

MINUTES

COMMUNITY FOCUS COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 14 AUGUST 2018

7.12PM

GEELONG WEST TOWN HALL
PAKINGTON STREET
GEELONG WEST

COUNCIL:

Cr B Harwood (Kardinia Ward)
Mayor

Cr S Asher (Bellarine Ward)
Cr J Mason (Bellarine Ward)
Cr T Sullivan (Bellarine Ward)
Cr E Kontelj (Brownbill Ward)
Cr S Mansfield (Brownbill Ward)
Cr P Murrhy (Brownbill Ward)
Cr R Nelson (Kardinia Ward)
Cr P Murnane (Kardinia Ward)
Cr A Aitken (Windermere Ward)
Cr K Grzybek (Windermere Ward)

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**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY FOCUS COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE GREATER GEELONG CITY COUNCIL
HELD AT THE GEELONG WEST TOWN HALL
PAKINGTON STREET, GEELONG WEST
TUESDAY, 14 AUGUST 2018
COMMENCING AT 7.25PM**

PRESENT: Cr B Harwood (Mayor), Crs A Aitken, S Asher, K Grzybek, E Kontelj, S Mansfield, J Mason, P Murnane, P Murrhy, R Nelson, T Sullivan

Also present: M Cutter (Chief Executive Officer), J Van Slageren (Acting Director Manager Planning and Development), B Luxford (Director Investment & Attraction), G Wilson-Browne (Director City Services), F Gray (Acting Director Community Life), P Anderson (Director Finance & Strategy), A Keen (Executive Manager People and Organisation Development), R Leonard (Executive Manager Governance & Legal Services)

OPENING: The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.25pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Council acknowledged Wadawurrung Traditional Owners of this land and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who are part of the Greater Geelong community today.

APOLOGIES: Nil.

WELCOME:

The Mayor welcomed a group of twelve delegates from Coffs Harbour City Council which included the Mayor, four Councillors and seven staff. The delegation are in Geelong on a two day study tour looking at a variety of projects, in particular the Geelong Waterfront Precinct, Geelong Library and Heritage Centre, Geelong Art Gallery, Geelong Performing Arts Centre, Central Geelong Revitalisation, including Laneway Activation and Green Spine.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Cr Asher moved, Cr Murnane seconded -

That the Minutes of the Community Focus Council Meeting held on 10 July 2018 be confirmed.

Carried.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Nil.

Cr Grzybek declared a Direct Interest in Agenda Item 6, Building Better Bike Connections - Western Link, in that she is an employee of TAC.

QUESTION TIME:

Jim Demetrious asked the following in relation to Pakington Street:

Has Council considered the merit of assigning an officer/Councillor/or body within Council who has direct responsibility for the oversight of Pakington Street and who could act as a central point of contact for its key stakeholders?

The Mayor responded Council agrees that Pakington Street is a special part of Geelong. The Urban Design Framework the City is preparing will provide an overarching vision and masterplan to guide future investment in the area. Successful placemaking is a partnership between local government and a unified business and community voice and we welcome continued discussion with trader representatives on how we can best manage Pakington Street together. Council's Economic Development department currently provide support for small businesses through the facilitation of workshops and advice. Traders Associations have typically played a key role in facilitating communication of trader's issues and ideas to Council. They allow traders to have an independent voice to represent their issues and interests. Please feel free to contact Fiona Maw in the Economic Development department if you would like to discuss further.

Cr Kontelj added Council is open to be educated further in this area and would be happy to meet and discuss further.

John Bowman submitted a question which will be responded to in writing.

Greg Aplin asked questions in relation to the Bean Squeeze application on Barrabool Road, Highton:

- 1) While supporting existing and new businesses, does Council believe that resident's view should be of prime consideration, assuming of course that they have merit, when an application for a commercial facility is made in a marginal location within a residential zone?

The Mayor responded that resident's views are an important consideration when making a decision on a planning permit application. Applications are primarily assessed against the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme which does allow commercial development to be considered in the Residential Zone subject to planning policies being addressed. A Council officer report is being prepared to address all these issues and will be considered at the 27 September 2018 Planning Committee Meeting.

- 2) As a principle, do you believe that an applicant should compensate Council for any loss of infrastructure or modification to infrastructure directly pertaining to the application (eg loss of carparks)?

The Mayor advised if VicRoads or Council's Engineering Department require upgrading of infrastructure this can be placed as a condition on permit, should approval be granted.

- 3) As a matter of principle, do you support the various villages in the municipality and treasure their unique characteristics and history? If the answer is yes, is it appropriate to diminish that social capital and cohesion by dispersing land uses to residential zones that are already present in those villages?

The Mayor reiterated that certain commercial development are allowed in the residential zone subject to a planning permit. This means that applications can be made outside of the villages such as Highton Shopping Centre. The Council officer report will address all the issues associated with this application and it will be considered at the 27 September 2018 Planning Committee meeting.

Jack Green asked if Council believes that it has a duty to the ratepayers and the community when an application results in the operations of a Council facility becoming less attractive to the user groups and less efficient as a result of a commercial application in a Residential Zone?

The Mayor responded the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme allows commercial development to be considered in the residential zone. The scheme has a policy (Clause 22.01) that guides decision making for commercial development in a residential zone. The Highton Senior Citizen Facility and its members have objected to the impact this development will have on the use of their centre. The entrance to the Senior Citizens is located directly opposite to the proposed entry to Bean Squeeze. The members are concerned that, if this application is to go ahead, they will not feel safe visiting the facility. The objections from the senior citizens members have been sent to VicRoads and Council's Engineering and Community Connections departments for comment. A Council officer report is being prepared to address all these issues and will be considered at the 27 September 2018 Planning Committee meeting.

Mr Green also asked if Council is aware of the Planning Environment Amendment (Recognising Objectors) Act of 2015 which makes it mandatory for Council (and VCAT) to consider the number of objectors to a permit application in considering whether a proposed use or development may have a significant social effect – as detailed in Planning Advisory Note 63?

The Mayor advised Council officers are aware of this and will be discussed in the officer's report for the Planning Committee to consider.

Graham Hobbs asked what reasons have Council's Traffic Department, VicRoads and Council's Town Planning Department, for changing to an exit from the proposed Bean Squeeze facility onto Barrabool Road, and can all correspondence between all three bodies be made available to all Councillors and to the public within seven days?

The Mayor responded as follows:

- *Council's Engineering and Planning Department met with VicRoads to discuss the possibility of amending this application to have access onto Barrabool Road;*
- *VicRoads agreed to have vehicles enter the site from Montague Street and exit the site from Barrabool Road;*
- *An amended planning application was lodged, and this application has been readvertised. A decision on this application will be reported to a future Council Planning Committee meeting to consider;*
- *A copy of all VicRoads correspondence provided throughout the application has been given to objectors who have requested the information;*
- *The latest VicRoads referral response will be considered as part of the application process;*
- *Objectors have, however, commissioned their own traffic report for this application. This report, as well as a summary of all objections, have been sent to VicRoads and Council's Engineering Department to review;*
- *Council is happy to provide a copy of VicRoad's responses to anyone that asks. This is our normal process.*

Lex Chalmers asked the following in relation to UNESCO – City of Design Award 2018:

I refer to the accolade given to Geelong with its UNESCO Australian City of Design Award 2018. I have not seen any banners at Geelong's entrance or a program of events celebrating Geelong's designers, architects and inventors.

There does not even seem to be a pamphlet available to explain the award on to map sites of interest.

This international award gives Geelong a distinct point of difference from all other cities in Australia. It seems to me that tourism bodies do not understand the gift they have been given.

It is not too late, it is still 2018, could I ask that Council encourage development of some celebratory events before the end of the year to raise the profile of the award and to provide a basis for its ongoing promotion?

Tim Ellis, Acting Director Investment and Attraction, responded there is a lot going on in this space currently and in the very near future. Council does have pamphlets available which will be forwarded to you.

Julia Reid addressed Council as follows in relation to Dog Controls in Public Places Policy Review:

- 1) Will Council update its community engagement framework to ensure disability inclusion and usability in its community survey techniques and technologies?

I draw your attention to Map 9 Clifton Springs in the proposed Dog Control Orders. The areas marked green are supposed to be all year 365 day walking off leash spaces. The yellow marked areas However as a user of Clifton Springs beaches I can tell you that between mid and high tide nearly all these beaches are under water.

The green area from Griggs Creek to the West is under water from medium to high tide and is only accessible for walking from medium to low tide. Even then at low tide it is only a small area about 80 meters long, as there is an impassable headland which the map does not take into account. This area is accessed by a steep staircase from a narrow street adjoining an open space at the top of the new Curlewis estate. This is where dog walkers would be required to park yet the street itself is not suited to parking and especially for parents with small kids and a dog in tow. There are many dogs walkers in Clifton Springs who use this beach but most access it from the marina and walk off leash on the beach from the car park west towards Griggs Creek because it is difficult to access from the staircase. At times of rain Griggs Creek has a heavy volume of water running to the bay and it is not possible to cross over it, so access to and from this beach is difficult.

The green area 44B to 43B to beach below Beacon Point Road and further East below private land is always inaccessible with dangerous rocky walks, no stairs and wild unkept growth full of snakes. They are not safe areas for women and children to walk as they cant be seen from above, nor are they safe for dogs off leash for the reasons already stated. There is very little of this land that is used by anyone at all because it is dangerous and inaccessible. Yet this is the space designated for off leash walking. I spoke to Council about this and also wrote these comments in my survey response but no attention has been given to these issues in the report and proposals you have before you today.

The yellow area is off leash before 10am and after 5pm 365 days of the year. This is not reasonable since it is the only accessible area for anyone to walk on a beach or go swimming in Clifton Springs. All year it is used by dog walkers. Over summer school holidays the number of people who use it without bringing a dog increases. But many of the summer users also bring their dog. There are 3 Dell beaches which are actually accessible to the public. The others are not accessible because private properties line the cliff tops with access tracks. Yet they are all marked yellow.

The map is confusing and not accurate. It doesn't reflect the geography, or physical accessibility.

- 2) Will Council review the accuracy of the map and allow people with dogs to have some off leash access to Clifton Springs beaches at all times of year?

- 3) Will Council express its recognition of the health and wellbeing reciprocal needs of dogs and their owners?

I understand that visitor and tourists numbers swell over summer. I understand that restrictions on dog off leash access to beaches is needed during this time. But it is not reasonable or fair that there be no access to safe off leash swimming and walking on the northern Bellarine from Clifton Springs to St Leonards during the summer months other than the small area at Point Richards marked green under Bellarine Bayside map of Portarlington. This area is a car park, it is a boat ramp. It is not fenced, has no shade and it is not a safe place for dogs unleashed with these combined uses.

The Beacon Point off leash area on the cliff top at Clifton Springs has no beach access. It has no shade and in summer is hot and unpleasant. On windy days in winter it is completely exposed to the full force of the weather.

- 4) Will Council extend the consultation period and effectively engage with residents to address concerns about the access to off leash beach and swimming at Clifton Springs year round?

Steve Sodomaco, Manager Health and Local Laws, acknowledged the issues raised in relation to the functionality of the online survey technology and will take those concerns back with a view to having them resolved. He also thanked Ms Reid for her comments and encouraged her and other residents to further participate in the extended period being made available for public comment.

Mr Sodomaco agreed that there may be some areas Council has missed and was more than happy to come out with the Asset Manager and have a look at the issues raised.

Jennifer Bantow asked if Councillors could confirm that a Local Government presence for the elected Council of Greater Geelong will remain in the Town Hall, for civic meeting and ceremonial functions, as defined in the resolution of 24 July?

The Mayor responded “yes”, the Town Hall will be retained for some meetings and ceremonial functions.

PETITIONS: Nil.

1. DOG CONTROLS IN PUBLIC PLACES POLICY REVIEW

Source:	Planning & Development - Health & Local Laws
Acting Director:	Joanne Van Slageren
Index Reference:	Animal Management - Dogs in Public Places Policy 2018-2021
Portfolio	Community Health and Safety

Purpose

To approve an amended Dog Controls in Public Places Policy pursuant to Section 26 (2) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and allow for further public comment on the policy.

Background

On the 13 March 2018 Council adopted the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2018-2021. A key recommendation of the Plan was to review the Dog Controls in Public Places Policy.

The Dog Controls in Public Places Policy establishes categories of Dog Control Orders that apply to all public places managed by the City. These orders become legally effective through the Council resolution and publication in the Government Gazette, which enables Council to undertake compliance activities.

A month long community engagement process was conducted which consisted of 5 drop in sessions held in Portarlington (x2), Geelong West, Belmont and Norlane and an online survey with hard copy versions being made available at all customer service centres. Input was also provided by key Council departments.

There were 469 responses to the survey. A number of themes emerged, such as needing to establish safe shared spaces, improved enforcement, improved signage and more accessible dog waste bins. (See **Attachment 2** for 'Discussion' and **Attachment 3** for 'Summary of Comments').

The Dog Controls in Public Places Policy (including maps of the Council's coastal dog orders) has been amended accordingly to reflect the community engagement feedback (see **Attachment 4**).

Key Issues

- General feedback suggests that the community is seeking safe and shared public places. Overall the community is satisfied with the existing Dog Control Orders but are seeking more presence and enforcement of such orders to manage poorly behaved dogs and irresponsible owners.
- There is likely to be financial implications associated with the community's request for more enforcement, education, patrolling, signage and waste bins. An assessment of this will be undertaken over the next 12 months in conjunction with the relevant asset managers.
- The adoption of the Dog Controls in Public Places Policy enables the City to undertake a range of compliance activities including education and awareness campaigns, proactive patrols and enforcement activities.
- Key changes to the Policy are outlined in **Attachment 2** 'Discussion'.

Cr Murrhy moved, Cr Kontelj seconded -

That Council:

- 1) Approve the Draft Dog Controls in Public Places Policy;**
- 2) Agree to a further online engagement process of 6 weeks to allow the community to comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Controls in Public Places Policy; and**
- 3) Before the draft policy is released for public comment, review if any other Council owned ovals should be “Off-Leash Supervised Area”, and include in Table 2.**

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

The City will need to undertake an assessment to evaluate the level of resources required to implement increased educational programs and patrolling and enforcement activities. In conjunction with the asset managers, a signage audit should be conducted to establish a program to remove old signs and install new signs. In conjunction with the asset managers a bin audit should be undertaken along key walking tracks and reserves with the view of increasing the number of accessible bins.

Community Engagement

The City conducted its community engagement process, which included 5 “drop in” sessions held in Portarlington (30 attendees during the day session and 3 attendees at the evening session), Geelong West (6 attendees), Norlane (0 attendees) and Belmont (3 attendees). A greater response was received through the online survey. The social media campaign reached 32,629 people with 368 actions to click the engagement link. Facebook was the most used platform with 28,654 people reached, Twitter reached 2,135 people and Instagram reached 1,480 people.

The average engagement rate for the City’s social media posts is approximately 2% and the engagement rate for the dog control orders was 13.37% making it the second highest post for the month.

Significantly 65% of all traffic to the page was through social media. The survey was also made available in hard copy at customer service centres around Geelong.

The City received 469 responses.

Social Equity Considerations

The community engagement undertaken provided opportunity for all groups and all members of our community to have access to information and an avenue for feedback. The resultant Dog Controls in Public Places Policy has considered the delivery of safe and accessible public spaces for all and there are no foreseeable barriers in this regard.

By amending the policy the City will implement increased preventative action which aims to promote safety in public places for all users through reduced number of incidents.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

Under Section 26(2) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, Council may by resolution make an Order which sets out conditions with respect to dogs in public places. This Order must be published in the Government Gazette and in a newspaper circulating in the municipal district of the Council making the Order.

Alignment to Council Plan

Improved Health and Safety of our Community.

- Providing safer public places
- Encouraging responsible pet ownership
- Promoting active living

Informed Social Infrastructure and Planning

- Provide more quality spaces that support active lifestyles

More inclusive and Diverse Community.

- Supporting activities that improve social connections in our community
- Further developing programs that support older people and young people in our community.

Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest with respect to any officer in the preparation of this report.

Risk Assessment

Council can minimise its risks by applying practical, fair and reasonable dog control orders in public places to ensure the safety of all users. The Orders provide a platform for community education, against which compliance activities can be undertaken.

Environmental Implications

There is recognition of the existence of several environmentally sensitive areas that will be provided with the adequate controls contained within these proposed dog control orders.

Attachment 2

Discussion

Council has had a Dog Controls in Public Places Policy in place since 2008, with 3 revisions of that policy having taken place since that time. The review of the policy has normally been done in conjunction with the review of Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan that occurs every 4 years.

On this occasion, the review was undertaken separately from the above process and as one of the first action items arising from Council's 2017-21 Domestic Animal Management Plan.

It is proposed to amend this policy to;

1. Reflect the feedback received; and
2. To remove reference to land not managed by the City (to be managed by a separate process).

Any dog rules that may be applied to open spaces within the municipality on land managed by other land managers would be covered by a separate process in which Council can choose to enter into a formal agreement pursuant to Section 26 (2A) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994. A copy of the amended 'marked up' version of the Dog Controls in Public Places Policy is attached as **Attachment 4**.

Feedback was also sought from the City's various asset managers who have indirectly been provided with community feedback from their various customers and lease holders.

Consultation

Overall there were 469 respondents to the survey and the number of responses with respect to key themes are listed in as follows:

1. Establishing Safe Shared Spaces (157 Responses)
2. Effectiveness of Enforcement (71)
3. Effectiveness of Off Leash Areas/Need for More Off Leash Areas (71)
4. Dog Poo/Dog Bins (61)
5. Effectiveness and need for more on leash areas (50)
6. Signage (48)
7. Education and Environment Protection (43)
8. Impact of Aggressive/Nuisance Dogs (26)
9. Dog Parks (24)

A 'Summary Comments' spreadsheet has been attached as **Attachment 3**, which highlights the range of comments expressed.

There is no indication that the broader community want more prohibitions on dogs in public places and in fact there is acknowledgement about the importance of dog ownership with respect to improving health wellbeing outcomes. However, there is a consistent theme supporting the implementation of the necessary measures that would facilitate the establishment of safe and shared public spaces for all users.

Significant feedback was received about the need to promote our public spaces as being for all users with no specific group having greater entitlement to these spaces over any other group. Whilst not relevant to this policy, significant comment was received about the unsafe interactions of speeding cyclists and dog walkers and general walkers along the trails. This matter will be referred to City's relevant departments with the view of delivering educational messages that may assist in resolving this issue.

Several comments were made about changing some of the common walking trails and coastal tracks such as Bellarine Rail Trail, Waurin Ponds Track and Ted Wilson Trail to conditional off leash prior to 10am and after 5pm each day. As these and other similar walking trails are linear in nature and highly used areas, creating off leash scenarios is not supported as it is likely to create conflict between the users who have competing interests. Similarly a request to make Red Gum Island an off leash area is not supported due to environmental considerations as endorsed by the Geelong Environment Council through the City's Environment department.

While submitters were advised that a separate piece of strategic work is being conducted by the City's Social Planning and Investment department, many requests for the City to consider developing a range of strategically located dog parks were submitted. These have been forwarded to that department for incorporation into that process.

There were no requests to change any of the CoGG coastal orders through the review, however a number of other changes to the policy (see **Attachment 4**) were recommended as follows:

- Limiting the policy to Council managed lands and dealing with Dog Orders on other lands through a separate process (Section 26(2A) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994);
- Prohibit dogs from sports playing surfaces during organised sport (the policy is silent on this at present);
- Prohibiting dogs on artificial sport playing surfaces such as synthetic turf, asphalt, flexi-pave etc.;
- Keeping dogs a minimum of 10 metres away from turf wickets;
- Dogs to be prohibited a minimum of 10 metres from children's playground equipment and must be tethered beyond that point;
- Dogs when tethered must not be left unattended;
- Dogs to be on leash around boat ramps;
- Deletion of the 'Reserves - On Leash – Controlled Areas' Table (as this is covered by the general requirement that all areas are on leash unless otherwise signed);
- Deletion of 'Map 8' from the 'Dog Controls in Coastal and Other Open Space Areas' (as the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management lands will be covered by a separate process).

The community expressed a desire for more compliance and enforcement activities to be undertaken by the City. It was also felt that the inadequacy of signage throughout the City may be contributing to on-going non-compliant behaviour. Enforcement involves monitoring dogs to be on leash in on leash areas, ensuring that dog owners have effective control of their dog in off leash areas and that dog owners take responsibility in cleaning up after their dog/s.

This a significant task over a vast area of land, including several hundreds of kilometres of walking paths, coastal trails, hundreds of reserves and other open spaces. A resource assessment will be required to evaluate what may be required into the future with respect to increasing our presence and response capacity in such public places.

With respect to signage, there has been an inconsistent approach over the various asset spaces in providing signage to a level which adequately informs the broader community about the dog rules that apply to a certain area. This also impacts on our ability to educate the community through such signage messaging. It is proposed that an audit be conducted by the Animal Management staff in conjunction with the City's various asset managers to determine future signage needs and to update/replace old superseded signs.

Similarly, an audit of all bins in the vicinity of key dog walking trails and reserves etc needs to be undertaken and where necessary provision made for the installation of more bins.

The provision of off leash areas is not intended to mean that dogs and their owners are the sole users of that place nor does it imply that the place in question is a 'dog reserve' or a 'dog beach'. These places are public reserves or public beaches for all users but also permit dogs to be off leash on the proviso of being under effective control. This is a common grievance that has emerged from the feedback, being that some dog owners feel that the designated off leash place is for dogs only and that their view of what effective control differs greatly from what a non-dog owner's view of this is.

Many responses mentioned the fact that non-dog owner's, whilst not necessarily objecting to an off leash area, simply object to unwanted attention from dogs in a public place, whether that dog is aggressive, excited or over friendly.

Furthermore, in the event of any act of aggression, it is no defence by an owner to divest their legal responsibility by suggesting that the place in question is solely for dogs. Clearly this is an area that warrants a significant amount of community education and awareness and increase patrolling and enforcement to reduce such tensions.

Attachment 4

DRAFT COUNCIL POLICY



DOG CONTROLS IN PUBLIC PLACES	Document No:	CPL50.3
	Approval Date:	XX August2018
	Approved By:	Council
	Review Date:	XX August 2018
Responsible Officer: Director Planning and Development	Version No	03
Authorising Officer:	Chief Executive Officer	

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to recognise that dog controls in public places **are** necessary, and implemented on a balanced approach, for the benefit of all members of the community.

The policy will guide the community with respect to understanding dog control rules within the municipality and conditions that apply in open public spaces to ensure community safety, environment protection and fair and equitable access to such spaces.

2. SCOPE

The policy applies to all **Council managed lands** subject to a Council Resolution and Order under Section 26 (2) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

3. REFERENCES

- Domestic Animals Act 1994
- Domestic Animal Management Plan 2018 - 2021

4. DEFINITIONS

- Road has the same meaning as ascribed to it by Section 3 of the Local Government Act

5. COUNCIL POLICY

The following principles will be used for the implementation of this policy:

Off Leash 'Supervised' Areas – (Dog Socialisation Areas)

Locations

Dogs are allowed off leash and supervised in specific designated public open space areas and/or any area as indicated by the relevant signage. This includes, amongst other designated public open spaces;

- Those paths and adjoining land located on the Fyansford Common and the shared path on the northern side of the Barwon River upstream from the Queens Park Bridge to Fyansford Common including Zillah Crawcour Park);
- Sporting grounds/ovals (playing area) outside times when being used for organised sports, including training (as defined by a formal booking with council); **except those playing surfaces/spaces with artificial surfaces and dogs must be kept a minimum of 10 metres away from turf wickets;**
- Sporting complexes/reserves – outside times when being used for organised sports, including training (as defined by a formal booking with council)
- A range of Reserves and broad Open Space Parks as listed in the attachment to this Policy and as represented by Map 2.

Council will review the effectiveness of these 'Off Leash – Supervised Areas' on an ongoing basis and will also consider any request for new 'Off Leash – Supervised Areas' to be established based on the following criteria, which will ensure safety, and equitable access to such spaces. These include:

- Linear open public spaces (i.e. green corridors, easements) may be considered if there is sufficient width to ensure safe use and passage
- Public open spaces that do not contain a playground or where the playground is fully enclosed/fenced. Open public spaces with centrally located playgrounds are not suitable as an 'Off Leash - Supervised Area'
- Public open spaces that are located at a safe distance from busy roads
- Any other public open space not mentioned above that is not adjoining/adjacent to a water body and where no wildlife is present
- Places where there is no detriment to public safety or the environment through the use of such open public spaces
- Suitable open spaces will be reviewed annually to monitor performance and identify any additional reserves that may be suitable as "Off Leash - Supervised Areas'.

Conditions Applicable to 'Off Leash - Supervised Areas'

The following conditions must be followed when using the 'Off Leash - Supervised Areas':

The handler must have a dog lead in their possession and place their dog back on the leash when leaving the off leash area.

- **Dog owners must have a leash in their possession at all times so as to secure their dog when required;**
- **Dogs that are over excitable towards people, wildlife, cyclists or other dogs, should be kept on leash. Those dogs that are aggressive and/or behave in an anti-social manner towards other people, wildlife, cyclists or other dogs should be muzzled and on leash when in public.**

- When encountering other people or animals using this area, the dog must be recalled and restrained until both parties have moved apart at a safe distance.
- The handler must be able to demonstrate audible control of the dog.
- Dogs must remain in visual and audible range of their handler to allow it to be effectively recalled at any time.
- Dogs must not enter water habitats that contain wildlife, beach nesting birds or chase wildlife in these areas;
- Dogs attracted to the motion of wheels must be controlled at all times;
- Dogs declared menacing/dangerous/restricted breed are not permitted to be walked off-lead in 'Off Leash – Supervised Areas'.
- The handler must at all times have a means to pick up and dispose of dog droppings – penalties apply

Signage

- Signs will clearly indicate those parks, reserves or public open spaces where dogs are permitted to be off a leash and supervised.

On Leash 'Controlled' Areas

- Within the City of Greater Geelong, unless otherwise designated by signage, all public Open Space Areas, Parks, Reserves and other Council lands shall be designated as 'On Leash - Controlled Areas'

More specifically this includes:

- All roads and footpaths/nature strips/shared paths.
- Beaches, reserves and parks.
- Shopping centres.
- High use areas pedestrian and/or cycling areas (for example the Waterfront Precinct in Geelong).
- Sporting complexes and reserves (not including playing area) during times of organised sports (as defined by a formal booking with council which includes times booked for sports practice/training).
- At Council sanctioned/approved events, markets etc.
- Shared use paths or walking paths and including areas either side of the abutting edge of the path; (except those in designated 'Off Leash – Supervised Areas').
- Dogs are prohibited within ten (10) metres of a children's playground but can be tethered no less than ten (10) metres from any play equipment; beyond ten (10) metres, the dog rules (as per the signage) for that location would apply;
- Dogs being within and/or tethered within ten (10) meters of picnic and barbecue areas (as defined by council provided barbecues and/or tables and associated seating).
- In areas designated as environmentally significant

- Jetties, piers and boat ramps.
- Water bodies such as creeks, rivers, lakes, and beaches (ocean, bay) unless signposted as a dedicated swimming area for dogs.
- Beach foreshore and coastline areas (except those designated otherwise).
- Other council lands

Conditions applying to all 'On Leash Controlled Areas' and 'Off Leash Supervised Areas'

- The handler must at all times have a means to pick up and dispose of dog droppings – penalties apply.
- Dogs when tethered must never be left unattended anywhere e.g. playgrounds, shopping precincts, picnic/bbq areas.
- All leads including retractable leads must be restricted to approximately 2 metres in length in 'On Leash – Controlled Areas' **when encountering other people, wildlife, cyclists or dogs.**

Dog Control Categories

Dog Control Categories (applicable to coastline areas and other public open spaces as designated) apply to reflect the needs of all public open space users and ensure community safety and environmental protection.

Category 1 (Green) – Off leash 'Supervised' Area

- Areas where dogs are permitted off leash and supervised all year round.

Category 2 (Yellow) – Conditional Off Leash 'Supervised' Area

- Allow dogs off leash and supervised during specified times all year round; in the mornings prior to 10.00 a.m. and in the evenings after 5.00 p.m. Dogs would be required to be on leash at all other times.

Category 4 (Brown) – On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) and/or high use pedestrian/tourist precincts

- Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
 - environmental sensitivity;
 - where there is an Order by Council;
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation; **and**
 - high use pedestrian/tourist precincts.

Category 5 (Purple) – Conditional On Leash ‘Controlled’ Area (Hooded Plover and Wildlife Zones)

- Allow dogs on leash during specified periods as designated by signage including periods during the hooded plover nesting season and/or other periods dedicated to protecting other wildlife (i.e. seals, penguins). Dogs are permitted to be off leash and supervised at other times/periods.

Category 6 (Red) - Exclusion Area All Year Round

- Areas that will have dogs prohibited where:
 - there is extremely high environmental sensitivity;
 - there is an Order by Council;
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has prohibited dogs under their own rules or legislation (effected by a dog control order);
 - there is are artificial sporting playing surfaces;
 - organised sport is being played on a sporting reserve/oval (playing area only); and
 - they are Council buildings (Guide/Assistance Dogs exempted).

