportunities and avoided damages.

Implementing decisions arising from the Strategy, with the aim to substantively reduce climate risk for Council and/or community members, will require a significant financial commitment from Council. However, early investment in building climate resilience will avoid far greater future costs to Council, should it instead bear the cost of responding to unmanaged climate impacts to its infrastructure, services and community. Investment in climate risk management is also likely to create economic opportunities within Moreland, benefiting both community and Council.

The Strategy recognises the potentially significant cost of adapting to climate change and includes objectives to establish processes to ensure investments are cost effective and have positive benefit-cost ratios.

### Community impact

### The draft Strategy recognises the importance of effective climate change adaptation to delivering health and wellbeing outcomes to the Moreland community. Ageing people, young children and vulnerable persons are the most severely impacted by climate change. Climate change is also likely to increase the vulnerability of sections of the broader population. In combination, the demand for Councils’ community services is likely to increase, while the provision of these services will become more challenging through chronic and extreme events.

### Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications

The draft Strategy is centrally focused on better understanding and proactively managing risk to Council and the community arising from the climate emergency.

### Economic sustainability implications

The draft Strategy recognises that businesses will face significant and increasing challenges due to climate change and other emerging risks. Understanding these challenges and having access to appropriate support will help drive business climate adaptation and resilience.

### Legal and risk considerations

The draft Strategy guides foundational action for Council to understand and proactively address climate risk. This will limit exposure to legal and financial liability which could otherwise result from a failure to appropriately plan, adapt and build resilience to now foreseeable and unavoidable climate impacts.

### Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and development of a Climate Risk Strategy is highly compatible with the Human Rights Charter.

As noted in Moreland’s Health Profile 2020 and Council Plan 2021 – 25:

*Climate change has been declared by the World Health Organisation as the defining issue for public health in the 21st century (WHO, 2020). Climate change affects environmental determinants of health, from extreme weather events to infectious and communicable diseases, and availability of food and water. While everyone will be affected by climate change, some populations will be more vulnerable than others (AIHW, 2020).*

Additionally, the Council Plan notes that:

*Climate change does not affect everyone equally. People suffering from socioeconomic inequality feel the effects of climate change more than others. Our commitment is to provide strong leadership by reducing the greenhouse gas pollution that causes climate change and by proactively preparing to avoid, withstand and recover from the inevitable impacts of climate change.*

The draft Strategy recognises that climate resilient communities and businesses are highly connected, equitable and just. Building the climate resilience of Moreland’s community is therefore closely tied to the effective delivery of Council’s human rights, gender equity and social cohesion work.

The draft Strategy includes goals and specific outcomes to drive a focus on social equity and climate justice for vulnerable sectors of the community.

In addition, the Community Development Unit has proposed and is drafting a set of ‘guiding principles’ to integrate human rights, social cohesion and gender equity into how actions under the Strategy are scoped and delivered.

## 4. Community consultation and engagement

Council endorsement is sought to take the draft Strategy to community engagement during May – June 2022 (5-week period).

In accordance with the Community Engagement Policy 2020, the engagement plan proposes:

 Strong ‘Inform’ communications for the general community, with use of images and graphics. A survey will also seek community stories (i.e. examples of their ‘lived experience’) of local climate change impacts and community resilience.

 Facilitated consultation workshops with new members of the Advisory Committees for Environmental Sustainability, Human Rights and Inclusion and Traditional Owners / first nations, including payment of stipend for participation.

 Targeted consultation with external stakeholders, including from Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP), Wurundjeri, Northern Alliance Greenhouse Action (NAGA), and other Local Government leaders.

The goals of the engagement are:

 To ‘Inform’ community members:

 About climate impacts and risks most relevant to Moreland (through user-friendly information and graphics).

 That while Council continues to take action to reduce emissions (via Zero Carbon Moreland Climate Emergency Action Plan) it has now developed a draft Climate Risk Strategy to guide its approach to planning and preparing Council and community for climate impacts that are now unavoidable (like more extreme heatwaves, storms, flooding etc).

 That we are working to prioritise and manage our climate risk builds on existing strategies and initiatives to build resilience (e.g. Urban Forest Strategy, Integrated Water Management Strategy, thermal grants for low income etc).

 About key community resources for preparing for extreme weather events (e.g. https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/my-council/emergency-management/.)

 To ‘Consult’ representative stakeholders and interested community members:

 To gain a better understanding of the community’s awareness / acceptance of climate impacts / risks that are predicted by the climate-science; and gain anecdotes/stories about how climate is already impacting the people of Moreland, and how they or others might be responding.

 Seek their feedback and suggestions on the draft Strategy.

 Via members of the Environmental Sustainability and Human Rights and Inclusion Advisory Committee members to: ensure their awareness of the draft Strategy and its early action focus; and, identify any key equity or understanding gaps important to address in the final Strategy, as well as inform thinking around future initiatives involving community members or vulnerable cohorts.

Much of the Strategy is determined by Council’s risk management needs, legislative obligations and responses to the Audit findings. Community feedback is sought to inform our understanding of community awareness and experience of climate risks.

The Strategy will be delivered through 4-yearly action plans aligned with Council Plan cycles. The community will have opportunity to provide input into these as part of future Council Plan engagement processes.

### Past Community Engagement

The draft Strategy takes direction from recent engagement to inform the Community Vision and Council Plan, as well as past engagement on related strategies / plans including Zero Carbon Moreland, the Nature Plan, the Integrated Water Management Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy.

We know from previous engagement (and subject matter expertise / literature):

 the categories of people and assets that are particularly vulnerable to the physical climate risks projected for Melbourne.

 that the community want to protect liveability, improve local parks and gardens, and increase shade cover.

 that the Moreland community is eager for Council to act on climate change, including through tree planting, increasing green space, managing water sustainably and facilitating development with strong sustainability standards.

### Staff engagement

The draft Strategy is the result of extensive internal engagement, including three workshops hosted by the Climate Resilience Integration Board with Executive, subject matter experts and the Senior Management Team.

Ongoing consultation with many Branches and Units across the organisation has further informed the Strategy.

**Affected persons rights and interests**

Before making a decision that affects a person’s rights, Council must identify whose rights may be directly affected and provide an opportunity for that person (or persons) to convey those views regarding the effect on their rights and consider those views.

Over the coming years, implementation of particular actions arising the Strategy, will involve initiative-specific engagement with external stakeholders and impacted cohorts, however it is not proposed to directly target these audiences with consultation on the draft Strategy itself (beyond their representation in consulting members of the Human Rights and Inclusion Advisory Committee).

## 5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

## 6. Financial and Resources Implications

The preparation of the draft Strategy has been undertaken utilising existing staffing resources and specialist expertise which has been factored into the 2021/22 Council budget.

New budget initiatives associated with implementing the final adopted strategy will be referred to Council’s 23/24 budget process for consideration.

A sub-set of other actions proposed for FY22/23 will draw on existing base and operational budgets, most notably the Zero Carbon Moreland (ZCM) Implementation project budget (i.e. Climate Emergency Integration sub-allocation).

The Strategy recognises the potentially significant cost of adapting to climate change in the coming years and decades. Strategy implementation will establish processes to ensure Council investments have positive benefit-cost ratios over the longer term.

## 7. Implementation

 13 April 2022: Present draft Strategy to Council for endorsement to consult

 May – June 2022: stakeholder and community engagement

 November 2022: Present final Strategy to Council for adoption (including 4-year Action Plan)

 December 2022 – Provide final Strategy to Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)

## Attachment/s

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Climate Risk Strategy - draft for approval to consult | D22/85757 |  |

**7.4 Draft Asset Plan for Public Exhibition**

**Director City Infrastructure - Anita Curnow**

**Capital Works Planning and Delivery**

**Officer Recommendation**

That Council resolves to make the Draft Asset Plan 2022-23 to 2031-32 available for public exhibition to seek community feedback and input for a period of 4 weeks.

**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires Council to develop, adopt and maintain a 10‑year Asset Plan for maintenance, acquisition, disposal and management of Council-managed assets. The first plan, in accordance with the Act, must be adopted to be effective from 1 July 2022. A review of the Asset Plan must be completed by 31 October in the year following a General Council election.

Council’s $2.4 billion portfolio of assets has been built up progressively over many decades. Assets such as roads and drainage provide the building blocks of our way of life, while others add to the quality of life by facilitating recreation, arts, culture, health and educational activities. Our assets are also integral to us achieving our zero carbon, water management and social inclusion goals, and support local business and economic development.

The Act requires the Asset Plan to be developed through deliberative engagement process in accordance with Council’s engagement policy. Community participation in the development of the Moreland Asset Plan occurred through the *Imagine Moreland* engagement program, guided by Moreland’s Community Engagement Policy 2020.

**Previous Council Decisions**

There have been no previous Council decisions on the draft Asset Plan.

**1. Policy Context**

The preparation of this Asset Plan is identified as a major initiative/priority in the Council Plan as follows:

 **Theme 5**: An Empowered and collaborative Moreland

 **Strategic Objective 5**: Build community trust through encouraging participation, evidence-based decision making, stewardship of resources and being accessible and responsive.

 **Strategy 5.8**: Ensuring our assets provide the best fit for community needs over the long term

 **Major Initiatives and Priorities # 45**: Develop and implement 10-year Asset Plan

 **Indicator:** Asset renewal and asset upgrade as a percentage of depreciation (Know Your Council) – Increase from Moreland 2021 baseline measure of 95.57%

**2. Background**

Pursuant to Section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), Council must develop, adopt and keep in force an Asset Plan in accordance to Council’s deliberative engagement practices. The plan must encompass information on maintenance, renewal, expansion, acquisition, disposal and decommissioning of assets for which Council is responsible.

Pursuant to subsection 6 of section 92, the Asset Plan must be adopted by 30 June 2022 and be in force by 1 July 2022. The plan must be reviewed or developed by 31 October in the year following a general election of the Council – therefore, the subsequent update of the Asset Plan is due by 31 October 2025.

The draft Asset Plan is provided at **Attachment 1** and covers Transport Infrastructure (e.g. roads, footpaths, bikepaths and bridges), Community and Civic Facilities (e.g. community centres, Council offices, sporting pavilions), Stormwater Infrastructure (e.g. drainage pits, pipes) and Open Space (e.g. parks, playgrounds, reserves, sporting fields).

**3. Issues**

**Community impact**

The draft asset plan is an overarching document that lays a strategic framework for how Council’s financial investment decisions are made to provide optimum level of service to the Community by the utilisation of Council’s physical assets.

**Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications**

The scope of capital projects included in the draft Asset Plan for each asset class will account for both emissions abatement and climate adaptation.

Emissions reduction (contributing to Zero Carbon Moreland goals) is achieved by building projects incorporating costs for sustainable design to promote energy efficiency and use of green energy. Use of recycled materials in construction and minimising demolition also reduce the carbon footprint of our asset programs and create opportunities around the circular economy.

Climate risk considerations impact significantly on the design of assets. For example rather than replace like-with-like, officers will review drainage capacity as drains are replaced to accommodate more severe storm events and reconsider selection of materials based on their performance at higher temperatures given the hotter summers we’re experiencing. These challenges are reflected in the forthcoming Climate Risk Strategy which will work hand-in-hand with the Asset Plan.

**Economic sustainability implications**

The Asset Plan is a key document that sets a strategic framework for financial investment decision making to provide optimum level of service to the community by utilisation of assets. One of the key aspects of the Asset Plan is the Sustainability Index, which is a numeric representation of how sustainable our asset management practices are. Further, the draft Asset Plan discusses minimising life cycle cost and finding a balance between community aspiration and evidence-based needs.

In addition, some of the assets delivered provide direct and indirect support to local businesses, such as activity centre urban design treatments. Provision of active transport options supports residents seeking to minimise the costs of travel.

**Legal and risk considerations**

The draft Asset Plan is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*. Whilst there are no significant risks associated in adopting the Asset Plan, there are reasonable risks if an Asset Plan is not developed, such as non-compliance with the requirements of the Act and lack of strategic framework guiding financial investment decisions for asset sustainability.

As referenced above, the Asset Plan also plays a critical role contributing to our assessment and mitigation of climate risk.

**Human Rights Consideration**

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. The adoption of the draft Asset Plan does not violate the Victorian Human Rights Charter.

For the Asset Plan as a whole, a Gender Impact Assessment is not deemed required. However, it is noted that for some asset categories, strategies guiding their prioritisation and scoping and individual category asset management plans will need to be developed with the insights gained through Gender Impact Assessments.

**4. Community consultation and engagement**

Community participation in the development of the Asset Plan occurred through the *Imagine Moreland* engagement program, guided by Moreland’s Community Engagement Policy 2020. This includes the commitment to collaborating with the community as a partner and developing the Asset Plan and other corporate plans through broad community engagement, complemented by a deliberative engagement process.

This has been a full four-stage deliberative engagement program aligned with Council’s *Community Engagement Policy 2020*, namely:

Stage 1. **Wide engagement (January – March 2021)** Multi-channel online and in-person engagement

Stage 2. **Deliberative engagement part 1 (April – May 2021)** A series of full day deliberative workshops to identify the vision for Moreland including consideration of council’s asset planning

Stage 3. **Deliberative engagement part 2 (May – June 2021)** Deliberative engagement online using *Conversations Moreland* to inform the asset plan.

Stage 4. **Public exhibition (April 2022)** Draft asset plan will be publicly exhibited for feedback.

Some of the common themes from our community relevant to the Asset Plan during Stage 1 engagement were:

 More quality green spaces and tree lined streets

 Improve the presentation of the city – remove litter and graffiti

 Maintain current buildings and ensure fit for purpose builds

 Prioritise projects that are achievable

 Pandemic recovery – more support for local businesses and support for jobs creation

 More opportunities for social interaction particularly for younger people and older people.

Stages 2 and 3 of Imagine Moreland involved deliberative engagement with a representative Community Panel. In early March, we delivered 30,000 invitations to randomly-selected households across Moreland, inviting household members to register their interest to participate in a Community Panel. From the nominations received, a panel of 44 people, representative of Moreland’s diversity, was appointed.

During stage 2, the panel developed the new Community Vision document for Moreland over 3 full days. They also proposed strategic directions for consideration in the Asset Plan.

In stage 3 of *Imagine Moreland*, the panel held 6 online conversations on a series of topics. Several of the questions raised were relevant to asset planning. Questions and responses are reported at **Attachment 2**. Feedback received included:

 Seeking better decision-making process for projects,

 Greater transparency in decision making,

 Safer paths and streets,

 Increased accessibility,

 The need for managing environmental impacts and encouraging sustainability and

 Improved connectivity between bike paths and transport routes.

Stage 4 of *Imagine Moreland* is public exhibition. The Asset Plan will be exhibited to the community for feedback for a period of 3 weeks. This report is seeking a resolution to implement stage 4 of the engagement process.

Social distancing restrictions during the pandemic have impacted Council’s ability to undertake engagement through usual approaches. As a consequence, Council officers adjusted their approach to community consultation in part on this matter by increased reliance on the *Conversations Moreland* website and online conversations.

**Affected persons rights and interests**

Before making a decision that affects a person’s rights, Council must identify whose rights may be directly affected and provide an opportunity for that person (or persons) to convey those views regarding the effect on their rights and consider those views.

The development and public exhibition of the draft Asset Plan has not affected any persons’ rights and interests to the best knowledge of Council officers.

**Communications**

Assuming Council resolves to proceed to exhibition for the draft Asset Plan it will be made available online for community to provide comment and feedback. In addition, physical copies of the plans will be located at customer facing Council facilities to make the draft available to the community to read and provide feedback. Officers will also use social media to make sure that draft reaches as many members of the community as possible. Officers will respond to enquiries from any residents seeking to engage in languages other than English or through a discussion rather than written feedback.

**5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

**6. Financial and Resources Implications**

The adoption and implementation of the draft Asset Plan has no direct financial and resource implications. The plan sets out the financial projection in capital and maintenance cost in each asset classes, which is in accordance with the adopted Financial Plan. The Asset Plan, once adopted, must be reviewed by 31 October in the year following a general election of the Council. The cost to achieve the 31 October 2025 milestone will depend on the level of engagement to be undertaken and additional technical support provided and would mostly be incurred in 2024/25 and therefore considered as the 2024/25 budget is prepared.

**7. Implementation**

This Council report is seeking resolution to exhibit the draft Asset Plan for community feedback over a period of 4 weeks. After the public exhibition period, Council officers will review all feedback received and recommend subsequent changes to the Asset Plan. The proposed final Asset Plan and summary of community feedback will be reported to Council at the June 2022 Special Council Meeting. The report that will be presented at the proposed 23 June 2022 Council Meeting recommend adoption of the Asset Plan to be in force effective 1 July 2022.

**Attachment/s**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Draft Asset Plan 2022-23 to 2031-32 | D22/132321 |  |
| **2** | Imagine Moreland - Stage 3 Engagement | D22/131945 |  |

7.5 Children Young People and Families Plan Implementation 2022 -2025

**Director Community Eamonn Fennessy**

**Early Years and Youth**

## Officer Recommendation

That Council adopts the Children Young People and Families Implementation Plan 2022 – 2025.

**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

The *Children, Young People and Families Plan 2021-2025* was adopted by Council on 9 June 2021 and guides the delivery of learning, development, health and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and families in Moreland.

In response to the adopted *Children, Young People and Families Plan 2021-2025*, a detailed Implementation Plan has been developed with a range of actions and activities to enact the Plan. The Implementation Plan demonstrates Council’s commitment to delivering on the *Children, Young People and Families Plan 2021-2025*.

The Implementation Plan will be used to engage relevant stakeholders and internal Council business units to enable the most efficient use of available resources to progress the objectives identified in the three outcome areas of the *Children, Young People and Families Plan*; Inclusive City and Community, Improved Health and Wellbeing and Lifelong Learning and Participation.

The Implementation Plan includes a range of actions to be completed during 2022-2025. Priority short-term actions include: the development of an Early Years Infrastructure Plan to meet the infrastructure needs of the growing population and to support the implementation of universal three-year-old Kindergarten; continuing the Dads Group partnership and supporting father inclusive practice; implementing assertive outreach service delivery to increase early years participation; establishing Moreland Youth as a ‘first point of contact’ for young people; families and community to simplify access to information and support; delivery of assertive outreach and case management support to young people experiencing vulnerability; place-based activation to support a more child and youth friendly city, and; coordinated partnerships and a collective impact approach in the north to meet the needs of children, young people and families.

