



Moreland
City Council

SPECIAL COUNCIL AGENDA

Wednesday 27 April 2022

Commencing 6pm

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

Language Link

This is the Agenda for the Council meeting.
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Đây là Nghị Trình cuộc họp của Ủy Ban Quy Hoạch Đô Thị. Nếu muốn biết thêm chi tiết về đề tài thảo luận, xin gọi điện thoại cho Language Link qua số 9280 1915.

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ਇਹ ਕੌਂਸਲ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਦਾ ਏਜੰਡਾ ਹੈ। ਏਜੰਡੇ ਦੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਆਈਟਮ ਬਾਰੇ ਮਦਦ ਲਈ, ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 9280 0751 ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

1. **WELCOME**
2. **APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
3. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS**
4. **COUNCIL REPORTS**
 - 4.1 **PROPOSED MORELAND CITY COUNCIL 4-YEAR BUDGET
2022-2026**

3

4. COUNCIL REPORTS

4.1 PROPOSED MORELAND CITY COUNCIL 4-YEAR BUDGET 2022-2026

Director Business Transformation Sue Vujcevic

Finance Management

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

1. Endorses the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 (provided as Attachment 1 to this report), for the purpose of community exhibition.
2. Endorses the Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan (provided as Attachment 2 to this report), for the purpose of community exhibition.
3. Endorses the outcomes of the Community Budget Idea's Process (provided as Attachment 3 to this report), noting that the proposed budget includes the following selection of community budget ideas totaling \$462,500 (higher than the \$250,000 allowed for).
 - i) Hadfield sporting club scoreboard \$85,000
 - ii) Merri Creek Trail: Seating Installation Blitz (25 seats) \$87,500
 - iii) Harold Stevens Athletics Track – fences need attention \$150,000
 - iv) Community access to a commercial kitchen \$70,000
 - v) Extending the Youth Holistic Outreach Program for one year (YHOP) \$60,000
 - vi) Northside Renters Rights Info Nights \$10,000.
4. Notes the draft Moreland Council Action Plan 2022-2023 (provided as Attachment 4 to this report) as the second year of actions to deliver against the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025. This document will be presented for endorsement at the meeting on the 23 June 2022.
5. Notes that \$10.1 million will be transferred to Significant Projects Reserve to accumulate funding for Council's long-term significant priorities which include, but are not limited to, the Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment and the Saxon Street project.
6. Invites feedback on the Proposed Budget and the Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan for the 21-day public exhibition period until 5pm on 22 May 2022.
7. Makes the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 and Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan available on the Council website and hard copies available at the three civic centres and all libraries.
8. Appoints the Mayor as Chair, and Councillors to hear from submitters who indicate they wish to be heard in support of their feedback in relation to the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 and Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan.
9. Sets the date and time of the meeting to hear submitters requesting to be heard in support of their written feedback to the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 and Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan as 6pm on Thursday 2 June 2022, to be held at the Coburg Civic Centre (noting that the location and format of this is subject to change in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions).
10. Receives a further report at its meeting on 23 June 2022 outlining any feedback received on the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 and Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan; and presenting a final Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 and Community Infrastructure Plan for consideration for adoption.

REPORT

Executive Summary

Council must prepare and adopt a rolling 4-year Budget that contains financial statements and other matters. This must be finally approved by Council no later than 30 June each year. The purpose of this report is to present Moreland City Council's proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 (the Proposed Budget) for endorsement for public exhibition.

The Proposed Budget continues to deliver services to Moreland's 184,700 plus residents within the 1.75 per cent rate cap set by the State Government, funds Councillor and community initiatives and delivers critical major projects while maintaining Council's financial sustainability.