Designated 'Off Leash - Supervised Areas'

TABLE 1: Designated 'Off Leash - Supervised Areas'			
Park/Reserve	Location	Zone	Melways Reference
North Zone			
Elcho Park	125 Elcho Road Lara	North	422 B7
Abe Wood Reserve	300 Evans Road Lovely Banks	North	431 A3
Sutcliff Reserve	240-268 Plantation Road Corio	North	431 J4
Stead Park	190-216 Princess Highway Corio	North	432 C10
Myers Reserve	5-35 Bluestone Bridge Road Bell Post Hill	North	441 C1
Seagull Paddock	380-400 Melbourne Road North Geelong	North	441 K3
Fyansford Common	Deviation Road Fyansford	North	451 A2
South Zone			
Rotary Centennial Park	188A West Fyans Street Newtown	South	451 E6
Frank Mann Reserve	5 Heal Street Ceres	South	450 C11
Grinter Reserve	125-177 Coppards Road Moolap	South	453 B12
Brearley Reserve	Grove Road Marshall	South	465 K4
Breakwater Road Reserve	Breakwater Road Belmont	South	466 C1
East Zone			
Portarlington Recreation Reserve	4-22 Sproat Street Portarlington	East	444 F6
Drysdale Recreation Reserve	30 Duke Street Drysdale	East	456 G11
Charles McCarthy Memorial Reserve	Leviens Road St Leonards	East	459 K11
Kingston Park Recreation Reserve	8-52 Adco Grove Ocean Grove	East	484 C9
Collendina Reserve	93A Sunset Strip Ocean Grove	East	484 E12
Beacon Point Reserve	Beacon Point Road Clifton Springs	East	457 A2

TABLE 2: Sporting Grounds/Ovals (playing area only) available as an 'Off Leash - Supervised Area'
Outside times when being used for organised sports, including training (as defined by a formal booking with Council). Dogs prohibited when organised sport is being played

Reserve	Address	Melways Reference
Abe Wood Reserve	Evans Road, Lovely Banks	431 A3
Anakie Reserve	Demotts Road, Anakie	Key Map 11 A
Bakers Oval	Shannon Avenue, Geelong West	441 G12
Barwon Heads Reserve - CROWN LAND	Barwon Heads Road, Barwon Heads	497 A2
Belmont Common North-CROWN LAND	Settlement Road, Belmont	451 K8
Belmont Common South-CROWN LAND	Breakwater Road, Belmont	466 A1
Breakwater Reserve	Tanner Street, Breakwater	466 D2
Burdoo Reserve	Wingarra Drive, Grovedale	465 E9
Ceres Reserve - CROWN LAND	Cochranes Road, Ceres	450 B12
Collendina Reserve	Sunset Strip, Ocean Grove	484 D12
Corio Community Reserve	Hendy Street, Corio	432 C7
Drysdale Reserve - CROWN LAND	Wyndham Street, Drysdale	456 F10
Eastern Park - CROWN LAND	1-45 Garden Street, East Geelong	402 P6
Elcho Park	Elcho Road, Lara	422 A7
Elderslie Reserve	Read Street, Newtown	451 D2
Ervin Reserve	Richard Street, Newcomb	452 K9
Evans Reserve	Sparks Road, Norlane	431 K12
Flinders Peak Reserve	Hendy Street, Corio	432 C7, D6
Frier Reserve	West Fyans Street, Newtown	451 G7
Grinter Reserve	Coppards Road, Newcomb	453 B12
Grovedale Reserve - CROWN LAND	Reserve Road, Grovedale	465 H7
Hamlyn Park	Calvert Street, Hamlyn Heights	441 F10
Herne Hill Reserve	Finchaven Street, Herne Hill	451 D1
Highton Reserve	95-105 Barrabool Road, Highton	451 C10
Howard Glover Reserve - CROWN LAND	Limeburners Road, Geelong	452 H6
Hume Reserve	Thompsons Road, North Geelong	441 H5
Harold Hurst Reserve	Douglass Street, Herne Hill	441 E11
King Lloyd Reserve	Windsor Road, Newtown	451 E8
Lake Lorne Equestrian	Reserve Road, Drysdale	470 F1
Lara Reserve	Walkers Road, Lara	423 B5
Leopold Reserve	Melaluka Road, Leopold	468 D2
McDonald Reserve	Reynolds Road, Belmont	465 D1
Mount Duneed Reserve	Russells Road, Mount Duneed	479 A4
Myers Reserve	Creamery Road, Bell Post Hill	441 A2

Ocean Grove Reserve	Draper Street, Ocean Grove	483 J11
Osborne Park	Osborne Avenue, North Geelong	442 A8
Peter Lowe Reserve	Minerva Road, Herne Hill	441 F1
Portarlington Reserve	Sproat Street, Portarlington	444 F6
Queen's Park Reserve	150 Queens Park Road, Highton	451 B4
Rees Reserve	Old Melbourne Road, Little River	200 E9
Richmond Crescent	Richmond Crescent, South Geelong	452 C7
St Albans Reserve	Boundary Road, Whittington	452 G12
St Leonards Reserve	McLeod Street, St Leonards	460 A10
Shell Reserve	Purnell Road, Corio	432 B8
Shell Road Reserve (Surfside)	Shell Road, Ocean Grove	484 C10
South Barwon Reserve	Barwon Heads Road, Belmont	451 K10
Stead Park	St Georges Road, Corio	432 B10
Thomson Reserve	Godfrey Street, Thomson	452 F8
Tim Hill Reserve	Wandana Drive, Wandana Heights	450 K11
Vines Road	Vines Road, Hamlyn Heights	441 E10
Wallington Reserve	Wallington Road, Wallington	483 D4
Wathaurong Reserve	Collins Street, Drysdale	456 K9
Western Oval	Church Street, North Geelong	441 J11
Windmill Reserve	Mayfair Drive Newtown	451 D5
Windsor Park	Rose Avenue, Norlane	432 B12
Winter Reserve	Kidman Avenue, Belmont	465 F2

Dog Controls in Coastal and Other Open Space Areas

The following maps (19 in total) show various coastal beaches and any adjoining reserves and open space areas within the City of Greater Geelong. The maps commence at the south western boundary of the municipality and work around the coastline to the north eastern boundary near Little River.

MAP NO	DESCRIPTION
Map 1	Overview of Municipality Coastline.
Map 2	Designated 'Off Leash - Supervised' Areas within Sporting Complexes and Reserves.
Map 3	Redgum Island, Fyansford Common – Barwon River.
Map 4	Breamlea Beach and Bancoora Beach.
Map 5	Ocean Grove, Collendina and Point Lonsdale Beaches.
Map 6	Black Rock; Thirteenth Beach; Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove. Land is managed by Barwon Coast Committee of Management who has determined existing dog controls. Council has adopted these dog control controls.
Map 8	<p>8A: Portarlington 8B: The Esplanade 8C: Indented Head 8D: St Leonards 8E: St Leonards to Edwards Point</p> <p>Land is managed by Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management who determines their dog control orders. Council at its discretion may adopt such orders.</p>
Map 9	Ramblers Road; The Dell; Jetty Road and west of Jetty Road Beaches Clifton Springs.
Map 10	Point Henry (east and west side).
Map 11	Waterfront Precinct, Geelong.
Map 12	Western Beach; Rippleside Beach and St Helens Beach.
Map 13	Moorpanyal Beach, North Shore; Shell Foreshore (beach area); Grammer School beach; Limeburners Lagoon and Avalon Beach.
Map 14	Batesford Reserve, Batesford.
Map 15	Land along Barwon River from Queens Park Bridge to Breakwater. This land is managed by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (with a small portion managed by Barwon Water near the MacIntyre Footbridge). Existing dog controls have been implemented by these land managers and Council does not have the authority to amend these controls.

Commented [JD1]: Deleted as no order is currently in place for this land

Colour coding of the maps demonstrates dog controls at a glance. The category of controls in turn relate back to Council's Policy on Dogs in Public Places.

It should be noted that the maps are not inclusive of all open space areas within the City of Greater Geelong. The areas depicted are those where Council has made a decision in relation to dog controls. As the plan evolves more open space areas may become subject to 'On Leash – Supervised' requirements.

6. QUALITY RECORDS

Quality Records shall be retained for at least the period shown below.

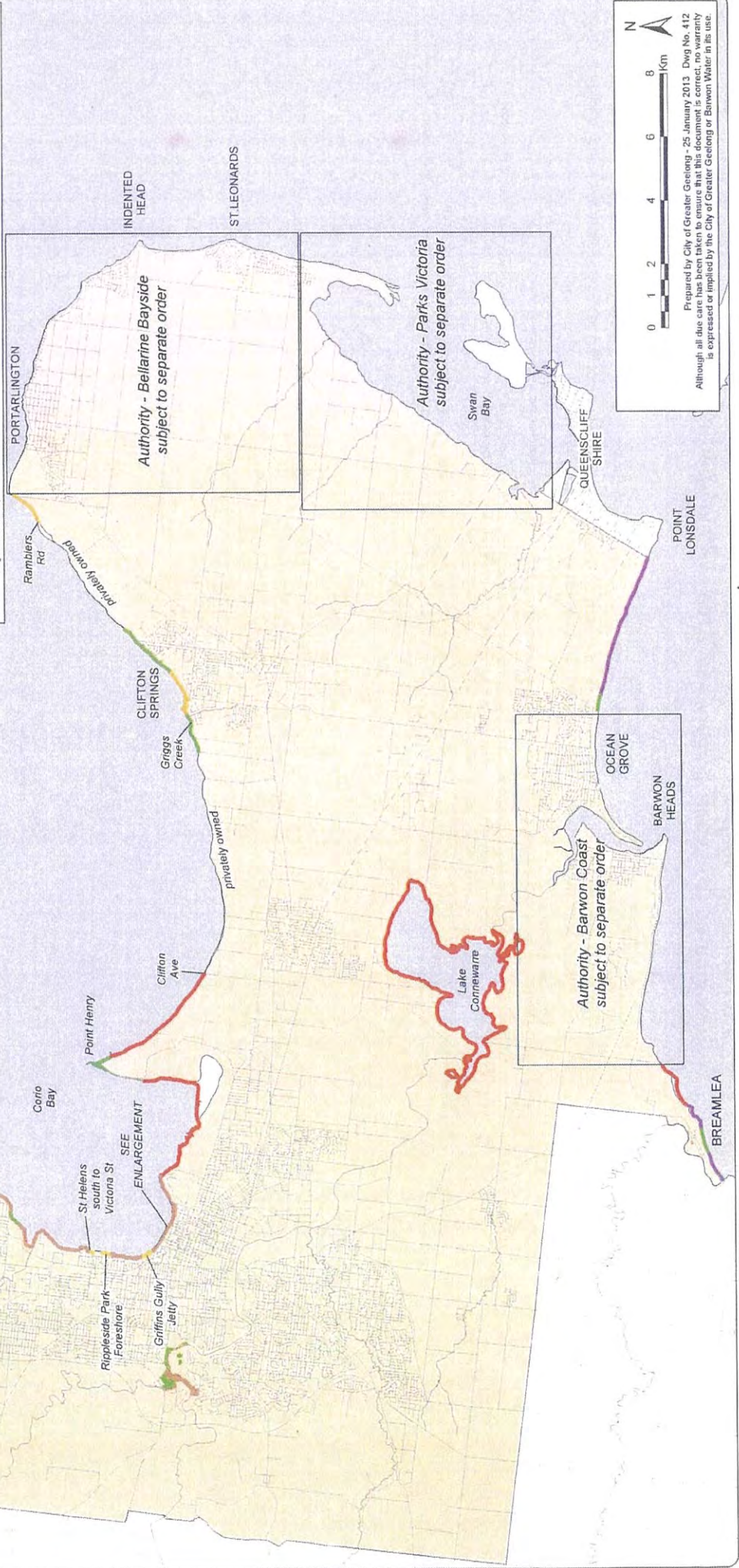
Record	Retention/Disposal Responsibility	Retention Period	Location
Domestic Animals Act 1994	Victorian Government	N/A	N/A
Domestic Animal Management Plan 2018-2021	Council Record Management System	4 years	Electronic Data System

7. ATTACHMENTS

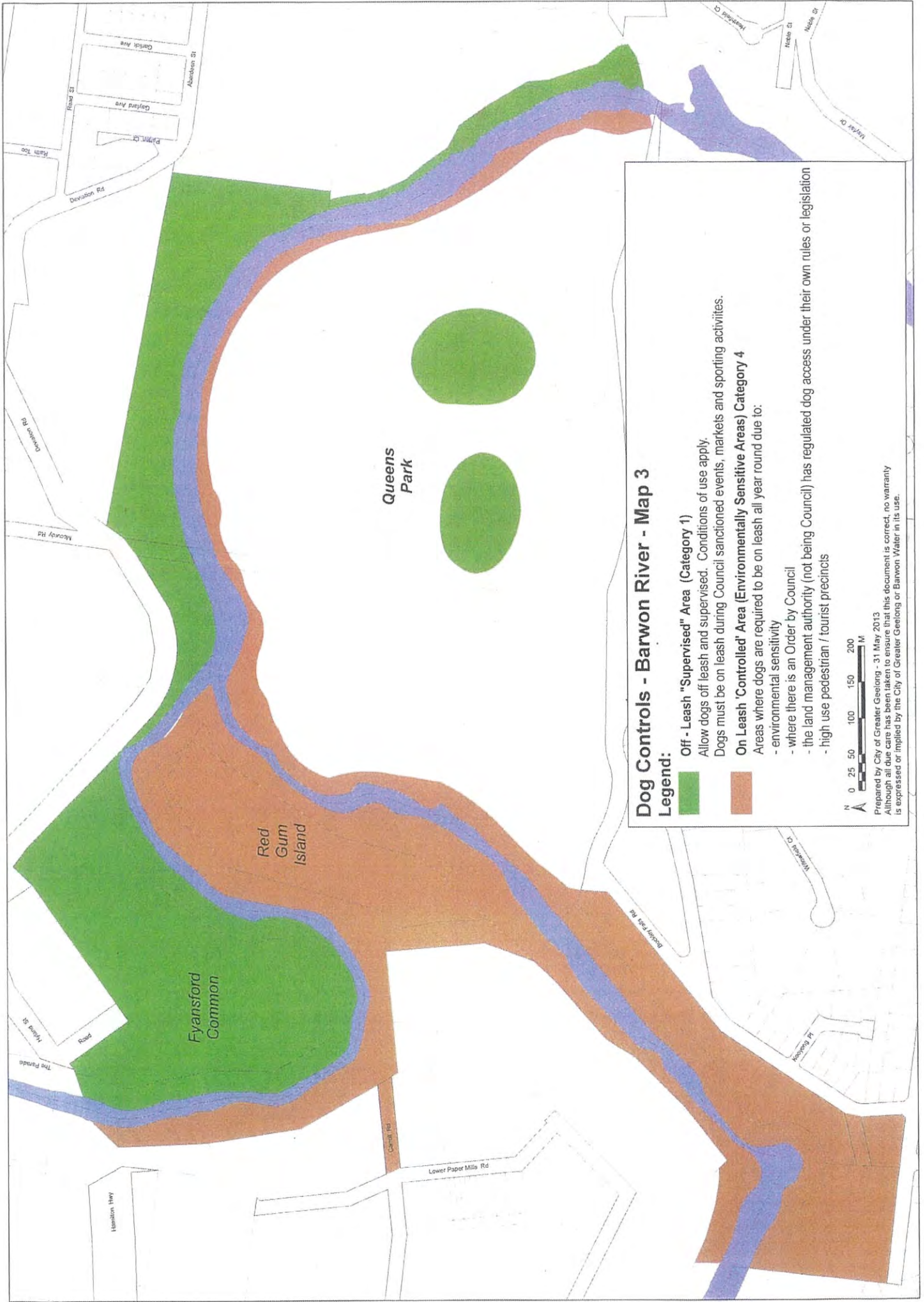
Dog Controls - Beaches - Map 1

LEGEND

- Off-Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 1)**
Allow dogs off leash and supervised. Conditions of use apply. Dogs must be on leash during Council sanctioned events, markets and sporting activities.
- Conditional Off-Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 2)**
Allow dogs off leash and supervised during specified times: all year round, in the mornings prior to 10.00 a.m. and in the evenings after 5.00 p.m. Dogs would be required to be on leash at all other times.
- Conditional On Leash "Controlled" Area (Category 3) - to be used as determined**
Allow dogs on leash in the mornings prior to 10.00 a.m. and in the evening after 5.00 p.m. Dogs would be prohibited at other times in designated areas as signed.
- On Leash "Controlled" Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Category 4**
Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
- environmental sensitivity
- where there is an Order by Council
- the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation
- high use pedestrian / tourist precinct
- Conditional On Leash "Controlled" Area (Hooded Plover & Wildlife Zones) Category 5**
Allow dogs on leash during specified periods as designated by signage including periods during the hood plover nesting season and/or other periods dedicated to protecting other wildlife (i.e. seals, penguins). Dogs are permitted to be off leash and supervised at other times/periods.
- Exclusion area all year round (Category 6)**
Areas that will have dogs prohibited for reasons of:
- extremely high environmental sensitivity
- where there is an Order by Council
- the land management authority (not being Council) has prohibited dogs under their own rules or legislation (enforced by a dog control order)



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Dog Controls - Barwon River - Map 3

Legend:

Off - Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 1)

- Allow dogs off leash and supervised. Conditions of use apply.
- Dogs must be on leash during Council sanctioned events, markets and sporting activities.

On Leash "Controlled" Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Category 4

- Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
 - environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation
 - high use pedestrian / tourist precincts

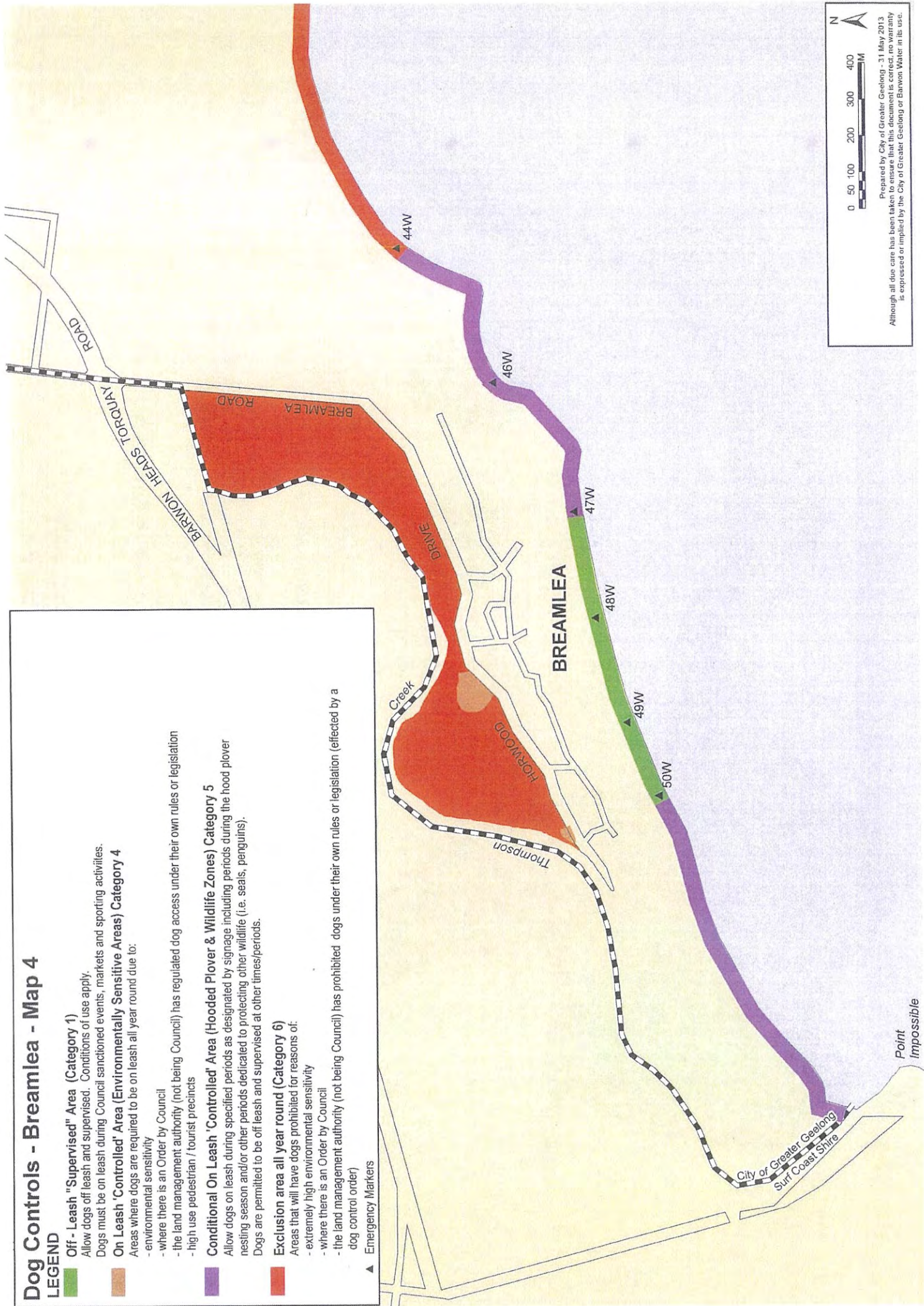


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Dog Controls - Breamlea - Map 4

LEGEND

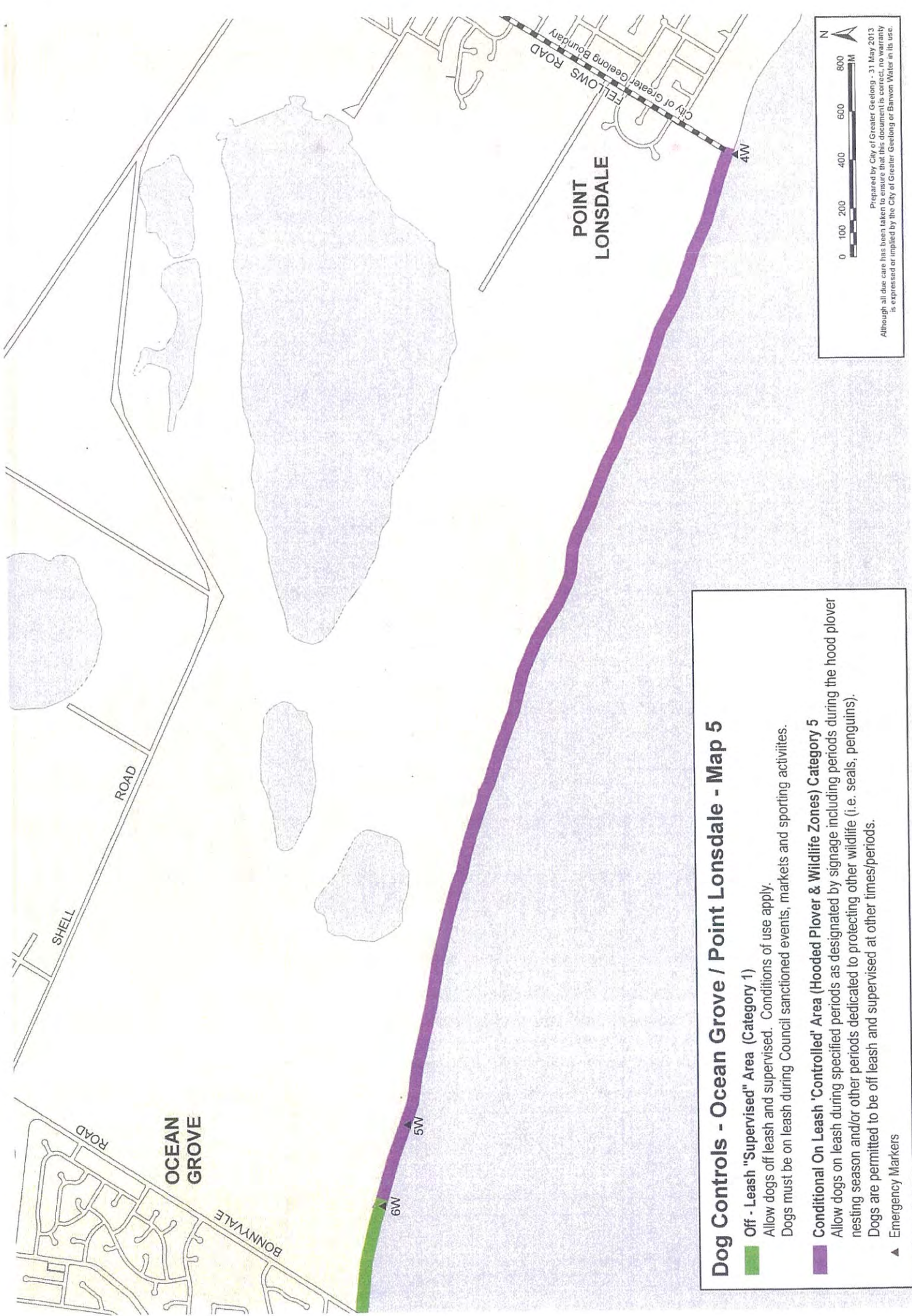
- █ **Off - Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 1)**
Allow dogs off leash and supervised. Conditions of use apply.
Dogs must be on leash during Council sanctioned events, markets and sporting activities.
- █ **On Leash "Controlled" Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Category 4**
Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
- environmental sensitivity
- where there is an Order by Council
- the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation
- high use pedestrian / tourist precincts
- █ **Conditional On Leash "Controlled" Area (Hooded Plover & Wildlife Zones) Category 5**
Allow dogs on leash during specified periods as designated by signage including periods during the hood plover nesting season and/or other periods dedicated to protecting other wildlife (i.e. seals, penguins).
Dogs are permitted to be off leash and supervised at other times/periods.
- █ **Exclusion area all year round (Category 6)**
Areas that will have dogs prohibited for reasons of:
- extremely high environmental sensitivity
- where there is an Order by Council
- the land management authority (not being Council) has prohibited dogs under their own rules or legislation (effected by a dog control order)
- ▲ Emergency Markers



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Dog Controls - Ocean Grove / Point Lonsdale - Map 5

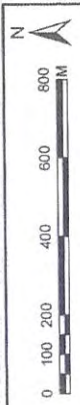
Off - Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 1)

Allow dogs off leash and supervised. Conditions of use apply.
Dogs must be on leash during Council sanctioned events, markets and sporting activities.

Conditional On Leash "Controlled" Area (Hooded Plover & Wildlife Zones) Category 5

Allow dogs on leash during specified periods as designated by signage including periods during the hood plover nesting season and/or other periods dedicated to protecting other wildlife (i.e. seals, penguins).
Dogs are permitted to be off leash and supervised at other times/periods.

▲ Emergency Markers



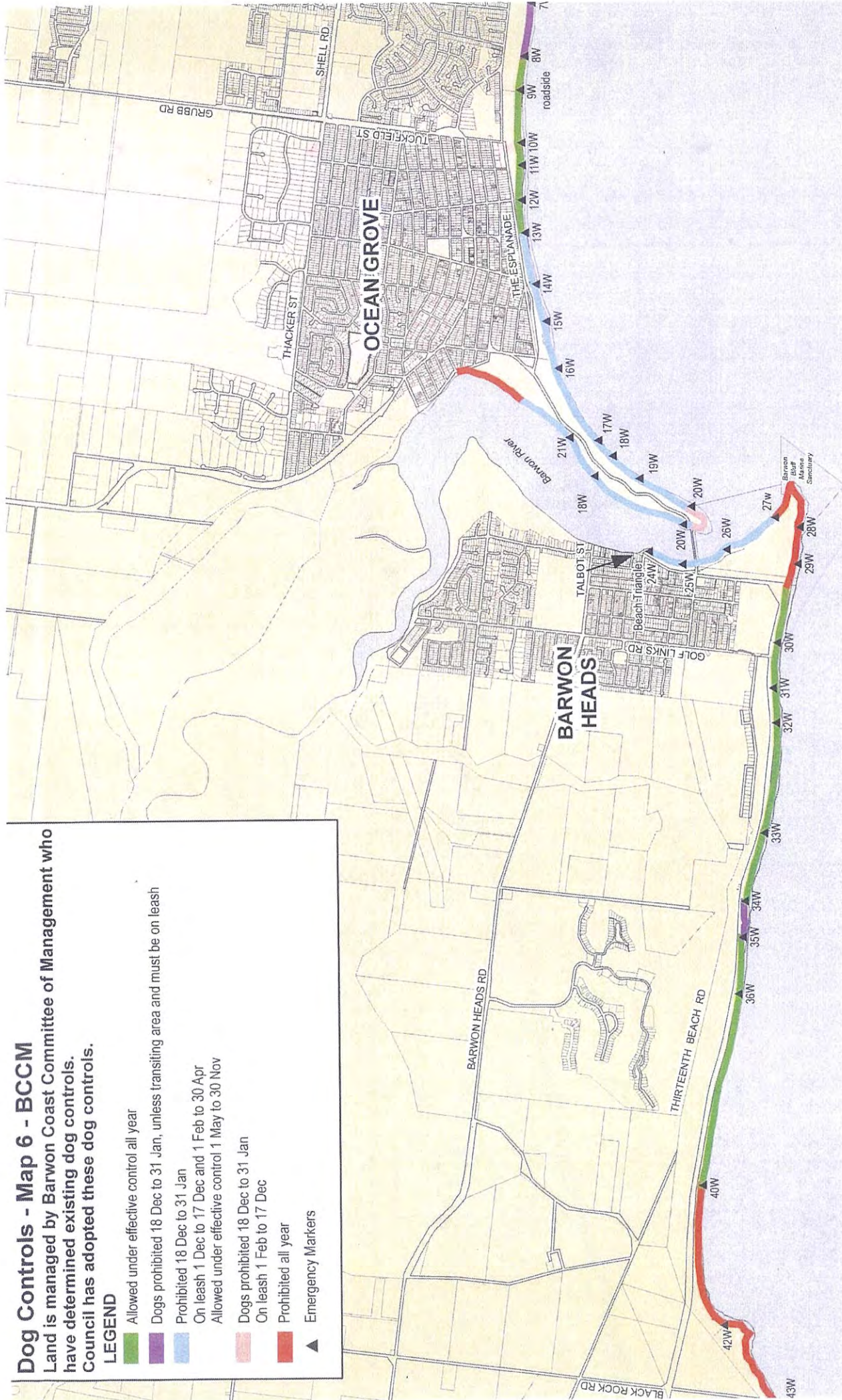
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Dog Controls - Map 6 - BCCM

Land is managed by Barwon Coast Committee of Management who have determined existing dog controls. Council has adopted these dog controls.