The Implementation Plan also seeks to respond to the emerging needs of children, young people and families. In particular, the impact of COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on children and young people due to disrupted education, restricted or modified support services, reduced social connection and lack of entry-level employment opportunities which has had adverse impacts on mental health. The Implementation Plan contains several activities to address these adverse impacts and reinforces the importance of working in partnership with children, young people and families, key stakeholders, community partners and internal Council business units to achieve the Plan’s vision of a *community where children, young people and families are healthy, resilient, empowered safe and belong.*

Council will receive an annual report on the progress of the actions contained within the Implementation Plan to ensure effective monitoring and reporting.

**Previous Council Decisions**

**Moreland Children, Young People and Families Plan 2021-2025** - 9 June 2021

That Council:

1. Adopts the *Children, Young People and Families Plan 2021-2025.*

**Draft Moreland Children, Young People and Families Plan 2021-2025** - 14 April 2021

That Council:

1. Endorses for public exhibition the draft *Children, Young People and Families Plan 2021-2025* (Attachment 1).

2. Notes the draft *Children, Young People and Families Plan 2021-2025* will be available for public exhibition for 21 days, 19 April to 9 May 2021.

## 1. Policy Context

The detailed Implementation Plan and its associated actions align with several key themes of the *Council Plan 2021-2025* and the aspirations of the *Moreland 2021-2031 Community Vision*. These actions also align with and are informed by a range of International, Federal, State and local Moreland policies which focus on children and young people’s rights and responsibilities, supporting early childhood development, frameworks for improving health and wellbeing and increasing the participation of children and young people in decision making.

These include the following key State policies: Victorian Early Learning and Development Framework; Maternal and Child Health Framework; Early Childhood Reform Plan: Ready for Schools, Ready for Life; Roadmap for Reform: Strong Families, Safe Children; and the Victorian Youth Strategy.

## 2. Background

Following the adoption of the *Children, Young People and Families Plan 2021-2025* in June 2021, Council officers have engaged closely with all relevant stakeholders to develop a detailed Implementation Plan (Attachment One) with a range of objectives in all three outcome areas:

 Inclusive City and Community;

 Improved Health and Wellbeing; and

 Lifelong Learning and Participation.

Significant progress has been made in relation to objectives across all three outcome areas and Council will receive a report on key achievements in November 2022.

A separate report is scheduled for the May 2022 Council meeting which focuses specifically on early years infrastructure. Council is in the final stages of negotiating a funding package with the State Government which will support the renewal and expansion of a number of early years facilities, a key requirement to ensure adequate provision of new kindergarten places due to the introduction of universal funded three-year-old kindergarten which is occurring incrementally from 2022.

## 3. Issues

### Community impact

Effective implementation of the *Children, Young People and Families Plan 2021-2025* will deliver multiple benefits for children, young people and families, improving access to services and facilities and supporting health, development, learning and wellbeing outcomes.

The Implementation Plan includes key actions to meet the objectives and the activities that will ensure the action is completed. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the implementation of the Plan will occur on an ongoing basis with an annual report to Council on key achievements.

### Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications

The Implementation Plan presents an opportunity to further raise the awareness with children, young people and families about environmental sustainability and the implications of climate change. Moreland’s young people have been active in wider debates about climate change and in contributing to local responses.

### Economic sustainability implications

The Implementation Plan has as one of its key aspirations to improve learning opportunities and educational outcomes for Moreland’s children and young people, which will have long term benefits in terms of young people’s capability to transition from education to employment and contribute to the City’s economic wellbeing.

### Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities* and aligns with Council’s *Human Rights Policy*.

The *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, which forms part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, sets out children's right to:

 education;

 health care;

 economic opportunity;

 protection from abuse and neglect;

 protection from sexual exploitation; and

 protection from economic exploitation.

**Gender Impact Assessment**

Applying a gender lens when implementing the Plan will ensure that Council’s policies, programs, facilities and services will meet the needs of people of different genders, address gender inequality and promote gender equality, as required under the Act. The policies, programs and services that were subject to Gender Impact Assessment as well as actions taken as a result will be reported to the Commission in Council’s first progress report, due 31 October 2023.

## 4. Community consultation and engagement

Extensive community and stakeholder consultation informed the development of the *Moreland Children, Young People and Families Plan 2021-2025*. Over 400 children, young people, parents, community members and local organisations provided ideas on how children and young people’s outcomes can be improved. The Implementation Plan was similarly developed from community and stakeholder feedback, local data and evidence and importantly, the opinions of children and young people.

A key objective in the Implementation Plan is engaging and involving children and young people when decisions are made that impact them. As part of this commitment to amplifying children and young people’s voices, a key objective in the Implementation Plan’s Outcome 3: Lifelong Learning and Participation is continuing the facilitation of the highly successful Youth Ambassadors Program which commenced in 2020 and creating opportunities for children to be involved in decision making, which will involve the establishment of a Children’s Reference Group.

**Affected persons rights and interests**

The interests of children, young people and families are the primary focus of the Implementation Plan.

They have had an opportunity to express their views through a variety of methods during the development of the *Children, Young People and Families Plan 2021-2025* and following the release of the draft document for public consultation.

## 5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

## 6. Financial and Resources Implications

Actions which require additional resourcing will be considered by Council as part of the 2022 to 2023 budget process.

## 7. Implementation

Priority actions in year one of the Implementation Plan are included in the *2021-22 Moreland City Council Action Plan* and include: negotiate the Building Blocks MOU, project schedule and funding package with State Government to support the implementation of three-year-old kindergarten, support the delivery of a youth assertive outreach program and develop resources to standardise engagement with children and young people.

## Attachment/s

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Moreland Children, Young People and Families Implementation Plan 2022-2025 | D22/122052 |  |

**7.6 Advocacy priorities**

**Chief Executive Officer Cathy Henderson**

**Executive Office**

**Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Adopts the following advocacy priority projects and initiatives

 Upfield rail corridor upgrade and duplication

 33 Saxon Street cultural and creative hub

 Fawkner Leisure Centre redevelopment

2. Adopts the following advocacy supporting projects and initiatives

 Improving bus connections

 Accessible public transport

 Improve safety at Jacana railway station

 Active transport, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure

 Speed limit reductions

 Climate change, sustainability and biodiversity

 Greening Moreland

 Planning reform for sustainable design outcomes

 Economic development, local businesses and jobs

 Early childhood and universal kindergarten access

 Female friendly sport and recreation facilities

 Investment in aged care and the older community

 Social justice initiatives linked to:

 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

 Refugees and asylum seekers

 Mental health

 Family violence

 Raise the Rate

 Social and Affordable Housing

 GLBTIQ

 Gambling

3. Supports further investigation into the extension of Trams 19 and 58.

**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

Moreland last adopted its official advocacy priorities in 2018 which included Wheatsheaf Community Hub, The Coburg Initiative, Level Crossing Removals, Upfield Shared Path Project. Except for The Coburg Initiative, Council was successful in attracting funding or low-interest financing for these projects which are now either finished or in the final stages of construction.

With State and Federal Government elections taking place in 2022, it is now timely for Council to adopt its key advocacy priorities for the next one to four years.

Following advocacy workshops held in 2021, combined with the recently completed Community Vision, Council Plan, Long-term Financial Plan and Asset Plan, along with the adoption of Council’s 2022/23 Budget, it is now appropriate for Council’s advocacy priorities to be locked in, so that detailed implementation plans can be finalised and executed.

Importantly, the adoption of specific advocacy priorities for the next 1-4 years will not curtail opportunities for further advocacy associated emergent issues nor will this impact operational advocacy which periodically occurs through day-to-day activities at an officer level.

**Previous Council Decisions**

A selection of key resolutions is listed below.

**Inner Metropolitan Councils Advocacy** – 12 May 2021

That Council:

1. Agrees to join the proposed group of inner metropolitan city councils for the purposes of shared advocacy, with a working title of M9.

2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute a Memorandum of Understanding formalising Council’s membership of M9.

3. Receives further information on proposed advocacy priorities for the group.

**Public Transport Advocacy** – 12 May 2021

That Council:

1. Resolves to have a report back to council about how the following Public Transport projects listed in point 3 can be achieved including advocacy and other actions council can take to progress these projects.

2. Seeks to work with the State Government, Federal Government, Local MPs, neighbouring municipalities and other partners to progress these projects.

3. Includes the following projects in the report:

a) Duplication of the Upfield railway line to improve frequency of trains and future extension of the line.

b) Extension of the 19 Tram line to at least Anderson Road in Fawkner and to Camp Road, Campbellfield to provide a link with suburban rail and better transport options for residents in the north of Melbourne.

c) Extension of the No 58 tram route past Bell Street along Turner and Derby Streets.

d) Better East-West bus connections and frequency of buses.

**Strategic Advocacy Plan (Adoption)** – 11 July 2018

That Council:

1. Approves the Strategic Advocacy Plan 2018, at Confidential Attachment 1 to this report, for implementation, with the following ‘Gold’ Projects as Council’s top advocacy priorities:

 Seek $6 million State Government contribution to the Wheatsheaf Hub;

 The Coburg initiative: Coburg Square development; and

 Level crossing removals – including bundling/whole of line solution for the Upfield Line.

2. Notes that funding the Upfield Bike Path, which was a ‘Gold’ Project, has been achieved.

**1. Policy Context**

Strategic advocacy is a key part of Council operations providing a means of alerting other levels of government to priority issues and needs of the Moreland community. Typically, this takes the form of proposing and influencing policy positions, identifying partnership opportunities and lobbying for financial resources for priority projects.

**Alignment with Council Plan 2021-25**

***An environmentally proactive Moreland***

1.7. Foster a more circular economy through implementing kerbside waste reform, supporting community initiatives and businesses, minimising waste generated by Council activities and using collaboration to influence markets and advocate for greater commitment of state and/or federal governments.

*Major initiatives and priorities*

1. Implement Zero Carbon Moreland including 2030 targets review, transition off fossil gas and innovative partnerships for efficient and distributed renewable energy

4. Urban forest strategy – tree planting regime

***Moving and living safely in Moreland***

2.3 Advocate to improve public transport capacity and equitable access across Moreland, including advocating for bus services to be scheduled to operate at night and on weekends.

2.4. Advocate for increased funding from State and Federal Governments for bike and pedestrian infrastructure to ensure our bike routes are safe, accessible, and continuous with an increased focus on fully accessible, signalised road crossings.

2.7. Maintain road safety focus through review of crashes and reported accidents, advocacy and continued efforts to address black spots, reduce speed limits and implement traffic calming measures including road closures.

*Major initiatives and priorities*

12. Advocate to improve public transport capacity and equitable access across Moreland.

***A healthy and caring Moreland***

3.1. Plan, deliver and advocate for services and good outcomes that meet the changing needs of Moreland’s diverse and growing population.

*Major initiatives and priorities*

14. Pursue the development of a health and community services hub (health precinct within the Coburg activity centre)

15. Develop and implement a Climate Resilience Strategy (including climate adaptation)

19. Advocate to support delivery of the Ballerrt Mooroop Community Hub.

***Vibrant spaces and place in Moreland***

4.7. Increase local affordable housing outcomes by continuing to support the activities of Moreland Affordable Housing Ltd, advocating for and facilitating developers to contribute to affordable housing and attracting State-funded and not for profit public, social and affordable housing investment to Moreland.

4.9. Revitalise Moreland’s major activity centres to deliver new integrated community facilities and services, enable new cultural spaces, create jobs and improve local accessibility and amenity, while protecting the special character that each centre is known for and advocating for affordable housing outcomes.

*Major initiatives and priorities*

26. Deliver Saxon St Community Hub - Brunswick (continue to explore partnerships to support growth and development of creative arts on the site and nearby)

27. Review and implement the Affordable Housing Action Plan including the development of affordable housing on council land

28. Deliver Zero Carbon in the Planning Scheme (formally ESD version 2)

***Empowered and collaborative Moreland***

5.5. Contribute to great community outcomes through partnering with community and stakeholders in a coordinated advocacy effort.

Alignment with various Council strategies under the five themes of the Council Plan 2021-2025.

**2. Background**

Moreland has a strong history of successfully advocating for changes in government policy, securing funding for community infrastructure, influencing significant State government infrastructure projects and advancing human rights interests.

Some examples of success include the East-West link, Upfield shared user path, gambling prevention and poker machine reform, level crossing removals and a broad range of transport related improvements.

In 2021, Councillors participated in an advocacy workshop that considered:

 Priority projects that fit an existing Council policy position worthy of advocacy;

 Opportunities potentially attractive for the 2022 State and Federal election;

 Projects that would be feasible for delivery in the next State Government term;

 Initiatives with benefits that are measurable, with tangible outputs; and

 Partnership opportunities with a range of stakeholders.

Since then, further work has been done to refine the advocacy priorities.

The upcoming State and Federal elections present an opportune time for Council to select our most important and urgent key advocacy priorities to allow a focus for resources and ultimately a greater chance of success. Ideally, the number of key advocacy priorities should not exceed 3-4 major priorities. This will mean that Council may need to determine which advocacy projects should be deferred to a later State and Federal election cycle or be removed from Council’s advocacy efforts.

**Current approach:**

The current Council Plan is set out under the following 5 themes, Moreland City Council achieves its goals and fulfils its functions through:

1. An environmentally proactive Moreland

2. Moving and living safely in Moreland

3. A healthy and caring Moreland

4. Vibrant spaces and places in Moreland

5. An empowered and collaborative Moreland

Under each of these themes are a number of major initiatives and priorities, some of which require advocacy to State or Federal government to achieve.

Traditionally, Council develops an advocacy plan in each Council term, which is then reviewed annually and as opportunities and issues arise.

**Regional Advocacy:**

Moreland advocates on many issues, both local and broader. On broader topics, advocacy will often be more effective if there is collaboration between councils.

Moreland City Council is a member of several regional advocacy bodies including:

 ***Metropolitan 9 (M9)***

Last year Council has joined the emerging M9 group of inner metropolitan Councils including Moreland, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Yarra, Darebin, Hobsons Bay and Maribyrnong. The purpose of the group is to advance unique advocacy issues specific to inner city areas that are less of an issue in less intensely developed urban, fast-growth and peri-urban area. This collaboration represents 18 per cent of the Victorian population, or almost 1.2 million people.

 ***Northern Councils Alliance***

This organisation represents 7 councils in Melbourne's North including Moreland, Hume, Whittlesea, Darebin, Nillumbik, Banyule and Mitchell Shire. This alliance is committed to advocating and delivering projects that provide ongoing benefits to the economic, social, health and wellbeing of our residents and businesses and has most recently been focusing on advocacy around the North West City Deal and a regional transport strategy.

 ***Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action***

The Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) formed in 2002 as a network that shares information, advocates for change, and cooperates on the research and development of innovative projects. NAGA's goal is to work together to create a zero-carbon society and provide maximum protection against the impacts of climate change. Member Councils include City of Banyule, Darebin, Manningham, Melbourne, Moreland, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Yarra.

Moreland Council is also a member of other bodies engaged in advocacy including Municipal Association of Victoria, Victorian Local Governance Association, the Alliance for Gambling Reform and Northlink.

**3. Issues**

The proposed advocacy priorities are allocated to one of two levels, priority projects and initiatives and supporting projects and initiatives.

Advocacy has been ongoing and continued for many of the projects and initiatives on the list, including the priority projects and initiatives.

**Priority projects and initiatives** are high priority and generally require significant resources to implement. They are of significant benefit to the community and are either shovel ready, or close to shovel ready, or present a clear request to be made to the State or Federal Government for support.

**Supporting projects and initiatives** may:

 have potential to become a priority project as they are developed, but are not entirely at the right level of readiness at the beginning;

 require several months or years to build a clear and strong case for support, backed with evidence and clear policy alignment. Consequently, progress can be incremental though generally positive; or

 they may already be underpinned by compelling evidence, have strong policy alignment, but require less intensive effort to secure funding.

They may also rely on broader themes, social and government policy changes and the implementation of actions associated with localised effort and partnership with key-stakeholders.

| 1. Priority projects and initiatives |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Upgrade and duplicate the Upfield rail corridor | 1. Invest in and bring forward the upgrade and duplication of the Upfield rail corridor |
| 1. 33 Saxon Street cultural and creative hub | 1. Invest $6 million towards the delivery of the 33 Saxon Street Cultural and Community Hub by 2024. |
| 1. Fawkner Leisure Centre redevelopment | 1. Invest in the redevelopment of the Fawkner Leisure Centre. |
| 1. **Supporting projects and initiatives** |  |
| 1. Improving bus connections | 1. More frequent and improved bus services across Moreland. |
| 1. Accessible public transport | 1. Invest in accessible tram stops along the Sydney Road route 19 tram line |
| 1. Improve safety at Jacana railway station | 1. Conduct a safety audit and develop and implement a plan to increase safety at Jacana railway station. |
| 1. Extend tram route 58 to Boundary Road | 1. Further investigate the extension of this critical tram service. |
| 1. Extend tram route 19 to Fawkner | 1. Further investigate the extension of this critical tram service. |
| 1. Active transport, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure | 1. Invest $2.75 million in active transport, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in Moreland and partner with Council on initiatives to increase cycling and pedestrian priority, safety and experiences at crossings, including at the Nicholson/Bell St bridge. |
| 1. Speed limit reductions | 1. Support approvals for speed limit reductions across Moreland, of 40km/h limits on local roads, and trials of 30km/h limits on selected roads. |
| 1. Climate change, sustainability and biodiversity | 1. Invest $500,000 in local and regional partnerships to increase community resilience to climate change, and $6.5 million to electrify two major aquatic centres. |
| 1. Greening Moreland | 1. Fund the protection and enhancement of the urban forest by strengthening tree protection measures and facilitate partnerships with state-owned entities to create urban forest assets in public open spaces. |
| 1. Planning reform for sustainable design outcomes | 1. Amend the Victorian Planning Scheme to elevate environmentally sustainable design targets. |
| 1. Economic development, local businesses and jobs | 1. Maintain existing support packages to aid ongoing local economic recovery efforts, invest in new local economic development, business and job opportunities and invest in Moreland’s major advocacy projects |
| 1. Early childhood and universal kinder access | 1. Support the delivery of flexible and targeted early childhood services including through funding of critical community infrastructure. |
| 1. Female friendly sport and recreation facilities | 1. Invest in the construction of new female friendly change room facilities across Moreland’s sport and recreation network. |
| 1. Investment in Aged Care and the Older Community | 1. Retain upfront Commonwealth block funding for the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) in order to allow councils to continue to provide critical services to older people, including home support, social support and transport services. |
| 1. Social Justice Initiatives linked to:    Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community   Refugees and asylum seekers   Mental health   Family violence   Raise the Rate   Social and Affordable Housing   GLBTIQ   Gambling | 1. Advance inclusion and social justice outcomes for every member of our community to experience fair access to services, civic affairs, resources and support. |

**Operational advocacy:**

Through the course of its day-to-day activities, it is common for Council to:

 Write letters to Members of Parliament, Ministers and government departmental stakeholders;

 Seek meetings with Members of Parliament, Ministers and government departmental stakeholders;

 Prepare fact sheets outlining ‘asks’;

 Apply for government funding;

 Make submissions on policy development; and

 Be proactive in the media and social media space to generate support.