Key features of the budget include:

- An operating projects program of \$5.4 million. Key projects in the program include:
 - Urban Forest Strategy – Tree Planting Regime (\$0.5 million) and Nature Plan Implementation (\$0.1 million);
 - Zero Carbon Moreland (ZCM) Emergency Action Plan (\$0.4 million);
 - Continuing the solar and/or thermal grants for low-income earners (\$0.4 million);
 - Funding to develop a new Food Hub in Moreland's north (\$0.2 million); and
 - Developing the open space strategy (\$0.3 million).
- A capital works program of \$56.8 million. Key projects in the program include:
 - Commencing construction of the \$27.8 million Fawkner Leisure Centre redevelopment (\$1.5 million);
 - Commencing construction of the \$22.6 million Saxon Street Community Hub (\$5.0 million);
 - Completing the construction of the \$11.3 million Fleming Park redevelopment (\$6.5 million);
 - Commencing the upgrade works for several kindergartens over the next five years totalling \$14.6 million. Including completing Oak Park kindergarten & Doris Blackburn in 22/23 (\$3.4 million);
 - Park Close to Home, the creation of new parks in dense urban areas including Service Street, Coburg and Frith Street, Brunswick (\$3.3 million);
 - Library Books and Library Collection (\$1.0 million);
 - Footpaths and Bike paths (\$4.6 million); and
 - Roads and carparks (\$12.3 million).
- As part of Council's first participatory budgeting process earlier this year, funding six community budget ideas totalling \$462,500:
 - Hadfield sporting club scoreboard \$85,000;
 - Merri Creek Trail: Seating Installation Blitz \$87,500;
 - Harold Stevens Athletics Track – fences \$150,000;
 - Community access to a commercial kitchen \$70,000;
 - Extending the Youth Holistic Outreach Program (YHOP) \$60,000 and;

- Northside Renters Rights Info Night \$10,000.
- The Proposed Budget continues Council's strong commitment to delivering on its major projects pipeline with a further \$10.1 million set aside for the Significant Projects Reserve to fund future projects. The Glenroy Community Hub project was completed in 2021-22 and the Saxon Street Redevelopment and Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment projects commencing construction in 2022-23.
- A surplus of \$0.4 million which is proposed to be kept aside for potential allocation following feedback received through the public exhibition process.
- The budget is informed by the Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan (provided as Attachment 2). The Community Infrastructure Plan guides the planning and delivery of all Council owned community infrastructure and is foundation to the Capital Works Plan that is included within the Budget. The Community Infrastructure Plan sets out Council capital investment priorities for community infrastructure and the projects identified for Years 1 to 5 are included in the Proposed Budget (24 capital projects).
- The budget is informed by the Draft Moreland Council Action Plan 2022-2023 (provided as Attachment 4). The Council Action Plan is developed annually to support implementation of the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025 and identifies the major priorities and actions to deliver against the Strategic Objectives (as contained in the Council Plan).
- The budget has been prepared in accordance with the Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-25.

This report presents the Proposed 4-year Budget 2021-2026 (**Attachment 1**) for Council endorsement to make it available for public exhibition and comment.

Previous Council Decisions

The Budget is approved annually and the Previous Council Resolution in relation to the 2020-21 budget is as follows:

That Council:

1. Having considered all submissions received and in accordance with Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020, adopts the Annual Budget 2021–25 (Attachment 1 to this report) and the 4-year Revenue and Rating Strategy 2021-2025, at Attachment 2 to this report subject to the following change:
 - a) In the 2021-22 Capital Works Program, delete the \$50,000 to fund the unsightly land and property vehicle purchase
 - b) In the 2021-22 Capital Works Program, add \$40,000 to fund lighting at Brearley Reserve.
 - c) In the 2022-23 Capital Works Program, defer to 2025/26 the additional Oak Park Pool Slide \$500,000.
 - d) Amend the 2021-22 proposed budget, at Appendix A – Strategic Projects as follows:
 - i) Graffiti, Rubbish, Cleaning & Dumped Rubbish Blitz – reduce by \$20,000 to \$30,000.
 - ii) Unsightly land & property – delete the \$140,000 allocated in 2021-22 and delete the outer year allocation.
 - iii) Community News – delete the \$30,000
 - iv) Phasing out of gas – delete the \$100,000
 - v) Disability access shopfronts grant program – delete the \$50,000
 - vi) Fund a hockey pitch feasibility study – add \$40,000