LEGEND

- █ Allowed under effective control all year
- █ Dogs prohibited 18 Dec to 31 Jan, unless transiting area and must be on leash
- █ Prohibited 18 Dec to 31 Jan
- █ On leash 1 Dec to 17 Dec and 1 Feb to 30 Apr
- █ Allowed under effective control 1 May to 30 Nov
- █ Dogs prohibited 18 Dec to 31 Jan
- █ On leash 1 Feb to 17 Dec
- █ Prohibited all year
- ▲ Emergency Markers



Bass Strait

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Dog Controls - Clifton Springs - Map 9

LEGEND

- Off - Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 1)**
Allow dogs off leash and supervised. Conditions of use apply.
Dogs must be on leash during Council sanctioned events, markets and sporting activities.
- Conditional Off - Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 2)**
Allow dogs off leash and supervised during specified times all year round; in the mornings prior to 10.00 a.m. and in the evenings after 5.00 p.m. Dogs would be required to be on leash at all other times.
- Emergency Markers**



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Point Henry

46B

Dog Controls - Point Henry - Map 10

LEGEND

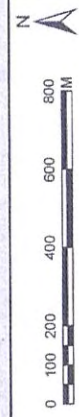
█ Off - Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 1)

Allow dogs off leash and supervised. Conditions of use apply. Dogs must be on leash during Council sanctioned events, markets and sporting activities.

█ Exclusion area all year round (Category 6)

Areas that will have dogs prohibited for reasons of:
 - extremely high environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has prohibited dogs under their own rules or legislation (effected by a dog control order)

▲ Emergency Markers



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privately owned

Dog Controls - Waterfront Central Geelong - Map 11

LEGEND

Conditional Off - Leash 'Supervised' Area (Category 2)

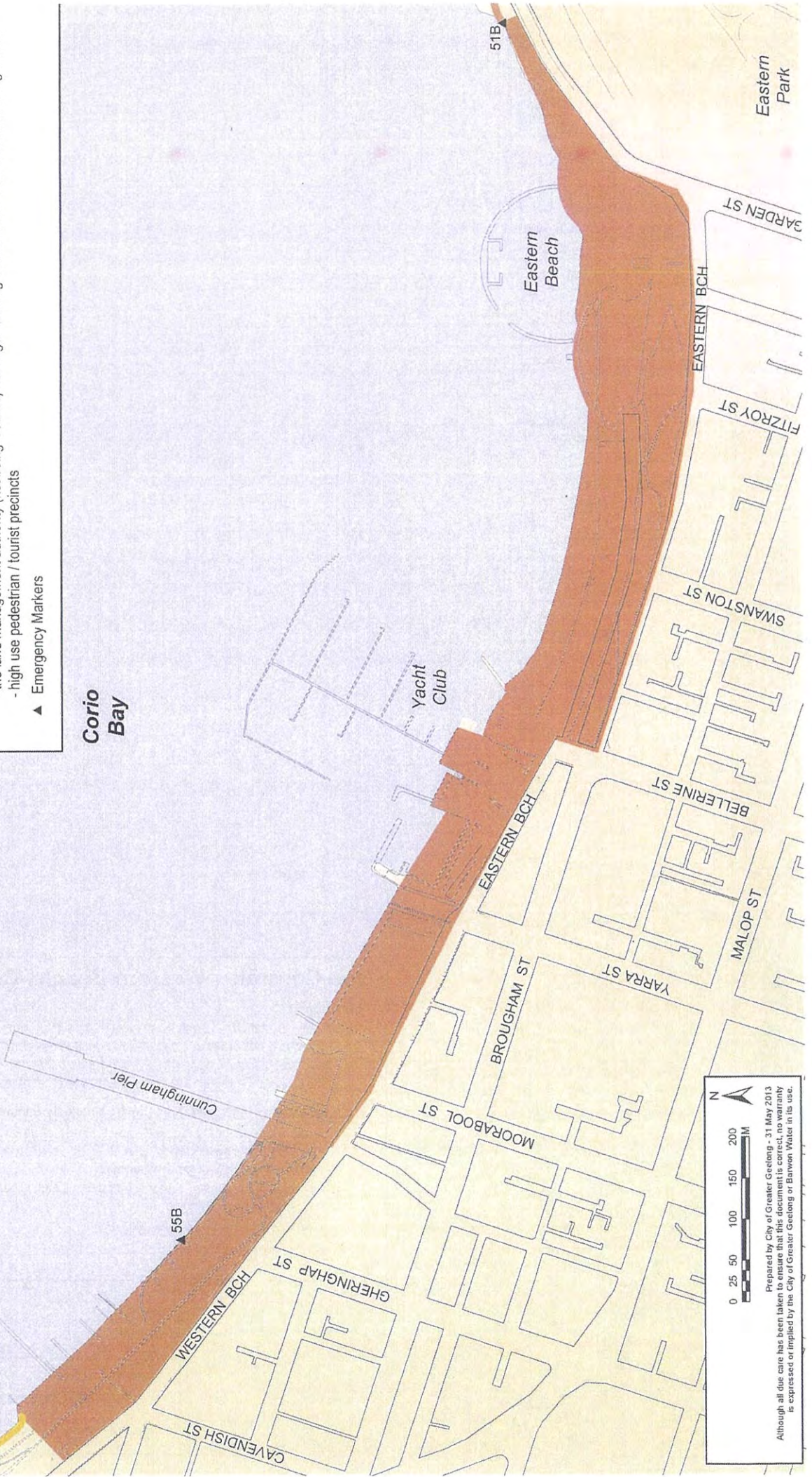
Allow dogs off leash and supervised during specified times all year round; in the mornings prior to 10.00 a.m. and in the evenings after 5.00 p.m. Dogs would be required to be on leash at all other times.

On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Category 4

- Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
 - environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation
 - high use pedestrian / tourist precincts

▲ Emergency Markers

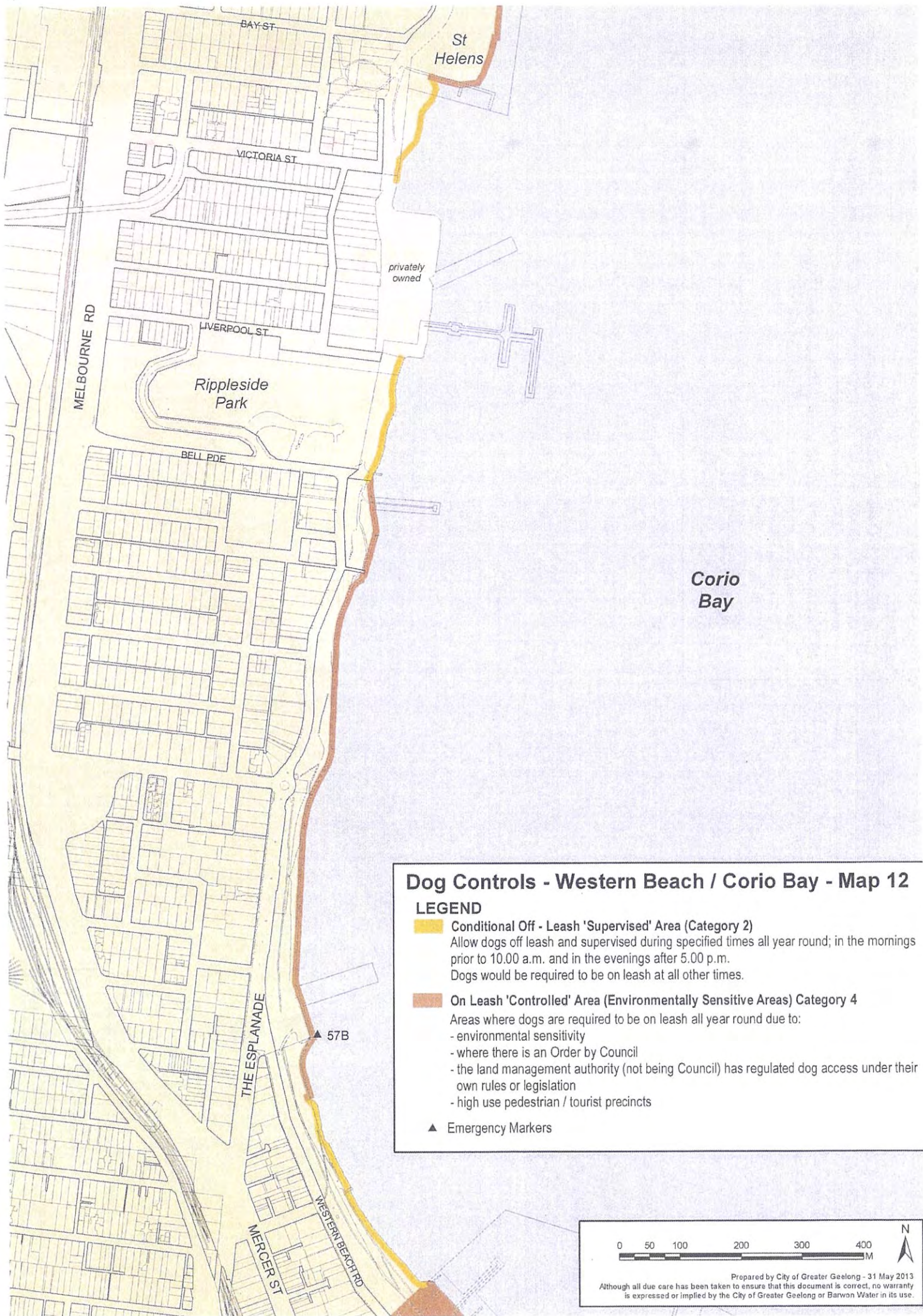
Corio Bay



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Dog Controls - Western Beach / Corio Bay - Map 12

LEGEND

- Conditional Off - Leash 'Supervised' Area (Category 2)**
 Allow dogs off leash and supervised during specified times all year round; in the mornings prior to 10.00 a.m. and in the evenings after 5.00 p.m.
 Dogs would be required to be on leash at all other times.

- On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Category 4**
 Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
 - environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation
 - high use pedestrian / tourist precincts

- Emergency Markers**

N

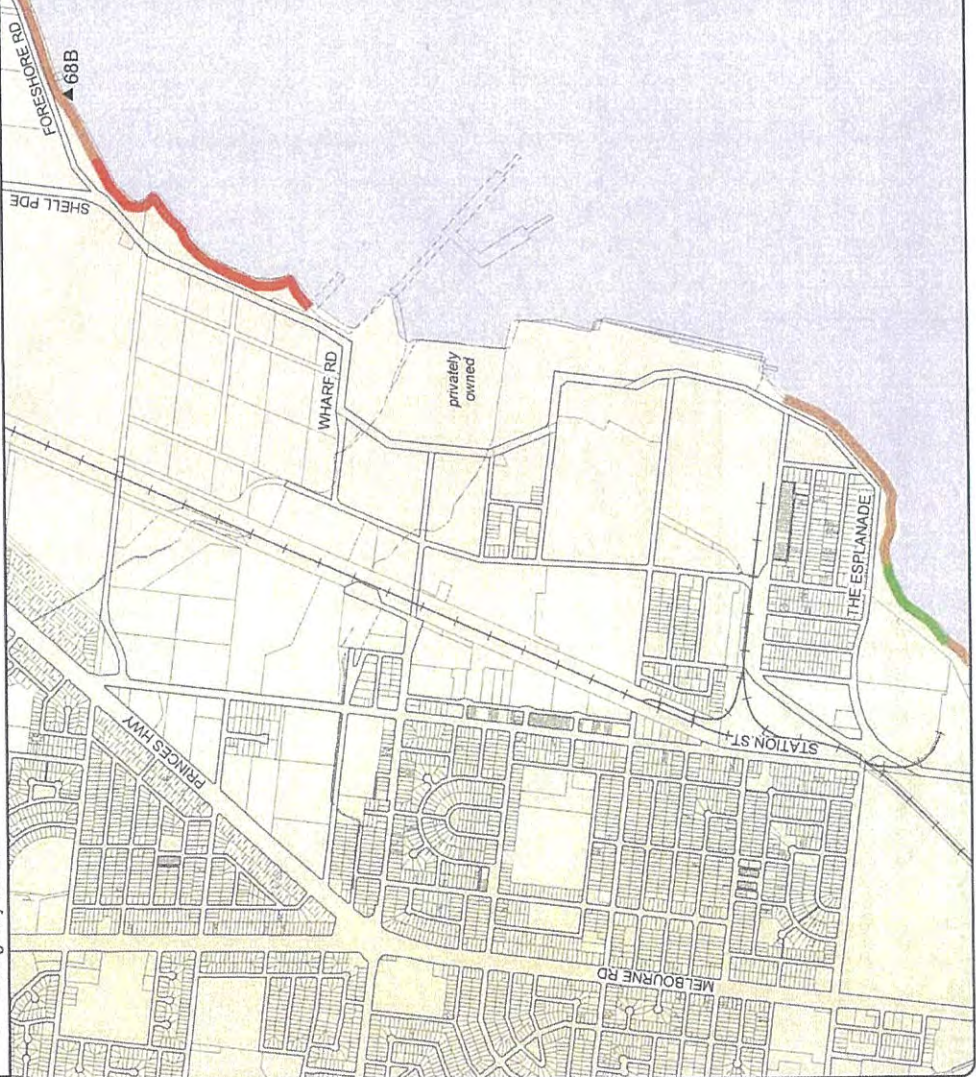
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Dog Controls - Limeburners Bay / Corio Bay - Map 13

LEGEND


- █ **Off - Leash "Supervised" Area (Category 1)**
Allow dogs off leash and supervised. Conditions of use apply.
Dogs must be on leash during Council sanctioned events, markets and sporting activities.
- █ **On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Category 4**
Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
 - environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation
 - high use pedestrian / tourist precincts
- █ **Exclusion area all year round (Category 6)**
Areas that will have dogs prohibited for reasons of:
 - extremely high environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has prohibited dogs under their own rules or legislation (effected by dog control order)
- ▲ **Emergency Markers**





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Dog Controls - Batesford - Map 14

LEGEND

-  On Leash 'Controlled' Area (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Category 4
- Areas where dogs are required to be on leash all year round due to:
 - environmental sensitivity
 - where there is an Order by Council
 - the land management authority (not being Council) has regulated dog access under their own rules or legislation
 - high use pedestrian / tourist precinct



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2. DOG CONTROLS IN PUBLIC PLACES POLICY REVIEW – BELLARINE BAYSIDE FORESHORE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT DRAFT ORDERS

Source: Planning & Development - Health & Local Laws
Acting Director: Joanne Van Slageren
Index Reference: Animal Management - Dogs in Public Places Policy
2018-2021
Portfolio Community Health and Safety

Purpose

To seek approval to enter into an agreement to adopt the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management (BBFCM) dog control orders pursuant to Section 26 (2A) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Background

During the past 18 months, the City has worked closely with the BBFCM in developing draft dog orders that the Council could consider adopting. The adoption of the dog orders would mean that the City has the legislative ability to undertake compliance and enforcement action which also involves community education and awareness.

Through BBFCM's initial community engagement processes in May 2017 and August 2017, 121 submissions were received which generally supported the proposal.

The City incorporated the BBFCM draft orders into its own review process for the Dog Controls in Public Places Policy. Feedback from the City's community engagement process resulted in 44 responses relating to the BBFCM draft orders. Collectively from all the consultative processes 165 responses were received including one petition signed by 866 people. (Refer to **Attachment 2** for 'Discussion' and **Attachment 3** 'Summary of Comments')

The proposed dog orders (**Attachment 4**) have considered the feedback received and would provide appropriate controls to enable all users to have safe and shared access to public places.

Key Issues

- The City currently has two Agreements in place with respect to Dog Control Orders with the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and Barwon Coast Committee of Management. There have not been dog control orders adopted for BBFCM previously.
- The BBFCM coastal land extends between Point Richards Road to St Leonards (Emergency Beach Location Marker 18B). (Refer to maps **Attachment 4**).
- Approximately 44 comments were received directly in relation to BBFCM draft orders, the majority of which were favourable.

Cr Grzybek moved, Cr Mason seconded -

That Council:

- 1) Enter into a Domestic Animal Control Agreement in accordance with Section 26 (2A) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 to adopt the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management dog control orders;**
- 2) Delegate to the Manager Health and Local Laws the authority to carry out the required statutory advertising in the making of the order by Council.**

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

There may be a small overall cost associated with the City incorporating the patrolling of this land into its overall animal management patrol program. Any fines issued will be retained by the City and it is envisaged that there will be some resource sharing arrangement between the City and BBFCM.

Community Engagement

Collectively, there has been three consultative processes undertaken (two by BBFCM and once by the City), resulting in three versions of the draft orders, the final version being developed after the City's community engagement process.

The BBFCM consultations included advertising in local newspapers, utilising the BBFCM social media pages and inviting campers to comment. There were 121 submissions received including a submission from Woofers and Walkers which was signed by 866 people.

The City conducted its community engagement process which included two drop in sessions held in Portarlington (30 attendees during the day session and three attendees at the evening session). A greater response was received through the online survey. The social media campaign through our engagement process reached 32,629 people with 368 actions to click the engagement link. Facebook was the most used platform with 28,654 people reached, Twitter reached 2,135 people and Instagram reached 1,480 people.

The average engagement rate for the City's social media posts is approximately 2% and the engagement rate for the dog control orders was 13.37% making it the second highest post for the month.

Significantly 65% of all traffic to the page was through social media. The survey was also made available in hard copy at customer service centres around Geelong.

The City received 469 total responses with 44 related to the BBFCM land.

Social Equity Considerations

The manner in which information was sought from the community provided opportunity for all groups and all members of our community to have access to information and avenue for feedback. The resultant dog control orders have considered the delivery of safe and accessible public spaces for all and there are no foreseeable barriers in this regard.

By implementing dog control Orders, this will enable the City to implement preventative action which aims to promote safety in public places through reduced number of incidents.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

Under Section 26(2A) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994, Council has the ability to adopt dog control orders on lands not managed by the City. Whilst this is not a mandatory requirement, there is merit in the City working in partnership with such land agencies for the greater benefit to the community, that being safe shared public spaces for all users.

Alignment to Council Plan

Improved Health and Safety of our Community:

- providing safer public places;
- encouraging responsible pet ownership;
- promoting active living.

Informed Social Infrastructure and Planning:

- Provide more quality spaces that support active lifestyles.

More inclusive and Diverse Community:

- Supporting activities that improve social connections in our community;
- Further developing programs that support older people and young people in our community.

Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest with respect to any officer in the preparation of this report.

Risk Assessment

In partnership with BBFCM the City will be able to implement education and awareness programs around the dog orders in order to minimise incidents and promote responsible pet ownership. Furthermore this provides the legal standing to the City in order to prosecute matters that cannot be resolved.

Environmental Implications

There is recognition of the existence of several environmentally sensitive areas that will be provided with the adequate controls contained within these proposed dog control orders.

Attachment 2

Discussion

During the past 18 months the City has worked closely with the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management (BBFCM) in developing draft dog orders that the City could consider adopting through its legislative powers under Section 26 (2A) of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

Initially the BBFCM pro-actively engaged with the community in May 2017 and again in August 2017, which resulted in the draft orders being modified 3 times prior to the official proposed orders being presented to the City for consideration. A total of 121 submissions were received, including one from a dog walking group (Woofers and Walkers) who had commissioned a further 866 signatures to support their submission. During the process:

- 53.7% of respondents supported less dog restrictions;
- 11.5% could see the benefit of both on and off leash zones and wanted a good and fair combination of these; and
- 34.7% wanted more dog restrictions.

Of the 34.7% that want more dog restrictions, most of this was based on some of the historical 'dog orders' that the BBFCM was promoting on its lands, which included the track being designated intermittently as either off leash all year round or prohibited all year around. Clearly these arrangements were not suitable to the changing needs of the community and the BBFCM have responded accordingly to amend the draft dog orders so that they will provide benefit to all stakeholders by providing safe and accessible spaces for people and/or dogs to exercise and walk.

Following the second round of consultation, the key items addressed included:

- Reducing the number of 'prohibited' zones;
- Increasing the number of 'controlled' zones (on leash all year) to provide general safety to all users;
- Enabling safe access through the various caravans parks all year round (24 December-28/29 February – on leash) and (1 March - 23 December – off leash);
- In turn, this changes the existing trail to be continuous all the way between Portarlington to St Leonards;
- Establishing 'seasonal' off leash zones between 1 March and 23 December (on leash at other times) in lower use locations; and
- Establishing a specific 'seasonal' on leash zone in front of the Portarlington Holiday Park to enable access through this location between 1 March and 23 December (prohibited at other times during peak camping season).

Upon officially receiving the draft orders from BBFCM, the City incorporated these into its own review process for the Dog Controls in Public Places Policy and the community engagement process that followed. Feedback from the City's community engagement process relating to these lands resulted in the following:

Approximately 44 comments were received directly in relation to BBFCM draft orders. These related to:

- 20 comments about the seasonal orders which were mostly favourable;
- 10 comments favourable of seasonal orders but requesting consideration for off leash times early morning and evening;
- 9 comments about needing improved signage;

- 8 comments requesting greater enforcement;
- 8 comments to request the removal of the prohibited area on the eastern side of the pier;
- 6 comments relating to wanting safe shared spaces for all;
- 6 comments concerning protection of the environment;
- 4 comments requesting more education for people to understand what it means to have a dog under effective control;
- 3 comments in relation to dog poo/bins.

Considering all the feedback received from the engagement process, it is believed that BBFCM has created considered and measured dog control orders. The seasonal restrictions accommodate for the swell in population during the holiday season and allow residents more off leash areas during the quiet months. The orders are easy to understand and enable continuity for dog walkers along the entirety of the subject land.

Attachment 3 'Summary of Comments'

Theme -Seasonal Orders	No of Responses	Summary of General Comments	Officer Comments
	20	<p>Generally favourable comments for the seasonal orders and the ability to now walk the length of the track without a break in continuity.</p> <p>There were several comments about the need to ensure that wildlife in environmentally sensitive areas should be protected as all times</p>	<p>It is considered that the proposed orders being of a seasonal nature (off-leash) significantly addresses the feedback from the community. Environmentally sensitive areas and high use areas remain on leash and areas that experience low use in 'low season' have ben designated as off-leash under effective control.</p> <p>Dogs are allowed on all beaches all year round, some on leash and some off leash. There are vast stretches of beach available for dog exercise in the seasonal off leash zones between 1 March - 23 December.</p> <p>Importantly the proposed orders provide uninterrupted continuity of the coastal track for its entirety between Portarlinton and St Leonards.</p> <p>We support the proposed orders submitted by the BBFCM.</p>
Theme -Request for off leash times during seasonal orders	No of Responses	Summary of General Comments	Officer Comments
	10	Some comments received about allowing off leash at certain times of the day all year round, not only during the seasonal period of 1 March-23 December.	<p>Following discussions with BBFCM, advice provided to the City is that general consensus has been reached with a large number of people, including dog walking groups, camping ground users etc. to introduce seasonal orders, which are based on managing risk during the 'high' season 23 December- 1 March.</p> <p>It is felt that having two levels of control (dates and times of the day) unnecessarily complicates the rules which could lead to less compliance.</p> <p>Effectively it is only a period of two months that seasonal on-leash applies.</p>
Theme -Signage	No of Responses	Summary of General Comments	Officer Comments
	9	Several comments regarding poor signage.	<p>Acknowledgement of these comments.</p> <p>A signage audit is currently being carried out with a view to upgrading all signage to reflect new orders if a adopted.</p>
Theme -Enforcement	No of Responses	Summary of General Comments	Officer Comments
	8	Comments regarding no enforcement of dog litter and compliance with signs.	Support the feedback received. Will liaise with BBFCM to assist with the view of BBFCM providing adequate numbers of strategically located bins. A signage audit will be completed and signs will be co-branded and correspond to the adopted orders.

Theme -Removal of prohibited area on eastern side of the pier	No of Responses	Summary of General Comments	Officer Comments
	8	Comments relating to the total banning of dogs in peak season between hood road and indented head boat ramp not working.	The initial proposal of prohibiting dogs in the subject locations has been amended. These are now on-leash areas all year round and not prohibited.
Theme - Safe Shared Spaces for all	No of Responses	Summary of General Comments	Officer Comments
	6	<p>Respondents support this and are frustrated at some people's insistence that their dog is 'friendly' and then experience an attack.</p> <p>More education necessary with respect to effective control and more signage needed to compliment this approach and any enforcement activity.</p> <p>Play ground located in off-leash area.</p>	<p>We support the general consensus of establishing safe shared spaces for all users of public spaces through improved education and awareness programs, clear signage and a greater presence of Council Officers conducting random patrols.</p> <p>In particular there is an opportunity to conduct further programs in conjunction with specialty industry groups in relation to educating the community more about what effective control means in practical terms. This is an essential component of a safe shared space, whether that be an on leash or off leash area.</p>
Theme -Environmental concerns	No of Responses	Summary of General Comments	Officer Comments
	6	<p>Comments calling for protection of the environment in a scientifically planned strategy. People frustrated that some dog owners taking no notice of signs indicating nesting birds and allowing their dogs to enter sensitive areas.</p> <p>Monitoring over the recent nesting season has suggested that a number of nests were destroyed by wandering dogs.</p>	<p>The proposed orders in fact enable the use of the entire track by dogs and their owners with a mixture of on and off leash orders along the way to ensure that it is a safe shared space for all users and not specifically weighted towards one user group or the other.</p> <p>There are key environmental issues that need to be protected and the adoption of the proposed orders addresses this adequately.</p>
Theme -Education for people to understand what is "under effective control"	No of Responses	Summary of General Comments	Officer Comments
	4	Comments calling for more emphasis on dogs being under effective control at all times whether on or off leash.	This issue would be incorporated into the municipal wide education program around effective control and harm minimisation.
Theme -Dog poo/bins	No of Responses	Summary of General Comments	Officer Comments
	3	Comments of frustration that people do not pick up dog poo and do not use bins	Support the feedback received. Will liaise with BBFCM to assist with the view of BBFCM providing adequate numbers of strategically located bins. A signage audit will be completed and signs will be co-branded and correspond to the adopted orders.

