

MINUTES

COMMUNITY FOCUS COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2018

7.00PM

**HIGHTON BOWLS CLUB
CNR ROSLYN AND SOUTH VALLEY ROADS
HIGHTON**

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 Murrihy (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 HIGHTON BOWLS CLUB
CNR ROSLYN AND SOUTH VALLEY ROADS, HIGHTON
TUESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2018
COMMENCING AT 7.00PM**

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

Also present: M Cutter (Chief Executive Officer), G Smith (Director Manager Planning
and Development), T Ellis (Acting Director Investment & Attraction),
G Wilson-Browne (Director City Services), R Stevens (Acting Director
Community Life), B Luxford (Interim Director Finance & Strategy),
J Van Slageren (Manager City Development), L Barton (Acting Executive
Manager People and Organisation Development), R Leonard (Executive
Manager Governance & Legal Services)

OPENING: The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.00pm.

APOLOGIES: Cr Mansfield (Leave of Absence)

PRESENTATION:

*Crs Harwood, Murnane and Nelson provided the gallery with a snapshot of the major projects
and issues in the Kardinia Ward.*

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Cr Asher moved, Cr Murrihy seconded -

**That the Minutes of the Community Focus Council Meeting held on 9 October 2018 be
confirmed.**

Carried.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Nil.

QUESTION TIME:

Iris Hammond submitted a question prior to the meeting but was not present. A written response will therefore be provided.

Hilary Lovibond asked if recent changes mean that many asylum seekers living in the community have lost access to the Status Resolution Support Services which previously assisted them with accommodation, income support and case management. Removing this support shifts welfare costs and responsibilities to local and state agencies as well as to community-based organisations. What action will council take to support asylum seekers within our community who face material poverty and the inability to meet even basic needs while they await the processing of their visa applications, and to this end, will council sign the Joint Statement against Changes to the Status Resolution Support Services and join the taskforce of Victorian Councils formed recently to advocate jointly in relation to these changes?

The Mayor responded that Council is very mindful of its position and attended the Mayoral roundtable on 31 July 2018. As a result a Councillor Update of the meeting has been provided to Councillors.

We anticipate receiving a report from officers which will recommend the City sign the Joint Statement against changes to the Status Resolution Support Services and join the taskforce of Victorian Councils to advocate jointly in relation to the changes.

Ryman Aged Care Facility

The following questions were asked in relation to the Ryman Aged Care Facility. Councillors have requested that the planning application be called in to be considered by Councillors at a Planning Committee Meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, 18 December commencing 6.00pm at City Hall.

Councillors cannot pre-empt a decision, and the Planning Committee Meeting is the appropriate time for objectors to voice their concerns to Councillors.

The Mayor welcomed the following questions, however, was unable to provide a response:

Geoff Gill asked if there will be construction vehicles using access from the narrow residential streets of Molesworth Drive or Kindale Court through the playground? How can this be presented? At an earlier information session it was stated that the boundary fence of the proposed Ryman Aged Care Facility would be replaced as one of the first activities. Recently word-of-mouth suggests the fence will be one of the last activities to be completed. Would you kindly confirm when the fence is planned to be built assuming the Ryman Aged Care Facility goes ahead?

Geoff Bartels asked if the proposed Ryman Aged Care complex in South Valley Road will contribute to increased traffic congestion particularly at peak times for school drop offs, staff changeover and visitors. We are concerned for the safety of all road users. Is there the need for a reduced speed limit in South valley Road?

Brian McCarthy asked if the large Aged Care building which will house 160 residents in care plus 7 two bedroom apartments with assorted recreational facilities and 2 businesses is referred to in the Ryman proposal as a 3 level building.

This building also has a basement which protrudes more than 1.2m above ground level. Shouldn't this then be regarded a 4 storey building?

Also, in relation the proposed Ryman Development on South Valley Road, are Councillors aware of the size and bulk of this development and the impact that this will have on those residents who live in the vicinity of this proposal?

Nicola Belleville asked if the Ryman Healthcare proposal for an aged care complex and retirement village in South Valley Road includes a pedestrian access gate through to a children's playground in Kindale Court. The local residents are concerned for the safety of children playing in a well utilised playground if it is modified to provide a thoroughfare for staff and visitors to the complex. If the purpose of the access is to provide playground facilities for the visiting children of the complex, could these needs be met through a condition placed upon Ryman to incorporate a playground onsite in one of their green spaces?

Bethany Dean addressed Council as follows:

I am a student at Christian College campus in Burdekin Road. My brother and I walk to and from school using South Valley Road school crossing. Traffic in the morning and afternoon is already very busy. The proposed Ryman development will increase traffic at these times. Can the Council look at making this crossing a school zone speed limit of 40KPH instead of the current 60KPH?

Janine Dean asked if the Arboriculture assessment includes tree protection management plans for trees on the adjacent properties? The Ryman proposal has fences and buildings constructed which will cause major encroachment on resident's trees, "Tree Protection Zones".

Is there going to be provision to protect the existing resident's trees along the boundary fence in accordance with the Australian Standard AS 4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites?

Dianne Fitzgerald –

The proposed Ryman Residential Aged Care Facility and Retirement Village complex, which will accommodate over 300 people is a large scale development on a key strategic site on South Valley Road, surrounded by an established residential area which will be significantly impacted. This is of great community concern as illustrated by the number of objections submitted – 68 confirmed by Council today. Thank you for considering our concerns and calling this in.

What strategic work is Council proposing, to ensure that the future development of these large sites in residential areas is appropriately managed? If we had a Design and Development Overlay for these strategic sites we would have a better appreciation of what is being proposed with better controls over what is built and how the land can be used?

Julie Dean asked as the residents, and visitors of residents, of Kindale Court, Belvedere Court and Molesworth Drive are concerned about the overflow of car parking that will occur as a result of the Ryman proposal. What impact do you expect such a complex will have on the parking for residents and their families who reside in these Courts and those who visit the children's playground at the end of Kindale Court?

How will you ensure residents and visitors of residents in Kindale and Belvedere Courts and Molesworth Drive will continue to enjoy ease of parking we experience now after the facility is operating?

Can you guarantee emergency vehicles will be able to access every resident in these Courts/Drive should it eventuate that staff, contractors and visitors of the complex choose to park in these Courts/Drive for extended periods of time?

Graham Monks asked as the Ryman proposal in South Valley Road has pedestrian access gates into Kindale Court and Molesworth Drive, is the purpose of the gates to satisfy regulatory requirements? How can the gates be managed so they will not be used for ready access to all staff and visitors?

Rob Nicoll asked if Councillors are aware of the potential for much increased vehicle and foot traffic into Kindale Court, Highton, as the inclusion of a pedestrian access gate through to Kindale Court will allow overflow car parking for staff and visitors to the proposed Ryman Aged Care facility? I am concerned with the safety issues for children travelling to the playground in Kindale Court, with the dangers of increased traffic in a narrow court. Traffic in South Valley Road and Glastonbury Drive can be heavy at morning and afternoon peak times. It can be difficult to safely turn in to these roads from the local streets at these times. Cars are currently using Glastonbury Drive as an alternative route to South Valley Road. The Ryman proposal in South Valley Road will contribute to an increase in traffic on this Road Zone Category 1 road. Has Council considered the potential compromise to safety from the resultant traffic increase in Glastonbury Drive as people walk, cycle and drive to work and the five local schools in the area?

Graham Ritchie is concerned at the prospect of staff not being able to smoke on site. He lives in direct proximity of the proposal and does not want smokers congregating in front of his property 24/7.

Graham Turner has concerns regarding the access points for Ryman. Molesworth Drive is narrow and has a very dangerous bend. There has been near head on collisions on the bend because of cars parked on either side of the road. I contacted Council a few years ago asking for a mirror to be installed on the bend to improve visibility of oncoming traffic. A gate is also required on Molesworth Drive for emergency vehicle access, but doubt that a fire truck could even get around the bend without hitting parked cars.

Council needs to consider Molesworth Drive safety issues to prevent injuries, particularly if Ryman gets up?

Noel Thompson asked why land donated by a former Gallipoli Digger for Whittington's War Memorial Kindergarten is in such a neglected state and asked it be made available for community use?

Cr Kontelj asked for Mr. Thompson's details and he, as Veteran Affairs Portfolio holder, will follow up and be in further contact.

Jennifer Bantow addressed Council as follows:

In 1992 the National Trust in Victoria raise \$800,000 to faithfully restore the Eastern Beach Reserve. This was done through a tax deductible External Special Appeal under the authority the Trust has from the Australian Tax Office for projects which are overseen by the Trust on the condition that the work is undertaken applying best practice conservation principles.

A recent External Appeal was for St Mary Basilica. The Trust released the funds from the Eastern Beach Reserve Appeal monies and paid the invoices when the work was completed according to accepted Burra Charter principles and guidelines.

In the 49 years that the National Trust has operated its tax-deductible appeals system more than 38 million dollars has been raised for the conservation and restoration of heritage places.

Copies of the correspondence between the then Geelong City Engineer and Trust Conservation Manager indicate the work the City Council requested to be funded included two brick buildings – the Beach House and Dressing Rooms/Life Saving shed, concrete seawall, staircase, fountain, lights on seawall, children's pool fountain, diving tower, shade shelters, Ritchie Boulevard lights, rotunda, planters and palm trees. The Ritchie Boulevard rotunda, planters and palm trees were not approved by the Trust because they were new items and were changes to the original design, and they therefore were not funded from the Appeal, all other components were funded.

In relation to the Beach House, it is described in the CMP as of primary significance, and that the original finishes and fittings should be retained.

It is important that the Beach House be properly restored and occupied by the lessees who have an excellent catering record. With co-operation and acceptance by the tenants of the privilege of occupying this hugely significant place, changes can be made that satisfy both the heritage restoration criteria, and the lessee's needs to make the business financial. The lessee's requirements can be accommodated by changes to the ground floor. Research and documentation has established the significance of the Eastern Reserve, and the restoration work completed in 1992 has made this a magnificent site, it is vital that the heritage value of the place is not chipped away and eroded.

Heritage Victoria is required by law to adhere to the Permit Conditions of any property listed on the Victorian Heritage Register. As owner of the building Council is also required to comply with these conditions.

Will Council please support the Eastern Beach Reserve CMP recommendations and the well informed heritage advice from qualified experts in heritage conservation?

The Mayor thanked Ms Bantow for her questions/comments and Council will await the recommendations forthcoming from CMP.

Lex Chalmers provided the following submission in relation to the Post Office as a Design Centre:

I understand that Council is awaiting the Lovell Chen Conservation Management Plan to be completed in February before it makes a final decision on the sale of Geelong's iconic Victorian Boom Style Post Office.

However, since the CMP will likely demonstrate how unique and significant the building is to the region's telecommunications and architectural and social heritage, surely the Council needs to allow time for further consideration of the sale.

Council's Changing Policy Settings – The Council has had a long-standing intention to sell the Post Office.

This pre-dates Geelong's *Clever and Creative Futures Strategy 2017*; the Municipal *Heritage Strategy 2017*; the Australian UNESCO City of Design Award 2018; and the development of its Heritage Advisory Committee in 2018.

I and the Geelong and Region National Trust consider that the 'For Sale' mind-set needs to be tested in the context of all of these important new policy developments and that of its Council Plan 2018-22, and that future action takes into account a comprehensive review of Geelong's cultural resources in its federally funded Cultural Strategy, which I understand will be completed in 2019.

Potential Uses for the Post Office to support the community : re-purposing the Post Office as a Design and Community Collections Centre would provide a focal point and help to address issues of 'arts and culture, tourism and how we will encourage entrepreneurs and investors' (*Council Plan – Mayor's Message P1.*)

The Geelong and Region National Trust proposes that the old Post Office be repurposed as Geelong's peak Design Centre and Community Gallery to:

- . Celebrate that Geelong has won the prestigious Australian UNESCO City of Design Award 2018;
- . Display pre and post contact indigenous design;
- . Display the work of Geelong's designers who have excelled in inventions, eg James Harrison and Gilbert Toyne, architecture (Percy Everett), design (Stuart Devlin and Ford) and manufacturing;
- . Showcase Geelong's current varied design excellence including its ground-breaking carbon fibre manufacturing and student work (Deakin and the Gordon);
- . Support with display and storage space the district's many community collections of social history and artefacts relating to its development. Inadequately housed throughout the region, they include household and agricultural artefacts;
- . Prevent deterioration of all collections currently in inadequate storage such as containers and sheds;
- . Provide space for design workshops, nurturing developing entrepreneurs;
- . Support outreach program such as the National Gallery of Victoria's Melbourne Design Week to be held in Geelong in March 2019.

Community Interest and Support : National Trust representatives have met community groups to discuss the potential of the Post Office in supporting community aspirations.

Most are very favourable to the concept of its primary use as a Design Centre, and can see the logic of developing a Design Centre there because of its excellent period architecture and design, association with early telecommunications – a ready-made theme – and location in the CBD and in the Civic and Cultural precinct close to the Deakin and Gordon campuses.

Proximity of the Design Centre to the Railway Station could also assist visits by, eg school groups, possibly in association with other cultural institutions nearby such as the Gallery and GPAC, adding to its potential economic contribution.

The Post Office would be an ongoing expression of community pride in the UNESCO City of Design Award 2018, and be one of Geelong's continuing 'points of difference' for visitors.

Conclusion:

May I request that the Council defer a decision on the sale of the Post Office until it has been able to assess the Lovell Chen Conservations Management Plan, enabled further community input, and received recommendations from its imminent federally funded Cultural Strategy – which will take into account all of the above policy development?

Could I also request that Council refer future use of the Post Office to its Heritage Advisory Committee?

This would ensure that the most beneficial future use of the building is achieved for Council, the community, and visitors looking to discover why Geelong was awarded the accolade of being Australia's UNESCO City of Design 2018.

The Mayor thanked Ms Chalmers for her comments/questions and reiterated Council will look forward to receiving CMP's recommendations on the issue.

PETITIONS:

A petition was presented to Council from residents and non-residents of Gillean Place, Lara asking Council for a permanent solution in maintaining the walkway between Gillean Place and The Centreway, Lara. Also of concern is the lack of lighting of the walkway at night increasing vandalism and graffiti.

1. DRAFT FENCED DOG PARKS - SITING, DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Source: Community Life - Social Planning and Investment
Acting Director: Robyn Stevens
Portfolio: Social and Infrastructure Planning

Purpose

To present the draft *Fenced Dog Parks Siting, Design and Management Guidelines* to Council and seek endorsement to release it for public exhibition.

Background

The City of Greater Geelong is currently home to over 34,500 registered dogs and this number is rising as the City's population increases.

A fenced dog park is a designated, enclosed fenced area suitable for the off-leash exercise and socialisation of dogs. Fenced dog parks are additional pieces of community infrastructure and do not replace existing off-leash areas in our reserves and beaches. Council currently has one fenced dog park at Stead Park in Corio.

Council adopted the *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2018-21* in March this year. Five new actions in the plan relate to fenced dog parks, including creating new facilities and upgrading the existing fenced dog park at Stead Park.

With the growth of new residential areas and a reduction of average house block sizes, the demand on public open space for dog exercise areas is expected to increase.

Key Issues

- The provision of fenced dog parks has been identified as a priority for many dog owners. Of 617 survey respondents, 84% supported the development of additional fenced dog parks within the municipality (9% did not support and 7% were unsure).
- The draft *Fenced Dog Parks Siting, Design and Management Guidelines* provides Council with guiding principles to identify locations and develop new fenced dog parks in a planned and coordinated manner across the municipality.
- Following a period of public exhibition, the draft guidelines will be revised in response to public feedback. The final guidelines will be presented to Council for endorsement in early 2019.
- Once the guidelines are finalised and endorsed by Council, officers will develop a prioritised program of work to inform future budget processes.

Cr Aitken moved, Cr Murrihy seconded -

That Council approve release of the draft *Fenced Dog Parks Siting, Design and Management Guidelines* for public exhibition for a duration of four weeks.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

Currently there is no funding allocated to implement actions in the draft guidelines.

The draft guidelines include broad cost estimates, indicating establishing a fenced dog park with essential and desirable amenities is in the order of \$300,000. Actual costs may be lower or higher depending on individual site conditions.

It is recommended one fenced dog park be developed at a time and their use and maintenance demands reviewed to inform the development of further facilities.

Future funding for siting, design and construction of fenced dog parks in accordance with the *Fenced Dog Parks Siting, Design and Management Guidelines* will be sought through the annual business planning and budget process and captured in the long term financial plan.

Community Engagement

Community engagement in the preparation of the draft guidelines identified strong support for additional fenced dog parks in the municipality.

Community consultation for the draft *Dog Parks Siting, Design and Management Guidelines* was run in parallel with the *Review of Dog Controls in Public Places* community engagement, as the demographic across the two projects were similar. During this engagement, the City asked the community what's important to them, including the benefits and challenges of fenced dog parks. This was done via an online survey on the Have Your Say platform, as well as in hardcopy at Customer Service Centres. The engagement period was also widely promoted via the City's social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

617 surveys were completed. 613 surveys (99.4%) were completed online and 4 (0.6%) were completed in hardcopy at drop in sessions. There were six drop in sessions held for face to face contact. A total of 44 residents were engaged through these sessions. The online engagement was very successful with 32,269 people reached online.

The majority of respondents (84%) supported the development of additional fenced dog parks in the municipality (9% do not support and 7% are unsure). Sixty percent of respondents were willing to travel more than 10 minutes to access a fenced dog park and would most likely drive to it. They believed the most important benefit of fenced dog parks is to provide a safe opportunity for dogs to exercise and socialise.

The draft *Fenced Dog Parks Siting, Design and Management Guidelines* have been developed to include the feedback and responses to community engagement.

Following the four-week public exhibition period (19 November to 14 December 2018), the draft guidelines will be revised in response to any further public feedback. The final guidelines will then be presented to Council for endorsement in early 2019 alongside any specific recommendations for the location of new dog parks.

Social Equity Considerations

The guidelines aim to provide safe, equitably distributed, accessible and functional community spaces for residents to exercise and socialise their dogs. The key principles in the draft guidelines include:

- Pets can enrich residents' lives, provide physical and mental health benefits, companionship and help facilitate social interactions in the community; and
- Fenced dog parks should be distributed across the municipality based on areas of need and established in strategically located areas.
- To ensure an equitable distribution of dog parks, the site selection criteria should be based on consistent assessment criteria. The site assessment criteria is detailed in section 4 of the draft guidelines and includes:
 - Preferred minimum size of fenced area 3,000m² ;
 - Fenced dog parks to be located within larger parcels of open space. They are generally not appropriate in smaller local or neighbourhood parks;
 - Fenced dog parks to be located in areas central to the dog population and should service a cluster of suburbs; and
 - Fenced dog parks should be located in accessible and highly visible sites.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no formal standards for creating fenced dog parks in Australia. The draft *Fenced Dog Parks Siting, Design and Management Guidelines* will provide guidance to the City of Greater Geelong in the planning, design and management of fenced dog parks in the absence of formal standards.

There is no known legal or statutory implications associated with this report or the public exhibition of the draft guidelines.

Alignment to Council Plan

The draft *Fenced Dog Parks Siting, Design and Management Guidelines* are consistent with the following strategic priorities of the Council Plan:

Improved health and safety for our community – by improving the safety and user satisfaction of community infrastructure and encouraging responsible pet ownership and promoting active living;

Informed social infrastructure and planning – by providing more quality spaces that support active lifestyles and delivering accessible and attractive community infrastructure based on community need;

A more inclusive and diverse community – by supporting activities that improve social connections in our community.

Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest has occurred in the development of these guidelines or this report.

Risk Assessment

No notable risks have been identified with releasing these guidelines for community consultation.

Environmental Implications

No significant environmental implications are associated with this report.



THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

Draft Fenced Dog Parks

SITING, DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT
GUIDELINES

October 2018

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by

Fiona De Rosa | Urban Planner, Dog Behaviour Trainer

Balancing Act Adelaide | people + pets + cities

balancingactadelaide.com.au



Map, infographics and costings by Birdseye Studios

The Fenced Dog Parks project consists of two reports:

- Fenced Dog Parks, Community Engagement Summary, June 2018
- Fenced Dog Parks: Siting, Design and Management Guidelines (this report)

DOCUMENT HISTORY STATUS

Revision	Date	Details
Draft Plan v1.1	14 September 2018	KC comments added
Rev A	21 September 2018	Working Group and MMG
Rev B	26 September 2018	KC additional changes
Rev C	6 October 2018	AB changes

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Executive Summary

The Fenced Dog Parks report has been prepared to assist the future development of fenced dog parks in the City of Greater Geelong. It focuses on the siting, design, education and management of new fenced dog parks.



Executive Summary

WHY DO WE NEED THE GUIDELINES?

With the growth of new residential areas and a reduction in average housing block sizes the demand on public open space for dog exercise areas is likely to intensify in the City of Greater Geelong. With the City's growing population, it is important to plan for a variety of open space for people to exercise their dogs including the provision of fenced dog parks. Throughout the municipality dogs are allowed off-leash and supervised in specific designated public open spaces.

The guidelines provide Council with an opportunity to respond to and develop new fenced dog parks in a planned and coordinated manner across the City. This places Council in a proactive position to develop a strategic approach to the provision of dog parks.

The guidelines provide a structure for decision-making which is detailed enough to ensure consistency and flexible for Council to tailor to their situation.

It also contributes to the City of Greater Geelong's Clever and Creative Future Plan. Companion pets provide strong connections to the Clever and Creative Future Plan's themes of inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected communities.

Dogs can draw people together by encouraging them outside to interact with each other, to exercise and share a common bond over companion animals.

Widespread community engagement was undertaken with a range of internal and external stakeholders including Council staff, an animal shelter, a local veterinarian and the wider community to inform the preparation of the guidelines. There was strong support from the community for the development of new fenced dog parks.

The guidelines are informed by four common messages that emerged from the community and stakeholder engagement:

Better behaved dogs – good dog behaviour in public open spaces, and minimising dog incidences in other open spaces

Responsible dog owners – dog owners who are aware of their responsibilities in fenced dog parks and comply with dog park rules

An educated community – a community who is educated about dogs and their behaviour, safe

interactions between people and dogs and good park etiquette.

Leadership in developing fenced dog parks – a Council that responds to changing community needs, adopts a planned and coordinated approach to the development of fenced dog parks and builds partnerships with the community.

SUMMARY OF KEY PRINCIPLES

A summary of the key principles contained in this report include:

Planning for fenced dog parks

Fenced dog parks and other off-leash areas

Fenced dog parks provide an off-leash option for dog exercise and socialisation. The provision of these facilities should be provided in addition to and complement existing unfenced off-leash areas.

Provision of fenced dog parks

- Fenced dog parks should be distributed across the City of Greater Geelong based on areas of need and established in strategically located areas.
- Fenced dog parks should service a group or cluster of suburbs. The process and criteria outlined in this report should be used to set directions for future decision making for new fenced dog parks in existing areas and growth areas.

Park hierarchy

- Fenced dog parks should be established in suitable regional and district parks
- Local or neighbourhood parks are not considered appropriate for the location of fenced dog parks, however neighbourhoods can be serviced by other unfenced off-leash options.

Park size

The preferred minimum size for a fenced dog park is 3,000 m²

Location and site selection

The site selection for a fenced dog park should be based on consistent assessment criteria. These criteria are included in this report and have been developed through

evaluations undertaken and experience gained over several years in the siting and design of fenced dog parks across Australia and overseas by the consultant (see page 21 for details).

Fenced dog park design

- Fenced dog parks should be divided into the following levels of requirements:
 - Core infrastructure - perimeter fencing, double gates, maintenance gates and ground surfaces
 - Essential amenities - drinking water, bins and bag dispensers, shade and signage
 - Desirable amenities - separate areas for large and small dogs, paths, items of environmental enrichment, different activity zones, and plantings
 - Optional amenities - site lighting, notice board and toilets.
- Fenced dog parks should as a minimum include core infrastructure and essential amenities.

Fenced dog park operations and management

- With the establishment of fenced dog parks Council needs to consider the ongoing operations and management requirements including:
 - maintenance schedules
 - monitoring of issues and evaluation of the effectiveness of fenced dog parks
 - budget allocations for design and construction
 - ongoing maintenance and park upgrades
 - partnerships and collaborative opportunities in the delivery of fenced dog parks, and
 - fenced dog park education programs and signage.

Section One: Introduction

This section introduces the guidelines, purpose, content and process of developing the report.



Section One: Introduction

PURPOSE OF THE GUIDELINES

These guidelines have been prepared to guide the future development of fenced dog parks in the City of Greater Geelong. This report focuses on the planning, design, education, operations and management of fenced dog parks.

In the context of this report, the term fenced dog park refers to a designated fenced area suitable for off-leash exercise and socialisation of dogs in a manner that is safe for both dogs and their guardians/owners. A fenced dog park provides an option for off-leash exercise and should be provided in addition to and complement other unfenced off-leash areas.

The City currently has some 34,169 registered dogs and provides a range of open space for dogs and their guardians/owners including a fenced dog park 'Stead Park Dog Park' at Corio.

With the growth of new residential areas, increase in housing density and a reduction in average housing block sizes the demand on public open space for dog exercise areas is likely to increase. With Geelong's growing population, it is necessary to plan for the provision of public open space for people to exercise their dogs including the establishment of fenced dog parks.

These guidelines provide Council with an opportunity to respond to and develop new fenced dog parks in a proactive and planned manner.

The guidelines provide a structure and process for decision-making which is detailed enough to ensure consistency, and flexible enough for Council to tailor to their situation.

WHAT'S IN THE GUIDELINES

Sections 2-3 provide contextual and background information, a snapshot of registered dogs and their distribution in the City of Greater Geelong and a summary of the existing fenced dog park.

Sections 4-6 contain principles for the provision, siting, design and management of new fenced dog parks.

Sections 7-8 contain an implementation plan and cost estimates for the construction and establishment of fenced dog parks. A list of resources is provided at the end of this report to assist Council in the development of dog park education programs and signage.

HOW WE DEVELOPED THE GUIDELINES

A comprehensive engagement process was undertaken with the community, external stakeholders, and internal staff in the preparation of the Dog Park Guidelines.

The community engagement was undertaken in May-June 2018 and included:

- A community-wide survey
- Face-to-face meetings with targeted stakeholders
- Drop-in sessions
- A social media campaign.

The following interactions were recorded during the community engagement:

- 32,269 people were reached through social media
- 617 completed surveys
- 44 drop-in participants
- 10 stakeholder participants

The community engagement findings helped to inform the directions of the guidelines. In this report, there are summaries about 'what the community told us', so you can see how the community's feedback has been incorporated into this project.

In addition to the community engagement, this project used a combination of research methods including:

- A desktop review of Council information and data
- Research of current best practices and industry practice relating to the planning, design and management of fenced dog parks including the Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia's dog park guidelines 'Unleashed a guide to successful dog parks'
- Preliminary investigations of potential fenced dog park locations provided by Council staff.

The Fenced Dog Park Guidelines were also informed by the consultant's knowledge and practical experience researching and visiting numerous fenced dog parks in Australia and overseas.

You can read more about the community and stakeholder engagement activities and findings in the Fenced Dog Parks: Community Engagement Summary June 2018 report.

Section Two: Dogs in the community

This section provides an overview of current research and trends regarding companion dogs and the planning for dogs in public places.



Section Two: Dogs in the Community

BENEFITS OF PET OWNERSHIP

Australia has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world with 38% of households owning a dog (Animal Medicines Alliance, 2016). Companion animals such as dogs play a significant role in the lives of many Australians.

Pets can enrich our lives, provide physical and mental health benefits and companionship and help facilitate social interactions within the community. Research (ACAC, 2019, PIAS, 2010, Woods et al., 2005) demonstrates the benefits of pet ownership including:

Pets are good for our general health and well-being

- People with pets make fewer visits to the doctor
- People with pets are at lower risk of cardiovascular disease than non-pet owners

Pets are good for an aging population

- Pets can boost activity levels in older people, helping to improve overall health
- Pets provide companionship for older adults living alone

Pets are good for children

- Young children with pets are more likely to exercise
- Children or adolescents with pets have shown to have higher self-esteem

Pets are good for the community

- Pets can help people build social bridges in communities
- People with pets are more likely to have conversations with other people.

DOGS AND PUBLIC PLACES

As block sizes get smaller and dwellings extend closer to fence lines and property boundaries, there is less private outdoor space available for dogs which can lead to a greater demand for dogs to access public open spaces.

“BETWEEN 1991 AND 2001 THE NUMBER OF SEPARATE HOUSES IN AUSTRALIA INCREASED BY 18 % WHILE THE NUMBER OF HIGHER DENSITY DWELLINGS INCREASED BY 37%” (PIAS, 2010:5).

Almost a quarter of Australians live in medium to high-density housing. With this trend expected to continue,

there are likely to be new challenges as we learn to live in smaller spaces, and compete for valuable public open space, as well as accommodate the needs of dogs and their guardians/owners in the planning and design of our communities.

Planning for dogs in public places is a key consideration for local councils given dogs are the most popular pet in Australia. The quote below draws attention to the importance of planning for pets:

“A HIGHER PROPORTION OF US LIVE IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH A DOG AND/OR CAT THAN A CHILD. 50% OF AUSSIES LIVE IN A HOUSEHOLD WITH AT LEAST ONE CAT OR/AND DOG IN IT, WHEREAS 35% SHARE THEIR HOUSEHOLD WITH A LEAST ONE CHILD AGED UNDER 16.” (ROY MORGAN, 2015, ARTICLE 6272, N. P.)

Pet-friendly places

Recent research indicates a trend towards casual, unstructured activities with dog walking being in the top 10 activities.

“ADULTS ARE MOVING AWAY FROM STRUCTURED SPORTS TO CASUAL ACTIVITIES WITH DOG WALKING BEING NUMBER THREE OF THE TOP 10 ACTIVITIES IN AUSTRALIA” (ONE EIGHTY DEGREE, N.D.; P. 23).

As dogs are out and about with their guardians/owners, it is critical that the planning and design of public spaces consider both the people and dog's needs.

Additionally dogs need to be effectively socialised and trained to cope with a range of settings such as walking down a local street, visiting a cafe or playing in a fenced dog park. Dogs that are well socialised, trained and have good manners are less likely to cause a nuisance in public.

WHAT IS A FENCED DOG PARK?

“A fenced dog park is a designated public place that's been set aside for dog guardians/handlers to legally exercise, play and socialise their dogs off-leash in a secure environment. The park is fully enclosed or fenced and has amenities that make it clear that dogs are invited. In a fenced dog park, dogs are required to be under supervision like any other public place” (De Rosa, 2013 cited in Dog and Cat Management Board 2014).

It is worth noting that within fenced dog parks, dogs must be supervised and under effective control just as they are in unfenced off-leash areas.

Fenced dog parks are a relatively new type of recreation park in Australia. They are a type of off-leash area and occur in all states and territories of Australia.

In Australia, there are no formal standards for the creation of fenced dog parks and many local councils adopt their own standards. However, the Dog and Cat Management Board of SA has produced a comprehensive publication *'Unleashed a guide to successful dog parks'* to assist local councils in the planning, design and management of fenced dog parks.

Fenced dog parks are more than a fence

Some fenced dog parks may appear to be simple i.e. a fence around a vacant piece of land. However, there are many issues to consider in creating a fenced dog park including:

- **Planning** - finding a suitable location, consulting with the community, allocating a realistic budget for construction and ongoing maintenance
- **Design** - designing a fenced dog park for both dogs and people and providing a range of park amenities
- **Operations and management** - managing community expectations, ongoing maintenance, evaluating the effectiveness of the park and educating the community on dog park etiquette

WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

The community engagement undertaken as part of this project identified several benefits and challenges of fenced dog parks.

Benefits

- They provide opportunities for dogs to exercise and socialise
- Dog parks enhance the safety of dogs
- They promote responsible pet ownership
- Provide places to educate dog owners about dog etiquette and good behaviour
- Dog parks minimise conflict in other public open spaces
- They provide opportunities for people to socialise and build social bridges in the community

Challenges

- Enforcing fenced dog park rules
- Ensuring safety for dogs and people
- Managing dog waste
- Managing parking and traffic in surrounding streets
- Managing noise



Section Three: Dogs in the City of Greater Geelong

This section provides a snapshot of registered dogs and their distribution in the City of Greater Geelong, as well as a summary of the existing fenced dog park.

Section Three: Dogs in the City of Greater Geelong

DOG POPULATION

In 2017/18, there were some 34,169 registered dogs in the City of Greater Geelong. The dog population is likely to be higher given some dogs would be unregistered.

The City provides a range of public open space for dogs and their guardians/owners including 'time-share' off-leash areas (i.e. sporting ovals and beaches), full-time off-leash areas and a designated fenced dog park (Stead Park Dog Park) at Corio.

With an estimated resident population of 238,603 (ABS Community Profile 2016) and a registered dog population of 34,169 there are 14 dogs per 100 people. This number is lower than the Australian average of 20 dogs per 100 people. Map 1 shows the distribution of registered dogs across the City of Greater Geelong.

For more detail on the distribution of dogs per suburb refer to Table 1 on page 15. The top five dog breeds in the City of Greater Geelong are shown below.

The number of dogs in the City of Greater Geelong is likely to increase with the anticipated population growth for the region. An increase in the dog population is expected to create a higher demand for off-leash areas including fenced dog parks within the existing open space, and open space planned for new residential communities.

Therefore, it's essential that a planned and coordinated approach is developed to address the future demands for the provision of fenced dog parks and other off-leash areas.



Map 1: Distribution of registered dogs

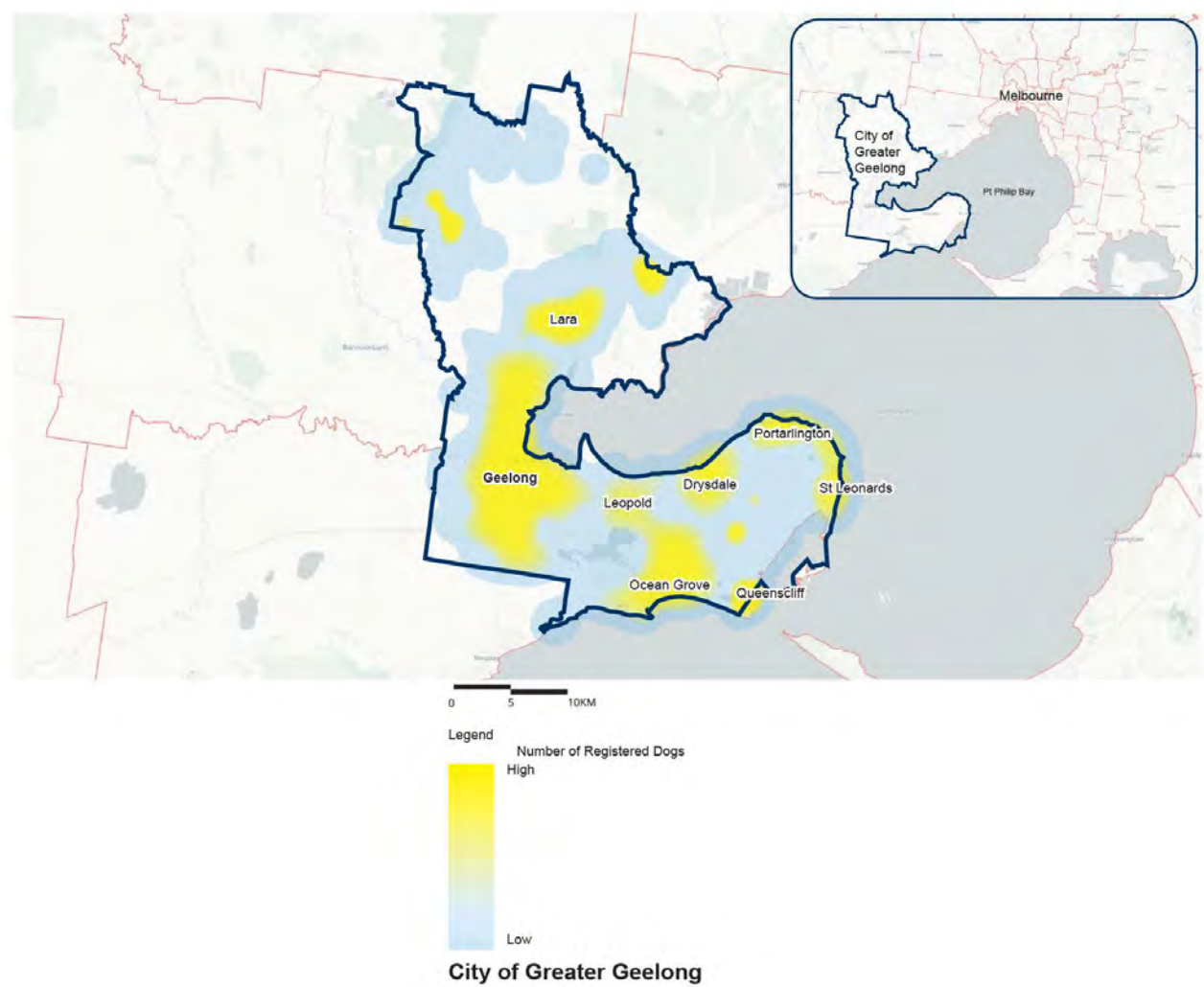


Table 1: Registered dogs by suburb, City of Greater Geelong

	No. of registered dogs (2017/18)	Population (ERP, 2017)	Suburbs (based on ABS groupings)
1	2649	17,371	Lara
2	2636	21,822	Highton, Wandana Heights
3	2563	15,170	Ocean Grove
4	2067	13,392	Leopold
5	2046	14,982	Grovedale
6	2037	15,817	Corio
7	1915	14,496	Belmont
8	1330	7,643	Clifton Springs
9	1275	10,651	Newton
10	1151	6,058	Geelong, Drumcondra
11	1060	8,884	Norlane, Northshore
12	1105	9,899	West Geelong, Manifold Heights
13	896	5,954	Newcomb, Moolap
14	885	6,877	Armstrong Creek, Mt Duneed
15	879	4,658	Drysdale, Bellarine
16	833	4,821	Barwon Heads, Connewarre, Breamlea
17	800	4,900	St Albans Park
18	754	6,436	Hamlyn Heights
19	710	3,784	St Leonards, Indented Heads
20	588	3,992	East Geelong
21	585	3,744	Portarlington
22	578	3,927	Whittington
23	575	5,604	Waurin Ponds, Ceres
24	542	2,976	Rural Bellarine Peninsula
25	537	5,247	Bell Park
26	534	3,740	South Geelong, Thomson, Breakwater
27	505	5,116	Bell Post Hill
28	456	3,722	Fyansford, Herne Hill
29	434	2,722	Lovely Banks, Batesford, Moorabool
30	371	4,082	North Geelong, Rippleside
31	343	1,861	Curlewis
32	314	1,830	Rural North
33	226	2,663	Marshall, Charlemont

STEAD PARK DOG PARK

The City of Greater Geelong has one existing fenced dog park at Stead Park, Corio. Stead Park Dog Park is co-located within a larger park system which accommodates a range of formal sports including hockey, soccer, baseball, softball and lawn bowls. This site also provides off-street parking and public toilets.

A summary of Stead Park Dog Park is outlined below.

Built	2014
Hierarchy	Regional Park
Size	60m x 40m / 2,100 m ² . (oval shape)
Dog park type	All dogs
Fencing	Approx. 1.5m high black chainmesh fencing with top and bottom rail
Gating	Single-gated system
Entry/exit	Two entry/exit gates and maintenance gates
Surfaces	Combination of some grass and gravel
Amenities	Seats Dual drinking fountain inside the dog park near the main entry/exit gate Dog bag dispenser and bin outside the dog park
Signage	Large dog park etiquette sign near the main entry/exit gate

A community Facebook group 'Corio Dog Park, Stead Park' has been established around this fenced dog park.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

The community engagement undertaken as part of this project identified several potential improvements to Stead Park Dog Park:

- A grassed area
- Trees for shelter and shade
- Concrete footing under perimeter fencing so dogs can't dig under and escape
- Drinking fountain/tap for people in working order
- Seats scattered around the park rather than located in one spot
- Self-closing gates
- Double-entry gates
- Effective drainage to reduce muddy areas around gates and drinking fountain generally.

A woman with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a grey and black long-sleeved shirt and black leggings, is holding a yellow ball high in the air with her right hand. A black and white speckled dog is jumping up towards the ball with its mouth open. They are in a grassy park area with a chain-link fence and trees in the background.

Section Four: Siting of Dog Parks

This section provides principles to help guide the provision and site selection of new fenced dog parks within the City of Greater Geelong.

Section Four: Siting of Dog Parks

Fenced dog parks should be strategically located to provide facilities that reflect the needs of the community. The selected sites should be appropriate for the anticipated level of usage and address a range of criteria to ensure they don't create more challenges than they are to address.

Some of the key factors to consider at the planning phase include the provision and site selection of fenced dog parks.

PROVISION

To help guide the provision of new fenced dog parks across the municipality the following information needs to be considered:

Distribution of registered dogs

- Number of registered dogs by suburb (see Map 1 and Table 1)

Existing off-leash areas

- Areas not served by off-leash areas particularly off-leash areas at all times (24/7)
 - Fenced dog parks should be in addition to and complement existing off-leash areas. The replacement or reduction of off-leash areas was a common concern raised in the community engagement.

"I AM CONCERNED THAT BY DEVELOPING FENCED DOG PARKS, EXISTING OFF-LEASH AREAS WILL BE REDUCED." (RESPONDENT).

Existing fenced dog parks

- Location of existing fenced dog parks in the City of Greater Geelong
- Location of existing fenced dog parks in adjoining councils, particularly those near the Council boundary (see Appendix A for fenced dog parks in adjoining Councils)

Requests for fenced dog parks

- Number of formal requests for additional fenced dog parks i.e. direct requests or information from community engagement findings

SITE SELECTION

The placement of a fenced dog park is often influenced by what land Council has available and this may restrict the choice from an ideal location to one that is available.

To help guide the selection of sites for new fenced dog parks the following steps need to be considered:

Potential sites

- A list of potential sites for fenced dog parks should be developed for consideration in the first instance.
 - New sites can be added to the list as they arise e.g. from community engagement feedback or formal requests

Shortlist of potential sites

- The list of potential sites should be refined to a shortlist. Start by eliminating those sites unsuitable for a fenced dog park including:
 - A local or neighbourhood park
 - Parks less than the preferred minimum size of 3,000m².
 - Areas of environmental significance i.e. areas that contain endangered species, significant wetlands, and high value-habit areas

Assessment criteria

- A list of assessment criteria is included in Table 2. A site assessment sheet should be developed based on this table

Preliminary site assessment

- A preliminary inspection of the short-listed sites should be conducted to evaluate their suitability as a fenced dog park and to refine the list further

Detailed site assessment

- Conduct a detailed assessment of the short-listed sites and select the preferred sites

Community consultation

- Consult with the community on the preferred sites
- Select the site

Further consultation with the community should also be undertaken during the design phase.

SITE CONSIDERATIONS

Park hierarchy

Fenced dog parks should be established in suitable regional and district parks as per Council's park hierarchy classification

- Fenced dog parks are not suitable for local or neighbourhood parks

Park size

The preferable minimum size for a fenced dog park is 3,000m². Separate areas for small and large dogs would need to be 3000m² each.

“THE AREA SHOULD BE BIG ENOUGH FOR DOGS TO RUN AROUND AND SPACE THEMSELVES OUT. IF THERE’S NOT ENOUGH SQUARE FOOTAGE AVAILABLE, A PARK CAN EASILY GET CROWDED. CROWDING CAN LEAD TO TENSION AMONG DOGS AND, AS A RESULT, FIGHTS CAN ERUPT” (AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS, 2013).

- A key finding from the community engagement was the insufficient size of the existing Stead Park Dog Park of approximately 2,100m².

THE STEAD PARK DOG PARK IS “FAR TOO SMALL, OVERCROWDING PARTICULARLY ON WEEKENDS, AND THERE ISN’T ENOUGH SPACE TO MOVE AWAY FROM TROUBLED DOGS AND OWNERS.” (RESPONDENT)

- In many circumstances, the size of the park is dictated by what land Council has available.

Location

Fenced dog parks should be central to the dog population

- A key issue raised in the community engagement was that the existing Stead Park Dog Park was not centrally located to the dog population, and the Princess

Highway created a barrier separating the majority of the dog population from the park.

- The Community Survey found that 45% of respondents are willing to travel 10-20 minutes and 15% are willing to travel 20+ minutes to a fenced dog park.

Site qualities

Fenced dog parks should be relatively flat, have good drainage and some mature trees for shade if possible

- Avoid sites that are prone to flooding as this is likely to limit people’s access to the park
- Avoid steep slopes that may be difficult to access

Car Parking

Where possible car parking areas should be close to the park and in safe locations to get dogs in and out of the car

- Research shows that 68% of people drive to fenced dog parks (University of Adelaide)
- Parking is a significant issue and highly desirable at fenced dog parks.

Adjacent activities/uses

Fenced dog parks should be sited near compatible activities/uses or have adequate measures in place to minimise conflict with incompatible activities.

Fenced dog parks may be located near incompatible activities such as cycling trails, BBQ and eating areas, skate parks and children’s playgrounds nearby provided measures are put in place to mitigate potential conflict including:

- Adjacent residential areas – a setback or buffer should be provided to avoid potential issues of conflict. Fenced dog parks near residential properties can be a source of conflict and include issues such as:
 - Increased noise from barking dogs and people talking
 - Park users looking into adjacent residential properties
 - Additional activity in the park particularly in morning, evenings and weekends
 - Odour from dog waste
 - Increased traffic and parking on surrounding local roads.
- Adjacent children’s playground, BBQ and eating areas and skate parks – orientate the entry/exit gates of the

fenced dog park away from these activities and provide a buffer where necessary.

- Environmentally sensitive areas – avoid areas of environmental sensitivity including areas that contain endangered species, significant wetlands, biodiversity corridors and high-value habit areas.

Access from the road

Fenced dog parks should be in areas that are easy to find and access

- It is not preferable to locate a fenced dog park which is only accessible from the back streets of residential areas or located on a no-through road

Site infrastructure

Fenced dog parks should be co-located with other recreational amenities

- If a fenced dog park is placed in a regional or district park, these parks are likely to have other amenities and infrastructure within the larger park system such as water, electricity, toilets and on-site parking.

Land ownership

Fenced dog parks should be located on Council land

- Fenced dog parks are commonly developed by local councils but can also be developed in partnership with other organisations such as private industry or the state government.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

The community engagement undertaken as part of this project identified the following requirements for fenced dog parks:

- Dog parks should be away from conservation areas
- Dog parks should be separate from playgrounds, and BBQ areas
- Dog parks should be central and in easy to reach locations
- Dog parks should have lots of parking
- Dog parks should be large.

Table 2: Site Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Questions to ask
Park hierarchy	What classification is the park - Regional, District or Local? It's not ideal to locate a fenced dog park in a local or neighbourhood park Preferred: Regional or district park
Size of park	What is the size of the proposed fenced dog park? Is there enough space to minimise site degradation by overuse and crowding of dogs? Preferred: 3,000m² for each enclosed space is the minimum area for a fenced dog park
Location	Is the site central to the dog population? Are there any major roads, freeways or railway lines that make it difficult for people to access the site? Are there any existing fenced dog parks or other off-leash areas nearby? Preferred: Locate fenced dog parks in areas central to the existing & projected dog population and in areas underserved by existing fenced dog parks.
Site qualities	Are the site qualities suitable for a fenced dog park? Is the site prone to flooding? Is there good drainage? Are there any mature trees for shade on the site? Preferred: Relatively flat topography, permeable soils for good drainage, and mature trees for shade
Car parking	Is there enough car parking to avoid creating a negative impact on surrounding areas? Is there any designated parking close by or capacity to establish car parking? How safe is the parking area to get dogs in and out of the car? Preferable: Off-street car parking
Adjacent activities/uses	What are the adjacent activities and are they compatible with a fenced dog park? Is there enough space to provide a buffer between adjacent activities such as children's playgrounds, skate parks, BBQ and eating areas, and residential

	dwelling? If co-located with sporting ovals how will people access the fenced dog park on match days? Preferred: Locate fenced dog parks near adjacent compatible activities or separate incompatible activities with the use of a buffer or setback
Environmental sensitivity	Are there any areas within the proposed site and surrounds that are environmentally sensitive? E.g. wetlands and biodiversity corridors. Preferred: Locate fenced dog parks away from wetlands, fauna habitats and other sensitive environments
Access and traffic	How easy is it to access and find the site by road? Is the park located on a main road, off a main road or only accessible from local residential streets? Preferred: Fenced dog parks should be easy to find and located on roads with good access i.e. not located off a dead end or no through road
Walking	Are there any connecting paths or trails leading to the site? Preferred: Connections to walking paths
Site infrastructure	What existing infrastructure and services are on the site or nearby? E.g. water, electricity, public toilets. Where are the connection points? Are there any existing fences or boundaries we could utilise? Preferred: Water connections near-by or easily accessible
Visibility	Is the site visible from the road or is it in an isolated position? Preferred: Sites should be highly visible.
Ownership	Who owns the land? Is consent needed from other authorities? Preferred: Council owned land preferred
Other considerations	Are there any other requirements? Preferred: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and disability inclusion principles should be considered

Section Five: Dog Park Design

This section provides principles to guide the design of new fenced dog parks in the City of Greater Geelong.



Section Five: Dog Park Design

There is no 'one size fits all' design for a fenced dog park. The design of a fenced dog park should respond to the site conditions, Council budget, anticipated level of use and the needs of the community.

There are some core infrastructure requirements and levels of amenities that need to be considered in the design of a fenced dog park:

Core infrastructure - perimeter fencing, double gates, maintenance gates, and ground surfaces

Essential amenities - drinking water, bins and bags dispensers, shade and signage

Desirable amenities - separate areas for large and small dogs, paths, items of environmental enrichment, different activity zones and plantings

Optional amenities - site lighting, notice board, and toilets.

CORE INFRASTRUCTURE

Perimeter fencing

Secure perimeter fencing should be provided to discourage dogs escaping over, under and through the fence

- A common issue raised in the community engagement was the fencing at Stead Park Dog Park was too low (1.5m high)
 - Fencing should be approximately 1.7 - 1.8m high
- It is desirable to have a fencing alignment without corners in the park to avoid dogs getting trapped by other dogs. An oval-shaped fenced like the existing Stead Park Dog Park is a good example of what can be done in other locations
- A concrete plinth or footing can be used to assist with maintenance and help prevent small dogs escaping

Double gates

Double-gated entry/exits with self-closing gates are required to prevent dogs from escaping when visitors enter or exit the park

- It is preferable to have multiple double-gated entry/exit points as this helps to distribute the park users and reduce congestion in the park.
- The width of the gates and safety airlock i.e. the space between the double gates needs to consider wheelchair

access and the height of the latch needs to consider dog guardians/owners in wheelchairs

- It is ideal to have self-closing gates with a pull latch

Maintenance gates

Separate maintenance gates should be provided

- The maintenance gates need to be large enough to accommodate service vehicles and machinery such as a bobcat

Ground surfaces

A variety of ground surfaces should be used to match the intensity of the activity zones (passive and active)

- Selecting suitable surface materials is one of the most challenging issues in a fenced dog park, and a variety of surfaces are required that are hard wearing, emit minimal dust and are dog-friendly including:
 - Concrete: can be used for high traffic areas i.e. in and around the double-gated entry/exit gates and internal paths
 - Mulch: a good quality grade should be selected that doesn't contain sharp objects, plastics and string which may harm dogs
 - Grass: while grass may look good at first it is difficult to maintain in a fenced dog park as it gets churned up by the dogs. Consider small areas of grass rather than one large area
 - Use grass varieties that are hard wearing such as those used for high-use sports fields
 - Irrigation should be used to give the grass a better chance of surviving and to suppress any dust
 - Sand: may be appropriate in a combination with other surface materials
 - Asphalt: is not considered to be an appropriate surface material in a fenced dog park as it can get extremely hot and may burn the dog's pads.

ESSENTIAL AMENITIES

Drinking water

Drinking water for dogs should be provided in fenced dog parks with the following considerations:

- Good drainage around the water fountain/tap is to reduce water logging

- Locate the water fountain/tap away from the double-gated entry/exit points to discourage people and their dogs congregating in these high traffic areas
- Select a water bowl that is easy to refill and keep clean i.e. round bowl that can be flipped to empty
- Make sure the water bowl is large enough for all dogs including those wearing a muzzle

Shade

Shade should be provided in a fenced dog park, as dogs are more vulnerable to heat than people

- Shade may include the retention of existing trees on site, planting of new trees and provision of shelter structures

Seating

Seating should be provided but keep to a minimum to encourage people to move around and interact with their dog

- Seating with backs is preferred as this discourages dogs jumping up onto the seats
- Rocks and logs can also be used for informal seating

Signs (wayfinding and park rules)

Park rules should have consistent messages and be placed in highly visible locations

- The Community Survey highlighted the importance of park rules and their enforcement. See pages 29-30 for community suggestions on dog park rules.

Waste disposal

Poo bag dispensers, bags and waste bins should be provided to encourage people to pick up and dispose of dog waste appropriately

DESIRABLE AMENITIES

- Separate areas for small and large dogs or other variations maybe be provided
 - Separate areas for dogs will depend on the size of the park and construction budget. It's better to have one larger park rather than two small 'pokey' separate areas for dogs e.g. areas for large and small dogs

- There are benefits of having separate areas including the rotation of sides for grass repair and to shut down one side for maintenance or upgrade

Pathways

An internal walking path or trail should be provided to encourage people and their dogs to keep moving in the space rather than staying in one spot

“PATHS THAT ENCOURAGE OWNERS AND DOGS TO KEEP WALKING ARE BEST FOR ENHANCING THE DOG/OWNER RELATIONSHIP AND PREVENTING DOG TO DOG CONFLICT” (LARSEN BRIDGE, 2007: N.P).

- Different activity zones should be created rather than just one flat open space in the park
 - Different zones offer dogs running areas as well as quieter environments where they can sniff, play and interact with their owners, and play one-on-one with other dogs away from the running
 - Activity zones also help to disperse the park users (dog and people) throughout the park and spread the wear and tear of the ground surfaces
 - Mounding and mass plantings can be used to divide the park into active and passive zones. These visual barriers also help to deter the dogs getting up too much speed in the park

Plants

Plants within the park and surrounds should be non-toxic and non-irritating to dogs including the flowers, seeds, fruit, and leaves

- Ensure the plants and grass are well established before the park is opened to the public. Consider fencing off areas for plant establishment and recovery if required
- The use of tussocks allows dogs to weave their way between the plants

Environmental enrichment

Environmental enrichment for dogs should be a consideration in a fenced dog park

- This may include varied terrain, mounding, sensory plantings, tunnels, logs, water play and dog play items

“...THINGS TO CLIMB ON, SNIFF, SMALL HILLS, VEGETATION” (SURVEY RESPONDENT)

OPTIONAL AMENITIES

Park lighting

Lighting may be provided to extend hours of use

- The provision of site lighting depends on the location of the park and potential impact on surrounding uses e.g. residential dwellings

Toilets

Toilets may be provided where appropriate

- If fenced dog parks are placed within a larger park system public toilets may already exist

Noticeboard

A noticeboard may be provided as an added feature to a fenced dog park

- A notice board is a useful feature to promote dog park educational sessions, dog events and information on dog park rules and etiquette
- Notice boards should be lockable and contain no breakable parts i.e. glass

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Disability inclusion

Consider wheelchair accessible paths/trails and an appropriate height for entry/exit gate latches

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

Consider Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in the design of fenced dog parks

WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

The community identified the following elements for a fenced dog park:

- Secure high fencing
- Double gates with self-closing gates
- Water for dogs
- Bag dispensers and bins
- Enrichment for dogs
- A variety of ground surfaces
- Places to sit but limit seating, so people pay attention to their dog
- Walking paths and trails
- Natural shade
- Toilets
- Covered areas such as shelter structures

Ten top tips for design

- 1.** Design doesn't have to be complex. Keep it simple and get the layout right
- 2.** The design of a fenced dog park should be tailored to the individual site conditions. Don't copy the dog park down the road
- 3.** Break up the space with natural barriers so dogs can't get up a high speed in the park
- 4.** Keep the entry/exit points free of clutter and amenities to minimise congestion in these high traffic areas
- 5.** Create active and passive zones rather than have one flat open area
- 6.** Provide meandering walking paths or trails to encourage dog owners to walk with their dogs rather than stand in one spot
- 7.** Provide a double-gate system with self-closing latches to reduce dogs escaping
- 8.** Provide multiple entry/exit gates to minimise overcrowding in these high traffic areas
- 9.** Design to reduce potential conflict in a park
- 10.** Cost-saving techniques could include a shelter structure straddling both large and small dog areas



Section Six: Dog Park Operations and Management

This section provides principles to manage and operate the establishment of fenced dog parks in the City of Greater Geelong.

Section Six: Dog Park Operations and Management

The planning and design of a fenced dog park can provide a positive experience for the community, particularly when the facility is brand new. However, it is the long-term care and ongoing maintenance which is a critical aspect of the park experience.

Fenced dog parks have unique characteristics and require an ongoing high level of care.

OPERATIONS

Maintenance

The frequency of maintenance is influenced by the size of the park, level of usage and intensity of use. Some essential elements of a maintenance program include:

- Fencing and gates – repair, replacement, gate latches in working order
- Pathways - clear trip hazards, paths in good condition
- Mulch area – top up, replacement
- Sand area – top up, raking
- Grass area – restoration, replacement
- Rubbish bins – condition, frequency of waste collection
- Irrigation – check leaks, sprinklers in working order
- Plantings - replace plants, protect plantings with barrier
- Shelter - condition
- Seats/benches – cleanliness, condition
- Rocks and logs – condition
- Drinking fountains – working order, water pressure, drainage, cleanliness, condition
- Signs – secure, condition
- Dog bags dispenser – condition, restocking of bags
- General - fill in holes in ground surfaces, latch repairs, graffiti removal
- Weed spraying – spray to be non-toxic to dogs otherwise close the park for a specified period
- Large dog and small dog area rotation – rotate for maintenance, grass regeneration.

MANAGEMENT

Enforcement of fenced dog park rules

An issue highlighted in the community engagement findings was the ongoing enforcement of fenced dog park rules. The Community Survey (2018) identified the enforcement of fenced dog park rules as the biggest challenge in managing fenced dog parks.

“COUNCIL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT OFFICERS TO PATROL FENCED DOG PARKS AND EDUCATE PARK USERS INFORMALLY ABOUT GOOD DOG PARK ETIQUETTE” (RESPONDENT)

In the City of Greater Geelong, dogs must be supervised and under effective control at all times as per the Dog Controls in Public Places Policy which applies to unfenced and fenced off-leash areas.

Dog park education

90% of survey respondents indicated that fenced dog park education and etiquette was an important element of dog parks. Survey respondents suggested the following initiatives:

- Conduct in-park sessions on how to supervise a dog by qualified professionals who understand dog behaviour¹
- Establish creative signage in visible places to promote safe and friendly environments such as dog park rules and dog behaviour
- Reinforce good dog park etiquette during the key educative months when a park first opens

Education is further explored in section 7.

Working with others

There are opportunities for Council to work with other professionals such as qualified dog behaviour experts, dog trainers, veterinarians and animal shelters to deliver various programs including:

- community education seminars
- training and awareness sessions in the park (see suggested topics on page 32)
- develop educational resources on good dog park etiquette such as dog park code of conduct/protocols, dog park rules and educational signage.

¹ It is preferred that Council works with professionals who use positive reinforcement or force free training methods. The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) recommends the use of positive reinforcement dog training methods as the preferred method of training.

In-park sessions may include a qualified dog behaviour trainer educating dog owners on how to read what your dog is saying, how to interpret good and bad dog play, and how to safely interrupt bad play.

Volunteers

As part of a maintenance program, there may be opportunities to engage residents in basic maintenance tasks such as replacing the dog bags, sweeping the paths and general clean up. There are some parks in South Australia, where Council staff have left a broom in the park encouraging residents to sweep the paths and keep the park tidy (the Broom project).

Evaluation

Evaluation is often a forgotten aspect of the management of a fenced dog park, yet it is arguably one of the most important elements in maintaining effective and functional parks. Evaluation helps to understand what worked and didn't work and to inform the development of following fenced dog parks.

Some key elements to consider in the evaluation include:

General

- Recording and collating complaints, calls and feedback received by Council
- Monitoring the number of fenced dog park users to help determine if the park is overused or underused by placing a counter across the gate to gauge the number of users in the park

Safety

- Identify the nature and number of reported incidents to Council inside and outside of the fenced dog park

Maintenance

- Amount of uncollected dog faeces inside and outside of the dog park
- The condition of surface materials and infrastructure (before and after photos are an excellent way to document changes)
- Feedback received from parks and maintenance staff and maintenance contractors

Costs

- Review programmed, and un-programmed costs and expenditure associated with the maintenance of the dog park

Community Feedback

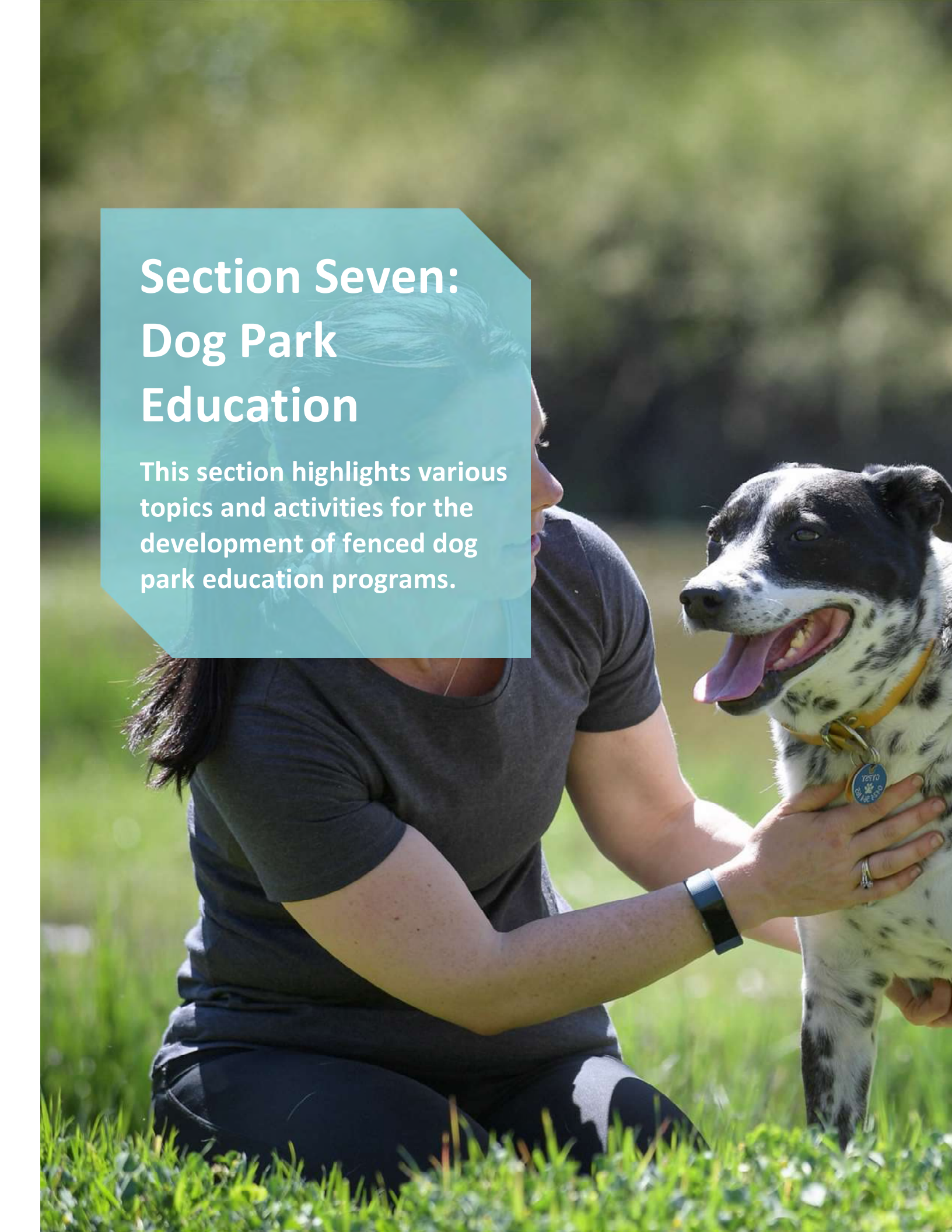
- Feedback from park users and neighbouring residents (annually or bi-annually) is a simple yet effective way to determine their satisfaction or otherwise with a fenced dog park.