2. Formally declares the Rates Levies and Annual Service Charges for the 2021-22 rating year as follows:

a) Declaration of Rates and Charges:

In accordance with section 158 of the Local Government Act 1989, the following rates and charges are declared for the rating year commencing 1 July 2021 and ending 30 June 2022.

b) Amount intended to be raised:

An amount of \$170,193,792 (or such other amount as is lawfully raised as a consequence of this resolution) be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by general rates and the annual service charge, which is calculated as follows:

| Category | Amount |
|--|---------------|
| Residential properties | \$135,442,720 |
| Commercial properties | \$8,258,305 |
| Industrial properties | \$5,063,210 |
| Municipal charge | \$0 |
| Service charges | \$21,414,211 |
| Charge in lieu of rates on cultural and recreational lands | \$15,346 |
| Total | \$170,193,792 |

Rates Information:

i. General rates:

A general rate to be declared for the 2021-22 financial year. The rateable amount per property will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable property by the rate in the dollar indicated in the following table:

| Category | Rate |
|------------------------|--|
| Residential properties | 0.0024283 (0.24283 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value) |
| Commercial properties | 0.0024283 (0.24283 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value) |
| Industrial properties | 0.0024283 (0.24283 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value) |

ii. No amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of general rate in respect of each rateable property within the municipal district.

c) Municipal charge:

No municipal charge is declared in respect of the 2021-22 financial year.

d) Annual service charge:

i. An annual service charge, for the collection and disposal of refuse, be declared in respect of the 2021-22 financial year.

- ii. The annual service charge be in the sum of, and be based on the criteria, set out below:

| Category | Rate |
|---|-----------|
| 60 litres of capacity | \$92.64 |
| 80 litres of capacity | \$247.03 |
| 120 litres of capacity | \$555.82 |
| 120 litre bin (shared 240 litre) | \$416.87 |
| 160 litres of capacity | \$802.85 |
| 160 litres of capacity (concession approved) | \$401.43 |
| 200 litres of capacity | \$988.13 |
| 200 litres of capacity (concession approved) | \$494.06 |
| 240 litres of capacity (residential properties) | \$1173.40 |
| 240 litres of capacity (shared) | \$185.27 |
| 240 litres of capacity (residential property concession approved) | \$586.70 |

- e) Cultural and recreational land:

In accordance with section 4(4) of the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963, the following amounts be declared as a charge in lieu of the general rate (which would otherwise be payable):

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| Glenroy Road, Glenroy | Northern Golf Club | 12,736 |
| Outlook Road, Coburg | Vic Amateur Basketball Association | 2,610 |
| Total: | | 15,346 |

- f) Incentives:

No incentives are declared for the payment of general rates (and annual service charge described earlier in this resolution) before dates fixed or specified for their payment under section 167 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

- g) Interest on rates and charges:

- i. Interest is to be charged in accordance with section 172 of the Local Government Act 1989, on any amounts of rates and charges which have not yet been paid by the instalment dates fixed by the Minister in accordance with section 167 of the Local Government Act 1989;
- ii. That the interest to be charged is at the rate fixed under section 2 of the Penalty Interest Rates Act 1983, that applied on the first day of July immediately before the due date for payment; and
- iii. Interest on rates and charges is to be calculated from the date on which the instalment was due.

- h) Interest on unpaid monies:

- i. Interest is to be charged on any amounts of money (other than rates and charges) which a person owes to the Council, and which has not been paid by the due date;
- ii. The interest rate shall be determined by Council from time to time and shall not exceed the rate fixed from time to time by the Order-in-Council; and
- iii. That such interest is to be applied in accordance with the provisions of section 227A of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to make the final documents available for public inspection.
4. Advises all submitters that Council has considered their submissions relating to the Draft Annual Budget 2021–22 and that the submitters be advised of the outcome of the consideration as it relates to their specific submission, and they be thanked for their contributions.

1. Policy Context

The Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 has been prepared in accordance with the requirement of Section 94 of the LGA 2020 and part 3 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting Regulations 2020 which requires councils to prepare a budget for each financial year and the three subsequent financial years.

The Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 (Proposed Budget) has been informed the Council Plan 2021-2025, the Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan, and includes the outcomes of the community budget ideas process held in February and March 2022.

2. Background

Council is required to produce a rolling 4-year budget for each financial year by 30 June. Council held a community budget ideas process throughout February and March 2022 to inform the draft budget.

The Proposed Budget is included as **Attachment 1** to this report. It is recommended that it is displayed for public exhibition for 21-days throughout May for further community engagement and feedback.

3. Issues

Proposed 4-Year Budget 2021-2025

It is challenging to fund the delivery of services to Moreland's 184,700 plus residents and deliver on the ambitious Council goals all within the rate cap of 1.75 per cent set by the Minister for Local Government. The Proposed Budget delivers a balanced approach to delivery of key outcomes for the Moreland community while maintaining Council's financial sustainability.

This Proposed Budget provides for an underlying surplus of \$21.8 million that excludes capital contributions and developer contributions. In this analysis, these items are excluded as they relate to capital commitments and as such are not used to fund the operations of Council – thus providing a clear view of Council's financial sustainability.

Council remains in a healthy financial position through prudent financial management and ensuring that sufficient cash is available to fund our operations, projects and balance sheet items. Total Council expenditure will amount to \$204.3 million and requires a Comprehensive Income Statement surplus of \$39.2 million to meet the following requirements:

- \$2.1 million in loan principal repayments. Repayment of loan interest is included in the income statement whilst the principal repayment is a balance sheet item and requires cash funding;
- \$1.8 million transfer to the Local Government Funding Vehicle reserve. This continues the process of setting aside funds to pay the interest only loan in June 2026 when it falls due; and
- \$6.9 million in additional rates funded capital expenditure beyond depreciation (depreciation being non-cash expenditure, reflects the level of asset consumption and is often a way of funding capital renewal expenditure).

It is noted that construction costs (materials and labour) are escalating beyond current estimates and cost estimates are becoming increasingly difficult to predict. Officers expect that for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 years, cost pressures will increase significantly, and this may impact our ability to deliver the full program.

We propose that any cost overruns on capital projects will be managed via the following approaches:

- Seeking a resolution at Financial Year End to accumulate any minor surplus funding from the 2021/22 Financial Year actual results to the Significant Projects reserve.
- If and where costs can be accommodated with minor reallocations of funding from one source to another (either because there are savings or because program funding for reactive works is available), this to be recommended by officers and reported in the financial updates to Council.
- Where projects can be delayed in order to free up budget for cost overruns, these will be brought to Council for the deferral to be approved.

The proposed budget was developed alongside the Gender Impact Assessment **Attachment 5**, which aims to create better and fairer outcomes and ensure people have equal access to opportunities and resources.

Property Revaluations and the Rate Rise

As part of the budgeting process, officers have prepared the Proposed Budget in alignment with the adopted Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025, which provides the legislative and practical background for the rating framework and outlines the logic behind Council's current rating structure.

Average rates in 2022-23 will increase by 1.75 per cent, in line with the rate cap set by the Victorian Government under the Fair Go Rates System. The valuation function is centralised with the Valuer-General of Victoria and the valuation figures used in this 2022-23 proposed budget report are the preliminary valuations provided and yet to be certified. Certification is expected to be received during May and any changes to the preliminary valuations will be adjusted and reflected in the final budget report scheduled for the Council Meeting on 23 June 2022. Total rates revenue collected by Council will not increase as a result of any valuation changes.

Waste Charges

The 2022-23 proposed budget proposes the charge for an 80-litre garbage (or landfill) bin to increase by 54 cents per week or \$28.19 per year (to a total cost of \$275.22 per annum), largely due to the proposed increase to the landfill levy increase imposed by the State Government, the increased fuel costs as well as starting the work to increase our waste streams from 3 to 4 to accommodate the Victorian State Government Circular Economy Waste Policy.

The charge per litre for an 80-litre bin (\$3.44 per litre per annum) remains much lower than the rate for larger bins to encourage reduced waste. The annual waste fees are directly linked to the cost of providing the waste services, on a cost recovery basis.

