MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 30 JUNE 2020

7.00PM

COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND RECEPTION CENTRE
CITY HALL
LITTLE MALOP STREET, GEELONG

COUNCIL:
Cr S Asher (Bellarine Ward)
Mayor
Cr K Grzybek (Windermere Ward)
Deputy Mayor

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 B Harwood (Kardinia Ward)
Cr P Murnane (Kardinia Ward)
Cr R Nelson (Kardinia Ward)
Cr A Aitken (Windermere Ward)

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING
OF THE GREATER GEELONG CITY COUNCIL
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND RECEPTION CENTRE
CITY HALL, LITTLE MALOP STREET, GEELONG
TUESDAY, 30 JUNE 2020
COMMENCING AT 7.00 PM

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

Also present: M Cutter (Chief Executive Officer), R Leonard (Director Governance, Strategy and Performance)

OPENING: The Mayor declared the meeting open at 7.00pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Council acknowledges the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners of this land and I pay my respects to all Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who are part of the Greater Geelong community today.

APOLOGIES: Nil.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Cr Grzybek moved, Cr Mason seconded -

That Leave of Absence be granted to Cr Stephanie Asher (Mayor) from 6 – 18 July 2020, inclusive.

Carried.

Cr Asher moved, Cr Kontelj seconded –

That Cr Grzybek be appointed as Acting Mayor for the period 6 – 18 July 2020, inclusive.

Carried.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Cr Sullivan moved, Cr Nelson seconded -

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 26 May 2020 be confirmed.

Carried.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Nil.

PUBLIC QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME:

The following questions were submitted prior to the Council meeting from Phil Baulch, David Le Lievre, Terry Fahey and Christine Le Lievre. Responses addressing their concerns have been provided directly via email and also published on the City's website.

Phil Baulch asked the following in relation to Local Food Production Land:

A council that was truly 'leading' would recognise the realities of, not just climate change, but also resource depletion, rising energy costs, the largest debt bubble in history and now, pandemics, It is now reasonably foreseeable that global just-in-time supply chains for food and other goods may become less reliable or even fail completely in coming years.

The Federal Government's push to increase our liquid fuel reserves suggests this kind of scenario, once unthinkable, is now a real possibility.

The rush on seeds, compost and local veg box delivery schemes that followed the lockdown was a sign of public anxiety about the reliability of their food supply. For some, the threat was more psychological than real, as supermarket supplies are now returning to normal, but it raises real questions about our daily dependency on food imports and the importance of local food production.

Doubling Geelong's land disturbance and population every 23 years without planning for a degree of local self-sufficiency will surely affect the prospects for future generations meeting their own needs.

According to a new report by the University of Melbourne, our remaining peri urban food bowl is at serious risk of disappearing to housing development unless significant planning changes are made.

Making land available to demonstrate the viability of local food production will reduce our reliance on long food supply chains as they become unreliable due to the impacts of climate change, over indebtedness, ecological collapse and rising energy costs.

1) Will Council 'reveal what land has been set aside for local food production initiatives and, if not, why not'?

Response :

Thank you for your question Phil.

The City's Settlement Strategy directs housing growth to within planned settlement boundaries and areas outside of the urban areas are generally used for farming. Our aspiration is to provide 50% of new housing in greenfield estates and 50% in fill areas.

Non rural uses in the farming areas and small lot excisions are guided by our local planning policies that seek to protect our agricultural land and green breaks from non compatible urban uses and fragmentation.

This is a very contested planning space and we welcome reforms being considered by DELWP through the Protecting Melbourne's Strategic Agricultural Land project to provide greater certainty on the role and management of agricultural land. We understand that consultation on this project will be conducted by DELWP in August and we encourage your input to this work. The City's response to this reform will be informed by our Rural and Peri-Urban Advisory Committee who advise Council on rural land management and agriculture.

David Le Lievre asked the following question in relation to Tourism and the Barwon River Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct :

1) As the Victorian Government is encouraging people to travel and holiday within Victoria, what is COGG doing to encourage people to come to Geelong and the Bellarine?

Response :

Thank you for your question David.

The City of Greater Geelong, through the regional tourism board Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine, will support a range of activities to build the visitor economy in the region following the COVID-related shutdown of the tourism industry. These activities will be staggered in line with government advice on the appropriateness of travel, with several specific campaigns to support the local tourism industry.

Visiting Friends and Relatives:
A local campaign aimed at residents of the Greater Geelong region, encouraging additional visitation from out-of-town friends and family and encouraging those visits to extend to experiences outside the home, supporting the venues and businesses in the region who have suffered significant downturn during the COVID restrictions.

Short Break Campaign:
Targeting Melbournians and regional Victorians with emotive messaging about the value of having a short break in this region, highlighting the experiences on offer being greater than what they have been doing at home. It will tap into the post-COVID desire to escape, but will also reassure Victorians that having those short breaks in familiar areas, not too far from home, is the ideal.

Business Events:
Business Events Geelong, a division of Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine, is undertaking pro-active marketing with incentives for corporate event organisers to connect with venues in the region able to deliver COVID-safe meetings.
The City of Greater Geelong is tonight considering funding support for additional programs to boost the reach and effectiveness of local tourism campaigns.

Geelong is extremely fortunate to have the iconic Barwon River Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct, the last remaining early reinforced concrete structure in Australia; a beautiful structure aesthetically, based on the Firth of Forth railway bridge, it is some 756 meters long. There is only one in the world and it is in Geelong!

2) What is COGG doing to promote the aqueduct as a tourist attraction?

As the Barwon River Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct has recently appeared in the Geelong Advertiser several times in the last few weeks, has COGG considered it as an iconic structure worthy of appearing in next year's COGG calendar?

Response :

Thank you for your question David.

The Barwon River Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct is a unique structure located in Breakwater which currently divides 66 hectares of Barwon Water owned land.

Barwon Water has been working on understanding next steps in an effort to open up safe access along a section of the Barwon River and surrounding land in Breakwater, which has been closed to the public for decades due to safety risks associated with the degraded historic aqueduct at the site. This has led to an application to Heritage Victoria for a permit to remove five of the 14 spans of the heritage-listed, 100-year-old Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct, which has been deteriorating in condition since the 1970s.

Since 1995, areas around the aqueduct, including on the river, have been closed to the public due to the risk of falling concrete, which has prevented movement along the river and land. As part of exploring opportunities for improving the surrounding land to make it a valuable community asset, Barwon Water plans to engage with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to gather information about the landscape and water, and seek input from all other interested stakeholders to develop a plan for the area.

Barwon Water intends to work with interested stakeholders, including the City of Greater Geelong to create public open space that is unique for its high ecological, historical, cultural and recreational values.

The Barwon River Parklands project, which includes the area of Breakwater along the Barwon River where the Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct is located, is included as a priority infrastructure and enabling project in Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine's Tourism Development Plan. The City of Greater Geelong, through its partnership with Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine, will consider future promotional opportunities when Barwon Water progresses this current work to create public access to the area.

Terry Fahey asked the following question in relation to Dogs on Ocean Grove/ Collendina Beaches:

1) How much money has Council/BCCM, i.e. ratepayer's money, been spent over the last few years on the "Share our Shores" campaign and the various surveys and forums etc. related to this, and will the final outcome provide equity to all?

At the present time there is literally nowhere on Ocean Grove/Collendina beaches where I can walk, swim, relax or generally recreate personally, with friends or our grandchildren without being negatively impacted by the presence of dogs.

2) What is the point if at the end of this process many of us still don't feel safe on our beaches?

3) Why is it that the Council messaging is so poor that dog owners believe it is "a dog only beach" and those of us without dogs are not invited to share this public space?

Response :

Thank you for your questions Terry.

The City has invested approximately 170 labour hours in the "Share our Shores" campaign, which has included four community engagement sessions, data analysis and reporting as well as communications and marketing Support. Material costs for the campaign include hall hire and stationary which equates to approximately $600.

We acknowledge the concerns you have raised in relation to the interests of beachgoers without dogs. Any proposed orders to regulate dogs on beaches attempts to strike fair and equitable balance for the use of public beaches by all interested parties.

Christine Le Lievre asked the following question in relation to the Barwon River Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct:

Geelong is extremely fortunate to have the iconic Barwon River Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct, the last remaining early reinforced concrete structure in Australia; a beautiful structure aesthetically, based on the Firth of Forth railway bridge, it is some 756 meters long. There is only one in the world and it is in Geelong!

1) What is COGG doing to promote the aqueduct as a tourist attraction?

2) As the Barwon River Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct has recently appeared in the Geelong Advertiser several times in the last few weeks, has COGG considered it as an iconic structure worthy of appearing in next year's COGG calendar?

Response:

Thank you for your questions Christine :

The Barwon River Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct is a unique structure located in Breakwater which currently divides 66 hectares of Barwon Water owned land.

Barwon Water has been working on understanding next steps in an effort to open up safe access along a section of the Barwon River and surrounding land in Breakwater, which has been closed to the public for decades due to safety risks associated with the degraded historic aqueduct at the site.

This has led to an application to Heritage Victoria for a permit to remove five of the 14 spans of the heritage-listed, 100-year-old Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct, which has been deteriorating in condition since the 1970s.

Since 1995, areas around the aqueduct, including on the river, have been closed to the public due to the risk of falling concrete, which has prevented movement along the river and land.
As part of exploring opportunities for improving the surrounding land to make it a valuable community asset, Barwon Water plans to engage with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to gather information about the landscape and water, and seek input from all other interested stakeholders to develop a plan for the area.

Barwon Water intends to work with interested stakeholders, including the City of Greater Geelong to create public open space that is unique for its high ecological, historical, cultural and recreational values.

The Barwon River Parklands project, which includes the area of Breakwater along the Barwon River where the Ovoid Sewer Aqueduct is located, is included as a priority infrastructure and enabling project in Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine's Tourism Development Plan.

The City of Greater Geelong, through its partnership with Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine will consider future promotional opportunities when Barwon Water progresses this current work to create public access to the area.

PETITIONS:

Cr Kontelj presented three petitions from Cameron O'Keefe in relation to Reducing Industrial and Commercial Rates; Extending Free Parking in the Geelong CBD and Reducing Parking Fines.

1. COVID-19 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT PACKAGE – MEDIUM TO LONGER TERM

Source:	**Chief Executive**
Director:	**Martin Cutter**
Portfolio:	**Economic Development**

Purpose

1. To seek Council approval of the medium to longer term COVID-19 Community and Economic Support Package.

Background

2. The COVID-19 pandemic and declared State of Emergency is having a significant impact on the community and economy locally, nationally and internationally. All communities and businesses are impacted by COVID-19.

3. The Federal and Victorian Governments have both provided a range of social and economic measures offering significant economic support to assist vulnerable community and business sectors.

4. At its 24 March 2020 meeting, Council resolved to provide an initial support package valued at over $3.4million. Further support packages were endorsed on 14 April 2020 and 28 April 2020. Support packages approved to date are valued at over $5.6million.

5. The Council resolution on 24 March 2020 requested the CEO develop a medium to longer-term package of Community and Economic Supports to be funded in the 2020-21 financial year. Council also requested a report regarding the continued suspension of all on street parking fees from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020. This report addresses both those resolutions.

Key Matters

6. The Council and the City have considered a range of relief opportunities to support the local community and business during the COVID-19 emergency.

7. The recommended medium to longer term funding opportunities are targeted at recovery and informed by feedback from businesses, reviewing existing initiatives, consideration of Victorian and Federal Government support measures and the Council's financial capacity. The value of this proposed package is $1.705 million, bringing the City's total direct financial support in response to COVID-19 to over $7.3 million.

8. Detail regarding the proposed funding initiatives is included in **Attachment 2.** The key aspects of the package target some of the most impacted sectors including tourism, hospitability, arts and culture, international students as well as further support more broadly for the community and businesses.

9. A review has been undertaken of the opportunity to continue free parking, including consideration of previous independent reports, with officers finding on balance, free parking should not continue beyond 30 June 2020, as outlined in **Attachment 3**.

10. The end of free parking provides for the recommencement of the 30-minute free parking trial to continue to 30 November 2020 which will allow the results of this trial to be considered by Council.

Cr Kontelj moved, Cr Sullivan seconded -

11. That Council:

11.1 Recognises the continued significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the local community and economy;

11.2 Endorse the following community and economic support package;

11.2.1 $100,000 to continue providing small business expert support;

11.2.2 Continuation of the COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy;

11.2.3 $490,000 towards arts, culture and heritage initiatives;

11.2.5 $250,000 towards immediate support for community groups via Quick Response Community Grants;

11.2.6 $500,000 towards tourism and events campaigns, including Domestic Short Break Campaign ($200,000), Visiting Family & Friends Campaign ($150,000) and Business Events Program ($150,000); and

11.2.7 $133,000 towards supporting international students through Study Geelong initiative;

11.2.8 $300,000 towards Kardinia Pool Winter Opening (July, August and September); and

11.2.9 Continuation of the COVID-19 free parking in 2 hour on street paid car parking places in CBD Geelong until 31 December, 2020.

11.3 Support the provision of targeted commercial rent relief under officer delegation with an estimated value of $232,000; and

11.4 Postpones until 1 January 2021 the 30-minute free parking trial from 1 July 2020 to 30 November 2020, after the conclusion of the current free parking initiative on 30 June 2020. In addition, continuation of the 30-minute free on street parking trial from 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021, after the conclusion of the COVID-19 free on street parking initiative on 31 December 2020.

Amendment

Cr Murrihy moved, Cr Mason seconded -

12. That Council:

12.1 Recognises the continued significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the local community and economy;

12.2 Endorse the following community and economic support package:

12.2.1 $100,000 to continue providing small business expert support;

12.2.2 Continuation of the COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy;

12.2.3 $490,000 towards heritage, arts and culture initiatives;

12.2.4 $250,000 towards immediate support for community groups via COVID-19 Quick Response Grants;

12.2.5 $500,000 towards tourism and events campaigns, including Domestic Short Break Campaign ($200,000), Visiting Family & Friends Campaign ($150,000) and Business Events Program ($150,000);

12.2.6 $133,000 towards supporting international students through Study Geelong initiative.

12.2.7 $300,000 towards Kardinia Pool Winter Opening (July, August & September); and

12.2.8 Continuation of the COVID-19 free parking in 2 hour on street paid car parking places in CBD Geelong until 31st December, 2020.

12.3 Support the provision of targeted commercial rent relief under officer delegation with an estimated value of $232,000;

12.4 Supports the continuation of the 30-minute free parking trial from 1 July 2020 to 30 November 2020, after the conclusion of the current free parking initiative on 30 June 2020. Endorse extension of the current free parking provision for all on street car parking until 31 July 2020 in order to provide adequate notice to the community of its conclusion;

12.5 Endorse the continuation of the 30 minute free parking trial in 2P on street car parking from 1 August 2020, after the conclusion of the current free parking initiative on 31 July 2020; and

12.6 Endorse the extension of the 30 minute free parking trial in 2P on street car parking initiative from 30 November 2020 until 30 June 2021.

12.7 Creates a fund from the net revenue collected from 2P on street car parking for the period of 1 August 2020 to 30 June 2021 to be allocated towards projects that support central Geelong in the 2021-2022 financial year.

Lost.

Amendment

Cr Mason moved, Cr Murrihy seconded –

11. That Council:

11.1 Recognises the continued significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the local community and economy;

11.2 Endorse the following community and economic support package:

11.2.1 $100,000 to continue providing small business expert support;

11.2.2 Continuation of the COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy;

11.2.3 $490,000 towards heritage, arts and culture initiatives;

11.2.4 $250,000 towards immediate support for community groups via COVID-19 Quick Response Grants;

11.2.5 $500,000 towards tourism and events campaigns, including Domestic Short Break Campaign ($200,000), Visiting Family & Friends Campaign ($150,000) and Business Events Program ($150,000);

11.2.6 $133,000 towards supporting international students through Study Geelong initiative.

11.2.7 $300,000 towards Kardinia Pool Winter Opening (July, August & September); and

11.3 Support the provision of targeted commercial rent relief under officer delegation with an estimated value of $232,000;

11.4 Endorse extension of the current free parking provision for all on street car parking until 31 July 2020 in order to provide adequate notice to the community of its conclusion;

11.5 Endorse the continuation of the 30 minute free parking trial in 2P on street car parking from 1 August 2020, after the conclusion of the current free parking initiative on 31 July 2020;

11.6 Endorse the extension of the 30 minute free parking trial in 2P on street car parking initiative from 30 November 2020 until 30 June 2021; and

11.7 Creates a fund from the net revenue collected from 2P on street car parking for the period of 1 August 2020 to 30 June 2021 to be allocated towards projects that support Central Geelong in the 2021-2022 financial year.

Lost.

Division Requested:

For: **Crs Mason, Murnane, Mansfield, Murrihy**
Against: **Crs Aitken, Kontelj, Asher, Grzybek, Sullivan, Harwood, Nelson**

The substantive motion was then put and carried. **Carried Unanimously.**

Division Requested:

For: **Crs Aitken, Murrihy, Mason, Kontelj, Asher, Grzybek, Harwood, Murnane, Nelson, Sullivan, Mansfield**
Against: **Nil.**

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

1. The value of this proposed package is $1.705 million. This total includes the proposed redirected commitments from 2020-21 for Geelong After Dark ($90,000), Mountain to Mouth ($100,000) and from 2019-20 Public Art ($70,000) which will be used as part of the $490,000 heritage, arts and culture initiatives. The net impact on the 2020-21 budget is to increase the operating deficit by $1.515m.

2. The total value of financial support provided to the community and business to date is $5.6 million, bringing the total support value to over $7.3 million.

3. The 2020-21 draft budget includes revenue of $10,625,058 from parking fees and $3,768,021 from parking fines. Due to expected continued impacts from COVID-19 on central Geelong attendance the budgeted revenue is based on an assumption of a reduction in parking fees and fines of 50% for the first 3 months of the financial year. This equates to a reduction of $1,121,772 in parking fee revenue and $534,726 in fine revenue, totalling $1,656,498.

4. If Council was to resolve to provide free on street parking to 31 December 2020 the financial implication to the draft budget would be a reduction in revenue from parking fees of approximately $3,350,082 and $1,616,640 from fines with total lost revenue of $4,966,722 (on top of COVID-19 reduced revenue - $1,656,498).

Community Engagement

5. The initial community and business support packages included initiatives to support business in the immediate period. The City has worked closely with the business community to seek feedback through various channels, including through a business survey.

6. Key themes from the engagement included businesses are concerned about getting back to normal and operating safely, support is sought in more than one service area, online training and webinars have had a high take up and there is ongoing interest with key areas of interest being marketing, applying for available grants, reducing business costs, promotional activities to boost economic recovery and re-designing businesses.

Social Equity Considerations

7. COVID-19 impacts all of our community with some segments impacted greater and the impacts are of a higher risk in health and/or financial terms. The City's support packages are designed to be targeted to address segments in greatest need and with consideration of the significant Federal and Victorian Government support programs.

8. The recommended medium to longer term support package aims to support the community during the recovery phase and is particularly targeted at businesses and our arts and tourism sectors.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

9. It is important the City continues to deliver on its obligations under the Local Government Act, and other relevant statutory obligations. Supporting the community and business and providing coordination role in response to emergencies, such as COVID-19, are critical roles of the City. The recommended support package is consistent with the City's statutory requirements.

Alignment to Council Plan

10. The recommend support package is aligned to the Council Plan in particular:

    10.1 Vibrant arts and culture;

    10.2 A thriving and sustainable economy;

    10.3 Growing our tourism and events; and

    10.4 Organisational leadership, strategy and governance.

Conflict of Interest

11. No officers declared a conflict of interest in developing this report.

Risk Assessment

12. COVID-19 presents many risks to the community and businesses. The City's response to COVID-19 is within its roles and responsibilities and aims to support our community and businesses with their response to this crisis. This proposed package is tailored to support the recovery phase in the medium – longer term.

13. With regards to free parking, previous research and studies found free parking may not attract additional customers or increase length of stays. Previous studies identified the following impacts that can arise from free parking:

    13.1 Pay parking is a significant deterrent to motorists, typically workers, shuffling their vehicles in time restricted parking on account of the expense incurred in doing so;

    13.2 Disruption to businesses of having staff 'shuffling' cars;

    13.3 Pay parking facilitates turnover of parking and therefore the most convenient parking for customers and visitors;

    13.4 Increased occupancy of on street parking;

    13.5 Inefficient parking enforcement;

    13.6 Reduction in public transport patronage and/or active transport; and

    13.7 Reduction in revenues from parking and parking fines.

Environmental Implications

14. Previous studies and reports in relation to free parking suggest it will result in the increase of traffic congestion and more time spent cruising for free parking by visitors with associated impacts from pollution, carbon foot print, amenity and safety.

Attachment 2

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC MEDIUM – LONGER TERM SUPPORT PACKAGE

Continuation of existing initiatives

Small Business Expert Support – $100,000

1. This is a continuation of the $100,000 support provided as part of the immediate relief package supported by Council on 24 March 2020. It is anticipated that the current support will be expended by July 2020.
2. It is proposed to continue with and expand on the Package 1 program by continuing to provide business with free access to expert advice in the areas of financial management, HR, legal, digital, health and wellbeing, small business mentoring services and COVID-19 return to work requirements.
3. The take up of the immediate support package has been strong with approximately 400 businesses participating with financial management, digital marketing and small business mentoring representing 90% of the requests. Take up has been from across the municipality and a broad sector of industries with accommodation and food services, construction and professional services the highest take up.

COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy

4. The COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy provides for a range of relief measures for people and businesses in our community who are financially impacted by the pandemic. Relief measures include the ability to apply for deferral of rates payments, suspension of all current debt recovery action for unpaid rates through to 31 October 2020 and a waiver of interest on overdue rates, fees and charges through to 31 October 2020.
5. This policy applies to all monies owed to the City including rates, waste charges, animal registrations, and permits, fees and user charges.

Targeted Commercial Rent Support – $232,000

6. The initial support packages included a 50% waiver of 6 months' rent for community groups to the value of $610,085. The conclusion date of the current support initiative is 30 September 2020.
7. This additional support measure provides 100% waiver for a further 3 months, targeted to those businesses most impacted, rather than being a blanket rent relief for all commercial tenants.
8. This initiative can be delivered under delegation and will enable a consideration of directing this support to those businesses that require it most.

New support initiatives

Arts, Culture & Heritage Initiatives – $490,000

9. This support initiative proposes to include $260,000 from redirected funds that were proposed to support Geelong After Dark ($90,000), Mountain to Mouth ($100,000) and Public Art ($70,000).

10. The Council resolved to establish a COVID-19 Arts and Culture Advisory Group at its meeting on 14 April 2020. The group has been established as GCAR, the Geelong COVID-19 Arts Recovery Advisory Panel. The Panel has identified urgent and longer term needs to rebuild the arts, creative, entertainment, cultural and heritage sectors in Geelong. This has informed the proposed support initiatives which include:

    10.1 Skills and Training $30,000

    10.2 Employment opportunities for the region's Creative Industries $330,000

    10.3 COVID-19 Recovery Grants $150,000

<u>COVID-19 Quick Response Community Grants – $250,000</u>

11. This is a quick response grant program designed to support our community to recover and adapt to the effects of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

12. The quick response grants provide immediate support for community groups to reactivate their venues and programs and allow communities to determine their own priorities.

13. The proposed budget allows for at least 125 grants at a maximum amount of $2,000.

14. The initiative would provide funding for ideas that support the community's vision Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future that is about collaborating to address our challenges and opportunities, embracing innovation and new ways of doing things.

15. The priority would be to provide opportunities to eligible community organisations to activate their community spaces and programs in line with COVID-19 health advice and government restrictions.

<u>Domestic Short Break Campaign – $200,000</u>

16. This enables development and implementation of a domestic short break campaign which builds on the brand story for each of the six sub-region destinations within Greater Geelong and The Bellarine.

17. The tourism sector has been particularly hard hit by the social restrictions required to limit the spread of COVID-19. A Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine (TGGB) member survey indicates 82% of businesses in the sector are operating at less than 50% of their usual trade. Half of them are not open at all.

18. Consumer sentiment data from Tourism Australia suggests 67% of Australians will be ready to travel domestically within two months of travel restrictions being lifted. Victorian residents usually spend 53% of their travel budget outside of the state. With international borders still closed and interstate travel highly limited, there is enormous opportunity to convert that spend to intrastate travel and short breaks close to home.

<u>Visiting Family & Friends Campaign – $150,000</u>

19. This enables development and implementation of a Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) campaign which builds on the brand story for each of the six sub-region destinations within Greater Geelong and The Bellarine.

20. The biggest tourism attraction in Geelong is the people who live here. Half of our domestic visitors are in the region to spend time with people they love. This presents Geelong and The Bellarine with a unique opportunity, post COVID-19, to capitalise on the human need to reconnect with the people they've missed during social isolation.

21. The VFR campaign will build on new brand work for Geelong and The Bellarine and the six sub regions, leveraging our large resident population, the sense of regional pride and the longing for quality time spent with friends and family. Messaging will be distinctly local and with a different positioning and mindset to a campaign targeting external audiences. The campaign will suggest quality time be spent experiencing the region and will have a mechanism of 'invitation' that explicitly speaks to locals to encourage that VFR travel.

Business Events Program – $150,000

22. This funding program aims to secure significant business events by supporting business events who book and host their event in the Geelong region. The procurement funding offered would be commensurate with the anticipated economic return of the event.

23. The purpose of the Business Events procurement fund would be to stimulate the types of business events in the region that will have the greatest impact on the sector. Unlike traditional Council event funding pools, this will be used in the targeted procurement of National Association business events. Business Events Geelong will identify and engage specific events using a funding ratio criteria to offer a financial incentive for organisers to place the event in Geelong and The Bellarine.

24. Study Geelong International Student Support – $133,000

25. COVID-19 has resulted in international tertiary students facing financial hardship. Although there is support being provided through Study Geelong, education institutions, state government and community organisations, there are gaps, and it is felt that the extent of the hardship being faced will worsen the longer students remain without jobs and in isolation and when the moratorium on housing evictions is lifted.

26. This initiative includes:

    26.1 Identifying and promoting support services available to international students and using peer to peer messaging to encourage students to overcome cultural barriers and stigma to access assistance;

    26.2 Developing an International Friends Program - linking students online with local individuals/families (e.g. via Rotary) to reduce the feeling of isolation and connect with community. This may become face to face when the time is appropriate;

    26.3 Working with relevant organisations to link students needing accommodation with offers of help from the community and sourcing laptops for students from the City, and the local and business communities;

    26.4 Online engagement activities to provide the opportunity for student connection; and

    26.5 Medium/longer term activities such as outdoor picnics, group walks, small group trips exploring what the region has to offer and programs to engage students with the City's Swim, Sport & Leisure Centres.

Attachment 3

FREE PARKING CENTRAL GEELONG – 1 JULY TO 30 DECEMBER 2020

1. The Council resolved at its 24 March 2020 meeting to provide Free casual on and off-street parking in Central Geelong until 30 June 2020, as an immediate support measure in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

2. In April the Council resolved to consider, as an additional support measure, the suspension of all on street car parking fees from 1/7/2020 to 31/12/2020, at a June 2020 Council meeting with an officer report and recommendation.

3. The following information is provided in response to the above Council resolution and officers recommendation for the continuation of the 30-minute free parking trial from 1 July 2020 to 30 November 2020, in place of the current free parking initiative. It is not recommended by officers to continue all day free parking.

Free parking history

4. City of Greater Geelong Councils have made several resolutions on parking in Central Geelong since 2006. In each instance free weekday parking has not been supported.

5. December 2006 – Council adopted free parking on Sundays in Central Geelong.

6. December 2013 – Council resolved to expand free parking to include Saturdays for a trial between January 2014 and April 2014. This decision also included increasing the majority of the 1hr time limit spaces to a 2hr limit.

7. April 2014 – Council considered a report on the parking trial and resolved to adopt free parking on Saturdays.

8. March 2016 – Council resolved to request officers to provide a report to the Council outlining the potential to expand free parking program in Central Geelong, including a full cost benefit analysis.

9. March 2017 – Council (under the Administrators) considered a report on an investigation of the impacts of extending free parking to weekdays in Central Geelong. This report was supported by a Pay Parking Study by O'Brien Traffic and an Economic Analysis into the Impacts of removing weekday paid parking from Geelong CAA by SGS.

10. The Independent advice from SGS Economics & Planning and O'Brien Traffic indicates that the potential costs of extending free parking outweigh the potential benefits (consistent with numerous similar independent reports since 2002).

11. April 2019 – Council adopted a 12-month parking trial to offer a once off 'First 30 minutes Free' in all 2P on-street parking zones in the CBD. This resolution included that the CEO report to Council by 30 November 2020 on the impacts of the 12-month parking trial and the impacts on the outcome of the Central Geelong Car Parking Discussion Paper.

Summary of past findings

12. The following technical reports have informed officer recommendations on parking:

    12.1 Geelong Central Activities Area Parking Strategy 2005 O'Brien Traffic;

    12.2 Central Geelong Car Parking & Access Strategy 2013 O'Brien Traffic;

    12.3 Central Geelong Pay Car Parking Study March 2017 O'Brien Traffic & SGS Economics & Planning; and

    12.4 MRCagney Pty Ltd Central Geelong Car Parking Strategy Peer Review 2018.

13. Key findings from these reports relevant to free parking include:

    13.1 Perceived increased visitation to Central Geelong;

    13.2 Pay parking is a key element of an effective overall strategy;

    13.3 Pay parking is a significant deterrent to motorists, typically workers, shuffling their vehicles in time restricted parking on account of the expense incurred in doing so;

    13.4 Disruption to businesses of having staff 'shuffling' cars;

    13.5 Pay parking facilitates turnover of parking and therefore the most convenient parking for customers and visitors;

    13.6 Increase in traffic congestion and more time spent cruising for free parking by visitors with associated impacts from pollution, carbon foot print, amenity and safety;

    13.7 Increased occupancy of on street parkers;

    13.8 The efficiency of parking enforcement is increased with pay parking;

    13.9 Reduction in public transport patronage and/or active transport; and

    13.10 Reduction in revenues from parking and parking fines.

14. The most recent O'Brien study in 2017 included a comparison with other local government areas, including Ballarat, Bendigo, Launceston, Gold Coast, North Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

15. The findings indicated that pay parking forms a key element to the management of parking for these Council's, with the most common reason being to facilitate turnover of parking space.

16. The City of Newcastle trialled free parking but found that this had a negative impact on access to the city and paid parking was reinstated at the insistence of business.

Central Geelong Car Parking Strategy

17. A fast, reliable and connected transport network is one of the nine community aspirations identified in Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future. One of the key measures of success for this aspiration is that '50% of journeys to work are made by public transport, walking or cycling'. Currently nearly 90% of daily commuters to Central Geelong travel by single vehicle.

18. The Central Geelong Parking Strategy is being prepared, with a draft due for completion later in the year. A community survey was undertaken in 2019, which received 2,582 responses. The survey showed that generally people support the need for parking fees and are willing to pay for parking.

19. Key feedback from survey participants relevant to free parking include:

    19.1 More than 80% of week-day commuters travel to central Geelong in a motor vehicle, as the driver;

    19.2 90% of people who travel to central Geelong by car, park in public parking areas;

    19.3 66% visit the CBD for work, 20% to shop, 5% access services/hospital;

    19.4 44% of respondents park all day and 61% park greater than 2 hours;

    19.5 68% of respondents considered paying for parking was fair; and

    19.6 11% of respondents said free parking was a fair price and 7% said it was fair to park all day in central Geelong for free.

30-minute free parking trial

20. The Council resolved at its 9 April 2019 meeting under urgent business to Offer a once-off 'First 30-minutes Free' in all 2P on-street parking zones in Central Geelong.

The resolution also required a budget allocation in 2019/20 a provision of up to $1,117,000 for estimated foregone on-street parking revenue and a provision of up to $798,000 in 2020-2021.

21. The 30-minute free parking trial began on 1 December 2019 and had intended to operate until November 2020, allowing a full 12 months of data to inform a report on the impacts of the trial. The introduction of free parking has ceased the trial.

22. Reverting to the 30-minute free parking trial on 1 July 2020 would enable data on the trial to be collected as the COVID-19 restrictions are being eased and as the community gradually returns to more normal conditions. This would enable a report to be provided to the Council, as per the April 2019 resolution, providing a more expansive snapshot of the findings in addition to the 3 months of data that has been collected prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 impacts

23. With the COVID- 19 pandemic, one of the support measures provided was the provision of free parking in central Geelong. The potential value of this initiative was approximately $2M (pre COVID-19 values) plus loss of revenue from fines. A key reason for this support measure by officers was that it prevented a potential spread of COVID-19 through the use of parking meters.

24. The Central Geelong Marketing team observations in relation to business impact estimates that approximately 75% of businesses have been closed in the central Geelong during the height of restrictions. This along with work from home requirements has significantly reduced visitations for work and leisure to central Geelong. Since the easing of restrictions there has been a relative quick response by traders with the major shopping centres seeing up to 90% of shops opening and on street premises around 60%, in some capacity. There is still are large number of professional service employees working from home.

25. Analysis of smart technology confirms impacts from COVID-19 at its April peak was in the order of 40% reduction in vehicle traffic and 69% reduction in people. Since the restrictions have eased vehicle counts indicate an improvement from the 40% to 30% less movements. The data suggest the volume of people has improved from the peak of 69% to a 37% reduction in early June compared to pre COVID-19 data.

26. Whilst there is free parking, we are unable to obtain substantial or reliable parking data.

Budget implications

27. The 2020-21 draft budget includes revenue of $10,625,058 from parking fees and $3,768,021 from parking fines. Due to expected continued impacts from COVID-19 on central Geelong attendance the budgeted revenue is based on an assumption of a reduction in parking fees and fines of 50% for the first 3 months of the financial year. This equates to a reduction of $1,121,772 in parking fee revenue and $534,726 in fine revenue, totalling $1,656,498.

28. If Council was to resolve to provide free on street parking to 31 December 2020 the financial implication to the draft budget would be a reduction in revenue from parking fees of approximately $3,350,082 and $1,616,640 from fines with total lost revenue of $4,966,722 (on top of COVID-19 reduced revenue - $1,656,498).

29. The above revenue impacts are applicable to on street parking and do not include off street parking facilities. There would likely be an impact to the City's off-street parking revenue as free parking would encourage users to the free service. It is not possible to provide a reasonable estimate to this impact to off-street parking which has a draft budget revenue of almost $1.7million.

2. DECLARATION OF 2020-21 RATES, ADOPTION OF COUNCIL PLAN 2018-22, UPDATE 2020 AND 2020-21 BUDGET

Source:	**Customer & Corporate Services – Financial Services**
Director:	**Michael Dugina**
Portfolio:	**Finance**

Purpose

1. To adopt the Council Plan 2018-22, Update 2020-21 (Council Plan Update), declaration of 2020-21 Rates and 2020-21 Budget as proposed at the Council meeting held on 28 April 2020, after consideration of budget submissions and any changes.

Background

2. Under section 125 of the Local Government Act (Vic) 1989 (Act), at least once in each financial year the Council must consider whether the current Council Plan requires adjustment in respect of the remaining period of the Council plan. Council have reviewed the Council Plan 2018-22 and prepared and update for 2020-21. The Council Plan identifies the objectives and priorities of Council. The Council Plan is the culmination of extensive consultation with councillors, the City and the community.

3. In accordance with section 127 of the Act, Council is required to prepare a budget for each financial year and must ensure that it contains all required statements, reports and data as prescribed by the Act. Refer to **Attachment 4** for an outline of these requirements.

Key Matters

4. The Council Plan Update and the proposed 2020-21 Budget for the year commencing 1 July 2020 was considered by Council at its meeting on 28 April 2020 and public notice was given in accordance with section 129 of the Act.

5. The Council Plan Update and 2020-21 Budget has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act and the Best Practice Guidelines that were developed by a Local Government industry taskforce.

6. The Council Plan Update (**Attachment 3**) includes:

    6.1 Strategic priorities (11) each with deliverables and measures;

    6.2 Overarching themes of sustainability, equity and community engagement and COVID-19 recovery; and

    6.3 Support for the proposed 2020-21 Budget, the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and the regions long term vision Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future.

7. The proposed Budget (**Attachment 4**) includes:

    7.1 The budgeted Statements of Comprehensive Income, Cash Flows, Balance Sheet, Capital Works, Changes in Equity and Human Resources;

    7.2 The strategic objectives to be undertaken during the financial year and Service Performance Outcome Indicators in relation to each strategic objective;

    7.3 The relationship between the activities and initiatives in contributing to achieving the strategic objectives specified in the Council Plan;

7.4 Details of the activities and initiatives to be funded in the budget; and

7.5 As required under the Act a schedule declares the differential rates and charges.

8. The Rating Strategy 2020-21 (**Attachment 5**) includes the following:

8.1 Rates and charges are the major source of council revenue, accounting for 65% of the total council revenue annually. An increase in rate income is required to meet the objectives of Council and community expectations for the delivery of services and the maintenance and construction of community infrastructure;

8.2 The Minister for Local Government announced on 13 December 2019 that Victorian council rates will be capped at 2.0% for the year ahead;

8.3 Not all council charges are included in the rate cap calculation:

8.3.1 Rates and the Municipal charge are included in the rate cap calculation; and

8.3.2 The waste charge and the Fire Services Property Levy are not included in the rate cap calculation.

8.4 The 2019-20 base average rate is calculated as $1,589.27 and the 2020-21 Budget proposes this will increase by 1.9% to $1,619.39; and

8.5 The average residential rate for 2020-21 is:

Residential Properties	2019-20 Rates on average CIV $	2020-21 Budget Rates on average CIV $	Increase %
General Rates CIV x Rate in $	1,180.10	1,310.27	11.0%
Municipal Charge	105.25	0.00	(100.0%)
Total Rates including Municipal Charge	**1,285.35**	**1,310.27**	**1.9%**
Waste Collection Service	332.00	360.95	8.7%
Total Rates & Charges	1,617.35	1,671.22	3.3%

9. Rate Waiver

9.1 Council declares a waiver under section 171 of the Act for residential land and farm land properties where the valuation of the assessment has increased between the 2019 valuation and the 2020 valuation by 50% or more and that increase is purely attributable to market factors, not attributable, in whole or in part, to improvements made to the assessment by the owner (or occupier). The amount of the waiver is set at:

9.1.1 between 25% and 49.99% of the general rates payable for the 2020-21 financial year, increasing pro rata according to the valuation increase, for valuation increases between 50% and 59.99%; and

9.1.2 50% of the general rate payable for the 2020-21 financial year for valuation increases of 60% or more.

9.2 The waiver is designed to mitigate the impact of significant valuation increases for ratepayers who can demonstrate low income status (maximum income of $54,677 and owned the property for both valuation periods).

9.3 Council declared a Housing Support waiver under section 171 of the Act of 100% of general rates for the following types of housing; transitional, emergency, crisis housing, housing for legatees or war widows provided by the Geelong Legacy Club or provided by RSL, and supported housing for people with a disability. This waiver recognises that these properties provide specific needs within the community. Application can be made to council to have land classified as being eligible for the waiver.

9.4 New Corio Estate

9.4.1 The New Corio Estate is an old and inappropriate subdivision within an established farming zone in Corio. Since the land is zoned as farming land it cannot be developed for residential use with no services available for the area.

9.4.2 There is no prospect of these services becoming available in the future. In addition, environment reports in recent years have shown that the land contains significant native vegetation which Council is obligated to protect for future generations. Council adopted Planning Scheme amendment C243 which formally protects the native vegetation and provides some certainty over the future of the land. This amendment was approved by the Minister of Environment & Climate Control on 30 April 2013.

9.4.3 From 2013-14 Council declared a waiver under section 171 of the Act of 100% of general rates for privately owned properties in the New Corio Estate. This rates assistance waiver recognises the financial burden associated with ownership of the land and the encumbrances that prevents property owners from making any demands on Council services now and into the future.

10. Rate Structure

10.1 Council has 11 rating or tariff groups with the application of differential rates to each of these groups in accordance with section 161 of the Act. The finalised Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rating were gazetted on 26 April 2013 and came into effect from 1 July 2013. The intention of the guidelines is to provide clarity, consistency and transparency. Council is required to consider the objectives, the suitable uses and the types of classes of land when introducing a differential rate. The guidelines establish three groups of types and classes of land categories for differential rates – those which are considered 'appropriate', those which must be 'carefully considered' by a council and those which would 'not be appropriate'.

11. The Rating Strategy for 2020-21 (**Attachment 5**) contains the Council Policy, Procedure, rate assistance and information on the City's approach to the raising of property rates updated to reflect the outcome of Council's budget deliberations.

12. Fees and Charges

12.1 Fees and charges included in 2020-21 Budget are adopted as part of the Council Plan Update and 2020-21 Budget. Where a fee amount is set through legislation, the legislated fee amount will supersede the fee amount in the fees and charges schedule.

13. Capital Works Program

    13.1 Capital works program expenditure and funding requirements will be managed through the forecast process and reported to Council on a quarterly basis.

14. At the Council meeting held on 28 April 2020 a Submissions Hearing Panel was called for to hear submissions made in relation to the Council Plan and Proposed Budget.

15. A Submissions Review Panel hearing was held on Wednesday, 3 June 2020. The panel was comprised of all Councillors. The Submissions Hearing Panel heard 15 submitters, reviewed 69 submissions and recommended no change to the budget subject to the provision of additional costing and information on McKillop Street Traffic treatments, Landy Field plan and Seniors Activity Hub on the Bellarine (refer **Attachment 6**).

Cr Aitken moved, Cr Grzybek seconded -

16. That Council:

16.1 Adopt the proposed budget considered by Council on 28 April 2020 subject to:

16.1.1 Incorporating the following known changes for a net movement of $11.431m to the operating budget result:

16.1.1.1 Early receipt of Grants Commission Funding for 2020-21 $11.854m; and

16.1.1.2 Deferral of expenditure for Avalon International Air Show and other minor adjustments $0.423m.

16.1.2 Incorporating the following known changes for a net reduction of $1.169m to the capital program:

16.1.2.1 Inclusion of Barwon Soccer Club – Stage 2 Changeroom Development $0.200m;

16.1.2.2 Additional cost of Gymnasium Equipment Core Replacement Program $0.387m;

16.1.2.3 Removal of expenditure for Burdoo Reserve – Stage 2 Development $0.256m; and

16.1.2.4 Deferral of expenditure for Boundary Road and Baanyip Boulevard Intersection $1.5m.

16.1.3 Agree to fund the additional initiatives recognised in the Submissions Review Panel report and incorporate an allocation of additional funding for:

16.1.3.1 The cost of McKillop Street traffic treatments $0.350m;

16.1.3.2 The cost of maintenance and the development of a facilities improvement plan for Landy Field $0.030m; and

16.1.3.3 The cost for a feasibility study for the development of a Seniors Activity hub on the Bellarine $0.030m.

16.1.4 Incorporating estimated $5.165m for the Community and Economy Support package 3 in response to COVID-19.

16.2 Adopt the 2018-22 Council Plan, Update 2020-21;

16.3 Adopt the Rate Declaration noting the resetting of the rate in the dollar based on final revaluation for 2020;

16.4 Pursuant to section 171(4)(f) of the Act, resolve to treat any persons who has successfully applied for and been granted a pension waiver of rates as having made a continuing application for such waiver, unless the person advises otherwise;

16.5 Adopt the Rating Strategy 2020-21 (Attachment 5);

16.6 Declare the amount of the rates and charges intended to be raised from the period of 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021 as follows:

16.6.1 An amount of $250,458,167 be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by General Rates and the Annual Service Charge, calculated as follows:

16.6.1.1 General Rates $208,587,967; and

16.6.1.2 Annual Service Charge $41,870,200.

16.7 Declare that rates, rating differential and charges for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 confirm with Council's Rating Strategy and will be applied as outlined in section 4.1 of the 2020-21 Budget;

16.8 Note that general rates must be paid in full by 15 February 2021 or by four instalments made on or before the following dates:

16.8.1 Instalment 1 – 30 September 2020;

16.8.2 Instalment 2 – 30 November 2020;

16.8.3 Instalment 3 – 28 February 2021; and

16.8.4 Instalment 4 – 31 May 2021.

16.9 Require that any person pay interest on any amounts of rates and charges which:

16.9.1 That person is liable to pay;

16.9.2 Have not been paid by the dates specified above; and

16.9.3 Considers the Council COVID-19 Hardship Policy.

16.10 Authorise the Chief Financial Officer to levy and recover the general rates and service charges in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989 and under consideration of relevant Council policies;

16.11 Approve the fees and charges as set in the 2020-21 Budget and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to approve variations within the approved increase limits;

16.12 Note that public notice will be given:

16.12.1 Of Council's decision in respect to the 2018-22 Council Plan, Update 2020-21 and 2020-21 Budget, in accordance with section 130(2) of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act); and

16.12.2 Of the decision to adopt the Rate Declaration in accordance with section 161(3) of the Act.

16.13 Note that a copy of the adopted 2018-22 Council Plan, Update 2020-21 and 2020-21 Budget will be submitted to the Minister for Local Government and copies made available for inspection by the public in accordance with sections 130(4) and 130(9) of the Act.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

1. The budget has been prepared in compliance with Rate Cap legislation and Ministerial announcement that the cap is 2.0% for 2020-21. Changes in rates, fees and charges have been structured to meet the financial requirements as proposed for the 2020-21 financial year.

2. Expenditure includes the continuation of council services to the community.

3. The budget includes a recurrent operating deficit of $19.4m.

4. The capital program forecasts expenditure of $160.1m in 2020-21. This includes carryover project funding from 2019-20 for incomplete projects of $22.6m, $155.4m of new project funding with $18.0m forecast to carryover into 2021-22.

5. New loans of $66.9m are proposed for 2020-21 including $7.3m deferred loans from 2019-20. The projected total amount of borrowings as at 30 June 2021 is $138.6m.

Community Engagement

6. Following adoption of the proposed budget on 28 April 2020 a process of community engagement has been undertaken with a total of 66 submissions received. These submissions were considered at a hearing on 3 June 2020.

7. A number of actions were initiated in response to these submissions which will be outlined in formal responses provided to each submitter (refer **Attachment 6**).

8. In accordance with requirements under the Act, once the budget is adopted, a public notice will be placed in the newspaper on Wednesday, 1 July 2020, advising the adoption of the 2020-21 Budget, Council Plan 2018-22 Update 2020-21, along with the Declaration of the Rates.

Social Equity Considerations

9. The proposed budget identifies the sources and allocation of resources to implement the many social initiatives that impact on the community.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

10. The annual budget is prepared to comply with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014. The process also recognises the need to align the annual budget to the direction and allocation of resources identified within the Council Plan 2018-22.

Alignment to Council Plan

11. This report identifies the activities the City will undertake in 2020-21 which are aligned to achieving the priorities in Council Plan 2018-22.

Conflict of Interest

12. No council officer involved in the preparation of this report has a direct or indirect interest in any matter to which this report relates.

Risk Assessment

13. Under section 130 of the Act Council must adopt an annual budget by 30 June 2020 or such other date fixed by the Minister by notice published in the Government Gazette.

14. Under section 128 of the Act Council must prepare a revised budget if circumstances arise which cause a material change in the budget and which affects the financial operations and position of the Council. Council must give public notice for community engagement for any revised budget.

15. The budget has been developed in accordance with a timetable to ensure sufficient time to achieve 30 June adoption. This includes time for community consultation, meetings of the executive and council to prepare the 2018-22 Council Plan, Update 2020-21 and 2020-21 Budget. The timetable provides a framework to manage risk in order for Council to meet its statutory obligations and avoid adverse implications if the process is delayed.

Environmental Implications

16. The budget identifies the sources and allocation of the resources to implement the many environmental initiatives that impact on the community as outlined with Council Plan 2018-22.

Attachment 2

Discussion

1. Following consideration by Council of the Proposed Budget, an advertisement was placed in the Geelong Advertiser advising that the budget document would be available for public scrutiny and inviting written submissions to be made.

2. The Submissions Hearing Panel met on Wednesday,3 June 2020 at 5.30pm to consider written submissions and hear any person who wished to address the Panel in support of their submission.

3. In respect to the Council Plan the submissions panel recommended (**Attachment 6**) no change to the Council Plan 2018-22, Update 2020-21.



THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

COUNCIL PLAN 2018–22

UPDATE 2020–21

PUTTING OUR
COMMUNITY FIRST

CITY OF GREATER
GEELONG



Supporting youth programs across our region

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

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

We enter the third year of our Council Plan still in the midst of a global crisis that has affected everyone in our community in some way.

Since the coronavirus and its impacts hit with full force in March, our attention has turned almost completely towards protecting the community's health and supporting those who need it as best we can.

There is no doubt that this is the right approach. In fact it is the only approach at a time like this.

The effect on our 2020–21 budget has been significant, and the flow-on is that we need to be realistic about what we can deliver during this third quarter of our four-year Council Plan.

That's not to say all 'big ticket' items are completely on hold. Council investment in important long-term projects such as our shared trails network and community facilities will help generate much needed local employment and speed up our region's recovery.

This document outlines the actions across our 11 strategic focus areas that we intend to go ahead with, but we must bear in mind that we may need to shift our resources to where they are needed most.

Many of the projects in this plan transcend this crisis and have now become even more important to progress, such as the *Sustainability Framework* and associated Action Plan adopted by Council. There is now a clear imperative for the Council and every department across the organisation to focus on setting our region up to be environmentally, financially and socially sustainable.

As we pass through this period of COVID-19 response and move towards a recovery phase, councillors and staff will do all we can to support our community, stimulate the economy and protect the local environment.

By working together we can keep Greater Geelong on the path towards the prosperous 'clever and creative' future we've all envisioned.



Cr Stephanie Asher
Mayor, City of Greater Geelong

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Here are the City of Greater Geelong's 11 councillors



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OUR REGION

With a population of nearly 259,000 people, the City of Greater Geelong is Victoria's largest regional municipality.

Located 75 kilometres south west of Melbourne, the municipality covers an area of 1,252 km², comprising suburban, coastal, and country areas. Greater Geelong is bounded by the Moorabool Shire in the north, Wyndham City Council and the Borough of Queenscliffe in the east, Surf Coast Shire and Golden Plains Shire in the west, and Bass Strait to the south.



258,934
2019 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

77.3%
OF HOMES HAVE AN INTERNET CONNECTION

133 KM
OF COASTLINE

18,850
BUSINESSES

83%
OF WORKFORCE LIVE IN GREATER GEELONG

1,300 HECTARES
PROTECTED NATURAL HABITAT

2.41
AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE

40
MEDIAN AGE

16.2%
POPULATION BORN OVERSEAS

2.66%
POPULATION GROWTH RATE (2018–19)

6.4 MILLION
VISITORS TO THE REGION

2,407
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS

ABOUT THE PLAN

Council Plan 2018–22 – Putting Our Community First **outlines how we will work towards making Greater Geelong a clever and creative city-region. It will guide the City of Greater Geelong's resources to deliver infrastructure, services and programs to the community in a sustainable way.**

The 11 strategic priorities we will focus on for the next four years are:

1. Improved health and safety of our community
2. Informed social infrastructure and planning
3. A more inclusive and diverse community
4. Planned sustainable development
5. Effective environmental management
6. Vibrant arts and culture
7. Integrated transport connections
8. A thriving and sustainable economy
9. Growing our tourism and events
10. Innovative finances and technology
11. Organisational leadership, strategy and governance

Our measures of success – how we intend to measure progress towards our strategic priorities – are divided into two groups: those that the City of Greater Geelong is accountable for, and municipal measures that we do not directly control but, together with our partners and the community, we seek to influence.

WHAT HELPED TO SHAPE OUR PLAN?

There were many important information sources that helped shape the plan including:

- Our **11 councillors,** who bring local knowledge and views, by engaging closely with the communities they represent.
- ***Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future,*** the 30-year community vision for the municipality. Representing the voices of more than 16,000 community members, it features a series of community aspirations for achieving that vision.



A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities



A fast, reliable and connected transport network



An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community



A leader in developing and adopting technology



A destination that attracts local and international visitors



Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment



Creativity drives culture



People feel safe wherever they are



Development and implementation of sustainable solutions

- Our ***Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2018–21***, which plays a crucial role in supporting the community to enjoy the highest standards of health, wellbeing and participation at every age, and aims for the greatest improvements among those who need it the most.
- Our ***Social Equity Principles***, which guide all our activities, seeking to make services and facilities more equitable across Greater Geelong.
- Relevant legislation, government and social policies, including the ***Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015–2019,*** the ***Victorian Infrastructure Plan*** and ***G21*** plans and policies.

HOW WE WILL DELIVER OUR PLAN

Our purpose and values guide how we work together as an organisation to achieve our Council Plan.

Our purpose: Working together for a thriving community.

Our values:

- Respect and encourage each other
- Create a healthy and safe environment for all
- Embrace new ideas and better ways to work
- Make people the centre of our business.

Our services:

Each year the City of Greater Geelong provides a large number of services and programs to our community. We also provide the infrastructure and facilities required to support these services. This Council Plan guides us in prioritising new initiatives and improvements to our services, and allows us to ensure resources are directed to areas where action is needed to achieve our Council Plan priorities. However, we cannot deliver this alone. Key to our success will be our ability to advocate to and collaborate with:

- state and federal governments
- other local governments, especially those in the G21 region
- peak bodies
- community groups
- local organisations
- businesses.

Each year we prepare an *Annual Action Plan and Budget* outlining the key initiatives to deliver our *Council Plan.* Progress is reported to the community quarterly and at the end of the financial year through our *Annual Report.*

OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is the challenge of our time, both in a local and global context. To address it, we must consider the social, economic and environmental aspects of everything we do.

The City's *Sustainability Framework*, that was developed in early 2020, provides the foundation to consolidate the City's current and future approach to addressing issues impacting sustainability and delivers a culture of sustainable practice across the organisation.

The purpose of the framework is to:

- Document the City's current sustainability plans, strategies and measurement approaches.
- Understand the issues, risks and opportunities for the City and ensure we are addressing the social, environmental, financial and governance impacts of our business sustainably.
- Identify a structure or hierarchy of sustainability priorities that reflects what matters most to the community and relevant stakeholders.
- Encourage and lead a culture of sustainability to be developed throughout the organisation and community.
- Articulate the City's response to priority issues, including objectives, targets and metrics.
- Ensure that any gaps in our approach to sustainability are identified and addressed.

The City will be delivering the actions within the *Sustainability Framework* through *Council Plan.*



OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2018–22

UPDATE 2020–21



Increasing participtionin local sporting clubs

1. IMPROVED HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY

The health and safety of our community is vital. We will address family violence, homelessness, food shortages and public safety.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Show leadership in gender equity, diversity and family violence prevention.
- Support local organisations that address homelessness, substance abuse, family violence and food security.
- Develop a housing policy to provide a range of social and affordable housing options.
- Improve safety in our community.
- Provide safer public spaces.
- Encourage responsible pet ownership.
- Promote healthy eating and support active living.
- Create healthy environments in children's settings.
- Work towards having the safest roads in Victoria.

RELATED PLANS

- *Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2018–2021*
- *Sustainability Framework*
- *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017–21*
- *Environment Strategy 2020–25*
- *Geelong Local Safety Committee Strategy*
- *Social Infrastructure Plan 2014–2031*
- *Mosquito Management Plan*
- *Municipal Emergency Management Plan*
- *Social Housing Plan 2020–2041*
- *Ba-gurrk Gender Equity Framework*
- *Geelong Road Safety Strategy 2012–17*

LINKS TO CLEVER AND CREATIVE VISION:

People feel safe wherever they are

An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Municipal Measures of Success

- 60 per cent of residents feel safe where they live.
- 60 per cent of adults rate their health as very good or excellent.
- 60 per cent of adults are sufficiently physically active.

City of Greater Geelong Measures of Success

- 75 per cent of children enrolled participate in the Maternal and Child Health service.

OUR ACTIONS IN 2020–21

- Implement actions in the *Ba-gurrk Gender Equity Framework.*
- Implement actions from the *Social Housing Plan 2020–2041.*
- Design and implement the *Mental Health Action Plan* to promote positive mental health outcomes.
- Support the establishment of an expanded Food Distribution Centre in the Geelong Region.
- Support the work of key partner agencies to address homelessness.
- Partner with key agencies to respond to emerging issues and community concerns regarding safety in public spaces.
- Continue to implement the *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017–21.*
- Deliver the Healthier Eating and Active Living Program in partnership with other agencies across the G21 region.
- Deliver the Safer Travel in Local Streets Program in South Geelong and Norlane.
- Update the *Geelong Road Safety Strategy 2012–17* to reduce deaths and serious injuries on Geelong roads.
- Create and facilitate environments for all ages and abilities to engage in regular exercise.
- Provide support to vulnerable members of the community and support community recovery efforts in response to COVID-19.



Upgrading facilities for local sporting clubs

2. INFORMED SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

We will strive for social equity in the infrastructure and services we deliver for our community.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Provide more quality spaces that support active lifestyles.
- Support the growth of localised and regional sporting facilities.
- Deliver accessible and attractive community infrastructure, based on local and municipal community need.
- Maintain our public open space.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

City of Greater Geelong Measures of Success

- No net loss of public open space by suburb.
- 100 per cent of plans for key community infrastructure projects completed.

OUR ACTIONS IN 2020–21

- Undertake detailed design for an outdoor pool to cater for the needs of a growing Bellarine community.
- Design new community infrastructure including the Barwon Heads Arts and Community Hub, Lara Family Hub and Library, the Jetty Road Children's and Community Hub and the Drysdale Integrated Children's Centre.
- Planning for the repurpose of the early years centre at Eversley Street, Drysdale for community use.
- Develop a social infrastructure report for the *Armstrong Creek Town Centre Master Plan.*
- Ensure planning approval and handover of new parks and reserves in growth areas and new subdivisions.
- Upgrade lighting, facilities and change rooms at sporting reserves across the municipality including Barwon Heads, Grovedale, Geelong West, Herne Hill, Lara, Portarlington, North Shore and Thomson.
- Deliver the *Geelong Play Strategy* to provide well located, well designed, fun and accessible play spaces.
- Develop an inclusive and accessible play space at Rippleside Park.
- Review the *Barwon Heads Village Park Master Plan.*
- Endorse and commence implementation of the *Social Infrastructure Planning and Investment Policy* and *Social Infrastructure Plan 2014–2031.*

RELATED PLANS

- *Sustainability Framework*
- *Asset management plans*
- *Social Infrastructure Plan 2014–2031*
- *G21 Regional Growth Plan*
- *Geelong Play Strategy*
- *Shared Trails Masterplan*

LINKS TO CLEVER AND CREATIVE VISION:

An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community

People feel safe wherever they are

Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment


CAT
COUNTRY

3. A MORE INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE COMMUNITY

We want to recognise all members of the Geelong community and not leave anyone behind.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Advocate for and help to achieve the priorities set by local Aboriginal people.
- Advocate for inclusive, multicultural activities and respect for cultural diversity.
- Support activities that improve social connections in our community.
- Promote gender equity and diversity in our sporting and leisure facilities, and programs.
- Facilitate employment programs for the communities that need it most, including young people.
- Improve access to facilities and programs for people of all abilities.
- Recognise our returned service men and women.
- Further develop programs that support older people and young people in our community.

RELATED PLANS

- *Sustainability Framework*
- *Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2018–2021*
- *Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan 2020*
- *Multicultural Action Plan 2018–2022*
- *Municipal Early Years Plan 2018–2022*
- *Asset management plans*
- *Access and Inclusion Plan 2018–22*
- *Social Infrastructure Plan 2014–2031*
- *Social Housing Plan 2020–2041*
- *Ba-gurrk Gender Equity Framework*

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Municipal Measures of Success

- 60 per cent of adults definitely feel multiculturalism makes life better.
- 75 per cent of adults attending a local community event.
- 80 per cent of adults feel that they can get help from family, friends or neighbours when needed.

City of Greater Geelong Measures of Success

- More community facilities with gender-neutral and accessible toilets or change areas.

OUR ACTIONS IN 2020–21

- Implement the *Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan 2020.*
- Develop the *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2021.*
- Implement the second year of the *Multicultural Action Plan 2018–2022.*
- Invest in programs and facilities to support gender equity in sport.
- Develop and launch the *Positive Ageing Strategy.*
- Address social and economic development through the Vital Communities Program which improves social inclusion and workforce participation for local communities.
- Establish new and upgrade existing memorials and recognitions in Anakie and Norlane to honour returned service men and women.
- Continue to implement the *Access and Inclusion Plan 2018–22.*

LINKS TO CLEVER AND CREATIVE VISION:

People feel safe wherever they are

An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community



Housing development across our region

4. PLANNED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We will use sustainable principles to guide development of growth areas and help protect our townships.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Ensure housing supply, diversity and affordability meets the needs of our growing community.
- Facilitate opportunities for infill residential development.
- Continue to develop urban growth areas across the region.
- Manage the impact of development on the character of our townships.
- Improve the environmental performance of new developments using planning controls.
- Preserve nature reserves, rural and coastal environments.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

City of Greater Geelong Measures of Success

- More protected natural habitat that we manage.
- Planned 15 years of residential land supply.
- 40 per cent of new housing construction conducted within existing urban areas.
- 100 per cent of new large, City-owned buildings rated 5-star 'Green Star'.
- 100 per cent of new, small City-owned buildings with built environment sustainability scorecard or equivalent.
- Planning controls in place that require a mandatory sustainable design assessment of all new developments.

OUR ACTIONS IN 2020–21

- Implement the City's *Settlement Strategy,* a plan to meet Geelong's housing needs through to 2036.
- Unlock barriers to investment in key development areas, urban renewal areas and station precincts.
- Prepare, review and update strategic plans for townships, precincts and places.
- Progress the *Municipal Heritage Strategy 2017–2021* in partnership with the Heritage Advisory Committee and related cultural strategies.
- Continue to progress delivery of the Armstrong Creek Urban Growth Area.
- Work with the Victorian Government to conserve the Bellarine Peninsula as a distinctive landscape area.
- Commence a precinct structure plan in each of the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas.
- Work with the Victorian Government to deliver the *Geelong Growth Areas Transport Infrastructure Strategy.*
- Work with the Victorian Government and Barwon Water to deliver the *Integrated Water Management Strategy* for the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas.
- Work with the Australian and Victorian Governments to deliver the *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* for the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas.
- Work with the Victorian Government to deliver an updated planning framework for Central Geelong.
- Review the recommendations of the *Livestock and Information Exchange Feasibility Study* with the Rural and Peri Urban Advisory Committee and provide recommendations to Council.

RELATED PLANS

- *Sustainability Framework*
- *Municipal Strategic Statement*
- *Environment Strategy 2020–25*
- *G21 Regional Growth Plan*
- *Housing Diversity Strategy*
- *Social Housing Plan 2020–2041*
- *Social Infrastructure Plan 2014–2031*
- *Settlement Strategy*
- *Rural Land Use Strategy*
- *Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas Framework Plan*

LINKS TO CLEVER AND CREATIVE VISION:

Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment



Diverting recycling from landfill

5. EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

We will show leadership to address waste, climate change and environmental challenges.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Reduce our carbon footprint through the use of solar initiatives and other renewable energy options.
- Educate and assist our community to act on climate change, by reducing waste, emissions and water usage.
- Use sustainable materials to construct and renew roads, footpaths and street furniture.
- Progressively change standard street lights to LED lights, to help reduce carbon emissions.
- Construct a green organics facility.
- Commence Drysdale landfill rehabilitation.
- Plant more trees to green and cool our urban areas.
- Reduce single-use plastic across the region.
- Manage pests, plants and animals more effectively.
- Deliver biodiversity conservation programs.

RELATED PLANS

- *Sustainability Framework*
- *Environment Strategy 2020–25*
- *Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30*
- *Urban Forest Strategy 2015–25*
- *Climate Change Adaption Strategy*
- *Community Zero Carbon Action Plan*
- *Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy 2017–2020*
- *Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020–2030*

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

City of Greater Geelong Measures of Success

- 60 per cent of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins diverted from landfill.
- Emissions reduced from street lights, buildings and vehicle fleet by 50 per cent, by 2020.
- Increased use of sustainable material in our asset construction and renewal.
- 16 per cent suburban tree canopy.
- More than 1,850 street trees planted per annum.

OUR ACTIONS IN 2020–21

- Enhance our waste management by implementing the *Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020–2030.*
- In partnership with key stakeholders implement the *Victorian Government Recycling Victoria Policy.*
- Introduce the *Wastewise Policy* to reduce waste at City events.
- Continue the hard waste collection services trial.
- Implement the *Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30.*
- Increase the volume of materials processed at the Green Organics Composting Facility.
- Implement the *Environment Strategy 2020–25.*
- Continue to implement the *Urban Forest Strategy 2015–2025.*
- Generate community awareness and support community initiatives that enhance and protect our local environment.

LINKS TO CLEVER AND CREATIVE VISION:

Development and implementation of sustainable solutions

Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment



Supporting arts and culture events across our region

6. VIBRANT ARTS AND CULTURE

We treasure Geelong's culture and heritage and will help our creative community to grow.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Incorporate arts and cultural initiatives into infrastructure development, to enhance our sense of place.
- Recognise and share our heritage through storytelling.
- Recognise and celebrate Geelong's Aboriginal culture and history.
- Work with galleries and museums to improve our public art and heritage offering.
- Attract new and support existing creative industries.
- Deliver UNESCO City of Design creative outcomes.
- Work with the Geelong Regional Library Corporation to deliver efficient and effective services and programs.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Municipal Geelong Measures of Success

- 20 per cent active library members in the municipality.
- Increased employment in creative occupations.

City of Greater Geelong Measures of Success

- Increased number of objects actively cared for within our arts and heritage collections.
- Increased access to cultural collections through online engagement.
- Maintain visitation to our key cultural facilities (National Wool Museum, Potato Shed, Geelong Gallery, Platform Arts – previously Courthouse Youth Arts, Geelong Library & Heritage Centre).

OUR ACTIONS IN 2020–21

- Finalise and implement the *Osborne Park Precinct Master Plan* and business case.
- Adopt and implement the first year of the *Arts and Cultural Strategy.*
- Continue to support the implementation of *Armstrong Creek Public Art Strategy.*
- Identify public art and heritage opportunities across the region, including the new Civic Precinct development.
- Continue to develop the Connecting Memory digital stories app and Arts and Culture Trails app.
- Deliver Indigenous song writing mentorships and support the professional development of First Nations people through the Indigenous Trainee Program.
- Work with Wadawurrung to ensure Aboriginal culture, heritage and stories are presented.
- Deliver the Creative Communities Grants and establish the First Nations Heritage Grants.
- Endorse and implement the recommendations of the *Our Heritage, Our Collections* strategic report.
- Deliver Geelong After Dark 2021.
- Create a future vision plan for the National Wool Museum.

RELATED PLANS

- *Sustainability Framework*
- *Connecting People, Place and Environment – A Public Art Strategy for the City of Greater Geelong*
- *Municipal Heritage Strategy 2017–2021*

LINKS TO CLEVER AND CREATIVE VISION:



Creativity drives culture



A destination that attracts local and international visitors



Advocating for better road connections

7. INTEGRATED TRANSPORT CONNECTIONS

Our focus will be on improving our public and active transport, and better connecting our networks.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Support projects in the *G21 Region Road Transport Plan 2017–2027*.
- Work with VicRoads to deliver the *Transport Network Operating Plan*.
- Improve our road management and engagement program.
- Deliver better-connected walking, cycling and trail paths across our region.
- Advocate to improve rail, road and sea connections for our region.
- Work with government to improve freight connections to the Geelong Port.
- Support further international flights at Avalon.
- Support the redevelopment of the rail station precinct, including a modern bus terminal.
- Deliver the *Better Bike Connections* project.

RELATED PLANS

- *Sustainability Framework*
- *Integrated Comprehensive Transport Plan*
- *Principal Bicycle Network*
- *G21 Region Road Transport Plan 2017–2027*
- *Geelong Road Safety Strategy 2012–17*
- *Greater Geelong Cycling Strategy*
- *Municipal Road Management Plan*

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

City of Greater Geelong Measures of Success

- Increased kilometres of bicycle, walking paths and shared paths.
- Score of 60 for community satisfaction rating with sealed local roads.
- Renewal gap for road management reduced.

OUR ACTIONS IN 2020–21

- Continue to seek input from the community on the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure.
- Implement planned council program of infrastructure upgrades including streets, roads and drains.
- Deliver actions in the *Shared Trails Masterplan.*
- Deliver the southern section of the *Better Bike Connections* program from Central Geelong to Highton.
- Upgrade and deliver new footpaths and cycling paths and focus on linkages between paths.
- Advocate on behalf of our residents to have access to safe, reliable and consistent transport including rail.

LINKS TO CLEVER AND CREATIVE VISION:



A fast, reliable and connected transport network



Revitalising the Central Geelong laneways

8. A THRIVING AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

We will capitalise on Geelong's incredible economic opportunities.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Continue to work with government to deliver projects that revitalise Central Geelong.
- Work with government to deliver City Deal projects.
- Use Geelong's UNESCO City of Design designation to secure economic development projects.
- Attract new investments to the region.
- Help to renew industrial precincts.
- Execute strategies for economic growth in the region's north.
- Support and promote across the region, local businesses, markets and products.

RELATED PLANS

- *Sustainability Framework*
- *Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan*
- *Sustainable Agribusiness Strategy for the G21 Region 2017–2022*
- *Retail Strategy 2016–36*
- *Cleantech Innovation Geelong Business Plan*
- *Geelong City Deal Implementation Plan*

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Municipal Measures of Success

- More businesses within the municipality.

City of Greater Geelong Measures of Success

- 15 years of industrial land supply planned.

OUR ACTIONS IN 2020–21

- Work with the Victorian Government to deliver the *Central Geelong Planning Framework* Review.
- Plan and prepare for the delivery of Revitalising Central Geelong projects funded through the Geelong City Deal.
- Develop and implement the *UNESCO Framework Plan* and continue to promote and deliver projects in support of the design designation.
- Coordinate the Geelong Defence Alliance to support Hanwha's Land400 Phase 3 bid to create an elite defence production facility in Geelong.
- Continue shopping centre streetscape renewal projects.
- Create opportunities to increase the number of start-up and entrepreneurial businesses in the region.
- Continue to deliver the Regional Industry Sector Employment program.
- Deliver the Small Business Festival to support existing and generate new small business owners.
- Support the recovery of businesses in the region following COVID-19 through the delivery of Geelong's Business Support Package.
- Deliver the *Cleantech Innovation Geelong Business Plan* to encourage and enable sustainable practice in local business and use of clean technologies.

LINKS TO CLEVER AND CREATIVE VISION:

A destination that attracts local and international visitors

A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities



On the river at Barwon Heads

9. GROWING OUR TOURISM AND EVENTS

Our tourism and events offering is strong, but we aim to grow it further.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Work with government to deliver City Deal tourism infrastructure projects, including the Convention and Exhibition Centre.
- Deliver the *Visitor Economy Strategy 2017–21* and the *Tourism Development Plan.*
- Build on the current events program and increasing cross-promotional opportunities.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Municipal Measures of Success

- 2.1 per cent annual increase in visitors.
- 3.8 per cent annual increase in expenditure by visitors.
- 4.9 per cent annual increase in international overnight visitors.
- 1.9 per cent annual increase in domestic overnight visitors.
- 1.6 per cent annual increase in tourism employment.

City of Greater Geelong Measures of Success

- 30:1 return on investment of Geelong major events to the municipality.

OUR ACTIONS IN 2020–21

- Work with Government to deliver City Deal tourism infrastructure projects.
- Support the Study Geelong initiative to attract international students to the region.
- Support Parks Victoria in the development of the *You Yangs and Serendip Sanctuary Master Plan.*
- Support and secure business events to the region via the activities of Business Events Geelong.
- Build the brand of Geelong and The Bellarine as a visitor destination to increase awareness, foster positive sentiment and grow visitor demand.
- Help the region reach its potential through the delivery of critical infrastructure through advocacy for tourism priority projects as outlined in the *Tourism Development Plan.*
- Attract and procure major events to the region.

RELATED PLANS

- *Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine – Visitor Economy Strategy 2017–21*
- *Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine – Tourism Development Plan*
- *Geelong Major Events Strategy 2016–26*
- *Sustainability Framework*
- *Geelong City Deal Implementation Plan*

LINKS TO CLEVER AND CREATIVE VISION:

A destination that attracts local and international visitors

A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities



Technology in our libraries

10. INNOVATIVE FINANCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Clever and sustainable financial management, matched with digital growth, will advance our future.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Deliver smart technology solutions to areas such as street lighting, parking, waste management and children's services.
- Develop digital tools and technologies to improve service delivery and our customer experience.
- Increase free Wi-Fi in public spaces and community facilities.
- Deliver Smart Cities infrastructure using electronic data collection to better manage assets and resources.
- Attract more technology-focused businesses to our region.
- Examine our budget to fund future initiatives.
- Establish sustainable financial and infrastructure management systems for our future.

RELATED PLANS

- *Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategy*
- *Digital Geelong Strategy*
- *Social Infrastructure Plan 2014–2031*
- *Sustainability Framework*
- *Asset Management Strategy*

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

City of Greater Geelong Measures of Success

- Better Wi-Fi access in community facilities and public spaces.
- More online transactions with our customers.
- Less than 5 per cent budget variation (actual to budget).
- Increased revenue streams.

OUR ACTIONS IN 2020–21

- Implement the first year of the LED Street Light and Smart Remote Controller Program.
- Implement an online booking and ticketing system for the City's facilities and assets.
- Implement the City's Digital Modernisation program to improve digital capability across the business to enrich the experience of our customers and employees.
- Continue the Asset Management Transformation program, including delivery of the *Asset Management Strategy.*
- Develop a strategic plan for the Smart City program, which uses technology and data to improve the lives of people in the community.
- Provide new Wi-Fi points at various locations across the municipality.
- Install enhanced broadband for Bellarine community facilities and schools in partnership with Deakin University and AARNet.
- Continue to review our internal processes and services to find and implement efficiencies.
- Implement the City's new risk management and reporting software solution.

LINKS TO CLEVER AND CREATIVE VISION:

A leader in developing and adopting technology

A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities



Leading collaborative projects

11. ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP, STRATEGY AND GOVERNANCE

We will be the 'leading voice' of the community by delivering confident governance and strategic planning.

KEY PRIORITIES

- Proactively manage our assets, including land holdings.
- Consolidate the City of Greater Geelong offices.
- Communicate and engage more effectively with the community, in areas of need.
- Continue to transform our workplace culture.
- Use data and analytics to make better decisions.
- Make our processes more effective and efficient.
- Increase state and federal funding for the region.
- Develop, promote and improve the City's brand.
- Lead major local organisations in collaborative projects.
- Use better communication to strengthen our strategic priorities.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

City of Greater Geelong Measures of Success

- Score of greater than 70 for community satisfaction with overall council performance.
- Score of greater than 80 for community satisfaction with customer service.
- Score of greater than 60 for community satisfaction in decision-making.
- Score of greater than 60 for community satisfaction with community consultation (engagement).
- Score of greater than 70 for community satisfaction with overall council direction.
- Lost time injury frequency rate decreased.
- 70 per cent result for employee engagement.
- 80 per cent of employees agree they are satisfied with working for us.
- Positive media coverage increased.

OUR ACTIONS IN 2020–21

- Embed the Sustainability Framework within organisational process, including use of Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards as the City's sustainability reporting framework.
- Commence construction and build of the new Civic Precinct.
- Establish an Enterprise Project Management Office to support consistent and strategically planned project delivery across the organisation.
- Support the voice of the youth in the community by promoting and supporting the 2020 Junior Youth Council.
- Deliver the second year of the City's Service Planning Program and implement our Service Review Framework to ensure we are servicing and meeting existing and emerging needs of our community.
- Build the advocacy function to support the City to utilise and attract state and federal funding for the region.
- Set a baseline with brand awareness research.
- Develop a Sales and Acquisitions Strategy.
- Engage the community to attract a diverse and representative field of candidates for the 2020 Council General Election and meet the State Government's gender equity target.
- Mobilise the City's resources to enable delivery of organisational and community recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Deliver the Clever Together Project change program to ready our workforce for working in new ways.
- Deliver the Working Better Together program to achieve a positive workplace culture.
- Deliver organisational changes in line with the new *Local Government Act 2020.*

RELATED PLANS

- *Strategic Planning Framework*
- *Sustainability Framework*
- *Sales and Acquisitions Strategy*

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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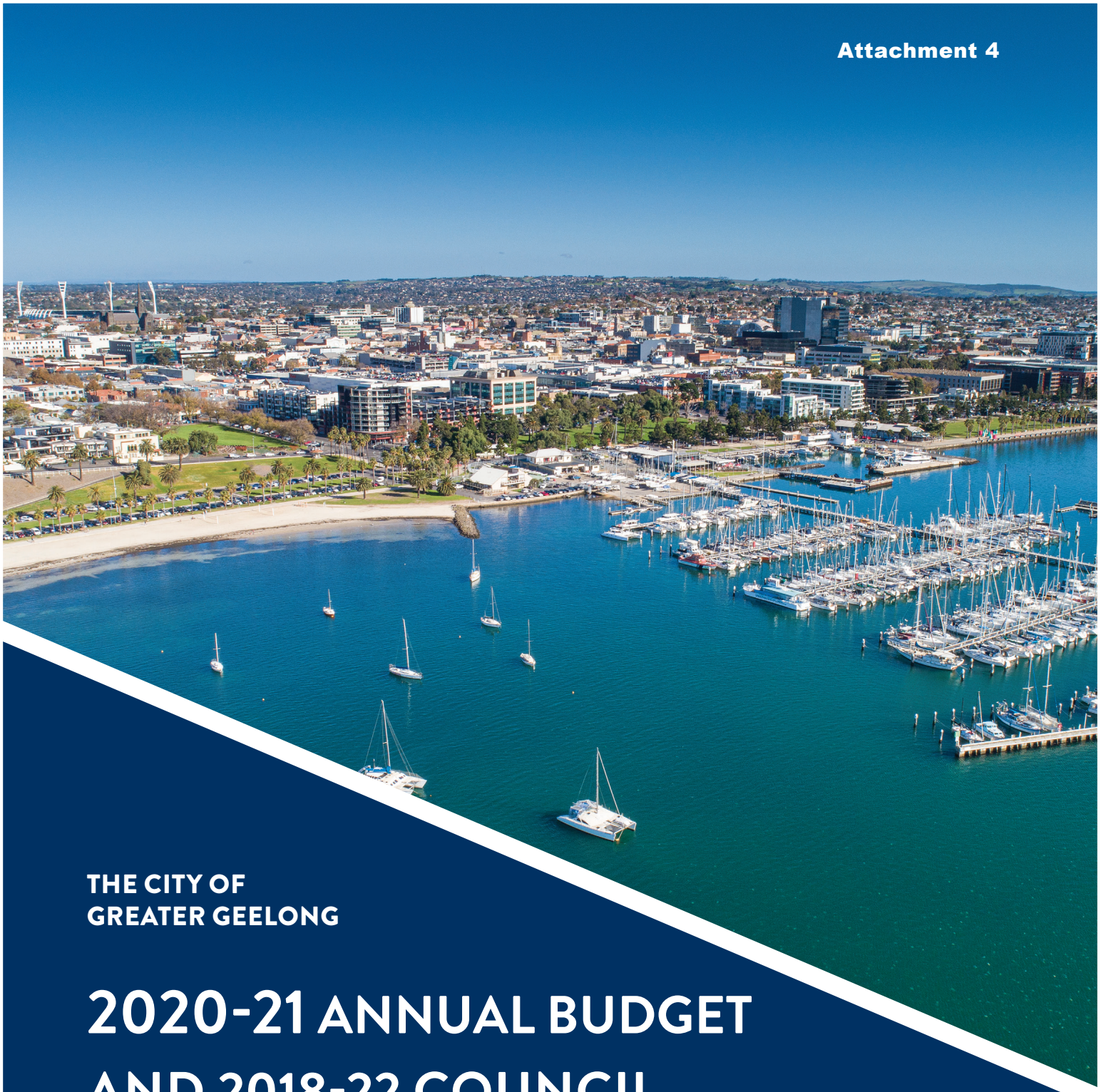
The *Council Plan 2018–22* is supported by the *Strategic Resource Plan 2018–22*.

The *Annual Action Plan and Budget* outlines the major initiatives to be funded each year in order to deliver the plan.

For a copy of the current documents go to **www.geelongaustralia.com.au** or call 5272 5272.

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

Attachment 4



THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

2020-21 ANNUAL BUDGET AND 2018-22 COUNCIL PLAN UPDATE

ADOPTED 30 JUNE 2020

CITY OF GREATER
GEELONG

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Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is for general guidance only. It is not professional advice and should not be used, relied upon or treated as a substitute for specific professional advice. Given the changing nature of laws, rules and regulations, and the inherent hazards of electronic communication, there may be delays, omissions or inaccuracies in information contained in this document.

The model budget, including financial statements, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this document has been accurate and complies with relevant Victorian legislation, each Council remains responsible to ensure that the budget they prepare is compliant with all statutory requirements.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR AND CEO

The 2020-21 financial year will be extremely challenging, given the financial devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for the City of Greater Geelong to support the community's recovery while continuing to deliver essential services.

Although we had the option to delay the release of this 2020-21 budget, we have decided to continue with our original schedule. The aim is to provide some certainty in a difficult time about our plans to invest in new and existing projects that will benefit the community and help kick-start our local economy.

The Council's clear focus in the lead-up to the Budget's release has been on supporting our community through the pandemic. In partnership with the State and Federal Government's and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the health and safety of residents has been our top priority.

We have also sought to provide immediate relief to those suffering financially as a result of the restrictions, to date releasing $5.5 million in targeted support measures for local businesses, community groups and individuals.

Further support packages will come, with our attention to turn towards initiatives that will aid the region's recovery in the medium and long term.

These measures, along with the impacts to our services such as the closure of facilities, will have serious flow-on effects for our bottom line in both the current and 2020-21 financial years.

While we set out at the beginning of this process aiming to deliver a breakeven 2020-21 budget, our April proposed budget forecast a $8m deficit. We are now forecasting a deficit of $19.4 million, adjusted to reflect the early receipt of half of the 2020-21 Commonwealth Government's Financial Assistance Grant ($11.9m), which was brought forward to May 2020. This is the right approach given the circumstances, as it will help cushion some of the impact on the broader community. Significantly, both the State and Federal Government's have indicated they'll be taking the same course.

Rates and charges make up just over two thirds of our $375 million revenue budget and are vital in allowing us to provide the services and facilities that our community relies on. In 2020-21, rates will rise by 1.9 per cent which is within the 2 per cent cap set by the Victorian Government. However, we have removed the municipal charge altogether, which will directly benefit ratepayers with lower property values.

Importantly, our new COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy will offer relief from rates and charges for those doing it tough as a result of the crisis. We strongly encourage anyone needing help to email hardship@geelongcity.vic.gov.au or call 5272 5272.

The budget process has been much improved this year with strong and positive collaboration between councillors and staff. We believe it's a responsible budget that balances the need to support Greater Geelong through the COVID-19 pandemic, while forging ahead with projects that will aid our community's medium and long term recovery, and keep us on the path towards achieving our 30-year clever and creative vision.

CR STEPHANIE ASHER
Mayor

MARTIN CUTTER
Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Greater Geelong's 2020-21 Budget is being delivered in an unprecedented environment of restrictions and financial devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council will continue to closely monitor and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and work together with other levels of Government, in particular DHHS, as they work to ensure the health and safety of all Victorians.

Council has committed to two community support packages to an initial value of ($5.5m) which will be included in the current 2019-20 forecast result and will flow into the proposed 2020-21 Budget.

Considering the forgone revenue, community support packages and other associated costs, the total impact of COVID-19 is ($15.3m), with ($8.7m) embedded into the 2019-20 forecast and a further ($6.6m) in the 2020-21 Budget. Council will continue to identify where we can best target support to the community as we start the recovery out of the pandemic.

Alongside the challenges presented by the pandemic, Greater Geelong remains in a period of tremendous growth, with high demand for services and infrastructure. Council will continue to play a key role in leading and supporting the community through the challenges that will arise.

The combined impact of population growth, diversified industries, the world recycling crisis, balancing the need for new infrastructure while maintaining existing infrastructure and delivering our services, will remain key priorities for Council. These priorities reinforce the need for the City to sustainably manage its finances.

Key outcomes from this budget include:

- A strategic and community-led approach to prioritisation and development of community infrastructure, that aids stimulus in the region.
- A focus on asset renewal investment and key heritage assets, with additional renewal investment targeted from 2021-22 in the Strategic Resource Plan.
- Continued investment in the development and revitalisation of Central Geelong, including support for the City Deal.
- Responding to growth and future planning, and balancing these with the immediate priorities in the community.
- An investment in business productivity improvement, including the City's Civic Precinct and Digital Strategy.

The 2020-21 Budget has been developed with five key fiscal objectives:

1. Council has maintained operating surpluses in the past and is committed to maintaining an operating surplus in future years in order to contribute internal funding for the capital works program. However, 2020-21 will be an exception, with a proposed deficit of $8.0m, given the need to fund the ongoing support packages for the COVID-19 response and recovery that will be required.
2. Maintain core infrastructure renewal expenditure, while increasing expenditure on new community infrastructure.
3. Maintain net financial liabilities at a sustainable level.
4. Maintain funding of service delivery consistent with community expectations.
5. Investment in sustainable initiatives that improve our environment and reduce our costs to service the community's needs.

The 2020-21 Budget includes $325.9m in underlying operating expenses, which fund ongoing services and initiatives, and a capital program of $160.1m which delivers services and infrastructure across the municipality. The capital program includes $155.4m of new projects, $22.6m of projects brought forward from 2019-20 and $18.0m of projects that will be carried over into 2021-22.

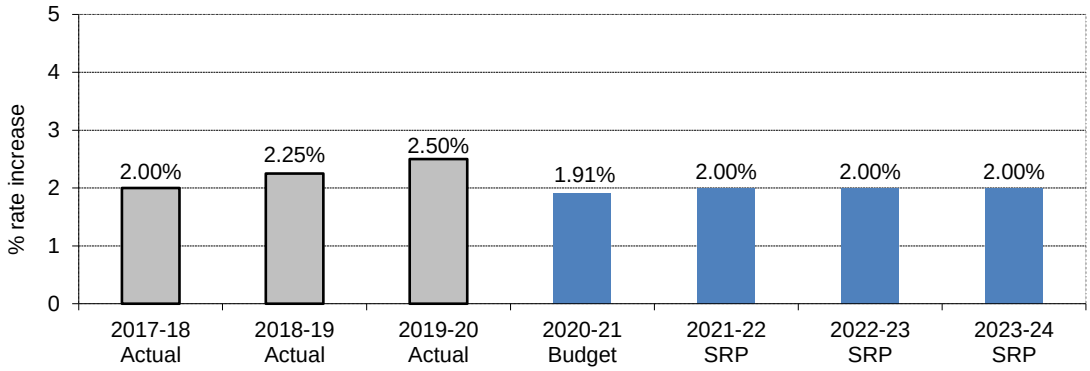
To fund the capital program, which includes infrastructure and new community facilities, the City plans to borrow $66.9m in 2020-21 (including $7.3m deferred borrowings from prior years). The projected total amount of borrowings as at 30 June 2021 is $138.6m.

The Victorian Government has specified a rate cap of 2 per cent for 2020-21. The cap applies to the average annual increase of rates and the municipal charge. Council has endorsed a rating strategy that complies with the cap and will not apply to the Essential Services Commission for an exemption.

The City is proposing to remove the municipal charge that is currently applied to all properties and absorb this into general rates in the 2020-21 Budget. This means that those ratepayers that have lower value properties will receive a benefit and higher value properties will absorb more of the cost.

This year Victorian Councils have been impacted by the recycling crisis and subsequent increased contract costs, which has impacted waste costs in 2019-20 and will again in 2020-21. Coupled with an increase in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) levy, this has seen the waste charge rise 8.7 per cent, from $332.00 to $360.95.

1(a). Rate Increases



Rate revenue in 2020-21 is 68% of total revenue. The movement in average rates can not exceed the rate cap as set by the Minister, noting the waste collection service charge is excluded from the rate cap.

The Essential Services Commission measure rate increases as the movement in rates and the municipal charge for all rateable properties. The 2019-20 average rate was calculated as $1,589.27 and the 2020-21 Budget proposes this will increase by 1.9% to $1,619.39.

Future year rate increases are assumed unchanged at 2.0% in the absence of any forward planning guidance from the Minister for Local Government. This assumption will be subject to future announcements on an annual basis.

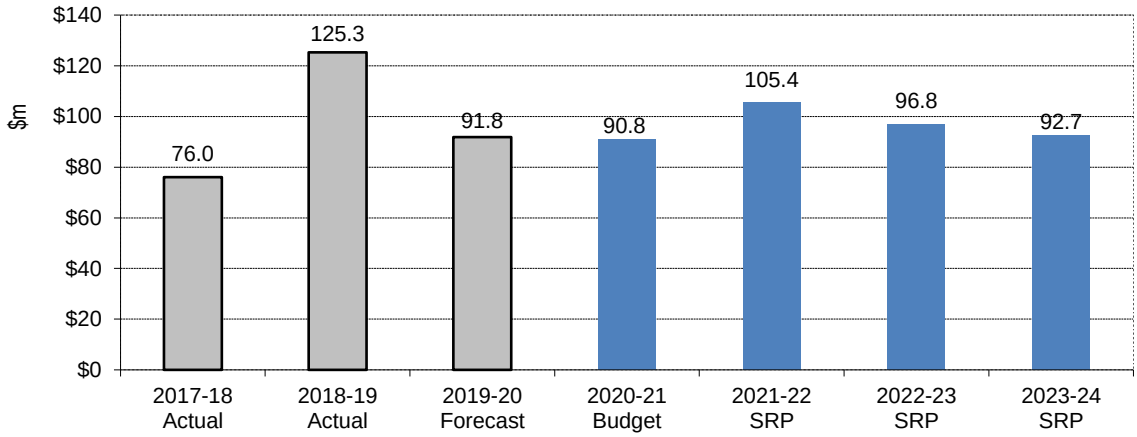
1(b). Average Residential Rates

Residential Movement	2019-20 Budget Rates on Avg. CIV $	2020-21 Budget Rates on Avg. CIV $
Residential Capital Improved Value	545,876	550,085
Rates (CIV x Rate in $)	1,180.10	1,310.27
Municipal Charge	105.25	-
Total Rates (Include. Municipal Charge)	**1,285.35**	**1,310.27**
Waste Collection Service	332.00	360.95

The average movement in rates and municipal charge totals $24.92 or a 1.9% increase for the 2020-21 year. The municipal charge has been discontinued from 2020-21, providing a benefit to a large number of our rate payers. The separate waste collection service charge is increasing $28.95 which includes the impact of higher waste collection and recycling processing costs together with an EPA levy increase. The Landfill EPA levy is expected to increase to $85.90/tonne, from 1 January 2021.