(Source: Dog and Cat Management Board of SA, 2014)

WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

The community engagement undertaken as part of this project suggested the following rules for a fenced dog park.

- Coming into a dog park you agree to:
 - Enter at own risk
 - Share the space
 - Respect all users
- Stay focused on your dog
- Children to be supervised at all times
 - children not to run around with dogs
 - children not to play on dog equipment
- Aggressive dogs not allowed
- Sick dogs not allowed
- Scoop the poop
- Dogs to be on-leash with the guardian before entering/exiting the park
- Dogs to be current with vaccinations
- Dogs to be registered, de-sexed and microchipped
- Limit the number of dogs per person such as 2-3 dogs for all users including commercial dog walkers

A woman with dark hair, wearing a dark grey t-shirt and dark pants, is kneeling in a grassy field. She is petting a black and white speckled dog, possibly a Border Collie, which has its tongue out and is looking towards the left. The dog is wearing a yellow collar with a blue tag that says "YOTO". The background is a blurred green field with trees in the distance.

Section Seven: Dog Park Education

This section highlights various topics and activities for the development of fenced dog park education programs.

Section Seven: Dog Park Education

Fenced dog parks bring pet owners together in one place and in some ways they are like a community centre but without walls.

In the Community Survey, over 90% of respondents indicated that dog park education and etiquette was important. The suggested topics and activities for a dog park education program include:

- Dog body language
 - For example, recognising when a dog is stressed or anxious and whether your dog is having a good time at the fenced dog park
- A dog's suitability for a fenced dog park experience
 - Understanding what your dog can tolerate as some dogs may not be suitable for a fenced dog park
- Dog socialisation

“DOG OWNERS NEED TO HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT SOCIALISATION MEANS I.E. EXPOSURE TO A RANGE OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE, DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES, SETTINGS AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO MIX WITH OTHER DOGS, IDEALLY FROM A YOUNG AGE” (ANIMAL SHELTER STAKEHOLDER)

- Knowledge on how to support the development of a well-socialised dog
- Basic dog training skills
 - Knowing how to get a reliable recall for dogs in distracting environments like a fenced dog park
- Dog legislation and responsibilities
 - Understanding your legal obligations and other responsibilities in having a dog such as vaccinations and socialisation
- Children and dogs
 - Educating school children on how to interact safely near dogs

You can read more about dog body language, and dog park safety in section 10.

Below are some key questions raised by the community regarding dog park etiquette:

- What happens if you have an excitable dog. Go to the park or not?
- Should dogs jump up on people at a fenced dog park?
- It is OK for kids to run around with dogs?
- It is OK for kids to play on dog equipment?
- Should dog guardians/owners have a minimum requirement of basic dog training e.g. puppy training or equivalent before visiting a fenced dog park?
- Should there be a limit on the number of dogs in a fenced dog park at any one time?
- Are all dogs a dog park dog?

These are the sort of questions that should be addressed in a fenced dog park education program.

WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

The community engagement undertaken as part of this project identified the following aspects for a fenced dog park education program:

- Reliable recall
- Qualified dog trainers to help dog owners with dog park etiquette and basic dog skills
- How to supervise your dog safely
- How to read your dog's body language
- Supervision of children in a dog park

Section Eight: Implementation

This section provides principles to guide the distribution of new fenced dog parks in the City of Greater Geelong, and an implementation plan for the establishment of new parks.



Section Eight: Implementation

WHERE SHOULD THE NEW FENCED DOG PARKS BE LOCATED?

The City of Greater Geelong is divided into three geographical regions: North, South and East including the Bellarine. For each of these regions, priority areas should be identified as future locations for fenced dog parks.

These priority areas should be identified using a combination of data including dog registrations, resident population, community engagement and stakeholder findings, and the site assessment principles and criteria outlined in this report.

It is proposed that one fenced dog park should service a group or cluster of suburbs. Fenced dog parks should be distributed across the City of Greater Geelong based on areas of need and established in strategically located areas including established areas and growth areas.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This Implementation Plan covers the following components:

- Establishing new fenced dog parks
- Upgrading the existing fenced dog park.

ESTABLISHING NEW FENCED DOG PARKS

Site selection

- Develop a **site assessment sheet** based on Table 2 (page 21)
- Identify **priority areas**
- **Select suitable sites** for the establishment of **new fenced dog parks in the priority areas**

Planned delivery

- **Roll out one fenced dog park at a time**, then assess what worked and what didn't work to inform the development of the next park.

Design and layout

- Ensure the available **budget funds a good level of amenity** for all the fenced dog parks constructed in a single financial year.

Fenced dog park education

- Develop a **fenced dog park education program** based on the topics and activities highlighted on pages 32.
- **Establish partnerships with other professionals** such as qualified dog behaviour trainers, animal behaviourists, and veterinarians to develop and deliver dog education programs.
- Develop a **dog park etiquette protocol or statement**. This protocol could be promoted through a range of formats including:
 - Park your Pet app
 - Council online information
 - Hard copy for distribution at dog park openings and events. An example from the City of Charles Sturt is shown in section 10.
- Develop **consistent fenced dog park rules** for all new fenced dog parks in the City of Greater Geelong. The rules could be based on the information outlined on page 30.
- Continue to utilise the **"Park Your Pet" App** for information sharing and on-line training.
- Consider adopting **good examples of signage and rules** developed by other local councils. The City of Charles Sturt is a good example of illustrated dog park signs showing dog body language and dog park etiquette (see section 10).

Evaluation

- Develop a system to **evaluate the effectiveness of new and existing fenced dog parks** (see section 6).

Requests and feedback management system

- **Establish a data collection management system to record requests** for fenced dog parks. The management system could record information on suburb and specific park/site location.
- **Record complaints and incidences relating to fenced dog parks**. This could form part of a formal evaluation of fenced dog parks.

Developers guidelines

- Update the Sustainable Communities, Infrastructure Development Guidelines (June 2016) to include the development of new fenced dog parks.

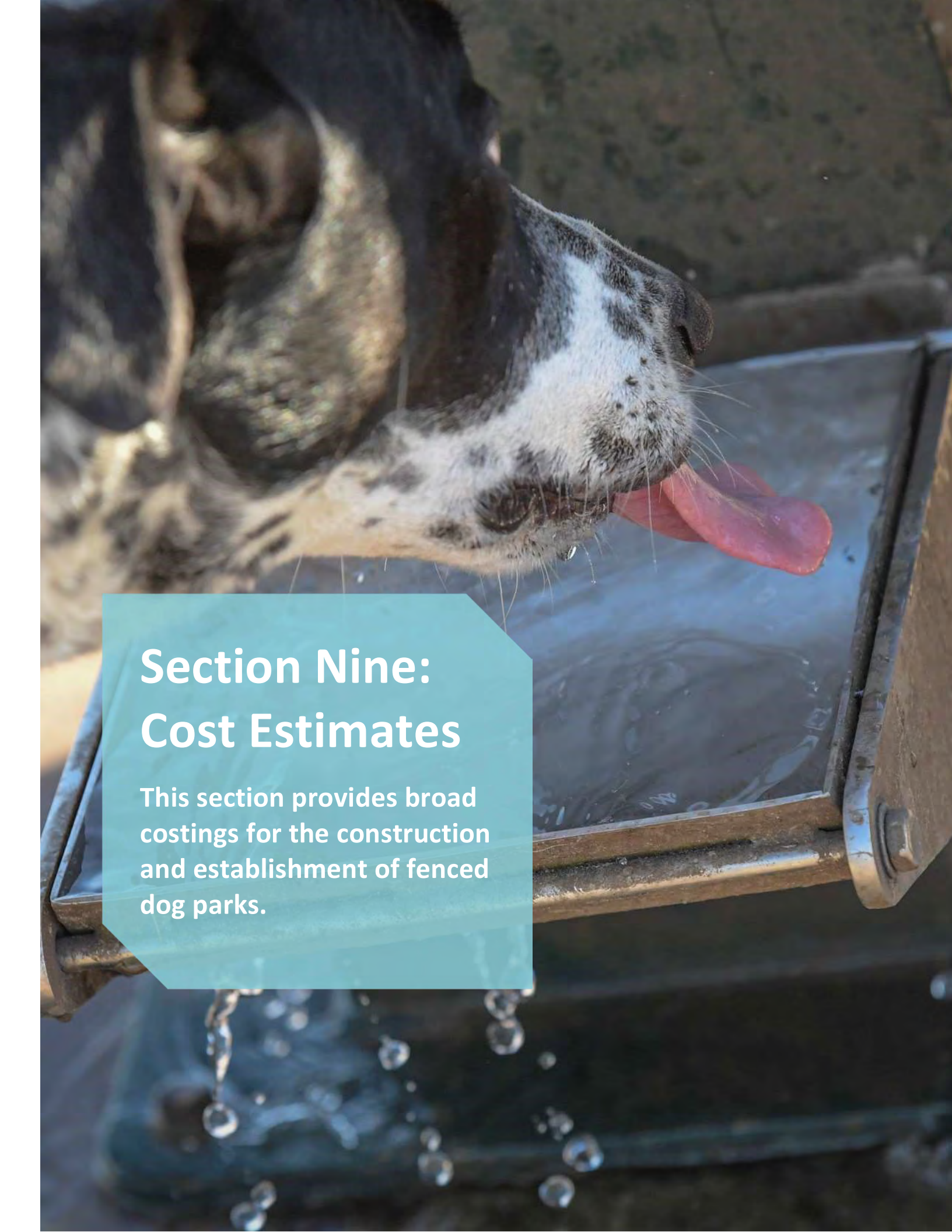
Volunteers

- Investigate the opportunity to recruit volunteers as dog park helpers. Volunteers could help with basic maintenance such as restocking dog bags and sweeping paths.

EXISTING FENCED DOG PARK

Upgrade

- **Upgrade the existing Stead Park Dog Park** facility to the minimum core infrastructure and essential amenities highlighted in this report. This could include installing double entry gates, self-closing gates and fixing the drainage issues around the water fountain. Improvements suggested by the community are outlined on page 16.

A close-up photograph of a black and white speckled dog, possibly a pit bull mix, drinking water from a metal trough. The dog's head is lowered into the trough, and its pink tongue is extended into the water. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a concrete surface.

Section Nine: Cost Estimates

This section provides broad costings for the construction and establishment of fenced dog parks.

Section Nine: Cost Estimates

Broad cost estimates have been developed for the construction and establishment of new fenced dog parks. These costings are provided for guidance purposes only, and the cost of individual projects may vary depending on the size of the park, existing site qualities, materials, site preparation and final design.

The key elements for the construction of a fenced dog park include:

Core infrastructure

- Perimeter fencing (the biggest single item)
- Double gates and airlock, 2 gates per entry/exit with self-closing pull latch
- Maintenance gates
- Ground surfaces

Essential amenities

- Drinking water fountains including plumbing & drainage
- Bins and bags dispensers
- Shade (existing trees or structure structure)
- Signage (directional and park rules)
- Seating

Desirable amenities

- Separate areas for large and small dogs
- Internal paths
- Items for environmental enrichment
- Different activity zones including mounding
- Planting including screen planting

Optional amenities

- Site lighting
- Notice board
- Toilets

Broad costings are given for an example fenced dog park of 3,000m².

EXAMPLE: PRE DESIGN, OPINION OF PROBABLE COST, 3000M² FENCED DOG PARK

NB: Please refer to the disclaimer at the end of this document

ITEM No.	DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNIT	RATE	AMOUNT
1.00	PRELIMINARIES				
1.01	Establishment, insurances, construction Environmental Management Plan etc	1	Item	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
1.02	Surveyor	1	Item	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$15,000.00
2.00	LANDSCAPE FURNITURE				
2.01	Timber seat with back (1.8m)	1	Item	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
2.02	Dog bag dispenser	2	Item	\$150.00	\$300.00
2.03	Bin enclosure – 240L	1	Item	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
2.04	Drinking fountain with dog bowl	1	Item	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$8,000.00
3.00	FENCING				
3.01	Perimeter fencing - 1.8m chainmesh with top and bottom rail (50x60)	220	lm	\$70.00	\$15,400.00
3.02	Double gates (2 per entry)	4	Item	\$500.00	\$2,000.00
3.03	Maintenance gates (3.5m width)	2	Item	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
3.04	Concrete plinth	220	lm	\$120.00	\$26,400.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$47,800.00
4.00	IRRIGATION				
4.01	Automatic irrigation system (allowance)	1	Item	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$30,000.00
5.00	SOFT LANDSCAPE PREPARATION				
5.01	Imported topsoil - Instant turf areas (100mm)	150	m ³	\$60.00	\$9,000.00
5.02	Imported topsoil - Garden beds (200mm)	200	m ³	\$60.00	\$12,000.00
5.03	Filling sand (Play pit sand)	50	m ²	\$20.00	\$1,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$22,000.00
6.00	ROCKS AND LOGS				
6.01	Rocks 400-600mm (for informal seating)	5	Item	\$200.00	\$1,000.00
6.02	Logs - 2.5m long	2	Item	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$2,000.00

7.00	PLANTING AND MULCHING				
7.01	Trees - 50L container including stakes and ties	10	No.	\$150.00	\$1,500.00
7.02	Tubestock	100	No.	\$3.00	\$300.00
7.03	Organic mulch (100mm)	1000	m ²	\$8.00	\$8,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$9,800.00
8.00	GRASSING				
8.01	Instant turf (roll out turf) – supply and install	1500	m ²	\$20.00	\$30,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$30,000.00
9.00	DEMOLITION WORKS AND SITE PREPARATION				
9.01	Clear site of rubbish and debris - allowance	1	Item	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
9.02	Excavating / minor trimming	3,000	m2	\$5.00	\$15,000.00
9.03	Spoil removal	100	tonnes	\$25.00	\$2,500.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$22,500.00

10.00	SERVICES				
10.01	Water supply reticulation (provision)	1	Item	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
10.02	Electrical connection / irrigation controller (provision)	1	Item	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$20,000.00
11.00	STORMWATER DRAINAGE				
11.01	Stormwater drainage (allowance)	1	Item	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$10,000.00
12.00	LANDSCAPE SURFACES AND FINISHES				
12.01	Concrete paving (path)	100	m ²	\$130.00	\$13,000.00
12.02	Concrete pad under seat	2	m ²	\$130.00	\$260.00
12.03	Concrete pad shelter	36	m ²	\$130.00	\$4,680.00
12.04	Compacted rubble	100	m ²	\$30.00	\$3,000.00
12.05	Concrete edge	200	lm	\$60.00	\$12,000.00
12.06	Rubber mounds	30	m ²	\$220.00	\$6,600.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$39,540.00
13.00	LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES				
13.01	Shelter (4x4m)	1	Item	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$12,000.00

14.00	SIGNAGE				
14.01	Signage (allowance for 2 major signs and 2 minor signs)	1	No.	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$4,000.00
15.00	MAINTENANCE AND ESTABLISHMENT				
15.01	52 Weeks	52	No.	\$400.00	\$20,800.00
	SUBTOTAL				\$20,800.00
	SUBTOTAL OF LANDSCAPE AND EXTERNAL WORKS (not inc. GST)				\$293,440.00
	Contingency (10%)				\$29,344.00
	TOTAL OF LANDSCAPE AND EXTERNAL WORKS (not inc. GST)				\$322,784.00

This opinion provides illustrative calculations and indicative costs and should not be used as a substitute for a full and final costing of the works. It is not a recommendation by Birdseye Studios Pty Ltd to participate in or to abstain from the project and cannot be relied upon as a definitive statement of the total cost of the project. Birdseye Studios Pty Ltd does not accept any responsibility for and expressly disclaims and excludes all liability for any use of or reliance on this opinion or any loss or damage of whatever nature (including consequential loss), howsoever incurred, which is suffered by any person acting on or refraining from acting because of anything contained in this opinion.

Qualifications: Opinion of Cost assumes

No excavation in rock
No site remediation
No disposal of material
No external paths

A woman with short blonde hair, wearing a blue short-sleeved button-down shirt and dark trousers, is kneeling on a grassy field. She is looking down and to the right, interacting with a person whose back is to the camera. The woman's shirt has "PATRICIA" embroidered on the left chest and "GEE LONG ANIMAL MANAGEMENT UNIT" on the right chest. She has a tattoo on her left forearm and is wearing several bracelets and rings. A blue bag with a green label is on the grass near her feet. The background is a blurred green field and a fence.

Section Ten: Resources

This section provides resources, ideas and examples on the development of fenced dog parks from other organisations.

Section Ten: Resources

1. **Dog Park Guidelines 'Unleashed: a guide to successful dog parks'**, Dog and Cat Management Board of South Australia

www.dogandcatboard.com.au/publications



2. **Off-leash Ambassador Program**, City of Calgary, Canada

The City of Calgary offers free dog recall training classes from a certified professional dog trainer to help dog owners keep their dogs under control in off-leash areas. This program is part of the City's Off-leash Ambassador Program in Community Standards to promote public awareness of responsible dog ownership in off-leash areas.

www.calgary.ca/CSPS/ABS/Pages/Volunteering/Off-leash.aspx?redirect=/offleashvolunteer

3. **Dog Park Etiquette: Rules to help dogs get along**, Blue Cattle Dog Productions

This free poster is accessible from Dr. Sophia Yin's website. It outlines basic rules to keep your dog out of trouble in a fenced dog park. This poster has been used as a sign at the City of Geelong's Stead Park Dog Park.

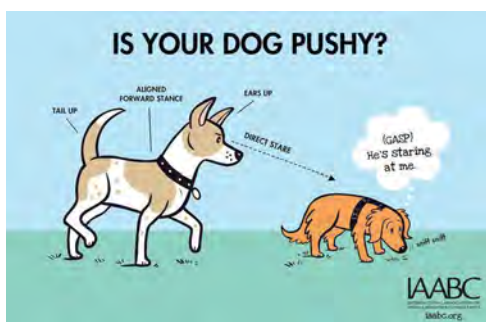
www.calgary.ca/CSPS/ABS/Pages/Volunteering/Off-leash.aspx?redirect=/offleashvolunteer



4. **Dog Park Safety Project**, The International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC)

The Dog Park Safety Project provides a series of posters to promote safety in dog parks and in dog play. The posters (JPEG format) can be download from IAABC's Facebook site.

www.facebook.com/iaabcorg/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10154607479924126



5. **Dog Body Language**, Lili Chin

www.flickr.com/photos/lilita/5652847156/sizes/l/



6. **Dog park signage and etiquette brochure, City of Charles Sturt, South Australia**

The City of Charles Sturt has produced an innovative dog park etiquette brochure and illustrated dog park signs i.e. large panels displayed inside a fenced dog park.

Councils can purchase an electronic copy of these signs for use by contacting the City of Charles Sturt in South Australia.

The City of Charles Sturt dog park etiquette brochure is below.

www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au/page.aspx

Welcome to Doggie Land

Doggie Land has an Active and Passive area to meet different dogs' needs.

If your dog loves to play chase or wrestle with others, run, jump and generally explode into the park with enthusiasm, then the Active area is for you!

Our Passive area allows for relaxed, sniff-focused, calmer and exploratory interactions between dogs and will suit older, calmer or shyer dogs best.

To use either of our parks, your dog must be under effective control – you need to be supervising them at all times, and be able to call them away from play at a moment's notice.

For the safest use of our off lead dog parks, we recommend you:

- Let your dog off lead as soon as you enter the park
- Supervise young children around dogs, and keep interactions between kids and dogs safe and calm
- Avoid the park for dogs that: prefer to be left alone; aren't confident; young puppies, older, sore, blind or deaf dogs, dogs that are unwell, or females in season

While your dog is in the park, watch them closely to ensure they are feeling happy, and confident.

Interrupt play frequently with practice of recalls, to help dogs calm down and avoid play escalating out of control. Intense, hyper-focused, obsessive behaviours like herding, nipping, excessive chasing without pause, pinning or escalating vocalisations are signs the play is becoming more inappropriate and have no place in our dog parks. Lots of short 1-2 minute breaks will help keep all dogs happy and relaxed.

Dog parks are not good places to 'socialise' dogs (especially puppies) unless you know the dogs inside and their play styles well. Watch your dog constantly to know how well they are coping. Confidence building for shy dogs and socialisation for puppies is best done in more controlled, predictable environments or with one-on-one carefully supervised play initially.

Remember that not all exercise is equal – are you alternating your dog's play in the park with long exploratory, sniffy walks along the beach or in a reserve on a different day? Relaxing, sniff-focused walks will often benefit your dog's mental enrichment more than a good play at the park. Make sure you're doing both to meet all your dog's needs.

Does Your Dog Want To Be Here?

YES!

Great! Stay A while!

Appropriate and polite dog play includes lots of short breaks for sniffs, drinks or laying down so dogs don't become overly fatigued or hyper-stimulated. Ensure your dog gets a chance to relax in good company too! If you're not sure whether your dog is enjoying himself here, or you're worried about the behaviour of another dog, take your dog out of the dog park to give him a break. Not all dogs are social butterflies, some prefer the company of a few good friends instead.

NO!

Why not try some different activities?

Long explosive walks along a trail or outside of the dog park.

Attend the park at a time where there are few dogs, or where the other dogs' play styles match your dog's.

How about a bit of training?

Sniffy walks along the beach or hinter park.

Show us your pets for a chance to win each month!

#petsofcharlessturt

Is your dog a PUSHY POLLY?

Ensure your dog gives other dogs a chance to enter the park safely and calmly. Watch all interactions regarding your dog.

Move your dog out of the park if they are being pushy or if you know your dog has a tendency to become pushy or play rough. Interact with your dog frequently by putting them on lead and taking them for a walking walk outside of the park.

All dogs and humans have a right to enjoy the park being safe and comfortable. Sometimes dogs need your help to learn how to play appropriately.

Is your dog a NERVOUS NELLY?

Fearful dogs need more space and more time for acclimatisation. You may find that the dog park isn't the best place to help build your dog's confidence as other dogs can be unpredictable or unresponsive.

Begin to take confidence building patiently and calmly – you'll find this more positive experience your dog has the more confidence they will gain.

Confidently putting them in situations they can't cope with will only exacerbate their fear (no – they don't need to just "toughen up" – behaviour, development and dog play is complex and dynamic – it's not that simple).

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Appendix A

The Wyndham City there has several fenced dog parks including:

- Saltwater Reserve Dog Park, Corner of Saltwater Promenade & Middleton Drive, Point Cook
- Dog Park, Corner of Forsyth Road & Perennial Drive, Truganina
- Presidents Park, McGrath Rd, Wyndham Vale
- Allura Estate Dog Park, Vibrandia Way, Truganina.

A summary of three fenced dog parks are outlined below.

	Saltwater Reserve Dog Park, Point Cook	Forsyth Park Fenced Dog Park, Truganina	Presidents Park Wyndham Vale
Setting	Part of a larger park (multipurpose park) accommodating sporting facilities i.e. oval, tennis courts, children's playground toilets and off-street parking (co-located) Part of new housing estate	Part of a larger park (multipurpose park) accommodating toilets, grassed area, children's playground, toilets Part of new housing estate	Part of a larger park (multipurpose, park)
Park Size	Approx. 3,750m ² .	Approx. 2000m ² .	Size unknown
Dog Areas	Dog park for all dogs	Dog park for all dogs	Dog park for all dogs
Ground Surfaces	Grass	Grass	Grass
Car Parking	Designated off-street parking	On-street parking	Designated off-street parking
Fencing	Black chainmesh fencing approx. 1.5m high with top & bottom rail	Black chainmesh fencing approx. 1.5m high with top & bottom rail & concrete footing	Black chainmesh fencing approx. 1.5m high with top and bottom rail
Gates	Single gating system	Single gating system	Double gating system
Entry/exit points	Multiple entry/exits gates (x2)	Entry/exits gate (x2)	Entry/exit gates (x1)
Shade	Some mature trees on site	Few mature trees on site	Mature trees on site
Seating	Benches	Benches	Benches

Water	Water fountain for people and dogs inside park	No water fountain/tap provided	Water fountain for people and dogs inside park
Signage	Dog park rules attached to entry/exit gate	No signage noted	Dog park rules attached to entry/exit gate
Dog bag dispenser	Dispenser attached to fence and bins inside park	Dog bag dispenser and bin in park	Dog bag dispenser and bin in park

(Source: De Rosa, site visits undertaken June 2018)

The Surf Coast Shire

The Surf Coast has no existing fenced dog parks, but includes an action in their Domestic Animal Management Plan (2017-21) to:

- “Conduct a feasibility study into the development of a major dog park off leash area for the high-pressure areas (Torquay foreshore)”

2. MUNICIPAL EARLY YEARS PLAN 2018-2022 – FINAL REPORT

Source:	Community Life - Family Services
Acting Director:	Robyn Stevens
Portfolio	An Inclusive and Diverse Community

Purpose

To seek Council endorsement of the *Municipal Early Years Plan 2018-22* (MEYP) following community consultation.

Background

The *Municipal Early Years Plan 2018-22* (**Attachment 4**) sets out a range of key strategies and actions to address local needs and priorities to improve the health and wellbeing of children aged 0-8 years and their families in the City of Greater Geelong.

The draft *Municipal Early Years Plan 2018-22* (MEYP) was presented to the Council Community Focus meeting on 11 September 2018 where Council resolved to release the draft for community consultation for a period of four weeks.

Since the community consultation, a summary MEYP document has been developed (**Attachment 3**) and the draft has been amended to reflect public submissions and stakeholder comments. A summary of community and stakeholder comments received during consultation, and the City's response to the feedback, is included at **Attachment 2**.

Delivery of the MEYP is a key strategic priority in the *Council Plan 2018-22*. The *Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future* engagement undertaken in 2017, which captured more than 16,000 voices from our community, was used to inform the development of the four themes in the MEYP.

Key Issues

Stakeholder and community feedback was supportive of the identified themes in the draft *Municipal Early Years Plan 2018-22*. The document was described as succinct, thorough and responsive to the families and children of Greater Geelong.

The feedback received aligned with the four MEYP themes:

- Supporting families to help children achieve their full potential;
- Promote high quality innovative services;
- Provide early and sustained support for those who need it most; and
- Provide accessible and inclusive services.

Cr Grzybek moved, Cr Murrihy seconded -

That Council endorse the *Municipal Early Years Plan 2018-22*.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

The implementation cost of some components of the MEYP maybe the subject of consideration for future budgets. External sources of funding may also be sought.

Increased attention on the importance of reducing risk factors that have adverse implication for children, families and communities are acknowledged as providing clear social, economic and developmental benefits to the whole community.

Evidence would widely support that investing in early childhood services has a long lasting economic benefit to the community. Longitudinal studies conclude that the return on investment in providing high quality early childhood services is approximately 13% per annum through reducing the interventions required later in life.

Community Engagement

The development of the City of Greater Geelong's *MEYP 2018-22* was informed by the Clever and Creative Community engagement, during which the community told us they:

- Want a safe environment for children to grow up in and a family-oriented culture;
- Value access to quality services, health services and a strong sense of community;
- Value living in a community that supports vulnerable community members and has a clean, safe and fun environment for everyone; and
- Value living in a community where there is community vibrancy, diversity and inclusiveness.

Following Council's decision to release the draft *Municipal Early Years Plan 2018-22* for further comment, the plan was made available on Council's website 'Have Your Say' from 13 September to 11 October 2018. There were 202 page views and 5 online submissions lodged. Prior to the broad community consultation, stakeholders had been invited to comment from 17 August 2018 and written submissions were received from 6 organisations.

Comments were also provided following meetings with key stakeholders, including the Department of Education and Training.

Social Equity Considerations

Themes such as 'provide accessible and inclusive services' have been included in the MEYP and address social equity considerations by ensuring our services are accessible and inclusive for all children and their families.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

Local government's planning role is legislated in the *Local Government Act 1989*, the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the *Health Act 1958*. Corporate plans, a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing plan and a Municipal Strategic Statement are required by statute. Early childhood development clearly fits within a social health framework and therefore the MEYP is closely integrated with *Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan*.

Alignment to Council Plan

The MEYP 2018-22 aligns with the Council Plan.

The following strategic priorities are of particular relevance:

- Improve the health and safety of our community;
- A more inclusive and diverse community; and
- Organisational leadership, strategy and governance.

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has any direct or indirect interest relative to the advice provided in the report.

Risk Assessment

Council has a shared responsibility with state and federal governments to ensure locally accessible family and children's services. This limits risk factors such as fragmentation, disadvantage, opportunities to attract funding and resources which in turn builds the capacity of the local community to adequately and effectively support families in the wellbeing of our children.

The MEYP 2018-22 continues to enhance local support for children and families, especially in relation to improving outcomes for the most vulnerable, and ensures our services are accessible and inclusive.

The MEYP provides a coherent framework within which the various issues, challenges and potential risks for children, families and local service providers can be progressively addressed and mitigated.

Environmental Implications

No environmental implication noted for this report.

MUNICIPAL EARLY YEARS PLAN

2018-2022

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Context

The Draft Municipal Early Years Plan 2018 – 2022 (the Plan) was noted at the Council Meeting 11th September and released for final public comment on the “Have Your Say” web page from 13th September – 11th October 2018. Stakeholders were invited to comment from 17th August.

The results have been reported in the table below;

Community responses:

- 210 page views;
- 5 online submissions.

Stakeholder responses received:

- Barwon Child Youth and Family;
- Bethany Community Support Inc / Bethany Kindergarten Services Ltd;
- Department of Education and Training;
- Diversitat;
- Northern Bay Family Centre;
- Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative.

The following table summarises Community and Stakeholder feedback and the Officer’s response:

Feedback	Response
Community and Stakeholder consultation:	How the MEYP 2018-2022 will reflect this
Theme One: Supporting Families to help Children Achieve their full potential	
“I would also like to add that the Geelong Libraries are a wonderful resource”	The plan supports the culture of collaboration across early years services and the programs that the libraries offer to families are publicised and supported. The plan recognises the importance of positive early experiences and exposure to literacy from an early age has a direct correlation to positive educational outcomes
“ I would love Geelong to have a children’s museum”	Noted and feedback to be referred to Arts and Culture for consideration
“A Museum like the Melbourne one in Fitzroy would be amazing. We have so many empty buildings that we could use”	
“A dedicated children’s gallery/museum would be a huge drawcard to the area. It would also fit in with the Creative Geelong campaign”	
Theme Two: Promote High Quality Innovative Services	
“Could it be noted that CoGG is a large provider of Early Years Management”	The plan has been amended to include this
“Could the wording be updated to acknowledge how CoGG chooses to deliver “Enhanced” maternal and child health program”	The section on Outreach has been expanded to reflect the Enhanced MCH program delivery
“The Department actively discourages branding State funded Supported Playgroups as Smalltalk Playgroups as Smalltalk is just one component of these Supported Playgroups”	The word Smalltalk has been removed from the Supported Playgroup description

Feedback Community and Stakeholder consultation:	Response How the MEYP 2018-2022 will reflect this
“Capacity building for staff should include: the early identification and response to developmental delays; trauma-informed practice and the early identification of trauma related behaviours and delays, and training and support for having challenging conversations with families about child development. “Often the early years workers in both health and education settings are well placed to be key workers in care teams, however, support and training for this role is rare.”	Noted and plan includes providing training opportunities to our service teams to meet the diverse needs of our community.
Theme Three: Provide early and sustained support for those who need it most	
“Add, Early Childhood Agreement for children in Out of Home Care and Ending Family Violence-Victoria’s Plan for Change”	Noted as references to the plan
“ I think there should be a higher level objective around collaboration that spans early childhood (CoGG and other) eg MCH, other family services eg Bethany, BCYF Family Violence and Orange Door as Government is increasingly seeing universal and targeted services on a continuum of “one system” “Collaborative work in the early years sector should also focus on the effective care teams as a clear objective.”	The plan has been expanded to include reference points to a number of early childhood support services and programs
Theme Four: Provide Accessible and Inclusive Services	
“ I would like to see a change from Maternal and Child Health to Child and Parental services which more actively encourages fathers to participate in the process”	A key strategy in our plan is to ensure early childhood services are accessible and inclusive. We will advocate for changes to language used to reduce barriers to participation
“I think that more parks need to be properly fenced for children who have no sense of road safety and families with multiple small children “one of the significant concerns that was raised related to Play spaces and accessible toilets” “There is one liberty(disability) swing in Geelong. To access it families need to go to the Carousel or National Wool Museum to pick up a key, which is a significant barrier”	The importance of open and inclusive play spaces for families to access with their young children is captured within the plan. Continued improvement of these spaces within the City of Greater Geelong is being considered via the Social Infrastructure Plan and the Municipal Health and Wellbeing plan, Play strategy and Open Space strategy.

Feedback Community and Stakeholder consultation:	Response How the MEYP 2018-2022 will reflect this
“I think the limited hours of council kindergartens is somewhat outdated, the majority of parents today are working parents”	A key action in the plan is to identify business improvement activities that promote best practice service delivery models. We will ensure improving access to services is at the forefront of our strategic planning
“I would like to see another action that looks at ways to deliver services at different times, different ways or in different places to service different types of children and their parents. For example, could some services be delivered online or in the evening”	
“ It would be good to add an Acknowledgement of Country statement“	Added to plan

DRAFT MUNICIPAL EARLY YEARS PLAN 2018-2022

National Policy and Planning

State and Local Government Policy

Early Childhood Reform Plan, The Education State Department of Education and Training, May 2017
Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework Supporting Children and Families in the Early Years: a Compact between the Department of Education and Training, Department of Health and Human Services and local government (represented by the Municipal Association of Victoria) <i>Roadmap to Reform: strong families, safe children</i> State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services, April 2016
<i>City of Greater Geelong Council Plan 2018–2022</i>
<i>Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future</i>
<i>City of Greater Geelong Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan</i>
<i>City of Greater Geelong Disability action plan 2014-17</i>
<i>City of Greater Geelong Multicultural Action Plan</i>
<i>Early Childhood Agreement for Children in Out of Home Care 2014</i>
<i>Department of Human Services, Department of Education Early Childhood Development, Municipal Association of Victoria, Early Learning Association Australia</i>
<i>Ending Family Violence – Victoria’s plan for change State Government Victoria 2017</i>
<i>Early Years Management Framework Department of Education and training</i>
National Quality Framework
National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education
Jobs for Families Childcare Package

Municipal Early Years Plan Themes

Supporting families to help children achieve their full potential

- Provide quality early childhood services that prepare children to achieve their full potential.
- Make support services available and accessible to families.

Promote high-quality, innovative services

- Work together with other service providers to achieve better outcomes for children and families.
- Embrace new ideas and better ways to work.

Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative future Community Aspirations

At the heart of our community's vision for Greater Geelong to be recognised regionally, nationally and internationally as a clever and creative city region are a series of aspirations developed by the community. The following three aspirations are of particular relevance to our plan.



Council Plan 2018-2022 Strategic Priorities that relate to our plan

Council Plan: Improve health and safety of our community

Key priorities:

- Showing leadership in gender equity, diversity and family violence prevention;
- Improving safety in our community;
- Promoting healthy eating and supporting active living;
- Creating healthy environments in children’s settings.

Council Plan: A more inclusive and diverse community

Key priorities:

- Improving our engagement with our culturally diverse population;
- Supporting activities that improve social connections in our community;
- Improving access to facilities and programs for people of all abilities;
- Advocating for inclusive, multicultural activities and respect for cultural diversity.

Council Plan: Organisational leadership, strategy and governance

Key priorities:

- Communicating and engaging more effectively with the community, in areas of need;
- Using data and analytics to make better decisions;
- Making our processes more effective and efficient;
- Leading major local organisations in collaborative projects.

Demographic profile

TOTAL POPULATION – FROM 2016 TO 2036:

- 238,605 in 2016;
- 282,038 in 2026;
- 325,779 in 2036

IN 2016:

- 15,301 children aged 0 to 4 years, 6.4 per cent of Greater Geelong's population – which is the fourth largest municipality of children in Victoria, – expect 3,297 more children by 2036
- 14,835 children aged 5 to 9 years, 6.2 per cent of Greater Geelong's population – expect 4,037 more children by 2036
- Suburbs which are expected to increase by more than 100 children of 0–4yrs by 2036 are:
 - Armstrong Creek;
 - Mt Duneed;
 - Marshall and Charlemont;
 - Curlewis;
 - Lovely Banks and Batesford;
 - Herne Hill and
 - Fyansford.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

One percent of the municipal population identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander through the Australian Bureau of Statistics census. The census is usually regarded as showing less than the numbers who live in the municipality. There has been a significant increase from 1,789 in 2011 to 2,411 in 2016. (Source: <https://profile.id.com.au/geelong/assistance>)

Culture and Language Diversity

There is a lot of variation in the social and economic circumstances of people living in Greater Geelong. We need to consider these differences when planning for services. Almost 80 per cent of the community are Australian born, with the United Kingdom, India, New Zealand, Italy and China the main birthplaces outside of Australia. Other than English, the most common languages spoken at home include Italian, Croatian, Mandarin, Persian/Dari and Macedonian. Mandarin and Persian/Dari are the non-English spoken languages that have seen the largest growth in the last five years within the community. (Source: <https://profile.id.com.au/geelong/assistance>)

Family types in 2016

- There were 31,365 people living in couple families with dependents (43.1 per cent of households).
- There were 11,767 people living in one parent families, with dependents (16.2 per cent of households).
- There were 977 people living in other families (1.3 per cent of households). (Source: <https://profile.id.com.au/geelong/assistance>)

What the data tells us:

- When children in our region started full-time school in 2015, 17.8 per cent were 'developmentally vulnerable' in one or more areas. The Victorian and Australian averages are higher (19.9 per cent and 22 per cent respectively), however this figure still equates to 5,364 children who are vulnerable in our region. (www.aedc.gov.au)
- In 2011, the rate of children aged 0–17 years in out-of-home care in Greater Geelong was 6.3 per cent (per 1000 children), which was higher than the Victorian average of 4.6 per cent. (www.data.vic.gov.au)
- In 2011, the rate of children aged 0–17 years on Child Protection Orders in Greater Geelong was 7.9 per cent (per 1000 children), compared to 5.2 per cent in Victoria. (www.data.vic.gov.au)
- In 2014, 15.7 per cent of children in Greater Geelong are reported to have difficulty with speech and language, compared to 13.9 per cent in Victoria. (Outcomes for Victorian Children at School Entry, DET, 2016)
- In 2014, 93.6 per cent of students reported meeting national standards in literacy in year 3, in comparison to 94.6 per cent in Victoria. (www.data.vic.gov.au)
- In 2014, 14.2 per cent of parents reported being concerned about the behaviour of their children, in comparison to 12.6 per cent in Victoria. (Outcomes for Victorian Children at School Entry, DET, 2016)
- In 2016, 207 children aged 0 to 4 years of age (1.4 per cent), and 660 children aged 5 to 9 years of age (4.6 per cent), needed help in their day-to-day lives due to a disability. These percentages are slightly higher than the Melbourne average; 1.1 per cent and 3 per cent respectively. (<https://profile.id.com.au/geelong/assistance>)

DRAFT MUNICIPAL EARLY YEARS PLAN 2018-2022

IF WE	BY	IT WILL RESULT IN	AND LEAD TO
Provide quality early-childhood services that prepare children to achieve their full potential	Providing training opportunities for our service teams to make sure they are delivering current, evidence-based information to families.	A more consistent approach to service programs and practices Families having access to the most contemporary and useful information	EXCELLENCE & EQUITY
	Delivering services that meet or exceed quality standards.	Children and families having access to reliable, consistent and high quality services that meets their individual needs	
Make support services available and accessible to families	Delivering parenting support programs.	Families feeling supported and connected to services and the wider community	INCREASED EMPOWERMENT & COMPETENCE
	Developing understanding of early years services within the municipality by undertaking service mapping.	More consistent, accessible services and services meeting the specific needs of families within local communities.	
Work together with other service providers to achieve better outcomes for children and families	Embed a culture of collaboration across early years services including; Family Support Agencies, Child Protection services, The Orange Door, Community Health services and Inclusion Support services.	All service levels and expertise coming together to share information, knowledge and resources	SENSE OF COMMUNITY & CONNECTION
	Building infrastructure that supports collaborative (integrated) service delivery, including maintenance and refurbishment of facilities to meet the growing needs of communities.	Easier access for families and a greater sense of community and connectedness	
Embrace new ideas and better ways to work	Identifying business improvement activities that promote best practice service delivery models.	More efficient and sustainable work practices and greater opportunities to embrace innovation and easier access to services, support and information for families	CREATIVITY & SUSTAINABILITY
	Building partnerships for agreed action, and continuous improvement.	A united approach to meeting the needs of a diverse community	
Early childhood services know how to respond and reduce harm related to family violence	Identifying and accessing family violence learning and development programs for our staff.	Increased understanding for staff regarding, the causes of Family Violence. The long term effect of family violence and their role in supporting families and children	SAFETY AND SUPPORT
	Implementing the City's Family Violence policy.	Greater support and assistance for families and staff affected by Family Violence	
Children with the highest need are identified and offered support	Actively seeking opportunities to connect families to all levels of service.	Families receiving individual support in the quickest possible time and with more streamlined referral and access processes	BETTER TARGETED SUPPORTS
	Improving access, participation and engagement through supporting mechanisms that promote information sharing to better plan for the wellbeing of children in out of home care through active collaboration with DHHS. Community Service organisations, DET, MCH, Kindergarten and Early Childhood services.	Children utilising Out of Home Care will receive individually designed support to help meet their specific needs	
Early childhood services are designed with families to be culturally safe and responsive	Fostering relationships between early years services and culturally diverse families, to make sure our services are safe and responsive to their cultural needs.	Increased access to early childhood services by CALD families and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families Greater sense of connectedness to the local and wider community	ENRICHED LIVES & SHARED KNOWLEDGE
	Developing and delivering cultural awareness events and experiences.	Greater understanding, empathy and inclusiveness for staff and families Individuals feeling empowered by having an opportunity to share their experiences, culture and diversity	
Early childhood services are accessible and inclusive	Providing training opportunities to our service teams to meet the diverse needs of our community.	More inclusive early childhood settings Greater awareness of community's needs, wants and desires	INCLUSION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
	Supporting families and children to have equal access to early years programs and services.	An easier transition into services for families, ensuring all children have access to high quality programs and services	

ATTACHMENT 4

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

MUNICIPAL EARLY YEARS PLAN

2018–2022

The City of Greater Geelong acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of the lands in our region the Wathaurong People and pays respect to the Elders past present and emerging

Mayor's Message

Our *Municipal Early Years Plan 2018-2022* outlines how we can improve the health and wellbeing of children aged 0-8 and their families across the Greater Geelong region over the next four years.

With a rapidly increasing population, it's important we continue to provide the services and support for this growing number of families to help children achieve their full potential.

There's a number of different areas we will focus on including advocacy, funding high-quality services, facilitating partnerships and planning infrastructure and services.

The Greater Geelong region is a wonderful place to bring up children. This plan ensures we can continue to improve on our liveability and the support we offer all families.

We will continue to work in partnership with stakeholders to deliver services including maternal and child health, kindergartens, school holiday programs and leisure and recreation facilities, enhancing the lives of children and families in the region.

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Executive Summary

Our *Municipal Early Years Plan 2018–22* aims to improve the health and wellbeing of children aged 0–8 years in the City of Greater Geelong.

The plan is important for the high number of children and families living in our municipality now, as well as those we expect will join us in the next four years. It incorporates feedback from the community engagement process used to develop our Clever and Creative vision, focusing on what is valued by our community and aspirations for the future.

The plan has four themes to guide the practice of early years services over the next four years. These bring together an understanding of our population, the early years' service system, government policies and funding and community aspirations for the next four years.

OUR FOUR THEMES:

- Supporting families to help children achieve their full potential;
- Promoting high-quality, innovative services;
- Providing early and sustained support for those who need it most;
- Providing accessible and inclusive services.

Introduction

Our *Municipal Early Years Plan 2018–22* aims to improve the health and wellbeing of children aged 0–8 years in the City of Greater Geelong

An agreement between the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Department of Education and Training underpins early years planning in all Victorian Councils. In this agreement, Local Government is recognised as a leader for all early years services in the municipality, as well as an important organisation with a broader role to play in building communities.

There is a large population of children and families currently living in the City of Greater Geelong. Forecast population growth should see this increase significantly over the next four years.

While we don't control all the factors affecting the lives of families and children, we do have a close connection with them through:

- the services we provide;
- the organisations we partner with;
- the work we do with other levels of government to represent our community and seek the resources for children and families.

The plan therefore focuses on areas of influence and actions that we can most impact.

Demographic Profile

TOTAL POPULATION – FROM 2016 TO 2036¹

- 238,605 in 2016
- 282,038 in 2026
- 325,779 in 2036

IN 2016:

- 15,301 children aged 0 to 4 years, 6.4 per cent of the population – fourth largest Municipality in Victoria, – expected increase of 3,297 by 2036;
- 14,835 children aged 5 to 9 years, 6.2 per cent of the population – expect an increase of 4,037 by 2036;
- Suburbs which are expected to increase by more than 100 children of 0–4yrs by 2036 are:²
 - Armstrong Creek;
 - Mt Duneed;
 - Marshall and Charlemont;
 - Curlewis;
 - Lovely Banks and Batesford;
 - Herne Hill and Fyansford.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population³

One percent of the municipal population identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander through the Australian Bureau of Statistics census.

The census is usually regarded as showing less than the numbers who live in the municipality. There has been a significant increase from 1,789 in 2011 to 2,411 in 2016.

Culture and Language Diversity⁴

There is a significant variation in the social and economic circumstances of people living in the City of Greater Geelong. We need to consider these differences when planning for services.

Information about these variations can be viewed through the community profile on www.geelongcity.vic.gov.au and is shown in statistics such as the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) and the Australian Early Development Census.

Eleven per cent of our population speak a language other than English at home, with the following being the most frequently spoken languages:

- Italian;
- Croatian;
- Mandarin;
- Persian/Dari;
- Macedonian.

¹ .id the population experts, 2017, population and household forecasts

² Id. community, 2017, City of Greater Geelong; population and age structure map, <https://forecast.id.com.au/geelong/population-age-structure-map>, accessed on <6 June 2018>

³ Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, [Census of Population and Housing](#) 2011 and 2016 (Usual residence). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id, the population experts.

⁴ SEIFA 2016, Census Quick snapshot Geelong, http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/203?opendocument, accessed on <6 June 2018>

The greatest change in language spoken between 2011 and 2016 was an increase in Mandarin, Persian/Dari and Punjabi speakers, and a small reduction in Italian.

In terms of cultural diversity, our top five ancestries for population were:

- English (108,784 people or 28.4 per cent);
- Australian (101,773 people or 26.6 per cent);
- Irish (37,278 people or 9.7 per cent);
- Scottish (32,518 people or 8.5 per cent);
- German (12,555 people or 3.3 per cent).

Family Types

- 31,365 people living in coupled families with dependents (43.1 per cent of households);
- 11,767 people living in one parent families, with dependents (16.2 per cent of households);
- 977 people living in other families (1.3 per cent of households).

Need for Assistance⁵

- 207 children aged 0 to 4 years of age needed assistance due to a severe or profound disability (1.4 per cent of the age group, compared to 1.1 per cent for Greater Melbourne);
- 660 children aged 5 to 9 years of age needed assistance due to a severe or profound disability (4.6 per cent of the age group, compared to 3 per cent for Greater Melbourne).

Age Groups⁶

Greater Geelong has a fairly even spread of people across all age groups, with 'Parents and Homebuilders (35–49 years)' making up the largest segment of the population.

Service age group (years)	Number	%	Greater Melbourne %
Babies and Pre-Schoolers (0 to 4)	14,347	6.1	6.4
Primary Schoolers (5 to 11)	19,725	8.5	8.5
Secondary Schoolers (12 to 17)	16,658	7.1	6.7
Tertiary Education and Independence (18 to 24)	21,579	9.2	10.0
Young Workforce (25 to 34)	29,642	12.7	16.3
Parents and Homebuilders (35 to 49)	44,278	19.0	21.1
Older Workers and Pre-Retirees (50 to 59)	29,764	12.8	11.9
Empty Nesters and Retirees (60 to 69)	27,484	11.8	9.3
Seniors (70 to 84)	23,488	10.1	7.7
Elderly (85 and over)	6,460	2.8	2.0
Total	233,425	100.0	100.0

⁵ City of Greater Geelong Community Profile 2016, Need for assistance with core activity, <https://profile.id.com.au/geelong/assistance>, accessed on <4 June 2018>

⁶ City of Greater Geelong Community Profile 2016, Service Age Groups, <https://profile.id.com.au/geelong/service-age-groups>, accessed on <4 June 2018>

Council's Role in the Early Years

As a Local Government we will work in partnership with families, children and stakeholders to support and provide coordinated services and programs within the Community. We will continue to lead and advocate for services that support children to reach their full potential through innovative services and activities. We will do this through:

Advocating to State and Federal Government to attract the services and infrastructure we need to support our growing population and support vulnerable members of our community;

Funding high-quality and coordinated services for all children in the community, in partnership with others;

Supporting and developing early years professionals in their knowledge, skills and practice;

Facilitating partnerships that result in an integrated approach to delivering services and building relationships with families across the early years;

Planning infrastructure and services to meet the needs of all children and families.

COUNCIL'S DIRECT DELIVERY OF EARLY YEARS SERVICES:

FAMILY SERVICES

Maternal and Child Health

Council provides the Universal Maternal and Child Health (MCH) service across Greater Geelong to all families with children up to the age of 6 years. Families can access support for their child's development through key age stage visits with a MCH nurse. During these visits families have access to information, guidance, support in a range of areas such as breastfeeding, nutrition, growth and development. MCH nurses will also make referrals to other support services.

Outreach

In addition to the Universal MCH program, Council provides an Enhanced Maternal and Child Health service. This service is designed to support children and families with additional needs in the form of targeted actions and interventions.

Further supports offered through the Outreach team include; a parenting assessment and skill development service (PASDS), Stronger Families, and Integrated Family Services which provide a more intensive level of support.

The Outreach team is comprised of multidisciplinary professionals such as MCH nurses, Social Workers, and Early Parenting Educators.

Early Years Management – Kindergarten

Council operates a number of stand alone sessional and integrated Kindergarten programs under the Early Years Management model. As an Early Years Manager we aim to promote a long term vision towards a more integrated and sustainable early childhood strategy. Through building strong and effective governance and facilitating partnership arrangements with key stakeholders we hope to maximise the participation of all eligible children across the municipality.

Early Start Kindergarten- Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) provides eligible three year old children with 15 hours of funded Kindergarten per week. Children eligible for this program must be three years of age and have had contact with Child Protection or children who are Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islanders.

Education and Care

Council owns and operates a range of quality child care options across Greater Geelong. These include integrated child and family centres, long day care centres and stand-alone kindergartens. In addition to these centre based services Council provides Family Day Care and School Holiday Program.

Long Day Care

City Learning and Care centres provide centre based long day education and care programs for children from birth to 6 years. They are located across the municipality. The hours of operation support both working and non-working families.

Family Day Care

Family Day Care (FDC) is a long day care service operated from a qualified educators home. Children are provided with an individual program that supports their educational, emotional, physical, and social development in a safe, stimulating small group environment.

School Holiday Program

The School Holiday Program is a fun, inclusive and flexible program designed for children 5-12 years of age who are attending Primary School. A range of activities and experiences are on offer every day that build upon your child's skills, knowledge and understanding as well as their curiosity and imagination. Professional and qualified staff are on hand to help children build their cooperation skills, respect and independence, all the while ensuring they enjoy their holidays in a safe, fun and welcoming environment.

Playgroup

The Victorian Government provides funding for Council to deliver Supported Playgroups across Greater Geelong. Children and families who may benefit from extra ideas about how to use everyday opportunities and activities to enhance their child's early literacy and learning in the home, will be supported by facilitators to gain skills and confidence to encourage this learning. An important focus is on parent child interactions.

Parenting Programs

Council is funded by the State Government to deliver parenting programs to Greater Geelong and the Western Region. This service aims to strengthen parenting skills and family relationships by ensuring that parents have access to high quality parenting information, skills training and support. A variety of programs supporting parents from early childhood through to the teenage years are available each term across the municipality. These parenting programs are both one off sessions with key note speakers and programs that run for 4-6 weeks with a parenting facilitator guiding the training.

Best Start

Best Start is an early years initiative to support early years services to provide the best possible environment, experiences and care for children from birth to age eight. Best Start partnerships use local data and community knowledge to identify those who are experiencing vulnerability at their sites. Communities and service providers collaborate to address issues as they are experienced at a neighborhood or regional level. Best Start develops a logic model and devises strategies and actions to test through plan, do, study, act cycles. These trial cycles can then influence systemic change and achieve the Best Start outcomes.

PARKS AND GARDENS

Tree Unit

Council has an Urban Forrest Strategy with a focus on community engagement programs that include community tree planting days. An outreach program engages with local primary school children in learning activities about Urban Forests and each child is given a tree to plant.

Botanic Gardens

The Botanic Gardens provide a free, safe, child friendly environment for the Community. This is complimented by the all abilities Playspace and recreational facilities in surrounding Eastern Park. The gardens deliver public programs including activities for children through school education programs, and nature focused school holiday programs for families. Public program events including the Big Play Day and Botanic Gardens Day which are family friendly with activities designed to encourage engagement in nature. The Gardens education program supports professional development through the City's Nature Play Network, introducing playgroup facilitators to learning opportunities for families and professional development for teachers.

LEISURE AND RECREATION SERVICES

Council recognises that the provision and management of leisure, sports and aquatic facilities plays an important role in maintaining personal quality of life and as a result contributes to overall community wellbeing. Families have a range of options provided through the leisure and recreation services to participate with their children in activities that promote health and wellbeing as well as specifically water safe practices.

Webstars Swim School

Webstar's Swim School provides lessons for children from six months of age at Leisurelink, Bellarine Aquatic and Sports Centre, Splashdown and Waterworld with qualified Instructors. Using the Royal Lifesaving Society of Australia's Swim and Survive Program, children learn water safety and survival skills and develop stroke techniques.

School Swimming Lessons

Leisurelink, Bellarine Aquatic and Sports Centre (BASC), Splashdown and Waterworld run lessons for over 50 schools in the Geelong and Bellarine region, providing water safety, survival skills to children in the local community.

Aquatic Family Fun

A wide range of aquatic activities to keep children entertained including waterparks, splashpads, waterslides and aquatic inflatables, aquatic fun activities suited for toddlers through to teenagers.

Crèche and Occasional Care

Fully registered Creches are located onsite at each of the Leisure Centres catering for children from six weeks to school age allowing parents/guardians the ability to focus on their health and wellbeing whilst their children are cared for in a safe and nurturing environment.

Kids Fitness Programs

Leisure and Recreation programs for children include: Junior Soccer, Gymnastics and Toddler Play at the Bellarine Aquatic and Sports Centre. Children are taught by qualified coaches assisting children to learn agility, co-ordination social interaction, and skills and drills, in a fun, safe social environment.

Events

Council co-ordinators a series of child and family events based on significant national days and weeks, such as Children's Week and National Playgroup week. This meets a key priority in supporting activities to improve social connections in our community.

DIRECT PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Council provides a range of infrastructure that supports children and families across Greater Geelong. This includes outdoor play spaces, bike paths, kindergarten and playgroup facilities, libraries and sport and leisure centres. Council is also responsible for the planning and development of new infrastructure for children and families, which includes the building of integrated children's centres.

Over 95 Council buildings accommodate children's services in:

- 6 Long Day Care Centres;
- 5 Integrated Child and Family Centres;
- 30 Kindergartens;
- 15 Maternal and Child Health Centres;
- 15 Community Centres/Halls – playgroups;
- 9 Leisure Centres – swim lessons, children's sport and recreation programs, etc.
- 13 Cultural Centres/Public Libraries – story-time sessions, children's educational programs.

Parenting Services Mapping

Council undertakes a direct role in gathering and maintaining information about the parenting programs available across Greater Geelong. This is done in collaboration with agencies and organisations across the municipality who provide Parenting Services. The Parenting Services mapping will ensure that programs are not duplicated and provide agencies with information to strategically plan programs and provide support to those who need it most.

Integration of Services

Council takes a proactive role in establishing and supporting the development of Integrated Child and Family Centres across the Municipality. These Centres are designed to house a range of services, such as; Child Care, Kindergarten, Maternal and Child Health, Playgroups, Parenting Support, allied health services and early intervention services.

In addition to physical infrastructure that supports integration, Council is committed to developing *integrated service systems*. This includes partnerships between stakeholders, relationships with families, shared program delivery and connections with the community.

Our Clever and Creative Community Engagement

“By 2047, Greater Geelong will be internationally recognised as a Clever and Creative City-Region that is forward-looking, enterprising and adaptive, and cares for its people and environment.”

An extensive community engagement process took place in 2017 to develop a 30-year community vision for our region.

Representing the voices of more than 16,000 members of our community, Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future is a guide for all levels of government, community organisations, businesses and anyone wanting to make a genuine contribution to our city-region.

This engagement process was used to inform our *Municipal Early Years Plan 2018-22*.

Included are samples of feedback collected during the engagement process, organised according to the community aspiration it helped inform.

As many of these themes are relevant to improving the health and wellbeing of children and their families, we have included them as influences in the development of our plan.

GREATER GEELONG: A CLEVER AND CREATIVE FUTURE - ASPIRATIONS



A prosperous economy
that supports jobs and
education opportunities



People feel safe
wherever they are



An inclusive, diverse,
healthy and socially
connected community

Council Plan 2018-2022

COUNCIL PLAN: IMPROVE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY

KEY PRIORITIES:	COMMENTS
- Showing leadership in gender equity, diversity and family violence prevention; - Improving safety in our community; - Promoting healthy eating and supporting active living; - Creating healthy environments in children's settings.	<i>"A safe environment for our kids and their kids to grow up in."</i> <i>"Child friendly cities are safer cities."</i> <i>"Safe family-friendly environment."</i> <i>"A thriving community (that) people want to call home. They feel included as there are activities for all age groups. Plenty of open areas to encourage outdoor family activities."</i>

COUNCIL PLAN: A MORE INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY

KEY PRIORITIES:	COMMENTS
- Improving our engagement with our culturally diverse population; - Supporting activities that improve social connections in our community; - Improving access to facilities and programs for people of all abilities; - Advocating for inclusive, multicultural activities and respect for cultural diversity.	<i>"My vision for Geelong is to see more places for families to go and see, and say Geelong is a fantastic town to be in and live."</i> <i>"My hope for the Geelong region is that it will be a place where my children want to live and bring up their families."</i> <i>"Increased disability and child/young person friendly access."</i>

COUNCIL PLAN: ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP, STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE

KEY PRIORITIES:	COMMENTS
- Communicating and engaging more effectively with the community, in areas of need; - Using data and analytics to make better decisions; - Making our processes more effective and efficient; - Leading major local organisations in collaborative projects	<i>"A vibrant, eclectic, safe creative, prosperous and family friendly community."</i> <i>"More activities and engagement for children and young people."</i>

Our Plan for 2018–2022

THEME ONE: SUPPORTING FAMILIES TO HELP CHILDREN ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

We recognise the shared role that families and the community play in helping children achieve their full potential. Engaged parenting and positive early experiences build a good foundation for healthy adults and have been shown to reduce ill health and poor social outcomes in later life.

What you told us

You want a safe environment for children to grow up in and a family-oriented culture.

Strategy	Action
Provide quality early-childhood services that prepare children to achieve their full potential.	Provide training opportunities for our service teams to make sure they are delivering current, evidence-based information to families.
	Deliver services that meet or exceed quality standards.
Make support services available and accessible to families.	Deliver parenting support programs.
	Develop understanding of early years services within the municipality by undertaking service mapping.

THEME TWO: PROMOTE HIGH-QUALITY, INNOVATIVE SERVICES

We want to support early years professionals to deliver high-quality, integrated services across the municipality. This will only be possible if we work collaboratively with the broad range of different organisations offering early years services in our region.

What you told us

You value access to quality services, health services and a strong sense of community.

Strategy	Action
Work together with other service providers to achieve better outcomes for children and families.	Embedding a culture of collaboration across early years services including; Family Support agencies, Child Protection services, The Orange Door, Community Health services and Inclusion Support services.
	Build infrastructure that supports collaborative (integrated) service delivery, including maintenance and refurbishment of facilities to meet growing needs of communities.
Embrace new ideas and better ways to work.	Identify business improvement activities that promote best practice service delivery models.
	Build partnerships for agreed action, and continuous improvement.

THEME THREE: PROVIDE EARLY AND SUSTAINED SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

Evidence from international research shows that interventions in the early years can improve lifelong outcomes for children and reduce the impact of disadvantage. We therefore need to focus on improving access to services and support for vulnerable children and their families.

What you told us

You value living in a community that supports vulnerable community members and has clean, safe and fun environments for everyone.

Strategy	Action
Early childhood services know how to respond and reduce harm related to family violence.	Identify and access family violence learning and development programs. Implement the City's Family Violence policy.
Children with the highest need are identified and offered support.	Actively seek opportunities to connect families to all levels of service. Improving access, participation, and engagement through supporting mechanisms that promote information sharing to better plan for the wellbeing of children in out of home care through active collaboration with DHHS, Community Service organisations, DET, MCH, Kindergarten and Early Childhood services.