Attachment 4

‘Coastal Maps’

Draft Dog Management Zones for Public Exhibition Map 1 of 4: Portarlington

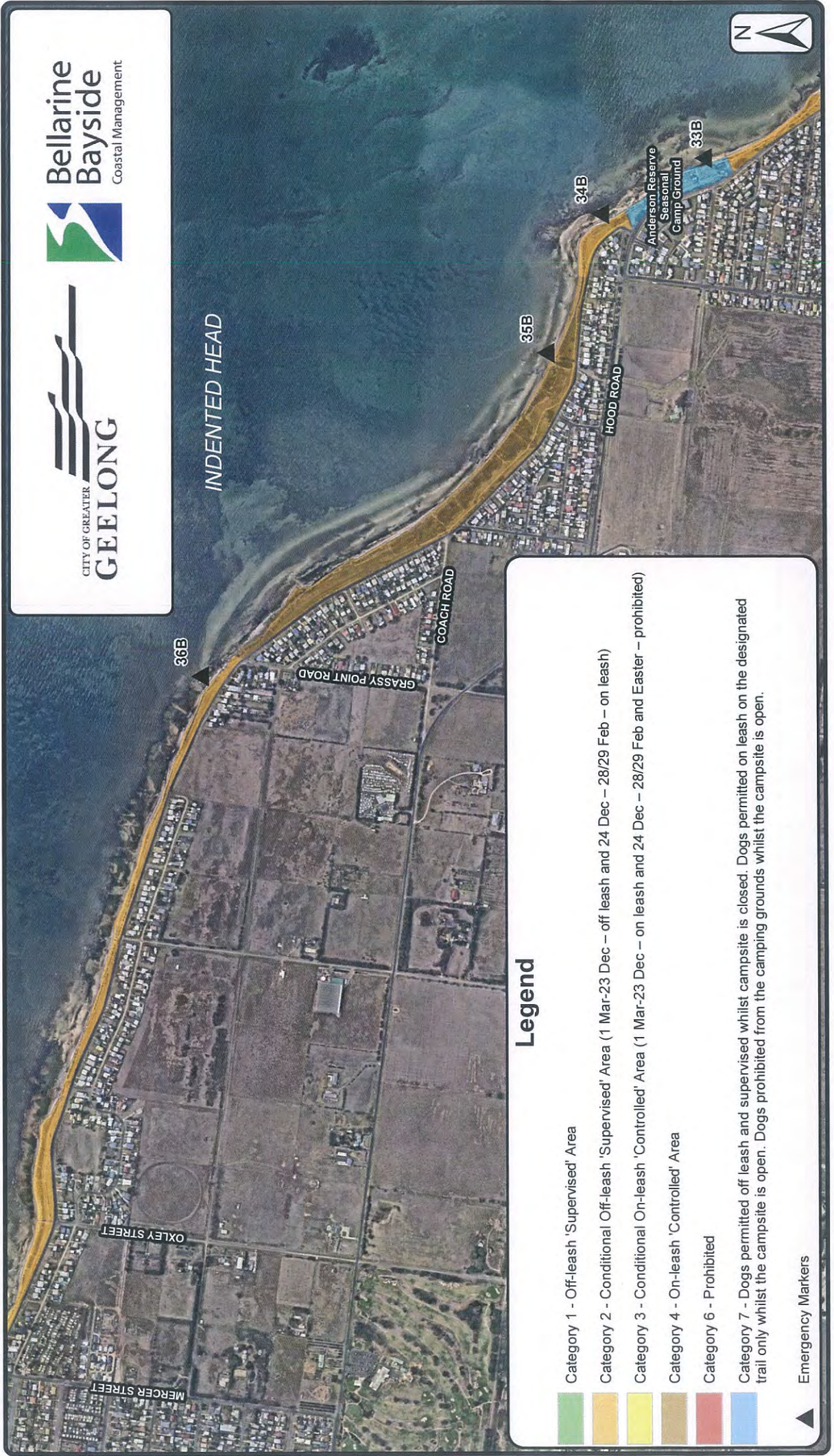


Legend

- Category 1 - Off-leash 'Supervised' Area
- Category 2 - Conditional Off-leash 'Supervised' Area (1 Mar-23 Dec – off leash and 24 Dec – 28/29 Feb – on leash)
- Category 3 - Conditional On-leash 'Controlled' Area (1 Mar-23 Dec – on leash and 24 Dec – 28/29 Feb and Easter – prohibited)
- Category 4 - On-leash 'Controlled' Area
- Category 6 - Prohibited
- Category 7 - Dogs permitted off leash and supervised whilst campsite is closed. Dogs permitted on leash on the designated trail only whilst the campsite is open. Dogs prohibited from the camping grounds whilst the campsite is open.

▲ Emergency Markers

Draft Dog Management Zones for Public Exhibition Map 2 of 4: The Esplanade



**Bellarine
Bayside**
Coastal Management



**CITY OF GREATER
GEEELONG**

Legend


- Category 1 - Off-leash 'Supervised' Area
- Category 2 - Conditional Off-leash 'Supervised' Area (1 Mar-23 Dec – off leash and 24 Dec – 28/29 Feb – on leash)
- Category 3 - Conditional On-leash 'Controlled' Area (1 Mar-23 Dec – on leash and 24 Dec – 28/29 Feb and Easter – prohibited)
- Category 4 - On-leash 'Controlled' Area
- Category 6 - Prohibited
- Category 7 - Dogs permitted off leash and supervised whilst campsite is closed. Dogs permitted on leash on the designated trail only whilst the campsite is open. Dogs prohibited from the camping grounds whilst the campsite is open.
- Emergency Markers

Draft Dog Management Zones for Public Exhibition

Map 3 of 4: Indented Head to St. Leonards



Legend

-  Category 1 - Off-leash 'Supervised' Area
-  Category 2 - Conditional Off-leash 'Supervised' Area
(1 Mar-23 Dec – off leash and 24 Dec – 28/29 Feb – on leash)
-  Category 3 - Conditional On-leash 'Controlled' Area
(1 Mar-23 Dec – on leash and 24 Dec – 28/29 Feb and Easter – prohibited)
-  Category 4 - On-leash 'Controlled' Area
-  Category 6 - Prohibited
-  Category 7 - Dogs permitted off leash and supervised whilst campsite is closed. Dogs permitted on leash on the designated trail only whilst the campsite is open. Dogs prohibited from the camping grounds whilst the campsite is open.
-  Emergency Markers

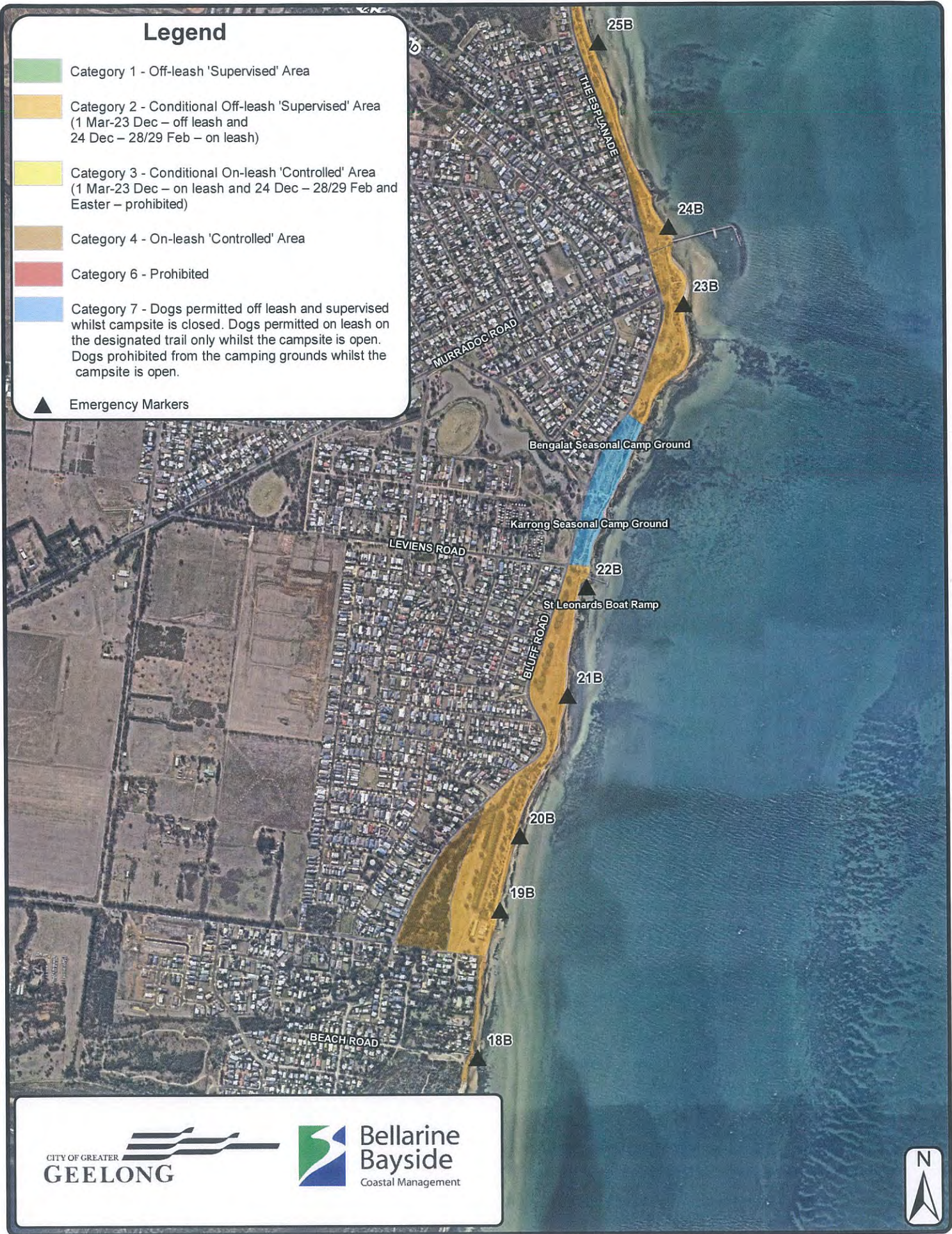


Draft Dog Management Zones for Public Exhibition

Map 4 of 4: St. Leonards to Edwards Point

Legend

- Category 1 - Off-leash 'Supervised' Area
- Category 2 - Conditional Off-leash 'Supervised' Area
(1 Mar-23 Dec – off leash and
24 Dec – 28/29 Feb – on leash)
- Category 3 - Conditional On-leash 'Controlled' Area
(1 Mar-23 Dec – on leash and 24 Dec – 28/29 Feb and
Easter – prohibited)
- Category 4 - On-leash 'Controlled' Area
- Category 6 - Prohibited
- Category 7 - Dogs permitted off leash and supervised
whilst campsite is closed. Dogs permitted on leash on
the designated trail only whilst the campsite is open.
Dogs prohibited from the camping grounds whilst the
campsite is open.
- Emergency Markers



3. PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT - ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD) LOCAL POLICY

Source:	Planning and Development - Planning Strategy
Acting Director:	Joanne van Slageren
Index Reference:	Subject: Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Local Policy
Portfolio:	Sustainable Development

Purpose

To request endorsement from Council to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit a planning scheme amendment to introduce an environmentally sustainable development local planning policy into the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Background

A proposed Local Planning Policy (Attachment 2) has been prepared to encourage environmentally sustainable development (ESD) outcomes to be achieved in a manner that will ensure new developments achieve best practice and ensure more developments achieve above mandatory building standards.

The introduction of a local planning policy follows an 18 month Council led ESD pilot program which that the internal referral process did not impact timeframes for the assessment of applications. Attachment 3 includes a report of the pilot program. The policy builds on a significant body of work undertaken at the local and state level to improve the integration of ESD into the planning system. To date, similar ESD policies have been successfully implemented by ten Victorian councils, with another seven in train.

Key Issues

- The proposed local policy will require that multi-unit, mixed use and commercial development include an ESD assessment as part of the planning permit process.
- The proposed local policy will ensure that development achieves best practice in environmental sustainability, from the design stage through to construction and operation.
- Assessment of medium to large scale and complex applications will be undertaken by an ESD officer and small applications will be assessed by the statutory planners.
- The proposal strongly aligns with the Council Plan, the Clever and Creative Vision, Environmental Management Strategy, and the Low Carbon Growth Plan for Geelong. There are clear positive economic, social and environmental benefits to be gained through improved sustainable development outcomes in planning.

Cr Mason moved, Cr Asher seconded -

That Council resolve to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare and exhibit an amendment to the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme to include an Environmentally Sustainable Development Local Planning Policy and consequential changes to the municipal strategic statement.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

The report proposes the introduction of new policy into the planning scheme via a planning scheme amendment process. Attachment 2 includes a summary of the proposed policy and application and a copy of the draft policy provisions.

Financial Implications

The implementation of the local policy can be managed with existing resources. Not all applications that trigger an ESD assessment will need to be referred to an ESD Officer. However, this will mean that statutory planners will require extra training to be able to assess Sustainable Design Assessments that are submitted with planning applications.

Community Engagement

Over the past 18 month trial period, the concept of ESD has been introduced to the community. An ESD Officer has been available from the pre-application stage, and through the planning application process. The ESD Officer has been available to provide free advice, with some applicants using the service multiple times before submitting an application.

An amendment under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 will include public consultation.

Social Equity Considerations

A local ESD policy will facilitate sustainable built form outcomes which will provide affordable living outcomes over the life of the building for commercial and residential occupiers. As ongoing servicing costs will be reduced, it will have a positive community benefit

Alignment to Council Plan

Council Plan 2018-2022, continues our commitment to make the city a more sustainable place to live and work.

The strategic priorities for planned sustainable development include having planning controls in place to require a mandatory sustainable design assessment for all new developments.

Environmental Implications

Currently, residential and non-residential buildings making up more than two-thirds of the total annual carbon emissions in the Geelong region. Aside from this, the construction of buildings, including demolition waste, contributes to 40% of all materials sent to landfill. During operation buildings use large amounts of potable water for non-drinking purposes.

The amendment is expected to have a positive effect on environmental outcomes as it requires new developments to achieve best practice ESD outcomes. It provides a framework for early consideration of environmental sustainability at the building design stage ensuring that developments are above minimum standards and achieve best practice outcomes by introducing objectives for the above mentioned ESD principles.

The Low Carbon Growth Plan for Geelong identifies the significant carbon emission reduction benefit from focusing on reducing energy costs (heating and cooling) from residential and commercial buildings.

Attachment 2

Proposed Draft Planning Policy

The ESD policy will introduce objectives for the following ESD principles to ensure that developments achieve best practice in development applications:

Energy Performance

Water Resources

Indoor Environment Quality

Stormwater Management

Transport

Waste Management

Urban Ecology

The proposed policy will apply in instances when a planning permit application is already required by the planning scheme. The proposal will ensure that development achieves best practice in environmental sustainability, from the design stage through to construction and operation. This will ensure that a greater number of proposed developments will incorporate ESD measures beyond minimum standards, to the benefit of the wider community of Greater Geelong.

Advice from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is that the policy must be practically identical to the ESD policies recently introduced by the Cities of Darebin and Manningham in Amendment GC42. The only variation should be the specific planning triggers that are set, with the rest of the policy and objectives remaining the same.

A copy of the proposed policy – *Clause 22.68 ESD local planning policy* follows this summary introduction.

Application requirements

Table 1 outlines the two types of ESD reports that applicants will be required to submit alongside their planning applications. The level of assessment necessary is determined by the size of the proposed development:

- For small-to-medium developments a **Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA)** is a simple sustainability assessment of a proposed design at the planning stage. An SDA can be prepared by the applicant. Submitting a Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) report, will satisfy the application requirements for a SDA;
- For large developments a **Sustainable Management Plan (SMP)** is a detailed assessment of a proposed design at the planning stage. An SMP requires more information about performance outcomes and how a higher level of sustainability will be achieved, and usually requires engaging a consultant.

The key tool used to assess the sustainability performance of a development is BESS, which is a free online tool developed specifically for Victorian local governments. It provides a sustainability rating for residential, non-residential and mixed-use developments. Alternatively, Green Star rating is a more complex tool and also provides holistic ratings.

The outcomes of the Sustainable Design Assessment Pilot program are highlighted in the *Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) – Pilot Assessment report – attachment 3*.

The outcomes of the pilot, the identified potential environmental benefits, and an analysis of permit statistics of Greater Geelong determined the recommended threshold triggers for the ESD Policy, outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Proposed ESD Application Triggers and Application Requirements

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	Example tools
Accommodation/Mixed Use with residential component of:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2-9 dwellings ▪ Developments of a building for accommodation other than dwellings with gross floor area of 100m² to 1500m². 	Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA)	BESS STORM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10 or more new dwellings; ▪ Development of a building for accommodation other than dwellings with a gross floor area of more than 1500m². 	Sustainability Management Plan (SMP) Green Travel Plan (GTP)	Green Star MUSIC STORM
Non-Residential:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of a non-residential building with a gross floor area of 300m² to 1500m²; or ▪ Alterations and additions creating between 300m² to 1500m² of additional gross floor area (excluding outbuildings). 	Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA)	BESS MUSIC STORM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of a non-residential building with a gross floor area of more than 1500m²; or ▪ Alterations and additions more than 1500m². 	Sustainability Management Plan (SMP) Green Travel Plan (GTP)	BESS Green Star MUSIC STORM

The SDA or SMP will be assessed as part of the planning permit application and conditions will be included on resulting planning permits to give effect to the recommendations of the ESD assessment.

The policy is worded to allow flexibility in meeting the objectives of the policy, and a fit-for-purpose solution will be sought in each individual application.

Interaction with the Building Legislation

Concerns about the potential for overlap and conflict of an ESD planning policy with the National Construction Code (NCC) has been deliberated at length in the previous Group Council Amendments. The findings of the most recent GC42 panel states:

- *The policy does not overlap or contravene the role of the NCC because the NCC only seeks to achieve minimum compliance, whereas considering and incorporating ESD at the planning stage allows an opportunity to exceed minimum compliance through using basic passive design principles which is best done at project conception.*
- *The NCC does not cover passive design, water use reduction (except for class 1 buildings), stormwater pollution, materials and waste which all need to be considered to create a sustainable building.*

Interaction with subdivision

The City has been collaborating with eight other regional councils on an ESD Subdivision Policy proof of concept study for regional Victoria. The key findings of the work showed there are clear social, economic and environmental benefits associated with ESD in regional subdivisions. These benefits differ across Victoria's climate regions, as does the nature and capacity of councils and the residential development industry. While the period of analysis was 30 years, the life of a residential subdivision is much more enduring and so subdivision-wide sustainability measures warrant greater consideration.

It is not proposed to include a sustainable subdivision local policy at this time. There is further opportunity for work collaboratively with government and industry to build awareness of the benefits of ESD, strengthen policy and guidelines, use voluntary tools and assessments and undertake demonstration projects.

The *Environmentally Sustainable Design for Subdivisions in Regional Victoria* report is available at www.geelongaustralia.com.au/strategicplanning.

DRAFT LOCAL POLICY

22 LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES

22.## ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DD/MM/YYYY
Proposed c##

This policy applies throughout the City of Greater Geelong to residential and non-residential development that requires a planning permit in accordance with the thresholds in Table 1 of this Policy.

22.##-1 Policy Basis

DD/MM/YYYY
Proposed C##

This policy builds on and implements the sustainability objectives and strategies expressed in Clause 21.02 of the Municipal Strategic Statement relating to environmentally sustainable development (ESD).

The City of Greater Geelong is committed to delivering environmentally sustainable development that responds to climate change. Critical to achieving this commitment is for development to incorporate appropriate environmental design standards.

This policy provides a framework for early consideration of environmental sustainability at the building design stage in order to achieve the following efficiencies and benefits:

- Easier compliance with building requirements through passive design;
- Reduction of costs over the life of the building;
- Improved affordability over the longer term through reduced running costs;
- Improved amenity and liveability;
- More environmentally sustainable urban form; and
- Integrated water management.

If Environmentally Sustainable Development is not considered at the time of planning approval, the ability to achieve environmentally sustainable development may be compromised by the time these matters are considered as part of a building approval. In addition, there may be difficulties or extra costs associated with retrofitting the development to implement environmentally sustainable design principles.

This policy does not prescribe performance outcomes. The policy enables the provision of information and provides decision guidelines which will assist in the assessment of whether development meets environmentally sustainable design principles.

This policy complements a range of non-statutory measures aimed at encouraging environmentally sustainable development. These measures include educating residents and applicants, assisting applicants to use Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) tools, leading by example with Council projects, promotion of exemplary private projects and promotion of the use of materials with favourable life cycle impacts.

22.##-2 Objectives

DD/MM/YYYY
Proposed C##

The overarching objective is that development should achieve best practice in environmentally sustainable development from the design stage through to construction and operation.

In the context of this policy best practice ESD is defined as a combination of commercially proven techniques, methodologies and systems, appropriate to the scale of development and site specific opportunities and constraints, which are demonstrated and locally available and have already led to optimum ESD outcomes. Best practice in the built environment encompasses the full life of the build.

It is a policy objective to encourage innovative technology, design and processes in all development, which positively influence the sustainability of buildings.

The following objectives should be satisfied where applicable:

Energy performance

- To improve the efficient use of energy, by ensuring development demonstrates design potential for ESD initiatives at the planning stage.
- To reduce total operating greenhouse gas emissions.
- To reduce energy peak demand through particular design measures (eg, appropriate building orientation, shading to glazed surfaces, optimise glazing to exposed surfaces, space allocation for solar panels and external heating and cooling systems).

Water resources

- To improve water efficiency.
- To reduce total operating potable water use.
- To encourage the collection and reuse of stormwater.
- To encourage the appropriate use of alternative water sources (eg. greywater).

Indoor environment quality

- To achieve a healthy indoor environment quality for the wellbeing of building occupants, including the provision of fresh air intake, cross ventilation, and natural daylight.
- To achieve thermal comfort levels with minimised need for mechanical heating, ventilation and cooling.
- To reduce indoor air pollutants by encouraging use of materials with low toxicity chemicals.
- To reduce reliance on mechanical heating, ventilation, cooling and lighting systems.
- To minimise noise levels and noise transfer within and between buildings and associated external areas.

Stormwater management

- To reduce the impact of stormwater run-off.
- To improve the water quality of stormwater run-off.
- To achieve best practice stormwater quality outcomes.
- To incorporate the use of water sensitive urban design, including stormwater re-use.

Transport

- To ensure that the built environment is designed to promote the use of walking, cycling and public transport, in that order.
- To minimise car dependency.
- To promote the use of low emissions vehicle technologies and supporting infrastructure.

Waste management

- To ensure waste avoidance, reuse and recycling during the design, construction and operation stages of development.
- To ensure durability and long term reusability of building materials.
- To ensure sufficient space is allocated for future change in waste management needs, including (where possible) composting and green waste facilities.

Urban ecology

- To protect and enhance biodiversity within the municipality.
- To provide environmentally sustainable landscapes and natural habitats, and minimise the urban heat island effect.
- To encourage the retention of significant trees.
- To encourage the planting of indigenous vegetation.
- To encourage the provision of space for productive gardens, particularly in larger residential developments.

22.##-3 Policy

DD/MM/YYYY
Proposed C##

It is policy to ensure innovative technology, design and processes positively influence the sustainability of all development.

It is policy that applications for the types of development listed in Table 1 be accompanied by information which demonstrates how relevant policy objectives will be achieved.

It is policy that applications for larger non-residential developments (as specified in Table 1) be accompanied by a Green Travel Plan.

22.##-4 Application Requirements

DD/MM/YYYY
Proposed C##

An application must be accompanied by either a Sustainable Design Assessment or a Sustainability Management Plan as specified in Table 1, as appropriate.

A Sustainable Design Assessment will usually not need to be prepared by a suitably qualified professional. It should:

- Provide a simple assessment of the development. It may use relevant tools from the examples listed in the table or an alternative assessment approach to the satisfaction of the responsible authority; and
- Identify environmentally sustainable development measures proposed in response to policy objectives, having regard to the site's opportunities and constraints.

A Sustainability Management Plan should:

- Provide a detailed assessment of the development. It may use relevant tools from the examples listed in the table or an alternative assessment approach to the satisfaction of the responsible authority; and
- Identify achievable environmental performance outcomes having regard to the objectives of this policy (as appropriate); and
- Demonstrate that the building has the design potential to achieve the relevant environmental performance outcomes, having regard to the site's opportunities and constraints; and
- Document the means by which the performance outcomes can be achieved.

Various assessment tools have been listed in Table 1 which may be used to assess how the proposed development addresses the objectives of this policy, as appropriate.

Table 1 – ESD Application Requirements

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	Example tools
Accommodation/Mixed Use with residential component of:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2-9 dwellings ▪ Developments of a building for accommodation other than dwellings with gross floor area of 100m² to 1500m². 	Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA)	BESS STORM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10 or more new dwellings; ▪ Development of a building for accommodation other than dwellings with a gross floor area of more than 1500m². 	Sustainability Management Plan (SMP) Green Travel Plan (GTP)	Green Star MUSIC STORM
Non-Residential:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of a non-residential building with a gross floor area of 300m² to 1500m²; or ▪ Alterations and additions creating between 300m² to 1500m² of additional gross floor area (excluding outbuildings). 	Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA)	BESS MUSIC STORM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of a non-residential building with a gross floor area of more than 1500m²; or ▪ Alterations and additions more than 1500m². 	Sustainability Management Plan (SMP) Green Travel Plan (GTP)	BESS Green Star MUSIC STORM

Note 1: Development (in Table 1) has the same meaning as in Section 3 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, but does not include subdivision. To remove any doubt, development also includes alteration and additions. In the case of alterations and additions, the requirements of the Policy apply only to the alterations and additions.

Note 2: Mixed Use developments are required to provide the information applicable to each use component of the development.

22. ##-5 Decision Guidelines

DD/MM/YYYY
Proposed C##

In determining an application, the Responsible Authority will consider as appropriate:

- The extent to which the development meets the objectives and requirements of this policy from the design stage through to construction and operation.
- Whether the proposed environmentally sustainable development performance standards are functional and effective to minimise environmental impact.
- Whether the proposed environmentally sustainable development initiatives are reasonable having regard to the type and scale of the development and any site constraints.
- Whether an appropriate assessment method has been used.
- Whether an ESD plan or framework has previously been approved by the responsible authority (whether under a planning control or otherwise)

22.##-6 Reference Documents

DD/MM/YYYY
Proposed C##

*BESS (Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard) www.bess.net.au,
Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE), 2015
Green Star, Green Building Council of Australia, www.gbca.com.au
Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (Nat HERS), Department of Climate
Change and Energy Efficiency, www.nathers.gov.au
STORM, Melbourne Water, www.storm.melbournewater.com.au
Urban Stormwater Best Practice Guidelines, CSIRO, 2006*

Note: The above reference documents and websites may be amended from time to time. It is intended that these documents and websites (or amended versions) are relevant reference documents to this policy.

22.##-7 Commencement

DD/MM/YYYY
Proposed C##

The ESD Application requirements in Table 1 do not apply to applications received by the responsible authority before the gazettal date of this clause.

22.##-8 Expiry

DD/MM/YYYY
Proposed C##

This policy will expire on xxxxx, or earlier if it is superseded by an equivalent provision of the Victoria Planning Scheme.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD)

PILOT ASSESSMENT

Contents

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Council acknowledges Wadawurrung, Traditional Owners of this land, and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of the Greater Geelong community today.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The planning process can influence initial site layout, orientation, internal layouts and site development in a manner that will ensure that environmentally sustainable design is achieved in all urban development. The introduction of a local Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) policy will ensure Council achieves the above mandatory building standards target, as well as sustainable development that responds to climate change, as outlined in the Council Plan 2018-2022, the Environmental Management Strategy and the Clever and Creative Vision.

We acknowledge that the City is not directly responsible for community emissions but can play leading role in enabling positive change. One way this can be done is through local planning controls (Zero Carbon Emission Strategy 2017-2020).

An amendment to the Local Planning Scheme will ensure best practice Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) initiatives are considered from the design stage of a building, throughout its construction and ongoing management. Benefit Cost Analyses (BCA) done by pitt&sherry (2013) as well as AECOM (2018), show that the benefit of implementing ESD interventions can outweigh the cost. This is particularly the case when orientation of the development is unable to achieve passive solar gain, achieved by having the living spaces and private open space orientated to the north and implementing best practice sustainable design principles.

Ten Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) member councils have introduced a local 'Environmentally Sustainable Development' policy since 2015, requiring either a Sustainability Design Assessment or a Sustainability Management Plan to accompany planning applications, demonstrating how best practice sustainability outcomes will be achieved in their development. With the City being an active member of CASBE, we have the opportunity to share resources and build on the work that has already been done.

Over the past 18 months, the City ran a voluntary Sustainable Design Assessment pilot program. Assessments were carried out at no cost to the applicant by an ESD Officer. The officer was available for pre-application appointments, providing recommendations to improve ESD credentials of planning applications that triggered a referral, and the ESD Officer was also available for internal referrals.

Triggers for a referral for an ESD assessment were:

- residential developments with three or more new dwellings
- commercial developments with a floor area over 100 square metres.

During the pilot phase, 85 planning applications were assessed by referral, 71 pre-application appointments were scheduled and 24 internal referrals were received directly from planners. Planning applications were assessed using the 'Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process' (SDAPP) Framework and provided to the applicant within the two week planning timeline. Across all assessments, recommendations regularly included: layout changes to make use of the northern orientation; revision of external shading to windows and doors on the north and west elevations; inclusion of external clothes drying space; and, adequate space for recycling, green waste bins and space allocated for onsite composting.

Although the majority of assessments did not result in changed plans being submitted, it is unknown whether internal revisions were made during the building process. Recommendations regularly included: use of efficient fixtures and fittings; thermally efficient and eco-friendly building materials; and, heat-pump technology heating and cooling, and hot water systems.

Over the pilot period there were several applications that were impacted by the availability of the ESD Officer, which are highlighted in this report. However, with the majority of assessments showing no ESD changes to the plans, as the uptake was completely voluntary, an Amendment to the Local Planning Scheme will provide statutory weight, setting policy objectives and application requirements for medium and large scale residential, mixed-use and non-residential developments.

Overall the proposed Amendment to the Local Planning Scheme will assist in achieving Council's commitment to *assess planning applications to ensure they meet best practice environmental standards and increasing the number of residential and commercial buildings achieving above mandatory standards* (Environmental Management Strategy 2014-2017).

1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide the justification for a new Local Planning Policy for Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) that is proposed to be introduced into the Geelong Planning Scheme via a Planning Scheme Amendment.

This report sets out the background to this policy and the supporting work, including:

- Assessment of the local pilot program
- Proposed application triggers and permit data activity
- Resource implications
- Implications for the Local Planning Policy Framework

The planning system can promote achieving higher than minimum standards implementing local planning requirements. In 2009, the 'Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment' (CASBE) formed, an association of Victorian rural and urban councils. As member the City of Greater Geelong is committed to the creation of a sustainable built environment and focused on applying environmentally sustainable development (ESD) principles to the built environment through the statutory planning system.

In 2013, six metropolitan CASBE member councils prepared an amendment to the planning scheme to introduce local ESD policies. The Environmentally Efficient Design Advisory Committee was appointed by the Minister for Planning on 15 June 2013 to review and oversee the amendment process and the submissions received. In their final report, the panel noted (p.50):

"The Committee acknowledges that the Amendment Councils have developed these policies in response to a lack of Statewide approach and are to be commended for their vision and commitments" and goes on to note *"even if a Statewide policy is introduced, local policies may still be appropriate where municipalities seek to 'raise the bar higher' either in specific locations, or where the community has higher sustainability expectations"*.