Sometimes, these activities are a result of a pressing matter that arises – for instance a transport issue, asylum seeker re-settlement, poverty and minimum wage increases and homelessness to name but a few examples. This practice will continue into the future, consistent with Council policy and Council resolutions.

**Community impact**

Community support plays a key role in local government advocacy. Even if advocacy relies on decisions by Members of Parliament to succeed, politicians will often only act if they know that voters and the community are engaged.

Community stakeholders are part of the Advocacy Action Plan and will be engaged on the relevant priority projects.

**Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications**

Moreland Council declared a climate emergency on 12 September 2018. Since then it has committed to urgent action to respond to this emergency.

Whilst the recommendation contained in this report does not immediately give rise to environmental sustainability implications, many projects listed are underpinned by the need to respond to the climate emergency and maximise impact.

The State and Federal government control key environmental policy levers. Council has a continuing role to influence other tiers of government to pull these policy levers, so that we can move toward zero carbon and slow the rising temperatures.

**Economic sustainability implications**

Whilst all proposed advocacy priorities contained in this report enhance economic sustainability outcomes, the adoption of this report and the officer recommendation does not immediately give rise to economic sustainability implications.

**Legal and risk considerations**

There are no legal or risk implications associated with the adoption of this report and its officer recommendation.

**Human Rights Consideration**

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and do not impact on any of the protected rights or freedoms.

**4. Community consultation and engagement**

Existing Council strategies, plans and resolutions informed and guided the proposed advocacy priorities. Existing Council strategies have been informed by community consultation and feedback.

The Council Plan 2021-2025 in particular, which was created via a significant deliberative engagement process throughout 2021, informed the proposed advocacy priorities set out in this report.

**Affected persons rights and interests**

Before making a decision that affects a person’s rights, Council must identify whose rights may be directly affected and provide an opportunity for that person (or persons) to convey those views regarding the effect on their rights and consider those views. There are no individual rights or interests affected.

**Communications**

A strategic communications plan will be part of the Advocacy Action Plan following the adoption of Council’s identified priorities. This will ensure the community remains informed of progress and opportunities for participation.

**5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

**6. Financial and Resources Implications**

The implementation of the Advocacy Action Plan can be achieved using existing resources.

**7. Implementation**

Advocacy on key topics has been in progress. Following Council’s endorsement of the proposed advocacy priorities, Council officers will finalise and implement an Advocacy Action Plan, undertaking advocacy activities to further individual advocacy priorities with targeted stakeholders. Complementary strategic communications activities will be actioned to inform the Moreland community of the 2022 advocacy priorities.

**Attachment/s**

There are no attachments for this report.

7.7 Moreland Toy Library - Council Support

**Director Community Eamonn Fennessy**

**Early Years and Youth**

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the benefits the Moreland Toy Library provides to families and children.

2. Provides a peppercorn lease for the use of Council facilities.

3. Refers the request for financial support over the next three financial years to the budget process.

4. Explores options to accommodate the Moreland Toy Library in a suitable location in Brunswick in the short to medium-term, until such time that a long-term location becomes available.

5. Partners with Moreland Toy Library to promote the service and develop a strategy to improve access for families in Moreland’s north.

**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

Moreland Toy Library (MTL) is a not-for-profit, member owned and operated community organisation that has been lending toys to Moreland families for almost 30 years. The Service provides families the ability to “borrow not buy” age appropriate toys for children as they grow and develop, providing stimulating and developmental opportunities for children. Importantly MTLs operational model aligns with Councils zero waste to landfill goal and also supports families and children’s social interaction, building supportive relationships and opportunities for volunteer involvement.

A key operational cost for MTL is the hire fees incurred by the service to operate their twice weekly sessions at two locations in the city, one in Brunswick and the other in Pascoe Vale. MTLs operations have in part been supported through Council grant funding, however they are no longer eligible for continued funding, having accessed their maximum entitlement from the existing categories within the Community Grants Program. This coupled with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which saw their membership decline, due to the suspension of the service during periods of lockdown has impacted their financial position.

MTL are seeking financial and other support from Council in the coming years to ensure the ongoing viability and expansion of the service. Specifically, they have requested an exemption from hall hire fees for their twice weekly sessions at the Pascoe Vale Community Hall; funding totalling $53,000 over the next three financial years; and the provision of a new venue to accommodate the service in Brunswick as the existing facility is too small to meet their current operations and provides no scope to expand the service.

**Previous Council Decisions**

**Moreland Toy Library -** 15 November 2017

That Council:

1. Notes the absence of an overarching framework or process for establishment and continuance of Memorandums of Understanding that Council has with a number of community organisations that deliver services/programs in Moreland.

2. Notes that both the Organisational Support Grant funding category or any Memorandum of Understanding negotiated in the interim will be referred into the 2018/2019 budget process.

3. That Council determines to pursue an MOU with the Toy Library, for a three-year period commencing July 2018 utilising $10,000 from the Organisational Support Grant category.

**Moreland Toy Library –** 9 March 2022

That Council:

1. Notes the important role of the Moreland Toy Library to assist parents who can’t afford expensive toys and that its purpose of “Borrow, don’t buy” children’s toys assist the Council in its goal of zero waste to landfill.

2. Notes the financial difficulties incurred by the Moreland Toy Library during the Covid-19 crisis.

3. Receives a report with recommendations on how the Council can further assist the Moreland Toy Library with consideration of short-term and long-term assistance, including:

 peppercorn rent for the Moreland Toy Library;

 funding options outside the 3-year grants program;

 assistance with promotion of the Moreland Toy Library, with a recognition of the Moreland Toy Library as part of the council’s Waste reduction strategy; and

 longer-term plans for a more suitable Brunswick site.

4. That the report be received in time to refer any funding needed to the 2022-23 Council budget process.

## 1. Policy Context

The Moreland Toy Library’s role and purpose aligns with the aspirations of the Council Plan 2021- 2025 and the objectives of Moreland ‘s Children, Young People and Families Plan 2021-2025, in particular Objectives 1.2 Increase opportunities for social cohesion, and 1.4 Develop and activate child, young people and family-friendly places and spaces.

The service contributes to Councils social and environmental objectives, helping to reduce waste; creating opportunities for volunteering and community connections; and supporting the development and learning of children, which contributes to the aspirations of the Moreland Community Vision.

## 2. Background

Moreland Toy Library (MTL) is a not-for-profit, member owned and operated community organisation that has been lending toys to Moreland families for almost 30 years. In addition to borrowing toys the service provides a range of support and opportunities for families including:

 The ability to “borrow not buy” age appropriate toys for children as they grow and develop, providing stimulating and developmental opportunities for children;

 Access to ‘big’ or expensive items that would be unaffordable for many families;

 Ability to share and rotate toys and equipment on a regular basis, allowing families to reintroduce toys/equipment at different stages of a child’s development; and

 Enables informal conversations and the opportunity for supportive relationships to develop, discussing children’s development and shared parenting challenges etc.

MTL is an incorporated association and registered charity and is governed by a volunteer committee of management and encourages all members to provide volunteer time to support its operations. A part time paid coordinator provides administrative and other operational support at both MTL locations:

 Brunswick West (Jacobs Reserve Scout Hall) is open Friday and Saturday mornings. Hire fees for this venue will be $5,700 in the 22/23 financial year.

 Pascoe Vale (Community Hall) is open Monday and Saturday mornings. Hire fees to Council (community use rate) will be $5,226 in the 22/23 financial year.

MTL operations have been supported in part through Council’s Community Grants Program over a number of years. Prior to the COVID-19 lockdowns which required the service to stop operating for a significant period the service had over 400 members and was on track to reach its target of 500 members. Currently there are approximately 350 members.

## 3. Issues

### Request for Council Support

Representatives of MTL addressed Council at the March 2022 meeting during public question time; and also met with the Mayor to discuss the organisations longer term financial sustainability and their aspirations to broaden their reach and service offering across the city, noting that Moreland’s northern suburbs do not have easy access to the service. Following this meeting MTL provided a proposal (Attachment 1) seeking financial and other support from Council in the coming years to ensure the ongoing viability and expansion of the service.

MTL have highlighted the following key challenges and opportunities:

 The significant impact of COVID-19 on their growth and financial position;

 The ongoing operational costs associated with venue hire fees, which contrasts with other early years services such as childcare and kindergarten where Council provides fully maintained facilities on a “peppercorn” lease arrangement;

 The need to find a new location in Brunswick which better meets the needs of the service and provides the opportunity to meet the needs of more families; and

 The aspiration to expand the service and offer an outlet in Moreland’s northern suburbs, or a mobile service to achieve greater access.

MTL financial sustainability has been an ongoing challenge due to a range factors, including the requirement that they pay hire fees at both their sites when they operate their twice weekly sessions.

Over the years MTL has supported its operations through membership fees, fundraising, philanthropic funding and Council has provided MTL Operational Grant funding of $9,760 pa from 2014-2017 and Organisational Support funding of $10,000 pa from 2019 to 2022. Under the funding guidelines they are no longer eligible for Organisational Support funding, or any other existing category of funding from 1 January 2023.

A benchmarking exercise was undertaken in 2017 which documented the support provided to toy libraries by Councils in neighbouring municipalities. All toy libraries in Moonee Valley, Yarra, Darebin and Banyule operate from Council owned buildings at no cost. Direct financial support for the toy libraries varied widely, for example: Darebin Council directly provides the service, meeting all operational costs while Moonee Valley City Council the toy library receives annual funding of $20,000 per year and the City of Yarra provides a grant of $10,000 per year to each of its 3 toy libraries.

In addition to provision of two venues at no cost MTL have requested a total of $53,000 funding from Council over the next three financial years:

 2022/23 Financial year $15,000

 2023/24 Financial year $13,000

 2024/25 Financial year $25,000

The rationale for the funding sought in the 2022 to 2024 financial years is to enable the organisation to re-establish itself and increase its membership base following the impact of COVID-19.

The request for funding of $25,000 in the 2024/25 financial year is linked to their aspirations to develop a service location, or outreach model to improve access to the service for families in Moreland’s north.

**Site Options**

MTL have been in dialogue for some time with Council officers in relation to identifying an alternative location for the service in Brunswick, as the existing facility is too small to support current operations and provides no scope to increase access to the service by families in Moreland’s south.

In their proposal to Council MTL are seeking a short-term solution to their accommodation needs, while options for a long-term permanent location are identified.

A number of potential options for interim accommodation are currently being explored in Brunswick. A key objective of the draft Early Years Infrastructure Plan is the development of an integrated early years services hub in Brunswick, which could potentially include storage space and other elements necessary to permanently accommodate the toy library. However, a project of this scale will take a number of years to develop, which has led MTL to seek an interim arrangement from Council on a peppercorn lease, that will enable them to grow and better serve the community and also reduce their operational costs.

Council officers will continue to liaise with representatives of MTL in the coming months in relation to any options to accommodate the service in a Council owned facility in the short to medium term.

### Community impact

### It is widely recognised that toy libraries provide a number of social benefits, including:

 children learn to share, make choices and respect and care for borrowed toys families buy less toys, reducing household expenditure, clutter, storage needs and contribution to landfill;

 children can access a variety of toys that match their interests, needs and developmental stage supported by trained staff and volunteers;

 families have opportunities to strengthen social supports and community networks; and

 inclusion of families who are new to their local area and/or come from various

 cultural backgrounds.

### Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications

MTL’s “borrow not buy” service model enables families to effectively reuse good quality educational toys, contributing to Councils goal of zero waste to landfill. There are no direct climate emergency implications associated with this report.

### Legal and risk considerations

There are no legal or risk considerations arising from this report.

### Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been considered in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. Council support for MTL supports Sections 2 of the Charter which relates to article 17: Protection of families and children

(1) Families are the fundamental group unit of society and are entitled to be protected by society and the State. (2) Every child has the right, without discrimination, to such protection as is in his or her best interests and is needed by him or her by reason of being a child.

## 4. Community consultation and engagement

Representatives of MTL have been in contact with a number of Councillors and have also discussed their proposal and future aspirations in a meeting with the Mayor.

## 5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

## 6. Financial and Resources Implications

If Council amends the existing licence agreement with the MLT for the use of their dedicated storage space at Pascoe Vale Community Hall to include the use of the hall for their twice weekly two our sessions at no cost, there will be an annual reduction in revenue to Council of $5,226 in the 22/23 financial year and thereafter.

MTLs request for financial support in the coming three financial years will require consideration as part of the 2022/23 Council budget process, as they are no longer eligible for funding from the Community Grants Program, having accessed all existing entitlements under the program. The potential allocation of funding would require the development of a Funding and Service Agreement, similar to that which is in place for Neighbourhood Houses, or a Memorandum of Understanding which outlines the purpose of the funds and requirements in regard to acquittal.

## 7. Implementation

MTLs request for direct financial support in the coming three financial years to be considered as part of the 2022/23 budget process.

Officers will continue to identify and assess options for both interim and longer-term accommodation for MTL in Brunswick.

Officers will liaise with representatives of MTL and assist where possible in regard to promoting the service and also to identify options to better meet the needs of families in Moreland’s northern suburbs.

## Attachment/s

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Moreland Toy Library - Funding Proposal to Council - March 2022 | D22/117267 |  |

7.8 Community Grant Program Recommendation 2022

**Director Community Eamonn Fennessy**

**Community Wellbeing**

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Thanks the Australian Association Kastorians Inc for their participation and contribution to the reassessment of their application.

2. Supports the project with funding up to $40,000.

3. Approves an over expenditure of $40,000 to its CAPEX - Capital Works Partnership Grant 2021/2022 budget.

**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

This report responds to a Council Resolution *7.15 Community Grant Program Recommendations 2022-* 8 December 2021, which relates to the outcomes of the recommendations for funding, to support Project Grants and Capital Works Partnership Grants.

The Community Grants Program offers a range of annual community grants for not-for-profit community organisations to apply for funding towards initiatives that benefit the Moreland community.

Council endorsed to support Officer recommendations of Project Grants and Capital Works Partnership Grants for 2022 however endorsed 3 additional motions. This report addresses item number 5;

“That Council officers seek a meeting on-site with the Australian Association of Kastorians Inc to gain further information about the required refurbishment and their application, this information, inform a re-assessment of the application and further report to council in February 2021.”

Council officers engaged a third party to conduct the site meeting and external reassessment of the submitted application to ensure impartiality.

**Outcome of external re-assessment**

Funding support for the project is recommended conditional on:

 An all-electric kitchen be supported (rather than a gas cook-top) and green energy be recommended, in line with Council's Zero Carbon Moreland Climate Emergency Action Plan.

 The group to shows evidence of written commitment from one or more other Moreland based community organisations that will use the downstairs space on an ongoing basis.

 That appropriate amendments are made to ensure the design and layout of the kitchen is appropriate and in-line with anticipated use of the space i.e. cooking classes; and any identified concerns in accordance with *Health Standards 3.2.3 Food Premises and Equipment* that mitigate any risks.

 The kitchen works have not commenced.

**Previous Council Decisions**

**Community Grant Program Recommendations 2022 (D21/448102)** - 8/12/2021

That Council:

1. Thanks applicants of Moreland’s Community Grants for their time and contribution to Moreland’s community life.

2. Allocates Project Grants to the value of $82,745 in 2022

a) Australia Nepal Public Link (VIC) Inc $5,000

b) Australian Skateboarding Federation Limited $4,900

c) Claire Mosley Art (auspiced) $5,000

d) Community Food Marketplace $5,000

e) Ftm Shed $5,000

f) Grow Eat Together Moreland (auspiced) $5,000

g) Growing Farmers Inc $5,000

h) Little Dreamers Australia Co Ltd $5,000

i) Merri Outreach Support Services $5,000

j) Mulberry Community Gardens Glenroy $2,901

k) Neighbours United for Climate Action (auspiced) $5,000

l) Northern Community Sports Group (auspiced) $4,960

m) SSSOwing Sistas: Living Together on Stolen Land (auspiced) $5,000

n) St Fidelis Primary School $4,984

o) St. Linus' Kindergarten $5,000

p) The Onemda Association Inc $5,000

q) Youth Development Australia (Youthworx) $5,000

3. Allocates Capital Works Partnership Grants to the value of $346,125

a) Brunswick City Sports Club Inc. $40,000

b) Brunswick Mallet Sports Club Inc $40,000

c) Coburg Districts Football Club Inc $40,000

d) Coburg Table Tennis Club Inc $15,675

e) Coburg Tennis Club Inc $5,315

f) East Coburg Tennis Club $40,000

g) Glencairn Tennis Club $36,638

h) Hadfield Tennis Club $37,500

i) Pink Ember Studio Co-operative Ltd $24,537

j) Reynard Street Neighbourhood House Inc $26,460

k) The Big Umbrella $40,000

4. Acknowledges historic and systemic barriers to accessing council grants for CALD communities and seeks to address this concern in the upcoming policy review with more support and information targeting CALD communities and minimum targets-set for applications and grants from CALD communities across all categories.

5. Officers seek a meeting on-site with the Australian Association of Kastorians Inc to gain further information about the required refurbishment and their application, this information, inform a re-assessment of the application and further report to council in February 2021.

6. Requests any review into the grants program recommends further integrity measures to ensure the appropriate expenditure of council and State grants, and report back to Council after the completion of the grant project.

## 1. Policy Context

This report is consistent with the Moreland Community Grants Policy (DSD1-CL) and the Council Plan 2021-2025.

The Community Grants Policy (DSD1) outlines clear funding criteria and provides suitable direction for officers to promote and evaluate applications to fund locally based not-for-profit organisations. The assessment criteria ensures there is equity, transparency and accountability.