THEME FOUR: PROVIDE ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE SERVICES

We live in a diverse community and, as such, need to make sure that our services are accessible and inclusive of all children and their families. Our aim is to work with other services to strengthen knowledge and improve responsiveness to cultural and other accessibility issues.

What you told us

You value living in a community where there is community vibrancy, diversity and inclusiveness.

Strategy	Action
Early childhood services are designed with families to be culturally safe and responsive.	Foster relationships between early years services and culturally diverse families, to make sure our services are safe and responsive to their cultural needs.. Develop and deliver cultural awareness events and experiences. .
Early childhood services are accessible and inclusive.	Provide training opportunities to our service teams to meet the diverse needs of our community. Support families and children to have equal access to programs and services.

What Statistics Tell Us:

Theme 1: Supporting families to help children achieve their full potential

- Kindergarten attendance is higher than the Victorian average;
- School achievement levels are close to Victorian averages;
- 92 per cent of children are fully immunised by five years of age, which is close to the Victorian average.

Theme 2: Promote high quality innovative services

- There are more than 500 early years services within the municipality, and links with schools and other services;
- In 2014, 93.6 per cent of year three students met national standards in literacy, compared to 94.6 per cent in Victoria;
- More than 84 per cent of our children report being connected to their school, compared to 85.7 per cent in Victoria.

Theme 3: Provide early and sustained support for those who need it most

- When children in our region started full-time school in 2015, 17.8 per cent were 'developmentally vulnerable' in one or more areas (see Appendix 1). The Victorian and Australian averages are higher (19.9 per cent and 22 per cent respectively), however this figure still equates to 5,364 children in our region.
- In 2011, the rate of children aged 0–17 years in out-of-home care in Greater Geelong was 6.3 per cent (per 1000 children), which was higher than the Victorian average of 4.6 per cent.
- In 2011, the rate of children aged 0–17 years on Child Protection Orders in Greater Geelong was 7.9 per cent (per 1000 children), compared to 5.2 per cent in Victoria.

Theme 4: Provide accessible and inclusive services

- One percent of the municipal population identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in the year 2016, Australian Bureau of Statistics Census. There was a significant increase – from 2,010 to 2,713 in total – from 2011 to 2016.⁷
- In 2016, 207 children aged 0 to 4 years (1.4 per cent), and 660 children aged 5 to 9 years (4.6 per cent), needed help in their day-to-day lives due to a disability. These percentages are slightly higher than the Melbourne average (1.1 per cent and 3 per cent respectively).

⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Quick Snapshot, http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/203?opendocument, <accessed on 4 June 2018>

Government Policy

National, State and Local Government Policy and Planning influences how we support Children and Families in our Municipality.

Following is a list of the Policies and Frameworks taken into account to formulate this plan:

National policy and planning

National Quality Framework	Provides national standards for all services, which are assessed by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Agency.
National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education	An agreement between national and state governments to fund a minimum 15 hours of kindergarten for all children in Australia.
Jobs for Families Childcare Package	A financial package available for families to support them in accessing employment, volunteering or education. Additional payments are available for families experiencing hardship, or those caring for children with additional needs.

State and local policy and planning

<i>Early Childhood Reform Plan, The Education State</i> Department of Education and Training, May 2017	Comprehensive policy statement which outlines a shared approach to policy for the early years. This plan includes funding and policy guidelines for Maternal and Child Health, Kindergartens, parental involvement and transitions for children between services. Policy includes both infrastructure and service funding commitments.
Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework	A framework guiding the practice and curriculum of professionals in early years services and setting standards for high quality care and transition to school.
Early Year Management Framework	Sets out the background and context of Early Years Management and provides detailed operational information.
Supporting Children and Families in the Early Years: a Compact between the Department of Education and Training, Department of Health and Human Services and Local Government (represented by the Municipal Association of Victoria)	An agreement between State and Local Governments, which recognises the important role local government plays in connecting with families and planning for early years services at the local level, including through the Maternal and Child Health service.
<i>Roadmap to Reform: strong families, safe children</i> State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services, April 2016	Comprehensive policy focused on the needs of vulnerable children and their families and ensuring that mainstream services, including early years, are accessible and meet the needs of vulnerable children.
<i>Ending Family Violence – Victoria's plan for change</i> State of Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet 2017	The Victorian Governments primary prevention strategy to stop violence before it happens
<i>Early Childhood Agreement for Children in Out of Home Care</i> Victorian Government, DHHS, DET, MAV & ELLA	The Early Childhood Agreement for Children in Out-of-Home Care aims to support the development and wellbeing of young children in OoHC.
<i>City of Greater Geelong Council Plan 2018–2022</i>	The Plan sets out our City's vision and identifies strategic directions, priorities and strategies to ensure the Geelong region remains the best place to live, today and into the future.

National policy and planning

<i>Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future</i>	This Vision will guide us to be a city-region that is forward looking, enterprising and adaptive, caring for its people and environment.
<i>City of Greater Geelong Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan</i>	This plan guides us to ensure the health and wellbeing of the local communities forms part of our work.
<i>City of Greater Geelong Disability action plan 2014-17</i>	This plan provides guidance in addressing access and inclusion issues within the municipality.
<i>City of Greater Geelong Multicultural Action Plan</i>	This Plan provides strategic direction and guidance to Council to think, plan and deliver an inclusive response to the diverse needs of an increasing culturally diverse population.

Implementation

As well as guiding our actions over the next four years – from 2018 to 2022 – this plan will be shared with other Organisations delivering services to children and families within the Municipality. Actions will be incorporated into our Annual Business Plan, and the City will measure and report on achievements annually.

Appendix 1

ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENSUS DOMAINS

The Australian version of the Early Development Instrument consists of approximately 100 questions across five key domains, which are closely linked to child health, education and social outcomes. The domains are:

- physical health and wellbeing
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive skills (school-based)
- communication skills and general knowledge.

For each of the five domains, children receive a score between zero and ten, where zero is most developmentally vulnerable.

Australian Early Development Census results are reported as percentage of children who are considered to be 'developmentally on track', 'developmentally at risk' and 'developmentally vulnerable' on each domain.

These domains have been shown to predict children's later outcomes in health, wellbeing and academic success.

3. ACCESS AND INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

Source:	Community Life – Connected Communities
Acting Director:	Robyn Stevens
Portfolio	An Inclusive and Diverse Community

Purpose

To seek Council endorsement of the *Access and Inclusion Action Plan 2018-22* following a period of community consultation.

Background

The first *Disability Action Plan* in the City of Greater Geelong was adopted in 2002. Since then, there have been regular updates to the plan and from this year it will be referred to as the *Access and Inclusion Action Plan* to reflect the current sector approach.

Each plan has promoted access and inclusion for people with disability in all parts of community and civic life, but with a particular focus on reducing barriers for people with disability in accessing goods and services and employment, promoting participation in community life and reducing discrimination.

Key achievements from the 2014-17 plan include: installation of Changing Places and adult change facilities, Johnstone Park accessibility improvements, Geelong Revival Festival distributing postcards featuring local artists with a disability, the Access All Areas Film festival, Geelong Regional Library and Heritage Centre exhibition: *One Million Stars to End Violence*, and Mobility Access Directories developed and available to the community.

Key Issues

- The City of Greater Geelong's *Access and Inclusion Action Plan 2018-22* (AIAP) – **Attachment 2** – is the City's commitment to upholding the rights of equal and dignified access for all persons in accordance with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.
- The AIAP has been developed to meet legislative requirements and will be registered with the Australian Human Rights Commission, where it must be taken into account in any complaints that may be made against the City in relation to disability discrimination.
- A fully accessible community has immediate benefits for the whole of community. Embracing the concept of universal design and an accessible environment offers the opportunity for participation and inclusion for all people regardless of ability.
- Community input has confirmed the following priority areas: Access, Inclusion, Employment and Inclusive attitudes.

Cr Grzybek moved, Cr Aitken seconded -

That Council endorse the *Access and Inclusion Action Plan 2018-22*.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

The 2018-19 budget includes an allocation of \$29,500 to support implementation activities associated with the AIAP. A budget submission will be made for subsequent years.

In addition, the long-term recurrent funding for Building Inclusive Communities (formerly Rural Access) from the Department of Health and Human Services of \$289,000 per annum will cease in June 2019. Short-term project based funding will become available from the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), and Council will need to determine what resources that will provide and what additional funding will be required to maintain our commitment to community members with disabilities.

Community Engagement

The opportunity to contribute comments and feedback during the development of the *Access and Inclusion Action Plan* has been widely promoted through a range of networks including: Council staff, community groups, advocacy bodies, service providers, social and print media, the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee and the disability community.

The community has engaged strongly with the draft plan, demonstrated by 658 page views on Council's website, the document being downloaded 139 times and 10 submissions received. Facebook elicited 170 reactions, 21 shares and two submissions and there were a further two submissions received via email.

A summary of the submissions and officer responses is included – refer **Attachment 3**. General themes for feedback related to improving community access in areas such as transport and parking, shopping, entertainment, Changing Places (adult change facilities) and playgrounds. Improving access to employment through advocacy, community safety, public education and residential care for younger people with disability also featured in the feedback comments. The feedback supports the themes and priorities identified in the AIAP and detailed annual action planning will enable delivery of programs and events that respond to the priorities and the community feedback.

Social Equity Considerations

Implementation of the AIAP will continue to embed opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in community life, and for the community to be enriched by their inclusion. It is also expected there will be a flow-on to the wider community of understanding and consideration for the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life. The AIAP aims to promote the development of sustainable organisational structures to help minimise access and inclusion issues and looks to achieve this goal through Council's social equity principles:

- All our activities will be informed by up-to-date demographic and geographic information on social equity in the region to identify priority areas and groups for attention.
- All activities planning will be informed by effective, focused partnerships and engagement with priority groups and areas, aimed at fully understanding the particular needs and obstacles experienced in accessing services and facilities.
- Service and infrastructure design, location, communication and support arrangements will address the particular needs and obstacles faced by priority areas and groups.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

Section 38 of the *Disability Act 2006* specifies that a public sector body must ensure that a disability action plan is prepared for the purpose of:

- Reducing barriers to persons with a disability accessing goods, services and facilities.
- Reducing barriers to persons with a disability obtaining and maintaining employment.
- Promoting inclusion and participation in the community of persons with a disability.
- Achieving tangible changes in attitudes and practices which discriminate against persons with a disability.

Council's AIAP specifies the actions Council will take to reduce discrimination of people with disabilities in these areas.

Alignment to Council Plan

The AIAP aligns to the Council Plan strategic priority to 'create a more inclusive and diverse community'. A key strategy to achieve this is improving access to facilities and programs for people of all abilities. The actions in the AIAP will support the delivery of this priority.

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of any aspect of this report has any direct or indirect conflicts of interest.

Risk Assessment

The AIAP will enable Council to address its statutory requirements in addressing barriers for participation for people with disability, and may also be viewed as a mitigating circumstance in any instance of a claim.

Environmental Implications

Not applicable.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

ACCESS AND INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2018–22

—
DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION –
A MORE ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY
FOR EVERYONE



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FOREWORD

The community has a clever and creative aspiration to create an inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.

This is a strong validation of Council's commitment to working towards full equality for people with a lived experience of disability.

In the Greater Geelong region, over 14,000 people need help in their day-to-day lives due to disability and this figure will only grow with an ageing and increasing population.

We must become a leader in accessibility by making sure everyone in our community has access to goods, services and facilities and can participate in community life in a region that has overwhelmingly inclusive attitudes.

This is important because when we improve the opportunity for everyone to participate and be included, we have a stronger community.

This plan includes practical priorities including improving access to council buildings and better roads and footpaths. We need to offer multiple options for communication and increase connectivity, availability and accessibility of public transport. Community events also have an important role to play in bringing the community together, so we must make sure everyone is aware of events and able to access them.

We're determined to help shape Greater Geelong as a place where people with a lived experience of

disability are empowered to be active contributors in our society. There is no limit to what can be achieved when our community is equitable, inclusive and accessible to all.



Mayor Bruce Harwood
City of Greater Geelong

1. INTRODUCTION

Representing the voices of more than 16,000 members of our community, Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future is our community's vision to guide government, community organisations, businesses and anyone wanting to make a genuine contribution to our city-region. Council Plan 2018–22 represents the City of Greater Geelong's contribution to delivering on the vision over the next four years.

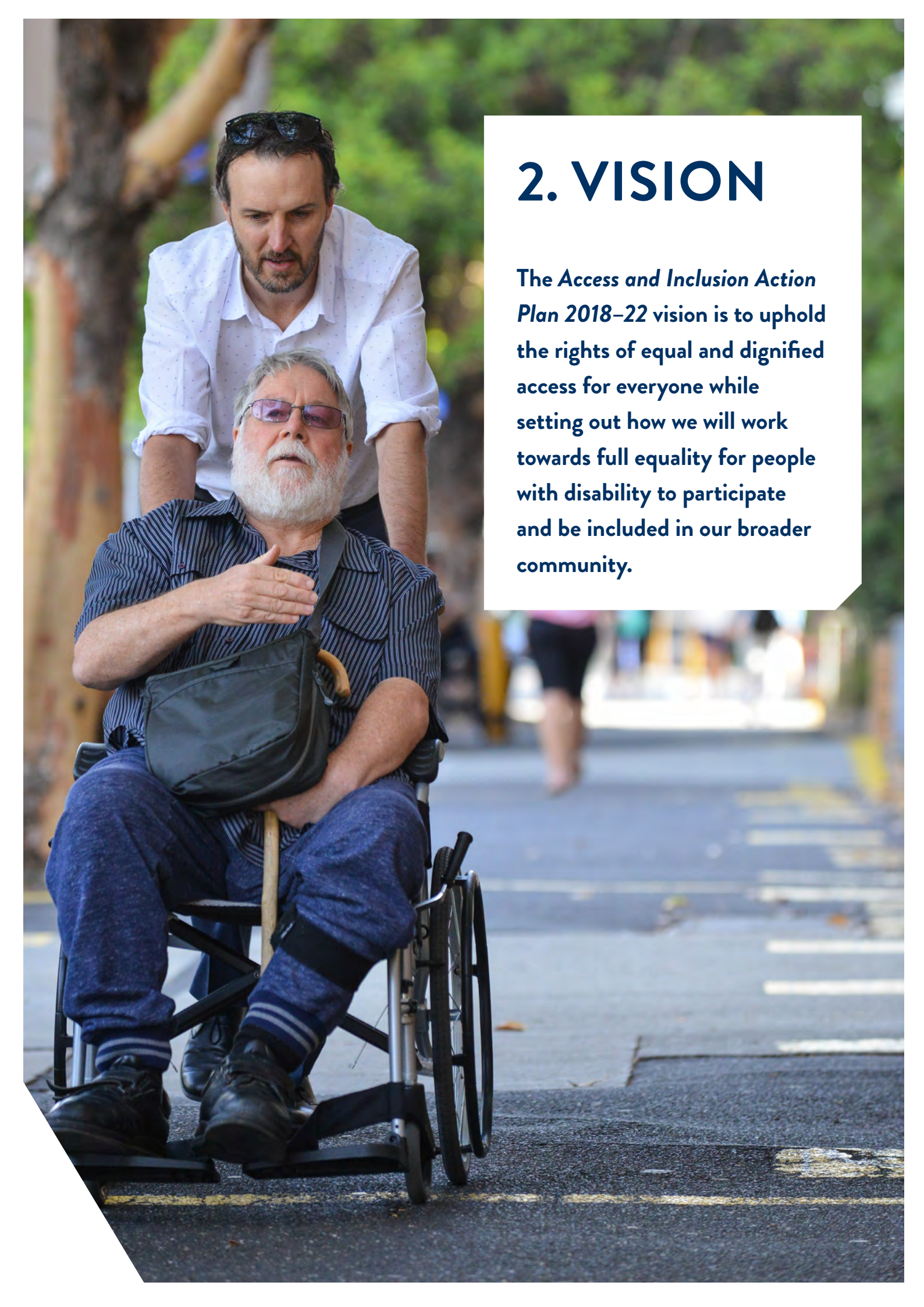
The Access and Inclusion Action Plan also contributes to and supports Geelong's UNESCO City of Design designation. This Action Plan supports Geelong's commitment to the UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN) Sustainable Development Goal #11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities. The UCCN has a vision for a better more sustainable future, and we see this Action Plan as one of the City's commitments to delivering a better community, one in which all people have equal rights and access to the opportunities Greater Geelong can offer.

We are excited to present our *Access and Inclusion Action Plan 2018–22*. It links strongly to the above documents by:

1. delivering on the community aspiration to work towards 'An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community' by making sure that:
 - a. our public areas and local services are accessible to people of all levels of ability
 - b. we have a strong sense of community and support our vulnerable members
 - c. our city is designed for people
 - d. accessible transport options connect people within the city-region
2. developing a consistent approach to getting things done while working together to address our access and inclusion challenges and opportunities
3. promoting thinking and action focused on access, participation and inclusion for everyone
4. the opportunity to promote the Action Plan and collaborate with the members of the UCCN to help achieve strategic priority goals and measures.

This Action Plan outlines the background and legislative context, plus the review and consultation process we undertook in its development. It identifies priority areas for success and explains how we will measure our impact in each area.

The achievements of the previous Plan are included in Appendix A.



2. VISION

The Access and Inclusion Action Plan 2018–22 vision is to uphold the rights of equal and dignified access for everyone while setting out how we will work towards full equality for people with disability to participate and be included in our broader community.

3. ACTION PLAN DRIVERS

3.1 UPHOLDING HUMAN RIGHTS

Australia is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006, ratified in 2008. The general principles of the convention include:

- respect for inherent dignity
- individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices
- independence of persons, and full and effective participation and inclusion in society
- respect for difference
- acceptance of persons with disabilities
- accessibility.

The *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006)* protects 20 fundamental human rights. These provide the foundation of an inclusive society that values human dignity, equality and freedom. The City of Greater Geelong considers all facets of human rights in our actions, policies, services and local laws. We are responsible for applying these principles in the broader community to promote positive values and a culture of inclusion that respects human rights.

3.2 IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING DISCRIMINATION

This Action Plan aims to address and respond to all forms of discrimination against people with a disability.

Discrimination is defined as treating people with a disability less favourably than people without the disability would be treated under the same circumstances (**direct discrimination**).

Discrimination also exists where there is a condition or requirement imposed that may be the same for everyone, but which unfairly excludes or disadvantages people with a disability (**indirect discrimination**).

It is also unlawful to discriminate against a person because their associates (family, carers, partners and so on) have a disability.

Treating people with a disability differently, where it is reasonably intended to ensure that they have equal opportunities or to meet their specific needs, is not unlawful discrimination.

4. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY CONTEXT

We developed the *Access and Inclusion Action Plan 2018–22* in line with the *Disability Discrimination Act* (1992), a landmark legislation enshrining the rights of equal and dignified access for everyone. Part 3 of the *Disability Discrimination Act* (1992) sets out development of policies, programs, goals and targets to identify and remedy discriminatory practices.

This Action Plan will be registered with the Australian Human Rights Commission, where it must be taken into account in any complaints made against the City in relation to disability discrimination.

The *National Disability Strategy 2010–20* sets out ways to work towards equal rights for people with disability to participate and be included in the broader community. Legislation and codes supporting and guiding the strategy:

- *Disability Act 2006*
- *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- Australian Human Rights Commission.



5. GUIDING PRINCIPLES: UNIVERSAL DESIGN AND BEST PRACTICE

Universal Design is a philosophy that creates products, buildings, environments and experiences that are usable and effective for everyone, and accessible to as many people as possible. This use and access is regardless of a person's age, level of ability, cultural background, or any other factors that contribute to the diversity of our communities.

Best practice has been defined as structures and environments that comply with Universal Design principles and meet the needs of the widest possible range of people. These principles guide the City's information, products, services, buildings, facilities, communication and engagement. They will support improved outcomes for access and inclusion for the whole community.

Through the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, we are focusing more on the principles of Universal Design to inform best practice. We have been moving towards providing buildings and environments that go beyond minimum standards. For example, we have implemented Changing Places and Adult Change Facilities at:

- Leisurelink – two adult change facilities (2009)
- Vines Road Community Centre (2010)
- Norlane Family and Child Centre (2015)
- Geelong Library & Heritage Centre (2015)
- Leopold Community Hub (under construction, to be completed late 2018)
- Installation of Marveloo.



6. THE BENEFITS OF ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVE PRACTICES

A fully accessible community benefits everyone. When we embrace Universal Design concepts, we improve the opportunity for participation and inclusion for everyone, including:

- people who have a permanent disability
- people who have a temporary disability due to an accident or illness
- people who are ageing and may have reduced mobility, be hard of hearing, have low vision or altered cognitive functioning
- people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities who may have challenges speaking and/or understanding English
- carers, families, including parents and grandparents who are caring for children and using prams and strollers
- people who are using other mobility aids such as manual wheelchairs, shopping trolleys, and electric mobility devices including scooters
- people who have mental health challenges
- business owners and workplaces.



7. CURRENT SITUATION

7.1 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY IN OUR REGION

Greater Geelong is located 75 kilometres south west of Melbourne, with a population of more than 244,000 people.



**PEOPLE
NEEDED HELP
IN THEIR DAY-
TO-DAY LIVES**

*2016 Census



IN THE G21 AREA,

**17,568
PEOPLE**

**REPORTED NEEDING
HELP IN THIS AREA
OF THEIR LIVES**

(Profile ID).

These statistics do not take into account future planning. We need to think about an ageing population, people with temporary disability, and people who may have difficulties in their day-to-day lives but do not yet identify as needing help.

Between census data gathered in 2011 and 2016, the reported need for help in our region increased for the following age groups:

- 20 to 59 years of age (+714 persons)
- 10 to 19 years of age (+324 persons)
- 5 to 9 years of age (+227 persons)

This increase, particular at younger age brackets, highlights that we must grow our response to meet the needs within our community.

7.2 NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME (NDIS)

The NDIS is a funding framework providing support to Australians with a disability, their families and carers. It will provide about 460,000 Australians under the age of 65 with a permanent and significant disability with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to live an ordinary life. Since our *Disability Action Plan 2014–17*, much has changed. The NDIS national office and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) are sited in Geelong and the Barwon Trial Site was established here. The scheme transforms support for people with disability, reforming the way disability agencies deliver their services. The City will continue to work with NDIA and NDIS delivery partners to make sure the services they provide are adequate for a growing population of people with disability.



7.3 SUPPORT FOR CARERS

According to the new *Victorian Carer Strategy 2018–22*:

- there are more than 736,600 carers in Victoria
- 239,100 of them are primary carers
- 70 per cent of primary carers are female
- nearly 38 per cent of primary carers have a disability themselves (compared with 16 per cent of non-carers).

Carers give support to those who need it most. We will work with local carers in Greater Geelong to support the five priority areas identified in the *Victorian Carer Strategy 2018–22*:

- carers have better health and wellbeing
- carers are supported in school, study and work environments
- carers can access support and services that meet their needs
- carers have less financial stress
- carers are recognised, acknowledged and respected.

7.4 ACCESSIBILITY OF PUBLIC AREAS

Our Social Infrastructure Plan outlines four overarching themes to guide the City's future decision-making about public areas. Public buildings need to be:

- accessible
- equitable
- adaptable
- sustainable.

Our current and future challenges relating to access to public areas include:

- ageing buildings in need of repair or renewal
- providing facilities equitably across our communities
- providing facilities in new housing areas.

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR COMMUNITY BUILDINGS INCLUDES:



137

SPORTS
PAVILIONS



14

LIBRARIES



6

AQUATIC
CENTRES



15

COMMUNITY
MEETING
ROOMS AND
HALLS



15

NEIGHBOUR-
HOOD
HOUSES/
COMMUNITY
CENTRES



18

SENIOR
CITIZENS
FACILITIES

7.5 IMPROVING ACCESS TO BUSINESS

Access to the built environment prevents some people from fully participating in the life of our community. They may be unable to go about everyday business and have access to places like shops, businesses, cafés, entertainment venues, libraries and office buildings. While applying Universal Design can change the physical environment over time, having community knowledge and support is important to understanding how to make shops and offices accessible.

The Geelong Mobility Access Directory has been valuable in approaching local business owners to talk about disability access and gain listings for the directory. Over the four years covered by our *Disability Action Plan 2014–17*, the directory website had 19,032 hits.

7.6 CREATING A MORE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

The Victorian Government Inquiry into Social Inclusion and Victorians with Disability (2014) addressed the challenge of promoting an inclusive attitude in the community. Its initiatives include broad-based media campaigns, specific campaigns and community building work to raise awareness by 'breaking down stereotypes and educating people about the issues and experiences of people with disability and developing the skills to address their needs'.

The focus is creating an inclusive community through positive behaviour change. Absolutely Everyone *State Disability Plan 2017–20* 'Inclusive Communities' pillar lists all the factors that help a person feel included. Action areas include changing attitudes, Universal Design and community infrastructure. At a local level, creating a community that promotes participation and inclusion takes a whole-of-council approach.

This Action Plan sets out commitments and actions across our organisation to achieve this goal through our social inclusion principles:

- All our activities will be informed by up-to-date demographic and geographic information on social equity in the region to identify priority areas and groups for attention.
- All activities planning will be informed by effective, focused partnerships and engagement with priority groups and areas, aimed at fully understanding the particular needs and obstacles experienced in accessing services and facilities.
- Service and infrastructure design, location, communication and support arrangements will address the particular needs and obstacles faced by priority areas and groups.

7.7 TRANSPORT

Together with our Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, we have maintained an active advocacy role with Public Transport Victoria (PTV) and V/Line to work with and influence provision of public transport across Greater Geelong. This process has:

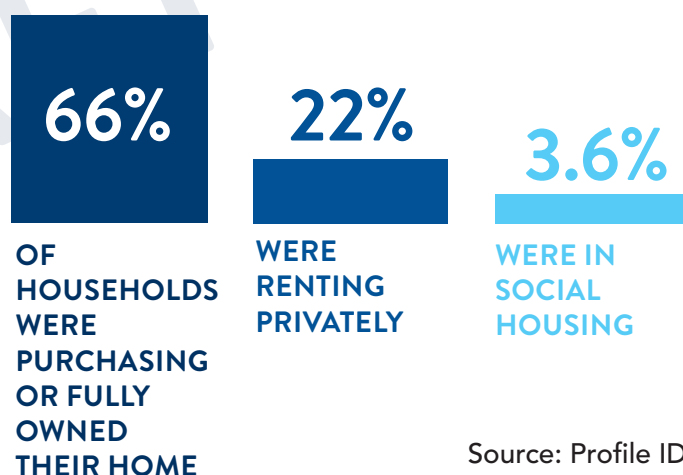
- influenced planning around local bus routes
- highlighted the need for means of independent boarding of trains for people with disability
- requested that the organisations invest in disability awareness training.

Works costing \$7.3 million at Geelong Railway Station now provide a lift to platforms two and three, accessible toilets, and amenities meeting standards for people with disabilities. Our Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee has joined the V/Line Advisory Committee to have further input into accessible use of local transport options.

7.8 HOUSING

Research and statistical data highlights that there is a 60 per cent chance that a house will be occupied by a person with a disability at some point over its life. While there are no census figures available on suitability of housing for people with disability, access to live-in and visit housing has been anecdotally identified as a future challenge. Increasing the livable housing stock within Greater Geelong is a priority.

According to the 2016 Census, in Greater Geelong:



Source: Profile ID

Livable Housing Australia (LHA) partners community, consumer groups, government and industry to increase livable housing. LHA has identified seven core design elements that make a livable home easy to enter, easy to navigate in and around, capable of easy and cost effective adaptation, and responsive to the changing needs of home occupants.

Over the next 12 months, we will develop the City of Greater Geelong *Social Housing Plan 2018–36* to establish the City's position and role in influencing and supporting affordable housing outcomes.

Development of the plan will consult and consider the needs of specific population groups, including people with disability.

7.9 EMPLOYMENT

The 2016 Census found these statistics for Greater Geelong:

- 6.4 per cent unemployment rate, against 6.6 per cent for Victoria and 6.4 per cent nationally
- 58 per cent participation rate (population in labour force), against 60 per cent for Victoria and 60 per cent nationally
- some 103,580 people employed, 57 per cent working full time and 41 per cent part time.

The Victorian Government Inquiry into Social Inclusion and Victorians with Disability (2014) found that:

‘People with disability continue to participate at low levels in the workforce due to negative attitudes and barriers that prevent them from fully contributing to the best of their potential’.

The City of Greater Geelong is committed to using our various workforce initiatives to provide opportunities to community members with disabilities.

8. PRIORITIES

The four priority areas for this Action Plan are:

ACCESS

Improve access to the built environment including council buildings, cultural facilities, roads, footpaths and parking; continue to expand the Changing Places and accessible toilets strategies; advocate for continued improvements to accessible transport through PTV and VicRoads.

INCLUSION

Provide alternative communication options such as key community events such as Christmas in Geelong, Carols by Candlelight and New Years Eve events; provide hearing loops at City Hall; increase Universal Communication Accreditation for the City's Customer Service; continue to expand on the Changing Places Strategies and promote Marveloo - for inclusion at

events across Greater Geelong and the Bellarine.

EMPLOYMENT

Identify and reduce the barriers to employment by providing Disability Awareness Training to all council staff via online training modules and direct contact; provision of workplace reasonable adjustment and support where required.

INCLUSIVE ATTITUDES

Foster an inclusive culture by developing and implementing community campaigns, events and strategies that acknowledge the skills and successes of people with a lived experience of disability.



9. STRATEGIC PRIORITY GOALS AND MEASURES

9.1 ACCESS

***Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future* defines success in this area as ‘public areas and local services that are accessible to all levels of ability’.**

The recently adopted *Council Plan 2018–22* lists the following strategic priorities (along with specific actions) to provide a commitment to access for all the community:

- informed social infrastructure and planning
- a more inclusive and diverse community
- planned sustainable development
- growing our tourism and events.

Our *Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan* aims to make sure our services for older adults and people with disability are adequate for a growing population.

This Action Plan’s strategic priorities include a focus on reducing barriers to goods, services and facilities for people with disability.

ACCESS AND INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2018–22 GOALS:

- Ensure facilities, buildings, environments and experiences are accessible to everyone.
- Provide more accessible public urban space.
- Increase number of community facilities with accessible toilets or adult change facilities.
- Provide a grants scheme to fund community groups, and initiatives that promote inclusion and accessibility.
- Make sure housing supply, diversity and affordability can meet the needs of our growing community.
- Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine to:
 - inform and educate tourism businesses to become more inclusive of people with disabilities – both as customers and staff
 - provide one-to-one mentoring to 110 businesses around access and inclusion
 - launch a marketing campaign to build awareness of the businesses and region as a welcoming place for people with disabilities.
- Update the City’s parking app with more capability and functions that will benefit all, and in particular people with a disability.
- In partnership with Barwon Disability Resource Centre and other stakeholders, continue to revise and develop existing Access Maps to improve functionality and ease of use.
- Develop a strategic plan for Changing Places to identify priority locations.
- Market and implement the Marveloo (portable self-contained adult change facility) for events.
- Investigate opportunities to promote and influence accessible design of communities and buildings through the planning scheme and building codes.
- Deliver the Geelong Accessible Cities project in partnership with key stakeholders.

OUR CHECKLIST FOR MEASURING SUCCESS:

- Planning and design of the Northern ARC Health and Wellbeing Hub completed.
- Up to five public toilet facilities with accessible toilets built or replaced per year.
- Bridge upgrades as identified and priority projects identified in the Footpath Customer Commitments Register completed.
- Available funding for identified footpath works in Central Geelong fully expended.
- All engineering design projects meet the design specifications with consideration of relevant Australian Standards, Infrastructure Design Manual and, where applicable, VicRoads standards.
- Report on number and funding provided by the Community Investment and Support Fund to projects that promote access and inclusion for people with disabilities.
- City of Greater Geelong Social Housing Plan 2018–36 completed.
- City of Greater Geelong Parking App updated and available for use.
- Strategic plan and scope for locations of future Changing Places throughout municipality completed.
- Marveloo implementation and use within Greater Geelong evaluated.
- Multi-platform online application for the Central Geelong Waterfront Map developed.
- Number of home modifications to enable improved external access (ramps, grab rails) to enable a client to mobilise safely.
- Number of clients who are referred to Diversitat Access and Support Officer.
- 450 tourism businesses received tailored information or attended training sessions on inclusion, with 110 businesses having undertaken one-to-one mentoring.
- Measure of City staff who have completed online Disability Awareness Training or training sessions.
- Measure of City of Greater Geelong units that have completed or are undergoing Communication Access Accreditation.
- Definition of what makes an accessible city and opportunities/activities to achieve this identified.

9.2 INCLUSION

***Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future* aims to have the percentage of residents who participate in engagement activities exceeding the state average.**

Our *Council Plan 2018–22* has a strategic priority of Organisational Leadership, Strategy and Governance that commits to the following:

- communicating and engaging more effectively with the community, in areas of need
- continuing to transform our workplace culture
- making our processes more effective and efficient.

This Action Plan's strategic priorities includes welcoming and inviting greater input from people with disability through consultation, communication and celebration.

ACCESS AND INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2018–22 GOALS:

- Facilitate the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee to ensure the City has a mechanism to seek advice on matters impacting people with a lived experience of disabilities.
- Increase the City's accessible forms of communication.
- Through the City's Engagement Strategy Implementation Plan, develop more inclusive engagement strategies.
- Make sure people with disability will have input into the City of Greater Geelong Social Housing Plan 2018–36.
- Increase participation and stakeholder partnerships at events organised and delivered by the City.
- Revise and update the Events Planning Guide to include more guidance on resources and strategies to increase participation of people with disability.
- Make available and promote additional accessibility resources for event organisers – Mobi-Beach Chairs, Marveloo and so on.
- Expand sponsored Learn to Swim program to fund an additional 80 children from the Whittington area.

OUR CHECKLIST FOR MEASURING SUCCESS:

- Annual community survey completed.
- Twice yearly staff surveys completed.
- Social media statistics gathered.
- Independent media coverage analysis reports reviewed.
- Geelong Australia monthly activity reports reviewed.
- Number of consultations, reviews and tracking tool for City of Greater Geelong Social Housing Plan 2018–36.
- Improved colour contrast in the City's documents in order to improve readability.
- Provision of Auslan interpreters at council meetings and at the Greater Geelong Christmas and New Year Celebrations.
- Research and develop effective mechanisms for capturing data and responding to complaints relating to disability access and discrimination.
- Increased Learn to Swim membership numbers for access and inclusion lessons.

9.3 EMPLOYMENT

Our community told us through development of *Greater Geelong: Clever and Creative Future* that we value a range of employment opportunities.

'A thriving and sustainable economy' is a strategic priority in our *Council Plan 2018–22*.

This Action Plan aims to reduce the barriers to employment for people with disability and build a workforce that responds to the needs of people with a disability.

ACCESS AND INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2018–22 GOALS:

- Tourism Geelong and the Bellarine to deliver accessible tourism project with the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations.
- Revise Reasonable Adjustment Policy.
- Establish planning and consultation group in the design of future accommodation for staff of the City to ensure accessibility focus.
- Develop and implement a learning module on people with different abilities as part of organisational online learning modules.
- Create and drive a culture where all staff value diversity of people of all abilities, experience and backgrounds.
- Ensure workplace systems policies and practice allow individuals to participate to their fullest ability.

OUR CHECKLIST FOR MEASURING SUCCESS:

- 70 people with disabilities employed in the local tourism industry.
- Research and develop effective mechanisms for capturing data and responding to complaints relating to disability access and discrimination.
- 100 per cent people leaders complete learning module; 100 per cent of online employees to complete module.
- Monitor management and success of organisational support of employment strategies.

9.4 INCLUSIVE ATTITUDES

Our community told us through development of *Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future* that we value a strong sense of community.

This Action Plan will work towards fostering a community with greater inclusive attitudes to all community members in all activities.

ACCESS AND INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2018–22 GOALS:

- Develop broad stakeholder partnerships across Greater Geelong and Barwon region to develop and deliver International Day of People with Disability on an annual basis.
- Commission 'inclusive Geelong' sculpture as addition to the public art collection for Greater Geelong.
- Design and deliver local event in Central Geelong for International Day of People with Disability on an annual basis.
- Implement access and inclusion awareness campaign.
- Actively participate in the Having a Say Conference Planning Committee coordinated by VALiD.
- Develop and implement an Engagement Champions Project to help us engage more confidently with our community.
- Build baseline data on experiences of people accessing the city through implementation of community engagement initiative.

OUR CHECKLIST FOR MEASURING SUCCESS:

- Number of attendees at International Day for People with Disabilities celebration for both regional and local events.
- Increase in number of stakeholder partnerships in planned and delivered events.
- Event Survey – feedback gathered from attendees at event.
- Measure numbers of people with a lived experience of disability who have been involved in planning and delivering events, activities and strategies in partnership with stakeholders and City staff.
- Annual community engagement data collection/analysis used to inform action plan implementation and future priorities.

10. HOW WE WILL DELIVER AND EVALUATE OUR PLAN

- Our draft Access and Inclusion Action Plan 2018-22 was released for public exhibition and comment during September and October 2018.
- Comments were reviewed, and adjustments made for presentation and final adoption by Council in November 2018.
- Once adopted, the Plan will be lodged with the Human Rights Commission and shared with the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee and our many partners working toward a more accessible and inclusive community.
- Plan monitoring will occur through the Council Plan reporting processes and the Connected Communities Department will be responsible for liaising with all internal and external partners to support implementation.
- We will conduct an annual review of the Plan's progress for Council.
- The goals and strategies of the Plan will be considered in the City's planning and budgeting cycle. Opportunities to apply for grants that will progress our goals and strategies will be routinely pursued.

Further work on evaluating the impact of our Plan will be undertaken over 2018–19 and will inform measures in future years.

APPENDIX A: ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE PREVIOUS PLAN

Our *Disability Action Plan 2013–17* consisted of 53 identified actions across the following priority areas:

- better access to goods, services and facilities
- promote an inclusive and participatory community
- better access to employment
- improve attitudes and practices.

Twenty of the actions have been carried out and completed in full, with many now integrated as 'business as usual'.

A snapshot of our achievements across priority areas:

1. Better access to goods, services and facilities

- Communication Access Accreditation for Customer Services and Geelong Regional Libraries
- Changing Places and Adult Change Facilities
- increased accessible walkways at Johnstone Park
- review and expansion of content included in the Mobility Access Directory and Geelong Waterfront Map
- kerb channel accessibility to the Ocean Grove town centre
- development of the Hospital Precinct Master Plan
- 70 full street block footpaths replaced during 2017–2018 financial year and new pathways created in priority locations to improve pedestrian access to key destinations
- weekly reports on street closures provided to Vision Australia for broadcast to community
- 4,800 people received services through our Community Care program
- improved all-ability access around North Geelong Railway Station/bus interchange

- standardised use of Tactile Ground Surface Indicator to align with Australian Standards and provide clear information for vision impaired
- Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine Inc. secured funding with partner Australian Federation of Disability Organisations from the Victorian Government Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources to implement an accessible tourism project across the region.

2. Promote an inclusive and participatory community

- Our Future:
 - From September 2016 to May 2017, 16,000 community members had their say about their aspirations for Greater Geelong and how it should evolve during the next 30 years. This involved 162 workshops, event appearances, community meetings and school visits.
 - We held two specific access and inclusion engagement events at the VALiD Having a Say Conference and with the National Disability Insurance Agency where 45 surveys were completed representing a total of 172 people documenting 120 ideas for our region's future.
- Bin 'tactiles':
 - We designed and manufactured discreet clear plastic symbols for the top of domestic waste bins. These 'tactiles' help residents identify general waste, recycling or green waste bins. This innovative solution is effective, low cost and environmentally sound and earned a Highly Commended recognition at the 2018 National Awards for Local Government.

- Beach accessibility:
 - We purchased beach matting and reclining beach wheelchairs to facilitate beach and water access for community members and visitors.
- Inclusive event guidelines:
 - We provided equitable access guidelines and strategies to a host of organisations, community groups and individuals wishing to hold a public event in the City of Greater Geelong. Our guidelines include information on Auslan interpreters, attendant care and safe viewing area for people with disability.
- International Day of People With Disabilities (IDPWD) celebrations:
 - Since beginning in 2012 as a modest, local event, IDPWD had grown 200 per cent by 2016. It now spans the entire Barwon Region and involves several peak body representatives and people with disability on almost all planning committees.
- Communicating with our community:
 - We prepared How to write: our writing standard, our writing style guide to improve corporate writing and make it more accessible and understandable by all.
 - We introduced live web-streaming of council meetings to increase transparency of and access to decision-making.
 - We reduced the amount of printed material and increased our use of other media including cinema advertising, video and radio to help make our information more accessible for everyone.
 - We increased use of infographics and other ways to simplify and explain complex information.

3. Better access to employment

- Step by Step Volunteer Mentor Project (2015):
 - designed to increase volunteering opportunities and economic and social participation for people with disability
 - 27 people with disability enrolled in the program
 - 8 engaged in volunteer roles
 - 10 mentors trained
 - all participants matched with a mentor
 - not-for-profit organisations currently have people with disability engaged as volunteers
 - not-for-profit organisations made volunteer roles available
 - not-for-profit organisations referred their clients to the program.

4. Improve attitudes and practices

- Many of the above actions improve attitudes and practices by raising awareness of people with disability and increasing access to the built environment, services and events. The following initiatives also supported awareness raising:
 - Disability Awareness training for all City of Greater Geelong Community Care workers
 - Disability Awareness Training delivered to more than 30 staff members from not-for-profit organisations as part of the Step by Step Volunteer Mentor Project
 - enabling access to available disabled parking bays by making sure appropriate use is enforced effectively.

APPENDIX B:

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

GOALS	MEASURE	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT
ACCESS		
Ensure facilities, buildings, environments and experiences are accessible to everyone.	Planning and design of the Northern ARC Health and Wellbeing Hub completed.	Capital Projects
	Bridge upgrades as identified and priority projects identified in the Footpath Customer Commitments Register completed.	Engineering
	Available funding for identified footpath works in Central Geelong fully expended.	
	All engineering design projects meet the design specifications with consideration of relevant Australian Standards, Infrastructure Design Manual and, where applicable, VicRoads standards.	
Provide more accessible public urban space.	Completion of the Social Infrastructure Plan.	Social Planning and Investment
	Evaluation of new Urban Design Frameworks for accessibility.	Planning, Strategy and Urban Growth
Increase number of community facilities with accessible toilets or adult change facilities.	Up to five public toilet facilities with accessible toilets built or replaced per year.	Property and Procurement
Provide a grants scheme to fund community groups, and initiatives that promote inclusion and accessibility.	Report on number and funding provided by the Community Investment and Support Fund to projects that promote access and inclusion for people with disabilities.	Program Integration and Development
		Connected Communities
Make sure housing supply, diversity and affordability can meet the needs of our growing community.	City of Greater Geelong Social Housing Plan 2018–2036 completed.	Healthy Communities
From a home support assessment, clients with mobility access issues at their home can be referred to the City's Home Maintenance for home modifications to assist mobility.	Number of home modifications to enable improved external access (ramps, grab rails) to enable a client to mobilise safely.	Community Care
From a home support assessment, clients with complex access/ inclusion issues can be referred to the Diversitat Access and Support Officer for assistance.	Number of clients who are referred to Diversitat Access and Support Officer.	Community Care
Inform and educate tourism businesses to become more inclusive of people with disabilities – both as customers and staff.	450 tourism businesses received tailored information or attended training sessions on inclusiveness.	Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine

GOALS	MEASURE	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT
Provide one-to-one mentoring to businesses around access and inclusion	110 businesses having undertaken one-to-one mentoring.	Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine
Launch a marketing campaign to build awareness of the businesses and region as a welcoming place for people with disabilities.	Implementation and evaluation of campaign to assess increase of tourists with disabilities.	Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine
Update the City of Greater Geelong Parking App with more capability and functions that will benefit all, and in particular people with a disability.	City of Greater Geelong Parking App updated and available for use. Multi-platform online application for the Central Geelong Waterfront Map developed.	Health and Local Laws
Develop a strategic plan for Changing Places to identify priority locations.	Strategic plan and scope for locations of future Changing Places throughout municipality completed.	Connected Communities
Market and implement the Marveloo (portable self-contained adult change facility) for Greater Geelong events.	Marveloo implementation and use within Greater Geelong evaluated.	Connected Communities
Investigate opportunities to promote and influence accessible design of communities and buildings through the planning scheme and building codes.	Recommendations from the investigation to increase accessible design and planning presented to Councillors for consideration and endorsement.	City Development Connected Communities
INCLUSION		
Facilitate the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee to ensure the City has a mechanism to seek advice on matters impacting people with disabilities.	6 meetings facilitated per financial year with quorum in attendance. Advice and recommendations documented and conveyed to Council as agreed.	Connected Communities
Increase the City's accessible forms of communication.	Improved colour contrast in the City's documents in order to improve readability. Annual community survey completed. Social media statistics gathered. Twice yearly staff surveys completed. Independent media coverage analysis reports reviewed. Geelong Australia monthly activity reports reviewed.	Corporate Communication and Marketing

GOALS	MEASURE	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT
Through the City's Engagement Strategy Implementation Plan, develop more inclusive engagement strategies.	More all-abilities engagement sessions.	Strategy and Engagement
People with disability will have input into the City of Greater Geelong Social Housing Plan 2018–36.	Number of consultations, reviews and tracking tool for City of Greater Geelong Social Housing Plan 2018–2036.	Healthy Communities
Increase participation at events organised and delivered by the City.	Updated Events Planning Guide Research and develop effective mechanisms for capturing data and responding to complaints relating to disability access and discrimination.	Economic Development and Events
Revise and update the Events Planning Guide to include more guidance on resources and strategies to increase participation of people with disability.	Updated Events Planning Guide Research and develop effective mechanisms for capturing data and responding to complaints relating to disability access and discrimination.	Economic Development and Events Connected Communities Customer Service
Make available and promote additional accessibility resources for event organisers – i.e. Mobi-Beach Chairs and Marveloo.	Track the use of the City's accessible resources annually.	Economic Development and Events Connected Communities
Expand sponsored Learn to Swim program to fund an additional 80 children from the Whittington area.	Increased Learn to Swim membership numbers for access and inclusion lessons.	Leisure and Recreation Services
EMPLOYMENT		
Deliver accessible tourism project with the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations.	70 people with disabilities employed in the local tourism industry.	Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine
Revise Reasonable Adjustment Policy.	Research and develop effective mechanisms for capturing data and responding to complaints relating to disability access and discrimination.	Business Improvement People and Organisation Development
Establish planning and consultation group in the design of future accommodation for staff of the City to ensure accessibility focus.	Group formed and mechanism for input to Executive established.	Business Improvement

GOALS	MEASURE	RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT
Develop and implement a learning module on people with different abilities as part of organisational online learning modules.	100 per cent people leaders complete learning module; 100 per cent of online employees to complete module	People and Organisation Development
Create and drive a culture where all staff value diversity of people of all abilities, experience and backgrounds.	Monitor management and success of organisational support of employment strategies.	People and Organisation Development
Ensure workplace systems policies and practice allow individuals to participate to their fullest ability.		
INCLUSIVE ATTITUDES		
Annual International Day for People With Disabilities celebration.	Number of attendees at International Day for People with Disabilities celebration. Event Survey – feedback gathered from attendees at event.	Connected Communities
Commission 'inclusive Geelong' sculpture as addition to the public art collection for Greater Geelong.	Completion of sculpture and launch of public art to the community.	Arts and Culture Connected Communities
Implement access and inclusion awareness campaign.	Evaluation of the awareness campaign.	Connected Communities
Actively participate in the Having a Say conference local reference committee.	Contributed to all aspects of the program including planning and coordination, promotion and program presentation.	Connected Communities
Develop and implement an Engagement Champions Project to help us engage more confidently with our community.	More all-abilities access engagement sessions.	Strategy and Engagement
Build baseline data on experiences of people accessing the City through implementation of community engagement initiative.	Annual community engagement data collection/analysis used to inform action plan implementation and future priorities.	Connected Communities
Increase businesses awareness of disability access and inclusion strategies.	More businesses participating in mobility directory.	Connected Communities

DRAFT

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

PO Box 104

Geelong VIC 3220

P: 5272 5272

E: contactus@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

www.geelongaustralia.com.au

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE

100 Brougham Street

Geelong VIC 3220

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ACCESS AND INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2018–2022



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Context

The Draft Access and Inclusion Action Plan 2018–2022 (the Plan) was noted at the Council Meeting on 11 September 2018 and released for final public comment.

It was available for community comment on the 'Have Your Say' web page from 13 September to 11 October 2018 and as a result:

- There were 658 page views, the document was downloaded 139 times and 10 submissions were received.

An invitation to comment was made on social media.

- On Facebook 21 individuals shared the post, 170 people reacted and there were 2 feedback comment made.
- Three email responses commenting on the Plan were also received.

The following table summarises community and stakeholder feedback and the City's response.

Feedback from submissions:	Response:
Transport: Insufficient disabled parking in Geelong CBD, especially spaces suitable for vehicles unloading a wheelchair bound person – dangerous unloading onto roadway.	Strategic priority 9.1 Access – includes goals and measures aimed at improving accessible parking and design. In addition information and responses provided in relation to transport and parking will be referred to the Integrated Comprehensive Transport Plan implementation process, the Central Geelong Car Parking and Access Strategy 2013 and 2019/20 budget process for consideration.
Transport: V/Line buses between Bannockburn and Geelong do not cater for wheelchairs/walkers. Disabled people should be able to access the bus service.	As part of this plan (7.7) Council will continue to play an advocacy role with Public Transport Victoria (PTV) and V/Line in relation to public transport. This feedback provided has been noted and will be referred to V/Line/PTV for their consideration.
Transport: There is no ramp at the taxi pickup point at Waurm Ponds Shopping Centre at the Coles end. People in wheelchairs cannot access taxis without going onto the pedestrian crossing and then travelling along the road to the taxi pickup drop off point for vehicle loading.	Strategic priority 9.1 Access: includes goals and measures aimed at improving accessible parking and design. The feedback provided will be referred to the Planning Strategy and Urban Growth Department for advice as Waurm Ponds Shopping Centre is a privately owned facility.
Transport: Accessible parking in CBD, eg near key cafes, the cinema and other places, is insufficient – in some cases previously existing parking has been removed or reduced. Some spots have an awkward gradient. Downloadable accessible parking map outdated.	Strategic priority 9.1 Access: includes goals and measures aimed at improving accessible parking and design as well as an action to update accessible maps. The feedback provided has been noted and will be referred to the Central Geelong Car Parking and Access Strategy 2013, the Integrated Comprehensive Transport Plan implementation process and 2019/20 budget process for consideration.
Transport: Consider placing more disabled parking spaces close to shops and large bays for mothers with pram carparks further away.	Strategic priority 9.1 Access: includes goals and measures aimed at improving accessible parking and design. Information and responses provided in relation to transport and parking will be referred to the Integrated Comprehensive Transport Plan implementation process, the Central Geelong Car Parking and Access Strategy 2013 and 2019/20 budget process for consideration.
Accessible design and shopping/services: Geelong should be the first major city to have access to every shop (ramps and not steps) from the footpath for people in wheelchairs.	Strategic priority 9.1 Access: includes goals and measures aimed at ensuring buildings, environments and experiences are accessible to everyone. There is also a goal to look at ways to influence design and buildings through the planning scheme and building codes. The Council also invests funding annually to improving accessibility and accessible features in Council owned buildings.
Accessible design and shopping/services: There is a great need for a Geelong Visitor Access Centre to enable greater independence of visitors with a disability to the Geelong region.	Feedback has been noted and will be referred to Central Geelong Action Plan 2013 and Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan to identify potential for joint advocacy with the Geelong Visitor Access Centre (GVAC) Working Group.

Feedback from submissions:	Response:
Accessible design and Changing Places: Disabled adult shoppers need easy access to a Changing Places facility in the city centre. While there is a facility at the Geelong Library, it is not conveniently located to the main shopping area. Geelong should have a facility right in the city centre and also along the Waterfront so that disabled tourists can visit and enjoy the precinct.	As part of this plan the City aims to increase the number of community facilities with accessible toilets and/or adult change facilities. The City has been providing changing places and adult change facilities since 2009, and most recently the installation of a second adult change facility at Leisurelink has provided increased opportunities for participation for people of all abilities. To further develop these facilities Council has secured State funding to construct a changing place in the waterfront precinct.
Accessible design and early years: Promote and influence accessible design of early years services (kindergartens and childcare), and businesses that provide early years activities, services and programs.	Strategic priority 9.1 Access: includes goals and measures aimed at ensuring buildings, environments and experiences are accessible to everyone. There is also a goal to look at ways to influence design and buildings through the planning scheme and building codes. The Council also invests funding annually to improving accessibility and accessible features in Council owned buildings.
Accessible design various: In relation to 9.1 of the Plan – Access: - For families with children aged 0-6 years with developmental delay or disability, parks, play areas and urban spaces that have fenced off areas would ensure such spaces are safe to use. 24/7 access for Changing Places - Marveloo – highly recommended	Strategic priority 9.2 Inclusion: includes goals and measures aimed at increasing participation in community events and activities. Feedback on playgrounds will be referred to Geelong Play Strategy and Social Infrastructure Plan Review to provide guidance on levels of community infrastructure that can be expected in local communities. Changing Places – the City has been providing changing places and adult change facilities since 2009, and most recently the installation of a second adult change facility at Leisurelink has provided increased opportunities for participation for people of all abilities. To further grow these facilities the City has secured State funding to construct a changing place in the waterfront precinct. The Marveloo is due to be completed by December 2018 and will be available for use at community events and programs across the municipality.
Changing Places: Would like to see some of the Changing Places facilities in Geelong to have 24/7 access, perhaps utilising a MLAK key.	As part of this plan the City aims to increase the number of community facilities with accessible toilets and/or adult change facilities. Further development of these facilities includes the construction of a changing place in the waterfront precinct. Planning is also underway to determine future locations. As part of this planning the requirement for 24/7 access will be considered
Events and Marveloo: Implement Marveloo to enable greater access for disabled people at key events. Great resource for tourism.	Strategic priority 9.2 Inclusion: includes goals and measures aimed at increasing participation in community events and activities. The City has secured State funding to construct a changing place in the waterfront precinct. The Marveloo is due to be completed by December 2018 and will be available for use at community events and programs across the municipality.
Exercise: Hydrotherapy facilities – need affordable and conveniently located facilities to enable disabled persons to access and benefit from the exercise.	Strategic priority 9.2 Inclusion: includes goals and measures aimed at increasing participation in community events and activities. Feedback relating to the provision of hydrotherapy facilities will be referred to the Social Infrastructure Plan review process for consideration .
Jobs: Would like to see a council/Victorian government run advocacy group that is free of charge, that helps people navigate through job provider issues and NDIA/NDIS issues and advocates on behalf of clients. If Centrelink could be included in that advocacy group that would be great.	As part of this plan (7.2) Council will continue to play an advocacy role with the NDIA in relation to services and programs for people with disability in the Geelong region. Specific individual advocacy is available through not for profit agencies across Geelong that assist users to navigate through NDIA issues and advocate on their behalf. These services are free of charge and can be accessed at any time. (Example: Campbell Page Disability Employment Service, North Geelong)
Play spaces: Increase tourism by providing accessible play spaces. Is the City considering a sensory, fenced playground?	Strategic priority 9.2 Inclusion: includes goals and measures aimed at increasing participation in community events and activities. Feedback on playgrounds will be referred to Geelong Play Strategy and Social Infrastructure Plan Review to provide guidance on levels of community infrastructure that can be expected in local communities.

Feedback from submissions:	Response:
Safety: Include specific safety goals. Safety will be a factor in achieving some goals. Sufficient police numbers are needed to match growing population.	Noted and refer to the Geelong Local Safety Committee (GLSC), an alliance between the City of Greater Geelong, Victoria Police, State Government Departments and community representatives.
Planning – housing: Development Planning Rules – too much focus on single storey housing development – more medium rise needed to combat sprawl and reduction in farming land. This is relevant to Inclusion as the use of medium rise will allow tighter communities and closer facilities.	Noted and refer to the City's Settlement Strategy 2018. The strategy provides an overview of our current settlement and housing and an analysis of population and housing trends.
Care facilities: There should be high care facilities for young people so they do not have to reside in Aged Care facilities.	Development of the City of Greater Geelong Social Housing Plan 2018-2036 will outline the City's position in relation to influencing affordable housing outcomes, including consultation about the needs of people with disability.
Awareness and training: Greater disability awareness training for City staff across all areas is needed. Parking App / Access Map need updating and greater functionality. Additional mechanisms to the Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee to provide broader and more in depth views of people with disability More specific measurable outcomes needed in the Plan Acknowledgement of several organisations that have worked with the City on access and inclusion.	Noted The City's Learning and Culture team have developed an online - Learning Hub. This is a flexible online tool for all learning and development needs, including disability awareness training. Priority 9.1 Access, identifies an action to update the access maps. This will be completed in partnership with Barwon Disability Resource Council. The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee's is an advisory committee to Council and aims to promote disability access and inclusion as a core part of Council business. The membership of the committee includes people with a lived experience of disability.
Awareness and training: Public education and awareness is important in relation to disabled persons, as it is for other issues and groups, eg racism, refugees, Sudanese youth population.	Priority 9.4 Inclusive attitudes is aimed at building community and organisational awareness and inclusive attitudes. Activities will be delivered over the four years of the plan to respond to this priority. The Multicultural Action Plan 2018-2022 currently being reviewed provides the Council's response to awareness issues for our multicultural community.

4. HERNE HILL RESERVE MASTER PLAN - FINAL REPORT

Source:	Social Planning & Investment
Acting Director:	Robyn Stevens
Portfolio	Social and Infrastructure Planning

Purpose

To seek Council endorsement for the final *Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan* following the conclusion of the community consultation period.

Background

The *Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan* aims to improve community access and amenity by enhancing the sporting facilities, open space areas, parking and broader landscape of Herne Hill Reserve, Herne Hill.

Home to the St Joseph's Football and Netball Club (SJFNC) and the St Peters Cricket Club (SPCC), the reserve is a valued open space area that is well utilised and important to the community. The draft *Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan* was presented to the Community Focus Council Meeting on 10 July 2018 where Council resolved to release the master plan for community consultation.

The community consultation period was from 11 July to 9 September 2018, with approximately 400 residents surrounding Herne Hill Reserve contacted via mail to provide their feedback. The engagement was also available via the City's 'Have Your Say' online platform and hard copies available for those unable to access documents electronically. A total of 30 responses were received from a variety of users of the reserve including residents, club members and other interested parties. A summary of the community feedback and how it is being addressed is provided in **Attachment 2**.

Key Issues

- The majority of responses were supportive of the master plan and the proposed upgrade of Herne Hill Reserve. The key themes from the community consultation were traffic management and parking, provision of gender neutral facilities and improved passive open space for the community.
- SPCC requested the proposed community pavilion be designed to meet some match day needs of the cricket club, specifically, improving the viewing/spectator area proposed for the western end of the pavilion. It has been agreed with SPCC and SJFNC that this will be addressed through the next (detailed design) phase.
- The preliminary cost estimate for the final *Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan* has not altered and is approximately \$4.08 million. It will be referred to a future Council budget process for funding consideration.

Cr Murrehy moved, Cr Kontelj seconded -

That Council endorse the *Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan*, noting that Council officers will continue to work with tenanted sporting clubs to achieve a final concept design for the proposed community pavilion.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

The preliminary estimate to deliver the *Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan* is \$4.08 million. A redeveloped community pavilion represents the major component of the anticipated cost, estimated at approximately \$3M. The remaining supporting infrastructure and features make up the additional \$1.08M of expected works.

The master plan will be referred to a future Council budget process for funding consideration. Additional funding for the delivery of the master plan will need to be discussed with the tenanted clubs. In October 2018, both the Liberal Nationals and Labor pledged an election commitment of \$1.5 million towards the Herne Hill Reserve project.

An investment of \$500,000 is allocated in Council's 2018/2019 budget to undertake the construction of netball match day facilities (item number 4 in attached master plan) as well as retrospectively fitting the change facilities in the existing club rooms to ensure they are compliant for female use.

Community Engagement

Community engagement helped guide the development of the *Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan* at all stages. To develop the draft master plan, key stakeholders, including representatives from all tenanted sporting clubs, were invited onto the Project Control Group (PCG) and Project Reference Group (PRG). In January 2017 a letterbox drop promoting an online survey was distributed to local residents across almost 400 properties surrounding Herne Hill Reserve. The purpose of the survey was to understand usage behaviours, needs and aspirations of the community. The survey received 46 responses.

Following Council endorsement to release the draft master plan for a final period of community consultation, the master plan was available via the City's 'Have Your Say' engagement platform with hard copies available via the Geelong West Customer Service Centre and/or mailed to those unable to access the documents electronically. In addition, all residents engaged in the original 2017 survey were contacted directly via mail requesting their feedback.

Overall the responses received indicated a high level of support for the draft master plan. A summary of the community feedback, key themes and responses is provided at **Attachment 2**.

Social Equity Considerations

Herne Hill Reserve is the home to strong female participation, with the St Joseph's Football Netball Club boasting a 37% female membership base. The provision of gender neutral and female friendly facilities that are inclusive and accessible will encourage broader participation and promote outcomes in gender equity. The St Joseph's football program has over 100 female participants and netball with 248 female participants. Female participants in both of these sports do not currently have facilities that are appropriate to support the level of growth in female participation.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no known policy, legal or statutory implications associated with this report.

Alignment to Council Plan

The *Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan* is consistent with three of the eleven strategic priorities of the *Council Plan 2018-22*. The development of Herne Hill Reserve will provide:

- Improved health and safety for our community; by creating more health and fitness options through improved community sport and recreation infrastructure.
- Informed social infrastructure and planning; by consulting with the community to provide more quality spaces that support active lifestyles, supporting the growth of localised sporting facilities and delivering accessible and attractive community infrastructure.
- A more inclusive and diverse community; by supporting activities that improve social connections in our community, promoting gender equality and diversity in our sporting and leisure facilities, and improving access for people of all abilities.

Conflict of Interest

There is no known conflict for any Council staff or contractor involved in the preparation of this report and no officer involved in the recommendation of this report has any direct or indirect interest.

Risk Assessment

Preliminary cost estimates associated with the *Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan* are provided at a point in time (as at June 2018) and are to be used as a guide only. Preliminary cost estimates are subject to change based on further detailed design. Cost estimates may be subject to cost escalations if delivery of elements is delayed.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

HERNE HILL RESERVE MASTER PLAN PLAN

OCTOBER 2018

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

The following provides a summary of key themes as they relate to the feedback collected and considered through public exhibition of the draft Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan.