The 2020-21 rate notices will incorporate the 2020 valuations, where the average residential valuation increase was 0.8% with the rate in the dollar adjusted accordingly. However where the residential property valuation has increased by greater than the average, then the increase in rates may be greater than the $24.92 applicable to the average property. The rates and charges for individual residential properties may increase or decrease by different percentage amounts dependent on whether the valuation of the property may be higher or lower relative to the average valuation of other residential properties in the municipal district. In addition the City exercises discretion in the setting of differential rates to increase one differential higher than the rate cap relative to others as part of responding to relative valuation movements or as part of implementing the rating strategy.

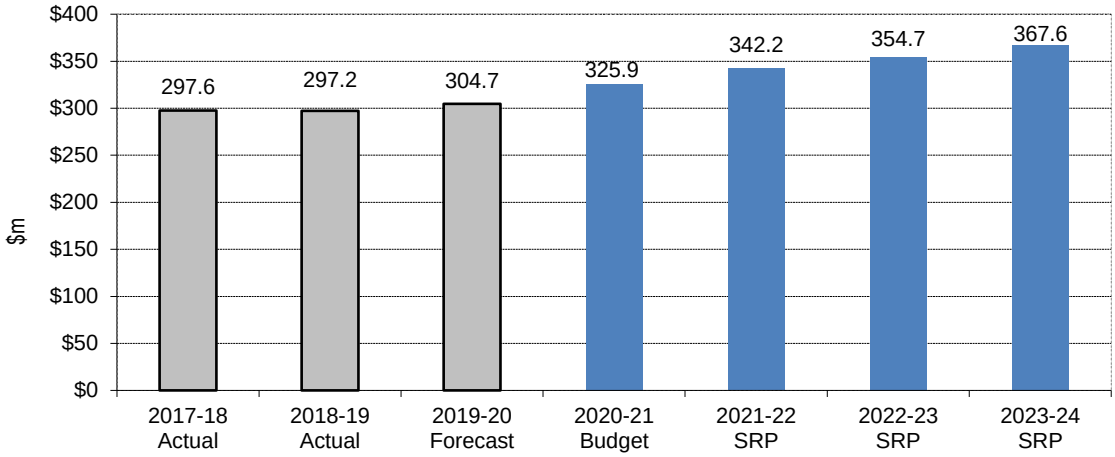
2. Total Comprehensive Result



The comprehensive result for the 2019-20 year is a surplus of $91.8m, which is a decrease of ($33.5m) compared to the 2018-19 result. The movement is primarily due to non-monetary contributions ($20.6m), grants ($5.2m), user fees ($15.1m), employee costs ($6.5m) and other costs ($4.0m), offset by increased rates & charges $18.0m. The 2019-20 operating forecast has also been impacted by COVID-19, through revenue losses from closed services and support packages ($8.7m).

The 2020-21 result is a surplus of $90.8m, a decrease of ($1.0m) compared to the 2019-20 forecast result. This is mostly due to higher rates and charges $11.4m, contributions $9.1m, gain on sale of infrastructure $8.2m and user fees and fines $8.1m, offset by reduced grant income ($15.7m), increased employee costs ($12.0m), materials and services ($4.3m), depreciation and amortisation ($1.0m), and interest and other costs ($4.8m). The 2020-21 result contains a deficit of ($6.6m) to cover revenue losses and costs associated with the continuation of closure of services, lower utilisation of services and agreed community support packages, arising from COVID-19.

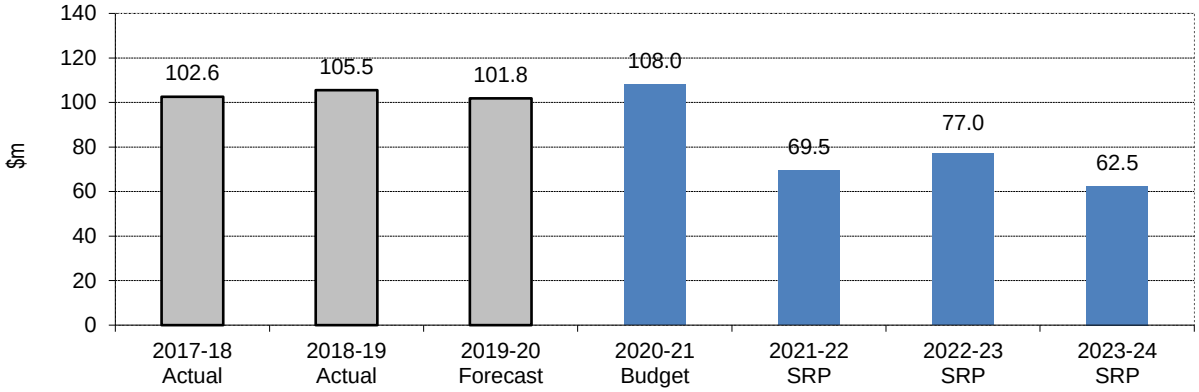
3. Services



*Total Service Cost (recurrent expenditure less depreciation and amortisation).

The cost of services delivered to the community for the 2020-21 year is expected to be $325.9m which is an increase of $21.2m over the 2019-20 forecast. A key influencing factor in the development of the 2020-21 budget has been the maintenance of existing service funding levels and the inclusion of mandatory and other community funding increases, as well as providing for the estimated impacts to services and community support as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

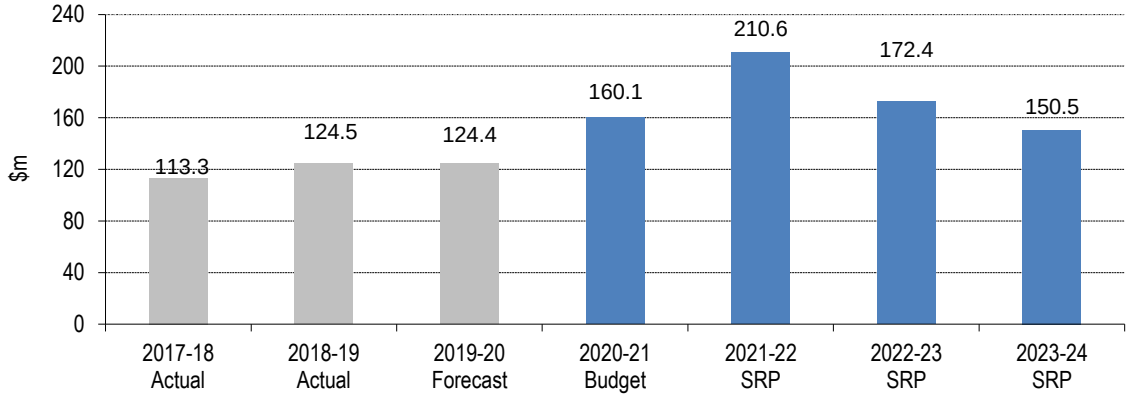
4. Cash and Investments



Cash on hand at June 2021 of $108.0m is an increase of $6.1m compared to the expected June 2020 balance. This is largely driven by an increase in borrowings less a decrease in the overall result.

Total borrowings for 2020-21 are expected to be $66.9m, which will result in a closing loan balance of $138.6m. These new borrowings will fund community services infrastructure, Armstrong Creek developer contribution projects, the civic accommodation building, LED streetlighting and the purchase and development of land at New Station Estate. The proposed June 2021 cash balance is adequate to meet our short term obligations.

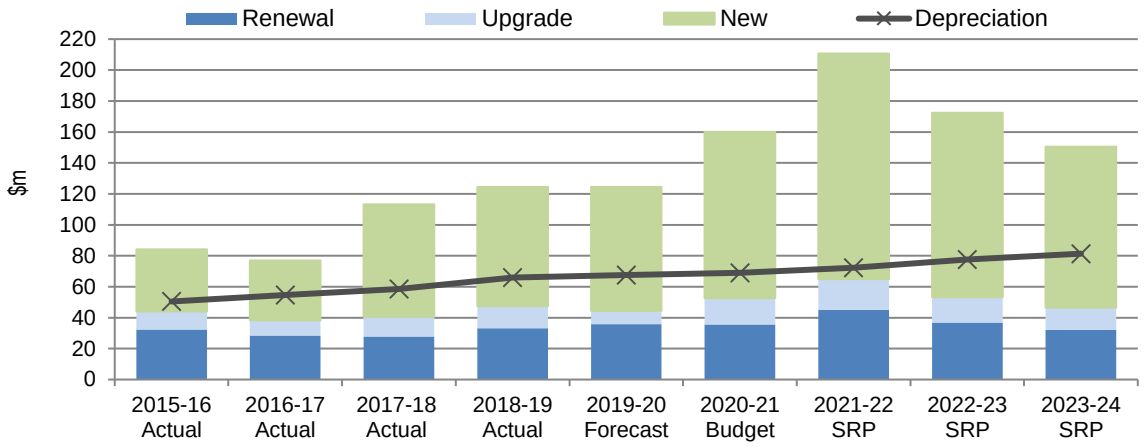
5. Capital Works



The City will be delivering the largest capital program in it's history over the next two financial years, which will help stimulate the regions recovery from the pandemic crisis.

Expenditure for the 2020-21 year is proposed at $160.1m including carryover from 2019-20 forecast at $22.6m, less carryover into 2021-22 forecast at $18.0m. Excluding carryover the capital expenditure program will deliver $155.4m in key funding for core programs, ageing infrastructure, a range of recreation and leisure projects, community facilities and completion of 2019-20 projects. New project expenditure by major asset categories includes $56.2m on buildings, $41.5m on roads, footpaths, kerb and channel, and drains, $20.8m on parks and leisure, $14.5m on plant and equipment, $9.1m on land, $4.9m on streetscapes, $2.3m on community facilities and $6.1m on other, less ($18.0m) to carryover into 2020-21.
The capital works program is summarised by project category and by classification as renewal, upgrade or new projects.

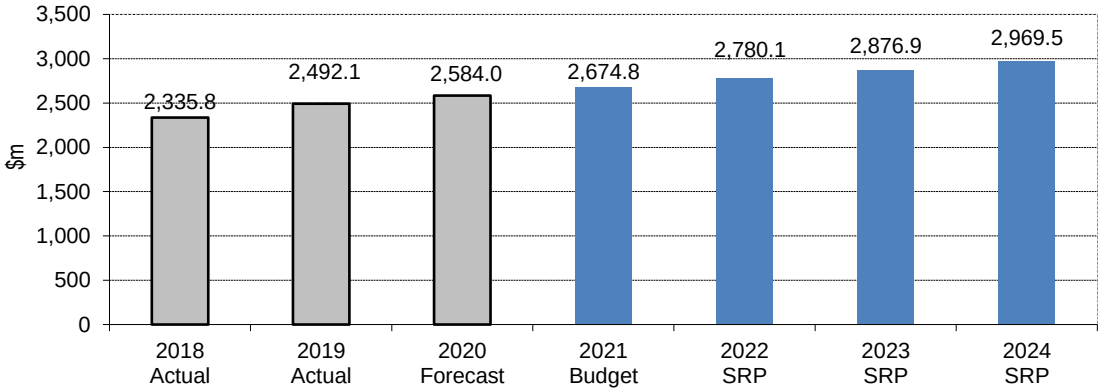
The graph below highlights the ratio of renewal and upgrade expenditure to depreciation.



The percentage of renewal / upgrade capital expenditure is a long term indicator. The trend indicates that the City is allocating further resources to renewal / upgrade capital expenditure during the SRP period.

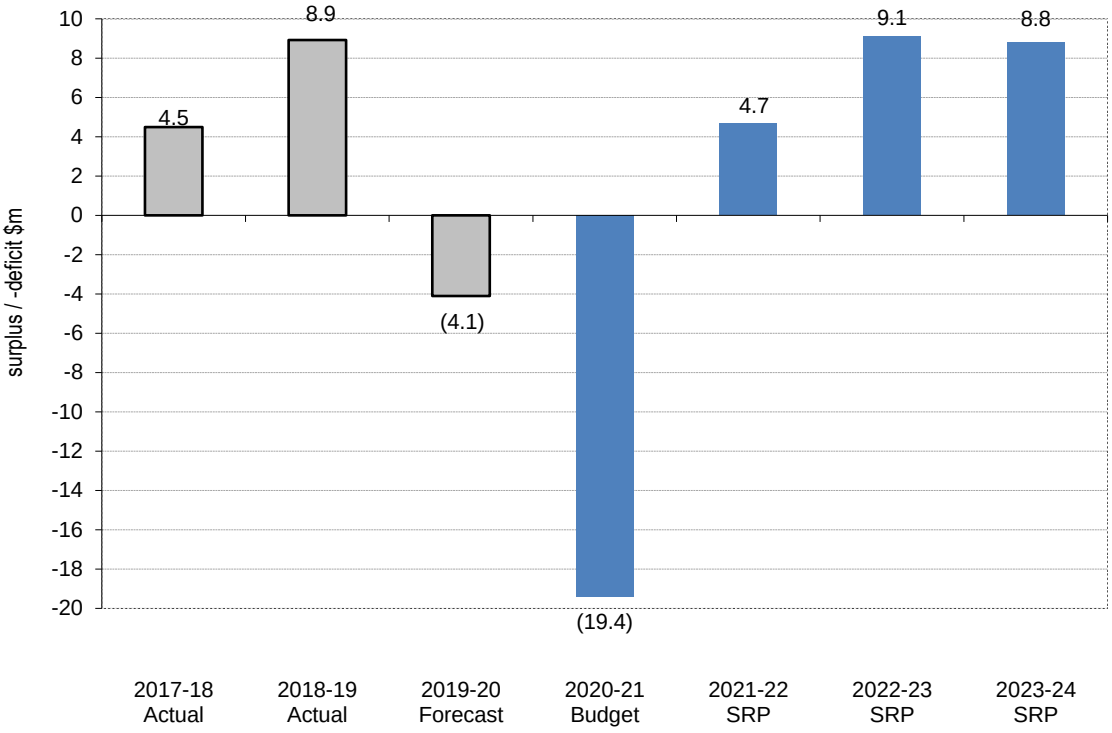
A key driver of the investment in new infrastructure is growth across the municipality and the civic accommodation building, that will be constructed across the 2020-21 and 2021-22 years.

6. Financial Position



Net assets (net worth) will increase by $90.8m to $2,674.8m with property plant and equipment increasing by $144.6m, net current assets increasing by $0.5m and loan borrowings net of repayments increasing by $56.3m.

7. Underlying Result

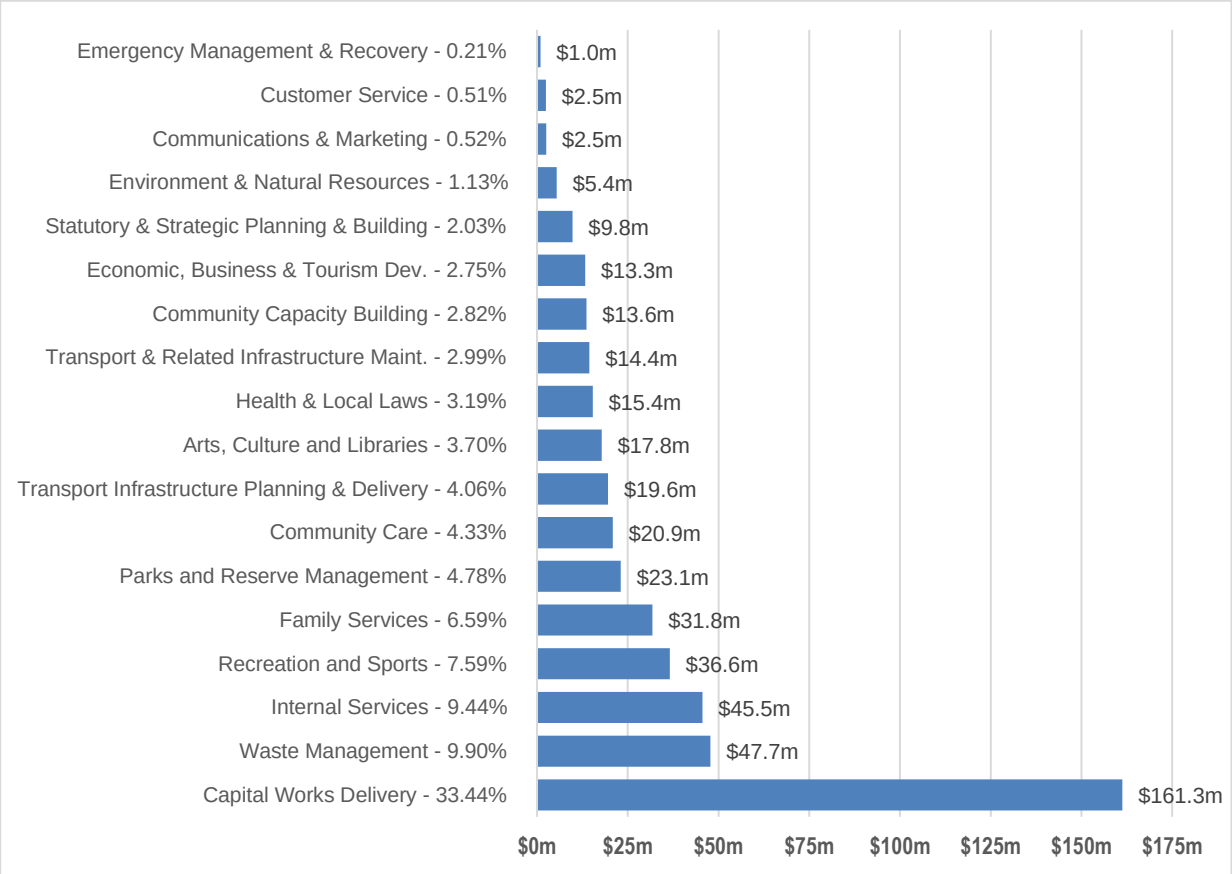


A high level Strategic Resource Plan (SRP) for the years 2020-21 to 2023-24 has been developed to assist Council in adopting a budget within a longer term financial framework. The key objective of the plan is financial sustainability in the medium to long term, whilst still achieving the City's strategic objectives as specified in the Council Plan. While the City set out to deliver a breakeven 2020-21 budget, it is now forecasting a deficit of $19.0m, although $11.9m of this relates to the early receipt of Financial Assistance Grant received in May 2020. The remaining deficit is a result of supporting the community through COVID19 and from impacts due to forced closures of services. The operating result has been impacted by ($15.3m) over the 2019-20 ($8.7m) and 2020-21 ($6.6m) financial years. This is a short term result with the City returning to a surplus post 2020-21. The City also plans to undertake a review of services that are provided to the community, with the aim of reviewing the level of ratepayer subsidy for services.

8. Strategic Objectives

The annual budget includes a range of activities and initiatives aimed at achieving the strategic objectives specified in the Council Plan. The annual budget converts the activities and initiatives identified into financial terms to ensure there are sufficient resources for their achievement. The City's detailed financial commitments to achieving the plan.

9. Where rates are spent



The above chart provides an indication of how the City allocates $482.2m expenditure (total expenses $395.3m less non cash items $73.1m plus capital works delivery $160.1m) across the main services that it delivers. It shows gross expenditure allocated to each service area.

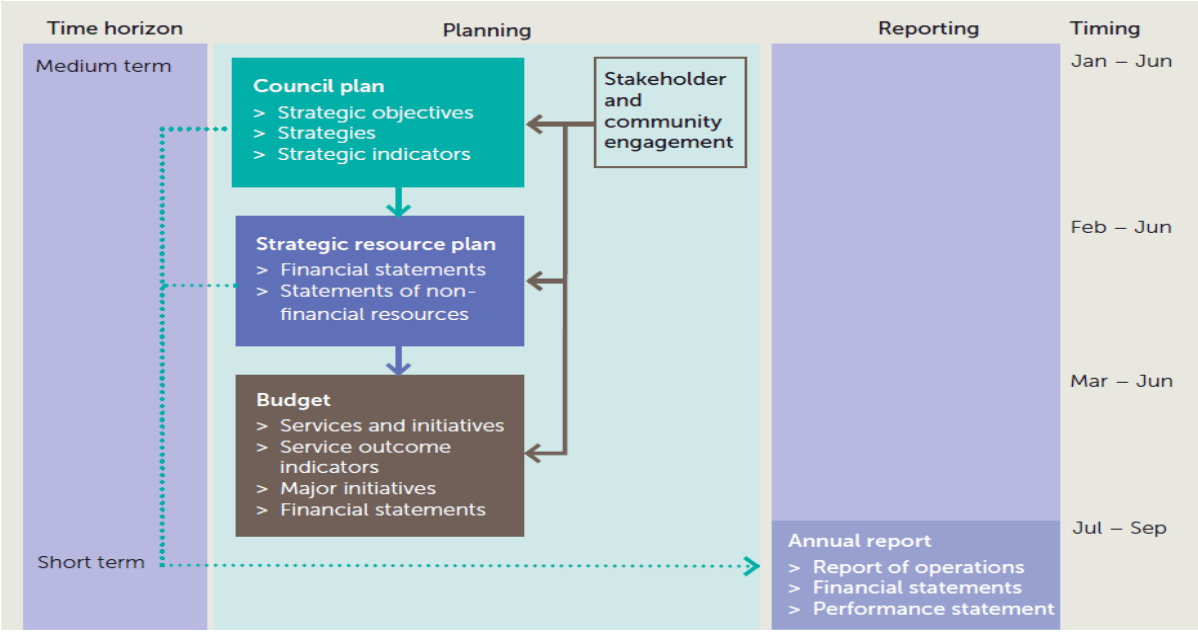
1. Link to the Council Plan

Annual Plan

This section describes how the Annual Budget links to the achievement of the Council Plan within an overall planning and reporting framework. This framework guides the Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term, medium term (Council Plan) and short term (Annual Budget) and then holding itself accountable (Annual Report).

1.1 Legislative Planning and accountability framework

The Strategic Resource Plan, part of and prepared in conjunction with the Council Plan, is a rolling four-year plan that outlines the financial and non-financial resources that Council requires to achieve the strategic objectives described in the Council Plan. The Annual Budget is framed within the Strategic Resource Plan, considering the services and initiatives which contribute to achieving the strategic objectives specified in the Council Plan. The diagram below depicts the planning and accountability framework that applies to local government in Victoria.



Source: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

In addition to the above, the City of Greater Geelong has a 30 year community vision, Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future, purpose and values. The Council Plan is aligned to the 30-year community vision.

The timing of each component of the planning framework is critical to the successful achievement of the planned outcomes.

1.1.2 Key planning considerations

Service level planning

Although councils have a legal obligation to provide some services— such as animal management, local roads, food safety and statutory planning— most council services are not legally mandated, including some services closely associated with councils, such as libraries, building permits and sporting facilities. Further, over time, the needs and expectations of communities can change. Therefore councils need to have robust processes for service planning and review to ensure all services continue to provide value for money and are in line with community expectations. In doing so, councils should engage with communities to determine how to prioritise resources and balance service provision against other responsibilities such as asset maintenance and capital works.

1.2 Our community vision, our purpose and values

Our long-term community vision - *Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future*

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.

This vision was developed from the voices of over 16,000 people in 2017. This vision identifies and articulates the community's aspirations and outcomes of a successful region.

Our purpose

Working together for a thriving community

Our values

Respect and encourage each other
Create a healthy and safe environment for all
Embrace new ideas and better ways to work
Make people the centre of our business

1.3 Strategic objectives

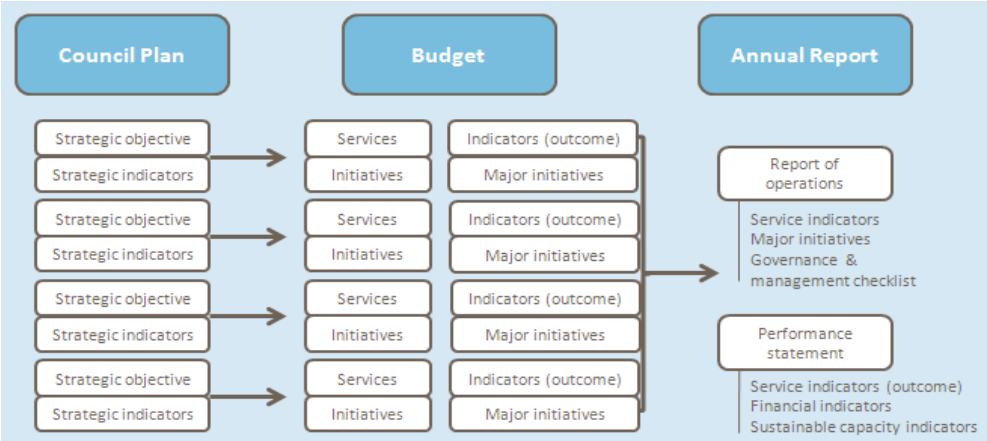
Council Plan 2018–22 – Putting Our Community First, outlines how we will work towards making Greater Geelong a clever and creative city-region. It will guide the City of Greater Geelong's resources to deliver infrastructure, services and programs to the community in a sustainable way.

The 11 strategic priorities we will focus on for the four years are:

Strategic Objective	Description
1 Improved health and safety of our community	The health and safety of our community is vital. We will address family violence, homelessness, food shortages and public safety.
2 Informed social infrastructure and planning	We will strive for social equity in the infrastructure and services we deliver for our community.
3 A more inclusive and diverse community	We want to recognise all members of the Geelong community and not leave anyone behind.
4 Planned sustainable development	We will use sustainable principles to guide development of growth areas and help protect our townships.
5 Effective environmental management	We will show leadership to address waste, climate change and environmental challenges.
6 Vibrant arts and culture	We treasure Geelong's culture and heritage and will help our creative community to grow.
7 Integrated transport connections	Our focus will be on improving our public and active transport, and better connecting our networks.
8 A thriving and sustainable economy	We will capitalise on Geelong's incredible economic opportunities.
9 Growing our tourism and events	Our tourism and events offering is strong, but we aim to grow it further.
10 Innovative finances and technology	Clever and sustainable financial management, matched with digital growth, will advance our future.
11 Organisational leadership, strategy and governance	We will be the 'leading voice' of the community by delivering confident governance and strategic planning.

2. Services and service performance indicators

This section provides a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the Budget for the 2020-21 year and how these will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives outlined in the Council Plan. It also describes several initiatives and service performance outcome indicators for key areas of Council's operations. Council is required by legislation to identify major initiatives, initiatives and service performance outcome indicators in the Budget and report against them in their Annual Report to support transparency and accountability. The relationship between these accountability requirements in the Council Plan, the Budget and the Annual Report are grouped into macro areas as shown below.



Source: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Service Group
External Services
Arts and Culture
Capital Projects
Central Geelong and Waterfront
City Development
City Works / Fleet
Communications and Marketing
Community Care
Connected Communities
Customer Service
Economic Development
Emergency Management and Fire Management
Engineering Services
Environmental Services
Events Services
Family Services
Health and Local Laws
Healthy Communities
Leisure and Recreation Services
Parks and Gardens
Planning, Strategy and Urban Growth
Smart City Office
Social Planning and Investment
Tourism
Waste Services
Internal Services
Business Improvement
Digital Information and Technology
Document Management Services
Financial Services
Governance and Legal Services
People and Culture
Program Integration and Development
Property and Procurement
Strategy, Engagement and Performance

2.1 Strategic Priority 1

Improved health and safety of our community

The health and safety of our community is vital. We will address family violence, homelessness, food shortages and public safety.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2020-21 Budget $'000
Capital Program	Initiatives	*Exp*	1,145
		Rev	30
		NET	1,115
Non Capital Program	Initiatives	*Exp*	512
		Rev	-
		NET	512

Major Initiatives

1) Support the establishment of an expanded Food Distribution Centre in the Geelong Region.

Other Initiatives

2) Healthy and Connected Communities Grant Program.
3) Support Vulnerable People Partnerships.
4) Hoffman Walk Lara Botanical Gardens - safety related maintenance to public open space.
5) Waterworld Canopy Replacement.
6) Eastern Beach Sea Baths Shark Bars.
7) Concourse Renewal and Safety at the leisure and aquatic centres.

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Aquatic Facilities	Utilisation	Utilisation of aquatic facilities. (Number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of municipal population)	Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population
Animal Management	Health and safety	Animal management prosecutions. (Number of successful animal management prosecutions)	Number of successful animal management prosecutions
Food Safety	Health and safety	Critical and major non-compliance notifications. (Percentage of critical and major non-compliance notifications that are followed up by Council)	[Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about food premises] x100
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)	Participation	Participation in the MCH service. (Percentage of children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100
		Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children. (Percentage of Aboriginal children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100

2.2 Strategic Priority 2

Informed social infrastructure and planning

We will strive for social equity in the infrastructure and services we deliver for our community.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2020-21 Budget $'000
Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	19,068
		Rev	5,687
		NET	13,381
Non Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	262
		Rev	-
		NET	262

Major Initiatives

1) Design new community infrastructure including the Barwon Heads Arts and Community Hub, Lara Family Hub Library, the Jetty Road Children's and Community Hub and the Drysdale Integrated Children's Centre.

Other Initiatives

2) Children Services Facilities Upgrades (including childcare centres, kindergartens and occasional care).
3) Community Halls Upgrade.
4) Playground Development Program.
5) Toilet Block Renewal / Replacement Program.
6) Bell Park / Bell Post Hill Enhanced Early Years and Community Hub.
7) Burdoo Reserve - Grovedale Football Netball Club Stage 2 Development.
8) Armstrong Creek Town Centre - Library and Learning Hub detailed design.
9) Drysdale Sporting Precinct Master Plan Implementation.
10) Estuary Recreation Reserve Sports Lighting Installation.
11) Lara Regional Library - design and development.
12) Armstrong Creek West Neighbourhood Activity Centre Community Sports Pavilion.
13) Hume Reserve Master Plan Implementation – paths, fencing, planting and park furniture.
14) Lara Recreation Reserve - Master Plan.
15) Leisurelink 50m Pool Replacement - Detailed Design.
16) Polworth Pavilion and West Oval - pavilion construction.
17) Herne Hill Reserve Pavilion construction.
18) Leopold Football Club Masterplan (Estuary Estate).
19) Marshall Cricket Club - Practice facility development.
20) North Bellarine Aquatic Centre.
21) Pavilion and Ground Extension at Tim Hill Reserve.
22) Playground - Grantham Drive.
23) Portarlington Recreation Reserve - Master Plan.
24) Queens Park Lighting.
25) Shell Reserve Corio - netball court and cricket net design.
26) Community Facility Infrastructure Funds Grants (CFIF) - social infrastructure and planning.
27) Rippleside Playground.
28) Waurn Ponds Playground, Skate Park and BMX Track.
29) Geelong Cricket Association - turf wicket upkeep.

2.3 Strategic Priority 3

A more inclusive and diverse community

We want to recognise all members of the Geelong community and not leave anyone behind.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2020-21 Budget $'000
Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	1,275
		Rev	110
		NET	1,165
Non Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	1,888
		Rev	-
		NET	1,888

Major Initiatives

1) Invest in programs and facilities to support gender equity in sport.

Other Initiatives

2) Disability Access Upgrade Program.
3) Armstrong Creek Community Shed and Garden.
4) Grinter Reserve Masterplan, including lighting upgrade and female friendly changerooms.
5) Ocean Grove - Collendina Reserve facility upgrade including gender neutral changerooms.
6) Samaritan House construction and land contribution.
7) Grants for private groups and clubs.
8) Corio-Norlane Christmas decorations/events.
9) Geelong Seniors Festival Program.
10) Children's Week Grants.
11) Sponsorship of Christmas Carols.
12) Support of Neighbourhood Houses.

2.4 Strategic Priority 4

Planned sustainable development

We will use sustainable principles to guide development of growth areas and help protect our townships.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2020-21 Budget $'000
Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	8,464
		Rev	-
		NET	8,464
Non Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	216
		Rev	-
		NET	216

Major Initiatives

1) Prepare, review and update strategic plans for townships, precincts and places.

Other Initiatives

2) Armstrong Creek land acquisition program.
3) New Station Estate land development.
4) Environment Reserves Capital Improvement Program.
5) Developer Contribution Plans management process improvement and review.
6) Armstrong Creek Precinct Structure Plan reviews.
7) Municipal Strategic Statement Review.
8) Land Supply Monitoring Program.

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Statutory Planning	Decision making	Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT. (Percentage of planning application decisions subject to review by VCAT and that were not set aside)	[Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside Council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100

2.5 Strategic Priority 5

Effective environmental management

We will show leadership to address waste, climate change and environmental challenges.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2020-21 Budget $'000
Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	1,966
		Rev	10
		NET	1,956
Non Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	2,341
		Rev	64
		NET	2,277

Major Initiatives

1) Continue the hard waste collection service trial.

Other Initiatives

2) Continue to restore rural and regional landscapes.
3) 1 Million Trees Project - Implement Tree Canopy Cover.
4) Energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades to Council buildings.
5) New property mobile bins.
6) Queens Park Golf Club Water Irrigation.
7) Irrigation asset renewal program.
8) Diversion of food organics from kerbside collection.
9) Environment & Sustainability Grant Program.
10) Laneways Waste Trial.
11) Eastern Beach sewerage improvement works.
12) Southeast Bellarine Coastal Reserve Strategy.

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Waste Collection	Waste diversion	Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill. (Percentage of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins that is diverted from landfill)	[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100

2.6 Strategic Priority 6

Vibrant arts and culture

We treasure Geelong's culture and heritage and will help our creative community to grow.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2020-21 Budget $'000
Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	450
		Rev	275
		NET	175
Non Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	15,088
		Rev	
		NET	15,088

Major Initiatives

1) Deliver the Creative Communities Grants and establish the First Nations Heritage Grants.

Other Initiatives

2) Continue to support the Geelong Regional Library Corporation.
3) Geelong Gallery redevelopment.
4) Central Geelong Heritage Fund.
5) Geelong Art Gallery Contribution.
6) Courthouse Youth Arts Support.
7) Courthouse Back to Back Support.
8) Geelong Maritime Museum Support.
9) Potato Shed business case for redevelopment.

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Libraries	Participation	Active library members. (Percentage of the municipal population that are active library members)	[Number of active library members / Municipal population] x100

2.7 Strategic Priority 7

Integrated transport connections

Our focus will be on improving our public and active transport, and better connecting our networks.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2020-21 Budget $'000
Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	36,508
		Rev	4,814
		NET	31,694
Non Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	-
		Rev	-
		NET	-

Major Initiatives

1) Deliver actions in the Shared Trails Masterplan.

Other Initiatives

2) Street Construction Sub Program - special rates and charges.
3) Bituminise road into Myers Reserve.
4) Kerb and Channel Renewal Program.
5) Drainage Renewal Program.
6) General road improvements and asphalting.
7) Footpath Construction Sub Program - special rates and charges.
8) Design and Investigation Program - Traffic Management Projects - Road and Street Management.
9) Traffic Major Works.
10) Bridge Upgrades - Major Renewal Works.
11) Gravel Resheeting Program.
12) Boundary Road and Baanyip Boulevard Traffic Signals and link road.
13) Burvilles Road footpath, kerb and channel works.
14) Reseal - Road Surfacing Program - Core Program.
15) Fixing Country Roads Program.
16) Footpath Renewal Program - Core Program.
17) Patullos Rd East - Road Widening/Shared User Path.
18) Beacon Point Reserve implementation - new shared path cycling/ walking trail.

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Roads	Satisfaction	Satisfaction with sealed local roads. (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads)	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads

2.8 Strategic Priority 8

A thriving and sustainable economy

We will capitalise on Geelong's incredible economic opportunities.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2020-21 Budget $'000
Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	240
		Rev	-
		NET	240
Non Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	416
		Rev	-
		NET	416

Major Initiatives

1) Develop and implement the UNESCO Framework Plan and continue to promote and deliver projects in support of the design designation.
2) Continue shopping centre streetscape renewal projects.

Other Initiatives

3) Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan communications and engagement activities.
4) Geelong Small Business Festival.
5) Continue to deliver the Regional Industry Sector Employment program.

2.9 Strategic Priority 9

Growing our tourism and events

Our tourism and events offering is strong, but we aim to grow it further.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2020-21 Budget $'000
Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	130
		Rev	-
		NET	130
Non Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	2,811
		Rev	-
		NET	2,811

Major Initiatives

1) Attract and procure major events to the region.

Other Initiatives

2) Eastern Beach Promenade Upgrade.
3) Iconic Christmas Tree Installation.
4) Geelong Major Events funding.
5) Community Events Grants Program.

2.10 Strategic Priority 10

Innovative finances and technology

Clever and sustainable financial management, matched with digital growth, will advance our future.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2020-21 Budget $'000
Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	7,110
		Rev	-
		NET	7,110
Non Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	-
		Rev	-
		NET	-

Major Initiatives

1) Implement the City's Digital Modernisation program to increase digital capability across the business and increase opportunities for the community to interact and transact with us online.

Other Initiatives

2) Licence Plate Recognition - Parking Patrolling.
3) Bellarine Enhanced Broadband Installation and other Smart City initiatives.

2.11 Strategic Priority 11

Organisational leadership, strategy and governance

We will be the 'leading voice' of the community by delivering confident governance and strategic planning.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided		2020-21 Budget $'000
Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	50,789
		Rev	-
		NET	50,789
Non Capital	Initiatives	*Exp*	236
		Rev	-
		NET	236

Major Initiatives

1) Commence construction and build of the new Civic Precinct.
2) Embed the Sustainability Framework within organisational process, including use of Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards as the City's sustainability reporting framework.

Other Initiatives

3) Cultural Change Management forums and capability building.
4) G21 Contribution.

Service Performance Outcome Indicators

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Governance	Satisfaction	Satisfaction with Council decisions. (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed in making decisions in the interests of the community)	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed in making decisions in the interests of the community

3. Financial Statements

This section presents information in regard to the Financial Statements and Statement of Human Resources. The budget information for the year 2020-21 has been supplemented with projections to 2023-24 extracted from the Strategic Resource Plan.

This section includes the following financial statements prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) regulations 2014* .

Comprehensive Income Statement
Balance Sheet
Statement of Changes in Equity
Statement of Cash Flows
Statement of Capital Works
Statement of Human Resources

Pending Accounting Standards

The 2020-21 budget has been prepared based on the accounting standards applicable at the date of preparation. It has been updated to include the impact of *AASB 16 Leases* , *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* , but pending accounting standards that will be in effect from the 2020-21 financial year have not been considered in the development of the budget.
Standards that are likely to impact on the 2020-21 financial statements, not considered in the preparation of the budget include:
AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors

Comprehensive Income Statement
For the four years ending 30 June 2024

	NOTES	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Strategic Resource Plan Projections 2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000
Income						
Rates and charges	4.1.1	248,955	**260,311**	275,832	295,650	309,185
Statutory fees and fines	4.1.2	13,345	**15,877**	16,234	16,600	16,973
User fees	4.1.3	48,883	**54,494**	63,155	64,418	65,706
Grants - Operating	4.1.4	59,484	**45,907**	62,192	63,436	64,705
Grants - Capital	4.1.4	13,684	**11,573**	17,344	14,377	5,152
Contributions - monetary	4.1.5	15,126	**14,608**	15,318	18,618	20,918
Contributions - non-monetary	4.1.5	65,350	**75,000**	50,000	50,000	50,000
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(4,373)	**3,866**	13,088	(233)	2,861
Fair value adjustments for investment property		-	**-**	-	-	-
Share of net profits/(losses) of associates and joint ventures		-	**-**	-	-	-
Other income	4.1.6	4,677	**4,496**	6,815	6,520	6,309
Total income		465,131	**486,131**	519,978	529,385	541,809
Expenses						
Employee costs	4.1.7	161,086	**173,054**	181,836	186,752	193,691
Materials and services	4.1.8	110,761	**115,319**	123,835	132,092	137,127
Depreciation	4.1.9	67,480	**69,063**	72,228	77,659	81,348
Amortisation - intangible assets	4.1.10	663	**387**	-	-	-
Amortisation - right of use assets	4.1.11	2,905	**2,616**	2,120	75	-
Bad and doubtful debts		1,292	**1,060**	1,060	1,060	1,060
Borrowing costs		2,465	**3,336**	4,672	5,561	5,863
Finance Costs - leases		355	**104**	32	-	-
Other expenses	4.1.12	26,282	**30,372**	28,836	29,407	30,068
Total expenses		373,289	**395,310**	414,619	432,606	449,156
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		91,842	**90,821**	105,359	96,779	92,653
Other comprehensive income						
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods						
Net asset revaluation increment /(decrement)		-	**-**	-	-	-
Share of other comprehensive income of associates and joint ventures		-	**-**	-	-	-
Items that may be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods		-	**-**	-	-	-
(detail as appropriate)						
Total comprehensive result		91,842	90,821	105,359	96,779	92,653

Balance Sheet
For the four years ending 30 June 2024

	NOTES	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Strategic Resource Plan Projections 2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000
Assets						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		101,847	**107,968**	69,543	76,962	62,525
Trade and other receivables		13,600	**13,600**	13,900	14,200	14,500
Other financial assets		200	**200**	200	200	200
Inventories		771	**771**	755	770	786
Non-current assets classified as held for sale		-	**-**	-	-	-
Other assets		-	**-**	-	-	-
Total current assets	4.2.1	116,419	**122,539**	84,398	92,132	78,011
Non-current assets						
Trade and other receivables		1,585	**1,601**	1,617	1,633	1,650
Other financial assets		-	**-**	-	-	-
Investments in associates, joint arrangement and subsidiaries		10,357	**10,357**	10,357	10,357	10,357
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment		2,613,526	**2,758,161**	2,925,865	3,045,259	3,143,484
Right-of-use assets	4.2.4	4,810	**2,195**	75	-	-
Investment property		-	**-**	-	-	-
Intangible assets		-	-	-	-	-
Total non-current assets	4.2.1	2,630,278	**2,772,313**	2,937,913	3,057,249	3,155,491
Total assets		2,746,697	**2,894,853**	3,022,312	3,149,381	3,233,502
Liabilities						
Current liabilities						
Trade and other payables		21,666	**22,749**	23,657	24,595	25,394
Trust funds and deposits		3,000	**3,000**	3,000	3,000	3,000
Provisions		34,841	**37,427**	39,318	40,375	41,868
Interest-bearing liabilities	4.2.3	10,632	**13,009**	16,796	18,548	18,619
Lease liabilities	4.2.4	2,620	**2,183**	78	-	-
Total current liabilities	4.2.2	72,759	**78,368**	82,849	86,518	88,881
Non-current liabilities						
Provisions		16,066	**16,046**	9,957	6,035	3,657
Interest-bearing liabilities	4.2.3	71,654	**125,582**	149,430	179,978	171,459
Lease liabilities	4.2.4	2,261	**79**	1	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	4.2.2	89,981	**141,707**	159,388	186,013	175,116
Total liabilities		162,740	**220,075**	242,237	272,531	263,997
Net assets		2,583,957	**2,674,778**	2,780,076	2,876,851	2,969,505
Equity						
Accumulated surplus		1,545,860	**1,641,007**	1,737,953	1,831,571	1,929,849
Reserves		1,038,097	**1,033,771**	1,042,122	1,045,281	1,039,655
Total equity		2,583,957	**2,674,778**	2,780,076	2,876,851	2,969,505

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the four years ending 30 June 2024

	NOTES	Total $'000	Accumulated Surplus $'000	Revaluation Reserve $'000	Other Reserves $'000
2020 Forecast Actual					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		2,492,115	1,451,581	1,021,551	18,983
Impact of adoption of new accounting standards		-	-	-	-
Adjusted opening balance		2,492,115	1,451,581	1,021,551	18,983
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		91,842	91,842	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	(27,030)	-	27,030
Transfers from other reserves		-	29,467	-	(29,467)
Balance at end of the financial year		**2,583,957**	**1,545,860**	**1,021,551**	**16,546**
2021 Budget					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		2,583,957	1,545,860	1,021,551	16,546
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		90,821	90,821	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves	4.3.1	-	(26,739)	-	26,739
Transfers from other reserves	4.3.1	-	31,065	-	(31,065)
Balance at end of the financial year	4.3.2	**2,674,778**	**1,641,007**	**1,021,551**	**12,220**
2022					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		2,674,778	1,641,007	1,021,551	12,220
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		105,359	105,359	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		(61)	(36,072)	-	36,010
Transfers from other reserves		-	27,659	-	(27,659)
Balance at end of the financial year		**2,780,076**	**1,737,953**	**1,021,551**	**20,571**
2023					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		2,780,076	1,737,953	1,021,551	20,571
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		96,779	96,779	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		(4)	(42,669)	-	42,667
Transfers from other reserves		-	39,508	-	(39,508)
Balance at end of the financial year		**2,876,851**	**1,831,571**	**1,021,551**	**23,730**
2024					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		2,876,851	1,831,571	1,021,551	23,730
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		92,653	92,653	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		1	(40,043)	-	40,042
Transfers from other reserves		-	45,667	-	(45,667)
Balance at end of the financial year		**2,969,505**	**1,929,849**	**1,021,551**	**18,105**

Statement of Cash Flows

For the four years ending 30 June 2024

	Notes	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Strategic Resource Plan Projections 2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000
		Inflows (Outflows)	**Inflows (Outflows)**	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities						
Rates and charges		248,864	**260,098**	275,740	295,553	309,084
Statutory fees and fines		13,345	**15,877**	16,234	16,600	16,973
User fees		54,890	**58,895**	67,264	68,501	69,793
Grants - operating		59,484	**46,107**	62,392	63,636	64,905
Grants - capital		13,684	**11,573**	17,344	14,377	5,152
Contributions - monetary		15,126	**14,608**	15,318	18,618	20,918
Interest received		1,535	**1,400**	1,453	1,057	743
Dividends received		-	**-**	-	-	-
Trust funds and deposits taken		-	**-**	-	-	-
Other receipts		3,141	**3,096**	5,361	5,463	5,566
Net GST refund / payment		11,700	**11,700**	11,700	11,700	11,700
Employee costs		(166,350)	**(173,561)**	(181,576)	(187,445)	(193,941)
Materials and services		(146,357)	**(141,640)**	(147,098)	(153,838)	(159,133)
Short-term, low value and variable lease		-	**-**	-	-	-
Trust funds and deposits repaid		-	**-**	-	-	-
Other payments		(16,266)	**(17,761)**	(20,186)	(22,147)	(22,647)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	4.4.1	92,796	**90,391**	123,948	132,072	129,112
Cash flows from investing activities						
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(124,434)	**(160,069)**	(210,639)	(172,418)	(150,453)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		17,166	**25,555**	27,519	21,105	21,215
Payments for investments		-	**-**	-	-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments		-	**-**	-	-	-
Loan and advances made		-	**-**	-	-	-
Payments of loans and advances		-	**-**	-	-	-
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities	4.4.2	(107,268)	**(134,514)**	(183,120)	(151,313)	(129,238)
Cash flows from financing activities						
Finance costs		(2,465)	**(3,336)**	(4,672)	(5,561)	(5,863)
Proceeds from borrowings		25,000	**66,936**	40,644	49,096	10,100
Repayment of borrowings		(8,556)	**(10,632)**	(13,009)	(16,796)	(18,548)
Interest paid - lease liability		(355)	**(104)**	(32)	-	-
Repayment of lease liabilities		(2,833)	**(2,620)**	(2,183)	(78)	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	4.4.3	10,791	**50,244**	20,748	26,661	(14,311)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents		(3,681)	**6,122**	(38,424)	7,420	(14,437)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		105,528	**101,847**	107,968	69,543	76,962
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		101,847	**107,968**	69,543	76,962	62,525

Statement of Capital Works

For the four years ending 30 June 2024

	NOTES	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Strategic Resource Plan Projections 2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000
Property						
Buildings		20,063	**56,177**	74,406	30,848	31,587
Community Facilities		18,822	**2,310**	18,859	37,565	31,618
Land		13,763	**9,100**	7,760	12,137	5,841
Total property		52,648	**67,587**	101,024	80,551	69,045
Plant and equipment						
Fleet		6,365	**4,763**	4,976	5,301	5,354
Minor Plant and Equipment		617	**401**	202	215	217
Computers and Telecommunications		9,597	**9,302**	5,067	1,989	2,008
Total plant and equipment		16,579	**14,466**	10,245	7,505	7,579
Infrastructure						
Parks and Leisure		9,912	**20,811**	36,823	31,094	20,497
Roads		22,191	**27,449**	30,632	28,747	24,887
Drainage		20,366	**7,272**	5,707	4,130	4,171
Footpaths and Bikepaths		12,937	**4,519**	7,060	9,201	5,548
Kerb and Channel		2,306	**2,306**	2,435	2,594	2,619
Waste Management		1,602	**1,016**	6,650	4,443	2,950
Streetscapes		2,010	**4,883**	13,130	1,815	2,000
Miscellaneous		6,482	**5,120**	5,283	5,498	5,531
Total infrastructure		77,807	**73,376**	107,719	87,521	68,202
Carryover from prior year		-	**22,600**	17,959	26,308	29,467
Carryover to next year		(22,600)	**(17,959)**	(26,308)	(29,467)	(23,840)
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	124,434	**160,069**	210,639	172,418	150,453
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure		80,084	**107,463**	145,684	119,249	104,058
Asset renewal expenditure		35,830	**35,549**	45,005	36,839	32,146
Asset upgrade expenditure		8,521	**17,057**	19,950	16,330	14,250
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	124,434	**160,069**	210,639	172,418	150,453
Funding sources represented by:						
Grants		13,684	**11,573**	17,344	14,377	5,152
Contributions		15,126	**14,608**	15,318	18,618	20,918
Council cash		70,624	**68,305**	137,333	90,327	114,283
Borrowings		25,000	**65,583**	40,644	49,096	10,100
Total capital works expenditure	4.5.1	124,434	**160,069**	210,639	172,418	150,453

Statement of Human Resources

For the four years ending 30 June 2024

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Strategic Resource Plan Projections		
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Staff expenditure					
Employee costs - operating	150,873	**170,207**	179,443	184,311	191,201
Employee costs - capital	6,917	**7,586**	7,738	7,892	8,050
Total staff expenditure	157,790	**177,793**	187,180	192,204	199,251
	FTE	**FTE**	FTE	FTE	FTE
Staff numbers					
FTE - operating	1,650.0	**1,702.8**	1,728.7	1,755.2	1,782.1
FTE - capital	74.4	**85.7**	85.7	85.7	85.7
Total staff numbers	1,724.4	**1,788.5**	1,814.4	1,840.8	1,867.8

A summary of human resources expenditure categorised according to the organisational structure of Council is included below:

Department	Budget	Comprises			
		Permanent		Casual	Temporary
	2020-21	Full Time	Part time		
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Chief Executive	**939**	939	-	-	-
People & Culture	**6,875**	6,011	388	5	471
Customer & Corporate Services	**17,341**	13,163	2,254	283	1,642
City Services	**40,888**	27,778	10,567	190	2,352
Community Life	**67,173**	25,539	27,859	5,887	7,888
Planning, Design & Development	**20,387**	12,996	6,064	30	1,297
Governance, Strategy & Performance	**6,661**	4,953	782	7	919
Economy, Investment & Attraction	**9,944**	6,792	1,816	421	915
Total permanent staff expenditure	**170,207**	98,171	49,730	6,823	15,484
Supplementary labour and other	**2,847**				
Total operating expenditure	**173,054**				
Capitalised labour costs	**7,586**				
Total expenditure	**180,640**				

A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Council staff in relation to the above expenditure is included below:

Department	Budget	Comprises			
		Permanent		Casual	Temporary
	2020-21	Full Time	Part time		
Chief Executive	**5.0**	5.0	-	-	-
People & Culture	**52.8**	44.7	4.0	0.1	4.0
Customer & Corporate Services	**152.6**	110.3	24.5	3.0	14.7
City Services	**428.5**	276.7	124.0	2.6	25.2
Community Life	**724.1**	250.8	325.1	61.6	86.6
Planning, Design & Development	**197.7**	120.2	65.2	0.4	11.9
Governance, Strategy & Performance	**53.2**	38.7	6.4	0.1	8.0
Economy, Investment & Attraction	**89.0**	54.5	19.5	4.8	10.2
Total permanent staff expenditure	**1,702.8**	901.1	568.6	72.6	160.6
Capitalised labour costs	**85.7**				
Supplementary labour and other costs	**15.5**				
Total staff	**1,804.0**				

4. Notes to the financial statements

This section presents detailed information on material components of the financial statements. Council needs to assess which components are material, considering the dollar amounts and nature of these components.

4.1 Comprehensive Income Statement

4.1.1 Rates and charges

Rates and charges are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's Annual Budget.

In developing the Strategic Resource Plan, rates and charges were identified as an important source of revenue. Planning for future rate increases has therefore been an important component of the Strategic Resource Planning process. The Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) sets out the maximum amount councils may increase rates in a year. For 2020-21 the FGRS cap has been set at 2.0%. The cap applies to both general rates and municipal charges and is calculated on the basis of Council's average rates and charges.

The level of required rates and charges has been considered in this context, with reference to Council's other sources of income and the planned expenditure on services and works to be undertaken for the community.

To achieve these objectives while maintaining service levels and a strong capital expenditure program, the average general rate will increase by 1.9% within the rate cap. The municipal charge will be discontinued from 2020-21.

Waste Management Charge
The waste collection service charge is calculated based on a fee for service, including direct, indirect and overhead costs. The charge for 2020-21 will increase from $332.00 to $360.95 or 8.7%.

Service Rates & Charges - Additional Bin Service
A Section 162 Service Charge known as Additional Bins Service was introduced in 2016-17. Households may apply for an additional garbage bin, upsized garbage bin, recycling bin or green waste bin. The charges for 2020-21 are $154.85 for a 140L garbage bin, $111.95 to upgrade to a 240L garbage bin, $87.00 for a recycling bin and $82.40 for a green waste bin.

Special Rates and Charges
Council has declared a special rate in respect of the central business district of Geelong applicable to non-residential, non-exempt properties. Ratepayers are billed via the annual rate notice. The charge is calculated by a rate in the dollar against the properties valuation. For 2020-21 the rate is $0.00059986. Properties rated as Cultural and Recreational are charged at a lower rate in the dollar, for 2020-21 the rate is $0.00020211. This charge will raise $1.1m for 2020-21. The special rate is the Central Activities Area (CAA) Rate and is in addition to other rates and charges. The purpose of the special rate is to promote the CAA as a commercial shopping precinct using events, marketing and media.
Other special rate and charge schemes for 2020-21 include street construction of $1.5m and footpath construction of $0.6m.

Waivers
Council declares a waiver under Section 171 of the *Local Government Act (VIC) 1989* for specific qualifying properties.
The waivers include:
Housing Support Waiver - Residential property used for transitional, emergency or crisis housing.
Rates Assistance Waiver - for qualifying residential and farm land properties where the valuation has increased by greater than 50%
New Corio Estate Waiver - for New Corio estate property where property encumbrances prevent owners from making any demands on Council services now and into the future.
For further information refer to the Rating Strategy.

Rebates
Council declares a rebate under Section 169 of the LGA.
A farm rebate is available for qualifying farm land. The rebate set at 15.2% recognises the benefit to the community in encouraging the retention of large lot primary holdings.
For further information please refer to the Rating Strategy.

This will raise total rates and charges for 2020-21 to $260,311,239.

4.1.1(a) The reconciliation of the total rates and charges to the Comprehensive Income Statement is as follows:

	2019-20 Forecast Actual $'000	2020-21 Budget $'000	Change $'000	%
General rates *	188,142	**208,737**	20,595	**10.9%**
Municipal charge *	13,254	**-**	(13,254)	**(100.0%)**
Culture and Recreational rates	235	**244**	9	**3.8%**
Revenue in lieu of rates	71	**72**	1	**1.4%**
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	1,900	**2,400**	500	**26.3%**
Interest on rates and charges	515	**475**	(40)	**(7.8%)**
Waivers	(70)	**(70)**	-	**0.0%**
Rebates	(1,233)	**(467)**	766	**(62.1%)**
Waste management charge	37,634	**41,870**	4,236	**11.3%**
Service rates and charges	732	**778**	46	**6.3%**
Special rates and charges	7,775	**6,271**	(1,504)	**(19.3%)**
Total rates and charges	**248,955**	**260,311**	**11,356**	**4.6%**

*These items are subject to the rate cap established under the FGRS.

4.1.1(b) The rate in the dollar to be levied as general rates under section 158 of the Act for each type or class of land compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2019-20 cents/$CIV*	2020-21 cents/$CIV	Change
General rate for rateable residential properties	0.00216185	**0.00238194**	**10.2%**
General rate for rateable vacant land	0.00315616	**0.00342186**	**8.4%**
General rate for rateable commercial properties	0.00522789	**0.00532080**	**1.8%**
General rate for rateable The Point residential	0.00216185	**0.00238194**	**10.2%**
General rate for rateable The Point vacant	0.00315616	**0.00342186**	**8.4%**
General rate for rateable The Point commercial	0.00522789	**0.00532080**	**1.8%**
General rate for rateable industrial properties	0.00618097	**0.00581731**	**(5.9%)**
General rate for mixed use properties	0.00326233	**0.00339958**	**4.2%**
General rate for farm properties	0.00172948	**0.00145433**	**(15.9%)**
General rate for cultural and recreational properties	0.00162139	**0.00178645**	**10.2%**
General rate for petroleum properties	0.00618097	**0.00581731**	**(5.9%)**

4.1.1(c) The estimated total amount to be raised by general rates in relation to each type or class of land, and the estimated total amount to be raised by general rates, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2019-20 $'000	2020-21 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Residential	129,997	**148,318**	18,321	**14.1%**
Vacant Land	8,996	**9,562**	566	**6.3%**
Commercial	30,975	**33,339**	2,364	**7.6%**
The Point residential	232	**326**	94	**40.5%**
The Point vacant land	133	**107**	(26)	**(19.5%)**
The Point commercial	45	**46**	1	**2.2%**
Industrial	12,034	**12,411**	377	**3.1%**
Mixed use	794	**797**	3	**0.4%**
Farm	3,694	**3,072**	(622)	**(16.8%)**
Petroleum	897	**844**	(53)	**(5.9%)**
Total amount to be raised by general rates	**187,797**	**208,822**	**21,025**	**11.2%**
*Cultural and Recreational Land	235	**244**		

*as per the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963

4.1.1(d) The number of assessments in relation to each type or class of land, and the total number of assessments, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2019-20 $'000	2020-21 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Residential	110,102	**113,197**	3,095	**2.8%**
Vacant Land	6,198	**5,999**	(199)	**(3.2%)**
Commercial	5,927	**5,993**	66	**1.1%**
The Point Residential	150	**189**	39	**26.0%**
The Point vacant land	73	**34**	(39)	**(53.4%)**
The Point commercial	3	**3**	-	**0.0%**
Industrial	2,153	**2,225**	72	**3.3%**
Mixed Use	330	**319**	(11)	**(3.3%)**
Farm	991	**992**	1	**0.1%**
Petroleum	1	**1**	-	**0.0%**
Total number of assessments	**125,928**	**128,952**	**3,024**	**2.4%**
*Cultural and Recreational Land	53	**53**		

*as per the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963

4.1.1(e) The basis of valuation to be used is the Capital Improved Value

4.1.1(f) The estimated total value of each type or class of land, and the estimated total value of land, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2019-20 $'000	2020-21 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Residential	61,791,522	**62,267,936**	476,414	**0.8%**
Vacant Land	2,746,790	**2,794,462**	47,672	**1.7%**
Commercial	5,971,043	**6,265,721**	294,678	**4.9%**
The Point Residential	133,410	**137,010**	3,600	**2.7%**
The Point vacant land	29,550	**31,400**	1,850	**6.3%**
The Point commercial	8,632	**8,632**	-	**0.0%**
Industrial	1,968,511	**2,133,399**	164,888	**8.4%**
Mixed Use	229,510	**234,560**	5,050	**2.2%**
Farm	2,115,399	**2,112,506**	(2,893)	**(0.1%)**
Petroleum	145,100	**145,100**	-	**0.0%**
Total value of land	**75,139,467**	**76,130,726**	**991,259**	**1.3%**
*Cultural and Recreational Land	134,283	**136,520**		

*as per the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963

4.1.1(g) The municipal charge under Section 159 of the Act compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2019-20 $	Per Rateable Property 2020-21 $	Change $	Change %
Municipal	105.25	**-**	(105.25)	**(100.0%)**

4.1.1(h) The estimated total amount to be raised by municipal charges compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	2019-20 $	2020-21 $	Change $	Change %
Municipal	13,254	**-**	(13,254)	**(100.0%)**

4.1.1(i) The rate or unit amount to be levied for each type of service rate or charge under Section 162 of the Act compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2019-20 $	Per Rateable Property 2020-21 $	Change $	Change %
Waste management charge	332.00	**360.95**	28.95	**8.7%**
Total	332.00	**360.95**	28.95	**8.7%**

4.1.1(j) The estimated total amount to be raised by each type of service rate or charge, and the estimated total amount to be raised by service rates and charges, compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	2019-20 $	2020-21 $	Change $	Change %
Waste management charge	37,634	**41,870**	4,236	**11.3%**
Total	37,634	**41,870**	4,236	**11.3%**

4.1.1(k) Fair Go Rates System Compliance

City of Greater Geelong is required to comply with the State Government's Fair Go Rates System (FGRS). The table below details the budget assumptions consistent with the requirements of the Fair Go Rates System.

	2019-20	2020-21
Total Rates	$ 196,151,955	$ 204,939,392
Number of rateable properties	125,926.00	128,952.00
Base Average Rate	1,557.68	1,589.27
Maximum Rate Increase (set by the State Government)	**2.5%**	**1.9%**
Capped Average Rate	$ 1,596.62	$ 1,619.39
Maximum General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	$ 201,055,754	$ 208,823,579
Budgeted General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	$ 200,058,105	$ 208,588,191

4.1.1(l) Any significant changes that may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges

There are no known significant changes which may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges. However, the total amount to be raised by rates and charges may be affected by:

- The making of supplementary valuations (2020-21: estimated $2.4m and 2019-20: $1.9m)
- The variation of returned levels of value (e.g. valuation appeals)
- Changes of use of land such that rateable land becomes non-rateable land and vice versa
- Changes of use of land such that residential land becomes business land and vice versa.

4.1.1(m) Differential rates

Refer to the 2020-21 Rating Strategy for rating differentials, land use and rating objectives.

4.1.2 Statutory fees and fines

	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Permits	4,513	**4,555**	42	**0.9%**
Registrations	3,271	**4,665**	1,394	**42.6%**
Infringements and costs	3,354	**4,427**	1,073	**32.0%**
Town planning fees	2,207	**2,230**	23	**1.0%**
Total statutory fees and fines	13,345	**15,877**	2,532	**19.0%**

Registrations	New state regulated fees from 1 July 2020 for swimming pool inspections, driving increase $0.65m. A return to normal revenue levels in 2020-21 for Health and Food licence fees, as 2019-20 reflects a refund of $0.9m due to COVID-19 support packages.
Infringements and costs	Lower parking infringements fines in 2019-20, refunds of prior period fines, plus lower fines forecast due free parking initiatives from COVID-19 support package.

4.1.3 User fees

	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Aged services	2,955	**2,984**	29	**1.0%**
Building services	3,945	**3,857**	(88)	**(2.2%)**
Family and children's services	5,846	**7,452**	1,607	**27.5%**
Leisure centre and recreation	13,535	**14,633**	1,098	**8.1%**
Local laws	135	**63**	(71)	**(52.9%)**
Other fees and charges	651	**1,067**	416	**63.8%**
Parking	7,448	**9,534**	2,085	**28.0%**
Parks	785	**666**	(120)	**(15.3%)**
Rental and leasing	2,689	**2,590**	(98)	**(3.7%)**
Road works	544	**682**	138	**25.3%**
Waste management services	10,350	**10,966**	616	**6.0%**
Total user fees	48,883	**54,494**	5,612	**11.5%**

Family and children's services	2019-20 forecast is impacted by COVID-19 with Government announcements to remove family contributions to 30 June 2020. 2020-21 budget fees lower due to drop in utilisation expected under COVID-19 until September 2020.
Parking	2019-20 forecast fees have been lowered due to the introduction of free parking to support the community and business during COVID-19 ($2.0m).
Waste management services	Increase in EPA levies to be applied from 1 January 2021, will result in increased fees at the Drysdale and North Geelong transfer centres.

4.1.4 Grants

Grants are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's annual budget.

	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Grants were received in respect of the following:				
Summary of grants				
Commonwealth funded grants	50,231	**38,673**	(11,558)	**(23.0%)**
State funded grants	22,938	**18,806**	(4,131)	**(18.0%)**
Total grants received	73,168	**57,480**	- 15,689	**-21%**
(a) Operating Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Financial Assistance Grants	22,899	**10,343**	(12,556)	**(54.8%)**
Family day care	10,312	**10,667**	355	**3.4%**
General home care	14,219	**15,001**	781	**5.5%**
Other	229	**240**	11	**4.6%**
Recurrent - State Government				
Aged care	2,196	**2,039**	(157)	**(7.2%)**
School crossing supervisors	908	**908**	-	**0.0%**
Family services	3,414	**3,184**	(230)	**(6.7%)**
Environment	610	**93**	(517)	**(84.7%)**
Other	197	**158**	(39)	**(19.8%)**
Total recurrent grants	54,985	**42,634**	(12,352)	**(22.5%)**
Non-recurrent - State Government				
Aged care	44	**45**	1	**1.5%**
Family Services	2,330	**2,749**	418	**17.9%**
Environment	1,064	**73**	(991)	**(93.1%)**
Other	1,061	**406**	(655)	**(61.7%)**
Total non-recurrent grants	4,499	**3,273**	(1,227)	**(27.3%)**
Total operating grants	59,484	**45,907**	(13,577)	**-22.8%**
(b) Capital Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Roads to recovery	2,184	**2,184**	-	**0.0%**
Total recurrent grants	2,184	**2,184**	-	**0.0%**
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Buildings	168	**237**	69	**41.1%**
Other	219	**-**	(219)	**(100.0%)**
Non-recurrent - State Government				
Roads	5,488	**3,275**	(2,213)	**(40.3%)**
Recreation	490	**5,487**	4,996	**1019.5%**
Buildings	3,355	**360**	(2,995)	**(89.3%)**
Central Geelong Revitalisation	1,100	**-**	(1,100)	**(100.0%)**
Environment	283	**-**	(283)	**(100.0%)**
Other	397	**30**	(367)	**(92.4%)**
Total non-recurrent grants	11,500	**9,389**	(2,112)	**(18.4%)**
Total capital grants	13,684	**11,573**	(2,111)	**(15.4%)**
Total Grants	73,168	**57,480**	(15,688)	**-21.4%**

Financial Assistance Grants	Receipt of 50% prepayment of 2020-21 allocation from Grants Commission in May 2020.
Family Services	2020-21 budget increases due to additional funding expected to be received for Maternal Child Health and Kindergarten
Environment	The 2020-21 budget has a drop in the value of discretionary grants due to one-off funding in 2019-20 to assist with the recycling crisis.
Recreation	Funding for West Oval Redevelopment and Herne Hill reserve in 2020-21.
Buildings	Reduction in funding with completion of Integrated Children Centres and Community Facilities in 2019-20.

4.1.5 Contributions

	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Monetary	15,126	**14,608**	(518)	**(3.4%)**
Non-monetary	65,350	**75,000**	9,650	**14.8%**
Total contributions	**80,476**	**89,608**	9,132	**11.3%**

Monetary	Developer contributions remain consistent in 2020-21, mainly due to Armstrong Creek (Public Open Space) and St Leonards Growth Area expected contributions.
Non-monetary	Increase expected in Recognition of Subdivisions in 2020-21.

4.1.6 Other income

	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Interest	1,535	**1,400**	(135)	**(8.8%)**
Retail Sales	1,173	**1,317**	145	**12.4%**
Other	1,970	**1,778**	(191)	**(9.7%)**
Total other income	4,677	**4,496**	(181)	**(3.9%)**

Interest	Interest rates have declined during 2019-20 and are expected to remain low throughout 2020-21, lowering interest received on investments.

4.1.7 Employee costs

	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Wages and salaries	136,268	**153,576**	17,308	**12.7%**
WorkCover	2,386	**2,712**	326	**13.6%**
Superannuation	12,218	**13,920**	1,701	**13.9%**
Casual Staff / Supplementary Labour	8,739	**1,783**	(6,956)	**(79.6%)**
Fringe Benefits Tax	593	**563**	(30)	**(5.1%)**
Other	881	**500**	(381)	**(43.3%)**
Total employee costs	161,086	**173,054**	11,968	**7.4%**

Wages and salaries	Increased employee costs due to requirements to support service growth, cultural initiatives and salary inflation.
Casual Staff / Supplementary Labour	The 2019-20 forecast actual includes significant over budget expenditure for coverage of unfilled vacant positions, positions required due to growth and absence due to leave. Lower rates are also expected in 2020-21 in supplementary as long standing supplementary labour is converted to permanent staff.

4.1.8 Materials and services

	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Materials	7,733	**7,711**	(22)	**(0.3%)**
Contract Payments	45,110	**44,444**	(666)	**(1.5%)**
Building Maintenance	5,211	**4,794**	(417)	**(8.0%)**
Plant/Equipment/Vehicle Costs	7,873	**8,640**	767	**9.7%**
Utilities	10,163	**12,217**	2,054	**20.2%**
Office Administration	6,724	**7,069**	345	**5.1%**
Information Technology	3,106	**3,541**	435	**14.0%**
Insurance	2,447	**2,625**	178	**7.3%**
Levies	4,684	**6,506**	1,821	**38.9%**
Geelong Regional Library Corporation	10,733	**11,046**	313	**2.9%**
Consultants	6,977	**6,727**	(249)	**(3.6%)**
Total materials and services	110,761	**115,319**	4,558	**4.1%**

Utilities	Under utilisation for electricity and gas due to the temporary closure of facilities due to COVID-19 in 2019-20.
Levies	EPA landfill levy will increase from 1 January 2020-21 by $20/ tonne.

4.1.9 Depreciation

	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Property	11,544	**12,147**	603	**5.2%**
Plant & equipment	6,529	**7,126**	597	**9.1%**
Infrastructure	49,408	**49,790**	382	**0.8%**
Total depreciation	67,480	**69,063**	1,583	**2.3%**

Additional depreciation on completion of new assets including community facilities and the roll out of new IT devices.

4.1.10 Amortisation - Intangible assets

	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Intangible assets	663	**387**	(276)	**(41.6%)**
Total amortisation - intangible assets	663	**387**	(276)	**(41.6%)**

4.1.11 Amortisation - Right of use assets

	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Right of use assets	2,905	**2,616**	(289)	**(9.9%)**
Total amortisation - right of use assets	2,905	**2,616**	(289)	**(9.9%)**

4.1.12 Other expenses

	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Auditors Remuneration	129	**330**	200	**154.6%**
Councillors' Allowances	426	**463**	37	**8.7%**
Contributions	4,423	**5,395**	972	**22.0%**
Other	6,435	**6,805**	370	**5.8%**
Waste Disposal and Recycling	10,512	**13,183**	2,671	**25.4%**
Marketing, Promotion and Advertising	1,556	**1,670**	114	**7.3%**
Events and Functions	1,102	**1,267**	165	**15.0%**
Operating Lease Rentals	1,700	**1,259**	(441)	**(25.9%)**
Total other expenses	26,282	**30,372**	4,090	**15.6%**

Auditors Remuneration	Increase in internal audit fees in 2020-21.
Contributions	Biennial support for the Australian Airshow in 2020-21 $0.2m, contributions to community groups to support redevelopment of facilities.
Waste Disposal and Recycling	Increase in contractual costs in 2020-21.
Events and Functions	2020-21 event and function costs increasing due to Council Election costs and Council Plan development costs.

4.2 Balance Sheet

4.2.1 Assets

Cash	Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents is a result of increased loans being drawn in 2020-21, offset by net capital carryover into 2020-21 of $22.6m reducing to $18.0m into 2021-22.
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	Increased due to the level of internal capital expenditure plus an increase in sub division assets received from developers.
Right of use assets	First time budgeting for right of use assets associated with Council's leasing expenditure.

4.2.2 Liabilities

Interest-bearing liabilities	Increased due to Loans for Capital projects being drawn down during the year.

4.2.3 Borrowings

The table below shows information on borrowings specifically required by the Regulations.

	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $	Budget 2020-21 $
Amount borrowed as at 30 June of the prior year	65,842	**82,286**
Amount proposed to be borrowed	25,000	**66,936**
Amount projected to be redeemed	(8,556)	**(10,632)**
Amount of borrowings as at 30 June	82,286	**138,590**

Increased borrowings during 2020-21 are mainly driven by the Civic Accommodation project, which comprise of $50.0m of the $66.9m in new loans. $7.3m of the total are loans carried over from prior years.

4.2.4 Leases by category

As a result of the introduction of *AASB 16 Leases* , right-of-use assets and lease liabilities have been recognised as outlined in the table below.

	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $	Budget 2020-21 $
Right-of-use assets		
Property	4,765	**2,179**
Vehicles	45	**16**
Total right-of-use assets	4,810	**2,195**
Lease liabilities		
Current lease Liabilities		
Land and buildings	2,591	**2,172**
Plant and equipment	29	**10**
Total current lease liabilities	2,620	**2,183**
Non-current lease liabilities		
Land and buildings	2,245	**73**
Plant and equipment	17	**6**
Total non-current lease liabilities	2,261	**79**
Total lease liabilities	4,882	**2,262**

Where the interest rate applicable to a lease is not expressed in the lease agreement, Council applies the average incremental borrowing rate in the calculation of lease liabilities. The current incremental borrowing rate is 3%.

4.3 Statement of Changes in Equity

4.3.1 Reserves

Reduction due to carryover amount being reduced in 2020-21 as projects are completed.

4.3.2 Equity

Major increase is as a result of the surplus, largely driven by non-monetary contributions.

4.4 Statement of Cash Flows

4.4.1 Net cash flows provided by/used in operating activities

Rates and charges	Increase in expected revenue due to growth within the municipality.
Grants - operating	Approximately half of the 2020-21 Financial Assistance Grant was received in May 2020. Likewise, half of the 2019-20 Financial Assistance Grant was received in the prior year (June 2019).
Employee Costs	Increased employee costs due to requirements to support service growth, cultural initiatives and salary inflation.

4.4.2 Net cash flows provided by/used in investing activities

Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	Increased expenditure in 2020-21 due to the construction of the civic accommodation project and carried over projects not completed in 2019-20.

4.4.3 Net cash flows provided by/used in financing activities

Proceeds from borrowings	Increased loan borrowings to be drawn down during the year to fund capital projects.

4.5 Capital works program

This section presents a listing of the capital works projects that will be undertaken for the 2020-21 year, classified by expenditure type and funding source. Works are also disclosed as current budget or carried forward from prior year.

4.5.1 Summary

	Forecast Actual 2019-20 $'000	Budget 2020-21 $'000	Change $'000	%
Property	52,648	**67,587**	14,939	**28.4%**
Plant and equipment	16,579	**14,466**	(2,113)	**(12.7%)**
Infrastructure	77,807	**73,376**	(4,432)	**(5.7%)**
2020-21 capital projects	147,034	**155,428**	8,394	**5.7%**
Carryover from prior year	-	22,600	22,600	**100.0%**
Carryover to next year	(22,600)	(17,959)	4,641	**(20.5%)**
Total	124,434	**160,069**	35,635	**28.6%**

Infrastructure: Major 2020-21 projects include the Western Oval Polworth Pavilion construction, implementation of the Lara Recreation Reserve masterplan, Elcho Channel Upgrade, LED streetlighting initiative, Community Infrastructure Grants, increased road works and other projects carried over from 2019-20.

	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types			Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Upgrade	Grants	Contrib.	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Property	**67,587**	62,639	3,095	1,853	250	-	7,809	59,528
Plant and equipment	**14,466**	7,770	6,330	366	-	-	14,466	-
Infrastructure	**73,376**	33,729	25,111	14,535	11,323	14,608	41,389	6,055
2020-21 capital projects	**155,428**	104,138	34,536	16,755	11,573	14,608	63,664	65,583
Carryover from prior year	**22,600**	18,992	3,305	302	-	-	22,600	-
Carryover to next year	**(17,959)**	(15,666)	(2,293)	-	-	-	(17,959)	-
2020-21 capital projects	**160,069**	107,463	35,549	17,057	11,573	14,608	68,305	65,583

The 2020-21 program of $155.4m is detailed in Appendix 3. The program highlights the significant allocation of funds to new assets relative to renewal and upgrade. The capital works to be carried over from 2019-20 total $22.6m and is summarised below in table 4.5.3.

4.5.2 Current Budget

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types			Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Upgrade	Grants	Contrib.	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
PROPERTY								
Buildings	56,177	51,504	2,870	1,803	-	-	6,177	50,000
Community Facilities	2,310	2,035	225	50	250	-	958	1,102
Land	9,100	9,100	-	-	-	-	673	8,427
TOTAL PROPERTY	**67,587**	**62,639**	**3,095**	**1,853**	**250**	**-**	**7,809**	**59,528**
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT								
Fleet	4,763	50	4,713	-	-	-	4,763	-
Minor Plant and Equipment	401	287	68	46	-	-	401	-
Computers and Telecommunications	9,302	7,433	1,549	320	-	-	9,302	-
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	**14,466**	**7,770**	**6,330**	**366**	**-**	**-**	**14,466**	**-**
INFRASTRUCTURE								
Parks and Leisure	20,811	6,563	1,468	12,780	5,836	4,475	10,501	-
Roads	27,449	9,777	17,022	650	5,458	8,313	12,056	1,623
Drainage	7,272	5,451	1,221	600	-	120	7,152	-
Footpaths and Bikepaths	4,519	1,575	2,944	-	30	1,700	2,789	-
Kerb and Channel	2,306	-	2,306	-	-	-	2,306	-
Waste Management	1,016	866	150	-	-	-	1,016	-
Streetscapes	4,883	4,388	-	495	-	-	450	4,432
Miscellaneous	5,120	5,110	-	10	-	-	5,120	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	**73,376**	**33,729**	**25,111**	**14,535**	**11,323**	**14,608**	**41,389**	**6,055**
TOTAL NEW CAPITAL WORKS	**155,428**	**104,138**	**34,536**	**16,755**	**11,573**	**14,608**	**63,664**	**65,583**

4.5.3 Works carried forward from the 2019-20 year

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types			Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Upgrade	Grants	Contrib.	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
PROPERTY								
Buildings	3,657	1,232	2,280	145	-	-	3,657	-
Community Facilities	2,787	2,587	200	-	-	-	2,787	-
Land	2,950	2,950	-	-	-	-	2,950	-
TOTAL PROPERTY	**9,394**	6,770	2,480	145	-	-	9,394	-
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT								
Fleet	100	100	-	-	-	-	100	-
Minor Plant and Equipment	170	171	-	-	-	-	170	-
Computers and Telecommunications	4,050	4,050	-	-	-	-	4,050	-
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	**4,320**	4,321	-	-	-	-	4,320	-
INFRASTRUCTURE								
Parks and Leisure	346	492	60	- 206	-	-	346	-
Roads	750	750	-	-	-	-	750	-
Drainage	2,812	2,812	-	-	-	-	2,812	-
Footpaths and Bikepaths	1,070	650	420	-	-	-	1,070	-
Kerb and Channel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Waste Management	439	402	-	38	-	-	439	-
Streetscapes	728	57	345	326	-	-	728	-
Miscellaneous	2,740	2,739	-	-	-	-	2,740	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	**8,886**	7,901	825	158	-	-	8,886	-
TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD CAPITAL WORKS 2019-20	**22,600**	**18,992**	**3,305**	**302**	**-**	**-**	**22,600**	**-**

5. Financial performance indicators

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across a range of key financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's financial position and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Strategic Resource Plan Projections			Trend
			2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	+/o/-
Adjusted underlying result	Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	1	2.90%	(1.41%)	(2.47%)	4.70%	2.63%	3.12%	+
Liquidity									
Working Capital	Current assets / current liabilities	2	155.43%	160.01%	156.36%	101.87%	106.49%	87.77%	-
Unrestricted cash	Unrestricted cash / current liabilities	3	137.01%	134.44%	131.16%	92.03%	79.63%	61.27%	-
Obligations									
Loans and borrowings	Interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue	4	28.83%	34.12%	54.55%	61.67%	68.62%	62.77%	o
Loans and borrowings	Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue		4.36%	4.56%	5.50%	6.56%	7.73%	8.06%	+
Indebtedness	Non-current liabilities / own source revenue		24.31%	28.90%	41.74%	42.67%	48.78%	43.84%	o
Asset renewal	Asset renewal expenses / Asset depreciation	5	48.43%	49.63%	49.37%	57.74%	54.55%	48.88%	o
Stability									
Rates concentration	Rate revenue / adjusted underlying revenue	6	60.39%	62.50%	63.27%	60.35%	62.54%	63.23%	o
Rates effort	Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipality		0.36%	0.33%	0.33%	0.34%	0.35%	0.35%	o

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Strategic Resource Plan Projections			Trend
			2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	+/o/-
Efficiency									
Expenditure level	Total expenses/ no. of property assessments		$2,967	$3,015	$3,122	$3,177	$3,233	$3,274	+
Revenue level	Residential rate revenue / no. of residential property assessments		$1,571	$1,627	$1,697	$1,765	$1,862	$1,900	+
Workforce turnover	No. of permanent staff resignations & terminations / average no. of permanent staff for the financial year		8.76%	8.76%	9.00%	9.00%	9.00%	9.00%	o

Key to Forecast Trend:

+ Forecasts improvement in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator
o Forecasts that Council's financial performance/financial position indicator will be steady
- Forecasts deterioration in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator

Notes to indicators

1. Adjusted underlying result

Changing recurrent surplus whilst underlying revenue continues to increase.

2. Working Capital

Increase in current liabilities balance due to drawing down of loans in 2020-21 and future years offset by stable cash balances.

3. Unrestricted Cash

Increase in draw down of loans in 2020-21 increases current liabilities balance with cash reducing in future years due to completion of major capital projects.

4. Debt compared to rates

Increase in loan borrowings in 2020-21 and future years is greater than the increase in rates revenue in 2020-21 but is offset thereafter.

5. Asset renewal

Expenditure on renewal projects is slightly increasing, however depreciation expense is also rising due to the growth in the asset base.

6. Rates concentration

No material variation.

Appendices

Appendix 1	Budgeted Income Statement
Appendix 2	Impact of Current Year on 2020-21 Budget
Appendix 3	2020-21 Capital Project listing by Asset Category
Appendix 4	2020-21 Non Capital Projects Program by Division
Appendix 5	2020-21 Community Investment & Support Fund
Appendix 6	Fees and Charges Analysis
Appendix 7	2020-21 Fees & Charges Major Price Changes
Appendix 8	Glossary

Budgeted Income Statement

4 Year Plan

	Budget 2019-20 $'000	Forecast 2019-20 $'000	Plan 2020-21 $'000	Plan 2021-22 $'000	Plan 2022-23 $'000	Plan 2023-24 $'000
RECURRENT INCOME						
Rates and Charges	240,763	241,180	254,042	269,534	289,323	302,827
Government Grants	58,852	59,484	45,907	62,192	63,436	64,705
User Charges	58,421	48,883	54,494	63,155	64,418	65,706
Other Fees and Charges	15,297	13,345	15,877	16,234	16,600	16,973
Sundry Income	7,730	4,315	4,236	6,530	6,660	6,794
Interest Investments	1,900	1,535	1,400	1,453	1,057	743
Total Recurrent Income	**382,962**	**368,742**	**375,956**	**419,098**	**441,493**	**457,748**
RECURRENT EXPENDITURE						
Employee Related						
Salaries	161,242	149,368	167,985	176,639	181,423	188,226
Workcover	2,553	2,386	2,722	2,804	2,888	2,975
Supplementary labour	3,319	8,739	1,783	1,819	1,855	1,892
	167,114	160,493	172,491	181,262	186,167	193,093
Goods and Services						
General Works - Materials	9,582	7,714	7,711	7,552	7,703	7,857
General Works - Plant, Vehicle Costs	9,669	8,155	8,640	8,813	8,989	9,169
General Works - External Services	96,682	98,130	104,582	109,414	115,152	119,821
Administration	10,370	9,766	11,108	12,798	12,515	12,768
Interest Expense	3,466	2,465	3,336	4,672	5,561	5,863
Professional Services	7,460	8,488	8,178	8,342	8,508	8,679
Utilities	12,480	9,936	12,216	10,639	10,352	10,559
Efficiency Dividend	(2,400)	0	(2,400)	(1,100)	0	0
	147,310	144,654	153,371	161,130	168,780	174,715
Depreciation	67,080	68,143	69,450	72,228	77,659	81,348
(Gain)/Loss on Sale of Plant & Equipment	61	(444)	59	(198)	(211)	(197)
Total Recurrent Expenditure	**381,565**	**372,846**	**395,371**	**414,422**	**432,395**	**448,959**
Recurrent Surplus / (Deficit)	**1,397**	**(4,104)**	**(19,415)**	**4,677**	**9,098**	**8,789**
NON-RECURRENT INCOME						
Capital Grants and Income	21,663	24,149	16,801	22,572	19,605	10,380
Developer Cash Contributions	4,559	14,263	14,510	15,220	18,520	20,820
Gain / (Loss) on Sale of Property	3,208	1,680	9,495	16,390	3,056	6,164
Recognition of Infrastructure	56,500	65,350	75,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Total Non-Recurrent Income	**85,930**	**105,443**	**115,805**	**104,182**	**91,181**	**87,364**
NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE						
Loss on Disposal of Infrastructure	6,190	6,497	5,570	3,500	3,500	3,500
Non Council Assets/Prior Yr Adj	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unfunded Superannuation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disbursements	3,000	3,000	0	0	0	0
Total Non-Recurrent Expenditure	**9,190**	**9,497**	**5,570**	**3,500**	**3,500**	**3,500**
Non-Recurrent Surplus / (Deficit)	**76,740**	**95,946**	**110,235**	**100,682**	**87,681**	**83,864**
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	**78,137**	**91,842**	**90,821**	**105,359**	**96,779**	**92,653**

Impact of Current Year on 2020-21 Budget

This section of the report analyses the variances from the current budget year and assesses whether there will be any significant impacts on the 2020-21 Budget.

1. Operating Performance

	Adopted Budget 2019-20 $'000	Amended Budget 2019-20 $'000	Forecast 2019-20 $'000	Variance Amended Budget v Forecast Actual $'000
Recurrent				
Revenue	382,962	372,531	**368,742**	(3,789)
Expenditure	(381,565)	(389,760)	**(372,846)**	16,914
Recurrent result - Surplus/ (Deficit)	**1,397**	**(17,229)**	**(4,104)**	**13,125**
Non-recurrent				
Revenue	85,930	87,686	**105,443**	17,757
Expenditure	(9,190)	(9,190)	**(9,497)**	(307)
Non Recurrent - Surplus/ (Deficit)	**76,740**	**78,496**	**95,946**	**17,450**
Net surplus (deficit)	**78,137**	**61,267**	**91,842**	**30,575**

Amendments to the 2019-20 Budget were made for carryover of discretionary and capital programs and other budget amendments, these included discretionary program carryover net expenditure ($9.7m), the reduction of 50% of the 2019-20 Grants Commission *Financial Assistance Grant* which was prepaid to council in June 2019 ($10.7m).

The forecasted recurrent performance for the year ending 30 June 2020 is a deficit of ($4.1m), which is $13.1m favourable compared to the amended budget. After non-recurrent items, the operating surplus is $91.8m, which is $30.6m favourable to the amended budget.

The 2019-20 forecast is adversely impacted by ($8.7m) from COVID-19 losses and support packages, lower than expected take up in hardwaste collection $2.0m, higher Federal Government Grant Commission income of $12.8m (half of the 2020-21 amount received in May 2020), estimated savings and delays on non-capital projects $2.3m. This is partly offset by increased costs from the change in recycling operations (including the closure of SKM) and waste diversion ($3.2m), a repayment of ($1.3m) Commonwealth Home Support funding for unspent grants from 2016-17 to 2018-19 and additional works for the demolition of the Belchers building ($0.8m).

The non-recurrent forecasted favourability to the amended budget includes developer cash contributions of $9.7m and non-monetary contributions (subdivision gifted assets) of $8.9m.

2. Cash Performance

	Adopted Budget 2019-20 $'000	Forecast 2019-20 $'000	Variance $'000
Net Cash Inflow from operations	**98,234**	**92,796**	**(5,438)**
Cash Inflow from Investing Activities	12,784	**17,166**	4,382
Funds available	**111,018**	**109,962**	**(1,056)**
Capital expenditure	(116,977)	**(124,434)**	(7,457)
Net Borrowing movements	22,778	**10,791**	(11,987)
Net Increase/(Decrease) Cash held	**16,819**	**(3,681)**	**(20,499)**
Cash at beginning of year	92,518	**105,528**	13,010
Cash at end of year	**109,337**	**101,847**	**(7,489)**

Cash balances at 30 June 2020 are expected to be $101.8m, a decrease of ($7.5m) on the budget mainly due to lower loan drawdowns compared to budget ($10.3m), financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and lower from the timing of land sales.

3. Capital Performance

	Adopted Budget 2019-20 $'000	Amended Budget 2019-20 $'000	Forecast 2019-20 $'000	Variance Amended Budget v Forecast Actual $'000
Capital Income	8,740	14,662	**24,149**	9,487
Capital Expenditure	(139,262)	(147,583)	**(124,434)**	23,149
Total Net Capital works	**(130,522)**	**(132,921)**	**(100,285)**	32,636

The projected capital performance for the year ending 30 June 2020 shows that the net capital works program for the 2019-20 year will be underspent by $32.6m compared to the Amended Budget. This variance is due to identified savings and a number of projects being behind schedule. Forecast indicates that $22.6m of Capital works projects expenditure will need to be carried forward and completed in the 2020-21 year.

4. Matters Significant to the 2020-21 Budget

The net forecast 2019-20 operating result and adherence to budget provides a sound basis for development of the 2020-21 Budget. Many challenges including implications from COVID-19, asset growth, developer contribution plan commitments, enterprise agreement renewal, capital works program and borrowing commitments have been factored into the 2020-21 Operating Budget.