The 2022-23 Operating Projects Program

The operating projects program amounts to \$5.4 million. This is another year of significant investment to progress key Council Plan initiatives. These projects are detailed in **Attachment 1** – Appendix A. Key projects in the program include:

- Zero Carbon Moreland (ZCM) Emergency Action Plan (\$0.4 million);
- Urban Forest Strategy – Tree Planting Regime (\$0.5 million);

- Continuing the solar and/or thermal grants for low-income earners (\$0.4 million); and
- Developing the open space strategy (\$0.3 million).

The 2022-23 Capital Works Program

This Proposed Budget continues Council’s strong commitment to delivering on its major projects pipeline with a further \$10.1 million set aside for the Significant Projects Reserve to fund future projects. The Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment and Saxon Street Community Hub are the next two significant projects to commence construction in 2022-23.

The proposed new Capital Works Program amounts to \$59.8 million (\$34.8 million funded by rates, \$5.7 million from grants and contributions and \$16.3 million from reserves). Key deliverables in the program include:

- Commencing construction of the \$27.8 million Fawkner Leisure Centre redevelopment (\$1.5 million);
- Commencing construction of the \$22.6 million Saxon Street Community Hub (\$5.0 million);
- Completing the construction of the \$11.3 million Fleming Park redevelopment (\$6.5 million); and
- Commencing the upgrade works for several kindergartens over the next five years totalling \$14.6 million. Including completing Oak Park kindergarten & Doris Blackburn in 22/23 (\$3.4 million).

Borrowings

Council have proposed an increase to borrowings of \$8.0 million in the 2022-23 financial year. This will be borrowed for a 10-year period at a variable interest rate to fund the Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment.

Items referred to the budget

This table below provides a summary of the council resolutions that have been referred to the 2022/23 budget process that have already been included in the Proposed Budget:

| Council Report and Resolution | Budget Inclusion |
|---|--|
| February 2022 Advisory Committees That Council: 8. Notes \$10,000 of new funding to support implementation of Advisory Committees and Reference Groups will be referred to the 2022/2023 budget process. | This has been funded in the Proposed 4-year Budget. |
| July 2021 ATC Cook Reserve and Allard/Jones Park –Place Based Community co-management model for open space That Council: 2. Defers to the mid-year budget update consideration of additional funding of \$90,000 spread across calendar year 2022, for the purposes of setting up the trial, establishing website content and resourcing an Engagement Officer. | This has been funded in the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026. The budget includes funding for six months to allow for finalisation of the trial. |

| Council Report and Resolution | Budget Inclusion |
|---|---|
| <p>November 2021 Kent Road Engagement and Review – Pedestrian and Bicycle Program</p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>6. Refers the \$820,000 in savings from the 2021/22 capital works budget for rephasing to the outer years of the 2022 – 2026 Council budget and included as part of the rolling 10-year Pedestrian and Bicycle Capital Works Program.</p> | <p>Expenditure levels for the rolling 10-year Pedestrian and Bicycle Capital Works Program will include the utilisation of the \$820k savings.</p> |
| <p>October 2021 Waste Strategy</p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>2. Refers the required project resourcing (approximately \$40,000) to the mid-year budget review, and a related budget proposal (approximately \$40,000) for consideration in the FY22/23 budget process.</p> | <p>This has been funded in the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026. The Budget includes resourcing of the Waste Strategy.</p> |
| <p>October 2021 Hosken Reserve Masterplan</p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>This has been funded in the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026.</p> <p>Expenditure for Hosken Reserve is included in the Capital Works Program with implementation completed by 2023/24.</p> |
| <p>October 21 Brunswick South Primary School</p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>6. Undertakes pedestrian and vehicle counts when schools are fully operational at the Brunswick Street / Lygon Street intersection to determine whether the criteria for a School Crossing supervisor are met and if so, refer the matter to the 2022-23 budget process.</p> | <p>This has been funded in the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026.</p> |
| <p>December 21 Weed Management - Glyphosate Trial</p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>2. Notes the commencement in July 2021 of Council's own weed management trial including community feedback from trial areas to date and notes the budget recommendations that will be put forward for 2022/2023.</p> | <p>The outcomes of the weed management trial including community feedback will be put forward for 2023/2024 Budget cycle</p> |
| <p>December 21 Fawkner Leisure Centre That Council: 5. Refers the need for additional budget of \$7.99 million to deliver Stage 1 of the Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment to the 2022/23 budget process and associated update of the 5-year Capital Works Program, comprising estimated construction costs and Architectural and Project Management costs.</p> | <p>This has been funded in the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026.</p> |