THEME	FEEDBACK / DISCUSSION	RESPONSE / RECOMMENDATION
1. GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE MASTER PLAN Respondents: 26	Strong support from respondents for the Master Plan. Consensus that the redevelopment is 'overdue' and important for the progression of the reserve and its user-groups. <i>"This is a critical step in maintaining the clubs contribution to the Greater Geelong sporting community"</i>	RECOMMENDATION: Noted.
2. SUPPORT FOR THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL/MORE ACCESSIBLE PARKING Respondents: 10	A number of respondents identified that the reserve has some significant existing issues with parking. Some respondents believed that the car-parking provided in the plan would not be sufficient and would not meet the needs of the user-groups of the reserve. One respondent stated that Hilltop Street should only have parking on one side of the street as to eliminate the safety concerns.	RECOMMENDATION: The provision of a formalised car park will assist in alleviating some of the traffic concerns and provide better access and egress to the reserve. Improvement to parking is identified within the Master Plan including the formalisation of areas within the reserve and along its boundaries. Further detail regarding traffic management and parking will be explored in the detailed design phase. It should be noted however, that due to the geographical and environmental limitations of the reserve, events and game days will have some impact on the surrounding streets which is unavoidable.

THEME	FEEDBACK / DISCUSSION	RESPONSE / RECOMMENDATION
3. PROVISION OF FEMALE-FRIENDLY FACILITIES AND AMENITIES Respondents: 4	A number of respondents were supportive of the provision of female-friendly amenities within the new pavilion. These amenities would cater for growing female participation in football and netball at the club. There was a concern that any stand-alone netball rooms would create a disconnect between the netball and the rest of the club.	RECOMMENDATION: The provision of female friendly amenities and change facilities will be captured in the detailed design of the new redeveloped sporting pavilion. In the interim, \$500,000 in Council's 2018/19 Budget has been allocated to retrofitting the existing pavilion's shower and toilet facilities to make them unisex. In addition, these funds will be used to construct a match day/court side facilities for netball. This is not a change facility, rather it will provide the necessary components to facilitate competition netball such as storage, first aid and a toilet.
4. DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT TO BE REVISED AS A PART OF THE PLAN Respondents: 3	Several respondents stated that there were some significant drainage issues present at this reserve. They made particular reference to the area in-between the two ovals. <i>"Improved access so we are not trudging through mud"</i>	RECOMMENDATION: The City are currently undertaking drainage works to improve existing water retention between the ovals.

5. FEEDBACK NOT IN SUPPORT OF PAVILION CONCEPT DIAGRAM AND LOCATION OF NETBALL COURTS Respondents: 3	Three respondents noted that they were not in support of the pavilion concept plan which was an attachment to the Master Plan, noted within the report. Specifically, the St Peters Cricket Club provided a submission requesting that the viewing area onto the western oval be expanded to meet their match day viewing needs. Other respondents also suggested moving the netball courts to the northern end of the reserve behind the existing club rooms.	RECOMMENDATION: The current draft pavilion concept as shown in the Master Plan Report is considered a high level planning diagram which illustrates the general connections and relationships between the various spaces and facilities to be delivered. As a high level concept, it is understood that further design work needs to be undertaken in a collaborative fashion with all tenant sporting clubs to refine the pavilion layout. It is the City's intention to achieve a final pavilion design that is supported and valued by all Clubs and meets the functional needs of the various user groups. Consultation with user groups has identified that the following principles should be incorporated into the final pavilion design: - There is a need for the viewing area facing the western oval to be expanded and reconfigured to provide sufficient space to suitably accommodate 50-60 spectators during match times; - Design options to achieve the above may include consolidation and relocation of first aid facilities, player and umpire amenities, but should seek to minimise any net increase in overall pavilion footprint; - The existing lounge and east facing viewing area within the St Joseph's Football and Netball Club pavilion will serve as the primary social space within the pavilion as well as the primary viewing area for matches played on eastern oval; - Council does not support duplication of kitchen and bar facilities, but accepts the western oval viewing area may require fridge and canteen facilities to service the viewing area at their own cost; and - A final pavilion design should be supported by all tenant clubs prior to any building works commencing.

THEME	FEEDBACK / DISCUSSION	RESPONSE / RECOMMENDATION
		In relation to the relocation of the netball courts, unfortunately due to limited space behind the existing pavilion, courts that are compliant could not be achieved. This would also compromise available parking space near the pavilion.
6. MASTER PLAN TO INCLUDE AN UPGRADE OF THE ADJOINING PLAYGROUND Respondents: 2	Support was provided for an upgrade of the playground in the south-east corner of the reserve. Upgrade to include some better equipment and possibly fitness equipment to cater for the local community.	RECOMMENDATION: The Master Plan recommends the replacement of the playground and improvement of the play area including passive spaces, trees, tables, shelters and connecting walking paths. The playground is classified as a local level facility and its replacement will be captured within the City's playground upgrade program. Improvements to the surrounding open space and passive recreation areas will require investment through Council's budget process.
7. SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGN TO CONSIDER BETTER FACILITIES FOR DOG WALKERS Respondents: 3	There was some support for the provision of facilities to accommodate passive recreation including dog walking. There was a submission which requested the inclusion of a fenced dog off-lead area to cater for the local demand.	RECOMMENDATION: The City is currently undertaking a Dog Park Strategy which aims to guide the identification and development of off-leash parks. Although it is noted as a community aspiration, locations of dog parks will depend on available and useable space.
8. SUPPORT FOR A WHEELCHAIR FRIENDLY AND ACCESSIBLE FACILITY Respondents: 1	A submission from a respondent noted the importance in ensuring the Master Plan is accessible and universal in its implementation. The submission suggested that the disabled car parks should be divided by bollards, connecting pathways to be wheelchair friendly, wheelchair ramp to the new building to act as the primary entry point, wheelchair access to the playground and lightweight closing or automatic doors to the amenities.	RECOMMENDATION: Accessible and universally designed facilities are of most importance and will be captured during the detailed design phase of the project.

DATA SUMMARY

RESPONDENT SUMMARY	TOTAL
Member of a club located at Herne Hill Reserve	13
Lives within walking distance of the reserve	8
Visits the reserve but does not live nearby	3
Other (E-mail Submissions)	6
Total number of respondents	30
Support*	27
Neutral	3
Opposed**	0

*Some of these respondents were generally supportive of a redevelopment of the reserve but had suggested other changes or inclusions to be considered

**There were three respondents who did not support the draft pavilion concept design however still supported the need for the Master Plan.

THEMES	RESPONDENTS
General support for the master plan	26
Support for the provision of additional/more accessible parking	10
Provision of female-friendly facilities and amenities	4
Drainage management to be revised as a part of the plan	3
Support for the design to consider better facilities for dog walkers	3
Not supportive of the pavilion's concept design	3
Master plan to include an upgrade of the adjoining playground	2
Support for a wheelchair friendly and accessible facility	1
Provision for an additional netball court	1

***A number of themes in each response were received. The above table is a representation of these.**



HERNE HILL RESERVE MASTER PLAN

FINAL REPORT | NOVEMBER 2018



Prepared for:
CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

Prepared by Project Consultants on conjunction with
City of Greater Geelong Project Manager:

LAND DESIGN PARTNERSHIP PTY. LTD
52-54 Rathdowne Street
P.O. Box 1164, Carlton, Victoria 3053
www.landdesign.com.au

CAPIRE CONSULTING PTY LTD
96 Pelham Street,
Carlton Victoria 3053
www.capires.com.au

HASKELL ARCHITECTURE
Level 7, 552 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
www.haskell.com.au



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Appendix 1 – Local Resident Survey and Summary Report
Appendix 2 – Herne Hill Reserve – Landscape Plan
Appendix 3 – Herne Hill Reserve – Draft Pavilion Concept Diagram

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Master Plan is to guide the future development and improvement of Herne Hill Reserve, Herne Hill and ensure that the character and functionality of the open space reserve is enhanced.

1.2 ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan Report considers the issues and opportunities as they relate to the development and improvement of Herne Hill Reserve. It brings together the key findings captured throughout the development process and provides the necessary context for the reader to better understand the justification behind the proposed design response, prioritisation and approach to implementation.

The following Master Plan aligns with the City's 30-year vision and ensures that the long-term development aspirations of the tenant clubs, community groups and residents are taken into consideration. The plan addresses functional issues with the existing landscape (such as drainage and safe pedestrian movement) with a focus on passive recreation areas to encourage community use of the reserve.

The Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan Report will be made available for community comment through a public exhibition period, before producing a final report.

1.3 KEY DRIVERS

The City of Greater Geelong provides for a diverse mix of stakeholder groups, infrastructure and services. With the shift in the economic and operating climate, The City will need to critically understand, prioritise and rationalise its infrastructure investment in order to future proof its provision going forward.

The City is currently experiencing an organisation-wide shift in approach to planning and the development of strategic drivers for decision making and prioritisation. The City believes the Greater Geelong community must look beyond the short term to ensure a thriving, inclusive and sustainable future.

In order to create a network of suburbs and towns that make Greater Geelong a desirable place to live, work, invest and visit, there needs to be greater emphasis on improved and sustainable asset planning, investment and delivery.

The City are currently developing the Geelong 2030 Vision project that will address current challenges and highlight future opportunities, recognising what the municipality will look like in 20-30 years. The City recognises that they must better understand and embrace the emerging needs of the community and the challenging environment globally and look at local level influences to ensure better outcomes for everyone now and into the future.

Community health and wellbeing as well as efficient and effective infrastructure provision are key drivers for the City going forward.

The City of Greater Geelong contains a comprehensive network of open space and recreation facilities that are planned within walking distance of homes and workplaces and are linked by a network of trails, walking and cycling paths that contribute to forming a healthy and active community.

Community facilities are focal points for community interaction. They are places where people can build relationships, a community identity and a sense of ownership related to their surroundings. The layout and distribution of these facilities can positively influence sustainable behaviour patterns. Sporting infrastructure provision on public open space needs to be master planned to inform the delivery and development of sporting infrastructure and to enhance opportunities for change and improved wellbeing.

1.4 HERNE HILL RESERVE

Herne Hill Reserve is an active sports reserve located between Finchaven Street, Norwood Street and Edinburgh Avenue in the suburb of Herne Hill, located west of Geelong's CBD.

Herne Hill Reserve has a mix of active uses including football, cricket and netball use. The reserve serves as the home ground for the St Joseph's Football and Netball Club and the St Peters Cricket Club. Provided below is a summary overview of participation associated with the tenant clubs as at 2017/18. Club participation is relatively high and there is a good mix of juniors, seniors, males and females represented at the club.

In addition to sporting clubs, the reserve is used extensively for passive recreation with a number of recreation assets including, a playground and toilet facilities. The reserve is a highly valued open space area and is well utilised by the broader community.

The Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan will guide planning for community sports and social infrastructure that fosters social interaction, health and wellbeing and promote an environmentally sustainable way of living, while delivering on the City's strategic objectives and levels of service obligations, in a coordinated and sustainable manner.

There are six sport and recreation reserves within a 1km radius of Herne Hill Reserve although has a well-documented shortfall of passive open space. The City is always seeking opportunities to enhance informal parkland and the amenity value of sports open space, such as Herne Hill Reserve. This will be a key objective of the Master Plan.

937 ACTIVE SPORTS CLUB MEMBERS



521 MEMBERS



349 MEMBERS



67 MEMBERS



98% OF LOCAL
RESIDENTS VISIT THE
RESERVE

29.3% VISIT DAILY AND
29.3% VISIT WEEKLY
- Local resident survey (2017)



28% SENIORS

72% JUNIORS



63% MALES

37% FEMALES

1.5 HERNE HILL RESERVE MASTER PLAN

The City has received several requests over the last few years from tenant clubs at the reserve to undertake a host of developments ranging from drainage management, sports lighting, netball courts, car park improvements and additional pavilion developments.

Since 2007, the City has invested \$1.6 million in capital works improvements and developments at Herne Hill Reserve, resulting in a series of detached and at times ad-hoc provision of infrastructure across the reserve. There is a need to assess the distribution, functionality and practicality of the built form within the reserve to ensure that it meets, and continues to meet, the needs of the community and its users.

The development of this Master Plan seeks to balance these requests with the need to maintain and enhance the reserve as an important public open space resource for the broader community and provide for the local user groups in a coordinated and sustainable approach.

The City recognises the benefits of clustering recreational uses to diversify and maximise benefits to the community. Community pavilions are taking precedent over traditional sports pavilions, allowing for use by various community groups, including sporting clubs.

The integrated open space network and location of Herne Hill Reserve will provide for:

- ▶ residents and visitors to have access to a variety of open spaces for relaxation, sport and recreation;
- ▶ public spaces to promote and maintain healthy lifestyles and strong communities;
- ▶ sports fields which are to be co-located with, playgrounds, landscaped areas and sports courts, where possible;
- ▶ consolidation of built form throughout the reserve where possible; and
- ▶ a network of quality and well distributed open space.

1.6 PROJECT AREA

1.6.1 CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

The City of Greater Geelong is located in south-western Victoria, approximately 75 kilometres south west of Melbourne. The City of Greater Geelong is bounded by Wyndham City to the North and the Borough of Queenscliff in the east, Bass Strait in the south and Surf Coast Shire and Golden Plains Shire in the west.

The City of Greater Geelong is a rural, residential, resort, industrial and commercial area. Geelong is the largest regional city in Victoria and the leading commercial centre for south-western Victoria. The City encompasses a total land area of about 1,250 square kilometres. Over two-thirds of the population live in the urban areas.

1.6.2 HERNE HILL - FYANSFORD

Herne Hill - Fyansford is bounded by the Moorabool River, a line running continuous of Church Street in the north, Minerva Road in the east, Autumn Street, McCurdy Road and the Barwon River in the south and Merrawarp Road, Hamilton Highway, Friend In Hand Road and Dog Rocks Road in the west.

The 2016 population forecast for Herne Hill - Fyansford is 3,660 and is forecast to grow to 6,120 (67%) by 2036.

1.6.3 HERNE HILL RESERVE

Herne Hill Reserve is an active sports reserve located between Finchaven Street, Norwood Street and Edinburgh Avenue in the suburb of Herne Hill, located west of Geelong's CBD.

Herne Hill Reserve is bordered by the Geelong Cemetery to the north and residential areas to the east, west and south. The total area of the reserve is approximately 5.4 hectares (0.054 square kilometres).

Herne Hill Reserve is located on City of Greater Geelong owned land zoned under the Planning Scheme as a PPRZ – Public Park and Recreation Zone. The Geelong Cemetery located at the northern border is owned by the Geelong Cemeteries Trust and is a PUZ5 – Public Use Zone 5 Cemeteries and Crematoriums.

An aerial photograph of Herne Hill Reserve and its surrounds is shown in Figure 1.

► FIGURE 1: HERNE HILL RESERVE, HERNE HILL, GEELONG, VICTORIA





View north-west to Walker Oval northern goals



View east across netball courts

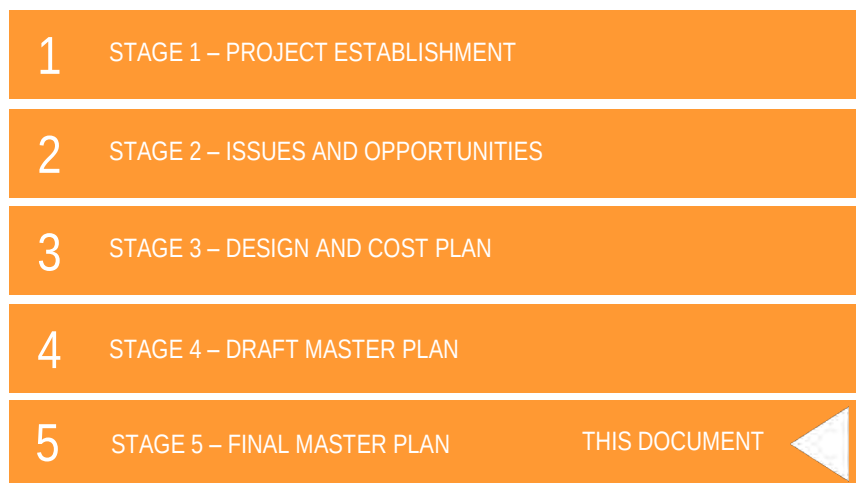
The master plan study area is indicated in Figure 2 on the following page shows the structures, roads, playing fields and passive landscape areas which comprise the reserve.

► FIGURE 2: STUDY AREA - HERNE HILL RESERVE



1.7 PROJECT METHODOLOGY

The preparation of the Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan is being undertaken using the following approach:



1.8 PROJECT GOVERNANCE

To guide the development of the Herne Hill Master Plan and its engagement activity a Project Governance Structure was established with the following roles and representatives:

KS KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Role: To be informed and briefed on the progress of the Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan (including tenant club members, local residents and the broader community).

PRGs PROJECT REFERENCE GROUPS

Role: Provide input, direction and feedback into the project at key stages (including tenant clubs and regional / state sporting associations – AFL Victoria, AFL Barwon, Netball Victoria, Cricket Victoria and Geelong Cricket Association).

PWG PROJECT WORKING GROUP

Role: Provide technical advice and input into the project (including City of Greater Geelong officers from various relevant departments).

PCG PROJECT CONTROL GROUP

Role: Provide high-level strategic direction on key issues, opportunities and approve draft reports. Also responsible for contract management (including The City's Social Planning and Investment Department within Community Life Division, Management and Senior Staff).

Note: The Master Plan was developed by independent consultants Land Design Partnerships.

2. CONTEXT

Herne Hill Reserve is an active sports reserve covering approximately 5.4 hectares located between Finchaven Street, Norwood Street and Edinburgh Avenue in the suburb of Herne Hill, located approximately 3km west of Geelong's CBD.

Herne Hill Reserve has a mix of active uses including football, cricket and netball. The reserve serves as the home ground for the St Joseph's Football and Netball Club and the St Peters Cricket Club. In addition to sporting clubs, the reserve is used for passive recreation with a number of recreation assets including a playground and public toilet facilities. The reserve is a highly valued open space area and is well utilised by the broader community.

The Reserve is owned and managed by the City of Greater Geelong, with the tenant clubs undertaking some maintenance activities.

The background assessment as it relates to Herne Hill Reserve comprised a review of the following four foundation areas:

► Policy Context

To understand current State and Local Government policies impacting upon the reserve.

► Planning Context

To understand the planning controls relevant to the reserve.

► Site Context

To understand the existing physical characteristics of the reserve.

► Stakeholder and Community Context

To understand the needs and desires of current reserve users and the surrounding community.

2.1 POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A large number of local and state policies and previous studies have been reviewed in order to inform the Master Plan. A number of strategies and policies have direct relevance to the outcome of this master plan project. Of particular note are:

2.1.1 State Government Policy related to shared community facilities

One of the key government platforms for the development and management of community facilities (including recreational facilities) is the principle of shared use. The Victorian Government's policy framework for shared facilities (including recreational facilities) is largely established by two documents: Growing Victoria Together (2005) and A Fairer Victoria (2008).

One of the five broad visions of the Growing Victoria Together policy is 'Caring Communities' with the high-level goal of 'building friendly, confident and safe communities'. One target of this goal is to increase the 'extent and diversity of participation in community, cultural and recreational organisations' (Government of Victoria 2005a, pp. 16–17).

Because the key characteristics of sharing include greater community engagement, encouraging diversity in activities, improving access to facilities, and increasing the use of facilities, such sharing could potentially contribute to achieving the goals of Growing Victoria Together.

The Government's commitment to stronger communities, efficient investment and enhanced asset utilisation is further outlined in the policy A Fairer Victoria.

A Fairer Victoria identifies five key objectives:

- *improving access to universal services (with a focus on improving services for children, young people and older Victorians)*
- *reducing barriers to opportunities to participate in economic and social life*
- *supporting disadvantaged groups*
- *supporting disadvantaged places (in both new and existing communities)*
- *making it easier to work with government (by developing new ways of working with communities).*

Through the Growing Victoria Together and A Fairer Victoria policies, it is clear that shared facilities is not just a government objective, but is also a means to achieve other, broader social policy objectives (*Getting it Together: An Inquiry into the Sharing of Government and Community Facilities* September, 2009).

Implementation of State Government policy related to shared facilities is investigated and directed by reports and policies such as *Getting it Together: An Inquiry into the Sharing of Government and Community Facilities* September (2009) and *A Guide to Governing Shared Community Facilities* DPCD (2010). These documents outline a clear view as to the benefits and responsibilities of shared facilities and the sharing of facilities as a potential basis for grant funding.

The opportunity to integrate and share the currently separate facilities at Herne Hill Reserve should be guided by these policies.

2.1.2 City of Greater Geelong Policy

Geelong Play Strategy: Part 1 A Great Place to Play (2012 -2021) – City of Greater Geelong

The Greater Geelong Play Strategy outlines a range of principles governing the provision and design of places of play within the City of Greater Geelong.

In response to these principles the strategy identifies a number of strategic opportunities which will be relevant to the development of the Herne Hill Reserve master plan, such as:

- ▶ *Improve supporting infrastructure at play spaces, such as natural shade, seats and paths.*
- ▶ *Create better connections to cycling / walking networks.*
- ▶ *Improve play opportunities throughout the municipality by focussing on developing a diversity of opportunities and creating informal, spontaneous play opportunities throughout the City for people of all ages and abilities as well as programs to encourage play in public spaces.*
- ▶ *Increase the number of public play spaces to ensure that the majority of residents in the urban area can access a public play space within 400m of their home (approximately a five minute walk).*
- ▶ *Provide play opportunities for under-serviced age groups (e.g. 0-2 year old's and young people over 10 years of age).*

- ▶ *Increase natural play opportunities and loose materials in play spaces.*
- ▶ *Increase the number of play spaces which offer tactile / sound / sensory experiences.*
- ▶ *Improve opportunities for people with disabilities to access and use play spaces.*

Urban Forest Strategy (2015 – 2025), City of Greater Geelong

The City of Greater Geelong's Urban Forest Strategy has the stated vision that *“Geelong will be a cool green city for the future”*.

The Strategy states that “the City has enormous potential to develop a healthier and more dynamic urban forest and improve canopy cover in our streetscapes, urban growth areas, open spaces and reserves.” It outlines a number of opportunities by which this potential could be achieved.

One key objective relevant to the Herne Hill Recreation Reserve Master Plan is:

- ▶ *Improving the quality of streetscapes and open space in urban growth areas.*

This objective will have a key application in the development of the master plan.

Geelong Cycle Strategy Volume 1 (March 2008), City of Greater Geelong

The strategy's vision for the future of Geelong includes:

- ▶ *increasing the network of on and off-road paths and connecting these paths,*
- ▶ *creating a cycle friendly Central Geelong and cycle friendly schools and workplaces throughout the municipality,*
- ▶ *maximising opportunities to increase cycle tourism and attract cyclists to the City.*

The potential to develop a shared trail system and integrate this with the local path networks is a key implication of this strategy for the Herne Hill Reserve Master plan.

Geelong Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (2013 – 2017), City of Greater Geelong

The Geelong Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017 outlines a range of health and wellbeing priorities and provides an action guide for each priority.

Action Guide 3 – Physical Activity and Active Communities is of most relevance to the Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan and includes objectives that will influence the master plan including:

- ▶ *Embed 'Healthy by Design' principles in the City's planning processes to support active living in existing and future growth areas.*
- ▶ *Review the Open Space Strategy that supports opportunities for physical activity and active living and contributes to the health and wellbeing of the community.*
- ▶ *Develop an active transport plan that provides an 'integrated accessible network of walking and cycling routes for safe and convenient travel to local destinations and points of interest' (Healthy by Design).*
- ▶ *Work with local sport and active recreation settings to address barriers to participation by vulnerable groups within our community.*

Asset Management Strategy Version 1.09 (May 2016), City of Greater Geelong

The City of Greater Geelong is custodian of approximately \$2.2 billion of assets that it provides to facilitate delivery of its services to the community.

The goal of asset management is to meet the required level of service in the most cost-effective way throughout the life cycle of the various assets to provide for existing and future customers.

The objective of the City's Asset Management Strategy is to ensure that The City meets the required level of service, both now and for the future, in the most cost-effective way through the creation, acquisition, maintenance, operation, renewal/disposal of community assets.

The phases through which an asset passes during its life cycle are:

- ▶ The identification of need - where the requirement for a new asset is planned for, specified and established;
- ▶ The acquisition phase – where the asset is purchased, constructed or otherwise created;
- ▶ The operation & maintenance phase – where the asset is used for its intended purpose.

- ▶ The renewal phase – where the asset is replaced to its equivalent capacity of performance capability
- ▶ The disposal phase – initiated when the economic life of the asset has expired, when its service specification is no longer relevant, or when the need for the service provided by the asset has disappeared

The City's infrastructure assets include, but are not limited to;

- ▶ Buildings and facilities of various types that provide a focus for services (such as administrative facilities, child care centres, health centres, youth centre, kindergartens, community halls and sports stadiums);
- ▶ Parks and recreation facilities, including active and passive recreation areas and sporting centres
- ▶ The road & street network;
- ▶ Flood protection and stormwater drainage systems;
- ▶ Waste management facilities (landfills and waste transfer stations);
- ▶ Special high usage precincts such as Waterfront Geelong and the CAA where infrastructure can be at a higher standard than normally used;
- ▶ Plant and equipment, including Workshop and Depot facilities;
- ▶ Information technology networks (computer & telecommunication systems).

As custodian of these assets, The City is responsible for funding their maintenance and upkeep at a level of service that satisfies both the safety and amenity requirements of the community.

It is therefore contingent upon the City to ensure that there is an appropriate level of funding which enables assets to be maintained to an acceptable standard and balanced against increasing the City's asset base.

Strategic directions may be implemented whereby the service levels of a particular asset group may be increased or decreased depending on the competing priorities of the City and the expectations of the community.

Asset Management Strategy Objectives

- ▶ *To provide the service required by our community:*
 - *by determining service levels required by the community*
 - *by focussing on outputs and outcomes with a view to continuously improving the match between service requirements and our service delivery*
 - *by ensuring our assets are appropriately used and maintained*
- ▶ *To optimise the service potential of our assets:*
 - *through improved management of our existing assets*
 - *through improved flexibility of our asset base*
 - *through rigorous planning, evaluation and budgetary processes*
 - *by using economies of scale for more cost-effective service delivery*
- ▶ *To maximise value for money:*
 - *by taking account of the full costs of holding, using and disposing of assets throughout their life cycles*
 - *by ensuring asset management decisions are responsive to performance measurement and monitoring*
 - *by producing costed options for the delivery of asset services.*
- ▶ *To contribute to economic growth:*
 - *by appropriate matching of assets to meet service delivery demands*
 - *by ensuring that all asset management decisions are made within the context of the City's overall resource allocation and management framework*
- ▶ *To assign responsibility and accountability:*
 - *by clearly defining ownership and control of assets through asset information systems that meet both government and management decision making requirements*
 - *by determining and communicating accountability and reporting responsibilities throughout each step of the integrated approach to asset management.*
- ▶ *To promote balance between development and sustainability:*
 - *by balancing the demand for new assets through the use of non-asset service delivery alternatives where appropriate*
 - *by making asset decisions that consider and protect the needs of future generations*
 - *through consideration of asset renewal and rehabilitation options wherever feasible*
- ▶ *To minimise risks to the community and to the City's financial viability:*
 - *through the application of risk assessment and reduction strategies*
 - *by regular condition audits consistent with the criticality of the various asset categories*
 - *through the delivery of appropriate asset maintenance and renewal programs*

Sustainable Communities - Infrastructure Development Guidelines (October 2010), City of Greater Geelong

The Infrastructure Development Guidelines, while directed more to growth areas than established neighbourhoods, do contain a number of objectives and principles which will be relevant to the development of the Herne Hill Reserve master plan. These include:

► *Landscape and Streetscape - Objectives*

High quality Streetscape and Landscape development, enhancement and protection shall aim to achieve the following goals:

- *Integration of engineering infrastructure and buildings with the landscape features to create a unified and visually appealing design.*
- *Creation of aesthetically pleasing landscape environments, increased community enjoyment of everyday life and a greater sense of meaningful connection between people and the environment.*
- *Fulfilment of the recreational and social needs of the wider and evolving community that reflect the values of the surrounding regional community.*

► *Landscape and Streetscape - Principles*

Ensure that the planning and design for landscape in Streetscape and Open Space settings is sustainable and follows the City's guidelines and best practice principles, including:

- *Making open space areas contribute to the health of the local community and provide an experience and landscape that creates opportunity for active and passive recreation.*
- *Developing a sustainable landscape that is drought tolerant and minimises maintenance requirements.*

► *Sport, Recreation & Open Space - Objectives*

The provision of quality and accessible sport, recreation and open space in communities is vital to provide for the long-term recreation and sporting needs of an active and healthy community.

The objectives for the development of sport, recreation and open space are designed to promote 'sense of place' and community for people of all ages, providing opportunities to meet and interact in appropriate spaces in suitable ways and times. They can also give character to an area, define landscapes and provide a focus to connect a community.

Sport, recreation and open space should provide popular and responsive active (sport and active recreation) and passive (including walking, sitting, contemplating and picnicking) spaces and landscapes. Spaces should be well designed and create places that are 'fit-for-purpose', useable and be located where people want to be. They should maximise active and passive surveillance from adjoining areas and passers-by.

Active recreation spaces and facilities should be designed to facilitate shared use including schools and different community users.

► *Sport, Recreation & Open Space - Principles*

Council endorsed principles as part of its Study of Open Space Networks (Aug 2001) that are applicable to the provision of sport, recreation and open space. These include:

- *Conserving and protecting the natural and cultural environment.*
- *Reflecting community needs.*
- *Enhancing recreation and tourism opportunities.*
- *Improving provision and optimising access.*
- *Ensuring diversity of provision.*
- *Expanding the network of linkages.*
- *Providing for people with disabilities.*
- *Implementing site responsive uses.*

Environment Management Strategy (2014 – 2017), City of Greater Geelong

The Environment Management Strategy 2014-2017 is a key document for guiding planning, decision-making and activities that impact on the Greater Geelong environment and community. The Strategy shapes future planning and growth and provides a framework and roadmap for navigating future environmental challenges and opportunities.

- ▶ *One key objective of the Strategy impacting on the Herne Hill Recreation Reserve Master Plan is to “strategically increase vegetation cover in urban areas to reduce heat island impact and increase community amenity and wellbeing”.*

Domestic Animal Plan (2013 – 2017), City of Greater Geelong

One aim of the Domestic Animal Plan is to offer the Geelong community a fair and balanced environment – where people can enjoy the many public open spaces of Geelong to their fullest extent, regardless of whether they are a pet owner or not.

Under the Domestic Animal Plan policy, residents will have various dedicated Off Leash ‘Supervised’ areas, including some beach locations and most sporting grounds.

An objective arising from this policy which will impact the Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan will be:

- ▶ *Dogs in Public Places*

8.3 Promote the availability of all public general waste bins for the disposal of dog litter using any type of bag. Decals to be put on public waste bins, (refer p26 of the policy).

2.1.3 Other Relevant Policy

A range of other policies and guidelines were reviewed, directly relevant to the Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan, and are summarised below.

G21 Physical Activity Strategy (2014 – 2017), G21 Sport and Recreation Pillar

The main body of the strategy report “provides an overview of the importance of physical activity and the ways in which the G21 region can help to create environments that support physical activity in the community”.

- ▶ *The City of Greater Geelong specific action plan within the report has a number of actions which may be embodied within the Herne Hill Reserve master plan, including:*
- ▶ *Develop an active transport plan that provides an ‘integrated accessible network of walking and cycling routes for safe and convenient travel to local destinations and points of interest’ (Healthy by Design).*
- ▶ *Develop accessible walking and cycling resources to encourage and support participation in safe active travel.*
- ▶ *Work with local sport and active recreation settings to address barriers to participation by vulnerable groups within our community.*
- ▶ *Encourage broader community access to tenanted sport and recreation facilities.*
- ▶ *Ensure that all active sport and recreation settings such as recreation reserves, stadiums, tennis courts and so on are planned, designed, managed and maintained in such a way as to be accessible and appropriate to the needs of all user groups.*

Community Cricket Facility Guidelines (Version September 2015), Cricket Australia

Cricket Australia guidelines produced by Cricket Australia are predominantly detailed and specific to cricket facilities, they do make some statements relevant to the preparation of the Herne Hill Reserve master plan, such as the following from Guidance Note 6.

Social amenities and cricket ground surrounds

With cricket being a sport played over several hours for juniors and the best part of a day for senior competition, it is important 'family friendly' supporting amenities be incorporated into wider cricket facility precinct design.

Supporting facilities, equipment and amenities to be considered when planning a community friendly facility include:

- ▶ *Shade and shelter*
- ▶ *Spectator seating incorporated into the park environment*
- ▶ *Adequate and accessible car parking*
- ▶ *Play equipment, skate or BMX park*
- ▶ *Bicycle racks*
- ▶ *Shared and connecting pathways or trails*
- ▶ *Public BBQ*
- ▶ *Access to food and beverage*
- ▶ *Public toilet facilities*
- ▶ *Drinking fountains*
- ▶ *Tree plantings, garden beds and vegetated areas*
- ▶ *Landscaped treatments*
- ▶ *Venue and club signage*

Netball Victoria National Facilities Policy (2016), Netball Victoria

Netball Australia's National Facilities Policy provides netball in Australia with an overarching framework to guide facility planning and development. These guidelines provide very detailed facility design guidance including core and optional components of a facility along with proposed preferred square metre allowances or estimates for these components.

The key objectives of the Policy are to:

- ▶ *Support participation growth and sustainability*
- ▶ *Provide key stakeholders with guidance in facility planning and development*
- ▶ *Provide a technical manual that can be applied nationally*
- ▶ *Improve the overall consistency, quality and accessibility of netball facilities*

Netball facility planning and development is to be focused on supporting the growth of the sport. In order to do this, facilities will be planned and developed with consideration of the following guiding principles:

- ▶ *Strategic need, facility demand and participation growth opportunities*
- ▶ *Accessibility and inclusion, catering for multiple formats of the sport*
- ▶ *Maximising utilisation and improved programming*
- ▶ *Best practice technical and design standards*
- ▶ *Alignment with the needs of key stakeholders and partners*

In the development of the design brief, the following should be incorporated into the overall facility provision on site (including shared infrastructure):

- ▶ *Change rooms and umpires change rooms*
- ▶ *Public toilets (including accessible)*
- ▶ *Competition / Administration office*
- ▶ *First Aid room*
- ▶ *Kiosk / canteen*
- ▶ *Social area*
- ▶ *Storage*

Other functionality such as kitchens, dedicated function space, meeting rooms, warm-up areas, spectator seating and amenities can be considered on a needs basis.
The Policy does not provide specific guidance on court proximity to amenity provision.

AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines for State, Regional and Local Facilities (August 2012), Cricket Australia

The purpose of the preferred facility guidelines is to act as a key tool during used during the planning phase of a project. The document provides relevant guidance, particularly around spatial requirements that can inform concept and/or master plans. While much of the document is detailed and specific as to layout and spatial configuration, the recent Appendix related to Amenities Upgrades for Unisex Use is particularly applicable to the Herne Hill Reserve master plan.

Amenities Upgrade for Unisex Use (July 2015)

This document has been developed to provide more detail around what is considered best practice in the design of unisex football change rooms and amenities.

People often think of female change rooms as separate dedicated change facilities. This is not the case, rather it is about transforming the existing amenities to cater for unisex use, removing urinals and open showers and replacing with toilet cubicles and shower cubicles that allow showering and changing in privacy. In other words, great change facilities cater equally well for both genders.

G21 and Barwon Region AFL Strategy (2015), G21 Strategic Pillar and AFL Victoria

The strategy aims to “guide the future planning and development of football and netball delivered through football-netball clubs throughout the G21 and AFL Barwon regions. The strategy addresses infrastructure and sports development needs of both sports, as well as establishes clear priorities for local delivery.”

The key findings affecting the preparation of the Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan include:

- ▶ *Herne Hill Reserve and associated infrastructure is rated in the top five facilities across the region in terms of overall quality and provision.*
- ▶ *Herne Hill Reserve is considered a community level facility.*

2.1.4 Policy Implications and Considerations for the Master Plan

The following policy implications and considerations as they relate to the Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan are summarised below;

- ▶ Reserve and facility function is considered community level provision
- ▶ Shared use of facilities
- ▶ Broad community use of open space through appropriate facilities and amenities
- ▶ Encouragement of activity and exercise
- ▶ Enhanced tree planting to reduce “urban heat island” impacts
- ▶ Enhanced and diverse play opportunities
- ▶ Encouragement of active transport – walking and cycling
- ▶ Competing priorities and need for investment in like facilities
- ▶ Standard provision of facilities commensurate with levels of service
- ▶ Sustainable and equitable development and maintenance of facilities across the City
- ▶ Design response and recommendations will be subject to the City’s Business Drivers
- ▶ All decisions subject to the City’s overall resource allocation and management framework

2.2.4 Planning Implications and Considerations for the Master Plan

The following planning implications and considerations as they relate to the Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan are summarised below;

- ▶ The planning context contained within the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme creates no specific issues for the provision of recreation within the reserve.
- ▶ The planning scheme encourages opportunities to increase the diversity of the recreational experience offered by the reserve.
- ▶ However, depending on the type and value of proposed works, a planning permit may be required under the City of Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.
- ▶ No constraints upon recreation use of the reserve, although planning permit required for buildings.

2.3 SITE CONSIDERATIONS

2.3.1 Location and Setting

Herne Hill Reserve is located west of Geelong's CBD between Finchaven Street, Norwood Street and Edinburgh Avenue in the suburb of Herne Hill.

The reserve is located in a predominantly residential setting, with each of the surrounding streets characterised by standard residential development on blocks of approximately 700m² – 800 m² with the exception of the northern boundary of the reserve, adjoining the Geelong Western Cemetery.

There are up to seven other open space land parcels provided within 1.2km of the reserve. These reserves offer a range of recreation opportunities, including;

Name	Distance from Herne Hill Reserve	Provisions
1. Geelong Western Cemetery	Adjoining	Walking trails
2. Kevin Kirby Reserve	260m	Informal recreation spaces, playground, picnic / barbecues and walking
3. Elderslie Reserve	320m	Formal active recreation: AFL / cricket field, tennis courts and pavilions
4. Peter Lowe Reserve	350m	Formal sports field and a public toilet
5. Hurst Reserve	800m	Formal active recreation: AFL / cricket field, netball, pavilion and playground
6. Bakers Oval	1000m	Formal active recreation: AFL / cricket field, pavilion and a playground
7. Sparrow Park	1200m	Informal active recreation spaces, playground, picnic / barbecues and walking.

Refer to Figure 4 for a visual representation of local open space provision.

The reserve is connected to these open spaces via the local street network. There is no local off-street trail network, other than the Geelong Western Cemetery path system.

► FIGURE 4: SURROUNDING OPEN SPACE PROVISION (WITHIN 1.2KM VICINTY)



2.3.2 Location and Setting Implications and Considerations for the Master Plan

The following location and setting implications and considerations as they relate to the Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan are summarised below;

- ▶ The proximity of open space of a similar scale and function to Herne Hill reserve suggests an opportunity to provide a greater diversity of recreation experience.
- ▶ The presence of other similar scale community open space within a walkable proximity suggests the potential to see Herne Hill as part of a local open space network rather than a single reserve.
- ▶ There is potential to better integrate the reserve with the adjoining cemetery, particularly as part of a local walking network.
- ▶ Car parking, either on-site or on-street, is currently constrained. There are opportunities for more integrated parking solutions.
- ▶ The location and residential setting of Herne Hill Reserve limits the future development and growth potential at the site but also confirms the appropriateness of a local level recreation facility provision.

2.3.3 Sports Facilities

The club-based sporting user groups at Herne Hill Reserve are St Joseph's Football & Netball Club and the St Peters Cricket Club. Figure 5 (page 28) provides an overview of current Sports Facilities.

Ovals

The reserve contains two sports ovals, Walker Oval on the west and NH Drew Oval on the east. Both are used for cricket and football with Walker Oval (and turf wicket table) being the primary cricket field and NH Drew Oval (and synthetic cricket pitch) being the primary AFL oval.

Both ovals are maintained to a Community 1 standard, the highest community level provision. The provision of two Community 1 ovals at one site is not a common occurrence (standard provision for a two oval facility is a Community 1 and a Community 2 standard oval) and is permitted in recognition of the size and level of usage by tenant clubs.

Key characteristics of Walker Oval:

- ▶ Aligned in a north - south orientation
- ▶ Approximate playing surface dimensions of 157m x 128m (larger than average size)
- ▶ Defined by perimeter rail fence
- ▶ Caters for senior cricket competition and training and senior football competition and training
- ▶ Includes lighting compliant with current Australian Standards for sports lighting for training (100lux)
- ▶ Central 4 pitch turf table for senior cricket competition
- ▶ Includes synthetic and turf cricket practice wickets, located on the south-western boundary of the oval
- ▶ Two coaches boxes
- ▶ Suffers from poor drainage, with the eastern wing subject to occasional inundation, particularly in winter months, leading to soft playing surface conditions. Lack of drainage impacts also on the area between Walker Oval and NH Drew Oval
- ▶ Has no spectator amenity or shade apart from the clubrooms.



View west across Walker Oval



View south-east to Walker Oval southern goals



View north to clubrooms with poor drainage on Walker Oval eastern wing

Key characteristics of NH Drew Oval:

- ▶ Aligned in a north - south orientation
- ▶ Approximate playing surface dimensions of 157m x 128m (larger than average size)
- ▶ Defined by perimeter rail fence
- ▶ Caters for Senior Cricket competition and Senior Football competition and training
- ▶ Has no lighting
- ▶ Has a single hard (concrete) centre-wicket cricket pitch
- ▶ Has an electronic scoreboard and a now redundant scoreboard
- ▶ Has a recently constructed timekeepers and scorers box with storage
- ▶ Has had drainage installed in recent years and is well drained
- ▶ Has no spectator amenity or shade apart from the clubrooms



View north to clubrooms across NH Drew Oval eastern wing



View south to NH Drew Oval southern goals



NH Drew Oval timekeepers box and storage

Netball Courts

The reserve contains two netball courts, located on its southern (Finchaven Street) boundary. The courts have been constructed in the last five years and have a high quality plexipave playing surface.

Key characteristics of the netball courts:

- ▶ Have a south-east / north-west orientation
- ▶ Have full run-off areas as required by Netball Australia regulations
- ▶ Have lighting that complies with current Australian Standards for netball training lighting
- ▶ Are separate from the Football and Netball Club rooms, with older storage toilet and scoreboard structures between
- ▶ Has courtside players shelters and spectator areas
- ▶ Ageing court-side facilities including public toilet, storage and administration space / first aid facilities



South-eastern corner of netball courts, looking towards Finchaven Street



View south-west from eastern edge of netball courts



View across netball courts to Walker Oval southern goals

Cricket Practice Nets

The reserve includes a cricket practice net complex comprising 4 synthetic and 2 turf practice pitches with retractable “soft” fencing and a single turf practice pitch with retractable netting. The practice nets were constructed within the last 5 years in line with the netball court installations.

Key characteristics of the cricket practice nets:

- ▶ Located on south-western pocket of Walker Oval
- ▶ Have 4 synthetic pitches with fixed fencing and 2 turf practice pitches with retractable dividing net
- ▶ Has run-ups extending onto the oval (not in accordance with Cricket Australia guidelines), leading to wearing of the playing surface
- ▶ Has no power for bowling machine or storage area for equipment

AFL Scoreboard

A new electronic scoreboard has been constructed adjacent NH Drew Oval, leaving the previous scoreboard redundant.



Synthetic cricket practice pitches



Turf cricket practice pitches



Electronic AFL scoreboard

Coaches Boxes

NH Drew Oval has two simple coaches' boxes which, while not substantial, are adequate. The oval does not have interchange areas or interchange boxes, as recommended by AFL facility guidelines for local facilities.

Timekeepers Box and Storage Shed

This is a recently constructed 2-storey masonry structure providing storage for ground-keeping equipment at the lower level and a timekeeper's box at the upper level, with a view over NH Drew Oval.

Inspection of the building reveals that:

- ▶ It is good condition and appears to meet the needs of the club.
- ▶ Its location allows for improved circulation between the netball courts and the clubrooms, compared to the storage shed further to the south.
- ▶ Despite being a recent installation, the facility is not considered compliant under the Disability Discrimination Act as it has no provision for access for all abilities.



NH Drew Oval – Redundant Manual AFL scoreboard



NH Drew oval western wing - Northern coaches' box



NH Drew oval western wing – Southern coaches' box

► FIGURE 5: HERNE HILL RESERVE, OVERVIEW OF CURRENT SPORTS FACILITIES



2.3.4 Sports Facility Implications and Considerations for the Master Plan

The following sports facility implications and considerations as they relate to the Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan are summarised below;

While the formal sports facilities at Herne Hill Reserve are generally of a high quality, placing it in the top 3 community sports venues for football within the City of Greater Geelong via the G21 AFL Barwon Regional Strategy and the broader G21 region, there are opportunities to improve facilities in areas such as:

- ▶ Provision and/or upgrade of appropriate netball courtside support facilities such as shelter, storage and the public toilet.
- ▶ Provision of cricket training storage facilities.
- ▶ Enhancement of drainage within Walker Oval.
- ▶ Provision of coaches and interchange facilities in accordance with AFL guidelines
- ▶ Provision of appropriate netball courtside infrastructure.

2.3.5 Buildings and Structures

There are four main buildings located at Herne Hill Reserve, these are:

- ▶ St Joseph's Football and Netball Clubrooms
- ▶ St Peters Cricket Clubrooms
- ▶ Former Scout Hall
- ▶ Public Toilets

These buildings are supplemented by a range of support structures including storage rooms and other coaches boxes).

The buildings and structures are visually located on Figure 6 – *Overview of Buildings and Structures* on the following page.

St Joseph's Football and Netball Clubrooms

The St Joseph's Football and Cricket Clubrooms are located against the north-eastern pocket of NH Drew Oval, as indicated on Figure 7. The Clubrooms comprise the following spaces:

- ▶ Social space, consisting of lounge and viewing areas, with operable wall between
- ▶ 2 AFL change rooms
- ▶ AFL support amenities (toilets, showers)
- ▶ 1 Netball change room
- ▶ Netball support facilities (toilet)
- ▶ Umpires change room
- ▶ 1 junior change room
- ▶ Kitchen, bar and store rooms
- ▶ Meeting room with external veranda looking towards both fields
- ▶ Public toilet facilities

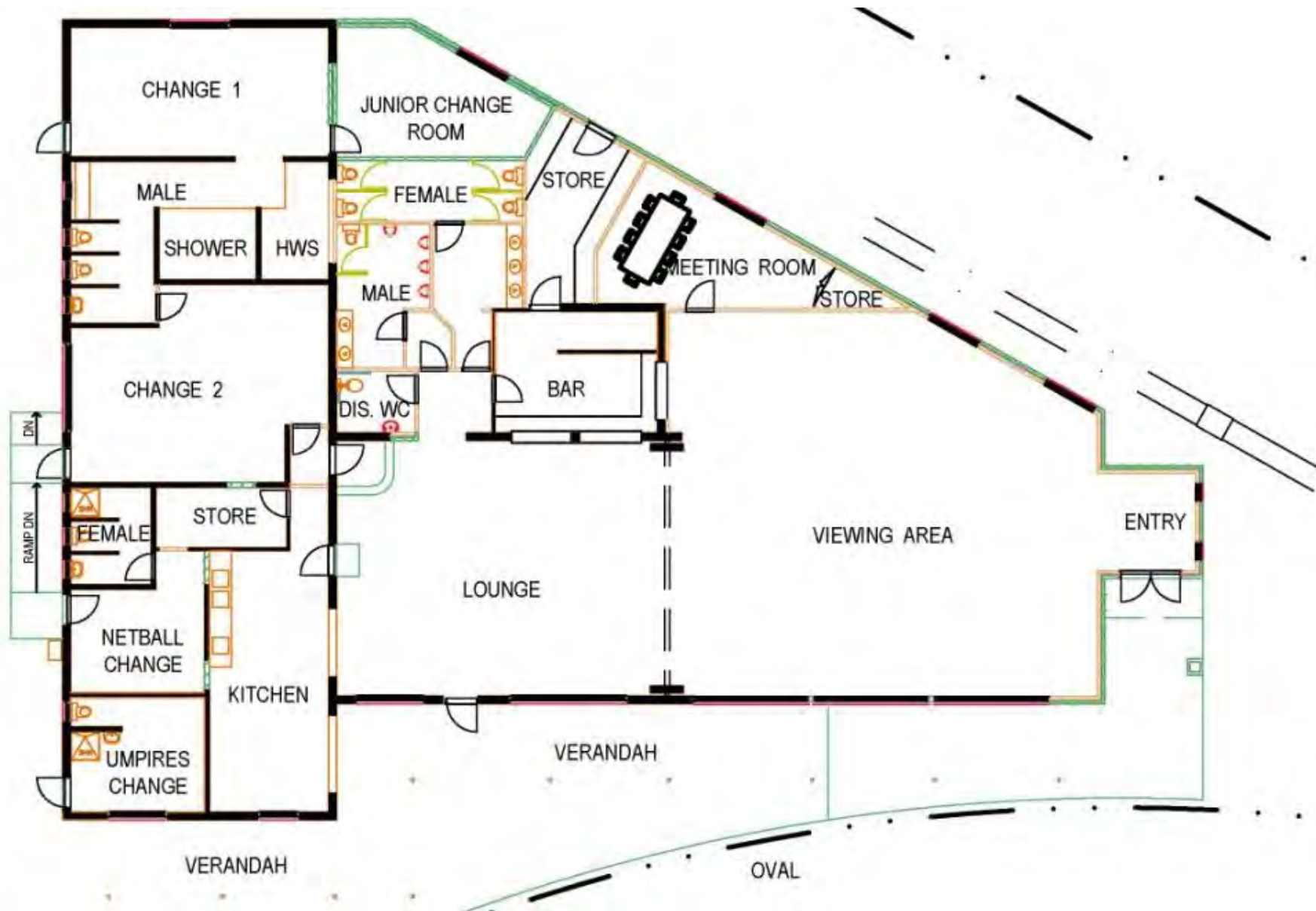
Inspection of the building and comparison with current AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines for local facilities reveals the following:

- ▶ Social areas, kitchen and bar, and meeting spaces are consistent with current AFL square metre area recommendations.
- ▶ Public toilets comply with current AFL square metre area recommendations.
- ▶ Internal storage areas comply with current AFL square metre area recommendations.
- ▶ AFL change rooms and player amenities are not consistent with current AFL guidelines in relation to square metre area recommendations.
- ▶ Umpires change room does not comply with AFL square metre area recommendations.
- ▶ There is no nominated first aid / medical room or massage / strapping room within the main building, which are optional features within current AFL area guidelines.
- ▶ There is no nominated third umpire / match referee or venue management office, which is an optional space within current AFL area guidelines.
- ▶ The current netball change room is adequate but is currently being used for storage.
- ▶ There is currently no specific provision for female AFL change or amenities.
- ▶ The building does not comply with current general building requirements such as DDA, BCA Section J compliance, OH&S requirements and fire regulations. All such requirements would be likely considerations in the event of any major renovation of the current buildings.

► FIGURE 6: HERNE HILL RESERVE BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES



► FIGURE 7: ST JOSEPH'S FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUBROOMS (NOT TO SCALE)



St Peters Cricket Club rooms

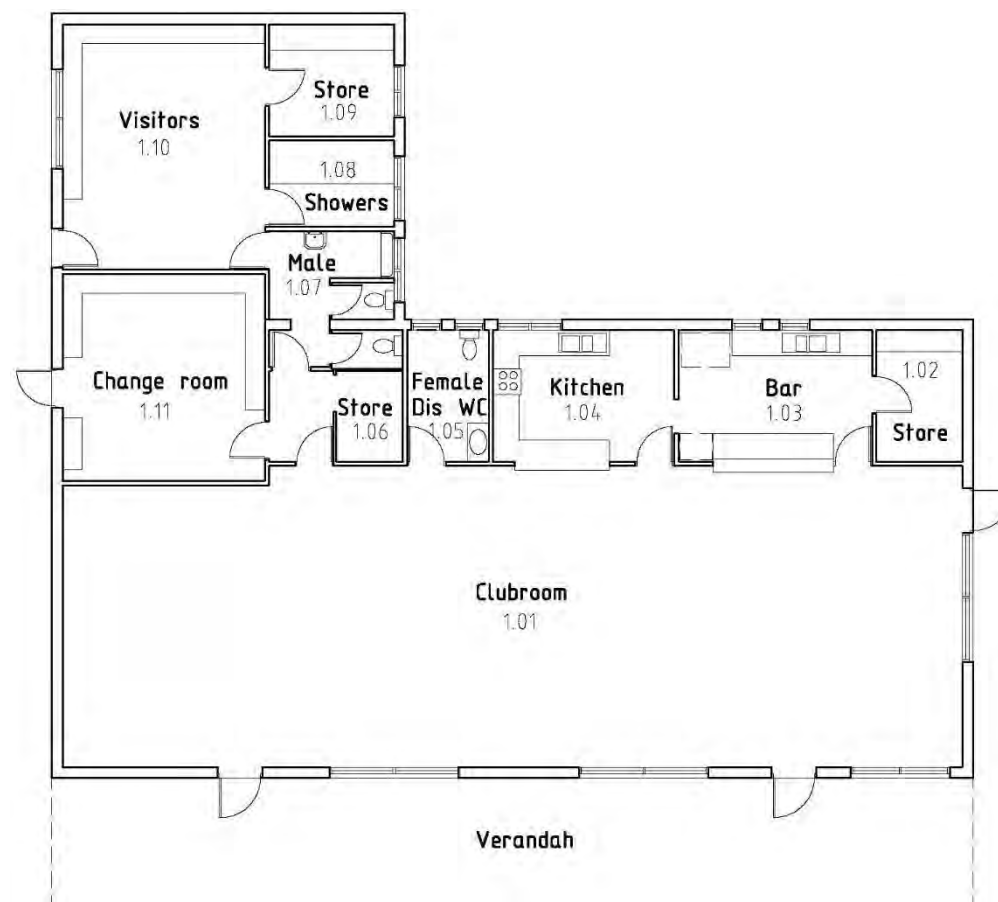
The St Peters Cricket Club rooms are located against the south-eastern pocket of Walker Oval, as indicated in Figure 8. The club rooms comprise the following spaces:

- ▶ Social space with external veranda looking towards both fields
- ▶ Change rooms for home and visiting teams
- ▶ Male Toilet
- ▶ Unisex disabled toilet
- ▶ Kitchen, bar and store rooms

Inspection of the building, and comparison with current Cricket Australia (CA) Community Cricket Facility Guidelines reveals the following:

- ▶ Social / community areas are consistent with current CA area guidelines
- ▶ Change rooms are consistent with current CA area guidelines
- ▶ Accessible and public toilets are not consistent with current CA area guidelines
- ▶ Kitchen / kiosk and kitchen store areas are not consistent with current CA area guidelines (unless the existing bar area is considered as part of this provision)
- ▶ There is no current designated umpires room, medical / first aid room or scorers viewing area as recommended by current CA area guidelines
- ▶ Internal and external storage areas are not consistent with current CA area guidelines
- ▶ There is no specific provision for female change or amenities except for a female toilet.
- ▶ The building will not comply with current general building requirements such as DDA, BCA Section J compliance, OH&S requirements and fire regulations. All such requirements would be likely considerations in the event of any major renovation of the current buildings.

▶ FIGURE 8: ST PETERS CRICKET CLUBROOMS (NOT TO SCALE)



Former Scout Hall

The former scout hall in the north-east corner of the site has been converted to an AFL training room / gym and home team pre-match room and change facility. It comprises the following spaces:

- ▶ A small entry / pre-match address room
- ▶ A larger gym / raining room
- ▶ Change room with open shower block (capacity for 4 people), 1 toilet and 1 urinal.

The facility has no other amenities such as a first aid room. While it provides a serviceable and functional facility, it suffers from lack of connection with the main club room and from the lack of these facilities.



Former scout hall – current use as home team change and gym.

Public Toilets

The reserve includes a public toilet located between the two ovals, just north of the existing tennis courts, as shown on Figure 6 – Buildings and Structures.

Inspection of the building reveals that it:

- ▶ Creates a barrier to easy pedestrian movement and visual connection between the netball courts and the main clubrooms
- ▶ Has poor quality and outdated fittings
- ▶ Lacks security that may lead to concerns about personal safety



Existing Public Toilet Block

Storage Shed

A brick storage shed is located adjacent to the public toilet block referred to above, as shown on Figure 6.

Inspection of the building reveals that it:

- ▶ Contributes to a barrier to easy pedestrian movement and visual connection between the netball courts and the main clubrooms
- ▶ Is potentially functionally redundant, having been replaced by the recent structure located closer to the St Peter's Cricket Clubrooms



Existing Time Keepers Box / Storage Shed

2.3.6 Buildings and Structures Implications and Considerations for the Master Plan

- ▶ While both current clubroom buildings have served their clubs for a long period of time and remain in serviceable condition, they do not completely meet the current sports association facility guidelines. Opportunities associated with these buildings fall into three categories:
 - o accept the buildings as they are and continue to utilise them while they are serviceable;
 - o consider upgrades and/or retirement of the existing buildings in order to overcome current limitations;
 - o or consider a new facility in place of the current two clubrooms.
- ▶ There is an opportunity to remove a number of redundant structures, particularly the existing scoreboard, and potentially the brick storage building and toilet block.
- ▶ The existing public toilet block presents significant issues in relation to the condition of the facility and its location. Opportunity for a new facility should be considered within the master plan.
- ▶ Due to the building condition, refurbishment as it relates to the St Peter Cricket Club pavilion would not be considered a cost-effective option and does not offer an opportunity to provide for the desired design outcomes.

A series of planning and design considerations have been prepared based on the issues and opportunities presented by the existing buildings at Herne Hill Reserve and these are outlined in Section 4.

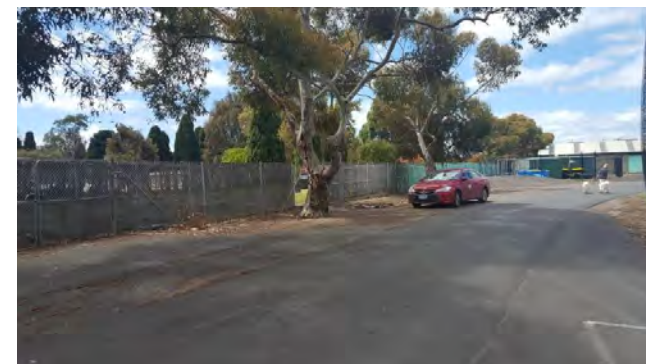
2.3.7 Vehicular Access and Car Parking

Key points associated with vehicle access and movement at Herne Hill Reserve are summarised on Figure 9 on page 38. These points include:

- ▶ Formal vehicle access into the reserve occurs at two key points as indicated on Figure 9 – Norwood Street near the cemetery entrance, and the corner of Edinburgh Avenue and Hilltop Street.
- ▶ Sealed vehicle access is limited to the area around the main club rooms. Asphalt roadways lead from each of the main entry points to sealed but informally laid out parking areas. The larger of these is located to the north-west of the St Peter Cricket Club rooms, nominating the Norwood Street entrance as the most highly used.
- ▶ Car parking and access around the ovals is informal and unsealed. The surface of these areas is uneven and subject to ponding in times of heavy rain.
- ▶ There are no traffic management devices within the reserve, meaning that vehicle movement and parking is largely uncontrolled, allowing vehicles to park in a haphazard fashion in almost any area of the reserve.



Undefined vehicle access and parking around NH Drew Oval



Sealed roadway to north of Walker Oval



Parking east of NH Drew Oval

2.3.8 Vehicular Access and Car Parking Issues and Considerations for the Master Plan

- ▶ Consideration of the opportunity to formalise car parking around both fields, integrated with drainage to improve ground surfaces and with pedestrian circulation to enhance user amenity
- ▶ Consideration of formalised parking along adjoining streets
- ▶ Consideration of traffic management measures to control vehicle movement and enhance pedestrian safety in and around the site

2.3.9 Pedestrian Access and Circulation

Key points associated with pedestrian movement at Herne Hill Reserve are summarised on Figure 9 on page 38. These points include:

- ▶ There are no formal pedestrian paths through the reserve. Pedestrians moving across the reserve or between facilities utilise either sealed roadways and parking areas or the broad unsealed areas around the ovals.
- ▶ While there are no formal footpaths on the reserve street boundaries, the path network within the Geelong Western Cemetery leads directly into the reserve, creating an opportunity for improved pedestrian connection with the broader neighbourhood.
- ▶ There are currently no footpaths along streets forming the western, southern and eastern boundaries of the site (i.e. Norwood Street, Finchaven Street and Edinburg Avenue.).
- ▶ Pedestrian access between the netball courts and the main clubroom buildings is compromised by the location of potentially redundant structures, and by the narrow and poorly drained nature of this connection.

2.3.10 Pedestrian Access Issues and Considerations for the Master Plan

- ▶ There is an opportunity to provide a formal pedestrian circulation system, integrated with potential improvements to vehicle circulation and parking to enhance pedestrian safety and amenity.
- ▶ The opportunity to improve the connection between the netball courts and the main clubrooms should be investigated.



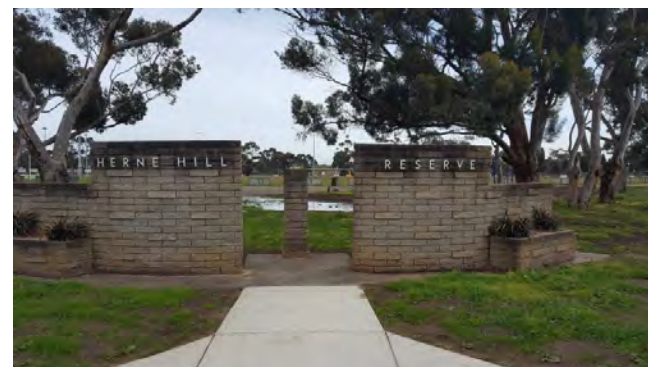
Poor amenity pedestrian connection between netball courts and buildings



Lack of pedestrian paths around NH Drew Oval



Lack of defined pedestrian paths to north of Walker Oval



No pedestrian connection to street path network.

► FIGURE 9: HERNE HILL RESERVE SITE CIRCULATION



2.3.11 Landscape and Passive Recreation Areas

Key points arising from the review of the existing landscape and passive recreation areas of the reserve are summarised on Figure 10 on page 40. These points include:

- ▶ The reserve is lined on each of its street frontages by mature Eucalyptus cladocalyx (Sugar Gum). While these plantations provide a strong definition of the reserve boundary, as well as useful shade, they are mature trees which are close to, or have reached a senescent stage of development. There is evidence of limb drop from a number of specimens.
- ▶ Apart from the lines of Sugar Gums there are no established or mature trees within the reserve to provide shade or visual landscape amenity.
- ▶ There is a small existing playground near the south-eastern corner of the reserve. The equipment in this playground is old and out of date.
- ▶ There is no park furniture or amenities, such as seats, shelters or bicycle racks across the reserve.
- ▶ Passive recreation areas are not well defined and are often used for vehicle parking.
- ▶ Remnants of three former entry gates into the reserve are located at the corner of Finchaven Street and Edinburgh Avenue, and along Finchaven Street at the locations highlighted on Figure 9.