The Moreland Community Grants Program is consistent with the Council Plan 2021-2025; Theme 3: A Healthy and Caring Moreland with the strategic objective for Council to:

 To support Moreland to become a more inclusive, connected, healthy and caring community through providing equitable access to community facilities and services, facilitating local partnerships and programs, mitigating the effects of climate change and supporting the community to adapt and build climate resilience.

## 2. Background

This report responds to Council Resolution 7.15 Community Grant Program Recommendations 2022 from 8 December 2021, which relates to the outcomes of the recommendations for funding to support Project Grants and Capital Works Partnership Grants.

The 2021 – 2022 Capital Works Partnership Grants Program has a CAPEX budget allocation of $350,000.

For the 2021 - 2022 Capital Works Partnership annual program eighteen applications requesting $531,155 were received for the Capital Works Partnership funding program. Eleven projects were supported and funded to the value of $346,125.

Council endorsed to support Officer recommendations of Project Grants and Capital Works Partnership Grants for 2022 however endorsed 3 additional motions, this report addresses item number 5;

“That Council officers seek a meeting on-site with the Australian Association of Kastorians Inc to gain further information about the required refurbishment and their application, this information, inform a re-assessment of the application and further report to council in February 2021.”

Council officers engaged a third party to conduct the site meeting and reassessment of the submitted application to ensure impartiality.

### Capital Works Partnership Grants

Projects must promote greater community access, increased participation and encourage interaction of all age groups by providing multi-use facilities for the broader community benefit. The Applicant must demonstrate collaboration between groups that will result in greater use of facilities by the wider community. Project proposed on non-Council land will need to demonstrate a commitment and means to ensuring ongoing community access. Applicants must contribute a minimum of 25% of total project value towards the project.

### Assessment Criteria

Assessment of all submitted applications to the Capital Works Partnership Grant 2022 round were conducted by a multidisciplinary panel of Council Officers against a set of criteria with a score out of three for each criterion.

Each application was given a score out of 24 by each assessor according to how well the application submitted and project outcomes scored against the assessment criteria. The Australian Association Kastorians application received an average score of 14.57 which was ranked #13 against other applications received and assessed.

Given the competitive nature of the Community Grants Program, the application was not recommended for funding by the panel.

Council Officers assessments did not recommend funding to support the project proposal of the Australian Association of Kastorians Inc as it did not strongly meet the assessment criteria.

## 3. Issues

This report relates to the application submitted to the Capital Works Partnership Grant Program 2022 by The Australian Association Kastorians Inc.

The other funding applications received through this round are not being considered as part of this report.

**Independent assessment**

Methodology for re-assessment included:

 A review of submitted application forms and supporting documentation.

 An on-site interview with representatives of The Australian Association. Kastorians

 An assessment of the application against the assessment criteria.

Funding recommendations

The application can now be considered eligible for funding as the Membership Activity Grant funding ended in February 2022 has now been Evaluated and Acquitted.

Funding support for the project is recommended conditional on:

 An all-electric kitchen be supported (rather than a gas cook-top) and green energy be recommended, in line with Council's Zero Carbon Moreland Climate Emergency Action Plan.

 The group to show evidence of written commitment from one or more other Moreland based community organisations that will use the downstairs space on an ongoing basis.

 That appropriate amendments are made to ensure the design and layout of the kitchen is appropriate and in-line with anticipated use of the space i.e. cooking classes; and any identified concerns in accordance with Health Standards 3.2.3 Food Premises and Equipment that mitigate any risks.

 The kitchen works have not commenced.

### Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been considered in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. The proposal supports Sections 12 and 18 of the Human Rights Charter which relate to freedom of movement and taking part in public life respectively.

## 4. Community consultation and engagement

An onsite interview was conducted by a third party with The Australian Association Kastorians Inc.

Advice was also sought from Council’s Environmental Health Team.

Community engagement was not required for the development of this report.

## 5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

## 6. Financial and Resources Implications

The 2021 - 2022 Council budget includes an allocation towards Capital Works Partnership Grants $350,000.

At Council Meeting on 8 December 2021, Council allocated $346,125 towards eleven projects, remaining funds available is $3,875.

This remaining amount is insufficient funds to support the proposed kitchen upgrade initiative.

Should Council wish to support this project, an over expenditure of $40,000 to its CAPEX - Capital Works Partnership Grant 2021/2022 budget is recommended.

## 7. Implementation

Following Council’s decision, the applicant; The Australian Association Kastorians Inc; will be advised in writing of the outcome.

## Attachment/s

There are no attachments for this report.

7.9 Moreland Community Grants - Policy Review

**Director Community Eamonn Fennessy**

**Community Wellbeing**

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Approves the release of the Draft Moreland Community Grants Policy and Community Grants Guidelines for public exhibition.

2. Notes that following public exhibition, a final Moreland Community Grants Policy and Community Grants Guidelines will be presented to Council in July 2022.

**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

Since 1996, Moreland City Council has provided a variety of community grants to support community projects and initiatives that facilitate well-being and strengthen the community through networks and partnerships. These grants have a wide-reaching impact and are highly valued within the community. They provide community groups, organisations and individuals with financial support to implement community-led initiatives that benefit the Moreland community.

The Community Grants Program (the Program) is being reviewed to make sure it meets changing community needs and aligns with the newly adopted Council Plan. In 2022/23 it will continue to provide close to $800,000 worth of projects across Moreland.

An independent review of the Community Grants Program has recently been undertaken. The review has been an opportunity to ensure the Draft Community Grants Policy (Attachment 1), the Community Grants Guidelines (Attachment 2) and associated processes and procedures align with current best practice in local government grant-making, Council’s most recent strategies and plans, as well as responding to changing community needs.

The Draft Community Grants Policy / Community Grants Guidelines applies to the Community Grants Program. It does not include funding opportunities in other programs managed by Council such as arts or business grants, or other small grants programs.

This report summarises the findings, outlines the proposed changes Council will make to the Community Grants Program as well as the policy and guidelines. It is recommended that Council authorise the Draft Moreland Community Grants Policy and Community Grants Guidelines for public exhibition prior to consideration for final adoption at a future Council meeting.

**Previous Council Decisions**

**DSD2/16 Community Grants Program - Policy Review** – 10 February 2016

Cr Kavanagh moved; Cr Yildiz seconded that Council resolve to adopt the revised Draft Community Grants Policy 2016.

## 1. Policy Context

Council adopted the 2021-2025 Council Plan which has integrated the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. The Moreland Community Grants Program is aligned with Theme 3 of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Theme 3: A healthy Caring Moreland aims to support Moreland to become a more inclusive, connected, healthy and caring community through providing equitable access to community facilities and services, facilitating local partnerships and programs, mitigating the effects of climate change and supporting the community to adapt and build climate resilience.

This review of the Community Grants Program is an opportunity to ensure the Draft Community Grants Policy’s objectives are aligned with the five themes of the 2021-2025 Council Plan and that the associated processes and procedures align with current best practice in Local Government grant making, Council’s most recent strategies and plans, as well as responding to changing community needs.

## 2. Background

Moreland City Council has provided a Community Grants Program since 1996. The Moreland Community Grants Program provides financial support to community led initiatives and collaborative projects that effectively demonstrate benefits to the Moreland community. The grants program is targeted towards community groups, organisations and individuals.

The Community Grants Program is governed by the current Community Grants Policy (2016) and the Community Grants Program Guidelines (2021). The Policy has previously been revised in 2009 and 2013. The purpose of the Policy is to “provide clear funding criteria and direction for officers to promote the program and evaluate applications for funding for locally based not-for-profit organisations as well as ensuring equity, transparency and accountability.”

An audit conducted by Crowe in 2019 examined key processes of the Community Grants Program and address five issues rated as moderate risks.

 Alignment of Policy and Guidelines

 Administration of grants program

 Acquittal process

 Management reporting

 Improve segregation of duties

The Crowe audit report had also noted the need to update the 2016 Policy regarding the references to current organisational documents and to align the Guidelines document with the revised Policy.

In 2021/2022 the Community Grants program offered funding across two main (major and minor) categories with an overall budget of $740,487. The detail of the grant categories under the existing program and the current budget allocation are as follows:

**Major Grants ($605,487)**

 Capital Works Partnership Grant = $350,000

 Project Grants = $82,487

 Operational Grants = $73,000

 Organisational Support Grants = $100,000

**Minor Grants ($135,000)**

 Female Participation Grants $15,000

 Youth Initiative Grants $15,000

 Membership Activity Grants $90,000

 Quick Response Grants $10,000

 Individual Development Grants $5,000

## 3. Issues

Council officers aims to make changes to the Community Grants Program based on the feedback received from the community as well as Council staff.

Whilst some changes can be implemented immediately, others will take more time and resources to achieve.

**Proposed changes to the Program:**

 The Program Objectives will be changed to be the same as the Council Plan Objectives:

○ an environmentally proactive Moreland

○ moving and living safely in Moreland

○ a healthy and caring Moreland

○ vibrant spaces and places in Moreland

○ an empowered and collaborative Moreland.

 Funding categories will be reduced from 10 to 5, to reduce confusion around which funding stream to apply for.

 Funding Priorities will be reviewed annually to meet changing community needs, such as responding to COVID-19.

 Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

○ alignment with Objectives and Funding Priorities (weighted 40%)

○ meeting community need (weighted 35%)

○ capacity to implement the initiative (weighted 25%).

 Organisations will be able to apply for two grants rather than one grant per year, as long as there is a different community outcome and different target group benefiting.

 Community representatives on assessment panel (Major grants only).

### Changes to the application and acquittal process:

 Provide more support for unincorporated organisations to be auspiced.

 Provide more support to all applicants and have a central contact point for all questions.

 Simplify the language in application and acquittal forms, reduce the number of questions asked and make it easier to apply and acquit.

### Proposed Community Grants Program Structure

Key Changes to Proposed Categories:

 **Community Building Grant**: Can apply for more funding (from $5k - $7k), in response to community feedback.

 **Structural Improvement Grant:** Greater promotion and targeting of organisations located in privately-owned properties (as opposed to Council-owned).

Two types of grants:

o **Up to $10,000**: No requirement for applicant contribution

o **$10,001 to $40,000:** 2-part process: EOI before submitting plans, audits, permits etc. Interview with applicant; Full application submitted after more work scoping done.

 **Organisation Establishment Grant:** Up to $10,000 every year for 3 years (Total $30,000). No ongoing funding available for already established organisations beyond the three years of initial seed funding.

The existing Community Grants Program is outlined on the left of the table below and proposed changes on the right. Category names have been changed to reflect its intended outcome.

### 

### Community impact

The Community Grant Program supports individuals, community groups and organisations to run projects, programs, events and other activities, or to buy needed equipment to promote community outcomes in:

 environmental sustainability

 healthy, connected and inclusive communities

 promoting community-focused economic outcomes, innovation and resilience

### Legal and risk considerations

Most Victorian councils have a community grants program as part of their discretionary service offering. Program design and the size of the grant ‘pool’ varies considerably across the sector. Grants programs are implemented in accordance with a Council policy statement (and often a set of principles) and program guidelines and procedures.

In 2005 the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office (VAGO) published a report on the results of special reviews and other investigations which contained a special review of the administration of grants by five local governments. The report stated that whilst grants were not a large element of local government expenditure, local communities want to see transparency and ‘value for money’. The review focused on the establishment and implementation of sound administrative processes and controls.

The broad findings from the 2005 review were that councils should have:

 Documentation showing how they provide financial support to third parties (grants, loans, in-kind support, subsidies, sponsorships)

 Comprehensive and robust administrative/control frameworks so the funding outcomes are consistently measured, evaluated, compared and reported

 Risk assessment of overall program and different grants categories

 Training programs for staff involved in grant administration

 Policies for the management of conflicts of interest

 High quality record keeping enabling easy availability for public inspection.

More recently the *Local Government Act 2020* has established a legislative framework for Victorian councils, guided by five primary principles including community engagement, strategic planning, financial management, public transparency, and service performance. The principles of community engagement are relevant to this review of the Community Grants Program and the review must be conducted in accordance with Moreland Council’s *Community Engagement Policy 2020.*

### Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been considered in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

The proposal supports Sections 12 and 18 of the Human Rights Charter which relate to freedom of movement and taking part in public life respectively.

**Gender Impact Considerations**

A gender impact assessment on Council’s Community Grants Program has been undertaken towards the development of the draft community grants policy and guidelines.

The assessment uncovered potential gender stereotypes associated with the funding streams which included assumptions that applications from the kindergarten sector would be predominantly written by women and that applications from the sports and recreation sector would have been developed by committees or boards who are mostly men. It was also believed that funding for capital projects benefits all community members equally, regardless of gender. Currently, Council does not collect data on the gender of people applying for grants, nor the gender of people who may benefit from the grant. Council will start collecting additional information on the gender of applicants and gender breakdown of those who may benefit from a proposed grant from this year.

Other issues included promotion, advertising and the online application process of the Community Grants Program potentially excluding certain community groups such as older people, diverse groups, and people with lower literacy.

Recommendations and options arising from the gender impact assessment included:

 Modifying and updating grants categories to overcome gender stereotypes associated with some of the categories, such as ‘kindergartens’, ‘sports and recreations’ and ‘general welfare’.

 That the grant application process could be strengthened to consider diversity and intersectionality by requesting information about which diverse groups in the community would benefit from the project, how these groups would be supported to participate in funded programs, and the estimated reach across men, women and gender diverse groups.

 That the assessment criteria could be improved to support a focus on more diverse groups in the community.

 When engaging with the community on the draft Policy and Guidelines, it is recommended that Council seeks information regarding any additional needs that people may have to access the funding opportunities - to recognise different abilities, languages, gender identities, social roles and responsibilities. This approach will ensure accessibility for the whole the Moreland community.

 Further analyse the current applicants to understand the groups accessing Community Grants (e.g. CALD, men, women, LGBTIGA+, Indigenous, people with disabilities). Such questions will need to be asked at time of application. Council can use this information to target future policy promotion to the under-represented groups.

 Understanding the gender of the applicants within each of the community groups to allow for a more targeted approach where needed. E.g. There may be fewer women that apply for funding from sporting clubs or there may be more women applying from homelessness services.

 The assessment Panel for the grants should strive to have community representatives from diverse backgrounds to allow continuous improvement opportunities for accessibility to be explored.

 Further information be collected identifying of the impact the funding has on various people or target groups within Moreland. This data should be collected by fields/tick boxes which will aid with easy analysis and reporting.

 An annual survey be conducted with applicants after each funding cycle to understand their experiences and how the program could be enhanced in line with the next round of funding.

 That a more thorough reporting strategy be implemented, which would help with understanding who is benefiting from the program, any additional support specific groups may need and help with refining the program over time.

The gender impact assessment was valuable in identifying the gendered nature of Council’s Community Grants Program and making necessary improvements to ensure everyone has equal access to the program in the community.

## 4. Community consultation and engagement

Between September and November 2021, Moreland City Council sought feedback from the community to support the development of an updated grants policy and associated guidelines.

The engagement program was comprehensive and included three rounds of engagement with community and Council staff to identify needs and aspirations, with each stage building on the previous, both in terms of the data collected and the level of specificity of engagement.

The Community Grants Program Review Stage 2: Engagement Summary Report (Attachment 3) includes findings from the engagement and research undertaken as outlined below.

**Stage 1: Benchmarking and review of current program**

 Analysis of alignment with council policies and plans

 Analysis of initiatives funded since 2017

 Interviews with 5 councils to benchmark their programs

 Interview with Inner North Community Foundation.

**Stage 2: Stakeholder engagement**

 4 x Interviews with previous applicants

 1 x Community survey

 1 x Interview with Grants Administrator

 3 x Internal workshops (Council officers, grants assessors and advisors, implementers of Human Rights Policy and Gender Equity Policy)

 1 x internal survey.

Overall, 128 people participated in engagement activities during Stage 2 of the Review. 23 in staff workshops, 28 in the staff survey, 73 in the community survey and 5 as representatives of community organisations in telephone interviews.

It is intended to test the outcomes of the findings further with the community during a public exhibition in April 2022.

## 5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

## 6. Financial and Resources Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report. The funds required 2022/2023 Moreland Community Grants Program are budgeted for within the current and forward years of operational base budgets and capital program budgets.

## 7. Implementation

Pending the outcome of this report, Council officers will proceed with public exhibition of the Draft Moreland Community Grants Policy and Community Grants Guidelines. The Stage 2: Engagement Summary Report will also be uploaded to the Conversations Moreland site.

A further Council report will be prepared for endorsement of the Moreland Community Grants Policy and Community Grants Guidelines in July 2022.

## Attachment/s

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Moreland Community Grants Policy - Draft | D22/125451 |  |
| **2** | Moreland Community Grants Guidelines - Draft | D22/125452 |  |
| **3** | The Community Grants Program Review Stage 2 Engagement Summary Report | D22/136817 |  |

**7.10 2021/22 Third Quarter Financial Report**

**Director Business Transformation Sue Vujcevic**

**Finance Management**

**Officer Recommendation**

That Council:

1. Notes the 2021/22 Third Quarter Financial Report for the period ending 28 February 2022, including Financial Plan performance and Project Management performance.

2. Notes the status of the program of capital and operating projects for 2021/22.

3. Notes the decrease to the full-year forecast for operating income of $4.3 million and decrease of expenditure of $1.5 million arising from the 2021/22 Third Quarter Financial Review.

4. Endorses the full-year forecast Capital Expenditure of $64.1 million, arising from the 2021/22 Third Quarter Financial Review.