| Council Report and Resolution | Budget Inclusion |
|--|--|
| | Expenditure for Fawkner Leisure Centre Stage 1 is included in the Capital Works Program with implementation completed by 2024/25. |
| <p>August 21 Dog Parks in the North</p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>3. Directs officers to plan and undertake engagement with the community on the eight potential sites for a fenced dog-off-leash areas in the north referenced in this report, select the highest priority two sites – one in Glenroy/Pascoe Vale and one in Fawkner - and determine the cost of construction to present to Council for decision in the 2022/23 budget</p> | <p>This has been funded in the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026.</p> <p>There is an allocation of \$390k in 2022/23 to support the completion of two dog parks in the North included within the Capital Works Program and aligns with Council Plans Actions for Year 2.</p> |
| <p>August 21 Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve</p> <p>- That Council:</p> <p>4. Notwithstanding this, agrees that the Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve in Glenroy has experienced an increased level of usage and that this justifies its identification as a priority for upgrade and directs officers to proceed with preparation of concept design and engagement approach leading to a firm understanding of project costs for a public toilet (cost estimated at \$180,000) for consideration in the 2022/23 budget process, and consideration of whether picnic shelter and BBQ facilities, car park, lighting and landscaping should be part of the scope.</p> | <p>Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve Funding is included in the Capital Works Program with implementation completed by 2022/23.</p> <p>The funding will provide for the delivery of the picnic shelter and BBQ facilities, car park, lighting and landscaping and a public toilet.</p> <p>Funding does not provide for wetlands or for a dog park.</p> |

Other items were referred to the budgeting process during the 2021/22 Financial year and have been considered by Councillors during the Proposed Budget development process (budget workshops); however they have not been proposed for inclusion in the Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026.

Council Action Plan 2022-23

As outlined in the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025, an annual action plan (including the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing actions) is developed each year over the 4-year Council Plan period to include priority actions to be taken in that financial year for the implementation of the Council Plan.

This annual planning method enables Council to be more opportunistic in the delivery of the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025, whilst providing flexibility in responding to changing and/or unforeseen circumstances (e.g. the COVID-19 pandemic,

partnerships, grant opportunities and development of the 10 Year Asset Plan and Community Infrastructure Plan).

Accordingly, a draft Moreland Council Action Plan 2022-2023 (provided as Attachment 3) has been developed to support implementation of the Moreland Council Plan 2021-2025 and identifies the major priorities and actions to deliver against the Strategic Objectives (as contained in the Council Plan).

The Action Plan is resourced for delivery through the 2022-23 annual budget and has been informed by a number of key inputs, including

- workshops with Councillors to determine priorities for the year ahead;
- the community budget ideas process; and
- feedback received via the community engagement process (Imagine Moreland engagement program) carried out from February to October 2021.

The Council Action Plan 2022-23 will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption alongside the Annual Budget 2022-23 in June 2022, pending any amendments in line with changes arising from the budget process.

All annual commitments documented in the draft Moreland Council Action Plan 2022-2023 will form part of quarterly and annual performance reporting to Council.

Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan

The Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan guides the planning and delivery of all Council owned community infrastructure. The Community Infrastructure Plan responds to increasing demand for community infrastructure from a growing and changing population. It focusses on improving the performance of the community infrastructure Council owns, while directing new investment that provides the most benefit to the community. The Community Infrastructure Plan can also help Council secure external funding or project partners by identifying priorities for investment.