The estimated impacts arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, including lost revenue from services, provision of support packages to the community, businesses and individuals has been factored into the 2019-20 forecast ($8.7m) and the 2020-21 budget ($6.6m). There may be further impacts to the operating result as the pandemic continues, and these will considered as part of an amended budget if material.

As a result of the variances between the forecast actual and budgeted results for the 2019-20 year, the following matters have influenced the preparation of the 2020-21 Annual Budget:

- Increases in waste charges arising during the 2019-20 financial year have been factored to continue in the 2020-21 budget period. These additional costs will be passed through to ratepayers via the 2020-21 waste service charge.
- Supplementary labour is unfavourable to budget in 2019-20, however due to conversions of long standing supplementary labour to permanent positions this is budgeted to reduce in 2020-21, providing an overall benefit to operating costs.
- Capital expenditure is forecast at $124.4m in 2019-20, with forecasted carryover of $22.6m into 2020-21.
- Projects that commenced during 2019-20 with further funding proposed in 2020-21 include: civic accommodation $51.4m, digital modernisation project $6.6m, Elcho drain construction $3.0m the re-development of Western Oval Pavilion $4.3m and LED street lighting program.
- Rates growth achieved in 2019-20 provides an increase in the number of rateable properties for 2020-21 of 2.4%, for a total of 129,005 properties.
- Planned loan borrowings in 2019-20 were $10m lower than expected at $25.0m in 2019-20, with $7.3m deferred into 2020-21.
- Property sales of $15.2m are expected to be achieved in 2019-20 versus a budget of $11.5m providing an opportunity to reduce borrowings or fund additional programs of works.
- Impact of hardwaste collection service as a trial in 2019-20 that will continue in 2020-21 with a forecast cost $2m. Recycling processing contractual cost increases that arose during 2019-20 will continue in 2020-21. These costs are passed onto ratepayers via the Recycling and Waste Collection Service Charge, which is expected to increase by 8.7%.

2020-21 Capital Projects by Category

Division	Business Unit	Project Number	Project Name	Description	Project Type	2020-21 Expenditure $	2020-21 Income $	2020-21 Net Expenditure $
PROPERTY								
City Services	Capital Projects	C15825	Capital Projects Design - Core Program	Funds for design work on capital projects.	New Asset	44,000	0	44,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C20420	Civic Accommodation Project	Development of office accommodation.	New Asset	51,437,230	0	51,437,230
City Services	Capital Projects	C21407	Disability Access - Core Program	Identification and completion of works, designs, plans and estimates of community facilities to enable equal accessibility to people with disabilities.	Asset Upgrade	340,000	0	340,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21408	Children Services Facilities Upgrades - Core Program	Upgrade of children's service facilities including childcare centres, kindergartens and occasional care venues to ensure compliance with children service regulations and continuation of service delivery.	Asset Upgrade	405,000	0	405,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21409	Community Halls Upgrade - Core Program	Upgrades to major halls to maintain a standard of venue delivery.	Asset Upgrade	219,000	0	219,000
City Services	Environment & Natural Resources	C20330	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy - Capital Works	Continue to build on the Zero Carbon Buildings Program by retrofitting council buildings with energy efficiency (lighting upgrades) and renewable energy (solar) upgrades.	Asset Upgrade	180,000	0	180,000
Community Life	Social Planning & Investment	C18512	Building Design - Core Program	Emergency design requirements for safety and emerging priorities, and specifications for sports floodlighting.	New Asset	22,500	0	22,500
Customer & Corporate Services	Property, Procurement & Assets	C09201	Office Alteration / Improvements - Core Program	Ongoing program of minor office alterations and improvements.	Asset Upgrade	86,060	0	86,060
Customer & Corporate Services	Property, Procurement & Assets	C10206	Toilet Block Renewal / Replacement - Core Program	Ongoing program of public toilet refurbishment to ensure they meet community needs and expectations.	Asset Upgrade	260,000	0	260,000
Customer & Corporate Services	Property, Procurement & Assets	C12202	Building Renewals - Core Program	Annual building renewals funding for roof replacements and switchboard upgrades.	Asset Renewal	2,070,462	0	2,070,462
Customer & Corporate Services	Property, Procurement & Assets	C19201	Waterworld Canopy Replacement	End of life replacement.	Asset Renewal	800,000	0	800,000
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Arts & Culture	C16516	Potato Shed Facility Renewal - Core Program	Funding as part of agreement between the City, Bellarine Secondary College and Catholic Regional College for critical facility maintenance and improvement.	Asset Upgrade	63,000	24,720	38,280
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Arts & Culture	C21801	Geelong Gallery Redevelopment	Phase one of Geelong Gallery Redevelopment to review and update Geelong Gallery business base in parallel with staging of the Civic Accommodation project.	Asset Upgrade	100,000	0	100,000
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Arts & Culture	C21804	Feasibility study - City of Design Exhibition Space	Geelong Post Office / Deakin Waterfront campus: Study to investigate the business case for a City of Design Exhibition Space.	Asset Upgrade	150,000	0	150,000
Total Buildings						**56,177,252**	**24,720**	**56,152,532**
City Services	Capital Projects	C20401	Lara Family Hub - Enhanced Early Learning Centre	The project will include replacement, integration, and expansion of the existing stand-alone 30 place kindergarten and maternal and child health centre into a purpose built facility to meet local population growth and changing service delivery requirements. Design phase in 2020-21.	New Asset	200,000	0	200,000

2020-21 Capital Projects by Category

Division	Business Unit	Project Number	Project Name	Description	Project Type	2020-21		
						Expenditure $	Income $	Net Expenditure $
City Services	Capital Projects	C21401	Bell Park / Bell Post Hill Enhanced Early Years and Community Hub	Design for an early years and community hub to integrate and co-locate existing services including Bell Park Hill and Bell Park Kindergarten and Maternal Child Health centres including flexible community space. Land was acquired in the 2019-20 financial year. Construction to commence in 2022-23.	New Asset	100,000	0	100,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21403	Barwon Heads Arts & Community Hub	Stage 1: design in 2020-21 of the Barwon Heads Arts & Community Hub. 2018 State Election commitment with funding through Regional Development Victoria - Regional Jobs & Infrastructure Fund.	New Asset	60,000	250,000	-190,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21421	Armstrong Creek Community Shed	Building and fitting a new men's shed and community garden in Armstrong Creek.	New Asset	595,000	0	595,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21428	Chilwell Library - Hub - Meeting Rooms	To turn Chilwell Library into a community hub with meeting rooms.	Asset Upgrade	50,000	0	50,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21431	Labuan Square – Norlane Renewal Project	To undertake community and stakeholder engagement and produce plans for renewal of the public spaces.	Asset Renewal	125,000	0	125,000
Community Life	Leisure & Recreation Services	C09811	Concourse Renewal and Safety - Core Program	The Concrete/Concourse Core Replacement Program is an annual planned replacement program that is essential to the leisure and aquatic centre operations. The program addresses the ageing infrastructure of the concrete and concourse surfaces at the leisure and aquatic centres.	Asset Renewal	100,000	0	100,000
Community Life	Social Planning & Investment	C21506	Thomson Community Facilities Development Plan	Masterplan and concept design for the future replacement of existing community services facilities located in Godfrey Street Thomson (comprising kindergarten, senior citizens centre, and meals centre) into an integrated community hub.	New Asset	80,000	0	80,000
Planning, Design & Development	Development Contribution Plans	C68157	ACWP - NAC Active Open Space - Community Pavilion (northern) CI-OS-2	DCP funded project required to design and construct the Armstrong Creek West Neighbourhood Activity Centre Community Sports Pavilion. Initial costs to scope, design and tender the facility.	New Asset	100,000	0	100,000
Planning, Design & Development	Development Contribution Plans	C68352	CI_CF_1 Armstrong Creek Town Centre - Library & Learning Hub Detailed Design (ACTC Community Facilities Masterplan)	Planning for a library and learning hub in the Armstrong Creek Town Centre.	New Asset	300,000	0	300,000
Planning, Design & Development	Development Contribution Plans	C68852	Lara Regional Library - Design and Development CI-C-1	DCP funded project required to design and construct the permanent Lara Regional Library to replace the existing temporary library. Design phase in 2020-21 with construction to follow in subsequent	New Asset	250,000	0	250,000
Planning, Design & Development	Development Contribution Plans	C68904	Jetty Road - Children's & Community Hub - Design and Development C002	DCP funded project required to design and develop the Jetty Road Children's and Community Centre to meet the needs of the expanding population in the Curlewis growth area. Facility to include development of an early childhood and maternal services area and neighbourhood community hub.	New Asset	150,000	0	150,000
Planning, Design & Development	Development Contribution Plans	C68905	DCP - JR (Drysdale) Regional Community & Learning Hub C003	To design the Drysdale Integrated Community and Early Years Hub.	New Asset	200,000	0	200,000

2020-21 Capital Projects by Category

Division	Business Unit	Project Number	Project Name	Description	Project Type	2020-21 Expenditure $	2020-21 Income $	2020-21 Net Expenditure $
Total Community Facilities						**2,310,000**	**250,000**	**2,060,000**
Customer & Corporate Services	Property, Procurement & Assets	C11206	New Corio / New Station Estates Voluntary Purchase Scheme	Purchase of land in the New Corio and New Station Estates Corio, being old and inappropriate subdivisions comprising total of 847 small lots.	New Asset	1,300,000	0	1,300,000
Customer & Corporate S	Property, Procurement & Assets	C19208	New Station Estate Land Development	Development of New Station Estates Corio, previously being old and inappropriate subdivisions comprising total of 847 small lots.	New Asset	4,000,000	0	4,000,000
Planning, Design & Development	Planning & Growth	C21601	Armstrong Creek land acquisition program	Funding to support the Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) as identified under Developer Contribution Plans.	New Asset	3,800,000	0	3,800,000
Total Land Acquisition						**9,100,000**	**0**	**9,100,000**
TOTAL PROPERTY						**67,587,252**	**274,720**	**67,312,532**
PLANT & EQUIPMENT								
City Services	City Works	C02313	Light Fleet - Core Program	Light fleet replacement program.	Asset Renewal	2,113,000	0	2,113,000
City Services	City Works	C02314	Heavy and Dedicated Plant Replacement - Core Program	Heavy and dedicated plant replacement program.	Asset Renewal	2,600,000	0	2,600,000
City Services	City Works	C13314	Additional Light Vehicles	The effective operation of the Stacey's Road facility requires compost to be at optimum water content, facilitating the need for specialised equipment.	New Asset	50,000	0	50,000
Total Fleet						**4,763,000**	**0**	**4,763,000**
City Services	City Works	C02320	Minor Plant & Equipment - Replacements - Core Program	Fund from which minor plant and equipment replacement can be purchased.	Asset Renewal	67,500	0	67,500
Community Life	Leisure & Recreation Services	C21503	Replacement and Upgrade of Leisure Centre Lockers	To replace and upgrade the public lockers at leisure centres. The current lockers are at end of life.	New Asset	210,000	0	210,000
Customer & Corporate Services	Property, Procurement & Assets	C09202	Furniture Replacement - Core Program	Annual capital allocation for furniture and equipment replacement.	Asset Upgrade	46,000	0	46,000
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Arts & Culture	C17801	Public Art Strategy Project Delivery - Core Program	To deliver public art strategy, which is the key driving document for commissioning new public art across the municipality which will enhance public amenity through the arts.	New Asset	77,449	0	77,449
Total Minor Plant & Equipment						**400,949**	**0**	**400,949**
Community Life	Leisure & Recreation Services	C21502	Leisure Services Point of Sale Update Facilities	Replacement of existing software to Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard at all fitness and aquatic centres. This upgrade is a mandatory requirement for PCI compliance.	Asset Upgrade	320,000	0	320,000
Customer & Corporate Services	Digital, Information & Technology	C05207	Minor Acquisitions Program - Core Program	Funding of minor items below $20,000 via IT Steering Committee for hardware, software and minor infrastructure items.	New Asset	219,000	0	219,000
Customer & Corporate Services	Digital, Information & Technology	C05208	IT Asset Replacement Program - Core Program	Based on cycle replacement of hardware.	Asset Renewal	1,549,000	0	1,549,000
Customer & Corporate Services	Digital, Information & Technology	C19204	Digital Modernisation	Implementation of the City's Information and Communications Technology Strategy	New Asset	6,603,647	0	6,603,647

2020-21 Capital Projects by Category

Division	Business Unit	Project Number	Project Name	Description	Project Type	2020-21 Expenditure $	2020-21 Income $	2020-21 Net Expenditure $
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Economy, Investment & Attraction	C19807	Bellarine Enhanced Broadband Installation	The City in partnership with Deakin University and AARNET are proposing to install and run high capacity optical fibre from South Geelong train station along the Bellarine Rail Trail corridor to Queenscliff. This is the 2nd year of funding.	New Asset	610,000	0	610,000
Total Computers & Telecommunications						**9,301,647**	**0**	**9,301,647**
TOTAL PLANT & EQUIPMENT						**14,465,596**	**0**	**14,465,596**
INFRASTRUCTURE								
City Services	Capital Projects	C19413	Polworth Pavilion and West Oval - Pavilion Construction	Demolition of the existing pavilion and construction of a new pavilion, including social areas and amenities. Detailed design is currently underway for this project. The state government has made an election commitment of $7.4m for the project, with $3.7m expected to be received in 2020-21 and the remaining $3.7m in 2021-22.	Asset Upgrade	8,000,000	3,700,000	4,300,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C20402	Herne Hill Reserve Pavilion Construction	Redevelop the main pavilion at Herne Hill Reserve in line with Masterplan recommendations, to consolidate the two existing pavilions into one shared use facility. There will be an expected $1.25m in 2020-21 and $500k in 2021-22 of government funding.	Asset Upgrade	1,500,000	1,250,000	250,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C20413	Barwon Soccer Club Stage 2 Changeroom Development	Stage 2 of change room development at Grovedale Recreation Reserve. This will ensure that the facility is compliant with standards for competition as well as provide gender neutral change rooms.	New Asset	200,000	0	200,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C20416	Drysdale Sporting Precinct Master Plan Implementation	Design phase of the Drysdale Sub-Regional Sporting Precinct Masterplan. Builds upon existing uses and to ultimately deliver on the strategic (and sustainable) vision for the Precinct. Implementation will commence after the Masterplan has been endorsed in early 2020 with design in 2020-21 and construction to follow in subsequent	New Asset	215,000	215,000	0
City Services	Capital Projects	C21405	Thomson Reserve. Thomson Pavilion Upgrade - Gender Neutral Change Facilities	Thomson Reserve, Thomson – Provide gender neutral change facilities. (100% Grant funded). Design in 2020-21 with construction to follow in 2021-22.	Asset Upgrade	50,000	50,000	0
City Services	Capital Projects	C21406	Ocean Grove - Collendina Reserve facility upgrade	Provide facility upgrades to existing pavilion, including gender neutral facilities. (100% Grant funded)	Asset Upgrade	60,000	60,000	0
City Services	Capital Projects	C21410	Playground Development Program Implementation - Core Program	Playground development program to bring existing playgrounds up to standard to legislative requirements and the needs of the community.	Asset Upgrade	551,450	0	551,450
City Services	Capital Projects	C21411	Ground Renovation Program - Core Program	Improvements to sports fields in response to drought conditions.	Asset Renewal	230,086	0	230,086
City Services	Capital Projects	C21412	Marshall Cricket Club - Practice facility development	Development of cricket practice nets and associated facilities. (100% Grant funded)	Asset Upgrade	237,000	237,000	0
City Services	Capital Projects	C21413	Estuary Recreation Reserve Sports Lighting Installation	Installation of sports lighting to the soccer pitch at Estuary Recreation Reserve. (100% Grant funded)	New Asset	22,500	22,500	0

2020-21 Capital Projects by Category

Division	Business Unit	Project Number	Project Name	Description	Project Type	2020-21		
						Expenditure $	Income $	Net Expenditure $
City Services	Capital Projects	C21414	Rippleside Playground	Design and construct a new regional playground utilising universal design principles to replace the existing outdated, unsuitable facility and plan for the associated infrastructure such as path connections, accessible toilet and park infrastructure.	New Asset	400,000	0	400,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21415	Portarlington Recreation Reserve - Sports Lighting Installation	Project will upgrade the existing lights on oval 1 at Portarlington Recreation Reserve to energy efficient LED's and provide adequate lighting to the playing surface. (100% Grant funded)	Asset Upgrade	250,000	250,000	0
City Services	Capital Projects	C21417	Queens Park Golf Water Irrigation	The project will replace and upgrade the current aging irrigation infrastructure at Queens Park Golf Course. It will include a system expansion to include the driving range, greater playing area and 2 adjoining sports fields. The new system will provide a greater watering capacity and will enable irrigation to greater depth enhancing the playing surface.	Asset Upgrade	743,000	0	743,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21418	Playground - Grantham Drive	This scope includes path upgrades, new play equipment, barbecues, public toilets, landscaping improvements and 12 months maintenance.	New Asset	450,000	0	450,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21419	Newcomb Football and Netball Club	Grinter Reserve Masterplan, including lighting upgrade and female friendly changeroom upgrade.	Asset Upgrade	425,000	0	425,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21420	Lara Masterplan Project Stage 1	Implementation of the Lara Recreation Reserve Masterplan. Builds upon existing uses and to ultimately deliver on the Masterplan's strategic and sustainable vision for the precinct.	New Asset	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21422	Hume Reserve, Bell Park Pavilion Replacement and gender neutral change facilities.	Demolition of existing facilities and installation of new fit for purpose pavilion including gender neutral change facilities.	New Asset	150,000	0	150,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21423	Queens Park Lighting	New lighting amenity of Stinton Oval (main oval) at Queens Park, Highton.	New Asset	550,000	0	550,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21424	Pavilion and Ground Extension at Tim Hill Reserve	An extension is required to both the pavilion and ground at Tim Hill Reserve to utilise it to its maximum potential.	New Asset	100,000	0	100,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21425	Leisurelink 50m Pool Replacement - Detailed Design	Stage 1 of the project to provide detailed engineering design and documentation for contract procurement. The project is to replace 50m prefabricated steel 50m pool at Leisurelink with a concrete pool. The pool was identified for replacement 5 years ago within a 10 replacement plan. Implementation phase schedule for 2021-22.	New Asset	100,000	0	100,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21426	Beacon Point Reserve implementation	Install new shared path cycling / walking trail from beach access point at Cantana Way to High Ridge Drive. Create a new picnic node with park furniture as per Masterplan location.	New Asset	250,000	0	250,000

2020-21 Capital Projects by Category

Division	Business Unit	Project Number	Project Name	Description	Project Type	2020-21		
						Expenditure $	Income $	Net Expenditure $
City Services	Capital Projects	C21427	Hume Reserve Master Plan Implementation – paths, fencing, planting and park furniture.	Council adopted the Hume Reserve Masterplan and this is part of the staged investment into the reserve. This phase of implementation will include investment into concrete shared paths (1300 lineal metres), pipe and rail fencing around the northern soccer pitch, park furniture and the planting of approximately 20 trees.	New Asset	200,000	0	200,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21429	Waurn Ponds Playground, Skate Park and BMX Track	Stage one of two - Playground, Skate Park and BMX Track Upgrade and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) response including better connections between site elements.	Asset Upgrade	300,000	0	300,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21430	Leopold Football Club Masterplan / (Building Clubrooms at Estuary Estate)	Initial funding for upgrades to facilities at soccer field and football/cricket oval.	New Asset	150,000	0	150,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21432	Winter Reserve	Shade cloth installation.	New Asset	20,000	0	20,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21434	Hammersley Road Playground	Reserve and playground improvements	Asset Upgrade	80,000	0	80,000
City Services	Capital Projects	C21435	St Leonards Skate Park	Design of a new skate park. Construction to follow in subsequent years.	New Asset	30,000	0	30,000
City Services	Environment & Natural Resources	C08308	Environment Reserves Capital Improvements - Core Program	A program of priority capital works as identified in adopted conservation and environment reserves management plans.	Asset Upgrade	414,000	0	414,000
City Services	Environment & Natural Resources	C20310	Clifton Springs Golf Club Landslide Remediation Stage 2	A number of significant landslides have occurred along the escarpment adjacent to the Clifton Springs Golf Course. The proposed project would include treatment of stormwater and remediation of the landslides through the construction of reinforced earthen walls and rock shute.	Asset Renewal	100,000	10,000	90,000
City Services	Parks & Gardens	C21320	Irrigation Asset Renewal - Core Program	Renewal of irrigation-related assets that are in need of improvement.	Asset Renewal	277,265	0	277,265
Community Life	Leisure & Recreation	C21504	North Bellarine Aquatic Centre	Design phase with the intention to provide a centre that will cater for the needs of a growing Northern Bellarine community and to meet the following requirements; 50m long pool, to be outdoors, to be heated, to have a hydro-therapy section, be suitable for school students and adults, to have a meeting room, a small gym/exercise section, a rehab facility and be central to the North Bellarine.	New Asset	750,000	0	750,000
Community Life	Leisure & Recreation Services	C10850	Gymnasium Equipment Changeover - Core Program	The Gymnasium Equipment Core Replacement Program is part of Leisure Services 10 year gymnasium asset replacement program.	Asset Renewal	670,897	0	670,897
Community Life	Leisure & Recreation Services	C17504	Aquatic Play Equipment Maintenance and Upgrades - Core Program	The Aquatic Play Equipment Core Renewal and Upgrade Program is an annual planned asset management program that is essential to the leisure and aquatic centre operations. The program addresses equipment renewal and upgrade of aquatic play structure at the 4 Leisure Centres and 2 outdoor pools.	Asset Upgrade	120,000	0	120,000

2020-21 Capital Projects by Category

Division	Business Unit	Project Number	Project Name	Description	Project Type	2020-21 Expenditure $	2020-21 Income $	2020-21 Net Expenditure $
Community Life	Social Planning & Investment	C21501	Portarlington Recreation Reserve Master Plan	To deliver a Masterplan for the Portarlington Recreation Reserve to inform the future developments and investment at the reserve. (100% Grant funded)	Asset Upgrade	50,000	50,000	0
Community Life	Social Planning & Investment	C21505	Shell Reserve Netball Court & Cricket Nets	New additional netball court and the relocation of cricket nets.	New Asset	975,000	0	975,000
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Central Geelong & Waterfront	C18808	Eastern Beach Sea baths Shark Bars	Stage two of the capital project to replace the heritage shark bars at Eastern Beach swimming enclosure.	Asset Renewal	190,000	0	190,000
Total Parks & Leisure						**20,811,198**	**5,844,500**	**14,966,698**
City Services	Engineering Services	C02301	Street Construction Sub Program - Special Rates & Charges - Core Program	Ongoing program of construction of road and drainage projects in accordance with approved schedule funded via Special Rates and Charges Schemes.	New Asset	3,191,200	1,520,000	1,671,200
City Services	Engineering Services	C02306	Asphalting - Road Surfacing - Core Program	Resurfacing of sealed road surfaces with asphalt to maintain a waterproof surface and ensure the long term integrity of the road pavement.	Asset Renewal	6,050,000	0	6,050,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C02310	Road Rehabilitation - Core Program	Renewal / replacement of road pavements in full block sections.	Asset Renewal	3,933,000	0	3,933,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C02311	Roads Other - Core Program	Renewal / Replacement of bridges, major culverts, bus shelters, laneways, carparks and street furniture and other sundry road and street related infrastructure.	Asset Renewal	412,000	0	412,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C02321	Design & Investigation - Capital Projects - Core Program	Ongoing investigation and design program for road construction projects throughout the municipality.	New Asset	0	0	0
City Services	Engineering Services	C02323	Local Roads Construction Sub Program - Road & Street Management - Core Program	Ongoing program of local road works including road construction, provision of roundabouts.	New Asset	919,000	0	919,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C02340	CoGG Assets Created by Blackspot VicRoads Program	This program relates to VicRoads funded projects on council assets.	New Asset	500,000	500,000	0
City Services	Engineering Services	C02342	Reseal - Road Surfacing - Core Program	Resurfacing of sealed road surfaces with spray seal or scrap rubber reseal to maintain a waterproof surface and ensure the long term integrity of the road pavement.	Asset Renewal	1,842,000	0	1,842,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C03301	Major Culvert Guardrail Replacement / Installation - Core	Ongoing program of replacement or installation of guardrail over major culverts in accordance with approved schedule.	Asset Renewal	110,277	0	110,277
City Services	Engineering Services	C08302	Traffic Major Works - Core Program	Construction of major traffic works as prioritised from core traffic projects.	Asset Renewal	686,000	0	686,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C08320	Design & Investigation - Traffic Management Projects - Road & Street Management - Core Program	Ongoing investigation and design program for projects involving traffic management treatments throughout the municipality.	New Asset	92,000	0	92,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C09303	Bridge Upgrades - Major Renewal Works - Core Program	Major renewal works on road and pedestrian bridges across municipality.	Asset Renewal	425,000	0	425,000

2020-21 Capital Projects by Category

Division	Business Unit	Project Number	Project Name	Description	Project Type	2020-21 Expenditure $	2020-21 Income $	2020-21 Net Expenditure $
City Services	Engineering Services	C14306	Capital Renewal of Civil Assets in Parks - Core Program	Renewal of Civil Assets (Roads, Gravel Surfaces, Kerbs, Car Parks).	Asset Renewal	257,254	0	257,254
City Services	Engineering Services	C17310	Community, Leisure & Recreation Carparks - Core Program	Upgrading of existing gravel carpark to a sealed asphalt carpark. Pavement construction included in this project. Location of the project is on the foreshore at the point where The Esplanade meets Western Beach Rd.	Asset Renewal	120,000	0	120,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C17311	Safe Travel in Local Streets	TAC funded program (delivered through Regional Roads Victoria) to address high crash risk sights in Corio/Norlane and South Geelong. This includes numerous projects that collectively improve road safety and reduce road trauma on local council roads.	New Asset	2,775,000	2,775,000	0
City Services	Engineering Services	C20336	Federal Roads Program (Roads to Recovery)	Next stage of federally funded program for the renewal of roads and road related assets.	Asset Renewal	2,183,504	2,183,504	0
City Services	Engineering Services	C21301	Gravel Resheeting - Core Program	Resheeting of gravel roads that are in need of improvement.	Asset Renewal	1,003,000	0	1,003,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C21303	Bituminise road into Myers Reserve	Access road into the Reserve, kerb, channel and drainage.	Asset Upgrade	500,000	0	500,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C21304	Burvilles Rd	Footpath, kerb & channel - from the school to the Surf Coast Highway.	New Asset	500,000	0	500,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C21306	Roads Sealed Portarlington, St Leonards etc	Increase sealed roads on the Bellarine Peninsula.	Asset Upgrade	100,000	0	100,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C21308	Upgrade of road safety measures in the vicinity of Portarlington Primary School	A range of improved safety measures in Fenwick Street, Newcombe Street and Fisher Street, specifically, the installation of improved signage, including flashing 40kph signs, and supervised crossings in Fisher Street and Newcombe Street.	Asset Upgrade	50,000	0	50,000
Planning, Design & Development	Development Contribution Plans	C68156	Boundary Road and Baanyip Boulevard Traffic Signals and link road. DI_RO_01 - Armstrong Creek West DCP	Install traffic signals at the intersection of Boundary Road and Baanyip Boulevard, realign Boundary Road to join with new signals as identified in the Armstrong Creek West Precinct Structure Plan.	New Asset	100,000	0	100,000
Planning, Design & Development	Development Contribution Plans	C68853	Patullos Rd East - Road Widening/Shared User Path	Design of widened road and shared user path between O'Hallorans Rd and Kees Rd, Lara.	New Asset	1,700,000	0	1,700,000
Total Roads						**27,449,235**	**6,978,504**	**20,470,731**
City Services	Capital Projects	C21416	Drainage Upsize - Civic Accommodation Site	Resizing of a stormwater drain diversion at the site of the Civic Accommodation project.	Asset Upgrade	600,000	0	600,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C02315	Flood Studies & Strategies - Core Program	Ongoing investigation and design program to enable implementation of projects identified through the program of drainage catchment studies.	New Asset	0	0	0
City Services	Engineering Services	C02317	Drainage Construction Sub Program Flood & Drainage Management - Core Program	Ongoing program of drainage related works including upgrading main drainage infrastructure.	New Asset	2,450,618	0	2,450,618
City Services	Engineering Services	C02343	Drainage Renewal - Core Program	Renewal of drainage infrastructure to reduce the likelihood of property flooding events.	Asset Renewal	1,221,000	0	1,221,000

2020-21 Capital Projects by Category

Division	Business Unit	Project Number	Project Name	Description	Project Type	2020-21 Expenditure $	2020-21 Income $	2020-21 Net Expenditure $
City Services	Engineering Services	C17301	Elcho Channel Upgrade	Additional funding to complete the Elcho Channel special charge scheme works, including land acquisition.	New Asset	3,000,000	3,000,000	0
Total Drainage						**7,271,618**	**3,000,000**	**4,271,618**
City Services	Capital Projects	C21433	Newtown Football Club - Bitumen next to clubrooms	Bitumen at the end of the clubrooms.	New Asset	10,000	0	10,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C02303	Footpath Construction Sub Program - Special Rates & Charges - Core Program	Ongoing program of new footpath construction in accordance with approved schedule funded via Special Rates and Charges Schemes.	New Asset	1,280,000	610,000	670,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C02307	Footpath Renewal - Core Program	Renewal / replacement of footpaths across the municipality.	Asset Renewal	2,944,000	0	2,944,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C21302	Shared Trails Masterplan - Implementation of Linkages	The Shared Trails Masterplan is a review of the municipalities shared trails and paths network. The Masterplan also identified gaps and opportunities in the network. The intent is to develop a prioritised list of identified opportunities that can then be further scoped as specific projects for future funding.	Asset Renewal	250,000	0	250,000
City Services	Engineering Services	C21307	Bus Shelter on Watt Street Lara (Lifestyle Village)	Installation of a bus shelter-on Watt Street Lara.	New Asset	35,000	30,000	5,000
Total Footpaths/Bikepaths						**4,519,000**	**640,000**	**3,879,000**
City Services	Engineering Services	C02308	Kerb and Channel Renewal - Core Program	Replacement of kerb and channel in full block sections.	Asset Renewal	2,306,000	0	2,306,000
Total Kerb & Channel						**2,306,000**	**0**	**2,306,000**
City Services	Waste Services	C04308	New Bin Supply - Waste Collection and Recycling Systems - Core Program	Supply of mobile bins to new and additional occupancy residential properties and for new commercial customers.	New Asset	616,000	0	616,000
City Services	Waste Services	C16303	Composting Site Setup Works	A purpose built area for the screening of composted material is required to improve the process and adhere to licence guidelines.	New Asset	250,000	0	250,000
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Central Geelong & Waterfront	C21802	Eastern Beach Sewerage	Works to fix sewerage issues.	Asset Renewal	150,000	0	150,000
Total Waste Management						**1,016,000**	**0**	**1,016,000**
City Services	Capital Projects	C20403	LED Street Lighting & Smart Controls	This project involves a bulk change out of existing light fittings to more efficient LED's with Smart Control technology. Once complete, the operational and maintenance savings from the new LED's will be approximately $2million annually over current existing lighting costs.	New Asset	4,387,509	0	4,387,509
City Services	Engineering Services	C21305	Stage 2 of St Leonards streetscape	Works on Murradoc Rd near Bluff Rd (near the shopping centre). The features of this stage of the project are to extend the footpath by 2m, re-pave, kerb and channel works, raise garden beds and associated plumbing and drainage works.	Asset Upgrade	250,000	0	250,000

2020-21 Capital Projects by Category

Division	Business Unit	Project Number	Project Name	Description	Project Type	2020-21 Expenditure $	2020-21 Income $	2020-21 Net Expenditure $
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Central Geelong & Waterfront	C20809	Lt Malop Street Central Works Project	The project is in response to a resolution of Council on 25 June 2019 requesting a program of initiatives to encourage greater community use and access in Little Malop St Central.	Asset Upgrade	65,000	0	65,000
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Central Geelong & Waterfront	C21803	Eastern Beach Promenade Upgrade	Funding support to upgrade the deteriorated Eastern Beach Promenade. Decking to be replaced & investigation into structural changes.	Asset Upgrade	130,000	0	130,000
Planning, Design & Development	Planning & Growth	C21602	West Fyans streetscape improvement	Supplementing works for Rutland Street upgrade including tree planting, new signage, car parking and planter boxers.	Asset Upgrade	50,000	0	50,000
Total Streetscapes						**4,882,509**	**0**	**4,882,509**
Customer & Corporate Services	Financial Services	C06210	Capital Program Project Management - Capitalised Salaries	Annual allowance associated with delivering the Capital Projects Program - based on current approved operative.	New Asset	3,109,966	59,300	3,050,666
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	C20508	Community Infrastructure Grants - Public	Community Infrastructure Grants Program.	New Asset	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
Governance, Strategy & Performance	Communications & Marketing	C21701	Ceres Township Sign	Update signage at entrance to Ceres township.	Asset Upgrade	10,000	0	10,000
Total Miscellaneous						**5,119,966**	**59,300**	**5,060,666**
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE						**73,375,526**	**16,522,304**	**56,853,222**
TOTAL - CAPITAL PROJECTS						**155,428,374**	**16,797,024**	**138,631,350**

2020-21 Non Capital Program - New and Increased Initiatives by Division

Business Unit	Job Number	Project Name	Description	2020-21 Expenditure $	2020-21 Income $	2020-21 Net Expenditure $
CHIEF EXECUTIVE						
Chief Executive Administration	D11610	Cultural Change Management	To allow for Managers/Coordinators to have regular forums to ensure cultural conversations and capability building.	20,000	0	20,000
Chief Executive Administration	D11620	Municipal Monitors	Payment for Monitors costs.	35,000	0	35,000
Total Chief Executive				**55,000**	**0**	**55,000**
PEOPLE & CULTURE						
People & Culture Admin	R14146	Delivery of Enterprise Agreement	Costs associated with the delivery and execution of the new Enterprise Agreement, commencing on 1st July 2020.	100,000	0	100,000
Total People & Culture				**100,000**	**0**	**100,000**
CUSTOMER & CORPORATE SERVICES						
Digital, Information & Technology	R24503	Cyber Security Capability Improvement	Implement tools, technology and a FTE resource to increase the capability and visibility of cyber threats across the organisation.	250,000	0	250,000
Property, Procurement & Assets	D15801	Asset Information & Data Collection	Funds will be used to collect data to close current gaps in our corporate asset information, to assist with making informed decisions and complying with accounting standards.	180,000	0	180,000
Property, Procurement & Assets	D15801	Strategic Asset Management Software	Purchase of software licences for Strategic Asset Management Modelling. Modelling will include all major asset classes (Civil Infrastructure, Buildings, Open Space & Recreation). Stand alone models will be refined for the Waterfront and Leisure Services Assets.	80,000	0	80,000
Property, Procurement & Assets	D15801	Corporate Asset Management Team	Establish and maintain the corporate systems for all assets that are not categorised as Civil Infrastructure. These include assets such as land, buildings, Open Space, Environmental Assets.	101,337	0	101,337
Total Customer & Corporate Services				**611,337**	**0**	**611,337**
CITY SERVICES						
Capital Projects	D67145	Iconic Christmas Tree Annual Installation	Funding for the annual installation and maintenance of the floating Christmas Tree.	439,827	0	439,827
Engineering Services	D36411	Improvement to parking currently located between Portarlington Senior Citizens building and Parks Hall	This area currently includes only a small number of sealed parking spaces, with the scope of this project being to improve the unsealed area.	100,000	0	100,000
Engineering Services	R36304	City Safe Graffiti Removal	Surfaces that need to be maintained by the City and keep up with the growing levels of graffiti.	500,000	0	500,000
Environment & Natural Resources	D61119	Northern and Western Growth Areas (NWGGA) Sustainability Action plans for each Precinct Structure Plan	New FTE, two year temporary Band 7 position to project manage the development of a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for NWGGA and the management of a consultant to undertake a Federal Government Part 10 approval for NWGGA native vegetation. A specialist consultant will be engaged to undertake the part 10 assessment.	230,000	0	230,000

2020-21 Non Capital Program - New and Increased Initiatives by Division

Business Unit	Job Number	Project Name	Description	2020-21 Expenditure $	2020-21 Income $	2020-21 Net Expenditure $
Environment & Natural Resources	R61166	Restoring Rural Landscapes	The project is to address one of the key agricultural and environmental issues impacting rural landscapes - the management of pest plants and animals on City managed roadsides and adjoining farm land. The increase of $249k to $549k in 2020-21 will reinstate funding as a one-off cut was made in 2019-20 to commence the project.	549,000	0	549,000
Environment & Natural Resources	D61199	Southeast Bellarine Coastal Reserve Strategy	Establishment of a multi-disciplinary panel of experts and stakeholders to examine options and report on benefits of amalgamating the Buckley Park Coastal Reserve and the Lake Victoria wetlands into a better protected, single iconic wildlife and cultural heritage park.	160,000	0	160,000
Parks & Gardens	R63164	Hoffman Walk Lara Botanical Gardens	Annual maintenance to public open space.	50,000	0	50,000
Waste Services	D38162	Diversion of Food Organics	To design and implement a community trial of kerbside food organics collection in 2020-21.	400,000	0	400,000
Waste Services	D38163	Food Organics Processing Facility	To investigate the City's organic waste processing options and develop options for the proposal/design for a processing facility.	50,000	0	50,000
Waste Services	R38158	Hardwaste Collection	Provision of hard waste service to residential properties.	2,000,000	0	2,000,000
Total City Services				**4,478,827**	**0**	**4,478,827**
COMMUNITY LIFE						
Community Care	R55351	Geelong Food Assistance Program	Cover the annual rental costs of the city's proposed new Food Distribution Centre in North Geelong and provide a ongoing contribution towards emergency food costs in the Geelong region.	150,000	0	150,000
Healthy Communities	D52103	Samaritan House	Samaritan House Geelong is a place of hope with the aim to empower men with dignity, self-respect and confidence. The funding relates to a council contribution for one third of a construction project.	450,000	0	450,000
Social Planning & Investment	D66302	Norlane Community Initiatives	Spruhan Ave Community Hub Norlane: Upgrade facility to Offer Urban Farm, Build Commercial Kitchen, Upgrade Large Dining Hall, Kids Play Area.	400,000	0	400,000
Social Planning & Investment	D66A56	Ocean Grove Cricket Club - Playing Surface	2 Stage upgrade of the playing surface at the Ocean Grove Cricket Club Oval.	50,000	0	50,000
Social Planning & Investment	D66A54	Armstrong Creek Indoor Sports Stadium Business Case	Conduct feasibility of Indoor Sports Stadium in Armstrong Creek Town Centre, including multi court indoor sports stadium with potential for flexible entertainment space. Explore an alternative delivery model and use of developer contributions.	80,000	0	80,000
Social Planning & Investment	D66A55	Business Case - New Regional Sports Development (Soccer)	Develop a business case / feasibility study to inform the development of new regional sports development opportunities to support the participation of Soccer.	50,000	0	50,000
Social Planning & Investment	D66A57	Business Case - New Regional Sports Development (Basketball/ Netball)	Develop a business case / feasibility study to inform the development of new regional sports development opportunities for Basketball and Netball.	50,000	0	50,000
Social Planning & Investment	R66502	One Million Trees Project - program planning	Program planning to implement our urban forest strategy canopy cover in public open space reserves.	100,000	0	100,000
Total Community Life				**1,330,000**	**0**	**1,330,000**

2020-21 Non Capital Program - New and Increased Initiatives by Division

Business Unit	Job Number	Project Name	Description	2020-21 Expenditure $	2020-21 Income $	2020-21 Net Expenditure $
PLANNING, DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT						
Planning & Growth	D65A29	Structure Planning	Council is required to prepare, review and update Structure Plans for townships, precincts and places to implement our planning frameworks and meet our housing needs. This includes reviewing planning issues as appropriate including housing capacity and diversity, urban character, environment issues and infrastructure needs. The Housing Diversity Strategy also identifies the need to prepare Structure Plans for Increased Housing Diversity Areas.	150,000	0	150,000
Planning & Growth	D65A31	Municipal Strategic Statement Review	This project will allow Council to update its Municipal Strategic Statement to align with the new format of the Planning Policy Framework introduced into all planning schemes in Victoria through amendment VC148 on 31 July 2018.	50,000	0	50,000
Planning & Growth	D65A41	Settlement Strategy Implementation	Council adopted the Settlement Strategy in Oct 2018, which provides a planning framework to deliver housing in the municipality to 2036. The strategy recommends further work be undertaken to secure a permanent settlement boundary for Geelong and the Bellarine.	150,000	0	150,000
Total Planning, Design & Development				**350,000**	**0**	**350,000**
GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE						
Governance & Legal Services	D18301	Contract Document Refresh	Legal assistance in the re-writing of Contract Precedents (Contract templates) for use by the City when engaging suppliers, service providers, consultants and construction/civil contractors under Contract.	100,000	0	100,000
Strategy, Engagement & Performance	D28105	2020 Council General Election	Deliver on the City's legal and administrative obligations for the 2020 Council General Election.	1,261,965	0	1,261,965
Strategy, Engagement & Performance	D28106	Council Plan Development	The local government act changes specify that a Council must develop it's Council Plan using deliberative engagement with its community. This engagement will incur various costs including venue hire, equipment, staff resourcing, data evaluation, document production, communications and promotional materials.	100,000	0	100,000
Strategy, Engagement & Performance	D28107	Sustainability Framework implementation and reporting	A Sustainability Framework is currently being developed by the City. The implementation of this Framework in the first half of 2020 will need to be managed and a reporting process established to ensure that this important piece of work meets Council needs and community expectations.	215,978	0	215,978
Strategy, Engagement & Performance	R28101	Service Review	Funding to provide a review of COGG's services to improve efficiencies and identify shortfalls.	200,000	0	200,000
Total Governance, Strategy & Performance				**1,877,943**	**0**	**1,877,943**
ECONOMY, INVESTMENT & ATTRACTION						
Central Geelong & Waterfront	D73326	Lt Malop Street Central Activation project	This will introduce short-term solutions with a program of activation and works to improve Lt Malop Street Central. The project is in response to a resolution of Council on 25 June 2019 requesting a program of initiatives to activate Lt Malop Street central.	47,000	0	47,000
Central Geelong & Waterfront	D81127	Revitalising Central Geelong Engagement & Communications	Budget allocation for web site, social media, video and other collateral.	86,000	0	86,000

2020-21 Non Capital Program - New and Increased Initiatives by Division

Business Unit	Job Number	Project Name	Description	2020-21 Expenditure $	2020-21 Income $	2020-21 Net Expenditure $
Central Geelong & Waterfront	D81133	Census of Land Use and Employment (CLUE) 2020	The CLUE is a survey of all commercial and industrial businesses in Central Geelong. Council have undertaken CLUE collection for Central Geelong in 2009, 2011 and 2017. The survey allows us to monitor and forecast future trends to support the shaping of Central Geelong as a strong centre of economy for the region. Comparative data across different years is imperative to allow the interpretation of trends in employment and land use.	100,000	0	100,000
Central Geelong & Waterfront	D81134	Laneways Waste Trial	The continuation of a 12 month trial (Mar 20 to Feb 21) to provide a place-based approach to commercial recycling and waste management in Central Geelong's laneways.	111,400	64,000	47,400
Economic Development & Events	D11701	Australian International Airshow	Despite the Australian International Airshow being postponed to November 2021, the City is still required to pay a sponsorship instalment during the 2020-21 financial year as per the contractual arrangement. This early payment will result in the 2021-22 budget for the airshow reducing from $565k to $365k.	200,000	0	200,000
Economic Development & Events	D60297	UNESCO City of Design Implementation Plan	The UNESCO City of Design designation is a major step forward, connecting UNESCO's international brand with the community's vision for Geelong to be recognised internationally as a clever and creative city. The initiatives in the Implementation Plan support our growing creative and cultural industries. Major initiatives are Geelong Design Week 2020 linking creativity with business and community.	100,000	0	100,000
Economic Development & Events	D60299	Cleantech Innovations Geelong	Cleantech Innovations Geelong (CIG) is a business and industry support program to develop markets for clean technologies (cleantech). Our vision is to establish Geelong as a Centre of Excellence for cleantech in Australia, by attracting investment, creating jobs and building skills. CIG is a partnership with state govt and the Geelong Manufacturing Council.	70,000	0	70,000
Economic Development & Events	D602A1	Rural Peri Urban	Livestock Information Exchange - Business Case and Phase 1 implementation.	150,000	0	150,000
Economy, Investment & Attraction	D80201	Geelong City Deal - Smart Parking Activities	As part of Councils City Deal, a council resolution on 26th March 2019 committing $900k over three years to further develop and broaden smarter parking activities and associated data analytics and management.	300,000	0	300,000
Total Economy, Investment & Attraction				**1,164,400**	**64,000**	**1,100,400**
ACROSS MULTIPLE DIVISIONS						
Various	Various	Vital Communities	Resources and operating costs to support the implementation of the Social Housing & Social equity strategy and social prosperity. Project funds the continuing support of the Regional Industry Sector Employment (RISE) program, designed to tackle youth unemployment.	589,000	0	589,000
Total Across Multiple Divisions				**589,000**	**0**	**589,000**
TOTAL - NON CAPITAL PROJECTS				**10,556,507**	**64,000**	**10,492,507**

2020-21 Community Investment & Support Fund

Division	Business Unit	Job Number	Project Name	2019-20 Budget $	2020-21 Budget $	Description
Grant Programs						
City Services	Environment & Natural Resources	R61147	Environment & Sustainability Grant Program	70,000	70,000	Grants to not-for-profit community groups and organisations for programs and activities that help to achieve the goals and outcomes of Council's strategic objectives relating to environment and sustainability.
Community Life	Family Services	R54605	Children's Week Grants	5,000	5,000	Grants to support activities/events during Children's Week - held in October annually.
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	C20508	Community Infrastructure Grants - Public	2,000,000	2,000,000	Grants to not-for-profit community groups and organisations to support planning and delivery of capital works projects.
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	D57908	Healthy & Connected Communities Grants	243,000	243,000	Grants to not-for-profit community groups and organisations for programs and activities that support the community to be healthy and provide a sense of well-being and connection.
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	D57913	Community Infrastructure Grants - Private	1,000,000	1,000,000	Grants to not-for-profit community groups and organisations to support planning and delivery of capital works projects on facilities not located on Council owned or managed land.
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	D57916	First Nations Heritage Grants	0	100,000	Grants to preserve indigenous heritage.
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	R57902	Geelong Seniors Festival Program	24,000	24,000	Grants for community organisations to run activities and events in the Geelong Seniors Festival held October annually.
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	R57907	Sponsorship Geelong Christmas Carols	40,000	40,000	Grants to support community Christmas Carol events - Christmas Eve Johnstone Park, Ocean Grove, Northern Carols (plus carols supported in other grant programs tbc)
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	R57908	Christmas in the Community	0	40,000	$5k per community centre: Corio, Cloverdale, Norlane, Rosewall, Anakie, Lara, Whittington and Eastern Hub.
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Arts & Culture	R57703	Creative Communities Grants Program	220,000	220,000	Grants to not-for-profit community groups and organisations and artists to support the initiation, development and delivery of quality arts projects, enriching the cultural fabric of the Geelong region and maximising community participation in local arts activity.
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Central Geelong and Waterfront	D81104	Central Geelong Heritage Fund	200,000	100,000	Grants to owners and occupiers to support the restoration of heritage building facades, which will benefit the commercial streetscapes within Central Geelong.
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Economic Development & Events	D117B6	Community Events Grants Program	200,000	200,000	Grants to community groups to support moderate sized events which bring economic benefits to the City, strengthen and enrich community, celebrate common interests, showcase local competitive advantages and provide opportunities for local participation.
Grants Sub Total				**4,002,000**	**4,042,000**	

2020-21 Community Investment & Support Fund

Division	Business Unit	Job Number	Project Name	2019-20 Budget $	2020-21 Budget $	Description
Sponsorships & Donations						
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration &	D57907	Give Where You Live	20,000	20,000	Donation
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Economic Development & Events	D60260	Geelong Business Excellence Awards	10,000	10,000	Sponsorship for the Geelong Business Excellence Awards in return for category naming rights.
Sponsorships & Donations Sub Total				**30,000**	**30,000**	
Partnerships						
City Services	Emergency Management	R37220	Emergency Management	1,800	1,800	Contribution to CREST (Citizens Radio Volunteers).
City Services	Environment & Natural Resources	D61171	Bellarine Catchment Network	20,000	20,000	To support the Bellarine Catchment Network in providing environment projects for the Bellarine Peninsula community.
City Services	Environment & Natural Resources	R61117	Environment Partnership	15,000	15,000	Support for community environment organisations.
City Services	Environment and Natural Resources	D61166	Friends of Buckley Falls	15,000	15,000	Partnership with Geelong Environment Council.
Community Life	Health, Equity & Planning	D55913	Active Geelong - Partnership	50,000	0	Strategic Partnership to support the Municipal Health and Wellbeing plan as a once off contribution in 2019-20.
Customer & Corporate Services	Customer & Corporate Services Admin	R20101	G21 Contribution	494,375	504,263	Contribution to G21 Regional Organisation.
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	D57901	Geelong Cricket Association	257,017	262,157	Three-year partnership for turf wicket upkeep.
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	D57902	BisSport funding program	6,000	6,000	Partnership with Barwon Sports Academy to support elite athletes to compete.
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	D57903	Park Stewardship Funds	10,000	10,000	Council commitment to groups to develop parks (including Hoffman Walk).
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	D57904	Surf Life Saving Grants	48,750	48,750	Partnership to provide professional life guards at Ocean Grove, Barwon Heads and Bancoora.
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	D57905	Barwon Sports Academy	60,760	61,975	Council contribution to operating costs and in-kind memberships.
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	D57906	Life Education Van	8,000	8,000	Contribution to operating costs.
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	D57911	Peninsula Park & Ride	12,000	12,000	Partnership with Barwon Coast Committee of Management for Ocean Grove-Barwon Heads shuttle bus for six weeks during summer.
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	D57914	Support Vulnerable People - Partnership	20,000	20,000	Support charitable groups who provide support programs for vulnerable people within the City of Greater Geelong.
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	D57915	Barwon Heads Football Netball Club	0	20,000	A three year agreement to provide funding to subsidise Barwon Heads Football Netball Club (BHFNC) for maintenance and watering of Howard Harmer Reserve.
Customer & Corporate Services	Program Integration & Development	R57904	Neighbourhood Houses	169,000	169,000	Partnership with Neighbourhood Houses for operating costs and community development projects.

2020-21 Community Investment & Support Fund

Division	Business Unit	Job Number	Project Name	2019-20 Budget $	2020-21 Budget $	Description
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Arts and Culture	R57603	Geelong Art Gallery	1,290,660	1,316,473	Triennial agreement adopted in 2016-17. Agreement for 2019-20 onwards currently in progress.
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Arts and Culture	R57605	Geelong Maritime Museum	9,000	9,000	Continuation of funding.
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Arts and Culture	R57704	Courthouse Youth Arts	265,916	271,234	Continuation of funding.
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Arts and Culture	R57706	Courthouse Back to Back	8,581	8,753	Continuation of funding.
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Economic Development & Events	D11707	Head of the Schoolgirls Rowing Regatta 2020-2024	50,000	0	One off grant in 2019-20 - As part of the bid to secure the HOSG Regatta in Geelong for a further 5 years (2020-2024) the City committed to provide extended launch facilities for boats. This will be achieved by the provision of a grant to Rowing Geelong to manufacture, purchase and own two purpose made floating pontoons which will be used to extend the launch facilities at the Barwon River.
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Economic Development & Events	D11718	Pako Festa	100,000	100,000	Three-year commitment to support regional signature community event 2019, 2020 & 2021.
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Economic Development & Events	Various	Regional Signature Community events	70,000	116,000	Council civic responsibility and regional signature community events. Includes Denis Walter Christmas Carols, Australia Day Committee, Geelong Show, Gala Day and Geelong Cup.
Partnerships Sub Total				**2,981,859**	**2,995,405**	
Geelong Major Events						
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Economic Development & Events	D11701	Australian International Airshow	0	200,000	Sponsorship payment of the Australian International Airshow, to be held in November 2021.
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Economic Development & Events	D117B9	Twenty20 World Cup Cricket 2020 - Geelong Host City	0	120,000	Event sponsorship of the Twenty20 World Cup Cricket major event in 2020 to be held at GMHBA Stadium.
Economy, Investment & Attraction	Economic Development & Events	Various	Major Events to be confirmed	1,230,000	1,230,000	Funding for the attraction of major events to Geelong.
Geelong Major Events Sub Total				**1,230,000**	**1,550,000**	
Total				**8,243,859**	**8,617,405**	

Fees & Charges Analysis

Each year Council's fees and charges are reviewed as part of the budget process. Existing fees and charges have been increased in line with cost increases, market levels, changes in supply and demand for services and the user pay principles. Council has a continuing commitment to ensure its services are priced fairly to allow for maximum community participation, whilst meeting National Competition Policy requirements for services subject to competition.

Discretionary Fees and Charges

The major movements in Council's discretionary fees and charges include:

City Services

- From 1 July to 31 December 2020, fees for waste disposal at the North Geelong and Drysdale transfer stations have increased from $22.50 to $23.00 for a car boot, and will increase to $26.00 from 1 January 2021. Single Axle trailers have increased from $44.50 to $45.00 between July and December and to $51.50 from January 2021. Heaped single axle trailers have increased from $58.50 to $59.50 between July and December and to $68.00 from January 2021.
  The increases in fees from 1 January 2021 are due to pass through of the expected $20 /tonne increase, in the EPA levy.

- From 1 July to 31 December 2020, the fee for disposal of multiple animal carcasses has been increased from $149.00 to $151.30, which will increase to $173.30 from 1 January 2021. Single animal carcass have increased from $50.50 to $51.30 between July and December and $58.70 from January 2021.

- The fee for commercial collection has increased from $364.00 to $429.00 a $65.00 increase in price. This fee has been increased in line with competitors under competitive neutrality policy requirements.

- Reinstatements income has increased in line with a cost analysis of completing the service. Up to 10m2 of deep strength asphalt has increased by $6.57, from $328.50 to $335.07.

Planning, Design and Development

- Desexed and microchipped dogs have increased from $42.40 to $43.20. The pensioner desexed and microchipped dog fees have increased from $21.20 to $21.60. Desexed dog fees have increased from $59.60 to $60.80. Full fees for the registration of a dog have increased by $3.80 from $192.00 to $195.80. The pensioner full fee for the registration of a dog has increased by $1.90 to $97.10.

- Cat fees for a desexed and microchipped cat have increased from $32.60 to $33.20. Pensioner fees for a desexed and microchipped cat have increased by $0.30 from $16.30 to $16.60. Desexed cat fees have increased by $1.00 to $51.20. The pensioner fee for a desexed cat has increased by $0.50 from $25.10 to $25.60

- New fees in place for 2020-21 are based on the introduction new swimming pool regulations and required inspections. Lodgement fees for compliant swimming pools are $20.44 and for non-compliant swimming pools $385.00.

- Casual parking fees for 2020-21 will increase from $3.00 to $3.10 per hour.

- The annual fee for a car parking permit at Haymarket, Wesley and Little Ryrie Street car parks have increased by $224.00 to $2,480.00. Busport and Civic Centre parking reserved permits have increased by $288.00 to $3,168. Busport and Civic Centre parking unreserved permits have increased by $224.00 to $2,480.00. Western Beach car parking permits have increased $216.00 to $2,376.00.

- All day capped street parking will increase from $5.80 to $6.40. Haymarket day parking will increase $0.50 to $13.50.

- Statutory planning written requests for information have increased from $150.00 to $165.00 in line with the costs associated with providing the service.

- Building fees have increased in line with CPI. An owner builder permit for alterations and additions between $10,001 - $25,000 has increased from $2,200.00 to $2,440.00. A registered builder permit for alterations and additions between $10,001 - $25,000 has increased from $1,600.00 to $1,632.00.

Community Life

- The standard hourly rate for venue hire has increased from $36.50 to $37.50.

- Community bus hire has increased from $63.50 to $65.00 for 24 hour hire.

- Hire of Council sporting facilities has been increased in line with stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. The community rate for seasonal hire summer oval 1 will increase from $2,772.00 to $3,751.00, seasonal hire for winter oval 1 will increase from $3,788.40 to $4,783.00.

- Meals on Wheels to Council clients will remain constant at $9.30 per meal. Full cost meals to agencies have also been held at 2019-20 rates of $22.22.

- Fees for personal care will increase from $7.40 to $8.60. Respite care will increase from $7.40 to $8.60 and home care will increase from $7.40 to $8.60. These fees are aligned with the Federal client contribution framework. Agency fees for personal & respite care during normal hours will increase $1.57 to $64.46.

- Occasional care fees at Council's childcare facilities and integrated children centres will increase by $3.00 from $76.00 to $79.00 for 5 hours.

- School holiday program fees will increase from $74.80 to $78.00.

- Long Day Care fees are increasing around 4.1% across most childcare facilities and integrated children centres. Ariston, Boorai, Purnell Road, Drysdale and Leopold centres weekly fee will increase from $598.80 to $623.00. Belmont and Whittington will increase from $592.50 to $616.50.

- Kindergarten fees are set to match the State Government subsidy and are set each calendar year rather than financial year. Four year old kindergarten fees for 15 hour sessions will increase from $1,580 to $1,590. Three year old kindergarten fees for 3.5 hours for will increase $49.00 to $2,680 for a 7.5 hour session.

- Hire of the Arena auditorium for community groups has increased by $100.00 from $3,000.00 to $3,100.00. The commercial rate hire per day for the auditorium has increased from $5,000.00 to $5,100.00.

- Leisure centre family memberships have increased by $36.00 to $1,896.00. Active adult 12 month memberships have increased by $12.00 to $720.00. Learn to swim fees have increased from $17.90 to $18.30. Webstar swim school fortnightly fees have increased from $30.00 to $30.75. Casual adult gym visits has increased by $0.50 to $18.00. Casual adult swim visits have been maintained at $8.00.

- A season ticket for the Kardinia or Lara Pool have remained constant at $405.00. Concession season tickets will remain at $293.00 and a family season ticket will remain at $790.00.

- Annual membership fees for the Queens Park Golf Course have increased from $590.00 to $602.00 for an adult. Balyang Par 3 has annual adult memberships increased from $385.00 to $389.00 and Elcho Park $575.00 to $586.50.

Economy, Investment and Attraction

- Carousel rides have remained at the 2019-20 fee of $5.00. Private bookings for 4-6 hours at the Carousel have increased by $37.00 to $1,887.00. Children's birthday parties have increased by $3.00 to $168.00.

- National Wool Museum admission prices are generally increased biennially with the last increase occurring in 2018-19. The adult general admission price has increased the by $2.00 to $12.00, child admission increased by $1.00 to $7.00 and family admission increased by $3.00 to $33.00.
- The weekly corporate rate for the hire of the Potato Shed (all areas) has increased from $8,500.00 to $8,550.00. The daily corporate rate for all areas has increased from $2,600.00 to $2,620.00. The daily community rate for hire of all areas has been maintained at $1,000.00.

City of Greater Geelong - Fees and Charges > 5% (2020-21 Budget)

Basis of Charge
D= Discretionary A= Act of Parliament L = Local Law

Fees and Charges		Basis of Charge	Charge 2019-20 $ per unit	Charge 2020-21 $ per unit	Movement in price per unit $	Movement in rate%	Comments
Customer & Corporate Services							
Property & Revenue							
P&V Rate search over 7 years		D	75.00	80.00	5.00	6.7%	
P&V Sales Register		D	1,070.00	.00	(1,070.00)		Fee has been removed from 2020-21
Admin Fee on Refunds		D	.00	30.00	30.00		Discretionary fee to be applied in certain circumstances to recover administration costs for rate refunds
P&R Renumbering Charge to Subdividers		D	90.00	95.00	5.00	5.6%	
City Services							
Waste Collection Services							
Other Recycling service		D	185.00	199.80	14.80	8.0%	
Commercial collection - 1 bin weekly		D	364.00	429.00	65.00	17.9%	This service is an optional service that commercial properties can choose to engage the City for. The fee has been increased in line with competitors under the competitive neutrality requirements.
Commercial collection - extra bins		D	260.00	364.00	104.00	40.0%	This service is an optional service that commercial properties can choose to engage the City for. The fee has been increased in line with competitors under the competitive neutrality requirements.
Waste Disposal Services							
Waste Car Boot	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	22.50	23.00	.50	2.2%	
Waste Car Boot	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	22.50	26.00	3.50	15.6%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Waste Utilities Vans Single Axle trailers	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	44.50	45.00	.50	1.1%	
Waste Utilities Vans Single Axle trailers	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	44.50	51.50	7.00	15.7%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Waste Single axle trailers (heaped)	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	58.50	59.50	1.00	1.7%	
Waste Single axle trailers (heaped)	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	58.50	68.00	9.50	16.2%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Waste Tandem Trailers (waterline)	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	58.50	59.50	1.00	1.7%	
Waste Tandem Trailers (waterline)	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	58.50	68.00	9.50	16.2%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Waste Tandem Trailers (heaped)	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	117.50	119.00	1.50	1.3%	
Waste Tandem Trailers (heaped)	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	117.50	136.00	18.50	15.7%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Waste Car tyres up to 1M diameter each		D	10.00	10.00	.00	0.0%	
Waste Car tyres on rims		D	11.00	11.00	.00	0.0%	
Waste Truck Tyres		D	34.00	34.00	.00	0.0%	
Waste Concrete/Build-Build rubble/concrete	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	121.40	123.30	1.90	1.6%	

Fees and Charges		Basis of Charge	Charge 2019-20 $ per unit	Charge 2020-21 $ per unit	Movement in price per unit $	Movement in rate%	Comments
Waste Concrete/Build-Build rubble/concrete	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	121.40	141.20	19.80	16.3%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Pres Waste Mattresses	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	24.00	25.00	1.00	4.2%	
Metreage	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	58.50	59.50	1.00	1.7%	
Metreage	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	58.50	68.00	9.50	16.2%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Single Axle Caged Trailer	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	88.00	89.50	1.50	1.7%	
Single Axle Caged Trailer	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	88.00	102.00	14.00	15.9%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Single Axle Caged Heaped Trailer	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	117.50	119.00	1.50	1.3%	
Single Axle Caged Heaped Trailer	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	117.50	136.00	18.50	15.7%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Tandem Caged Trailer	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	176.00	178.50	2.50	1.4%	
Tandem Caged Trailer	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	176.00	204.00	28.00	15.9%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Tandem Caged Heaped Trailer	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	235.00	238.00	3.00	1.3%	
Tandem Caged Heaped Trailer	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	235.00	272.00	37.00	15.7%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Waste Animal Carcass (single)	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	50.50	51.30	.80	1.6%	
Waste Animal Carcass (single)	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	50.50	58.70	8.20	16.2%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Waste Animal Carcass (multiple)	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	149.00	151.30	2.30	1.5%	
Waste Animal Carcass (multiple)	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	149.00	173.30	24.30	16.3%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Waste Fish /Scallop/Poultry waste	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	198.40	201.50	3.10	1.6%	
Waste Fish /Scallop/Poultry waste	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	198.40	226.20	27.80	14.0%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Waste Industrial Waste	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	149.00	151.30	2.30	1.5%	
Waste Industrial Waste	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	149.00	173.30	24.30	16.3%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Waste Clean Fill	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	73.50	74.50	1.00	1.4%	
Waste Clean Fill	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	73.50	94.50	21.00	28.6%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Waste Greenwaste (clean)	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	135.20	137.30	2.10	1.6%	
Waste Greenwaste (clean)	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	135.20	157.20	22.00	16.3%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.
Waste Seaweed	*1 Jul to 31 Dec 2020*	D	126.30	128.25	1.95	1.5%	
Waste Seaweed	*1 Jan to 30 Jun 2021*	D	126.30	146.90	20.60	16.3%	Increase from 1 January 2021 is a result of an increase in the EPA levy of $20 /tonne.

Fees and Charges		Basis of Charge	Charge 2019-20 $ per unit	Charge 2020-21 $ per unit	Movement in price per unit $	Movement in rate%	Comments
Community Life							
Comm Home Support Program							
Personal Care		D	7.40	8.60	1.20	16.2%	Fee increase required to meet the net cost of providing the service. Structured small dollar value increase.
Personal Care - Medium		D	18.50	21.50	3.00	16.2%	Fee increase required to meet the net cost of providing the service. Structured small dollar value increase.
Personal Care - High		D	51.80	60.20	8.40	16.2%	Fee increase required to meet the net cost of providing the service. Structured small dollar value increase.
Personal Care - Hardship Fee		D	3.00	.00	(3.00)	-100.0%	No gap fee charged for hardship customers
Respite - Medium		D	18.50	21.50	3.00	16.2%	Fee increase required to meet the net cost of providing the service. Structured small dollar value increase.
Respite - High		D	51.80	60.20	8.40	16.2%	Fee increase required to meet the net cost of providing the service. Structured small dollar value increase.
Respite Care - over 18		D	7.40	8.60	1.20	16.2%	Fee increase required to meet the net cost of providing the service. Structured small dollar value increase.
Home Care - Low		D	7.40	8.60	1.20	16.2%	Fee increase required to meet the net cost of providing the service. Structured small dollar value increase.
Home Care - Medium		D	18.50	21.50	3.00	16.2%	Fee increase required to meet the net cost of providing the service. Structured small dollar value increase.
Home Care - High		D	51.80	60.20	8.40	16.2%	Fee increase required to meet the net cost of providing the service. Structured small dollar value increase.
General Care - Hardship Fee Rate		D	3.10	.00	(3.10)	-100.0%	No gap fee charged for hardship customers
Community & Recreation							
Seasonal Hire Summer - Community 1 Oval - Community Rate		D	2,772.00	3,751.00	979.00	35.3%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 12% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Winter - Community 1 Oval - Community Rate		D	3,788.40	4,783.00	994.60	26.3%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 15% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Summer - Community 2 Oval - Community Rate		D	1,812.80	2,453.00	640.20	35.3%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 12% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Winter - Community 2 Oval - Community Rate		D	2,477.20	3,127.00	649.80	26.2%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 15% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Summer - Community 3 Oval - Community Rate		D	906.40	1,227.00	320.60	35.4%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 12% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Winter - Community 3 Oval - Community Rate		D	1,238.60	1,564.00	325.40	26.3%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 15% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Summer - Community 1 Pitch - Community Rate		D	1,599.40	2,164.00	564.60	35.3%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 12% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Winter - Community 1 Pitch - Community Rate		D	2,185.70	2,760.00	574.30	26.3%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 15% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Summer - Community 2 Pitch - Community Rate		D	906.40	1,227.00	320.60	35.4%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 12% of commercial rate

Fees and Charges		Basis of Charge	Charge 2019-20 $ per unit	Charge 2020-21 $ per unit	Movement in price per unit $	Movement in rate%	Comments
Seasonal Hire Winter - Community 2 Pitch - Community Rate		D	1,238.60	1,564.00	325.40	26.3%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 15% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Summer - Community 3 Pitch - Community Rate		D	559.90	758.00	198.10	35.4%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 12% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Winter - Community 3 Pitch - Community Rate		D	764.50	966.00	201.50	26.4%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 15% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Summer - Reserve - Community Rate		D	383.90	519.00	135.10	35.2%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 12% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Winter - Reserve - Community Rate		D	524.70	662.00	137.30	26.2%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 15% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Summer - Court - Community Rate		D	129.80	176.00	46.20	35.6%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 12% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Winter - Court - Community Rate		D	178.20	224.00	45.80	25.7%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 15% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Summer - Criterium - Community Rate		D	273.90	371.00	97.10	35.5%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 12% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Winter - Criterium - Community Rate		D	374.00	472.00	98.00	26.2%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 15% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Summer - Velodrome - Community Rate		D	81.40	110.00	28.60	35.1%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 12% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Winter - Velodrome - Community Rate		D	111.10	140.00	28.90	26.0%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 15% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Summer - BMX - Community Rate		D	383.90	519.00	135.10	35.2%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 12% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Winter - BMX - Community Rate		D	524.70	662.00	137.30	26.2%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 15% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Summer - Athletics - Community Rate		D	906.40	1,227.00	320.60	35.4%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 12% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Winter - Athletics - Community Rate		D	1,238.60	1,564.00	325.40	26.3%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 15% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Summer - Bowls - Community Rate		D	159.50	217.00	57.50	36.1%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 12% of commercial rate
Seasonal Hire Winter - Bowls - Community Rate		D	218.90	276.00	57.10	26.1%	Fee & Charges structure as per stage 2 of the Fair Play Strategy. Community rate is 15% of commercial rate

Fees and Charges		Basis of Charge	Charge 2019-20 $ per unit	Charge 2020-21 $ per unit	Movement in price per unit $	Movement in rate%	Comments
Planning, Design & Development							
Statutory Planning							
Extension of Time		D	250.00	300.00	50.00	20.0%	Fee increase required to meet the net cost of providing the service.
Secondary Consents		D	400.00	450.00	50.00	12.5%	Fee increase required to meet the net cost of providing the service.
Written Request for Information		D	150.00	165.00	15.00	10.0%	Fee increase required to meet the net cost of providing the service.
Written Request for Information Commercial/Industrial/Other		D	200.00	240.00	40.00	20.0%	Fee increase required to meet the net cost of providing the service.
Parking							
Permit Parking - Western Beach		D	2,160.00	2,376.00	216.00	10.0%	
Reserve/Business Parking - Civic Centre		D	2,880.00	3,168.00	288.00	10.0%	
General Permit (unreserved space) - Civic Centre		D	2,256.00	2,480.00	224.00	9.9%	
Reserved Space - Busport		D	2,880.00	3,168.00	288.00	10.0%	
Permit Space (unreserved) - Busport		D	2,256.00	2,480.00	224.00	9.9%	
Casual Street Parking		D	3.00	3.10	.10	3.3%	
Wesley Parking Permits		D	2,256.00	2,480.00	224.00	9.9%	
Reserve Car Park Space - Metered		D	44.85	46.00	1.15	2.6%	
Reserve Car Park Space - unmetered		D	24.10	25.00	.90	3.7%	
Park Permits - Lt Ryrie OSCP		D	2,256.00	2,480.00	224.00	9.9%	
Reserved Car Parking Spaces (Long Term) Non- Metered		D	19.85	20.50	.65	3.3%	
Reserved Car Parking Spaces (Long Term) Metered		D	35.90	37.00	1.10	3.1%	
Mobile Courier Parking Permit		D	112.45	115.00	2.55	2.3%	
Mobile Business Parking Permit		D	337.85	345.00	7.15	2.1%	
Street Occupation per day (no building permit)		L	33.90	34.50	.60	1.8%	
Replacement swipe permit pass		D	21.00	25.00	4.00	19.0%	
4P capped parking fee		D	5.80	6.40	.60	10.3%	
3P capped parking fee		D	5.80	6.40	.60	10.3%	
All day capped fee (low occ area)		D	5.80	6.40	.60	10.3%	
Haymarket Month Permit		D	2,256.00	2,480.00	224.00	9.9%	
Haymarket Day Parking		D	13.00	13.50	.50	3.8%	
Building Services							
Build - Consultancy services - Technical Officers (per hr)		D	95.00	135.00	40.00	42.1%	Increase $40/hr due to an increase in profession indemnity insurance costs
Build - Consultancy services - Building Inspector & Assistant BS (Per hr)		D	121.50	161.50	40.00	32.9%	Increase $40/hr due to an increase in profession indemnity insurance costs
Build - Consultancy services - Building Surveyor (per hr)		D	165.75	205.75	40.00	24.1%	Increase $40/hr due to an increase in profession indemnity insurance costs
Build - Consultancy services - municipal building surveyor/team leaders (per hr)		D	240.50	280.50	40.00	16.6%	Increase $40/hr due to an increase in profession indemnity insurance costs

Fees and Charges		Basis of Charge	Charge 2019-20 $ per unit	Charge 2020-21 $ per unit	Movement in price per unit $	Movement in rate%	Comments
Build- Stat - Application for council assessment - Technical Officers		D	95.00	135.00	40.00	42.1%	Increase $40/hr due to an increase in profession indemnity insurance costs
Build - Stat - Application for council assessment - Building Inspector/ Assistant B.S		D	121.50	161.50	40.00	32.9%	Increase $40/hr due to an increase in profession indemnity insurance costs
Build - Stat - Application for council assessment - Building surveyor		D	165.75	205.75	40.00	24.1%	Increase $40/hr due to an increase in profession indemnity insurance costs
Build - Stat - Application for council assessment - MBS/ Team Leaders		D	240.50	280.50	40.00	16.6%	Increase $40/hr due to an increase in profession indemnity insurance costs
Information Search Fee - Swimming Pool Regulation		A	.00	47.24	47.24		New regulated fee
Lodgement Fee - Compliant - Swimming Pool Regulation		A	.00	20.44	20.44		New regulated fee
Lodgement Fee -Non Compliant - Swimming Pool Regulation		A	.00	385.00	385.00		New regulated fee
Economy, Investment & Attraction							
National Wool Museum							
NWM Auction Room - Standard Full Day Rate		D	400.00	440.00	40.00	10.0%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Auction Room - Regular User Day Rate		D	355.00	390.00	35.00	9.9%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Auction Room - CoGG & Community Group Rate		D	310.00	340.00	30.00	9.7%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Auction Room - Half Day Rate		D	250.00	275.00	25.00	10.0%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Auction Room - Hourly Rate		D	90.00	100.00	10.00	11.1%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Auction and Multifunction Room - Standard Full Day Rate		D	720.00	790.00	70.00	9.7%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Auction and Multifunction Room - Regular User Rate		D	640.00	700.00	60.00	9.4%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Auction and Multifunction Room - CoGG & Community Group Rate		D	575.00	630.00	55.00	9.6%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Auction and Multifunction Room - Half Day Rate		D	440.00	485.00	45.00	10.2%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Auction and Multifunction Room - Hourly Rate		D	220.00	250.00	30.00	13.6%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Strachan Room - Standard Full Day Rate		D	715.00	780.00	65.00	9.1%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Strachan Room - Regular User Day Rate		D	640.00	700.00	60.00	9.4%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Strachan Room - CoGG & Community Group Day Rate		D	550.00	600.00	50.00	9.1%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Strachan Room - Half Day Rate		D	440.00	485.00	45.00	10.2%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Strachan Room - Hourly Rate		D	220.00	240.00	20.00	9.1%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
Labour - Regular Hourly Rate		D	50.00	65.00	15.00	30.0%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19

Fees and Charges		Basis of Charge	Charge 2019-20 $ per unit	Charge 2020-21 $ per unit	Movement in price per unit $	Movement in rate%	Comments
Labour - Concessional Hourly Rate		D	35.00	40.00	5.00	14.3%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
Security & Out of Hours Costs - Museum Staff 5pm -9am Hourly Rate		D	100.00	110.00	10.00	10.0%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
Security & Out of Hours Costs - Micom Security Call Out - Minimum 4 Hours		D	300.00	330.00	30.00	10.0%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
Commercial Kitchen Rental - Day Rate		D	500.00	550.00	50.00	10.0%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM M/Ship Child Age 2-16		D	17.00	.00	(17.00)	-100.0%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Gen Adm Adult		D	10.00	12.00	2.00	20.0%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Gen Adm Concession		D	8.00	9.00	1.00	12.5%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Gen Adm Child		D	6.00	7.00	1.00	16.7%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Gen Adm Family		D	30.00	33.00	3.00	10.0%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Gen Adm Group		D	8.00	9.00	1.00	12.5%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Gen Adm School		D	5.00	6.00	1.00	20.0%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Gen Adm Pre -School - Group		D	6.00	7.00	1.00	16.7%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
NWM Gen Adm Pre -School - Individual		D	10.00	11.00	1.00	10.0%	Biennial rate - last fee increase 2018-19
Central Geelong & Waterfront Place Management							
Group Booking 10-19 people		D	4.50	5.00	.50	11.1%	Small value increase
Group Booking 20-49 people		D	4.50	5.00	.50	11.1%	Small value increase
Group Booking 50+ people		D	4.50	5.00	.50	11.1%	Small value increase
Multi Ride Ticket (10)		D	45.00	45.00	.00	0.0%	Small value increase
Concession		D	5.00	5.00	.00	0.0%	Small value increase
User Fees		D	3.00	3.00	.00	0.0%	Small value increase

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Act	means *Local Government Act 1989* .
Accounting standards	Accounting standards are issued from time to time by the professional accounting bodies and are applicable to the preparation of general purpose financial reports.
Adjusted underlying revenue	The adjusted underlying revenue means total income other than non-recurrent grants used to fund the capital expenditure, non-monetary asset contributions and contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than grants and non-monetary contributions.
Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)	Local Government (Planning and Reporting) regulations 2014 - Schedule 3. The adjusted underlying surplus (or Deficit) means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure. It is a measure of financial sustainability of the Council which can be masked in the net surplus (or deficit) by capital-related items.
Annual budget	Local Government (Planning and Reporting) regulations 2014 - Schedule 3. Plan under section 127 of the Act setting out the services to be provided and initiatives to be undertaken over the next 12 months and the funding and other sources required.
Annual report	means a report of the council's operations of the previous financial year and contains a report of operations, audited financial statements and an audited performance statement.
Annual reporting requirements	Annual reporting requirements include the financial reporting requirements of the Act, Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.
Asset expansion	Expenditure that extends the capacity of an existing asset to provide benefits to new users at the same standard as is provided to existing beneficiaries.
Asset renewal	Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 - Regulation 5. Expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to original capability.
Asset upgrade	Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 - Regulation 5. Expenditure which enhances an existing asset to provide a higher level of service or expenditure that will increase the life of the asset beyond its original life.
Australian Accounting Standards (AAS)	means the accounting standards published by the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
Better practice	means that in the absence of legislation or a relevant Australian Accounting Standard this commentary is considered by Local Government Victoria to reflect better practice reporting.
Borrowing strategy	Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 - Regulation 5. A borrowing strategy is the process by which the Council's current external funding requirements can be identified, existing funding arrangements managed and future requirements monitored.
Balance sheet	The balance sheet shows the expected net current asset, net non-current asset and net asset positions in the forthcoming year compared to the forecast actual in the current year. The balance sheet should be prepared in accordance with the requirements of AASB 101 - Presentation of Financial Statements and the Local Government Model Financial Report.
Budget	means a plan setting out the services and initiatives to be funded for the financial year and how they will contribute to achieving strategic objectives specified in the council plan.
Budget preparation requirement	Under the Act, a Council is required to prepare and adopt an annual budget by 30 June each year.

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Capital expenditure	Capital expenditure is relatively large (material) expenditure that produces economic benefits expected to last for more than 12 months. A pre determined 'threshold' may be used which indicates the level of expenditure deemed to be material in accordance with Council's policy. Capital expenditure includes renewal, expansion and upgrade. Where capital projects involve a combination of renewal, expansion and upgrade expenditures, the total project cost needs to be allocated accordingly.
Capital works program	A detailed list of capital works expenditure that will be undertaken during the 2019-2020 financial year. Regulation 10 requires that the budget contains a detailed list of capital works expenditure and sets out how that information is to be disclosed by reference to asset categories, asset expenditure type and funding sources.
Carry forward capital works	Carry forward capital works are those that are incomplete in the current budget year due to unavoidable delays and will be completed in the following budget year.
Community plan / vision	A "community owned" document or process which identifies the long term needs and aspirations of the Council, and the medium and short term goals and objectives which are framed within the long term plan.
Comprehensive income statement	The comprehensive income statement shows the expected operating result in the forthcoming year compared to the forecast actual result in the current year. The income statement should be prepared in accordance with the requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements and the Local Government Model Financial Report.
Council plan	means a plan setting out the medium-term strategic objectives, strategies, strategic indicators and resources reflecting vision and aspirations of the community for the next four years.
Current year rate increase *(Rating information)*	A statement included in the budget quantifying the amount of the rate change for the forthcoming year and disclosing any significant factors influencing the rate change.
Differential rates	When a Council intends to declare a differential rate (e.g. business and residential), information prescribed by the Act under section 161 must be disclosed in the Council Budget.
Discretionary reserves	Discretionary reserves are funds earmarked by Council for various purposes. Councils can by resolution, change the purpose of these reserves.
Financing activities	Financing activities means those activities which relate to changing the size and composition of the financial structure of the entity, including equity, and borrowings not falling within the definition of cash.
Financial statements	means the financial statements and notes prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Model Financial Report,* Australian Accounting Standards and other applicable standards as they apply to the general purpose financial reports and statement of capital works, included in the annual report.
Financial sustainability	A key outcome of the strategic resource plan. Longer term planning is essential to ensuring that a Council remains financially sustainable in the long term.
Financial year	means the period of 12 months ending on 30 June each year.
Heritage asset	means an asset with historic, artistic, scientific, technological, geographical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture and this purpose is central to the objectives of the entity holding it.
Infrastructure	Non-current property, plant and equipment excluding land.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Infrastructure strategy	An infrastructure strategy is the process by which the council's current infrastructure and ongoing maintenance requirements can be identified, budgeted capital works implemented and future developments monitored. The key objective of an infrastructure strategy is to maintain or preserve council's existing assets at desired condition levels. If sufficient funds are not allocated to asset preservation then Council's investment in those assets will reduce, along with the capacity to deliver services to the community.
Investing activities	Investing activities means those activities which relate to acquisition and disposal of non-current assets, including property, plant and equipment and other productive assets, and investments not falling within the definition of cash.
Legislative framework	The Act, Regulations and other laws and statutes which set a Council's governance, planning and reporting requirements.
Local Government model financial report	Local Government Model Financial Report published by the Department from time to time including on the Department's Internet website.
Local Government (Planning And Reporting) Regulations 2014	Regulations, made under Section 243 of the Act prescribe: (a) the content and preparation of the financial statements of a Council. (b) the performance indicators and measures to be included in a budget, revised budget and annual report of a Council. (c) the information to be included in a Council Plan, Strategic Resource Plan, budget, revised budget and annual report. (d) other matters required to be prescribed under Parts 6 and 7 of the Act.
Minister	means the Minister for Local Government.
New asset expenditure	Expenditure that creates a new asset that provides a service that does not currently exist.
Non financial resources	Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 - Regulation 5. Resources of a non financial nature (such as human resources, information systems and processes, asset management systems) that are consumed by a Council in the achievement of its strategic resource plan goals.
Non-recurrent grant	A grant obtained on the condition that it be expended in a specified manner and is not expected to be received again during the period covered by the Council's Strategic Resource Plan.
Operating activities	Operating activities means those activities that relate to the provision of goods and services.
Operating expenditure	Operating expenditure is defined as consumptions or losses of future economic benefits, in the form of reductions in assets or increases in liabilities; and that result in a decrease in equity during the reporting period.
Operating performance *(impact of current year on 2017-2018 budget)*	This statement shows the expected operating result as compared to the budget result in the current year separating operating and capital components of revenue and expenditure.
Operating revenue	Operating revenue is defined as inflows or other enhancements, or savings in outflows of future economic benefits, in the form of increases in assets or reductions in liabilities; and that result in an increase in equity during the reporting period.
Own-source revenue	Adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of Council (including government grants).
Performance statement	means a statement including the results of the prescribed service outcome indicators, financial performance indicators and sustainable capacity indicators for the financial year and included in the annual report.
Planning and accountability framework	means the key statutory planning and reporting documents that are required to be prepared by councils to ensure accountability to local communities in the performance of functions and exercise of powers under the Act.

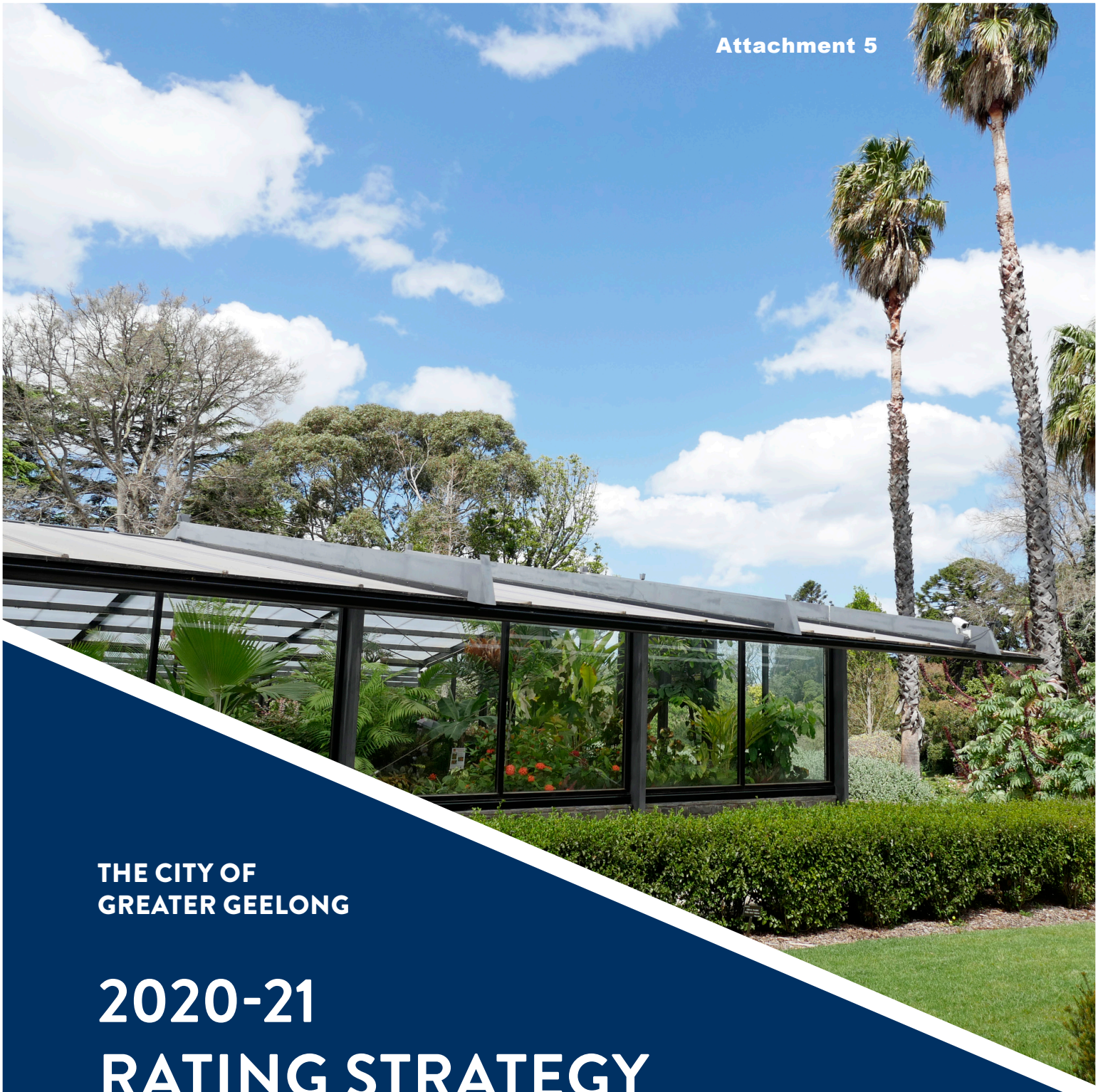
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Principal accounting officer	means the person designated by a council to be responsible for the financial management of the council.
Rate cap	The maximum annual rate of increase that Councils can apply to their rates revenue, as advised by the Minister for Local Government under Section 185D of the *Local Government Act 1989* .
Rating strategy	A rating strategy is the process by which the Council's rate structure is established and how the total income generated through rates and charges is allocated across properties in the municipality. Decisions regarding the quantum of rate levels and increases from year to year are made as part of Council's Budget financial planning processes and with consideration of Council's other sources of income and the planned expenditure on services and works to be undertaken for its community.
Recurrent grant	A grant other than a non-recurrent grant.
Regulations	means the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* .
Restricted cash	Cash and cash equivalents, within the meaning of AAS, that are not available for use other than a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure form the previous financial year.
Report of operations	means a report containing a description of the operations of the council during the financial year and included in the annual report.
Revised budget	Section 128 of the Act permits a council to prepare a revised budget if circumstances arise which cause a material change in the budget and which affects the financial operations and position of the Council.
Road Management Act 2004	The purpose of this Act which came into operation from 1 July 2004 is to reform the law relating to road management in Victoria and to make relating amendments to certain Acts, including the *Local Government Act 1989* .
Services, initiatives and major initiatives	Section 127 of the Act requires a budget to contain a description of the services and initiatives to be funded by the budget, along with a statement as to how they will contribute to the achievement of the Council's strategic objectives as specified in the Council Plan. The budget must also include major initiatives, being initiatives identified by the Council as priorities to be undertaken during the financial year. The services delivered by Council means assistance, support, advice and other actions undertaken by a council for the benefit of the local community. Initiatives means actions that are once-off in nature and/or lead to improvements in service. Major initiatives means significant initiatives that will directly contribute to the achievement of the Council plan during the current year and have a major focus in the budget.
Specialised assets	means assets designed for a specific limited purpose. Specialised assets include buildings such as schools, hospitals, court houses, emergency services buildings (police, fire, ambulance and emergency services), specialised buildings to house infrastructure (pump stations, etc.), some heritage properties and most infrastructure assets.
Statement of capital works	The statement of capital works shows the expected internal and external funding for capital works expenditure and the total proposed capital works expenditure for the forthcoming year with a comparison with forecast actual for the current year. The statement of capital works should be prepared in accordance with Regulation 9.
Statement of cash flows	The statement of cash flows shows the expected net cash inflows and outflows in the forthcoming year in the form of reconciliation between opening and closing balances of total cash and investments for the year. Comparison is made to the current year's expected inflows and outflows. The cash flows statement should be prepared in accordance with the requirements of AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows and the Local Government Model Financial Report.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Statement of changes in equity	The statement of changes in equity shows the expected movement in Accumulated Surplus and reserves for the year. The statement of changes in equity should be prepared in accordance with the requirements of AASB 101 - Presentation of Financial Statements and the Local Government Model Financial Report.
Statement of human resources	Means a statement which shows all Council staff expenditure and the number of full time equivalent Council staff.
Statutory reserves	Statutory reserves are funds set aside for specified statutory purposes in accordance with various legislative and contractual requirements. These reserves are not available for other purposes.
Strategic resource plan (SRP)	means a plan of the financial and non-financial resources for at least the next four years required to achieve the strategic objectives in the council plan. Is also referred to as the long term financial plan. Section 126 of the act states that: - the strategic resource plan is a plan of the resources required to achieve the council plan strategic objectives. - the strategic resource plan must include the financial statements describing the financial resources in respect of at least the next four financial years. - the strategic resource plan must include statements describing the non-financial resources including human resources in respect of at least the next four financial years. - the strategic resource plan must take into account services and initiatives contained in any plan adopted by council and if the council proposes to adopt a plan to provide services or take initiatives, the resources required must be consistent with the strategic resource plan. - council must review their strategic resource plan during the preparation of the council plan. - council must adopt the strategic resource plan not later than 30 June each year and a copy must be available for public inspection at the council office and internet website. - prudently manage financial risks relating to debt, assets and liabilities. - provide reasonable stability in the level of rate burden. - consider the financial effects of council decisions on future generations. - provide full, accurate and timely disclosure of financial information. In addition to section 126 of the Act, parts 2 and 3 of the Regulations also prescribe further details in relation to the preparation of a strategic resource plan.
Unrestricted cash	Unrestricted cash represents all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.
Valuations of Land Act 1960	The Valuations of Land Act 1960 requires a Council to revalue all rateable properties every two years.