2.3.12 Landscape and Passive Recreation Issues and Considerations for the Master Plan

- ▶ There is an opportunity to re-define the visual landscape of the reserve in line with City of Greater Geelong strategic directions, given the senescent condition of the existing Sugar Gums.
- ▶ The potential to provide enhanced opportunities for passive recreation should be explored, in line with the objectives of City of Greater Geelong strategic documents. This would include opportunities for play, walking, seating, group socialising and picnicking.
- ▶ Enhancement of the existing landscape and passive recreation opportunities should be considered along with improvement to reserve drainage and vehicle circulation and parking. This extends to the opportunity to redefine areas for quality and safely accessible passive recreation.



Playground in south-eastern corner of reserve



Sugar Gums along Finchaven Street edge of reserve



Sugar Gums along Edinburgh Avenue edge of reserve

► FIGURE 10: HERNE HILL RESERVE LANDSCAPE AND PASSIVE RECREATION AREAS



2.4 STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The first round of community consultation, to inform the identification of needs, issues and opportunities involved four key avenues and as they aligned with the project governance structure:

- ▶ Interviews and regular meetings with tenant clubs (Project Reference Group 1)
- ▶ Interviews and workshop with governing sports associations (Project Reference Group 2)
- ▶ Survey of immediate residents (400 households), and
- ▶ Discussions and workshops with relevant technical City officers and managers (Project Steering Group)

The next phase of community engagement consisted of the broader community to have opportunity to provide some commentary on the draft masterplan:

- ▶ Letter drop to all residents within a 400m radius of the Herne Hill Reserve, providing a range of opportunities to provide comment and submission.
- ▶ The Herne Hill Master Plan was also available via the geelongaustralia.com.au website to provide the opportunity for the broader community to make comment.

The following section provides a summary of each stakeholder groups needs and aspirations as they relate to the development and improvement of Herne Hill Reserve.

2.4.1 Tenant Clubs (Project Reference Group 1)

Individual and group meetings were held throughout the process from December 2016 to May 2018 with representative members of each of the tenant clubs. The purpose of these meetings was to understand the current activities of each tenant and, particularly, their needs and aspirations for the future which could be considered within the master plan.

Each of the meetings covered a range of topics and at key stages throughout master plan development. Key directions, ideas and priorities arising from each of the clubs is provided following.

St Joseph's Football and Netball Club

The following provides a summary of the football and netball club needs, preferences and aspirations:

Big Ideas

- ▶ Opportunity to move netball courts to improve connections / consolidate the number of buildings.
- ▶ Audit of existing buildings to provide an understanding of current conditions, lifespan, opportunities for redevelopment (What are the opportunities for renovating?).
- ▶ Suggested netball change facility could be integrated and smaller if existing pavilions were upgraded / new.
- ▶ Opportunity to improve the connection between the ovals.
- ▶ Opportunity to reduce Walker Oval in size to accommodate a wider central connection.
- ▶ Improving drainage would improve use of car-parking, access to buildings, interchange runoff, use of oval 2 (Walker Oval).
- ▶ Opportunity to formalise car parking for more efficient use.
- ▶ Scout Hall could go if the gym could be relocated.
- ▶ Could tender for finals if the reserve was fenced (for ticketing).
- ▶ Opportunity to share building with cricket club has been discussed in a preliminary manner.
- ▶ No parking around netball – people would need to come back past club rooms.
- ▶ Opportunity for swipe access to buildings to address immediate access / security problems.
- ▶ Opportunity to improve link through the cemetery.
- ▶ Old scoreboard could go as there is a new one recently built.

Primary Priorities

- ▶ Netball: change rooms / toilets and showers / storage / administration / umpires rooms / first aid.
- ▶ General: improve drainage.
- ▶ General: formalisation / improvement of parking.
- ▶ Football: opposition coaches box.
- ▶ Football: 2 coaches boxes for juniors.

Secondary Priorities

- ▶ General: connection of netball facilities with main pavilion.
- ▶ Football: gym relocated.

St Joseph's Football Netball Club also submitted plans demonstrating their desired infrastructure outcomes for a standalone netball change facility, known as 'The Wedge', this was noted as the non-preferred option due to a number of standalone facilities already existing on site.

St Peters Cricket Club

The following provides a summary of the cricket club needs, preferences and aspirations:

Big Ideas

- ▶ Shelters at the netball courts could be spread out to allow room for scorers' box to service cricket.
- ▶ Retention of viewing space to western oval in any new community pavilion
- ▶ Provision of kiosk/canteen facilities in western viewing area
- ▶ Audit of existing buildings to provide an understanding of current conditions, lifespan, opportunities for redevelopment (What is the potential for renovating / converting?).
- ▶ Improve the connection between the ovals and create a thoroughfare.
- ▶ Improving drainage would improve use of car parking, access to buildings, interchange run out, use of oval 2 (Walker Oval).
- ▶ Formalise car parking for more efficient use.

- ▶ Opportunity to build underground car park to provide additional car spaces without compromising open space.
- ▶ Opportunity to build a storage shed at the rear of the cricket nets.
- ▶ Opportunity to build an indoor / covered training space.
- ▶ Opportunity to change the sub-base of the oval to sand.
- ▶ Opportunity to re-grade oval to improve its fall.
- ▶ Opportunity to install underground drainage to alleviate drainage issues on oval 2 (Walker Oval).
- ▶ Opportunity to seal car park and integrate drainage solution.
- ▶ Joint building tenants with football netball club. Some discussions with SJFNC about this but very preliminary and concerns raised over what shared use looks like.
- ▶ Opportunity to convert cricket pavilion into change facilities and build a second storey social space.
- ▶ Opportunity to knock down existing building and build new two storey pavilion that addresses everyone's needs.

Priorities (in order of preference)

- ▶ Address drainage solutions on ovals and surrounds.
- ▶ Storage shed at cricket nets (min 32sqm).
- ▶ Change room refurbishment (of existing).
- ▶ Gender neutral change facilities (female friendly and more of them).
- ▶ Car park sealing and formalisation and improvements to playground and surrounds.
- ▶ Sub-base of ovals, preference for sand.
- ▶ New pavilion (including an indoor training space).

Joint Club Submission

St Joseph's Football and Netball Club and St Peters Cricket Club also met to prepare a joint submission to inform the master plan process.

The key shared priorities arising out of this joint submission were:

- ▶ Futureproofing
- ▶ Vastly improved drainage
- ▶ Contemporary change rooms, training facilities, arenas and lighting which meet the independent criteria for impaired and able-bodied competitors and umpires of both sexes as set by Cricket Australia, Netball Australia and Australian Football League.
- ▶ Contemporary, distinct, fit for purpose and accessible allied amenities for each sporting section inclusive of:
 - Administration
 - Storage – Merchandise Equipment
 - Officials – Umpires, Scorers, Timekeepers, Coaches boxes, Interchange
 - Scoreboards
- ▶ Engagement – Improved car parking, spectator seating, spectator viewing
- ▶ Connectivity and accessibility
- ▶ Commercial functionality
- ▶ Community Use
- ▶ Beautification, and
- ▶ Overall affordability to deliver proposed outcomes.

The key potential solutions outlined in the joint submission involved two linked actions:

- ▶ 1. Two storey main building incorporating the prioritised amenities identified above, and
- ▶ 2. Netball court relocation

2.4.2 Sports Associations (Project Reference Group 2)

A combined meeting and workshop was held on 1st February 2017 with representatives from AFL Barwon, Cricket Victoria and Netball Victoria. The primary purpose of the meetings was to understand the level of facilities which the association would view as appropriate at Herne Hill Reserve, given the level of competition which is played there, as well as any future aspirations the associations may have for the reserve.

In addition to each association facility development guidelines, strategies and specifications, each were represented by their respective regional managers. AFL Barwon was represented by Lee Hartman and Katie Geerings. Netball Victoria was represented by Melanie Taylor and Cricket Victoria was represented by Julie Allan.

Meetings covered a range of topics however, the key directions raised by each association as key considerations for the master plan are summarised below:

AFL Barwon

- ▶ Facilities should be provided in accordance with the current AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines for State, Regional and Local facilities – August 2012, including the current Appendix addressing female change facilities.
- ▶ Herne Hill Reserve is not considered a regional ground by AFL Barwon. It would not therefore be scheduled for senior finals and does not require permanent fencing. While it is used for junior finals these are not ticketed and so do not require fencing.
- ▶ It was noted that there are currently three (3) girls AFL teams fielded by St Joseph's Football and Netball Club, which are growing and are intended to lead into open women's competition in coming years.
- ▶ Girls' games are currently scheduled on Sundays, separate from netball and both senior and junior male football competition, although the future direction is leaning towards scheduling boys and girl's games on the same day, therefore requiring greater change room capacity and preference for unisex change facilities.
- ▶ The current gym facilities at Herne Hill Reserve are adequate but not ideal.

Netball Victoria

- ▶ Facilities should be provided in accordance with current Netball Australia National Facilities Policy (March 2016).
- ▶ Change facilities required are home team change, away team change and umpire change and could be part of improved facilities in a central building.
- ▶ Required courtside facilities are first aid equipment, accessible toilet, storage area, water and shelter.
- ▶ Current facility provision guidelines do not specify change facility proximity to courts.

Cricket Victoria

- ▶ Facilities should be provided in accordance with Cricket Australia Community Cricket Guidelines (2015).
- ▶ Fencing of reserve not preferred.
- ▶ AFL change room provision guidelines will be adequate for cricket requirements.
- ▶ Walker Oval could be made marginally smaller, but 50m radius from popping crease remains as minimum playing field dimension (refer Cricket Australia Community Cricket Guidelines, 2015).
- ▶ Improved drainage on Walker Oval would lead to an improved turf table.

Sports Association Collection Preferences and Priorities

- ▶ Total change room requirement – 2 AFL home team change, 2 AFL away team change, 1 netball home team change, 1 netball away team change – 6 change rooms sufficient, while 8 would be preferred. Suggested mix would be adequate for cricket use also. Note: In recognition of the site and the size of the clubs, the recommended provision is greater than specified in the guidelines for a community level facility.
- ▶ Improved connection between netball courts and main pavilion, to provide a wider, more direct and higher amenity access.
- ▶ Minor revision of size of ovals (particularly Walker Oval) was seen as raising no obvious issues.
- ▶ Highest Priorities - improvement in car parking, improved female friendly amenities and improved drainage (including Walker Oval).

2.4.3 Immediate Residents

A survey of the local community was undertaken between 13th January 2017 and 13th February 2017. A letterbox drop and online survey was distributed to local residents of Herne Hill Reserve to gauge the usage behaviours, needs and aspirations of the local community. A postcard advising survey was delivered to 400 households and 46 responses were received. These insights have been included in the development of the Master Plan.

The survey asked simple questions with a view to understanding how the local community views Herne Hill Reserve, especially what they appreciate about the reserve, how they use it and how they would like to see it improved.

In total 46 responses were received. Of these respondents, 7 were members of tenant clubs. A copy of the survey questions along with the summary report is included in Appendix 1.

Overwhelmingly, participants saw the reserve as their backyard and any future design needs to encourage and support informal activities such as walking, sitting, play and exercise, while still balancing the needs of the tenant clubs.

In terms of priorities, some participants raised ideas around improved infrastructure to support a more comfortable environment. Examples were more seating, shade and improved public toilets. A few participants specifically requested that these improvements be provided across the whole reserve, and not just concentrated around the children's play area, to be more inclusive of all ages / activities (including dog walkers). Others talked about the need to improve the landscaping and appearance of the park, car parking and traffic management.

Residents who also access the sporting facilities wanted to see improvements to the playing fields and club infrastructure such as toilets, club rooms, car parking and for the drainage to be improved to reduce impacts of flooding.

Overall the key opportunities for the reserve, as identified by local residents, could be grouped into five key themes:

- ▶ Improve / upgrade the existing playground
- ▶ Increase the amount / quality of seating, shade and walking paths to be more inclusive and welcoming of all ages and activities
- ▶ Improve infrastructure to better support sporting club activities
- ▶ Improve landscaping and appearance of the reserve, and
- ▶ Improve car parking and traffic management

A detailed summary of the Local Resident Survey can be found in Appendix 1.

2.4.4 Internal Stakeholders and Departments

Several meetings and workshop discussions were held with City of Greater Geelong officers in reviewing the site and understanding the issues and opportunities to be addressed by the master plan.

Discussions were held with representatives of the following the City's technical departments that formed the Project Steering Group:

- ▶ Recreation and Open Space (Now known as Social Planning and Investment and Connected Communities) – Inclusive of Asset Management
- ▶ Engineering Services – Infrastructure Management (Drainage) Unit
- ▶ Parks and Gardens
- ▶ City Services – Tree Management Unit
- ▶ Property and Procurement
- ▶ Strategy and Engagement

A summary of key considerations and directions arising from these discussions are provided below:

- ▶ The City supports consolidation of buildings and encourages shared uses, over the construction of new single use facilities.
- ▶ All recommendations and options need to explore the repurposing and/or enhancement of existing infrastructure or alternatively new built infrastructure.
- ▶ Ensure recommendations consider flexible, multiuser opportunities.
- ▶ All recommendations need to be considered in relation to the increasing cost of on-going management of the City's assets across the municipality.
- ▶ All recommendations need to be considered in relation to equity of asset provision across the municipality. At Herne Hill Reserve this will mean aligning future plans with the standard provision for a community level facility and with associated levels of service, although notwithstanding being fit-for-purpose.

- ▶ Acknowledge error in G21 and AFL Barwon Regional Strategy 2015 facility audit and subsequent inventory (page 21) where netball change facilities (netball amenities) are reported as '0' or no provision. The refurbished netball change rooms were opened in 2011 and were misidentified as they were being used as drink fridge storage at the time of the audit. The City has been reassured that this will be corrected in the next facility audit.
- ▶ Provision for play should reflect a local catchment. The reserve is not considered a district park and therefore does not technically require a public toilet.
- ▶ Drainage of both Walker Oval and the perimeter crushed rock areas is a key issue on the site, impacting both sporting surfaces and general use of the reserve.
- ▶ Formalisation of circulation and car parking is an opportunity to resolve drainage issues, control vehicle movement and provide improved pedestrian safety and amenity.
- ▶ Formalisation and enhancement of the connection from the netball courts to the clubrooms is an opportunity to enhance circulation and address drainage issues.
- ▶ Investigate occupancy status of existing Scout Hall facility to ensure appropriate land lease is in place following disbandment of previous tenant, the Scout Group and recent occupancy of the St Joseph's Football Netball Club.
- ▶ Minor revision of the size of ovals (particularly Walker Oval) is an opportunity to enhance circulation and drainage.
- ▶ All future and/or improvement of change facilities should be gender neutral, meaning female friendly as standard.
- ▶ The existing perimeter Sugar Gums are mature and have a poor Useful Life Expectancy, presenting issues associated with limb drop and grass growth beneath. Replacement of the trees is an opportunity to enhance amenity and formalise circulation. It is recommended that tree replacement program be completed in stages to ensure transition over time.
- ▶ Key opportunities to enhance amenity within the reserve include construction of pedestrian paths, provision of shaded seating and enhance of play and passive recreation opportunities.
- ▶ A final pavilion design will need to be supported by all tenant clubs prior to any building works commencing

2.4.5 Stakeholder Issues and Considerations for the Master Plan

Issues

- ▶ Lack of adequate change facilities and amenities for female sport
- ▶ Lack of suitable cricket specific storage facilities
- ▶ Lack of game day facilities for AFL (i.e. interchange bench and coaches boxes)
- ▶ Netball courts not directly connected to clubrooms and amenities
- ▶ Poor drainage of Walker Oval and across reserve
- ▶ Public toilets in poor condition and unsafe
- ▶ Existing playground dated and lacking amenity
- ▶ Existing trees senescent and hazardous
- ▶ Parking and vehicle movement uncontrolled
- ▶ Pedestrian movement not provided for
- ▶ No passive recreation amenities

Opportunities

- ▶ Provide consolidated shared facilities to meet needs of all users
- ▶ Provide a viewing area and associated kiosk/canteen on western end of new pavilion to accommodate for cricket match days
- ▶ Provide improved amenity and passive recreation / play opportunities for local neighbourhood
- ▶ Enhance connection to other open space and encourage walking
- ▶ Enhance the existing landscape to provide shade, habitat and improved landscape character
- ▶ Improve all abilities and ages access to recreation
- ▶ A final pavilion design will need to be supported by all tenant clubs prior to any building works commencing

3. MASTER PLAN PRINCIPLES

In reviewing the planning and policy context, site and facilities considerations along with the needs, preferences and aspirations of key stakeholders, the following principles we developed to guide the preparation of the Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan.

CONSOLIDATE BUILT FORM

- ▶ New built facilities and improved existing facilities at the reserve should encourage shared use i.e. use by a number of different groups and activities.
- ▶ New built facilities should consolidate built form to minimise management and maintenance expense, while providing an enhanced and connected facility for the benefit of all users
- ▶ A final pavilion design will need to be supported by all tenant clubs prior to any building works commencing
- ▶ There is a need for the viewing area facing Walker oval to be expanded and reconfigured to provide sufficient space to suitably accommodate 50-60 spectators during match times.
- ▶ Design options to achieve the above may include consolidation and relocation of first aid facilities, player and umpire amenities, but should seek to minimise any net increase in overall pavilion footprint.
- ▶ The existing lounge and east facing viewing area within the St Joseph's Football and Netball Club pavilion will serve as the primary social space within the pavilion as well as the primary viewing area for matches played on NH Drew Oval.
- ▶ Council does not support duplication of kitchen and bar facilities, but accepts the club may seek to provide basic fridge and canteen facilities to service the viewing area at their own cost.

IMPROVE ACCESS AND SAFETY

- ▶ On-going development of the reserve should encourage pedestrian access to and within the reserve, while ensuring that required vehicle access remains safe and viable.
- ▶ Ongoing development of the reserve should focus on designing infrastructure that increases public safety and amenity.

MAKE FIT FOR PURPOSE

- ▶ On-going enhancement of the reserve should balance the range of identified reserve users' needs and identify facilities which are of an appropriate level for year-round use of the reserve (i.e. change facilities that satisfy AFL, cricket and netball guidelines.
- ▶ On-going development of the reserve should reflect the core aspirations of the community and key stakeholders, expressed through the consultation process.

PROVIDE AND PROTECT OPEN SPACE

- ▶ On-going development of the reserve should focus on the enhancement of facilities and landscape to support both active sport and passive recreation activities.
- ▶ On-going enhancement of active and passive recreation facilities and spaces should recognise the broader context of the reserve and contribute to a spectrum of open space uses for the local neighbourhood.

ENSURE FINANCIAL VIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

- ▶ On-going development should respond to Council budgets and on-going financial feasibility for management.

4. COMPONENTS AND DESIGN BRIEF

In reviewing the planning and policy context, site and facilities considerations along with the needs, preferences and aspirations of key stakeholders and in response to the agreed principles, the following components and design brief was developed to guide the preparation of the Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan.

► TABLE 01 – SITE LAYOUT NEEDS AND RECOMMENDED REPONSE

SITE LAYOUT ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES	RECOMMENDED RESPONSE
Sports Facilities and Infrastructure	
► Provision of appropriate netball courtside facilities ► Provision of cricket equipment storage facilities ► Enhancement of drainage within Walker Oval ► Provision of coaches and interchange facilities in accordance with AFL guidelines ► Provision of gender neutral change facilities	► Lockable shelter with first aid, access to water, storage space and dry-change area to eastern side of netball courts ► Space for demountable seating to western side of netball courts ► Lockable storage shed, with access to power, located next to cricket training nets ► Provision of perimeter spoon drainage to both fields, in conjunction with new sealed path (refer below) ► Find alternative fridge storage and reinstate netball change facilities for immediate use. Integrate gender neutral change facilities in all proposed new change facilities and/or retrofit existing change facilities to be gender neutral in provision (at a minimum).
Pedestrian Access and Circulation	
► Provide a formal pedestrian circulation system, integrated with potential improvements to vehicle circulation and parking to enhance pedestrian safety and amenity ► Improve the connection between the netball courts and the main clubrooms	► Provide a sealed path of both ovals, including sealed connection between oval. ► Investigate the potential to remove structures along this connection to provide greater passive surveillance and improve proximity. ► Widen access between ovals through reduction in Walker Oval by 1500mm (noting both ovals are oversized). ► Provide a sealed path adjoining streets to the proposed oval perimeter path network.

SITE LAYOUT ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES	RECOMMENDED RESPONSE
Vehicle Access and Parking	
▶ Provide formalised car parking around both fields (where appropriate) ▶ Provide formalised parking along adjoining streets ▶ Consider traffic management measures to control vehicle movement and enhance pedestrian safety	▶ Provide formal parking internally, asphalt surface, drainage to oval edge and integrated with oval perimeter drainage. ▶ Provide formal parking externally, on adjoining streets, asphalt surface, indented parallel parking to create additional capacity while keeping streets clear. ▶ Provide speed humps at intervals along driveways ▶ Provide vehicle intrusion barriers (e.g. low fence or other fixtures) to perimeter of reserve to control vehicle access
Landscape and Passive Recreation	
▶ Opportunity to redefine the visual landscape of the reserve ▶ Remove senescent trees and replace with new high canopy varieties ▶ Provide enhanced opportunities for passive recreation as a priority ▶ Enhancement of the existing landscape and passive recreation should be integrated with reserve drainage and vehicle circulation and parking.	▶ Remove existing trees over time and replace with new planting in response to parking and path layouts. Consider high canopy varieties that provide shade while allowing passive surveillance throughout the reserve ▶ Provide a new passive recreation space in the south-eastern corner of the reserve and on the western edge of the reserve. ▶ Replace playground equipment and provide a new playground in the south-eastern corner ▶ Provide and integrate new seating and shelter locations with path alignments ▶ Retain provision of a public toilet in the reserve and replace existing facilities with a new public toilet integrated with netball courtside facilities.

5. MASTER PLAN

5.1 LANDSCAPE PLAN

- 1 Walker Oval Boundary Adjustment - eastern boundary of Walker Oval moved 1 metre west to provide for improved pedestrian access between the two ovals and to allow for improved drainage on eastern wing.
- 2 Sports Precinct Connection - space between ovals to be widened and sealed to provide a more generous pedestrian connection between the netball courts and the pavilion. (including removal of existing structures)
- 3 Cricket Storage - new 20m² storage for cricket training facilities, including bowling machines.
- 4 Netball Court-side Facilities - lockable storage rooms and first aid structures integrated with new public toilets and brood canopy to provide shade and shelter during summer and winter.
- 5 Play Area - existing play area to be redefined and play equipment to be replaced.
- 6 Oval Boundary Pathway - new sealed path to the perimeter of both ovals, connected into the street footpath network.
- 7 Indented Street Parking - new indented parking on Norwood Street, Finchaven Street and Edinburgh Avenue to provide a total of 83 sealed parking spaces.
- 8 Pavilion Refurbishment - existing cricket clubrooms removed and existing footbal/netball pavilion extended to incorporate new change and support facilities to AFL guidelines - refer to separate architectural concept plans.
- 9 Off-street Car Parking - new off-street car parking to provide a total of 96 sealed parking spaces.
- 10 Court-side Seating - two tiered court-side seating to provide for both netball courts.



LEGEND

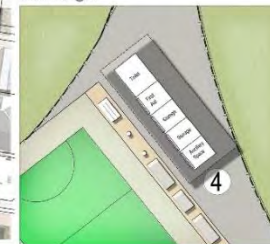
- PRIORITY PROJECTS

- 1 Walker Oval Boundary Adjustment
- 2 Sports Precinct Connection
- 3 Cricket Storage
- 4 Netball Court-side Facilities (including public toilets)
- 5 Play Area
- 6 Oval Boundary Pathway
- 7 Indented Street Car Parking (83 spaces)
- 8 Pavilion Refurbishment
- 9 Off-Street Car Parking (96 spaces)
- 10 Court-side Seating (two tiered)

- EXISTING ELEMENTS

- A Synthetic Wicket (to remain on NH Drew OVAL)
- B Turf Table (to remain on Walker oval)
- C Existing Gym (to be retained)
- D Existing Cricket Nets (to be retained)
- E Existing Parking Retained
- F Park Entry
- G Existing Netball Courts
- H Open Grass and Parkland
- Existing Trees
- Proposed Trees

Netball Facility
Scale: 1:250 @ A1



Herne Hill Reserve
Geelong
LANDSCAPE
MASTER PLAN

20-64 Robinson Street
Geelong 3203
Victoria Australia
Telephone: 03 5242 1788
Fax: 03 5242 1885
Email: info@landdesign.com.au
www.landdesign.com.au

SCALE: 1:1000 @ A3
DESIGNER: LT
REV: 0
PROJECT: LD01

DATE: 04.05.18
DRAWN: LF



5.2 PAVILION DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN

The current pavilion concept as shown below is considered a high level planning diagram which illustrates the general connections and relationships between the various spaces and facilities to be delivered. As a high level concept, it is understood that further design work needs to be undertaken in a collaborative fashion with all tenant sporting clubs to refine the pavilion layout. It is Council's intention to achieve a final pavilion design that is supported and valued by all clubs and meets the functional needs of the various user groups.



5.3 PROPOSED PRIORITY STAGING AND COST ESTIMATES

5.3.1 Priority Staging and Cost Estimates

Table 02 provides a summary of key elements of the overall Master Plan, cost estimates and associated priority staging. As per the visual representation of the Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan and Pavilion Concept Design is provided in section 7.1 and 7.2 respectively.

► TABLE 02 – PRIORITY STAGING AND COST ESTIMATES (PROPOSED)

PRIORITY STAGING	ITEMS	COST ESTIMATE
1	A. Oval boundary, drainage solution and parkland paths*	\$100,000
	B. Sports precinct connection (including removal of existing decrepit buildings)	\$150,000
	C. Netball courtside support facilities (including public toilet)	\$150,000
	D. New cricket net storage (next to cricket nets)	\$30,000
2	E. New playground and formalise passive recreational area	\$200,000
	F. New street parking and parkland improvement	\$200,000
	G. Pavilion refurbishment and significant extension (including removal and integration of St Peter's Cricket Club pavilion)	\$3,000,000
	H. New internal parking	\$350,000
Total		\$4,180,000

*completed as part of the 2017/18 budget

5.3.2 Interim Measures and Stage One Priority

The key and most significant deliverable is the new pavilion (refer item G in Table 02), to be shared by both clubs during their respective seasons. This will meet the needs of all clubs. A significant element of the new pavilion is the delivery of 6 gender neutral change facilities which will enable the growth and development of female participation in netball, football and cricket.

In response to the immediate pressures experienced by tenant clubs, stage one measures have been allocated in the 2018/19 Council Budget at a cost of \$500,000.

The stage one measures include the delivery of:

- Item A - Walker Oval boundary realignment, drainage solution and formalise pathways between ovals (completed as part of 2017/18 budget).
- Items B, C and D - Sports precinct connection (including removal of existing decrepit buildings) and construct netball courtside support facilities (including public toilet). An important note being that this facility will remain a permanent facility for the reserve and clubs (combined cost estimate \$300,000, 2018/19 budget). New cricket storage (next to cricket nets). Also, a permanent installation (cost estimate \$30,000, 2018/19 budget).

In addition to the following interim measure;

An interim retrofit to meet the immediate needs of the St Joseph's Football and Netball Club to provide gender neutral change facilities in St Joseph's FNC existing change room provision (cost estimate \$170,000, 2018/19 budget).

5.3.3 Funding Strategy

An investment of \$500K for the delivery of initial priority stages relating to the Master Plan has been allocated in the 2018/19 draft Council budget, including some interim works to provide suitable female friendly change facilities.

It is proposed that the delivery of remaining stages would be achieved via a funding partnership between the state government, local sporting clubs and the City of Greater Geelong.

6. NEXT STEPS

Subject to Council endorsement of the Herne Hill Reserve Master Plan, the next phase will be to undertake detailed design of the community pavilion through a submission to Council's 2019/20 Budget. Furthermore, the \$500,000 noted within Council's 2018/19 Budget for the netball court side facility, oval drainage and retrofitting of showers and toilets in existing pavilion to unisex compliance will be undertaken. No further funding has been allocated at the time of writing this report.

APPENDIX

Appendix 1 – Local Resident Survey and Summary Report

Appendix 2 – Herne Hill Reserve – Landscape Plan

Appendix 3 – Herne Hill Reserve – Draft Pavilion Concept Diagram

Appendix 1 – Local Resident Survey and Summary Report

1. Improve/upgrade the existing playground

Example comments included:

- o *“Definitely a half descent playground to attract more children and families to the reserve. Something more along the lines of Sparrow Park in Geelong West”.*
- o *“Improve the playground”*
- o *“Bigger playground with some shelter and a picnic area”*
- o *“More choice with regard to the playground equipment.”*

2. Increase the amount/quality of seating, shade and walking paths to be more welcoming and inclusive of all ages and activities

Example comments included:

- o *“Some seating or even a table somewhere to just sit down and relax. I've just gone down to the park to get some sun and away from the home office and end up on the playground”.*
- o *“To keep the reserve dog friendly”*
- o *“Dog drinking tap, maybe near toilet block this would be central”*
- o *“Update public toilets”*
- o *“Roller skating path”*
- o *“Making sure all have access to the grounds for sport and exercise”*

3. Improve infrastructure to better support sporting club activities

Example comments included:

- o *“Playing surface”*
- o *“Making sure the ground is right for sport”*
- o *“New toilet facilities closer to the netball courts. Current toilets are very old and are not suitable especially for younger girls”*

- o *“The netball players need a modern appropriate building to house change rooms, toilets, showers, and meeting spaces. This needs to be adjacent to the netball courts”*

Continued...

- o *“Stop the huge puddles around the oval in winter. Norwood St and Finchaven St sides”*
- o *“Making certain that utilities, men's, women's toilets are modern and funding for regular hygiene activities are undertaken”.*
- o *“Facilities need to be upgraded”*
- o *“Changing rooms for the Netballers”*

Improve landscaping and appearance of the reserve

Example comments included:

- o *“Updating it, it looks worn and old”*
- o *“The Reserve as a whole looks dated so anything in the way of an upgrade would do wonders for it.”*
- o *“Possibly a fence around the reserve or an oval to help keep dogs and kids safe”*
- o *“More rubbish bins. I walk passed the reserve 3-4 times per week and there is often rubbish and alcohol bottle left all over the place”*
- o *“Keep the gum trees manageable. The road in winter is very muddy”*
- o *“Getting rid of dangerous trees”*
- o *“More planting. Trees and shrubs. Improve drainage Cnr Edinburgh and Hilltop Area gets very muddy after rain”*
- o *“Beautifying the surrounds. More trees or shrubs. Better walking paths”*
- o *“Trees need changing - the ones here drop branches all the time”*
- o *“The Sugar Gums around the perimeter are ageing and frequently drop limbs. Can they be brought back from the brink yet again or should some be replaced with suitable trees for shade etc?”*

- o *"Pressure wash the signs. :) They are cool and of an era and shouldn't be removed, but a pressure wash would go a long way. Please keep them though - it's a nice touch and makes it feel homely"*
- o *"Lighting"*
- o *"Powered lighting and supply is solar power, independent of grid"*

4. Improve car parking and traffic management

Example comments included:

- o *"Off street parking"*
- o *"Fix the car park drainage"*
- o *"Improved parking. When football or cricket is on it is very difficult to drive past as there are usually cars parked on both sides of the road"*
- o *"Allocated parking for spectators"*
- o *"Traffic flows & parking issues in nearby streets during high peak use, football season"*
- o *"To stop vehicles using it as a thoroughfare between Norwood St and Edinburgh Ave"*
- o *"More safe walking areas with some seating along the way and make the children's place area safer from traffic."*

Appendix 2 – Herne Hill Reserve – Landscape Plan



Appendix 3 – Herne Hill Reserve – Draft Pavilion Concept Diagram

The current pavilion concept as shown below is considered a high level planning diagram which illustrates the general connections and relationships between the various spaces and facilities to be delivered. As a high level concept, it is understood that further design work needs to be undertaken in a collaborative fashion with all tenant sporting clubs to refine the pavilion layout. It is Councils intention to achieve a final pavilion design that is supported and valued by all clubs and meets the functional needs of the various user groups.



- 1 Walker Oval Boundary Adjustment - eastern boundary of Walker Oval moved 1 metre west to provide for improved pedestrian access between the two ovals and to allow for improved drainage on eastern wing.

2 Sports Precinct Connection - space between ovals to be widened and sealed to provide a more generous pedestrian connection between the netball courts and the pavilion. (including removal of existing structures)
- 3 Cricket Storage - new 30m² storage for cricket training facilities, including bowling machine.

4 Netball Court-side Facilities - lockable storage rooms and first aid structure integrated with new public toilets and broad canopy to provide shade and shelter during summer and winter.

5 Play Area - existing play area to be redefined and ply equipment to be replaced.
- 6 Oval Boundary Pathway - new sealed path to the perimeter of both ovals, connected into the street footpath network.

7 Indented Street Parking - new indented parking on Norwood Street, Finchaven Street and Edinburgh Avenue to provide a total of 83 sealed parking spaces.
- 8 Pavilion Refurbishment - existing cricket clubrooms removed and existing football/netball pavilion extended to incorporate new change and support facilities to AFL guidelines - refer to separate architectural concept plans.

9 Off-street Car Parking - new off-street car parking to provide a total of 96 sealed parking spaces.
- 10 Court-side Seating - two tiered court-side seating to provide for both netball courts.

LEGEND

- PRIORITY PROJECTS

- 1 Walker Oval Boundary Adjustment

2 Sports Precinct Connection

3 Cricket Storage

4 Netball Court-side Facilities (including public toilet)

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- A Synthetic Wicket (to remain on NH Drew OVAL)

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D Existing Cricket Nets (to be retained)

E Existing Parking Retained

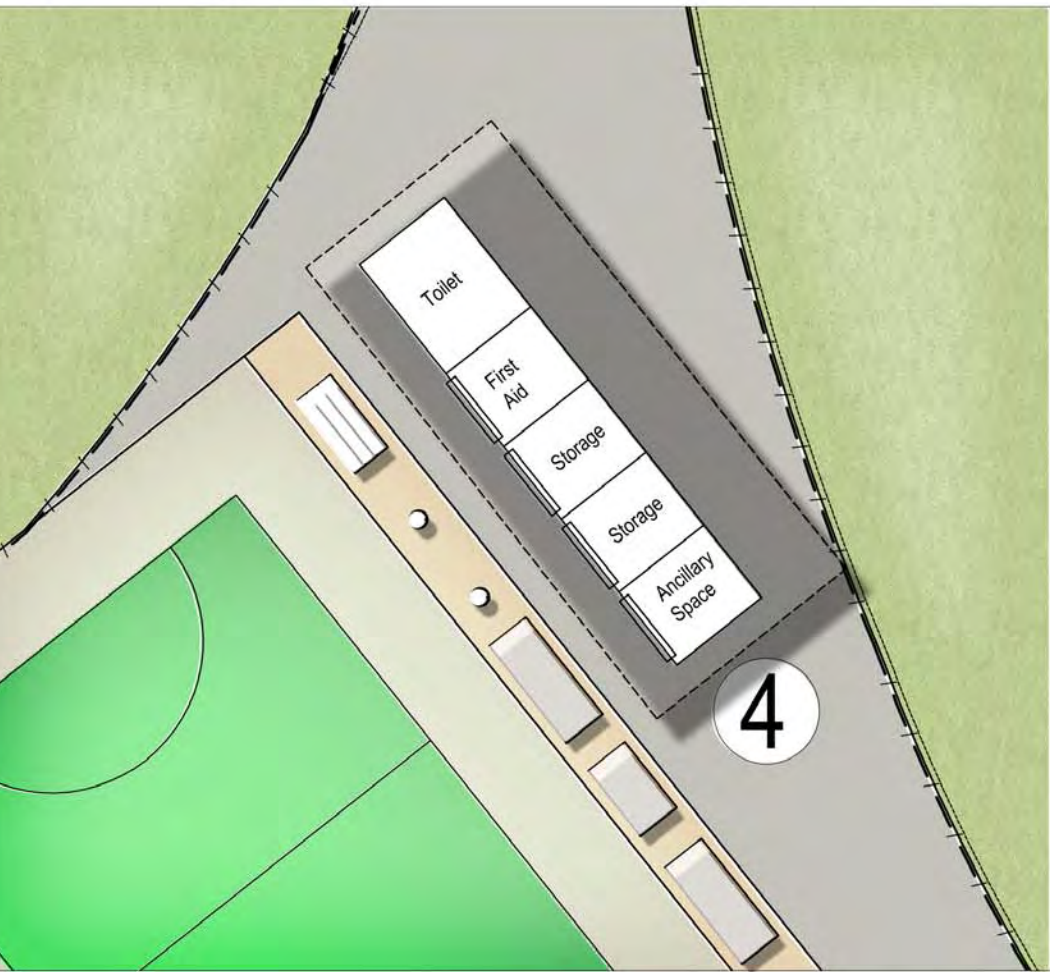
F Park Entry

G Existing Netball Courts

H Open Grass and Parkland
- Existing Trees

● Proposed Trees

Netball Facility
Scale: 1:250 @ A1



Herne Hill Reserve
Geelong
LANDSCAPE
MASTER PLAN

52-54 Rathdowne Street
Carlton, 3053
Victoria Australia
Telephone: 03 9348 2788
Fax: 03 9348 1965
Email: info@landdesign.com.au
www.landdesign.com.au

SCALE: 1:1000 @ A3
DRAWN BY: LT
REV: 0
DRG. NO: LD01

DATE: 04.05.18
CHKD: LF



5. WEST OVAL MASTER PLAN - FINAL REPORT

Source: Community Life - Social Planning and Investment
Acting Director: Robyn Stevens
Portfolio: Social and Infrastructure Planning

Purpose

To seek Council endorsement for the final *West Oval Master Plan* following the conclusion of the community consultation period.

Background

The *West Oval Master Plan* aims to retain the important heritage values of the reserve, significantly enhance the quality of buildings and amenity, improve community access and utilisation by providing fit for purpose facilities and ensure a better quality experience of the reserve for local and regional sport and recreational users.

The development of West Oval aligns with strategic directions in the *G21 AFL Barwon Regional Strategy (2015)* that identifies West Oval as an opportunity to host regional competition level AFL finals, as well as the TAC Cup, VFL and VFLW. The master plan is also consistent with Council's objective for no net loss of open space, with the proposal to retain public open space at West Oval for local passive and active recreational use.

The draft *West Oval Master Plan* was presented to the Community Focus Council Meeting on 10 July 2018, where Council resolved to release the master plan for community consultation.

Key Issues

- Community consultation was open from 11 July to 9 September 2018, with a total of 95 responses received. The majority of responses were generally supportive of the master plan and the proposed upgrade to West Oval. Further detail on feedback from the community consultation is provided in **Attachment 2**.
- There are no changes to the draft *West Oval Master Plan* as a result of the community consultation period. The key issues of traffic management and parking, provision of gender neutral facilities and greater privacy for neighbouring residents will be considered in more detail during the next phase of design.
- The preliminary cost estimate for the *West Oval Master Plan* has not altered and is approximately \$10 million, including a multi-use community pavilion estimated at \$7 million.
- The delivery of this project would require a funding partnership, potentially between the state government, federal government, AFL, tenanted sporting clubs and the City.
- Subject to the *West Oval Master Plan* being endorsed by Council, the next stage is to undertake detailed design for the proposed community pavilion and surrounds, including further consultation with the local community.

Cr Kontelj moved, Cr Murrihy seconded -

That Council endorse the *West Oval Master Plan*.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

The preliminary estimate to deliver the *West Oval Master Plan* is up to \$10 million. A new club and community building, including pedestrian access, car parking and contingencies represents the major component of the anticipated cost, estimated at \$7 million. Supporting infrastructure and features make up the remaining \$3 million of expected works.

An investment of \$100,000 is allocated in Council's 2018-19 budget to undertake further detailed design and cost testing of the master plan, particularly with regards to the community pavilion.

A budget allocation of \$5.1 million is indicated in Council's long-term financial plan; \$2.1 million in 2019-20 and \$3 million in 2020-21, which includes \$500,000 of assumed income (for example, via a grant). The project will be referred to a future Council budget process for funding consideration.

It is expected the delivery of the *West Oval Master Plan* would be achieved via a funding partnership between the federal and state governments, local sporting clubs and the City.

The City is submitting an application to the federal government's Building Better Regions Fund, Round Three, seeking \$5.5 million in funding towards the project. Applications close on 15 November, 2018.

Community Engagement

Community engagement has influenced all stages of the development of the *West Oval Master Plan*. Key stakeholders formed the Project Control Group (PCG) and Project Reference Group (PRG), including representatives from AFL Barwon, Netball Victoria, Geelong Cricket Association and all tenanted sporting clubs of the reserve. In late 2017 a letterbox drop promoting an online survey was distributed to local residents across almost 500 properties surrounding West Oval. The purpose of the survey was to understand the usage behaviours, needs and aspirations of the local community. The survey was open for four weeks and 302 responses were received.

Following Council endorsement to release the draft master plan for a final period of community consultation, the master plan was available via the City's 'Have Your Say' engagement platform with hard copies available via the Geelong West Customer Service Centre and/or mailed to those unable to access the documents electronically. In addition, all residents engaged in the 2017 survey were contacted directly via mail requesting their feedback.

The final period of consultation resulted in 95 responses. Overall the community responses were overwhelmingly supportive of the master plan. A summary of the community feedback, key themes and responses is provided at **Attachment 2**.

Social Equity Considerations

West Oval is home to a strong female participation base and has a focus on inclusive participation. Encouraging gender equity and all abilities inclusiveness is of paramount importance in the provision and use of community facilities. The Geelong West Giants Football and Netball Club currently has 750 members, with approximately 47% of these members being female. The Geelong West Giants football program has almost 100 female participants and the netball program has 250 female participants. The Geelong West Giants netball program also includes one all abilities netball team.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

There are no known policy, legal or statutory implications associated with this report.

Alignment to Council Plan

The *West Oval Master Plan* is consistent with three of the eleven strategic priorities of the Council Plan 2018-22. The development of the West Oval will provide:

- Improved health and safety for our community; by creating more health and fitness options through improved community sport and recreation infrastructure.
- Informed social infrastructure and planning; by consulting with the community to provide more quality spaces that support active lifestyles, supporting the growth of localised sporting facilities and delivering accessible and attractive community infrastructure.
- A more inclusive and diverse community; by supporting activities that improve social connections in our community, promoting gender equality and diversity in our sporting and leisure facilities, and improving access for people of all abilities.

Conflict of Interest

There is no known conflict for any council staff or contractors involved in the preparation of this report and no officer involved in the recommendation of this report has any direct or indirect interest.

Risk Assessment

Preliminary cost estimates associated with the *West Oval Master Plan* are provided at a point in time (as at June 2018) and are to be used as a guide only. Preliminary cost estimates are subject to change based on further detailed design and pending the outcome of further community consultation. Cost estimates may be subject to cost escalations if delivery of elements is delayed.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications associated with the endorsement of this report. Further infrastructure development at West Oval will consider environmentally sustainable design.

WEST OVAL MASTER PLAN

SEPTEMBER 2018

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

The following provides a summary of key themes as they relate to the feedback collected and considered through public exhibition of the West Oval Master Plan.

THEME	FEEDBACK / DISCUSSION	RESPONSE / RECOMMENDATION
STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE FACILITY TO BE DEVELOPED, PARTICULARLY FOR THE HOSTING OF FINALS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED EVENTS Respondents: 16	Strong support for the Master Plan to allow more games to be played at the venue including finals, VFLW, VFL, TAC and interleague games. Some respondents believed the cost associated with playing games at GMHBA Stadium is too high and redeveloping West Oval would be a suitable alternative to accommodate these games. Consensus that the redevelopment is 'overdue' and important for the progression of the reserve and its user-groups.	RECOMMENDATION: It is intended that the redevelopment of West Oval will assist in performing a wider regional function including the capacity to host football and netball finals as well as VFLW VFL and TAC games.
SUPPORTIVE OF ADDITIONAL PROVISION OF PARKING. Respondents: 13	Strong support for the provision of additional car-parks in the reserve to accommodate the user-groups growing needs. Some respondents believed that the additional car-parks will not be sufficient. One resident mentioned that a broader traffic management strategy is necessary to ensure that the residents in the surrounding streets are consulted and considered in the plan.	RECOMMENDATION: The provision of a formalised car park will assist in alleviating some of the traffic concerns and provide better access and egress to the reserve. Further detail regarding traffic management and parking will be explored in the detailed design phase. Due to the geographical limitations of the reserve, events and game days will have some impact on the surrounding streets which may be unavoidable. Officers will continue to explore further opportunities for overflow parking within close proximity to the reserve.

THEME	FEEDBACK / DISCUSSION	RESPONSE / RECOMMENDATION
REMOVAL AND/OR RELOCATION OF THE CYCLING VELODROME Respondents: 12	Support was received for the removal or relocation of the cycling velodrome which surrounds the oval. The primary concern was safety and that the bitumen surface just outside the boundary posed a significant risk to users of the oval. In order to increase the playable width of the oval to 110m and include 4m boundaries the track would need to be removed.	RECOMMENDATION: Whilst noted in the Master Plan, the relocation of the velodrome from West Oval presents a significant cost implication that is currently unfunded. The velodrome in its current location complies with local football standards however, to increase capacity to accommodate VFL & TAC games, the relocation of the velodrome will be required.
PROVISION OF FEMALE-FRIENDLY FACILITIES AND AMENITIES Respondents: 10	A number of respondents were supportive of the provision of female-friendly amenities within the new pavilion. These amenities would cater for the growing female participation in football and netball at the club.	RECOMMENDATION: The provision of female friendly amenities and change facilities will be captured in the detailed design.
IMPROVE PRIVACY AND SECURITY FOR ADJOINING RESIDENTS Respondents: 6	A number of residents responded to the survey with similar concerns regarding privacy and security. Further consultation with residents needs to occur prior to the development of infrastructure. Privacy and noise reduction particularly for the residents on Craddock Street to be improved by retaining and planting additional trees. <i>"We do not want the established trees removed (specifically the pepper trees behind the scoreboard)"</i>	RECOMMENDATION: The Master Plan does not contain any recommendation to remove trees, however the additional trees identified in the plan will act as a natural privacy screen whilst also further improving the reserve's aesthetic. The eventual removal of the velodrome will allow it to be formalised spectator area. This may result in a reduced number of people standing on the existing mounding in the north east corner as no formal spectator area exists at present. The formalised spectator area in place of the velodrome will be much lower than the mounds. Any major works to the reserve will involve further consultation.

THEME	FEEDBACK / DISCUSSION	RESPONSE / RECOMMENDATION
MASTER PLAN TO INCLUDE AN UPGRADE OF THE ADJOINING PLAYGROUND. Respondents: 4	There was strong support for an upgrade of the playground in the south-east corner of the reserve. Upgrade to include some lighting and passive security due to the undesirable activity reported.	RECOMMENDATION: The playground condition and replacement is captured under the City's playground upgrade program. Any improvements or asset replacement will be guided by periodic condition audits and cyclical playground renewal.
SUPPORT FOR THE INCLUSION OF A MEETING/OFFICE SPACE Respondents: 2	Some respondents believed that there needed to be a provision of an office/storage space. With multiple tenants at the reserve sharing the use of the pavilion there's a perceived need for a meeting/office space.	RECOMMENDATION: The provision of storage spaces and office facilities to accommodate the user-groups requests will be captured in the detailed design of the community pavilion.
PROVISION FOR AN ADDITIONAL NETBALL COURT Respondents: 3	There was some support for the southern car-park next to the passive open space area to be made redundant and converted into an additional netball court. One respondent mentioned that it would "<i>alleviate the pressure</i>" (<i>on the two existing courts</i>) The removal of the Church Street entry point would alleviate the congestion issues and illegal parking within the park.	RECOMMENDATION: The provision of a third netball court was explored during the design phase of the Master Plan however, due to limited passive open space within the Geelong West area it is important to retain this where possible. The best opportunity for the provision of additional netball courts is at Bakers Oval, a short distance from West Oval, which already plays a supporting role to the facility.

THEME	FEEDBACK / DISCUSSION	RESPONSE / RECOMMENDATION
SUPPORT TO KEEP THE HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF THE SITE Respondents: 2	Two respondents stated that they wanted to keep the historical significance of the building. <i>"New building not sympathetic or aesthetically pleasing to existing Flowers Stand which is historical. New building should be built with façade that is in keeping with Flowers Stand"</i>	RECOMMENDATION: Plans including facades for the new community building will be further explored during the detailed design phase. It will be important to the historic significance of West Oval that the building be aesthetically pleasing. The protection and retention of the Flowers Stand will be critical and will be captured in the detailed design phase.

DATA SUMMARY

RESPONDENT SUMMARY	TOTAL
Member of a club located at West Oval	66
Lives within walking distance of the reserve	14
Other (Local Business owner, member of another club, Governing body, Work purposes, AFL Barwon, Umpire, Resident)	7
Visits the reserve but does not live nearby	6
E-mail submissions	2
Total number of respondents	95
In support of the development	95
Opposed to the development	0

THEMES*	RESPONDENTS
General support for the master plan	95
Strong support for the facility to be developed, particularly for the hosting of finals and other associated events	16
Supportive of additional provision of parking	13
Removal and/or relocation of cycling track	12
Provision of female friendly facilities and amenities	10
Improve privacy and security for adjoining residents	6
Master plan to include an upgrade of the adjoining playground	4
Support for the inclusion of a meeting/office space	4
Provision for an additional netball court	3
Support to respect and retain the historical aspects of the site	2
Retention of the cycling track at West Oval	2
Redevelopment to support Junior football development	2
Turf wicket table and drainage management to be revised as a part of the plan	2
Dedicated warm-up space for players	2
Netball pavilion to be redeveloped to improve functionality and capture the southern public toilets	1
Upgrade and repositioning of the existing scoreboard	1
Club to be consulted prior to detailed design to address functionality issues in concept	1
Provision of turf practice wickets to reduce the requirement for a large centre wicket table	1
Multi-use space for day-time and off-peak usage	1

*A number of themes in each response were received. The above table is a representation of these.



LEGEND

- MULCHED AND PLANTED GARDEN BED
- PROPOSED LAWN
- CONCRETE PAVEMENT TYPE 1
- CONCRETE PAVEMENT TYPE 2
- ASHPALT
- EXISTING VELODROME EDGE
- CURRENT OVAL EDGE
- PROPOSED CONTOURS
- PROPOSED PLANTED BATTER
- PERMANENT NETBALL TIERED SEATING
- FIXED BOLLARD
- INSITU CONCRETE SEATING WALL
- PROPOSED TREES

- 1 New building providing club and community facilities - refer to separate plan
- 2 Formalized car parking to provide on-site parking for approximately 135 vehicles
- 3 Retaining wall to hold edge of mound to provide for new car park - wall approximately 2m high
- 4 Existing grass mound modified but retained as informal viewing area
- 5 Existing velodrome to be removed and replaced with seating terraces to run from new building concourse to north-east pocket
- 6 Concrete seating terraces running in existing velodrome space around southern edge of oval from south-west pocket to south-east pocket
- 7 Broad concourse between new building and oval, integrated with terraces seating at edge of oval
- 8 Existing grassed mound reduced to create larger open "plaza" between netball pavilion, cricket nets and new club community building
- 9 Existing garden and fence removed to provide space for permanent "bleacher" seats
- 10 New pedestrian entry from Weddell Street, leading directly to oval and shared concourse level joining The Flowers Family Stand and new building
- 11 New vehicle entry to car park
- 12 New ticket box
- 13 Existing toilet block retained and connected to storage
- 14 Existing playground and local park retained
- 15 Existing car park modified and new vehicle crossover provided
- 16 Existing oval enlarged slightly to 118m overall dimension, providing 110m AFL playing width, with 4m boundaries
- 17 Existing change rooms beneath The Flowers Family Stand to be retained
- 18 Existing Netball clubrooms to be retained
- 19 Existing Netball courts to be retained



GEELONG WEST OVAL
WEDDELL ROAD
OVAL PRECINCT
LANDSCAPE CONCEPT

52-54 Rathdowne Street
Carlton, 3053
Victoria Australia
Telephone: 03 9348 2788
Fax: 03 9348 1965
Email: info@landdesign.com.au
www.landdesign.com.au

SCALE 1:500 DATE 04.06.18
DRAWN BY LT CHKD LF
REV.
DRG. NO. LD01





WEST OVAL MASTER PLAN

FINAL REPORT | NOVEMBER 2018



Prepared for:
CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

Prepared by Project Consultants on conjunction with
City of Greater Geelong Project Manager:

LAND DESIGN PARTNERSHIP PTY. LTD
52-54 Rathdowne Street
P.O. Box 1164, Carlton, Victoria 3053
www.landdesign.com.au

CAPIRE CONSULTING PTY LTD
96 Pelham Street,
Carlton Victoria 3053
www.capires.com.au

HASKELL ARCHITECTURE
Level 7, 552 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
www.haskell.com.au



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1 ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

1.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Master Plan is to guide the future development and improvement of West Oval, North Geelong and ensure that the character and functionality of the open space reserve is enhanced.

1.2 DEFINITION

For the purposes of this report, the term 'Regional Facility' relates to the infrastructure guidelines and basic requirements to perform the function of a regional finals and events venue to service the Greater Geelong and G21 region. It does not refer to a Regional Centre which would require greater provision to service broader regional functions such as the sport's regional administration base and multi-field activity. The Regional Centre for AFL is likely at this point in time to be provided at a future site.

1.3 ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The West Oval Master Plan considers the issues and opportunities as they relate to the development and improvement of West Oval. It brings together the key findings captured throughout the planning and consultation process and provides the necessary context for the reader to better understand the justification behind the proposed design response, prioritisation and approach to implementation.

The following Master Plan aligns with Council's 30-year vision and ensures that the long-term development aspirations of the tenant clubs, community groups and local residents are taken into consideration. The plan addresses functional issues with the existing landscape with a focus on facility improvement, passive recreation areas which will ultimately encourage increased community use.

The West Oval Master Plan will be made available for community comment through a public exhibition period, before producing a final report.

1.4 KEY DRIVERS

The City of Greater Geelong provides for a diverse mix of stakeholder groups, infrastructure and services. With the shift in the economic and operating climate, Council will need to critically understand, prioritise and rationalise its infrastructure investment in order to future proof its provision going forward.

Council is currently experiencing an organisation-wide shift in approach to planning and the development of strategic drivers for decision making and prioritisation. Council believes the Greater Geelong community must look beyond the short term to ensure a thriving, inclusive and sustainable future.

In order to create a network of suburbs and towns that make Greater Geelong a desirable place to live, work, invest and visit, there needs to be greater emphasis on improved and sustainable asset planning, investment and delivery.

Council are currently developing the Geelong 2040 Vision project that will address current challenges and highlight future opportunities, recognising what the municipality will look like in 20-30 years. Council recognises that they must better understand and embrace the emerging needs of the community and the challenging environment globally and look at local level influences to ensure better outcomes for everyone now and into the future.

Community health and wellbeing as well as efficient and effective infrastructure provision are key drivers for Council going forward.

The City of Greater Geelong contains a comprehensive network of open space and recreation facilities that are planned within walking distance of homes and workplaces and are linked by a network of trails, walking and cycling paths that contribute to forming a healthy and active community.

Community facilities are focal points for community interaction. They are places where people can build relationships, a community identity and a sense of ownership related to their surroundings. The layout and distribution of these facilities can positively influence sustainable behaviour patterns. Sporting infrastructure provision on public open space needs to be master planned to inform the delivery and development of sporting infrastructure and to enhance opportunities for change and improved wellbeing.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

West Oval is a local and regionally significant reserve based in North Geelong. Following adoption of the G21 and AFL Barwon Regional Strategy (2015), the City of Greater Geelong commenced preparation of a Master Plan for West Oval in June 2017.

2.1 DRIVERS AND FUNCTION

The G21 AFL Barwon Regional Strategy (endorsed in 2015 by all five G21 Council's) guides the future planning and development of football and netball across the region. West Oval is reported as being one of the worst facilities in Greater Geelong in terms of overall condition for AFL. At present the facilities and infrastructure at West Oval are ageing and disconnected (spread over 6 dwellings) and, with the exception of the netball pavilion, are in need of renewal to continue to cater for the reserves significant community sport use. West Oval is considered the City's highest priority for pavilion development.

It is highlighted within the G21 AFL Barwon Regional Strategy (2015) that oval usage at the current finals venue, Kardinia Park, is generally restricted to elite level activities which limits community access and affordability. Since the Victorian State Government takeover of the stadium from the City in 2016, there has been a heightened need for alternate venues to cater for regional level competitions for both men and women. Conversely, the current regional facility provision for outdoor netball at Kardinia Park, retained by the City, meets the current needs and future requirements of this format of the sport.

West Oval is highlighted as one of a network of three facilities to be upgraded to regional level standards within the G21 region (others located in Torquay and Colac). The strategy recognised investment was required at West Oval to provide not only adequate community facilities for tenant user groups but also regional level amenities for the football community, and the wider G21 region.

It is proposed that West Oval is a venue capable of supporting two AFL clubs and hosting the region's competition finals and events, attracting participation from across the region including the TAC Cup, AFL Barwon football finals. Although West Oval has the potential capacity to cater for VFLW, it would be expected that the highest women's competition will be afforded the same opportunities as the men to play at GMHBA Stadium.

2.2 WEST OVAL MASTER PLAN

The West Oval Master Plan identifies a model for the reserve which ensures fair and equitable access for all users and which could adequately support redevelopment of the facility to a regional level into the future. It identifies the development and improvement needs of West Oval and considers impacts on the function and role of Bakers Oval as potential support venue. Bakers Oval was however, found to not be contingent to the development of West Oval.

West Oval provides for more than 1,050 active participants and is the home of the Geelong West Giants, a club formed from the recent joint venture of Geelong West St Peters Football Netball Club (Red West), which was traditionally based at West Oval, and Geelong West Sporting Club (Blue West), traditionally based at nearby Bakers Oval (a smaller active sports reserve, located in Geelong West).

The joint venture between the two clubs and their size meant that they now play in two different divisions requiring the facility to be used every weekend as opposed to every other weekend like many other clubs. Facility development and improvements proposed are in recognition of the facilities existing capacity and increased use.

The Master Plan aligns with Council's 30-year vision and will ensure that the long-term development aspirations of the tenant clubs, community groups and local residents are taken into consideration and the character and functionality of the open space reserve is enhanced.

2.3 WEST OVAL

West Oval is bordered by residential areas and the total area of the reserve is approximately 3.9 hectares.

West Oval has a mix of active uses including football, cricket and netball. The reserve serves as the home ground for the Geelong West Giants Football and Netball Club (500 football participants and 250 netball participants), Geelong West Cricket Club (71 participants) and Geelong Cycling Club (230 registered members).

In addition, the reserve also includes a neighbourhood scale playground and picnic space and is used extensively for passive recreation. It is a highly valued open space area that is well utilised by the broader community with 96.6% of local residents surveyed had visited the reserve.

SPORTS CLUB MEMBERS



500 MEMBERS



250 MEMBERS



71 MEMBERS



230 MEMBERS



1,050+
TOTAL ACTIVE
PARTICIPANTS



96.6% OF LOCAL
RESIDENTS SURVEYED
VISIT THE RESERVE

West Oval is Crown Land, with the City of Greater Geelong as land manager. The City of Greater Geelong also assumes maintenance responsibilities.

There are six main buildings located at West Oval:

- ▶ Flowers Family Stand
- ▶ Geelong West Giants Football and Netball Club social rooms
- ▶ Geelong Cycling Clubrooms
- ▶ Geelong West Giants Netball Pavilion
- ▶ Public Toilets (northern)
- ▶ Public Toilets (southern)

These buildings are supplemented by a range of support structures including kiosks and storage sheds.

In 2015, an audit of football and netball facilities conducted by independent consultants during the development of the G21 AFL Barwon Regional Strategy found that West Oval rated in the bottom three of all AFL facilities with a score of 28 points out of a potential 60. Future infrastructure provision identified within the Plan will aim to guide this development. In addition, the upgrade to West Oval will provide economic benefits to the wider community, encourage player pathways and continue to highlight the G21 region as a leader in football.

The anticipated major changes in the function of the reserve will be associated with football, with the ground likely to host regional finals, TAC Cup, VFL W and AFL, leading to a significant increase in spectator visitation at such times, and a requirement to align with AFL regional facility guidelines.

The first step in developing a regional standard of provision at West Oval, as per the G21 AFL Barwon Regional Strategy (2015), was to address shared management arrangements to ensure fair and equitable access for all users. This work was undertaken in 2016 with agreed outcomes including the joint venture of two existing senior football clubs to form the Geelong West Giants. The completion of the management model triggered the subsequent infrastructure component by way of a Master Plan.

2.4 KEY ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS

A number of key issues and considerations were identified throughout consultation with tenant clubs, members, local residents and other key stakeholders and is summarised below:

- ▶ GMHBA Stadium restrictive and costs prohibitive – Use of the current finals venue, GMHBA Stadium (Kardinia Park), is generally restricted to elite level activities which limits community access and affordability. Since the Victorian State Government takeover of the stadium from Council in 2016, there has been a heightened need for alternate venues to cater for regional level competitions for both men and women.
- ▶ Existing building size and condition not fit-for-purpose – Given the considerable number of participants and current level of community sporting activity at West Oval, the size and condition of the existing buildings is not suitable or fit-for-purpose and will require an upgrade.
- ▶ Strong support through club and member consultation - Most participants saw the benefits of increasing the capacity of West Oval to provide more events. Some saw increased events as offering an asset to the wider community, maximising the utilisation and economic and social benefit for the clubs.
- ▶ Parking and traffic management a concern - Most survey respondents are concerned with and want to see parking and traffic management addressed before allowing more regional events. Local residents have requested more information to understand the likely impact increased activities might have on their home.
- ▶ Safety and cleanliness is high on the agenda for local residents - Local residents want to see improved lighting and amenities to ensure the environment remains safe and clean.
- ▶ Diversity of use is encouraged - The local community desire some diversity in use at the reserve to incorporate a wider range of activities and spaces.
- ▶ Netball and cricket regional provision not required at West Oval - current regional provision for netball and cricket at Kardinia Park (regional facility in South Geelong) meets the needs and requirements for these sports.
- ▶ Velodrome presents an initial but significant constraint – The velodrome presents a significant constraint upon the development and functioning of the site as it relates to a true a regional AFL venue, compromising playability (i.e. limiting adequate runoffs suitable for VFL standard competition) and compromising spectator viewing and access to the ground. Nevertheless, it is still in use and it is recognised that the relocation of the velodrome will be required but should be retained until this can occur.
- ▶ Reserve is subject to two heritage overlays – West Oval is subject to two heritage overlays H0777 and HO 92. Ho777 refers to the Western Grandstand (also known as the Flowers Family Stand) and may have some impact on the adaptive use of the grandstand in the context of a regional facility but presents no obstruction to internal modifications.
- ▶ Any development will likely attract same site constraints – Site investigations have revealed some limitations and considerations associated with development (e.g. the need for a two-story dwelling due to limited space, soil contamination and ground stabilisation works). Site considerations have been factored into the plans. It must be noted that any development on the site will likely attract the same constraints and associated costs.