5. Carries forward the following capital project funding to the 2022/23 Capital Expenditure program.

 Fleming Park Masterplan Implementation - $2,000,000;

 Craigieburn Shared Path – Stage 3 - $1,000,000;

 Hosken Reserve – Merlyston Tennis Club - $560,080;

 Park Close to Home – Service Street - $555,000;

 Park Close to Home – Frith Street - $500,000;

 Barry St: Fallon – Collier, Brunswick East - $450,018;

 Charles Mutton Res – Pavilion - $450,000;

 Glenroy Community Hub - $400,433;

 Sumner Park: 3 Alister Street, North Fitzroy - $380,882;

 Sportsfield Storm water Reuse: Municipal Wide - $350,000;

 Moonee Ponds Creek Bridge at Hopetoun Avenue - $300,000;

 Coburg Leisure Centre spa and sauna refurbishment - $300,000;

 John Pascoe Fawkner Reserve – Therry – West Pavilion - $289,300;

 Commercial Tenancy Maintenance Obligations - $250,000;

 Get Active Moreland Park Enhancement Program - $240,714;

 Merri Creek Trail Access and Safety Upgrades - $211,855;

 CB Smith Reserve Precinct Safety Improvements - $207,243

 Charles Mutton Res – Tennis Court Resurface & Lighting - $200,000;

 John Pascoe Fawkner Reserve – Social Rooms – East - $167,500;

 Wallace Reserve – North: 115 Justin Ave, Glenroy - $154,100;

 40km/h communication & engagement strategy - $145,000;

 Wallace Reserve – South: 115 Justin Ave, Glenroy - $140,000;

 Fawkner Cycling Routes - $100,000;

 Tennis Facilities Program: Merlynston Tennis Club - $100,000;

 Park Close to Home – West & Breese Street - $94,581;

 Charles Mutton Reserve - $91,734;

 Harding St Bridge – Design Stage - $74,000;

 Upgrade roundabouts to improve access - $70,000;

 Brunswick Integrated Transport Strategy: Various Locations - $68,000;

 Craigieburn Shared Path – Glenroy Rd – Barina - $65,000;

 Gowanbrae DP – Path Connections - $60,000;

 Park Asset Renewal – Anderson Park - $45,000;

 Sumner Park Irrigation Upgrade - $41,280; and

 Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan (CCRP) - $30,000.

**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

This Third Quarter Financial Report gives an overview of Council’s Performance through delivery of Financial Management and delivery of the Project Management program.

Capital works projects are progressing with 51 per cent of forecasted expended to date as at the end of February, while operating projects are tracking at 40 per cent actual expenditure at the end of February.

The impact on both capital and operating projects due to the actions taken in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic are difficult to predict. Estimates from project managers indicate that approximately 15 per cent of capital works projects and 33 per cent of operating projects have a potential impact from COVID-19 that is likely to adversely affect delivery schedules. In addition to COVID-19 impacts, project delays have occurred for various reasons including need to undertake further consultation, material delays, design modifications required etc.

A detailed financial review was undertaken across the organisation at the end of February 2022 to form the 2021/22 Third Quarter Financial Review. This process provided the opportunity to review the financial performance to date and reallocate available financial resources to reduce the financial impact of COVID-19. The results of this review are included in this report as the Full Year Revised Forecast.

The forecast has been developed in an unprecedented and rapidly changing environment following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time of preparing this report, Council is anticipating to incur $1.1 million of COVID related expenditure by the end of the financial year, primarily for security, cleaning and communications. No further material changes are expected, however this may change in the event of future restrictions.

The Full Year Revised Forecast is a favourable movement of $2.7 million in Council’s underlying result from the mid-year forecast surplus of $17.1 million to a surplus of $19.7 million. This result is important, as it measures Council’s ability to generate a surplus in the ordinary course of business – excluding capital grants and other contributions to fund expenditure from the net result. Currently, the Full Year Revised Forecast is an increase in the underlying result which suggests an improvement in the operating position. This is primarily due to an increase in income and decrease in expenditure. The financial impact of the pandemic has been softened by the agile response to realign priorities, providing support to the community.

After reviewing the Capital Expenditure program, there is a decrease to the 2021/22 mid-year forecast of $10.4 million. This is primarily due to a $10.1 million carry forward into 2022/23.

**Previous Council Decisions**

**2020-2021 Financial Statements and Performance Statements** – 23 September 2021

1. Approves ‘in principle’ the Financial and Performance Statements 2020/2021.

2. Authorises the Mayor, Cr Annalivia Carli Hannan, Deputy Mayor, Cr Mark Riley, and the Chief Executive Officer, Cathy Henderson, to certify the Financial and Performance Statements for 2020/2021 in their final form.

3. Notes the unrestricted cash surplus of $4.176 million transfers to the Local Government Funding Vehicle Reserve.

4. Carries forward the $1.082 million of tied grant funding or contributions that were not spent at 30 June 2021.

5. Carries forward the $0.622 million of operating projects into the 2021/22 Operating Projects Expenditure Program.

6. Carries forward the $13.752 million of capital project funds into the 2021/22 Capital Expenditure program.

7. Authorises the repayment of the $8.0 million interest only loan in November 2021.

8. Authorises the Principal Accounting Office to implement any minor administrative changes to the Financial and Performance Statements for 2020/2021 if recommended by the Auditor-General upon final review, for approval by the Chief Executive Officer.

**2021/22 First Quarter Financial Report** – 8 December 2021

1. Notes the 2021/22 First Quarter Financial Report for the period ending 30 September 2021, including Financial Plan performance and Project Management performance.

2. Notes the status of the program of capital and operating projects for 2021/22.

3. Notes the increase to the full-year First Quarter Financial Review forecast for Operating income of $1.1 million and increase to expenditure of $3.7 million arising from the 2021/22 First Quarter Financial Review.

4. Endorses the full-year forecast Capital Expenditure of $74.1 million, arising from the 2021/22 First Quarter Financial Review.

5. Carries forward the following capital project funding to the 2022/23 Capital Expenditure program.

i. Park Close to Home Frith Street - $1,307,480

ii. Hosken Reserve – Synthetic Soccer - $620,000; and

iii. Parker Reserve Public Toilet Upgrade - $160,150.

**2021/22 Mid-Year Forecast** – 9th March 2022

1. Notes the 2021/22 Mid-Year Forecast for the period ending 31 December 2021, including Financial Plan performance and Project Management performance.

2. Notes the status of the program of capital and operating projects for 2021/22.

3. Notes the increase to the full-year forecast for operating income of $3.8 million arising from the 2021/22 Mid-Year Forecast.

4. Endorses the full-year forecast Capital Expenditure of $74.5 million, arising from the 2021/22 Mid-Year Forecast.

5. Carries forward the following capital project funding to the 2022/23 Capital Expenditure program.

i. O'Hea St Bike Path Extension - Sussex to Irvine St - $650,000;

ii. De Carle Street: from The Grove to Rennie, Coburg - $450,780;

iii. De Carle Street: from The Avenue to The Grove, Coburg - $445,000;

iv. Park Close to Home – Frith Street - $372,119;

v. De Carle Street Protected Bike Lanes: The Avenue to Moreland Rd, Coburg - $250,000;

vi. Merri Trail – Flood Mitigation – Bridge to Darebin - $190,000;

vii. Park Close to Home – 260 Sydney Road - $185,000;

viii. Hosken Reserve – Soccer/Football Pavilion - $160,991;

ix. MITS road renewal improvement outcomes - $135,000;

x. Merri Trail Upgrade – Bowden Reserve - $60,000; and

xi. Merri Creek Trail Access and Safety Upgrades - $30,000.

6. Brings forward the following capital project funding to the 2021/22 Capital Expenditure program.

i. Harding St Bridge – Design Stage - $147,370.

7. Notes the Financial Management Report for the period ending January 2022.

**1. Policy Context**

The 2021-2025 Budget was adopted by Council on 24 June 2021. The Budget sets out the resources required to deliver the Council Plan, Services and Capital Works Program for the 2021/22 financial year.

This report supports Council’s continuing commitment to open and accountable management of the financial resources of Moreland on behalf of its ratepayers.

**2. Background**

The purpose of the Third Quarter Financial Review is to report the status of delivery against the Budget and Council’s program of projects as at 28 February 2022 and the forecast outcome for 30 June 2022.

The Third Quarter Financial Report is made up of:

 Project Management Performance – Progress on the annual program of capital and operating projects for the 2021/22 year;

 Financial Performance – Financial Statements, including income statement, balance sheet and cash flow statement.

**3. Issues**

**Project Management Performance**

Expenditure against capital projects at the end of February is $32.9 million which was below the year-to-date forecast of $35.1 million. This represents a 51 per cent spend of the total capital forecast.

Expenditure against operating projects at the end of February is $1.77 million which was below the year-to-date forecast of $2.7 million. This is 40 per cent of the total operating project forecast.

**Financial Performance**

The 2021/22 Revised Forecast includes a total operating surplus of $37.7 million and unrestricted surplus of $0.6 million. The forecast recognises projects that require funds to be carried forward into future years to complete delivery and projects that have declared savings and reallocation of the 2021/22 budget.

Following a detailed review, the Revised Forecast anticipates an unfavourable movement in the Comprehensive Result of $2.8 million. This is primarily due to the anticipated costs of the disposal of assets where there are no proceeds of sale. These disposals are a result of capital works completed to replace old infrastructure, for example roads.

The forecast anticipates a favourable shift in Council’s Underlying Result of $2.7 million from the mid-year forecast to $19.7 million. This is primarily due to the exclusion of the costs of the disposal of assets where there are no proceeds of sale and reflects the decrease of Council’s expenditure from ordinary operations. An increasing surplus suggests an improvement in the operating position.

**Operating Budget**

The forecast for the operating budget is an unfavourable shift of $2.8 million, primarily due to anticipated costs of the disposal of assets where there are no proceeds of sale. These disposals are a result of capital works completed to replace old infrastructure (including drains and roads).

After adjusting for the underlying result, the forecast for income is an increase of $1.2 million, mainly comprising of:

 Grants operating income is forecast to increase by $0.8 million primarily due to:

o $0.5 million relating to the Regulatory Reform Incentive (RRIF) Guidelines Project. $0.2 million was previously forecast as grants capital income and is now grants operating, Council is also expecting to receive an additional $0.3 million;

o $0.2 million grant expected to be received from the Department of Education and Training (DET) relating to Children’s Services; and

o Receipt of an additional $0.1 million relating to the Business Concierge and Hospitality Support Program.

This above additional revenue is offset by an increase in expenditure. Other revenue is forecast to increase by $0.4 million primarily due to higher than anticipated permit revenue.

The forecast for expenditure is a decrease of $1.5 million, mainly comprising of:

 Employee costs are forecast to decrease by $1.6 million primarily due to higher than anticipated vacancies across the organisation.

 Materials and services are forecast to decrease by $0.9 million primarily due to:

o $0.7 million decrease in bin purchasing, this is primarily due to a lower than anticipated uptake of food organics, green organics (FOGO) bins. The purchase of bins is funded by the waste charge, so these savings will be transferred to reserves and used to fund future waste related costs;

o $0.3 million savings in utility costs due to the continued reduced usage of Council facilities, the adopted budget assumed utility costs would return to pre-COVID levels;

o $0.2 million decrease in pool and recreation management fees. The forecast assumes that there will be no further restrictions as a result of COVID (noting that the full year forecast is still $1.4 million higher than the adopted budget);

o $0.2 million decrease in software maintenance primarily due to lower than anticipated costs;

o $0.1 million decrease in Council grants due to the solar/thermal low-income grants project. COVID impacts on the construction industry are likely to delay solar installations; and

o $0.1 million decrease in subscription and membership fees primarily due to a revision of this year’s activities relating to the Australian Energy Foundation (AEF) Funding Agreement.

The above decrease in materials and services are offset by:

o $0.8 million increase in expenditure relating to grants for the RRIF Guidelines Project ($0.5 million), Children’s Services ($0.2 million), Business Concierge and Hospitality Support Program ($0.1 million).

**Attachment 1** provides the Income Statement and Underlying Result Statement, the Cash Flow Statement and Balance Sheet showing the Revised Forecast for the end of the financial year 2021/22.

**Operating Projects - OPEX**

Operating projects are forecast to decrease by $0.9 million from the mid-year forecast of $5.3 million mainly as a result of minor savings across multiple projects.

**Capital Projects – CAPEX**

The capital expenditure program is forecast to decrease by $10.4 million from the mid-year forecast of $74.5 million to $64.1 million as a result of:

 A $10.1 million decrease due to projects to be carried forward into 2022/23;

 A $2.3 million decrease due to savings identified; and

 A $2.0 million increase due to additional capital works expenditure.

**Attachment 2** provides a detailed listing of the forecasted carry forwards for the year, including an explanation on why they are delayed and an updated anticipated completion date.

The following tables list the details of these movements, including funding source:

**Additional Capital Works expenditure:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project** | **Source** | **$** |
| Sports field Lighting | Rates | 202,500 |
| Asphalt Footpath & Bike path Renewals : Various (Funds transferred from Roads Resurfacing Program) | Rates | 200,000 |
| Sumner Park : 3 Alister Street, North Fitzroy | Rates | 100,000 |
| Newlands Senior Citizens Centre : 49-53 Murray Road | Rates | 62,500 |
| Payroll System Implementation | Rates | 50,000 |
| Repair & maintenance of pits and walls : Municipal Wide | Rates | 23,982 |
| Gowanbrae DP – Pocket Parks | Rates | 22,728 |
| Bridge Programmed Maintenance from Level 2 inspection | Rates | 4,829 |
| Street Lighting : Various Locations | Rates | 1,231 |
| **Rates funded - additional capital funding required** | | **667,769** |
| Craigieburn Shared Path - Stage 3 (Grant funding for FY22 was re-allocated to other projects, project to be carried forward into FY23 with new external funding to be sought in FY23) | Grants | 1,000,000 |
| Sports field Stormwater Reuse : Municipal Wide | Grants | 350,000 |
| Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan (CCRP) | Grants | 10,000 |
| **External funded capital projects** | | **1,360,000** |
| **Total capital additional funding required** | | **2,027,769** |

**Capital Project funding to be carried forward into 2022/2023:**

| **Project** | **Source** | **$** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Fleming Park Masterplan Implementation | Rates | 2,000,000 |
| Hosken Reserve - Merlynston Tennis Club : 39A Shorts Rd, Coburg Nth | Rates | 560,080 |
| Barry St : Fallon - Collier, Brunswick East | Rates | 450,018 |
| Charles Mutton Res - Pavilion : 86 Lorne St, Fawkner | Rates | 450,000 |
| Sumner Park : 3 Alister Street, North Fitzroy | Rates | 380,882 |
| Sports field Stormwater Reuse : Municipal Wide | Rates | 350,000 |
| Moonee Ponds Creek Bridge at Hopetoun Avenue | Rates | 300,000 |
| Coburg Leisure Centre spa and sauna refurbishment | Rates | 300,000 |
| John Pascoe Fawkner Res - Therry - West Pavilion | Rates | 289,300 |
| Commercial Tenancy Maintenance Obligations | Rates | 250,000 |
| Merri Creek Trail Access and Safety Upgrades | Rates | 211,855 |
| Charles Mutton Res-Tennis Court Resurface & Lighting | Rates | 200,000 |
| John Pascoe Fawkner Res - Social Rooms - East | Rates | 167,500 |
| Wallace Reserve - North : 115 Justin Ave, Glenroy | Rates | 154,100 |
| 40km/h communication & engagement strategy | Rates | 145,000 |
| Wallace Reserve - South : 115 Justin Ave, Glenroy | Rates | 140,000 |
| Fawkner Cycling Routes : Fawkner | Rates | 100,000 |
| Tennis Facilities Program : Merlynston Tennis Club | Rates | 100,000 |
| Charles Mutton Reserve | Rates | 91,734 |
| Harding St Bridge - Design Stage | Rates | 74,000 |
| Upgrade roundabouts to improve access | Rates | 70,000 |
| Brunswick Integrated Transport Strategy : Various Locations | Rates | 68,000 |
| Craigieburn Shared Path - Glenroy Rd - Barina | Rates | 65,000 |
| Gowanbrae DP - Path Connections | Rates | 60,000 |
| Sumner Park Irrigation Upgrade | Rates | 41,280 |
| Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan (CCRP) | Rates | 30,000 |
| **Rates funded capital carry forwards** | | **7,048,749** |
| Craigieburn Shared Path - Stage 3 (Grant funding for FY22 was re-allocated to other projects, project to be carried forward into FY23 with new external funding to be received in FY23) | Grants | 1,000,000 |
| Get Active Moreland Park Enhancement Program | Grants | 240,714 |
| CB Smith Reserve Precinct Safety Improvements | Grants | 207,243 |
| **External funded capital carry forwards** | | **1,447,957** |
| Park Close to Home - Service Street, Coburg | Reserves | 555,000 |
| Park Close to Home Frith Street | Reserves | 500,000 |
| Glenroy Community Hub | Reserves | 400,433 |
| Park Close to Home West & Breese Street | Reserves | 94,581 |
| Park Asset Renewal - Anderson Park (Play renewal) | Reserves | 45,000 |
| **Reserves funded capital carry forwards** | | **1,595,015** |
| **Total capital carry forwards into 2022-23** | | **10,091,720** |

**Capital Projects with savings:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project** | **Source** | **$** |
| Brunswick City Baths Boiler replacement | Rates | 250,000 |
| Resurfacing Program - Various (Funds transferred to Asphalt Footpath) | Rates | 200,000 |
| Replace Council Fleet : Walter St depot | Rates | 200,000 |
| Traffic Management Devices : Various Locations (Offsets half of Craigieburn Shared Path - Stage 2 - forecast in Q2) | Rates | 171,567 |
| Minor infrastructure works and planning (Offsets half of Craigieburn Shared Path - Stage 2 - forecast in Q2) | Rates | 168,831 |
| Muchell Grove : From Rennie To Crozier, Coburg | Rates | 140,594 |
| MITS - Road Closures : Various Locations | Rates | 130,000 |
| Brunswick City Baths Installation-stainless steel | Rates | 100,000 |
| West Street Intersection and Streetscape : West Street | Rates | 74,376 |
| Charles Mutton Res - Tennis : 86 Lorne St, Fawkner | Rates | 47,815 |
| Pedestrian improvement and DDA compliance works : various Locations | Rates | 23,000 |
| Bike Parking : Various Locations | Rates | 20,000 |
| Replace street litter bin cabinets - Shops - Stage 9 | Rates | 20,000 |
| DDA Compliance - Shopping Strips and Glenroy Activity Centre : Various | Rates | 11,600 |
| Brunswick Activity Centre Upgrade Works - Stewart St -Brunswick | Rates | 7,850 |
| **Rates funded capital savings** | | **1,565,633** |
| RRIF Guidelines Project (Correction - funds transferred to base) | Grants | 204,000 |
| Coburg Streetscape Masterplan - Louisa St : Coburg | Grants | 9,000 |
| **External funded capital savings** | | **213,000** |
| Contamination allowance | Reserves | 500,000 |
| **Reserves funded capital savings** | | **500,000** |
| **Total capital savings** | | **2,278,633** |

**Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 2 variations:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project** | **Current** | | **Proposed** | |
|  | **Rates** | **Grants** | **Rates** | **Grants** |
| Brunswick Municipal Offices:  219-257 Sydney Rd | 34,050 | 255,000 | - | 389,050 |
| Craigieburn Shared Path –  Stage 3 |  | 1,000,000 |  | - |
| Creedon Street, Fawkner - reconstruction |  | 135,400 |  | 135,400 |
| Cumberland Road WSUD Improvements |  | 200,000 |  | 200,000 |
| Harold Stevens Athletics Pavilion |  | 807,300 |  | 907,300 |
| Jessie Morris Community Hall |  | 100,000 |  | 100,000 |
| Newlands Rd Pedestrian Bridge - Renewal Works |  | 150,000 |  | 150,000 |
| Newlands Rd, Coburg North - Traffic Improvement |  | 1,000,000 |  | 1,000,000 |
| Richards Reserve Drainage Improvements |  | 43,400 |  | 298,000 |
| Streetscape Upgrade Melville Rd/Moreland Rd | 220,000 | 930,000 | 220,000 | 930,000 |
| Threshold Pedestrian Treatments: Traffic Improvements |  | 292,986 |  | 292,986 |
| Threshold Pedestrian Treatments: Traffic Improvements |  | 375,000 |  | 375,000 |
| Pascoe Vale Swimming Pool - Main Circulation Pump (New) |  |  |  | 120,000 |
| Coburg Leisure Centre Lighting, CCTV and AV (New) |  |  |  | 60,000 |
| Improved fencing and gates at City Oval Grandstand, Coburg (New) |  |  |  | 50,000 |
| Road Resurfacing Works in Coburg & Coburg North (New) |  |  |  | 44,540 |
| Road Resurfacing Works in Glenroy (New) |  |  |  | 71,385 |
| Road Resurfacing Works in Gowanbrae (New) |  |  |  | 29,925 |
| Road Resurfacing Works in Pascoe Vale (New) |  |  |  | 98,000 |
|  | **254,050** | **5,289,086** | **220,000** | **5,251,586** |

**Solvency Assessment**

Council officers have reviewed Council’s liquidity (Current Assets divided by Current Liabilities) and the revised forecast is 2.4. The Victorian Auditor General’s Office (VAGO) recommends that this ratio be 1.5 or higher. This is a positive result and shows that Council is solvent.