Attachment 5



THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

2020-21
RATING STRATEGY

ADOPTED 30 JUNE 2020

CITY OF GREATER
GEELONG

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Attachment 1: Statutory Information on Rates 2020-21

Attachment 2: Revaluation Schedules

Attachment 3: Rating Policy – Council Rates

1. Rating Framework

Introduction

The rating framework is outlined in the *Local Government Act (Vic) 1989* and enables a Council to develop a rating system that suits the context of public finance methodology including the key principles of equity, benefit, efficiency and community resource allocation.

Context

In developing the Four Year Strategic Plan, rates and property related charges are identified as an important source of revenue, accounting for on average 66% of the total revenue received by Council annually. Council's approach to rating is underpinned by the principle that rates are a property-based tax that raises funds for a variety of programs, services and capital works across the municipality for the public benefit of all – rates and charges are not a direct 'fee for service'. Planning for future rates and charges increases has therefore been an important component of the long term financial planning process. To ensure the views of the community were well understood Council last consulted on its Rating Strategy as part orevenuerevt the annual budget process. The *Local Government Act (Vic) 1989* (the Act) was amended in December 2015 to include Part 8A – Rate Caps, sections 185A to 185G to promote the long term interests of ratepayers and the community in relation to sustainable outcomes in the delivery of services and infrastructure.

The Minister for Local Government announced on 12 December 2019 under section 185D(1) of the Act that the 2020-21 rate cap would be 2.0% for all Victorian councils.

Not all council charges are included in the rate cap calculation.

- Rates and the Municipal Charge are included in the rate cap calculation.
- The Waste charge and the Fire Services Property Levy are not included in the rate cap calculation.

The City has prepared, and Council adopted the Rating Strategy within the context of current legislative constraints and to improve community understanding by providing a detailed explanation of rating concepts and decisions.

The City has a responsibility to communicate to ratepayers the consultation process, to review the strategy and to publish and inform the community of its

decisions in respect to the strategy and budget determinations.

Background

The City acknowledges that the existing taxation of property (wealth tax) value method is imperfect; however, the application of an alternate rating model (e.g. income tax) is not available within the current constraints of the existing legislation.

The City, via a process of consultation and determination, can modify certain aspects of the rating system in accordance with the legislation, to assist sections of the community. Such assistance must be in the context of having wide acceptance in respect to social and equity principles whilst minimising any penalty, via a shift in rate burden, to other ratepayers.

Public finance theory and practice implies that taxation revenue whether it is at federal, state or a local level is generally used to finance various forms of "public goods, services and community obligations" not necessarily in direct relation to user benefit, but ultimately of benefit to the community as a whole. In this respect, rates are a general purpose levy not linked to user pays principles. Other charges such as waste services are cost reflective and are linked to costs associated with the service.

Rate revenue is a major source of income providing some 68% of recurrent income for 2020-21.

The City acknowledges that property taxes do not recognise the situation where ratepayers are "asset rich" and "income poor". In some cases ratepayers may have considerable wealth reflected in property they own but have a low level of income. Examples include pensioners, self funded retirees, businesses subject to cyclical downturn, households with large families and property owners with little equity but high levels of mortgage debt. Moreover, the Australian taxation system which allows for annuities, allocated pensions income and other assets to be treated differently in an assessment for government concessions and benefits, may further distort the true disposable income status of one household compared to another.

While personal income tax is more reflective of the capacity to pay, it is not possible to expect a property tax system to deal practically with all aspects of capacity to pay based on individual households and businesses. It is also not practical or acceptable to shift, modify or manipulate the existing system to the benefit of one group of ratepayers at the expense of another unless such shift is widely accepted and for a proper purpose. In fact, local government has no mandate or ability to universally apply a "capacity to pay" test. In recognition of this fact, the City has developed its rates assistance and payment options to

ensure that officers can provide ratepayers with assistance upon request.

In the local government context, the rating system determines how we will raise money from properties within the municipality while the annual budget determines how that money will be spent. The rating system comprises the valuation base and the rating instruments that are used to calculate property owner's liability for rates.

The rating framework is outlined in the *Local Government Act 1989* and enables a Council to develop a rating system that suits the context of public finance methodology including the key principles of equity, benefit, efficiency and community resource allocation.

Under the legislation, the City of Greater Geelong has the power to levy:

- Municipal charge,
- Uniform rates,
- Differential rates,
- Special rates and charges,
- Services rates and charges,
- Provide rebates and concessions, and to
- Provide deferrals and waivers based on hardship.

We acknowledge that this framework may not universally cater for significant revaluation property movements in a non-homogenous market place and may result in significant movements in rates ("rates shock") on a case by case basis.

2. Highlights of 2020-21 Rating Strategy

Rate Structure

The City of Greater Geelong retains 11 rating or tariff groups with the application of differential rates to each of these groups in accordance with section 161 of the Act.

The purpose of the various rating groups is to ensure that each group makes a fair and equitable contribution to rates. Full disclosure of the rating groups, number of properties, valuations and revenue is shown in the Statutory Information on Rates (Attachment 1).

2020 Revaluation

Summary by Differential

Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	$ Difference	% Movement
Residential Rates	113,197	61,791,522,000	62,267,935,750	476,413,750	0.8%
The Point - Residential	189	133,410,000	137,010,000	3,600,000	2.7%
Farm Rate	992	2,115,399,000	2,112,506,000	- 2,893,000	-0.1%
Commercial Rate	5,993	5,971,043,100	6,265,721,027	294,677,927	4.9%
The Point - Commercial	3	8,631,500	8,632,000	500	0.0%
Industrial Rate	2,225	1,968,510,501	2,133,399,001	164,888,500	8.4%
Vacant Land	5,999	2,746,790,000	2,794,462,000	47,672,000	1.7%
The Point - Vacant	34	29,550,000	31,400,000	1,850,000	6.3%
Culture & Recreation	53	134,283,100	136,520,000	2,236,900	1.7%
Mixed Use Rate	319	229,510,000	234,560,000	5,050,000	2.2%
Petroleum Rate	1	145,100,000	145,100,000	-	0.0%
Grand Total	129,005	75,273,749,201	76,267,245,778	993,496,577	1.3%

Overall

The Valuation of Land Act 1960 (section 11) requires that valuing authorities conduct a revaluation of all municipal land every year.

The Victorian Valuer General (VGV) has appointed Opteon Property Group to conduct the 2020 revaluation, and valuations have been returned for impact analysis to commence.

The revaluation date is 1 January 2020 and takes effect from 1 July 2020 for the 2020-21 rating period.

The summary results indicate:

- Total growth in property numbers is 2.4% over the last year with residential growth 2.8%.
- Average increase in residential valuation is 0.8% compared to 13.1% in 2019.
- The average increase in farm valuations is -0.1% compared with 32.6% in 2019.
- Commercial properties valuations have increased by 4.9% with the increase for the CBD at 5.5%.
- Industrial properties valuations have increased on average at 8.4% compared to an increase of 10.0% in 2019.
- Average increase in vacant land is 1.7% compared with an increase of 25.5% in 2019.

Residential

Overall, the value of 113,197 residential properties have increased by an average of 0.8% compared to an average increase of 13.1% at the 2019 revaluation. The average residential capital improved value has moved from $545,876 to $550,085.

The average growth in the number of residential properties is 3,095 properties or 2.8% overall from 2019 to 2020.

Impact Analysis - Residential

The preliminary results indicate that there is significant spread of valuation movements and the average movement of 0.8% is not uniform. The lowest movement was in Bellarine at -18.3% and the largest in Swan Bay at 8.5%.

Nearly half of Geelong's residential population is in nine suburbs. Of the 113,197 residences, 55,079 are affected by the following suburb revaluation movements:

Suburb	No of Residencies 2019	2019 Revaluation Increase Av 13.1%	2020 Revaluation Increase Av 0.8%	
Lara	6,270	17.8%	-1.4%	2020 Below Average
Norlane	4,280	15.7%	-0.1%	
Highton	7,816	10.2%	0.0%	
Corio	6,208	16.2%	0.1%	
Newtown	4,517	11.1%	0.2%	
Ocean Grove	8,073	10.1%	1.2%	2020 Above Average
Grovedale	6,164	11.9%	1.2%	
Belmont	6,613	9.6%	1.7%	
Leopold	5,138	17.1%	2.5%	
Total	55,079			

Residential property on the Bellarine Peninsula represents 22.8% of the municipality and the average movement is -1.6%. The following table provides a comparison by suburb for the 2019 and 2020 revaluations:

Suburb	No of Residencies 2019	2019 Revaluation Increase Av 13.1%	2020 Revaluation Increase Av 0.8%	
Bellarine	44	28.2%	-18.3%	2020 Below Average
Mannerim	18	18.4%	-4.2%	
Marcus Hill	40	17.1%	-4.1%	
Clifton Springs	3,521	17.4%	-1.0%	
Portarlington	2,958	16.6%	-0.7%	
Wallington	433	22.9%	-0.2%	
Breamlea	108	14.2%	0.0%	
St Leonards	2,659	18.1%	0.0%	
Curlewis	1,326	14.6%	0.4%	
Drysdale	2,061	18.9%	1.0%	2020 Above Average
Ocean Grove	8,073	10.1%	1.2%	
Indented Head	1,249	20.6%	1.2%	
Barwon Heads	2,267	8.0%	3.4%	
Point Lonsdale	734	13.5%	3.6%	
Connewarre	329	8.9%	7.6%	
Swan Bay	14	0.9%	8.5%	
Total	25,834			

Farm

Overall 992 farm valuations recorded an average movement of -0.1% compared to an average movement of 32.5% in 2019.

Impact Analysis - Farm

Farms on the Bellarine Peninsula make up 43.1% of all farms and the average movement is -2.1%.

Farms in the northern suburbs make up 35.1% of all farms and the average movement is 2.5%.

Commercial

A total of 5,993 commercial properties valuations have increased on average 4.9% compared to 6.7% in 2019. The number of properties has increased by 66 or 1.1%.

Impact Analysis - Commercial

The main area of commercial activity (1,701 properties) in central Geelong increased by an average of 5.5%.

The following table shows a comparison of the suburbs with the highest number of properties for the 2019 and 2020 revaluations:

Suburb	No. of Properties 2019	2019 Revaluation Increase Av 6.7%	2020 Revaluation Increase Av 4.9%	
Lara	169	5.3%	-3.7%	2020 Below Average
Ocean Grove	325	5.4%	-0.7%	
Waurn Ponds	73	5.8%	0.4%	
Highton	156	7.5%	0.4%	
Norlane	128	8.7%	2.0%	
Belmont	321	6.0%	2.3%	
Moolap	107	10.3%	2.4%	
Newcomb	115	10.2%	4.2%	
Bell Park	96	8.3%	5.2%	2020 Above Average
South Geelong	153	4.0%	5.4%	
Geelong	1,701	7.7%	5.5%	
Geelong West	447	5.1%	6.9%	
North Geelong	153	10.9%	6.9%	
Drysdale	151	7.0%	7.5%	
Leopold	148	9.3%	7.8%	
Corio	253	-4.4%	8.5%	
Grovedale	355	6.0%	8.9%	
Newtown	316	12.5%	8.9%	
Total	5,167			

Industrial

A total of 2,225 industrial properties valuations have increased on average 8.4% compared to 10.0% in 2019. The number of properties has increased by 72 or 3.3%.

Impact Analysis - Industrial

The majority of industrial properties are in the following five suburbs:

Suburb	No. of Properties 2019	2019 Revaluation Increase Av 10.0%	2020 Revaluation Increase Av 8.4%	
Breakwater	163	13.3%	-4.5%	2020 Below Average
Moolap	356	23.3%	-3.2%	
North Shore	144	11.2%	7.9%	
South Geelong	263	6.9%	16.4%	2020 Above Average
North Geelong	502	7.7%	20.5%	
Total	1,428			

Vacant

A total of 5,999 vacant land properties valuations have increased on average 1.7% compared to 25.5% in 2019. The number of properties has decreased by 199 or -3.2%.

Impact Analysis - Vacant

The following table shows a comparison of the suburbs with the highest number of properties for the 2019 and 2020 revaluations:

Suburb	No. of Properties 2019	2019 Revaluation Increase Av 25.5%	2020 Revaluation Increase Av 1.7%	
St Leonards	693	35.4%	-4.3%	2020 Below Average
Portarlington	362	31.3%	-2.6%	
Armstrong Creek	487	22.5%	-2.0%	
Leopold	89	32.5%	-1.3%	
North Geelong	66	42.0%	-0.3%	
Lara	241	47.3%	-0.2%	
Curlewis	342	45.4%	0.7%	
Ocean Grove	451	19.7%	1.7%	
Highton	431	23.5%	1.9%	2020 Above Average
Indented Head	169	10.1%	2.5%	
Mount Duneed	239	19.2%	2.8%	
Clifton Springs	216	30.8%	5.6%	
Charlemont	106	34.5%	5.9%	
Corio	354	26.3%	14.5%	
Total	4,246			

Mixed Use

A total of 319 mixed use properties valuations have increased on average 2.2% compared to 13.6% in 2019. The number of properties has decreased by 11 or -3.4%.

Impact Analysis - Mixed Use

The following table shows a comparison of the suburbs with the highest number of properties for the 2019 and 2020 revaluations:

Suburb	No. of Properties 2019	2019 Revaluation Increase Av 13.6%	2020 Revaluation Increase Av 2.2%	
Lara	18	42.2%	-6.2%	2020 Below Average
Belmont	16	10.1%	-3.6%	
Portarlington	22	10.9%	-2.3%	
Barwon Heads	14	7.6%	1.1%	
Geelong West	18	6.6%	2.9%	2020 Above Average
Ocean Grove	43	7.1%	4.3%	
Geelong	34	5.8%	6.0%	
Highton	17	11.5%	8.8%	
Newtown	10	18.6%	12.7%	
Total	192			

Cultural and Recreational

A total of 53 cultural and recreational land properties valuations have increased on average 1.7% compared to 16.7% in 2019.

Impact Analysis – Cultural and Recreational

The following table shows a comparison of all suburbs for the 2019 and 2020 revaluations:

Suburb	No. of Properties 2019	2019 Revaluation Increase Av 16.7%	2020 Revaluation Increase Av 1.7%	
Mount Duneed	1	47.2%	-22.6%	2020 Below Average
St Albans Park	1	49.1%	-19.0%	
Leopold	2	-1.3%	-18.1%	
Avalon	1	40.8%	-7.2%	
Lara	3	23.5%	-1.0%	
Breakwater	2	0.0%	0.0%	
Highton	1	8.5%	0.0%	
Indented Head	2	9.2%	0.0%	
Newtown	1	6.0%	0.0%	
Norlane	1	27.6%	0.0%	
South Geelong	6	41.7%	0.0%	
East Geelong	2	8.9%	0.0%	
North Geelong	2	3.7%	0.1%	
Portarlington	3	17.3%	0.3%	
Belmont	3	51.2%	1.0%	
Corio	5	18.6%	1.3%	
Ocean Grove	2	4.4%	1.3%	
Batesford	1	5.6%	1.3%	
St Leonards	2	25.2%	2.2%	2020 Above Average
Hamlyn Heights	1	10.2%	2.9%	
Fyansford	1	23.7%	3.3%	
Drysdale	1	29.3%	4.7%	
Geelong	3	6.4%	4.8%	
Point Lonsdale	2	-5.1%	5.0%	
Barwon Heads	2	0.2%	8.5%	
Clifton Springs	2	13.4%	62.5%	
Total	53			

Petroleum

The valuation for the one petroleum property has remained at the 2018 valuation of $145,100,000 for 2020.

Rate Cap

The *Local Government Act 1989* was amended in December 2015 to include Part 8A – Rate Caps, sections 185A to 185G to promote the long-term interests of ratepayers and the community in relation to sustainable outcomes in the delivery of services and infrastructure.

The Minister for Local Government announced on 12 December 2019 under section 185D(1) of the Act that the 2020-21 rate cap would be 2.0% for all Victorian councils.

Not all council charges are included in the rate cap calculation.

- Rates and the Municipal charge are included in the rate cap calculation.

- The Waste charge and the Fire Services Property Levy are not included in the rate cap calculation.

Rate Cap Calculation 2020-21	
Total Rates	$204,939,392
Number of rateable properties*	128,952
Base Average Rate	$ 1,589.27
Maximum Rate Increase	**1.9%**
Capped Average Rate	$ 1,619.39

*Culture and Recreational Properties are not included in the rate cap

The rates and charges for individual properties may have increased or decreased by a different percentage amount to the rate cap for the following reasons:

1. The valuation of a property relative to the valuation of another property in the municipal district;
2. The application of a differential rate based on land use;
3. The inclusion of other charges not included in the rate cap.

Rating Model

Key features of the Rating Model for 2020-21 are:

- The Municipal Charge has been removed from 2020-21. This has created a redistribution of rates to all differentials and is reflected in the changes to the rate in the dollar.

- The rate in the dollar changes reflect the impact of the 2020 revaluation and the redistribution of the municipal charge. The residential differential increased by 10.2%, the vacant differential by 8.4%, the commercial differential by 1.8%, the industrial differential by -5.9%, the mixed use differential by 4.2% and the farm differential by -15.9%.

- The waste collection service charge is calculated based on a fee for service, including direct, indirect and overhead costs. The service charge does not form part of the rate cap. The waste collection charge will increase from $332.00 to $360.95 or 8.7%. The EPA landfill levy increases to $38.95 per tenement (included in the service charge).

- A section 162 service charge known as Additional Bins Service was introduced in 2016-17. Households may apply for an additional garbage bin, upsized garbage bin, recycling bin or a green waste bin. The charges for 2020-21 are $154.85 for a 140L garbage bin, $111.95 to upgrade to a 240L garbage bin, $87.00 for a 240L recycling bin and $82.40 for a 240L green waste bin.

- The farm differential has been set at 61.1% of the residential differential. Properties eligible to receive the farm differential also receive a rebate which has been set at 15.6% to maintain an average rate increase of 1.9% which is consistent with residential rates. This makes farms the lowest rated differential.
- The housing support waiver for eligible charitable housing will be maintained for 2020-21 and is available upon application.
- The rates assistance waiver is retained for 2020-21 with the valuation threshold at 50% where the 2020 revaluation may cause financial hardship.
- A rates waiver introduced for the New Corio Estate from 2013-14 recognising this inappropriate subdivision and Planning Scheme Amendment C243 will be maintained.
- The pensioner concession will increase from $235.15 to $241.00 in accordance with movement in CPI for Melbourne, as advised by the Bureau of Statistics.
- The gap between the Commercial and Industrial differentials has been reduced from 18.2% in 2019-20 to 9.3% in 2020-21 in line with Council Policy. The intention is for these two rates being set at the same rate in future years.
- The petroleum differential has been aligned to the industrial rate in the dollar, as per Councils adopted Statement of Principle.

Residential Rates and Charges

The average capital improved value of residential properties within the municipality has increased from $545,876 to $550,085.

The total increase in rates and charges for the average residential property with a capital improved value of $550,085 is $53.87 or 3.3%. This increase is made up of $130.17 for General Rates, -$105.25 for Municipal Charge and $28.95 for the Waste Collection Service.

Residential Properties	2019-20 Rates on Average CIV $	2020-21 Budgeted Rates on Average CIV $	% increase
General Rates CIV x Rate in $	1,180.10	1,310.27	11.0%
Municipal Charge	105.25	0.00	-100.0%
Total Rates including Municipal Charge	**1,285.35**	**1,310.27**	**1.9%**
Waste Collection Service	332.00	360.95	8.7%
Total Rates and Charges	**1,617.35**	**1,671.22**	**3.3%**

The Essential Services Commission measure rate increases as the movement in Rates & Municipal Charge for all rateable property.

Future Issues

This Rating Strategy is now generally available and will be placed at all City of Greater Geelong customer service centres and be published on the City's web site www.geelongaustralia.com.au.

Finally, it is acknowledged that the strategy will not address everyone's concerns in respect to revaluations, setting of differential rates and charges and particularly the "rates shock" issues that will occur from time to time. However, the strategy has been prepared based on consultation and legal advice and is considered to be within the framework of the legislation (which is a property taxation system based on valuation).

3. Rating Strategy 2020-21

3.1 Introduction

City of Greater Geelong Responsibilities

The purpose of local government is to provide for the peace, order and good government, facilitate and encourage development, to provide services and facilities for the community and to maintain, improve, and develop the resources of the municipal district.

Local Government must operate in accordance with the *Local Government Act (1989)* and has responsibility for implementing many diverse programs, policies and regulations set by State and Federal Government. Councils have to be flexible and therefore have powers to set their own regulations and by-laws and provide a range of discretionary services in response to local community needs.

Each Victorian municipality is different. Community demographics will vary in terms of age, prosperity, topography and service requirements between councils.

The City of Greater Geelong Profile

The City of Greater Geelong serves a population of some 263,280 and covers an area of 1,250 sq. km. From Little River and Balliang in the north through to the Bellarine Peninsula and west to Waurn Ponds, Barrabool, Ceres and Fyansford, there is significant and diverse land use activities, demographics, topography and community needs.

We are a leading industrial centre for Victoria's southwest, with approximately 8,218 commercial and industrial properties and a strong labour force.

The residential sector is experiencing growth along with the need to provide adequate services to these growing communities. Tourism is now more important while a diverse culture and environment is unique in a regional municipal setting in Australia.

The City of Greater Geelong is responsible for $2.6 billion worth of regional assets and infrastructure including roads, bridges, town hall, recreation and leisure facilities, drains, libraries and parks.

There are more than 126 services provided to the local community from cradle to grave.

Every time a person leaves their house they use services provided by the City. From roads, foot and bike paths, public street lighting, litter bins, school

crossings, library books, sporting facilities, community meeting spaces and places, community halls, swimming pools, playgrounds, parking spaces, public tips, youth and family counselling and support, childcare programs, preschools, school holiday programs, maternal and child health services, head lice and immunisation programs. In-home services include child care, parenting and baby health advice, provision of parking permits, access via internet, demolition, building and renovations, garbage, recycling and green waste removal, personal care, home maintenance, meals on wheels and respite care.

Local laws are important for community amenity for the safety, peace and order as well as public health, care of the City's property and the environment. Hazard reduction to noise, fire, abandoned vehicles, parking, street stalls, disabled parking, street furniture, graffiti, animals, nuisance pets and busking permits are all services provided by the City.

We collect rates from residents and businesses to help fund community infrastructure and service obligations.

Our approach to service strategies, budget setting according to priorities and annual rate setting is crucial as to how these services are provided to the community.

In terms of per capita rates the City of Greater Geelong has a lower rate when compared to some rural municipalities; however, we are required to and can provide a full range of services due to economies of scale, scope and aggregation. Services are utilised by non-residents of neighbouring councils, marginally increasing the cost of service to residents.

The following table compares the City of Greater Geelong to other municipalities including neighbouring councils.

2019-20		
	Average Rates & Municipal Charge Per Assessment**	Average Rates & Municipal Charge Per Residential Assessment**
Regional Cities		
City of Wodonga*	2,009	1,646
Horsham Rural City Council	1,962	1,646
Wangaratta Rural City Council*	1,729	1,336
Warrnambool City Council	1,939	1,639
La Trobe City Council	1,528	1,497
Greater Geelong City Council	1,587	1,286
Ballarat City Council*	1,936	1,417
Greater Bendigo City Council*	1,718	1,437
Neighbouring Councils		
Surfcoast Shire	2,063	1,982
Wyndham City Council	1,833	1,479
Golden Plains Shire	1,858	1,792
Metropolitan Councils		
Maribyrnong City Council	2,354	1,909
Whittlesea City Council*	1,714	1,698
Port Philip City Council*	1,762	1,582
*do not have Municipal Charge		
**Source: Council Budget Documents		

Many metropolitan councils tend to have lower per capita rates due to economies of scale and interlinking of services with other neighbouring councils. For example, one council may have a high amenity retail sector, another focusing on industry, whilst another council may provide specialist training or aquatics venues. This cross use of facilities and the ability to specialise leads to a reduced cost of service provision.

However, the City of Greater Geelong must provide a full range of services due primarily to its population diversity, geographic spread, as well as providing corporate development and regional leadership.

The average residential rate for Geelong residents for 2020-21 is $1,671.22 ($1,617.35 for 2019-20), including waste service charges.

This Rating Strategy includes a summary of rating principles and policies including reasons for policy and historical trends.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the City's approach towards rating its' community and to meet the requirements of Part 8 of the *Local Government Act 1989* – Rates and Charges on Rateable Land.

The policy is to be reviewed and adopted by Council each year as part of its

budget setting objectives. The City of Greater Geelong aspires, through its budget, to achieve service standards, within resource allocation limits, that benefit the entire community.

Principles

The City must raise revenue each year sufficient for the purpose of good governance, administration, and to provide for appropriate goods and services for the community. The goods and services the organisation provides are broad and are allocated according to community lifecycle and lifestyle needs. In particular, the City provides goods and services that are not provided by private enterprise (eg. infrastructure, street lighting, regulatory and compliance activities).

Council rates constitute a system of taxation on the local community for the purposes of local government. The value of land and its improvements is generally used as the basis of taxation, which is a measure of the property wealth of the ratepayer. By legislation (*Valuation of Land Act 1960*) the value of all property is to be reassessed every year and is to be relative to all other like property within the municipality.

Rates are in the form of a general purpose levy and the benefits that a ratepayer may receive will not necessarily be to the extent of the tax (rates) paid. Benefits are consumed in different quantities and types over the lifecycle of the ratepayer (e.g. maternal and child health, libraries and aged care, roads and footpaths, local laws).

Our practices and decisions regarding rating are underpinned by:

- Accountability, transparency and simplicity;
- Efficiency, effectiveness and timeliness;
- Equitable distribution of the rate burden across the community according to assessment of property wealth;
- A “safety net” approach to assist eligible ratepayers significantly affected by increasing rates;
- Consistency with the organisation’s strategic, corporate and financial directions and budgetary requirements; and
- Compliance with relevant legislation and accepted professional conventions and ethics.

Reason for Policy

The City of Greater Geelong believes that overall policy must be underpinned by sound principles, which are well understood, communicated to ratepayers and compliant with current legislation. Equity and impact issues are best dealt with

in application of all facets of rating policy, including valuation, budgetary requirements, differential rating, government taxation and concessions, collection and hardship considerations.

We aspire to balance service levels in accordance with the needs and expectations of its community and sets taxation levels (rating) to adequately resource its roles and responsibilities.

In setting rates, the City gives primary consideration to its strategic directions, budget considerations, the current economic climate, other external factors and likely impacts upon the community.

Rating Framework

The general rating framework for local government was set out in research undertaken for development of the *Local Government Act 1989*. The research recommended that property rating should be based on the following objectives:

- The entire community should contribute to the unavoidable costs of local government.
- Where feasible, services should be funded on a user pays system.
- Where specified, local objectives can be achieved using differential rates.
- Residual service costs should be apportioned on the basis of property valuation.

In addition to rates on property, local governments are able to levy a municipal charge on each property. The municipal charge cannot raise more than one fifth (20%) of the total amount raised through rates (including the municipal charge) – the Act section 159.

Waste collection services are based on user-pays principles while a wide variety of other services provided by the City have fees set to recover the full cost or, where subsidisation occurs, to fully notate such cross-subsidisation.

The third element is the use of differential rate groups using variable "rates in dollars" to collect an ad valorem rate against the property value.

In addition to the objectives above, public finance theory sets three major criteria for successful taxation policy:

- Equity – including both horizontal and vertical equity. Horizontal equity means that those in the same position (e.g. with the same property value), should be treated the same. Vertical equity in respect to property taxation means that higher property values should incur higher levels of tax.

- Efficiency – meaning that in a technical sense the tax should not unduly interfere with the efficient operation of the economy. For local government the tax should be consistent with the major policy objectives of the City.
- Simplicity – for both administrative ease (and therefore lower cost) and to ensure that the tax is understood by taxpayers. The latter ensures that the tax system is transparent and capable of being questioned and challenged by ratepayers.

In adopting a differential rating structure for ad valorem tariffs, the City considers that they will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of its functions"– the Act section 161(1)(b). It must also give consideration to the Ministerial Guidelines.

The Act at Part 1A Local Government Charter – section 3C(f) provides that an objective of council should be "to ensure the equitable imposition of rates and charges". The Act does not further define equity or efficiency of the rating structure, and it can be presumed that the adoption of a legal rating framework will ensure equity and efficiency within the meaning and principles of the legislation.

Definitions and Abbreviations

the Act	Local Government Act (1989).
EA	Enterprise Agreement.
Council	Generally refers to the Greater Geelong City Council or the City.
CPI	Consumer Price Index.
VCAT	Victorian and Civil Administrative Tribunal.
FSPL	Fire Services Property Levy.
ESC	Essential Services Commission
Ad Valorem	A tax, duty or fee that varies according to value of products, service or property upon which it is levied.

Strategic Directions

The City has determined that its annual rate setting objectives should be developed within a framework which integrates planning from a strategic directions level through to service delivery. The strategic directions of the City are set out in the following documents:

Council Plan 2018-22

This document includes strategic objectives, performance indicators and the Strategic Resource Plan.

2020-21 Budget

Annual funding allocations (action plan) for activities and initiatives, with linkages to the Council Plan, together with key financial performance targets and measures.

Annual Report

Audited statutory operational and financial report including performance statement on key targets and measures identified in the Budget and Council Plan.

The City of Greater Geelong operates as a separate entity to other councils. Each council has different local issues, costs and service provision needs. Each council budget is different to reflect local community needs and priorities. There are 79 Local Government councils in Victoria and some 671 local government entities throughout Australia.

In Victoria, there is a common legislative framework for setting a budget that council's must follow, as set out in the Act .

Budget Considerations

The City prepares and publishes its annual budget as a separate document in compliance with the Act, which includes a comprehensive submissions and approval process.

As part of the financial planning and budget process, the rate revenue is calculated in accordance with the rate cap set by the State Government.

Other revenue sources include statutory fees for building and planning through to user pays fees assessed annually in accordance with movements in CPI, wages and market factors. Council relies on Federal and State funding mainly via the Grants Commission allocations. Specific purpose grants for new services and capital works are also received.

Each year the City establishes the maintenance needs of its assets and infrastructure and the community services and facilities that will be provided in the next financial year.

Generally, the City of Greater Geelong seeks to have a balanced budget (ie. that revenue is equal to expenses). Any surplus or deficit result should be minor in context of the overall budget. The Council in the past has maintined an operating surplus and is committed to maintaining an operating surplus in future years. However, 2020-21 will be an exception with a proposed deficit given the need to fund the on-going support to the community for the COVID-19 response and recovery that will be required.

Policy Statement: Council, as required by legislation, will prepare a draft budget

for community consultation and then adopt and publish the approved budget.

External Influences

The City is subject to numerous economic factors. Since its major expenditure item is salaries and wages, any CPI and EA adjustments will have a significant impact on costs and subsequent rating decisions. We are also subject to significant movements in funding from State and Federal sources. Cost shifting back to council has been a major concern for all councils and has been subject to a Federal Government Inquiry[5] which found that "*the extent and effects of cost shifting as detailed are the major problems facing Local Government's deteriorating infrastructure*". Regulatory and compliance changes affect councils operations and changes to population and demographics will influence change particularly in the medium to long term.

Community Impact

Policy Statement: Council will publish a rates impact statement biannually in its budget papers to inform the community. The impact statement will have reference to historical and future trend information including property valuation movements and rates in the dollar by tariff group.

3.2 Property Valuations

For the purpose of the Act and its rating provisions, the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*, is the principal act in determining property valuations. Generally, each separate occupancy on rateable land must be valued and rated. Contiguous areas of vacant land with more than one title in the same ownership may be consolidated for rating purposes.

An assessment for the purpose of rating may be against any piece of land subject to separate ownership or occupation. In this context, land has been defined to include buildings, structures or improvements and may include automatic teller machines, show case, signage, advertising, radio and mobile telecommunications towers.

Local government may adopt one of the following three valuation methodologies to value properties in its area (LGA section 157).

Capital Value: (CIV) the value of land and other improvements including the house, other buildings and landscaping.

Site Value: (SV) the value of the land plus any improvements which permanently affect the amenity or use of the land, such as drainage works, but excluding the value of buildings and other improvements. Also referred to as the unimproved market value of the land.

Net Annual Value: (NAV) the value of the rental potential of the land, less the landlords' outgoings (such as insurance, land tax and maintenance costs). For residential and farm properties this must be set at 5% of the CIV (Valuation of Land Act 1960 – section 2).

Policy Statement: Council has adopted the Capital Improved Value as the value to which the rate in the dollar will be assessed.

Reason for Policy: Being a measure of the realisable value of the property, the CIV most closely reflects wealth and affordability and thus it is more equitable to tax residents on the total value of their property rather than the notional value of their land alone. In addition, differential rating combined with CIV allows greater flexibility in developing rating outcomes enabling the City to pursue its particular objectives.

Every year council valuers have a statutory requirement under the Valuation of Land Act section 13DC (5), to conduct a review of property values based on market movements and recent sales trends. For the 2020-21 rating years valuations will be based on values returned as at 1 January 2020.

The valuers undertake a physical inspection of some properties during each revaluation. Other valuations are derived from a complex formula based on sectors, sub market groups, property condition factors (including age, materials and floor area), influencing factors such as locality and views, and land areas compared to sales trends within each sector/sub-market group. The municipality has defined sub-market groups of homogeneous property types which are reviewed during the revaluation process. The valuers determine the valuations according to the highest and best use of a property.

In valuing large areas of land without buildings, residential zoning, permits for subdivision or structure plans are indications of potential for subdivision. If the land is capable of subdivision it will be valued accordingly as potential subdivisional land rather than farm land, despite its use. The value of subdivisional land will typically be higher than farm land. The amount of valuation increase will depend on market factors at the time of valuation.

The differential rate applied to the valuation is determined in accordance with the criteria set out in the annual report to Council. The criteria is based on the actual land use and the geographic area of the property.

Valuations are conducted at general revaluation or where any circumstances as listed under section 13DF of the Valuation of Land Act change the valuation and cause the City to undertake a supplementary valuation between revaluations.

Supplementary valuations are notified to ratepayers by the issue of a rates notice.

The Valuer General of Victoria is responsible for reviewing the total valuation of each municipality for accuracy before certifying that the valuations are true and correct. Valuations are conducted using best practice guidelines formulated and published by the Valuer General Victoria.

The total value of the municipality is used as a base against which Council strikes its rate in the dollar for each defined tariff group.

No Windfall Gain

There is a common misconception that if a property's valuation rises then the City receives a "windfall gain" with additional income. This is not so as the revaluation process results in a redistribution of the rate burden across all properties in the municipality. Any increase to total valuations of the municipality is adjusted by recalculating the rate in dollar (ad valorem rate) used to calculate the rate for each property. Budgeted rate income is adjusted each year as part of the budget process and the relevant rate cap percentage taking into account adjustments for supplementary rate income.

Objections to Property Valuation

The Valuation of Land Act 1960 provides that objection to the valuation may be made each year within two months of the issue of the original or amended (supplementary) Rates and Valuation Charges Notice (Rates Notice), or within four months if the notice was not originally issued to the occupier of the land.

Objections must be dealt with in accordance with the Valuation of Land Act – Division 3 sections 16-21.

The Act was amended in 2006 in order to improve the valuation objection process and reduce the number of lengthy and costly disputes. The Act specifically improves the processes and practices for lodging an objection, sharing and exchange of information, referring an objection dispute to VCAT, awarding of costs, Valuer General notifications and certification of supplementary valuations. Further information can be obtained by contacting the City of Greater Geelong or accessing the Land Victoria web site at www.land.vic.gov.au/valuation.

The City will continue to advise ratepayers via the "Rates, Charges and Valuation Notice (the Rate Notice), brochure, web site and City News, of their right to object and appeal the valuation.

Property owners also have the ability to object to the site valuations on receipt of their land tax assessment. Property owners can appeal their land valuation within two months of receipt of council Rate Notice (via the City) or within two months of receipt of their Land Tax Assessment (via the State Revenue Office).

3.3 Rating Differentials and Rate Types

Rating Equity

Council has determined that the issues concerning equity within the community and the impact of rates across the municipal district are best addressed by the application of all the policies in respect to differential tariffs, government funded rebates and provisions for relief based on hardship in accordance with the Act section 171 and 171A as amended.

Council has determined that identical land uses should be treated in the same manner with the exception of the land known as the Point. The Point land at Point Lonsdale is unique in that it requires expenditure to maintain the water quality of the waterways in line with the environmental obligations. Equity and impact issues being best dealt within application of the entire Rating Policy having regard to:

- Land use – differential groups;
- Valuation – valuation relative to other properties within land use groups;
- Rate in dollar – based on the City's revenue requirements and % contribution by differential group;
- Collection arrangements – access to multiple payment methods to suit; and
- Hardship being taken into consideration – subject to rating impact on class of persons or by application for individuals.

Ministerial Guidelines

The *Local Government Legislation Amendment (Miscellaneous) Act 2012* allows the Minister to set differential rating guidelines for compliance by councils. The final version of the Ministerial Guidelines, was gazetted on 26 April 2013 and came into effect from 1 July 2013. The City needs to consider the objectives, the suitable uses and the types of classes of land when introducing a differential rate. There are no new differential rates being introduced as part of the 2020-21 Budget.

Reasons for Differential Rates Policy

The application of the rating strategy should be simple, efficient, and include a mechanism that contains principles of public benefit taxation.

While general rates are not a user pay mechanism, elements of the rating strategy will embrace the user pays principle where practicable. The City may consider the imposition of specific costs that may warrant the striking of new or higher differentials.

Rating must ensure that there is sufficient funding to meet the cost of providing and maintaining infrastructure assets and services for the benefit of current and

future communities.

The City of Greater Geelong applies a capital improved valuation (CIV) method to all properties within the municipality to take into account the full development value of the property. This method is applied irrespective of whether the property is subject to rates or exempt under legislation. The City recognises that people with higher value properties generally have higher wealth and a greater ability to meet the provision of council services.

Rating, through the application of higher differentials recognises the ability of some ratepayers to obtain concessions from the tax deductibility of council rates and provides for a series of differential rates. This takes into account low economic return to large landholdings, avoid distortions in the market or an ability to contribute above the standard charge.

Rating shall endeavour to promote and encourage economic development throughout the municipality.

The farm differential is to recognise the benefits of large holdings, open space and traditionally, generally less demand upon council services per land area held. The City of Greater Geelong has used a combination of a differential tariff and a LGA section 169 rebate in order to maintain the status of farms as the lowest rated tariff group.

Vacant Land is rated at a higher rate in the dollar than residential to encourage the prompt development of vacant land to attract new residents and businesses to the City and to discourage untimely and unnecessary divisions of land.

A Municipal Charge may be used, or where appropriate an ex-gratia amount may be negotiated.

Differential Tariff Groups

The Act allows councils to "differentiate" rates based on the use of the land, the geographic locality of the land or the use and locality of the land.

Policy Statement: Council has determined that the following differential tariff groups based on land use characteristics and geographical area are appropriate for rating purposes.

Reason for Policy: Council has a diverse mix of geographically located and land use properties. Valuation methodology is not consistent between differing land use property types and the establishment of differential tariff groups ensures greater equity and contribution from rates according to land use characteristics in relation to affordability and taxation principles. Council has also introduced a geographic rate to ensure that the land defined as The Point makes a contribution to the management of the environmentally sensitive land.

Rating Differentials

In accordance with the Act section 161 council is required:

- to specify the objectives of the differential rate;
- to define the types and classes of land and a statement of reasons for the use and level of that rate; and
- to identify the types and classes of land in respect to uses, geographic location, planning scheme zoning, building types and any other relevant criteria.

The purpose is to ensure that council has a sound basis on which to develop the various charging features when determining its revenue strategies and ensure that these are consistent with the provisions of the Act.

The general objectives of each of the differential rates is:

- To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to cost of carrying out the functions of council, including the:
- construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;
- development and provision of health and community services;
- provision of general support services; or
- a specific objective as described within the differential characteristic.

Types and Classes

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in each category below.

Use and Level of Differential Rate

The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council.

The level of the differential rate is the level, which council considers is necessary to achieve the objectives specified above.

Geographic Location

Wherever located within the municipal district or by reference to specific location within the differential tariff description.

Use of Land

Any use permitted under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Planning Scheme Zoning

The zoning applicable to each rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Types of Buildings

All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to 30 June 2021.

Differential Tariff Definitions and Characteristics

Residential Land – means any land:

i) that is used exclusively for residential purposes; or

ii) on which a habitable building is erected, which building is unoccupied, and which is zoned residential under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Rating Objective:

To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:

a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

b) development and provision of health and community services; and

c) provision of general support services.

Vacant Land – means any land:

i) that does not have the characteristics of Farm Land; and

ii) on which no building is erected, save for any uninhabitable shed or shelter, the size of which does not exceed 5% of the total area of the land.

Rating Objectives:

To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:

a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

b) development and provision of health and community services; and

c) provision of general support services.

To encourage the prompt development of vacant land to attract new residents and businesses to the City of Greater Geelong.

To discourage untimely and unnecessary divisions of land.

These objectives will be met by setting the Vacant Land differential at 143.7% of the Residential Land differential.

Commercial Land – means any land that:

i) does not have the characteristics of:

   a) Farm Land; or

   b) Industrial Land; and

   c) Petroleum Production Land

ii) is used predominantly for the sale of goods or services or other commercial purposes; or

iii) on which a habitable building is erected, which building is unoccupied, and which is zoned other than residential under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Rating Objective:

To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:

a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

b) development and provision of health and community services; and

c) provision of general support services.

The Point – Residential Land – means any land that:

i) is used exclusively for residential purposes; or

ii) on which a habitable building is erected, which building is unoccupied, and which is zoned residential under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme; and

iii) forms part of the land formerly described in Certificate of Title Volume 09901 Folio 324 and also described as Lot B PS 635643, PS 640648Y, PS 722221H, PS 722220K, PS 743868K, PS 732908M, PS 638301D, PS 635642R, PS 722215C, PS 722214E, PS 743877, PS 816893, PS 743876, PS 743878, PS 822924, PS 822922, PS 822918, PS 816907, 822928 and 832773.

Rating Objectives:

To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:

a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

b) development and provision of health and community services;

c) provision of general support services; and

d) management of environmentally sensitive land.

To ensure that, following the development of the Point Land, and transfer to the City of the management of environmentally sensitive land, including the provision of a range of services around an existing waterway, constructed lake and canal system, an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of the City's management responsibilities will be made by the ratepayers in respect of that land.

The Point – Vacant Land – means any land:

i) that does not have the characteristics of Farm Land; and

ii) on which no building is erected save for any small uninhabitable storage shed or shelter, the size of which does not exceed 5% of the total land area; and

iii) forms part of the land formerly described in Certificate of Title Volume 09901 Folio 324 and also described as Lot B PS 635643, PS 640648Y, PS 722221H, PS 722220K, PS 743868K, PS 732908M, PS 638301D, PS 635642R, PS 722215C, PS 722214E, PS 743877, PS 816893, PS 743876, PS 743878, PS 822924, PS 822922, PS 822918, PS 816907, 822928 and 832773.

Rating Objectives:

To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City, generally including the:

a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

b) development and provision of health and community services;

c) provision of general support services; and

d) management of environmentally sensitive land.

To ensure that, following the development of the Point Land, and transfer to the City of the management of environmentally sensitive land, including the provision of a range of services around an existing waterway, constructed lake and canal system, an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of the City's management responsibilities will be made by the ratepayers in respect of that land.

To encourage the prompt development of vacant land to attract new residents and businesses to the City of Greater Geelong and, more specifically, to the Point Land.

To discourage untimely and unnecessary divisions of land.

The Point – Commercial Land – means any land that:

i) does not have the characteristics of:

a) Farm Land; or

b) Industrial Land; and

ii) is used predominantly for the sale of goods or services, or other commercial purposes; or

iii) on which a habitable building is erected, which building is unoccupied, and which is zoned other than residential under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme; and

iv) forms part of the land formerly described in Certificate of Title Volume 09901 Folio 324 and also described as Lot B PS 635643, PS 640648Y, PS 722221H, PS 722220K, PS 743868K, PS 732908M, PS 638301D, PS 635642R, PS 722215C, PS 722214E, PS 743877, PS 816893, PS 743876, PS 743878, PS 822924, PS 822922, PS 822918, PS 816907, 822928 and 832773.

Rating Objectives:

To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to cost of carrying out the functions of the City, generally including the:

a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

b) development and provision of health and community services;

c) provision of general support services; and

d) management of environmentally sensitive land.

To ensure that, following the development of the Point Land, and transfer to the City of the management of environmentally sensitive land, including the provision of a range of services around an existing waterway, constructed lake and canal system, to ensure that an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of the City's management responsibilities will be made by the ratepayers in respect of that land.

Industrial Land – means any land that:

i) does not have the characteristics of:

a) Vacant Land; or

b) Commercial Land; and

c) Petroleum Production Land

ii) is used predominantly for industrial purposes, which includes manufacturing, repairing, servicing, processing and reprocessing or warehousing.

Rating Objective:

To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:

a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

b) development and provision of health and community services; and

c) provision of general support services.

Mixed Use Land – means any land that:

i) has the characteristics of Residential Land combined with the characteristics of Commercial Land or Industrial Land; and

ii) is used partly for residential purposes and partly for commercial and/or industrial purposes.

Rating Objective:

To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:

a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

b) development and provision of health and community services; and

c) provision of general support services.

Farm Land – means any land which:

i) is not less than 2 hectares in area; and

ii) is used predominantly for the business of grazing (including agistment), dairying, pig-farming, poultry farming, fish farming, tree farming, bee-keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit growing or the growing of crops of any kind or for any combination of those activities; or

iii) satisfies the criteria for municipal purpose benefit for large holdings to the extent that it is, for example, land that is predominantly used and maintained for heritage, cultural or environmental purposes, or land that is held as natural bushland under a trust for nature covenant, or land that is held under some other type of similar formal undertaking.

To avoid doubt, 'business' for the purposes of identifying Farm Land has the same meaning as that given to it by section 2(1) of the *Valuation of Land Act* 1960 for the same purpose, being a business that:

a) has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character; and

b) seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis from its activities on the land; and

c) is making a profit from its activities on the land, or that has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from its activities on the land if it continues to operate in the way that it is operating.

Rating Objectives:

To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:

a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

b) development and provision of health and community services; and

c) provision of general support services.

To encourage and support the business of primary production and, where appropriate, expand the business of primary production.

These objectives will be met by setting the Farm Land differential at 61.1% of the Residential Land differential and by the provision of a farm rebate under section 169 of the Act.

Petroleum Production Land – means any land that is:

i) used primarily for the production or conveyance of petroleum and/or petroleum by-products; and

ii) described as all that land generally bounded more or less by Princes Highway, Shell Parade, Corio Bay Foreshore, Wharf Road, Station Road and neighbouring land.

Rating Objective:

To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:

a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

b) development and provision of health and community services; and

c) provision of general support services.

The Petroleum Production Land differential is set at the Industrial Land differential from 2017-18.

Cultural & Recreational Land – means any land that:

Has the characteristics of Recreational land as defined by the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963. As described in the Council report.

Differential Rates for Year 2020-21

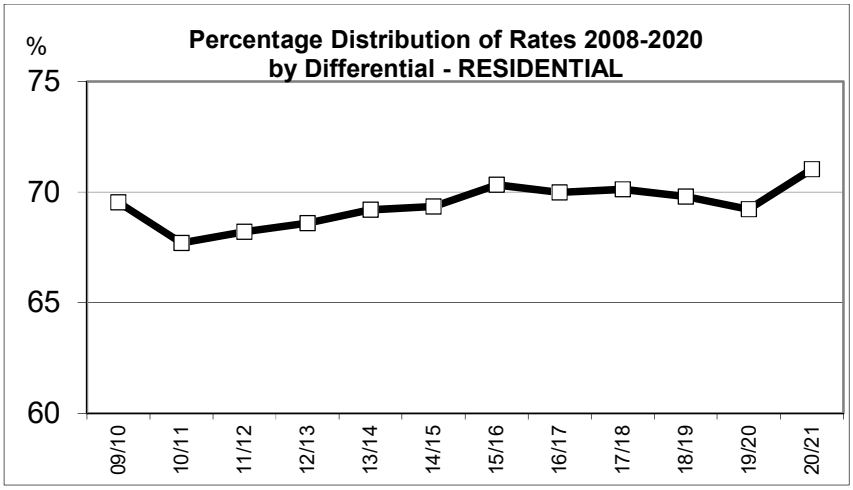
Council has declared the following rates and charges for 2020-21:

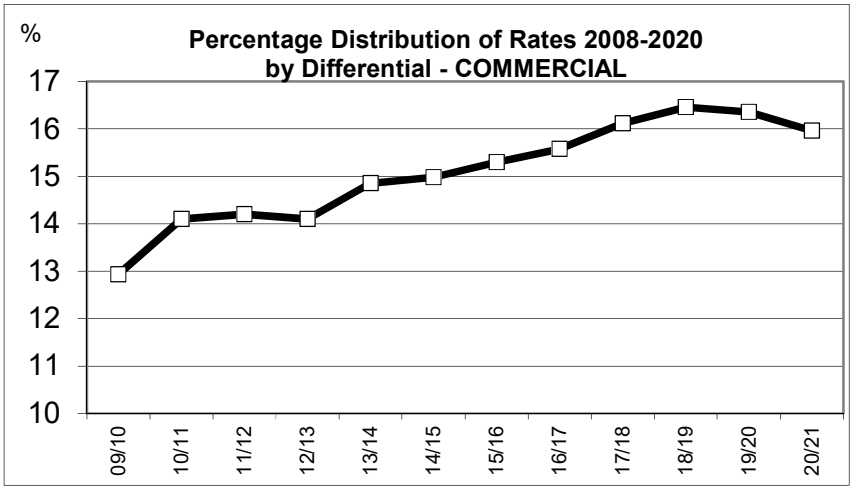
Category	Short description	2019-20 Rate in Dollar Comparative %	2020-21 Rate in Dollar Comparative %
Rating Differentials			
Farm Land	Greater than 2 hectares and sustaining a farm business or satisfying the municipal benefit large holding criteria.	0.00172948 (or .172948 percent of CIV) a 33.3% farm rebate applies	0.00145433 (or .145433 percent of CIV) a 15.6% farm rebate applies
Residential Land	Residential purpose only.	0.00216185 (or .216185 percent of CIV)	0.00238194 (or .238194 percent of CIV)
Vacant Land	Vacant land may disregard non-habitable structure (eg. shed) occupying not more than 5% of total area.	0.00315616 (or .315616 percent of CIV)	0.00342186 (or .342186 percent of CIV)
Petroleum Production Land	Used for petroleum and related product manufacture.	0.00618097 (or .618097 percent of CIV)	0.00581731 (or .581731 percent of CIV)
Industrial Land	Used for manufacturing, repairing, servicing, processing and reprocessing or warehousing.	0.00618097 (or .618097 percent of CIV)	0.00581731 (or .581731 percent of CIV)
Commercial Land	Properties used for sale of goods and services.	0.00522789 (or .522789 percent of CIV)	0.00532080 (or .532080 percent of CIV)
The Point Residential Land	Residential purpose only within the Point geographical area.	0.00216185 (or .216185 percent of CIV)	0.00238194 (or .238194 percent of CIV)
The Point Vacant Land	Vacant land within the Point geographical area.	0.00315616 (or .315616 percent of CIV)	0.00342186 (or .342186 percent of CIV)
The Point Commercial Land	Properties used for sale of goods or services within the Point geographical area.	0.00522789 (or .522789 percent of CIV)	0.00532080 (or .532080 percent of CIV)
Mixed Use Land	Residential and business combined.	0.00326233 (or .326233 percent of CIV)	0.00339958 (or .339958 percent of CIV)
Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963			
Cultural and Recreational	Land reserved under Cultural and Recreation Land Act.	0.00162139 (or .162139 percent of CIV).	0.00178645 (or .178645 percent of CIV).
Service Charges			
Municipal Charge	As per LGA section 159.	$105.25 per rateable property in any category	Discontinued
Recycle and Waste Collection Service Fee	Service Charge as per LGA section 162.	$332.00 per standard 3 bin service	$360.95 per standard 3 bin service

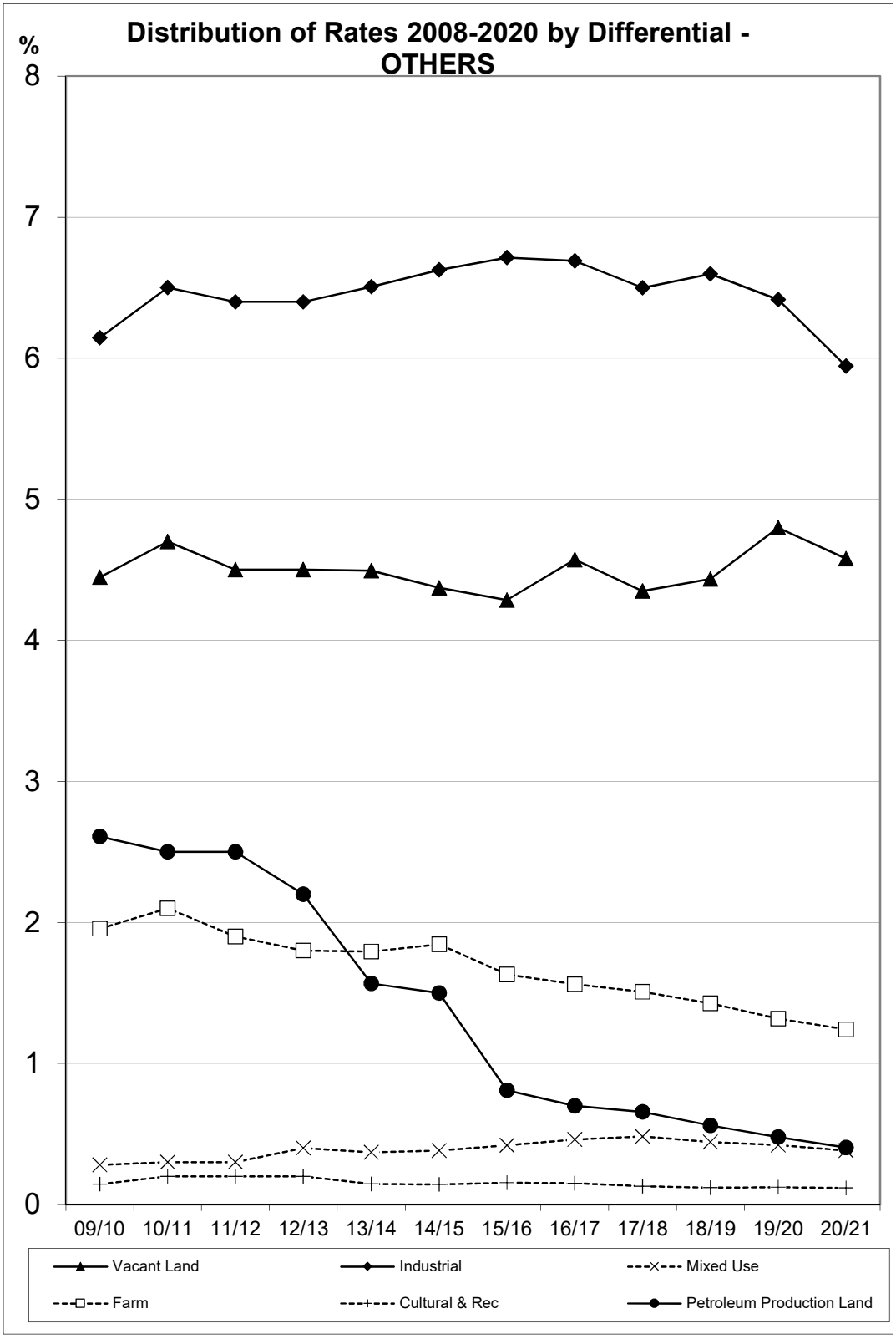
The rates and charges as declared above are set to raise a total of $250,458,167 for 2020-21 ($237,685,462 for 2019-20).

Historical Trends

The use of differential rates is used to "balance and maintain" the revenue contribution from each property group. Where significant variation occurs to valuations and property numbers within a tariff group, the revenue contribution may alter accordingly. Where a tariff group has a significant declining valuation we may adjust the rate in dollar upwards to maintain the value of the rates contribution limited only by the 'four times' rule, the Act section 161(5).






Distribution of Rates 2008-2020 by Differential - OTHERS
%
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
09/10
10/11
11/12
12/13
13/14
14/15
15/16
16/17
17/18
18/19
19/20
20/21
Vacant Land
Industrial
Mixed Use
Farm
Cultural & Rec
Petroleum Production Land

3.4 Interpretive Guidelines for Differentials and Rate Types

Farm Rates

The farm differential is to recognise the benefits of large holdings, open space and traditionally, generally less demand upon council services per land area held. This takes into account low economic return to large landholdings, avoiding distortions in the market or an ability to contribute above the standard charge. The City utilises a combination of a differential tariff and a LGA section 169 rebate in order to maintain the status as the lowest rated tariff group. Eligibility for Farm rebate is based on qualification for farm differential, whereby properties comply with the land use criteria.

The City determines whether properties are to be classified as Farm according to the definitions set out in the rating declaration that is made as part of the budget process each year.

The key factors to determine whether a property meets the definition of farm are:

- Is the area of the property 2 hectares or greater?
- Legal area of property as per council records.
- Is the property being utilised for one of the defined farming activities?

Farm Land - means any land which is not less than 2 hectares in area and;

i) is used predominantly for a business of grazing (including agistment), dairying, pig-farming, poultry farming, fish farming, tree farming, bee-keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit growing or the growing of crops of any kind or for any combination of those activities or;

ii) satisfies the criteria for municipal purpose benefit for large holdings to the extent that it is, for example, land that is predominantly used and maintained for heritage, cultural or environmental purposes, or land that is held as natural bushland under a trust for nature covenant, or land that is held under some other type of similar formal undertaking.

Case law on farming activities has concluded that recreational horses are not part of the recognised farming activities. This has been further defined to allow that properties conducting a business of grazing animals for agistment are farming businesses, provided the animals meet the definition of a grazing animal. Properties training horses for racing purposes are not farming but are conducting a commercial activity. The 'predominant use' test is relevant to determine whether farming activities qualify as a farm.

Predominant or main activity requires looking at the amount of land used for the particular activity / activities and also the intensity of that use. Mere comparison of relative areas occupied by a residential use and a farming business is not decisive. Regard also needs to be given to the relative weights of the competing uses (eg. residential verses business etc.).

Is the property a farming business?

To avoid doubt, 'business' for the purposes of identifying Farm Land has the same meaning as that given to it by section 2(1) of the *Valuation of Land Act* 1960 for the same purpose, being a business that:

- has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character; and
- seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis form its activities on the land; and
- is making a profit from its activities on the land, or that has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from its activities on the land if it continues to operate in the way that it is operating.

The City collects information that assists in determining whether or not the property is being run as a business (commercial venture organised for profit). The tests are in line with the Australian Tax Office tests for a primary production business. The key tests include ABN, business names, regular volume of activity, level of activity showing commercial objective, income level above Australian Taxation Office threshold for income assistance and business plan for operation of the property.

The farming carried out must be on a sufficient scale as to have some element of independent viability, therefore not supported by alternate income sources. The purpose of the farming activity must be ongoing and the result being of significant commercial volume. Therefore, if the activities will only ever produce small returns then they would be considered to be of a slight or minor character (Hobby farm or rural retreats). Seasonal fluctuations should not affect this outcome.

Is the property providing a municipal benefit?

Alternatively, land predominantly used or maintained for heritage, cultural or environmental purpose such as land held as natural bushland under a trust for nature covenant, or other type of formal undertaking will be classed as farm land under the definition. Small areas of the subject property will not be able to attract the definition.

Large land holdings unable to qualify as farm land use would be typically tracts of land held for subdivision and not being utilised in accordance with the criteria. In such cases, land will generally be rated at either the residential or vacant land

rating differential.

The Farm classification is reviewed when a property is sold or subdivided. An application survey is sent to the owners to obtain details on the properties ongoing usage by the new owner. Based on the information returned, the property is reclassified.

At times, the City may also mail out an application survey to groups of existing farm classified properties to ensure they are still using the land for farming purposes and therefore are still eligible for the farming classification. Owners of properties not currently defined as farm land may request the application survey. The rating differential will be determined based on the returned information.

The farm differential will be set at 61.1% of the residential rate and the rebate will be set at 15.6% (46.5% 2010-11 and 2011-12, 36.2% 2012-13 and 2013-14, 34% 2014-15 and 2015-16, 40% 2016-17 and 2017-18, 37.3% 2018-19, 33.3% 2019-20) of the amount payable of the capital improved value of the property.

Multiple Land Use – Separate Assessment

The City's rating framework is governed by the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Valuation of Land Act 1960*.

Under section 158A of the Act rates and charges are to be levied on each occupancy and the City must separately levy the rate and charge in respect of each portion of land for which the City has a separate valuation.

Under section 13DC of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* each separate occupancy must be computed at its nett annual value, its capital value and its site value and under section 7(a):

"If a portion of a parcel of land on which a building is erected is occupied separately, or is obviously adapted to being occupied separately, from other land in the parcel, that portion must be regarded as forming a separate rateable property and must be valued accordingly".

In order to meet the requirements of the Acts and rate a parcel of land accordingly the City makes an assessment of each parcel of land to:

- determine the predominant land characteristics;
- values the land accordingly; and
- applies a rating differential which matches the land characteristics.

As part of the rating process the City regularly reviews land within the municipality to monitor changes to land use characteristics at:

- Revaluation;
- When building, planning or other permits are applied for;
- When building, planning or other permits are required;
- When subdivisions occur;
- Upon sale and transfer of land;
- Upon inspection by the City;
- Upon application and inquiry; or
- Internal reviews.

As part of this process single parcels of land are sometimes identified as having characteristics applicable to different rating differentials.

The City has determined that the issues concerning equity within the community and the impact of rates across the municipality are partly addressed by the application of differential rates where identical land uses should be treated in the same manner.

In determining a differential rate for a parcel of land the City refers to the definitions and characteristics for each class of land – residential, vacant, commercial, industrial, farm or mixed use. Each differential has been developed to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of council.

In most cases each parcel of land will have single land use to which a differential rate applies. In a small number of cases a parcel of land may have more than one land use. The City, in accordance with legislation, classifies these properties in two ways to ensure equity with other like properties across the municipality.

The first method of classification is the 'mixed use' differential where a parcel of land has the characteristics of residential land combined with the characteristics of another rate type. For more information on mixed use, please refer above.

The second methodology is to create separate rateable properties to recognise the differing land use such as Farm with Commercial. This methodology is consistent with legislative requirements where a parcel of land has more than one land use and the property has been adapted for separate occupancy.

The decision to create a separate rateable property is determined according to the following:

- the granting of a planning, building or other permits for a separate occupancy; or

- there is a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character to part of the property; or
- seeks to make a profit on a continuous and repetitive basis from its activities; or
- when a subdivision occurs.

The creation of a separate rateable property will ensure that common types and classes of land are classified consistently across the municipality. The creation will also provide an equitable outcome for the land owner as the separate assessment is typically only the portion relating to the profit making activity, building area only with no additional land or access roads included. Thus, the higher differential is only applied to a portion of the land rather than the whole site being classified as 'mixed use'.

This is of particular relevance to properties which are classified as farm land and receive the farm rate and rebate. To be eligible for a farm rebate (as per the *Valuation of Land Act 1960)* a property must be not less than 2 hectares and be used predominantly for a sustainable business of grazing (including agistment) dairying, pig-farming, poultry farming, fish farming, tree farming, bee keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit growing or the growing of crops of any kind or a combination of those activities.

In recent times some 'farm' properties have diversified to include activities that do not meet the farm land definition. In these instances the City has again created a separate assessment to ensure consistency across the municipality and not penalise the property owner by only applying a different rating differential to the portion of land directly attributed to the alternate activity.

Mixed Use Rate

In determining a differential rate for a parcel of land the City refers to the definitions and characteristics for each class of land – residential, vacant, commercial, industrial, farm or mixed use. Each differential has been developed to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of council.

In most cases each parcel of land will have a single land use to which a differential rate applies. In a small number of cases a parcel of land may have more than one land use. The City, in accordance with legislation, classifies these properties to ensure equity with other like land uses across the municipality.

The method of classification is the 'mixed use' differential where a parcel of land has the characteristics of residential land combined with the characteristics of commercial or industrial land. The 'mixed use' differential is a concessional rate compared to the commercial/industrial rate differential.

Mixed use properties historically included corner milk bars and hairdressers and more recently include home businesses, student housing and short term accommodation available from a residential property. In the majority of cases these uses do not have defined boundaries and/or have not been adapted for separate occupancy.

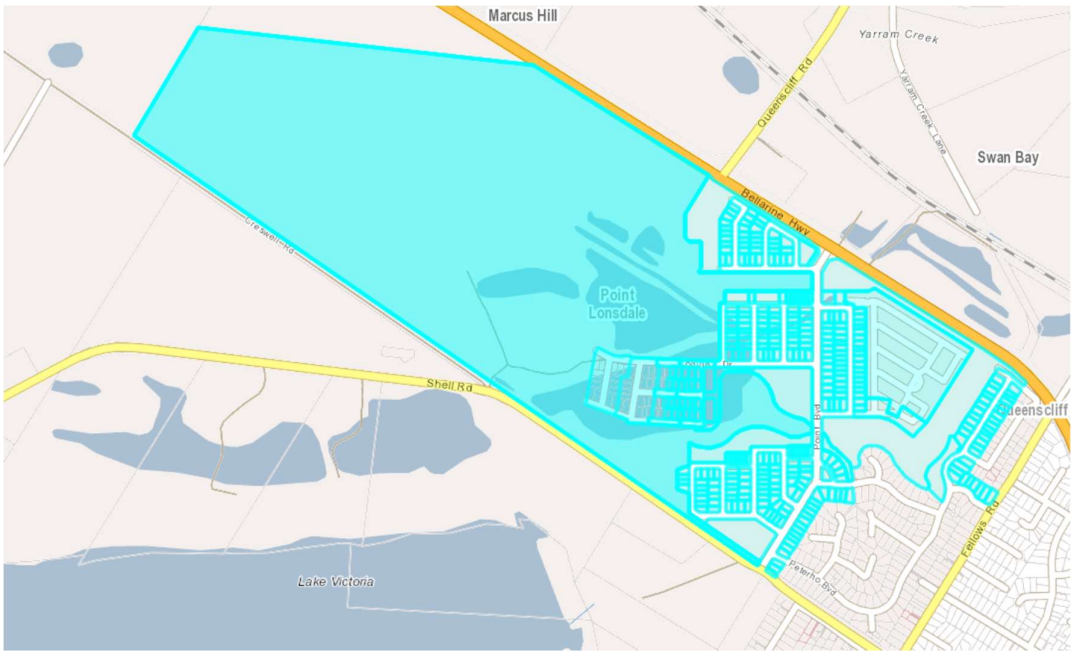
In making an assessment as to whether a mixed use and/or commercial/industrial differential is to be applied to a residential property the City has developed a number of principles to aid the decision making process:

Principle	Rating differential to apply
Properties that are not used as a residence.	Commercial, Industrial, Farm or Vacant
Properties leased under the Residential Tenancy Act, in effect this property is a tenant's principal place of residence. Lease in place for greater than 6 months.	Residential
Properties used for short term accommodation where: ▪ it is not the tenants principal place of residence; ▪ where the accommodation is being used for the owners commercial gain or reward; ▪ where the property is advertised externally.	Commercial
Properties used as a principal place of residence and also offered for short term accommodation where: ▪ it is not the tenants principal place of residence; ▪ where the accommodation is being used for the owners commercial gain or reward; ▪ where the property may be advertised externally.	Mixed Use
Property is used as a principal place of residence and commercial activity is also conducted at the residence.	Mixed Use
Where the owner moves out of his sole and principal place of residence once a year and hires the dwelling for a few weeks, up to a maximum of 6 weeks. A statutory declaration and removal of all advertising material is acceptable evidence.	Residential
Properties available for short term accommodation as part of one off events are not considered for rating changes. For example, the register of properties available for accommodation for 'one off' events would not constitute the predominant use of the property.	Residential

The Point' Geographical Rate Description

The geographical land description of the Point land is – forms part of the land described (or formerly described) in Certificate of Title Volume 09901 Folio 324 and also described as Lot B PS 635643, PS 640648Y, PS 722221H, PS 722220K, PS 743868K, PS 732908M, PS 638301D, PS 635642R, PS 722215C, PS 722214E, PS 743877, PS 816893, PS 743876, PS 743878, PS 822924, PS 822922, PS 822918, PS 816907, 822928 and 832773.

It is recognised that the land description will change in the future with subdivision and sale of the land however the Lot C PS 638301 and PS 722214 description will always be traceable to the area of land to be included in the differential.



A map of the land area is included. The hashed land is included in the definition for the differential rates. CA 2012 is a road reserve that is immaterial to the differential rate.

The land definition does not include Lot 2 TP 24109, Lot 1 TP 89558, Lot 1 TP 817344, Lot 1 TP 650917, Lot 3 TP 810878, Lot 4 TP 810878. This is adjoining land not included in the differential rate at this stage.

The land definition does not include properties that are already developed in the area.

An alternative definition of the land is included to assist in understanding. The definition is:

All land that is generally bounded by Bellarine Highway, Shell Road, Fellows Road and the western perimeter of the current land at 2202 -2350 Bellarine Highway,

excluding the following list of properties that are outside the Point subdivision:

- 1-6 Chiswick Court
- 165 – 239 Fellows Road
- 1-8 Herron Court
- 1-18 Huntingdon Court
- 1-18 Kings Court
- 1-16 Lakeland Court
- 1-9 Lakes Entrance
- 1-69 Peterho Boulevard
- 2-60 Peterho Boulevard
- 703-735 Shell Road
- 1-35 Silver Ridge Road
- 23-29 Point Boulevard
- 2-10 Crown Lane
- 7-15 and 4-36 Cockle Crescent
- 1-6 Watermans Court

Cultural and Recreation Land Rate

The City declares the Cultural and Recreation Rate on all land reserved under and in accordance with the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963* – section 4.

The *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act* provides that "an amount be payable in lieu of rates in each year being such amount as the municipal council thinks reasonable having regard to the services provided in relation to such lands and having regard to the benefit to the community derived from such recreational lands".

Rather than calculating the costs that local government bears in respect to such lands, or the benefits received by locals in relation to these properties, the City has set the rate representing a concession to the commercial rate. The 2020-21 rate is 33.6% of the commercial rate. An assessment of the direct and indirect costs involved is problematic. For example, depreciation of local roads related to access while the quantification of benefits in terms of income, employment, social interaction, community and physical wellbeing is also problematic. The resources involved in attempting to accurately identify and quantify benefits and costs is not justifiable on grounds of efficiency especially given the low levels of rate income involved.

Service Charges – LGA section 162

A service rate or annual service charge for water supply, refuse, sewerage or other prescribed services may be declared under any criteria specified by the City. The City of Greater Geelong currently declares a service charge only in respect to the collection and disposal of refuse. The Recycle and Waste Collection service is based on user-pay principles to cover the costs of collection, recycling and landfill disposal. The City operates a full domestic garbage, recycling and green waste system providing a three bin service to all residential households. Private contractors generally undertake all non-residential refuse collections by direct arrangement with the landowner or tenant.

The Recycling and Waste Collection Service charge is levied on the following criteria:

- Geographic existence within those areas of the municipal district in which the City provides a domestic refuse collection and disposal service.
- The charge will be raised irrespective of whether the service is used or not.

The Waste Collection Service charge is calculated based on a fee for service, including direct, indirect and overhead costs. The service charge does not form part of the rate cap. The waste collection charge will increase from $332.00 to $360.95 or 8.7%. The EPA landfill levy increases to $38.95 per tenement (included in the service charge).

Larger 140 litre general waste bins were introduced at no extra cost from 2013-2014. These bins are provided to new residential properties or where there is a need to replace damaged bins.

A section 162 service charge was introduced in 2016-17- The Annual Service Charge – Additional Bin Service.

From 1 July 2016 property owners currently receiving the waste collection service charge are able to apply for the additional bin service via application compliant with the following criteria with upfront payment:

- In all cases of application for additional bins, the City reserves the right to inspect the applicant's existing bins to confirm that they are overloaded. If this cannot be confirmed, the additional bins will not be provided;
- The property owner or their authorised agent signs the additional bin application form, provides appropriate supporting evidence and agrees to the application service charge.

Applications that meet the criteria will be billed via the Rate, Valuation & Charges notice in future years.

If an application is received and approved in the first six months of the financial

year, that is, from July to December, the full annual cost of the additional bin will be charged. If an application is received and approved in the second half of the financial year, that is January to June, half the annual cost will be charged.

The following costs will apply for the additional bin service per year:

- Garbage bin 140L $154.85
- Garbage bin from 140L to 240L $111.95
- Recycling bin 240L $ 87.00
- Green waste bin 240L $ 82.40

Municipal Charge – LGA section 159

In addition to differential rates, Council may declare a municipal charge to cover some of the administrative costs of council. The total revenue from a municipal charge must not exceed 20% of the sum total of the general rates and municipal charge combined in a financial year, The Act section 159 (2). The municipal charge has been discontinued from 2020-21.

Ex Gratia Rates

The City has "Ex Gratia Rates" to gain contributions towards its operational costs from those property owners exempt from paying rates. The City's intent is to align ex gratia contributions as close to or equivalent to the applicable rate category for that property subject to particular circumstances.

Special Charge Rates – LGA section 163

Council has declared a special rate in respect of the central business district of Geelong applicable to non-residential, non-exempt properties. The special rate is the Central Activities Area (CAA) rate and is in addition to other rates and charges. The purpose of the special rate is to promote the CAA as a commercial shopping precinct using events, marketing and media.

A special rate has been declared for the period commencing on 1 July 2016 and concluding on 30 June 2021. 2020-21 will be the fifth and final year of the scheme and provides to raise $1,139,605 ($1,117,259 in 2019-20). The rate in dollar for 2020-21 is set at $0.00059986 and $0.00020211 for Cultural & Recreation (cultural and recreation properties are charged a reduced CAA rate, in accordance with the ratio of the recreation rate to the commercial rate). Council from time to time declares special charges in respect to street schemes, construction of footpaths and area beautification subject to the provisions of LGA S163-S166.

3.5 Collections

Liability to Pay Rates

LGA section 156 makes the owner of the land liable to pay the rates and charges on that land. In certain cases, the occupier, mortgagee or licensee holder is liable to pay the rates.

The LGA section 156(6) declares the rate or charge, unpaid interest or costs to be a first charge upon the land.

Electronic Notices

The City encourages the electronic distribution of rate notices and promotes My Geelong. Ratepayers can elect to receive either their Annual Rate notice or Quarterly Rate notice electronically which is received through their email address.

Register with your rate notice at www.geelongaustralia.com.au/ratesonline.

Once you have registered you can:

- Receive and manage rate notices and payments
- Receive and manage animal registrations
- Check bin collection days
- Submit service requests

Payment Dates for Rates

The City, in accordance with the Act section 167 (1) must allow for the payment of rates by four instalments per annum. The City may allow a person to pay a rate or charge in a single lump sum payment LGA section 167 (2).

The Minister fixes instalment and single lump sum payment dates by notice published in the Government gazette.

Policy Statement: Council offers ratepayers the option to pay rates by four instalments due on 30 September, 30 November, 28 February and 31 May each year, or the next working day thereafter should those days be a weekend or public holiday.

Ratepayers may pay in a single lump sum payment provided that payment is received by 15 February or next working day thereafter if that day is a weekend or public holiday.

Reason for policy: The policy is set in accordance with the Act.

Alternative Instalment / Payment Options

A number of councils offer four instalments per annum as the only payments

option (e.g. Queenscliffe Borough Council).

The Act section 167 requires that councils "must allow" payment in four instalments and "may allow" payment in one lump sum. The Minister fixes the dates of instalments and lump sum by notice published in the Government Gazette. The dates are set statewide with no variability between councils and have traditionally been the dates as listed above.

Council may in future consider moving to the instalment payment options only. Of the 129,005 rate accounts issued annually, some 48.2% now use the 4-instalment option. A move to four instalments only would bring cash flow forward and increase interest on cash held in investments. However, this is offset by increased postage and collection fees.

For 2020-21 there is to be no change to the existing payment instalment arrangements.

Payment Options

The City of Greater Geelong offers a range of payment options including direct debit, Bpay, internet via www.geelongaustralia.com.au, by mail, telephone, over the counter services at customer service centres. Over the counter is also available at Australia Post agencies at a significant cost to the City. This service is to be reviewed in the future as a part of a review of payment options. The City also uses Centrepay arrangements which offer Centrelink recipients to have payments deducted directly from their Centrelink entitlements.

To assist ratepayers spread the cost of rates over the year the City allows 20 fortnightly direct debit or fortnightly centrepay payments, nine monthly direct debit payments. Quarterly or in full payments can be made by the set dates by the means listed above.

The cost of collections via all options continues to increase. The budget for 2020-21 is $250,000.

The City incurs costs of collection via agency and merchant service fees. A payment processing fee on credit card transactions was introduced during 2014-15 at 0.4% to offset the merchant service fees charged by financial institutions. Due to increased costs the percentage recovered will be increased to 0.59% from 1 July 2020.

Incentives for Prompt Payment

The Act section 168 provides that incentives for prompt payment may be offered. Discount for early payment should be based on cash flow benefit to the City.

Policy Statement: Council has determined that no incentives for prompt payment

will be offered for the year 2020-21.

Reasons for Policy: The City offers payments via a number of agencies and services and to provide discount would be administratively cumbersome and costly. Awards and competition based incentives are generally only of benefit to the City via early cash flow and the successful ratepayer(s).

Late Payment of Rates

Policy statement: Council has determined that the application of interest penalties will be in accordance with the Act section 172.

Reason for policy: To alleviate any discussion or debate late payment of fines and penalties will be applied to any outstanding rates not paid by the due date. A period of not less than one day grace will be allowed.

Interest on Arrears and Overdue Rates

Interest is charged on all overdue rates in accordance with the Act section 172. Penalty interest is to be charged from the date when each instalment was due, irrespective of whether a lump sum option is available.

The interest rate to apply is fixed under section 2 of the Penalty Interest Rates Act 1983, which is determined by the Minister and published by notice in the Government Gazette. The penalty interest rate of 10% per annum will apply from 1 July 2017.

The City cannot apply an alternative rate but has the power to exempt any person from paying the whole or part of any interest amount generally or specifically payable – LGA section 172 (2A).

As part of the hardship provisions the City allows people who have proven financial difficulties to defer rate payments. The interest rate for deferred rate payments is set at 3.8% for 2020-21.

Debt Recovery - Collection of Overdue Rates

The City makes every effort to contact ratepayers at their correct address but it is the ratepayers' responsibility to properly advise the City of their contact details. Amendments to the Act require both the vendor and buyer of property, or their agents (e.g. solicitors), to notify the City of Greater Geelong by way of a notice of acquisition.

In the event that an account becomes overdue, the City has established procedures for the issue of an overdue final notice which may include interest pre calculated to a forward payment date.

In the event that the account remains unpaid, we may take legal action without further notice to recover any overdue amount. All fees and court costs are

recoverable from the ratepayer.

If an amount payable by way of rates in respect to land has been in arrears for three years or more, the City may sell the land in accordance with the *Local Government Act* – section 181.

Reason for Policy: The purpose of the policy is to act as a genuine deterrent to ratepayers who might otherwise fail to pay rates on time, to allow the City to recover the administrative cost of following up unpaid rates and to recover any interest cost the City may incur due to lost investment opportunities. The principle in providing for such penalty is that ratepayers who pay within the required timeframe should not have to subsidise or bear any cost of ratepayers who default in payment.

3.6 Rates Assistance

Council has determined that the rating framework described above is appropriate for equitable rating given the principle of taxation by property wealth, land use groupings, other revenue raising strategies and government funded concessions and legislative provisions and requirements.

The City acknowledges that some ratepayers will experience difficulty from time to time in meeting rate payments due to the effect of rising valuations, cost of council services and personal circumstance. We further understand that rebates and relief measures have a cost to the City which must be borne by other ratepayers either short or long term. It is for this reason that the City provides limited assistance, rates waivers and rebates to assist persons or classes of person in accordance with the Act section 169 and 171.

A comprehensive hardship policy was introduced in April 2020.

Rebates – LGA section 169

A rebate is a mechanism through which a targeted group receives a discount or concession to achieve certain objectives. Essentially rebates are funded through the general rate pool. More specifically, the amount required to fund the rebate is calculated and is incorporated into the total rates and charges requirement. For transparency the amount of any rebate or concession funded by ratepayers should be declared on an annual basis.

The City may grant rebates or concessions in accordance with the Act to assist the proper development of the municipal district, to preserve buildings or places in the municipal district which are of historical or environmental interest, to restore or maintain buildings or places of historical, environmental, architectural or scientific importance in the municipal district, to assist the proper development of part of the municipal district. A Council resolution granting a

rebate or concession must specify the benefit to the community as a whole resulting from the rebate or concession. If a person granted a rebate or concession has not complied with the terms on which the rebate or concession was granted, the City will send a notice to the person requiring the payment of the whole or part of the rate by a specified date including interest.

Policy Statement: Council considers that it is not appropriate for Council via ratepayer funds to provide for rebates for the proper development in full or part to the municipality.

In 2009 the Act was amended to allow council to provide rebates to support the provision of affordable housing by a registered agency. It is not proposed to provide any rebate for the provision of affordable housing for 2020-21.

Charitable Housing

There are a number of organisations providing housing for people with low-income, on a voluntary and not for profit basis. The provisions of the Act section 154 (4) (b) preclude such residential housing from being non-rateable, even though their use may be regarded as charitable, in the everyday sense of the word.

All housing provided by registered agencies, housing associations, charitable or government organisations is rateable in accordance with legal precedent and the Act.

During 2009 the Act was amended to include section 169 1 (D) which allows that the City may grant a rebate or concession in relation to any rate or charge, to support the provision of affordable housing, to a registered agency.

The City does not provide a rate rebate to support the provision of affordable housing by registered agencies. Assistance for low income households is already provided through the State Government pension rebate and the means tested rent provided by the Department of Housing and the Housing Associations.

There have been some inconsistencies with some charitable housing providers being exempt from rates. This includes some properties owned by registered housing agencies, charitable organisations and some retirement units.

From 2011-2012 all exclusive residential housing will be rated inline with the Act. The City recognises that this will make some previously non rated properties rateable and has decided to offer a Housing Support Waiver for eligible properties.

Farm Rebate

Due to significant variations in valuations within tariff groups and the limitations

of the 'four times' rule, the City provides a rebate for farm properties in conjuction with a lower rate in the dollar compared to the residential rate in the dollar inaccordance with Rating Policy.

Farm Rates

The City has determined that for 2020-21 properties defined as farms (992 assessments) will be entitled to a rebate reflecting the view that there is benefit to the community in encouraging the retention of large lot primary producing holdings.

Traditionally a discounted rate (lower differential) for the farm sector has been justified due to factors, which include:

- Perception of inequality between rates paid and services received;
- Geographic impediments in terms of access to council services, which are primarily located in urban areas;
- Perception that "farmers" use less council services due to "cultural" differences;
- The relatively low return on asset of the farm sector;
- The need to protect the commercial viability of the farm sector;

However, given significant variations to valuations across tariff groups and the limitations of the 'four times' rule the Act section 169 (5), Council has resolved to retain and set the farm differential at a lower rate than the residential rate, (for 2020-21 the farm differential will be set at 61.1% of the residential differential) and provide a rebate to all farm properties in accordance with Policy of having the farm sector as the lowest rated tariff group.

To qualify for the farm rebate properties will be defined as farm land. The rebate will be set at 15.6% (46.5% for 2010-11 and 2011-12, 36.2% for 2012-13 and 2013-14, 34% for 2014-15 and 2015-16, 40% 2016-17 and 2017-18, 37.3% 2018-19, 33.3% 2019-20) of the amount payable of the capital improved value of the property.

Reason for Policy: The rebate recognises the nature of the farm with a LGA section 169 rebate.

Pensioner Rebates

Holders of a Centrelink or Veterans Affairs pension concession card, or a Veteran Affairs Gold card which stipulates TPI or War Widow (excludes Health Care and DVA all conditions, POW, EDA and dependant cards) may claim a rebate on their sole or principal place of residence.

For 2020-21 the government-funded indexed rebate is provided under the Municipal Rates Concession scheme. It will increase from $235.15 to $241.00

or 50% of the rate payment, whichever is the less. Upon initial application, an ongoing eligibility is maintained unless rejected by Centrelink or Department of Veteran Affairs during verification procedures. Upon acceptance of pensioner status the concession or rebate is deducted from the rate account before payment by the ratepayer.

Applications for the concession must be lodged by 30 June in each year.

In 2010 the MAV undertook a statistical analysis of figures across Victoria that showed on average 2.25% of household expenditure was spent on council rates. The study indicated that households occupied by old-age pensioners are likely to have a higher rate burden. The study recommended that the MAV should call for an increase in the State Government pension rate rebate.

Policy Statement: Council considers that it is not appropriate for council via ratepayer funds to make an additional rebate or offset to all pensioners.

Reason for Policy: Councils view is that pensioners receive a variety of utility and other concessions funded from general government taxation, which is appropriate. The State government has historically accepted the need to redistribute income taxes in support of utility concessions and rebates to low income households. Council supports this view, along with annual indexation of the municipal rate concession amount.

For the City to make further concessions would mean a redistribution of the rate burden with other ratepayers bearing the cost by way of higher rates and charges and having regard to these factors would unfairly penalise those ratepayers.

Waivers – LGA section 171

Housing Support Waiver

From 2013-14, Council declared a waiver under section 171 of the *Local Government Act* of 100% of general rates for the following types of properties. Transitional, emergency, crisis housing, housing for legatees or war widows provided by the Geelong Legacy Club or provided by RSL, and supported housing for disabled people.

This allows the City to waive the fire services levy under section 27 of the FSPL Act, inline with council policy.

The Housing Support Waiver will be for 100% of general rates for the class of persons comprised of ratepayers in respect of assessments which contain the following types of housing:

- Transitional, emergency or crisis housing;
- Housing for legatees or war widows, provided by the Geelong Legacy Club or provided by RSL; and

- Supported housing for disabled people.

This waiver recognises that these properties provide for specific needs within the community.

Rates Assistance Waiver

Policy Statement: Council is of the opinion that it is desirable to provide relief against any substantial increase of rates payable by residential ratepayers where such increase may cause hardship.

Reasons for Policy: In each revaluation there has been significant increases in valuations above the average, which have occurred due to the diverse property types and market influences within the municipal district and especially along coastal and waterfront locations. Based upon analysis of rating impacts, Council has determined that the continuation of the assistance measure will ensure that equity, benefit, ability to pay, efficiency and simplicity principles of taxation are adhered to.

Policy: The purpose of this measure is to provide relief to qualifying ratepayers who have incurred significant increases to valuation and hence rates arising solely from an increase in valuation caused by market conditions. Relief is granted subject to the criteria below for one year of the valuation as a "phase-in of valuation" method.

The waiver for 2020-21 is granted in accordance with the waiver / hardship provisions of section 171A of the Act.

Upon Application:-

Provide a waiver to any qualifying ratepayer experiencing an increase in valuation of more than 50% provided the following criteria is met:

- the property is the principal place of residence;
- the property has been owned by the same ratepayer for both valuation periods;
- the property is rated within the residential or farm tariff group; and
- have not had an increase in valuation of the land for the assessment because of improvements made requiring a building permit; and can demonstrate financial hardship by way of being currently eligible as a pensioner under the *State Concession Act* (2004) (Centrelink Pensioner Concession, Department of Veterans Affairs Pension Concession, Gold Card -widow or TPI specific - Cards); and
- can demonstrate that they are of low income status with a maximum income of $54,677 or less (Statement of Earnings SOE - Centrelink or most recent tax assessment notice).

Amount of waiver

The amount of the waiver shall be calculated to provide a maximum 50% waiver of the total increase in rates due to the change in CIV. A phase-in percentage based on increments to the property valuation shall apply viz:

Property valuation increased by:

50%	-	51.9%	Waiver at 25% of increase
52%	-	53.9%	Waiver at 30% of increase
54%	-	55.9%	Waiver at 35% of increase
56%	-	57.9%	Waiver at 40% of increase
58%	-	59.9%	Waiver at 45% of increase
60% or greater			Waiver at 50% of increase

Calculation of Rates Assistance Waiver 2020-21 - Example:

Residential & Farm Property only			
Input 2019 CIV	$350,000	Rates Paid 2019-20	$756.64
Input 2020 CIV	$555,000	Rates Payable 2020-21	$1,321.98
Variation	58.6%	**Variance**	$565.34
Rebate Amount Percentage Rebate Allowable	**45.0%**		**$254.40**

No maximum rebate under this formula is to apply.

The Waste Collection Service charge is excluded from the waiver.

Reason for policy

The waiver provisions are provided for under the Actsection 171A.

The waiver is to be granted upon application simplified for those ratepayers supplying a current Centrelink statement of earnings or ATO tax assessment.

The property criteria to be met is to ensure that the waiver is properly targeted to property owners that have experienced significant changes in valuations by reason only of market forces.

The financial criteria is to prove hardship within the context of the legislation and to ensure that only low-income status property owners become entitled to the waiver.

The maximum income test is $54,677 which is the Centrelink threshold for Family Tax Benefit Part A.