The Committee was supportive of the policy subject to some minor changes. The local planning scheme amendments were approved by the Minister in late 2015. Since this time four more councils have introduced Amendments to the Planning Scheme and a number of additional councils, including Greater Bendigo City Council are now pursuing a similar amendment to implement a local ESD policy.

The City has committed to delivering environmentally sustainable development that responds to climate change, setting out a number of objectives and targets in the Environmental Management Strategy, Clever and Creative Vision, and the recently released Council Plan 2018-2022. These include increasing the number of residential and commercial buildings achieving above mandatory standards set out in the National Construction Code (NCC), and creating well connected and sustainable high amenity neighbourhoods. The introduction of ESD assessment at the planning stage is an effective method to achieve the objectives and targets set out by the City.

With the City adopting the Sustainable Buildings Policy in 2017, the City of Greater Geelong is already leading the way by improving sustainability throughout the full life cycle of all types of Council buildings from concept right through to decommissioning.

The City's 'Smarter Homes, Smarter Living' program has been educating home buyers and builders on the benefits sustainable development can have on reducing running costs of power, water and gas. The City has also partnered with a community group to deliver a local Sustainable House Day event for the past nine years, showcasing sustainably built and renovated homes in the Geelong region and educating the public about the benefits of environmentally sustainable design.

The need for greater statutory weight for ESD principles has been highlighted during the voluntary pilot program, with the majority of assessed applications not taking on any of the voluntary recommendations. The proposed Amendment will ensure that a higher percentage of new residential and commercial developments achieve above mandatory standards, by requiring best-practice ESD outcomes to be considered early in the planning stages.

2 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Climate change, population growth, liveability and the local economic models have been identified by Council as key drivers affecting the City's future. Residential and non-residential buildings making up more than two-thirds of the total annual carbon emissions in the Geelong Region. High demand for housing is generating significant development activity. Sustainable design principles are essential to the City of Greater Geelong being a carbon-neutral city region by 2050.

There is currently limited ability within the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme to require a planning permit application to consider and implement ESD principles in the development.

Over the past 18 month period the Statutory Planning and Planning Strategy units ran a free sustainable design assessment (SDA) pilot program. The purpose of the pilot was to the understanding of internal and external stakeholders of ESD principles and benefits, as well as to get a better understanding of resourcing requirements for an ESD Officer. Feedback received to the program has been very positive.

With the endorsement of the *Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future* in 2017, the City is committed to a series of aspirations, including:

- Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment; and,
- Development and implementation of sustainable solutions.

We acknowledge that the City is not directly responsible for community emissions but can play leading role in enabling positive change. One way this can be done is through local planning controls (Zero Carbon Emission Strategy 2017-2020).

The local policy will provide require ESD assessment for medium and large scale residential, mixed-use and non-residential developments, as opposed to the voluntary approach taken during the pilot. This will ensure that development achieves best practices for the following ESD principles:

- Energy Efficiency;
- Water Resources;

- Indoor Environment Quality;
- Stormwater Management;
- Transport;
- Waste Management; and
- Urban Ecology.

The City of Greater Geelong is a member of the 'Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment' (CASBE). Formed in 2009, CASBE is an alliance of councils committed to the creation of a sustainable built environment and focused on applying sustainable design principles to the built environment through the statutory planning system. As a CASBE member we have the opportunity to share resources and build on the work that has already been done.

Encouraging development that achieves best practice environmental design standards will be critical to the City of Greater Geelong achieving its commitment to delivering environmentally sustainable development that responds to climate change and delivering on the strategic objectives outlined in the Municipal Strategic Statement, the Environmental Management Strategy, the Council Plan and as part of its commitment to become UNESCO City of Design.

POLICY SUPPORT

MUNICIPAL STRATEGIC STATEMENT

Clause 21.02 City of Greater Geelong Sustainable Growth Framework states that:

"All actions and development undertaken in the City of Greater Geelong meets the needs of the present community, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

COUNCIL PLAN 2018-2022

Released in May 2018, the Draft Council Plan 2018-2022 highlights planned sustainable development, which entails using sustainable design principles to guide development. A key priority is improving environmental performance of new developments, using planning controls, with the measure of success including planning controls in place that require a sustainable design assessment for all new developments.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Council adopted the Environmental Management Strategy in October 2014. Under the Strategic Priority “Sustainable Urban & Rural Development”, the Strategy identifies the following priority actions:

- Increase the number of programs and activities that promote residential and commercial buildings achieving above mandatory standards;
- Assess planning applications to ensure they meet best practice environmental standards;
- Enhance sustainability standards of Council buildings and urban development;
- Implement Sustainability Guidelines in the Armstrong Creek Town Centre Precinct Structure Plan and review the ability for these types of guidelines to be used more broadly across the municipality;
- Encourage the use of appropriate tools to assist with planning decision making e.g. Green Star Communities guidelines; and,

- Increase the take up of One Planet Living program or similar best practice program by developers and architects of new developments in the region.

UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK

In November 2017, Geelong joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), being designated a UNESCO City of Design. The City of Greater Geelong has to demonstrate its commitment to the UCCN Mission Statement which aims to:

“Strengthen cooperation with and among cities that have recognized creativity as a strategic factor of sustainable development as regards economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects.”

There are policy implications of being a member of the Network. The City has committed to using the membership to drive policies, strategies and activities towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11. This goal aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

3 THE PILOT PROGRAM

In June 2016, a voluntary Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA) pilot program was introduced. An assessment was carried out at no cost to the applicant by an Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Officer employed by Council. The ESD Officer was available for pre-application appointments, assessing applications that triggered a referral as well as being available as an additional resource for planners.

Being available for pre-application meetings meant that the ESD Officer was able to introduce ESD concepts and language prior to plans being submitted. The ESD Officer was available to provide free advice, with several applicants using the service multiple times before submitting an application.

The Officer assessed planning applications of medium to large residential, mixed-use and non-residential developments to identify opportunities to improve the ESD credentials and made recommendations on how these improvements could be achieved. Applicants were encouraged to implement some or all of the recommendations. The processing of applications that triggered an ESD assessment were not delayed by the ESD Officer assessing the plans.

CASE STUDIES

During the pilot phase, 85 planning applications that triggered a referral to the ESD Officer were assessed, 71 pre-application appointments were scheduled and 24 internal referrals were received directly from planners. Planning applications were assessed using the 'Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process' (SDAPP) Framework and provided to the applicant within the two week planning timeline. Across all assessments, recommendations regularly included:

- layout changes to make use of the northern orientation; revision of external shading to windows and doors on the north and west elevations
- inclusion of external clothes drying space
- adequate space for recycling, green waste bins and space allocated for onsite composting

Although the majority of assessments did not result in changed plans being submitted, it is unknown whether internal revisions were made during the building process.

Recommendations regularly included:

- upgrading insulation
- use of efficient fixtures and fittings
- thermally efficient and eco-friendly building materials
- heat-pump technology heating and cooling, and hot water systems

With the majority of assessments showing no ESD changes to the plans, and with the uptake being completely voluntary, an amendment to the Local Planning Scheme will provide statutory weight, set policy objectives and application requirements for residential, mixed-use and non-residential developments.

Multi-Unit Development on James Street, Belmont

This application for was a multi-unit development in Belmont. Although this application only consisted of two new dwellings, an ESD assessment was triggered as it also consisted of a three lot subdivision. This application was reviewed by the ESD Officer.

ESD recommendations included redesigning dwelling two to achieve northern orientation of the ground floor living space and to review shading to the north and west elevations to protect from the high summer sun. The Request for Further information included requesting a redesign of dwelling two to improve energy efficiency objectives as per Clause 55.03-5 of the planning scheme.

Revised plans were submitted with significant changes to the layout of dwelling two to ensure that the living space had northern orientation. Energy efficiency, including northern orientation of the main living spaces is already a requirement of the Planning Scheme under Clause 55.03-5.

This case study shows the benefit that a mandatory local ESD Policy could have. Other than changes to the placement of windows to allow for access to solar gain, as stipulated in Clause 55.03-5, no other ESD recommendations were considered, as they were completely voluntary to implement. Large amounts of unshaded north and west facing glazing, not addressed by the clause on energy efficiency, significantly compromises the Internal Environment Quality and the Energy Efficiency of this development.

Three Dwellings on Francis Street, Belmont

This was an application for three dwellings on Francis Street, Belmont. This application triggered a referral for an ESD assessment and was reviewed by the ESD Officer.

ESD recommendations included shading to the north and west windows and doors to enhance sun protection, the inclusion of highlight window on the northern wall of dwelling two to allow the main living area to utilise the northern orientation, and double glazing.

New plans were submitted which included an eave on the northern orientation to improve shading, the inclusion of a highlight window for the main living space of dwelling two, and double glazing was added to all habitable windows.

The applicant for this planned development is one that regularly submits planning applications. Many applications by this applicant triggered a referral for an ESD assessment during the Pilot period. There were also several pre-application appointments with this applicant and the applicant showed a good understanding of the importance of including ESD principles at the early stages of a development. However, the applicant also acknowledged that often plans reflected the demands of the client, rather than incorporating best practice sustainable design.

Eleven Dwellings on Donaghy Street, Geelong West

An application for 11 townhouses in Geelong West was made to council in September 2016. This application triggered a referral for an ESD assessment and a Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA) was completed by the ESD Officer and provided to the applicant within the two week planning time frame.

The SDA included recommendations: layout changes to access north light in the main living areas and enhanced shading to west facing windows, as the development was not adequately protected from heat loading. Lack of energy efficiency and poor internal amenity due to the western orientation of the main living spaces was also noted in the planner's request for further information, as this is a requirement under Clause 55.03-5. The permit was refused on the basis of being insufficiently responsive to objectives of Clause 55, including 55.03-5.

Although the refusal was upheld by VCAT, it was noted that not all new developments will be able to make use of the ideal northern orientation requirement as part of Clause 55.03-5 in the Planning Scheme.

As shown in the Benefit Cost Analyses (pitt&sherry 2013 and AECOM 2018), the benefit of implementing ESD interventions outweighs the cost when the orientation of a development is unable to achieve passive solar gain. This can be achieved by having the living space orientated to the north, and implementing best practice sustainable design principles.

Had an ESD policy been in place at the time of this application, a Sustainable Management Plan (SMP) would have been required with this application. Had a SMP been included with this application, the designer would have been able to address issues related to the internal amenity of this development.

Apartments on Bellerine Street, Geelong

This application was considered by the Minister for Planning. A referral was made to the City's ESD Officer to review the Sustainable Management Plan (SMP) that was submitted with this application.

The SMP specifically mentioned that there are no rating tools to benchmark ESD performance provided by the City of Greater Geelong, which led to the consulting firm providing a self-assessment. The SMP made no reference to the SDAPP framework, which has been provided on the City's website throughout the pilot period.

The ESD outcomes of this development generally lacked ambition and did not meet best practice:

- SMP set a 60% recycling target, best practice is a minimum of 70%
- Development aimed for a NatHERS rating of 6.1 overall, with several apartments achieving ratings as low as 5.2. Best practice is to aim for at least 1 star above minimum requirements
- Bicycle storage was provided in line with minimum requirements, best practice is one space per dwelling.

Large Non-Residential in Armstrong Creek

As part of the Armstrong Creek Town Centre Precinct Structure Plan a Sustainability Management Plan (SMP), which details strategies of how development will minimise resource use and waste must accompany applications for:

- Multi-unit residential development comprising 10 or more dwellings,
- Non-residential development comprising more than 500 square metres of gross floor area

- Service stations

This application triggered a referral to the ESD Officer. Although the SMP was detailed and multiple targets exceeded best practice, several targets highlighted in the SMP did not translate to the plans. The availability of the ESD Officer to provide advice to the planner ensured that this was picked up on early and included in the request for further information.

4 EVALUATION

The sustainable design assessment pilot shows the scope of the potential impact of a local ESD policy. Having an ESD Officer assess 85 planning applications that triggered a referral, as well as being available for pre-applications and internal referrals, shows that adding statutory weight to ESD principles could significantly improve the built environment in the Geelong Region.

The majority of the sustainable design assessments completed during the pilot program did not result in amended plans being submitted. The scope of the pilot did not allow for follow up of applications in order to determine whether suggested internal revisions were implemented during the building process.

A survey accompanied the sustainable design assessment outcomes throughout the pilot program. Responses to the survey were limited, however, two thirds of respondents found the ESD assessment process worthwhile and two thirds of respondents agreed that their knowledge of ESD improved after participating in the pilot program.

WHAT WILL THE POLICY DO?

The proposed ESD planning policy provides objectives and application requirements to guide the achievement of best practice ESD across the seven categories listed above, and will only apply to new development that meet the policy trigger thresholds. The local policy will ensure that best practice ESD initiatives are considered at the time of planning to maximise integrated design outcomes and minimise costs associated with retrofit and poor design.

Whilst the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) recognises the importance of ESD at a high level, it fails to provide specific guidelines on its implementation. Councils are left to utilise voluntary measures to negotiate with developers on each individual permit application, which has led to poor outcomes and an inconsistent approach across councils.

Until such time that a comprehensive approach is implemented by the State Government, there is a clear push for councils to implement ESD local planning policies. The proposed policy is virtually identical to those

already introduced by other Councils and tested through the planning panel processes.

APPLICATION TRIGGERS FOR ESD ASSESSMENT

As part of the pilot program the trigger for a sustainable design assessment for residential developments was set to 3+ new dwellings. Several Councils that have implemented a local ESD Policy have set the trigger to 2+ new dwellings. Reducing the trigger for residential to 2+ new dwellings would increase the impact of the ESD assessment by 80% to 215 permit application. This will ensure that we achieve our commitment to delivering environmentally sustainable development that responds to climate change.

Permit statistics from the 2017 calendar year have been analysed to determine approximately how many applications per year would trigger an ESD assessment based on various application types. Table 1 and 2 identify the number of permits that would have triggered an ESD assessment with the trigger for residential applications set to 3+ new dwellings (table 1) and to 2+ new dwellings (table 2).

The floor area trigger for new developments has been set at the same level as the Sustainable Building Policy, which applies to council buildings.

Table 1 – Permit statistics from the 2017 calendar year (trigger 3+ residential)

Trigger	Permit Numbers	Application Requirement
Residential		
3-9 dwellings (including mixed use under 1500m ²)	60	SDA
10 or more dwellings (including mixed use development over 1500m ²)	16	SMP
Non-residential		
development / alterations of floor areas between 300m ² - 1,500m ²	35	SDA
development / alterations of floor areas above 1,500m ²	10	SMP & GTP

Table 2 – Permit statistics from the 2017 calendar year (trigger 2+ residential)

Trigger	Permit Numbers	Application Requirement
Residential		
2-9 dwellings (including mixed use under 1500m ²)	154	SDA
10 or more dwellings (including mixed use development over 1500m ²)	16	SMP
Non-residential		
development / alterations of floor areas between 300m ² - 1500m ²	35	SDA
development / alterations of floor areas above 1,500m ²	10	SMP & GTP

Setting the trigger at 2+ new residential developments is consistent with the majority of pre-existing ESD local planning policies and brings the number of permits that trigger an ESD assessment in line with Councils that already have a local policy in place.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

In order to manage the additional work that the proposed triggers (Table 2) will generate, it is estimated that the ESD Officer role will require a 0.6 EFT staffing resource, which is an additional 0.2 EFT compared to the Pilot period.

The ESD Officer needs to be suitably qualified and have the skills required to undertake larger and more complex assessments.

The prevailing experience of Councils with ESD planning policies is that Sustainable Design Assessments (SDAs) can be reviewed by Statutory Planners. The ESD officer would ideally devote time to building capacity within the Statutory Planning unit so that the planners will be able to assess simple SDAs.

During the pilot, the ESD Officer position was delivered through existing resources in the Future Proofing Geelong unit. A realignment of existing resources within the Planning Strategy (Future Proofing Geelong) and the Environment unit will ensure that we have an ESD officer available to assess applications and provide training and support.

Additional training will be provided to the Statutory Planning team. CASBE provides different levels of training to support the use of the BESS tool.

THE BESS TOOL

The Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) tool, developed by CASBE, enables developers to show how a proposed development demonstrates sustainable design, at the planning permit stage. The BESS tool is recommended in the Sustainable Buildings Policy, as well as the Council Plan for all new small council developments.

As a CASBE member, the City is a subscriber to the BESS tool. The tool is then made available for free to applicants to use when submitting a planning application.

Although applicants can use other tools to demonstrate how their planned development meets best practice sustainable design principles.

ESD IN THE SUBDIVISION PROCESS

In February 2017 the CEO committed the City to the collaborative council sustainability fund partnership program ESD Subdivision Policy proof of concept study for regional Victoria.

The participating Councils include Greater Geelong, City of Ballarat, city of Bendigo, greater Shepparton, city of Wodonga, city of Wangaratta, Baw Baw Shire and Moorabool Shire. To deliver the project Aecom were engaged to deliver the Proof of Concept and a Cost Benefit analysis.

The goals of the project included:

- Defining 'best practice' ESD with respect to greenfield subdivision and determine how it should be measured.
- Establishing how 'best practice' ESD subdivisions are feasible in regional Victoria.
- Recommending a suite of tools and a model for collaborative implementation, with transferability across the State.

WHAT ARE ESD SUBDIVISIONS?

ESD subdivisions are located and designed to use resources more effectively and to improve quality of life. They aim to use resources so that the needs of today's communities are met, while ensuring that these same resources remain available to meet the needs of future generations.

Five core principles were identified including optimise site potential, reduce footprint, create places for people, enhance ecology and adaptable and encourages innovation.

The benefits of ESD include:

- By planning and designing for a hotter, drier climate, with intense and more frequent extreme weather events, the impacts of climate change can be reduced, improving amenity and liveability
- Designing for more efficient resource use can reduce costs and increase comfort, over the building's life
- Considering community connectedness can improve quality of life, health and well-being
- Passive design can make compliance with building requirements easier

Greenfield developments in particular present a major opportunity to create a more resilient and sustainable system which is relevant to growth area planning in Geelong.

KEY FINDINGS

The key findings showed there are clear social, economic and environmental benefits associated with ESD in regional subdivisions. These benefits differ across Victoria's climate regions, as does the nature and capacity of Councils and the residential development industry. While the period of analysis was 30 years, the life of a residential subdivision is much more enduring and so subdivision-wide sustainability measures warrant greater consideration. Some of the low-cost / low regrets interventions included:

- subdivision has appropriate solar orientation, for both public areas and dwellings
- reduction in impervious surfaces throughout the subdivision reduction in construction waste
- recycled materials (where these are readily available)
- diversity of dwellings within the subdivision
- installation of footpaths on both sides
- installation of separated bicycle paths (or shared footpath / bicycle paths)
- continual shading of footpaths and roads
- installation of footpaths to provide connection to amenities and neighbouring areas
- more diversity in street / road design 'shared zone')
- provision to connect with local public transport
- use of drought tolerant and indigenous plants
- increased canopy cover
- retention of mature trees
- use of low-energy street lighting
- wider nature strips

As an example of a cost benefit analysis at a dwelling level for annual household energy use looking at the 'best' compared to 'worst' orientation resulted in a \$300 saving. This shows the benefits of getting lot and dwelling orientation right.

THE OPTIONS FOR STRENGTHENING ESD

The main options to bridge the disconnect between the subdivision and the housing being built are both statutory and non-statutory. A single statutory mechanism would not fully address this disconnect nor build community and industry understanding and support. A combination of measures and approaches is required and they will also need to be tailored to local conditions, and target the subdivision, the builders, the building and its owners and operation. This could include:

- Strengthening Clause 56 and State Policy
- Developing a specific local policy
- Enhancing the IDM and SIG - to incorporate other aspects of subdivisions and to trigger the consideration of the IDM
- Non-statutory measures such as education, information, tools and incentives.
- Advocating for increased energy efficiency requirements in the National Construction Code (NCC)

NEXT STEPS

In order to progress the findings from the project a number of actions were identified:

Short term: Model taken up by early adopters (a range of defined elements and tools)

- Raises awareness of benefits of ESD
- Build a peer-to-peer knowledge network
- Engage with industry and community
- Begin with voluntary tools and assessments
- Demonstrate through council owned buildings and assets

Medium term: Testing and refining model

- Refine tools
- Continue all of the above

Longer term: Regulating, replicating and advocating for larger scale changes

- Regulate and create certainty
- Scale up and replicate across councils through proven methods, guidance and leadership.
- Model is refined enough to allow for flexibility to accommodate different contexts
- Mainstream better ESD in all dwellings and subdivisions

It is not proposed to include a sustainable subdivision local policy at this time. There is further opportunity for work collaboratively with government and industry to build awareness of the benefits of ESD, strengthen policy and guidelines, use voluntary tools and assessments and undertake demonstration projects.

The Environmentally Sustainable Design for Subdivisions in Regional Victoria report is available at www.geelongaustralia.com.au/strategicplanning



Source: Based on the journey of CASBE

5 CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the City request a s20(4) amendment to introduce an Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) local policy to the planning scheme.

With the recent release of the Council Plan 2018-2022, the City of Greater Geelong continues its commitment to make the City a more sustainable place to live and work. The strategic priorities for planned sustainable development include having planning controls in place to require a mandatory sustainable design assessment for all new developments. This priority is reinforced by the outcomes of the 18-month Sustainable Design Assessment pilot program run by the City, which highlighted the need to add statutory weight for Environmentally Sustainable Development principles.

Early consideration of environmental sustainability at the concept and design stage is key to achieving these outcomes. The benefits of incorporating ESD at the design stage include:

- Lower energy bills;
- Lower water consumption;
- Cleaner air;
- Reduction of waste during construction and life of the building;
- Lower waste disposal costs;
- Encouraging active and public transport; and
- Being able to market a building that meets or exceeds current best practice.

Having an ESD Officer available from the pre-application stage through the planning permit application to provide

ESD advice to applicants and stat planners during the sustainable design assessment (SDA) pilot program has been valuable to get the language and understanding around best-practice ESD outcomes more common place.

The case studies highlighted that statutory weight through a planning scheme amendment could have significant impact on the number of planning applications achieving above mandatory minimum standards set out in the National Construction Code (NCC) and the State Planning Framework. It will also facilitate in creating high amenity neighbourhoods that are well connected and sustainable.

Having become a financial member of Council Alliance for a Sustainably Built Environment (CASBE) gives the City the opportunity to share resources and build on the work that has already been done. Being a CASBE member will give the City access to information critical for progressing an amendment, as well as gaining access to the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) tool, which is recommended in the City's Sustainable Building Policy.

The proposed policy is consistent with other gazetted policies, which have been tested in planning panels. It provides policy objectives and application requirements for residential, mixed use and non-residential development and recognises the importance of considering ESD at the time of planning approval for new developments

Overall, the ESD Local Planning Policy will increase the number of residential and commercial buildings achieving above mandatory standards set out in the National Construction Code (NCC), and create well connected and sustainable high amenity neighbourhoods.

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4. DRAFT MULTICULTURAL ACTION PLAN 2018 - 2022

Source:	Community Life - Healthy Communities
Director:	Linda Quinn
Index Reference:	Diversity
Portfolio	An Inclusive and Diverse Community

Purpose

To present the draft Multicultural Action Plan 2018 – 2022 (**Attachment 2**) to Council for release to the community for final consultation.

Background

The City of Greater Geelong has consistently embraced cultural diversity and acted on opportunities to create a positive social, cultural and economic impact.

Migrants have been important to greater Geelong's development since the mid-1800s. In the mid-1900s the City's manufacturing sector benefited from the skills and labour of our multicultural community and the City continues to welcome both skilled migrants and refugees.

Fifty-one cultural communities are currently affiliated with the Geelong Ethnic Communities Council and between the 2011 – 2016 Census, the number of people born overseas increased by 13.2% (4,425 people).

The draft Multicultural Action Plan 2018 – 2022 (the Plan) builds on Council's first Multicultural Action Plan 2011 – 2014. It will support achievement of our purpose "working together for a thriving community". The City will do this by working with the multicultural communities and organisations that support them, along with the broader community to create a more inclusive and diverse community. The Plan was guided by the Multicultural Action Plan Advisory Committee.

Key Issues

- The draft Multicultural Action Plan 2018 – 2022 seeks to respect and recognise all multicultural communities, increase their social, economic and health equity, increase inclusive service, place and activity planning and connect and engage the community.
- The draft Multicultural Action Plan 2018 – 2022 builds on the 2011 – 2014 Plan and incorporates the results of a review and priority setting undertaken by the Multicultural Action Plan Advisory Committee.
- The plan articulates the action areas that will contribute to achieving greater social cohesion, and a more inclusive, connected and vibrant community through activities that respect and recognise all culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities; increase social and health equity; pursue inclusive service, place and activity planning; and connect and engage the CALD community.

Cr Mansfield moved, Cr Grzybek seconded -

That Council release the draft Multicultural Action Plan 2018 – 2022 for community consultation.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

The Plan will be delivered within existing budget and resources. Grant applications will be submitted when funding opportunities arise.

Community Engagement

The Multicultural Action Plan is supported by the Multicultural Action Plan Advisory Committee, which provides a two-way link with the broader multicultural communities and Council.

Community engagement will be conducted with all members of the Ethnic Communities Council and key stakeholders to confirm or adjust the draft Multicultural Action Plan and identify opportunities for the implementation process.

Social Equity Considerations

The Plan will contribute to addressing all the adopted Social Equity principles. The focus on addressing inequality, inequity and social exclusion for multicultural communities and their members is key to achieving social equity in Geelong.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

Actions that promote a diverse respectful society combating racism, social stereotyping, harassment and discrimination are within the Council's remit and responsibility under the Human Rights Charter.

Alignment to Council Plan

Recognition, connection, celebration and engagement with Geelong's multicultural communities as well as inclusive service, place and activity planning will positively contribute and underpin all ten of the Council Plan strategic priorities. In particular a more inclusive and diverse community; improved health and safety of our community; informed social infrastructure and planning; vibrant arts and culture; a thriving and sustainable economy; and organisational leadership, strategy and governance. A City that has a thriving supported multicultural focus positively supports and complements all aspects of the Clever and Creative Future vision in particular the achievement of an inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community; a community where people feel safe; and a prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities.

Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was identified in the development of this report.

Risk Assessment

There is a risk to Council's reputation should the organisation not be actively engaging with and taking advice from the multicultural community.

Environmental Implications

There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report..

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

MULTICULTURAL ACTION PLAN 2018-2022



DRAFT: JULY 2018

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Acknowledgement

The City of Greater Geelong acknowledges Wadawurrung Traditional Owners of this land and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who are part of the Greater Geelong community today.

FOREWORD BY THE MAYOR

I am proud to present the City's second Multicultural Action Plan which will guide how the City plans for and supports our multicultural community over the next four years, 2018 - 2022.

The plan has been developed to consider the needs of all people who have migrated to Australia and settled in Geelong. Whilst for some it has been a difficult journey, we acknowledge and welcome every person and the diversity, skills and experience they bring.

I would like to thank everyone that contributed to the plan – the organisations, the networks and the people. Council's Multicultural Action Plan Advisory Committee has significantly shaped the redevelopment process.

With your help we have been able to plan the services and initiatives that are needed, mindful of the great strengths that already exist in many of the communities we want to support.

Our Council Plan 2018 – 2022 focusses on “putting our community first” and the Multicultural Action Plan is a great demonstration of how we do this. Working with the multicultural community and the organisations that support them we will create a safe, welcoming and diverse community for all.

Cr Bruce Harwood

Mayor City of Greater Geelong (2018)

Aims and policy context

The Multicultural Action Plan (MAP) 2018 – 2022 aims to:

- Increase our multicultural community’s participation and highlight the benefits of diversity and social inclusion;
- Provide more equitable access to social, economic and health resources and support;
- Deliver inclusive planning, services, programs, infrastructure and advocacy; and
- Create a more inclusive, connected and vibrant community.

It builds on the previous plan and has been developed in collaboration with the Multicultural Action Plan Advisory Committee which represents our multicultural communities and networks in Greater Geelong.

The City values, supports and respects people from multicultural backgrounds, including people at risk in identified areas of disadvantage. We are building our organisational ability to respond to the needs of our diverse community in a way that takes into account the community strengths and resilience. Further, we aim to implement a “zero tolerance” zone against racism, discrimination and vilification based on gender, race, religion, ethnicity, sexuality and ability.

The MAP responds to our Council Plan’s strategic priority to achieve a more inclusive and diverse community. It reflects our planning framework, priorities and actions, and is underpinned by human rights and social equity principles.

The City is consistent in embracing cultural diversity by addressing challenges and creating real opportunities for a positive social, economic and cultural impact on multicultural communities.

To support this work, the City will continue to advocate and work in collaboration with our networks, communities, relevant stakeholders, government and non-government organisations, local, regional and state bodies.

Our organisational values of respect and encouragement, embracing new ideas and ways forward, being healthy and safe and making people the centre of our business will guide the implementation of the MAP.

ALIGNMENT WITH LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND OTHER COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Commonwealth and Victorian laws aim to deter and redress discrimination, vilification and other forms of inequality and inequity. These attributes include, but are not limited to: race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, identity and disability.