2.5 PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMPONENTS

The following key areas have been identified for improvement in order for West Oval to function as a regional AFL facility as envisaged by the G21 and AFL Barwon Regional Strategy.

- ▶ The provision of a new multiuse club and community building providing facilities and areas aligning with AFL regional facility guidelines;
- ▶ The relocation of the existing Geelong Cycling Club velodrome, once a viable alternate location is identified and once redundant, repurposing of the existing velodrome to include tiered spectator seating and slight widening of the oval to provide adequate runoffs;
- ▶ The creation of a new entrance from Weddell Rd including the development of a pedestrian plaza;
- ▶ The conversion of existing toilet block in to a fit-for-purpose storage facility;
- ▶ The provision of additional formalised car parking to provide for enlarged spectator crowds in a regional facility context;
- ▶ The retention and protection of the heritage listed grandstand with provision of some internal modifications to improve the overall function and amenity;
- ▶ The provision of appropriate supporting infrastructure, such as coaches boxes, interchange areas, as required by AFL regional facility guidelines, as well as enhanced seating opportunities for spectators of all sports, including formalised spectator seating at the netball courts;
- ▶ The provision of pedestrian access and circulation which is compliant with relevant Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) access standards and Australian Standard requirements.

In addition, the development of the regional facility at West Oval will provide the incentive for a range of complementary improvements at both West Oval and Bakers Oval which will enhance community use of both facilities.

2.6 PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATES AND FUNDING STRATEGY

Based on the recommendations and concepts outlined in the West Oval Master Plan, the following costs estimates have been identified for the development of West Oval as a regional facility. Final cost estimates will be refined based on more detailed design following further community consultation.

The preliminary estimate for total investment to deliver the West Oval Master Plan is up to \$10M. A new club and community building, including pedestrian access, contingencies and fees represents the major component of the anticipated cost, estimated at \$7M. The remaining supporting infrastructure and features make up the remaining \$3M of expected works.

It is expected that the delivery of the West Oval Master Plan would be achieved via a funding partnership between the Federal and/or State Government, the AFL, local sporting clubs and the City of Greater Geelong. It is expected that if regional functions are required of West Oval that a substantial contribution be made towards the project by the AFL and/or State Government.

2.7 PROJECT AREA

2.7.1 CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

The City of Greater Geelong is located in south-western Victoria, approximately 75 kilometres south west of Melbourne. The City of Greater Geelong is bounded by Wyndham City to the North and the Borough of Queenscliff in the east, Bass Strait in the south and Surf Coast Shire and Golden Plains Shire in the west.

The City of Greater Geelong is a rural, residential, resort, industrial and commercial area. Geelong is the largest regional city in Victoria and the leading commercial centre for south-western Victoria. The City encompasses a total land area of about 1,250 square kilometres. Over two-thirds of the population live in the urban areas.

2.7.2 WEST OVAL

West Oval is an active sports reserve located at 66-76 Church Street in the suburb of North Geelong, located approximately 3km from Geelong's CBD. West Oval is a regionally significant reserve and boasts a well-developed oval with a turf wicket, velodrome, playground, club facilities and passive open space.

West Oval is located on Council owned land zoned under the Planning Scheme as a PPRZ – Public Park and Recreation Zone.

An aerial photograph of West Oval and its surrounds is shown in Figure 1.

► FIGURE 1: WEST OVAL, NORTH GEELONG





West Oval North-west Pocket



View to Flowers Family Stand

The study area is indicated in Figure 2 on the following page shows the structures, roads, playing fields and passive landscape areas which comprise the reserve.

► FIGURE 2: STUDY AREA – WEST OVAL



2.8 PROJECT METHODOLOGY

The preparation of the West Oval Master Plan is being undertaken using the following approach:

- 1 STAGE 1 – PROJECT ESTABLISHMENT
- 2 STAGE 2 – ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES
- 3 STAGE 3 – DESIGN AND COST PLAN
- 4 STAGE 4 – DRAFT MASTER PLAN
- 5 STAGE 5 – FINAL MASTER PLAN AND ADVOCACY DCOUMENT



2.9 PROJECT GOVERNANCE

To guide the development of the West Oval Master Plan and its engagement activity a Project Governance Structure was established with the following roles and representatives:

KS KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Role: To be informed and briefed on the progress of the West Oval Master Plan (including tenant club members and broader community).

PRG PROJECT REFERENCE GROUP

Role: Provide input, direction and feedback into the project at key stages (including representatives from each tenant club).

PWG PROJECT WORKING GROUP

Role: Provide technical advice and input into the project (including Council officers from various relevant departments).

PCG PROJECT CONTROL GROUP

Role: Provide high-level strategic direction on key issues, opportunities and approve reports. Also responsible for contract management (including regional / state sporting associations - AFL Barwon, Netball Victoria, Cricket Victoria and Geelong Cricket Association, Council's Social Planning and Investment department in Community Life Division, management and senior staff). Note: The West Oval Master Plan was developed by independent consultants, Land Design Partnerships.

Note: The Master Plan was developed by independent consultants Land Design Partnerships.

3. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

West Oval is a sports reserve located on the corner of Church St and Weddell Rd, North Geelong and has a mix of active and passive uses. Tenant clubs include two football clubs, cricket club, netball club and cycling club, providing for over 1,050 active participants combined, in addition to broader community use.

The G21 AFL Barwon Regional Strategy (endorsed in 2015 by all five G21 Council's) guides the future planning and development of football and netball across the region. Within the Strategy, West Oval is reported as being one of the worst facilities in Greater Geelong in terms of overall condition for AFL use. At present the facilities and infrastructure at West Oval are disconnected (spread over 6 dwellings) and, with the exception of the netball pavilion, are in need of renewal to continue to cater for the reserves significant community sport use. West Oval is considered the City's highest priority for pavilion development.

It is highlighted within the G21 AFL Barwon Regional Strategy (2015) that oval usage at Kardinia Park is generally restricted to elite level activities and is cost prohibitive which limits community access and affordability. Since the Victorian State Government takeover of the stadium from Council in 2016, there has been a heightened need for alternate venues to cater for regional level competitions for both men and women.

West Oval is highlighted within the G21 AFL Barwon Regional Strategy as one of a network of three facilities to be upgraded to regional level facility standards. This is to serve as a dedicated finals and events venue within the G21 region (others are located in Torquay and Colac).

It is proposed that West Oval is a venue capable of supporting two senior football clubs, hosting the region's competition finals and events and attracting participation from across the region including the TAC Cup, VFL, VFLW and AFL Barwon football finals.

The first step in developing a facility at West Oval with regional functions, as per the G21 AFL Barwon Regional Strategy, was to address shared facility management arrangements to ensure fair and equitable access for all users. This work was undertaken in 2016 with agreed outcomes including the joint venture of two existing senior football clubs to form the Geelong West Giants.

The completion of the management model triggered the subsequent allocation to investigate the infrastructure components required for facility development by way of a Master Plan.

The background assessment as it relates to the West Oval Master Plan comprised a review of the following four foundation areas:

► Policy Context

To understand current State and Local Government policies impacting upon the reserve.

► Planning Context

To understand the planning controls relevant to the reserve.

► Site Context

To understand the existing physical characteristics of the reserve.

► Stakeholder and Community Context

To understand the needs and desires of current reserve users and the surrounding community.

3.2 POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A large number of local and state policies and previous studies have been reviewed in order to inform the Master Plan. A number of strategies and policies have direct relevance to the outcome of this facility plan project. Of particular note are:

3.2.1 State Government Policy related to shared community facilities

One of the key government platforms for the development and management of community facilities (including recreational facilities) is the principle of shared use. The Victorian Government's policy framework for shared facilities (including recreational facilities) is largely established by two documents: Growing Victoria Together (2005) and A Fairer Victoria (2008).

One of the five broad visions of the Growing Victoria Together policy is 'Caring Communities' with the high-level goal of 'building friendly, confident and safe communities'. One target of this goal is to increase the 'extent and diversity of participation in community, cultural and recreational organisations' (Government of Victoria 2005a, pp. 16–17).

Because the key characteristics of sharing include greater community engagement, encouraging diversity in activities, improving access to facilities, and increasing the use of facilities, such sharing could potentially contribute to achieving the goals of Growing Victoria Together.

The Government's commitment to stronger communities, efficient investment and enhanced asset utilisation is further outlined in the policy A Fairer Victoria.

A Fairer Victoria identifies five key objectives:

- ▶ *improving access to universal services (with a focus on improving services for children, young people and older Victorians)*
- ▶ *reducing barriers to opportunities to participate in economic and social life*
- ▶ *supporting disadvantaged groups*
- ▶ *supporting disadvantaged places (in both new and existing communities)*
- ▶ *making it easier to work with government (by developing new ways of working with communities).*

Through the Growing Victoria Together and A Fairer Victoria policies, it is clear that shared facilities is not just a government objective, but is also a means to achieve other, broader social policy objectives (*Getting it Together: An Inquiry into the Sharing of Government and Community Facilities September, 2009*).

Implementation of State Government policy related to shared facilities is investigated and directed by reports and policies such as *Getting it Together: An Inquiry into the Sharing of Government and Community Facilities September (2009)* and *A Guide to Governing Shared Community Facilities DPCD (2010)*. These documents outline a clear view as to the benefits and responsibilities of shared facilities and the sharing of facilities as a potential basis for grant funding.

The opportunity to integrate and share the currently separate facilities at West Oval should be guided by these policies.

3.2.2 City of Greater Geelong Policy

Greater Geelong Play Strategy: Part 1 A Great Place to Play (2012 -2021) – City of Greater Geelong

The Greater Geelong Play Strategy outlines a range of principles governing the provision and design of places of play within the City of Greater Geelong.

In response to these principles the strategy identifies a number of strategic opportunities which will be relevant to the development of the West Oval Master Plan, such as:

- ▶ *Improve supporting infrastructure at play spaces, such as natural shade, seats and paths.*
- ▶ *Create better connections to cycling / walking networks.*
- ▶ *Improve play opportunities throughout the municipality by focussing on developing a diversity of opportunities and creating informal, spontaneous play opportunities throughout the City for people of all ages and abilities as well as programs to encourage play in public spaces.*
- ▶ *Increase the number of public play spaces to ensure that the majority of residents in the urban area can access a public play space within 400m of their home (approximately a five minute walk).*
- ▶ *Provide play opportunities for under-serviced age groups (e.g. 0-2 year old's and young people over 10 years of age).*
- ▶ *Increase natural play opportunities and loose materials in play spaces.*
- ▶ *Increase the number of play spaces which offer tactile / sound / sensory experiences.*
- ▶ *Improve opportunities for people with disabilities to access and use play spaces.*

Greater Geelong Cycle Strategy Volume 1 (March 2008), City of Greater Geelong

The strategy's vision for the future of Geelong includes:

- ▶ *increasing the network of on and off-road paths and connecting these paths,*
- ▶ *creating a cycle friendly Central Geelong and cycle friendly schools and workplaces throughout the municipality,*
- ▶ *maximising opportunities to increase cycle tourism and attract cyclists to the City.*

Geelong Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (2013 – 2017), City of Greater Geelong

The Geelong Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013 – 2017 outlines a range of health and wellbeing priorities and provides an action guide for each priority.

Action Guide 3 – Physical Activity and Active Communities is of most relevance to the West Oval Master Plan and includes objectives that will influence the facility plan including:

- ▶ *Embed 'Healthy by Design' principles in Council planning processes to support active living in existing and future growth areas.*
- ▶ *Review the Open Space Strategy that supports opportunities for physical activity and active living and contributes to the health and wellbeing of the community.*
- ▶ *Develop an active transport plan that provides an 'integrated accessible network of walking and cycling routes for safe and convenient travel to local destinations and points of interest' (Healthy by Design).*
- ▶ *Work with local sport and active recreation settings to address barriers to participation by vulnerable groups within our community.*

Asset Management Strategy Version 1.09 (May 2016), City of Greater Geelong

The City of Greater Geelong is custodian of approximately \$2.2 billion of assets that it provides to facilitate delivery of its services to the community.

The goal of asset management is to meet the required level of service in the most cost-effective way throughout the life cycle of the various assets to provide for existing and future customers.

The objective of the Council Asset Management Strategy is to ensure that Council meets the required level of service, both now and for the future, in the most cost-effective way through the creation, acquisition, maintenance, operation, renewal/disposal of community assets.

The phases through which an asset passes during its life cycle are:

- ▶ The identification of need - where the requirement for a new asset is planned for, specified and established;
- ▶ The acquisition phase – where the asset is purchased, constructed or otherwise created;
- ▶ The operation & maintenance phase – where the asset is used for its intended purpose.
- ▶ The renewal phase – where the asset is replaced to its equivalent capacity of performance capability
- ▶ The disposal phase – initiated when the economic life of the asset has expired, when its service specification is no longer relevant, or when the need for the service provided by the asset has disappeared

Council infrastructure assets include, but are not limited to;

- ▶ Buildings and facilities of various types that provide a focus for services (such as administrative facilities, child care centres, health centres, youth centre, kindergartens, community halls and sports stadiums);
- ▶ Parks and recreation facilities, including active and passive recreation areas and sporting centres
- ▶ The road & street network;
- ▶ Flood protection and stormwater drainage systems;
- ▶ Waste management facilities (landfills and waste transfer stations);

- ▶ Special high usage precincts such as Waterfront Geelong and the CAA where infrastructure can be at a higher standard than normally used;
- ▶ Plant and equipment, including Workshop and Depot facilities;
- ▶ Information technology networks (computer & telecommunication systems).

As custodian of these assets, Council is responsible for funding their maintenance and upkeep at a level of service that satisfies both the safety and amenity requirements of the community.

It is therefore contingent upon Council to ensure that there is an appropriate level of funding which enables assets to be maintained to an acceptable standard and balanced against increasing Council's asset base.

Strategic directions may be implemented whereby the service levels of a particular asset group may be increased or decreased depending on the competing priorities of Council and the expectations of the community.

Asset Management Strategy Objectives

- ▶ *To provide the service required by our community:*
 - *by determining service levels required by the community*
 - *by focussing on outputs and outcomes with a view to continuously improving the match between service requirements and our service delivery*
 - *by ensuring our assets are appropriately used and maintained*
- ▶ *To optimise the service potential of our assets:*
 - *through improved management of our existing assets*
 - *through improved flexibility of our asset base*
 - *through rigorous planning, evaluation and budgetary processes*
 - *by using economies of scale for more cost-effective service delivery*

- ▶ *To maximise value for money:*
 - *by taking account of the full costs of holding, using and disposing of assets throughout their life cycles*
 - *by ensuring asset management decisions are responsive to performance measurement and monitoring*
 - *by producing costed options for the delivery of asset services.*
- ▶ *To contribute to economic growth:*
 - *by appropriate matching of assets to meet service delivery demands*
 - *by ensuring that all asset management decisions are made within the context of Council's overall resource allocation and management framework*
- ▶ *To assign responsibility and accountability:*
 - *by clearly defining ownership and control of assets through asset information systems that meet both government and management decision making requirements*
 - *by determining and communicating accountability and reporting responsibilities throughout each step of the integrated approach to asset management.*
- ▶ *To promote balance between development and sustainability:*
 - *by balancing the demand for new assets through the use of non-asset service delivery alternatives where appropriate*
 - *by making asset decisions that consider and protect the needs of future generations*
 - *through consideration of asset renewal and rehabilitation options wherever feasible*
- ▶ *To minimise risks to the community and to Council's financial viability:*
 - *through the application of risk assessment and reduction strategies*
 - *by regular condition audits consistent with the criticality of the various asset categories*
 - *through the delivery of appropriate asset maintenance and renewal programs*

Sustainable Communities - Infrastructure Development Guidelines (October 2010), City of Greater Geelong

The Infrastructure Development Guidelines, while directed more to growth areas than established neighbourhoods, do contain a number of objectives and principles which will be relevant to the development of the West Oval Master Plan. These include:

► *Landscape and Streetscape - Objectives*

High quality Streetscape and Landscape development, enhancement and protection shall aim to achieve the following goals:

- *Integration of engineering infrastructure and buildings with the landscape features to create a unified and visually appealing design.*
- *Creation of aesthetically pleasing landscape environments, increased community enjoyment of everyday life and a greater sense of meaningful connection between people and the environment.*
- *Fulfilment of the recreational and social needs of the wider and evolving community that reflect the values of the surrounding regional community.*

► *Landscape and Streetscape - Principles*

Ensure that the planning and design for landscape in Streetscape and Open Space settings is sustainable and follows Councils guidelines and best practice principles, including:

- *Making open space areas contribute to the health of the local community and provide an experience and landscape that creates opportunity for active and passive recreation.*
- *Developing a sustainable landscape that is drought tolerant and minimises maintenance requirements.*

► *Sport, Recreation & Open Space - Objectives*

The provision of quality and accessible sport, recreation and open space in communities is vital to provide for the long-term recreation and sporting needs of an active and healthy community.

The objectives for the development of sport, recreation and open space are designed to promote 'sense of place' and community for people of all ages, providing opportunities to meet and interact in appropriate spaces in suitable ways and times. They can also give character to an area, define landscapes and provide a focus to connect a community.

Sport, recreation and open space should provide popular and responsive active (sport and active recreation) and passive (including walking, sitting, contemplating and picnicking) spaces and landscapes. Spaces should be well designed and create places that are 'fit-for-purpose', useable and be located where people want to be. They should maximise active and passive surveillance from adjoining areas and passers-by.

Active recreation spaces and facilities should be designed to facilitate shared use including schools and different community users.

► *Sport, Recreation & Open Space - Principles*

Council endorsed principles as part of its Study of Open Space Networks (Aug 2001) that are applicable to the provision of sport, recreation and open space. These include:

- *Conserving and protecting the natural and cultural environment.*
- *Reflecting community needs.*
- *Enhancing recreation and tourism opportunities.*
- *Improving provision and optimising access.*
- *Ensuring diversity of provision.*
- *Expanding the network of linkages.*
- *Providing for people with disabilities.*
- *Implementing site responsive uses.*

Environment Management Strategy (2014 – 2017), City of Greater Geelong

The Environment Management Strategy 2014-2017 is a key document for guiding planning, decision-making and activities that impact on the Greater Geelong environment and community. The Strategy shapes future planning and growth and provides a framework and roadmap for navigating future environmental challenges and opportunities.

Domestic Animal Plan (2013 – 2017), City of Greater Geelong

One aim of the Domestic Animal Plan is to offer the Geelong community a fair and balanced environment – where people can enjoy the many public open spaces of Geelong to their fullest extent, regardless of whether they are a pet owner or not.

Under the Domestic Animal Plan policy, residents will have various dedicated Off Leash 'Supervised' areas, including some beach locations and most sporting grounds.

An objective arising from this policy which will impact the West Oval Master Plan will be:

► Dogs in Public Places

8.3 Promote the availability of all public general waste bins for the disposal of dog litter using any type of bag. Decals to be put on public waste bins, (refer p26 of the policy).

3.2.3 Other Relevant Policy

A range of other policies and guidelines were reviewed, directly relevant to the West Oval Master Plan, and are summarised below.

G21 Physical Activity Strategy (2014 – 2017), G21 Sport and Recreation Pillar

The main body of the strategy report *"provides an overview of the importance of physical activity and the ways in which the G21 region can help to create environments that support physical activity in the community"*.

- *The City of Greater Geelong specific action plan within the report has a number of actions which may be embodied within the West Oval Master Plan, including:*
- *Develop an active transport plan that provides an 'integrated accessible network of walking and cycling routes for safe and convenient travel to local destinations and points of interest' (Healthy by Design).*
- *Develop accessible walking and cycling resources to encourage and support participation in safe active travel.*
- *Work with local sport and active recreation settings to address barriers to participation by vulnerable groups within our community.*
- *Encourage broader community access to tenanted sport and recreation facilities.*
- *Ensure that all active sport and recreation settings such as recreation reserves, stadiums, tennis courts and so on are planned, designed, managed and maintained in such a way as to be accessible and appropriate to the needs of all user groups.*

Community Cricket Facility Guidelines (Version September 2015), Cricket Australia

Cricket Australia guidelines produced by Cricket Australia are predominantly detailed and specific to cricket facilities, they do make some statements relevant to the preparation of the West Oval Master Plan, such as the following from Guidance Note 6.

Social amenities and cricket ground surrounds

With cricket being a sport played over several hours for juniors and the best part of a day for senior competition, it is important 'family friendly' supporting amenities be incorporated into wider cricket facility precinct design.

Supporting facilities, equipment and amenities to be considered when planning a community friendly facility include:

- ▶ *Shade and shelter*
- ▶ *Spectator seating incorporated into the park environment*
- ▶ *Adequate and accessible car parking*
- ▶ *Play equipment, skate or BMX park*
- ▶ *Bicycle racks*
- ▶ *Shared and connecting pathways or trails*
- ▶ *Public BBQ*
- ▶ *Access to food and beverage*
- ▶ *Public toilet facilities*
- ▶ *Drinking fountains*
- ▶ *Tree plantings, garden beds and vegetated areas*
- ▶ *Landscaped treatments*
- ▶ *Venue and club signage*

Netball Victoria National Facilities Policy (2016), Netball Victoria

Netball Australia's National Facilities Policy provides netball in Australia with an overarching framework to guide facility planning and development. These guidelines provide very detailed facility design guidance including core and optional components of a facility along with proposed preferred square metre allowances or estimates for these components.

The key objectives of the Policy are to:

- ▶ *Support participation growth and sustainability*
- ▶ *Provide key stakeholders with guidance in facility planning and development*
- ▶ *Provide a technical manual that can be applied nationally*
- ▶ *Improve the overall consistency, quality and accessibility of netball facilities*

Netball facility planning and development is to be focused on supporting the growth of the sport. In order to do this, facilities will be planned and developed with consideration of the following guiding principles:

- ▶ *Strategic need, facility demand and participation growth opportunities*
- ▶ *Accessibility and inclusion, catering for multiple formats of the sport*
- ▶ *Maximising utilisation and improved programming*
- ▶ *Best practice technical and design standards*
- ▶ *Alignment with the needs of key stakeholders and partners*

In the development of the design brief, the following should be incorporated into the overall facility provision on site (including shared infrastructure):

- ▶ *Change rooms and umpires change rooms*
- ▶ *Public toilets (including accessible)*
- ▶ *Competition / Administration office*
- ▶ *First Aid room*
- ▶ *Kiosk / canteen*
- ▶ *Social area*
- ▶ *Storage*

Other functionality such as kitchens, dedicated function space, meeting rooms, warm-up areas, spectator seating and amenities can be considered on a needs basis.

The Policy does not provide specific guidance on court proximity to amenity provision.

AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines for State, Regional and Local Facilities (August 2012), Cricket Australia

The purpose of the preferred facility guidelines is to act as a key tool during used during the planning phase of a project. The document provides relevant guidance, particularly around spatial requirements that can inform concept and/or master plans. While much of the document is detailed and specific as to layout and spatial configuration, the recent Appendix related to Amenities Upgrades for Unisex Use is particularly applicable to the West Oval Master Plan.

Amenities Upgrade for Unisex Use (July 2015)

This document has been developed to provide more detail around what is considered best practice in the design of unisex football change rooms and amenities.

People often think of female change rooms as separate dedicated change facilities. This is not the case, rather it is about transforming the existing amenities to cater for unisex use, removing urinals and open showers and replacing with toilet cubicles and shower cubicles that allow showering and changing in privacy. In other words, great change facilities cater equally well for both genders.

G21 and Barwon Region AFL Strategy (2015), G21 Strategic Pillar and AFL Victoria

The strategy aims to “guide the future planning and development of football and netball delivered through football-netball clubs throughout the G21 and AFL Barwon regions. The strategy addresses infrastructure and sports development needs of both sports, as well as establishes clear priorities for delivery.

The key findings affecting the preparation of the West Oval Master Plan include:

- ▶ *Regional level upgrades planned for the region to host elite competition include Spring Creek Reserve in Torquay, West Oval located in Geelong West and Colac Central Reserve in Colac.*
- ▶ *As a traditional football finals venue, West Oval has ‘limiting aspects and requires facility improvements to better cater for finals requirements’.*
- ▶ *Strategic Direction 2.5: in order to progress planned facility upgrades, the City of Greater Geelong, AFL Barwon and relevant clubs partner to address shared management arrangements at West Oval and agree on a management model that ensures effective use of the venue for home and away finals purposes.*

3.2.4 Policy Implications and Considerations for the Master Plan

The following policy implications and considerations as they relate to the West Oval Master Plan are summarised below;

- ▶ Reserve and facility function is considered community level provision with capacity to provide some functions of a regional facility
- ▶ Shared use of facilities
- ▶ Broad community use of open space through appropriate facilities and amenities
- ▶ Encouragement of activity and exercise
- ▶ Enhanced tree planting to reduce “urban heat island” impacts
- ▶ Enhanced and diverse play opportunities
- ▶ Encouragement of active transport – walking and cycling
- ▶ Competing priorities and need for investment in like facilities
- ▶ Standard provision of facilities commensurate with levels of service
- ▶ Sustainable and equitable development and maintenance of facilities across the City
- ▶ Design response and recommendations will be subject to Council’s Business Drivers
- ▶ All decisions subject to Council’s overall resource allocation and management framework

3.3 PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

West Oval is subject to the requirements of the zones and overlays outlined in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme. Refer to Figure 3: Zoning.

3.3.1 Municipal Planning Framework

Within the Municipal Planning Framework, the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme encourages the development of open space which is safe, is accessible to communities (particularly through proximity by walking), and which contributes to the diversity of recreational experience available to members of the community.

3.3.2 Zoning

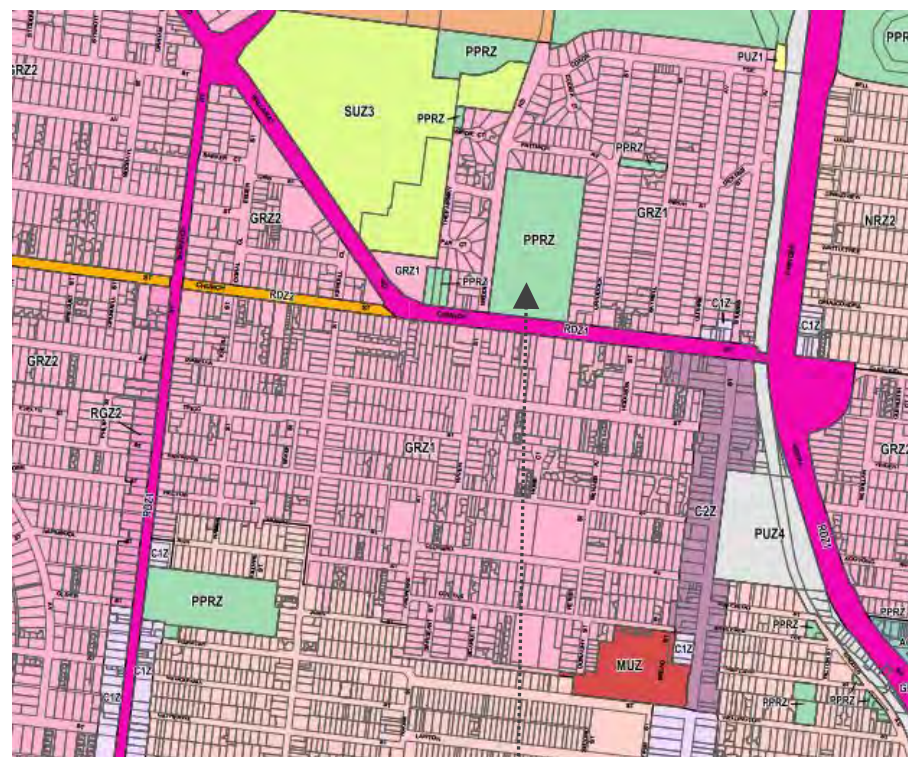
Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)

West Oval is zoned PPRZ. PPRZ recognises areas of public land that are designated as public park and recreation zone and encourages enhancement of the subject land in support of appropriate recreation uses and activities. It also seeks to protect and conserve areas of significance and provide for commercial areas where appropriate.

Under the zone a permit is required to:

- ▶ Construct a building or construct or carry out works. This does not apply to:
 - o Pathways, trails, seating, picnic tables, drinking taps, shelters, barbeques, rubbish bins, security lighting, irrigation, drainage or underground infrastructure.
 - o Playground equipment or sporting equipment provided these facilities do not occupy more than 10 square metres of parkland.
 - o Navigational beacons and aids.
 - o Planting or landscaping.
 - o Fencing that is 1 metre or less in height above ground level.
 - o A building or works shown in an Incorporated plan which applies to the land.
 - o A building or works carried out by or on behalf of a public land manager or Parks Victoria under the Local Government Act 1989, the Reference Areas Act 1978, the National Parks Act 1975, the Fisheries Act 1995, the Wildlife Act 1975, the Forest Act 1958, the Water Industry Act 1994, the Water Act 1989, the Marine Act 1988, the Port of Melbourne Authority Act 1958 or the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978.
- ▶ Subdivide land.

► FIGURE 3: WEST OVAL ZONING



WEST OVAL – PPRZ ZONE

3.3.3 Overlays

West Oval is subject to two heritage overlays – HO 777 and HO 92. Note that HO777 refers to the *Western Grandstand*, however this is referred to as the *Flowers Family Stand* throughout this report.

► HO777 applies to:

The Western Grandstand West Oval, Weddell Road, Geelong West, to the extent of all the land within 10 metres of the grandstand, excluding the road reservation

Within the schedule to the overlay, specific control is placed upon external paint colours, but there is no control upon internal alterations.

The grandstand is not included in the Victorian Heritage Register, and so is not subject to the requirements of the Heritage Act 2017.

► HO92 applies to:

The J.F. Archibald Memorial 66-76 Church Street, Geelong West, to the extent of all the land within 5 metres of the plaque.

Within the schedule to the overlay, specific control is placed upon external paint colours.

The Memorial is not included in the Victorian Heritage Register and so is not subject to the requirements of the Heritage Act 2017.

Bakers Oval is also subject to a heritage overlay – HO 1960 – which applies to the general surroundings of the reserve. The details of the overlay are outlined below.

► HO 1960 applies to:

The Milton Heritage Area, generally located south of the alignment of Mowat Street, west of Pakington Street, north of the southern boundary of the Autumn Street road reserve and east of Shannon Avenue, Geelong West.

Within the schedule to the overlay, there appears to be no specific control which would affect the outcomes of the Master Plan.

The Memorial is not included in the Victorian Heritage Register and so is not subject to the requirements of the Heritage Act 2017.

The details of these overlays are outlined below and shown on the below figure

► FIGURE 4: WEST OVAL HERITAGE OVERLAY



3.3.4 Planning Implications and Considerations for the Master Plan

- ▶ The planning context contained within the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme creates no specific issues for the provision of recreation within the reserve, including recreation at a regional level.
- ▶ The planning scheme encourage opportunities to increase the diversity of the recreational experience offered by the reserve.
- ▶ The Heritage Overlay HO777 may have some impact upon the adaptive re-use of the Flowers Family Stand in the context of a regional facility but presents no impediment to internal modifications.
- ▶ The fact that none of the elements included under heritage overlays are included on the Victorian Heritage Register means that no application is required to Heritage Victoria.

3.4 SITE CONSIDERATIONS

3.4.1 Location and Setting

West Oval is located on the north-eastern corner of Weddell Road and Church Street, Geelong North.

The setting of the reserve comprises a range of uses, but is predominantly residential. Other nearby uses include:

- ▶ Geelong Golf Course, located to the west of the site, on the western side of Weddell Road
- ▶ Geelong Saleyards, located approximately 300 – 400m to the north-east of the site, on the western side of Weddell Road. Following a Council resolution to cease operations at this location in 2017, there is opportunity to explore future development opportunities for this site to include overflow, casual parking for West Oval.
- ▶ Drainage Reserve, located 400m to the north of the site and running in an east-west direction to ultimately connect with Rippleside Park and so to Corio Bay.
- ▶ Aged Care, a residential aged care facility located 400m to the north of the site .

Bakers Oval is located on the eastern side of Shannon Avenue, Geelong West.

- ▶ The setting of the reserve is residential, with each of the surrounding streets characterised by standard residential development on blocks of approximately 500 – 700 m2.
- ▶ The development of the regional facility at West Oval will provide the incentive for a range of complementary improvements at both West Oval and Bakers Oval which will enhance community use of both facilities, although
- ▶ The redevelopment of West Oval to a regional scale facility is not contingent on improvements to Bakers Oval.

3.4.2 Location and Setting Implications and Considerations for the Master Plan

- ▶ The immediate residential context of West Oval may be impacted by increased traffic, and particularly parking during a regional level event at the reserve.
- ▶ The presence of the Geelong Saleyards to the north of West Oval may present a potential opportunity for use synergies, particularly related to car parking. Complementing the activity at West Oval should be a consideration in the Master Plan of the Geelong Saleyards site.
- ▶ The residential context and limited building capacity of Bakers Oval (in regard to AFL facility guidelines) suggests an opportunity for a local and neighbourhood use focus at the reserve, perhaps as a junior hub supporting a regional facility at West Oval.

3.4.3 Overview of Current Facilities

OVALS

West Oval contains a single sports oval. The oval is used for cricket and football. The key characteristics of West Oval sporting field are:

- ▶ Aligned in a north-south orientation
- ▶ Approximate playing surface dimensions of 165m x 117m (including run-off areas)
- ▶ Defined by perimeter asphalt velodrome, with no fence between the turf playing surface and the velodrome surface
- ▶ Caters for senior and junior cricket competition and training and senior and junior football competition and training
- ▶ Includes lighting compliant with current Australian Standards for sports lighting for training (100lux)
- ▶ Central 9 pitch turf table for senior cricket competition
- ▶ Has an electronic scoreboard which is of an older style and is likely to be inadequate for regional finals
- ▶ Has relocatable coaches' boxes



West Oval Northern Goals



View to Flowers Family Stand

Bakers Oval contains a single sports oval. The oval is used for cricket and football.

Key characteristics of the Bakers Oval sport field:

- ▶ Aligned in an east-west orientation, although the cricket pitch is oriented northwest – southeast, across the narrow dimension of the oval.
- ▶ Approximate playing surface dimensions of 165m x 95m (including run-off areas)
- ▶ Defined by perimeter chain mesh fence
- ▶ Caters for Junior Cricket competition and Junior Football competition and training
- ▶ Includes 50lux lighting for training uses
- ▶ Has a single hard (concrete) cricket pitch
- ▶ Has two coaches boxes on the southern wing of the oval
- ▶ Has no spectator amenity or shade apart from the clubrooms



View across Bakers Oval



Bakers Oval perimeter path and fence



Bakers Oval seating

NETBALL COURTS

West Oval contains two netball courts, located on its south eastern corner. The courts have been constructed in the last ten years and have an asphalt playing surface. The courts are used for both training and competition, including finals. Additional terraced seating is temporarily installed to the north of the courts during finals.

Key characteristics of the netball courts:

- ▶ Have a north / south orientation.
- ▶ Have full run-off areas as required by Association regulations.
- ▶ Have lighting that complies with current Australian Standards for netball training lighting.
- ▶ Are contained within an 1800mm high steel picket fence, which is in good condition
- ▶ Have a clubroom building which has been constructed in the last ten years.
- ▶ Have two coaches' boxes to the edges of both courts.

There are no netball courts at Bakers Oval.



West Oval netball courts



West Oval netball courts



West Oval netball pavilion

VELODROME

The oval at West Oval is surrounded by a perimeter velodrome. The velodrome is used for both training and competition by the Geelong Cycling Club, and also for informal and occasional use by the general public. The velodrome is the only such facility within the City, although other cycling facilities and a cycling clubhouse have been built in at the Belmont Island, Belmont in Geelong.

Key characteristics of the velodrome:

- ▶ Asphalt surface.
- ▶ Approximately 6.5m width.
- ▶ Camber to outer edge of track ranges from 450mm to 1200mm above playing field level.
- ▶ Unfenced on inner edge, leaving no permanent barrier between sports field playing surface and asphalt track.
- ▶ Camber of track influences floor levels of adjacent buildings, with impact upon accessibility to buildings.
- ▶ The width of the track limits the proximity of spectator to the playing field, without the addition of temporary fencing at the edge of the field.



West Oval Velodrome – south east pocket



West Oval Velodrome – south east pocket



West Oval Velodrome – north west pocket

CRICKET PRACTICE NETS

West Oval includes a cricket practice net complex comprising 3 synthetic pitches with “hard” fencing between pitches. There are no turf training nets at West Oval.

Key characteristics of the cricket practice nets:

- ▶ Located on south-western pocket of oval, against Weddell Road boundary.
- ▶ Have 3 synthetic pitches with fixed fencing.
- ▶ Are 24m in length, with 8m additional run-up space, and so are not in accordance with Cricket Australia guidelines.
- ▶ Limited storage for equipment.



West Oval synthetic cricket practice pitches

Bakers Oval includes an older style cricket practice net complex comprising 2 concrete pitches with a small area of synthetic turf and with “hard” fencing between pitches.

Key characteristics of the cricket practice nets:

- ▶ Located on north-western pocket of the oval.
- ▶ Have 2 synthetic pitches with fixed fencing.
- ▶ Are 12m in length, requiring run-up from the oval surface, which is not in accordance with current Cricket Australia guidelines.
- ▶ No storage area for equipment



Bakers Oval concrete cricket practice pitches

SCOREBOARD

West Oval has an electronic scoreboard located on the south-eastern pocket of the oval.

COACHES BOXES

- ▶ West Oval has no permanent coaches' boxes, due to the presence of the cycling velodrome. Relocatable coaches' boxes are put in place and removed as required. The coaches' boxes are not compliant in size with the AFL facility guidelines.
- ▶ The oval does not have formal interchange areas or interchange boxes, as required by AFL facility guidelines for regional facilities.
- ▶ Bakers Oval has two simple but permanent coaches' boxes against the south-western pocket of the oval.



West Oval scoreboard



West Oval coaches' boxes



West Oval coaches' boxes

3.4.4 Sports Facilities Implications and Considerations for the Master Plan

While the formal sports facilities at West Oval, particularly the sports field and turf table surfaces, are generally of high quality for local competition, there will be a requirement to enhance these facilities for regional level use in areas such as:

- ▶ Provision of appropriate oval support facilities including timekeepers' boxes, coaches boxes and interchange areas aligning with AFL guidelines;
- ▶ Safety for run-off from West Oval. (There is no fence to prevent players from running onto the asphalt velodrome surface);
- ▶ Upgrade of scoreboard to present day standards for high definition broadcast and visibility;
- ▶ Potential reduction of the width of the existing turf table to improve the quality of the AFL playing surface;

While still currently in use, the velodrome presents a constraint to the development of West Oval as a regional AFL facility, by reducing the capacity to host high level football matches. This particularly relates to:

- ▶ Limiting the space available for spectator viewing of games;
- ▶ Constraining the location and floor level of potential adjacent buildings, with
- ▶ Corresponding impacts upon accessibility and building form;
- ▶ Limiting the installation of required support facilities at the edge of the playing fields, such as coaches' boxes and interchange zones.

At Bakers Oval, sports facilities are generally of an adequate standard for local junior competition and training. With West Oval nominated as a regional facility, Bakers Oval has the potential to act as a junior and community hub in a supplementary and supportive relationship with West Oval.

Provision of future supporting infrastructure to upgrade existing facilities at Bakers Oval may be considered to also enhance its role as community open space, such as additional netball courts and cricket net improvements

3.4.5 Buildings and Structures at West Oval

WEST OVAL

There are six main buildings located at West Oval:

- ▶ Flowers Family Stand
- ▶ Geelong West Giants Football and Netball Club social rooms
- ▶ Geelong Cycling Clubrooms
- ▶ Geelong West Giants Netball Pavilion
- ▶ Public Toilets (northern)
- ▶ Public Toilets (southern)

The buildings and structures are located on Figure 5.



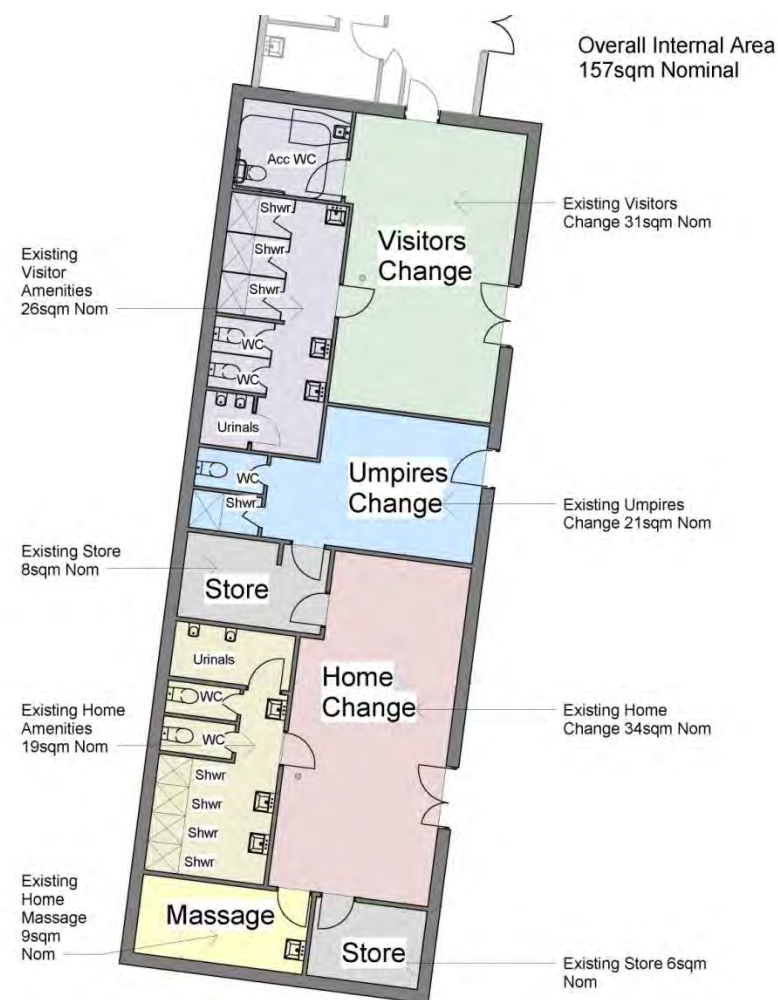
▶ FIGURE 5: WEST OVAL BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES (EXISTING)

THE FLOWERS FAMILY STAND

The Flowers Family Stand is located on the western boundary of the reserve. The floor plan of the stand is indicated in Figure 6.

Review of the building reveals the following:

- ▶ The shell of the building and the various fixtures are in reasonable physical condition, having been upgraded in 2011.
- ▶ The size and range of spaces provided do not align with the AFL facility guideline recommendations for either a local or a regional level facility.
- ▶ The change rooms may have the potential to operate as overflow facilities to support the operation of West Oval during a multi-team final event but are insufficient as a stand-alone facility.



▶ FIGURE 6: FLOWERS FAMILY STAND PLAN (NOT TO SCALE)

MAIN CLUB ROOM FACILITIES

The Club Rooms are located in the north-western corner of the site. The floorplan of the building is indicated in Figure 7.

- ▶ The capacity of the social room is compromised by an operable wall which needs to be closed to provide adequate change room facilities. In this regard neither the change rooms nor the social room areas align with AFL regional level facility guidelines.
- ▶ The fit out of the club rooms needs to be upgraded, requiring new floor finishes, new kitchen and bar fit out; and upgrade of toilets to DDA compliance).
- ▶ The floor level of the existing building, determine by its location in relation to the camber of the adjacent velodrome means that it does not have access which is compliant with DDA and Australian Standards.



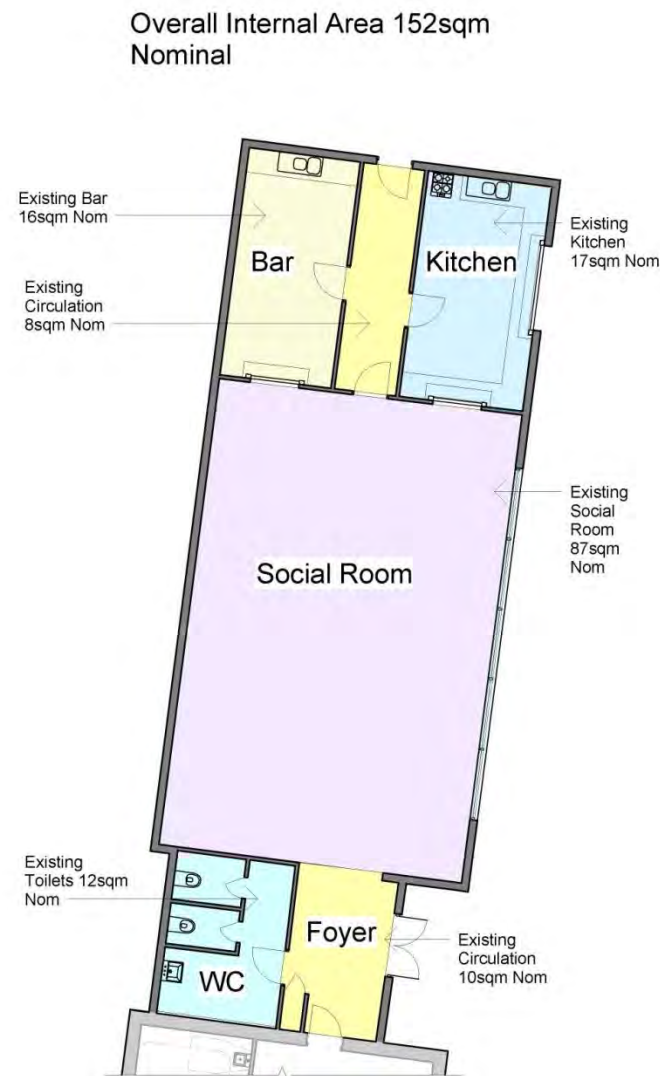
▶ FIGURE 7: MAIN CLUB ROOM FACILITIES FLOOR PLAN (NOT TO SCALE)

CYCLING CLUB ROOMS

The current floor plan of the Cycling Clubrooms is indicated in Figure 8.

Review of the existing cycling clubrooms reveals the following:

- ▶ The character of the building is not complementary to the adjoining Flowers family Stand and provides an uncomfortable contrast in terms of style and material.
- ▶ The fit out is not in a very good condition. Recognising that the Geelong Cycling Club have recently constructed clubrooms at Belmont Island, if the building was to be retained it would require significant upgrade including:
 - o Kitchen and bar area reconfigured with new joinery, appliances, new floor, ceiling and wall finishes including painting and new lighting.
 - o Social rooms refreshed with new floor finishes, new ceiling and wall paint, new window coverings, new lighting and new furniture. New entry doors would be required.
 - o Toilets reconfigured to be DDA or BCA compliant with the correct number of male, female and accessible fixtures.
- ▶ Should the building be retained but not required for club use, it could be used for storage or similar.



► **FIGURE 8:** CYCLING CLUB ROOM FACILITIES FLOOR PLAN (NOT TO SCALE)

NETBALL PAVILION

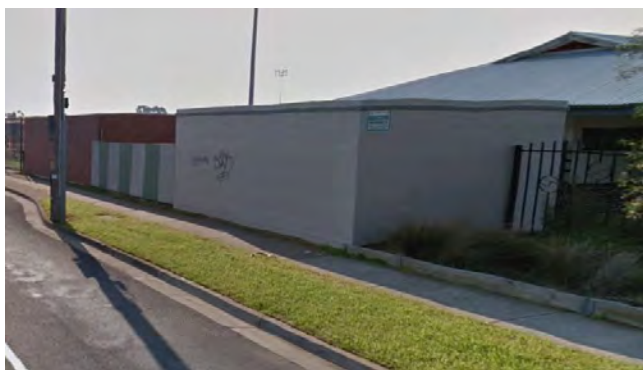
- ▶ The Netball Pavilion is a relatively recent building. It provides for change room and game day facilities and administration spaces. Both the shell and the fit out of the building are in good condition and area fit for purpose. The development of West Oval as a regional facility should require no change to the building.

STORAGE SHEDS

- ▶ A brick garage / storage shed is located adjacent to the public toilet block. The building is used for club storage sheds. A second garage / storage shed is located near the netball pavilion and is used for storage of ground maintenance equipment. Access to the oval from this building is therefore essential.

PUBLIC TOILETS

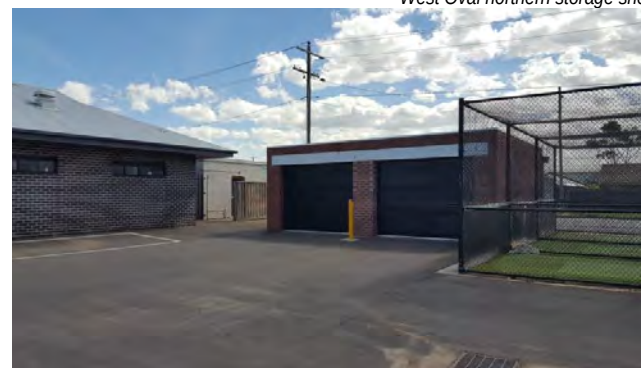
- ▶ West Oval contains two existing public toilet blocks, located next to the Netball Pavilion and to the west of the Geelong West Giants Social Room. Both are older facilities which are non-compliant with current DDA or BCA requirements. The block near the netball pavilion is rarely open, apart from game times.
- ▶ There is an opportunity to retain the southern public toilet block to reconfigure and retrofit for the use of storage into the future.



West Oval southern toilets



West Oval northern storage shed



West Oval southern maintenance equipment shed



West Oval northern toilets

KIOSKS

Two small kiosks are located between the Geelong West Giants Football and Netball Club social rooms and the Geelong Cycling Clubrooms. These appear to provide for food / beverage and timekeepers functions. The structures, while stable, are not to the standard expected of such current facilities and should be integrated with any new buildings to be constructed on the site in the future.



West Oval kiosks

3.4.6 West Oval Issues and Considerations for the Master Plan

- ▶ The existing site layout includes a range of scattered buildings providing for training, change and social room functions, as well as a range of support buildings. A new building would present the opportunity to consolidate the functions of these buildings into a single structure.
- ▶ All current football facilities fall short of the current AFL guidelines for local level facilities, and therefore also for regional level facilities;
- ▶ Existing public toilets do not meet current DDA and BCA requirements;
- ▶ the presence of the velodrome, and the subsequent relationship of the clubroom to it, means that compliant DDA access is not able to be achieved to this building;

3.3.5 Buildings and Structures at Bakers Oval

BAKERS OVAL

There are four main buildings located at Bakers Oval

- ▶ Bakers Oval Pavilion
- ▶ Public Toilet
- ▶ Scout Hall
- ▶ Community Building



▶ FIGURE 9: BAKERS OVAL BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES (EXISTING) (NOT TO SCALE)

BAKERS OVAL MAIN CLUB ROOM FACILITIES

Review of the existing Bakers Oval pavilion reveals the following:

- ▶ The building is quite old and has not been updated for some time. Nevertheless, its shell is in reasonable physical condition.
- ▶ The existing change rooms and amenities do not align with the requirements for a local level facility within the AFL preferred facility guidelines, and do not comply with DDA and BCA requirements.
- ▶ Secondary spaces such as first aid and timekeepers' rooms do not align with the requirements for a local level facility within the AFL preferred facility guidelines.
- ▶ The social space aligns with the requirements of a local level facility.
- ▶ Umpires' change rooms are not present.

3.4.7 Bakers Oval Issues and Considerations for the Regional Facility Development Plan

- ▶ The current Bakers Oval club rooms can be modified to achieve the requirements of junior training facilities aligning with AFL community facility guidelines, through an addition of approximately 118m².



FIGURE 10: BAKERS OVAL CLUB ROOM FACILITIES (NOT TO SCALE)

3.4.8 Pedestrian Access and Circulation

Key points associated with pedestrian movement at West Oval are summarised on Figure 13 below. These points include:

- ▶ Formal pedestrian paths through the reserve are limited to a single path linking the southern car park off Church Street with the playground in the south-eastern corner of the site. Other than this, pedestrians moving across the reserve or between facilities utilise broad areas, either sealed or unsealed, which also serve as roadways and parking areas.
- ▶ Both street frontages (Weddell Road and Church Street) have formal footpaths which connect with reserve entries.
- ▶ The earth form around West Oval means that DDA compliant access to a number of key locations, such as the Geelong West Giants Football and Netball Club Social Rooms, external viewing areas between the Flowers Family Stand and the Social Rooms, and the majority of the edge of the oval, is not available.

3.4.9 Pedestrian Access Issues and Considerations for the Regional Facility Development Plan

- ▶ There is limited opportunity to provide a formal pedestrian circulation system at West Oval, due to the size of the reserve and limited space around the main oval, however clear and defined pedestrian paths of travel, where possible, would be of benefit to pedestrian safety and amenity
- ▶ The provision of a formal circulation system would also suggest the opportunity for a new primary pedestrian entry into the reserve.

► FIGURE 11 -WEST OVAL PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND CIRCULATION (NOT TO SCALE)



3.4.10 Vehicular Access and Car Parking

Key points associated with pedestrian movement at West Oval are summarised on Figure 15 below. These points include:

WEST OVAL

- ▶ Formal vehicle access into the reserve occurs at two key points as indicated on Figure 9 – from Church Street, between the netball courts and the playground, and from Weddell Road, at the rear of the existing clubrooms.
- ▶ Sealed vehicle access is provided from Church Street. An asphalt roadway leads from this point to the north-western corner of the netball courts where the roadway becomes a broad paved space providing for vehicle and pedestrian circulation as well as limited parking.
- ▶ Unsealed access is provided from Weddell Road. This acts as the main vehicle access into the reserve and leads to a broad informal and unsealed parking area which extends to the north of the oval. This area is uneven and poorly drained.
- ▶ Car parking space across the reserve is limited. Defined parking on sealed areas accessed from Church Street is provided for 12 - 14 vehicles. Undefined parking in the north of the reserve is provided for approximately 60 - 70 vehicles.
- ▶ There are no traffic management devices within the reserve, meaning that vehicle movement and parking is largely uncontrolled, allowing vehicles to park in a haphazard fashion, particularly in the north of the reserve.

Key points associated with pedestrian movement at Bakers Oval are summarised on Figure 16 below. These points include:

Consideration of these points leads to a number of issues and opportunities to be addressed in the plan.

3.4.11 Vehicular Access and Car Parking Issues and Considerations for the Master Plan

- ▶ Change in the role of the reserve will mean that the existing amount of available parking space will be inadequate for demand.
- ▶ Formalisation of car parking to the north of the oval, integrated with drainage, will likely lead to more efficient and effective use of the parking area.
- ▶ The opportunity for new parking areas to meet increased demand is limited to and modification of some existing mounding to the north and south of the oval. The extent of this modification and the resultant capacity for parking may depend on the retention or removal of the existing velodrome.
- ▶ Additional formal parking in the existing parkland area on Church Street would lead to an unacceptable loss of parkland.
- ▶ With limited potential for new parking within the site, consideration of traffic management measures in neighbouring streets will be required on major event days;
- ▶ Investigation into off-site parking will need to be considered to cater for demand on major event days. This may include consideration of the Geelong Saleyards and their future use

► FIGURE 12: WEST OVAL VEHICLE ACCESS AND CIRCULATION (NOT TO SCALE)



3.4.12 Landscape and Passive Recreation Areas

Key points arising from the review of the existing landscape and passive recreation areas of the reserve are summarised below. These points include:

WEST OVAL

- ▶ The reserve has little positive landscape character and amenity. Mature trees are limited to a number of *Schinus molle* (Peppercorn) which provide shade to the south-eastern playground. Other mature trees consist of a scattering of *Eucalyptus* spp. across the reserve.
- ▶ The southern playground is a pleasant space with seating, barbecues and open grassed “kick-about” area and a well-developed local playground. It provides amenity for the local neighbourhood and visitors to the reserve during sporting events.
- ▶ Apart from the playground area, there is no park furniture or amenities, such as seats, drinking fountains, shelters or bicycle racks across the reserve.

3.4.13 Landscape and Passive Recreation Issues and Considerations for the Master Plan

- ▶ There is some opportunity to re-define the visual landscape of each reserve in line with City of Greater Geelong strategic directions, given the extent of “soft” areas (such as the southern and northern grass mounds at West Oval) which have little or no existing tree planting.
- ▶ The potential to provide enhanced opportunities for passive recreation, outside of sports times, should be explored, in line with the objectives of City of Greater Geelong strategic documents. This would include enhanced opportunities for play, walking, seating, group socialising, picnicking and so on.

3.5 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

3.5.1 Engagement Framework

Engagement with community and stakeholders to inform the issues and opportunities discussion paper has included the following tools and activities.

	Objectives	Activity
Engagement tool #1:	The engagement objectives for this project are:	A link to the online survey will be distributed through existing Council and club networks
Postcard and online survey	▶ To inform key stakeholders about the project ▶ To build an understanding of the general key issues and opportunities for existing club and park user who visit or use the reserve ▶ To test the opportunities and constraints of the site becoming a regional facility ▶ To understand where, within the site, improvements can be made.	
Engagement tool #2: Interviews with key stakeholders	▶ To inform key stakeholders about the project ▶ To understand the breath of general issues and opportunities of stakeholders to inform the development of the Master Plan ▶ To build a deeper understanding of the key issues, opportunities and needs of existing clubs operating on the site. ▶ To understand where, within the site, improvements can be made.	Meetings / interviews will be undertaken by Land Design Partnership.

3.5.2 Promotion and Distribution

A postcard was distributed to just under 500 properties near the West Oval on Saturday 21st December 2017. The postcard included information about the project and a weblink to the survey. The survey was open for four-weeks and respondents were encouraged to submit their responses by the middle of January 2018.

A copy of the distribution areas is outlined below:



3.5.3 A Summary of Respondents

The survey was completed by 302 respondents.

The following tables outlines key information regarding respondent demographic profile.

Completion Rate:	Respondent details	Household types
Complete 213 (70.5%)	Associated with a club-179 (69.1%)	Lone house 26 (10.1%)
Partial - 89 (29.5%)	Within walking distance of park- 88 (34%)	Group household – 24 (9.3%)
Totals: 302 respondents	Visitors- 35 (13.5%)	Couple- 154 (20.2%)
	Other-(8.1%) - detailed review of these peoples suggests most are visitors or people associated with the clubs (umpires)	Family 154 (59.7%)
		Others included single parent and widow.

Age	Dog ownership	Visitation to West Oval
Under 18 years -30 (11.36 %)	No 38%	Yes, have visited 254 (96.6%)
Adults 18-59 years -206 (76.8 %)	Yes 62%	No- never visited - 9 (3.4 %)
Oder 60-84 years- 21 (8.1%)		
Frail Aged 85 years – 1 (0.4%)		

3.5.4 Overall Summary

Overall, the survey was completed by 302 people (89 respondents did not complete every question) and there was a strong representation from clubs and sporting groups.

West Oval is popular, and respondents are generally happy with the quality of the park. Most respondents use the park to watch or play sport, exercise or walk their dog.

Most participants visit the park at least once a week with many visiting more regularly.

The fields and oval were the most important features of the park, with the club facilities rating second. The play spaces and walking paths were of least importance, most likely reflecting the strong representation of respondents connected to a club or sporting group.

Respondents valued the local nature of the park, thought it was clean and well maintained and enjoyed the amenity of the green spaces, trees and landscaping. Access to playing or spectating club-based sport was also highly valued.

Improvements

Updating club facilities and improved parking were popular requests for improvements. Other requests included improved amenities and landscaping within the reserve, maintaining the large trees and providing more rubbish bins, toilets, seating, shade, walking paths and lighting.

Some specific recommendations included diversifying the use and activities of the reserve, including an alternative open space to use while sport is being played. Some respondents want to see more non-sport activities in the park too- such as a farmer's market, music concerts and general community events.

Many respondents saw the opportunities for improved landscaping, improvement to the play areas and the interface with the nearby public housing areas to increase safety and use of the area.

One respondent suggested additional childcare and space for indoor playgroups within the site. There was a comment about the need for more environmental design to be incorporated within the park (Water reuse/solar lighting).

Regional role of the facility

Most respondents acknowledged the economic and community benefits by providing more regional sporting events at the oval.

Overwhelming, most respondents are concerned and want to see parking and traffic management addressed before allowing more regional events to reduce the impact on their neighbourhood amenity. Others want to see improved lighting and local amenities (seating, toilets, shade, lighting) to ensure the environment remains safe and clean.

3.5.5 Summary of Responses

A summary of engagement findings is provided below:

Q: Why do you visit West Oval?

Responses indicate that most people use the reserve for formal sporting activities, walking their dog or local exercise.

The “other” responses predominately included activities relating to “watching or spectating sport”, which reflects the high number of respondents associated with the clubs. Other activities included watching children play sport (with a club or practicing) and bike riding.

Q: How often do you visit the oval?

Responses indicate that most participants visit the park regularly with 65.3% of respondents visiting either once to a few times a week. This suggests that respondents use the park for a range of activities, from watching sport to walking to more informal recreation.

Q: What features do you value most in the park?

The fields and oval were the most important feature of the park, with the club facilities rating second. The play spaces and walking paths were of least importance.

Q: What do you like about the reserve?

The club facilities and spaces are important features. Participants also commented on the love of trees, open space and opportunities for physical activities.

Q: What are your top priorities for the reserve?

Updating club facilities and improved parking were popular responses. The general amenity of the space was also important with many people commenting on the need for improved seating, toilets and paths.

Some specific recommendations included diversifying the use and activities of the precinct and including an alternative space to use while sport is being played. Some respondents want to see more non-sport activities in the park too- such as farmers market, music concerts, community events. Others saw the opportunity to improve the play area and landscaping and the design and integration with the nearby public housing development.

Q: What do you see are the benefits of increasing the capacity of West Oval to allow it to host larger, regional sporting events?

Most participants saw the benefits of increasing the capacity of West Oval to provide more regional events. Parking and traffic management a concern and some residents requested more information to understand the likely impact increased activities might have on their home. Some saw increase events as offering an asset to the wider community, maximising the utilisation and economic and social benefit for the clubs.