Other ratepayers, via a higher rate, effectively pay for the cost of any waiver granted.

The application process is to be subject to the provision of the Act section 171A (4) with penalties for misleading or false information relative to the granting of the waiver (10 penalty units equals $1,652.20 as at 1 July 2019, updated in July each year).

Communications

The City to ratepayers' communication will include the following:

- Rates assistance waiver: A letter is sent to each residential property identified as having a significant valuation movement outlining the Rates Assistance measures available. An 'Application for Waiver' form accompanies the letter.
- Personalised assistance will be given for either deferral or waiver measures including council officers visiting the ratepayer if necessary (this already occurs with some pensioner applications).
- Staff training is conducted each year with customer service staff, with material available to again emphasise the assistance measures available to ensure that ratepayer requests are properly addressed.
- Information will be included on the rate notice, rate brochure, web site and City News advertising.

New Corio Estate (Inappropriate Subdivision) Waiver

The New Corio Estate is an old and inappropriate subdivision within an established farming zone in Corio. Since the land is zoned as farming land it cannot be developed for residential use with no services available for the area. There is no prospect of these services becoming available in the future. In addition Council has adopted Planning Scheme amendment C243 which formally protects the native vegetation and provides some certainty over future use of the land.

For 2020-21 Council will declare a waiver under section 171 of the Act of 100% of general rates for privately owned properties in the New Corio Estate. This rates assistance waiver recognises the financial burden associated with ownership of the land and the encumbrances that prevents property owners from making any demands on council services now and into the future.

Deferral of Rates - LGA section 170

Assistance to Individuals

When a ratepayer has financial difficulty the City will consider deferral of rates.

Policy Statement: Council has determined that the provisions for deferral (the

Act section 170) and waiver of rates (the Act section 171 & 171A) may be utilised in accordance with the delegated authority to officers approved by Council.

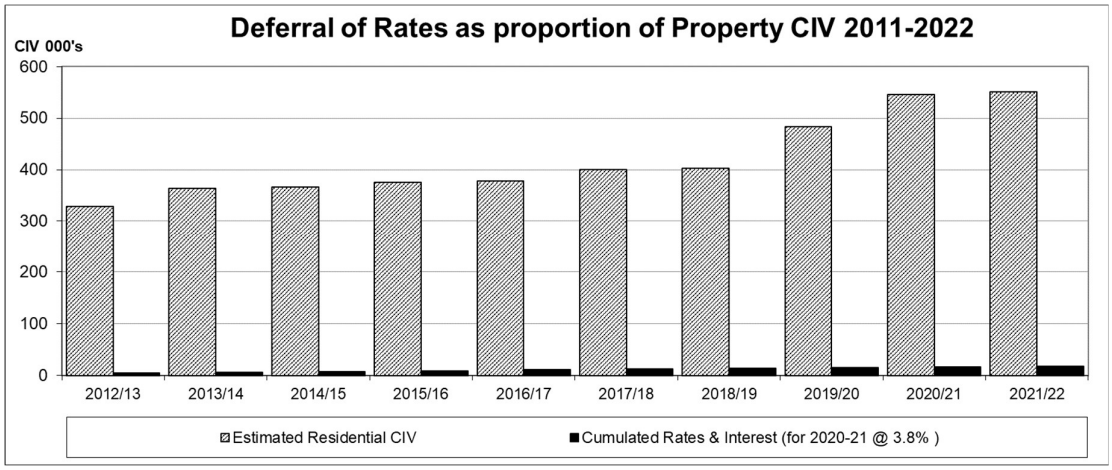
Reason for Policy: Council recognises that discretionary deferral and waiver of rates is appropriate for certain individuals in cases of proven hardship.

The option to defer rates is a legislative provision – the Act section 170.

Council has determined that the deferral of rates be extended to include both residential and non-investment vacant land ratepayers.

Promotion of this option will occur on the rate notice, rate brochures and web site.

There is a misconception that by deferring rates the City would eventually "own the property" by way of accumulated debt. This is not so. By way of example, current average rates approximate 0.22% of the capital value of the property. Based on the average residential rates and the actual CIV changes and rate increases over the past 10 years, even after 10 years of accumulated rate deferral (with interest rate for 2020-21 at 3.8%), the value of rates deferred still only approximated 3.3% of the properties capital value.



The City has established guidelines and an application form for ratepayers wishing to apply for deferral or waiver of rates.

If the City is satisfied on the application of a ratepayer that payment of rates in accordance with the Act would cause hardship, the the City may defer payment or part payment for such period as the City thinks fit.

The deferral will be granted on the following conditions:

- That the ratepayer pay interest on the amount affected by the deferral at a rate fixed by the City.

- The deferral ceases if the City in its discretion revokes the deferral (in which case the City must give the ratepayer at least 30 days' notice in writing of the revocation before taking action to recover rates affected by the deferral);
- The ratepayer ceases to own or occupy the land in respect of which rates are imposed (in which case the rates are immediately payable); and
- Any other conditions as the City thinks fit.

The application for deferral does not change the due date for payment of rates.

Policy Statement: Council policy is that deferral is appropriate where ratepayers have incurred increases to rates and immediate affordability is an issue.

Reason for Policy: Where application for waiver of rates causing hardship is based on the premise of significant increases to capital value, short-term rates assistance measures are available based on eligibility. Beyond the rates assistance measures council believes that in such cases deferral of rates is more appropriate. Waiver should be considered only for those in genuine hardship and where little capital gain or future benefit can be demonstrated. To provide additional waiver to ratepayers experiencing significant capital appreciation in property values would result in a redistribution of rates back to lower valued properties – in effect regressive taxation, which is inequitable.

Bushfire Relief

Policy Statement: Council has determined to provide Bushfire rate relief for any properties significantly damaged by bushfire to immediately have their valuation reduced down to a site value for the remainder of the financial year and then subject to supplementary valuation thereafter.

Policy Statement: Upon verification of an owner occupied residence being destroyed or significantly damaged by bushfire, the City is to provide rate relief by amending the property rate back to it's site value (residential) from the date of the fire for the remainder of this financial year. Such properties to be revalued with appropriate valuations and rate differential effective from 1 July of the new financial year. Affected ratepayers to be given the opportunity to make arrangements to pay rates without penalty up to 31 May in that year.

Reason for Policy: Council recognises the distress that bushfire can cause and seeks to provide immediate relief to affected residents. The relief is targeted where the immediate living conditions of the ratepayer is affected and not the surrounding land which may include fencing, stock and outbuildings.

Community Grants

The City operates the community grants, sponsorships and donations program allocating $8.6m to support a wide variety of community organisations, events and networks. Based on principles of accountability and transparency, and in

lieu of the granting an application for rebates of rates, it is the City's preference that such organisations apply for funding under this program.

Exemptions from Rating

The Act section 154 declares that all land is rateable with a number of exceptions including crown land occupied for municipal purposes, land used exclusively for charitable purposes, the residence of a practising Minister of Religion, certain land used for mining purposes, clubs or memorials under the Patriotic Funds Act, Returned Services League and related associations as defined. Generally land is not used exclusively for public municipal or charitable purposes if it is a residence, is used for the retail sale of goods or the carrying on a business for profit.

Charitable and Not-for-Profit Organisations

Application for exemption from rating may be made at any time during the financial year and will be assessed based on the usage of the property. The City does not generally allow for any retrospective claims.

Legal precedent has determined that charitable uses include those providing health services, education, religion and services to the needy.

Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL)

The Victorian State Government introduced the *Fire Services Property Levy Act* (2012) which came into effect from 1 July 2013 and requiring local government to bill, receipt and collect a Fire Services Property Levy on rateable and non rateable properties.

The Act was in response to one of the recommendations of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission with the objective being to ensure that all property owners benefitting from Victoria's Fire Services should make a contribution to the cost of the service compared with the existing insurance based levy.

Principles

The levy is designed to ensure that all property owners pay a contribution for fire services so that Victoria's fire services continue to operate with sufficient resources. The levy is assessed on the Capital Improved Value (CIV) of property and is consistent with the valuation base used by most municipalities in levying rates.

How is the payment calculated?

The levy will consist of a fixed component plus a variable component based on the property's capital improved value. The variable component will be a rate based on the land use classification code, known as the Australian Valuation

Property Classificiation Code (AVPCC) for different property types [residential, commercial, industrial, primary production, public benefit, vacant] and will be determined by the Minister on or before 31 May each year. A $50 per property concession will apply to pensioner concession and Veterans Affairs gold card holders.

The rates for 2020-21 are:

2020-21 Rates	Fixed Charge	Variable Charge per $ of CIV	Council Differential
Residential (including vacant residential land)	$113	0.000054	Residential The Point Residential Vacant The Point Vacant
Vacant (excluding vacant residential land)	$230	0.000118	Vacant The Point Vacant
Commercial	$230	0.000611	Commercial Mixed Use The Point Commercial
Industrial	$230	0.000879	Industrial Automobile Petroleum
Primary Production	$230	0.000190	Farm
Public Benefit	$230	0.000054	Cultural & Recreation

For FSPL Vacant Land is split between Residential Land and other Vacant Land.

Attachment 1

STATUTORY INFORMATION ON RATES

Differential Rates and Charges Schedule LGA Section 161 (3)

for Period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

Category	No of Properties 2020-21	2019-20 Rate in the Dollar	2020-21 Rate in the Dollar	% Change in Rate in the Dollar	CIV 2019 Level Valuation	CIV 2020 Level Valuation	% Change in CIV Level Valuation	Revenue at 2019-20 Rate in the Dollar	Revenue at the 2020-21 Rate in the Dollar	% Change in Revenue	Average Rates Payable 2019-20	Average Rates Payable 2020-21	$ Change in Average Rates Payable	% Change in Average Rates Payable
Residential-base	113,197	0.00216185	0.00238194	10.2%	61,791,522,000	62,267,935,750	0.8%	133,584,002	148,318,317	11.0%	1,285.35	1,310.27	24.92	1.9%
Vacant Land	5,999	0.00315616	0.00342186	8.4%	2,746,790,000	2,794,462,000	1.7%	8,669,309	9,562,248	10.3%	1,550.38	1,593.97	43.60	2.8%
Commercial	5,993	0.00522789	0.00532080	1.8%	5,971,043,100	6,265,721,027	4.9%	31,215,957	33,338,642	6.8%	5,313.99	5,562.93	248.94	4.7%
The Point Residential	189	0.00216185	0.00238194	10.2%	133,410,000	137,010,000	2.7%	288,412	326,349	13.2%	1,631.24	1,726.72	95.47	5.9%
The Point Vacant Land	34	0.00315616	0.00342186	8.4%	29,550,000	31,400,000	6.3%	93,265	107,446	15.2%	2,848.32	3,160.18	311.86	10.9%
The Point Commercial	3	0.00522789	0.00532080	1.8%	8,631,500	8,632,000	0.0%	45,125	45,929	1.8%	15,146.76	15,309.71	162.95	1.1%
Industrial	2,225	0.00618097	0.00581731	-5.9%	1,968,510,501	2,133,399,001	8.4%	12,167,304	12,410,650	2.0%	5,573.70	5,577.82	4.12	0.1%
Mixed Use	319	0.00326233	0.00339958	4.2%	229,510,000	234,560,000	2.2%	748,737	797,405	6.5%	2,452.39	2,499.70	47.31	1.9%
Farm-(net of Rebate)	992	0.00172948	0.00145433	-15.9%	2,115,399,000	2,112,506,000	-0.1%	2,440,246	2,593,002	6.3%	2,565.18	2,613.91	48.74	1.9%
Petroleum Production Land	1	0.00618097	0.00581731	-5.9%	145,100,000	145,100,000	0.0%	896,859	844,092	-5.9%	896,964.00	844,092.16	- 52,871.83	-5.9%
Total Rates	**128,952**							**190,149,215**	**208,344,081**					
Municipal Charge	-	105.25	0.00	-100.0%				13,253,712	-	-100.0%				
Rates and Municipal Charge*								**203,402,927**	**208,344,081**					
Waste and Recycling Charge	116,000	332.00	360.95	8.7%				37,633,860	41,870,200	11.3%				
Total Rates and Charges					**75,139,466,101**	**76,130,725,778**		**241,036,787**	**250,214,281**					

*subject to the Rate Cap

Adjustments to Rates and Charges for 2020-21

Cultural & Rec (rated under the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963)	*53*	*0.00162139*	*0.00178645*	*10.2%*	*134,283,100*	*136,520,000*	*1.7%*	217,725	243,887	*12.0%*	*4,213.27*	*4,601.63*	*388.37*	*9.2%*
Waivers - Housing Support, Rates assistance and New Corio Estate									- *70,000*					
Interest on Rates and Charges at 10% pa									*475,021*					
Additional Bins									*778,446*					
Special Rates and Charges (including CAA)									*6,269,605*					
Supplementary Rates									*2,400,000*					
Total Rates and Charges	***129,005***				***75,273,749,201***	***76,267,245,778***			***260,311,239***					

Adopted by Council 30 June 2020

Attachment 2 – Revalution Schedules

Suburb	Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	Movement $	Movement %
ANAKIE	Residential Rates	222	128,715,000	131,640,000	2,925,000	2.3%
	Farm Rate	87	162,544,000	167,794,000	5,250,000	3.2%
	Commercial Rate	9	4,153,000	4,198,000	45,000	1.1%
	Industrial Rate	5	15,190,000	14,990,000	- 200,000	-1.3%
	Vacant Land	17	8,255,000	8,639,000	384,000	4.7%
	Mixed Use Rate	7	4,560,000	4,640,000	80,000	1.8%
ANAKIE	**Total**	**347**	**323,417,000**	**331,901,000**	**8,484,000**	**2.6%**
ARMSTRONG CREEK	Residential Rates	3,304	1,689,300,000	1,689,420,000	120,000	0.0%
	Farm Rate	18	116,710,000	112,260,000	- 4,450,000	-3.8%
	Commercial Rate	81	74,845,000	77,454,000	2,609,000	3.5%
	Vacant Land	487	276,745,000	271,215,000	- 5,530,000	-2.0%
ARMSTRONG CREEK	**Total**	**3,890**	**2,157,600,000**	**2,150,349,000**	**- 7,251,000**	**-0.3%**
AVALON	Residential Rates	99	56,359,000	55,813,000	- 546,000	-1.0%
	Farm Rate	7	18,330,000	18,820,000	490,000	2.7%
	Commercial Rate	10	17,771,900	17,775,000	3,100	0.0%
	Industrial Rate	4	23,720,000	23,800,000	80,000	0.3%
	Vacant Land	15	10,077,000	10,007,000	- 70,000	-0.7%
	Culture & Rec	1	690,000	640,000	- 50,000	-7.2%
	Mixed Use Rate	5	3,390,000	3,390,000	-	0.0%
AVALON	**Total**	**141**	**130,337,900**	**130,245,000**	**- 92,900**	**-0.1%**
BALLIANG	Residential Rates	28	19,175,000	19,475,000	300,000	1.6%
	Farm Rate	57	102,300,000	105,087,000	2,787,000	2.7%
	Commercial Rate	1	510,000	530,000	20,000	3.9%
	Industrial Rate	1	1,120,000	910,000	- 210,000	-18.8%
	Vacant Land	6	3,856,000	3,986,000	130,000	3.4%
BALLIANG	**Total**	**93**	**126,961,000**	**129,988,000**	**3,027,000**	**2.4%**

Suburb	Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	Movement $	Movement %
BARWON HEADS	Residential Rates	2,267	2,499,320,000	2,583,700,000	84,380,000	3.4%
	Farm Rate	4	6,700,000	7,120,000	420,000	6.3%
	Commercial Rate	58	51,790,200	51,961,000	170,800	0.3%
	Vacant Land	71	56,730,000	59,950,000	3,220,000	5.7%
	Culture & Rec	2	16,795,000	18,230,000	1,435,000	8.5%
	Mixed Use Rate	14	14,500,000	14,660,000	160,000	1.1%
BARWON HEADS	**Total**	**2,416**	**2,645,835,200**	**2,735,621,000**	**89,785,800**	**3.4%**
BATESFORD	Residential Rates	75	71,785,000	68,840,000	- 2,945,000	-4.1%
	Farm Rate	12	21,480,000	20,950,000	- 530,000	-2.5%
	Commercial Rate	5	3,456,500	3,824,000	367,500	10.6%
	Vacant Land	9	4,125,000	3,885,000	- 240,000	-5.8%
	Culture & Rec	1	760,000	770,000	10,000	1.3%
	Mixed Use Rate	1	770,000	770,000	-	0.0%
BATESFORD	**Total**	**103**	**102,376,500**	**99,039,000**	**- 3,337,500**	**-3.3%**
BELL PARK	Residential Rates	2,410	1,015,740,000	1,028,850,000	13,110,000	1.3%
	Commercial Rate	96	76,876,200	80,894,000	4,017,800	5.2%
	Industrial Rate	99	79,460,000	87,890,000	8,430,000	10.6%
	Vacant Land	50	18,607,000	18,607,000	-	0.0%
	Mixed Use Rate	4	1,800,000	2,030,000	230,000	12.8%
BELL PARK	**Total**	**2,659**	**1,192,483,200**	**1,218,271,000**	**25,787,800**	**2.2%**
BELL POST HILL	Residential Rates	2,196	988,184,000	997,014,000	8,830,000	0.9%
	Farm Rate	6	6,560,000	6,560,000	-	0.0%
	Commercial Rate	16	7,652,000	7,702,000	50,000	0.7%
	Vacant Land	84	28,125,000	29,238,000	1,113,000	4.0%
	Mixed Use Rate	1	450,000	470,000	20,000	4.4%
BELL POST HILL	**Total**	**2,303**	**1,030,971,000**	**1,040,984,000**	**10,013,000**	**1.0%**
BELLARINE	Residential Rates	44	62,674,000	51,185,000	- 11,489,000	-18.3%
	Farm Rate	43	95,740,000	78,930,000	- 16,810,000	-17.6%

4. Bibliography

- City of Greater Geelong 2020-21 Budget.
- URL link to latest version of *Local Government Act 1989*: www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_act/lga1989182/
- Income test for Family Tax Benefit Part A www.centrelink.gov.au/payments/ftb-a-

Suburb	Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	Movement $	Movement %
	Commercial Rate	4	3,950,000	3,850,000	- 100,000	-2.5%
	Industrial Rate	1	350,000	410,000	60,000	17.1%
	Vacant Land	2	1,130,000	930,000	- 200,000	-17.7%
	Mixed Use Rate	2	2,560,000	2,120,000	- 440,000	-17.2%
BELLARINE	**Total**	**96**	**166,404,000**	**137,425,000**	**- 28,979,000**	**-17.4%**
BELMONT	Residential Rates	6,613	3,181,805,000	3,236,275,000	54,470,000	1.7%
	Commercial Rate	321	329,363,300	336,968,004	7,604,704	2.3%
	Industrial Rate	54	37,160,000	38,620,000	1,460,000	3.9%
	Vacant Land	97	40,402,000	40,562,000	160,000	0.4%
	Culture & Rec	3	7,680,000	7,760,000	80,000	1.0%
	Mixed Use Rate	16	9,590,000	9,240,000	- 350,000	-3.6%
BELMONT	**Total**	**7,104**	**3,606,000,300**	**3,669,425,004**	**63,424,704**	**1.8%**
BREAKWATER	Residential Rates	528	182,525,000	191,245,000	8,720,000	4.8%
	Commercial Rate	47	43,752,700	46,606,000	2,853,300	6.5%
	Industrial Rate	163	166,790,000	159,315,000	- 7,475,000	-4.5%
	Vacant Land	23	12,825,000	15,285,000	2,460,000	19.2%
	Culture & Rec	2	10,700,000	10,700,000	-	0.0%
	Mixed Use Rate	2	720,000	800,000	80,000	11.1%
BREAKWATER	**Total**	**765**	**417,312,700**	**423,951,000**	**6,638,300**	**1.6%**
BREAMLEA	Residential Rates	108	92,145,000	92,170,000	25,000	0.0%
	Commercial Rate	1	135,000	135,000	-	0.0%
	Vacant Land	4	2,780,000	2,780,000	-	0.0%
BREAMLEA	**Total**	**113**	**95,060,000**	**95,085,000**	**25,000**	**0.0%**
CERES	Residential Rates	90	97,985,000	99,525,000	1,540,000	1.6%
	Farm Rate	16	28,240,000	31,240,000	3,000,000	10.6%
	Commercial Rate	2	244,500	260,000	15,500	6.3%
	Vacant Land	7	3,511,000	3,711,000	200,000	5.7%

Suburb	Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	Movement $	Movement %
CERES	**Total**	**115**	**129,980,500**	**134,736,000**	**4,755,500**	**3.7%**
CHARLEMONT	Residential Rates	619	323,655,000	331,620,000	7,965,000	2.5%
	Farm Rate	30	90,945,000	103,310,000	12,365,000	13.6%
	Commercial Rate	8	2,048,500	2,097,000	48,500	2.4%
	Industrial Rate	1	820,000	1,040,000	220,000	26.8%
	Vacant Land	106	55,505,000	58,805,000	3,300,000	5.9%
	Mixed Use Rate	2	1,560,000	1,420,000	- 140,000	-9.0%
CHARLEMONT	**Total**	**766**	**474,533,500**	**498,292,000**	**23,758,500**	**5.0%**
CLIFTON SPRINGS	Residential Rates	3,521	1,737,405,000	1,720,165,000	- 17,240,000	-1.0%
	Farm Rate	1	4,500,000	4,200,000	- 300,000	-6.7%
	Commercial Rate	18	5,966,700	6,520,000	553,300	9.3%
	Vacant Land	216	56,350,000	59,485,000	3,135,000	5.6%
	Culture & Rec	2	880,000	1,430,000	550,000	62.5%
	Mixed Use Rate	4	1,225,000	1,375,000	150,000	12.2%
CLIFTON SPRINGS	**Total**	**3,762**	**1,806,326,700**	**1,793,175,000**	**- 13,151,700**	**-0.7%**
CONNEWARRE	Residential Rates	329	283,301,000	304,967,750	21,666,750	7.6%
	Farm Rate	51	64,540,000	68,530,000	3,990,000	6.2%
	Commercial Rate	31	14,445,000	14,685,000	240,000	1.7%
	Vacant Land	64	31,350,000	37,020,000	5,670,000	18.1%
	Mixed Use Rate	5	5,240,000	5,270,000	30,000	0.6%
CONNEWARRE	**Total**	**480**	**398,876,000**	**430,472,750**	**31,596,750**	**7.9%**
CORIO	Residential Rates	6,208	2,064,765,000	2,066,400,000	1,635,000	0.1%
	Farm Rate	2	10,430,000	10,470,000	40,000	0.4%
	Commercial Rate	253	257,210,900	278,980,000	21,769,100	8.5%
	Industrial Rate	85	171,277,000	189,227,000	17,950,000	10.5%
	Vacant Land	354	89,522,900	102,461,000	12,938,100	14.5%
	Culture & Rec	5	21,208,200	21,475,000	266,800	1.3%
	Mixed Use Rate	7	2,850,000	2,900,000	50,000	1.8%

Suburb	Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	Movement $	Movement %
	Petroleum Rate	1	145,100,000	145,100,000	-	0.0%
CORIO	**Total**	**6,915**	**2,762,364,000**	**2,817,013,000**	**54,649,000**	**2.0%**
CURLEWIS	Residential Rates	1,326	725,950,000	728,700,000	2,750,000	0.4%
	Farm Rate	37	81,610,000	78,060,000	- 3,550,000	-4.3%
	Commercial Rate	37	27,925,500	28,675,000	749,500	2.7%
	Vacant Land	342	105,780,000	106,480,000	700,000	0.7%
CURLEWIS	**Total**	**1,742**	**941,265,500**	**941,915,000**	**649,500**	**0.1%**
DRUMCONDRA	Residential Rates	243	250,090,000	248,135,000	- 1,955,000	-0.8%
	Commercial Rate	11	4,581,100	5,590,000	1,008,900	22.0%
	Mixed Use Rate	3	2,570,000	2,710,000	140,000	5.4%
DRUMCONDRA	**Total**	**257**	**257,241,100**	**256,435,000**	**- 806,100**	**-0.3%**
DRYSDALE	Residential Rates	2,061	1,126,930,000	1,138,135,000	11,205,000	1.0%
	Farm Rate	80	128,250,000	120,900,000	- 7,350,000	-5.7%
	Commercial Rate	151	111,562,300	119,942,000	8,379,700	7.5%
	Industrial Rate	37	12,110,000	13,125,000	1,015,000	8.4%
	Vacant Land	117	50,264,000	50,563,000	299,000	0.6%
	Culture & Rec	1	1,280,000	1,340,000	60,000	4.7%
	Mixed Use Rate	7	7,260,000	8,450,000	1,190,000	16.4%
DRYSDALE	**Total**	**2,454**	**1,437,656,300**	**1,452,455,000**	**14,798,700**	**1.0%**
EAST GEELONG	Residential Rates	1,817	1,067,175,000	1,066,065,000	- 1,110,000	-0.1%
	Commercial Rate	68	43,598,800	38,344,000	- 5,254,800	-12.1%
	Vacant Land	18	9,600,000	9,450,000	- 150,000	-1.6%
	Culture & Rec	2	1,732,900	1,733,000	100	0.0%
	Mixed Use Rate	4	2,310,000	2,090,000	- 220,000	-9.5%
EAST GEELONG	**Total**	**1,909**	**1,124,416,700**	**1,117,682,000**	**- 6,734,700**	**-0.6%**
FYANSFORD	Residential Rates	293	198,900,000	202,245,000	3,345,000	1.7%
	Farm Rate	11	23,670,000	25,490,000	1,820,000	7.7%

Suburb	Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	Movement $	Movement %
	Commercial Rate	21	15,245,300	17,095,000	1,849,700	12.1%
	Industrial Rate	10	16,975,000	17,285,000	310,000	1.8%
	Vacant Land	191	83,274,000	84,195,000	921,000	1.1%
	Culture & Rec	1	1,200,000	1,240,000	40,000	3.3%
	Mixed Use Rate	2	1,210,000	1,470,000	260,000	21.5%
FYANSFORD	**Total**	**529**	**340,474,300**	**349,020,000**	**8,545,700**	**2.5%**
GEELONG	Residential Rates	3,039	2,041,655,000	2,060,285,000	18,630,000	0.9%
	Commercial Rate	1,701	1,948,534,600	2,055,871,009	107,336,409	5.5%
	Industrial Rate	14	17,340,000	17,970,000	630,000	3.6%
	Vacant Land	37	21,291,000	21,983,000	692,000	3.3%
	Culture & Rec	3	7,056,000	7,395,000	339,000	4.8%
	Mixed Use Rate	34	21,980,000	23,290,000	1,310,000	6.0%
GEELONG	**Total**	**4,828**	**4,057,856,600**	**4,186,794,009**	**128,937,409**	**3.2%**
GEELONG WEST	Residential Rates	3,532	1,987,240,000	2,015,270,000	28,030,000	1.4%
	Commercial Rate	447	405,020,600	432,790,000	27,769,400	6.9%
	Industrial Rate	41	23,450,000	30,055,000	6,605,000	28.2%
	Vacant Land	40	29,878,000	29,561,000	- 317,000	-1.1%
	Mixed Use Rate	18	9,330,000	9,600,000	270,000	2.9%
GEELONG WEST	**Total**	**4,078**	**2,454,918,600**	**2,517,276,000**	**62,357,400**	**2.5%**
GROVEDALE	Residential Rates	6,164	2,741,415,000	2,773,295,000	31,880,000	1.2%
	Commercial Rate	355	420,424,600	457,760,008	37,335,408	8.9%
	Industrial Rate	88	51,120,000	58,930,000	7,810,000	15.3%
	Vacant Land	90	39,490,000	44,035,000	4,545,000	11.5%
	Mixed Use Rate	9	6,380,000	6,870,000	490,000	7.7%
GROVEDALE	**Total**	**6,706**	**3,258,829,600**	**3,340,890,008**	**82,060,408**	**2.5%**
HAMLYN HEIGHTS	Residential Rates	2,882	1,408,040,000	1,420,680,000	12,640,000	0.9%
	Farm Rate	1	1,360,000	1,520,000	160,000	11.8%
	Commercial Rate	35	15,116,000	16,887,000	1,771,000	11.7%

Suburb	Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	Movement $	Movement %
	Vacant Land	57	22,325,000	22,500,000	175,000	0.8%
	Culture & Rec	1	588,700	606,000	17,300	2.9%
	Mixed Use Rate	5	2,740,000	2,870,000	130,000	4.7%
HAMLYN HEIGHTS	**Total**	**2,981**	**1,450,169,700**	**1,465,063,000**	**14,893,300**	**1.0%**
HERNE HILL	Residential Rates	1,772	764,430,000	774,150,000	9,720,000	1.3%
	Commercial Rate	30	11,900,000	13,455,000	1,555,000	13.1%
	Vacant Land	32	11,465,000	11,750,000	285,000	2.5%
	Mixed Use Rate	2	980,000	1,040,000	60,000	6.1%
HERNE HILL	**Total**	**1,836**	**788,775,000**	**800,395,000**	**11,620,000**	**1.5%**
HIGHTON	Residential Rates	7,816	4,766,670,000	4,767,500,000	830,000	0.0%
	Commercial Rate	156	132,317,400	132,807,000	489,600	0.4%
	Vacant Land	431	173,485,000	176,710,000	3,225,000	1.9%
	Culture & Rec	1	1,280,000	1,280,000	-	0.0%
	Mixed Use Rate	17	5,255,000	5,720,000	465,000	8.8%
HIGHTON	**Total**	**8,421**	**5,079,007,400**	**5,084,017,000**	**5,009,600**	**0.1%**
INDENTED HEAD	Residential Rates	1,249	770,185,000	779,050,000	8,865,000	1.2%
	Farm Rate	9	18,940,000	16,820,000	- 2,120,000	-11.2%
	Commercial Rate	5	684,000	754,000	70,000	10.2%
	Vacant Land	169	51,975,000	53,252,000	1,277,000	2.5%
	Culture & Rec	2	378,000	378,000	-	0.0%
	Mixed Use Rate	2	3,720,000	3,590,000	- 130,000	-3.5%
INDENTED HEAD	**Total**	**1,436**	**845,882,000**	**853,844,000**	**7,962,000**	**0.9%**
LARA	Residential Rates	6,270	3,393,650,000	3,346,775,000	- 46,875,000	-1.4%
	Farm Rate	68	157,540,000	166,520,000	8,980,000	5.7%
	Commercial Rate	169	143,215,800	137,950,001	- 5,265,799	-3.7%
	Industrial Rate	54	100,155,000	103,335,000	3,180,000	3.2%
	Vacant Land	241	162,812,000	162,477,000	- 335,000	-0.2%
	Culture & Rec	3	3,960,000	3,920,000	- 40,000	-1.0%

Suburb	Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	Movement $	Movement %
	Mixed Use Rate	18	17,370,000	16,290,000	- 1,080,000	-6.2%
LARA	**Total**	**6,823**	**3,978,702,800**	**3,937,267,001**	**- 41,435,799**	**-1.0%**
LEOPOLD	Residential Rates	5,138	2,610,135,000	2,676,080,000	65,945,000	2.5%
	Farm Rate	37	67,730,000	66,410,000	- 1,320,000	-1.9%
	Commercial Rate	148	161,144,800	173,697,001	12,552,201	7.8%
	Vacant Land	89	53,980,000	53,295,000	- 685,000	-1.3%
	Culture & Rec	2	2,015,000	1,650,000	- 365,000	-18.1%
	Mixed Use Rate	2	4,640,000	4,640,000	-	0.0%
LEOPOLD	**Total**	**5,416**	**2,899,644,800**	**2,975,772,001**	**76,127,201**	**2.6%**
LITTLE RIVER	Residential Rates	174	164,280,000	153,445,000	- 10,835,000	-6.6%
	Farm Rate	49	94,240,000	94,990,000	750,000	0.8%
	Commercial Rate	7	19,127,900	19,840,000	712,100	3.7%
	Industrial Rate	5	26,713,000	27,120,000	407,000	1.5%
	Vacant Land	38	39,505,000	39,390,000	- 115,000	-0.3%
	Mixed Use Rate	3	2,850,000	2,690,000	- 160,000	-5.6%
LITTLE RIVER	**Total**	**276**	**346,715,900**	**337,475,000**	**- 9,240,900**	**-2.7%**
LOVELY BANKS	Residential Rates	892	572,465,000	586,620,000	14,155,000	2.5%
	Farm Rate	36	234,190,000	238,470,000	4,280,000	1.8%
	Commercial Rate	22	25,515,700	25,398,000	- 117,700	-0.5%
	Industrial Rate	1	1,100,000	1,100,000	-	0.0%
	Vacant Land	84	57,060,000	58,130,000	1,070,000	1.9%
	Mixed Use Rate	1	890,000	890,000	-	0.0%
LOVELY BANKS	**Total**	**1,036**	**891,220,700**	**910,608,000**	**19,387,300**	**2.2%**
MANIFOLD HEIGHTS	Residential Rates	1,185	738,310,000	739,330,000	1,020,000	0.1%
	Commercial Rate	38	25,168,800	27,124,000	1,955,200	7.8%
	Industrial Rate	1	620,000	620,000	-	0.0%
	Vacant Land	10	5,720,000	5,720,000	-	0.0%
	Mixed Use Rate	2	1,270,000	1,220,000	- 50,000	-3.9%

Suburb	Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	Movement $	Movement %
MANIFOLD HEIGHTS	**Total**	**1,236**	**771,088,800**	**774,014,000**	**2,925,200**	**0.4%**
MANNERIM	Residential Rates	18	16,305,000	15,625,000	- 680,000	-4.2%
	Farm Rate	42	70,345,000	74,625,000	4,280,000	6.1%
	Commercial Rate	2	710,000	650,000	- 60,000	-8.5%
	Vacant Land	6	7,840,000	9,400,000	1,560,000	19.9%
MANNERIM	**Total**	**68**	**95,200,000**	**100,300,000**	**5,100,000**	**5.4%**
MARCUS HILL	Residential Rates	40	38,105,000	36,550,000	- 1,555,000	-4.1%
	Farm Rate	30	53,670,000	55,480,000	1,810,000	3.4%
	Commercial Rate	6	5,315,000	5,585,000	270,000	5.1%
	Vacant Land	1	720,000	720,000	-	0.0%
	Mixed Use Rate	1	85,000	85,000	-	0.0%
MARCUS HILL	**Total**	**78**	**97,895,000**	**98,420,000**	**525,000**	**0.5%**
MARSHALL	Residential Rates	997	411,970,000	431,430,000	19,460,000	4.7%
	Farm Rate	2	4,560,000	5,140,000	580,000	12.7%
	Commercial Rate	3	1,570,000	1,580,000	10,000	0.6%
	Vacant Land	13	11,947,000	14,847,000	2,900,000	24.3%
	Mixed Use Rate	2	2,800,000	3,320,000	520,000	18.6%
MARSHALL	**Total**	**1,017**	**432,847,000**	**456,317,000**	**23,470,000**	**5.4%**
MOOLAP	Residential Rates	665	451,213,000	429,931,000	- 21,282,000	-4.7%
	Farm Rate	37	41,260,000	39,600,000	- 1,660,000	-4.0%
	Commercial Rate	107	91,456,400	93,685,000	2,228,600	2.4%
	Industrial Rate	356	244,325,001	236,585,001	- 7,740,000	-3.2%
	Vacant Land	83	36,285,000	38,230,000	1,945,000	5.4%
	Mixed Use Rate	9	6,335,000	5,620,000	- 715,000	-11.3%
MOOLAP	**Total**	**1,257**	**870,874,401**	**843,651,001**	**- 27,223,400**	**-3.1%**
MOORABOOL	Residential Rates	21	16,990,000	17,040,000	50,000	0.3%
	Farm Rate	30	59,595,000	60,240,000	645,000	1.1%

Suburb	Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	Movement $	Movement %
	Commercial Rate	1	185,000	185,000	-	0.0%
	Industrial Rate	1	1,300,000	1,300,000	-	0.0%
	Vacant Land	4	2,470,000	2,500,000	30,000	1.2%
MOORABOOL	**Total**	**57**	**80,540,000**	**81,265,000**	**725,000**	**0.9%**
MOUNT DUNEED	Residential Rates	1,407	814,785,000	810,235,000	- 4,550,000	-0.6%
	Farm Rate	23	61,970,000	55,290,000	- 6,680,000	-10.8%
	Commercial Rate	26	15,378,500	15,950,000	571,500	3.7%
	Vacant Land	239	119,305,000	122,655,000	3,350,000	2.8%
	Culture & Rec	1	1,060,000	820,000	- 240,000	-22.6%
	Mixed Use Rate	1	3,140,000	3,120,000	- 20,000	-0.6%
MOUNT DUNEED	**Total**	**1,697**	**1,015,638,500**	**1,008,070,000**	**- 7,568,500**	**-0.7%**
NEWCOMB	Residential Rates	2,347	941,270,000	932,325,000	- 8,945,000	-1.0%
	Commercial Rate	115	118,764,800	123,698,000	4,933,200	4.2%
	Industrial Rate	21	12,270,000	11,745,000	- 525,000	-4.3%
	Vacant Land	18	7,180,000	6,975,000	- 205,000	-2.9%
	Mixed Use Rate	3	1,510,000	1,520,000	10,000	0.7%
NEWCOMB	**Total**	**2,504**	**1,080,994,800**	**1,076,263,000**	**- 4,731,800**	**-0.4%**
NEWTOWN	Residential Rates	4,517	3,549,889,000	3,557,330,000	7,441,000	0.2%
	Commercial Rate	316	276,638,300	301,354,000	24,715,700	8.9%
	Industrial Rate	109	80,840,000	88,340,000	7,500,000	9.3%
	Vacant Land	93	63,713,000	62,995,000	- 718,000	-1.1%
	Culture & Rec	1	3,560,000	3,560,000	-	0.0%
	Mixed Use Rate	10	6,620,000	7,460,000	840,000	12.7%
NEWTOWN	**Total**	**5,046**	**3,981,260,300**	**4,021,039,000**	**39,778,700**	**1.0%**
NORLANE	Residential Rates	4,280	1,312,160,000	1,310,710,000	- 1,450,000	-0.1%
	Commercial Rate	128	112,427,000	114,707,000	2,280,000	2.0%
	Industrial Rate	61	73,760,000	82,125,000	8,365,000	11.3%
	Vacant Land	63	22,550,000	24,245,000	1,695,000	7.5%

Suburb	Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	Movement $	Movement %
	Culture & Rec	1	1,480,000	1,480,000	-	0.0%
	Mixed Use Rate	2	410,000	450,000	40,000	9.8%
NORLANE	**Total**	**4,535**	**1,522,787,000**	**1,533,717,000**	**10,930,000**	**0.7%**
NORTH GEELONG	Residential Rates	1,289	555,105,000	559,210,000	4,105,000	0.7%
	Commercial Rate	153	156,657,700	167,533,000	10,875,300	6.9%
	Industrial Rate	502	365,243,000	440,145,000	74,902,000	20.5%
	Vacant Land	66	36,265,000	36,155,000	- 110,000	-0.3%
	Culture & Rec	2	3,890,000	3,895,000	5,000	0.1%
	Mixed Use Rate	7	3,430,000	3,700,000	270,000	7.9%
NORTH GEELONG	**Total**	**2,019**	**1,120,590,700**	**1,210,638,000**	**90,047,300**	**8.0%**
NORTH SHORE	Residential Rates	190	96,005,000	98,350,000	2,345,000	2.4%
	Commercial Rate	8	6,526,000	7,235,000	709,000	10.9%
	Industrial Rate	144	138,055,500	149,007,000	10,951,500	7.9%
	Vacant Land	25	14,017,800	14,790,000	772,200	5.5%
	Mixed Use Rate	1	300,000	320,000	20,000	6.7%
NORTH SHORE	**Total**	**368**	**254,904,300**	**269,702,000**	**14,797,700**	**5.8%**
OCEAN GROVE	Residential Rates	8,073	5,640,570,000	5,705,670,000	65,100,000	1.2%
	Farm Rate	3	12,650,000	12,780,000	130,000	1.0%
	Commercial Rate	325	273,828,400	272,037,004	- 1,791,396	-0.7%
	Industrial Rate	82	49,435,000	47,360,000	- 2,075,000	-4.2%
	Vacant Land	451	294,345,000	299,365,000	5,020,000	1.7%
	Culture & Rec	2	5,218,900	5,286,000	67,100	1.3%
	Mixed Use Rate	43	33,040,000	34,470,000	1,430,000	4.3%
OCEAN GROVE	**Total**	**8,979**	**6,309,087,300**	**6,376,968,004**	**67,880,704**	**1.1%**
POINT LONSDALE	Residential Rates	734	566,555,000	586,875,000	20,320,000	3.6%
	The Point - Residential Land	189	133,410,000	137,010,000	3,600,000	2.7%
	Farm Rate	12	14,225,000	14,220,000	- 5,000	0.0%

Suburb	Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	Movement $	Movement %
	Commercial Rate	7	1,264,500	1,278,000	13,500	1.1%
	The Point - Commercial Land	3	8,631,500	8,632,000	500	0.0%
	Industrial Rate	1	1,740,000	1,740,000	-	0.0%
	Vacant Land	76	44,527,800	45,965,000	1,437,200	3.2%
	The Point - Vacant Land	34	29,550,000	31,400,000	1,850,000	6.3%
	Culture & Rec	2	2,999,200	3,150,000	150,800	5.0%
POINT LONSDALE	**Total**	**1,058**	**802,903,000**	**830,270,000**	**27,367,000**	**3.4%**
POINT WILSON	Farm Rate	4	8,480,000	8,800,000	320,000	3.8%
	Commercial Rate	1	290,000	290,000	-	0.0%
	Industrial Rate	1	43,540,000	43,540,000	-	0.0%
	Vacant Land	1	6,300,000	6,300,000	-	0.0%
POINT WILSON	**Total**	**7**	**58,610,000**	**58,930,000**	**320,000**	**0.5%**
PORTARLINGTON	Residential Rates	2,958	1,789,432,000	1,777,200,000	- 12,232,000	-0.7%
	Farm Rate	33	57,130,000	47,790,000	- 9,340,000	-16.3%
	Commercial Rate	59	59,399,400	60,031,000	631,600	1.1%
	Industrial Rate	17	7,990,000	9,400,000	1,410,000	17.6%
	Vacant Land	362	145,525,000	141,740,000	- 3,785,000	-2.6%
	Culture & Rec	3	5,956,200	5,976,000	19,800	0.3%
	Mixed Use Rate	22	16,490,000	16,110,000	- 380,000	-2.3%
PORTARLINGTON	**Total**	**3,454**	**2,081,922,600**	**2,058,247,000**	**- 23,675,600**	**-1.1%**
RIPPLESIDE	Residential Rates	443	339,650,000	357,900,000	18,250,000	5.4%
	Commercial Rate	30	18,402,000	20,748,000	2,346,000	12.7%
	Vacant Land	8	9,630,000	9,920,000	290,000	3.0%
	Mixed Use Rate	1	770,000	830,000	60,000	7.8%
RIPPLESIDE	**Total**	**482**	**368,452,000**	**389,398,000**	**20,946,000**	**5.7%**
SOUTH GEELONG	Residential Rates	485	260,485,000	272,375,000	11,890,000	4.6%

Suburb	Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	Movement $	Movement %
	Commercial Rate	153	182,132,800	191,901,000	9,768,200	5.4%
	Industrial Rate	263	194,262,000	226,155,000	31,893,000	16.4%
	Vacant Land	37	21,040,000	21,240,000	200,000	1.0%
	Culture & Rec	6	29,295,000	29,295,000	-	0.0%
	Mixed Use Rate	3	1,590,000	1,680,000	90,000	5.7%
SOUTH GEELONG	**Total**	**947**	**688,804,800**	**742,646,000**	**53,841,200**	**7.8%**
ST ALBANS PARK	Residential Rates	2,149	868,435,000	870,390,000	1,955,000	0.2%
	Farm Rate	4	5,240,000	4,520,000	- 720,000	-13.7%
	Commercial Rate	13	20,564,000	20,069,000	- 495,000	-2.4%
	Vacant Land	19	6,485,000	6,300,000	- 185,000	-2.9%
	Culture & Rec	1	790,000	640,000	- 150,000	-19.0%
ST ALBANS PARK	**Total**	**2,186**	**901,514,000**	**901,919,000**	**405,000**	**0.0%**
ST LEONARDS	Residential Rates	2,659	1,461,715,000	1,462,040,000	325,000	0.0%
	Farm Rate	29	59,260,000	49,680,000	- 9,580,000	-16.2%
	Commercial Rate	40	22,837,600	24,274,000	1,436,400	6.3%
	Industrial Rate	1	60,000	75,000	15,000	25.0%
	Vacant Land	693	206,922,500	198,115,000	- 8,807,500	-4.3%
	Culture & Rec	2	1,830,000	1,871,000	41,000	2.2%
	Mixed Use Rate	5	2,920,000	2,980,000	60,000	2.1%
ST LEONARDS	**Total**	**3,429**	**1,755,545,100**	**1,739,035,000**	**- 16,510,100**	**-0.9%**
STAUGHTON VALE	Residential Rates	29	18,920,000	19,310,000	390,000	2.1%
	Farm Rate	8	6,820,000	7,040,000	220,000	3.2%
	Commercial Rate	1	1,220,000	1,220,000	-	0.0%
	Vacant Land	4	1,785,000	1,960,000	175,000	9.8%
STAUGHTON VALE	**Total**	**42**	**28,745,000**	**29,530,000**	**785,000**	**2.7%**
SWAN BAY	Residential Rates	14	17,310,000	18,780,000	1,470,000	8.5%
	Farm Rate	13	25,040,000	29,040,000	4,000,000	16.0%
	Commercial Rate	3	4,729,000	5,629,000	900,000	19.0%

Suburb	Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	Movement $	Movement %
	Vacant Land	3	2,110,000	2,360,000	250,000	11.8%
	Mixed Use Rate	1	870,000	1,220,000	350,000	40.2%
SWAN BAY	**Total**	**34**	**50,059,000**	**57,029,000**	**6,970,000**	**13.9%**
THOMSON	Residential Rates	922	329,375,000	334,965,000	5,590,000	1.7%
	Commercial Rate	18	4,920,000	5,040,000	120,000	2.4%
	Vacant Land	4	1,370,000	1,370,000	-	0.0%
	Mixed Use Rate	1	310,000	310,000	-	0.0%
THOMSON	**Total**	**945**	**335,975,000**	**341,685,000**	**5,710,000**	**1.7%**
WALLINGTON	Residential Rates	433	492,595,000	491,775,000	- 820,000	-0.2%
	Farm Rate	41	63,255,000	66,250,000	2,995,000	4.7%
	Commercial Rate	22	32,076,000	32,786,000	710,000	2.2%
	Vacant Land	16	13,297,000	13,943,000	646,000	4.9%
	Mixed Use Rate	5	6,380,000	6,450,000	70,000	1.1%
WALLINGTON	**Total**	**517**	**607,603,000**	**611,204,000**	**3,601,000**	**0.6%**
WANDANA HEIGHTS	Residential Rates	738	521,970,000	537,715,000	15,745,000	3.0%
	Commercial Rate	9	2,095,000	2,342,000	247,000	11.8%
	Vacant Land	82	34,485,000	37,855,000	3,370,000	9.8%
WANDANA HEIGHTS	**Total**	**829**	**558,550,000**	**577,912,000**	**19,362,000**	**3.5%**
WAURN PONDS	Residential Rates	1,400	862,640,000	881,900,000	19,260,000	2.2%
	Farm Rate	19	35,350,000	37,560,000	2,210,000	6.3%
	Commercial Rate	73	144,446,100	145,091,000	644,900	0.4%
	Industrial Rate	2	10,220,000	10,140,000	- 80,000	-0.8%
	Vacant Land	29	17,920,000	17,460,000	- 460,000	-2.6%
	Mixed Use Rate	3	2,540,000	2,400,000	- 140,000	-5.5%
WAURN PONDS	**Total**	**1,526**	**1,073,116,100**	**1,094,551,000**	**21,434,900**	**2.0%**
WHITTINGTON	Residential Rates	1,875	595,715,000	608,240,000	12,525,000	2.1%
	Commercial Rate	12	11,955,000	12,405,000	450,000	3.8%

Suburb	Rate Type	Number of Properties	2019 Level CIV	2020 Level CIV	Movement $	Movement %
	Vacant Land	5	955,000	1,000,000	45,000	4.7%
WHITTINGTON	**Total**	**1,892**	**608,625,000**	**621,645,000**	**13,020,000**	**2.1%**
Grand Total		**129,005**	**75,273,749,201**	**76,267,245,778**	**993,496,577**	**1.3%**

Attachment 3

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

COUNCIL RATES COUNCIL POLICY

VERSION: 13

Approval Date: 30 June 2020

Approved by: Council

Review Date: 1 June 2021

Responsible Officer: Director Customer & Corporate Services

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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Introduction

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the organisation has a sound basis on which to develop the various charging features when determining its revenue strategies and ensure consistency with provisions of the *Local Government Act* 1989 (**LGA**)

SCOPE

This policy applies to the City when considering and determining the annual budget or special rates and charges throughout the financial year.
Council officers must consider the application of this policy when:

preparing revenue models or raising charges; or

dealing with any proposed or existing commercial enterprises.

Definitions

This section defines the key terms used in this policy.

USE & LEVEL OF DIFFERENTIAL RATE

The differential rate will be used to fund some of those items of expenditure described in the Budget adopted by Council and set at a level which Council considers necessary to achieve the identified objectives.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Wherever located within the municipal district, except those differentials which are described below as including a geographic restriction.

USE OF LAND

Wherever located within the municipal district, except those differentials which are described below as including a geographic restriction.

PLANNING SCHEME ZONING

The zoning applicable to each piece of rateable land within this category, as determined by consulting maps referred to in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

TYPES OF BUILDINGS

All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to 30 June 2021.

VACANT LAND

No building must be located on the land or constructed prior to 30 June 2021 except for any uninhabitable shed or shelter, the size of which does not exceed 5% of the total area of the land.

DIFFERENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS & RATING OBJECTIVES

No building must be located on the land or constructed prior to 30 June 2021 except for any uninhabitable shed or shelter, the size of which does not exceed 5% of the total area of the land.

Residential Land - means any land:

i. that is used exclusively for residential purposes; or

ii. on which a habitable building is erected, which building is unoccupied, and which is zoned residential under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Rating Objective:
To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:

a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

b) development and provision of health and community services; and

provision of general support services

Vacant Land - means any land:

i. that does not have the characteristics of Farm Land; and

ii. on which no building is erected, save for any uninhabitable shed or shelter, the size of which does not exceed 5% of the total area of the land.

Rating Objectives:

i. To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:

   a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;
   b) development and provision of health and community services; and
   c) provision of general support services.

ii. To encourage the prompt development of vacant land to attract new residents and businesses to the City of Greater Geelong.

iii. To discourage untimely and unnecessary divisions of land.

These objectives will be met by setting the Vacant Land differential at 143.1% of the Residential Land differential.

Commercial Land – means any land that:

i. does not have the characteristics of:

   a) Farm Land; or
   b) Industrial Land; and
   c) Petroleum Production Land.

ii. is used predominantly for the sale of goods or services or other commercial purposes; or

iii. on which a habitable building is erected, which building is unoccupied, and which is zoned other than residential under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Rating Objective:

To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:

a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

b) development and provision of health and community services; and

c) provision of general support services.

The Point – Residential Land - means any land that:

i. is used exclusively for residential purposes; or

ii. on which a habitable building is erected, which building is unoccupied, and which is zoned residential under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme; and

   forms part of the land formerly described in Certificate of Title Volume 09901 Folio 324 and also described as Lot B PS 635643, PS 640648Y, PS 722221H, PS 722220K, PS 743868K, PS 732908M, PS 638301D, PS 635642R, PS 722215C, PS 722214E, PS 743877, PS 816893, PS 743876, PS 743878, PS 822924, PS 822922, PS 822918, PS 816907, 822928 and 832773.

   Rating Objectives:

   i. To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:

   a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;
   b) development and provision of health and community services;
   c) provision of general support services; and
   d) management of environmentally sensitive land.

   ii. To ensure that, following the development of the Point Land, and transfer to the City of the management of environmentally sensitive land, including the provision of a range of services around an existing waterway, constructed lake and canal system, an equitable and efficient financial

contribution to the cost of the City's management responsibilities will be made by the ratepayers in respect of that land.

The Point – Vacant Land - means any land:

i. that does not have the characteristics of Farm Land; and

ii. on which no building is erected save for any small uninhabitable storage shed or shelter, the size of which does not exceed 5% of the total land area; and

iii. forms part of the land formerly described in Certificate of Title Volume 09901 Folio 324 and also described as Lot B PS 635643, PS 640648Y, PS 722221H, PS 722220K, PS 743868K, PS 732908M, PS 638301D, PS 635642R, PS 722215C, PS 722214E, PS 743877, PS 816893, PS 743876, PS 743878, PS 822924, PS 822922, PS 822918, PS 816907, 822928 and 832773.

Rating Objectives:

i. To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City, generally including the:

   a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;
   b) development and provision of health and community services;
   c) provision of general support services; and
   d) management of environmentally sensitive land.

ii. To ensure that, following the development of the Point Land, and transfer to the City of the management of environmentally sensitive land, including the provision of a range of services around an existing waterway, constructed lake and canal system, an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of the City's management responsibilities will be made by the ratepayers in respect of that land.

iii. To encourage the prompt development of vacant land to attract new residents and businesses to the City of Greater Geelong and, more specifically, to the Point Land.

iv. To discourage untimely and unnecessary divisions of land.

The Point – Commercial Land - means any land that:

i. does not have the characteristics of:
   a) Farm Land; or
   b) Industrial Land; and
ii. is used predominantly for the sale of goods or services, or other commercial purposes; or
iii. on which a habitable building is erected, which building is unoccupied, and which is zoned other than residential under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme; and
iv. forms part of the land formerly described in Certificate of Title Volume 09901 Folio 324 and also described as Lot B PS 635643, PS 640648Y, PS 722221H, PS 722220K, PS 743868K, PS 732908M, PS 638301D, PS 635642R, PS 722215C, PS 722214E, PS 743877, PS 816893, PS 743876, PS 743878, PS 822924, PS 822922, PS 822918, PS 816907, 822928 and 832773.

Rating Objectives:

i. To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to cost of carrying out the functions of the City, generally including the:

   a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;
   b) development and provision of health and community services;
   c) provision of general support services; and
   d) management of environmentally sensitive land.

ii. To ensure that, following the development of the Point Land, and transfer to the City of the management of environmentally sensitive land, including the provision of a range of services around an existing waterway, constructed lake and canal system, to ensure that an equitable and efficient

financial contribution to the cost of the City's management responsibilities will be made by the ratepayers in respect of that land.

Industrial Land – means any land that:

i. does not have the characteristics of:
   a) Vacant Land; or
   b) Commercial Land; and
   c) Petroleum Production Land.

ii. is used predominantly for industrial purposes, which includes manufacturing, repairing, servicing, processing and reprocessing or warehousing.

Rating Objective:
To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:

a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

b) development and provision of health and community services; and

c) provision of general support services.

Mixed Use Land – means any land that:

i. has the characteristics of Residential Land combined with the characteristics of Commercial Land or Industrial Land; and

ii. is used partly for residential purposes and partly for commercial and/or industrial purposes.

Rating Objective:
To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:

a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

b) development and provision of health and community services; and

c) provision of general support services.

Farm Land – means any land which:

i. is not less than 2 hectares in area; and

ii. is used predominantly for the business of grazing (including agistment), dairying, pig-farming, poultry farming, fish farming, tree farming, bee-keeping, viticulture, horticulture, fruit growing or the growing of crops of any kind or for any combination of those activities; or

iii. satisfies the criteria for municipal purpose benefit for large holdings to the extent that it is, for example, land that is predominantly used and maintained for heritage, cultural or environmental purposes, or land that is held as natural bushland under a trust for nature covenant, or land that is held under some other type of similar formal undertaking.

To avoid doubt, 'business' for the purposes of identifying Farm Land has the same meaning as that given to it by section 2(1) of the *Valuation of Land Act* 1960 for the same purpose, being a business that:

a) has a significant and substantial commercial purpose or character; and
b) seeks to make a profit on a continuous or repetitive basis from its activities on the land; and
c) is making a profit from its activities on the land, or that has a reasonable prospect of making a profit from its activities on the land if it continues to operate in the way that it is operating.

Rating Objectives:

i. To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:
   a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;
   b) development and provision of health and community services; and
   c) provision of general support services.

ii. To encourage and support the business of primary production and, where appropriate, expand the business of primary production.

These objectives will be met by setting the Farm Land differential at 61.1% of the Residential Land differential and by the provision of a farm rebate under section 169 of the LGA.

Petroleum Production Land – means any land that is:

i. used primarily for the production or conveyance of petroleum and/or petroleum by-products; and

ii. described as all that land generally bounded more or less by Princes Highway, Shell Parade, Corio Bay Foreshore, Wharf Road, Station Road and neighbouring land.

Rating Objective:

To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable and efficient financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of the City generally, including the:

a) construction and maintenance of public infrastructure;

b) development and provision of health and community services; and

c) provision of general support services.

The Petroleum Production Land differential is set at the Industrial Land rate differential from 2017-18.

Cultural & Recreational Land – means any land that:

i. has the characteristics of '*recreational lands*' as defined by the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act* 1963; and

ii. the following organisations will be reviewed to confirm eligibility based on land use definition :

Assessment	Ratepayer	Property Address
2315	Bareena Bowling Club Incorporated	89 Noble Street, NEWTOWN VIC 3220
75017	Bell Park Sports Club	10 Lynnburn Road, BATESFORD VIC 3213
18010	Barwon Rowing Club Inc.	2 Barwon Terrace, SOUTH GEELONG VIC 3220
18011	Geelong College Rowing Club	4 Barwon Terrace, SOUTH GEELONG VIC 3220
18012	Geelong Church of England Grammar School	6 Barwon Terrace, SOUTH GEELONG VIC 3220
18014	Geelong Rowing Association	8 Barwon Terrace, SOUTH GEELONG VIC 3220
18015	Corio Bay Rowing Club	10 Barwon Terrace, SOUTH GEELONG VIC 3220
18932	Geelong Race Course Trustees	99 Breakwater Road, BREAKWATER VIC 3219
19004	Royal Geelong Agricultural & Pastoral Society	79 Breakwater Road, BREAKWATER VIC 3219
14860	Royal Geelong Yacht Club	25 Eastern Beach Road, GEELONG VIC 3220
18125	Geelong Eastern Park Bowling Club Inc.	51-55 Garden Street, EAST GEELONG VIC 3219
12265	Geelong Football Club Limited	360 Moorabool Street, SOUTH GEELONG VIC 3220
14226	East Geelong Golf Club	401 Eastern Park Circuit, EAST GEELONG VIC 3219
17308	East Geelong Recreation Reserve Committee	137-139 McKillop Street, GEELONG VIC 3220
12466	Western Beach Boat Club Inc.	74-90 Western Foreshore Road, GEELONG VIC 3220
19948	Highton Bowling Club Inc.	204 Roslyn Road, HIGHTON VIC 3216
34824	Barwon Heads Golf Club Incorporated	1A Golf Links Road, BARWON HEADS VIC 3227
27814	Belmont Bowling Club Incorporated	16-36 Reynolds Road, BELMONT VIC 3216
28619	Geelong Lawn Tennis Club Incorporated	12-20 Sommers Street, BELMONT VIC 3216
28620	Geelong Bowls Club Incorporated	4-10 Sommers Street, BELMONT VIC 3216
41419	Geelong Pistol Club Inc.	70-80 Williams Road, MOUNT DUNEED VIC 3217
75364	Western District Car Club and Geelong Motor Sports Complex Inc.	55 Beach Road, AVALON VIC 3212
76277	Beckley Park Committee of Management Inc.	40 Broderick Road, CORIO VIC 3214
78578	Croatian Community Centre of Geelong (Inc.)	172 Cox Road, CORIO VIC 3214
81781	Australian Croatian Sporting Centre and North Geelong Warriors Soccer Club Inc.	15 Gibbons Road, LARA VIC 3212

Assessment	Ratepayer	Property Address
86079	Geelong Trailable Yacht Club Inc.	105 Mackey Street, NORTH GEELONG VIC 3215
51189	Clifton Springs Golf Club Inc.	62-88 Clear Water Drive, CLIFTON SPRINGS VIC
51336	Clifton Springs Bowling Club	39 Springs Street, CLIFTON SPRINGS VIC 3222
51643	Drysdale Bowling & Croquet Club Inc.	19-29 Collins Street, DRYSDALE VIC 3222
55682	Lonsdale Golf Club	PARENT - 28 Gill Road, POINT LONSDALE VIC 3225
56256	Portarlington Sailing Club	219 Point Richards Road, PORTARLINGTON VIC
56261	Portarlington Bowls Club Incorporated	2A Harding Street, PORTARLINGTON VIC 3223
56282	Indented Head Boat Club Inc.	326A The Esplanade, INDENTED HEAD VIC 3223
56284	Indented Head Yacht Club	326B The Esplanade, INDENTED HEAD VIC 3223
56302	St Leonards Yacht Club & Motor Squadron	1001 Lower Bluff Road, ST LEONARDS VIC 3223
59153	Portarlington Golf Club	92-160 Hood Road, PORTARLINGTON VIC 3223
60281	Leopold Sportsman's Club Inc.	131-139 Kensington Road, LEOPOLD VIC 3224
61065	Ocean Grove Bowling Club Incorporated	16-24 The Terrace, OCEAN GROVE VIC 3226
63059	St Leonards Bowling Club	1274 Murradoc Road, ST LEONARDS VIC 3223
71282	Ocean Grove Golf Club Incorporated	9 Guthridge Street, OCEAN GROVE VIC 3226
72825	Geelong Watersports Club Inc.	493-499 Wilsons Road, ST ALBANS PARK VIC 3219
103216	Lagoon Boat Club Inc.	200 Foreshore Road, CORIO VIC 3214
112395	Belrec Incorporated	68 Calvert Street, HAMLYN HEIGHTS VIC 3215
112396	North Shore Football & Netball Club Inc.	39 Rose Avenue, NORLANE VIC 3214
113283	Lara Sporting Club Incorporated	4 Mill Road, LARA VIC 3212
115653	Corio Bay Sailing Club	180 Foreshore Road, CORIO VIC 3214
806676	Norlane Bowling Club Incorporated	26-36 St Georges Road, CORIO VIC 3214
813371	Lara Bowling Club Inc.	10 Alkara Avenue, LARA VIC 3212
821417	Herne Hill Bowls Club Inc.	200 McCurdy Road, FYANSFORD VIC 3218
901556	Seabrae Boat Owners Club Inc.	302 Clifton Avenue, LEOPOLD VIC 3224
902805	Barwon Heads Bowling Club Inc.	18 Geelong Road East, BARWON HEADS VIC 3227
919267	Lonsdale Golf Club	69 Fellows Road, POINT LONSDALE VIC 3225
920726	City of Geelong Bowls Club Inc.	7-9 Ballarat Road, NORTH GEELONG VIC 3215

CITY

The City of Greater Geelong organisation, led by the CEO.

COUNCIL

The City of Greater Geelong Council comprised of elected councillors and led by the Mayor.

ELT

The Executive Leadership Team of the City, as constituted from time to time.

Policy

COUNCIL POLICY

Statement of Principles

The application of the rating strategy should be simple, efficient, and include a mechanism that contains principles of public benefit taxation.

While general rates are not a 'user pays' mechanism, elements of the rating strategy will embrace the 'user pays' principle where practicable. The City may consider the imposition of specific costs that may warrant the striking of new or higher differentials. The investigation of new differentials will be conducted as appropriate.

Rating must ensure that there is sufficient funding to meet the cost of providing and maintaining infrastructure, assets and services for the benefit of current and future communities.

The City of Greater Geelong applies a Capital Improved Valuation (CIV) method to all properties within the municipality to consider the full development value of the property. This method is applied irrespective of whether the property is subject to rates or exempt under legislation. The City recognises that people with higher value properties generally have higher wealth and a greater ability to meet the provision of council services.

Rating, through the application of higher differentials, recognises the ability of some ratepayers to obtain concessions from the tax deductibility of council rates and provides for a series of differential rates. This considers low economic return to large landholdings, avoidance of distortions in the market or an ability to contribute above the standard charge.

Rating shall endeavour to promote and encourage economic development throughout the municipality.

The Farm Land differential is intended to recognise the benefits of large land holdings, open space and what has traditionally been a lesser demand upon council services per land area held. The City has used a combination of a differential rate and a rebate under section 169 of the LGA in order to maintain the status of farms as the lowest rated tariff group.

Vacant Land is rated at a higher rate in the dollar than Residential Land to encourage the development of the land and discourage future subdivisions ahead of market elements.

To promote equity in rating, where appropriate, an ex-gratia amount may be negotiated.

Rating Strategy

Parameters to be considered in developing Rating Strategy:

Rate Differentials (or "RateTypes"):

- Under section 161(1) of the LGA.
- The City will apply differential rates to ensure there is flexibility in the rating model to enable rates to be raised at different levels.
- The City has considered its differential rates in the context of the range of revenue instruments available to it and has determined that differential rates are the most appropriate means of meeting the City's stated objectives.
- The investigation of introducing new differentials will proceed budget discussions.

Service Rates & Charges:

- Under section 162(1) of the LGA
- The City has service rates and charges to recover the full cost of the service from the user through an annual charge, e.g. the waste management / garbage charge is determined annually in accordance with cost and service.
- From 1 July 2016 a user pays system will be introduced for an additional bin service.

Special Rates & Charges:

- Under section 163(1) of the LGA
- The City has special rates and charges to defray the cost for the performance of a function that is of special benefit to any specific ratepayer group (refer Council Policy Special Rates & Charges).

Ex Gratia Rates

- The City has "Ex Gratia Rates" to gain contributions towards its operational costs from those property owners which are otherwise exempt from paying rates. It is the City's intent to align ex gratia contributions as close, or equivalent, to the applicable rate category for that property as possible, subject to particular circumstances.

Other Legislative Provisions (LGA)

- Section 157 of the LGA provides that the City of Greater Geelong may use the "Site Value", "Net Annual Value" or "Capital Improved Value" system of valuation. ("Capital Improved Valuation" is currently used by the City).
- Section 158 of the LGA requires Council to declare rates and charges by 31 August each year.
- Section 158A of the LGA requires rates and charges to be levied on each occupancy.
- Section 161(5) of the LGA requires that the highest differential must be no more than 4 times the lowest differential.

Incentives, Discounts and Rebates

- For 2020-21 the City do not grant rebates or concessions to assist the proper development in full or part unless a council resolution as per the LGA specifies the benefit to the community as a whole.
- The City offers support by way of sponsorships, grants and donations to specific groups as an alternative to rate rebates.
- The City administers the State Government funded pension rebate according to the eligibility criteria set by the State Government.
- Council declares a Farm Rebate to support the continuation of broad acre farming. The Farm Rebate is fixed at 15.6% of farm rates payable in respect of each assessment that is subject to the Farm Land differential.

Rates Waivers

- Rates Assistance will be reviewed annually as part of the budget process and published within Council's Rating Strategy. Ratepayers will be provided with a range of payment options. Applications for hardship will be considered in accordance with sections 170 and 171 of the LGA and as per Council's hardship policy.
- Council declares a waiver of general rates under section 171A of the LGA for the class of persons comprised of ratepayers in respect of assessments which are categorised as Residential Land or Farm Land where the valuation of the assessment has increased, between the 2019 valuation and the 2020 valuation, by 50% or more and that increase is purely attributable to market factors, not attributable, in whole or in part, to improvements made to the assessment by the owner (or occupier). The amount of the waiver is set at:
  - between 25% and 49.99% of the general rates payable for the 2019-20 financial year, increasing pro rata according to the valuation increase, for valuation increases between 50% and 59.99%; and

  - 50% of the general rates payable for the 2020-21 financial year for valuation increases of 60% or more.

- The waiver is designed to mitigate the rates shock of a valuation increase.
- Council declares a Housing Support Waiver of 100% of general rates under section 171 of the LGA for the class of persons comprised of ratepayers in respect of assessments which contain the following types of housing:
  - transitional, emergency or crisis housing;
  - housing for legatees or war widows, provided by the Geelong Legacy Club or provided by RSL; and
  - supported housing for disabled people.
- This waiver recognises that these properties provide for specific needs within the community.
- For 2020-21 financial year, Council declares a waiver of 100% of general rates under section 171 of the LGA for the class of persons comprised of ratepayers in respect of assessments which are in private ownership within the inappropriate subdivision known as New Corio Estate. This rates assistance waiver recognises the financial burden associated with ownership of this land. Land within the New Corio Estate is zoned as farming land and the area has been determined to be an inappropriate subdivision due to the difficulty of providing utilities and drainage and due to its distance from other residential areas. The Minister for Environment & Climate Change has approved a native vegetation plan for this land in support of natural temperate grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plains. The waiver recognises the ongoing encumbrances on the land that prevent owners from making any demands on Council services now and into the future.

Rate Review

- Rateable and non-rateable land shall be subject to regular review and audit.
- Rateable land is reviewed:
  - upon revaluation;
  - when building permits or subdivisions occur;
  - where a parcel of land may have more than one land use;
  - if the creation of a separate assessment on a parcel of land is required;
  - upon sale and transfer of land;
  - upon inspection by the City; and
  - upon application and inquiry by the ratepayer.
- Non-rateable land shall be reviewed bi-annually in respect to its continuing classification as non-rateable land.

Implementation of this Policy

MONITORING AND REPORTING

The policy will be reviewed and updated annually during budget development and endorsed by Council.

ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

The Responsible Officer for this policy manages the provision of advice to the organisation regarding this policy.

A person who is uncertain how to comply with this policy should seek advice from this person or from their Manager.

RECORDS

The City must retain records associated with this policy and its implementation for at least the period shown below.

Record	Retention / Disposal Authority	Retention Period	Location
Adopted Budget	Chief Financial Officer	7 years	Corporate Records /EDRMS

REVIEW

The City should review and, if necessary, amend this policy within one year of the approval date.

References

Local Government Act 1989, Part 8 Rates & Charges on Rateable Land – in particular see section 161(1),

Ministerial Guidelines for Differential Rating

Council Hardship Policy.

MINUTES

BUDGET & COUNCIL PLAN SUBMISSIONS REVIEW PANEL
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND RECEPTION CENTRE
CITY HALL, 30 GHERINGHAP ST, GEELONG
ON WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2020
FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF PANEL HEARING

Present:

- Cr T Sullivan (Chair)
- Cr S Asher
- Cr J Mason
- Cr S Mansfield
- Cr P Murrihy
- Cr B Harwood
- Cr P Murnane
- Cr A Aitken
- Cr K Grzybek
- Cr R Nelson
- Cr E Kontelj

Also Present:

- M Cutter (CEO)
- M Dugina (Director – Customer & Corporate Services)
- R Stevens (Director - Community Life)
- B Luxford (Director – Economy, Investment & Attraction)
- G Smith (Director – Planning, Design & Development)
- G Wilson-Browne (Director – City Services)
- K Phyland (Director – People & Culture)
- R Leonard (Director – Governance, Strategy & Performance)
- K Olesnicky (Chief Financial Officer)
- N O'Shea (Head Financial Planning & Analysis)
- J Brown (Councillor Liaison Officer)
- M Mitchell (Communications & Media Officer - Strategic Communications)
- K Manaszczuk (Administration).

The hearing commenced at 5.30pm and closed at 7.40pm.

Cr. Sullivan chaired the hearing of public submissions.

Apologies:

None.

Declarations of Interest or Conflicts of Interest:

None declared.

Items Considered

On 28 April 2020 Council gave notice of intention to adopt the 2018-22 Council Plan Update 2020-21 and Proposed Budget 2020-21. Council received 69 submissions in relation to the Council Plan and Proposed Budget. Submissions have been listed by topic and name of the submitter as follows:

Submissions by Topic

Topic No.	Topic	Submitters Name	Estimated Cost $	Submission No.
1	Bus Shelter Watt St Lara	Mr William Fulton		1
2	Rating	Mr John Verikios		2
	- Rate increases	Mr Ben Flynn		23
	- Municipal charge	Ms Amanda Rimmer		51
	- Farm rates	Mr Michael Kelly		54
	-	Mr David Jochinke		30
3	Northern Suburbs Initiatives	Mrs Kaylene Reeves		3
	- Norlane Community Initiatives	Mr Peter Weymouth		19
	- Spruhan Ave Community Hub	Mr Austin Paterson		20
	- Labuan Square renewal	Mr Stuart Duncan		22
	- Play space Design Rippleside Playground	Ms Nikki Welsh		24
	- Norlane Baptist Church	Mr Tim Jeffries		26
		Mrs Judith Down		41
		Rev Peter Greenwood		46
4	Lara Recreation Reserve Masterplan Stage 1	Mr Peter Kelly		4
	- Redevelopment of netball courts	Mrs Tracey Hall		15
	- Pavilion and storage	Ms Olga Vaysman		16
	- Tennis Club upgrade	Mrs Zoe Day		17
		Ms Kate Patston		18
		Mrs Fiona Bennett		27
		Mrs Vanessa Abela		40
5	Funding for Renew Geelong Project	Mr Ryan Mischkulnig		5
6	Myers Reserve – Bituminise Roadway	Mr Mark Brady		6
		Mr Michael Battye		7
		Mr Tony Gilson		8
		Mr Darryl Washington		9
		Mr Andrew Barrett		10
		Mr Tony Dosen		11
7	Ageing Population & COVID-19 Support	Mr Bernard Kelly		12
8	Council Plan Strategic Priority	Dr Sanja Van Huet		47
	Environmental Management	Ms Suzanne Brown		57
		Mrs Anthea Griffiths		59
		Mr Michael Skinner		62
		Mrs Vicki Perrett		65
9	Gambling Reform in Geelong	Ms Katherine Copsey		13
10	Streetscape funding in West Fyans St	Mr Josh Hanneyseee		14
11	Kevin Hoffman Walk Maintenance	Mr Greg Wilson		21
		Mr Andrew Hilliard		39
12	Seniors Activity Hub Bellarine	Mr Paul Taylor		25
	- Use of Eversley Drive Facility	Mr Martin Wilson		36
	- Feasibility study for new hub			
13	Chilwell Library Meeting Hub	Mrs Lynne Dowling		28
14	St Leonards Infrastructure	Mr Denis O/'Bryan		29
	- Skate Park	Ms Libby Lesock		31
	- Beautification of CBD	Mrs Phyllis		33
	- Footpaths	Edmonstone		34
		Mr Jim Edmonstone		34
		Mr Wade Coleman		35
15	Regional Sports Development	Mr Kevin O'Byrne		32
	Opportunities	Mr Mark Neeld		55

Submissions by Topic				
Topic No.	Topic	Submitters Name	Estimated Cost $	Submission No.
	- Soccer - Basketball			
16	Road Sealing Newcombe St Drysdale	Ms Teagan Gibbs		37
17	Lara Shared Path Network	Mr Andrew Hilliard		38
18	Traffic Issues- McKillop St East Geelong - Traffic calming measures - Heavy Vehicle Restrictions - Pedestrian Crossing at Eastern Hub - Reduced speed limit in McKillop St	Mr Alan Wilkins Mr Terry Slaymaker Mrs Barb Zacutti Mr Paul Rettke Mrs Janette Bennett Ms Sarah Brown Mr James Mears Mr Frank Kennedy		42 43 44 45 48 49 56 64
19	North Bellarine Aquatic Centre	Mr Anne Brackley Ms Gina Bell		50 58
20	Shared Trails Masterplan Funding	Mr Bob Jordan		52
21	General Commentary on Budget	Ms Sue Tresize		53
22	Footpath infrastructure - Grovedale	Ms Sarah Roberts		60
23	Ground Maintenance – Bell Park Sports Club	Mr David Secen		63
24	Sporting Facilities Upgrade - Landy Field - Manifold Heights Cricket Club - Guild Cricket Club	Ms Christine Couzens		66
25	Action on Climate Change	Sally Fisher		61
26	Lara Tree Maintenance and Streetscape	Laurene Wilks		68

Late submissions were received as follows:

Submissions by Topic				
Topic No.	Topic	Submitters Name	Estimated Cost $	Submission No.
27	Kingston Park Ocean Grove Maintenance	Ms Karen Hose		67
28	Sporting Facilities Upgrade - Geelong Little Athletics	Mr Joel Grist	$100k	69

List of submitters who addressed the panel:

Submitters Name	Topic
Mr Bernard Kelly	Increased Aging Population & COVID-19 support
Ms Kasuni Mendis	Gambling Reform in Geelong
Mr Austen Paterson	Northern Suburbs Initiatives
Mr Ben Flynn	Rating
Mr Paul Taylor	Seniors Activity Hub on the Bellarine
Mr Martin Wilson	Seniors Activity Hub on the Bellarine
Mr Mark Neeld	Sports Development Opportunities
Mr Bob Jordan	Shared Trails Masterplan Funding
Ms Sarah Roberts	Foothpath Infrastructure in Grovedale
Ms Rose Pirrottina	Sports Ground Maintenance
Mr Frank Kennedy	Traffic Issues – McKillop Street East Geelong
Ms Vicki Perrett	Environment, Waste Management & Climate Change
Ms Laurene Wilks	Lara Township Beautification and Tree Planting

Mr Joel Grist	Sporting Facility Upgrades
Mr Damian Tom	Sporting Facility Upgrades

PANEL CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS MADE TO THE COUNCIL PLAN 2018-22, UPDATE 2020-21 AND 2020-21 PROPOSED BUDGET

Source:	**Customer & Corporate Services – Financial Services**
Director:	**Michael Dugina**
Report To:	**Submissions Panel Hearing**
Portfolio:	**Finance**

Purpose

1. The purpose of the submission panel hearing is to consider all submissions received and make a recommendation whether to change the 2018-22 Council Plan, 2020-21 Update or 2020-21 proposed Budget.

Background

2. Council adopted the 2018-22 Council Plan, Update 2020-21 (Council Plan Update) and the 2020-21 Proposed Budget (the proposed Budget) on 28 April 2020. In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act), the proposed Council Plan update and the proposed budget were advertised inviting public submissions for a 28-day consultation period. The submission period closed 5.00pm on Tuesday 26 May 2020.

3. The Submission Panel Hearing is scheduled to meet on Wednesday 3 June 2020 at 5:30pm to consider the submissions.

Key Matters

4. Council will receive a report from the Submissions Panel and consider recommendations as part of adopting the Council Plan Update and the proposed Budget.

5. Council received 67 written submissions in relation to the Council Plan Update and the proposed budget, plus 2 additional late written submissions (refer **Attachment 4** for a list of submitters in order of receipt).

6. Submissions have been grouped under each topic raised, listing the name of the submitter (refer **Attachment 2**) and key point of the topic. All submitters have received an acknowledgement of their submission.

Cr Nelson moved, Cr Murrihy seconded -

7. That the Panel, having heard all submitters and considered the submissions made in respect of the proposed 2020-21 Budget and 2020-21 Council Plan Update, recommend that Council:

7.1 Acknowledge quality of submissions and thank all submitters for their contribution;

7.2 Having considered all submissions lodged, together with the report of the Submissions Review Panel, the Proposed 2029-21 Budget and Council Plan of 28 April 2020 be adopted, subject to:

7.2.1 Receiving further information about the cost of McKillop Street traffic treatments, consider making an allocation in the 2020-21 budget for the cost of the works;

7.2.2 Receiving further information about the cost of maintenance and the development of a masterplan for Landy Field and making an allocation for both in the 2020-21 budget; and

7.2.3 Receiving further information about the cost for a feasibility study for the development of a Seniors Activity hub on the Bellarine, consider making an allocation for a feasibility study in the 2020-21 budget.

Financial Implications

1. The proposed Budget has been prepared in accordance with the direction provided by Council. The proposed budget had an $8 million deficit due largely to the impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the City's support package relief for the community.

Community Engagement

2. Public notice was published in the Geelong Advertiser on Wednesday, 29 April 2020 to commence 28 days community engagement.

Social Equity Considerations

3. The proposed Budget and Council Plan Update identifies the sources and allocation of resources to implement the many social initiatives that impact the community.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

4. A copy of the proposed Budget must be made available for public inspection. Due to the State Government state of emergency and social distancing the proposed Budget is available in electronic format on the City's website for inspection.

5. Before adopting its budget, a council must give public notice and invite public submissions, specifying the date by which submissions must be lodged that is not less than 28 days after the public notice is published (s129 and S223 of the Local Government Act).

Alignment to Council Plan

6. The proposed Council Plan Update and the proposed Budget identifies the activities the City will undertake in 2020-21 which are aligned to achieving the strategic priorities.

Conflict of Interest

7. No council officer involved in the preparation of this report have a direct or indirect interest in any matter to which this report relates.

Risk Assessment

8. Under section 130 of the Act, Council must adopt the Council Plan 2018-22, Update 2020-21 and 2020-21 Budget by 30 June each year. The timetable provides for the submissions panel report to be item 1 for consideration at the scheduled meeting of Council on Tuesday 23 June 2020.

Environmental Implications

9. The proposed budget identifies the sources and allocation of resources to implement the many environmental initiatives that impact on the community.

Attachment 2

Submissions by Topic

Topic No.	Topic	Submitters Name	Estimated Cost $	Submission No.
1	Bus Shelter Watt St Lara	Mr William Fulton		1
2	Rating - Rate increases - Municipal charge - Farm rates -	Mr John Verikios Mr Ben Flynn Ms Amanda Rimmer Mr Michael Kelly Mr David Jochinke		2 23 51 54 30
3	Northern Suburbs Initiatives - Norlane Community Initiatives - Spruhan Ave Community Hub - Labuan Square renewal - Play space Design Rippleside Playground - Norlane Baptist Church	Mrs Kaylene Reeves Mr Peter Weymouth Mr Austin Paterson Mr Stuart Duncan Ms Nikki Welsh Mr Tim Jeffries Mrs Judith Down Rev Peter Greenwood		3 19 20 22 24 26 41 46
4	Lara Recreation Reserve Masterplan Stage 1 - Redevelopment of netball courts - Pavilion and storage - Tennis Club upgrade	Mr Peter Kelly Mrs Tracey Hall Ms Olga Vaysman Mrs Zoe Day Ms Kate Patston Mrs Fiona Bennett Mrs Vanessa Abela		4 15 16 17 18 27 40
5	Funding for Renew Geelong Project	Mr Ryan Mischkulnig		5
6	Myers Reserve – Bituminise Roadway	Mr Mark Brady Mr Michael Battye Mr Tony Gilson Mr Darryl Washington Mr Andrew Barrett Mr Tony Dosen		6 7 8 9 10 11
7	Ageing Population & COVID-19 Support	Mr Bernard Kelly		12
8	Council Plan Strategic Priority Environmental Management	Dr Sanja Van Huet Ms Suzanne Brown Mrs Anthea Griffiths Mr Michael Skinner Mrs Vicki Perrett		47 57 59 62 65
9	Gambling Reform in Geelong	Ms Katherine Copsey		13
10	Streetscape funding in West Fyans St	Mr Josh Hanneyseee		14
11	Kevin Hoffman Walk Maintenance	Mr Greg Wilson Mr Andrew Hilliard		21 39
12	Seniors Activity Hub Bellarine - Use of Eversley Drive Facility - Feasibility study for new hub	Mr Paul Taylor Mr Martin Wilson		25 36
13	Chilwell Library Meeting Hub	Mrs Lynne Dowling		28
14	St Leonards Infrastructure - Skate Park - Beautification of CBD - Footpaths	Mr Denis O'Bryan Ms Libby Lesock Mrs Phyllis Edmonstone Mr Jim Edmonstone Mr Wade Coleman		29 31 33 34 34 35
15	Regional Sports Development Opportunities - Soccer - Basketball	Mr Kevin O'Byrne Mr Mark Neeld		32 55
16	Road Sealing Newcombe St Drysdale	Ms Teagan Gibbs		37
17	Lara Shared Path Network	Mr Andrew Hilliard		38
18	Traffic Issues- McKillop St East Geelong	Mr Alan Wilkins		42

Submissions by Topic				
Topic No.	**Topic**	**Submitters Name**	**Estimated Cost $**	**Submission No.**
	- Traffic calming measures - Heavy Vehicle Restrictions - Pedestrian Crossing at Eastern Hub - Reduced speed limit in McKillop St	Mr Terry Slaymaker Mrs Barb Zacutti Mr Paul Rettke Mrs Janette Bennett Ms Sarah Brown Mr James Mears Mr Frank Kennedy		43 44 45 48 49 56 64
19	North Bellarine Aquatic Centre	Mr Anne Brackley Ms Gina Bell		50 58
20	Shared Trails Masterplan Funding	Mr Bob Jordan		52
21	General Commentary on Budget	Ms Sue Tresize		53
22	Footpath infrastructure - Grovedale	Ms Sarah Roberts		60
23	Ground Maintenance – Bell Park Sports Club	Mr David Secen		63
24	Sporting Facilities Upgrade - Landy Field - Manifold Heights Cricket Club - Guild Cricket Club	Ms Christine Couzens		66
25	Action on Climate Change	Sally Fisher		61
26	Lara Tree Maintenance and Streetscape	Laurene Wilks		68

Late submissions were received as follows:

Submissions by Topic				
Topic No.	Topic	Submitters Name	Estimated Cost $	Submission No.
27	Kingston Park Ocean Grove Maintenance	Ms Karen Hose		67
28	Sporting Facilities Upgrade - Geelong Little Athletics	Mr Joel Grist	$100k	69

A complete listing of all submissions in order of receipt is shown in Attachment 4.

Discussion

1. In accordance with the Act, the Submissions review panel appointed by Council must consider every submission received. Further, the person lodging the submission may have the opportunity to speak in support of their submission, providing a specific request is received.

2. The making of submissions in respect of the Council Plan and Budget is an important opportunity for the community to have input into the planning process.

3. Having considered all submissions, the Submissions Panel will need to formulate a recommendation to Council which may either:

   3.1 Resolve that having considered submissions received in relation to the Council Plan and Budget, the Council Plan or Budget be adopted without change; or

   3.2 That having considered submissions received in relation to the Council Plan and Budget, the Council Plan or Budget be varied.

4. The following submissions were, received in response to the 2018-22 Council Plan, Update 2020-21 and Proposed 2020-21 Budget. The submissions have been summarised in this report and officer comments and recommendations are provided for the Panels' consideration.

1. WILLIAM FULTON – BUS SHELTER WATT STREET LARA

Mr William Fulton provides a submission in response to the proposed 2020-21 Budget. Mr Fulton acknowledges the erection of a bus stop at the entrance to the Lifestyle Village in Watt St Lara completed in January 2019 and seeks further enhancements to the bus stop by provision of a bus shelter to provide weather protection for the elderly residents.

Officer Comments

Council's Proposed Budget for 2020-21 currently makes provision of $35,000 for the installation of a bus shelter in front of Lifestyle Village in Watt St, Lara. Pending final budget approval, these works will be planned to be delivered prior to Christmas 2020.

2. RATING

JOHN VERIKOS – IMPACT OF RATE INCREASES ON SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS IN GEELONG

Mr John Verikios provides a submission in response to the proposed 2020-21 Budget. Mr Verikios notes the disparity between increases in residential and commercial rates for small business owners and its impacts on small business in Geelong. Mr Verikios requests council consider the disproportion between the rate types (commercial rates being >3 times that of residential rates) and provide information on how the rates are determined in comparison with other municipalities.

Officer Comments

Please refer to the table below to show that commercial rates compared to a residential property of the same value are not triple.

Year	Residential to Commercial Relativity	Residential Rates $500,000	Commercial Rates $500,000	Difference	Valuation Increase-Residential	Valuation Increase-Commercial
2013-14	204.0%	$ 1,332.50	$ 2,718.50	$ 1,386.00		
2014-15	208.6%	$ 1,355.00	$ 2,827.00	$ 1,472.00	2.16%	2.49%
2015-16	208.6%	$ 1,416.00	$ 2,954.00	$ 1,538.00		
2016-17	200.4%	$ 1,369.50	$ 2,744.50	$ 1,375.00	5.40%	11.80%
2017-18	204.9%	$ 1,397.00	$ 2,862.50	$ 1,465.50		
2018-19	226.0%	$ 1,192.50	$ 2,695.00	$ 1,502.50	19.60%	8.20%
2019-20	241.8%	$ 1,080.93	$ 2,613.95	$ 1,533.02	13.10%	6.70%
2020-21	222.6%	$ 1,193.13	$ 2,655.84	$ 1,462.71	0.60%	5.30%

The fire services property levy is not a Council charge. The rates are set by the State Government. Council bill, collect and remit the levy as per legislation.

Under the *Local Government Act 1989*, councils may use differential rating to meet the needs of each individual municipality. No one Council is the same as another Council.

The relativity between commercial and residential varies greatly between councils. Please refer to the table below:

Residential to Commercial Relativity for 2019-20						
	Less than 100%	100%	101% to 150%	151% to 200%	201% to 250%	Over 251%
Number of Councils	5	28	31	9	5	1

A total of 2,642 small commercial properties or 44% of total commercial properties will receive a zero rate increase or a decrease in rates levied compared to 2019-20. In addition, The City of Greater Geelong has a number of financial assistance initiatives to assist businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

BEN FLYNN – COMMERCIAL RATE INCREASES

Mr Ben Flynn on behalf of the Geelong Chamber of Commerce provides a submission in response to the proposed 2020-21 Budget. The Geelong Chamber of Commerce requests that commercial rates for the City remain at current levels with no increase given the current economic environment.

The Chamber is concerned that commercial rate increases on top of substantial increases in property valuations will be an additional burden on businesses and potential impact to commercial tenancies in the CBD.

Geelong Chamber of Commerce commend the City on their support initiatives but believe a freeze on the commercial rate increase and the property revaluation also needs to occur to ensure struggling businesses are not hit with additional costs at a time when they are getting back on their feet. A collective response to reduce the burden on commercial ratepayers will assist businesses to reopen and thrive. To rebuild the confidence of the business community we are requesting that there is no increase at all to commercial rates.

Officer Comments

The City of Greater Geelong acknowledges receipt of your submission in relation to the 2020-21 Budget and Council Plan 2018-22 Update 2020-21.

In relation to the valuation of commercial properties in the future, the Valuer-General Victoria has confirmed that no changes have been made to requirements under the Valuation Best Practice Specifications Guidelines as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The 2020 general valuation has a relevant date of 1 January 2020 and is therefore based on market conditions at, and immediately before, that date. There is no basis under the Valuation of Land Act 1960 for valuers to consider coronavirus (COVID-19) impacts when assessing statutory values for the purposes of the 2020 general valuation. Any market changes occurring now, or in the future, due to coronavirus (COVID-19) will be applicable to future annual revaluation cycles.