**Human Rights Consideration**

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. There are no Human Rights impacts.

**4. Community consultation and engagement**

Community consultation and engagement was not required for this report as it reflects the performance against the Financial Management and delivery of the Project Management program.

Advice was sought from officers across Council to provide performance results for the Third Quarter Financial Review.

**Affected persons rights and interests**

Before making a decision that affects a person’s rights, Council must identify whose rights may be directly affected and provide an opportunity for that person (or persons) to convey those views regarding the effect on their rights and consider those views. There are no individual rights or interests affected.

**5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

**6. Financial and Resources Implications**

The overall corporate objective is to deliver the 2021/22 budget with the best possible outcome for Council and the community and in line with the approved revised forecast targets.

**7. Implementation**

Subject to Council’s decision, the matters outlined in the Third Quarter Financial Review will be implemented.

The financial position of Council will continue to be monitored and managed.

The progress on the Project Management Program will continue to be monitored and managed.

**Attachment/s**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Q3 Financial Review - statements | D22/127701 |  |
| **2** | 2021/22 Capital Works Program - Carry Forwards | D22/129218 |  |

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7.11 Governance Report - April 2022 - Cyclical Report

**Director Business Transformation Sue Vujcevic**

**Governance and Strategy**

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the Records of Meetings, at Attachment 1 to this report.

2. Notes the Record of Meetings of Council Representatives with Elders from the Traditional Community and community members to discuss the renaming of Moreland City Council, at Attachment 2 to this report.

3. Notes responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the February and March 2022 Council meeting, at Attachment 3 to this report.

4. Notes the reports from Committees to Council, at Attachment 4 to this report.

5. Notes the Affirmation of Office made on 24 March 2022 by Cr Monica Harte, at Attachment 5 to this report.

6. Receives a report at its August or September 2022 meeting on the results of the current bike lane and shared zone trials with recommendations on how to proceed.

7. Notes the commission of a public artwork from Joseph Griffiths for inclusion in the Stewart Street streetscape improvement project.

**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

The Governance report is prepared as a monthly standing report to Council which provides a single reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance related matters.

This Governance report includes:

 Records of Meetings, with a recommendation that Council notes the records.

 Record of Meetings of Council Representatives with Elders from the Traditional Community and community members to discuss the renaming of Moreland City Council, with a recommendation that Council notes the record.

 Responses to Public Question Time items taken on notice at the 9 February and 9 March 2022 Council meeting, with a recommendation that Council notes the responses.

 Reports from Committees to Council, with a recommendation that Council notes the reports.

 The Affirmation of Office made by Cr Monica Harte.

 An update on the timing of a further report to Council on the results of the current bike lane and shared zone trials.

 The commissioning of public artwork from Joseph Griffiths for inclusion in the Stewart Street streetscape improvement project.

**Previous Council Decisions**

**Kent Road Separated Trial Bike Lane** – 9 March 2022

**Kent Road Separated Bicycle Lane Options -** 8 September 2021

**Dedicated Bicycle Lanes on Kent Road and Northumberland Road Pascoe Vale** - 11 August 2021

**Moreland Integrated Transport Strategy Review** - 9 December 2020

**Safe Movement of Pedestrians and Cyclists - Covid-19 Response** - 8 July 2020

**Moreland’s Transport Response to COVID-19 and Social Distancing Requirements** (Notice of Motion) - 13 May 2020

**1.** **Policy Context**

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and the Governance Rules set out the requirements for keeping and reporting records of meetings held under the auspices of Council.

Council’s Governance Rules contains provisions which enable the Chairperson to take a question On Notice, with a considered written response being provided to the questioner, in circumstances including where the question requires information that is either not available or accessible at the time of that meeting, or where the time allowed for Public Question Time has elapsed.

Council’s advisory committees have been established to provide advice to Council on their area of focus.

The appointment of Councillors to specific areas of responsibility and committees provides a framework for relationships between Councillors and the administration of Council and reporting back of these committees to Council is an important transparency mechanism.

The *Local Government Act 2020,* states thata person elected to be a Councillor is not capable of acting as a Councillor, until the person has taken the oath or affirmation of office in the manner prescribed by the regulations.

The commissioning of public artwork from Joseph Griffiths for inclusion in the Stewart Street streetscape improvement project responds to the Council Plan:

 Theme 4 - Vibrant spaces and places in Moreland - To create welcoming, unique spaces and places across Moreland that attract and connect everyone, improving access to community facilities and affordable housing and encouraging vibrant artistic, social and economic activity.

 Council Action Plan item 92, Completion of Concept Design for Stewart Street Streetscape Improvement.

## 2. Background

The Governance Report is prepared as a monthly report to Council to provide a single reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency, and governance related matters.

In accordance with best practice principles and good governance practice, and to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act, this report incorporates matters including reporting of Advisory Committees, records of meetings held under the auspice of Council, items relating to the delegation of Council powers and duties, and policy and strategy reporting.

## 3. Issues

**Records of Meetings held under the auspice of Council**

Records of matters discussed at meetings organised or hosted by Moreland that involve Councillors and Council officers are kept in accordance with the Governance Rules.

Meeting Records must include meeting attendees, including organisations represented by external presenters; the title of matters discussed; and any conflicts of interests disclosed and whether the declarant of a conflict of interests recused themselves from the meeting.

Some examples include Councillor Briefings, meetings with residents/developers/ clients/organisations/Government departments/statutory authorities and consultations.

Records of Meetings received since the March Council Meeting are presented at **Attachment 1** as follows:

 Planning Information Meeting – 28 February 2022

 Planning Information and Discussion Meeting – 1 March 2022

 Councillor Briefing – 2 March 2022

 Planning Information and Discussion Meeting – 15 March 2022

 Councillor Briefing – 16 March 2022

 Sustainable Transport Advisory Committee – 17 March 2022

 Councillor Budget Workshop – 19 March 2022

 Planning Briefing - 22 March 2022

 CEO Employment and Remuneration Matters Committee – 24 March 2022

 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting – 29 March 2022

 Councillor Briefing – 30 March 2022

 Councillor Budget and Council Action Plan Workshop – 2 April 2022

A Record of Meetings of Council Representatives with Elders from the Traditional Community and community members to discuss the renaming of Moreland City Council is presented at **Attachment 2**.

### On Notice responses – 9 March 2022 Council meeting

At the 9 February 2022 and 9 March 2022 Council Meeting, questions and/or statements were taken On Notice during Public Question Time, as persons submitting questions were not in attendance or including where the maximum allowable time for public questions had elapsed.

Questions taken On Notice are provided with a written response following the meeting for which they are submitted and reported to Council at the next practicable meeting. The questions, without preamble or background, are recorded in the meeting minutes. Statements taken On Notice are provided to Councillors for information, with an abbreviated/summarised version recorded in the meeting’s minutes.

Written responses to questions taken On Notice are included in **Attachment 3** on topics including:

 Design Excellence Scorecard

 Melbourne Airport third runway proposal

 PLA compostable packaging in FOGO bins

 Review of Instrument of Delegation Council to Council Staff

 Council Action Plan 2021-22 - Second Quarter Performance Report

 Renaming of Moreland City Council - Community Engagement, Education and Truth Telling

 2022 Annual and Winter Sports Facilities and Grounds Tenancy Allocations

### Reports from Committee to Council

A summary of the key issues discussed at the following meeting is provided at **Attachment 4** for Council’s information:

 Audit and Risk Committee held 29 March 2022.

### Affirmation of Office – Cr Monica Harte

Council elections were held on Saturday 24 October 2020. However, due to an extraordinary vacancy arising in the North-West Ward, the Victorian Electoral Commission conducted a count back of ballots on Monday, 21 March 2022 and declared the results of that count back at 12pm on Wednesday 23 March 2022.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, a person elected to be a Councillor must take the oath or affirmation of office in the manner prescribed by the regulations.

The oath or affirmation of office must be administered by the Chief Executive Officer, dated and signed before the CEO, and recorded in the minutes of the Council meeting.

The oath or affirmation of office contains a declaration that Councillors will abide by the Councillor Code of Conduct and uphold the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct.

At a swearing ceremony conducted on 24 March 2022, Cr Monica Harte made and signed the affirmation of office, which was witnessed by Cathy Henderson, Chief Executive Officer, which is presented as **Attachment 5**.

### Timing of report back to Council on the outcomes of the current bike lane and shared zones trials

At its March 2022 meeting, Council resolved to complete the 12-month trial period for the Kent Road, Pascoe Vale separated bike lanes in order to capture data on usage by pedestrians, cyclists and car drivers for all four seasons before a decision is taken on the final option. Collecting this data until June 2022 and subsequent analysis of the data to make recommendations of next steps means that the earliest a report can be prepared for Council is August 2022. This timing will also apply to the other bike lane trial projects occurring on Dawson Street and Albion Street, Brunswick, and Northumberland Road, Pascoe Vale, and for the two shared zone trials in Brunswick East. This is slightly later than the date reported in the Council Action Plan progress report at the February 2022 meeting of July 2022.

**Public artwork for inclusion in the Stewart Street streetscape improvement project**

A public artwork has been commissioned as part of the Stewart Street Ceres link project. A selection panel made up of Council officers and local creative practitioners have selected an untitled artwork by professional artist Joseph Griffiths. The proposed artwork makes use of the repaving of Stewart Street, to create a “plant-fossil archive” – embossing hundreds of native-plant species into the streetscape surfaces. The work aims to build greater appreciation for local flora and reflect upon the influence of urbanisation on the area’s biodiversity. The range of specimens, taxonomies and related information will be compiled through a period of research in consultation with the Wurrundjeri Woi-wurrung Aboriginal Corporation, the Melbourne Museum, Merri Creek Management Committee, Moreland City Council and the Australian Conservation Foundation. The artwork will be developed and installed for a total cost of $50,000.

**Human Rights Consideration**

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

## 4. Community consultation and engagement

Public Question Time provides an opportunity for the community to engage with and direct their questions and statements directly to the Council.

## 5. Officer Declaration for a Conflict of Interests

Council officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflicts of interest in the matters contained therewith.

## 6. Financial and Resources Implications

There are no financial and/or resource implications as a result of this report.

The costs associated with commissioning the public artwork are covered within the Stewart Street Ceres Link Project.

## 7. Implementation

Governance activity, including reports of Committees to Council, Records of Meetings and Community Question Time items will continue to be reported to Council monthly.

Subject to Council’s decision the next steps include:

 A report will be received at the August or September 2022 Council meeting on the results of the current bike lane and shared zone trials with recommendations on how to proceed.

 The artwork will be installed in late 2023 following completion of the Stewart Street Ceres Link Project.

## Attachment/s

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Records of Meetings - April 2022 | D22/137219 |  |
| **2** | Record of Meetings of Council Representatives with Elders from the Traditional Community and community members to discuss the renaming of Moreland City Council | D22/146676 |  |
| **3** | Responses to questions taken on notice - April 2022 | D22/144197 |  |
| **4** | Reports from Committees to Council | D22/138158 |  |
| **5** | Affirmation of Office - Cr Monica Harte | D22/137228 |  |

7.12 Contract Award Procurement Australia Contract 2403/0109 - Bulk Fuels

**Director City Infrastructure Anita Curnow**

**City Services**

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Accepts the Schedule of Rates Tender for the provision of Category 1 – Bulk Fuel from:

a) Ampol Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd

b) Pacific Petroleum Pty Ltd

c) Petrogas Pty Ltd

2. Accepts the Schedule of Rates for the Category 2 – Bulk Metered Delivery from:

a) Ampol Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd

b) Petrogas Pty Ltd

3. Awards a preferred supplier Contract for the provision of Bulk Fuel for a period of two (2) years, with a one (1) year option to extend.

4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the contracts for the provision of bulk fuels.

5. Authorises the Director City Infrastructure to advise Procurement Australia of Council’s decision in this matter.

REPORT

## Executive Summary

Council tendered for the bulk supply and delivery of fuel with 23 other Councils using Procurement Australia as a tendering agent. Two categories were tendered for:

 Category 1 – Provision of bulk fuels; and

 Category 2 – Provision of metered deliveries of bulk fuels.

Procurement Australia advertised the tender in September 2021, closing 08 December 2021 and completed its evaluation report on 2 March 2022 (**Confidential Attachment 1**). The establishment of this panel contract allows for the transition from the current contract relating to purchase and delivery of bulk fuels, upon its expiry.

Nine organisations downloaded the tender documents with four suppliers making formal submissions. Three suppliers were shortlisted for award under Category 1 – Bulk Fuel Supply and two under Category 2 – Bulk Metered Delivery. Due to the nature of bulk fuel market (price varies on a daily/weekly basis), tenderers populate a Schedule of Prices with their tender submission. Information sought within this schedule included the respondent’s fixed cents per litre discounts, historical price averages, and tiered volume discounts.

 Historical rates of pre-committed members’ sample sites in 3 months’ window (4 July 2017 to 4 October 2017); and

 General pricing formula.

The tender complies with section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020.*

**Previous Council Decisions**

**DCI46/18 Contract - Supply and Delivery Of Bulk Fuel (D18/391642)** - 14 March 2018

That Council:

1. Accepts the Schedule of Rates Tender for the provision of bulk fuels from:

• BP Australia Pty Ltd

• Caltex Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd

Refuelling Solutions and its subsidiaries:

• Maxi-Tankers Pty Ltd

• Mini Tankers Pty Ltd

• Petrogas Pty Ltd

• United Petroleum Pty Ltd.

and awards a preferred supplier contract for the provision of bulk fuels, for a period of three (3) years, with a further two (2) x one (1) year options for extension.

2. Authorises the Director City Infrastructure to do all things necessary to execute the contracts for the provision of bulk fuels.

Advises Procurement Australia of Council’s decision in this matter.

## 1. Policy Context

This report is in keeping with Council’s commitment to accountability and sound financial management. It also addresses the requirement under Section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* which requires Council to conduct a public tender for goods, services and works where once-off or ongoing cumulative spend over the life of the contract is expected to exceed $300,000 (incl GST) as well as the policy commitments contained in the Procurement Policy.

## 2. Background

Council is reliant on fuel to ensure ongoing delivery of a number of essential Council services.

Council has previously managed bulk fuel purchasing through Procurement Australia and this contract is the latest opportunity to do collaborative procurement and improve buying power and ensure best value for money.

Council has partnered with 23 other councils and engaged Procurement Australia to manage the tendering process for Bulk Fuel purchasing.

### Contract Services

The Contract includes two categories:

Category 1 – Bulk Fuels, Bulk deliveries into the tanks.

Category 2 – Bulk Metered Deliveries, delivered directly into Council assets, be that plant, equipment, or tanks.

The type of bulk fuels included are:

 Petroleum including Regular unleaded petrol (ULP), Premium 95 unleaded petrol (PULP) and Premium 98 unleaded petrol (UPULP)

 E10

 Diesel

 Biodiesel

 AdBlue

 Alpine Blend

 Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)

### Tender Evaluation

Procurement Australia managed the whole tender process including the evaluation of tenders, below is the criteria used to evaluate tenders.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Percentage | Criteria | Criteria Weighting | Sub-Criteria | Sub-Criteria Weighting |
| Technical Criteria 70% | Compliance (unweighted) | N/A | • Compliance with insurance  • Compliance with the terms and conditions of the tender  • Compliance with terms and conditions of the contract | N/A |
| Contractors Performance | 44 | • Corporate Profile and Experience  • Processes and Procedures  • Responsiveness  • Quality Practices  • Work Health & Safety | 6  10  8  10  10 |
| Customer Focus | 28 | • Marketing & Sales Strategies  • Customer Service  • Account Management & Engagement  • Value Added Products/Services | 6  8  8  6 |
| Corporate Social Responsibility | 28 | • Social Impacts  • Environmental Management  • Indigenous Content | 10  12  6 |
| Price Related Criteria 30% | Price | 100 | • Fixed cents per litre discounts  • Historical price averages  • Tiered volume discounts | 70  15  15 |

See Confidential Attachment 1 – for Procurement Australia’s full Tender Evaluation Report. Should Councillors wish to see the details contained within the Appendices of the Procurement Australia report, they may request these separately.