The City upholds human rights principles in developing and implementing Council policies, action plans and the delivery of services to our multicultural community. The following are some of the key documents that inform our thinking and practice.

KEY DOCUMENTS

- City of Greater Geelong Council Plan 2018 – 2022
- City of Greater Geelong A Clever and Creative Future 2017
- Council Diversity Policy 2010
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Youth Assessment Needs
- Geelong Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2018–2022

- Geelong Local Safety Committee Strategic Plan
- Strategic Plan: Preventing and Addressing Violence Against Women and Children in the G21 region 2016–2020
- Youth Development – Strategic Plan 2015–2019
- Connecting People, Place and Environment: A public art strategy for the City of Greater Geelong
- The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Statement of Commitment to Cultural Diversity 2012
- Victoria's Advantage – Unity Diversity opportunity 2014
- People of Australia – the Australian Government Multicultural Policy 2011

COMMONWEALTH AND VICTORIAN LEGISLATION

- Local Government Act 1989
- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
- Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001
- Multicultural Victoria Act 2011
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008
- Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999
- Human Rights Commission Act 1986
- Racial Discrimination Act 1975
- Racial Hatred Act 1995
- Sex Discrimination Act 1984
- Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012

INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948
- Declaration of the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief 1981
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1976
- UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees 1951
- Universal Declaration on Cultural Identity, Diversity and Pluralism.

Greater Geelong's culturally diverse community

WHO WE ARE

Fifty one cultural communities are affiliated with the Geelong Ethnic Communities Council and the 2016 Census shows increasing population diversity.

- The usual resident population of the City of Greater Geelong in 2016 was 233,429.
- 16.2 per cent of the population was born overseas and the top five ancestries were:
 - English (89,527 people or 38.4%)
 - Australian (83,363 people or 35.7%)
 - Irish (30,698 people or 13.2%)
 - Scottish (26,642 people or 11.4%)
 - German (10,421 people or 4.5%)
- The largest changes in birthplace countries between 2011 and 2016 were for those born in:
 - India (+1,244 persons)
 - China (+650 persons)
 - Afghanistan (+432 persons)
 - New Zealand (+407 persons)
- 10% of people in the City of Greater Geelong came from countries where English was not their first language.
- Between 2011 and 2016, the number of people born overseas increased by 4425 or 13.2%, and the number of people from a non-English speaking background increased by 3,676 or 18.6%.
- 11 per cent of residents speak a language other than English at home. The main languages are Italian, Croatian, Mandarin, Persian/Dari, Macedonian, Filipino/Tagalog, Greek, German, Serbian and Punjabi.
- The largest changes in the spoken languages of the population in the City of Greater Geelong between 2011 and 2016 were for those speaking Mandarin (+942 persons), Persian/Dari (+780 persons), Punjabi (+537 persons) and Italian (+285 persons).
- Between 2011–2015, international student course enrolments at Deakin University's Waurin Ponds and Waterfront Campuses have risen by 81 per cent from 933 students to 1685 students.
- In 2015 students enrolled on campus in Geelong were from 79 distinct countries. Some of the countries with the largest number of enrolments included India (673 students), China (282 students), Malaysia (103 students), Iran (59 students), Vietnam (57 students) and Sri Lanka (57 students).
- From July 2016 – June 2017, the top 10 birthplaces amongst total settlement in Geelong were Iraq, India, Burma, Thailand, China, Afghanistan, Syria, United Kingdom, Iran and Australia. Diversitat's Annual Report 2016 – 2017 notes that a total of 432 refugees arrived in Geelong and 44 families came from Iraq.

Supporting our culturally diverse community

OUR HISTORY

Migration and migrants have been important in the development of the Geelong region. In the mid-1800s, our first European migrants were drawn by the bustling port and the desperate need for workers in the surrounding area. After World War II, people displaced in Europe were looking for a place to start a new life. At the same time, Geelong's manufacturing sector needed their skills and labour to thrive. Following the Vietnam War and changing government policy, refugees from South–East Asia were welcomed to the city. Today, skilled migrants are still essential for the local economy. Geelong continues to welcome refugees and has become a major destination for international students.

OUR SUPPORT

The City actively supports our culturally diverse community. Examples of this support in the past have included:

- Formal declaration as a “Refugee Welcome Zone” in 2002.
- First Multicultural Action Plan adopted in 2011.
- Use of interpreters and translations in customer service centres and on the City's website.
- Cross cultural training for staff and volunteers.
- Proactive media and communications to highlight multi-cultural community contributions.
- Focus on diversity and inclusive practice for children and family services such as supported multicultural playgroups and parenting programs.
- Multicultural youth development activities.
- Community Care services for older residents follow a Cultural Action Plan.
- New residents' aquatic education programs and sports programs.
- Promotion of and participation in events such as Diversity Week, Harmony Day, Pako Festa and local cultural group celebrations.
- Financial and in kind support to key organisations, including Diversitat and United Way, and support to agencies/church groups and projects supporting CALD communities.
- Subsidised access to community halls and buses for CALD communities to perform and express cultural practices.
- Community Grants Program.
- Community Arts and Festivals Grants Program.
- Ongoing support to Geelong Interfaith Network.
- Welcome events for new arrivals to Geelong.
- Citizenship ceremonies.

OUR FUTURE PLAN

The Multicultural Action Plan: 2018 – 2022 will build on a strong foundation and ensure that all community members are part of our clever and creative future.

The Multicultural Action Plan Advisory Group provided guidance to Council in developing the following aims and impacts that Council should achieve:

AIMS	IMPACTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To respect and recognise all culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and promote their positive contribution to Greater Geelong's social and economic fabric.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase our multicultural community's participation and highlight the benefits of diversity and social inclusion.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To increase social and health equity for all CALD community members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide more equitable access to social, economic and health resources and supports.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To pursue inclusive service, place and activity planning that responds to CALD community needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliver inclusive planning, services, programs, infrastructure and advocacy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To connect and engage the CALD community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a more inclusive, connected and vibrant community.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Proposed actions and measures to achieve these aims and impacts are outlined in the table below.

Prior to finalising the Multicultural Action Plan, Council will circulate the draft Plan to all interested community members for comment.

In addition, Council will actively engage with all multicultural groups that are members of the Ethnic Communities Council, and key internal and external stakeholders, to confirm the aims, impacts, actions and measures of the Plan. We aim to identify actions that will increase participation, equity, inclusion and connections for our diverse community irrespective of age, gender and postcode.

A final Plan will return to Council for consideration and adoption before the end of 2018.

Multicultural Action Plan Commitments: 2018 – 2022

If we ...	By taking the following action...	This will result in measureable outcomes ...	And lead to the following impacts ...
<p>Respect and recognise all culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and promote their positive contribution to Greater Geelong's social and economic fabric ...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and distributing a comprehensive and up to date statistical profile of the CALD community; • Coordinating and promoting cultural diversity and faith events through an annual calendar (for example – Diversity Week, Harmony Day, Refugee Week, Pako Festa, annual Welcome to new arrivals, seniors festival, UN International Day of peace, Diwali festival, CALD community group celebration days, Geelong Interfaith network events, refugee welcome zone events); and • Developing and implementing a communication strategy (in key community languages) that promotes the calendar and Council service access and participation opportunities ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased community understanding of the contribution made to the City by the CALD community; • Increased community participation in cultural events; and • Increased CALD take up of Council services and activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase our multicultural community's participation and highlight the benefits of diversity and social inclusion.
<p>Increase social and health equity for all CALD community members ...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating a whole of Council response to strengthen the CALD community's social, economic, natural, built and arts access and knowledge; • Linking the CALD community into municipal and regional initiatives that will increase, health, employment, housing and transport outcomes; and • Developing and implementing a Diversity and Inclusion Workforce Strategy ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased CALD community participation in education, employment and social enterprise pathways; and • Systematic consultation and engagement with CALD communities in all City social, economic, natural, built and arts planning and activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more equitable access to social, economic and health resources and supports.
<p>Pursue inclusive service, place and activity planning that responds to CALD community needs ...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting cultural understanding and competence training in all Council business units; • Identifying opportunities for CALD community leaders to engage and participate in service, place and activity design; and • Facilitating and linking existing service, place and activity planning between existing networks ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased staff and local professional's awareness of meeting the needs of CALD communities; and • Identification of opportunities for CALD leader participation, awards and scholarships identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver inclusive planning, services, programs, infrastructure and advocacy.
<p>Connect and engage the CALD community ...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening CALD community leadership and skills; • Myth-busting on Islam, social stereotypes, community safety and discrimination; and • Increasing the CALD community's participation in local events ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased engagement in healthy sporting and recreational activities; and • Increased positive media and social media portrayal of the CALD community and leaders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a more inclusive, connected and vibrant community.

Implementation and reporting

Implementing the Multicultural Action Plan: 2018 – 2022 will be facilitated by the City but will involve ongoing partnership arrangements.

External partners include the following organisations:

- CALD community groups;
- Diversitat;
- Deakin University;
- Geelong Interfaith Network;
- G21 Region Opportunities for Work (GROW);
- Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV);
- Multicultural Action Plan Advisory Committee (MAPAC);
- Multicultural Aged Care Services;
- Think Geelong;
- Victoria Police;
- Victorian Local Government Multicultural Issues Network (VLGMIN).

Internal Council partners include:

- Arts and Culture;
- Capital Projects;
- Central Geelong and Waterfront;
- Community Care;
- Connected Communities
- Communications and Marketing;
- Customer Service;
- Digital Information and Technology;
- Enterprise Geelong and Events;
- Environment and Waste Services;
- Family Services;
- Governance and Legal;
- Healthy Communities;
- Leisure and Recreation;
- Health and Local Laws;
- Parks and Gardens;
- Planning Strategy and Urban Growth;
- People and Organisational Development;
- Property and Procurement;
- Social Planning & Investment;
- Strategy and Program Delivery;
- Youth Development.

5. REVITALISING CENTRAL GEELONG PARTNERSHIP LANEWAYS ACTION PLAN

Source:	Investment & Attraction / Central Geelong & Waterfont
Director:	Brett Luxford
Index Reference:	PRJ-16-1281 – Central Geelong
Portfolio	Social and Infrastructure Planning

Purpose

To seek endorsement of the Laneways Action Plan for implementation by the Revitalising Central Geelong Partnership.

Background

The Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan proposes outcomes of a Stronger CBD, better Planning for Growth, development of the Green Spine and Getting Around initiatives to deliver integration and diversity of health, education, residential, commercial, entertainment and cultural uses.

The continual improvement of the cities laneways and the creation of new property breakthroughs to support greater pedestrian permeability away from the major streets supports these outcomes.

The Laneways Action Plan, prepared by the Revitalising Central Geelong Partnership identifies principles for laneways, shows different laneway functions within Central Geelong and identifies new laneway connections to allow mid-block north-south pedestrian movement.

Key Issues

The Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan establishes a number of actions in relation to Geelong's CBD laneways including:

- Investigate and identify priority locations where breakthrough pedestrian laneway connections can be established or created; and
- Prepare and implement a land acquisition strategy to develop identified priority laneway connections, subject to funding approval.

Both of these actions relate to 28 Malop Street and Denny's Place (between Malop and Lt Malop Streets) and 184 Ryrie Street between Ryrie and Lt Ryrie Streets, identifying 2 key properties for acquisition.

The Revitalising Central Geelong Partnership requires Council's support and endorsement of the Laneways Action Plan to proceed.

The State Government and Council are working together to deliver breakthroughs. Funding for breakthroughs will be considered in future Council budgets.

Cr Murrhly moved, Cr Aitken seconded -

That Council endorse the Laneways Action Plan for implementation by the Revitalising Central Geelong Partnership.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

Projects identified in the Laneways Action Plan will be funded by the Revitalising Central Geelong Partnership annual budget. All expenditure will be undertaken according to future approved State and Council budgets.

Community Engagement

Community engagement for the Laneways Action Plan took place in November 2017. A summary of the public comments and subsequent responses is attached.

Social Equity Considerations

As determined by the Public Realm Framework (adopted by Council September 2017), all streetscapes, activation and entertainment programs within the CBD will be designed to be fully accessible.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

The Laneways Action Plan is consistent with the Central Geelong Action Plan, the Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan and State and Council planning policies.

New hard and soft landscaping resulting from the plan will reference Council's urban design guidelines, public realm framework and support sustainable development and respond to community needs. Future physical works determined by this action Plan will reference plans and outcomes for the adjacent precincts including the West End Precinct, the Green Spine and the Arts & Cultural Precinct.

Alignment to Council Plan

This project is directly aligned to the City Plan 'Growing the Economy' strategic priority which articulates a continuing focus on improvement of the CBD via the implementation of the Central Geelong Action Plan and the Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan.

Conflict of Interest

The Officer preparing this report is not aware of any direct or indirect interests of parties involved in the preparation of the Laneways Action Plan.

Risk Assessment

No risks have been identified in endorsing the Laneways Action Plan.

Environmental Implications

A management strategy and trial is currently being undertaken in relation to the management of waste within the West End Precinct. Successful elements of this trial will be implemented as appropriate through future laneways.

Some lanes within the study area form part of the overland flow path for storm water and some sites are encumbered by a Special Building Overlay. New laneway designs will account for storm water management and drainage, and will consider opportunities to incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) to manage water collection and re-use in and around the CBD.

Central Geelong Laneways Action Plan – Stakeholder Engagement

Public comments on the RCGP Draft Laneways Action Plan were invited from 3 to 28 November 2017. Four written submissions were received as outlined below. Responses and rationale provided by RCGP Project Director, Chris Padovani.

Respondent	Comment from Respondent	Response/Amendments	Rationale
Respondent 1 Long term Geelong resident; Current CBD (apartment) resident; Former small business operator Lt Malop St	<p>1. The report does not, but should, contain the "Evidence-Based Spatial Analysis" report prepared by Space Syntax, in an appendix to support their concepts/selections. Very little data is cited within the body of the action plan.</p> <p>2. The report over emphasises pedestrian movement through lane-ways, rather than on the importance of creating unique places of varying character, which provides various services (not just hospitality and retail opportunities).</p> <p>3. Several of the links (i.e. through Market Square & Westfield) already exist, and whilst it may be a recommendation that the commercial interest re-align their respective entries/layouts to accommodate "direct" walk-through, it is highly unlikely that this can ever occur - Therefore these recommendations are unsuitable for action.</p> <p>4. Many of the other nominated laneway recommendations, also already exist. Aitchison Place and Wright Place, and whilst they may appear 'uninviting' they already service a large volume of traffic (despite the latter being closed during the evening).</p> <p>5. Why would Denny's Place be given priority over McLarty Place which is currently only separated from Malop Street by a gate? The report made no distinction as to why Denny's Place was chosen.</p> <p>6. The report makes very little mention of the economic and regulatory challenges that laneway culture faces (walk-throughs are unnecessary if it does not give rise to a laneway culture).</p> <p>Suggestions:</p> <p>1. If RCGP want to improve pedestrian links, then the larger streets should be improved; Gheringhap/Yarra St, parts of Lt Malop/Corio and particularly Lt Ryrie St all need major rejuvenation works. If pedestrians feel comfortable walking on these streets, this will cultivate a better 'walking-culture'</p> <p>2. Cul-de-sac laneways are perfectly acceptable, over-emphasis in walk-through laneways can lead to thoroughfares and not places of interest.</p> <p>3. RCGP needs acknowledge the challenges faces in opening business in laneways and highlight methods of accommodating with them, (particularly with council Planning Department). Whilst these are just a few of my thoughts, I am happy to discuss in further detail.</p>	<p>The RCGP agrees with the objective to build on the laneway's culture in Central Geelong to create laneways that contain places of unique character, as well as to improve pedestrian safety and pedestrian movement and enhance retail economic effectiveness.</p> <p>The Laneways Action Plan will be amended to include an Appendix that outlines the additional laneways that were investigated, and the rationale as to why they were subsequently discounted as viable laneway connections, including McLarty Place.</p> <p>Respondent agreed that this would address concerns.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Spatial Analysis is a highly specialised technical analysis commissioned by DELWP to inform various RCGP Strategies. ▪ The links through internalised shopping precincts in central Geelong do not relate to the outside streetscape. Experience in other places has shown that direct connections with the external public realm environment enhance the economic effectiveness of internalised retail shopping centres. ▪ Aitchison and Wright Place both have scope for improvement. Aitchison Place will be considered as part of the Arts and Culture Precinct Masterplan and GPAC Stage 3 redevelopment. ▪ We aim to make Wright Place safer and more inviting. ▪ RDV has allocated funding to CoGG to improve the streetscape of Denny's Place, and State Government funding has been allocated for a breakthrough connection at Denny's Place. ▪ Denny's Place lines up with Clare St and James St providing line of sight both in northern and southern directions. Pedestrians opt for routes through laneways with line of sight. ▪ Acquisition of Denny's Place is more likely to give a return on investment than McLarty Place. The gate at McLarty Place is privately owned. ▪ Pedestrian movements through larger streets is the focus of other RCGP strategies, such as Malop St Green Spine not the Laneways Action Plan. ▪ Cul-de-sacs are entrapment spots and lack natural surveillance from through pedestrian traffic.
Respondent 2 Long term Geelong resident; Current CBD (apartment) resident.	<p>The document makes reference to 'Service Lanes'; Denny's Place is a service laneway for delivery of goods to businesses, bars and apartments and the servicing of properties. It is also the home to numerous beer kegs and rubbish bin which are acceptable knowing Denny's Place is the back entrance to all properties which face either major or minor streets. McLarty Place is the front entrance of many of the Denny's Place businesses, nightlife and apartments plus other businesses, cafes and an art school. McLarty Place has a footpath and defined road, Denny's Place has three car park entrance/exit garages servicing 20 apartments and bin storage. All laneways don't need to align, this has the potential to be a walkway only for short cuts rather than taking the time to look. If McLarty Place was opened up at Malop Street, people walking from the waterfront would arrive at the corner of Little Malop Street, stop, look and explore rather than walk along a service laneway with lots of bins, beer kegs, delivery trucks/vans, cars coming and going from three car parks and no shop, café or business fronts.</p> <p>It is important to understand how many car park entrances there are for the apartments and how they are linked, there are 3 not one.</p>	<p>There are emerging opportunities to activate the west side of Denny's Place that will address the current situation. The strategy aims to improve all laneways across Central Geelong.</p> <p>The Laneways Action Plan will be amended to include an Appendix that outlines the additional laneways that were investigated, and the rationale as to why they were subsequently discounted as viable laneway connections, including McLarty Place.</p> <p>CoGG are working on short, mid and long term solutions for waste collection and recycling in the precinct.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agree that Denny's Place is currently a service lane. However recent development has created new activation opportunities on the west side of Denny's Place. In addition, RDV has allocated funding to CoGG to improve the streetscape of Denny's Place, and State Government funding has been allocated for a breakthrough connection at Denny's Place. ▪ Denny's Place lines up with Clare St and James St providing line of sight both in northern and southern directions. Pedestrians opt for routes through laneways with line of sight. ▪ Acquisition of Denny's Place is more likely to give a return on investment than McLarty Place. The gateway at McLarty Place is privately owned.
Respondent 3	<p>I think the lane ways are a fantastic idea. I'm pleased to see the market square north - south opened up as well as Westfield. I have never liked Market Square and Westfield, I feel they damaged the feel and look of Geelong CBD. To be able to walk freely through lane ways, being able to stop at shops, cafes etc, would definitely bring more people into the city. Having the Geelong CBD better serviced for pedestrians, cyclist, public transport is the way to go. Cheers to a bright happy Geelong that cares about people, businesses, environment, quality of life and NOT all about the almighty car!</p>	<p>Thanked for positive and enthusiastic feedback</p>	<p>Agree</p>
Respondent 4	<p>I really miss the link we had in the 1970's, 80's & 90's through McLarty Place. Can it be reopened please. If not Denny's Place would work well and provide ready access to the Civic Centre car park.</p>	<p>The Laneways Action Plan will be amended to include an Appendix that outlines the additional laneways that were investigated, and the rationale as to why they were subsequently discounted as viable laneway connections, including McLarty Place.</p>	<p>The RCGP agrees that the link through to Malop St is very important. Denny's Place is preferred because it lines up with Clare and James Streets providing a north-south line of sight. Pedestrians opt for routes through laneways with line of sight.</p>



Laneways Action Plan

Final – August 2018



Revitalising
Central
Geelong



Laneways Action Plan Masterplan

Final – August 2018

This report has been prepared by the Revitalising Central Geelong Partnership in association with Design Urban Pty Ltd.



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Figure 1. Future vision for Shorts Place.



whole
beans
store

coffee

Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan

The City of Greater Geelong and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning are working together as the Revitalising Central Geelong Partnership with the Geelong Authority to plan and deliver projects identified in the Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan.

The Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan is a ten-year plan designed to deliver new jobs, homes and services to revitalise Central Geelong.

The Action Plans' Stronger CBD, Planning for Growth, Green Spine and Getting Around initiatives propose a stronger integration and greater diversity of health, education, residential, commercial and cultural uses.

To deliver on these outcomes, one of the initiatives is to improve the existing laneways and construct new laneways in Central Geelong. This document outlines where these might be and how they might be planned and designed so that the laneway network in Central Geelong supports future growth and revitalisation.

A Stronger CBD

- > New jobs
- > New development opportunities
- > New civic centre (location to be determined)

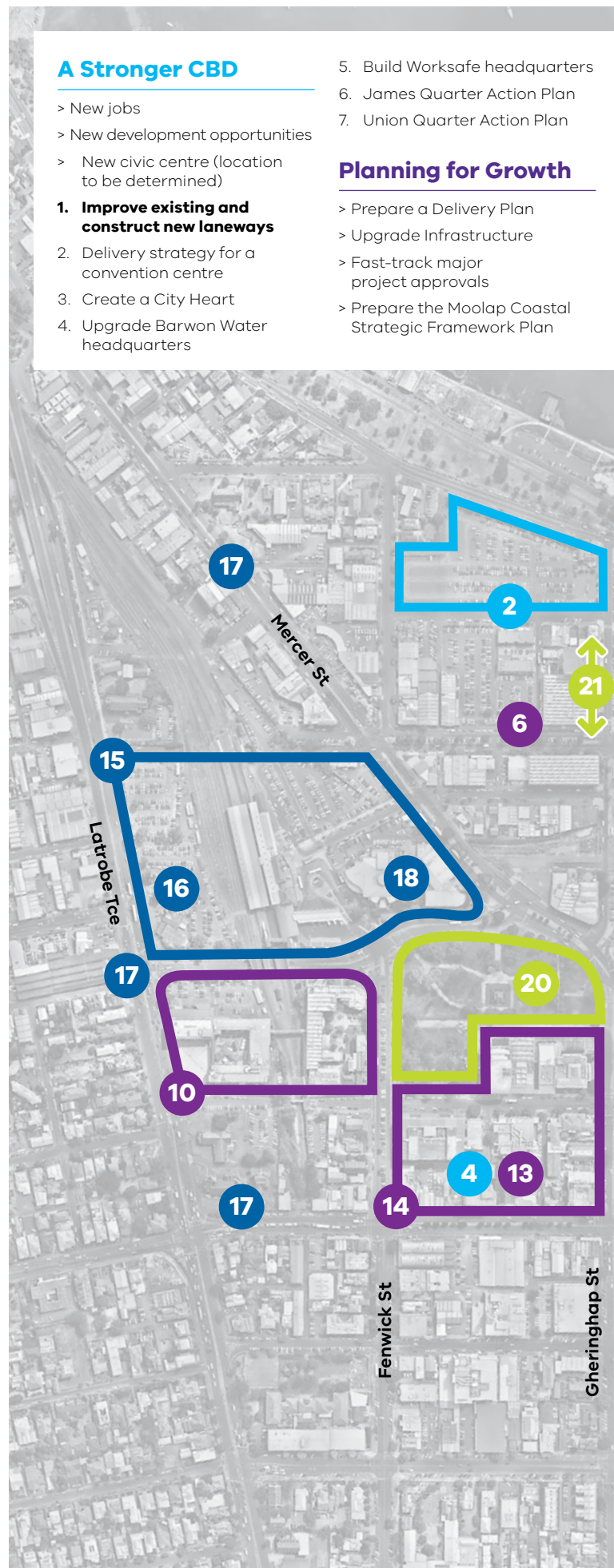
1. Improve existing and construct new laneways

2. Delivery strategy for a convention centre
3. Create a City Heart
4. Upgrade Barwon Water headquarters

5. Build Worksafe headquarters
6. James Quarter Action Plan
7. Union Quarter Action Plan

Planning for Growth

- > Prepare a Delivery Plan
- > Upgrade Infrastructure
- > Fast-track major project approvals
- > Prepare the Moolap Coastal Strategic Framework Plan



Inhabiting the City

- > Support delivery of city housing
- > Plan for community infrastructure
- > Host events
- 8. Construct the Royal Geelong Yacht Club safe harbour
- 9. Construct upgrade of Kardinia Park stadium

Smart City

- 10. Construct the Geelong Tech School
- 11. Support delivery of student housing
- 12. Plan for expansion of health and education facilities
- 13. Construct upgrade of Geelong Performing Arts Centre
- 14. Plan for cultural precinct

Getting Around

- > Finalise an operating plan for the Transport Network
- > Prepare a city parking strategy
- 15. Revitalise the Geelong Station Precinct
- 16. Develop a commuter parking strategy
- 17. Highlight city arrival points
- 18. Identify long term needs of Department of Justice and Victoria Police

Green Spine

- 19. Construct Green Spine Stage 1 (Moorabool to Yarra)
- 20. Construct an integrated public space and water management project in Johnstone Park
- 21. Plan for improved linkages between the city and waterfront



The Laneways Action Plan

1. Identifies principles for laneways
2. Shows different laneway functions within Central Geelong
3. Identifies possible future laneway connections by both private and public agencies and owners

Laneway Connections by Public Agencies

Priority laneway connections to be delivered over time by public agencies are identified and prioritised from 1 to 5 on pages 9 to 13.

Laneway Connections by Private Landowners

Desirable laneway connections on private land prioritised from 1 to 3 on pages 14 to 16. These are provided as guidance for landowners to consider when upgrading existing buildings or redeveloping their property.

The Revitalising Central Geelong Partnership commissioned an evidence-based spatial analysis of Central Geelong to understand the role and performance of the city's movement network with respect to future land use and connectivity projects.

The study focussed on both pedestrian and vehicular movement within existing laneways, streets and public spaces.

The study conducted by Space Syntax Limited revealed that, "Overall, Central Geelong has smaller urban blocks in comparison to the wider city. However, many blocks still require more than a 10-minute walk to go around them. The connections provided through the malls are convoluted and offer little inter-block connectivity. A number of smaller laneways, which are currently disconnected, provide an opportunity to enhance the connectivity and permeability of Central Geelong."

This Action Plan recognises those laneways and connections that were recommended by the study to make the greatest contribution to the future prosperity of the city through a more effective laneway network. Other potential laneway connections and improvements may be considered in the future.

A number of optional links to the laneway network were tested as part of the study to see the possible effect they would have on the social, economic and environmental performance of Central Geelong.

The following principles and criteria for successful laneways were identified.





Principles for Successful Laneways

- laneways should be as axially straight as possible, well lit and safe, so that people can see where they lead and feel confident using them.
- laneways should prioritise pedestrian use.
- buildings along laneways should have “active frontages” with many doors and windows facing the lane.
- wherever possible laneways should be open to the sky.
- buildings should have no setbacks from laneways at lower levels so that the laneway space is well-defined.
- new laneway connections should link up existing or former laneways where possible.
- laneways should, wherever possible, incorporate public art.
- heritage buildings in laneways should be protected and re-purposed if necessary for retail, commercial and residential use.

Criteria for Selecting Laneways

- Does the lane have the potential to contribute to a cross-city link?
- Is the laneway essential to provide servicing of properties which face streets?
- Does the laneway contribute to improving north-south connectivity?
- Can the connection be economically acquired?
- Is there potential for laneway activation in the future?

Laneway Types

Two types of laneways were identified: service laneways and activated linking laneways. The latter includes the “little” streets. The following principles apply to each laneway type:

Service Lanes

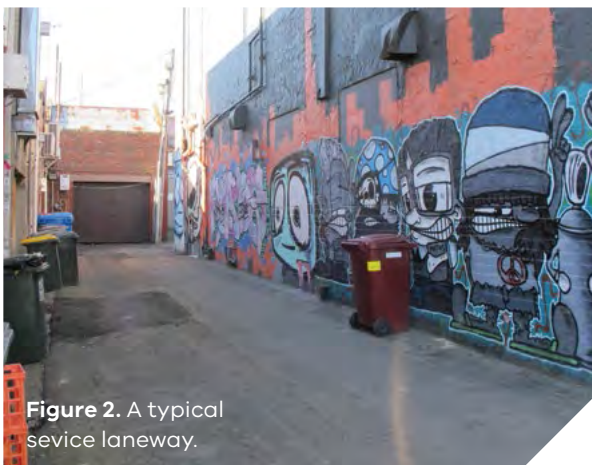


Figure 2. A typical service laneway.

Service laneways provide for delivery of goods and the servicing of properties which face either major or minor streets. As such, they are fundamental to maintaining good streetscapes in central Geelong and facilitating efficient servicing of properties. Service laneways avoid disruptions to the street edge so that buildings can be continuous on the city’s streets. This supports the urban quality of the city centre and helps to create a safe and pleasant walking environment.