The Community Infrastructure Plan sets out Council capital investment priorities for community infrastructure and projects identified for Years 1 to 5 are included in the Proposed Budget (24 capital projects).

Key features of the Community Infrastructure Plan include:

- An overarching policy framework, linked to the Community Vision, designed to guide Council's planning and delivery of all community infrastructure over a 10-year period.
- Two broad approaches for addressing community infrastructure needs:
 - Strategies to optimise the use of facilities, seek other forms of investment and improve experiences for the community. The strategies apply to the entire network of Council-owned community infrastructure.
 - Capital investment projects to upgrade, expand or build new community infrastructure. This includes further planning activities for capital projects.
- A total of 42 capital projects including 15 projects in Moreland North, 14 in Moreland Central and 13 in Moreland South. Of those projects, a total of 24 capital projects are funded to be delivered in the next five years through Council's Capital Works Program, external grants and contributions.

The Community Infrastructure Plan will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption alongside the Annual Budget 2022-23 in June 2022, pending any amendments in line with feedback received through the consultation process.

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. Community consultation and engagement

Engagement Activity for the Budget

In accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy 2020 the engagement process for the budget included gathering community budget ideas from the community to inform the draft budget between February and March 2022. As part of Council's first participatory budget process, \$250,000 was set aside to fund community ideas and include into the proposed budget.

In the initial stage of engagement, we called for community ideas that met the criteria. In the second stage we ran a community voting program, including three pop-up sessions, each person had three votes to allocate to their top three projects.

A range of engagement methods were used to maximise participation and to ensure that people could contribute ideas to the budget in an accessible and inclusive way. Engagement activities included:

- Post cards were available at customer service and libraries to provide a written idea;
- Call for written submissions by post and via our digital engagement platform Conversations Moreland;
- The customer service had an on-hold message;
- An insert was included in the aged care newsletter; and
- 3 Pop-up sessions were run with 180 participants to complete the voting (stage 2) aspect of the engagement.

In this initial stage of engagement Council received 45 submissions, 32 projects meeting the criteria to progress to the second stage for community voting.

The participation rates in stage one engagement for the Budget were the highest that Council budget process has ever reached (ahead of a typical formal public exhibition process). The second stage of the community budget ideas occurred in March where the community had the opportunity to vote on three projects which they supported. 1,412 people participated in the voting process.

Attachment 2 is a detailed report on the community budget ideas process including all ideas.

The proposed budget includes six community budget ideas totaling \$462,500:

Ideas with the highest community votes:

- Hadfield sporting club scoreboard \$85,000;
- Merri Creek Trail: Seating Installation Blitz \$87,500 (Seat numbers reduced to 25);

Other selected community Ideas:

- Harold Stevens Athletics Track – fences \$150,000;
- Community access to a commercial kitchen \$70,000;
- Extending the Youth Holistic Outreach Program (YHOP) \$60,000 and;
- Northside Renters Rights Info Night \$10,000.

The second phase of engagement will occur from 2 May until 22 May. The purpose of this stage of engagement is to share the draft document of the Budget with the community and invite comments on the draft. Methods for this stage of engagement will be aligned with Council's Community Engagement Policy 2020 and include:

- Call for feedback on the draft budget by post and via our digital engagement platform Conversations Moreland;

- Targeted engagement of previous submitters and non-English speaking and CALD communities, inviting feedback on the draft document via community ‘drop-in’ information session at the Brunswick, Coburg and Glenroy libraries;
- A Feedback Forum event where community members can attend Council in person to share their feedback on the draft Budget.

Engagement Activity for the Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan

Community feedback for the Community Infrastructure Plan has been split into two stages:

- Stage one included a ‘conversation’ with the Imagine Moreland Community Panel, who were also tasked with defining Moreland’s Community Vision. The Moreland Community Panel were asked how we could improve our community infrastructure and how we should prioritise investment in community infrastructure.
- Stage two is public exhibition of the draft Community Infrastructure Plan. The community are invited to provide feedback on the draft document that will be considered in finalising the Community Infrastructure Plan. Engagement activities include community ‘drop-in’ information session at the Brunswick, Coburg and Glenroy libraries.