Given the tender evaluation, the quantum of fuel used by Council and the current fuel market, it is appropriate for Council to enter a preferred supplier Contract with all short listed contractors for the provision of Bulk Fuel for a period of two (2) years, with a one (1) year option to extend.

## 3. Issues

### Community impact

There is no negative community impact, rather Council’s fleet can continue to operate with significant discounts applied to fuel supplies.

### Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications

Whilst Council’s fleet is transitioning to more environmentally sustainable fuel sources at this stage there are little to no effective alternatives to our diesel heavy fleet for waste collection services at this time.

### Economic sustainability implications

By adopting this contract, Council will make significant cost savings on fuel supply, which is especially valuable at this time with recent rapid increases and predicted high fuel costs over the next 6-12 months.

### Legal and risk considerations

Entering into this contract allows Council to access the more competitive fuel prices in the bulk contract than Council could separately procure. Being part of the contract also provides greater access to information about any potential risks in fuel supply and information about fuel cost increases, to allow better risk mitigation measures to be planned.

### Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and there are no direct impacts on Human Rights

## 4. Consultation / Recommendation from Management

This Contract will support Council operations and continued service delivery. There is no direct impact on the community by awarding this contract.

## 5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

## 6. Financial and Resources Implications

Council sends approximately $800,000 per year to keep Council’s fleet running and delivering Council’s essential services. Over the life of the Contract Council will spend approximately $2,000,000 (Inc GST) on fuel.

This is fully funded through the Fleet team’s base budget.

## 7. Implementation and Timeline

The Chief Executive Officer, as authorised, will do all things necessary to execute the contracts for the provision of bulk fuels.

The Director City Infrastructure will advise Procurement Australia of Council’s Decision.

## Attachment/s

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | 2403-0109 Member Report  *Pursuant to section 3(1)(g(ii)) of the Local Government Act 2020 this attachment has been designated as confidential because it relates to private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.* | D22/133040 |  |

7.13 Contract RFT-2022-258 - O'Hea Street, Pascoe Vale South Road Reconstruction Works Between Anderson Street and Northgate Street

**Director City Infrastructure Anita Curnow**

**Capital Works Planning and Delivery**

## Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:

a) Make a formal offer to MJ Construction Group Pty Ltd and ACN 092 432 730 (Contractor) to award Contract RFT-2022-258 for the Road Reconstruction Works along O’Hea Street, Pascoe Vale South between Anderson Street and Northgate Street (Contract) on the following terms and otherwise subject to and in accordance with paragraph 1(b) of this Resolution:

i. For the revised lump sum of $639,917.00 (excluding GST) plus provisional sum of $150,425.00 (excluding GST), totalling $790,342.00 (excluding GST).

ii. Allocate a contingency amount of $118,551.00 (15 percent) to the project bringing the total expenditure for Contract RFT-2022-258 for the Road Reconstruction Works along O’Hea Street, Pascoe Vale South between Anderson Street and Northgate Street to $908,893.00 (excluding GST).

b) Negotiate and finalise the terms of the Contract between Council and the Contractor provided that:

i. the terms specified in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution shall not be altered without a further Resolution of Council; and

ii. other than terms referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Resolution, the terms of the Contract are acceptable to the Chief Executive Officer;

2. Conditional on acceptance of the Contract by the Contractor in accordance with the terms of this Resolution:

a) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to do all things necessary to execute the Contract and any required documentation for Contract RFT-2022-258, including authorising any cost overruns within the project budget, provided that the overall Road and Drainage Budget within the Capital Works Program allocation is not exceeded; and

b) Advises all tenderers of Council's decision in relation to the Contract.

REPORT

## Executive Summary

Road reconstruction works along O’Hea Street, Pascoe Vale South between Anderson Street and Northgate Street are identified in the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Capital Works Program. The works are required to address the poor condition of the kerb and channel and road pavement and provide underground drainage along this section of O’Hea Street. The road will be widened by 600mm to allow for parked cars on either side of the street whilst maintaining space for a vehicle to safely travel along the road. Provision for bicycle facilities is not required as this section of O’Hea Street does not play a strategic cycling role in the network.

An advertisement was placed in *The Age* newspaper on Saturday, 5 February 2022 inviting tenders via the e-tender portal from suitably experienced contractors to undertake the road reconstruction works along O’Hea Street, Pascoe Vale South between Anderson Street and Northgate Street.

Tenders closed on Tuesday 1 March 2022, 7 tenders received.

MJ Construction Group Pty Ltd achieved the highest score through the evaluation process. MJ Construction Group Pty Ltd has previously undertaken road reconstruction works for Council and successfully delivered the works to a very good standard.

The project will be utilising recycled crushed concrete as bedding material in the road sub-base, under all new concrete paving and as backfill to the new drainage pipes along the street. The use of recycled crushed concrete will reduce the need for raw materials by approximately 830 cubic metres.

The contract will also promote the use of increased recycled content in road reconstruction activities by utilising recycled truck tyres which are converted into crumb rubber and mixed with the bitumen to form the asphalt base and wearing course (top layer) of the road pavement. The total amount of asphalt for this project is approximately 340 cubic metres, which equates to 850 truck tyres utilised in the rubberised asphalt product for this project.

The tender sum was revised to include the environmentally sustainable construction materials priced by each tenderer. The inclusion of the alternate crumb rubber asphalt product equates to a 12 percent cost increase over the typical stone mastic asphalt product used by Council. The performance of the rubberised asphalt product will be monitored for consideration of its ongoing use in future road reconstruction projects.

The tender complies with section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020.*

**Previous Council Decisions**

There has been no prior Council decision in relation to this specific contract or project.

## 1. Policy Context

## This report is in keeping with Council’s commitment to accountability and sound financial management. It also addresses the requirement under Section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* which requires Council to conduct a public tender for goods, services and works where once-off or ongoing cumulative spend over the life of the contract is expected to exceed $300,000 (incl GST) as well as the policy commitments contained in the Procurement Policy.

## 2. Background

Road reconstruction works along O’Hea Street, Pascoe Vale South between Anderson Street and Northgate Street are identified in the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Capital Works Program.

The works are required to address the poor condition of the kerb and channel and road pavement and provide underground drainage along this section of O’Hea Street. The road will be widened by 600mm to allow for parked cars on either side of the street whilst maintaining space for a vehicle to safely travel along the road. This widening is consistent with the role of O’Hea Street in this section a Local Street in our road hierarchy. Once widened, the road pavement will be 7.2m wide. This is an internal design standard we seek where parking is allowed on both sides of a Local Street (minimum 7.2m wide).

An advertisement was placed in *The Age* newspaper on Saturday, 5 February 2022 inviting tenders via the e-tender portal from suitably experienced contractors to undertake the road reconstruction works along O’Hea Street, Pascoe Vale South between Anderson Street and Northgate Street.

Tenders closed on Tuesday 1 March 2022, with 7 tenders received from the following contractors:

 ADP Constructions Pty Ltd

 CDN Constructors Pty Ltd

 GP Bluestone Pty Ltd

 InfraFirst Pty Ltd

 Metro Asphalt Pty Ltd – Trading as Cole Civil

 MJ Construction Group Pty Ltd

 VCrete Contractors Pty Ltd

### Tender Evaluation

Tenders were evaluated in accordance with Council’s Procurement Policy.

A Procurement Plan has been developed for this project.

The membership of the tender evaluation panel was as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Title** | **Speciality** | **Full Voting / Advisory Member** |
| Unit Manager Engineering Services | Design and Construction (Chair) | Full |
| Transport Engineer | Transport | Full |
| Senior Construction Engineer | Construction | Full |

In assessing the tenders, consideration was given to the following predefined evaluation criteria:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Evaluation Criteria** | **Weighting** |
| Tender Price | 40% |
| OHS Requirements | 9% |
| Traffic Management and Works Program | 10% |
| Capability, Experience and Past Performance and Capacity | 10% |
| Quality Management System | 6% |
| Customer Service | 7% |
| Social Sustainability | 5% |
| Environmental Sustainability | 4% |
| Economic Sustainability | 4% |
| Environmental Sustainability Construction Options | 5% |
| **Weighted result:** | **100%** |

The evaluation process identified MJ Construction Group Pty Ltd as the preferred tenderer based on the results of the evaluation matrix, included as Confidential **Attachment 1.**

A telephone interview was conducted with MJ Construction Group Pty Ltd to determine its current and future commitments, workforce and understanding of the works required under this contract. During the interview process, MJ Construction Group Pty Ltd indicated it has adequate resources to successfully complete the project within the specified time frame and revised lump sum amount.

MJ Construction Group Pty Ltd has previously undertaken road reconstruction works for Council and successfully delivered the works to a very good standard.

## 3. Issues

### Collaboration

Section 109(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that any report to the Council that recommends entering into a procurement agreement must include information in relation to any opportunities for collaboration with other Councils or public bodies which may be available.

Under this contract there are no opportunities to collaborate with other Council’s or public bodies as:

 This is a locally based stand-alone road reconstruction project for which the onsite construction services are not provided by other Councils or public bodies.

### Environmental Implications

The specification for the road reconstruction works requires the contractor to submit a Site/Environmental Management Plan prior to the commencement of the works outlining procedures for erosion control, sediment transport control, sediment retention measures, transportation of excavated materials to recycling facilities, tree protection and general site management.

The project will be utilising recycled crushed concrete as bedding material in the road sub-base, under all new concrete paving and as backfill to the new drainage pipes along the street. The use of recycled crushed concrete will reduce the need for raw materials by approximately 830 cubic metres.

The contract will also promote the use of increased recycled content in road reconstruction activities by utilising recycled truck tyres which are converted into crumb rubber and mixed with the bitumen to form the asphalt base and wearing course (top layer) of the road pavement. The total amount of asphalt for this project is approximately 340 cubic metres, which equates to 850 truck tyres utilised in the rubberised asphalt product for this project.

The project does not include any bicycle facilities, nor provision of future bicycle facilities, and this is consistent with Council’s strategic thinking about bike facilities in this area, as follows:

 There are currently no plans for upgraded cycling infrastructure our 10-year bike and pedestrian capital works plan for the section of O’Hea street between Northgate Street and Anderson Street.

 There is an existing comparable east-west link along Gaffney Street which already has painted cycling infrastructure. O’Hea Street is much steeper than the comparable section of Gaffney Street, making Gaffney Street a preferred alternative for east-west movement in the area. Gaffney Street already provides a direct link to Pascoe Vale Railway Station.

As a result, no provision needs to be made for bicycle facilities to be implemented in the future and the widening to 7.2m to allow for parking and local traffic is appropriate.

### Social Implications

MJ Construction Group Pty Ltd has a Social Procurement Policy in place. The policy is designed to address disadvantage and principles of diversity, acceptance, fairness, compassion, inclusiveness and access for all people and abilities.

### Economic Implications

MJ construction Group Pty Ltd has indicated that most of its material suppliers for this project will be located within Moreland and surrounding municipalities.

### Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

## 4. Consultation / Recommendation from Management

Consultation with owners/residents along O’Hea Street, Pascoe Vale South between Anderson Street and Northgate Street was undertaken via a letter drop in December 2021. Several residents responded advising they are in agreeance and support the proposed works.

Owners and residents will also be informed prior to the works commencing on site via a letter drop from Council and the Contractor.

## 5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Council Officers, external consultants and all other parties involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest in this matter.

## 6. Financial and Resources Implications

An amount of $989,777 has been allocated in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Capital Works Program for road reconstruction works along O’Hea Street, Pascoe Vale South between Anderson Street and Northgate Street as detailed in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Capital Works Program** | **Amount (excluding GST)** |
| 2021-2022 Anderson Street to Davern Street (Account No. 52390239) | $102,750.00 |
| 2021-2022 Davern Street to Northgate Street (Account No. 52390240) | $116,250.00 |
| 2022-2023 Anderson Street to Davern Street (Account No. 52390239) | $333,250.00 |
| 2022-2023 Davern Street to Northgate Street (Account No. 52390240) | $437,527.00 |
| **Total** | **$989,777.00** |

The table below shows the overall expenditure for the project.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Amount (excluding GST)** |
| MJ Construction Group Pty Ltd – revised tendered lump sum amount which includes the use of recycled crushed concrete and asphalt product containing recycled truck tyres converted to crumb rubber | $639,917.00 |
| MJ Construction Group Pty Ltd – tendered provisional sum amount | $150,425.00 |
| Project contingency amount (15%) 15% is required due to potential latent ground conditions comprising rock that may be encountered along the drainage line in O’Hea Street | $118,551.00 |
| Alteration to Underground Water & Gas Mains | $38,830.00 |
| Alteration to underground Electricity Conduits | $39,272.00 |
| **Total** | **$986,995.00** |
| Budget amount 2021-2022 / 2022-2023 | $989,777.00 |

## 7. Implementation and Timeline

It is proposed that the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to do all things necessary to execute the contract and any other required documentation, including authorising any cost overruns within the project budget, provided that the overall Road and Drainage Budget within the Capital Works Program allocation is not exceeded.

Works are planned to commence in May 2022 and be completed September 2022.

## Attachment/s

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Contract RFT-2022-258 - O'Hea Street, Pascoe Vale South - Road Reconstruction Works - Tender Evaluation Summary  *Pursuant to section 3(1)(g(ii)) of the Local Government Act 2020 this attachment has been designated as confidential because it relates to private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.* | D22/102817 |  |

7.14 Digital Mail (Printing and Postage Services) MAV Contract DM8014

**Director Business Transformation Sue Vujcevic**

**Information Technology**

## Officer Recommendation

That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:

1. Approve and appoint the use of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) panel for the provision of Digital Mail Services contract #DM8014 which expires in July 2025.

2. Do all things necessary to engage the services and execute any other required documentation.

**REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

On 6 April 2021, the Executive agreed to trial the Digital Mail offering from Bing Technologies under Municipal Association Victoria (MAV) Contract #DM8014 – Provision of Digital Mail Services, for a period of 12 months. The trial commenced with the Amenity and Compliance team in May 2021. Following successful feedback, the Executive agreed in October 2021 to expand the digital mail solution to other business areas.

There are currently 18 business areas using Bingmail, all of which are keen to continue using the service due to the efficiencies it provides. Digital Mail allows Council officers to send electronic documents to an external vendor to print, sort, fold, insert and post.

Following the success of the trial under the Chief Executive Officer’s financial delegation, Council approval is now sought to continue usage under the MAV panel until July 2025.

Based on the trial, the major benefits of the Bingmail solution are:

 A reduction in the time spent printing, sorting, folding, inserting, and lodging mail with Australia Post, allowing staff to focus on more strategic and value-adding activities;

 The ability for staff to do mailouts whilst working remotely;

 Improved visibility of our mail usage with various reports and dashboards; and

 Fewer errors through automation of manual processes.

Previous Council Decisions

*Not applicable*

## 1. Policy Context

This report is in keeping with Council’s commitment to accountability and sound financial management. This report also addresses the requirement under Section 109(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* which came into effect on 1 July 2021, as well as the policy commitments contained in the Moreland Procurement Policy.

## 2. Background

The Digital Mail contract includes the following services:

 A digital mail solution that allows for documents to be printed, sorted, folded, inserted and lodged with Australia Post;

 The ability for staff to do mailouts whilst working remotely;

 The ability to track the status of the jobs and have visibility of mailing and printing usage;

 Improved financial and budget management through the provision of detailed usage reports and dashboards.

Other councils using a digital mail service include Casey City Council, City of Melbourne, Kingston City Council, Glen Eira City Council, Brimbank City Council and Stonnington City Council.

Staff feedback for the Bingmail trial has been overwhelmingly positive. The following stakeholders have participated in the trial and are keen to support to ongoing usage of solution:

 Administration officers from teams including City Infrastructure and Home Support

 Records officers

 Customer Service Team Leader

 Managers from teams including City Development, Amenity and Compliance, Cultural Development, Open Space and Environment, People and Safety

 Team leaders and/or Unit Mangers from Records, Business Support City Infrastructure, Rates, Urban Planning

 Chief Financial Officer and Financial Accounting Coordinator

 Coordinator Continuous Improvement, City Futures

 Development Engineering Officer

 Head of Building Projects

 Transport Strategy Implementation Lead.

**Qualitative Feedback**

 The Amenity and Compliance team commenced the trial by generating ad-hoc letters but quickly progressed to sending bulk mail via Bingmail. They estimate Bingmail saves them more than 15 hours per week, which is now spent on managing the service instead of manually printing, sorting, folding and preparing envelopes before providing them to the Records team for lodgement with Australia Post. The Team Leader Business Support advises that “Bing has changed the way we work and has integrated really well with most of the Business Support operations. It’ll be great if we can get some kind of confirmation that Bing is here to stay. We can’t live without Bing anymore.”

 The Open Space team has only used Bingmail for one large mail-out but were delighted with the experience. They sent more than 7,000 letters within minutes, saving many hours of manual handling based on previous experience. They are keen to see the solution implemented on a permanent basis.

 The Administration Officer Home Support advises “I consider it an incredible tool to manage the mail process. It has allowed me to reduce the time on manual work for printing, sorting, folding, inserting, and lodging with Australia Post. I don’t know what to do if this is removed from the organisation”. The time saved on administrative tasks is now spent managing the service and improving customer experience.

 Bingmail’s customer support has proved to be outstanding during the trial. Most enquiries have been answered and resolved on the first call, while remaining calls have been answered within the same day or as per an agreed timeline.

## 3. Issues

**Community impact**

Improved timeliness and accuracy of postal services through the automation of manual processes has been achieved through use of the Bingmail trial.

**Climate emergency and environmental sustainability implications**

Bingmail uses high-volume, high-efficiency printers which are located in all Australian capital cities. Mail is sent electronically to the printer closest to the delivery address which reduces the distance the item needs to physically travel, reducing emissions due to transportation. By outsourcing the digital mail service, Council will be able to reduce the number and size of its fleet of printers, reducing the amount of electricity consumed and eWaste generated.

**Economic sustainability implications**

The usage cost for Bingmail includes postage, materials and handling. Based on financial modelling which has been confirmed though the trial, Bingmail is expected to deliver an economic savings to Council when the costs of maintaining the service in house are considered. Council is currently renewing the contract for printers this is an opportune time to permanently reduce the number and size of its printer fleet. The new printer contract is expected to be finalised by September 2022.

**Legal and risk considerations**

Through the MAV tender process, Bingmail confirms that it complies with all relevant legislation.

By automating processes that were previously done manually, the risk of incorrectly addressed mail is reduced, preventing data breaches which erode confidence in Council’s services.