Q: What limitations/issues would need to be addressed in order to hold larger, regional events at this reserve?

Overwhelming, most respondents are concerned with and want to see parking and traffic management addressed before allowing more regional events. Others want to see improved lighting and amenities to ensure the environment remains safe and clean.

Q: What is missing or what is the **main reason you don't visit the reserve and what would attract you to this park more often?**

Only a small proportion of respondents (3 respondents) were people who currently don't visit the park, resulting in a very small sample size. The responses suggest that the oval is not used because it doesn't offer the sports people want to participate in. Providing more information about areas suitable for dog walking and access to a reasonably priced gym were other factors that might attract more people to the park in the future.

3.5.6 Community / Residents Issues and Considerations for the Master Plan

Key issues and opportunities arising from the community survey are summarised below:

- ▶ Club members were focussed on upgrades to the existing club facilities;
- ▶ Club members were focussed on maintaining or improving the quality of sport facilities, particularly the playing field at West Oval;
- ▶ Provision of adequate car parking with a good quality surface is an important issue;
- ▶ The local community desire some diversity in use at the reserve to incorporate a wider range of activities and spaces;

3.5.7 Tenant Club Interviews

Representatives from tenanted sporting clubs formed the Project Reference Group for the West Oval Master Plan to provide input, direction and feedback. The initial meeting of the Project Reference Group was held in December 2017 to discuss issues and opportunities as presented by the existing site conditions and use, particularly at West Oval. The following summarises the comments provided by each tenant club.

Geelong West Cricket Club (GWCC)

Needs

- ▶ GWCC are comfortable with their access arrangements to the current facility (being the cycling club rooms) over the summer season.
- ▶ Current playing surface at West Oval is in good condition for cricket training and competition
- ▶ Current hard wicket practice nets are in good condition following upgrade however run-up distances do not align with preferred guidelines for cricket facilities

Issues

- ▶ GWCC would like to ensure that if there are multiple users of a new facility, that they would still be able to get equal access to the pavilion, particularly during their summer season.
- ▶ Should the turf playing table be reduced to 6 or 7 wickets rather than the current size, this may have impacts on the level of maintenance that GWCC has to provide in order to achieve the desired playing quality of the wicket(s).

Aspirations

- ▶ If space permits, GWCC would like the provision of turf training nets
- ▶ If space permits, increased run up distance to practice nets to align with Cricket Australia Facility Guidelines.

Geelong West Giants Football Netball Club (Netball)

Needs

- ▶ Current court provision is not enough for growing membership

Issues

- ▶ Current courts are close to capacity in terms of usage

Aspirations

- ▶ GWGFNC would like to provision of an additional netball court (or two) if space permits
- ▶ If entrance was moved to Weddell Rd, there may be potential to utilize part of current entrance for provision of additional court if feasible
- ▶ Possibility to include additional netball court at Bakers Oval if feasible

Geelong West Giants Football Netball Club (GWG) - Football

Needs

- ▶ The joint venture of the two senior football clubs to form the Geelong West Giants is tracking well with membership steadily increasing
- ▶ Due to high numbers of membership, due to both the joint venture and increased new membership (including a high percentage of women), there is pressure on the facility, particularly club rooms, to adequately serve this growth
- ▶ Following the joint venture, games are being played at the facility every weekend, as opposed to every other weekend at other venues.
- ▶ Bakers Oval is being primarily used for training and for juniors
- ▶ Proposed new facility must be compliant for female football

Issues

- ▶ West Oval is seeing greater hours of usage following the joint venture and increased membership and would continue to grow if the regional facility is realized.
- ▶ Increased usage would also need to be managed appropriately to minimize wear on ground
- ▶ Current change facilities at West Oval, particularly within the main club rooms, are outdated, not suitable for females, lacking appropriate accessibility compliance.
- ▶ Club requires suitable change facilities to support growing participation along with existing large participation
- ▶ Current social facility at West Oval is not big enough to cater for current Thursday night meals

Aspirations

- ▶ GWG would like to see Bakers Oval used as a junior hub
- ▶ Given limited size of the existing social facility at West Oval, GWG would like to see this increased with, potentially, flexible change or meeting rooms which could be adapted to increase social space. They also see potential for a terrace to create provide for this via an increased indoor/outdoor space.
- ▶ Gaelic Football also use Bakers Oval. Noted that COGG are currently installing sleeves at West Oval for Gaelic football goals
- ▶ The Flowers Family Stand has good existing change facilities which GWG would like to retain

Geelong Cycling Club (GCC)

Needs

- ▶ GCC currently trains on a Monday night with racing on Wednesday night
- ▶ Current velodrome track is in good condition and connects to the heritage of the reserve
- ▶ Would like to retain usage of velodrome in lieu of a velodrome at Belmont Island Criterium Track or identified suitable site
- ▶ GCC understands that velodrome currently presents obstacles for the development of West Oval as a higher level events venue.

Issues

- ▶ GCC has a long history at West Oval and would not want to forego use of facility if another velodrome option is not available

Aspirations

- ▶ There is an alternate a home for GCC at the Belmont Island Criterium Track and so the need for facilities at West Oval is primarily storage and access to change facilities on training/racing days
- ▶ Should an alternate location for the velodrome be found, GCC would only require the provision of an asphalt surface for the velodrome at that location

3.5.7 Tenant Club Issues and Considerations for the Master Plan

Key issues and opportunities arising from tenant club discussions are summarised below:

- ▶ Current change amenities and associated club facilities are outdated, not suitable for females and not consistent with AFL preferred facility guidelines
- ▶ Current facilities at West Oval are not adequate for a growing club which is a result from growing membership and the joint venture of two senior football clubs.
- ▶ It would be desirable to provide cricket training nets which align with Cricket Australia guidelines;
- ▶ The provision of additional netball courts would allow for future growth in membership and activity if feasible, otherwise possibility of additional netball court at Bakers Oval should be explored;
- ▶ Any upgrade of AFL facilities must allow for female usage, particularly in terms of change rooms;
- ▶ Additional social space for Football and Netball Club usage is desirable;
- ▶ The existing Flowers Family Stand change rooms are seen as good despite not aligning with AFL regional facility guidelines;
- ▶ The velodrome is a facility which is currently used and should either be retained or a new facility built elsewhere.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Review of the Issues and Opportunities summarised above confirms the following key areas where improvements are required in order for West Oval to function as a regional AFL facility as envisaged by the G21 and AFL Barwon Regional Strategy.

- ▶ The provision of a new club and community building providing facilities and areas aligning with AFL regional facility guidelines;
- ▶ The relocation of the existing Geelong Cycling Club velodrome, once a viable alternate location is identified;
- ▶ The provision of additional formalised car parking to provide for enlarged spectator crowds in a regional facility context
- ▶ The provision of appropriate supporting infrastructure, such as coaches boxes, interchange areas etc as required by AFL regional facility guidelines, as well as enhanced seating opportunities for spectators of all sports;
- ▶ The provision of pedestrian access and circulation which is compliant with relevant DDA and Australian Standard requirements.

In addition, the development of West Oval will provide the impetus for a range of complementary improvements at both West Oval and Bakers Oval which will enhance community use of both facilities.

Design recommendations addressing both built facilities and site works were developed in response to the identified Issues and Opportunities. The development of these recommendations was reviewed and refined by both the Project Reference Group and the Project Control Group prior to finalisation.

Key recommendations are highlighted on Figure 13 and summarised in the sections following.

► FIGURE 13: KEY RECOMMENDATIONS : SITE PLAN (NOT TO SCALE)
 – REFER APPENDIX 1



4.1 BUILDINGS

4.1.1 West Oval - New Club and Community Building

The new club and community building will replace a number of existing buildings which are either redundant or inadequate

These buildings include:

- ▶ Existing Geelong West Giants club rooms
- ▶ Existing Geelong Cycling Club rooms
- ▶ Existing public toilets
- ▶ Existing storage sheds
- ▶ Existing kiosk

In place of these facilities, the new club and community building will be a two-storey facility providing:

- ▶ Home and away change rooms, including accessible change rooms (aligning with AFL regional facility guidelines)
- ▶ Home and away amenities (aligning with AFL regional facility guidelines)
- ▶ Home and away address rooms (aligning with AFL regional facility guidelines)
- ▶ Home and away game day and recovery rooms including strapping / first aid rooms, ice rooms (aligning with AFL regional facility guidelines)
- ▶ Umpires change rooms (aligning with AFL regional facility guidelines)
- ▶ Store rooms (aligning with AFL regional facility guidelines)
- ▶ Social / function room (aligning with AFL regional facility guidelines)
- ▶ Timekeepers room (aligning with AFL regional facility guidelines)
- ▶ Kitchen, bar and kiosk (aligning with AFL regional facility guidelines)
- ▶ Gym, suitable for player and club member use
- ▶ Public toilets, including accessible toilets
- ▶ Community and club meeting room
- ▶ Flexible lobby space suitable for informal functions and meetings

Conceptual floor plans for both levels of the proposed building are shown in figure 14

A schedule of floor area for all rooms is indicated below and attached in Appendix 2.

► FIGURE 14: AREA SCHEDULE – MULTIPURPOSE PAVILION
– REFER APPENDIX 2

MANTIC ARCHITECTURE

City of Greater Geelong (For Discussion)

Project: West Oval Regional Football Facility
Title: Area Schedule - Final
Date: 05-Jun-18

141 BUNNELL STREET,
WYNDHAM VIC 3208
PH: 03 9491 0226
F: 03 9491 0227
M: 0800 666 666
E: INFO@MANTIC.COM.AU

No.	Name	Construction		Proposed Levels		Remarks
		sq. m	sq. ft	Level	Area	
1-01	Ad-locks	0.0	0.0		0.0	
1-02	Lobby	0.0	0.0		0.0	
1-03	Club House	0.0	0.0		0.0	
1-04	LT	0.0	0.0		0.0	
1-05	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
2-01	Men's Toilet - Ground	0.0	0.0		0.0	
2-02	Men's Toilet - Ground	0.0	0.0		0.0	
2-03	Men's Toilet - 1st Fl	0.0	0.0		0.0	
2-04	Men's Toilet - 1st Fl	0.0	0.0		0.0	
2-05	Kiosk/Shop	0.0	0.0		0.0	
2-06	Kiosk Store	0.0	0.0		0.0	
2-07	Store Room (Sheds)	0.0	0.0		0.0	
2-08	Visitor	0.0	0.0		0.0	
2-09	Store (Garage)	0.0	0.0		0.0	
2-10	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-01	Home Change	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-02	Home Amenities	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-03	Ice Bath (Home)	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-04	Strapping (Home)	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-05	Store (Home)	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-06	Men's Change (Home)	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-07	Home - Change	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-08	Away Change	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-09	Away Amenities	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-10	Ice Bath (Away)	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-11	Strapping (Away)	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-12	Store (Away)	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-13	Away - Change	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-14	Away - Change	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-15	Reference Change 1	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-16	Reference Change 2	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-17	Reference Change	0.0	0.0		0.0	
3-18	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
4-01	Umpire	0.0	0.0		0.0	
4-02	Umpire - Restroom	0.0	0.0		0.0	
4-03	Umpire - Coach's Office	0.0	0.0		0.0	
4-04	Umpire - Restroom	0.0	0.0		0.0	
4-05	Time Keeper	0.0	0.0		0.0	
4-06	Meeting Room	0.0	0.0		0.0	
4-07	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
5-01	Social Room	0.0	0.0		0.0	
5-02	1st Lobby	0.0	0.0		0.0	
5-03	Store (Home)	0.0	0.0		0.0	
5-04	Commercial Kitchen	0.0	0.0		0.0	
5-05	Bar	0.0	0.0		0.0	
5-06	Cool Room & Store	0.0	0.0		0.0	
5-07	Function Room	0.0	0.0		0.0	
5-08	Patron Amenities (M)	0.0	0.0		0.0	
5-09	Patron Amenities (F)	0.0	0.0		0.0	
5-10	Accessibile Toilet	0.0	0.0		0.0	
5-11	LT	0.0	0.0		0.0	
5-12	Visitor	0.0	0.0		0.0	
5-13	Cleanse	0.0	0.0		0.0	
5-14	Refinery	0.0	0.0		0.0	
5-15	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
6-01	Reception Desk	0.0	0.0		0.0	
6-02	Visitor Management	0.0	0.0		0.0	
6-03	Hot Water Service	0.0	0.0		0.0	
6-04	Gas & Coping	0.0	0.0		0.0	
6-05	Fire House	0.0	0.0		0.0	
6-06	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
7-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
8-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
9-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
10-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
11-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
12-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
13-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
14-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
15-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
16-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
17-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
18-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
19-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
20-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
21-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
22-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
23-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
24-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
25-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
26-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
27-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
28-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
29-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
30-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
31-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
32-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
33-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
34-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
35-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
36-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
37-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
38-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
39-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
40-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
41-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
42-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
43-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
44-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
45-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
46-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
47-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
48-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
49-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
50-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
51-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
52-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
53-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
54-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
55-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
56-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
57-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
58-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
59-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
60-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
61-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
62-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
63-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
64-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
65-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
66-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
67-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
68-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
69-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
70-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
71-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
72-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
73-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
74-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
75-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
76-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
77-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
78-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
79-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
80-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
81-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
82-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
83-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
84-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
85-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
86-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
87-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
88-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
89-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
90-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
91-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
92-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
93-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
94-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
95-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
96-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
97-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
98-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
99-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	
100-01	Sub-Total	0.0	0.0		0.0	

► FIGURE 15: CLUB AND COMMUNITY BUILDING: FLOOR PLAN (NOT TO SCALE) – Refer to Appendix 3



4.1.2 West Oval – Flower Family Stand

The space beneath the Flowers Family Stand currently; houses change rooms which have been recently upgraded in support of the local level of sport which currently occurs at West Oval. However, as summarised in the issues and opportunities above, these rooms do not align with AFL regional facility guidelines, which will instead be provided in the new Club and community building.

The existing change rooms will, however, be retained in their current arrangement as overflow or junior change rooms as required.

4.1.3 West Oval – Geelong West Giants netball clubrooms

The netball clubrooms are of recent construction and do not require renovation as part of the Master Plan.

While building upgrade is not required, the management of the clubroom toilets should be revised to provide open public toilets at appropriate times and during key events.

4.1.4 West Oval – Existing southern toilet block

The southern public toilet block, located on Weddell Street near the netball clubrooms, does not comply with current DDA and BCA requirements and will be upgraded as additional storage for reserve tenants.

4.4.5 Bakers Oval Pavilion

With the development of the club and community building at West Oval as outlined above, all regional facility requirements will be met at West Oval and will not be reliant upon Bakers Oval facilities.

In this regard, the existing Bakers Oval pavilion should be upgraded to provide facilities aligning with AFL community facility guidelines, particularly in relation to the provision of suitable change rooms. The re-design of the existing social space and some ancillary spaces may make this achievable within the current building footprint. This would be a future action and is not required to achieve a suitable regional facility at West Oval.

4.2 SPORTS FACILITIES

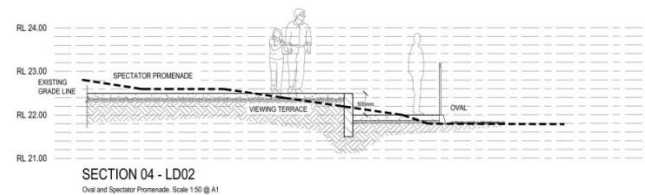
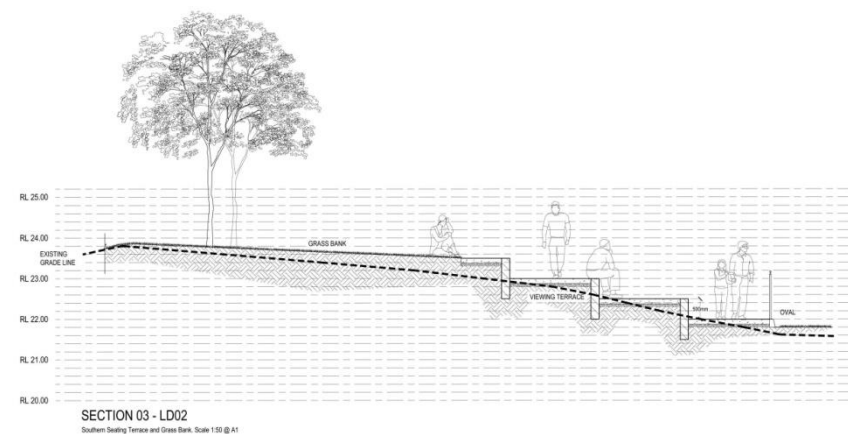
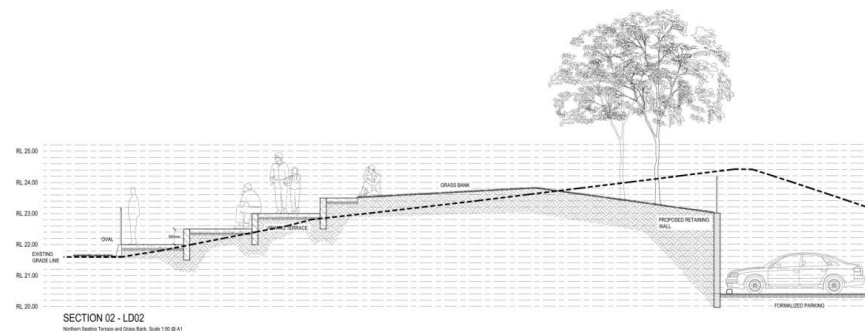
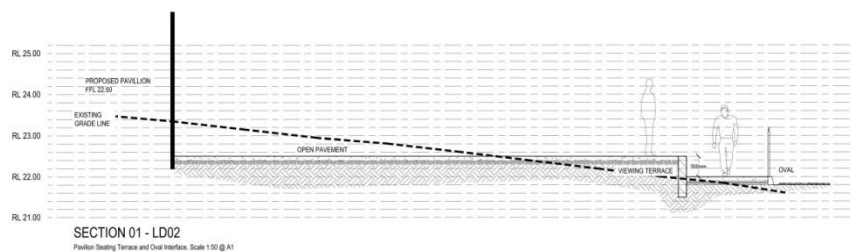
4.2.1 West Oval - Velodrome

As identified though the issues and opportunities phase, the velodrome presents a significant constraint upon the development and functioning of the site as a regional AFL venue, compromising play ability and spectator viewing and access from the club and community building to the oval playing surface.

It is recommended therefore, that an alternate location for a new velodrome be identified and that the velodrome be relocated from the site once a suitable alternate location is found and developed, but that it be retained in the short term and the required regional facilities, particularly the club and community building be designed to reflect the current velodrome level and form. The current building floor plan and layout concept reflects these conditions.

Once the velodrome is relocated, it is recommended that its current width and grade be used to form terraces to increase the seating capacity of the oval. In this way a formal spectator zone will be provided around the perimeter of the oval from the north-east pocket to the south-east pocket. The variable grade of the velodrome will allow for a comparatively flat zone on the west of the oval, in front of the Flowers Family Stand and the new club and community building and increased terraces at either end of the oval.

Sections showing terraces through the reconfigured velodrome space are included below.



4.2.2 West Oval - Playing Field

With the retention of the velodrome in the short term, the size of the oval will be fixed.

Once the velodrome is relocated and the proposed spectator zone developed, it is recommended that the oval be widened marginally to provide an overall width of 118m, allowing for a 110m wide playing and 4m boundary zones, aligning with AFL regional facility guidelines.

4.2.3 West Oval - Netball Courts

It is recommended that the existing netball courts located in the south-east corner of the West Oval reserve be retained in their current configuration and condition, being compliant with currently required standards.

It is recognised, however, that spectator facilities are inadequate, and that temporary bleacher seating is provided to the north of the eastern court during finals matches. In response it is recommended that the existing driveway and garden bed to the west of the courts be reconfigured to provide for the installation of up to 5 rows of permanent bleacher seating.

4.2.4 West Oval - Support Infrastructure

With the development of West Oval as a regional AFL facility, it is recommended that a range of additional support infrastructure, required to align with AFL regional facility guidelines, be provided.

This infrastructure will include:

- ▶ Two coaches boxes / interchange benches located on the western wing of the playing field, aligning with AFL regional facility guidelines;
- ▶ One interchange steward / officials / umpires box located on the western wing of the playing field, aligning with AFL regional facility guidelines;
- ▶ Oval perimeter fencing, 900mm high black chain mesh, allowing for a minimum 4m run-off zone between playing field boundary and fencing.
- ▶ Upgraded scoreboard for high definition broadcast and enhanced spectator visibility;

4.3 VEHICLE CIRCULATION AND PARKING

4.3.1 West Oval – Access

It is recommended that vehicle access at West Oval be limited to two points:

- ▶ Entry from Weddell Road at the existing point near the north-west corner of the site. This will be the primary public access into the main car park.
- ▶ Entry from Church Street relocated slightly to the east from the existing entry point. The existing entry will be removed to allow for bleacher seating as described above. This new entry will provide access to the both the existing parkland / playspace, to the netball courts and to the oval for maintenance and management vehicles.

4.3.2 West Oval – Northern Car Park

It is anticipated that spectator crowds visiting West Oval for regional AFL finals, are likely to be in the order of 3,000 – 4,000, and that this level of visitation is likely to occur on 2 -3 occasions per year. It is expected that other regional competitions and events will attract additional events per year.

While it is recognised that the size of the site is insufficient to cater fully for the car parking generated by this level of visitation, it is recommended that the existing car park to the north of the site be expanded and formalised to optimise the site capacity for parking.

The existing car park would be enlarged by excavation into the northern side of the grass mound to the north of the oval, in order to provide a space adequate for two rows of parking and circulation space. The enlarged car park would be asphalt paved and line marked to make most efficient use of the increased space.

Note - Preliminary soil investigations have revealed low levels of soil contamination within the northern and southern mounds, it is anticipated that that rectification works associated with development on these areas will likely attract significant costs.

It is estimated that the existing unsealed car park holds in the order of 60 -70 vehicles. The enlarged and formalised car park is estimated to provide parking for around 135 vehicles.

As noted above, construction of the enlarged car park will require excavation into the northern grassed mounds. This will require removal / disposal of Category C contaminated soil to an approved site in accordance with EPA requirements. The volume of soil to be removed will be subject to detailed design of the car park.

4.3.3 West Oval – Southern Car Park

The existing southern car park of Church Street provides parking for 12 – 14 vehicles. It is recommended to be retained in its current form, with a new driveway as noted above. This car park will continue to primarily provide access for actual users of the reserve and netball players and spectators.



4.4 PEDESTRIAN SPACES

4.4.1 West Oval - Access

Pedestrian circulation in the context of a regional facility is primarily related to achieving access from the Weddell Road and Church Street frontage and from the enlarged northern car park.

Three pedestrian access points will be provided:

- ▶ From Weddell Road in the north-western corner of the site, combined with the main vehicle entry
- ▶ From Church Street in the south of the site, combined with vehicle entry
- ▶ From Weddell Street between the Flowers Family Stand and the new club and community building, providing a dedicated pedestrian entry into the site, with direct views to the playing oval.

4.4.2 West Oval – Club and Community Building Access

The elevated nature of the proposed club and community building, resulting from meeting the levels of the existing velodrome, will necessitate a long sloping walkway from the northern entry to the new building.

This will be treated as a broad promenade, achieving required grades for all-abilities and providing for movement of groups of people. It will provide access to both eastern and western entry points into the proposed building and will be integrated with appropriate site furniture such as bins and seats. It will be treated as a positive urban element providing introduction into the site, and not simple as a path.

4.4.3 West Oval – Southern Access

Pedestrian access from Church Street will be provided via the same entry point as vehicles, onto a shared driveway. This will lead to the netball pavilion and from there to the broad plaza connecting the Flowers Family Stand and the club and community building.

Control of pedestrians during AFL finals times, where entry to football will be ticketed will be provided adjacent the north-eastern corner of the netball pavilion. A small ticket box and temporary fencing will be provided at this point to direct non-paying netball spectator toward the netball courts and paying football spectators to the north. Permanent fencing will extend from the ticket box to existing fencing along the northern edge of the local parkland to provide a security when required.

4.4.4 West Oval - Pedestrian Plaza

The proposed club and community building will be constructed at a similar floor level to the existing Flowers Family Stand, creating the potential for a single level pedestrian plaza space linking the netball pavilion, the Stand and the new building at a common level.

This will be a board and open space to provide for large groups of spectators, as well as providing the stage for marquees, food vans and temporary installations during key events and finals.

The new entry from Weddell Road will lead directly into this plaza space, and so will be the key point of ticketing for pedestrians.

The netball precinct, including the pavilion and courts, will be better integrated into the plaza, and will have stronger visual and physical connection with the Flowers Family Stand and the club and community building, through modification of existing mounding immediately east of the existing cricket nets.

4.4.5 West Oval – Soft Spaces.

In addition to the pedestrian plaza and the spectator terraces described above, grassed mounds will be retained to both the north and the south priding both for spectator viewing and for passive recreation during non-game days.

The southern local parkland and playspace will be retained as existing providing for both community use and supplementary passive activity during sports times.

4.5 POTENTIAL FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Based on the recommendations and concepts outlined in the West Oval Master Plan the following costs estimates have been identified for the development of West Oval as a regional facility. Final cost estimates will be refined based on more detailed design following further community consultation.

- ▶ The preliminary estimate for total investment to deliver the West Oval Master Plan is up to \$10M. A new club and community building, including pedestrian access, contingencies and fees represents the major component of the anticipated cost, estimated at \$7M. The remaining supporting infrastructure and features make up the remaining \$3M of expected works.
- ▶ An investment of \$100K is allocated in Council's 2018/19 Budget to undertake further detailed design and cost testing of the Plan.
- ▶ It is expected that the delivery of the West Oval Master Plan would be achieved via a funding partnership between the federal and state governments, state sporting bodies, local sporting clubs and City of Greater Geelong.

5. NEXT STEPS

Subject to Council endorsement of the West Oval Master Plan, the next phase of will be to undertake detailed design of the community pavilion through the \$100,000 allocated in Council's 2018/19 Budget. Further funding for implementation of the Master Plan will be sought through a collaborative approach with Council, state and federal governments, beak bodies and tenanting sporting clubs. No further funding has been allocated at the time of writing this report.

APPENDIX

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Key Recommendations Site Plan

Appendix 2 – Area Schedule for Club and Community Pavilion

Appendix 3 – Club and Community Building Floor Plan

WEST OVAL MASTER PLAN | **FINAL REPORT** | NOVEMBER 2018

Appendix 2 – Area Schedule for Club and Community Pavilion



City of Greater Geelong (For Discussion)

Project : Western Oval Regional Football Facility
 Title : Area Schedule - Preliminary
 Date : 21-Mar-18

181 BUNBURY STREET
 RICHMOND VIC 3121
 P +61 3 9421 5885
 F +61 3 9421 6777
 W WWW.MANETIC.COM.AU
 E INFO@MANETIC.COM.AU

Area	Name	Comparison		Proposed Facility		External	Remarks
		SK	DD	Occupants	Size		
AREA 1 - Entry	1.01 At-Entr	0.0	0.0		10.0		
	1.02 Lobby	0.0	0.0		80.0		
	1.03 (Self-Entr)	0.0	0.0		10.0		
	1.04 Lift	0.0	0.0		0.0		
SUB-TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	
AREA 2 - Spectator Amenities	2.01 Wetroom Total + Ground	0.0	0.0		12.0		
	2.02 Wetroom Total + Ground	0.0	0.0		12.0		
	2.03 Acc. WC + Ground	0.0	0.0		4.0		
	2.04 Wash/Prep	0.0	0.0		24.0		
	2.05 Wash/Store	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	2.06 Social Room (Shared)	0.0	0.0		54.0		
	2.07 Value	0.0	0.0		0.0		
SUB-TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	110.0	0.0	
AREA 3 - Player Change Facilities	3.01 Home Change	0.0	0.0		75.0		
	3.02 Home Amenities	0.0	0.0		34.0		
	3.03 Away Change	0.0	0.0		75.0		
	3.04 Away Amenities	0.0	0.0		30.0		
	3.05 Acc. Change 1	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	3.06 Acc. Change 2	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	3.07 (Showering Area)	0.0	0.0		10.0		
	3.08 Home - Circulation	0.0	0.0		10.0		
SUB-TOTAL		0.0	0.0	0.0	238.0	0.0	
AREA 4 - Ancillary Sports Areas	4.01 Gym	0.0	0.0		40.0		
	4.02 Home - Staffing	0.0	0.0		20.0		
	4.03 Home + Coaching Office	0.0	0.0		15.0		
	4.04 Multi-Function	0.0	0.0		20.0		
	4.05 Time Keeper	0.0	0.0		10.0		
	4.06 Meeting Room	0.0	0.0		20.0		
SUB-TOTAL		0.0	0.0		125.0	0.0	
AREA 5 - Multi-Purpose Social Area	5.01 Social Room	0.0	0.0		215.0		
	5.02 LI Lobby	0.0	0.0		75.0		
	5.03 Commercial Kitchen	0.0	0.0		17.0		
	5.04 Bar	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	5.05 Cool Room & Store	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	5.06 Furniture Store	0.0	0.0		20.0		
	5.07 Patron Amenities (M)	0.0	0.0		20.0		
	5.08 Patron Amenities (F)	0.0	0.0		20.0		
	5.09 Accessible Total	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	5.10 (Self-Entr)	0.0	0.0		10.0		
SUB-TOTAL		0.0	0.0		410.0	0.0	
AREA 6 - BUILDING SERVICES	6.01 Mechanical Plant	0.0	0.0		40.0		
	6.02 Waste Management	0.0	0.0		25.0		
	6.03 Hot Water Services	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	6.04 Cleaner + Storage	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	6.05 Cleaner + Fuel	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	6.06 Gas & Comms	0.0	0.0		0.0		
	6.07 Fire House	0.0	0.0		4.0		
SUB-TOTAL		0.0	0.0		69.0	0.0	
Sub-Total		0.0	0.0		1044.0	0.0	
Circulation (10%)					104.4		
Waste Growing Factor					83.2		
TOTAL					1231.6		

Site Area
 No. of Car Parks
 Car Park Area
 Secure OSD Areas
 Secure OSD Enclosures
 Building Site Coverage

SK
 DD
 DD

• Areas recorded at Schematic Design Stage
 • Areas recorded at Detail Design Stage

Appendix 3 – Club and Community Building Floor Plan





MANTRIX
ARCHITECTURE

141 BURNLEY STREET, RICHMOND
INFO@MANTRIX.COM.AU
P 03 9421 5200
WWW.MANTRIX.COM.AU

GEELONG - WEST OVAL
GROUND & FIRST FLOOR PLAN - OPTION 3

1:200 @ A3
MAY, 2018
334 COPYRIGHT



NORTH



0 1 2 3 4 5 6m

PD-13

6. GEELONG WATERFRONT SAFE HARBOUR PRECINCT – MAJOR EVENTS AND PUBLIC ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Source:	Investment & Attraction
Acting Director:	Tim Ellis
Portfolio	Social and Infrastructure Planning

Purpose

To provide an update on the progress of the Geelong Waterfront Safe Harbour Precinct project and to seek approval to extend the period of Council's \$3M contributory funding offer towards Stage 1 of the project to 31 December 2019.

Background

The Geelong Waterfront Geelong Safe Harbour Precinct is a Council priority project. The project will improve public permeability through the precinct, create a boating safe harbour, redevelop the Victorian Sailing School and Royal Geelong Yacht Club (RGYC) buildings and improve the surrounding public realm.

Council agreed to provide \$3M funding towards the \$19M Stage 1 of the project, contingent on the RGYC securing the remaining funding for the stage from the State and Federal Governments by 31 December 2018.

A further Council funding condition was for the precinct master plan to be endorsed by Council by 31 December 2018, to ensure community benefits of the project are realised.

Key Issues

- RGYC have met the funding requirements for Stage 1 and have secured the following funds: \$7.6M State Government; \$5.5M Federal Government; \$3M RGYC.
- A Project Control Group which includes all funding stakeholders has been established to guide the development of the precinct master plan and implementation of the project.
- Design consultants have commenced the development of the master plan which will be presented to Council early next year, beyond the funding requirement of 31 December 2018. The master plan will ensure that suitable public realm outcomes are achieved and key elements like the wave attenuation are included in Stage 1 of the project.
- The \$3M contribution sought from Council has been accounted for in the Council's 2018-22 Strategic Resource Plan.
- Subject to approvals, construction is planned to commence during 2019.

Cr Murrihy moved, Cr Aitken seconded -

That Council:

- 1) Note the progress of the project;**
- 2) Extend the offer of \$3M towards Stage 1 of the project to 31 December 2019 to allow the master plan to be completed and presented to Council for endorsement.**

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

The \$3M contribution sought from Council is accounted for in the 2018-22 Strategic Resource Plan. Council's contribution should remain to be contingent on the completion of the master plan and funds being allocated to the improvements of the public realm and towards construction of the wave attenuator.

The costings for the project are based on a business case completed in 2015 with financial risk and future operational costs expected to be accepted by the RGYC. Any changes to the public realm through the master plan process will be fully assessed before endorsement to ensure ongoing cost implications are known.

A review of site rentals will be undertaken to determine any income opportunities in response to the use of much improved facilities.

Community Engagement

In the course of completing the business case, a range of key government and industry stakeholders were consulted. A communication strategy has now been developed for the project which will include broad community consultation as part of the master plan process.

There are currently a number of business operators using Fishermen's Basin – helicopter joyflights, fresh seafood sales and commercial vessels. These businesses have raised concerns that any loss of public infrastructure will impact their business operations.

Any changes to Fisherman's Basin infrastructure should be carefully considered as part of the master plan process. It is likely the helicopter business will need to be relocated to allow this project to proceed. The relocation of the helicopter will prove challenging, but options such as a floating helipad could be possible subject to further investigation, consultation and funding.

The project has received wide media attention which has been based on the business case design concepts only.

Social Equity Considerations

The project provides new infrastructure to support event growth and attraction. It will increase the use of the waterfront for public recreation and new community event opportunities.

The new Victorian Sailing School building will open new learn to sail programs for the public and enhance the existing RGYC Sailability program.

A new Changing Places Facility will form part of the new Victorian Sailing School building and will be accessible to the general public. Support for a Changing Places Facility in this location has strong backing from a wide range of community and reference groups.

A key configuration issue is whether the attenuator will be effective in creating a safe harbour environment and suitability for public accessibility in accordance with DDA requirements. However, this risk should be mitigated by an effective design and implementation process. The exploration of other wave attenuation options may need to be considered.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

Planning approval is required under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* for the use of the land, the construction of buildings and the carrying out of works associated with the project.

Planning approval can be either a planning permit process (or possibly a number of permits for various components of the approved master plan) or a planning scheme amendment (through an Incorporated Document). The Minister for Planning would be the responsible authority (instead of Council) for the Incorporated Document.

The Minister for Planning is the responsible authority for certain types of applications in Central Geelong. Whether the Minister or Council is the responsible authority for the project cannot be determined until the project scope is fully known.

In addition to planning approval, a range of other approvals are required for the project including:

- Consent under the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*;
- Permit/s under *Heritage Act 2017*;
- Approval under *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (if CHMP is required).

Recommendations on the planning process will be offered to Council when the master plan is presented for endorsement.

Alignment to Council Plan

The Geelong Waterfront Safe Harbour precinct is a primary focus for the local community. The project aligns with:

- Council Plan 2018-22;
- Central Geelong Action Plan and Revitalising Central Geelong State Action Plan;
- Geelong Central Waterfront Master Plan 2011.

Conflict of Interest

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have a direct or indirect interest in matters to which it relates.

Risk Assessment

Due to scale, location and significant amount of stakeholders, the delivery of the project has a number of risks as part of the first stage of the development. It is intended that financial risk is allocated to the RGYC including the future operation and demand for marina services.

The Project Control Group will oversee and manage project risk to ensure that public realm improvements are achieved.

The master plan process will be used to look at options to stage the work and provide Council with the opportunity to safeguard public assets and community use of the precinct.

Environmental Implications

An environmental impact study has not been undertaken as part of the business case process. The planning approval process will inform what environmental studies are required.

The onshore components of the project essentially involve building new RGYC and Victorian Sailing School accommodation and facilities on the existing RGYC site. It is not expected that any significant incremental environmental impact would result from demolishing and rebuilding on the existing site, assuming that any incremental water, waste-water and sewage requirements are adequately managed. Rather the redevelopment will provide the opportunity to upgrade and optimise the arrangements.

The on-water (marina) development is within or around the area of the existing marina, with the proposed wave attenuator along an alignment similar to that previously occupied by the Yarra St Pier.

Energy consumption in the new facilities will be less due to appliance efficiency and through the communal use of facilities.

Later stages of the works may involve the relocation of storm water outlets and the gross pollutant trap currently in the shallow water adjacent to the sailing school. Any future works must limit the amount of silt and rubbish being discharged and trapped along the shore-line. The Central Geelong Drainage and Flood Study does not provide direct advice in this matter and further investigations will be conducted as part of the master plan development to ensure improved environmental outcomes.

7. COUNCIL PLAN QUARTERLY REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2018

Source:	Finance & Strategy – Strategy & Program Delivery
Interim Director:	Brett Luxford
Portfolio	Strategy and Communications

Purpose

To present to Council the September 2018 Council Plan Quarterly Report for consideration and endorsement.

Background

- At the 26 June 2018 Council Meeting, Council adopted the 2018-22 Council Plan which identifies the objectives and priorities of Council. This quarterly report tracks the progress against the 11 Council Plan strategic priorities and one year aims.
- A review of last year's process for the development of Council Plan and Budget identified several opportunities for improvement, including how we report on our progress in delivering our Council Plan key priorities.
- Previously the Council Plan Quarterly Report detailed progress of the initiatives within the Annual Action Plan (budgeted items whether capital, discretionary or recurrent). In the 2017-18 period, this involved liaising with officers from across the organisation to update 167 initiatives each quarter. In addition, it did not capture other major initiatives contributing to Council Plan.
- In order to provide a more holistic view of the work supporting the delivery of Council Plan, the new Council Plan Quarterly Report reports progress against the Council Plan strategic priorities and one year aims.
- The Council Plan Quarterly Report will also report on the progress against the Council Plan measures of success as they become available throughout the year.

Key Issues

- There are 84 key priorities and 56 aims in Council Plan 2018-19. The majority of these are on track with one 'completed, one 'deferred' and 2 'needs improvement'. There are still some measures that require data, which is currently being sourced.

Cr Asher moved, Cr Murnane seconded -

That Council endorse the September 2018 Council Plan Quarterly Report which will be made available to the community on the Council website.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from the subject of this report.

Community Engagement

The Council Plan Quarterly Report has been prepared in consultation with Managers, Coordinators and Officers from across the organisation. The report will be made available to the community online through Councils' website (www.geelongaustralia.com.au) after the Council Meeting, four times a year.

Social Equity Considerations

The Council Plan Quarterly Report documents the work Council is undertaking in relation to improving access and inclusion for all.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

The City's activities are guided by its Council Plan 2018-22, which was adopted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*. Implementation of the Council Plan is monitored via the quarterly report.

Alignment to Council Plan

The Quarterly Council Plan Report has been developed to meet our commitment to transparent performance reporting, including progress updates on Council Plan key priorities and aims.

Conflict of Interest

There have been no direct or indirect interests declared.

Risk Assessment

There are no identified risks arising from this report.

Environmental Implications

There are no identified environmental implications arising from this report.

1. IMPROVED HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY

The health and safety of our community is vital. We address family address family violence, homelessness, food shortages and public safety.

 On track
  Needs improvement
  Off track
  Not yet available
  Complete

Measures of success	Frequency	Baseline	Target 2022	YTD Sept 2018	Progress comments	Status
Increase in the percentage of residents feel safe where they live	Biennial	59%	57%	-	Reported as part of the Geelong Preventative Health Survey	△
Increase in percentage of adults rating their health as very good or excellent	Biennial	59%	60%	-	Reported as part of the Geelong Preventative Health Survey	△
Increase in percentage of adults who are sufficiently physically active	Biennial	59%	43%	-	Reported as part of the Geelong Preventative Health Survey	△
Increase the percentage of children enrolled who participate in Maternal Child Health Services	Annual	59%	75%	-	Reported as part of the Geelong Preventative Health Survey	△

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Showing leadership in gender equity, diversity and family violence prevention.		Development of the Ba-gurrr Gender Equity Framework and Action Plan will ensure all of the City's policies, plans, services and programs advance to gender equity principles. Support is also provided for the Women in Community Life Committee and Barwon Month of Action Against Family Violence activities.	
Supporting local organisations that address homelessness, family violence and food shortages.		The City has been approached by a local group to assess the identification of land for a future site and we have carried out some site inspections, however a location has not yet been determined.	
Develop a housing policy to provide a range of social and affordable housing options.		The City has been successful in obtaining funding from the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a Social Housing Strategy by the end of 2019.	
Improving safety in our community.	<i>Consult with the community on safety issues that are impacting them.</i>	Council are supporting local safety committees in Geelong and on the Bellarine to increase community safety and has sought funds from the Department of Justice and Regulation to enhance safety at the Waurin Ponds Skate Park.	
Providing safer public spaces.	<i>Improve safety of, and user satisfaction with, community infrastructure.</i>	An application has been made to secure funding for safety upgrades to the Waurin Ponds Skate Park through the Department of Justice and Regulation's (DOJR) Public Safety Infrastructure Fund.	
	<i>Improve public safety on the Geelong Waterfront and in Central Geelong.</i>	The City is currently seeking funding through the Safer Communities Fund for concept design and construction documentation for redevelopment of the Lt Malop St Mall. The project will apply best practice Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to improve safety, functionality, activation and appearance of the space. The design will	

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Working with stakeholders to prevent crime.		include improved lighting, CCTV infrastructure, sight lines and passive surveillance, walkability and connectivity. Council is a member of the G21 Region Regional Justice Roundtable co-chaired by the Department of Justice and Regulation and Victoria Police. Regular liaison occurs with Victoria Police on crime prevention activities and projects.	
Encouraging responsible pet ownership.		After extensive community engagement, Council has adopted dog control orders that apply on lands managed by the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management. Council's Dog Controls in Public Places Policy is currently being reviewed, having just gone through the first round of community engagement. A draft revised Policy has now been presented to the community as the second stage of the review process. Work on developing Council's Dog Park Strategy is underway. The strategy aims to provide a framework to best inform the Council in making decisions about Dog Parks such as location, quantity, design and on-going maintenance.	
Promoting healthy eating and supporting active living.		The draft Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2018-2021 has recently undergone community consultation. The plan outlines the City's goals and strategies to maximise the community's health and wellbeing and ensure the greatest improvements are realised among those who need it most.	
	<i>Consult with the community to create more health and fitness options.</i>	The Geelong community was recently invited to view the plans and provide comments to inform the development of detailed concept plans for the Northern Arts, Recreation and Community (ARC) Health and Wellbeing Hub in Norlane.	
Creating healthy environments in children's settings.		The City is continually working to make sure we have a child safe and friendly environment where children and young people are respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential. As a child safe organisation, we promote child safety and ensuring compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards and Reportable Conduct Scheme.	
Working towards having the safest roads in Victoria.		Engagement to update of the City's Road Safety Strategy is complete with a draft plan to go to Council by end of year.	

LINKS TO THE CLEVER CREATIVE VISION



PEOPLE FEEL SAFE
WHEREVER THEY ARE



AN INCLUSIVE, DIVERSE,
HEALTHY AND SOCIALLY
CONNECTED COMMUNITY

2. INFORMED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

We will strive for social equity in the infrastructure and services we deliver for our community.

 On track
  Needs improvement
  Off track
  Not yet available
  Complete

Measures of success	Frequency	Baseline	Target 2022	YTD Sept 2018	Progress comments	Status
No net loss of public open space by suburb	Annual	2,147.6 ha (530 sites)	2,147.6 ha	-	Reported annually	
Percent of plans for key community infrastructure projects completed	Annual	-	100%	-	37 key community infrastructure projects have been identified for delivery in 2018-19.	

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Providing more quality spaces that support active lifestyles.		Full funding for new floodlights at King Lloyd Reserve has been secured; planning for a new play area in Corio has commenced; public consultation for a new playground in St Leonards has been completed and construction of a new skate park at Stead Park is well underway.	
Supporting the growth of localised and regional sporting facilities.	<i>Provide new sports and leisure facilities, and upgrade existing ones.</i>	New or upgraded facilities are being delivered at over twenty sport and recreation reserves in the municipality. From construction works for club rooms and amenities, to reserve infrastructure, sports lights, the works are varied. West Oval will soon commence design based on the masterplan, and tenders for the track upgrade at Goldsworthy Reserve are being evaluated.	
Delivering accessible and attractive community infrastructure, based on community need.	<i>Complete planning and design of the Northern ARC Health and Wellbeing Hub.</i>	Concept design stage is completed and now moving into Schematic design phase which is aiming to be completed by November 2018. Extensive community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken during July - September to inform and enhance the design process. Lobbying for State and Federal Government funding contributions is continuing.	
	<i>Complete planning to upgrade existing children's centres, and provide new ones.</i>	Four new children's centres are in construction with Armstrong Creek and Highton to be operational within 2019. Drysdale and Purnell Rd (Corio) are scheduled to be open in 2020. Planning is commencing for Armstrong Creek West and various upgrades to existing services are being delivered under the Children's Services Facility Upgrades budget.	
	<i>Acquire land for new community infrastructure.</i>	Planned purchases are being worked through with relevant services managers and legal services.	
	<i>Upgrade community facilities and make them safer.</i>	Five new/refurbished toilet blocks are scheduled to be delivered by December 2018.	
	<i>Upgrade streets, roads, footpaths and drains.</i>	Renewal programs for the upgrade of roads, footpath, kerb and channel, drainage and bridges are rolling out for 2018-19.	
Advocating and planning for a range of social and affordable housing options.		Planning policies to encourage housing diversity in established areas and key locations in greenfield areas in place.	

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Maintaining our public open space.	<i>Provide more accessible public urban space.</i>	Development of a social housing policy is underway. As part of the Social Infrastructure Plan (SIP), the Open Space Needs Study is being finalised and due for completion in March 2019, alongside the planned release of the draft SIP. In addition officers have been working alongside the Geelong Authority to develop the draft Central Geelong Open Space Study that will more specifically identify the specific needs for open space in the changing and growing central Geelong area.	

LINKS TO THE CLEVER CREATIVE VISION



AN INCLUSIVE, DIVERSE,
HEALTHY AND SOCIALLY
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PEOPLE FEEL SAFE
WHEREVER THEY ARE



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
THAT SUPPORTS POPULATION
GROWTH AND PROTECTS THE
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

3. A MORE INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY

We want to recognise all members of the Geelong community and not leave anyone behind.

 **On track**
 **Needs improvement**
 **Off track**
 **Not yet available**
 **Complete**

Measures of success	Frequency	Baseline	Target 2022	YTD Sept 2018	Progress comments	Status
Increase in the percentage of adults who definitely feel multiculturalism makes life better	Every four years	57.4%	60%	-	Reported from the Victorian Population Health Survey (VPHS)	△
Increase in the percentage of adults attending a local community event	Every four years	71.2%	75%	-	Reported from the VPHS	△
Increase in the percentage of adults feel that they can get help from family, friends or neighbours when needed	Every four years	73.5%	80%	-	Reported from the VPHS	△
More community facilities with gender-neutral and accessible toilets, or change areas	TBD	-	Increase		TBD	△

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Advocating for, and helping to achieve, the priorities set by local Aboriginal people.	<i>Renew the Karreenga Aboriginal Action Plan</i>	An Aboriginal consultant has been appointed to work with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to redevelop the Karreenga Aboriginal Action Plan and develop Council's first Reconciliation Action Plan.	
Improving our engagement with our culturally diverse population.	<i>Renew the Multicultural Action Plan</i>	The Multicultural Action Plan 2018 - 2022 will be returning to Council for endorsement in October 2018.	
Supporting activities that improve social connections in our community.	<i>Create a framework to support social and charitable groups</i>	Existing work continues through provision of both Neighbourhood House and Healthy and Connected Communities Grants programs, as well as facilitation role for the Change Agents of Sustainability (CAOS) network, and the City's community information signs. Planning for 2018-19 has commenced for: a mentor project supporting leaders at Neighbourhood Houses; developing a community-wide leadership project; and piloting a 'Learning Through Community: Local knowledge sharing' project.	
		The City facilitates Youth engagement activities with a focus on areas and groups of disadvantage. These include Drop In programs, holiday programs and events that provide young people with social opportunities, supported referrals and access to community infrastructure.	
Promoting gender equity and diversity in our sporting and leisure facilities, and programs.		Funding agreements with the State Government are in the process of being finalised for gender neutral facilities at South Barwon Football and Netball Club (FNC), St Albans FNC and Grovedale FNC.	

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Facilitating employment programs for the communities that need it most, including young people.		Ongoing delivery of the Jobs Victoria Employment Network as part of Whittington Works. The Skilling the Bay funded Education to Employment project to recommence.	
		The City continues to develop and deliver youth development programs aimed at skill development, employment, mental health and wellbeing and leadership. Programs include, teen Mental Health first Aid, DRUMBEAT, Girls Go Extreme and skill development programs including first aid and food handling.	
Improving access to facilities and programs for people of all abilities.	<i>Provide a grants scheme to fund community groups, and initiatives that promote inclusion and accessibility.</i>	The 2018-19 Healthy and Connected Communities Grants program has been assessed and is with an independent panel for final decision.	
		In September, Council released a draft Access and Inclusion Action Plan 2018-22 for community consultation. The plan specifies actions the City will take to reduce discrimination and promote inclusion of people with disabilities.	
Recognising our returned service men and women.		A range of projects continue to be facilitated and supported including the installation of Bluestone Pavers with Victoria Cross recipient names, the Spirit of ANZAC statue relocation within Johnston Park, Armistice Day Stories of Peace including projections on the Peace Memorial, support for Honour Rolls at the Ocean Grove War Memorial and Connecting Memory ANZAC Digital Story Trail in Armstrong Creek.	
Further developing programs that support older people and young people in our community.	<i>Renew the Municipal Early Years Plan</i>	The City has released a draft Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP) 2018-2022 for community feedback. The MEYP details how the City will seek to improve the health and wellbeing of children aged 0-8 years and their families over the next four years, and includes a key focus on identifying and supporting those who need help the most.	
		Networking with other metropolitan and regional Councils has identified a range of different activities that are needed to support older people in their ageing journey, in an age friendly city. This information, along with council's current activities and the eight areas of influence identified as contributing to an age-friendly city, will be used to develop a Positive Ageing strategy commencing in October 2018.	
Advocating for inclusive, multicultural activities and respect for cultural diversity.		Council is developing an operating model for existing Youth Advisory Groups (including multicultural groups) to feed into Youth Council (Junior Council) to advocate for inclusive events and respect for diversity.	

LINKS TO THE CLEVER CREATIVE VISION



AN INCLUSIVE, DIVERSE,
HEALTHY AND SOCIALLY
CONNECTED COMMUNITY



PEOPLE FEEL SAFE
WHEREVER THEY ARE

4. PLANNED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We will use sustainable principles to guide development of growth areas and help protect our townships.

 **On track**
 **Needs improvement**
 **Off track**
 **Not yet available**
 **Complete**

Measures of success	Frequency	Baseline	Target 2022	YTD Sept 2018	Progress comments	Status
More protected natural habitat that we manage	Annual	TBD	Increase	-	Baseline data yet to be established	
15 years of residential land supply	Annual	14+ years	Maintain		Review of land supply in 2017 indicated a zoned residential land supply of 14+ years with a further 15 years of potential supply in identified growth areas, projection is based on a sustained strong population growth of 2.5%	
Increase in the percentage of new housing construction conducted within existing urban areas	Annual	37.8%	50%	-	Reported annually	
All new large, City-owned buildings rated 5-star 'Green Star'	Annual	TBD	100%	-	Reported annually	
All new small, City-owned buildings with built environment sustainability scorecard or equivalent	Annual	TBD	100%	-	Reported annually	
Mandatory sustainable design assessment of all new developments	n/a	n/a	Planning controls in place	-	In August, Council resolved to introduce a local planning policy to ensure new developments are sustainably designed. The policy requires all developments to include an Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) assessment as part of the planning permit process. A planning scheme amendment is being prepared to introduce the policy.	

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Making sure housing supply, diversity and affordability can meet the needs of our growing community.	<i>Complete the Settlement Strategy, to guide growth, boundaries and development in townships and urban areas.</i>	Final Settlement Strategy to be considered by Council at 9 October meeting.	
Facilitating opportunities for infill residential development.		The West Fyans Structure Plan, Pakington Street Urban Design Framework and South Geelong Urban Design Framework are all underway. Projects include community consultation and identification of the types and scale of new infill development for these areas	
Continuing to develop urban growth areas across the region.		Framework Plans for the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas are to be considered by Council early 2019. Over 30 active estates in Greater Geelong are providing a diversity of lot types and housing products.	

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Managing the impact of development on the unique character of our townships.		The City is currently working with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on potential designation of parts of Geelong as a distinctive landscape area. Design controls to guide new development in Barwon Heads are being implemented through the Barwon Heads Structure Plan that was considered by an independent planning panel in August.	
Improving the environmental performance of new developments, using planning controls.		Council has resolved to initiate a planning scheme amendment to include environmentally sustainable design local policy in Greater Geelong scheme.	
Delivering biodiversity conservation programs.		The Hooded Plover Conservation Plan (draft) is currently out for public comment. The City has received funding from the State Government for biodiversity on-ground works on private land in the Little River area called Peak to Plains. The Masons Creek Catchment Grants Program has funded a number of landholders to restore native vegetation, improve habitat and protect waterways leading into the internationally significant Swan Bay	
Preserving nature reserves, rural and coastal environments.	<i>Manage the delivery of nature reserves in new developments</i>	The program includes the transition of nature sites in development areas into a City managed Nature Reserves. The key site at the moment is Armstrong Creek at Warralily.	
	<i>Establish Sparrovale Wetlands, to enhance the area and its biodiversity.</i>	Project implementation for the Sparrovale Master Plan is in line with the project management plan. Engagement of consultants is progressing with the aim of having the contract awarded in December 2018.	
	<i>Continue a coordinated approach to drainage and water sensitive urban design.</i>	The City endorsed the Integrated Water Management Strategic Statement (IWMSS) prepared on behalf of the Barwon Region in September. The IWMSS supports innovative approaches to stormwater management, water management and water sensitive urban design.	
	<i>Review of existing land for community facilities, with new land acquired where needed.</i>	An agreement has been reached with VicRoads Corporation for the purchase of surplus land to support the future social infrastructure requirements for the new and developing Fyansford community.	
	<i>Introduce a rural and peri-urban advisory body to build relationships and foster best practice.</i>	The Rural and Peri-Urban Advisory Committee, formed in June 2018, has identified four priority areas for further work including biosecurity, livestock exchange, information exchange and truck wash facilities.	

LINKS TO THE CLEVER CREATIVE VISION



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
THAT SUPPORTS POPULATION
GROWTH AND PROTECTS THE
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

5. EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

We will show leadership to address waste, climate change and environmental challenges.

 On track
  Needs improvement
  Off track
  Not yet available
  Complete

Measures of success	Frequency	Baseline	Target 2022	YTD Sept 2018	Progress comments	Status
Increase in garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins diverted from landfill	Monthly	56.32%	60%	52.35%	September figure is below the target because green waste tonnages and to a lesser extent recycling are always lower at this time of the year	
Reduction in emissions from street lights, buildings and vehicle fleet use	Annual	23,135 ¹	50%		Reported annually	
Increased use of sustainable material in our asset construction and renewal	Annual	8,000 tonnes of asphalt recycled in-house annually 3,000 tonnes of concrete to recycling annually	Increase	-	Reported annually	
Increased suburban tree canopy	Annual	14%	16%	-	Reported annually	
Increased number of street trees planted per annum	Every three months		>1,850 per annum	902	Almost half the target number of street trees have been planted in the first quarter	

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Reduce our carbon footprint through the use of solar initiatives and other renewable energy options.	<i>Continue to improve environmental management services.</i>	790 kilowatt of solar has been installed on Council buildings, the equivalent to the power consumption of 179 households and 459 TCO2-e saved per annum.	
	<i>Continue to embed One Planet Living principles across the organisation.</i>	One Planet Living (OPL) Action Plan in development. Council policies and programs have been mapped in-line with the ten One Planet Living Principles. OPL Action Plan will include what opportunities Council can do to increase our score in each sustainability principles.	
Educating and assisting our community to act on climate change, by reducing waste, emissions and water usage.	<i>Identify 'waste-to-energy' options for our region.</i>	The City is currently working with commercial waste technology providers, state government agencies and regional waste management groups to identify waste to energy options.	
	<i>Trial a hard waste collection service.</i>	A trial for a hard waste collection has been endorsed by Council and will begin in April 2019.	
	<i>Renew the Environment Management Strategy.</i>	The Environment Management Strategy (EMS) is currently under review. Stage one has been completed (research and mapping existing programs). Stage Two has begun and will include engagement with stakeholders. A draft EMS will be presented to Council prior to June 2019.	

¹ Target and baseline to achieve emissions reduction from Council's buildings and vehicle fleet from 2014-15 levels as per the City's Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy.

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
	<i>Continue to invest in the community Environment and Sustainability grants program.</i>	Grants for 2018-19 have been advertised and applications have been received. A total of 13 grant applications received with 10 recommended for funding. \$15,000 provided for a strategic partnership for Sustainable House Day.	■
	<i>Investigate options to achieve zero waste to landfill and support the community to do likewise.</i>	The City is currently working with commercial waste technology providers, state government agencies and regional waste management groups to identify alternative waste disposal options.	■
Using sustainable materials to construct and renew roads, footpaths and street furniture.		Design and testing is currently underway for the construction of two new bridges to be maintenance free for the next century. The bridges incorporate geopolymer concrete, which uses waste from the steel manufacturing process, and carbon fibre reinforcing making them immune to the chemical, thermal and rust degradation which affect traditional structures.	■
Progressively changing standard street lights to LED lights, to help reduce carbon emissions.		Upgrade of street lights to LED is progressing with specifications being prepared and engagement with stakeholders underway. The roll out is anticipated to commence in 2019 over 3 years.	■
Commencing Drysdale landfill rehabilitation.		Landscape plans are currently being prepared for the site. Some plantings have taken place. Development of a site rehabilitation plan will commence shortly.	■
Constructing a green organics facility.		The City has opened the new Geelong Garden Organics Composting Facility which will process up to 35,000 tonnes of green organics collected from Greater Geelong's garden waste bins. This will ensure green garden waste stays out of landfill and is re-used on a number of the City's operations, including the botanic gardens, sports grounds and parks.	✓
Planting more trees to green and cool our urban areas.		Between July and September 2018, 1132 new advanced trees have been planted in streets and parks as part of the Urban Forest strategy.	■
Reducing single-use plastic across the region.		A Council report for options in relation to Council's operations and facilities and the reduction in the use of Single-Use Plastics is being prepared for Council to consider in November 2018.	■
Managing pest plants and animals more effectively.		The Roadside Biodiversity and Fire Management Weed Program across the municipality is complete including removing 11 tons of weeds along Shell Road between Ocean Grove and Point Lonsdale. The Serrated Tussock control program is complete. Preparation of a Rabbit Action Plan has commenced.	■
	<i>Protect and rehabilitate our beaches, waterways and conservation reserves.</i>	Nature restoration works continue across all of the City's Nature Reserves such as Ibbotson Reserve (St Leonards) where extensive major woody weed removal of Broom, Boneseed, Cape Wattle, Boxthorn and Pittosporum has commenced.	■

LINKS TO THE CLEVER CREATIVE VISION



DEVELOPMENT AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
THAT SUPPORTS POPULATION
GROWTH AND PROTECTS THE
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

6. VIBRANT ARTS AND CULTURE

We treasure Geelong's culture and heritage and will help our creative community to grow.

 **On track**
 **Needs improvement**
 **Off track**
 **Not yet available**
 **Complete**

Measures of success	Frequency	Baseline	Target 2022	YTD Sept 2018	Progress comments	Status
Increased number of objects actively cared for within our arts and heritage collections	Annual	17,325	Increase	-	Reported annually. The arts and heritage collections comprises objects contained within the City of Greater Geelong Municipal Collection, the National Wool Museum Collection, Geelong Naval and Maritime Museum Collection and Old Geelong Gaol Collection.	△
Increased access to cultural collections through on-line engagement	Annual	49,093	Increase	-	Reported annually. Council arts and heritage collections are available online through Victorian Collections Online and National Quilt Register .	△
Increase in the percentage of active library members in the municipality	Annual	19.28%	20%	-	Reported annually	△
Increased employment in creative occupations	Every five years	4.75%	Increase	-	Data available from 2021 Census	△
Maintained visitation to our key cultural facilities: National Wool Museum (NWM), Potato Shed, Geelong Gallery, Courthouse Youth Arts, Geelong Library & Heritage Centre (GL&HC)	Annual	NWM – 851,879 Potato Shed - 108,444 Geelong Gallery - 116,940 Courthouse Youth Arts - 13,940 GL&HC - 456,934	Maintain	-	Reported annually	△

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Incorporating arts and cultural initiatives into infrastructure development, to enhance our sense of place.		Implementation of the Public Art Strategy continues with a diverse range of projects. These include the Leopold Community Hub sculpture commission which celebrates local identities, the Green Spine Stage 2 public art commission and the Underwater Sculpture Park at Clifton Springs.	
Recognising and sharing our heritage through storytelling.		A number of storytelling projects have commenced with five stories completed for the Connecting Memory project featuring oral histories across the municipality. An interpretative trail, commemorating our ANZAC heritage, commences shortly. National Wool Museum exhibitions highlight the region's heritage including Masters Art of the Precious Metal Object and stories of regional women working on the land..	
Recognising and celebrating Geelong's Aboriginal culture and history.		The Reconciliation Projection Program is a feature of Reconciliation week engaging a diverse range of community stakeholder	

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
		with planning for the 2019 programme about to commence. A DVD of the 2018 program will be distributed as a cultural asset for the community.	
Working with galleries and museums to improve our public art and heritage offering.	<i>Develop a cultural strategy that advances our museums and galleries.</i>	Work is commencing on the structure of the Cultural Strategy and the Heritage Asset Strategic Plan, the latter which was recently allocated funding from the Federal Government's Building Better Regional fund. The Public Art Strategy will be refreshed as part of the cultural strategy process.	
	<i>Attract more national art exhibitions to the region.</i>	Major national and international exhibitions are programmed at both the Geelong Gallery and the National Wool Museum for 2018/2019 including the Archibald Prize, Marion Hall Best, London's Natural History Museum Wildlife Photographer Awards and Sydney Nolan's Ned Kelly series.	
Attracting new, and supporting existing, creative industries.		Renew Geelong, funded by Council and Creative Victoria, has been successfully launched and creatives are populating vacant shops and spaces in Central Geelong. Creative Geelong, also co-funded by Council and Creative Vic, is also achieving a range of outcomes for the creative industries.	
Delivering UNESCO City of Design creative outcomes, including: National Wool Museum Master Plan; Geelong Gallery redevelopment; Mountain to Mouth; Geelong After Dark; cultural trails.		Major projects featured as UNESCO City of Design are in the scoping and planning stages.	
Working with the Geelong Regional Library Corporation (GLRC) to deliver efficient and effective services and programs.		The GLRC continues to deliver a range of programs and services with the Word for Word Festival now launched for November 2018.	
	<i>Support music and performing arts programs.</i>	The next iteration of Connecting Song, a three part mentorship of experienced songwriters with young emerging musicians, is an exciting component of the delivery of the Geelong Live Music Action Plan (LiveMAP). Geelong's LiveMAP has been extremely well received.	
	<i>Commence Osborne House remediation.</i>	Council is undertaking a precinct master plan, which incorporate the land within the Boundaries of Swinburne St / Mackey St / Princess Highway and the foreshore including St Helens. This will then lead to a proposed future use of Osborne House. Building works continue with the house emptied and 2/3 of artefacts cleaned and protected. The house itself has been tested with mould levels reduced.	
	<i>Put heritage and conservation plans in place for significant infrastructure.</i>	The Municipal Heritage Strategy was adopted in August 2017. Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) are a critical tool for the ongoing protection of our heritage buildings. CMPs are being prepared and implemented for many council owned sites.	