We have been working with commercial property owners and tenants who have outstanding rates on an individual case by case basis.

We have also provided immediate relief to those suffering financially as a result of the restrictions, to date releasing $4.9 million in targeted support measures for local businesses, community groups and individuals, including reduction of rent for commercial tenants in City buildings, refund of various permits and free car parking.

The City does not make a windfall gain when property valuations increase. Any increase to the total valuations of the municipality is adjusted by recalculating the rate in the dollar. In the case of commercial for 2020-21, the rate in the dollar will increase by 1.6%.

The municipal charge will be removed from 2020-21 directly benefiting ratepayers with lower property values. Please refer to two commercial property examples:

Example 1	CIV	Rates	Municipal Charge	
2019-20	590,000	3,084.46	105.25	3,189.71
2020-21	590,000	3,133.89	-	3,133.89
Reduction in rates payable				- 55.81

Example 2	CIV	Rates	Municipal Charge	
2019-20	1,120,000	5,855.24	105.25	5,960.49
2020-21	1,120,000	5,949.08	-	5,949.08
Reduction in rates payable				- 11.41

2,642 of 5,977 of commercial properties will have a zero increase in rates payable for 2020-21.

An increase to all rate types is required to support the community's medium and long term recovery from COVID-19.

DAVID JOCHINKE – FARM RATES

Mr David Jochinke on behalf of the Victorian Farmers Federation provides a submission in response to the proposed 2020-21 Budget. The submission encourages a fair and balanced rating strategy and request to partner Council to advocate an overhaul to Victoria's rating system.

Officer Comments

The City encourages the retention of primary producing farms and provide support via a discount rate. For 2019-20, farms are rated at 80% of the residential rate in the dollar and receive a 33.3% rebate.

Example	Average CIV for Farm	Rate in $	Rates payable	Rebate 33.3%	Amount Payable
Farm Rate	2,152,829	0.00172948	3,723	- 1,240	2,483
Residential Rate		0.00216185	4,654		4,654
Difference					2,171

For 2020-21 the City is proposing farms to be rated at 61.2% of the residential rate and receive a 15.2% rebate.

Example	Average CIV for Farm	Rate in $	Rates payable	Rebate 33.3%	Amount Payable
Farm Rate	2,152,829	0.00145965	3,142	- 478	2,664
Residential Rate		0.00238626	5,137		5,137
Difference					2,473

The City of Greater Geelong's support for farms compares very favourably to rates charged by surrounding councils. The table below refers to rates in 2019-20.

	Relativity of Residential to Farm	Rebate
City of Greater Geelong	80.0%	33.3%
Surf Coast Shire	75.0%	0%
Golden Plains Shire	90.0%	0%
Colac Otway Shire	88.2%	0%

The total rate contribution from the farming sector in the City for 2020-21 is $2.104M compared to 2019-20 $2.125M.

The 2020-21 rate in the dollar 0.00145965 has decreased by 15.6% from 0.00172948 in 2019-20.

AMANDA RIMMER - RATE INCREASE

Ms Amanda Rimmer provides a submission in response to the 2020-21 proposed budget. The submission requests the planned 1.9% rate increase for 2020-21 be removed.

Officer Comments

The City of Greater Geelong has adopted three support packages, valued at an estimated $5.45m to assist businesses, community groups and residents impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. A further $5.8m in budgeted for in 2020-21. An increase in rates is required to fund a portion of the assistance being provided.

The relativity for the commercial rate in the dollar compared to the residential rate in the dollar has reduced from 241.8% in 2019-20 to a proposed 222.6% in 2020-21.

It is difficult to compare rates charged by other municipalities. The valuations are different, as are each council's needs.

The average capital improved value of a commercial property in the City of Wyndham is $1,621,126, Surf Coast Shire is $798,644 compared to Geelong at $999,644.

MICHAEL KELLY – PROPOSED REMOVAL OF MUNICIPAL CHARGE

Mr Michael Kelly provides a submission in response to the 2020-21 proposed budget and Council's proposal to remove the municipal charge from July 2020-21 in the interests of fairness and asks Council to consider that structural changes to the City of Greater Geelong rating system should be avoided in the proposed budget. The outcomes from a review of Local Government rating are to be announced in 2020 and these recommendations and community engagement should be used to develop an updated rating strategy.

Officer Comments

As you have outlined in your budget submission, the municipal charge is regressive in nature.

The City attended a meeting with the Victorian Local Government Rating System Review panel in 2019 and provided written comments to the Municipal Association of Victoria for inclusion in their submission.

More than 50% of Victorian Councils do not have a municipal charge. Of those councils that do have a municipal charge, it is set from as low as $20.00 to $348.24.

The Local Government Act 2020, does not have rating sections as the final Local Government Rating Review paper is currently under review. Earlier discussions were that the municipal charge was to be reduced from 20% of the total revenue to 10% of total revenue. This shows that the municipal charge is not the preferred method of raising rate revenue.

The preliminary valuation levels for 2020-21 are 1.0% increase overall with 0.6% increase for residential properties. Out of the 113,060 residential properties, 68% will have a less than 2% increase in rates payable.

The waste charge only seeks to recover the City's costs. The increase is largely due to the proposed increase in the Environment Protection Authority levy to $85.90/tonne from 1 January 2021.

The City has introduced a comprehensive hardship policy to assist ratepayers in need which includes the waiver of rates in exceptional circumstances.

The changes to the municipal charge have been well received by the community and communicated in various forums to engage the community. Councillors have been open and transparent in this change and agree that the charge is regressive and needs to be removed.

3. NORTHERN SUBURBS INITIATIVES – NORLANE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES, LABUAN SQUARE RENEWAL, SPRUHAN AVENUE COMMUNITY HUB, NORLANE BAPTIST CHURCH, RIPPLESIDE PLAYGROUND

Submissions responding to the proposed 2020-21 Budget were received from: Mrs Kaylene Reeves, Mr Peter Weymouth, Mr Austin Paterson, Mr Stuart Duncan, Mr Tim Jeffries, Ms Judith Down and Rev. Peter Greenwood and Ms Nikki Welsh.

These submissions support the funding allocation of $400k for facilities upgrades that allow the Norlane Community Initiative project to provide vital resources and services to the local community. Further support is provided for the $125k proposed project to commence upgrades to Labuan Square, Norlane. The submission from Nikki Welsh supports the Rippleside playground and requests that all new and upgraded play spaces, in particular the play space at Grantham Drive, Council adopt a design which provides access and inclusion for all.

Officer Comments

Thank you for your submission and information about the work of the Norlane Community Initiative. Your support for funding of the Norlane Community Initiative and the Labuan Square project is noted.

The City seeks to embrace principles of accessible and inclusive design in all new play spaces. This will be a key consideration in improving the community's access, use and enjoyment of the Grantham Drive reserve. The design phase of this project will include a community engagement process in order to understand and best meet the diverse needs of park users.

4. LARA RECREATION RESERVE MASTERPLAN PROJECT – STAGE 1

Submissions responding to the proposed 2020-21 Budget were received from: Mr Peter Kelly, Mrs Tracey Hall, Ms Olga Vaysman, Mrs Zoe Day, Ms Kate Patston, Mrs Fiona Bennett and Ms Vanessa Abela.

The submissions support the funding allocation of $2,000,000 for the implementation of the Lara Recreation Reserve Masterplan. The funding for redevelopment of the netball courts and supporting infrastructure is welcomed and will provide a significant asset for the local sporting clubs and community.

Officer Comments

Your support for the proposed works at Lara Recreation Reserve is welcome and has been noted. The City is in support of providing updated and improved infrastructure required to support the development of netball and tennis participation at the Lara Recreation Reserve. Funding proposed within the 2020-21 budget will support the implementation of Stage 1 of the recently endorsed Lara Recreation Reserve Master Plan. Planning will commence for new netball courts and a redeveloped Netball / Tennis Pavilion to support both sports in 2020-21, with construction to follow.

5. RYAN MISCHKULNIG - FUNDING FOR RENEW GEELONG INITIATIVE

Mr Ryan Mischkulnig provides a submission in response to the proposed 2020-21 Budget. Mr Mischkulnig notes the absence of funding in the proposed budget and the importance of a project which allows businesses, start-up opportunities, at a low cost, in central Geelong CBD vacant retail space, businesses impacted by COVID-19 pandemic.

Officer Comments

The City is acutely aware of the impact the pandemic is having on many organisations, not least the arts, cultural and entertainment industries. Council has charged the Arts and Culture Branch with undertaking a review of the immediate and longer-term needs of the arts community.

The G-CAR (Covid Arts Recovery) Panel, commenced meetings the week 11 May and has been established to understand the impact the pandemic is having on artists. The Panel comprises 21 of the region's artists and arts professionals.

Concurrently planning and consultation with the sector is underway to develop a 10-year Arts and Cultural Strategy. The value and significance of spaces for artists within the city is a key component of these conversations.

We hope new priorities identified by local artists and arts organisations through our Panel and Strategy work will inform Council's ongoing commitment to the arts. Please do not hesitate to communicate with the City's Arts and Culture department officers.

6. MYERS RESERVE – BITUMINISE ACCESS ROAD INTO RESERVE

Submissions responding to the proposed 2020-21 Budget were received from: Mr Tony Dosen, Mr Andrew Barrett, Mr Darryl Washington, Mr Tony Gilson, Mr Michael Battye and Mr Mark Brady. The submissions support the funding allocation of $500,000 for the bituminising of the access road into Myers Reserve and surrounding roadway access to sporting fields.

Officer Comments

Council's proposed budget for 2020-21 currently makes provision to provide an asphalt surface for the access road into Myers Reserve. Should this item be approved in the final budget for 2020-21, an investigation will take place to determine the scope of this project based on ground conditions, existing pavement, drainage requirements, and community consultation. Design to commence in new financial year and construction to be scheduled around sporting activities to minimise disruption.

7. BERNARD KELLY - INCREASE IN THE CITY'S AGING POPULATION AND SUPPORT MEASURES FOR COVID-19 IMPACTED UNEMPLOYED

Mr Bernard Kelly provides a submission in response to the proposed 2020-21 Budget. Mr Kelly notes the proposed Budget and Council Plan have no significant focus on the rising average age of population >65 years in Geelong. In addition, Mr Kelly notes the absence of options to support retrenched employees impacted by COVID-19. A suggestion is made to reskill the unemployed to self-employment.

Officer Comments

Community Care monitors demand for service delivery to older residents in our region, and we are currently meeting almost 100% of the referrals we receive under the Commonwealth Home Support Program. We have clear targets for service delivery aligned to this funding, and as demand changes, we communicate with the Commonwealth about potential changes to these targets. As the Commonwealth administers this funding, their role is to consider demographic changes when reviewing funding allocations.

Council has commended the development of a positive ageing strategy that will focus Council's attention and resources around providing adequate support for older residents who may receive the Commonwealth's government assistance package or who are independent. Council was planning to have broad community engagement around this Strategy, however, due to the COVID-19 crisis, this engagement has been deferred. Once the restrictions are

eased, we plan to continue our engagement plan and seek opinions and opportunities that will help frame this Strategy.

Council has also recently coordinated the development of an Ageing Well Advisory Committee. Community members were invited to write an expression of interest and submissions have been received. This important Committee will be chaired by a Councillor and again will provide valuable input and advice in shaping our positive ageing strategy and providing advice around other supports that our aging population will require into the future.

The City of Greater Geelong has adopted two support packages, valued at an estimated $5.45m to assist businesses, community groups and residents impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. A further $5.8m in budgeted for in 2020-21. An increase in rates is required to fund a portion of the assistance being provided.

8. COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITY – EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Submissions responding to the proposed 2020-21 Budget were received from Dr Sanja Van Huet, Ms Suzanne Brown, Mrs Anthea Griffiths, Mr Michael Skinner, Vicki Perrett on behalf of Geelong Sustainability. The submissions challenge that the budget does not achieve the strategic priority and not adequately demonstrates how leadership is shown to address waste, climate change and environmental challenges.

Officer Comments

The City is committed to ensuring that sustainability is part of 'how we do business'. The Sustainability Framework and associated action plan identifies priority actions. The allocation of $250k in the 2020-21 Council Budget is for the implementation of these priority actions. While the review of our strategies and policies will be undertaken by the responsible department to ensure alignment with the Sustainability Framework, this budget allocation will be used to support and monitor the implementation of this review and subsequent programs of work.

The City also recognises that it is important to build the capability and capacity of our staff to create a culture of sustainability – our culture is created by our people, so we need to ensure our workforce is supported to think and act sustainably.

We recognise that much of the initial focus of the Sustainability Framework and associated action plan is internally focused – this is a deliberate decision to "get our house in order" to be in a better position to align our work with community priorities and deliver better outcomes for both current and future residents, including the support of community generated projects and action.

Part of the funding allocation for the Sustainability Framework will be used to develop reporting processes to ensure we can measure the benefits of Framework, including the tangible environmental benefits. Measurement and reporting are required to ensure we are accountable to our community. The allocation of funds to establish robust processes and reporting procedures is essential if we want the Sustainability Framework to be valuable, meaningful and effective.

The Framework has three key focuses including *Environmental solutions and impact minimisation* and the first priority action is to review and implement several strategies and plans, including the Environment Strategy and the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy. All reviewed strategies and plans will include performance measures and targets.

In relation to goals within our Environment Strategy the City is currently seeking feedback on the draft Environment Strategy https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/DraftEnvStrategy-2020-2030

This strategy will be supported by action plans including the Climate Change Response Plan (refer to below) that will include performance measures.

As this review of strategies and plans continues, we will be better able to understand the cumulative benefit of the Framework actions and capture this in the reporting processes and tools. The City will report to the community on an annual basis on the progress of the Framework and Action Plans, including environmental, social and economic benefits. We anticipate tangible environment benefits to include:

- increased tree canopy through the implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy and urban greening prioritisation plan;
- increased area of conservation reserves managed by the City;
- increased biodiversity protection through 100% compliance with pest and weed management legislation;
- better use of valuable natural resources through our Stormwater Services Strategy and the development of an integrated water management plan with Barwon Water; and
- the diversion of organic waste from landfill.

It is important to note the extensive range of programs and actions currently being undertaken by the City, often in partnership with stakeholders.

The conversion of Council's electricity contracts to 100% renewable energy is a significant action which will help drive investment in renewable energy and reduce greenhouse emissions by many thousands of tonnes per annum. This work is guided by our Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy.

Council has now exceeded 1MW of rooftop solar installations on Council owned community buildings and will be continuing this work in 2020-21.

Council has commenced review of the Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy and the City's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. The new Climate Change Response Plan will drive further initiatives to reduce emissions and respond to climate change risks. A review of previous work carried out to date and stakeholder engagement has commenced and a Draft Plan is expected to be presented to Council at the end of this financial year. This work will provide further opportunity for the community to have a say in relation to our climate change programs.

Council understands the strategic planning opportunities associated with the development of new urban growth areas and the importance of incorporating sustainability in the early planning stages of development. At the forefront of this work is designing sustainable communities for the North West Geelong Growth Areas, which will be similar in size to Ballarat and will ultimately be home to 110,000 new residents.

Council will be developing a cutting-edge tool to test various development scenarios against best practice sustainability indicators to inform development approvals. This work will be funded via developer contributions. Council will also employ a Strategic Environmental Planner to develop a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the North West Geelong Growth Areas.

In relation to biodiversity the City manages over 1300 hectares for biodiversity conservation and enhancement. This work lead by our Environment and Biodiversity Team in partnership with dedicated community groups, individuals and stakeholders has resulted in reduced pest plants and animals, improved biodiversity in our reserves and roadsides, protection of threatened species and the planting of hundreds of thousands of indigenous plants.

The City has recently acquired the 500 hectare Sparrovale Wetland which adjoins the internationally protected wetland systems of Lake Connewarre. The draft Masterplan for

Sparrovale Wetland is currently out for community comment on the City's Have Your Say website. The Sparrovale Wetland is home to many bird species, including the endangered Orange Bellied Parrot and has a number of different ecological vegetation communities will be enhanced in future years.

Last year the City initiated the Restoring Rural Landscapes Project which is a large scale restoration project of rural landscapes with a focus on addressing pest plants and animals issues. The program has received an additional $240,000 in the 2020-21 budget. This complements existing programs that support extensive pest plant and animal control in our roadside biodiversity areas and reserves.

The City plant over 20,000 tube stock each year and provide the conditions on our nature reserves for thousands of native plants to naturally regenerate. In addition, we maintain and plant a substantial number of street trees to enhance biodiversity in our urban areas.

The Hooded Plover Conservation Action Plan was passed unanimously by Council in 2019 and funds a program of activities to help protect one of the regions most endangered birds. This program has received national attention for the successful partnership between the City, community, Birdlife and other stakeholders.

In addition to our general community environmental grants program the City provides assistance to landholders via two private land incentive programs to enhance biodiversity on their land in the Swan Bay and Little River Catchment.

A report on Geelong's biodiversity is currently being prepared this will incorporate our recently completed biodiversity mapping on all rural roadsides and across its nature reserve network. This will form the basis for the review of the Biodiversity Strategy which will be undertaken this year.

In relation to reducing waste to landfill the City has recently endorsed its new Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy. This incorporates extensive community and stakeholder input. Reducing waste to landfill and developing a circular economy are key themes throughout the Strategy. In this regard the City has undertaken the following steps:

- Developed the garden organics processing centre which processes residents green bin garden waste into compost. The compost is subsequently used on local farms and is an excellent example of a large scale circular economy in action. The facility opened early last year and can process up to 35,000 tonnes of material per annum;
- Installed additional recycling and e-waste facilities at the Geelong and Drysdale Resource Recovery Centres. These upgrades opened during 2019 enable residents to dispose of recyclable materials and electronic waste and keep this material from landfill;
- Introduced the highly successful residential hard waste service in 2019. This service has collected material from over 20,000 homes in its first year and approximately 25% of this was recycled or re-used;
- In the 2020-21 financial year, the City has allocated $450,000 to deliver a food waste collection trial and prepare a business case for food organics processing facility to support food waste initiatives; and
- Installed greenhouse gas capture technology at its Drysdale Landfill. This gas is now used to power a 1 MW generator which provides enough power for approximately 300 homes.

The draft Environment Strategy highlights the City's key waste targets. Extensive list of waste targets and actions are listed in the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-30, adopted by Council in April 2020. The City has aligned our waste targets with the new Victorian

Government's Recycling Victoria policy. Waste reduction targets are set to divert 80 per cent of waste from landfill by 2030, and an interim target of 72 per cent by 2025.

Delivery of the green spine project is now being undertaken by the State Government.

9. KATHERINE COPSEY - GAMBLING REFORM IN GEELONG

Ms Katherine Copsey on behalf of the Alliance for Gambling Reform provides a submission in response to the proposed 2020-21 Budget. The Alliance for Gambling Reform is seeking $25k funding from the City for a partnered campaign with Alliance 23 and other local councils and partner organisations to advocate for state and national legislative reforms.

Officer Comments

The Alliance for Gambling Reform (AGR) – is a group of organisations who work together to share ideas and resources with the aim of reducing the harm from gambling, from EGMs. The City understands the potential negative impacts on the community through problem gambling. Whilst it acknowledges the importance of the AGR, the City is currently reviewing its Gambling Policy and may consider a partnered campaign as part of this review.

10. JOSH HANNEYSEE – WEST FYANS ST STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

Mr Josh Hanneysee provides a submission in response to the proposed 2020-21 Budget. Mr Hanneysee notes the $50k funding allocated for streetscape improvements in West Fyans St is inadequate and should be increased to address the lack of footpath infrastructure and car parking in the vicinity of Rutland Street which is unsafe for pedestrians trying to access the Barwon River and surrounds.

Officer Comments

In the 2020-21 financial year the City is committed to the repair and renewal of Rutland Street between Pakington and Hampton Streets in Newtown. This is part of the City's annual street renewal program which is funded every year.

The proposed budget allocation of $50k is in addition to this renewal program. The contribution will be used to upgrade signage, provide street trees where appropriate and review car parking and footpath requirements.

The existing Fyans-West Fyans Street Precinct Structure Plan 2009 identifies further work that the City should undertake to help facilitate high density residential development within the area.

In the past 18 months the City has undertaken a drainage and traffic study. These projects have identified the need to upgrade infrastructure within the area to improve stormwater management and to move people and vehicles more safely through the area. The Structure Plan is due to be reviewed. Once completed, council officers will be able to identify and prioritise infrastructure upgrades in the area.

11. KEVIN HOFFMAN WALK MAINTENANCE

Submissions responding to the proposed 2020-21 Budget were received from Mr Greg Wilson on behalf of the Friends of Kevin Hoffman Walk and Mr Andrew Hilliard. The submissions acknowledge the allocation of $50k in the proposed budget to fund annual maintenance of the Kevin Hoffman Walk in Lara.

Officer Comments

The City looks forward to continuing to work with the Friends of Kevin Hoffman walk, and provide maintenance and improvements to the Kevin Hoffman walk for the Lara community.

12. SENIORS ACTIVITY HUB - BELLARINE

RELOCATION OF DRYSDALE SENIORS TO EVERSLEY DRIVE FACILITY

Mr Paul Taylor provides a submission on behalf of Drysdale Seniors Group in response to the proposed 2020-21 Budget. The Drysdale Seniors Group note the redevelopment of the Eversley Street facility and note the relocation of the group is not included in the budget.

Officer Comments

Council have funded the redevelopment of the Drysdale Town Square and the design and construction of a new library hub in the town square in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years. The design tender has been awarded for the library development.

Site constraints have led to discussion with the seniors regarding relocating their program and activities to the Eversley Street facility (which has been vacated by Drysdale early years' service who have relocated to the new Drysdale Child & Family Centre).

To enable the library development to progress, the senior citizens building is to be demolished and the seniors program have agreed to be relocated to Eversley Street facility.

Upgrading the Eversley Street facility is a precursor project to ensure it is fit for use by the Drysdale Senior Citizens prior to the demolition of their existing facility and the local community for a range of activities.

BELLARINE PENINSULA SENIORS COMMUNITY HUB

Mr Martin Wilson on behalf of the Bellarine Peninsula Seniors Activity Hub Development Committee provides a submission in response to the 2020-21 proposed budget. The Committee request inclusion into the 2020-21 budget funding for a feasibility study to build a seniors activity hub adjacent to the Marcus Hill Memorial site, a funding allocation for design and development of the activity hub (on Council land).

Officer Comments

This submission should be read alongside the request for redevelopment of a new senior citizens facility at Eversley Street, Drysdale to host a range of activities and services for seniors.

There is potential to request that the both submitters be brought together to identify future options for accommodating the needs of seniors in the northern Bellarine, specifically in relation to the Marcus Hill Hall and the Eversley Street, Drysdale locations.

Should council wish to support some preliminary future planning in 20-21 a budget allocation for planning of $30,000 would be appropriate.

13. LYNNE DOWLING – CHILWELL LIBRARY ASSET UPGRADE TO COMMUNITY HUB AND MEETING ROOMS

Ms Lynne Dowling provides a submission in response to the proposed 2020-21 Budget. The submission requests the proposed budget allocate funding for the Chilwell Library, Maternal Child Heath Centre and Sladen park and playground be combined into a Community Hub and with meeting space. A request for further upgrades to the MCHC and Sladen Park landscape and play space.

Officer Comments

The submission indicates support for the funding in the 2020-21 budget related to the Newtown/ Chilwell library.

It should be noted that the Newtown/Chilwell Library funding is $50k and is only for the development of additional meeting space within the library.

The upgrade of the Sladen Park toilet block is recognised in the Social Infrastructure Plan and will be considered in future budgets.

14. ST LEONARDS INFRASTRUCTURE, SKATE PARK, CBD, PARKING AND FORESHORE

Submissions responding to the proposed 2020-21 Budget were received from Mr Denis O'Bryan, Ms Libby Lesock, Mrs Phyllis Edmonstone, Mr Jim Edmonstone, Mr Wade Coleman. The submissions acknowledge the proposed funding for the design of a skate park in St Leonards and further request upgrades to streetscape improvements, infrastructure assets, provision of increased parking in the town centre, tree and foreshore maintenance.

Officer Comments

The $250k allocated for stage 2 of the Murradoc Road streetscape will continue treatments to footpaths, landscaping and lighting. Maintenance of assets is included in overall infrastructure maintenance budgets for the City. Should there be items needing attention. please report them to the City via the Geelong City app or by contacting customer service.

The opportunity to increase parking on private property is noted however not included in the proposed 2020-21 budget. Further work is required to determine the demand for parking in the St Leonards township.

The foreshore path and trees are located on land managed by Bellarine Bayside Committee of Management. We can refer your request regarding paths and tree management to the committee for their consideration.

Trees within the City's road reserves are maintained by our Tree Unit and your request will be forwarded to them for review.

The Yacht Club is located on land managed by DELWP. We can refer your request regarding boat storage to them for their consideration.

The skate park has an allocation of $30,000 in the 20-21 budget to commence planning for a new skate park in St Leonards.

The $30,000 allocation for planning and designing a new skate park is undertaken to inform future council deliberations about the type, scale and cost of building a new skate park which will be considered in future budgets.

15. BUSINESS CASE NEW REGIONAL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

KEVIN O'BYRNE – BUSINESS CASE NEW REGIONAL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT (SOCCER)

Mr Kevin O'Bryne on behalf of the Football Victoria provides a submission in response to the proposed 2020-21 Budget. The submission notes the increase in community demand for sporting facilities in regional Victoria and supports the feasibility study for a new regional sports development opportunity.

Officer Comments

The support of Football Victoria for this project as a strategic priority is acknowledged.

MARK NEELD – BUSINESS CASE NEW REGIONAL SPORTS DEVELOPMENT (BASKETBALL/NETBALL)

Mr Mark Neeld on behalf of the Geelong United Basketball provides a submission in response to the proposed 2020-21 Budget. The submission supports the feasibility study for new regional sports development opportunities and working with the City towards a joint sporting facility to service the needs of Geelong United participants and the wider Geelong Community.

Officer Comments

The support of Geelong United Basketball for this project as a strategic priority is acknowledged.

16. TEAGAN GIBBS – ROAD SEALING NEWCOMBE ST DRYSDALE

Ms Teagan Gibbs provides a submission in response to the 2020-21 proposed budget. A request is made for the road surface in Newcombe Street Drysdale to be sealed.

Officer Comments

Newcombe Street was not required to be sealed when the lots were created. New developments like The Glen and Waterway Court were built under current subdivision standards. Construction of unmade streets such as Newcombe Street pavement are delivered via a special rates and charges scheme whereby abutting property owners contribute to the cost of the works. Elgin and Granville Streets could be included in the scheme. We would seek the support of all property owners before proceeding with a scheme. Station Street was constructed under this process. In the interim, maintenance of the unsealed roads will continue to be actioned.

17. ANDREW HILLIARD – LARA SHARED PATH NETWORK

Mr Andrew Hilliard provides a submission in response to the 2020-21 proposed budget. The submission notes the omission of funding for the Lara Shared Path Network (Flinders Avenue to Pineview Court).

Officer Comments

The shared path north of Flinders Avenue is identified in the Lara component of the Shared Trails Masterplan (STMP) and is recognised as part of the principal pedestrian network for Lara. This project will be considered in the implementation of the STMP in future programs. It is not included in the priority projects to be delivered in 2020-21.

18. TRAFFIC ISSUES – MCKILLOP STREET EAST GEELONG

Submissions responding to the proposed 2020-21 Budget were received from Mr Alan Wilkins, Mr Terry Slaymaker, Mrs Barb Zacutti, Mr Paul Rettke, Ms Janette Bennett, Ms Sarah Brown, Mr James Mears and Mr Frank Kennedy. The submissions request funding for immediate traffic calming measures to support pedestrian safety in McKillop Street East Geelong. Further measures to be put in place to restrict truck use in the section of McKillop Street from Ormond Road to Boundary Round, reduce speed limits, the establishment of a roundabout and installation of a pedestrian crossing at the Eastern Hub, which has had a measurable increase in pedestrian and vehicle traffic to the centre.

Officer Comments

We have identified intersection treatments in McKillop Street to support traffic calming and pedestrian safety. Not funded in 2020-21, however we will monitor the location for pedestrian movements, traffic speed and truck volumes to inform future works programs.

The Transport Network Operating Plan for Central Geelong (TNOP) was rejected by Council. The development of an Implementation Plan would have commenced immediately following the adoption of the TNOP. The plan included treatments on McKillop Street.

We are in discussion with the Department of Transport to seek a way forward to further enhance the plan to support the wider transport network outside of Central Geelong.

19. NORTH BELLARINE AQUATIC CENTRE – FUNDING FOR DESIGN

Submissions responding to the proposed 2020-21 Budget were received from Ms Anne Brackley, Ms Gina Bell. The submissions thank Council for the inclusion of funding in the proposed budget for the design of the North Bellarine Aquatic Centre.

Officer Comments

Support for the funding of the North Bellarine Aquatic Centre detailed design is noted. The matters raised in the submission will be under consideration as part of the detailed design process.

20. BOB JORDAN – SHARED TRAILS MASTERPLAN FUNDING

Mr Bob Jordan provides a submission in response to the 2020-21 proposed budget. The submission notes the lack of funding for priority projects identified in the Shared Trails Masterplan adopted by Council on 24 March 2020.

Officer Comments

The shared trails master plan has identified Network Gaps, Trail Gaps and Trail Deficiencies.

$250k has been allocated in 2020-21 to commence the scoping and detailed investigation and design of the priority Network Gaps. Funding in subsequent years either via Council budget or grant opportunities will provide for the implementation of the projects.

With regard to trail gaps, we confirm that funding is available in the current 2019-20 budget to support the off-road path between the 13th Beach Surf Life Saving Club and the western car park on 13th Beach Road using $200k from this year's shared trails budget allocation. This project will be carried out in partnership with the Barwon Coast Committee of Management.

Core renewal and maintenance funding is allocated annually towards trail deficiencies and includes sealing of existing trails, provision of supporting facilities such as signage, seating, dog bins and water fountains.

Patullos Road widening and shared path construction is a developer funded project identified in the Lara West growth area.

21. SUE TREZISE – GENERAL COMMENTARY ON BUDGET AND COUNCIL PLAN DOCUMENTS

Ms Sue Trezise provides a submission in response to the 2020-21 proposed budget. The submission provides general comments on the budget document in particular Service & Performance Indicators, Capital and Non Capital Programs of work and the Executive Summary.

Officer Comments

The Victorian Government introduced a new Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) which became mandatory for implementation by councils as part of the planning and reporting cycle in 2015-16.

To provide a comprehensive picture of council performance, four indicator sets – service performance, financial performance, sustainable capacity and governance and management – have been developed across three thematic areas – service performance, financial performance and sustainability.

The LGPRF contains 40 service performance indicators across nine common service areas: Animal Management, Aquatic facilities, Food Safety, Governance, Maternal and Child Health, Roads, Statutory Planning, Waste Collection and Libraries.

Section 127(2)(da) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, requires the budget to contain the prescribed outcome indicators and measures of service performance for services funded in the budget. These indicators are to be linked to a strategic objective in the Council budget.

The Council Plan 2018–22, 2020-21 Update document also includes additional 'indicators of success' - how we intend to measure progress towards those objectives - divided into two groups: indicators that the City is accountable for, and municipal measures that we do not directly control but, together with our partners and the community, we seek to influence.

We note and thank you for your support of the budget to create a meeting space at the Chilwell Library. The upgrade of the Sladen Park toilet block is recognised in the Social Infrastructure Plan and will be considered in future budgets.

We thank you for your review of the budget document, your comments have been noted and will be considered in future releases of the budget.

22. SARAH ROBERTS – FOOTPATH INFRASTRUCTURE GROVEDALE

Ms Sarah Roberts provides a submission in response to the 2020-21 proposed budget. The submissions requests the proposed budget include full funding for Coolabah Drive Grovedale footpath to demonstrate the City's commitment to active transport infrastructure.

Officer Comments

I can confirm that the construction of Coolabah Drive footpath is included in the 2020-21 Special Rates and Charges footpath construction program.

Funding for the works will be shared between Council (recognising the wider community benefit) and abutting properties. The percentage of apportionment per property is yet to be determined and the option of a wider catchment apportionment method similar to Ocean Grove principal pedestrian network is being considered. Property owners will have the opportunity to provide input to the project when engagement commences in June and July 2020.

23. DAVID SECEN – BELL PARK SPORTS CLUB GROUND MAINTENANCE

Ms David Secen provides a submission on behalf of the Bell Park Sports Club in response to the 2020-21 proposed budget. The submission requests Council support the maintenance of the Bell Park Sports Club soccer grounds.

Officer Comments

As a matter of policy Council does not subsidise the maintenance of privately held land. To receive consideration the land should be public land. For community clubs on council owned land, under the current policy, the subsidy is around 85%.

There are several sporting facilities and spaces across the municipality held privately. The precedence of subsidising the maintenance of privately held sporting facilities and/or land could result in significantly increased costs for council.

24. CHRISTINE COUZENS – SPORTING FACILITY UPGRADES

Ms Christine Couzens provides a submission in response to the 2020-21 proposed budget. The submission requests Council make provision in the proposed budget to support the upgrade of facilities at Landy Field, Manifold Heights Cricket Club and Guild Cricket Club.

Officer Comments

Landy Field

Officers have been working with the committee previously and recognise there are improvements required for this venue due to age, including the general facilities and public amenities, especially considering this venue currently hosts regional events. As officers have been in consultation with the users in relation to this matter, it is proposed that officers review the need for any immediate maintenance and refer any additional works to the 2021-22 Budget.

Manifold Heights Cricket Club

Officers have contacted the club to understand in more detail the request. Officer advice is that this request is for upgrades to facilities which are still in sufficient operable condition and should not be considered a priority for the 2020-21 Budget.

The club should be encouraged to apply to the State Government under the recently announced the $40 million community club and association program is a key component of the Government's Experience Economy Survival Package.

Further Background.

The club currently has 3 x synthetic lanes and 4 x turf lanes at their current training facility. The clubs current provision aligns with the current Cricket Australia's recommendations for a Community Home Club (3-4 x synthetic lanes; 4-6 x turf lanes).

The existing practice nets have recently (in the last 4 years) been upgraded via a collaborations project. The club has also received funding from the Community Infrastructure Grants Fund in the last 2 years to have power connected to the storage shed located next to the training facility.

Guild Saints Cricket Club

Officers have contacted the club to understand in more detail the request. Officers advice is that this request is for upgrades to facilities which are still in sufficient operable condition and should not be considered a priority for the 2020-21 Budget.

The club should be encouraged to apply to the State Government under the recently announced the $40 million community club and association program is a key component of the Government's Experience Economy Survival Package.

Further background

Netting on the 2 x existing practice wickets were replaced within the last 5 years. Proposal is for 4 x synthetic wickets in addition to the existing turf practice table which spatially would be very challenging to accommodate (if at all) within the reserve.

Given the facilities are still within sufficient operable condition we would not consider this project a priority in the 2020-21 proposed Budget.

25. SALLY FISHER – CLIMATE CHANGE

Ms Sally Fisher provides a submission in response to the 2020-21 proposed budget. The submission requests action on climate change by Council in the delivery of capital and non capital program of work, waste management and food security.

Officer Comments

The City is committed to ensuring that sustainability is part of 'how we do business'. The Sustainability Framework and associated Action Plan identifies priority actions. The allocation of $250k in the 2020-21 Council Budget is for the implementation of these priority actions. While the review of our strategies and policies will be undertaken by the responsible department to ensure alignment with the Sustainability Framework, this budget allocation will be used to support and monitor the implementation of this review and subsequent programs of work.

The City also recognises that it is important to build the capability and capacity of our staff to create a culture of sustainability – our culture is created by our people, so we need to ensure our workforce is supported to think and act sustainably.

We recognise that much of the initial focus of the Sustainability Framework and associated Action Plan is internally focused – this is a deliberate decision to "get our house in order" to be in a better position to align our work with community priorities and deliver better outcomes for both current and future residents, including the support of community generated projects and action.

Part of the funding allocation for the Sustainability Framework will be used to develop reporting processes to ensure we can measure the benefits of Framework, including the tangible environmental benefits. Measurement and reporting are required to ensure we are accountable to our community. The allocation of funds to establish robust processes and reporting procedures is essential if we want the Sustainability Framework to be valuable, meaningful and effective.

The Framework has three key focuses including *Environmental solutions and impact minimisation* and the first priority action is to review and implement several strategies and plans, including the Environment Strategy and the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy. All reviewed strategies and plans will include performance measures and targets.

In relation to goals within our Environment Strategy the City is currently seeking feedback on the draft Environment Strategy https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/DraftEnvStrategy-2020-2030.
This strategy will be supported by action plans including the Climate Change Response Plan (refer to below) that will include performance measures.

As this review of strategies and plans continues we will be better able to understand the cumulative benefit of the Framework actions and capture this in the reporting processes and tools.

The City will report to the community on an annual basis on the progress of the Framework and Action Plans, including environmental, social and economic benefits. We anticipate tangible environment benefits to include:

- increased tree canopy through the implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy and urban greening prioritisation plan
- increased area of conservation reserves managed by the City

- increased biodiversity protection through 100% compliance with pest and weed management legislation
- better use of valuable natural resources through our Stormwater Services Strategy and the development of an integrated water management plan with Barwon Water
- the diversion of organic waste from landfill.

It is important to note the extensive range of programs and actions currently being undertaken by the City, often in partnership with stakeholders.

The conversion of Council's electricity contracts to 100% renewable energy is a significant action which will help drive investment in renewable energy and reduce greenhouse emissions by many thousands of tonnes per annum. This work is guided by our Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy.

Council has now exceeded 1MW of rooftop solar installations on Council owned community buildings and will be continuing this work in 2020-21.

Council has commenced review of the Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy and the City's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. The new Climate Change Response Plan will drive further initiatives to reduce emissions and respond to climate change risks. A review of previous work carried out to date and stakeholder engagement has commenced and a Draft Plan is expected to be presented to Council at the end of this financial year. This work will provide further opportunity for the community to have a say in relation to our climate change programs.

Council understands the strategic planning opportunities associated with the development of new urban growth areas and the importance of incorporating sustainability in the early planning stages of development. At the forefront of this work is designing sustainable communities for the North West Geelong Growth Areas, which will be similar in size to Ballarat and will ultimately be home to 110,000 new residents.

Council will be developing a cutting-edge tool to test various development scenarios against best practice sustainability indicators to inform development approvals. This work will be funded via developer contributions. Council will also employ a Strategic Environmental Planner to develop a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the North West Geelong Growth Areas.

In relation to biodiversity the City manages over 1300 hectares for biodiversity conservation and enhancement. This work lead by our Environment and Biodiversity Team in partnership with dedicated community groups, individuals and stakeholders has resulted in reduced pest plants and animals, improved biodiversity in our reserves and roadsides, protection of threatened species and the planting of hundreds of thousands of indigenous plants.

The City has recently acquired the 500 hectare Sparrovale Wetland which adjoins the internationally protected wetland systems of Lake Connewarre. The draft Masterplan for Sparrovale Wetland is currently out for community comment on the City's Have Your Say website. The Sparrovale Wetland is home to many bird species, including the endangered Orange Bellied Parrot and has a number of different ecological vegetation communities will be enhanced in future years.

Last year the City initiated the Restoring Rural Landscapes Project which is a large scale restoration project of rural landscapes with a focus on addressing pest plants and animals issues. The program has received an additional $240,000 in the 2020-2021 budget. This complements existing programs that support extensive pest plant and animal control in our roadside biodiversity areas and reserves.

The City plant over 20,000 tube stock each year and provide the conditions on our nature reserves for thousands of native plants to naturally regenerate. In addition, we maintain and plant a substantial number of street trees to enhance biodiversity in our urban areas.

The Hooded Plover Conservation Action Plan was passed unanimously by Council in 2019 and funds a program of activities to help protect one of the regions most endangered birds. This program has received national attention for the successful partnership between the City, community, Birdlife and other stakeholders.

In addition to our general community environmental grants program the City provides assistance to landholders via two private land incentive programs to enhance biodiversity on their land in the Swan Bay and Little River Catchment.

A report on Geelong's biodiversity is currently being prepared this will incorporate our recently completed biodiversity mapping on all rural roadsides and across its nature reserve network. This will form the basis for the review of the Biodiversity Strategy which will be undertaken this year.

In relation to reducing waste to landfill the City has recently endorsed its new Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy. This incorporates extensive community and stakeholder input. Reducing waste to landfill and developing a circular economy are key themes throughout the Strategy. In this regard the City has undertaken the following steps;

- developed the garden organics processing centre which processes residents green bin garden waste into compost. The compost is subsequently used on local farms and is an excellent example of a large scale circular economy in action. The facility opened early last year and can process up to 35,000 tonnes of material per annum.
- Installed additional recycling and e-waste facilities at the Geelong and Drysdale Resource Recovery Centres. These upgrades opened during 2019 enable residents to dispose of recyclable materials and electronic waste and keep this material from landfill.
- Introduced the highly successful residential hard waste service in 2019. This service has collected material from over 20,000 homes in its first year and approximately 25% of this was recycled or re-used.
- In the 2020-21 financial year, the City has allocated $450,000 to deliver a food waste collection trial and prepare a business case for food organics processing facility to support food waste initiatives.
- Installed greenhouse gas capture technology at its Drysdale Landfill. This gas is now used to power a 1 MW generator which provides enough power for approximately 300 homes.

The draft Environment Strategy highlights the City's key waste targets. Extensive list of waste targets and actions are listed in the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-30, adopted by Council in April 2020. The City has aligned our waste targets with the new Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria policy. Waste reduction targets are set to divert 80 per cent of waste from landfill by 2030, and an interim target of 72 per cent by 2025.

As you may be aware one of Council's priorities is to support local organisations that address homelessness, substance abuse, family violence and food security as part of improved health and safety of our community so we really welcome your comments supporting food security in Norlane and surrounds.

We will ensure these are considered and addressed in the final Sustainability Framework report to go to Council (this will also be publicly available prior to the Council meeting).

26. LAURENE WILKS - LARA TREE MAINTENANCE & STREETSCAPE

Ms Laurene Wilks provides a submission in response to the 2020-21 proposed budget. The submission requests the replanting of trees and shrubs to replace old and damaged sugar gums and a facelift of the Lara township.

Officers Comments

The Sugar gums in Kees road have been inspected and assessed as safe by qualified arborists and the findings communicated to residents. Planting priorities for the 2020 planting season are to continue in the areas with no street trees in Corio & Lara. Streets in Corio will receive an additional 770 new trees and another 130 to be planted in Lara.

In total there will be over 1600 trees planted in streets across the City as part of the Urban Forest Strategy's proactive initiative to increase canopy cover in our streets. In recent years, the Council has invested in the expansion of the Lara town centre, including new public open spaces and community facilities. We recognise that our centres are an important hub for our local communities. Whilst not on our current town centre streetscape program, this doesn't preclude future projects from being funded.

27. KAREN HOSE – MAINTENANCE KINGSTON PARK OCEAN GROVE – LATE SUBMISSION

Ms Karen Hose provides a submission in response to the 2020-21 proposed budget. The submission requests the proposed operational budget in 2020-21 supports an upgrade in servicing Kingston Park, to include increased cycle of maintenance.

Officer Comments – Pending

Kingston Park is a very popular park to the community of Ocean Grove. City staff inspect the playground on a weekly basis to identify any safety concerns. The open space includes a combination maintenance zones, each maintained whilst endeavouring to retain the natural bushland setting of the park.

Feedback from community groups who use the site regularly is to retain where possible as a many natural elements, including areas where branches and debris aren't removed immediately and are often used by the bush kindergarten program.

Current service levels for mowing at Kingston park are on a regular 4-6 week interval, council staff are currently reviewing service levels and any changes will be implemented in the next 6 -12 months.

Tree related concerns can be dealt with, by logging a request for service with council and staff will respond to inspect and action as required.

28. JOEL GRIST – GEELONG LITTLE ATHLETICS – FACILITY UPGRADE – LATE SUBMISSION

Mr Joel Grist provides a submission on behalf of the Geelong Little Athletics Club in response to the 2020-21 proposed budget. Geelong Little Athletics Committee requests Council to allocate $100,000 for improvements at Landy Field in it 2020-21 budget for urgent works to upgrade the toilets, first aid, canteen facilities, weather protection and disabled access improvements. It is also requested to upgrade the PA and electronic displays system.

Officer Comments

Officers have been working with the committee previously and recognise there are improvements required for this venue due to age, including the general facilities and public amenities, especially considering this venue currently hosts regional events. As officers have been in consultation with the users in relation to this matter, it is proposed that officers review the need for any immediate maintenance and refer any additional works to the 2021-22 Budget.

Attachment 4

Listing of Submissions in order of receipt

Subm. No.	Topic	Name	Organisation	Attending
1	Bus Shelter Watt St Lara	Mr William Fulton		Invited
2	Rates Increases	Mr John Verikios		Invited
3	Northern Suburbs Initiatives	Mrs Kaylene Reeves		Invited
4	Lara Masterplan Project Stage 1	Mr Peter Kelly	Lara Sporting Club	Invited
5	Funding for Renew Geelong Project	Mr Ryan Mischkulnig		Invited
6	Myers Reserve – Bituminise Roadway	Mr Mark Brady	Bell Post Hill Cricket Club	Invited
7	Myers Reserve – Bituminise Roadway	Mr Michael Battye	Bell Post Hill Sports Club	Invited
8	Myers Reserve – Bituminise Roadway	Mr Tony Gilson		Invited
9	Myers Reserve – Bituminise Roadway	Mr Darryl Washington	Bell Post Hill Bowls Club	Invited
10	Myers Reserve – Bituminise Roadway	Mr Andrew Barrett	Bell Post Hill Sports Club	Invited
11	Myers Reserve – Bituminise Roadway	Mr Tony Dosen	Bell Post Hill Football & Netball Club	Invited
12	Community Support – COVID19	Mr Bernard King		Accepted
13	Gambling Reform	Ms Katherine Copsey	Alliance for Gambling Reform	Accepted
14	Streetscape Funding – West Fyans St	Mr Josh Hanneysee		Invited
15	Lara Recreation Reserve Masterplan Stage 1	Mrs Tracey Hall		Invited
16	Lara Recreation Reserve Masterplan Stage 1	Ms Olga Vaysman		Invited
17	Lara Recreation Reserve Masterplan Stage 1	Mrs Zoe Day		Invited
18	Lara Recreation Reserve Masterplan Stage 1	Mrs Kate Patston		Invited
19	Northern Suburbs Initiatives	Mr Peter Weymouth		Invited
20	Northern Suburbs Initiatives	Mr Austen Paterson		Accepted
21	Kevin Hoffman Walk Maintenance	Mr Greg Wilson	Friends of Kevin Hoffman Walk Committee	Invited
22	Northern Suburbs Initiatives	Mr Stuart Duncan		Invited
23	Rating	Mr Ben Flynn	Geelong Chamber of Commerce	Accepted
24	Northern Suburbs Initiatives	Ms Nikki Welsh		Accepted
25	Seniors Activity Hub Bellarine	Mr Paul Taylor	Drysdale Seniors Committee	Invited
26	Northern Suburbs Initiatives	Mr Tim Jeffries		Invited
27	Lara Recreation Reserve Masterplan Stage 1	Mrs Fiona Bennett	Lara Netball, Lara Sporting Club	Invited
28	Chilwell Library Hub	Ms Lynne Dowling		Invited
29	St Leonards Infrastructure	Mr Denis O'Bryan	St Leonards Progress Association	Invited
30	Farm Rates	Mr David Johincke	Victorian Farmers Federation	Invited
31	St Leonards Infrastructure	Ms Libby Lesock		Invited
32	Regional Sports Development	Mr Kevin O'Byrne	Football Victoria	Accepted
33	St Leonards Infrastructure	Mrs Phyllis Edmonstone		Invited
34	St Leonards Infrastructure	Mr Jim Edmonstone		Invited
35	St Leonards Infrastructure	Mr Wade Coleman		Invited
36	Seniors Activity Hub Bellarine	Mr Martin Wilson	Bellarine Peninsula Seniors Activity Hub Development Committee	Accepted
37	Road Sealing Newcombe St Drysdale	Ms Teagan Gibbs		Invited
38	Lara Shared Path Network	Mr Andrew Hilliard		Invited
39	Kevin Hoffman Walk	Mr Andrew Hilliard		Invited

Listing of Submissions in order of receipt				
40	Lara Recreation Reserve Masterplan Stage 1	Ms Vanessa Abela		Invited
41	Northern Suburbs Initiatives	Ms Judith Down		Invited
42	Traffic Issues – McKillop St East Geelong	Mr Alan Watkins		Invited
43	Traffic Issues – McKillop St East Geelong	Mr Terry Slaymaker		Invited
44	Traffic Issues – McKillop St East Geelong	Mrs Barb Zacutti		Invited
45	Traffic Issues – McKillop St East Geelong	Mr Paul Rettke		Invited
46	Northern Suburbs Initiatives	Rev. Peter Greenwood	Uniting Church Norlane	Invited
47	Council Plan	Dr Sanja Van Huet		Invited
48	Traffic Issues – McKillop St East Geelong	Mrs Janette Bennett		Invited
49	Traffic Issues – McKillop St East Geelong	Ms Sarah Brown		Invited
50	North Bellarine Aquatic Centre	Ms Anne Brackley	North Bellarine Aquatic Centre Advocacy Group	Invited
51	Rating	Ms Amanda Rimmer		Invited
52	Shared Trails Masterplan Funding	Mr Bob Jordan		Accepted
53	Budget – General Commentary	Ms Sue Trezise		Invited
54	Rating	Mr Michael Kelly		Invited
55	Regional Sports Development	Mr Mark Neeld	Geelong United Basketball	Accepted
56	Traffic Issues – McKillop St East Geelong	Mr James Mears		Invited
57	Council Plan	Ms Suzanne Brown		Invited
58	North Bellarine Aquatic Centre	Ms Gina Bell		Invited
59	Council Plan	Mrs Anthea Griffiths		Invited
60	Footpath infrastructure - Grovedale	Ms Sarah Roberts		Accepted
61	Action on Climate Change	Ms Sally Fisher		Accepted
62	Council Plan	Mr Michael Skinner		Invited
63	Action on Climate Change	Mr David Secen	Bell Park Sports Club	Invited
64	Traffic Issues – McKillop St East Geelong	Mr Frank Kennedy		Accepted
65	Council Plan	Ms Vicki Perrett	Geelong Sustainability	Accepted
66	Sporting Facilities Upgrade	MP Christine Couzens	State Member for Geelong	Invited
67	Kingston Park Ocean Grove Maintenance	Ms Karen Hose		Invited
68	Lara Tree Maintenance and Streetscape	Laurene Wilks		Invited
69	Sporting Facilities Upgrade	Mr Joel Grist	Geelong Little Athletics	Accepted

3. 2020-21 GRANTS PROGRAM

Source:	**Customer & Corporate Services – Program Integration and Development**
Director:	**Michael Dugina**
Portfolio:	**Finance**

Purpose

1. To seek Council's approval to open the 2020-21 Grants.

Background

2. On 14 April, Council suspended the 2020-21 grants in response to the effect of the coronavirus pandemic and the State of Emergency declared in Victoria. The grants were due to open on 27 April and close on 24 May 2020 but considering the crisis Council agreed not to proceed with the planned application period.

3. The Council and the City have provided a range of relief opportunities to support the local community and businesses during the COVID-19 emergency.

4. The Federal and Victorian governments have both announced a range of social and economic measures providing significant economic support to assists vulnerable community and business sectors.

Key Matters

5. No change is required to existing grant categories, budgets, guidelines, eligibility or assessment process. The grants will support the recovery of community groups and continue to deliver on the strategic priorities of Council Plan.

6. The grant guidelines will include advice that proposed activities must comply with the latest advice from Commonwealth and State authorities in response to COVID-19. All successful applicants will be required to explain how they will comply with coronavirus restrictions in their funding agreement before any funds are released.

7. Community engagement will commence in July 2020. Community Infrastructure grants will open on Friday 17 July 2020 for 10-12 weeks and all other grants will open on Friday 17 July for 6-8 weeks.

8. COVID-19 has impacted the plans of community groups wanting to upgrade their facilities by delaying the opportunity to apply for funding. This impact can be mitigated by opening the 2021-22 Community Infrastructure grants early in 2021 so that these grants are processed and ready for implementation at the start of the new financial year.

9. To support community groups to respond to the effect of the pandemic on their activities, Council's *COVID-19 Community and Economic Support Package – Medium to Longer Term* includes options for new grants which are:

    9.1 a quick response grant for community groups offering a maximum of $2000 per applicant for relief and recovery; and

    9.2 a quick response grant to support those working in the arts, culture and heritage sectors offering a maximum of $5000 for recovery.

10. The quick response grant uses a different assessment process to the one included in the *Community Investment Support Fund Policy*. It does not include assessment by an external panel and applicants are notified of outcomes within 3-6 weeks.

11. It is recommended the name of the Environment and Sustainability Grants is changed to Environmental Sustainability Grants. The name better reflects the strategic goals of the draft *Environment Strategy* to support biodiversity, climate change, waste, integrated water management and urban greening.

Cr Aitken moved, Cr Grzybek seconded -

12. That Council:

12.1 Approve the name change of the Environment and Sustainability Grants to Environmental Sustainability Grants;

12.2 Note that Community Infrastructure grants will open for applications no later than Friday 17 July for 10-12 weeks and recommendations for funding will be presented to Council for endorsement in February 2021;

12.3 Note that the Creative Communities, Environmental Sustainability, Community Events and Healthy Connected Communities grants will open for applications no later than Friday 17 July for 6-8 weeks and recommendations for funding will be presented to Council for endorsement in December 2020;

12.4 Subject to the approval of *COVID-19 Community and Economic Support Package – Medium to Longer Term* report included in this agenda*:*

12.4.1 Approve the guidelines, including approval process, for the Quick Response Community Grants in Attachment 2; and

12.4.2 Approve the guidelines, including approval process for the Arts, Culture and Heritage Recovery Grants in Attachment 3.

12.5 Recommend the 2021-22 Community Infrastructure grants open early in 2021 and request the Chief Executive Officer engage with the Council after the 2020 Council General Elections and bring a report on a revised timeline back to Council for approval; and

12.6 Authorise the Director of Customer and Corporate Services to make administrative changes to the guidelines.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

1. The grants budget of $3,933,000 is part of the Community Investment Support Fund which is included in the 2020-21 City of Greater Geelong Proposed Budget.

2. The funding for new grants is reliant on approval of Council's *COVID-19 Community and Economic Support Package – Medium to Longer Term.*

Community Engagement

3. The 2020-21 grants were suspended in response to the effect of COVID-19 on community groups including the uncertainty of what activities could proceed and the difficulties for the groups to organise themselves and complete applications in challenging circumstances.

4. The recommendation to reopen the grants as quickly as possible is informed by community feedback received by Councillors and Council officers.

5. The recommendation for a Quick Response Community Grant is a result of engagement with community groups during COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts by the City.

6. The City will promote the 2020-21 grants on the Geelong Australia website, on social media, in the Community Update and community newsletters with the aim of reaching a diverse range of community groups. To comply with current pandemic restrictions, officers will conduct on-line information sessions to explain the purpose of the grants, eligibility and how to apply.

7. All grant applicants are strongly encouraged to contact a grants officer to discuss their application.

Social Equity Considerations

8. The grant guidelines prioritise community impact, access and participation.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

9. The grants are administered in accordance with Council's *Community Investment and Support Fund Policy* and there are no apparent legal ramifications or impacts in relation to the Human Rights Charter.

10. The timing and nature of the grants complies with the current advice from Commonwealth and State authorities in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Alignment to Council Plan

11. The grants aim to fund projects that assist in achieving goals and outcomes consistent with the strategic priorities of the *Council Plan 2018-22.*

12. The grants deliver on the 2019-20 aim of *Informed Social Infrastructure and Planning* to implement a new approach for the Community Investment and Support Fund.

Conflict of Interest

13. 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

14. To avoid the risk of groups submitting unsuitable applications, grant guidelines will include advice that proposed activities must comply with the latest advice from Commonwealth and State authorities in response to COVID-19.

15. To avoid the risk of the City funding inappropriate activities, all successful applicants will be required to explain how they will comply with COVID-19 restrictions in their funding agreement before any funds are released.

Environmental Implications

16. The grants support projects that enhance the natural environment and drive sustainability actions across the Geelong Region.

17. One of the assessment criteria for all grants is environmental impact.

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

COVID-19

QUICK RESPONSE COMMUNITY GRANTS

—

2020–21 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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About these grants

This is a quick-response grant program designed to fund activities that will help our community adapt to, and recover from, the changes caused by the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).

There is a total grant pool of $250,000 with individual grants being offered of up to $2,000 per application.

The grant is divided into two categories (see table below) and our aim is to help eligible community organisations activate community spaces and deliver new or existing community programs that comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

All activities must comply with the latest health advice and government restrictions, as detailed on the following websites:

- www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus
- www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria

CATEGORY	WHAT WILL BE FUNDED	MAXIMUM FUNDING PER APPLICANT
Clever and creative community projects	New community projects, programs and activities that will help the Greater Geelong community recover from COVID-19 restrictions in a way that is consistent with our community-led clever and creative vision.	$2,000
COVID-19 operating expenses	Operating expenses that help community groups deliver their existing services and programs in line with COVID-19 restrictions.	$2,000

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this grant must be made via our SmartyGrants online system.

If you have a SmartyGrants account – visit geelong.smartygrants.com.au/applicant, log-in and apply.

If you don't have a SmartyGrants account – visit geelong.smartygrants.com.au/applicant to register, then apply.

KEY DATES

Applications will be accepted until 5.00 pm on the closing date. **Incomplete or late submissions of applications will not be accepted.**

Applications close: XXXX

Grant applications decided: XXXX

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Some community events will require a permit to proceed. If you are organising a community event, please refer to our Events Planning Guide for further information.

Note: Permits and approvals must be obtained before you submit your application.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To discuss your project or request help with the application process, please contact our grants team at communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au, or call our grants team on 5272 5039 or 5272 4736.

NOT THE RIGHT GRANT FOR YOU?

There are a variety of other funding opportunities available through our Community Investment and Support Fund.

Find out more by visiting www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants

Who can apply?

The following table describes who is (and isn't) eligible to apply for funding through these grants:

APPLICANT TYPE	YES	NO
Not-for-profit, incorporated bodies, co-operatives or associations	✓	
Registered charitable organisations – refer to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	✓	
Unincorporated bodies with an auspice	✓	
Eligible applicants, as listed above, who hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) or provide a Statement by a Supplier Form, available from the Australian Tax Office.	✓	
Profit-making organisations, commercial entities, businesses, individuals and sole traders		**X**
Organisations with outstanding debts or arrears to the City of Greater Geelong		**X**
Organisations that have not provided a satisfactory evaluation/acquittal form for any previous funding received from the City – this includes organisations that have acted as an auspice for an unincorporated group		**X**
Government schools and learning institutions		**X**

What can you apply for?

The following is a list of ideas and examples that will be considered for funding. It is guide only and the list should not be considered exhaustive.

Successful projects must commence within six months of receiving funds, however applicants are encouraged to start their projects as soon as possible.

All activities must comply with the latest health advice and government restrictions, as detailed on the following websites:

- www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus
- www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria

CLEVER AND CREATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We are seeking proposals from community organisations interested in developing new and responsive ways of working with the community that comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

Projects in this category must clearly align with the community-led clever and creative vision, as described in *Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future*, and could include:

– proposals that strengthen community relationships, reduce isolation and encourage active participation in community life.

– proposals that provide capacity-building opportunities for volunteers.

– proposals that will improve access to programs for people with all abilities.

– proposals that increase community knowledge and capacity to use and embrace digital technologies.

COVID-19 OPERATING EXPENSES

Note: Any purchased equipment must remain the property of the applicant organisation and be located within the City of Greater Geelong.

In this category, we are seeking proposals that will help eligible community organisations to recommence delivering projects, programs or activities that comply with COVID-19 restrictions. Grant funds could be expended on:

– increased cleaning expense.

– cleaning supplies.

– personal protection equipment.

– new or improve signage.

– visitor registration facilities.

What won’t be funded?

The following will not be funded through this grants program:

– staff salaries and wages, although we will consider funding if the costs are related to the specific proposed project – such as costs to engage an external facilitator, consultant or contractor – if they can supply an ABN and written quote.

– requests for retrospective purchases or projects.

– fundraising events, prizes, gifts, awards or sponsorship costs, such as trophies, medals, money, vouchers and so on.

– activities aimed at promoting political views.

– projects or activities that occur outside the City of Greater Geelong municipality.

– capital works, such as building works, major repairs or major maintenance.

– equipment requiring building permits or permissions for installation.

How are applications assessed?

Our regular assessment process has been streamlined to encourage a quick turnaround of funds. All applications received will therefore go through the following assessment process:

- Pre-eligibility checks –applications are checked against the criteria on pages 4 and 9 to determine their eligibility.
- Internal panel assessment – eligible applications will be assessed according to the assessment criteria (see tables below).
- Executive review and endorsement – Executive will review the panel's recommendation and determine the final outcome.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on a weighted average scoring system, as shown in the tables below:

CLEVER AND CREATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECTS	
Key criteria – weighting	**What we look for when assessing a project grant application**
Well-planned project – 35%	The application must demonstrate: • clear reasons why the grant is needed. • an explanation of how the proposed project will assist the Geelong community to recover from, and comply with, COVID-19 restrictions. • a clear description of where the proposed project will be located, and who will participate. • supporting evidence to show that any required insurances, permits and approvals relevant to the project have been obtained. • a clear, well-balanced budget, with written quotes obtained in the last 2 months.
Community impact – 65%	The application must demonstrate how the project or activity aligns and contributes to the clever and creative community-led vision for Greater Geelong. The application must also demonstrate how it will help achieve one or more of the following: • strengthen an organisation or group's capacity to deliver existing or new programs. • provide or generate additional services for the community. • improve health (mental and/or physical) and safety in our community. • strengthen community relationships, reduce isolation and encourage active participation in community life. • increase community knowledge and capacity to use and embrace digital technologies. • improve access to programs for people of all abilities.

COVID-19 OPERATING EXPENSES	
Key criteria – weighting	**What we look for when assessing an equipment grant application**
Well-planned project – 30%	The application must demonstrate: • clear reasons why the goods or services being purchased are needed, and how they will be used to help the community organisation comply with COVID-19 restrictions. • if equipment is to be purchased, where it will be located and who will have access to it. • a clear, well-balanced budget, with written quotes obtained in the last 2 months.
Community impact – 70%	The application must also demonstrate how the equipment or expenses will achieve one or more of the following outcomes: • strengthen the capacity of an organisation or group to deliver existing programs. • provide services for the community. • strengthen the social and economic capacity of community members and volunteer groups.

PRIORITISING APPLICATIONS

If the total request for funding exceeds the grant funds available, we will prioritise organisations that do not receive revenue from electronic gaming machines.

What happens next?

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

Successful applicants will be notified in writing by <when> TBC.

If you are successful, you will be sent a funding agreement explaining the terms and conditions of our offer. Once you sign and return the agreement, we will send your funding within 30 working days.

All funds must be acquitted within two months of the agreed completion date for the project.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS UNSUCCESSFUL

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing by <when> TBC. If you would like further feedback on why your application was unsuccessful, please contact economicdevelopment@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

If there are funds remaining in the grant pool, we may choose to offer a second round of grants. While unsuccessful applicants are eligible to reapply, we would recommend revising the application to make sure it fits the assessment criteria before doing so.

General guidelines

The following guidelines apply to all Community Investment and Support Fund grants.

– Applicants must offer a project within the City of Greater Geelong municipality.

– A single project, event, activity or program will only be funded in one grant program category within a given financial year. This means we will not fund part of a project in one grant program, and part in another.

– Applications can be made across multiple grant programs for relevant and distinct projects or programs.

– Priority will be given to applicant organisations that did not receive funding in the previous financial year.

– Grant amounts offered to successful applicants are based on outcomes determined during the assessment process and in line with budget limitations.

– As it is a competitive process, not all applications will necessarily be funded. In some cases, applicants may also be offered partial funding to run a reduced or modified project.

AUSPICE INFORMATION

Your application will require an auspice if your not-for-profit organisation is either:

- not incorporated or
- is not one of the other types of legal entities listed in the individual grant guidelines (see Who can apply?).

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support your application. If you're successful, the grant funds will be paid directly to the auspice, who must then pass it on to you.

If you are planning on using an auspice, you must:

- obtain approval from your proposed auspice before you submit your application.
- keep the auspice fully informed of the details of the application and all project aspects and progress.

Your auspice may also provide public liability insurance for your project. If this is your intention, you must obtain a Public Liability Insurance Certificate of Currency from the auspice and include it with this application. Please note that a policy statement or receipt is not acceptable.

Be aware that some auspice organisations may charge an auspice fee. This is at their discretion and should be negotiated between the applicant and the auspice.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Successful grant applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement that will establish:

a. the terms and conditions of funding;

b. the details of the activity (note: you must arrange public liability insurance for funded events, as required);

c. the deliverables;

d. acquittal, evaluation and reporting requirements; and

e. the schedule of payments.

Allocated funds must be expended within 12 months of receiving the grant, unless otherwise negotiated.

If we do not receive a tax invoice by the end of the financial year, the grant offer will be automatically withdrawn.

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

COVID-19

ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE RECOVERY GRANTS

—

2020–21 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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About these grants

The purpose of this grants program is to support those working in the arts, cultural and heritage sectors who have been impacted adversely by COVID-19. This importantly includes supporting the continued ability to create art, which is fundamental to the viability of the arts sector.

There is a total grant pool of $150,000 with individual grants being offered of up to $5,000 per application.

All activities must comply with the latest health advice and government restrictions, as detailed on the following websites:

- www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus
- www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria

GRANT OBJECTIVES

Responding specifically to the COVID-19 isolation and recovery period, the objectives of these grants are:

- to support individuals, sole traders, organisations and venues in the arts, cultural and heritage sectors to sustain and develop their professional arts practice and operations;
- to support the creation of art; and/or
- to enable arts programming that re-engages audiences post-isolation.

GRANT NAME	WHAT WILL BE FUNDED	MAXIMUM FUNDING PER APPLICANT
COVID-19 Arts, Culture and Heritage Recovery	Development, research, experimentation and creation of art and operations.	$5,000

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this grant must be made via our SmartyGrants online system.

If you have a SmartyGrants account – visit geelong.smartygrants.com.au/applicant, log-in and apply.

If you don't have a SmartyGrants account – visit geelong.smartygrants.com.au/applicant to register, then apply.

KEY DATES

Applications will be accepted until 5.00 pm on the closing date. **Incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted.**

Applications close xxx

Grant applications decided: xxx

CONTACT INFORMATION

To discuss your project or request help with the application process, please contact our Arts and Cultural Development team at artsculture@geelongcity.vic.gov.au, or 5272 6186.

NOT THE RIGHT GRANT FOR YOU?

For more information about a variety of other funding opportunities available through our Community Investment and Support Fund, including the Creative Communities Grants Programme, visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants. Council will also be exploring a range of other mechanisms during 2020 to support the local arts, cultural and heritage sectors. To stay informed visit www.artsatlasgeelong.com.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for a grant, the applicant must:

a. have their principal place of residence or operation within the Greater Geelong municipality.

b. be an individual, sole trader or not for profit organisation or commercial arts/music venue.

c. hold an ABN.

d. demonstrate evidence of dedicated professional practice or operations for a minimum of 12 months prior to 1 July 2020.

e. be able to demonstrate that their practice, organisation or business has been adversely impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.

APPLICANT TYPE	YES	NO
Individual	✓	
Sole traders	✓	
Not-for-profit organisations	✓	
Commercial businesses or venues creating conditions for artist employment	✓	
Businesses that have an adverse effect on public health, safety, the environment, or heritage or whose activities do not align with the City's values		**X**
Organisations with outstanding debts or arrears to the City of Greater Geelong		**X**
Organisations that have not provided a satisfactory evaluation/acquittal form for any previous funding received from the City – this includes organisations that have acted as an auspice for an unincorporated group		**X**
Companies and/or directors of companies that are undergoing any form of insolvency event.		**X**
Individuals that have been declared bankrupt		**X**

What can you apply for?

The City of Greater Geelong values its artists and creatives from the municipality who are working and practicing in the arts, cultural and heritage sectors. The City also values the conditions required for creativity to flourish and recognises how these have been significantly compromised as a result of COVID-19.

These grant aim to assist artists and creatives working in the above-mentioned sectors; by supporting creative processes though experimentation, research and development, and/or delivery, as they relate to their particular practice and operations.

These grants do not require applicants to deliver a specific project presentation or public outcome.

The following is a list of ideas and examples that will be considered for funding. It is guide only and the list should not be considered exhaustive.

Successful projects must commence within six months of receiving funds, however applicants are encouraged to start their projects as soon as possible.

All activities must comply with the latest health advice and government restrictions, as detailed on the following websites:

- www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus
- www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria

Suggested ideas that are suitable for applications include

- artist and professional fees
- equipment and materials directly related to artist, sole trader or organisation use
- research materials (books, subscriptions)
- digital technologies
- studio, workplace and venue costs (up to $1000)
- programming and production costs for commercial music and arts venues
- residencies
- subsidies for audience/participation fees (e.g. a voucher programme for participation in art workshops)
- organisation/club member engagement activities
- marketing and promotion
- documentation
- practice-related professional memberships and insurances e.g. NAVA, Artshub, public liability (up to $500)

Other projects may be considered at the City's discretion. To discuss your project's eligibility, contact the Arts and Culture Department at artsculture@geelongcity.vic.gov.au, or on 5272 6186.

What will not be funded?

The following will not be funded through this grants program:

- land purchases.
- purchases of office, shop or warehouse furniture.
- capital works, such as building works, major repairs or major maintenance.
- equipment requiring building permits or permissions for installation.
- requests for retrospective purchases or projects.
- costs of goods or services already ordered or purchased.
- prizes, gifts, awards or sponsorship costs.
- projects or activities that occur outside the City of Greater Geelong municipality.

How are applications assessed?

This is a quick response grant and all applications received will go through the following assessment process:

- Pre-eligibility checks – applications are checked to determine their eligibility (see details on page 4).
- Internal panel assessment – eligible applications will be assessed according to the assessment criteria (see tables below).
- Executive review and endorsement – Executive will review the panel's recommendation and determine the final outcome.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on a weighted average scoring system, as shown in the tables below:

COVID-19 BUSINESS RECOVERY ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	
Key criteria – weighting	**What we look for when assessing a project grant application**
Alignment to the program objectives – 50%	The application must demonstrate: • how the individual or organisation has been adversely impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. • a dedicated practice or operations for a minimum of 12 months prior to 1 July 2020.
A clear and realistic budget and implementation plan – 50%	The application must demonstrate: • how the grant will support the creation and development of art, cultural and heritage practice and/or operations.

PRIORITISING APPLICATIONS

If the total request for funding exceeds the grant funds available, we will prioritise:

- applications from organisations that have not received funding from us in the previous financial year.
- applications from organisations that do not receive revenue from electronic gaming machines.

What happens next?

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

Successful applicants will be notified in writing by <when>.TBC

If you are successful, you will be sent a funding agreement explaining the terms and conditions of our offer. Once you sign and return the agreement, we will send your funding within 30 working days.

All funds must be acquitted by completing a simple 2-page acquittal form by 31 December 2020.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS UNSUCCESSFUL

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing by <when>.TBC If you would like further feedback on why your application was unsuccessful, please contact artsculture@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

General guidelines

Grant amounts offered to successful applicants are based on outcomes determined during the assessment process, and in line with budget limitations.

As it is a competitive process, not all applications will necessarily be funded. In some cases, applicants may be offered partial funding.

A single project, event, activity or program will only be funded in one grant program category within a given financial year. This means we will not fund part of a project in one grant program, and part in another.

Applications can be made across multiple grant programs for relevant and distinct projects or programs.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

Successful grant applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement that will establish:

a. the terms and conditions of funding:

b. the summary of the activity:

c. acquittal details; and

d. payment details.

Allocated funds must be expended within 12 months of receiving the grant, unless otherwise negotiated.

A tax invoice must be issued by the successful applicant before grant funds will be released.

If a successful grant applicant does not submit an invoice for their grant by 30 April 2021, the grant offer will be rescinded.

4. 2020 SPORTS STIMULUS FUNDING PROGRAM – ENDORSEMENT OF APPLICATIONS

Source:	**Community Life – Social Planning and Investment**
Director:	**Robyn Stevens**
Portfolio:	**Sport and Recreation**

Purpose

1. To endorse the submission of projects to the 2020 Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) Community Sport Stimulus Infrastructure Program.

Background

2. On 1 June 2020 the Victorian Government announced a funding round of $68 million via SRV for the delivery of sport and recreation related projects. The fund is open to all 79 Victorian municipalities. Three applications per council can be made, requesting up to $10 million for each application.

3. The timing on submission to the program was very tight with submissions being made on Friday 19 June 2020.

4. To expedite the process, officers worked with Council's Sport and Recreation Portfolio Chair and Deputy Chair, along with the Deputy Mayor to arrive at a list of projects that best fit the SRV program criteria.

5. There are a number of criteria that need to be met including:

   5.1 the need to be shovel ready within six months;

   5.2 at the time of us making the application being able to have concept / schematic plans; and

   5.3 verifiable costings and the projects should have undertaken some form of community consultation.

Key Matters

6. The SRV Sport Stimulus Infrastructure program is a Victorian Government initiative aimed at supporting local community sporting infrastructure initiatives and local employment.

7. As a result of the consultation internally with councillors, a range of projects were submitted under three themes being:

   7.1 Pavilions and Female Friendly Facilities;

   7.2 Sports Lighting; and

   7.3 Play Spaces.

8. The process of assessment by SRV has commenced and is due to be completed in early July with announcements in late July or August.

9. The SRV funding program criteria states that submissions endorsed by Council will be provided with higher priority.

10. Council endorsement of the projects submitted will add weight to the applications during the final stages of the SRV assessment and decision-making process.

Cr Nelson moved, Cr Kontelj seconded -

11. That Council:

11.1 Endorse the submission of the following projects to the Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV), Community Sport Stimulus Infrastructure Program:

11.1.1 Pavilion and Female Friendly Facilities, totalling $9.8 million at:

a. 11.1.2 Leopold Tennis pavilion;

b. Ocean Grove Golf Clubhouse;

c. Shell Reserve, Corio;

d. Anakie Football and Netball Club; and

e. Wallington Reserve.

11.1.2 Sports Lighting, totalling $2.5 million at:

a. St Albans Recreation Reserve;

b. Osborne Park;

c. Evans Reserve;

d. St Leonards Reserve;

e. Grinter Reserve;

f. Winter Reserve; and

g. Burdoo reserve.

11.1.3 Play Spaces, totalling $3.66 million at:

a. St Helens Park;

b. Waurn Ponds Skate Park;

c. Aldershot Reserve; and

d. St Leonards Skate Park.

11.2 Notes the commitment to co-contribute 10% to the cost of any successful project from within the 2020-21 budget.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

1. Should all projects be successful the total contribution required of council is estimated at $1.59 million that would generate up to $15.9 million worth of investment into local sporting facilities and the local economy.

2. The 10 per cent ($1.59 million) contribution by Council is a requirement of the funding. There is $580,000 allocated in the 2020-21 budget toward the delivery of some of the projects outlined in this report.

3. Any additional funds over and above current budget commitments are expected to be managed within the total capital works budget during the 2020/21.

Community Engagement

4. The projects submitted have been subject to a level of community engagement that has include recent consultation with the clubs during the development of the project proposals, with many having also been the subject of either project specific community engagement or as part of the consultation recently undertaken for council's Draft Social Infrastructure Plan 2020.

Social Equity Considerations

5. The themes of Pavilions and Female Friendly Facilities, Sports Lighting and Play Spaces have been deliberately identified in several areas of relative disadvantage and/or to build the capacity of facilities to cater for participation of young people and women in sport.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

6. Any project which is successful, Council would be required to enter into a funding agreement with the Victorian Government by August 2020.

Alignment to Council Plan

7. The projects in this report align closely with the broad principles adopted in the recently released Draft 2020 Social Infrastructure Plan that guides council's investment in social infrastructure and is consistent with the Council Plan 2018-2022 strategic objective for 'Informed Social Infrastructure Planning'.

Conflict of Interest

8. There is no known conflict of interest with any City officer involved in the preparation of this report or the applications to SRV.

Risk Assessment

9. The project delivery timelines are tight and depending on the number and range of projects that are successful, may require some additional project management resources to oversee delivery in accordance with the funding guidelines.

Environmental Implications

10. All projects will be delivered consistent with Council stated environmental policy objectives.

5. RESTRICTING VEHICLES IN LITTLE MALOP – ALTERNATIVE ACCES S OPTIONS

Source:	**Economy, Investment & Attraction – Central Geelong & Waterfront**
Director:	**Brett Luxford**
Portfolio:	**Central and Civic Geelong**

Purpose

1. To outline options to enable vehicle access to Little Malop Street and Shorts Place from Moorabool Street to support the installation of bollards to temporarily close Little Malop Street.

Background

2. At its meeting on 10 March 2020, Council resolved to:

   2.1 Endorse the amended proposal to provide vehicle access restrictions in Little Malop Street (between Dennys Place and Moorabool Street);

   2.2 Refer the project to the 2020-21 budget for consideration; and

   2.3 Request the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report that details options to allow service and tenant access to Little Malop Street and Shorts Place from Moorabool Street. This should also include the consideration to permanently close off Little Malop Street to vehicles between Shorts Place and Dennys Place. The report should be presented by 30 June 2020.

3. Access options have been considered and are contained in the report 'Restricting Vehicles in Little Malop, Alternative Access Options report, June 2020' **(Attachment 2)**. The report and its findings have been informed by external traffic engineering consultants and key internal stakeholders 'Traffic Engineering Review – Little Malop Street Traffic Analysis Review of Access to Moorabool Street' **(Attachment 3)**.

Key Matters

4. The proposal endorsed by Council on 10 March 2020 sought to provide an acceptable balance between the different users of the space and deliver an outcome with a net community benefit.

5. Alternative options are provided, however, these may result in negative impacts to public safety and loss of pedestrian area and benefit on a few businesses. The estimated costs to remove and reconfigure road and footpath assets and amenity are also significant.

6. The implementation of the alternative options (as outlined in the Attachments) would incur an additional estimated cost of $412,500.00 (Option 1) or $131,000.00 (Option 2) to Council. It should however, be noted that Option 2 has not made any allowance for signalling upgrades and the independent traffic engineers have highlighted that in their opinion Option 2 is 'unworkable'.

7. It must be noted that approval would be required from the Victorian Government Department of Transport for any of the options to proceed.

8. The proposal that was endorsed by Council involves the installation of two automated rising bollards in Little Malop Street (on the eastern side of the entrance to Dennys Place). The bollards will then be programmed to rise, restricting vehicle access between 10:00am and 4:00am the following morning.

Cr Kontelj moved, Cr Murrihy seconded -

9. That Council:

9.1 Note the findings of the Restricting Vehicles in Little Malop Street – 9.1 Alternative Access Options Report (June 2020);

9.2 Undertake further consultation with key stakeholders and the community regarding the provision of vehicle access from Moorabool Street to Little Malop Street (between Moorabool Street and Shorts Place) to determine if a balance can be struck between the competing priorities including access, sense of place and pedestrian safety; and

9.3 Receive a further report on the outcomes of the engagement and work undertaken at the 22 September 2020 Council meeting.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

1. A budget bid has been provided for the endorsed proposal with $80,000 requested in the 2020/21 financial year.

2. Additional costs associated with implementing the alternative options requested are estimated to be $412,500.00 (Option 1) or $131,000.00 (Option 2).

3. A budget bid for the additional costs associated with the implementation of the alternative options has not been prepared.

Community Engagement

4. Engagement with the community has taken place and informed the endorsed proposal. There has been no engagement with the community in relation to the options considered in this report.

5. Should Council request that alternative access options be pursued, it is recommended that further community engagement take place prior to implementation.

6. Any further engagement should not be limited to business owners and developers and should include consultation with the broader community who also utilise the public space.

Social Equity Considerations

7. The endorsed proposal considered access for people with limited mobility.

8. One of the alternative access options presented in the report makes note that it would result in more constrained pedestrian access, including for people with limited mobility.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

9. Approval from the Department of Transport is required prior to the implementation of any vehicle access restrictions, including any alternative options.

10. Implementation of the vehicle access restrictions will impact some owners and occupiers of properties located within the affected area. The endorsed proposal has sought to minimise these impacts, as much as practicable, and without compromising the benefits to the broader community.

Alignment to Council Plan

11. The endorsed proposal aligns with the strategic priorities outlined in the Council Plan 2018-22 with regard to ***'A Thriving and Sustainable Economy'***. Vehicle access restrictions in the Laneways Precinct will support the continued economic growth and revitalisation of Central Geelong by providing more street space for commercial activities.

12. The alternative access options would conflict with the outcomes of the Laneways Action Plan endorsed by Council in 2018, a project delivered in partnership between Council and the State Government through the Revitalising Central Geelong Partnership

13. The alternative access options presented in the report may compromise events and activations that currently use the space in Little Malop Street, between Shorts Place and Moorabool Street for small events, activations and cultural initiatives. Prioritising the function of this space as a vehicle accessway over these activities would not align with the strategic priorities ***'Growing our Tourism and Events'***, and '***Vibrant Arts and Culture'***.

14. The alternative access options presented in the report may also negatively impact Central Geelong's public and active transport network, and fail to provide better pedestrian connections.

Conflict of Interest

15. No officers involved in the preparation of this report have a direct or indirect interest in matters to which it relates.

Risk Assessment

16. It is considered that the alternative access options outlined in this report increase the risks to pedestrian safety from increased and convoluted vehicular traffic in a highly pedestrianised area. Should alternative options be further considered, these risks will be further assessed.

Environmental Implications

17. The incremental changes in the original endorsed proposal will provide environmental benefits to the area associated with less vehicle congestion, less pollution, and lower noise levels associated with a reduction in vehicles.

Attachment 2

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

RESTRICTING VEHICLES IN LITTLE MALOP

ALTERNATIVE ACCESS OPTIONS REPORT

JUNE 2020

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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Background Information

BACKGROUND

At its Community Focus Meeting on 10 March 2020, Council considered a report which outlined a proposal to provide vehicle restrictions in Little Malop Street (between Dennys Place and Moorabool Street). After considering the report, Council resolved to:

- ***Endorse the amended proposal to provide vehicle access restrictions in Little Malop Street (between Dennys Place and Moorabool Street);***
- ***Refer the project to the 2020-21 budget for consideration; and***
- ***Request the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report that details options to allow service and tenant access to Lt Malop Street and Shorts Place from Moorabool Street. This should also include the consideration to permanently close off Lt Malop Street to vehicles between Shorts Place and Dennys Place. The report should be presented by 30 June 2020.***

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report considers the options to allow general and tenant vehicle access to Little Malop Street and Shorts Place via Moorabool Street. It also considers a subsequent option to permanently close Little Malop Street to vehicle traffic, between Shorts Place and Dennys Place.

In preparing this report, external traffic consultants, Traffix Group, were engaged by the City to present the available vehicle access options and provide a review/assessment against each option. The input provided by Traffix Group has informed this report.

Traffix Group are considered a leading traffic engineering and transport planning consultancy who have over 25 years experience in traffic operations consultancy.

In addition to the engagement of Traffix Group, , internal units were also consulted, in preparing this report including Traffic Engineering, Revitalising Central Geelong, Event Services, Central Geelong Marketing and Urban Design.



FIGURE 1: MOORABOOL STREET ENTRANCE TO LITTLE MALOP STREET FROM MOORABOOL STREET (CURRENTLY NO VEHICLE ACCESS)

Strategic Alignment

VISION 2 (2013)

Vision 2 created the holistic future vision for Central Geelong, identifying the issues which needed to be addressed over time and the key catalyst projects required to revitalise the city centre, one of which included The Laneways Project.

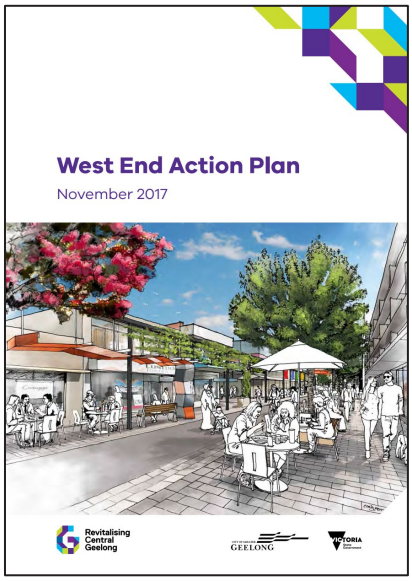
Using Melbourne's iconic laneways as inspiration, Vision 2 identified the opportunities available to restore Central Geelong's tertiary pedestrian movement throughout a network of laneways and back of house areas.

CENTRAL GEELONG ACTION PLAN (2013) & REVITALISING CENTRAL GEELONG ACTION PLAN (2017)

Both the Central Geelong Action Plan (2013) and Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan (2017) articulate the catalyst projects in Vision 2, including the need for investment in street and laneway enhancements to improve pedestrian connections.

WEST END ACTION PLAN (2017)

On 12 December 2017, Council adopted the West End Action Plan 2017 as a guiding document for revitalisation projects within the Central Geelong Laneways Precinct (bounded by Gheringhap, Malop, Ryrie and Moorabool Streets). The West End Action Plan (WEAP) responded to issues and opportunities for the precinct identified through consultation with stakeholders and produced a series of actions.



Action 4 of WEAP identified the need to create a new shared space for pedestrians and vehicles, along with providing a new and distinctive setting for cultural events and alfresco dining.

Action 11 of the WEAP identified the need to protect the pedestrian focus of the precinct and to ensure that any vehicle access was managed in a way that prioritises pedestrian movements and safety.

The endorsed proposal to provide vehicle access restrictions is considered to further build upon and future proof these relevant actions set out in the West End Action Plan.

THE LANEWAYS PROJECT (2017)

With the aim of supporting the emergence of Central Geelong's unique laneways culture along Little Malop Street and James Street, streetscape upgrades were completed in 2017.

The upgrades provided new bluestone paving, improved lighting, bespoke street furniture, new trees and plants, and public artworks to enhance and reinforce the streets high pedestrian priority and outdoor trading opportunities.

The design provides more space for alfresco dining and enhanced access to services to cater for events and street activations.

COUNCIL PLAN (2018-22)

Council Plan 2018-22 – Putting Our Community First outlines how the City of Greater Geelong will work towards making Greater Geelong a clever and creative city-region, guiding resources to deliver infrastructure, services and programs.

The endorsed proposal provides alignment with a number of the relevant strategic and key priorities outlined in Council Plan.

Moorabool Street Vehicle Access Options

ENDORSED PROPOSAL (RECOMMENDED)

The endorsed proposal will allow limited vehicle access to the east of Dennys Place between 4am and 10am. At all other times, public vehicle access will be restricted.

Existing street infrastructure will remain in its current form and automated bollards installed on timers to deliver the restrictions.

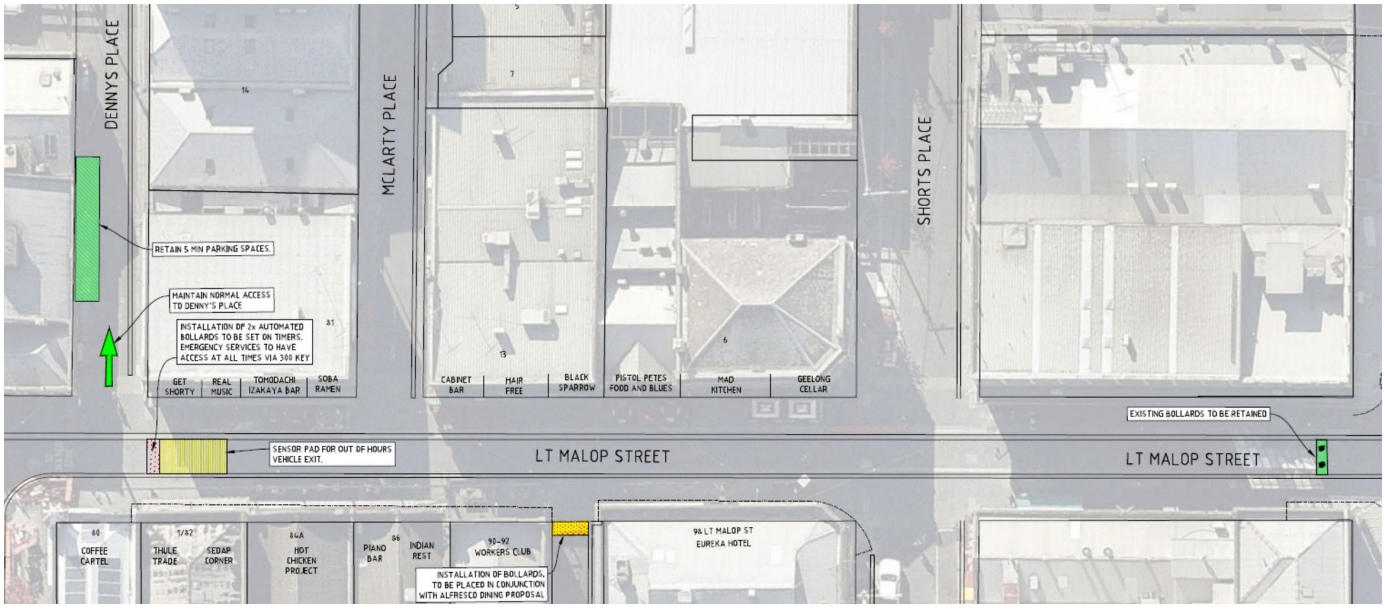


FIGURE 2: ENDORSED PROPOSAL

Proposal Advantages	Proposal Disadvantages
• Balances competing interests between users of the space (cars, deliveries, waste collection, pedestrians, alfresco dining, events). • Will provide a high overall level of pedestrian amenity and safety. • Will make it easier to facilitate events and street activations within the space. • Will always maintain essential access for emergency services. • Will provide autonomy with bollards on timers, alleviating the need for regular supervision and resources by Council. • Builds upon a strategic outcome for the space that aligns with the endorsed West End Action Plan (2017) and the Laneways Project (2017) and Council Plan (2018-2022). • Will require limited infrastructure and civil works to install the bollards, estimated to cost $80,000.00. • Will not result in the need to remove existing infrastructure, including recently installed street furniture. • Aligns with relevant strategic plans and accords with the Urban Design Principles for Good City Form.	• Will require small changes to the way that some businesses currently receive deliveries. • Will limit vehicle access options for future development on some properties in Shorts Place.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL (OPTION 1)

This option would involve providing 'full' vehicle access via a two lane, two-way vehicle link between Shorts Place and Moorabool Street.