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

Costs associated with the preparation of the Proposed Budget, including the cost of public exhibition, are funded from the 2021-22 operating budget allocations.

7. Implementation

Subject to Council’s decision, the Proposed Budget will be advertised followed by a 21-day public exhibition period. Feedback will be heard at a meeting on Thursday 2 June 2022.

Following consideration of the feedback, a final proposed budget will be presented for Council consideration and with a recommendation to declare the rates for 2022-23 at the Special Council Meeting on Thursday 23 June 2022.

Attachment/s

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|------------|
| 1 ↓ | Proposed 4-year Budget 2022-2026 | D22/150909 |
| 2 ↓ | Proposed Community Infrastructure Plan | D22/163596 |
| 3 ↓ | 2022-2023 Community Budget Idea’s Process | D22/151003 |
| 4 ↓ | Draft Moreland Council Action Plan 2022-2023 | D22/161682 |
| 5 ↓ | Gender Impact Assessment | D22/161879 |



Moreland City Council

Draft Budget 2022-2026

Contents

| | Page |
|--|------|
| Mayor and CEO Introduction | 1 |
| Financial Overview | 2 |
| Service Delivery | |
| 1 Link to the integrated planning & reporting framework | 4 |
| 2 Council services | 6 |
| Financial Reports | |
| 3 Financial statements | 21 |
| 4 Notes to budgeted financial statements (includes other budget information as required by legislation) | 27 |
| 5 Financial performance indicators | 39 |
| 6 Detailed list of capital works | 41 |
| Appendices | |
| A Operating Projects 2022/23 | 61 |
| B Proposed Fees & Charges Schedule 2022/23 | 62 |

Mayor Introduction



Mayor Cr Mark Riley

The draft budget for Moreland Council is an important document as it sets out what and how Council can fund essential services and projects in coming years. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought huge challenges for the community, and Moreland has faced financial challenges in providing new and modified services to people who need it most, while dealing with reduced income. Council will continue to be agile in pivoting our services and programs to support community and business.

The 2022-23 draft budget continues a focus on core services and infrastructure, while improving services and making innovations where possible. The draft budget focuses on the new priorities of the 2021-2025 Council Plan which focuses on the following five themes:

- 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; and
- 5) An empowered and collaborative Moreland.

The draft budget has been influenced by community ideas from our community engagement earlier in this year. In the first stage of engagement we called for community ideas and received 32 projects or initiatives that met the criteria. In the second stage we ran a community voting program, including three pop-up sessions, we had a total of 1,412 people vote on their top three projects. The \$250,000 allocated to the community budget ideas. Due to the overwhelming support and engagement in the process, Council has funded the top 2 projects as supported by the community and has selected a further 4 ideas for further funding. In total, we have supported a total of \$462,500 of community budget ideas and incorporated them into the draft budget:

As voted by the community

- Hadfield sporting club scoreboard \$85,000
- Merri Creek Trail: Seating Installation Blitz (25 seats) \$87,500

Additional Funding

- Harold Stevens Athletics Track – fences need attention \$150,000
- Community access to a commercial kitchen \$70,000
- Extending the Youth Holistic Outreach Program (YHOP) \$60,000
- Northside Renters Rights Info Nights \$10,000

Council has committed to delivering key significant infrastructure pieces to the community. The \$30.1 million Glenroy Community Hub was completed in 21/22 and will have its official open day on Sunday, 15 May 2022. The next two key infrastructure projects commencing construction in 2022/23 are the \$27.8 million Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment (stage one) and the \$22.6 million Saxon Street Community Hub. Council has undergone extensive community feedback on the Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment which resulted in an increase to the budget of \$8.0 million.

I, along with all other Moreland Councillors, look forward to working with you in the community to deliver these valued services and exciting projects throughout the coming four years for the benefit of the community. We really value our community's input and would encourage you to look over the Draft Budget and share your feedback by Sunday, 22 May 2022.