LINKS TO THE CLEVER CREATIVE VISION



CREATIVITY DRIVES CULTURE



A DESTINATION THAT
ATTRACTS LOCAL AND
INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

7. INTEGRATED TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS

Our focus will be on improving our public and active transport, and better connecting our networks.

■ On track
 ◆ Needs improvement
 ■ Off track
 △ Not yet available
 ✓ Complete

Measures of success	Frequency	Baseline	Target 2022	YTD Sept 2018	Progress comments	Status
Increased kilometres of bicycle and walking paths	Annual	206km bike paths 1,674km footpaths	Increase	206km bike paths 1,686km footpaths	The average annual growth over the last three year in the footpath network has been 2.48% per annum and 1.6% per annum for bike paths	■
Increased community satisfaction rating with sealed local roads	Annual	49	60	-	Reported annually	△
Renewal gap for road management reduced	Annual	\$4.5m	Reduce	-	Reported annually	△

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Supporting projects in the G21 Region Road Transport Plan.	<i>Establish a traffic management plan for the northern growth corridor (including Lara).</i>	Lara Traffic Study has commenced with engagement planned for October. Growth area funding received from Victorian Planning Authority to investigate network upgrades to support growth area planning.	■
	<i>Work with VicRoads to deliver truck restrictions in Central Geelong.</i>	VicRoads and Transport for Victoria report prepared on Central Geelong Truck management, actions to be implemented ongoing with reference to the Network Operating Plan (NOP).	■
Working with VicRoads to deliver the Network Operating Plan (NOP), to improve bus services.		The central Geelong NOP and improved bus services stakeholder consultation is due to commence in October 2018. A draft plan to be prepared in December 2018 for community.	■
Improving our road management and engagement program.		The City Services Roads to Success project engagement video has seen thousands of hits and the Geelong City app is being promoted to the community inviting feedback.	■
Delivering better-connected walking, cycling and trail paths across our region.	<i>Upgrade existing roads, streets and footpaths.</i>	Ongoing delivery of upgraded and new paths within programs underway including - Hovells Creek Trail and Elcho Drain shared path. Review of shared pathways across the region to commence early 2019.	■
Advocating to improve rail, road and sea connections for our region.		Engineering Services continues to participate in G21 Transport Pillar to support projects within the Region Road Transport Plan. Projects include: rail duplication for Waurin Ponds to South Geelong, and transit corridor to Torquay, the Bellarine Link and Barwon Heads Road upgrade.	■
Working with government to improve freight connections to the Geelong Port.		A stakeholder meeting was held with Geelong Port in September 2018 to review access improvements and network upgrades.	■
Advocating and planning for a second container port at Bay West.		A response has been made to the Victorian Government submission. Awaiting further opportunities for input or a decision.	Deferred
Supporting further international flights at Avalon.		AirAsia is scheduled to begin flights between Avalon and Kuala Lumpur on 5 December 2018. It's anticipated these will	■

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
		expand to include further destinations quite quickly and, with a successful introduction, further airlines will be interested in adding Avalon as a destination.	
Supporting the redevelopment of the rail station precinct, including a modern bus terminal.		The Station Precinct is currently in early planning phases. A number of concepts have been considered however the design will not be finalised until adjacent precincts are determined, i.e. Civic precinct. We are holding a series of workshops (October - November 2018) in conjunction with Transport for Victoria relating to the Transport Network Operating Plan and Bus Super Stops. Outcomes will be presented to Council early 2019.	■
Delivering the Better Bike Connections project.		Engagement progressing with over 2,600 responses to the community survey for High Street link. Further information and updates to be prepared for Council. The Western Route tender has been issued.	◆
	<i>Investigate and develop parking solutions in Central Geelong.</i>	Following peer review, the draft Central Geelong Car Parking Strategy is currently going through a second internal review process prior to progressing to Council for endorsement to go on public exhibition.	■

LINKS TO THE CLEVER CREATIVE VISION



A FAST, RELIABLE AND
CONNECTED TRANSPORT
NETWORK

8. A THRIVING AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

We will capitalise on Geelong's incredible economic opportunities.

 On track
  Needs improvement
  Off track
  Not yet available
  Complete

Measures of success	Frequency	Baseline	Target 2022	YTD Sept 2018	Progress comments	Status
More businesses within the municipality	Annual	17,336 businesses	Increase	-	Next release of data in Feb 2019	
15 years of industrial land supply planned	Annual	21 years	Maintain	-	Based on the average annual rate of land consumption in the period 2015 to 2018. estimated future (unzoned) industrial land stocks 7 years of additional supply	

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Continuing to work with government to deliver projects that revitalise Central Geelong.		The Revitalising Central Geelong Partnership will continue to implement the State and Council Central Geelong Action Plans. Major projects for the coming year include the new laneway connections at Dennys Place and Market Street and construction of block 1 of the Green Spine, and planning and design of block 3. Other major projects include the Activity Centre Zone review, Urban Design Guidelines, Postcode 3220, revision of the Public Realm Framework.	
Working with government to deliver City Deal projects.	<i>Work with government and local stakeholders to scope City Deal projects.</i>	The City is currently liaising with the State and Federal governments around the contents of the City Deal.	
Using Geelong's UNESCO City of Design award to secure economic development projects.		Representatives from the City will be attending the UNESCO Design Sub Network meeting in Dundee. Work is underway for delivery of the Geelong program of Design Week March 2019.	
Attracting new investments to the region.		The City recently delivered the Geelong Small Business Festival with over 50 events and a record attendance of over 5,000 people.	
Helping to renew industrial precincts.		Work is underway on the Former Geelong Saleyards Precinct Plan, West Fyans / Fyans Structure Plan review and the Pakington Street Urban Design Framework. These projects will identify future land use changes for these precincts and implementation of streetscape upgrades	
Executing strategies for economic growth in the region's north.	<i>Identify opportunities for economic growth in the region's north.</i>	The Avalon Corridor Strategy is underway which will consider future economic opportunities emerging from the airport precinct. The City continues to advocate the major transport upgrades necessary to deliver the Port City Plan. Future employment areas are a key consideration of the Northern and Western Growth Areas Framework Plan.	
Supporting and promoting local businesses, markets and products.		The City's Economic Development department recently delivered the Geelong Small Business Festival with over 50 events and a record attendance of over 5,000 people.	

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
	<i>Make land available to attract new industry.</i>	Land sales are tracking well with offers made on a number of properties in the Geelong Ring Road Employment Precinct (GREP). A land sales program is also planned as part of the debt reduction strategy. This year's sales target will be achieved by early 2019.	

LINKS TO THE CLEVER CREATIVE VISION



A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY
THAT SUPPORTS JOBS AND
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

9. GROWING OUR TOURISM AND EVENTS

Our tourism and events offering is strong, but we aim to grow it further.

 **On track**
 **Needs improvement**
 **Off track**
 **Not yet available**
 **Complete**

Measures of success	Frequency	Baseline	Target 2022	YTD Sept 2018	Progress comments	Status
Annual increase in the percentage of visitors	Annual	5.1 million (Apr 17-Mar 18)	2.1 per cent per annum	-	Reported annually	△
Annual increase in expenditure by visitors	Annual	\$936 million (Apr 17-Mar 18)	3.8 per cent per annum	-	Reported annually	△
Annual increase in international overnight visitors	Annual	55,900 (Apr 17-Mar 18)	4.9 per cent per annum	-	Reported annually	△
Annual increase in domestic overnight visitors	Annual	1.3 million (Apr 17-Mar 18)	1.9 per cent per annum	-	Reported annually	△
Annual increase in tourism employment	Annual	Estimated 5,906	1.6 per cent per annum	-	Reported annually	△
Return on investment of Geelong major events to the municipality	Annual	46:1	30:1	-	Reported annually	△

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Working with government to deliver City Deal tourism infrastructure projects, including the Convention and Exhibition Centre.	<i>Complete preliminary work for the establishment of the Mineral Springs Spa.</i>	Along with other key stakeholders, Council awaits advice from the federal government about their investment in the Geelong City Deal and the subsequent impact that has on the proposed Geelong Convention Centre.	
Delivering the Visitor Economy Strategy 2017-21 and the Tourism Development Plan.	<i>Complete preliminary work for the establishment of the Mineral Springs Spa.</i>	Planning and consulting work is under way.	
	<i>Continue to attract cruise ships.</i>	Cruise Ship Destination Initial Business Case has been completed with further consultation with Councillors to occur. Recommendation to move forward with a full business case to understand the best way forward for accommodation ships. Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine (TGGB) won the bid to host the Australian Cruise Association Conference in September 2019. Further work to be undertaken to develop a cruise growth strategy for the Geelong region (including Portarlington).	
	<i>Support the Geelong Waterfront Safe Harbour Precinct Project.</i>	TGGB provides a strong lobbying voice and in-kind support to the Royal Geelong Yacht Club as they work through the process and work required for this development.	
	<i>Help to upgrade visitor facilities, experiences and accommodation.</i>	TGGB continue to work to support the tourism industry to upgrade and develop tourism experiences that will meet the changing demands of visitors and grow the visitor economy. Recently, the opening Lon Retreat in Point Lonsdale, the international terminal at Avalon Airport and the announcement of several accommodation projects in urban Geelong are all welcome news for our growing tourism industry.	

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
	<i>Commence construction of an artificial reef and underwater sculpture park.</i>	Consultants have been engaged to oversee stage 1 of the project which includes: formalising in principle support for the project by external stakeholders, developing a marketing and communications plan including consultation, and identifying project partners and funding opportunities. Expression of Interest documentation is currently being developed to engage artists.	
Building on the current events program and increasing cross-promotional opportunities.	<i>Continue to support high-quality events across the region.</i>	Geelong recently secured hosting rights for four Olympic class international championship events - (the 49er (men), 49erFX (women), Nacra World Championships and Laser Masters World Championship scheduled to be held February-March 2020.	

LINKS TO THE CLEVER CREATIVE VISION



A DESTINATION THAT
ATTRACTS LOCAL AND
INTERNATIONAL VISITORS



A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY
THAT SUPPORTS JOBS AND
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

10. INNOVATIVE FINANCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Clever and sustainable financial management, matched with digital growth, will advance our future.

■ On track
 ◆ Needs improvement
 ■ Off track
 △ Not yet available
 ✓ Complete

Measures of success	Frequency	Baseline	Target 2022	YTD Sept 2018	Progress comments	Status
Better Wi-Fi access in community facilities and public spaces	Annual	92 Wi-Fi access points across the city 11 council facilities with free community Wi-Fi	Increase	-	Reported annually	△
More online transactions with our customers	Every three months	Payments – 114,257 Forms – 17,517 Requests for Service – 24,074	Increase	-	Reported annually	△
Less than 5 per cent budget variation (actual to budget)	Annual	-	<5% variation	-	Reported annually	△
Increased revenue streams	Annual	-	Increase	-	Reported annually	△

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Delivering smart technology solutions to areas such as street lighting, parking, waste management and children's services.		Geelong recently hosted MAVHACK, an event that brings together experts from across Victoria to consider new solutions in regards to the ways in which local government provides key services for the community.	■
Delivering Smart Cities infrastructure using electronic data collection to better manage assets and resources.		The City have proposed to develop a "Smart Cities Office". This office will be the central control point for all smart cities initiatives that are occurring throughout the organisation, and will co-ordinate grant submissions in this space.	■
Increasing free Wi-Fi in public spaces and community facilities.	<i>Improve digital access for the Geelong community.</i>	The City is sponsoring an ages, all abilities free community event, the Norlane Digital Expo in October 2018.	■
Developing digital tools and technologies to improve service delivery and our customer experience.	<i>Drive digital transformation in the organisation.</i>	Work is underway on a proposed four year program of Digital Transformation for the organisation which will see the replacement of all core business applications and supporting business processes. The next step will be to build the project scope.	■
Establishing sustainable financial and infrastructure management systems for our future.			
Attracting more technology-focused businesses to our region.		Council will continue to increase the local technology focus by being a major sponsor of the Pivot Summit 2019 to be held in Geelong in May 2019.	■
Examining our budget to fund future initiatives.		Council's long term financial plan will be reviewed by Council in October 2018.	■

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
	<i>Review the efficiency of our service delivery.</i>	Pilots for five year service planning process have been completed with a draft service plan for the Property & Procurement department. Four additional service areas are due to commence shortly.	

LINKS TO THE CLEVER CREATIVE VISION



A LEADER IN DEVELOPING AND
ADOPTING TECHNOLOGY



A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY
THAT SUPPORTS JOBS AND
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

11. ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP, STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE

We will be the 'leading voice' of the community by delivering confident governance and strategic planning.

 **On track**
 **Needs improvement**
 **Off track**
 **Not yet available**
 **Complete**

Measures of success	Frequency	Baseline	Target 2022	YTD Sept 2018	Progress comments	Status
Increased community satisfaction with overall council performance	Annual	54	>70	-	Reported annually	
Increased community satisfaction with customer service	Annual	70	>80	-	Reported annually	
Increased community satisfaction in decision-making	Annual	53	>60	-	Reported annually	
Increased community satisfaction with community consultation (engagement)	Annual	50	>60	-	Reported annually	
Increased community satisfaction with overall council direction	Annual	54	>70	-	Reported annually	
Reduction in Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR)	Every three months	14.9	Reduce	16.3	An increase in recorded LTI's is expected initially due to a change in the City's reporting method from 1 July 2018.	
Increased employee engagement	Annual		70%.	-	Reported annually	
Increased employee satisfaction	Annual		80%	-	Reported annually	
Increased positive media coverage	Every three months	55%	Increase	56.8%	The continued satisfactory performance is largely due to a number of positive media reports relating to the City, including the election of a new council and its adoption of a new Council Plan, and a range of popular and successful public events including Geelong After Dark, M2M, and the launch of the Green Spine works.	

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Proactively managing our assets, including land holdings.		The Asset Management Transformation project is progressing well, with final draft policy ready for approval by the Asset Management Steering Committee. Framework and strategy progressing well, as is the creation of asset management plan templates for each category type. These components will all be completed by February 2019.	
Consolidating the City of Greater Geelong offices.	<i>Plan for consolidating Council offices.</i>	Council has approved the recommendations for the consolidation of Council offices into one central location. Recruitment for the project team has commenced.	
Communicating and engaging more effectively with the community, in areas of need.		Project scoping is underway for a program to build community leadership and connection. This project will commence in early 2019.	

Four year priorities Council Plan 2018-22	2018-19 major aims	Progress comment	Status
Continuing to transform our workplace culture.	<i>Implement the actions in the annual employee opinion survey.</i>	An organisational wide survey was conducted in August 2018. Results to be delivered October 2018. The action planning cycle will commence in November 2018.	
Using data and analytics to make better decisions.		Business intelligence software has been used to collate and report monthly organisational performance data using online dashboards. Reporting will continue to be refined over the next 12 months.	
Making our processes more effective and efficient.		Just over 300 staff have participated in Introduction to Lean Thinking training while a further 16 staff have progressed through to Lean Basics training. 19 Business Improvement projects are currently underway across the organisation that are focussed on better customer outcomes and reducing lead times on products and services.	
Increasing state and federal funding for the region.		The city continues with G21 and its local members to advocate for its priorities and has submitted applications for the regional growth fund and building better regions fund.	
Developing, promoting and improving the City's brand.		Revised branding will be adopted across the City's online platforms. The City's Enterprise Geelong department has now rebranded as Economic Development. Discussions are progressing with co-brands National Wool Museum and Geelong Botanic Garden to increase visibility as tourist attractions.	
Leading major local organisations in collaborative projects.		The 'One Voice forum was held in August 2018, with 20 organisations represented focussing on what a united voice for the region would look like and possible high level advocacy projects. Next steps are currently being scoped.	
Using better communication to strengthen our strategic priorities.	<i>Strengthen strategic, governance and communication frameworks.</i>	The City's new Corporate Communication and Marketing Strategy has been adopted and is currently being actively implemented.	
	<i>Convene a Junior Council, with input into decision making, to improve engagement with young people.</i>	Terms of Reference for a Junior Council were adopted by Council on 25 September. Nominations will be called in October 2018 and the Junior Council will commence operations in January 2019.	
	<i>Begin five-year service planning.</i>	Pilots for five year service planning process have been completed with a draft service plan for the Property & Procurement department. Four additional service areas are due to commence shortly.	
	<i>Strengthen relationships with neighbouring councils, including G21 region councils and the City of Wyndham.</i>	The Mayor and CEO are both on the board of G21 and have met with the Mayor and CEO of City of Wyndham to ensure strategic opportunities are capitalised.	

8. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2018

Source: Finance & Strategy
Interim Director: Brett Luxford
Portfolio: Finance

Purpose

To present to Council the financial performance information to 30 September 2018.

Background

On 26 June 2018 the Final Budget was adopted with a recurrent deficit of (\$8.0m) and higher opening cash balance of \$81.6m. This recognised the early receipt in 2017-18 of expected 2018-19 Commonwealth Government Grants Commission funding (50% of allocation).

On 28 August 2018 Council approved the carryover of capital and non-capital project funding into 2018-19. This change known as 2018-19 projection was in response to funding allocated in 2017-18 for projects not completed, resulting in higher than expected opening cash balance of \$102.6m.

The 2018-19 recurrent projection is an operating deficit of (\$17.3m) and non-recurrent surplus of \$78.8m. The 2018-19 full year projected net result is a surplus of \$61.5m.

The financial statements and commentary is for the period July – September 2018, which compares the budget projection with actual revenue and expense.

Key Issues

- The recurrent operating result for the three-month period is a surplus of \$3.9m. The projected position was a deficit of (\$3.1m) so our result represents a better than anticipated outcome of \$7.0m. It is expected however that in the full year this surplus will reduce to our projected position of (\$17.3m) deficit with perhaps a small favourable saving of \$0.1m. A summary of the first quarter variances are provided on pages 3 - 6 of this report.
- Capital expenditure year to date is \$22.9m against a projection of \$23.1m. It is anticipated that there will be a carryover figure of \$26.5m (as budgeted) for works not completed by the end of the financial year. This figure will be reviewed during the second quarter of 2018. A summary of capital expenditure variances is provided on page 7 of this report.
- The cash and investment balance of \$56.9m is less than was expected to be the result at this stage of the year (\$4.8m less), mainly due to unfavourable rates receipts. A summary of the cash and investments is provided on page 13 of this report.
- The non-recurrent result (e.g. gifted assets from development, sale of properties, developer cash contributions to infrastructure etc.) for the three-month period was a surplus of \$17.9m. This was \$1.1m favourable to the anticipated position. At the end of the year it is expected that the position will be \$1.7m better than anticipated. A summary of the non-recurrent variances is provided on page 7 of this report.
- There were no environmental upgrade agreements entered into for the quarter. The existing agreement is valued at \$0.115m.

Cr Murnane moved, Cr Murrihy seconded -

That Council:

- 1) endorse the Financial Report to 30 September 2018; and**
- 2) note the minor budget alterations approved by the CEO for capital projects.**

Carried.

Attachment 1

Discussion

The 2018-19 full year projected net result is a surplus of \$61.5m. Refer following Table.

	Expenditure \$'000	Income \$'000	Surplus/ (Deficit) \$'000	Opening Cash Balance
Council Draft 2018-19 Budget - Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit)	354,553	356,831	2,278	\$63.7m
Grants Commission 2018-19 - 50% received in 2017-18		(10,271)	(10,271)	
Council adopted 2018-19 Budget - Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit)	354,553	346,560	(7,993)	\$81.6m
2017-18 Non Capital Carryover Requests	9,360	79	(9,281)	
2018-19 Recurrent Projection	363,913	346,639	(17,274)	\$102.6m
Non Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit)	6,190	84,989	78,799	
Net Result Surplus/(Deficit)	370,103	431,628	61,525	

The September management reports are provided in the following table to report year-to-date performance and full-year forecast performance versus projection.

Summary						
	YTD Actual \$m	YTD Projection \$m	YTD Var Fav/ (UnFav) \$m	FY Projection \$m	FY Forecast \$m	FY Var Fav/ (UnFav) \$m
Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit)	3.87	(3.14)	7.01	(17.27)	(17.24)	0.03
Non-Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit)	17.93	16.84	1.09	78.80	80.47	1.67
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	21.80	13.70	8.10	61.53	63.23	1.70
Capital Expenditure	22.86	23.12	0.26	127.22	128.86	(1.64)
Closing Net Cash Positive/(Neg)	56.86	61.65	(4.79)	87.67		

1. Recurrent Variance Commentary

	YTD Actual \$m	YTD Projection \$m	YTD Var Fav/ (UnFav) \$m	FY Projection \$m	FY Forecast \$m	FY Var Fav/ (UnFav) \$m
Recurrent Income	89.79	88.10	1.69	346.64	346.77	0.13
Recurrent Expenditure	85.92	91.24	5.32	363.91	364.01	(0.10)
Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit)	3.87	(3.14)	7.01	(17.27)	(17.24)	0.03

YTD Variance - \$7.01m Favourable

The following major variances contributed to this result:

Recurrent Income

	Actual YTD \$m	Variance Fav/(UnFav) \$m
General Rates and Charges – Favourable rates generation and supplementary rates YTD, expected to be partly offset by objections in full year.	58.07	0.85
Government Grants	11.05	0.16
Main favourable variances consist of:		
- State specific purpose \$404k favourable – Family Services \$118k (<i>ICC's and Child Care</i>), phasing variances in emergency management \$60k and planning strategy \$50k. Unbudgeted grants received – <i>Geelong Regional Bowls Facility \$65k and Agribusiness Strategy \$75k.</i> - Federal recurrent \$125k favourable – Community Care \$124k (<i>Home Care Packages \$114k, offset by increased expenditure</i>).		
Offset by:		
Federal child care assistance (\$393k) unfavourable – Family Services (\$393k) (<i>Whittington LDC \$361k</i>).		
User Charges	14.63	0.15
Main favourable variances consist of:		
- Waste disposal – Commercial \$409k favourable – <i>Drysdale Landfill Operations \$114k, Commercial Collection Services \$53k and North Geelong transfer station \$243k.</i> - Design & Supervision Fees \$243k favourable – <i>Subdivision application fees.</i>		
Offset by:		
- Activities & program fees (\$338k) unfavourable – Leisure & Recreation Services (\$314k) (<i>Aquatic Centres \$284k</i>). - Private works income (\$154k) unfavourable – City Works (\$178k) (<i>SZ Reinstatements</i>)		
Other Fees & Charges	3.21	0.50
Favourable mainly due to:		
Planning and building permit applications \$422k favourable.		
Sundry Income	2.36	0.03
Unbudgeted miscellaneous income received.		
Interest on Investments	0.47	0.00

	Actual YTD \$m	Variance Fav/(UnFav) \$m
Recurrent Income Sub-total	\$89.79m	\$1.69m

Recurrent Expenditure

	Actual YTD \$m	Variance Fav/(Unfav) \$m
Employee related expenditure – Favourable salary related costs \$2,870k mainly relating to unfilled vacancies. Offset by unfavourable supplementary labour costs (\$1,986k) (see external services).	34.82	2.87
General Works: <i>Materials</i> \$49k favourable with the main variances being Road making materials \$81k and cleaning \$84k (<i>both phasing only</i>), offset by consumable materials (\$130k) unfavourable (<i>Home Care Packages</i>). <i>Plant / Equip / Vehicle Costs</i> \$408k favourable with the main variances being External plant & equipment hire \$140k and Repairs & maintenance \$170k (<i>both phasing only</i>). <i>External Services</i> is \$541k favourable mainly due to:	28.90	1.00
- Contractors \$1,968k favourable - Phasing variances in discretionary projects \$938k and in recurrent projects \$1,216k. Offset by unbudgeted costs – Leopold Library Book Collection (\$186k). - Contributions \$821k favourable - phasing variances mainly in Events Services \$723k and Community Support Infrastructure Fund \$165k, partly offset by unbudgeted contribution to Geelong Regional Bowls Facility (\$65k) (<i>Government grant</i>). - Levies & Contributions \$555k favourable – Drysdale Landfill \$537k (<i>EPA Levy favourable due to diversion of waste to Wyndham</i>). - Insurance Premium \$280k favourable. Offset by: - Supplementary labour (\$1,986k) unfavourable – mainly, Community Care (\$674k), City Works (\$362k), Engineering (\$207k), City Development (\$205k), Parks (\$171k) and Waste Services (\$72k). - Waste Disposal & Recycling (\$1,118k) unfavourable - Garbage service (\$1,280k), North Geelong Transfer Station (\$425k), Litter service (\$91k) (<i>due to diversion of waste to Wyndham</i>), offset by favourable Green Waste service \$467k (<i>low tonnages in winter</i>) and Recycling service \$257k.		
Administration costs \$71k favourable mainly due to :	3.53	0.07

	Actual YTD \$m	Variance Fav/(Unfav) \$m
Minor phasing variances – mainly in printing, corporate costs, postage and training & development.		
Professional Services costs \$50k favourable mainly due to:	1.32	0.05
Favourable phasing variances in consultants \$169k and valuation services \$64k.		
Offset by:		
Legal expenses (\$194k) unfavourable		
Utility costs are \$828k favourable mainly due to electricity \$325k, water \$312k and communications \$184k (phasing and timing of invoices).	2.13	0.83
Depreciation costs \$442k favourable (timing of capitalisations).	15.28	0.44
(Gain)/Loss on Sale of Plant and Equipment \$58k favourable.	(0.06)	0.06
Recurrent Expenditure Sub-total	\$85.92m	\$5.32m

Full Year Forecast

The 2018-19 full year recurrent forecast has improved by \$0.03m including:

- Leopold Library Book Collection – transfer from Capital (\$186k).
- Grants Commission reduction (\$260k).
- Rippleside catchment flood study – unbudgeted (\$150k).
- Debt servicing - interest savings \$80k
- Planning & Building permit income \$230k.
- Subdivision design & supervision fees \$250k.
- Transfers to & from capital \$86k

2. Non Recurrent Variance Commentary

	YTD Actual \$m	YTD Projection \$m	YTD Var Fav/ (UnFav) \$m	FY Projection \$m	FY Forecast \$m	FY Var Fav/ (UnFav) \$m
Non-Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit)	17.93	16.84	1.09	78.80	80.47	1.67

YTD Variance – \$1.09m favourable

The following variances contributed to this result:

	Actual YTD \$m	Variance Fav/(Unfav) \$m
Subdivision gifted assets \$146k favourable.	11.39	0.14
Capital grants & income (\$621k) unfavourable.	5.37	(0.62)
Developer contributions (\$265k) unfavourable.	0.88	(0.27)
Gain/(Loss) on sale of property \$1,237k favourable.	1.24	1.24
Loss on disposal of infrastructure \$798k favourable.	(0.75)	0.80
Prior Year Adjustments (\$203k) unfavourable.	(0.20)	(0.20)
	\$17.93	\$1.09

Full Year Forecast

The 2018-19 full year non recurrent forecast has improved by \$1.67m including:

- Capital income \$1,666k favourable – Vic Roads blackspot program funding increased from budgeted \$500k to \$2,166k.

The full year net operating forecast is \$63.2m, an increase of \$1.7m.

	Annual Projection \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000	Movement \$'000
Recurrent Income	346,639	346,769	130
Recurrent Expenses	363,913	364,012	(99)
Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit)	(17,274)	(17,243)	31
Non Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit)	78,799	80,465	1,666
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	61,525	63,222	1,697

3. Capital Expenditure Variance Commentary

	YTD Actual \$m	YTD Projection \$m	YTD Var Fav/ (UnFav) \$m	FY Projection \$m	FY Forecast \$m	FY Var Fav/ (UnFav) \$m
Capital Expenditure	22.86	23.12	0.26	127.22	128.86	(1.64)

YTD Variance – \$0.26m favourable

The capital program is \$0.26m underspent, with the major project variances as follows:

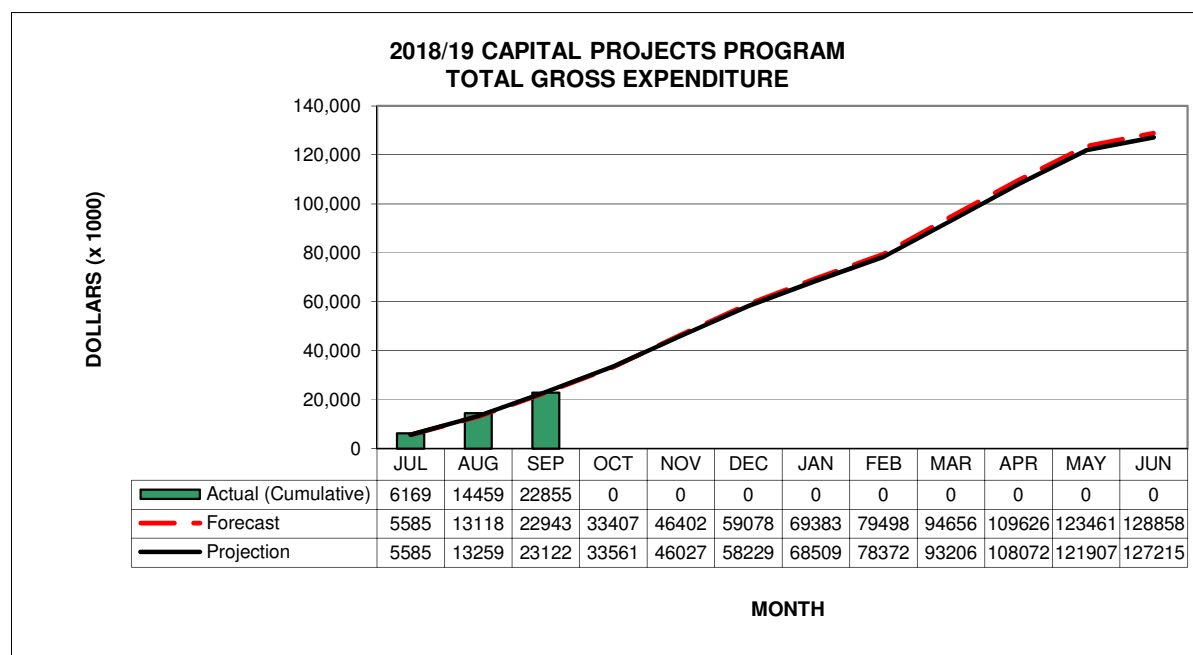
	\$m
• Building renewal works	0.43
• Street construction SRC	0.24
• Beach house landlord works	0.50
• ACEP – NAC community complex	(0.66)
• Drysdale landfill cell 5	(0.33)
• Other	0.08
	\$ 0.26m

Forecast changes to capital projects at 30 September 2018, recommended by the Capital Works Project Group and approved by the CEO.

Project ID	Name	Transfer Amount	From	Date GWPG Recommended
C19404	Lara Soccer Pavilion	\$165,000	Fund from \$250k savings on Flinders Peak (C16807)	28/08/2018
C19424	Griggs Creek	\$100,000	To take from overall capital program savings	28/08/2018
C15812	Western Beach Park	\$120,000	Transfer from saving on C18422 Eastern Beach footpath	25/09/2018

Carryover of expenditure to 2019-20 on incomplete projects as at 30 June 2019 is projected to be as budgeted \$26.5m and this will be further reviewed and updated for the December quarter report.

The graph below summarises total capital gross expenditure to date compared to budget and projection.



Environmental Upgrade Agreements

An environmental upgrade agreement was entered into for Lot 2 on Plan Subdivision 041455, Volume 08704 Folio 526.

Council only has one environmental upgrade agreement in place.

The total charge for this agreement is \$0.115m and all payments that have fallen due have been remitted.

The total value of payments that are yet to fall due is \$0.101m.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DETAILED OPERATING STATEMENT

As at 30 September 2018

Adopted Budget \$000s		Month Actual \$000s	Month Projection \$000s	YTD Actual \$000s	YTD Projection \$000s	YTD Variance \$000s	Full Yr Projection \$000s	Forecast Actual \$000s	Full Yr Variance \$000s
	RECURRENT INCOME								
227,286	Rates and Charges	19,196	18,935	58,071	57,218	853	227,286	227,286	0
43,135	Government Grants	2,871	2,564	11,048	10,889	159	43,214	42,858	(356)
55,005	User Charges	4,251	4,354	14,626	14,478	148	55,005	55,261	256
13,434	Other Fees and Charges	888	894	3,207	2,706	500	13,434	13,664	230
5,799	Sundry Income	497	383	2,362	2,328	34	5,799	5,799	0
1,901	Interest Investments	126	158	475	475	0	1,901	1,901	0
346,560	TOTAL RECURRENT INCOME	27,828	27,289	89,789	88,095	1,694	346,639	346,769	130
	RECURRENT EXPENDITURE								
	<i>Employee Related</i>								
148,872	Salaries	10,909	11,409	34,217	37,087	2,870	149,197	149,093	104
2,407	Workcover	166	185	599	601	2	2,412	2,410	2
	<i>Goods and Services</i>								
9,614	General Works - Materials	645	752	2,109	2,158	49	9,690	9,696	(6)
7,757	General Works - Plant/Equipment/Vehicle Costs	848	1,031	1,787	2,195	408	7,798	7,799	(1)
93,593	General Works - External Services	7,790	7,720	25,002	25,543	541	99,650	100,080	(430)
12,150	Administration	745	746	3,527	3,598	71	12,465	12,385	80
5,272	Professional Services	554	613	1,316	1,366	50	7,813	7,651	162
11,988	Utilities	782	990	2,135	2,963	828	11,988	11,998	(10)
62,893	Depreciation	4,992	5,241	15,282	15,724	442	62,893	62,893	0
(7)	Gain/(Loss) on Sale of Plant & Equipment	16	0	57	(1)	58	(7)	(7)	0
354,554	TOTAL RECURRENT EXPENDITURE	27,415	28,687	85,916	91,236	5,320	363,913	364,012	(99)
(7,993)	RECURRENT SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	413	(1,398)	3,872	(3,141)	7,014	(17,274)	(17,243)	31
	NON-RECURRENT INCOME								
45,000	Subdivision Gifted Assets	0	3,750	11,396	11,250	146	45,000	45,000	0
31,320	Capital Grants and Income	98	275	5,374	5,994	(621)	32,274	33,940	1,666
4,570	Developer Contributions	508	381	878	1,143	(265)	4,570	4,570	0
0	Insurance Recovery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3,145	Gain/(Loss) on Sale of Property	1,354	0	1,237	0	1,237	3,145	3,145	0
84,035	TOTAL NON-RECURRENT INCOME	1,960	4,406	18,884	18,387	497	84,989	86,655	1,666
	NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE								
6,190	Loss on Disposal of Infrastructure	599	516	749	1,547	798	6,190	6,190	0
0	Disbursements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	Prior Year Adjustments	148	0	203	0	(203)	0	0	0
0	Non Council Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	Asset Demolition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6,190	TOTAL NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE	747	516	952	1,547	595	6,190	6,190	0
77,845	NON-RECURRENT SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	1,213	3,890	17,932	16,839	1,093	78,799	80,465	1,666
69,851	NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	1,626	2,493	21,804	13,698	8,106	61,525	63,222	1,697

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 September 2018

	Current Yr \$000s	Previous Yr \$000s	FY Actual \$000s
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	56,862	70,265	102,558
Trade and Other Receivables	234,795	219,290	12,439
Prepayments	1,384	1,248	180
Inventories	1,264	1,125	1,101
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	294,305	291,927	116,278
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and Other Payables	37,299	40,300	29,609
Unearned Income	171,573	160,496	3,841
Loans	8,748	10,079	9,868
Refundable Deposits	4,672	3,030	4,929
Employee Benefits	31,812	30,860	30,967
Landfill Provision	447	8,933	447
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	254,551	253,698	79,661
NET CURRENT ASSETS	39,754	38,229	36,617
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Land and Buildings	946,016	875,468	948,137
Plant and Equipment	26,182	27,440	27,285
Infrastructure	1,273,793	1,142,902	1,270,748
Intangible Assets	620	0	689
Work In Progress	99,437	71,346	83,171
Investments	10,694	10,665	10,694
Receivables	2,394	1,866	2,394
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	2,359,136	2,129,688	2,343,118
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Developer Contributions Liability	37	0	37
Loans	37,352	33,216	38,810
Employee Benefits	1,764	1,594	2,886
Landfill Provision	13,108	0	13,177
Carbon Tax Future Liability	0	1,135	0
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	52,261	35,945	54,910
NET ASSETS	2,346,629	2,131,971	2,324,825
Represented by:			
RATEPAYER EQUITY			
Surplus Year to Date	21,804	13,689	65,040
Accumulated Surplus	1,281,953	1,176,287	1,216,912
Asset Revaluation Reserve	990,542	849,039	990,542
Reserves	52,330	92,955	52,330
TOTAL RATEPAYER EQUITY	2,346,629	2,131,971	2,324,825

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

As at 30 September 2018

	September Actual \$000s	September Budget \$000s
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
<i>Payments</i>		
Employee Costs	(36,882)	(40,086)
General Works / Utilities / Disbursements	(52,116)	(44,252)
Administration / Professional Services	(4,779)	(4,647)
Interest Expense	(525)	(528)
	(94,302)	(89,513)
<i>Receipts</i>		
General Rates	23,914	31,130
Fire Services Levy	2,780	0
Fees and Charges	21,526	20,790
Investment Income	475	540
GST Recoveries on Operating Transactions	4,778	3,570
Government Grants	11,089	10,700
	64,562	66,730
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities before Capital Income	(29,740)	(22,783)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Payments for Land & Buildings, Plant & Equipment and Infrastructure Assets	(22,855)	(23,124)
Payments for Investment in Associates	0	0
Capital Income	5,374	5,994
Proceeds from Sale of Land & Buildings	2,887	0
Proceeds from Sale of Plant & Equipment	337	335
Developer Cash Contribution	878	1,140
Net Cash Outflow from Investing Activities	(13,379)	(15,655)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Repayment of Borrowings	(2,577)	(2,470)
Proceeds from New Loans	0	0
Net Cash Outflow from Financial Activities	(2,577)	(2,470)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held	(45,696)	(40,908)
Cash at the Beginning of the Financial Year	102,558	102,558
Cash at the End of Current Period	56,862	61,650
Loans	46,100	46,208
Closing Net Debt	10,762	15,442

4. Cash and Investments

	YTD Actual \$m	YTD Projection \$m	YTD Var Fav/ (UnFav) \$m	FY Projection \$m	FY Forecast \$m	FY Var Fav/ (UnFav) \$m
Closing Net Cash Positive/(Neg)	56.86	61.65	(4.79)	87.67		

YTD Variance – (\$4.79m) unfavourable

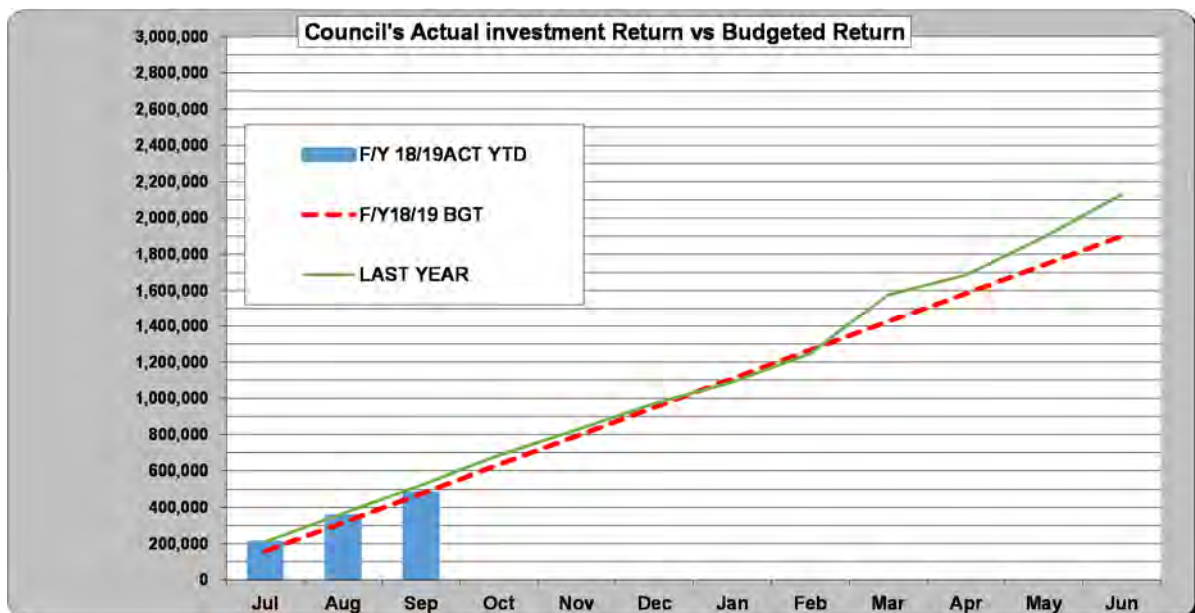
The month end cash and investments balance was \$56.86m. This was (\$4.79m) unfavourable, mainly due to unfavourable rates receipts.

Council has future commitments for \$31.5m, which are fully cashed back:

Long Service Leave	\$21.8m
Statutory Reserves	\$ 3.4m
Refundable Deposits	\$ 4.7m
Income in Advance	\$ 1.2m
Asset Development	\$ 0.4m
Total	<u>\$31.5m</u>

The Landfill Provision balance is currently \$13.6m.

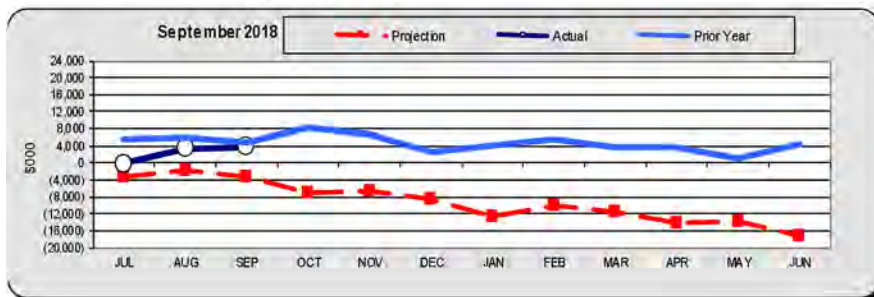
Working capital funds are invested in short term deposits and investment returns are as follows.



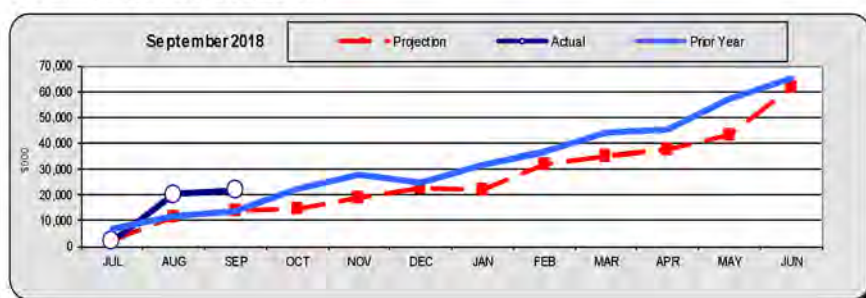
Investment returns are trending as per 2017-18 actuals and consistent with 2018-19 budget.

Financial Performance Indicators As at 30 September 2018

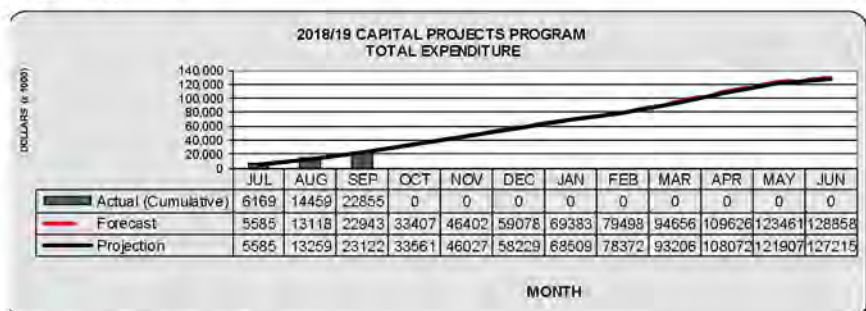
Accumulated Recurrent Surplus / (Deficit)



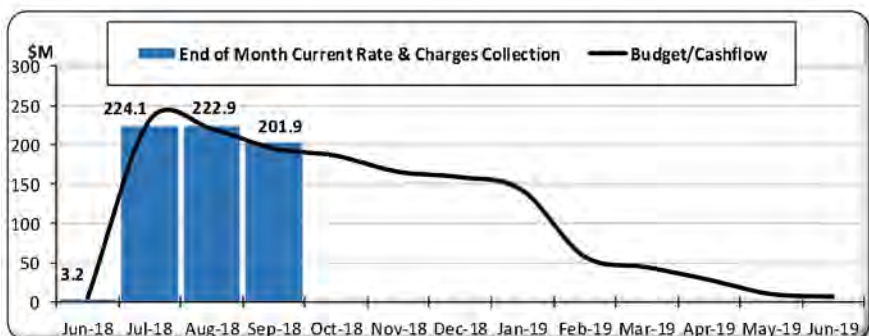
Accumulated Net Surplus / (Deficit)



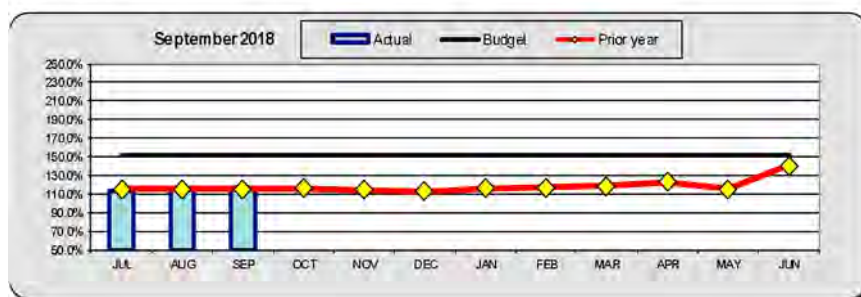
Capital Expenditure



Rates & Charges Collections



Working Capital



9. CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Source:	Finance & Strategy
Interim Director:	Brett Luxford
Portfolio:	Leadership and Governance

Purpose

To appoint Councillor members to the Central Administrative Office Project Advisory Committee.

Background

The Central Administrative Office Project Advisory Committee (the Committee) is being established to provide advice regarding the Central Administrative Office building project.

The terms of reference for the Committee were endorsed by Council resolution on 9 October 2018 and provide that at least 5 councillors are appointed by Council as members.

Council, by resolution, has appointed the Mayor to be the Chairperson of the committee.

Key Issues

- At least 5 councillors are required to be appointed to the Committee.
- Appointment is by Council resolution.

Cr Grzybek moved, Cr Murrihy seconded -

That:

- 1) Council call for nominations from Councillors and appoint at least five Councillors to be members of the Central Administrative Office Project Advisory Committee;**
- 2) Councillors Aitken, Grzybek, Harwood, Mason, Murnane, Murrihy, Nelson and Sullivan be appointed as members of the Central Administrative Office Project Advisory Committee.**

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from the subject of this report.

Community Engagement

The committee will be tasked with undertaking consultation to inform advice as required.

Social Equity Considerations

The committee will allow consideration of social equity issues that arise from consideration of the project and related matters.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

Formation of the committee is compliant with the *Local Government Act 1989* as well as Council's policies and procedures relating to the establishment of advisory committees.

Alignment to Council Plan

The work of the committee will support delivery of the 2018-22 Council Plan strategic priority - Organisational Leadership, Strategy and Governance - which has a key priority of consolidating the City of Greater Geelong offices.

Conflict of Interest

No Council officers or contractors who have provided advice in relation to this report have declared a conflict of interest regarding the matter under consideration.

Risk Assessment

The establishment of an advisory committee will assist Council in managing significant or high risks associated with the subject of this report.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from the subject of this report.

10. RENAMING – THE VINEYARD RESERVE, WAURN PONDS TO BAUM PARK, WAURN PONDS

Source:	Community Life – Connected Communities
Acting Director:	Robyn Stevens
Portfolio	An Inclusive and Diverse Community

Purpose

To seek Council approval to rename The Vineyard Reserve, in Waurn Ponds, to Baum Park.

Background

The Vineyard Reserve is 5,366m² of public open space, including a playground, at 23 The Vineyard, Waurn Ponds. It is owned and managed by the City.

The reserve was originally part of a property called Claremont, which comprised 245 acres bounded by Ghazeepore Road, Rossack Drive, Boundary Road and Waurn Ponds Creek (refer to map at **Attachment 2**).

Gottfried Baum purchased Claremont from the original owner, Thomas Powell, in 1890. The Baum family still have a connection to the property through a grandson of Gottfried. From 2000, the majority of the Claremont property was subdivided and developed in stages for housing.

A request to rename The Vineyard Reserve was received from local resident Bruce McDonald in June 2018. The name Mr McDonald suggested, Claremont Park, was declined following advice from the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) about potential confusion with Claremont Park, Newtown. Further consultation with Mr McDonald and the Baum family identified Baum Park as an appropriate alternative name to acknowledge Gottfried Baum.

Key Issues

- Renaming the reserve Baum Park is appropriate due to the history of the property and its ownership and is an accepted alternative by the Baum family.
- A letter was sent to all residents who signed the original petition, advising of the new naming request to Baum Park. The petitioners were keen to see a linkage between the name of the park and its history. No additional feedback was received.
- The proposal was advertised in the Geelong Advertiser 24 August to 14 September, 2018. No objections were received.
- The suggested renaming of the reserve meets the requirements of the *Geographical Place Names Act 1998* guidelines.

Cr Nelson moved, Cr Murnane seconded -

That Council approves the naming of Baum Park, Waurn Ponds, previously known as The Vineyard Reserve.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

Council is responsible for signage of the reserve. The cost for updating signage, including interpretive signage explaining the reason for the name, is approximately \$2,000 and is accounted for within the existing budget for reserve upgrades.

Community Engagement

The proposed renaming of the reserve was advertised in the Geelong Advertiser newspaper for a three-week period, 24 August to 14 September 2018.

Subject to Council and Geographical Registrar approval, the relevant authorities and abutting owners and surrounding residents will be notified of the renaming.

Social Equity Considerations

There are no social equity issues arising from this report.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

All *Geographical Place Names Act 1998* guidelines and Council policies have been followed and met.

Alignment to Council Plan

This proposal aligns to Council Plan's strategic priority of 'organisational leadership, strategy and governance' under the key priority of 'proactively manage our assets, including land holdings'.

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has a direct or indirect conflict of interest in the matter raised in this report.

Risk Assessment

The renaming of the reserve considers the risk of emergency services not being able to locate the area due to the renaming. The risk is minimal, as the name isn't duplicated elsewhere in the municipality and the renaming complies with the *Geographical Place Names Act 1998*. The Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA), responsible for responding to 000 calls, will be notified of the name change if approved.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental issues arising from this report.

Attachment 2

The Vineyard Reserve, situated at 23 The Vineyard, Waurin Ponds to be renamed Baum Park

The Vineyard Reserve (bottom) and family property (top)



11. RENAMING – ARMSTRONG DISTRICT PARK, MOUNT DUNEED TO BUNJIL'S NEST

Source: Community Life – Connected Communities
Acting Director: Robyn Stevens
Portfolio: Arts, Culture and Heritage

Purpose

To seek Council approval to rename Armstrong District Park, in Mount Duneed, to Bunjil's Nest.

Background

The Armstrong District Park, on the corner of 111–117 Unity Drive in Mount Duneed, was opened in December 2017. It is currently under the management of developer Villawood, but will become a Council asset in the future.

Following a smoking ceremony performed at the opening by Aboriginal community member, Norm Stanley, he suggested the reserve be renamed to Bunjil's Nest. The suggestion was supported by Wadawurrung woman, Corinna Eccles.

A request has now been received from Will Nickholds, Villawood Properties, requesting Armstrong District Park be renamed Bunjil's Nest.

Bunjil is a wedge-tailed eagle, the creator spirit of the Wadawurrung and Kulin nation. In common with the other Kulin peoples, the Wadawurrung had a patrilineal kinship system, in which a person's skin-group (otherwise known as a moiety) was inherited from their father. Clans belonged to either the Waa (crow) or the Bunjil (eagle-hawk) moiety (*Karreenga Aboriginal Action Plan 2014–2017*).

Council is the responsible authority for naming and renaming roads, features and localities under the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Key Issues

- The proposal to rename the park to Bunjil's Nest is supported by the Wadawurrung traditional owners.
- The park includes a large sculpture of a wedged-tail eagle at the entrance of the park to symbolise Bunjil watching over the land. Bunjil's Nest encourages people to tell their stories and engage with the stories of others in a celebration of Aboriginal culture.
- The proposal was advertised in the Geelong Advertiser on 22 June 2018 and 29 June 2018. A total of 22 submissions were received in favour of this naming. No objections were received.

Cr Murnane moved, Cr Nelson seconded -

That Council approve the naming of Bunjil's Nest, Mount Duneed, previously known as Armstrong District Park.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the renaming of this park. Villawood is currently the responsible owner of the reserve. Handover of land to Council is scheduled for November 2019.

Community Engagement

The proposed naming was advertised in the Geelong Advertiser newspaper on 22 June 2018 and 29 June 2018 and 22 submissions in favour of the proposal were received via the 'Have your Say' online portal.

Subject to Council and Geographical Registrar approval, the relevant authorities and abutting owners will be notified of the renaming.

Social Equity Considerations

The proposal promotes and respects Aboriginal culture, helps build relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians, and promotes education of Aboriginal history and culture within Council and across the community.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

All *Geographical Place Names Act 1998* and statutory requirements for naming roads, features and localities guidelines 2016 and Council policies have been followed and met.

Alignment to Council Plan

This proposal aligns to the Council Plan strategic priorities of:

Vibrant arts and culture

- Key priority – recognising and celebrating Geelong's Aboriginal culture and history.

Organisational leadership, strategy and governance

- Key priority – proactively manage our assets, including land holdings.

Conflict of Interest

No officer involved in the preparation of this report has a direct or indirect conflict of interest in the matter.

Risk Assessment

The renaming of the reserve considers the risk of emergency services not being able to locate the area due to the renaming. The risk is minimal, as the name isn't duplicated elsewhere in the municipality and the renaming complies with the *Geographical Place Names Act 1998*. The Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA), responsible for responding to 000 calls, will be notified of the name change if approved.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental issues arising from this report.

Attachment 2

Armstrong District Park, situated on the corner of 111–117 Unity Drive, Mount Duneed to be renamed Bunjil's Nest



12. REVOCATION OF FLOOD-PRONE AREA DESIGNATION OF NEW LOTS AT FLINDERS PARK ESTATE, STAGE 1A

Source: City Services – Engineering Services
Director: Guy Wilson- Browne
Portfolio: Sustainable Development

Purpose

To consider revoking Council's designation of 12 December 2006 of flood affected land Flinders Park Estate, Stage 1A as liable to flooding pursuant to Regulation 802(2) of the *Building Regulations 2006*.

Background

Council has a statutory obligation under the *Building Regulations 2006* to designate land as liable to flooding where it reasonably knows it to be prone to flooding. Conversely, there is an obligation to remove the encumbrance of designation from land that is no longer considered to be flood-prone.

The current designated flood mapping (refer to **Attachment 2**) was designated by Council at its meeting of 12 December 2006, under the provisions of the *Building Regulations 2006*.

The subject of this report is the residential land at Corio fronting 240 Bacchus Marsh Road, Corio. Prior to subdivision the parent lot was used primarily as farmland.

Key Issues

- The flood mapping is subject to a revision due to the subdivision and development at 240 Bacchus Marsh Road, Corio. Prior to subdivision the parent lot was considered to be liable to flooding. This development site, which is also known as Flinders Park Estate, Stage 1A, achieves flood immunity for newly created lots for flood events up to and including the 100-year Average Recurrence Interval (ARI) event due to approved internal earthworks.
- The earthworks undertaken have resulted in the floodwaters from the 100 year ARI event being contained within the boundaries of the road network (refer **Attachment 3**).
- It should be noted that designation is separate to the creation of flood overlays within the Planning Scheme, which generally follows designation. In the case of this development, the planning scheme amendment to create post-development flood zones or overlays is proposed after the design of the proposed precincts.

Cr Mason moved, Cr Grzybek seconded -

That Council revoke the Council designation of 12 December 2006 of flood affected land Flinders Park Estate, Stage 1A as liable to flooding pursuant to Regulation 802(2) of the *Building Regulations 2006*.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

No impact to budget.

Community Engagement

A revocation of designation does not warrant public consultation as it constitutes the removal of an encumbrance on land.

Relevant Council databases and flood maps will be revised and updates sent to the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and Building Control Commission.

Social Equity Considerations

Council have a responsibility to the community to provide the best possible information on areas that are flood prone.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

The City has various statutory responsibilities for drainage management and flood management (prevention, response and recovery) as set out in the *Local Government Act 1989*, *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, *Building Regulations 2006*, *Water Act 1989*, *Subdivision Act 1988* and *Emergency Management Act 1986*.

Alignment to Council Plan

The recommendations of this report are consistent with Council Plan, in relation to Growing our Economy and promoting a sustainable built environment, sustainable land use and development.

Conflict of Interest

There are no officer direct or indirect interests with respect to this report.

Risk Assessment

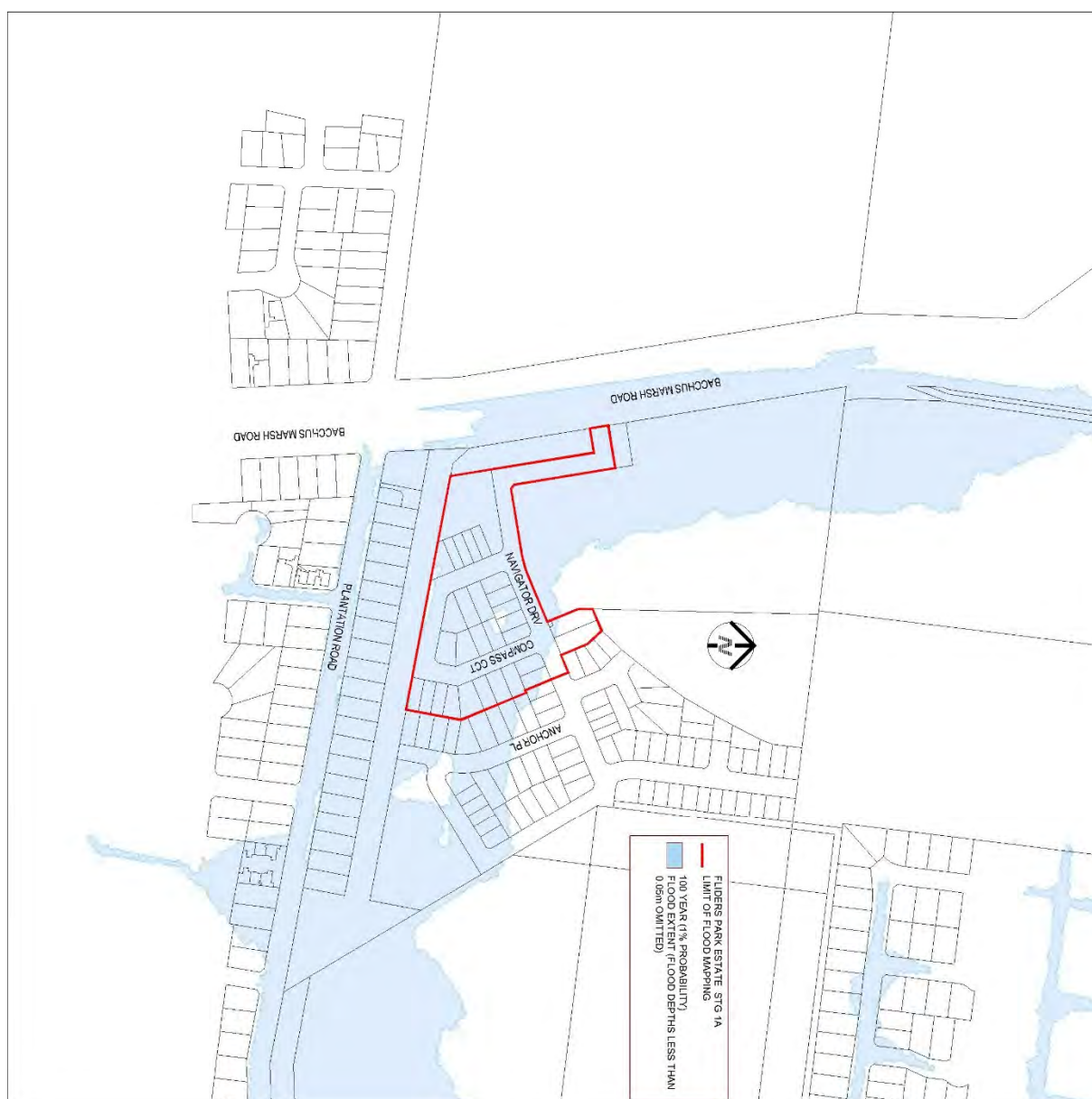
Council also has some risk exposure with any failure to disclose the flood-prone status of a property in a Land Information Certificate.

The revocation of the designation is the final step in minimising Council's risk.

Environmental Implications

The revocation of flood-prone areas designation and designation of revised flood data through the design of this stage is considered unlikely to result in any known adverse environmental impacts.

Attachment 2 CURRENT FLOOD MAP



Attachment 3 REVISED FLOOD MAP



CLOSE OF MEETING

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm. Tuesday, 13 November 2018.

Signed: _____
 Cr Bruce Harwood (Mayor)

Date of Confirmation:_____.