The minimum carriageway width for two-way access is 5.5m under the Australian Standard and Greater Geelong Planning Scheme and would require modifications to the existing 3.4m wide vehicle carriageway.

Due to the nature of its two-way vehicle access, this link must be integrated into the existing traffic signals.

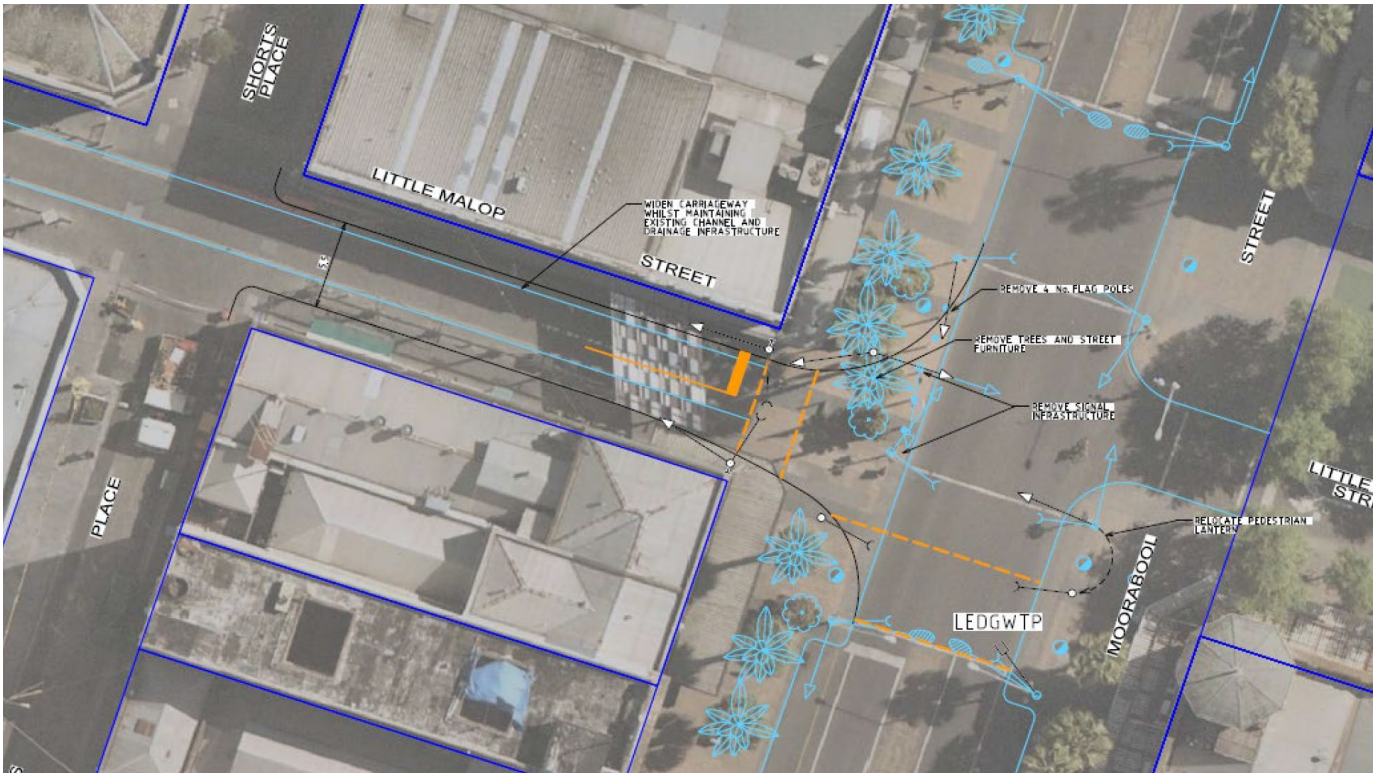


FIGURE 3: OPTION 1 (TRAFFIX GROUP)

Proposal Advantages	Proposal Disadvantages
• Would allow 24/7 vehicle access to Shorts Place from Moorabool Street. • Would support the provision of vehicle and parking access for future development in Shorts Place. • Could allow for a permanent street closure in Little Malop Street, between Dennys Place and Shorts Place, in lieu of the timed restrictions in the endorsed proposal. • Could provide opportunities for more permanent street activations within the street closure section of Little Malop Street, between Dennys Place and Shorts Place. • Would provide ability for unrestricted access for deliveries to Shorts Place via Moorabool Street.	• Would negatively impact pedestrian routes, both in Little Malop Street and Moorabool Street, creating conflict points where pedestrians currently walk through uninterrupted. • Would require the current shared zone to be discontinued, requiring pedestrians to use narrow footpaths either side of the new vehicle accessway. • Would negatively impact accessibility for people with limited mobility and people with prams. • Would require street furniture removal, including new seats, trees, lighting and other street improvements. • Would result in an increase in traffic volumes within a constrained environment, negatively impacting the overall amenity and safety for pedestrians. • Would require the installation of a modified three-phase intersection on Moorabool Street, resulting in a 20% loss of 'green light time' and negatively impacting the flow of traffic (including buses) along Moorabool Street. • Would require a significant civil project, including traffic signals, at an overall estimated cost of $412,500.00 • Would fail to align with the Urban Design Principles for Good City Form.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL (OPTION 2)

This option would be much the same as Option1, but would provide a single lane for two-way access to Moorabool Street.

This option would seek to retain the laneway design in is current form, between Shorts Place and Moorabool, and then require new works at the Moorabool Street intersection.

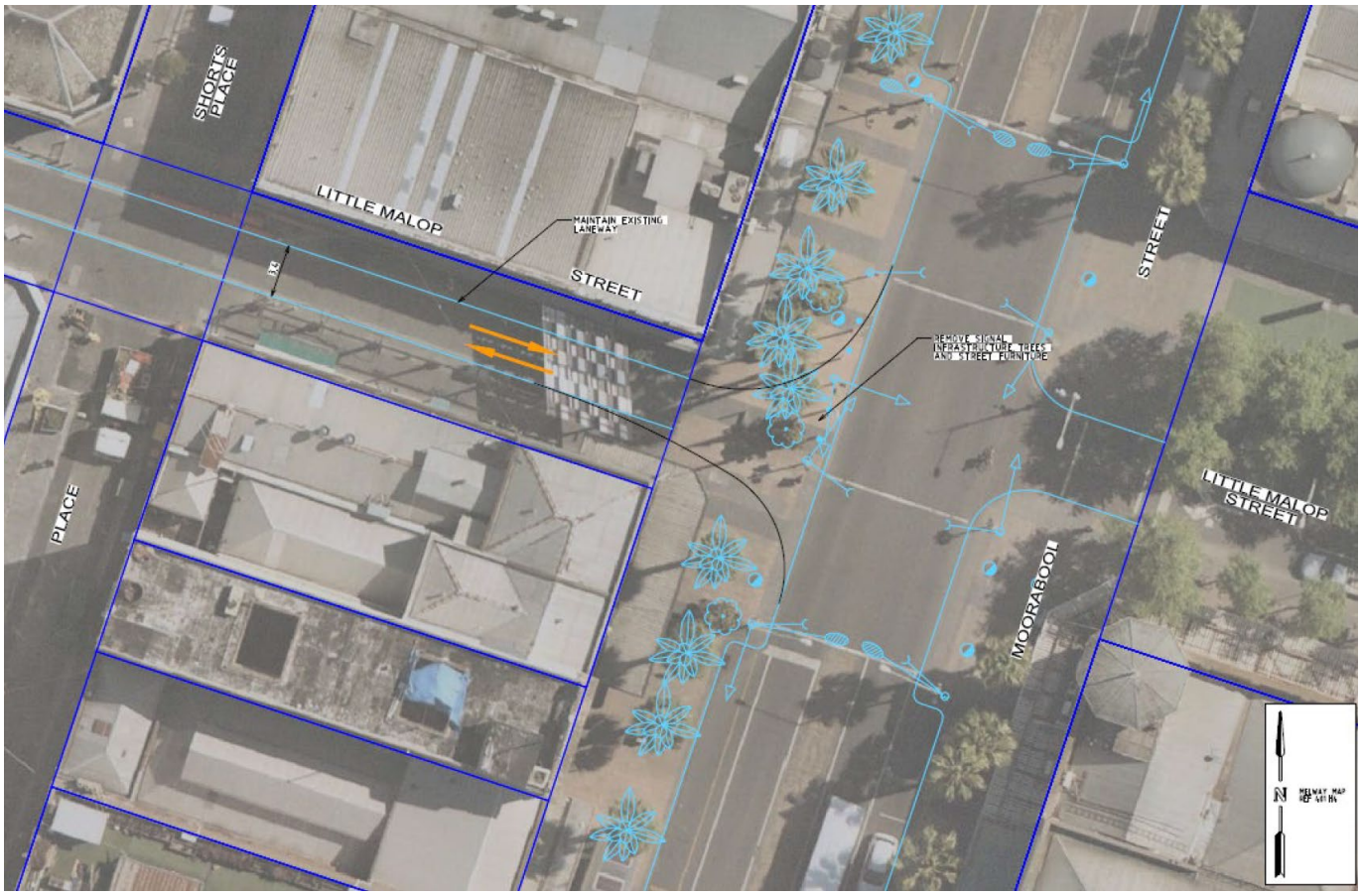


FIGURE 4: OPTION 2

Proposal Advantages	Proposal Disadvantages
• Would allow 24/7 vehicle access to Shorts Place from Moorabool Street. • Would support the provision of vehicle and parking access for future development within Shorts Place. • Could allow for a permanent street closure in Little Malop Street, between Dennys Place and Shorts Place, in lieu of the timed restrictions in the endorsed proposal. • Could provide opportunities for more permanent street activations within the street closure section of Little Malop Street, between Dennys Place and Shorts Place. • Would provide ability for unrestricted access for deliveries to Shorts Place via Moorabool Street.	• Difficult from a traffic management perspective providing a very poor operational outcome to have a single lane for two-way access. • Would create difficulty for drivers to manage in the event of a conflict (i.e. one vehicle entering/exiting at the same time) and would cause safety issues with other traffic and potential queuing across pedestrian paths. • Would not be able to be integrated into the traffic signals. • Option is not supported by the consultant traffic engineers and internal departments. • Would require further civil works and removal of existing infrastructure and street furniture, with the works estimated to cost $131,000.00. • Would fail to align with the Urban Design Principles for Good City Form.

Further Analysis of Key Themes

The endorsed proposal was informed through engagement with the community, in conjunction with the necessary technical support.

Based on the need to provide this additional report, further analysis can be provided on the following re-emerging themes:

1. Deliveries and loading / unloading;
2. Vehicle access for future development; and
3. Activations and events.

DELIVERIES AND LOADING / UNLOADING

The endorsed proposal has sought to provide a balance between competing access needs along with delivering a net community benefit for the Laneways Precinct.

Under the endorsed proposal, delivery vehicles will be able to access all areas of the precinct between 4:00am and 10:00am, providing a 6-hour window during a time where the number of pedestrians and people using alfresco dining areas is lower than other times during the day and evening.

Outside these times when vehicle movement is restricted, it is acknowledged that vehicle deliveries to some parts of the precinct will be less convenient for delivery drivers, but not prohibitive. Designated loading and short-term parking areas are located throughout the periphery of the precinct, including Moorabool St.

Smaller delivery vehicles, including vans and cars will be able to continue to utilise spaces in James Street or Dennys Place. Larger vehicles will be able to utilise loading bays in Moorabool Street.

Maintaining the status quo with large delivery vehicles attempting to navigate the laneways during peak trading times, and sharing the space with pedestrians and alfresco diners, is no longer considered an acceptable outcome for the precinct. The majority of vehicles witnessed trying to access the area during these times enter Shorts Place in a forward direction but are then required to reverse to exit, across the main pedestrian thoroughfare in Little Malop Street, with limited sightlines.

When this occurs, its not uncommon for the general public to need to act as unofficial traffic controllers and assist with helping the delivery driver conduct a turning manoeuvre, allowing the driver to exit the precinct in a forward direction. All pedestrian access through the space is severely compromised while this takes place.



FIGURE 5: EXAMPLE OF A TRUCK ATTEMPTING TO MANOUVERE OUT OF SHORTS PLACE (PHOTO TAKEN IN EARLY 2020)

Opportunities exist for a holistic approach associated with facilitating a more efficient and functional freight delivery network across Central Geelong.

Similar to the City of Melbourne's 'Last Kilometre Freight Plan' (2016), a plan addressing the last leg of the freight journey in Central Geelong would help to establish a framework for responding to freight challenges and fostering more innovative solutions to future proof the movement of goods into the city centre.

Such a plan could be developed following Council's endorsement of a Transport Network Operating Plan.

VEHICLE ACCESS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

At the time of preparing this report, there are no active proposals being considered by Council to create new vehicle access to Shorts Place.

Any such proposal would need to be considered on its own merits, in accordance with the provisions in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

Any proposal to provide vehicle access to Shorts Place would need to be weighed against the amenity impacts that additional traffic would cause to the Laneways Precinct. This is also relying on the presumption that a future development in Shorts Place will require parking, and parking can be provided on that specific site.

The emergence car-free developments in Central Geelong should not be fully discounted and the development yield available without the cost of providing on-site parking may become increasingly more attractive in the future, including for new 'shop-top' housing.

These trends are evident throughout Melbourne with recent apartment developments such as the Nightingale demonstrating a clear market-driven demand for car-free housing options.



FIGURE 6: NIGHTINGALE 1, BREATHE ARCHITECTURE (PHOTO: PETER CLARKE)

Given that future residents would be living next to a thriving entertainment and dining precinct, the demand for on-site car parking may be significantly less.

Opportunities for nearby private parking in more appropriate locations with better vehicle access may also become available.

Notwithstanding speculation on future demand for on-site car parking for future development, traffic restrictions are often changed over time and are rarely a permanently fixed arrangement that cannot be altered to suit the changing needs of the community.

In the event that there is significant demand for building vehicle access and parking from Shorts Place and there are other ways to maintain the amenity and public safety, the overall function of the restrictions could be reviewed at a future time. The infrastructure and works required to implement the endorsed restrictions are relatively minimal and restriction times can be re-programmed.

ACTIVATIONS AND EVENTS

The currently closed section of Little Malop Street (between Shorts Place and Moorabool Street) has presented an ideal space for small activations and events, without the need for onerous traffic management.

Central Geelong Marketing facilitate a range of activities in the space, including (but not limited to):

- **Tastes (Sweet Street or Eat Street)**, running every year in July, allowing businesses to occupy the space and offer street trading.
- **Sidewalk Sales**, running every year in November, with pop-up food activations.
- **Street Performances,** running on a regular basis**.**



FIGURE 7: SIDEWALK SALES (CENTRAL GEELONG MARKETING, NOVEMBER 2017)



FIGURE 8: TASTES/ SWEET STREET (CENTRAM GEELONG MARKETING, JULY 2019)

The City's Events Unit also facilitate a range of events that utilise this space. Past events have included the Mardi Gras Street Music Festival, Geelong Christmas Opening Night, Geelong After Dark and White Night.

The interest in this space for events and activations is expected to increase as the city centre continues to grow.



FIGURE 9: GEELONG AFTER DARK 2018 (PHOTO BY CHRSTINA FRANCIS ON WWW.GEELONGAFTERDARK.COM.AU)

Conclusion

It is recommended that the proposal endorsed by Council at the Community Focus Meeting on 10 March 2020 be implemented and that the presented options to open Moorabool Street to vehicle access into Little Malop Street, not be pursued at this time.

The endorsed proposal will maximise pedestrian safety and amenity and will complement the designated roles and key functions of the local road network.

The endorsed proposal also strategically aligns with the Urban Design Principles for Good City Form.

The presented options to open Little Malop Street to Moorabool Street to vehicle access would impose negative impacts on pedestrians, cyclists, buses and general traffic flow on Moorabool Street.

Any implementation of Option 1 or 2 would also reverse regeneration gains and a people focussed environment in Central Geelong, along with failing to embrace changes that reflect best practice in city reshaping.



FIGURE 10: CENTRAL GEELONG LANEWAYS PRECINCT (OBLIQUE AERIAL IMAGERY COLLECTION, FEB 2020)

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CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

Traffix Group

Traffic Engineering Review

Little Malop Street Traffic Analysis

Review of Access to Moorabool Street

Prepared for
City of Greater Geelong

May, 2020

20308R-03C.docx

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1. Introduction

Traffix Group has been engaged by the City of Greater Geelong to prepare a traffic engineering assessment of the options to open Little Malop Street to vehicle traffic between Moorabool Street and Shorts Place. This report provides a traffic engineering view of the possible options and makes recommendations on the same.

2. Existing Conditions

To understand the context of the options to opening Little Malop Street requires an appreciation of the local road network and surrounds. An aerial photograph of this area provided at Figure 1. A description of the key road links is provided in Table 1.

In terms of land use, there has been an uplift in land use within the area in recent years with a number entertainment/restaurant/café/bar uses operating, particularly along Little Malop Street. This has led to an increase in pedestrian numbers along Little Malop Street.

Recent streetscape improvement works have changed Little Malop Street to a 'shared zone' for cars and pedestrians and additional pedestrian amenities such as lighting, seating, planting and other street furniture have been installed. There has also been an increase in footpath dining. Little Malop Street currently provides a high level of pedestrian amenity. A detailed review of Little Malop Street is located at Section 2.1.

Greater Geelong City Council is working to improve the road network within and surrounding the Geelong CBD and is developing management strategies for key road links within the CBD. We understand that the Draft Network Operating Plan provided at Figure 2 (although not formally adopted) represents Council's current thinking in regard to road management within Central Geelong.

The Little Malop Street and the 4 arterial roads bordering the study area are intended to have the following functions:

- Little Malop Street is designated as a key east-west pedestrian corridor, including the section between Shorts Place and Moorabool Street.
- Ryrie Street is a Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) Arterial Road. Its primary future purpose is to distribute traffic into and out of the Geelong CBD. It is not intended as a through traffic route, with the section abutting the study area designating pedestrians as the key movement function of this street.
- Moorabool Street is a Council Arterial Road and is designated as a primary pedestrian and cyclist route. This is in additional to its current function as the key bus route into Central Geelong with a bus interchange at Little Malop Street.
- Gheringhap Street and Malop Street are both Council Arterial Roads and cyclist and pedestrian priority routes.



Legend

Signalised Intersection		Traffic flow direction	
Signalised Pedestrian Crossing		Shared Zone*	
Pedestrian Mall		Bus Stop	

Notes: Downes Lane and Shorts Place are also 'Share Zones' as the entire road network within the precinct is signed as a shared zone. However these two streets do not have the characteristics of a formal shared zone, specifically they have separate footpaths separated from the carriageway by high kerbs.

Source: Nearmap

Figure 1: Local Plan

Table 1: Road Network Summary

Name	Functional Classification	Road Reservation Width	Typical Configuration
Ryrie Street	RRV Declared Main Road Road Zone Category 1	31m	Divided road. Two traffic lanes, bicycle lane and parking lane in each direction.
Malop Street	Council Arterial Road Road Zone Category 2	31m	Traffic lane, bicycle lane and parking lane in each direction. Central turning lane.
Moorabool Street	Council Arterial Road Road Zone Category 2	31m	Divided road. One traffic lane and parking lane in each direction.
Gheringhap Street	Council Arterial Road Road Zone Category 2	31m	Two traffic lanes, bicycle lane and parking lane in each direction.
Little Malop Street	Shared Zone Pedestrian Mall east of Shorts Place	14.2m around Downes La 10m btw James St and Moorabool St	Gheringhap St and James St - One-way eastbound. Single 3.4m wide traffic lane. James St to Shorts Pl - two-way traffic flow, approximately 3.4m available for traffic Shorts Pl to Moorabool St – Pedestrian Mall
James Street	Shared Zone	12m	One-way southbound, 3.4m wide lane for traffic. Parking lane and footpath on both sides.
Downes Lane	Local Road	10.5m	Approx. 7.5m wide carriageway. Parking on both sides. Approx. 1.5m wide footpaths on both sides.
Shorts Place	Local Road	10m Narrower at ends	Approximately 5m wide carriageway. Wider footpath on one side. Narrower at dead ends.
Dennys Place	Laneway	6m	Approx. 4-5m carriageway, 1m wide footpath on east side. Limited parking on one side.
McLarty Place	Laneway	6m	Approx. 3.4m carriageway, variable footpath widths. Limited parking on one side.
John Street	Laneway	4.2m-5.5m wide	Clear carriageway, no footpath. Limited parking on one side.
Downes Place	Laneway	4.5m wide	Clear carriageway, no footpath. No Parking.
Minns Place	Laneway	4.5m wide	Clear carriageway, no footpath. No Parking.
Minns Lane	Laneway	3.7m-4.6m wide	Clear carriageway, no footpath. No Parking.



Figure 2: Draft Network Operating Plan

2.1. Detailed Review of Little Malop Street Existing Conditions

Little Malop Street is configured as a 'Shared Zone' between Gheringhap Street and Shorts Place. Between Shorts Place and Moorabool Street, Little Malop Street is a pedestrian mall. Regular vehicle access to this link is not permitted (there are removable bollards at Moorabool Street). It is characterised by its narrow roadway, flush pavement surface and significant amount of pedestrian-orientated street furniture, including footpath dinning.

Photos of Little Malop Street around Shorts Place are provided at Figure 3 and Figure 6. The photographs do not reflect the numbers of pedestrians that normally use this space or footpath dinning activities that take place (they were taken in the morning, during the Covid19 lockdown period). Little Malop Street serves as the only vehicle connection for a number of dead-end laneways including Dennys Place, McLarty Place and Shorts Place. It also provides access to Minns Place (however it is possible to access Minns place from James Street).



Figure 3: Little Malop Street – view east from Shorts Place



Figure 4: Little Malop Street – view west from Moorabool Street



Figure 5: Little Malop Street – view west from Shorts Place



Figure 6: Little Malop Street – view west from James Street

The pedestrian mall section of Little Malop Street (between Shorts Place and Moorabool Street) is 10m wide between buildings at the ground level. This width is practically reduced by building awnings on both sides. There is no vehicle access to this section of Little Malop Street. The bluestone surface treatment continues in this section. There are removable bollards at the eastern end of Little Malop Street, where it intersects with the Moorabool Street footpath, that block vehicle access.

Even without the bollards, there is no formal vehicle connection to Moorabool Street. There is a variety of street furniture and traffic signal infrastructure blocking a direct or formal travel path. This is most clearly shown in Figure 4.

Little Malop Street (outside of the pedestrian mall) provides a vehicle carriageway that is 3.4m in width, which provides adequate width for a single lane of traffic only. Little Malop Street operates as a one-way street from Gheringhap to James Street (with James Street providing a one-way link to Ryrie Street). This arrangement results in a single traffic lane for two-way traffic between James Street and Shorts Place (approximately 70m) without any two-way passing opportunity.

As a consequence of the single lane section and requirement to provide for two-way movements, the traffic carrying capacity of the laneway network east of James Street is highly constrained by the capacity of this link.

The Australian Standard for Off-Street parking (while not technically applicable to public road), provides the following guidance on the capacity of single-lane links for two-way traffic:

> *Where the circulation roadway leading from a Category 1 access driveway is 30 m or longer, or sight distance from one end to the other is restricted, and the frontage road is an arterial or sub-arterial road, both the access driveway and the circulation roadway for at least the first 6 m from the property boundary shall be a minimum of 5.5 m wide. In other cases subject to consideration of traffic volumes on a case-by-case basis, lesser widths, down to a minimum of 3.0 m at a domestic property, may be provided. As a guide, 30 or more movements in a peak hour (in and out combined) would usually require provision for two vehicles to pass on the driveway, i.e. a minimum width of 5.5 m. On long driveways, passing opportunities should be provided at least every 30 m.*

In context of Little Malop Street, this means that when single lane vehicle links extend longer than 30m and/or traffic volumes exceed 30 vehicle movements per hour, consideration needs to be given to providing two-way passing opportunities. If this is not provided, delays and vehicle conflicts increase and become difficult to manage. The guide of 30m or 30 vehicles per hour is not 'hard and fast', for instance a 70m long single lane section might be appropriate if traffic volumes using it are significantly less than 30 vehicles per hour.

At a meeting on the 10th March, 2020, Greater Geelong City Council resolved that:

> *7. That Council:*
>
> *7.1 Endorse the amended proposal to provide vehicle access restrictions in Little Malop Street (between Dennys Place and Moorabool Street); and*
>
> *7.2 Refer the project to the 2020-21 budget for consideration.*
>
> *7.3 Request the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report that details options to allow service and tenant access to Lt Malop Street and Shorts Place from Moorabool Street. This*

should also include the consideration to permanently close off Lt Malop Street to vehicles between Shorts Place and Dennys Place. The report should be presented by 30 June 2020.

At 7.1, the Council resolved to alter access to Little Malop Street between Dennys Place and Moorabool Street as follows;

- *Provision of 2 x automated rising bollards in Little Malop Street (2 x on the eastern side of the entrance to Dennys Place).*
- *Retention of the pre-existing removable bollards at the Moorabool Street end of Little Malop Street.*
- *Maintain current access arrangements for Dennys Place.*
- *Provision of timers only for the bollards, along with a '003 key' access for emergency services (key commonly used by emergency services).*
- *Provision of a vehicle sensor (or similar) to allow a vehicle to exit only, in the infrequent event that a vehicle may become trapped in the affected area.*
- *Programmed timers for the bollards to rise, restricting public vehicle access between 10:00am and 4:00am the following morning, allowing public access between 4:00am and 10:00am on any given day.*

These changes are shown in the plan extract at Figure 7.

The restricted vehicle access arrangements to Little Malop Street mean that vehicle access to Little Malop Street, east of Dennys Place, including Shorts Place and McLarty Place is highly constrained. This outcome has limited vehicle access to service vehicles (waste collection and loading) at selected times and emergency service vehicles only.

Given the low volumes of traffic using Little Malop Street (particular with the above limitation), it is unlikely that the existing single lane nature of Little Malop Street is a significant issue from a traffic management perspective under existing conditions.

Another implication of this decision is that it is not practically possible for a private property relying on Little Malop Street for vehicle access to provide any meaningful level of private car parking unless vehicle access to Little Malop Street/Shorts Place is improved or alternative road frontages are used. This includes properties along Shorts Place. A map identifying the key properties is provided at Figure 8.

Without 24hr/7day access to Little Malop Street and its limited carrying capacity (due to its single lane, two-way nature), it is not practical for these properties to have a high level of on-site car parking for private use, as access these spaces would be limited to a 6-hour period in the morning only.

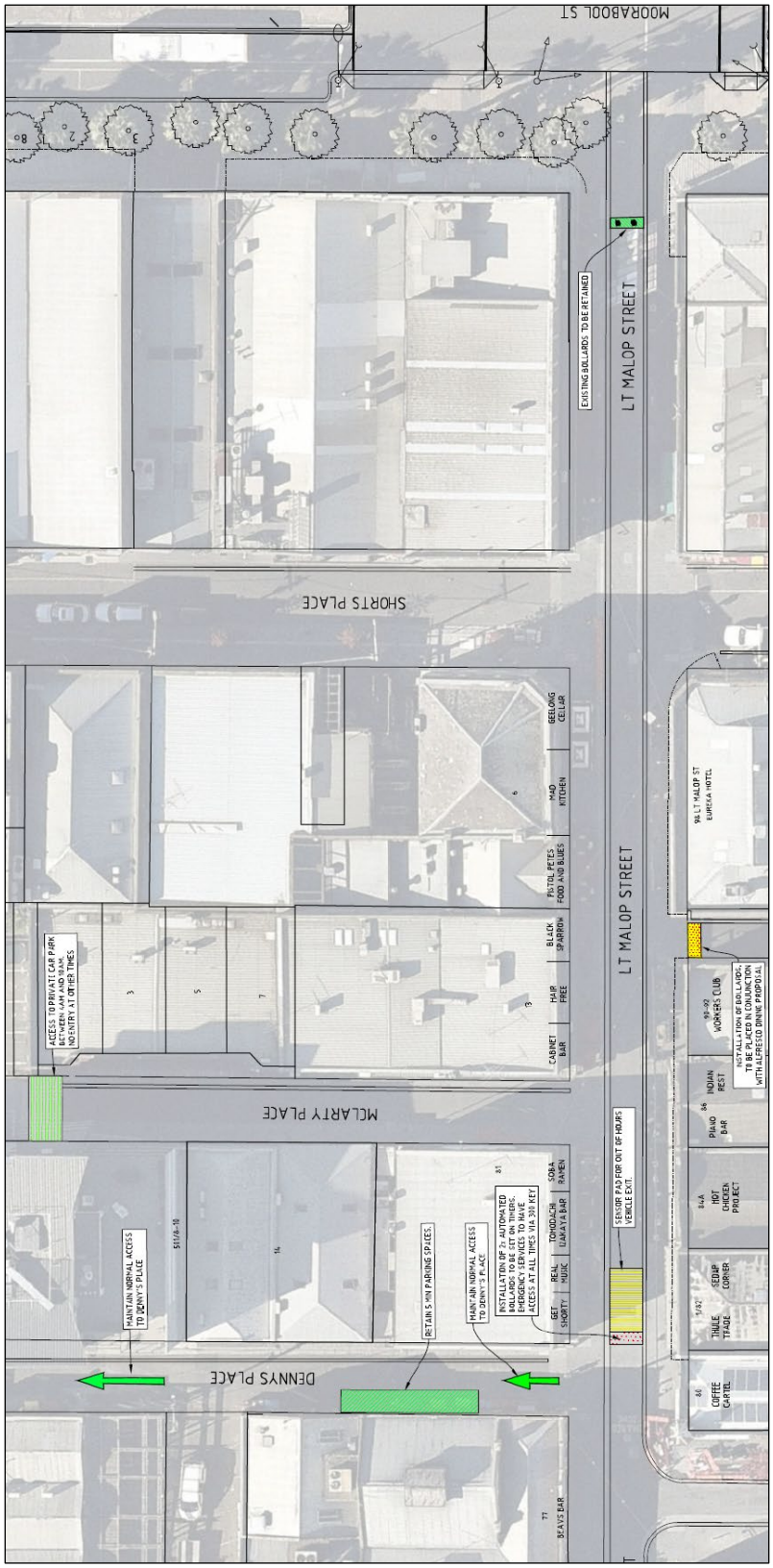


Figure 7: Planned changes to Little Malop Street.

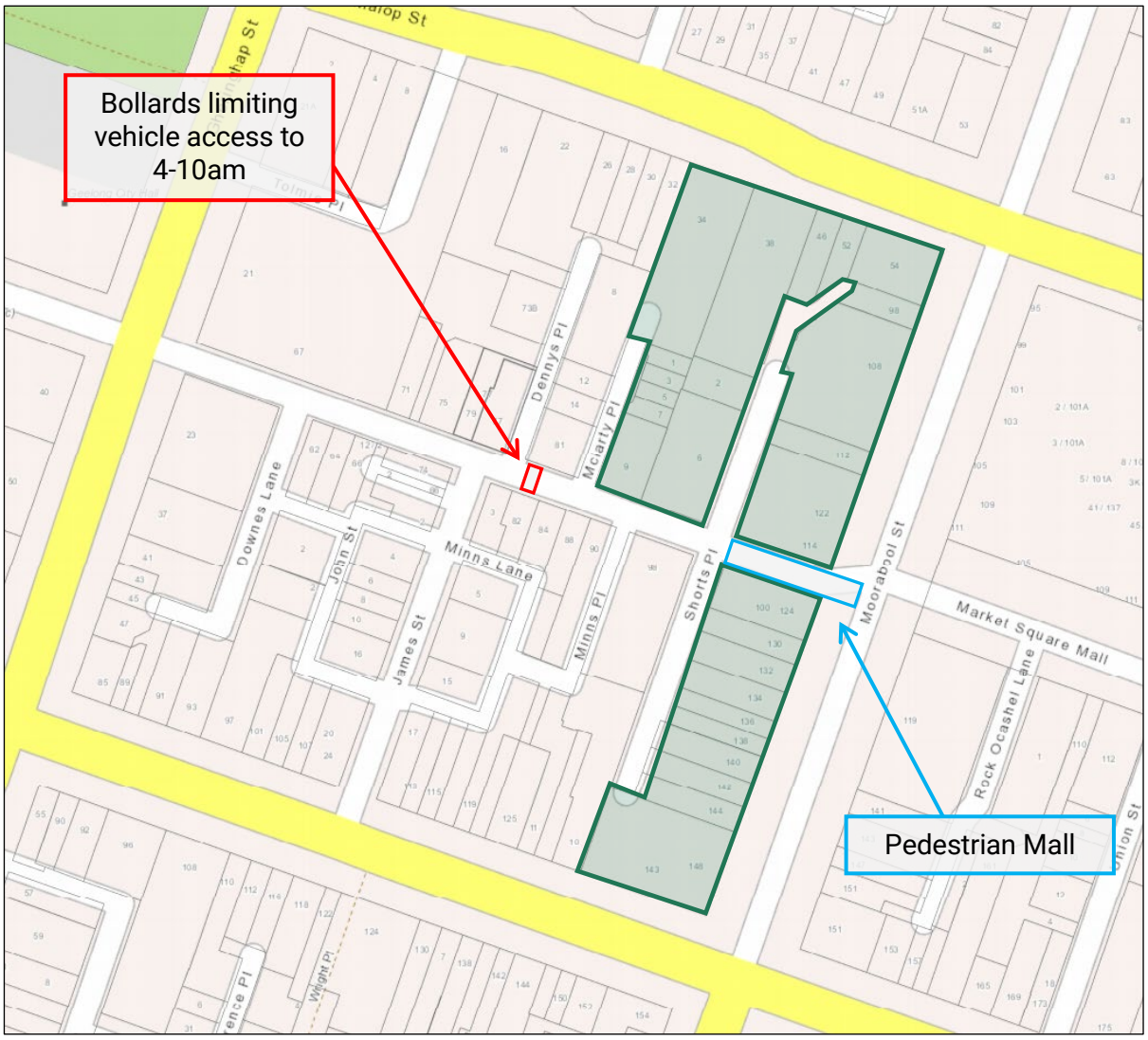


Figure 8: Properties with limited vehicle access

2.2. Detailed Review of Moorabool Street Existing Conditions

Moorabool Street is a Local Road, Category 2, managed by Council under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme. In the vicinity of Little Malop Street, Moorabool Street provides one traffic lane in each direction with kerbside parking/bus parking on each side.

The intersection of Moorabool Street/Little Malop Street forms a T-intersection with the eastern leg of Little Malop Street. The eastern side of Little Malop Street is limited to exit only movements due to its one-way, westbound operation. The whole intersection serves as a wide pedestrian crossing of Moorabool Street.

This section of Moorabool Street also serves as a key public transport route into Central Geelong as shown in the following figure. There is also a large bus interchange at Little Malop Street.

These features elevate the importance of Moorabool Street in terms of needing smooth and reliable traffic flow for bus services to meet timetabling and service commitments and providing a high level of pedestrian amenity and safety in the immediate vicinity of Little Malop Street.



Figure 9: Central Geelong Public Transport Map

3. Options for Access to Moorabool Street via Little Malop Street

This section of the report assesses the potential options to open vehicle access to Little Malop Street/Shorts Place from Moorabool Street. This area is currently a pedestrian only mall. Each of the options are been reviewed for its impact on the following (in no particular order):

a) Pedestrian amenity and walkability

b) The impact on pedestrian safety

c) Council's strategic plans for the management of roads in Central Geelong

d) Its improvement on vehicle access within the precinct, including the impact on Little Moorabool Street to the west Shorts Place

e) The impact on traffic flow on Moorabool Street

f) The impact on bus services on Moorabool Street

g) The cost of the works.

3.1. No Vehicle Access to Moorabool Street – Status Quo

Any comparison of options to provide vehicle access to Moorabool Street from Little Malop Street needs to be considered in the context of the existing conditions.

Little Malop Street is a currently a pedestrian mall east of Shorts Place and a shared zone to the west. Recent streetscape works have significantly improved the pedestrian realm. As such is provides a high level of pedestrian safety and amenity.

Currently, vehicle access to Little Malop Street (east of James Street) and Shorts Place is limited as a result of its configuration (a long section where a single lane traffic lane provides two-way access) and Council's recent resolution to restrict vehicle access to Little Malop Street except between the hours of 4am-10am. Emergency services can access Little Malop Street at any time, or they could service abutting properties from external arterial roads.

We are satisfied that these limitations do provide an acceptable (albeit constrained) level of access to affected properties by service vehicles for loading and waste collection.

The key benefit of these changes is it maximises pedestrian safety and amenity within Little Malop Street, which has become important with the abutting land uses.

Its current configuration and recent Council restrictions fit the intended role of Little Malop Street, which is that of a key east-west pedestrian route through Central Geelong.

One of the impacts of the limited vehicle access to Little Malop Street/Shorts Place is the ability of these properties to provide any significant level of on-site car parking (noting that there is negligible on-site car parking currently provided by these properties). The physical configuration and operational limitations recently imposed by Council mean that a car parking accessed via Little Malop Street/Shorts Place is not a practical possibility under existing conditions.

In our view, this is an acceptable planning outcome. This location in Central Geelong has the highest level of public transport access in Geelong. It is highly walkable, with everyday services and places of employment accessible by a short walk or cycle, instead of by private car. This is an area where a reduction in car parking (down to zero) is supportable under the current decision guidelines of Clause 52.06-7 of the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme. In our view, a reduction down to zero car parking should not be a reason that limits the development of the lots affected by the limited vehicle access to Shorts Place.

All of the following options to change Little Malop Street are assessed in the context of these existing conditions.

3.2. Full access to Little Malop Street

This option involves providing 'full' vehicle access via a two lane, two-way vehicle link between Shorts Place and Moorabool Street. The minimum carriageway width for two-way access is 5.5m under the Australian Standard and Greater Geelong Planning Scheme. Any other obstructions would need to be at least 300mm away from the 'kerb' or vehicle carriageway. This would require modifications to the existing 3.4m wide vehicle carriageway.

The full concept plan is attached at Appendix A, with an extract shown below.



Figure 10: Concept of two-way access to Moorabool Street

It has been designed to accommodate an 8.8m Medium Rigid Vehicle (MRV) from AS2890.2-2018. This truck represents a medium sized loading truck, a standard size waste collection vehicle and a fire appliance.

Due to the nature of its two-way vehicle access, this link must be integrated into the existing traffic signals and it would not be necessary to eliminate vehicle movements (such as ban right turns out of Moorabool Street) given that two-way access was being provided via traffic signals.

The key advantages of this option are:

- It provides a high level of access to Shorts Place for all vehicles. It would allow 24/7 access to Shorts Place for loading, waste and emergency services.
- It supports unconstrained access to private car parking on abutting properties.
- It would result in a further reduction in vehicle trips using Little Malop Street between James Street and Shorts Place.

The disadvantages of this option are:

- This option does not fit with Council's overall vision to have Little Malop Street operate as a key east-west pedestrian route through Central Geelong. It severely impacts on pedestrians in the following ways:
  - Pedestrians can currently walk along Moorabool Street and Little Malop Street un-interrupted. It creates a significant conflict point for pedestrians travelling up and down Moorabool Street. This includes stationary vehicles waiting to exit Little Malop Street blocking pedestrians.
  - The remaining footpath width in Little Malop Street is only 2.25m wide on both sides of the carriageway. This is narrow for an Activity Centre, barely enough for pedestrians with prams or wheel chairs to pass and leaves no space for street furniture (seats, trees, lighting, other improvements).
  - There is a significant impact to pedestrian amenity and safety within this link. This is a particularly important impact on the context of the current situation where pedestrian amenity and safety are the highest they could be due to the absence of vehicles.
- This section could not be created as a shared zone due the effect of stationary vehicle queues waiting to exit Little Malop Street and the potential increase volume of traffic using this link (it would encourage higher off-street parking of abutting properties).
- Due to its offset from the eastern leg of Little Malop Street, the future modified traffic signals would have to operate as a three-phase intersection, with separate signal phases for Moorabool Street and the eastern and western legs of Little Malop Street. This means the intersection would not operate in an optimal manner. As a result, Moorabool Street would have less 'green time' than it is currently allocated, with an estimated loss of up to 20% in green time to through traffic con Moorabool Street.

  This has an impact on the flow of traffic movements along Moorabool Street and introduces an additional delay to buses along Moorabool Street. Moorabool Street between Ryrie Street and Malop Street currently carries 17 of the 18 bus services that access central Geelong. Accordingly, protecting the performance of bus services along Moorabool Street is critically important.

This option is expensive, requiring kerbworks, removal of street furniture, traffic signal relocation and modification and it requires altering the building awning at 124 Moorabool Street.

JCA Land Consultants have provided an estimate of the cost of the works required by on the concept plan attached at Appendix A. The itemised costs are provided at Appendix B. The cost for this option is estimated at $412,500 (plus GST).

3.3. Single lane, two-way access to Moorabool Street

An option to provide a single lane for two-way access to Moorabool Street. This option is included for the purposes of an extensive review of all options. An extract of this plan is shown below.



Figure 11: Concept of two-way, single lane access from Moorabool Street

This option is unworkable from a traffic management perspective and it would be a very poor operational outcome to have a single lane for two-way access.

The nature of the Little Malop Street/Moorabool Street signalised intersection and pedestrian crossing means that allowing a single traffic lane for two-way access is a substantially different proposition compared to the same arrangement for Little Malop Street between James Street and Shorts Place. Here in the event of any vehicle conflict, drivers are waiting within a shared zone, in a low speed environment where driver sightlines are good. There are no signals or complicated traffic management arrangements.

Vehicles waiting to exit Little Malop Street to Moorabool Street under a red signal would do so at a stop line within Little Malop Street (in the same location as per Option 1). These vehicles would be blocking all entering traffic.

It is not appropriate for this leg of the intersection to not be included within the traffic signals (i.e. vehicles entering and exiting Little Malop street under the control of the signals). There is a range of safety and operational issues with allowing one leg of a signalised intersection to not be controlled by traffic signals. In particular, drivers exiting Little Malop Street would be confused as to when they could legally enter the intersection. Vehicles would have to wait near the kerbline of Moorabool Street, blocking the footpath.

If Little Malop Street was permitted to access the intersection without signals (i.e. subject to Give Way control or similar), vehicle conflict would be difficult for drivers to manage or cause safety issues with traffic on Moorabool Street and pedestrians in the area. Any vehicle conflict would result in either:

a) A vehicle reversing back up Little Malop Street or back onto Moorabool Street, which is a hazard to pedestrians and vehicles, made more critical by this intersection location within a set of traffic signals with a large number of pedestrians.

b) Vehicles waiting to turn into Little Malop Street, blocking through traffic on Moorabool Street while they wait for an exiting driver to clear.

In our view this option is not viable, even for very low levels of traffic due to the issues of vehicle conflict, pedestrian safety and there being no reasonable way to manage these issues.

JCA Land Consultants have provided an estimate of the cost of the works required by on the concept plan attached at Appendix A. The itemised costs are provided at Appendix B. The cost for this option is estimated at $131,000 (plus GST).

3.4. Options to limit access to Little Malop Street

We understand that Council has requested investigations into whether vehicle access to this section of Little Malop Street could or should be limited. Such a limitation would allow property owners access the laneway for private parking or loading activities.

Access into Little Malop Street would be controlled by retractable bollards (or similar), with property owners given vehicle access only and emergency services given access via a '003 key' in a similar manner to the bollards proposed near Dennys Place.

There is no need to limit access to Little Malop Street under Option 1. The two-way laneway configuration means that there is not a vehicle carrying capacity issue that would need to be addressed.

Option 2 is not a viable solution as vehicle conflict and management under this arrangement is unworkable. Even at very low traffic volumes, the impact of vehicle conflict is severe and poses safety risks to all road users

Under Option 2, any access limitation also poses a series of further issues:

- Imposing an additional delay via bollards increases the chances of vehicle conflict within Little Malop Street, which is already a serious issue for Option 1.

- Where is the vehicle control (i.e. where are the boom gates/bollards located)? If it is located close to Moorabool Street, there is a risk of waiting vehicle extending into Moorabool Street and vehicles would be blocking the public footpath on Moorabool Street. Setting the bollards back from Moorabool Street increases the likelihood of the bollards 'trapping' drivers.
- How does Council manage the use of keys or passes by private individuals with access to the bollards?

4. Option Evaluation

The following section summarises the outcomes of the detailed assessment and compares each of the options at a high level against each other on a relative basis. Any changes to Little Malop Street have impacts on the movement and safety of vehicles, trucks, emergency services, pedestrians, cyclists and buses. All these impacts need to be considered.

Each of the options has been assessed against the following criteria.

a) What is the impact on pedestrian amenity and walkability?

b) What is the impact on pedestrian safety?

c) How does the option fit with Council's strategic plans for the management of roads in Central Geelong?

d) How does it improve vehicle access to the precinct? This includes access for cars, loading, waste collection and emergency services.

e) What is the impact on traffic flow on Moorabool Street?

f) What is the impact on bus services on Moorabool Street?

g) The cost of the works.

Each of the options has been assessed on how they impact on the assessment criteria.

Table 2: Assessment of Options

Objective	Does proposal achieve the objective?		
	Status Quo	**Option 1 (two-lane access)**	**Option 2 (one-lane access)**
To maximise pedestrian amenity	High	Very Low	Medium
To maximise pedestrian safety	High	Low	Low
Fit within the broad road management context	High	Very Low	Medium
To improve to vehicle access to precinct	No	High	Low
To minimise impact on traffic flow on Moorabool Street	High	Very Low	Low
To minimise impact on bus services	High	Very Low	Low
Relative cost of options	None	High	Low

Based on the above, we recommend that **no changes are made to Little Malop Street.**

Keeping Little Malop Street between Shorts Place and Moorabool Street as a pedestrian mall is the best use of this link. This configuration fits its role within the local road network. Any proposal to introduce vehicle access to this link compromises the safety and amenity it provides to pedestrians and its function as a key east-west pedestrian route. The key disadvantage is that it provides no improvement to vehicle access to Shorts Place properties. However, it is our opinion that the level of vehicle access to these properties is acceptable for loading, waste collection and emergency services. The practical outcome is that these properties cannot provide a high level of private car parking, which in our view is an acceptable outcome and does not limit the development potential of these properties.

Option 1 has a very significant impact on pedestrians, both from queued traffic, increased traffic in Little Malop Street, on Moorabool Street and perhaps most importantly the very limited space left within the road reserve for pedestrians.

Option 2 is unworkable from a traffic engineering perspective. There is no practical way to manage conflicts between two vehicles travelling in opposite directions, resulting in a series of operational and safety implications for vehicles and pedestrians.

4.1. Other Options to Improve Vehicle Access to Shorts Place Properties

The key impact of leaving Shorts Place and Little Malop Street in their current configuration is the limited vehicle access it grants properties abutting Shorts Place. In general, these properties also front the arterial roads of Moorabool Street, Malop Street and Ryrie Street.

The other ways to improve vehicle access to Shorts Place are discussed below:

- Provide a single lane, one-way vehicle link from Moorabool Street to Shorts Place. This could be eastbound or westbound. This would have a reduced impact on the existing traffic signals (particularly an entry only arrangement).

  Its one-way nature would mean that vehicles would have to use Little Malop Street to the west to complete their journey (i.e. to/from James Street). This area has been effectively closed to all vehicles except for loading/waste services (outside of 4-10am) and emergency services. This would be contrary to Council's recent changes in the area to reduce vehicle traffic in this location and would negatively impact on pedestrians and amenity.

- Allow properties direct access to Moorabool Street, Ryrie Street or Malop Street. This option is not supported. It runs directly against the principles of vehicle access management policies in the state planning guidelines and Regional Roads Victoria (formerly VicRoads) and is highly undesirable.

  Eliminating vehicle access to arterial roads (in this case roads that are also designated as pedestrian priority routes) promotes a safe and friendly pedestrian walking environment by reducing breaks in the footpath, reducing pedestrian-vehicle conflict points and increasing the amount of active street frontage along main roads. It also eliminates instances of vehicles blocking the footpath. It also has impacts on the safety and operation of vehicle and cyclists traffic along the main road.

- Create a new public road link from Shorts Place to one of the surrounding arterial roads. This option would be expensive (require property acquisition) and result in potentially similar negative outcomes to pedestrians and vehicle movement at its intersection with the arterial road network as those at Little Malop Street for negligible benefit.

- Review the configuration of Little Malop Street between James Street and Shorts Place to provide a two-lane, two-way carriageway. However, this would be contrary to all the decisions and investments recently made by Council in relation to Little Malop Street and has similar issues in relation to footpath widths and street furniture as opening the pedestrian mall section of Little Malop Street does.

We are satisfied that there are no other reasonable alternative options to improve vehicle access to Little Malop Street/Shorts Place that have not already been considered.

5. Conclusion

Our recommendation is that no changes are made to Little Malop Street. The existing configuration of Little Malop Street maximises pedestrian safety and amenity and fits with its role in the local road network.

Opening up Little Malop Street impacts this key function by reducing the safety and amenity of pedestrians. All alternative options have additional impacts on pedestrians, cyclists, buses and general traffic on Moorabool Street itself.

We are satisfied that vehicle access to the properties abutting Shorts Place is adequate in its current form. The key impact of not opening up vehicle access through Little Malop Street to Moorabool Street is that the properties abutting to Shorts Places will not practically be able to provide any meaningful level of private car parking. In our view, this is acceptable under the current statutory planning scheme controls and a reduction in car parking (down to zero) would be acceptable and should not be a limitation on the redevelopment of these properties.

Appendix A
Concept plans



ISSUE	ISSUE DESCRIPTION	ISSUE DATE
A	CONCEPT PLAN - INITIAL ISSUE	14 MAY 2020
B	CONCEPT PLAN - COUNCIL COMMENTS INCORPORATED	21 MAY 2020

GENERAL NOTES

1 BASE INFORMATION FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH (SOURCE NEARMAP MAY 2020)
2 ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB & CHANNEL
3 LOCAL ROAD - MOORABOOL STREET (SPEED ZONE 40km/h)
4 ALL PROPOSED FOOTPATHS AND PRAM CROSSINGS ARE TO BE CONSTRUCTED WITH TACTILE GROUND SURFACE INDICATORS TO DDA COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES REFER TO AS 1428.4:2009

DESIGNED S O'KEEFE 14 MAY 2020
CHECKED/APPROVED L FURNESS 14 MAY 2020
FILE NAME G20308-01-00.dgn

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LITTLE MALOP STREET
GEELONG
CITY OF GREATER GEELONG
CONCEPT PLAN - OPTION 1

SCALE 1:250 (A3) 0 1.25 2.5 3.75 5
SHEET No. 1 of 2
DWG No. G20308-01-01



ISSUE	ISSUE DESCRIPTION	ISSUE DATE
A	CONCEPT PLAN - INITIAL ISSUE	14 MAY 2020
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LITTLE MALOP STREET
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CITY OF GREATER GEELONG
CONCEPT PLAN - OPTION 2

SCALE 1:250 (A3) 0 1.25 2.5 3.75 5
SHEET No. 2 of 2
DWG No. G20308-01-02

Appendix B
Cost Estimates

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Our reference: 26230 22 May 2020

Little Malop Street, Geelong
Proposed Opening between Shorts Place and Moorabool Street
Preliminary Estimate of Costs

Option 1 - Two-way access to Moorabool Street

Site establishment	$20,000
Traffic management	$30,000
Demolition Includes flagpoles, palm trees, traffic signal infrastructure overhead verandah structure, street furniture, existing road pavement,	$80,000
Traffic signals - alterations to phasing	$120,000
Earthworks (boxing out, trimming for new road pavement)	$20,000
Road pavement	$30,000
Kerb and channel	$10,000
Drainage modifications, alterations to pit covers	$10,000
Underground services surface fitting alterations	$10,000
Linemarking/signs	$5,000
Alterations to building awning 124 Moorabool Street	$20,000
Contingency (10%)	$37,500
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST (excluding GST)	$412,500

Option 2 - Two-way single lane access to Moorabool Street

Site establishment	$10,000
Traffic management	$15,000
Demolition Includes flagpoles, palm trees, traffic signal infrastructure overhead verandah structure	$60,000
Traffic signals minor modifications	$5,000
Road pavement	$15,000
Kerb and channel	$7,000
Underground services surface fitting alterations	$5,000
Linemarking/signs	$2,000
Contingency (10%)	$12,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST (excluding GST)	$131,000

These estimates of costs have been prepared on the following basis:
The estimate of costs for Option 2 assume that Little Malop Street will not be part of the signalised intersection at Moorabool Street
Estimates do not include any allowance for redirection or lowering of services. The extent of which (if any) is not know at this preliminary time
Estimates are preliminary and are based on construction tender rates obtained for other similar projects in the past. The actual construction price will be dependent on tenders obtained from contractors upon completion of detail design. Until such time, construction estimates should be used as a guide only
These estimates are based on concept layout plans prepared by Traffix Group
Preliminary estimates of costs prepared by Andrew Goulding JCA Land Consultants

6. STORMWATER SERVICES STRATEGY 2020-30

Source:	**City Services – Infrastructure Planning**
Director:	**Guy Wilson-Browne**
Portfolio:	**Parks, Gardens and City Services**

Purpose

1. For Council to adopt the Stormwater Services Strategy 2020-30.

Background

2. The City of Greater Geelong Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30 establishes a 10-year program focused on improving long term management of floods, protecting the environment from stormwater pollution, and increasing stormwater reuse through integrated water management.

3. The draft Strategy was endorsed by Council on 10 December 2019 for community and stakeholder engagement, and between 20 December 2019 and 20 March 2020 valuable feedback was gained on their understanding and expectations of stormwater management through a range of information sessions and online engagement.

Key Matters

4. The Strategy provides a clear pathway for managing stormwater into the future and supports the community's clever and creative vision by leading the adaptation and integration of the City's stormwater services to support the municipality's growth, health and liveability.

5. 15 service objectives including targets and measures will guide the delivery of services through to 2030 to achieve the 4 strategic goals of:

   5.1 Foster healthy and resilient communities;

   5.2 Support innovative and sustainable growth;

   5.3 Enhance the natural and built environments; and

   5.4 Create positive community experiences.

6. The Strategy recommends improvement actions, prioritised by comparing service performance with the service objectives aiming to reach a basic level of service across all catchments in the coming 10 years, or putting in place plans to achieve this level of service where a more significant investment is required.

7. The Strategy identifies 4 flagship projects which bridge the gap in stormwater services across multiple service objectives:

   7.1 Northern Geelong Green Corridor Project;

   7.2 Waterproofing Urban Geelong Project;

   7.3 Lake Connewarre Protection Project; and

   7.4 Bellarine Sustainable Water Project.

8. During the engagement period the City received feedback highly supportive of the Strategy and its approach to the delivery of improved stormwater services.

9. Communities have been placed at the centre of the strategy with each catchment management unit set to have its own local strategy developed in the coming 10 years, giving these communities a clearer and more meaningful understanding of the levels of service delivered by the City and the management practices in place.

Cr Mason moved, Cr Kontelj seconded -

10. That Council adopt the Stormwater Services Strategy 2020-30 (Attachment 2) and support its implementation.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

1. Funding required to implement the actions of the Stormwater Services Strategy 2020-30 will be considered in the annual planning and budget cycles. Income from rates and charges underpin the delivery of basic levels of stormwater service.

2. Acceleration of service improvements, flagship projects, and other more ambitious initiatives will likely require funding via special charges, development contributions, government grants, partnerships or from other external sources.

3. The Strategy identified an opportunity to explore alternative funding arrangements such as the user pays practice adopted in the USA which is linked to each property's discharge of stormwater volume and quality creating an incentive for landowners to partner with water authorities and more actively manage stormwater run-off.

4. Further work into the scope and funding models for the flagship projects will be developed in partnerships with key stakeholders, including a well-justified business case to support applications for state and federal funding.

Community Engagement

5. The Strategy aims to start more proactive conversations about why stormwater services are important, and how the community can benefit when services are considered holistically. Implementation of the Strategy will include more engagement with the community on stormwater matters, informing service outcomes.

6. The draft Strategy was informed throughout 2019 with engagement of key stakeholders including the City's internal departments (i.e. Planning, Engineering, Environment), multiple arms of Government (i.e. Environment Protection Authority, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Barwon Water, Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, neighbouring Councils) and representatives from the private sector and industry associations.

7. The draft Strategy was endorsed by Council on 10 December 2019 for community and stakeholder engagement, and between 20 December 2019 and 20 March 2020 valuable feedback was gained on their understanding and expectations on stormwater management through a range of information sessions and online engagement such as:

    7.1 Four community engagement sessions at various locations (Central Geelong, Belmont, Norlane and Leopold);

    7.2 Social media reached over 6,700 people relating to the community engagement sessions, online tools and promoted the City's stormwater services; and

    7.3 Five key stakeholder briefings (Barwon Water, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Wadawurrung Aboriginal Community, Victorian Planning Authority and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning).

8. Key stakeholders considered that the Strategy articulates a clear framework for future delivery of stormwater services, establishes clear mechanisms for improved Integrated Water Management outcomes and supports an active approach to enabling Geelong's future growth.

    Important community feedback was received from 89 submissions (38 online surveys, 48 map-based comments, and 3 written submissions) during the feedback period. This feedback will help shape the City's ongoing engagement in the years to come. From the community feedback received:

8.1 76% consider the objectives to be very important;

8.2 68% were not satisfied with the stormwater service their community currently receives;

8.3 73% were not comfortable that stormwater service improvements within their community may take over 10 years under current funding levels;

8.4 64% agree that stormwater infrastructure should be funded to some degree by those who benefit (i.e. property owners); and

8.5 50% of the recorded issues received relate to stormwater flooding (either over road, within property or community spaces).

9. Ongoing community engagement is planned as part of the implementation of the Strategy, which will see the development of Catchment Management Strategies and delivery of priority actions.

Social Equity Considerations

10. The delivery of actions under the Stormwater Services Strategy 2020-30 enables all land owners, residents and community members to understand and engage on stormwater services delivered by the City, enable communities to better prepare for, and recover from, damaging stormwater events, and establish funding streams which are transparent and equitable.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

11. The Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30 has strong connections to various strategic work, most notably the:

11.1 Draft Sustainability Framework, in guiding water resilient communities to reduce their impact on the environment and implementing sustainable solutions;

11.2 Environment Strategy, to establish sustainable water strategies that can account for changing rainfall patterns, cool urban landscapes through increasing urban greening and integrating water within our environment and minimise damage to landscapes and waterways by protecting and enhancing biodiversity; and

11.3 Settlement Strategy, to plan stormwater systems that can meet the demands of new and existing residents.

12. Recent changes to the Victorian Local Government Act focus on improved democracy, accountability and service delivery in local government. To comply with the Act, Councils will be required to undertake deliberative community engagement processes to enable communities to better inform strategic directions and spending priorities. The importance of community engagement has been included in the Strategy.

13. Stormwater management requirements are spread across various legislative documents, such as the Local Government Act, Water Act and Planning & Environment Act.

As stormwater passes through the control of multiple parties – including land owners, Councils and other authorities – it is currently difficult to define and control the rights and responsibilities of each party under the various pieces of legislation. The Strategy outlines how working with our partner organisations to clarify individual roles and development of more inclusive decision-making frameworks can account for competing objectives.

Alignment to Council Plan

14. The *Council Plan 2018-22* has several strategic priorities that are supported by the Stormwater Service Strategy 2020-30, in particular:

    14.1 Planned sustainable development;

    14.2 Effective environmental management; and

    14.3 Organisational leadership, strategy and governance.

Conflict of Interest

15. 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

16. The delivery of actions under the Stormwater Services Strategy 2020-30 will enable the City to support a range of services (not just stormwater) which contributes to growth, health and liveability. These actions respond to:

    16.1 Growth and urban change – as urban environments become more intensely developed, total roof area increases, and so too does stormwater runoff. This rate of population growth will therefore have consequences for stormwater systems;

    16.2 Climate change – higher intensity storm events, more extreme and frequent heat waves and increased coastal erosion and inundation will challenge existing assumptions about the level of service expected from stormwater systems;

    16.3 Ageing assets – drainage assets are prone to collapsing and becoming blocked, with some assets date back to the 1800s. These assets cannot always meet modern service demands, with renewal programs needing to find cost efficiency to reduce the risk of critical assets failures; and

    16.4 Constrained funding – service delivery can be significantly impacted by any shortfall in funding to renew, maintain and operate stormwater systems. In addition to funding from rates and charges, income will need to be sourced from government grants, development contributions, and special charges for new and upgrade aspects of these services to be delivered.

17. Holistic management of stormwater involves a range of stakeholders and government agencies. Key actions include establishing partnership between the Greater Geelong water managers, including Barwon Water and Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, along with advocacy for legislative changes that enhance the City's stormwater practices.

Environmental Implications

18. There has been a transformative change in global stormwater management practice over the last 20 years as cities have become more water sensitive. At the same time, there is a growing expectation for urban landscapes to be leafy, green and include well-connected spaces. The Stormwater Services Strategy 2020-30 outlines and encourages the opportunity to make better use of stormwater to:

    18.1 create greener, healthier landscapes;

    18.2 reduce demand on drinking water supplies; and

    18.3 improve the health of waterways.

Attachment 2

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

STORMWATER SERVICES STRATEGY 2020-30

23 JUNE 2020

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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Mayor's Message



Managing stormwater effectively and responsibly is generally a topic that's 'out of sight, out of mind' for many people. It can be thought of as something that 'just happens' behind the scenes. But the importance of stormwater management and its impacts on Greater Geelong's liveability and environment can't be understated. If our region's network of pipes, open drains, wetlands, levees and other assets were laid end-on-end, it would stretch from Geelong to Alice Springs.

The Stormwater Services Strategy 2020-30 maps out a 10-year approach for the region to reduce dangerous flooding, protect waterways and the marine environment from stormwater pollution and safeguard our transport corridors. These actions and priorities will go towards easing pressure on our stormwater systems, as the effects of population growth and climate change increase.

As you can see, stormwater management really does affect all residents and the broader environment.

This strategy was a real team effort. Thank you to the community members and key stakeholders who gave valuable feedback, which has enabled the City to shape the final strategy for adoption by council. This blueprint will also form the foundation for all public engagement on stormwater into the future.

The goals and objectives of the strategy have a great connection with community values, such as reducing demand on drinking water through the use of alternative water supplies for parks and gardens.

One of the key themes identified during consultation was that we can improve our communication about our stormwater services, including as we implement our priority actions and look to develop catchment management strategies.

This strategy will also result in a review into the City's ability to deliver services, so funding opportunities can be maximised, and service improvements can be streamlined.

The City is committed to upgrading the region's stormwater services for residents and the environment, reaching out for feedback and listening to the community.

Cr Stephanie Asher
Mayor
City of Greater Geelong

Executive summary

The City of Greater Geelong Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30 **establishes a 10-year program focused on improving long term management of floods, protecting the environment from stormwater pollution, and increasing stormwater reuse through integrated water management. The overall aim is to support Greater Geelong's growth, health and liveability.**

Stormwater management is important in many different aspects of the City's service to the community, including:

- Land use planning
- Responding to storm events
- Maintaining the drainage network
- Protecting local waterways and the marine environment
- Providing and maintaining public open space and recreation assets, and
- Protecting transport corridors.

Our increasing population, a rapidly growing economy and climate change are putting increasing pressure on our stormwater systems. It is important that we account for these pressures to ensure we continue to deliver the services the community expects.

This strategy seeks to provide a clear pathway for managing Stormwater Services into the future, and in so doing support the delivery of the *clever and creative* vision – in particular, the community aspiration for *'sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.'*

Key elements of the strategy, outlined in more detail below, include:

- Four strategic goals and 15 objectives that are linked closely with the clever and creative vision
- Priority improvement actions to achieve basic levels of service
- Four flagship projects proposed for the north, east, south and centre of the municipality.

MISSION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The strategy's mission is to:

Lead the adaptation and integration of stormwater services to support the city's growth, health and liveability.

Four goals achieve the strategy's mission:

Goal 1: Foster healthy and resilient communities

Goal 2: Support innovative and sustainable growth

Goal 3: Enhance the natural and built environments

Goal 4: Create positive community experiences

The goals are further supported by 15 best-practice objectives, targets and measures to guide the strategy's delivery to 2030.

PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS AND FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

The strategy recommends improvement actions across 25 catchment management units, which together cover the entire municipality. Planned improvements have been prioritised by comparing how well each catchment management unit is performing when compared to best-practice objectives.

Proposed actions are designed to bring all catchment management units to basic levels of service over the coming 10 years or create an agreed plan to achieve this level of service in cases where a more significant investment of time or money is required.

The strategy has identified four flagship projects which have significant benefits to stormwater service delivery for areas where multiple deficiencies have been identified. The proposed flagship projects are:

- Northern Geelong Green Corridor Project
- Lake Connewarre Protection Project
- Bellarine Sustainable Water Project
- Water Proofing Urban Geelong.

Each of these projects will require us to develop partnerships and attract significant levels of funding to realise them.

STRATEGY DELIVERY

We will deliver the services and actions in the strategy predominantly through:

- Infrastructure maintenance
- Infrastructure Renewals
- Investigation studies
- Performance Monitoring programs
- Community engagement, and
- Building and planning controls.

Income from rates and charges underpin the delivery of basic levels of stormwater service. This will ensure our services and actions are financially sustainable. Acceleration of service improvements, flagship projects, and other more ambitious initiatives will likely require funding via special charges, development contributions, government grants, partnerships or from other external sources. Over the next 10 years we plan to explore alternative funding arrangements linked to each property's discharge of stormwater, as is becoming commonplace overseas.

Local communities have been placed at the centre of the strategy. The community within each catchment management unit will help us to set acceptable levels of service and choose management options that work within our financial and other constraints.

We will review this strategy every 5 years, or as circumstances require.

Glossary

Asset solutions: Stormwater management actions which involve the construction of long-life physical assets.

Catchment Management Strategy (CMS); Outlines key service risks and opportunities within a catchment management unit and documents the required actions to manage the performance of the catchment.

Catchment management unit: A collation of drainage catchments based on similar urban environments, hydrological catchments, risks, opportunities and discharge points. 25 catchment management units have been identified that together cover the municipality.

Drainage network: The network of roads, kerbs, channels, pits, pipes, pumps, drains, retention basins and wetlands used to transport stormwater.

G21: Geelong Region Alliance (G21) a formal alliance of government, business and community organisations working together to improve the lives of people across five municipalities, including Greater Geelong

Green/blue Infrastructure: Infrastructure incorporated in an urban area that uses natural systems to both support urban greening and manage stormwater

Improvement action: An action to be taken to resolve a risk or capture an opportunity identified in a catchment management unit.

Integrated water management: A collaborative way of working with communities and other organisations to plan for, and manage, all elements of the water cycle. This includes managing and protecting waterway and bay health, managing wastewater, alternative and potable water supply, managing stormwater and treating water. Planning in this way allows organisations to identify and deliver greater-value water cycle initiatives and improve liveability and resilience in cities and towns.

Level of service: The outcomes expected to be delivered from the delivery of stormwater services.

Non-asset solutions: Solutions which do not require the construction of long life, physical assets in the urban environment – for example:

- applying building and planning controls to protect existing and future residents from flooding, and
- creating better warning systems to notify the community about potentially damaging flood events.

Ramsar: Refers to an International Convention on Wetlands that was signed in 1971, in Ramsar, Iran,

Stormwater system: The combination of built and natural assets (public and private) and City operations which together manage stormwater.

Water sensitive urban design: An approach to designing urban areas to make use of stormwater, and minimise the damaging impact of stormwater on rivers, creeks and Bays/Oceans.

Introduction

Stormwater is surface water run-off from rain and storm events that has entered the drainage network.[1]

Historically, stormwater management focused almost exclusively on drainage. Rainwater fell on roofs, roads and other impervious surfaces. It was then collected in pits and pipes and conveyed to lakes, streams, waterways, Bays and Oceans to minimise the impact this water had on homes, businesses and the environment.

Today, stormwater is seen as much more than just a hazard that should be conveyed to the nearest waterway. It is seen as a resource that, with careful management, can bring many benefits to the local community.

Stormwater services today include:

- understanding flood risk and control, environmental protection and water use in our urban environment
- planning and controlling land use
- constructing infrastructure and performing maintenance and renewal works
- enhancing the sustainability of urban landscapes
- designing capacity and flexibility in stormwater systems that can keep pace with projected population growth and climate change
- preparing for and recovering from flood events
- supporting the improvement of open space to provide healthier environments for the community
- fostering partnerships with other regional water managers to make sure stormwater is utilised to its fullest potential
- maintaining and improving the health of receiving waterways.

As a local government, we are required to do all of this in the most cost-effective way and for the benefit of the whole community.

Figure 1 - Eastern Beach Gardens Stormwater Pond



[1] Environment Protection Authority Victoria

Background to this strategy

In total, Greater Geelong's drainage networks convey millions of litres of stormwater every year into local waterways, Bass Strait and Port Philip Bay.

The drainage network we manage includes:

- over 1,900 km of pipes
- over 64,000 stormwater pits
- over 300 retarding basins
- 20 pump stations
- over 150 km of open stormwater drains
- 5 km of flood levees, and
- over 150 water sensitive urban design assets, including wetlands and swale drains.

These assets have a total value of over $670 million. Laid end-on-end, our network of stormwater assets would stretch from Geelong to Alice Springs.

We manage stormwater in over 300 drainage catchments. For the purpose of this strategy, we've collated these drainage catchments into 25 catchment management units, each with similar characteristics and environmental sensitivities.

OUR LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

We are empowered by several pieces of legislation and regulation[2] to;

- make land use planning and development decisions
- establish emergency management plans, to help communities respond to and recover from flood events when they occur
- deliver and manage urban stormwater infrastructure, and
- manage flooding on roads and open spaces.

This legislated authority gives us considerable scope to direct the way stormwater is managed in our municipality.

Furthermore, unlike Melbourne's metropolitan councils, we are wholly responsible for stormwater services and the assets that deliver them.

RELEVANT STRATEGIES AND POLICIES

This strategy aligns with the community-led clever and creative vision, our *2018-22 Council Plan* and a range of other relevant strategies, including:

- *Environment Strategy*
- *Sustainability Framework*
- *Reconciliation Action Plan*
- *Social Infrastructure Plan*
- *Open Space Strategy*
- *Integrated Comprehensive Transport Plan*
- *Settlement Strategy*
- *Biodiversity Strategy*
- *Urban Forest Strategy*
- *Climate Change Adaptation Strategy*
- *Customer Focus Strategy*
- *Geelong Play Strategy*
- *Greater Geelong Cycle Strategy*
- *Greater Geelong Physical Activity Strategy*.

It also links to regional strategies and priorities including:

- Greater Geelong Planning Scheme
- Integrated Water Management Forum (Barwon) Strategic Directions Statement
- Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy
- Corangamite Waterway Strategy
- Corangamite Regional Floodplain Management Strategy
- Geelong Region Alliance (G21) pillars (Sport and Recreation, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Planning and Services)
- various best-practice guidelines endorsed by government and industry bodies including Australian Rainfall and Runoff Guidelines, and the Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines

More detail about this relationship is provided in Appendix A.

[2] Local Government Act 1989, Planning and Environment Act 1987, Environment Protection Act 1970, Water Act 1989, Building Act 1993, Emergency Management Act 2013, State Environment Protection Policy – Waters of Victoria, Victorian Infrastructure Plan, Victorian Water Plan, Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria, Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy, Victorian Planning Provisions, Building Regulations 2006, Corangamite Floodplain Management Strategy,

OUR PARTNERS

To deliver this strategy, we will partner with:

- **State and federal government** – we'll engage to clarify our authority to deliver services and source additional funding.
- **Regional groups** – we'll work with groups, such as G21 and the Integrated Water Management Forum, asking them to support requests for external funding and support governance structures.
- **Barwon Water –** as the government-owned statutory authority responsible for the supply of drinking and recycled water, we'll partner with Barwon Water on water reuse and irrigation initiatives.
- **Corangamite Catchment Management Authority** – as the authority responsible for floodplain management and waterway and land health, we'll work together on waterway enhancement and quality initiatives. This will be in keeping with the Memorandum of Understanding which is already in place with the CCMA.
- **Neighbouring Councils –** we'll work with other councils where our catchments cross service boundaries.
- **Melbourne Water –** we'll engage with Melbourne Water given their industry leadership and their status as an authority with responsibilities in the Geelong municipality.
- **Community groups, developers and industry bodies** – we'll engage and partner with local groups who will influence the development and outcomes of catchment management strategies.



Figure 2 – Image of the Moorabool River

Challenges and opportunities

Underground drainage networks come at significant cost and, for practical and financial reasons, have limited capacity.

Severe storm events can cause stormwater to exceed the capacity of the underground drainage network and flow overland to local creeks and rivers. This can sometimes lead to very damaging consequences, impacting homes, businesses and transport corridors.

While this is an ongoing challenge inherent in drainage networks, there are also many other challenges (and opportunities) we need to consider in this strategy.

CHALLENGES

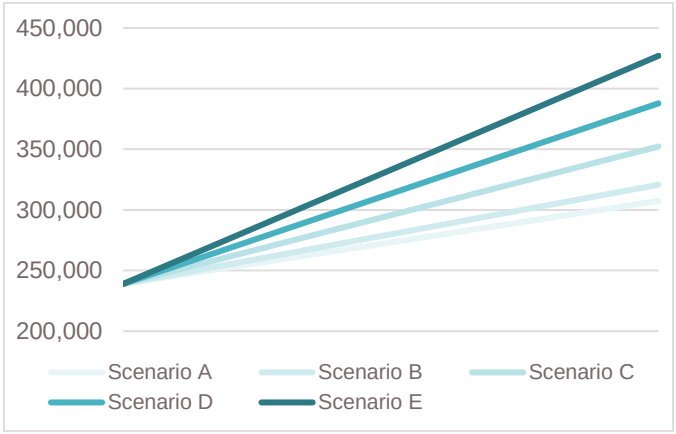
Growth and urban change

Greater Geelong's population has grown from 216,000 to 239,000 over the past 5 years (2013 to 2018), which is a growth rate of 2 per cent per year[3]. As Figure 3 shows, this elevated rate of growth is expected to continue, with population expected to rise to between 307,000 and 427,000 by 2036.

As urban environments become more intensely developed, total roof area increases, and so too does stormwater runoff. This rate of population growth will therefore have consequences for our stormwater system.

In the next 10 years, we're expecting the drainage network will grow at around 20 per cent, while water sensitive urban design assets could increase by 100 per cent.

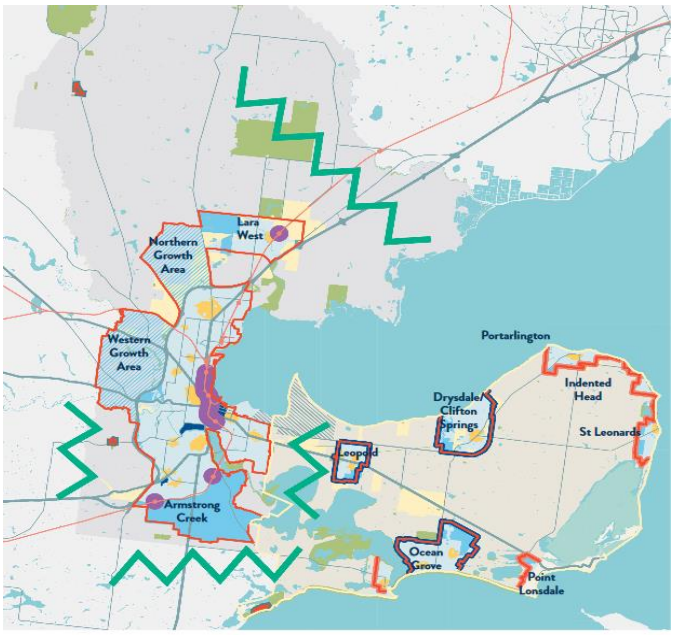
Figure 3 – Projected population in 2036 under growth scenarios



Source: Settlement Strategy 2018

As described in the Greater Geelong Settlement Strategy (2018) and shown in Figure 4, growth will be attained through a combination of infill development within existing township boundaries, and greenfield development in Armstrong Creek and the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas.

Figure 4 – Projected areas of growth



Source: Settlement Strategy 2018

To successfully meet projected growth, we need to plan a stormwater system that can meet the demands of new and existing residents. Failure to do so may result in significant flooding, pollution, and deterioration of urban

[3] Settlement Strategy 2018

amenity which may then require significantly higher rates and charges to remedy.

Climate change

Greater Geelong's climate is expected to change significantly over the coming century. Predicted climate change impacts include:

- higher intensity storm events, causing higher peak flow rates within drainage networks and bringing pollution from urban environments into sensitive waterways
- more extreme and frequent heat waves that result in higher urban temperatures, increased health risks and a greater likelihood of blue-green algal blooms in water sensitive urban design infrastructure (such as vegetated swale drains)
- increased coastal erosion and inundation, due to sea level rise, potentially limiting the capacity of stormwater outfalls.

These changes will challenge our existing assumptions about the level of service we can expect from our stormwater system.

To meet the challenge posed by climate change, we need to establish sustainable water strategies that can account for changing rainfall patterns, cool urban landscapes through increasing urban greening and integrating water within our environment, and minimise damage to landscapes and waterways by protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

An ageing asset base

Drainage assets are physical assets. Though they have a long lifespan they're still prone to collapsing and becoming blocked, even with regular maintenance.

Much of Greater Geelong's drainage network was installed post-World War II. However, some assets date back to the 1800s, particularly in inner-urban areas. Drainage assets of this age can't always meet modern service demands.

The challenge for us is to understand our asset base well enough to complete renewals cost efficiently and before critical assets fail.

Constrained funding

We derive a large proportion of our funding for stormwater services from rates and charges. However, this income is finite and is used to pay for a wide range of services delivered by the City.

A shortfall in funding has been identified for renewing, maintaining and operating our stormwater system to meet a basic level of service. This is a critical constraint for our ageing asset network.

In addition to funding from rates and charges, income is sourced from government grants, development contributions, infrastructure levies and special charge schemes.

OPPORTUNITIES

Geelong: A water sensitive city

There has been a transformative change in global stormwater management practice over the last 20 years as cities have become more water sensitive[4]. At the same time, there is a growing expectation for urban landscapes to be leafy, green and include well-connected spaces. This creates an enormous opportunity to consider how we can make better use of stormwater within the urban environment to:

- create greener, healthier landscapes
- reduce demand on drinking water supplies, and
- improve the health of waterways.

Bringing community to the centre of our service

A recent review and amendment to the Victorian Local Government Act focuses on improved democracy, accountability and service delivery in local government. To comply with the Act, Councils will undertake deliberative community engagement processes to enable communities to better inform strategic directions and spending priorities.

We recognise there is a great opportunity for us to work more closely with the community to create a more responsive and accountable service. By doing this, we hope to change our day-to-day conversations from reactive ones – for example, when stormwater services don't meet expectations – to proactive ones where council and the community collaborate to identify opportunities to ensure services meet expectations over time.

Partnering opportunities

Stormwater managers are starting to think and act more holistically as they follow a global trend towards more water sensitive cities.

There are excellent opportunities to partner with State and regional water managers; Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, Barwon Water, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Southern Rural Water

[4] "Water Sensitive Cities" Brown (2009)

and Melbourne Water to deliver whole-of-water-cycle services together.

As stormwater passes through the control of multiple parties – including homeowners, councils and other authorities – it is currently difficult to define and control the rights and responsibilities of each party under the various pieces of legislation. By working with our partner organisations, we hope to clarify our individual roles as defined by legislation and develop more inclusive decision-making frameworks that can account for competing objectives.

Exploring Funding Mechanisms

The development of the strategy considered best practices and innovative initiatives from a wide range of sources. While the traditional approach to funding stormwater services draws from council rates and charges linked to property value, we identified many stormwater managers in the United States of America introducing "user pays" funding arrangements which link the charges levied on land owners to the volume and quality of stormwater produced by each land parcel. This approach transparently ties the cost of providing stormwater services to a land parcel's contribution to environmental or social impacts. In so doing, the approach creates an incentive for landowners to partner with water authorities and more actively manage stormwater run-off.

While the funding approach used in many parts of the United States of America is not widely practiced in Australia, this strategy offers the opportunity to explore a similar, or other, user pays approach to funding stormwater services.

Speeding up strategic planning

Taking a more strategic approach to planning and delivering stormwater services can help to unblock delays in the strategic planning system. This in turn will speed up the delivery of projects that provide employment growth, and create increased housing choice, diversity and affordability.

Creating more water resilient communities

The Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30 has a strong connection to our *Sustainability Framework*. Through more effective stormwater services, we create water resilient communities which reduce their impact on the environment. Our proposed approach to delivering stormwater services will also improve community equity and access and deliver responsible and transparent service to our community.

The Stormwater Services Strategy also connects with the *Climate Adaption Strategy* and *Environment Strategy* by guiding communities to be more resilient and adaptable to the impacts of climate change.

Leading by example

Australia already employs best practice guidelines for the quality of water discharged to waterways[5], and guidelines for modelling rainfall events[6]. But, as Victoria's largest non-metropolitan municipality, we have an opportunity to be an example to other local governments which are looking improve the way they manage their stormwater services.

Figure 5 – Image of a stormwater pond in the Greater Geelong region



[5] Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines 1999

[6] Australian Rainfall and Runoff (2019) Geosciences Australia

How this strategy was developed

We commenced development of the Strategy in early 2019 and have worked over the past 18 months to refine its structure and priority improvement actions to deliver best practice in stormwater management. Our process has included extensive engagement with stakeholders and the community, which is set to continue over the life of the strategy as we work with communities to identify and plan improvement actions in their localities.

PHASE 1: DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICE OBJECTIVES

The field of stormwater management is rapidly evolving, so we looked at best practice examples from Victorian and Australian stormwater managers, as well as drawing on the experience of the Co-operative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities.

From this process, we developed four strategic goals and 15 objectives to form the basis for all subsequent service decisions.

PHASE 2: PRIORITISATION OF CATCHMENTS

We applied the objectives we developed in Phase 1 to our 25 catchment management units. By working out the gap between current service levels and desired service levels, we then prioritised them – the larger the gap in services, the higher the priority.

The resulting prioritisation framework is designed to help us allocate available budget to the most critical stormwater service needs and associated infrastructure.

There was a lot of quantitative data available to inform the prioritisation, such as flooding, water quality, and tree canopy coverage data (see Appendix B). However, not all data which could be used is available or suitable at present.

To fill the gaps, some subjective assessments were made by our own experts. In cases where that wasn't possible – for example, we were unable to assess the vulnerability of the road, rail and cycling networks to flood events – we have left these measures out of our prioritisation, with plans to add them in once the data becomes available.

Measures used in prioritisation are listed in Table 3.

PHASE 3: STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

The prioritisation exercise identified improvement actions for each catchment management unit within the municipality. Generally, these actions were focused on:

- **Asset and Non-Asset Solutions**
- **Investigations** – designed to confirm stormwater service risks and opportunities
- **Partnerships** – engagement with other authorities or organisations to better understand stormwater service risks and opportunities
- **Flagship projects** – we identified four complex projects which require partnerships with regional water managers and, most likely, external funding and external oversight.

We then prepared an implementation plan to guide actions over the next 10 years, with a focus on the next five years (until 2025).

PHASE 4: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

We engaged with a range of external stakeholders about this strategy, including the Environment Protection Authority, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Barwon Water, the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, neighbouring councils, and land development groups and industry associations.

During February and March 2020, we held four community sessions, and conducted an online survey with interactive maps open to all members of the community.

Though community feedback was limited, we identified general agreement with the objectives of the Strategy and significant opportunity to improve the level of services currently provided by the City.

The limited community feedback indicates that we have more work to do to raise the profile of Stormwater Services. Consequently, ongoing community engagement is a core feature of the strategy's delivery in the years to come.

Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30

As Table 1 shows, the *Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30* mission and goals are directly linked to the 30-year community vision described in *Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future*.

Table 1 – Links between *Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30* and the clever and creative vision

STORMWATER SERVICES STRATEGY	GREATER GEELONG: A CLEVER AND CREATIVE FUTURE
Mission To lead the adaptation and integration of stormwater services to support the city's growth, health and liveability.	**Vision** 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.
Goal 1: Foster healthy and resilient communities A city that can function without severe flooding that disrupts major transport routes, houses and businesses; supports healthy lifestyles by enhancing areas for outdoor activities; and helps people to feel safe in all types of weather, by reducing overland flows of stormwater (where not by design) and urban temperatures in heatwaves.	**Linked community aspirations** • People feel safe wherever they are • A fast, reliable and connected transport network • An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community
Goal 2: Support innovative and sustainable growth A city where development in new and existing areas is catered for using innovative stormwater management approaches that are fit-for-purpose, well-planned, and delivered effectively.	**Linked community aspirations** • Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment • A leader in developing and adopting technology
Goal 3: Enhance built and natural environments A city where development integrates natural and built environments to create pleasant outdoor environments in parks, streets and gardens; protects and enhances bays and waterways, particularly those with international significance; supports conservation of drinking water supplies; and improves community health and wellbeing through urban cooling.	**Linked community aspirations** • Development and implementation of sustainable solutions
Goal 4: Create positive community experiences A city that understands community expectations for stormwater services; how to develop service options that are sustainable, equitable and transparent; and how to deliver best-practice approaches using a variety of funding models.	**Linked community aspiration** • Development of implementation of sustainable solutions

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

To help deliver the goals, we have created a series of objectives that reflect the context we're operating in, as well as Australian best practice. While each objective is aligned with one goal (see Table 2), some objectives may apply to multiple goals.

For each objective, we've also created:

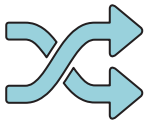
- **measures** – these help us assess how well we're tracking towards achieving each objective
- **targets** – this is what we believe we can reasonably expect to achieve within available resources and designated time periods.



Figure 6 – Point Lonsdale

Table 2 – Best Practice Objectives

Goal 1: Foster healthy and resilient communities

Icon	Objective	Context	Measure	Target
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Deep and/or fast-moving water (high hazard) can cause significant injury and damage to people, places and the environment. Stormwater assets may not remove or reduce all risks, but adaptation programs supported by information and education can help.	Extent of the municipality which has current and well-informed stormwater management strategies.	Catchment management strategies are developed by 2025 (high priority catchment management units) or 2030 (all catchment management units), with ongoing implementation, monitoring and periodical review.
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Urban environments with a higher proportion of urban forest (tree canopy) and green space maintain lower temperatures during extreme heat, reducing risk of heat-related illness and death in the community. Stormwater can support urban greening through practices such as stormwater harvesting schemes.	Total area of tree coverage, open space and landscaping passively and/or actively irrigated with stormwater.	A quantified target for tree coverage and green spaces supported by stormwater irrigation is established before 2025. This initiative will in turn help support the clever and creative vision of 25 per cent tree coverage.
	Reduce demand on drinking water through alternative water sources.	Stormwater can be used in City-owned facilities and to support urban greening initiatives. However, the seasonality and variability of rainfall, and lack of water storage capacity in existing urban areas, makes stormwater a valuable supplement to alternative water supplies – for example, augmenting recycled water supply.	Volume of drinking water replaced by stormwater to maintain urban forest and green spaces, as well as service City-owned facilities.	Twenty per cent of our water is sourced from alternative water sources, including stormwater, by 2030.
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	We want to create community spaces that encourage activity in all seasons, without compromising public safety. Once we understand community expectations, we can design community spaces which safely incorporate stormwater assets (for example Eastern Beach Gardens)	Number of recreation and public open spaces which are constrained or where public safety is compromised by stormwater.	Identify recreation and public open spaces where stormwater can be safely incorporated, and document within catchment management strategies by 2025 (high priority catchment management units) or 2030 (all catchment management units).
	Minimise flood disruption to transport corridors.	Stormwater over roads and pathways can be very disruptive, restricting access to important places and services, such as hospitals and railway stations. This in turn can impact on community safety and can result in economic loss to both people and businesses.	Scale and duration of stormwater flooding impacting the local transport network.	All critical transport links – road, rail, cycling –and customers are identified, the risk of disruption understood, and mitigation actions identified in catchment management strategies by 2025 (high priority catchment management units) or 2030 (all catchment management units).

Goal 2: Support innovative and sustainable growth

Icon	Objective	Context	Measure	Target
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Development in urban environments does not necessarily occur sequentially and can result in isolated changes to the stormwater catchment. Taking a whole-of-stormwater-catchment approach to the planning and delivery of stormwater services will enable us to identify all impacts and give us the opportunity to work more effectively with developers.	Extent of growth areas with whole-of-catchment management strategies in place.	Catchment management strategies identify active and known future development by 2025 (high priority catchment management units) or 2030 (all catchment management units).
	Implement stormwater solutions that are financially sustainable.	Stormwater solutions should align with best practice, consider whole-of-life costs, and optimise benefits to the environment and communities at a reasonable cost. Stormwater solutions should also consider the impact of CO2 emissions in the construction and operation of assets. This can be achieved using well-established approaches, as well as by drawing on innovation and new technologies.	Cost to the community to provide services where funding for delivery of stormwater services is sourced from the City's rates and charges. Direct and indirect C02 emissions generated by the delivery of Stormwater Services.	Cost to deliver basic levels of service are detailed in asset management plans before 2025 (high priority catchment management units) or 2030 (all catchment management units). Investment decisions use an appropriate benefit/cost assessment.
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Collaboration, exploration, sharing knowledge and building collective capacity enables the most innovative, effective and sustainable water solutions to be implemented. Also, it puts us all in the best possible position to deliver on agreed outcomes.	Partnerships with governments, water corporations and other key agencies, organisations and individuals.	Consider the feasibility and benefits of establishing a formal sustainable water partnership with Barwon Water and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority before 2025. Participate in legislative reviews to clarify and improve our authority to deliver actions by 2025.