### Human Rights Consideration

The implications of this report have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and no issues were identified.

## 4. Community consultation and engagement

**Consultation**

MAV consulted all member councils involved in the public tender and staff from three member councils and MAV evaluated the tender. Tenders were assessed in accordance with sections 186 and 186A of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The MAV Public Tender and Procurement Process was presented in the initial Executive Brief. Refer to confidential **Attachment 1** - MAV Tender Evaluation and Recommendation Report.

**Affected persons rights and interests**

No individuals were identified whose rights and interests were affected.

### Communications

Council officers including the Executive team, Senior Management Team and Leadership Network have been consulted during the Bingmail trial.

## 5. Officer Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

## 6. Financial and Resources Implications

During the 12-month trial period, Council sent a total of 369,551 letters of which 70,448 were sent via Bingmail at a cost of $108,045. The digital mail service was expected to be cost-neutral based on the original financial model and this was confirmed through the trial, with the cost of the service offset by reductions across the various postage, printing and stationary cost accounts.

By using a digital mail service Council has an opportunity to reduce the number and size of its printer fleet when the contract is renewed by September 2022. It also avoids the need to purchase folding machines, which are used intensively for short periods but sit idle most of the time.

All areas using the service reported a reduction in time spent on administrative tasks which is being used to improve the way they deliver services. The cost of the digital mail service will be reviewed as part of the annual budget cycle. Over time, it is expected that the majority of bulk mail will be processed via Bingmail and only ad-hoc mail will be posted manually via Australia Post. The use of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) panel for the provision of Digital Mail Services contract #DM8014 will be funded from existing operational budgets.

## 7. Implementation

The new Digital Mail contract will come into effect following Council endorsement.

As we already have more than 18 business areas with high postage volumes using Bingmail, we expect the rollout to the remaining business areas to be completed over the next 12 months.

## Attachment/s

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | MAV Contract DM8014-tender evaluation recommendation report signed  *Pursuant to section 3(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 this attachment has been designated as confidential because it relates to Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.* | D20/474194 |  |

**8. Notices of Motion**

**8.1 Traffic and Parking Management – Brunswick**

**Cr Lambros Tapinos**

**Motion**

That Council:

1. Calls for a report to be presented to the May Council Meeting investigating the request by residents in Overend Street for further parking restriction and also investigate if further parking restrictions should be placed in Church Street and Lawrence Street in consultation with residents.

2. Calls for a report to be presented to the June Council Meeting investigating traffic management options in consultation with Warburton and Horne Streets and Coco Jackson lane residents including the option of bollards to prevent heavy vehicles accessing residential streets.

**1. Background**

Cr Tapinos’s background:

Traffic management and parking restrictions continue to be important measures to address the growth of vehicle movements in our city. Brunswick is experiencing this challenge with increased apartments dwellings and business activity.

A request has been received from Overend Street in Brunswick for extension of parking restrictions. Residents have organised a petition to show support for 2 hour parking on the north side of the street between 8 am and 11 pm - 7 days a week (**Attachment 1**).

In accordance with Moreland Parking Policy -

Overend Street is within an activity centre and would have been included in the MITS restrictions.

The car parking problem is ongoing and will continue to get worse. Residents believe current restrictions are inadequate and do not work to share the limited spaces. Overend Street is nearby public transport stops for two tram lines and a bus route, so commuters leave their car parked all day while in the city.

The street is near major parking generators including several restaurants, cafes, bars, shops, fitness studios and beauty salons. Planning permit conditions relating to new development in the area having inadequate parking facilities. Parking occupancy in the street is easily over 80 percent for periods of longer than 4 hours. Almost no houses have off street parking and there is barely enough street parking for one vehicle per property.

The biggest problem is cars being parked for weeks and months on end without moving. They are most commonly owned from within several new apartment buildings, all of which have been built with exemptions to the minimum car parking requirements. This fact also stops customers of nearby businesses from using short term parking options.

Another request has been received from residents of Horne and Warburton Streets in Brunswick for traffic management improvements and the investigation of bollards on Coco Jackson lane near Lygon Street to prevent heavy vehicles from going through residential streets.

**2. Policy Context**

Officer’s comments:

**Overend Street**

Council officers received a request to modify parking restrictions in Overend Street in late 2021 but due to high workload, impacts of COVID and staff turnover this has not been actioned to date. Council officers can undertake consultation immediately with Overend, Church and Lawrence Streets to determine the level of support for modified parking restrictions and approve the changes under delegation if supported. If not supported a Council report could be prepared for Council’s consideration.

Due to the time it takes to undertake the necessary consultation with residents, Council officers could not prepare a report for the May Council meeting. To ensure adequate time for review and analysis, it is recommended that Council, if supporting this resolution, requests this report by July 2022.

**Coco Jackson Lane**

Council officers have been in discussions with a few residents abutting Coco Jackson Lane regarding traffic operations in the laneway. Initial engagement with residents regarding a potential road closure in 2021 indicated strong opposition from some residents to the proposal and identified a legitimate need for large vehicles to use the laneway, servicing the businesses on Lygon Street.

The proposed work is a significant investigation and engagement exercise. Alternative traffic management options to address inappropriate traffic behaviour need to be developed and then engagement would need to occur with the affected streets. This work would likely take 3-4 months and would affect other workload in the Transport team including delivery of capital works.

Unless additional financial resources are made available sooner (see below), a Council report on the outcomes of this engagement would not be achievable until late 2022. To ensure adequate time for investigation, options development, engagement and refinement, it is recommended that Council, if supporting this resolution, requests this report by December 2022.

**3. Financial Implications**

Officer’s comments:

Community engagement and the development of a Council report if required on Overend Street can be undertaken within existing budgets.

With respect to Coco Jackson Lane, any work on these transport matters between now and the end of the financial year would be at the expense of other programmed work and progress with investigations and responses to large numbers of awaiting customer requests.

Should Councillors consider the Coco Jackson Lane matter a priority in coming months, additional resources to undertake the analysis and prepare the report would cost approximately $8,000. Alternatively, it can be scheduled to commence in the new financial year.

**4. Resources Implications**

Officer’s comments:

See the comments under Financial Implications above.

**8.2 Support for National #ParentsUp Campaign**

**Cr Mark Riley**

## Motion

That Council:

1. Notes support for the #ParentsUp campaign.

2. [Signs up as a supporter of the #ParentsUp campaign](https://www.theparenthood.org.au/parents_up_supporters) and provides the City logo by the end of April 2022.

3. Shares the #ParentsUp petition in the Council e-news platforms and social media by the end of May 2022 (template copy will be provided).

4. Provides #ParentsUp information packs (to be provided) to Maternal Child Health centres by the end of May 2022.

5. Provides #ParentsUp materials (to be provided) to public spaces such as libraries by the end of May 2022.

## 1. Background

Cr Riley’s background:

All children deserve the best start in life to reach their full potential.

Parenting and early childhood matters. The early years, when 90 per cent of a child’s brain develops, are vital and present a great opportunity to build children’s health, development and learning. The relationships a child has in their early years shape all aspects of their development, including their social, emotional, intellectual and behavioural development, along with later life outcomes including self-confidence, motivation to learn and school achievement.

This makes early learning and care services and Paid Parental Leave critical pieces of social infrastructure - so that families can provide a stable, nurturing environment at home for their children, and access to high quality early education and care outside of the home.

Currently, Australia lags developed countries in the provision of best practice, evidence-based policies that support families and children. This fails to deliver optimal outcomes for children, parents, the community and the economy.

But there is a solution.

With the right investment in expanded Paid Parental Leave and high quality early learning and outside school hours care, Australia can be the best place in the world to be a parent.

**Ahead of the federal election,** [**#ParentsUp\* is a parent-led campaign**](http://link.mediaoutreach.meltwater.com/ls/click?upn=uJ2KNKL-2BRIRy0Am5kzO-2Bd7wjqxq0wnLWRniExSQqNg03Wndl97DK-2FRhLuEvU3t-2BnUdSHhXQGu17D0NQ9Jv0c9w-3D-3DKhAZ_JLxOnTfDa2AITCy9WWUq7KvzGuX5eJgY4SvDaRjYJD-2Fchbc7rh-2BULNQZQoo1jyS2oewrZ06o86gHj4UhnlO4-2B6vOADRCG9BmhKlufpqdnfD5cBCyTkCgJLwgEEksvRHAofBwBHf4J1jOdyQKfS7j7AP7fsHcv3smb1aFMI48p0OzAAvcNRsorgOfTil1DWEPRpp40c6XIkJPrWXyUv8Nce4KvwVdincSilryVzAgS-2FDxVDKw545mm7eG-2FA4NqkuT8-2F4f2j53f5gGo5RRgih8urpMOw5gldes361jzvdz0R0a2KadaqxT9S-2Fghf0Y88uHnf3rYJmVSV-2Fdv-2F13kbe29RYWfkSoyuXM6pAXHrMEONBOH4FwLg7nVsUQWgoOl-2Fo6KW49hVg5mmv3V3OMsujcPA-3D-3D) **calling for political candidates and parties to make commitments to provide:**

1. One year of Paid Parental Leave to be shared between parents, at full pay including super; and

2. Universal access to quality, inclusive Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) and Outside School Hours Care delivered by a properly paid and well supported workforce.

For every $1 we invest in early learning in the year before school, we get at least $2 in return. Quality early learning sets kids up for lifelong success and boosts productivity. Expanding Paid Parental Leave will boost GDP by $116 billion by 2050.

A shared paid parental scheme would give both parents an opportunity to develop skills in caring for and forming attachments with their children; ensure mothers are able to maintain a connection to the workforce; boost national breastfeeding rates, GDP through greater female participation in the workforce.

Councils right around Australia have a core responsibility in improving and fostering optimal health and wellbeing outcomes for families and children. Reform in this space has the power to support these health and wellbeing goals for councils, for council-run and private centres alike.

\*This campaign is supported by The Parenthood - an inclusive, independent, not-for-profit movement giving voice to parents, carers and their families. To find out more visit [https://www.theparenthood.org.au/a better deal for children](https://www.theparenthood.org.au/a%20better%20deal%20for%20children)

## 2. Policy Context

Officer’s comments:

The proposed resolution aligns with the aspirations of the Council Plan 2021- 2025 in relation to gender equity and the objectives of Moreland ‘s *Children, Young People and Families Plan 2021-2025.*

## 3. Financial Implications

Officer’s comments:

There are no financial implications arising from this notice of motion.

## 4. Resources Implications

Officer’s comments:

The resource implications required to implement this resolution can be achieved within existing staff resources.

**8.3 Signage at Hosken Reserve to show sporting ground allocation times**

**Cr James Conlan**

**Motion**

That Council brings forward the installation of temporary signage at Hosken Reserve to display up-to-date, real-time sporting ground allocation hours for sporting clubs and passive, recreational, community use, to be installed before 31 May 2022.

**1. Background**

Cr Conlan’s background:

* Residents have recently contacted council saying that they’ve had issues accessing Hosken Reserve north and east for passive, recreational use. While council is currently working towards reaching a resolution for Hosken Reserve that seeks to satisfy the needs of both the soccer club and the local community, there are still some ongoing tensions within community. Fully addressing these tensions will take some time, as council resolves the detail of the masterplan and delivers the associated works, which could be a number of years away.
* A small action council could take in the short term to help alleviate tensions between the local community and the soccer club, is to bring forward the installation of temporary sports ground usage signage that council has committed to via previous resolution. The signage would display the hours of usage allocated to the soccer club and the community and would also display a QR code for people to access real-time allocation changes and updates. Having this information clearly displayed around Hosken Reserve would provide a degree of increased transparency over usage, allowing everyone to fully see and understand when the grounds are allocated and to whom.
* While it is noted that sports ground booking information is subject to change at very short notice, it is technologically possible to install this infrastructure to display the information in real-time – the change would likely involve digitising council’s sports ground booking system, and linking it to a QR code which would be displayed on signs around Hosken Reserve. This would allow the public to use their phones to scan QR codes at Hosken Reserve, which could then link to a council, real-time website displaying up-to-date bookings. Many companies, organisations and government agencies have mastered the use of QR code technology during the pandemic. Thus, there is an opportunity here for council to leverage this widespread technology to help rebuild trust between council, the community and local organisations as we wait for the Hosken Reserve masterplan to be delivered.

**2. Policy Context**

Officer’s comments:

The Hosken Reserve Masterplan 2021 provides guidance on the planning and improvement of Hosken Reserve.

**3. Financial Implications**

Officer’s comments:

The creation of a QR code that provides a link to allocations information on Councils website can be provided within existing budgets. Signage to display this information could be at a minimum printed corflute which would have a small cost, however, to ensure signage is durable, printed metal signs are recommended which would have design, fabrication, and installation costs. If this motion is adopted by Council, costs would need to be kept under $5,000 as a notice of motion cannot approve expenditure above this level.

**4. Resources Implications**

Officer’s comments:

Information about existing allocations for community sport (but not for informal community use) can be developed via a QR code within existing resources.

A QR code can easily link to website information about the approved allocated booking hours.

However, real-time information on changes to allocations and accurate updates to ground usage may be impossible; it would be resource intensive and reactive. It would require additional staffing hours and would also require additional work from club volunteers.

The current booking system does not have the capacity for real-time amendments such as cancellations of training or games due to factors like inclement weather or coach, umpire or player availability changes (for example due to illness or unforeseen circumstances).

In addition, introducing this at one reserve and asking one club to provide this information may set an expectation for this to occur at other reserves that cannot be resourced at present.

**8.4 Graffiti Blitz**

**Cr Lambros Tapinos**

**Motion**

That Council calls for a report outlining actions which could be taken in a graffiti blitz and beautification program for our activity centres.

**1. Background**

Cr Tapinos’s background:

There has been a noticeable increase in graffiti and tagging and this has become a major concern in the municipality recently. As businesses begin to reopen after lockdown and many vacant shops are beginning to be leased again. It is important to undertake a graffiti blitz in partnership with our traders, residents and Victoria Police to remove graffiti more swiftly.

Council does clean graffiti and provide residents with graffiti cleaning kits, as well as investing in murals to discourage graffiti.

It is important to support our traders and expand cleaning of graffiti in our activity centres and work with traders to develop a program which will remove graffiti and tagging, clean and beautify our activity centres by removing redundant signs from shops fronts, improve shop front facades, where applicable highlighting heritage features, and increase amenity.

**2. Policy Context**

Officer’s comments:

Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025 includes Theme 4: Vibrant places and spaces in Moreland. This theme has the strategic objective “To create welcoming, unique spaces and places across Moreland that attract and connect everyone, improving access to community facilities and affordable housing and encouraging vibrant artistic, social and economic activity”. There are two strategies under this theme that relate to graffiti removal and prevention and activity centre placemaking, namely:

 Strategy 4.5: Promote the amenity and liveability of the public realm with services, facilities, community participation, strong local laws and compliance activities

 Strategy 4.9: Revitalise Moreland’s major activity centres to deliver new integrated community facilities and services, enable new cultural spaces, create jobs and improve local accessibility and amenity, while protecting the special character that each centre is known for and advocating for affordable housing outcomes

Major initiatives and priorities for this theme relevant to Cr Tapinos’s NOM are:

 31. Activate major activity centres with intensive, holistic, rapid turnaround economic programs that increase social and economic activity and enhance local identity

 32. In consultation with the community, develop and implement a new Public Realm Amenity Service Plan to keep our spaces and places clean, safe and inviting.

Council’s normal operations with respect to graffiti removal are governed by the policy settings spelt out in the Moreland Graffiti Strategy, as follows:

 Council currently removes graffiti on Council-owned and managed assets (buildings, playgrounds, public toilets, signs, light poles, furniture, roads and footpaths). This is undertaken by internal crews assisted by contractors when required when incidents are reported by the public or when they are identified through regular inspections.

 While Council does not remove graffiti from private property as a general rule, assistance is offered in cases where graffiti is deemed to be offensive and is visible from a public place. This cannot be done unless permission is given from the resident or business owner in the first instance (See *Graffiti Prevention Act 2007*).

 Assistance is offered for private property owners through the supply of graffiti removal kits. These kits contain tools and low-level chemicals to assist with the removal of graffiti. Instructions are also provided on the safe use of these kits, and upon request, Council officers can also offer basic training. For larger areas, paint vouchers are also available for residents to paint over graffiti on private property as an alternative to graffiti removal.

Councillors considered a $20,000 graffiti removal blitz in the 2021/22 budget process and decided not to proceed with this at that time due to competing priorities.

Fortunately, Council has recently accessed $975,000 in grant funding from the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions *COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation Fund*. Among other initiatives, this has allowed officers to commence a graffiti removal blitz. $64,000 has been allocated to undertaking the graffiti blitz in this financial year.

The blitz has a focus on key activity areas across the municipality including businesses and open spaces. Arrangements are being put in place for graffiti removal from private businesses in key precincts that have been particularly hard hit over the lockdowns. Additionally there is funding in the program allocated to improving street furniture.

A process is underway to gain owner consent and inform them of the special circumstances of the graffiti removal blitz, in particular that it is a one-off opportunity given the extra funding that we have been able to access. Additionally, for vacant buildings officers are implementing an opt-out rather than opt-in process for graffiti removal.

Council has historically also partnered with the Department of Justice and Community Safety in a program for graffiti removal by young offenders. This program has been paused during COVID, but we are working with the Department on recommencing this program.

Complementing graffiti removal activities, Council has also been engaged from time to time with graffiti prevention activities and local beautification activities supporting local artists. The Renuwall Graffiti Prevention Program is a highly effective program that supports local artists to paint murals on walls that commonly attract graffiti. This has been demonstrated to reduce unwanted graffiti in those locations.

**3. Financial Implications**

Officer’s comments:

Continuing with the current graffiti blitz is funded through the *COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation Fund* and will be completed within the current financial year. Should further attention to graffiti removal at levels higher than Council’s normal operations, additional funding would be required.

Council could determine that it is appropriate to refer consideration of additional funding to the 2022/23 Budget Process. Alternatively, it could be considered at the first quarter financial update in 2022/23.

The Renuwall program does not have ongoing funding – a six-month program costs approximately $65,000.

**4. Resources Implications**

Officer’s comments:

Should additional funding be provided through grants or a Council budget decision for higher levels of service around graffiti removal, the staff time to administer this can generally be covered by normal operational funding.

It is not possible to find the resources internally to deliver the higher levels of service or additional public art programs without further funding being allocated.