Over time as Geelong develops and the local population increases, it is likely that these lanes will become more active. Until then, their primary role is to provide access for loading and servicing of properties facing streets. These lanes are:

- functional;
- primarily for loading and servicing properties facing streets; and
- sometimes in transition to activated linking laneways.

Activated Linking Laneways



Figure 3. A typical activated linking laneway.

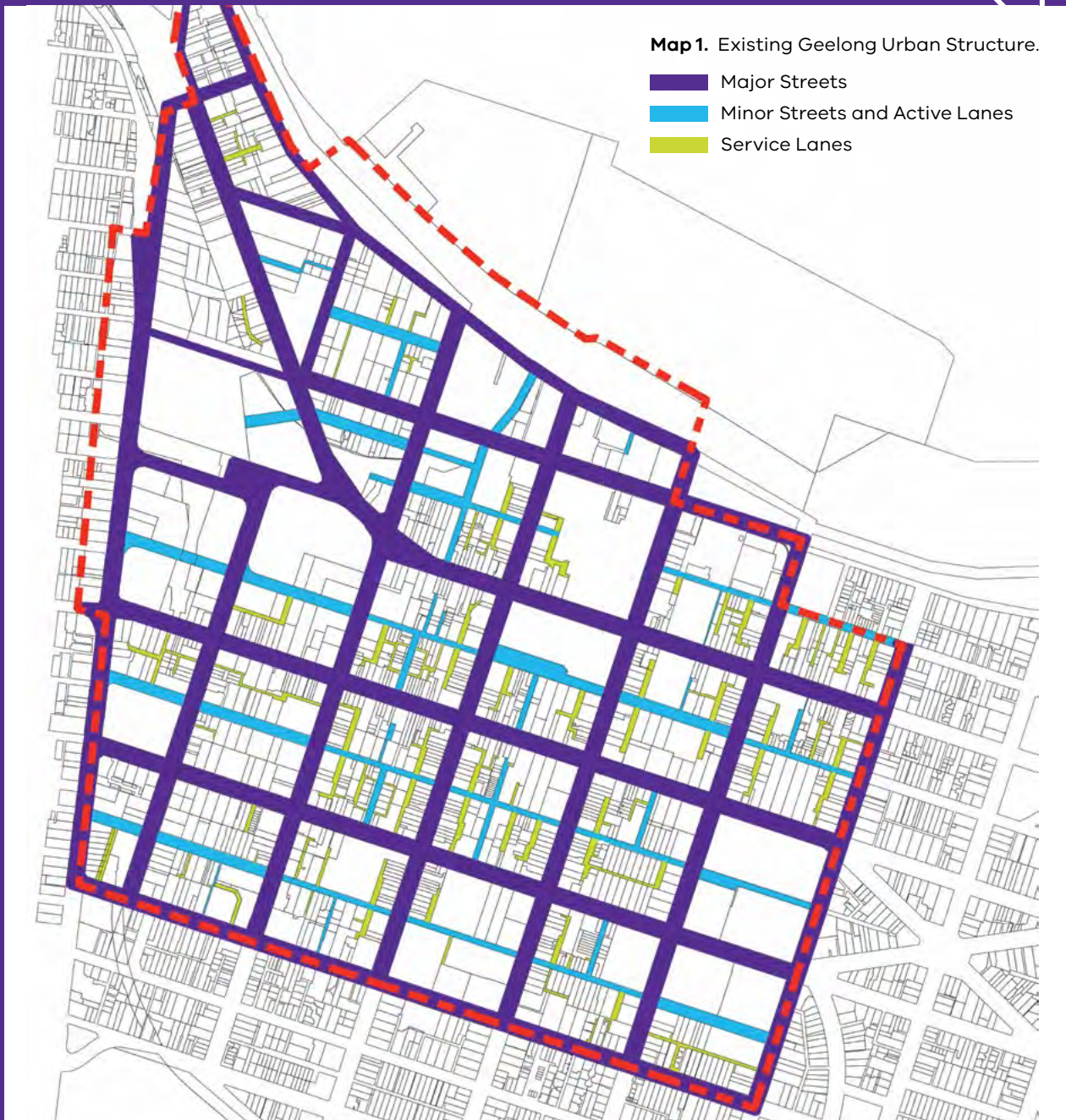
These laneways are “active” because they are used by pedestrians as pathways through the city centre. It is therefore essential that buildings along these lanes have “active frontages” with doors and windows opening directly onto the laneways. This helps to improve the perception and reality of personal safety, and makes the walking experience more enjoyable and pleasant. Blank walls, and continuous garage crossings or doors should not be located alongside these laneways.

Every effort should be made to design buildings which contribute in a positive sense to the urban quality of the laneway. These laneways:

- support walking safety, convenience and amenity;
- have no blank walls (greater than 3m in length);
- do not have continuous garage doors opening onto these laneways;
- have frequent doors and windows opening directly onto the laneways;
- have minimal or no building setbacks from the laneway;
- are mainly open to the sky; and
- have uses above ground level which assist in providing passive surveillance.

Central Geelong Urban Structure

Central Geelong inherited very good urban structure for walking, cycling, vehicle access and loading.



There are three main components to this structure as shown in Map 1, namely the wide streets (shown in purple), the minor streets and activated lanes (shown in blue), and the service lanes (shown in green).

The layout of major streets is consistent providing an easy to navigate and coherent network for all street users. The network of minor streets and lanes is less consistent where there are better east-west than north-south connections.

This may be a response to topography where slopes run north-south to the bay, as well as disruptions resulting from street closures, constructing over streets and the internalisation of pathways in large inwardly focused shopping malls. While there is still the possibility of navigating through these malls, these are no longer public pathways nor are they direct or easy to navigate.

Possible New Laneway Links

Possible new links to enhance the active linking laneway network in Central Geelong.

Public laneways and links

1. Dennys Place to Malop Street
2. Ryrie Street to Market Street
3. Market Street to Little Myers Street
4. Aitchison Place laneway

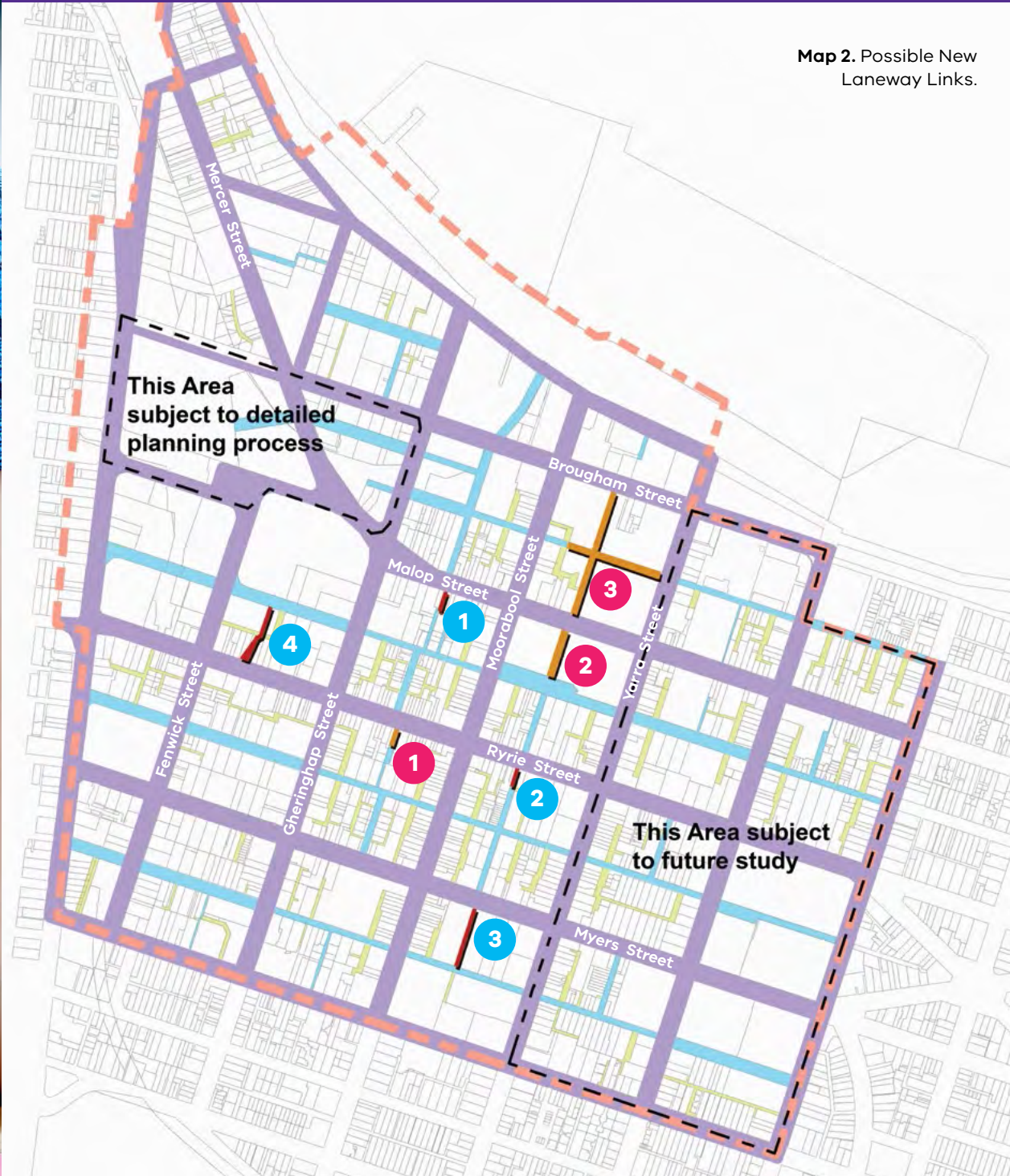
Private laneways and links

1. Wright Place link
2. Market Square Shopping Centre link
3. Westfield Shopping Centre links



Possible New Laneway Links

Map 2. Possible New Laneway Links.



1. Dennys Place to Malop Street

The benefits of this link include:

- providing ease of access from Malop Street to food, beverage and retail outlets focused on Little Malop Street, James Street and surrounding laneways;
- creating further reaching pedestrian-focussed connections between West End and the waterfront to the north, and the medical precinct to the south;
- improving options for moving around the city; and
- adding to experiences and vitality of the Green Spine by providing direct connections to it.

Without demolition, the existing building could be modified to include a new public link from Dennys Place to Malop Street while creating opportunities for new shops oriented to the new link.



Map 3. shows the increased pedestrian movement potential that would result from developing a direct link between Malop and Little Malop Streets at Dennys Place.



Figure 4. Dennys Place today.



Figure 5. Artists impression of a possible future Dennys Place and pedestrian link.

2. Ryrie Street to Market Street

The Space Syntax study indicates that a link from Market Street to Union Street would create significant north south movement opportunities. This would improve pedestrian flow to the Market Square Mall which may in turn alleviate some of the anti-social behavioural issues currently being experienced in that public space. Figures 6. and 7. indicate where that link could be made viewed from the north and south.

The project would assist in delivering the Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan by:

- creating a stronger CBD;
- creating new jobs; and
- improving linkage to the Green Spine and waterfront.



Figure 8. Potential to link Union Street to Market Street.



Figure 6. Potential link seen from north. Note existing pedestrian crossing over Ryrie Street.



Figure 7. Potential link seen from the south along Market Street.

3. Market St To Little Myers St

The existing Haymarket car park has significant future development potential. A future development should provide for a continuous link between Market Street and Little Myers Street.

If the site is developed with an underground parking structure to replace and supplement the number of surface parking spaces, there is the possibility of developing a new public park, which would add to the setting for St Mary of the Angels Basilica.

Along with the park, residential development is encouraged on the portion of the site with residences facing the new laneway and park, while still respecting the heritage assets on the site.

This development would:

- create a stronger CBD;
- support delivery of city housing;
- plan for community infrastructure;
- plan for improved linkages between the city and the waterfront when combined with other laneway projects and improvements to Market Square and Westfield shopping centres; and
- upgrade parking infrastructure in a strategic position.

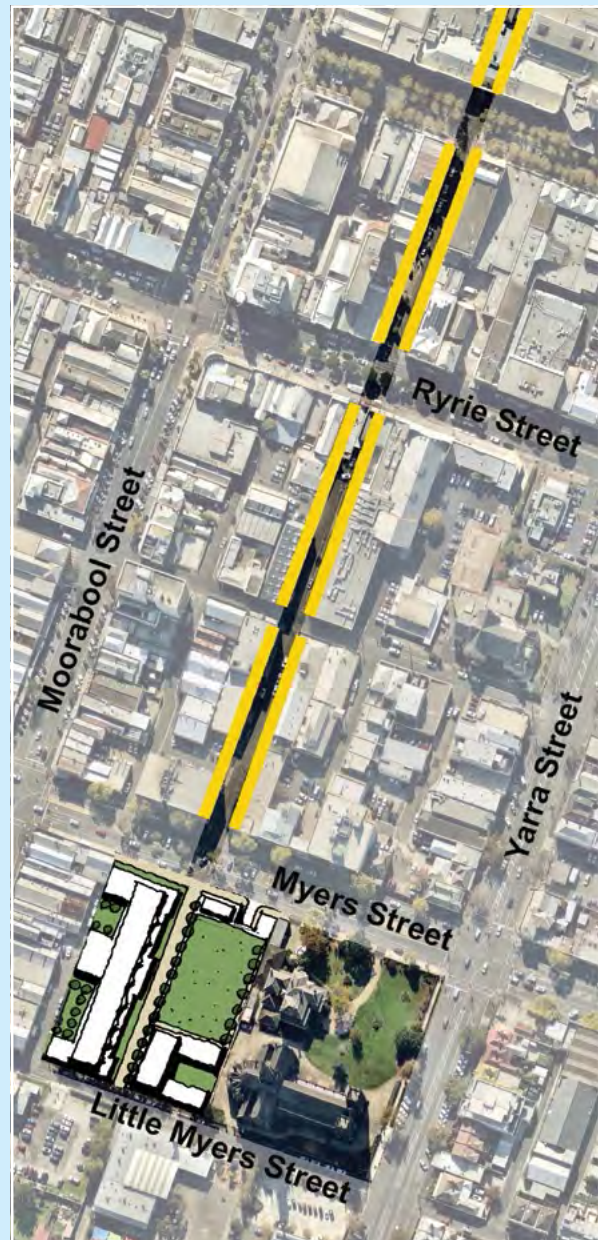


Figure 9. Potential development of the Haymarket car park to create an underground car park, a new park and residential development with a laneway extending Market Street (shown in yellow) to Little Myers Street.

4. Aitchison Place Laneway

The future closure of the north-south section of Aitchison Place to enable the Geelong Performing Arts Centre (GPAC) Stage 3 expansion (subject to funding) creates an opportunity to create a new laneway connection between State Government offices and GPAC. This would be integrated with the new plaza created alongside the refurbished Barwon Water building.

This laneway will:

- plan for community infrastructure; and
- support the construction of Stage 3 of GPAC.

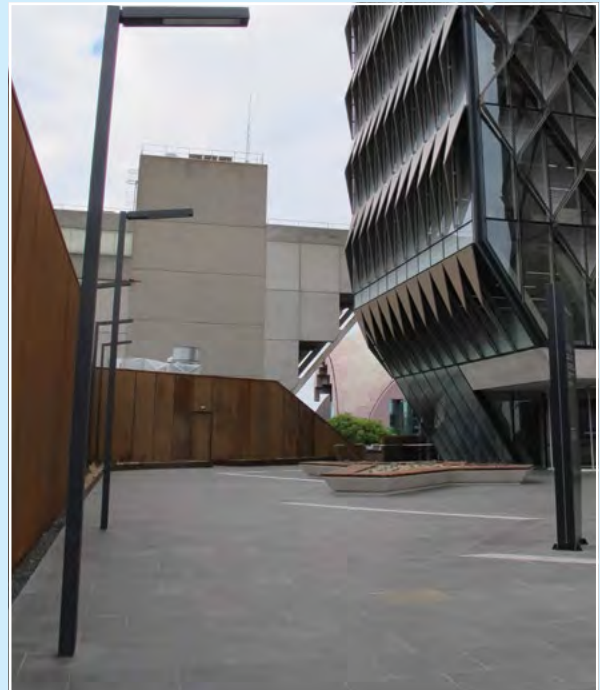


Figure 10. New plaza created as part of Barwon Water office accommodation. This plaza should be further activated and enhanced.

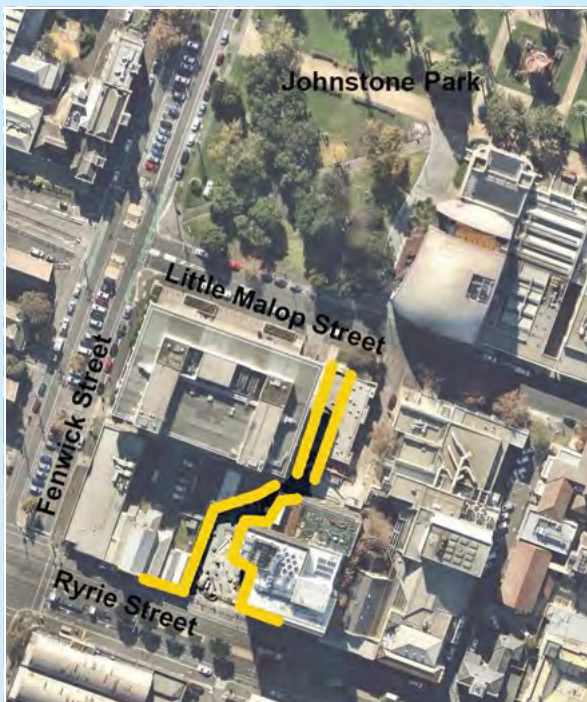


Figure 11. Showing the linking of the Barwon Water plaza to a new Aitchison Place laneway.



Figure 12. The potential alignment of a new Aitchison Place viewed from the north.

1. Wright Place Link

At present, a laneway link exists connecting Wright Place to Ryrie Street. It is supported by a pedestrian crossing on Ryrie Street and a dedicated pedestrian pathway linking Wright Place to Star Street. The quality of this laneway would be improved by access to natural light and increased activation along its edges with frequent doors and windows facing the laneway.

If this project were implemented it would go a long way to improving a significant north-south laneway which would connect from Myers Street to the waterfront.

Improving this laneway would:

- improve safety and the perception of safety;
- strengthen the CBD;
- improve an existing laneway;
- encourage north-south movement from Star Street to James Street;
- improve connections to an existing strategic parking area on Little Ryrie Street;
- improve the potential to redevelop the Little Ryrie Street car park, and continue the laneway from Ryrie Street to Star Street; and
- contribute towards improving the linkages from the southern edge of the CBD to the waterfront.

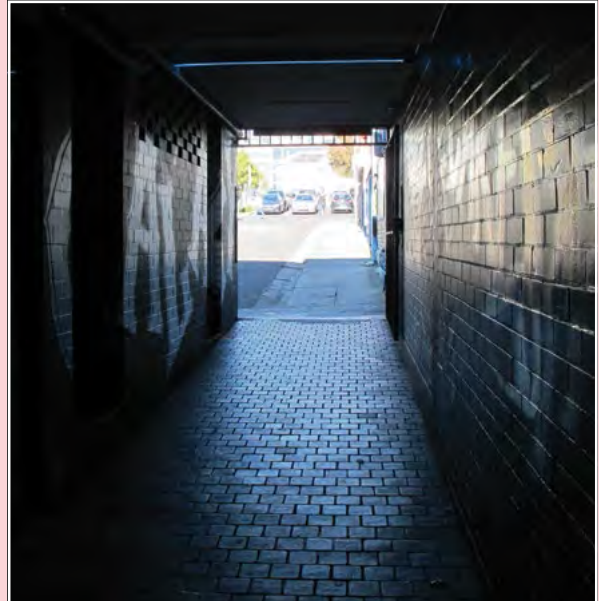


Figure 14. The current Wright Place link is dark and uninviting for pedestrians.



Figure 15. Showing the potential to link Wright Place to Star Street and develop the Little Ryrie Street parking lot.

2. Market Square Link

Union Street is a reasonably well activated laneway that runs north-south between Ryrie Street and Little Malop Street. A new and direct link from Union Street to the Green Spine (Malop Street) through the Market Square Shopping Centre is likely to induce more pedestrian use and valuable pedestrian traffic for retailers.

The link would be improved by shops facing into an open air laneway that provides natural light from above. This would fit with trends currently taking place in retail planning and design.

Recreating a direct north-south laneway through Market Square shopping centre would:

- improve connectivity to and through the shopping centre;
- increase footfall in the shopping centre;
- improve retail viability;
- reinstate connections from Malop Street to Little Malop Street;
- support the Green Spine;
- improve the potential for better links from the CBD to the Geelong waterfront; and
- create a stronger CBD.

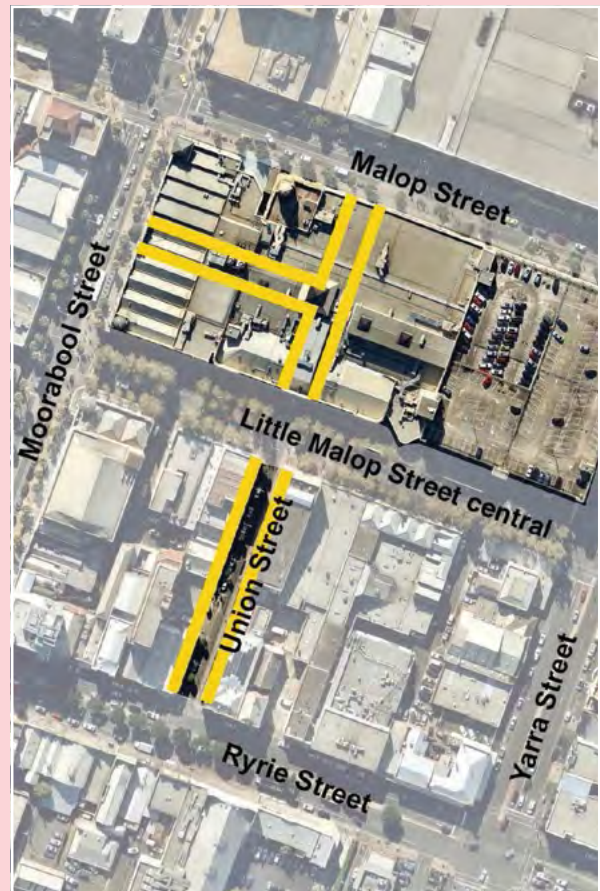


Figure 16. Extending a laneway on the Union Street alignment through the Market Square Shopping Centre.



Figure 17. Union Street.

3. Westfield Linkages

A future redevelopment of the Westfield Shopping Centre would benefit from improved connections from the centre to the surrounding street and laneway network. Corio Street could be connected from east to west, and a former north-south laneway could be reinstated linking the Green Spine to the Geelong waterfront.

These links would:

- improve connectivity to and through the shopping centre;
- increase footfall in the shopping centre;
- improve retail viability;
- reinstate connections from Malop Street to Brougham Street;
- support the Green Spine;
- improve the potential for better links from the CBD to the Geelong waterfront; and
- create a stronger CBD.



Figure 18. Possible laneway pattern linking the internal structure of shopping centres to the external street and laneway network to improve connectivity in Central Geelong.



Figure 19. Showing part of Geelong before the Westfield Shopping Centre was built. The image shows the north-south laneways which were replaced by the shopping centre.

(Image source: Market Square shopping centre, 2015)

A Future Laneway Network

A coherent possible future laneway network if the suggested projects in this Action Plan are implemented.



Figure 20. This diagram indicates a coherent possible future laneway network if the suggested projects in this Action Plan are implemented.

Why were these Laneways Selected?

Why were the laneways in this document selected for improvement, while many other laneways were ignored?

Maintaining high quality in the streets of central Geelong is a priority. The streets are the primary element of the Public Realm.

Retail is the most public of land uses, and vacant shops have a detrimental impact on the city centre. The priority is to have good quality shops facing the main streets as a priority. Many shops have laneways behind them. Where there are lanes behind shops, the shops should still face onto the

streets, not laneways, as few shops are able to ‘face two ways’. When they face the laneway, this is usually to the detriment of the street, therefore the laneways should be maintained as service lanes. For this reason, many laneways behind shops have been overlooked as they continue to provide an important servicing role for shops and streets. These laneways include Downes Lane, Shorts Place, Banks Place and the like.



Figure 21. Figure showing laneways evaluated for particular roles or for potential future investment and enhancement.

- Red Main Streets
- Purple Current activated minor streets and laneways
- Black Laneways with a primary service function
- Green Potential laneway improvements and links

Some potential laneway connections are on private property. These include Dennys Place and McLarty Place. In both cases land would need to be acquired from current owners, and so an evidence-based evaluation of each was conducted to explore their city-wide connection potential as well as the potential for activation and change over time. McLarty Place does not add to “line of sight” connectivity to the extent that Dennys Place could simply because Dennys Place lines up with both James Street and Clare Street. Therefore as an option for north-south connectivity, it has much greater potential which will yield social and economic benefits.

All of these factors were weighed up when determining the priority for public fund investment into laneway linkages and improvements.

Other potential laneway connections and improvements are quite remote from the core of the city centre. In future these may be considered for improvement.

Evidence-based evaluation of Dennys Place versus McLarty Place connectivity potential.



Figure 22. Comparison of the connectivity potential of Dennys Place and McLarty Place. (Source: Space Syntax Limited).



SOBER

Tomodaeki
IZAKAYA & BAR



Cabinnet Door
geelong



Revitalising Central Geelong

The Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan sets out the Victorian Government's 10 year plan to drive change in Central Geelong. Led by the Minister for Planning, the City of Greater Geelong and the Victorian Government are working together to deliver the plan. Implementation of the Action Plan is overseen by the Revitalising Central Geelong Partnership Team.

The Laneways Action Plan is one of several projects that are underway. For more information, please visit www.revitalisingcentralgeelong.vic.gov.au

Contact Details

Revitalising Central Geelong Partnership
The Workshop, 108 Moorabool St, Geelong 3220
www.revitalisingcentralgeelong.vic.gov.au

Cr Grzybek declared a Direct Interest in Agenda Item 6, Building Better Bike Connections - Western Link, in that she is an employee of TAC, and left the meeting room prior to discussion of the item at 8.50pm..

6. BUILDING BETTER BIKE CONNECTIONS - WESTERN LINK

Source:	City Services - Engineering Services
Director:	Guy Wilson-Browne
Index Reference:	D18-266878
Portfolio	Transportation and Connections

Purpose

To approve the Building Better Bike Connections – Western Link route and proceed to tender and construction.

Background

The Building Better Bike Connections Project will adopt best practice from around the world, to provide routes that are designed to be used by cyclists of a wide range of ages and abilities to safely ride to destinations like shopping areas and key employment precincts.

This project aims to attract cyclists by creating a low speed traffic environment where cyclists can safely share the road with cars and providing a direct and convenient route for efficient travel by bike.

The City of Greater Geelong received \$4.7M from the TAC's Safer Pedestrian and Cyclist Fund to create two cycling routes from Central Geelong to Herne Hill (Western Link route) and Central Geelong to Waurin Ponds (Southern Link route), as part of the Building Better Bike Connections project.

\$1.325M in funding is allocated for the construction of the Western Link route, where cars and bikes will share the road – See **Attachment 2**.

The TAC funding is being managed by VicRoads. The scope of the project can be accommodated within the allocated budget.

The design consists of traffic management treatments to slow speeds and increase the awareness of cyclists in Villamanta Street, Gertrude Street and Sydenham Avenue - See **Attachment 3**. The design includes new and modified signalised crossings of Latrobe Terrace, Pakington Street and Shannon Avenue.

Key Issues

- A six week consultation period in January and February 2018 included an online survey. Of the 299 respondents who provided feedback on the western link, 71 per cent strongly supported the project.
- Feedback from residents was overwhelming positive, however some raised concerns relating to traffic treatments impacting parking outside of residential properties. Designs have been amended to rectify this issue.
- The Western Link route design has been finalised and is now pending review by the VicRoads signals team.

Cr Kontelj moved, Cr Nelson seconded -

That Council approve the Building Better Bike Connections – Western Link route Attachment 2 and endorse proceeding to tender and construction.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

The Building Better Bike Connections project, which includes both the Western Link route and the Southern Link route, is currently funded in whole by the TAC through its Safer Pedestrian and Cyclist Fund. The total original budget is \$4.7M, of which \$4.35M is allocated to the City to deliver the works. The remaining amount has been reserved for VicRoads management of the state wide program.

The approved portion of the budget to be used on the construction phase of the Western Link route is \$1.325M. The scope of works is within the budget.

VicRoads is the fund manager on behalf of the TAC.

Community Engagement

A six week consultation period between 8 January and 16 February 2018 included:

- Mail outs to residents and property owners;
- Drop in sessions at Geelong West Town Hall and Geelong Library;
- A community survey;
- Social media campaign;
- Newspaper advertising.

299 people responded to the Western Link section of the survey.

Support for the proposed plan	Percentage
Strongly support	71
Somewhat support	11
Somewhat opposed	2
Strongly opposed	12
Neutral or had not seen plans	4

Feedback from residents was overwhelmingly positive, however some residents raised concerns relating to traffic treatments impacting parking outside of residential properties. Designs have been amended to rectify this issue and minimise parking impacts whilst improving street safety and amenity.

Social Equity Considerations

Women, children and elderly Victorians cycle far less than the typical cyclist, who is male and under 45. Women and older people say that safety concerns discourage them from cycling. Research shows that implementing the type of treatments proposed in this project¹, by creating safer environments, will enable greater gender and age balance in cycling.

Cycling improves connections within and between communities, which increases participation in social activities and employment. Cycling is an affordable mode of transport for many people. It can improve the mobility of women, children, seniors, students, people with low incomes and people who have recently arrived in Australia¹.

1. Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-28

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

Cycling for transport is heavily incorporated in numerous transport, health, environmental and planning strategies and policies across Council including: Council's 30 year vision: A Clever and Creative Future; Integrated Comprehensive Transport Plan; Physical Activity Strategy; Open Space Strategy and the Central Geelong Action Plan.

Alignment to Council Plan

The Building Better Bike Connections Project aligns to the themes of Integrated Transport Connections by delivering better-connected walking, cycling and trail paths between Waurin Ponds and Central Geelong; and Improved Health and Safety of Our Community by working towards having the safest roads in Victoria.

Conflict of Interest

No Council officers have declared a direct or indirect interest in this matter, in accordance with Section 80(c) of the Local Government Act, to which this amendment relates.

Risk Assessment

No risks have been identified in relation to progressing and advertising the Western Link corridor for tender as is recommended by this report.

A project delivery risk assessment will be prepared.

Environmental Implications

The One Planet Living Principle of Sustainable transport aim is: Reducing the need to travel, and encouraging low and zero carbon modes of transport to reduce emissions.

The provision of public transport services, promotion of active transport and the movement of vehicles through and around Geelong have also been identified as critical issues for the region. Geelong has a strong reliance on motor vehicles and in order to be sustainable the region will need to implement opportunities to increase the use of more sustainable transport².

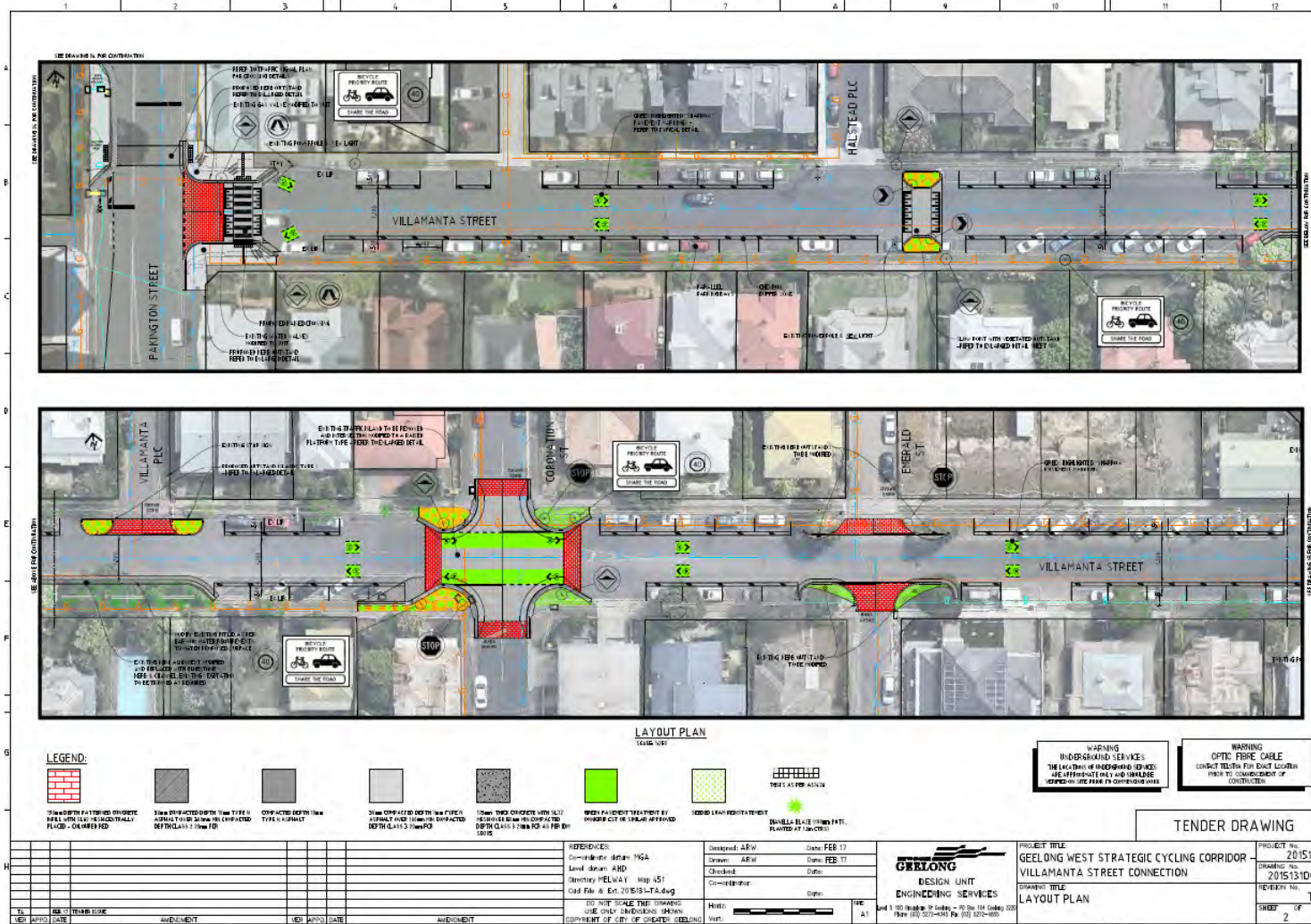
Motor vehicles are the dominant contributor to the air pollution (predominantly carbon monoxide) in the region. It should be noted that particulate emissions are of increasing concern, with diesel trucks and cars contributing to this².

2. City of Greater Geelong Environmental Management Strategy

Western Link Route Map



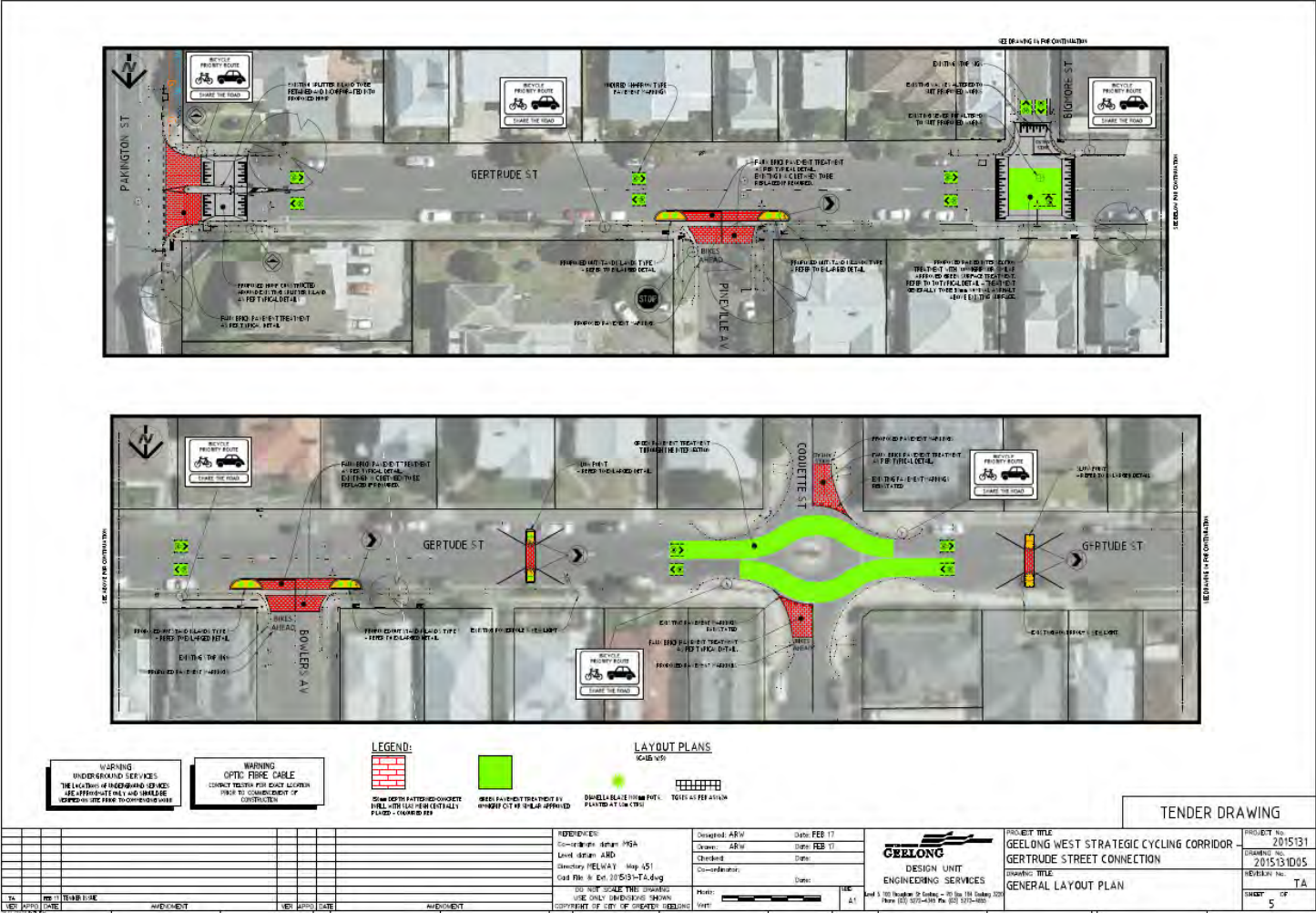
Typical Treatment for Villamanta Street



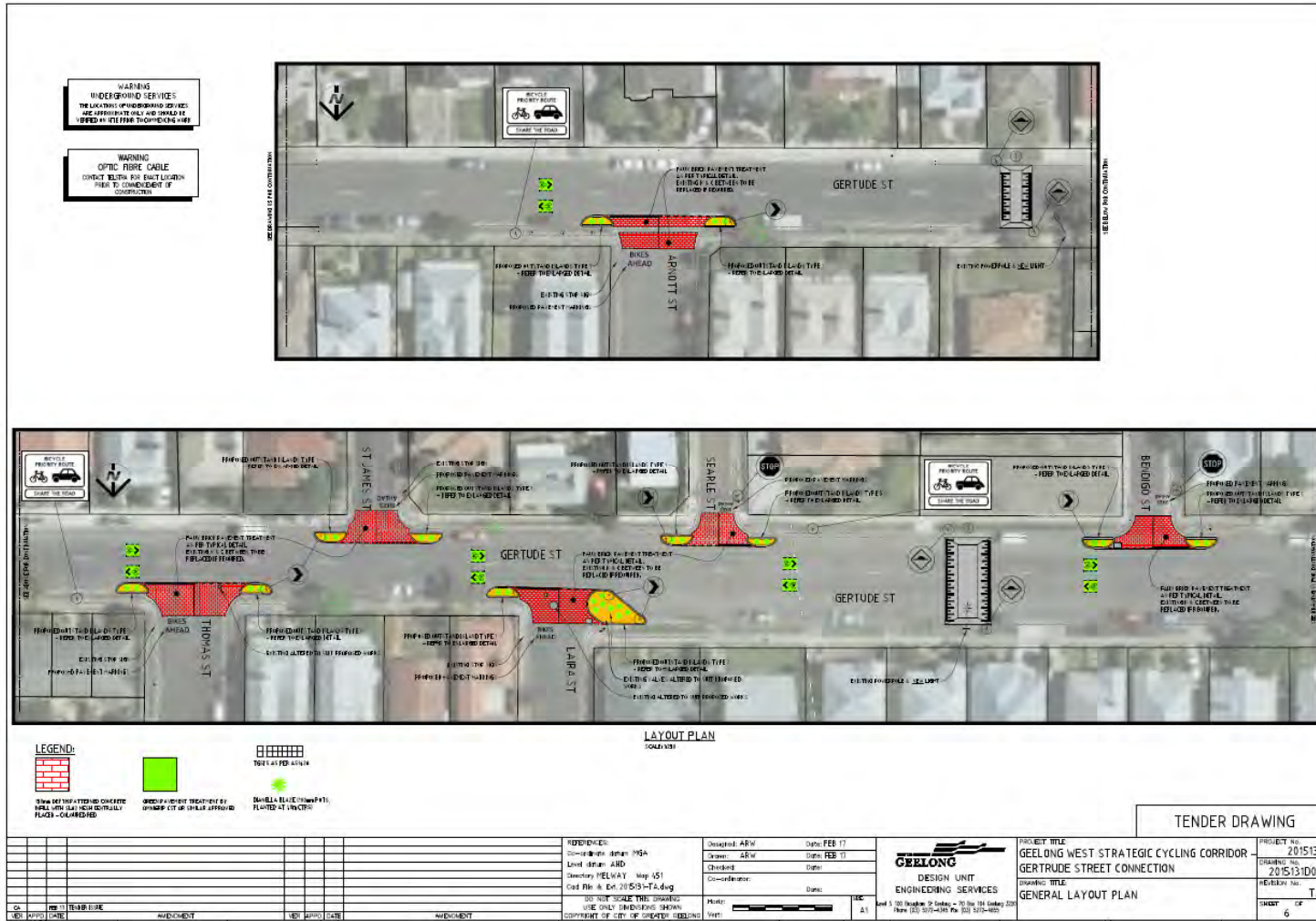
Typical Treatment for Gertrude Street (Pizer Street into Pakington Street)



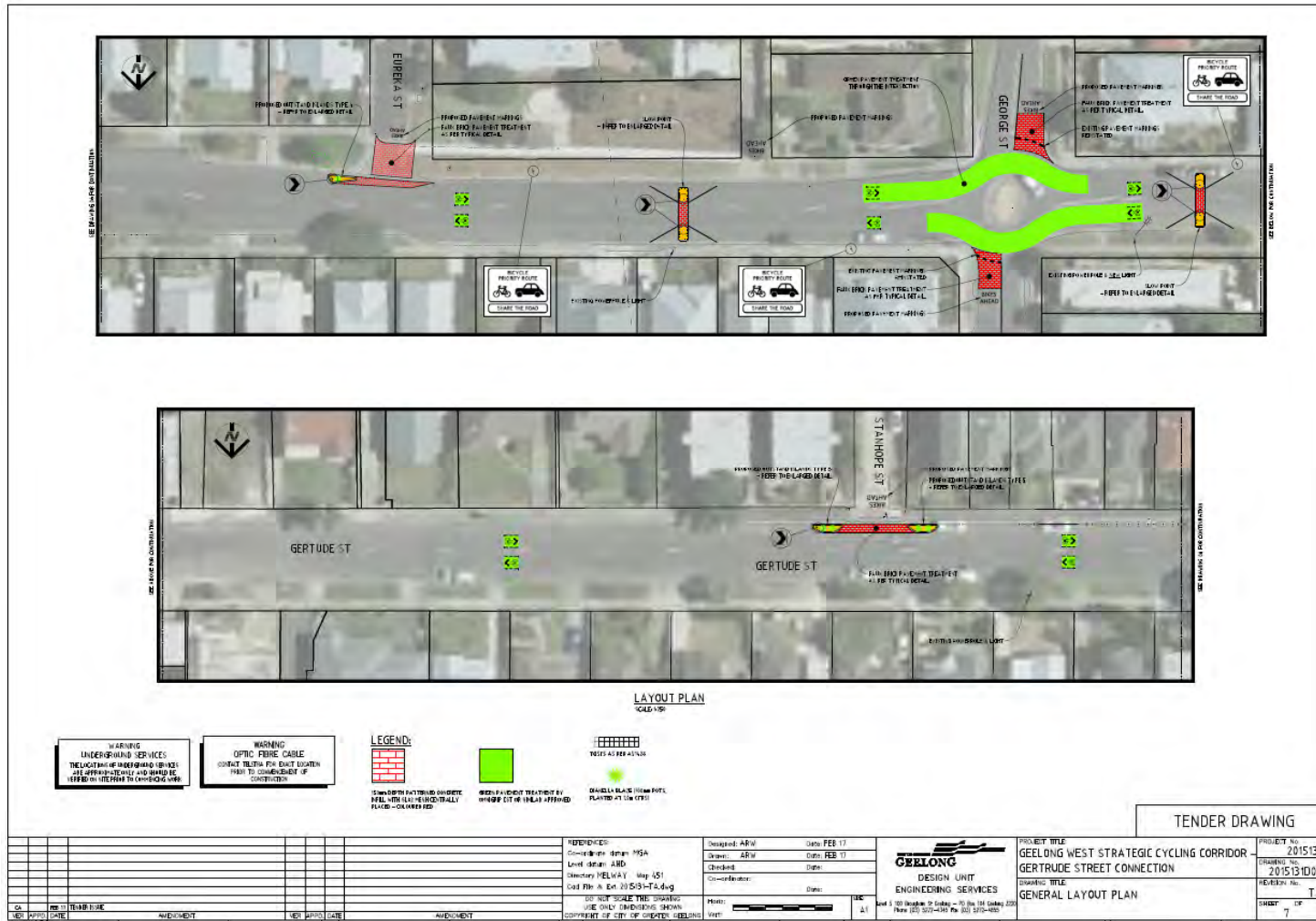
Typical Treatment for Gertrude Street (Bowlers, Coquette and Bigmore Street)



Typical Treatment for Gertrude Street (Arnott, Thomas and Bendigo Street)



Typical Treatment for Gertrude Street (Stanhope, Eureka and George Street)



Cr Grzybek re-entered the meeting room at 9.15pm.

7. AMENDMENT TO 2018-19 RATING STRATEGY

Source:	Finance & Strategy
Director:	Peter Anderson
Index Reference:	SUB-16-2053
Report To:	Council Meeting
Portfolio	Finance

Purpose

To amend the 2018-19 differential rates in response to an administrative error in the recording of 2018 Capital Improved Valuation information used for setting the 2018-19 differential rates and rating strategy.

Background

The City of Greater Geelong is required by the Essential Services Commission (ESC) to complete an Annual Compliance Information 2018-19 report. The 'fair go' rates system requires Councils to self-regulate and prepare an annual compliance statement declaring conformance with the applicable rate cap. The completion of the report has highlighted an administrative error in the disclosure of 2018 Capital Improved Valuations used for setting the differential rates in the dollar.

The 2018-19 rate cap has been set at 2.25%. A reconciliation has revealed that the 2018-19 differential rates (set when the budget was adopted on 26 June 2018) when applied to the 2018 Capital Improved Valuations, as certified by the Valuer General for rateable property, would be non-compliant at 2.6%.

The 2018-19 budget incorrectly recorded Capital Improved Valuations at \$63.3 billion which was understated by approximately \$190 million. This resulted in differential rates being set at levels that were marginally higher than they should otherwise be.

Key Issues

- Council has an obligation to conform to the 2018-19 rate cap at 2.25%.
- The preparation of the annual compliance information report to the ESC has revealed an administrative error that occurred in the recording of Capital Improved Valuations by differential during the 2018-19 budget process. This error led to the rate in the dollar for each differential rate being set at marginally higher levels.
- Given the 2018-19 rate notices have not yet been issued there is an opportunity to correct this error and reset the 2018-19 rate differentials.
- Failure to act now would result in Council receiving an additional 0.35% rate income in excess of the budget provision. The ESC would also be advised of non-compliance to the rate cap and corrective action being imposed on Council.

Cr Murnane moved, Cr Murrhy seconded -

That Council:

- 1) **Authorise an amendment to the 2018-19 Budget & Rating Strategy in response to an administrative error in the recording of Capital Improved Values used for each differential rating category by:**

1.1. Change the Differential Rate in the Dollar as follows:

2018-19 Budget	Amended 2018-19 Rate in the Dollar
Farm Land .002390 (or .2390 percent of Capital Improved Value).	Farm Land .002385 (or .2385 percent of Capital Improved Value).
Residential Land .002390 (or .2390 percent of Capital Improved Value).	Residential Land .002385 (or .2385 percent of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Land .003641 (or .3641 percent of Capital Improved Value).	Vacant Land .003740 (or .3740 percent of Capital Improved Value).
The Point Residential Land .002390 (or .2390 percent of Capital Improved Value).	The Point Residential Land .002385 (or .2385 percent of Capital Improved Value).
The Point Vacant Land .003641 (or .3641 percent of Capital Improved Value).	The Point Vacant Land .003740 (or .3740 percent of Capital Improved Value).
The Point Commercial Land .005473 (or .5473 percent of Capital Improved Value).	The Point Commercial Land .005390 (or .5390 percent of Capital Improved Value).
Petroleum Production Land .006871 (or .6871 percent of Capital Improved Value).	Petroleum Production Land .006797 (or .6797 percent of Capital Improved Value).
Industrial Land .006871 (or .6871 percent of Capital Improved Value).	Industrial Land .006797 (or .6797 percent of Capital Improved Value).
Commercial Land .005473 (or .5473 percent of Capital Improved Value).	Commercial Land .005390 (or .5390 percent of Capital Improved Value).
Mixed Use Land .003604 (or .3604 percent of Capital Improved Value).	Mixed Use Land .003617 (or .3617 percent of Capital Improved Value).
Cultural and Recreational .001792 (or .1792 percent of Capital Improved Value).	Cultural and Recreational .001789 (or .1789 percent of Capital Improved Value).

1.2. Change the Farm Rebate from 36.3% to 37.3%

1.3. Change the Cultural & Recreation Rate from .001792 to .001789

- 2) **Council notes that these changes are necessary to ensure compliance with 2018-19 Rate cap of 2.25%, without altering the adopted 2018-19 budgeted rate income; and**
- 3) **Council notes that the 2018-19 Rate notices will be issued reflecting these amended differential rates.**

Carried.

Attachment 1

Discussion

Rate modelling for the 2018-19 budget was based on 2018 level valuations for all property types (Residential, Industrial etc.) in the municipality.

The valuations were extracted from the valuation contractor's database for the first time rather than Council's valuation database. An administrative error occurred resulting in the valuation extract excluding increases to some property valuations (supplementary valuations) and the Capital Improved Valuations used for rate setting purposes were incorrect.

The supplementary valuations for effected properties were subsequently updated and included in the finalisation of the 2018 level valuations certified by the Valuer General Victoria.

This error resulted in the Capital Improved Valuations by differential being understated and caused the rate in the dollar to be marginally higher than it otherwise should be.

Table 1 is a summary of the Capital Improved Valuations used for the 2018-19 budget, the rate in the dollar set for each differential and the budgeted rate income of \$190.8m.

Table 1

2018-19 Budget				
Category	No of Properties	Rate in \$ - Budget	CIV 2018 Level	Income
Residential	107,633	0.002390	51,862,579,600	123,947,762
Vacant	5,630	0.003641	2,163,382,200	7,876,383
Commercial	5,864	0.005473	5,340,496,750	29,228,176
The Point Residential	101	0.002390	58,800,000	140,528
The Point Vacant	35	0.003641	21,529,000	78,382
The Point Commercial	3	0.005473	9,334,000	51,084
Industrial	2,096	0.006871	1,704,812,000	11,713,830
Mixed Use	339	0.003604	218,728,000	788,364
Farm (with rebate)	1,002	0.002390	1,663,271,000	2,532,136
Cultural & Recreational	52	0.001792	118,615,000	212,611
Petroleum	1	0.006871	145,100,000	996,988
			63,306,647,550	177,566,244
Municipal Charge	122,756	102.00		12,521,112
Total Income				190,087,356

Preliminary processing has been completed to generate expected 2018-19 rate income. This process highlighted that the Capital Improved Valuations were higher than the budget level with a variance of \$190.7m. The higher valuations when multiplied by the rate in dollar for each rating differential indicated additional rate revenue of \$710,785 relative to the 2018-19 budget or a 2.6% overall rate increase exceeding the rate cap by 0.35%.

Table 2 highlights the impact on revenue when the corrected Capital Improved Valuations are applied to the 2018-19 differential rates resulting in Rate income of \$190.8m representing non-compliance with the rate cap.

Table 2

2018-19 Generation				
Category	No of Properties	Rate in \$ - Processed	CIV 2018 Level	Income
Residential	107,637	0.002390	51,974,933,000	124,220,090
Vacant	5,633	0.003641	2,105,712,622	7,666,900
Commercial	5,847	0.005390	5,428,951,400	29,712,651
The Point Residential	101	0.002390	60,010,000	143,424
The Point Vacant	35	0.003641	18,960,000	69,033
The Point Commercial	3	0.005390	9,334,000	51,085
Industrial	2,095	0.006871	1,723,355,374	11,841,175
Mixed Use	336	0.003604	217,940,000	785,456
Farm (with rebate)	998	0.002390	1,693,402,000	2,578,086
Cultural & Recreational	52	0.001792	119,637,800	214,391
Petroleum	1	0.006871	145,100,000	996,982
			63,497,336,196	178,279,273
Municipal Charge	122,734	102.00		12,518,868
Total Income				190,798,141

It is proposed that Council amend the 2018-19 differential rates to adjust the revenue to 2018-19 budgeted rates revenue. Since the error effected all differentials, it is proposed that the rate in the dollar be re-set to ensure an equitable solution for all ratepayers.

The farm rebate will be increased from 36.3% to 37.3% as part of the changes required. All other criteria of the 2018-19 rating strategy approved by Council will remain. This change will ensure that the 2018-19 budget rate revenue is achieved and Council is compliant with the rate cap at 2.25%. This will also ensure compliance with the Annual Compliance Information 2018-19 report to the ESC due in September 2018. The ESC have been contacted and advised of the proposed corrective action.

Table 3 provides a summary of the new rate in the dollar for each differential which restores budgeted rate income to \$190.1m.

Table 3

Re-set Rate in the \$ for all differentials for 2018-19				
Category	No of Properties	Rate in \$ - Amended	CIV 2018 Level	Income
Residential	107,637	0.002385	51,974,933,000	123,947,762
Vacant	5,633	0.003740	2,105,712,622	7,876,383
Commercial	5,847	0.005390	5,428,951,400	29,259,630
The Point Residential	101	0.002385	60,010,000	143,109
The Point Vacant	35	0.003740	18,960,000	70,920
The Point Commercial	3	0.005390	9,334,000	50,306
Industrial	2,095	0.006797	1,723,355,374	11,714,412
Mixed Use	336	0.003617	217,940,000	788,364
Farm (with rebate)	998	0.002385	1,693,402,000	2,532,050
Cultural & Recreational	52	0.001789	119,637,800	213,981
Petroleum	1	0.006797	145,100,000	986,309
			63,497,336,196	177,583,226
Municipal Charge	122,734	102.00		12,518,868
Total Income				190,102,094

Financial Implications

The understatement of valuations as part of the 2018-19 budget was \$190 million and applying the original 2018-19 differential rate in dollar would increase rate revenue by \$710,785.

The resetting of differential rates will bring the rate revenue in line with the adopted rate revenue budget and the 2018-19 Rate Cap of 2.25%.

Community Engagement

This recommendation represents a correction of an administrative error only and the changes can be made in time for the 2018-19 rate notices to be issued late August 2018. This minimises any adverse impact on the community.

Social Equity Considerations

There are no social implications arising from this report.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

This report is provided in accordance with requirements under the Local Government Act 1989. The change to the differential rates does not represent an amended budget.

Alignment to Council Plan

This report contributes to responsible and sustainable financial management as aligned in the Council Plan strategic objective Innovative Finances and Technology.

Conflict of Interest

No Council officers have a direct or indirect interest in any matter to which this report relates.

Risk Assessment

Council will not be compliant in conforming to the rate cap if the recommendations in this report are not implemented.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

NOTICE OF MOTION – by Cr Sarah Mansfield

WASTE WISE AND SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE AIMED AT REDUCING PLASTIC WASTE

Purpose

To request officers to provide a detailed report listing options to implement a waste wise and sustainability initiative aimed at reducing plastic waste from all COGG events, functions, and activities, and events held on Council land.

Background

There is growing community concern about the impact of plastic waste on our environment. Plastics require non-renewable fossil fuels to produce, and take a very long time to degrade. While some plastics can be recycled, Victorians currently recycle only around a quarter of our plastic waste, with the remainder ending up in landfill or as pollutants of our environment. Plastics cause harm to our wildlife and disrupt ecosystems, particularly in our oceans and waterways. The current recycling crisis risks an even higher proportion of our plastic waste ending up in our environment.

Single use plastics – such as drink bottles, plastic bags, packaging, coffee cups, balloons, and straws – are an obvious source of such plastic waste. Their usage can be reduced through education and behaviour change.

Communities are looking to their Councils to provide leadership on this issue, and many Councils around Australia have implemented measures to reduce plastic waste from Council activities and on Council land. Measures to reduce waste from all City of Greater Geelong events, functions, activities, and events held on Council land would be consistent with community expectations, as well as our commitment to ‘zero waste and zero pollution’ as a certified One Planet Council.

Cr Mansfield moved, Cr Mason seconded -

That:

- 1) Council requests officers to provide a report detailing options, requirements and financial implications of a waste wise and sustainability initiative aimed at reducing plastic waste;**
- 2) The report is to include options for all Council events, functions, and activities, as well as activities on Council land; and**
- 3) The report be presented to Council by the 30 November 2018.**

Carried.

CLOSE OF MEETING

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.31pm. Tuesday, 14 August 2018.

Signed: _____
Cr Bruce Harwood (Mayor)

Date of Confirmation: _____.