Goal 3: Enhance built and natural environments

Icon	Objective	Context	Measure	Target
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Stormwater flows can bring high volumes of fast-moving water, litter waste, sediments and other pollutants into waterways. Assessing and mitigating the impacts urban environments have on waterways – for example erosion, sediment build up, gross pollution, nutrient pollution and flora/fauna degradation – will protect and enhance the health of these waterways.	Waterway Health Assessments completed through modelling or sampling, as appropriate.	Water quality and flow monitoring is underway in high priority catchment management units by 2025. Complete an audit of waste produced by the stormwater system and introduce targets aligned with Council sustainability objectives before 2025. Highlight catchment management units that don't currently comply with best-practice targets by 2025 (high priority catchment management units) or 2030 (all catchment management units).
	Conserve biodiversity corridors.	A healthy natural environment relies on effectively managed stormwater to support healthy and functioning biological systems. In so doing, the stormwater system promotes a stronger connection between people and nature, improves the way we care for nature, and protects us from storms and floods.	Number of catchments where retention, protection and/or restoration of wetland systems is assessed.	Environmental flow requirements considered by 2025 (high priority catchment management units) or 2030 (all catchment management units.
	Protect cultural values along waterways.	Respectfully acknowledging the connection of Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members to the land and waterways is essential to better understand Aboriginal cultural history, and to acknowledge the experiences and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	Engagement with the Wadawurrung and other community groups during catchment planning so that cultural values can be highlighted, and natural flow patterns protected.	Identify culturally significant areas in catchment management strategies by 2025 (high priority catchment management units) or 2030 (all catchment management units).
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	It is not certain how well stormwater services will cope with future climate change and population growth. Trends suggest an increase in the variability and severity of extreme weather events, along with unprecedented rates of population growth. Stormwater systems must be able to manage these changes.	Long-term infrastructure demand is identified by considering future climate and growth scenarios and contemporary rainfall and run-off datasets and methodologies.	Capital works programs are in place for a minimum 10-year period, are informed by asset management plans and are included in our long-term financial plan before 2025.

Goal 4: Create positive community experiences

Icon	Objective	Context	Measure	Target
	Engage with community on stormwater services.	An informed community is best placed to understand its needs and provide critical information that can shape how stormwater is managed.	Extent of engagement (and participation) with community on the delivery of stormwater services.	Extensive community engagement on stormwater services is underway via Catchment Management Strategies (including using continuous engagement tools such as “snap-send-solve”) by 2021.
	Enable communities to better prepare for, and recover from, damaging stormwater events.	Modern-day technologies make communities better able to prepare for forecast flooding events. We are well-prepared to work with emergency management groups, such as the SES, to support response and recovery.	Extent of preparedness for a stormwater event.	Capability to warn and recover from stormwater events incorporated in the *Municipal Emergency Management Plan* by 2025.
	Establish funding streams which are transparent and equitable.	Stormwater services require funding from a range of sources. To deliver a sustainable service, it is likely that rate revenue will underpin the ongoing (base) cost of the service, whereas user charges (Development Contributions, Infrastructure Levies and Special Charge Schemes) and gifted assets from development will be a primary source of funding for new and upgraded services.	Stormwater service costs covered by rates, user charges and gifted assets.	All adopted catchment management strategies identify new and upgraded infrastructure demand (scope and cost) and funding options (benefiting properties and apportioned cost) for high-priority projects.

PRIORITISING CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNITS

We have used pre-existing datasets to help us assess how well each catchment management unit currently meets the best-practice objectives set out in Table 2.

However, catchment management units could not be assessed against all objectives – either because the objectives are generic or can't yet be measured. Table 3 (below) therefore sets out the objectives used for the prioritisation process.

We believe we have sufficient data for the purposes of this strategy. But, as we develop a better understanding of stormwater service performance and gather more data, we expect our ability to prioritise and plan actions will improve.

Table 3 – Objectives used for prioritisation

Icon	Objective
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.
	Protect cultural values along waterways[7]

Refer to Appendix B for a list of the data sources used to assess the abovementioned objectives.

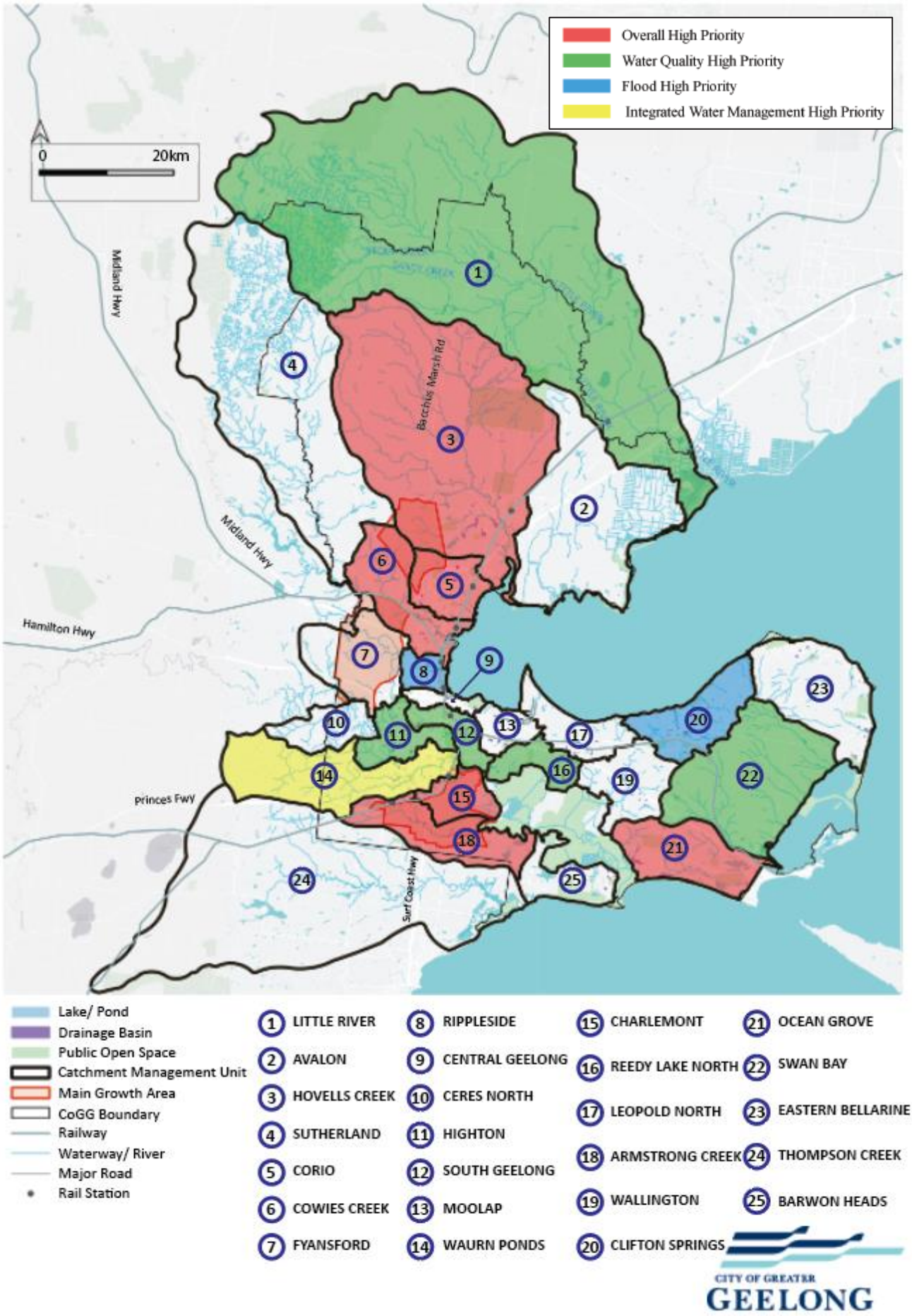
Emerging from the analysis of catchment management units was a series of priority catchments, which included:

- High Priority Catchments: Catchments with 'single' priorities, broadly related to managing flooding risk, stormwater quality risk or integrated water management opportunities, and
- Overall High Priority Catchments: Catchments with 'multiple' priorities, which will require a concerted focus to improve performance across several objectives.

High Priority and Overall High Priority catchment management units are highlighted in Figure 7. The analysis of catchment management units also identified a series of flagship projects, described in more detail below.

[7] Data collected to support prioritisation of this objective was limited. Additional cultural values are expected to be identified in the development of Catchment Management Strategies

Figure 7 – High Priority catchment management units



FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Northern Geelong Green Corridor Project

This area north of Geelong includes the degraded Cowies Creek and the suburbs of Norlane, Corio and Lara.

Combined with increased infill development currently occurring in established areas, development of the Northern Growth Area will bring further challenges for us to manage these areas to avoid worsening existing flooding problems.

Furthermore, the area has low tree canopy coverage and open space which may act to increase temperatures and the risk of heat-related injury and death in heatwave conditions.

A significant opportunity exists to improve flood management, urban amenity and waterway health through the development of a nationally significant project.

This project would need to be managed in partnership with Barwon Water, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and the Wadawurrung community, which has strong connections with Cowies Creek.

It would also need significant government funding.

Lake Connewarre Protection Project

Suburbs south of Geelong (including Belmont, South Geelong and Breakwater) are known for flooding and are the source of waterway pollution in the lower sections of the Barwon River.

Further south, the urban areas of Armstrong Creek and Charlemont are complex developments which are rapidly expanding. While they've been designed to meet modern standards, they must be carefully managed to protect Lake Connewarre.

Also, as new growth areas allow less space for gardens than older developments, there is a great need for effective street trees and irrigated open spaces to improve urban amenity during heatwaves.

By upgrading existing infrastructure in the suburbs south of Geelong and maintaining a close watch over new growth at the head of the Connewarre complex, we can make sure that environmental values are protected, and that urban amenity is maintained.

Bellarine Sustainable Water Project

The Bellarine Peninsula is an area of outstanding natural beauty and tourism value. It also has the potential to become the site of an ambitious regional integrated water management priority project, incorporating stormwater management that would:

- manage flooding and waterway problems
- improve biodiversity corridors
- improve tourism and economic outcomes
- improve urban amenity
- support regional agricultural activities
- reduce reliance on drinking water supplies, and
- promote the unique identity of the Bellarine communities.

The project could also incorporate coastal inundation management, which will be required to manage rising sea levels and coastal erosion over time.

By working closely with the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, Barwon Water, tourism operators and other regional partners, we could:

- reduce stormwater flooding in several townships such as Ocean Grove and Clifton Springs
- better manage the quality of water entering Swan Bay and Port Philip Bay
- develop sustainable biodiversity, transport, and recreation corridors, which follow natural waterways between Bellarine communities, using stormwater and recycled water harvested from the region (this would also have tourism and economic benefits)
- establish high-quality public open space and green canopies, supported by harvested stormwater and recycled water, to reduce the impact of coastal inundation and erosion in existing communities.

This project would allow Bellarine communities to further express their unique identities and set the region on a path toward a future of sustainable water management.

Waterproofing Urban Geelong Project

The inner urban suburbs of Geelong such as Central Geelong, Geelong West and Rippleside often do not meet contemporary standards for urban design and stormwater management. This has created areas that are significantly flood-prone.

By implementing new drainage assets, flood warning systems, targeted drainage maintenance and planning controls, this situation can be greatly improved. These solutions can also bring further benefits to the community by delivering improved green/blue infrastructure.

Table 4 – Flagship project overview

Flagship Project	Risks and Opportunities	Opportunities for exploration
Northern Geelong Green Corridor Project	Existing flood risk which need to be managed with new growth. Low tree canopy coverage. Degraded Cowies Creek has great potential to be improved for environmental and cultural reasons, to connect people with nature and could promote connectivity between communities. Irrigation of passive open space, in addition to sporting areas.	Develop partnerships with Barwon Water, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and the Wadawurrung community to develop a project steering committee. Engage with the community to understand project preferences and expectations. Develop a well-justified case to support applications for state and federal funding. Establish widespread street tree and understory planting and irrigation program, using harvested stormwater with recycled water backup, delivered via zero-emission trucks. Engage with Landcare, community and 'friends of' groups to support tree planting and revegetation. Complete significant flow and water quality upgrades to Cowies Creek, while improving walking trails and recreational facilities.
Lake Connewarre Protection Project	Highly sensitive, Ramsar-listed environment. Current development in Armstrong Creek and Charlemont requires a complex network of water sensitive urban design assets and drainage network (which includes the Sparrovale Wetlands). Existing urban development in South Geelong is known to contribute low-quality stormwater into the lower reaches of the Barwon River. Opportunity to transition from industrial to mixed-use development in Fyans Street precinct, incorporating best practice stormwater management.	Develop partnership with Corangamite Catchment Management Authority to understand the current health of Lake Connewarre. Monitor ongoing pollution levels and carry out audits to identify the source of pollution and stormwater flows. Seek support from EPA if required. Maintain rigorous oversight of infrastructure delivery, with regular audits of progress and actions of developers.
Bellarine Sustainable Water Project	Existing flood risk in several Bellarine communities – for example, Ocean Grove and Clifton Springs. Highly sensitive, Ramsar-listed environments. Subject to coastal erosion and inundation, due to sea level rise. Opportunities for individual communities to express their unique identity through innovative water management projects.	Develop partnerships with Barwon Water and community groups to promote a regional integrated water management project that is comparable to other major integrated water management projects in Victoria. Engage with the community to understand project preferences and expectations. Develop a well-justified case to support applications for state and federal Government funding. Plan and implement flood mitigation actions.

		Monitor ongoing pollution levels and carry out audits to locate the source. Develop biodiversity-rich transit corridors between Bellarine communities to improve connectivity and tourism in the region. These corridors could follow waterways and existing biodiversity corridors, with pedestrian, road, cycling and rail linkages. Deliver community-specific sustainable water projects that will enhance identity and promote resilience to flooding, coastal inundation and erosion.
Waterproofing Urban Geelong	Existing flooding of older areas of Geelong, Geelong West and Rippleside. Expected increase in flooding due to infill development (including multi-storey apartment and office buildings), ageing assets and drainage network design which does not meet current needs.	Improve preventative asset maintenance and renewal to reduce our overall asset management cost and deliver community level of service expectations. Install green/blue infrastructure when drainage or roads are remade – for example, linear swale drains, biodiversity corridors and modified roads – to better convey stormwater flows and reduce flooding.

ACTIONS BY CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

Notwithstanding the flagship projects identified, this is a strategy of practical measures designed to guide us to achieve basic levels of service for all catchment management units over the next 10 years. These actions have been summarised in Appendix C.

We intend to work with the community to create Catchment Management Strategies for each high priority catchment management unit over the next five years, and for all catchment management units within 10 years. These strategies form part of the overall stormwater service framework and will be directly linked with the *Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30* actions.

How the strategy will be implemented

The Stormwater Service Strategy is considered a major strategy under our strategic governance framework, and directly supports the community's clever and creative vision.

It is an overarching strategy that will guide long-term planning, asset management, business plans and budgets. The strategy is adaptive and will require ongoing community engagement and consultation

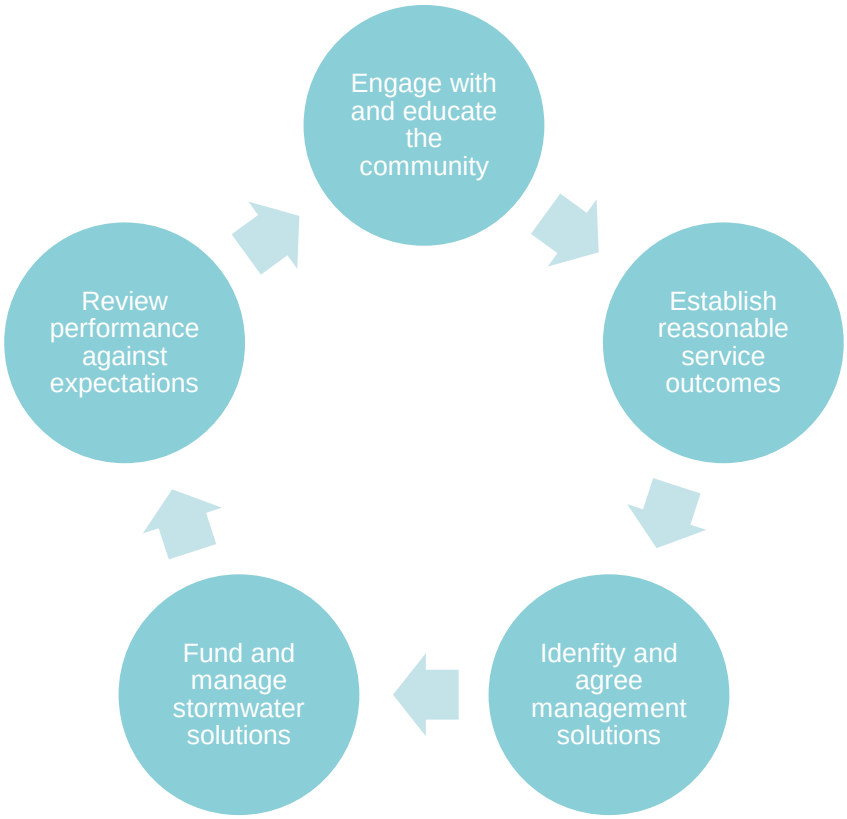
DELIVERING AN ADAPTIVE STRATEGY

The delivery of the recommended actions for each catchment management unit will rely on ongoing engagement with communities to:

- establish and manage desired service outcomes
- contribute to effective decision-making, and
- develop successful partnerships that can help to attract the funding required.

The approach is summarised in Figure 8 below.

Figure 8 – Adaptive strategy delivery approach



Engage with and educate the community

Typically, we engage with the community during and after flooding events that impact the community in varying degrees. These conversations are often singular in focus and reactive.

With this strategy, we hope to start more proactive conversations about why stormwater services are important, and how the community can benefit when services are considered holistically. At the very least, we will take more time to provide the community with valuable information on stormwater, which will hopefully promote better understanding and planning for events and changes.

Establish reasonable service outcomes

We currently manage stormwater services to comply with established standards, but these levels of service do not always meet community expectations. For example, current flood protection standards require us to protect infrastructure against a one-in-one-hundred-year event. This can be a difficult concept to explain to the general community, especially when a one-in-one-hundred-year event can happen several times in one year.

We think that working with communities to establish agreed service levels will bring better outcomes. In developing these agreed service levels, we will have an opportunity to:

- explain how stormwater services operate
- explain that services may vary by location and over time and
- discuss the finite resources we have available to deliver services.

Once a standard has been established, we can create technical standards that shape asset and non-asset solutions that are more easily understood by the community.

Identify and agree management solutions

A robust stormwater management approach contains both asset and non-asset solutions and considers the costs and benefits of each solution. We will engage with communities about the management solutions proposed in each catchment management strategy to make sure we're achieving the best outcome for the funding available.

Fund and manage stormwater solutions

We have many critical assets that we must manage and maintain at a level that supports sustained delivery of service over time.

We will update and maintain asset management plans that can deliver on reasonably expected levels of service and inform an adaptation program that will deliver capital works, maintenance and operations within our available resources.

These asset management plans will:

- record expected levels of service, accounting for future changes in climate and development
- highlight the importance of systematic programming, funding and preventative maintenance to maintain services and meet community expectations, and
- use ongoing monitoring programs to demonstrate how well we're performing and our plan for the future.

We will work toward delivering a basic level of service that can be funded from rates and charges. This basic level would include asset renewal, maintenance and operations.

We will be required to draw on funding from other areas – for example, government agencies, developers and users – in cases where we must go above and beyond a basic level of service. This funding might include grants, special charge schemes, development contributions, infrastructure levies, fees and charges.

We will also work toward understanding how the cost of delivering stormwater services might be better met through contributions from residents/businesses based on the quantity and quality of stormwater generated from their land parcel. This approach is gaining broad acceptance within other jurisdictions such as the United States of America.

Reviewing performance

We will regularly review our performance in delivering catchment management strategies. More information about this process will be known once the catchment management strategies are developed.

SERVICE PLANS

The Stormwater Services Strategy and subsequent catchment management strategies are supported by (and support, through an iterative feedback and review cycle) a range of technical service plans that include detailed assessment of stormwater management practices over a five-year period such as:

Flood Management Plan (2013)

With the aim of supporting a resilient community that is safe, prepared and informed, this plan will assemble river and stormwater flooding knowledge from relevant agencies to plan, develop and deliver best-practice flood management.

This plan is currently under review and is scheduled to be updated by September 2020.

Stormwater Quality Plan (2015)

The aim of this plan is to implement stormwater treatment into areas where the greatest gains can be made for high-value waterways, wetlands and bays.

The plan explores treatment options, such as stormwater treatment wetlands within parks, retarding basins near waterways, streetscape treatments and stormwater harvesting.

This plan is currently under review with a renewed focus on holistic waterway management and is scheduled to be updated by December 2020.

Integrated Water Management Plan

This plan is yet to be developed but will describe an integrated and collaborative approach to water planning and management that considers all facets of the water

cycle, including water supply, wastewater, surface water, groundwater and stormwater.

Managing these aspects together can result in better and more cost-effective outcomes, bringing together organisations with an interest in all aspects of the water cycle.

There are several initiatives that collectively contribute to defining our integrated water management service planning, being the Barwon Region Integrated Water Management Strategic Directions Statement and the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Area Integrated Water Management Plan.

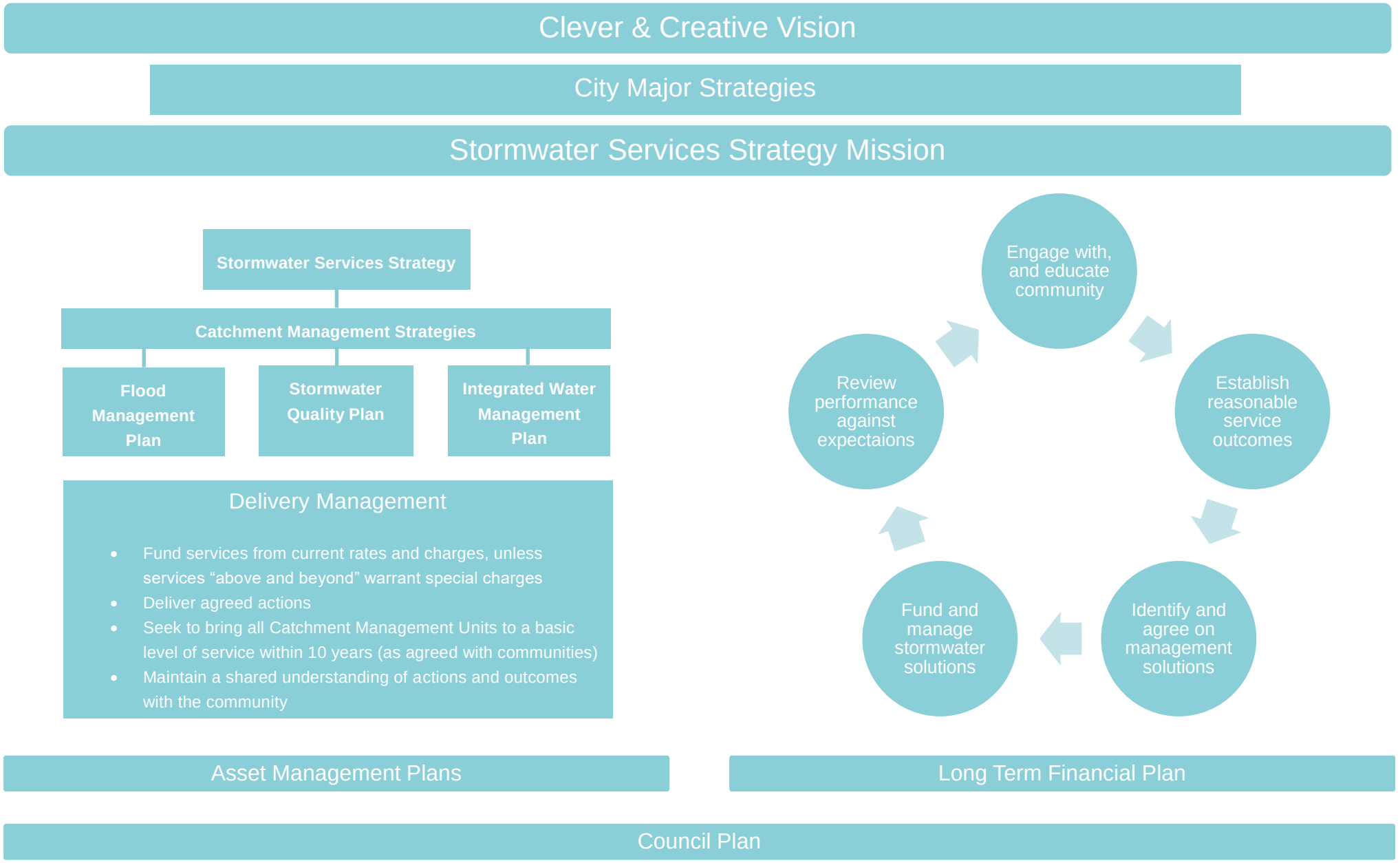
STRATEGY UPDATE

We will review the *Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30* every five years to ensure it remains up-to-date, accounts for community expectations and reflects best practice for stormwater management.

OUR STRATEGY ON A PAGE

Our *Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30* operates in collaboration with many other city policies and strategies and has multiple elements. These are illustrated in Figure 9.

Figure 9 – Strategy on a page



IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Table 5, 6 and 7 set out actions in the strategy to achieve by 2030.

Table 5 – Actions July 2020 to June 2022 (0-2 years)

Action ID.	Action Description	Timeline	Key Departments	How
SSS01	Prepare catchment management strategies for the Hovells Creek, Corio, Cowies Creek, Fyansford, Rippleside, Ocean Grove and Clifton Springs catchment management units. The development of these catchment management strategies will be pilots to refine the approach to be rolled out to all catchment management units over time.	By June 2021	Engineering Services	Levels of service will be developed and tested with these communities, then committed to through the adoption of catchment management strategies.
SSS02	Prepare an integrated water management plan to support the *Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30.*	By June 2022	Engineering Services Environment and Waste Services	Our approach to delivering integrated water management will be clarified and communicated with key stakeholders.
SSS03	Scope Northern Geelong Green Corridor Project (flagship project) and prepare proposal for Council endorsement.	By June 2022	Parks and Gardens Engineering Services	Flagship project will be scoped, and funding opportunities identified.
SSS04	Scope Lake Connewarre Protection Project (flagship project) and prepare proposal for Council endorsement.	By June 2022	Environment and Waste Services Engineering Services	Flagship project will be scoped, and funding opportunities identified.
SSS05	Scope Bellarine Sustainable Water Project (flagship project) and prepare proposal for Council endorsement.	By June 2022	Parks and Gardens Engineering Services Environment and Waste Services	Flagship project will be scoped, and funding opportunities identified.

Action ID.	Action Description	Timeline	Key Departments	How
SSS06	Scope Waterproofing Urban Geelong (flagship project) and prepare proposal for Council endorsement.	By June 2022	Engineering Services	Flagship project will be scoped, and funding opportunities identified.
SSS07	Establish partnership between the Greater Geelong water managers, including Barwon Water and Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.	By June 2021	Engineering Services	A Memorandum of Understanding (or similar) between water managers in Greater Geelong will be drafted and executed.
SSS08	Prepare asset management plans to support basic levels of service in overall high priority catchment management units.	By June 2022	Engineering Services	Asset management approach and funding clarified.
SSS09	Advocate for legislative changes that enhance the City's stormwater practices.	By June 2022	Engineering Services	Our authority, as well as that of our regional water partners, will be clarified. This will enable us to deliver improved stormwater and integrated water management outcomes across the community.
SSS10	Review Alternative Funding Opportunities.	By June 2022	Engineering Services	Review opportunities to establish stormwater charging mechanisms which reflect the contribution of each land parcel to stormwater volume and quality impacts.
SSS11	Complete Catchment Management Strategies for catchments with overall high priority assessments: • Charlemont • Armstrong Creek	By June 2022	Engineering Services	Complete catchment management strategies for all catchment management units with overall high priority.
SSS12	Complete Municipal Flood Management Plan	By December 2020	Engineering Services	Complete flood management plans, ensuring Municipal Emergency Management Plan includes capability to warn of flood events.
SSS13	Complete Municipal Waterway Management Plan	By June 2021	Engineering Services	Complete Waterway Management Plan for entire municipality, ensuring linkage to Corangamite Waterway Management plan.

Table 6 – Actions July 2022 to June 2025 (2-5 years)

Action ID	Action	Timeline	Key Departments	How
SSS14	Review outcomes from Strategy implementation to June 2022.	By December 2022	Engineering Services	Report on the status of strategy implementation to Council.
SSS15	Commence advocacy for Northern Geelong Green Corridor Project.	By June 2025	Parks and Gardens Engineering Services	High-profile projects are well-defined and understood by communities, while necessary partnerships and funding will be sought.
SSS16	Commence advocacy for Lake Connewarre Protection Project.	By June 2025	Environment and Waste Services Engineering Services	High-profile projects are well-defined and understood by communities, while necessary partnerships and funding will be sought.
SSS17	Commence advocacy for Bellarine Sustainable Water Project.	By June 2025	Parks and Gardens Engineering Services Environment and Waste Services	High-profile projects are well-defined and understood by communities, while necessary partnerships and funding will be sought.
SSS18	Commence advocacy for Waterproofing Urban Geelong	By June 2025	Engineering Services	High-profile projects are well-defined and understood by communities, while necessary partnerships and funding will be sought.
SSS19	Update asset management plans (including 10-year capital plan) using information from completed catchment management strategies.	By June 2025	Engineering Services	Asset management approach and funding clarified, with updated information from completed catchment management strategies, including development and adoption of long-term capital works programs and non-asset solutions.
SSS20	Test Alternative funding opportunities.	By June 2025	Engineering Services	Engage with community and regulators to discuss options to modify funding arrangements
SSS21	Develop framework for data collection to inform assessment against objectives.	By June 2025	Engineering Services	Understand approach to capturing data to inform assessment against strategy objectives.

Action ID	Action	Timeline	Key Departments	How
SSS22	Update the stormwater services strategy.	By June 2025	Engineering Services	Prepare report on implementation status to Council. Targets and actions updated. Catchment management unit priorities updated to account for additional knowledge acquired.
SSS23	Complete all remaining High Priority catchment management strategies (those with singular issues related to water quality, flooding or IWM): **Water Quality** • Little River • South Geelong • Highton • Reedy Lake North • Swan Bay **Integrated Water Management** • Waurn Ponds	By June 2025	Engineering Services	Catchment Management Strategies completed for all High Priority Catchments
SSS24	Confirm “Support urban greening through integrated water management” Objective Target	By June 2025	Engineering Services	Develop a quantified target for tree coverage and green spaces supported by stormwater irrigation.
SSS25	Establish water quality and flow monitoring program for high priority catchments	By June 2025	Engineering Services Environment and Waste	Develop water quality and flow monitoring program in collaboration with CCMA.

Table 7 – Actions July 2025 to June 2030 (5 to 10-year period)

Action ID	Action	Timeline	Key Departments	How
SSS26	Commence implementation of Northern Geelong Green Corridor Project.	By June 2025	Parks and Gardens Engineering Services	Commence implementation of actions, including ongoing engagement and partnership processes.
SSS27	Commence implementation of Lake Connewarre Protection Project.	By June 2025	Environment and Waste Services	Commence implementation of actions, including ongoing

Action ID	Action	Timeline	Key Departments	How
			Engineering Services	engagement and partnership processes.
SSS28	Commence implementation of Bellarine Sustainable Water Project.	By June 2025	Parks and Gardens Engineering Services Environment and Waste Services	Commence implementation of actions, including ongoing engagement and partnership processes.
SSS29	Commence implementation of Waterproofing Urban Geelong	By June 2025	Engineering Services	Commence implementation of actions, including ongoing engagement and partnership processes.
SSS30	Include data on all strategic objectives in all catchment management strategies	By June 2030	Engineering Services	All catchment management strategies consider all strategic objectives.
SSS31	Phase in alternative funding (if appropriate).	By June 2030	Engineering Services	Implement alternative funding mechanisms.
SSS32	Complete development of Catchment Management Strategies for all remaining Catchment Management Units.	By June 2030	Engineering Services	All Catchment Management Strategies complete.
SSS33	Update Catchment Management Strategies completed from 2020 to 2025 (in keeping with 5-year review cycle).	By June 2030	Engineering Services	All High Priority Catchment Management Strategies remain up-to-date.
SSS34	Complete Strategy Implementation Status Update	By December 2027	Engineering Services	Prepare report on Strategy implementation status to Council. Targets and actions updated. Catchment management unit priorities updated to account for additional knowledge acquired.
SSS35	Prepare next version of the Stormwater Services Strategy	By June 2030	Engineering Services	Next version of the Stormwater Services Strategy endorsed by Council

Appendix A – Related Documents

Table 8 – Relationship with other strategies

Strategy	Relationship with *Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30*
City Strategies	
Environment Strategy (2020)	The Environment Management Strategy includes strategic priorities relating to enhanced natural areas and ecosystem health and sustainable urban and rural development.
Sustainability Framework (2020)	The *Sustainability Framework* defines a sustainable community as one that manages its natural, human and financial resources to meet current needs while ensuring that adequate resources are available for future generations. These goals are reflected in the Framework's Key Priority Areas: • Environmental Solutions and Impact minimisation • Community Equity, Access and Inclusion • Responsible and Transparent Business
Reconciliation Action Plan (2020)	The Reconciliation Action Plan outlines practical actions for the City, that build on advancing a positive relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and non-Indigenous people and demonstrate respect and self-determination for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The plan also ensures equality of opportunity and access in all dealings with the community.
Social Infrastructure Plan (2014 – 2031)	The Social Infrastructure Plan covers the planning, investment and delivery of social infrastructure including parks and playgrounds which provide amenity.
Open Space Strategy (2014)	The Open Space Strategy establishes the extent and quality of existing open space and sets out future actions. The use of stormwater in these spaces can increase the quality of the space and support health lifestyles.
Integrated Comprehensive Transport Plan (2015)	The Integrated Comprehensive Transport Plan sets out the actions for the planning, development and management of the City's transport system. A critical component of transport planning is the management of stormwater flows.
Settlement Strategy (2018)	The Settlement Strategy provides the planning framework to deliver growth within the City, ensuring development is planned and delivered appropriately.
Biodiversity Strategy (2003)	The Biodiversity Strategy outlines the status of biodiversity in Greater Geelong and required future monitoring, review and actions to manage the protection of conservation areas and vegetation.
Urban Forest Strategy (2015 – 2025)	The Urban Forest Strategy focuses on enhancing the public and private tree population throughout the City. There are opportunities for stormwater reuse to support tree canopy coverage.
Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2011)	The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy support the City to develop responses under a range of possible climate futures. The possible impacts of climate change must be considered when planning for stormwater.

Customer Focus Strategy (2017 – 2020)	The Customer Focus Strategy sets to shared vision for customer service across the City with a priority for the City to be a customer focused organisation. An important element of the *Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30* is community engagement to ensure services meet customer and community expectations.
Geelong Play Strategy (2017)	The Geelong Play Strategy plans for the provision of well located, well designed and accessible play spaces across the City, providing increased amenity and supporting health lifestyles.
Greater Geelong Cycle Strategy (2008)	The Greater Geelong Cycle Strategy provides guidance on expanding the City's cycle network and encouraging cycling as a means of transport. Stormwater flows over paths can create access restrictions and can impact safety.
Greater Geelong Physical Activity Strategy (2014 – 2017)	The Greater Geelong Physical Activity Strategy focuses on identifying cost effective opportunities that are likely to increase people's on-going participation in physical activity. Stormwater can support urban design that encourages activity and comfortable open public areas.
Regional Strategies and Priorities	
Greater Geelong Planning Scheme (2020)	The Greater Geelong Planning Scheme sets out the objectives, policies and provisions for the use, development and protection of land. The scheme regulates the use and development of land. Where known, this prevents or manages development in areas that are flood prone.
Integrated Water Management Forum (Barwon) Strategic Directions Statement (2018)	The Integrated Water Management Forum provides the opportunity to progress water cycle planning and management within the Barwon region through collaboration with Barwon Water and the CCMA.
Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy (2013 – 2019)	The Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy provides a plan for natural resource management within the region. Stormwater flows can impact on waterway health, the *Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30* seeks to protect and even enhance the health of waterways through mitigating the impacts of stormwater flows.
Corangamite Waterway Strategy (2014-2022)	The Corangamite Waterway Strategy provides a framework and work program to maintain or improve the condition of rivers, estuaries and wetlands so they can continue to support environmental, social, cultural and economic values across the region.
Corangamite Regional Floodplain Management Strategy (2018 – 2028)	The Corangamite Regional Floodplain Management Strategy provides a plan for floodplain management and work program to guide future investment priorities within the area. The strategy focuses on flooding associated with river systems and coastal storm surge inundation.
Geelong Region Alliance (G21) pillars (2020) (Sport and Recreation, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Planning and Services)	The G21 pillars foster community wellbeing, protect and enhance our environment and ensure sustainable development within the G21 region. The pillars include projects to support the objectives of the G21 Geelong Regional Plan – A Sustainable Growth Strategy'.

Appendix B – Datasets

Table 9 – Datasets used for prioritisation

Dataset	Description	Theme
Request for Service Dataset	A record of reported flooding across the city.	Flood Management
Rate of recent development	Number and location of new dwellings across the City	Flood Management
Future Flood Potential	An assessment made by Engineering Services experts on which areas are prone to future flooding due to topography, expected growth and existing asset capacity	Flood Management
Knowledge of Catchment flooding risk	The current status of knowledge regarding capability of existing drainage networks to manage flood flows	Flood Management
Existing development's capability to impact receiving waterways	An analysis of the nature of existing urban development, and its potential to cause pollution in receiving waterways	Waterway Management
Sensitivity of receiving waterways	An assessment of the quality and sensitivity of receiving waterways	Waterway Management
Tree Canopy Coverage	A measurement of the canopy coverage across the City	Integrated Water Management
Open Space Availability	A measurement of the number and quality of open spaces available to the community for recreational purposes	Integrated Water Management
Integrated Water Management Opportunities	Identified priority sites for IWM actions (created by the IWM Forum)	Integrated Water Management
Biodiversity Value	Identified priority sites of biodiversity value which could be protected or enhanced by stormwater management actions	Integrated Water Management
Cultural Value	Initial advice from Wadawurrung Aboriginal Community regarding sites of cultural value.	Integrated Water Management

Appendix C – Catchment Management Units

OVERVIEW

We have established 25 catchment management units and completed an assessment against the Strategy's objectives.

The extent to which the City is currently meeting its objectives is indicated by an overall priority rating of "High", "Medium" and "Low". The larger the gap between current performance and the desired performance set by the objective, the higher the service priority for action.

The allocation of the overall priority rating is a relative score across the City. A "Low" score does not mean that a problem or opportunity does not exist. Rather, it implies that there are other areas of the City where the gaps in basic levels of services are greater, i.e. problems are worse, or opportunities for improvement are greater.

The type and priority of action has directed the recommended actions for each catchment management unit, and the timing of the development of each Catchment Management Strategy.

The name and location of each catchment management unit is set out below in Table 10, and illustrated in Figure 10. The overall prioritisation rating for each catchment management unit in Table 10 is colour coded:

Overall Priority Rating	Colour Coding
Low	
Medium	
High	

Table 10 – Overall Priority Rating and Catchment Management Strategy Development Timeframe by Catchment Management Unit

Reference Number	Catchment Management Unit	Overall Priority Rating	CMS Development Timeframe	Location	Commentary
1	Little River	Low	By 2025	The catchment management unit of Little River is in the north of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Little River, Balliang and Staughton Vale.	The City has identified the importance of managing water quality in this Management Unit. The City's knowledge of waterway risks is limited and investigation and engagement with Melbourne Water is required to understand actual risk.
2	Avalon	Low	By 2030	The catchment management unit of Avalon is in the north east of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Avalon and Point Wilson, sections of	No priority actions identified. Catchment will be monitored for changes.

Reference Number	Catchment Management Unit	Overall Priority Rating	CMS Development Timeframe	Location	Commentary
				Little River and Lara and the Avalon Airport.	
3	Hovells Creek	High	By 2021	The catchment management unit of Hovells Creek is in the north of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburb of Lara and sections of Little River, Anakie and Lovely Banks.	The City has assigned a high priority for the management of water quality. The City's knowledge of waterways is currently limited, and investigation/partnership with CCMA is required to understand and monitor actual risk. There is a high priority for flood management to manage existing risk and the impacts of future development. Following the 2018 Flood study, flooding risks are now better understood, enabling solutions to be developed over the coming years which account for current service shortfalls and future catchment changes. Opportunities for IWM have been identified and will be explored as part of solutions for Waterways, Flooding or improvement in urban amenity.
4	Sutherland Creek	Low	By 2030	The catchment management unit of Sutherland Creek is in the north west of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Anakie and Lovely Banks.	No priority actions identified. The City will monitor the catchment for change.
5	Corio	High	By 2021	The catchment management unit of Corio is located towards the north of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburb of Corio	The City has assigned a high priority to improve IWM actions in the Management Unit, including through increased tree canopy coverage and irrigated open space. The management of flooding risk is a high priority given current flooding performance and expected future growth in the Management Unit. The City's understanding of flooding risk will be enhanced through flood modelling.
6	Cowies Creek	High	By 2021	The catchment management unit of Cowies Creek is located towards the north of the City's service area, and generally includes the	Improved management of water quality is a high priority in this catchment management unit. Additional investigations will be conducted with

Reference Number	Catchment Management Unit	Overall Priority Rating	CMS Development Timeframe	Location	Commentary
				suburbs of North Shore, North Geelong, Bell Park, Bell Post Hill, Lovely Banks and Moorabool.	partners to improve knowledge of water quality risk. Flood management is a high priority given current levels of flooding and the potential for future problems due to additional growth. The City's understanding of flooding risk will be enhanced through flood modelling. Significant opportunities exist for integrated water management outcomes to be delivered. These may include increasing tree canopy coverage and improving the irrigation of open space. Furthermore, opportunities exist to link integrated water management improvements with improved cultural values, through partnership with the Wadawurrung community.
7	Fyansford	Medium	By 2021	The catchment management unit of Fyansford is located towards the north west of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburb of Fyansford and part of Batesford	The City will prioritise an effective planning process, implementation of building controls and appropriate, timely, delivery of stormwater assets to manage the significant level of future growth expected within this catchment management unit.
8	Rippleside	Medium	By 2021	The catchment management unit of Rippleside is in the central area the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs Rippleside, Drumcondra, Geelong West, Herne Hill, Manifold Heights and Hamlyn Heights.	The catchment management unit has an existing flooding risk that is being investigated through a flood study (2019). This is expected to yield several improvement actions such as changes to planning overlays and/or development of assets in and around the Saleyards precinct in North Geelong. These actions should provide flexibility for future catchment changes as growth continues.
9	Central Geelong	Medium	By 2030	The catchment management unit of Central Geelong is located within the central area the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Geelong and parts of Newtown and Geelong West.	The City has a medium priority for flood management in the area, with actions underway to manage historical flooding issues. Given the highly urbanized character of the management Unit, the City will establish IWM actions which can be implemented when opportunities arise.
10	Ceres North	Low	By 2030	The catchment management unit of Ceres North is	There is no history of flooding or growth expected to require the City to act to

Reference Number	Catchment Management Unit	Overall Priority Rating	CMS Development Timeframe	Location	Commentary
				located towards the west of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburb of Ceres.	better understand the catchment. The City will continue to monitor changes in the Management Unit.
11	Highton	Medium	By 2025	The catchment management unit of Highton is located within the central area the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Highton, Wandana Heights and Belmont.	The catchment management unit of Highton drains into the Barwon River, which in turn flows into Lake Connewarre. Existing knowledge of water quality outcomes will be improved to better understand risks to this sensitive environment. Flooding risks require ongoing management, but these risks are well understood. Several high criticality retention basins located within the catchment require review. IWM opportunities have been identified within the catchment and will be explored as part of Waterway and Flooding works
12	South Geelong	Medium	By 2025	The catchment management unit of South Geelong is located within the central area the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of South Geelong, Newtown, Breakwater and Thomson.	The catchment management unit of South Geelong drains into the Barwon River, which in turn flows into Lake Connewarre. Existing knowledge of waterway outcomes will be improved to better understand risks to this sensitive environment. Flooding risks require ongoing management, but these risks are well understood.
13	Moolap	Medium	By 2030	The catchment management unit of Moolap is located within the central area the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Moolap, Newcomb and Whittington	The City recognises the need to continue to monitor water quality from the catchment, given the sensitivity of the receiving environment. The City will focus on the exploration of IWM opportunities through partnership projects within the catchment
14	Waurn Ponds	Medium	By 2025	The catchment management unit of Waurn Ponds Creek is located towards the south and west of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of	The City has a focus on the exploration and delivery of IWM opportunities. The City will take action to manage flooding, with emphasis to be placed on mitigating localised flooding issues.

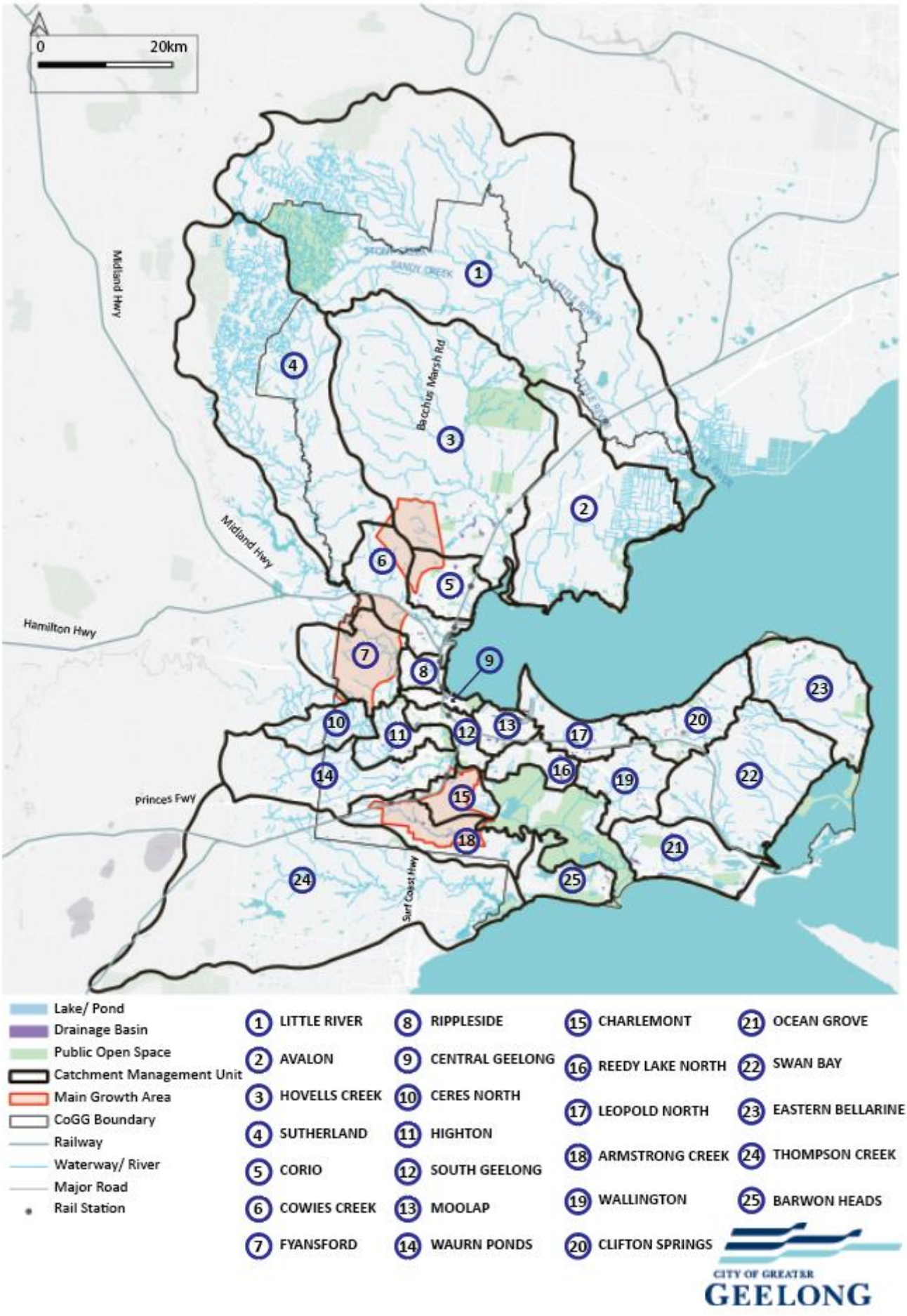
Reference Number	Catchment Management Unit	Overall Priority Rating	CMS Development Timeframe	Location	Commentary
				Waurn Ponds and Grovedale.	
15	Charlemont	High	By 2022	The catchment management unit of Charlemont is located towards the south of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Charlemont and Marshall.	The catchment management unit of Charlemont is covered largely by the Armstrong Creek Growth Area, which is planned and constructed to modern standards. Development of Charlemont catchment is slightly lagging the extent of development in the Armstrong Creek Catchment. Nevertheless, as the catchment drains into the Lake Connewarre system, the City places a high priority on understanding and managing water quality within the catchment. The development and management of the Sparrovale Wetlands will support water quality outcomes in the catchment. Additional investigation / partnerships as the catchment develops will improve understanding of waterway risks. The management of flooding is a high priority due to the flat topography and urban development of the area. Flood risks need to be understood and carefully managed as the catchment develops Significant opportunities exist for partnership and IWM actions to be delivered as Charlemont continues to develop. These will be particularly important to manage urban heating through tree canopy coverage in an area where residential garden space is expected to be less than in older residential areas of Greater Geelong.
16	Reedy Lake North	Medium	By 2025	The catchment management unit of Reedy Lake North is in towards the east of the City's service area, and generally includes sections of the suburbs of St Albans Park, Moolap and Leopold.	The City will focus on the assessment and management of water quality in this Management Unit. This will involve partnerships and ongoing water quality investigations. A medium priority is assigned to implement IWM actions, and integrate stormwater into urban environments, which may include some irrigation of existing open space and delivery of identified IWM priorities

Reference Number	Catchment Management Unit	Overall Priority Rating	CMS Development Timeframe	Location	Commentary
17	Leopold North	Low	By 2030	The catchment management unit of Leopold North is in towards the east of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Leopold and parts of Moolap and Curlewis	The catchment management unit of Leopold generally exhibits low priority for action by the City. Ongoing monitoring of stormwater service performance and rates of growth will occur over time.
18	Armstrong Creek	High	By 2022	The catchment management unit of Armstrong Creek is in the west of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Armstrong Creek, Mount Duneed and Connewarre.	The catchment management unit of Armstrong Creek is planned and constructed to modern standards. Nevertheless, it is considered a high priority to ensure that the systems and assets (including the Sparrovale Wetlands located in the Charlemont catchment management unit) are installed correctly and in a timely fashion to protect water quality outcomes for Lake Connewarre. Armstrong Creek is identified to hold significant cultural value to the Wadawurrung Aboriginal community. Its natural flow paths should be carefully managed and protected as the catchment develops. The city will work to ensure that flood mitigation assets are installed as designed to protect existing residents from the impacts of future development.
19	Wallington	Low	By 2030	The catchment management unit of Wallington is in the east of the City's service area, and generally includes parts of the suburbs of Wallington, Leopold and Curlewis.	The City will focus on identifying and delivering opportunities to integrate stormwater into the towns of the Bellarine. Otherwise, the City will maintain an ongoing monitoring of stormwater services performance.
20	Clifton Springs	Medium	By 2021	The catchment management unit of Clifton Springs is in the east of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Clifton Springs and Drysdale.	Managing flooding risk in the Clifton Springs catchment management unit is a focus for the City, particularly given expected future growth in the community. This includes the development of asset and non-asset solutions, for example a formal drainage network and building overlays.
21	Ocean Grove	High	By 2021	The catchment management unit of Ocean Grove is in the east of the City's service	The City considers it a high priority to understand and manage water quality

Reference Number	Catchment Management Unit	Overall Priority Rating	CMS Development Timeframe	Location	Commentary
				area, and generally includes the suburbs of Ocean Grove and parts of Wallington, Point Lonsdale and Marcus Hill.	from the Ocean Grove catchment management unit Existing and expected additional future flooding issues, exacerbated by future growth make a focus on flood management a priority. Furthermore, the City's understanding of flooding risk should be updated Some opportunities identified to deliver improved IWM outcomes through irrigation of open space and development of biodiversity corridors (as part of the flagship project for the Bellarine)
22	Swan Bay	Medium	By 2025	The catchment management unit of Swan Bay is in the east of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Swan Bay and Mannerim and parts of Drysdale and St Leonards.	The City will focus on ongoing management of water quality into Swan Bay.
23	Eastern Bellarine	Low	By 2030	The catchment management unit of Eastern Bellarine is in the east of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Portarlington, Indented Head and St Leonards	No priority actions identified. The City will monitor the catchment for change.
24	Thompson Creek	Low	By 2030	The catchment management unit of Thompson Creek is in the south west of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Breamlea and Mount Duneed.	Thompson Creek is identified to hold significant cultural value. Any development within the catchment should seek to protect the Creek's natural flow paths. The City will monitor the catchment for change.
25	Barwon Heads	Medium	By 2030	The catchment management unit of Barwon Heads is in the south of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Barwon Heads and Connewarre.	The City will explore the creation of multifunctional assets for the catchment management unit of Barwon Heads. These are likely to be opportunistic if/when they occur. No other actions identified, other than ensuring that existing stormwater assets such as pumps and levies are maintained appropriately. The impacts of coastal inundation and erosion may

Reference Number	Catchment Management Unit	Overall Priority Rating	CMS Development Timeframe	Location	Commentary
					increase risk in the catchment management unit. Consequently, the City will monitor the catchment management unit for change and service performance.

Figure 10 - Catchment management units



LITTLE RIVER CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

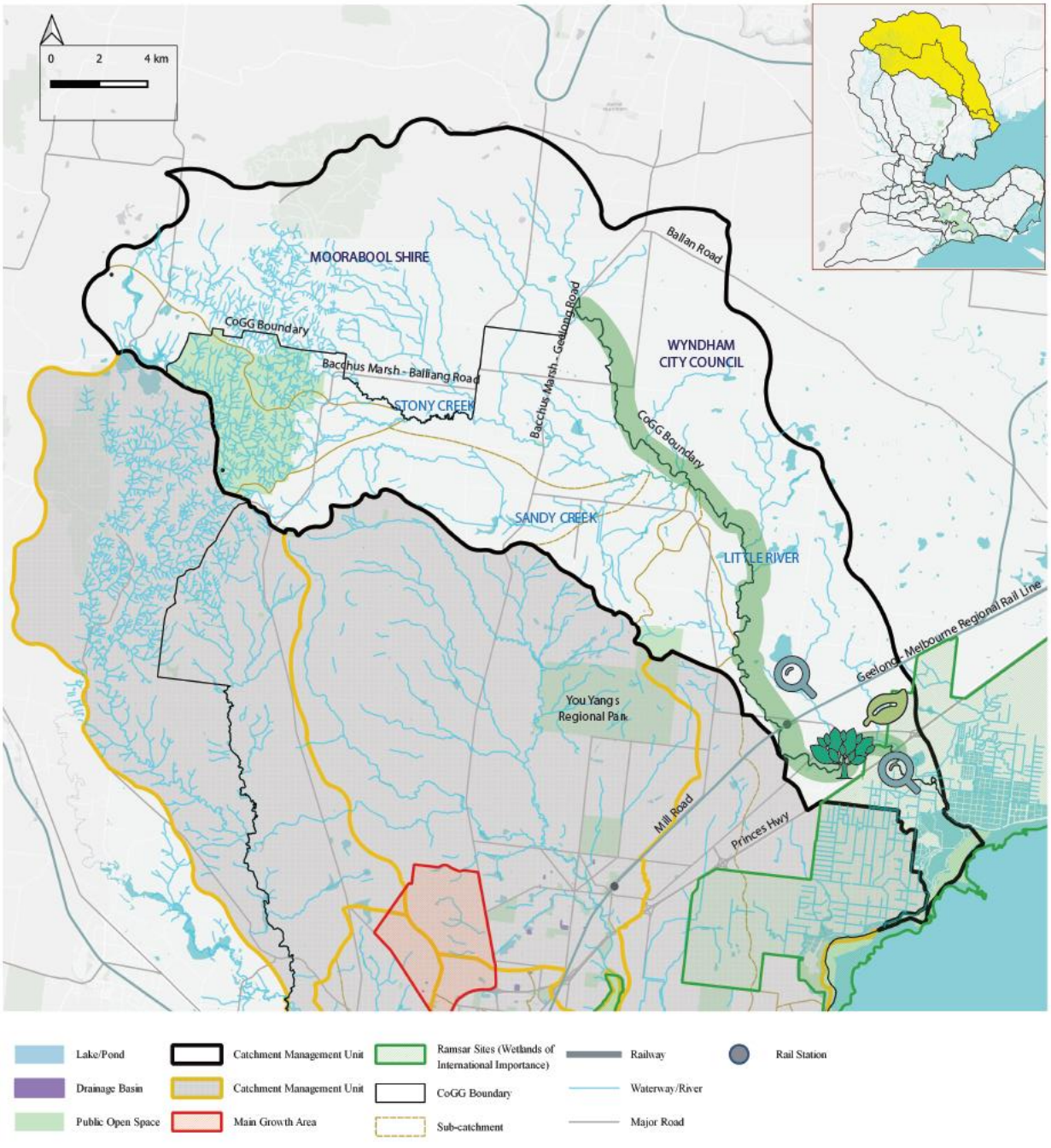
The catchment management unit of Little River is in the north of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Little River, Balliang and Staughton Vale.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority Rating	Summary
Low	The City will focus on the management of water quality in this Management Unit. The City's knowledge of waterway risks is limited and investigation and engagement with Melbourne Water is required to understand actual risk.

Delivery Schedule

The Little River Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2025.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Low	Low number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Medium	Medium level of tree canopy coverage
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Low	Rural catchment. Low priority for open space irrigation and multifunctional spaces
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	High	High priority for enhanced water quality as the catchment drains to the lower reaches of Little River and to environmentally sensitive areas of Port Philip Bay
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Low	Low level of current and future development
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Low	No current partnership projects identified. The catchment management unit is partially located within the Moorabool Shire and Wyndham City Council area. The Council will engage with Melbourne Water, environmental groups and neighboring councils to understand the issues throughout the catchment
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	High	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is limited. Investigation to focus on flood risk within township and water quality entering the lower reaches of Little River

Actions

0–2 years

Partnership: Partner with relevant environmental groups, CCMA, and Melbourne Water to ensure Council understands emerging waterway issues

Partnership: Partner with neighbouring councils to ensure Council understand catchment wide issues

2–5 years

Investigation: If required, complete sampling for water quality and establish a waterway and estuarine health baseline. Capture outcomes in Catchment Management Strategy to inform required actions and funding

5–10 years

Investigation: Continue to monitor water quality

AVALON CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

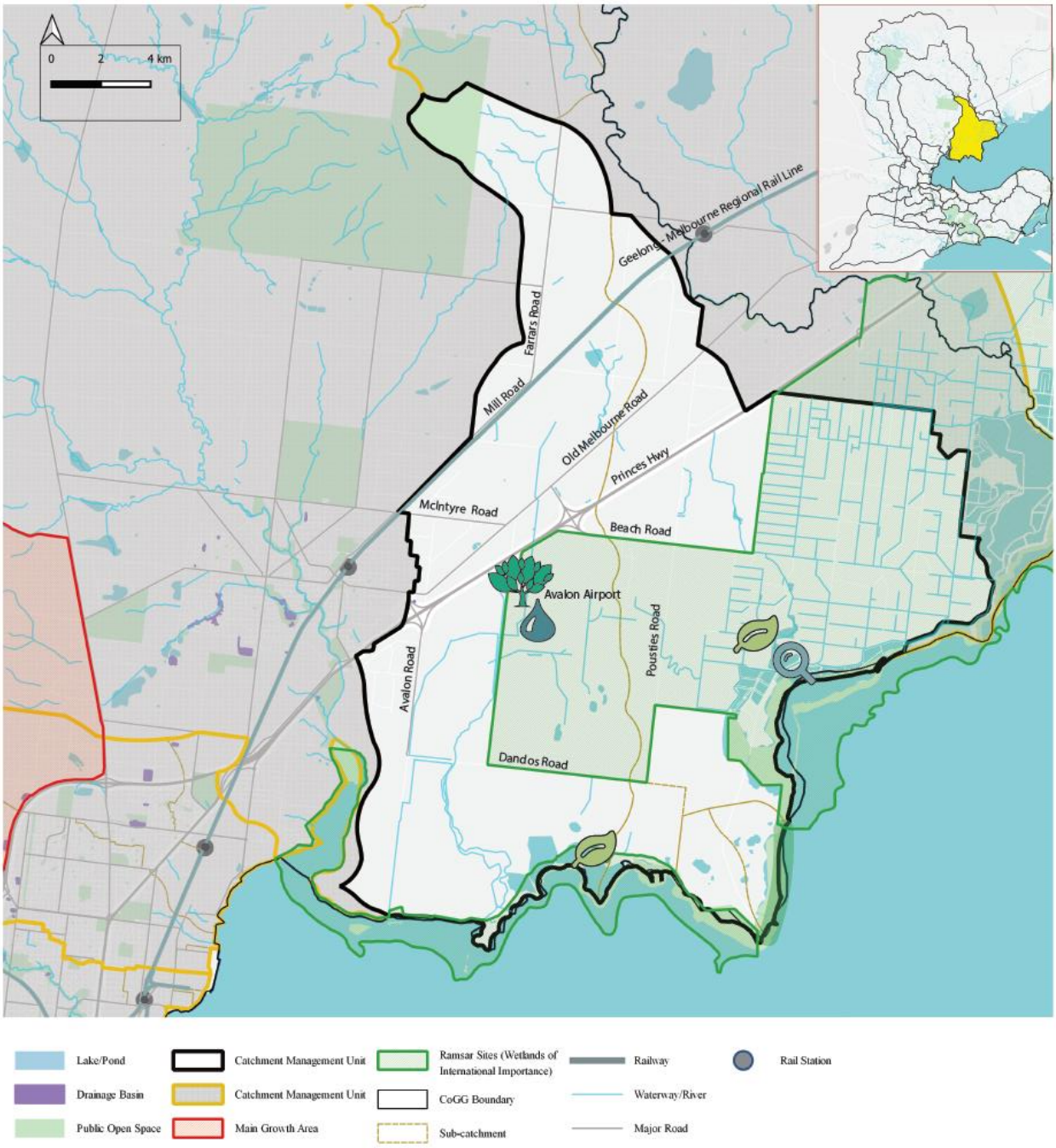
The catchment management unit of Avalon is in the north east of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Avalon and Point Wilson, sections of Little River and Lara and the Avalon Airport.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority Rating	Summary
Low	No priority actions identified. Catchment will be monitored for changes.

Delivery Schedule

The Avalon Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2030.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Low	Low number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Medium	Medium level of tree canopy coverage
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Low	Rural catchment. Low priority for irrigated open space or multifunctional community spaces
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Medium	Medium priority for water quality based on importance of receiving waterway and nature / extent of development in the catchment
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Low	Low level of current and future development
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Low	Low opportunity for partnership projects currently identified
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	Medium	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is moderate

Actions

0–2 years	2–5 years	5–10 years
Continue to monitor for change	Continue to monitor for change	Continue to monitor for change

HOVELLS CREEK CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

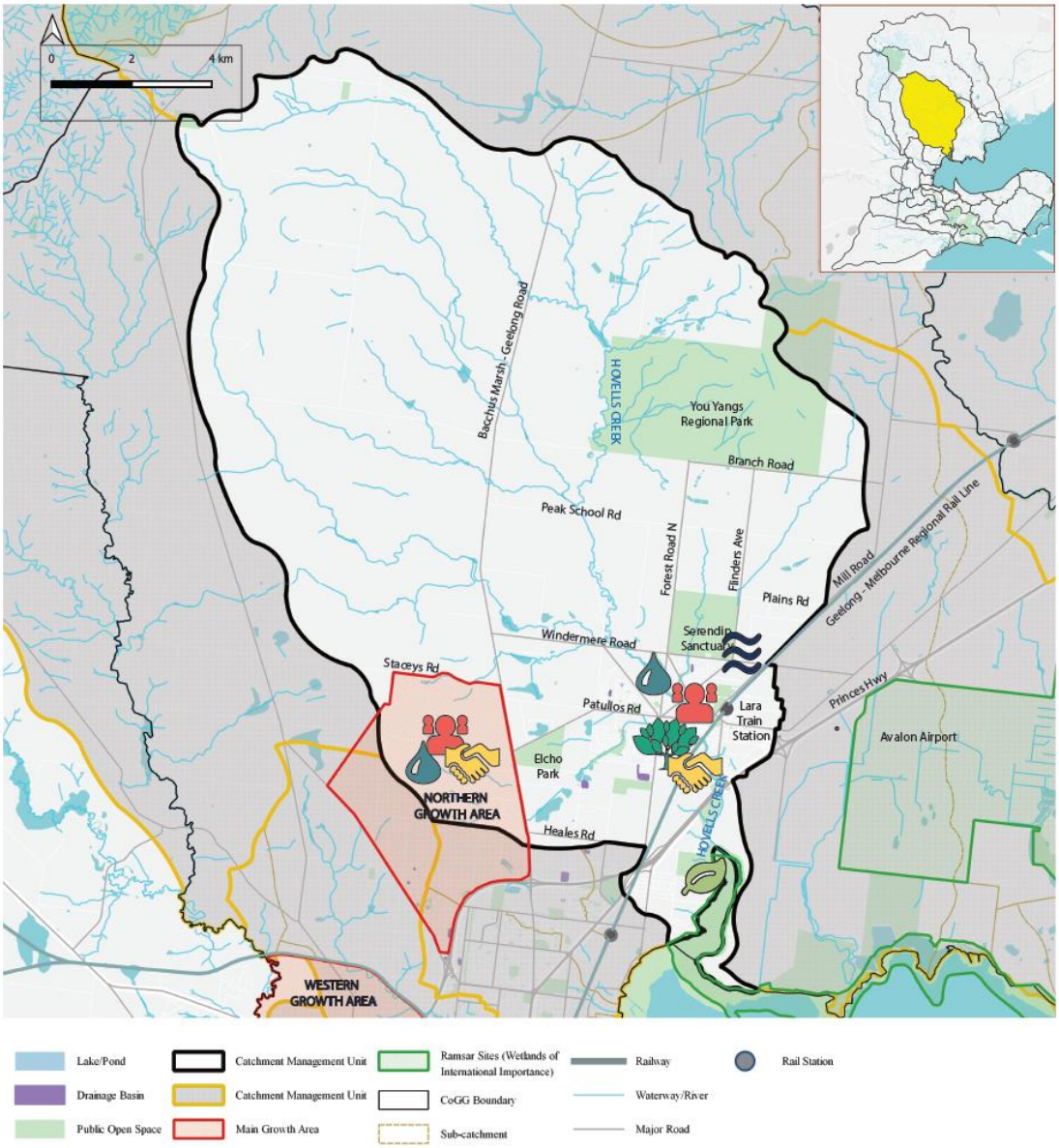
The catchment management unit of Hovells Creek is in the north of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburb of Lara and sections of Little River, Anakie and Lovely Banks.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
High	The City has assigned a high priority for the management of water quality. The City's knowledge of waterways is currently limited, and investigation/partnership with CCMA is required to understand and monitor actual risk. There is a high priority for flood management to manage existing risk and the impacts of future development. Following the 2018 Flood Study, flooding risks are now better understood, so solutions can be developed over the coming years which account for current service shortfalls and future catchment changes. Opportunities for IWM have been identified and will be explored as part of solutions for Waterways, Flooding or improvement in urban amenity.

Delivery Schedule

The Hovells Creek Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2021.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Medium	Moderate number of historical flooding events relative to other catchments in the City
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Low	Higher level of tree canopy coverage than other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Medium	Moderate opportunity for irrigation of open space and the creation of multifunctional community space
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	High	High priority for water quality management as the catchment drains to Limeburners Bay (Ramsar listed). Development and industry within the catchment may impact water quality
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	High	Moderate level of current development and significant expected future development associated with the Northern Growth Area
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	High	Opportunities for partnership projects identified
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	Low	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is contemporary and comprehensive, and hence flood management solutions can be designed for future flexibility

Actions

0–2 years

Partnership: Partner with relevant environmental groups and CCMA to ensure the City understands waterway issues

CMS Development: Capture recent flood study recommendations in Catchment Management Strategy to inform required actions and funding

Investigation: Complete Northern Growth Area Precinct Planning

2–5 years

Investigation: Complete a detailed water quality investigation to confirm actual risk to receiving waterways and environment and capture recommendations in Catchment Management Strategy

Asset / Non-Asset Solution: Subject to funding, implement actions identified through the flood study

Asset Solution: Seek to incorporate identified IWM opportunities with flood management works

5–10 years

Investigation: Continue to monitor water quality

Investigation: Assess need to renew the 2018 flood study to ensure impacts of development are appropriately managed

Asset Solution: Review and deliver IWM opportunities

Investigation: Demonstrate better health and amenity outcomes in the catchment

SUTHERLAND CREEK CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

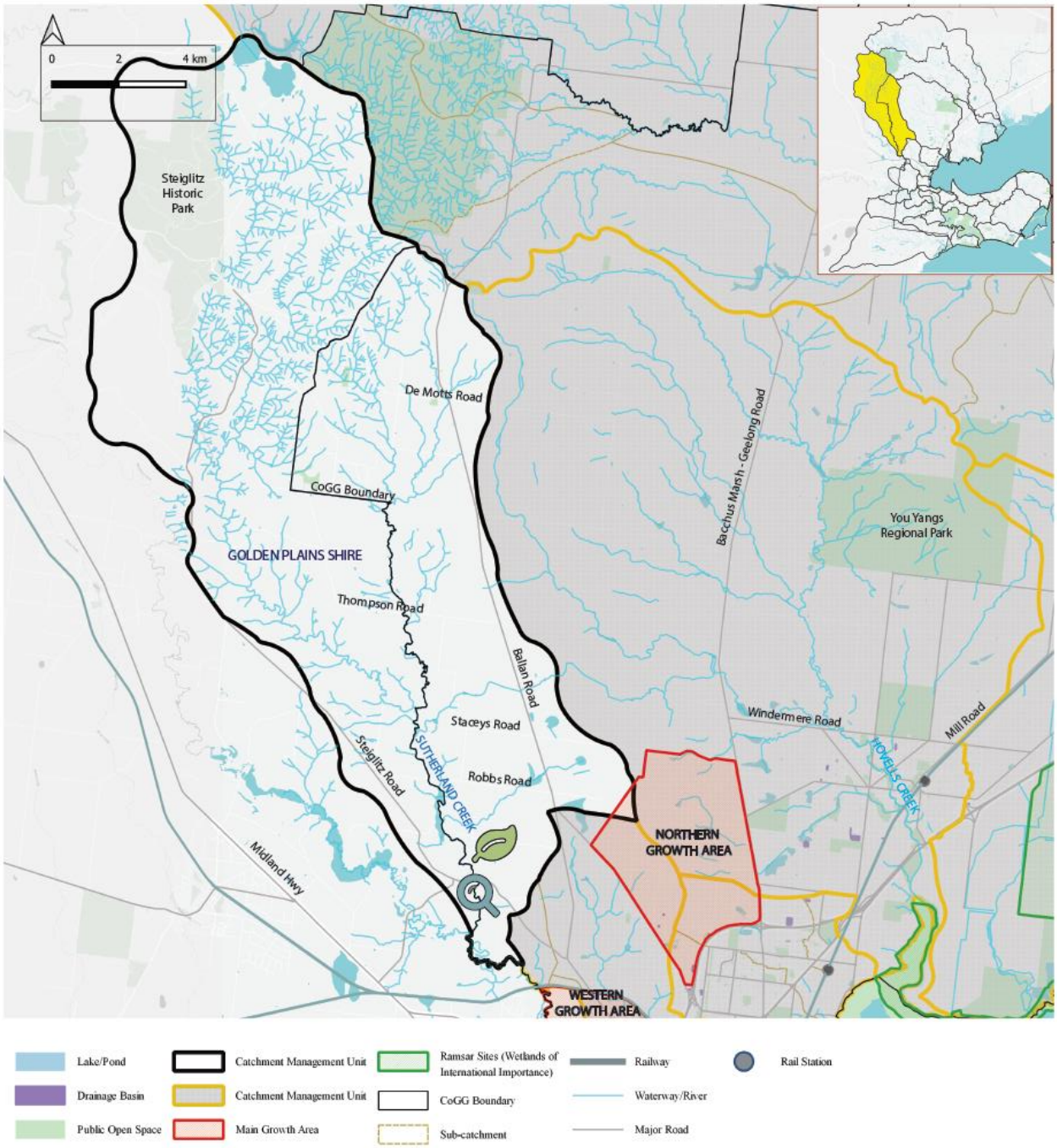
The catchment management unit of Sutherland Creek is in the north west of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Anakie and Lovely Banks.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Low	No priority actions identified. The City will monitor the catchment for change.

Delivery Schedule

The Sutherland Creek Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2030.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Low	Low number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Medium	Medium level of tree canopy coverage
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Low	Rural catchment. Low priority for open space or the creation of multifunctional community spaces
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Medium	Medium priority for water quality management based on the nature / extent of development and values of waterways within the catchment
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Low	Low level of current and future development, however future Northern Growth Area development will encroach on the Sutherland Creek Management Unit in the future
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Low	No current partnership projects identified The catchment management unit is partially located within the Golden Plains Shire area. The Council will engage with the neighboring council to understand issues throughout the catchment
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	High	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is limited

Actions

0–2 years	2–5 years	5–10 years
Partnership: Partner with neighbouring council and CCMA to ensure Council understand catchment wide issues	Continue to monitor for change	Continue to monitor for change

CORIO CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

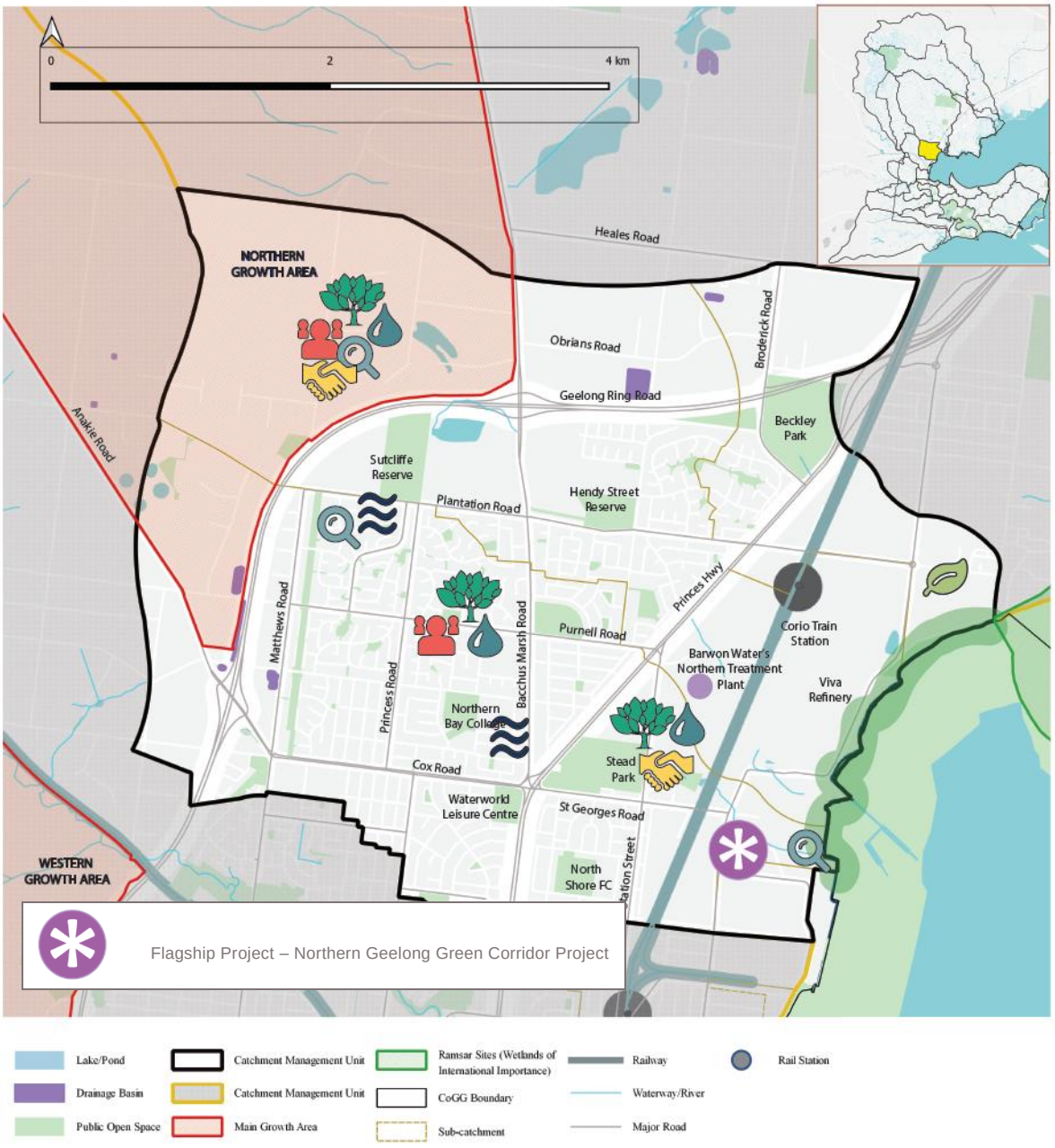
The catchment management unit of Corio is located towards the north of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburb of Corio.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
High	The City has assigned a high priority to improve IWM actions in the Management Unit, including through increased tree canopy coverage and irrigated open space. The management of flooding risk is a high priority given current flooding performance and expected future growth in the Management Unit. The City's understanding of flooding risk will be enhanced through flood modelling.

Delivery Schedule

The Corio Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2021.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Medium	Moderate number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	High	Low level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City. Coverage is well below the City's target
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	High	High opportunity for irrigation of open space and creation of multifunctional community spaces. Including recycled water supply from Barwon Water's Northern Treatment Plant
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Medium	Medium priority for water quality management based on the nature / extent of development and values of waterways within the catchment
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	High	The Management Unit is already highly urbanized, and is expected to see significant infill development and new development in the Northern Growth Area
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	High	High level of opportunity for partnership projects identified
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	High	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is limited

Actions

0–2 years

Investigation: Complete flood study of the catchment to understand the current flood risks and capture recommendations in Catchment Management Strategy to inform required actions and funding

Investigation: Complete Northern Growth Area Precinct Planning

2–5 years

Asset / Non-Asset Solution: Subject to funding, implement actions identified through the flood study

Asset / Non-Asset Solution: Plan for widespread street scaping (to improve canopy cover) and passive open space irrigation across the catchment with linkage to stormwater storage and recycled water supplies from Barwon Water

Asset Solution: Support delivery of identified IWM partnership projects within the catchment

5–10 years

Investigation: Assess need to repeat or renew the flood study to ensure the impacts of development are appropriately managed

Asset Solution: Review and deliver IWM opportunities

Investigation: Demonstrate better health and amenity outcomes in the catchment

COWIES CREEK CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

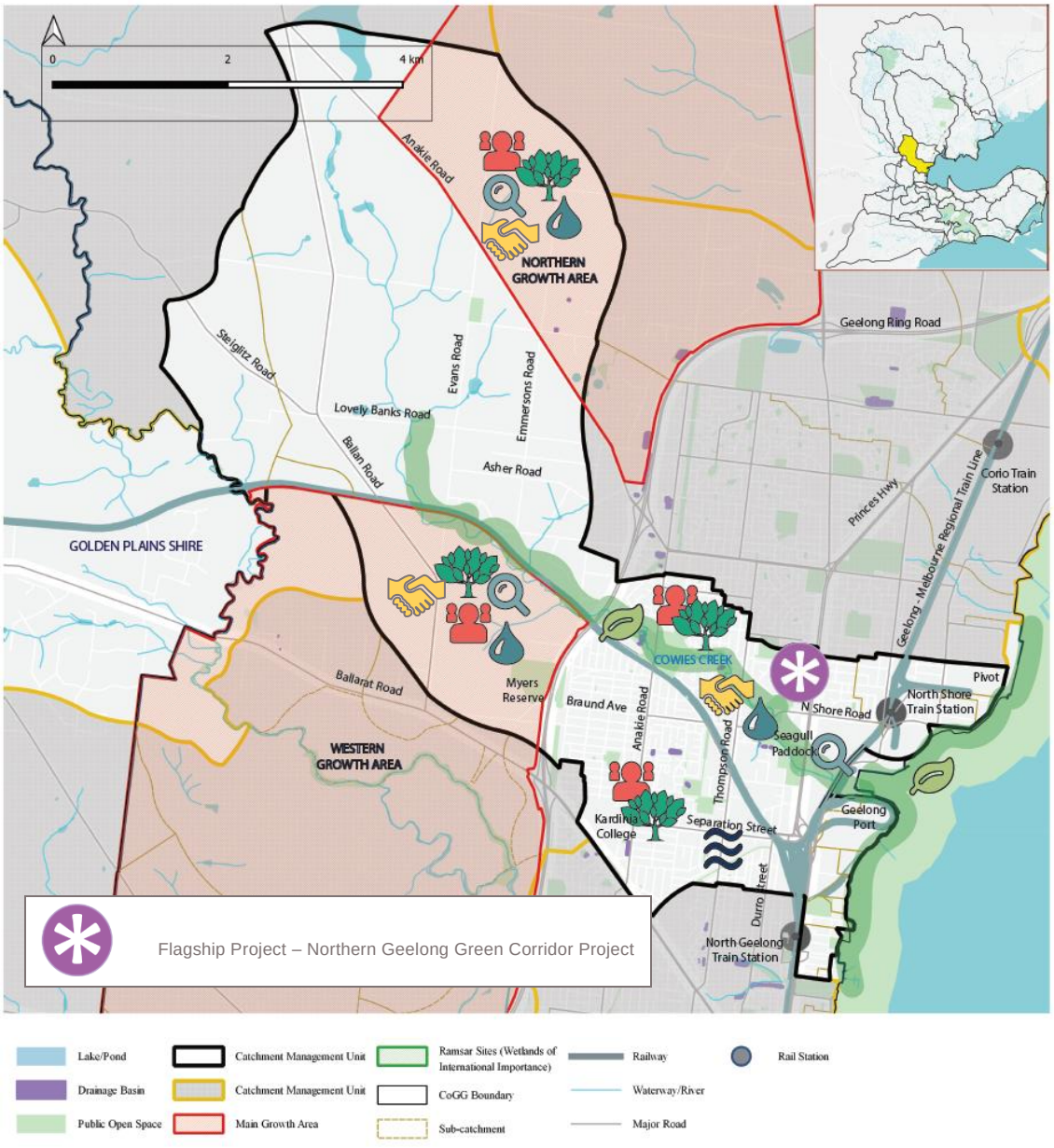
The catchment management unit of Cowies Creek is located towards the north of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of North Shore, North Geelong, Bell Park, Bell Post Hill, Lovely Banks and Moorabool.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
High	Improved management of water quality is a high priority in this catchment management unit. Additional investigations will be conducted with partners to improve knowledge of waterway risk. Flood management is a high priority given current levels of flooding and the potential for future problems due to additional growth. The City's understanding of flooding risk will be enhanced through flood modelling. Significant opportunities exist for IWM outcomes to be delivered. These may include increasing tree canopy coverage and improving the irrigation of open space. Furthermore, opportunities exist to link IWM improvements with improved cultural values via partnership with the Wadawurrung Aboriginal Co-operative.

Delivery Schedule

The Cowies Creek Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2021.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Medium	Moderate number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	High	Low level of tree canopy coverage than other areas of the City. Coverage is well below the City's target
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	High	High opportunity for irrigation of open space and creation of multifunctional community spaces
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	High	High priority to manage water quality as the catchment drains, via Cowies Creek, to Corio Bay. There is a requirement to extend the catchment outfall around the new marina
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	High	The catchment is already well developed. Future infill development is expected, as well as significant new development in the Northern and Western Growth Areas
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	High	High level of opportunity for partnership projects identified. Opportunities include those associated with the Northern Geelong Green Corridor flagship project and the Northern and Western Growth Areas
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	High	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is limited

Actions

0–2 years

Partnership: Partner with relevant environmental groups, CCMA, and Wadawurrung Aboriginal Co-operative to ensure Council understands emerging waterway issues

Investigation: Complete flood study of the catchment to understand the current flood risks and capture recommendations in Catchment Management Strategy to inform required actions and funding

Investigation: Complete Northern and Western Growth Area Precinct Planning

2–5 years

Investigation: Complete a detailed water quality investigation to confirm actual risk to receiving waterways and environment and capture recommendations in Catchment Management Strategy

Asset / Non-Asset Solution: Subject to funding, implement actions identified through flood study

Non-Asset Solution: Plan for widespread street scaping (to improve canopy cover) and passive open space irrigation across the catchment with linkage to stormwater storage and recycled water supplies from Barwon Water

5–10 years

Investigation: Continue to monitor water quality

Investigation: Assess need to renew/repeat flood study to ensure impacts of development are managed

Asset / Non-Asset Solution: Subject to funding, continue to implement actions identified through the flood study

Asset Solution: Continue to review and deliver IWM opportunities

FYANSFORD CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

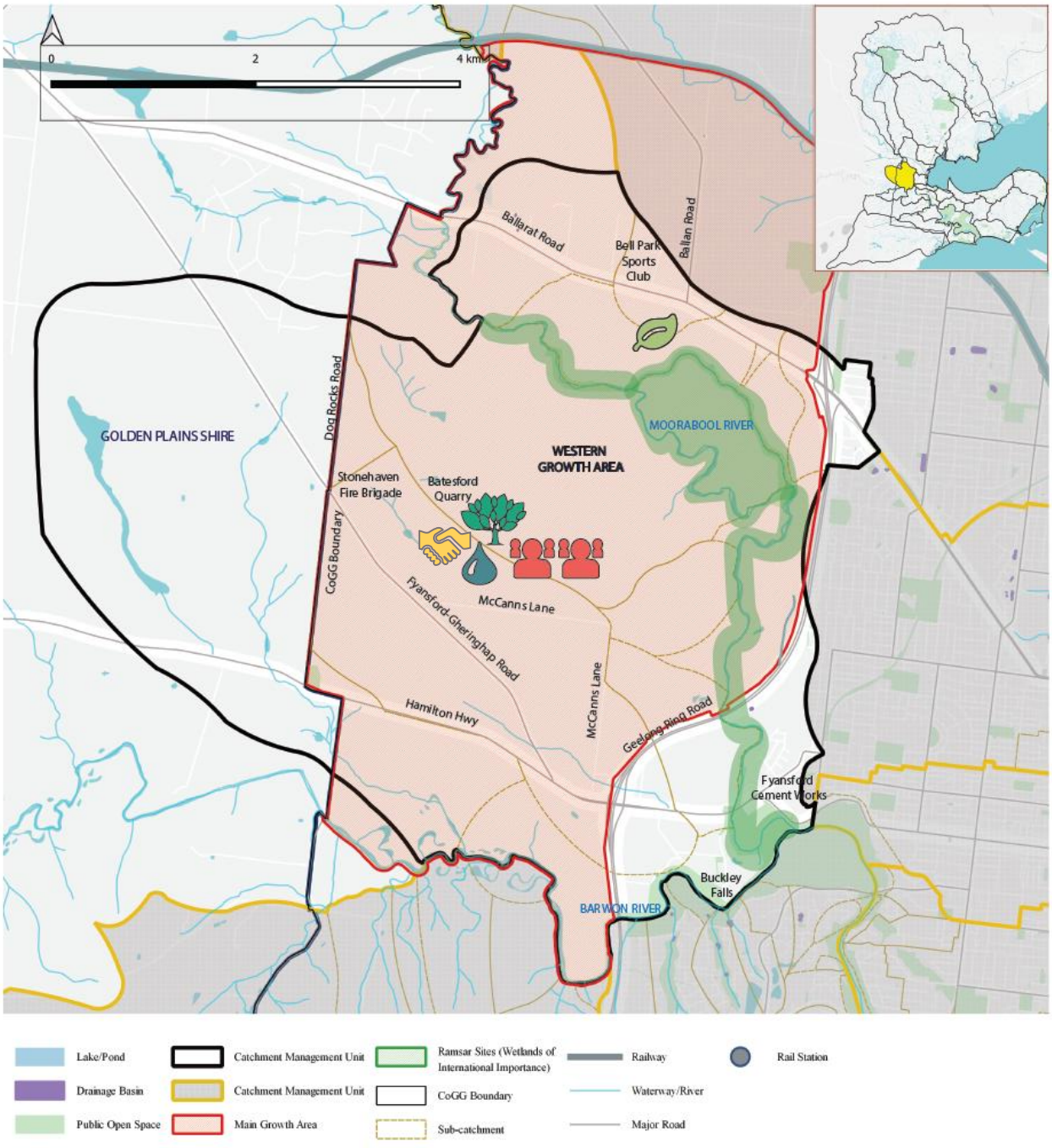
The catchment management unit of Fyansford is located towards the north west of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburb of Fyansford and part of Batesford.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Medium	The City will prioritise an effective planning process, implementation of building controls and appropriate, timely, delivery of stormwater assets to manage the significant level of future growth expected within this catchment management unit.

Delivery Schedule

The Fyansford Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2021.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Low	Low number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Medium	Medium level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Low	Low priority for open space irrigation at present. However, it is acknowledged that the Western Growth Area Precinct Structure Plan will place heavy emphasis on future IWM opportunities as growth commences
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Medium	The catchment drains into the Barwon river. Given the nature of catchment development, a medium priority for water quality management is appropriate
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	High	Very high expected future development means that the City must be vigilant to ensure stormwater is managed appropriately over the next 10 to 20 years
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	High	High level of opportunity for partnership projects expected in the Western Growth Area to achieve best practice outcomes The catchment management unit is partially located within the Golden Plains Shire area. The Council will engage with the neighboring council to understand issues throughout the catchment
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	Low	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is high

Actions

0–2 years

Investigation: Ensure downstream impacts to the Fyansford catchment are considered in the Western Growth Area flood studies

Investigation: Complete Western Growth Area Precinct Planning

Partnership: Partner with neighbouring council and CCMA to ensure Council understand catchment wide issues

2–5 years

Investigation: Monitor health of the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers

5–10 years

Asset Solution: Implement any stormwater improvement actions within the catchment to manage future growth

Investigation: Monitor health of the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers

RIPPLESIDE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

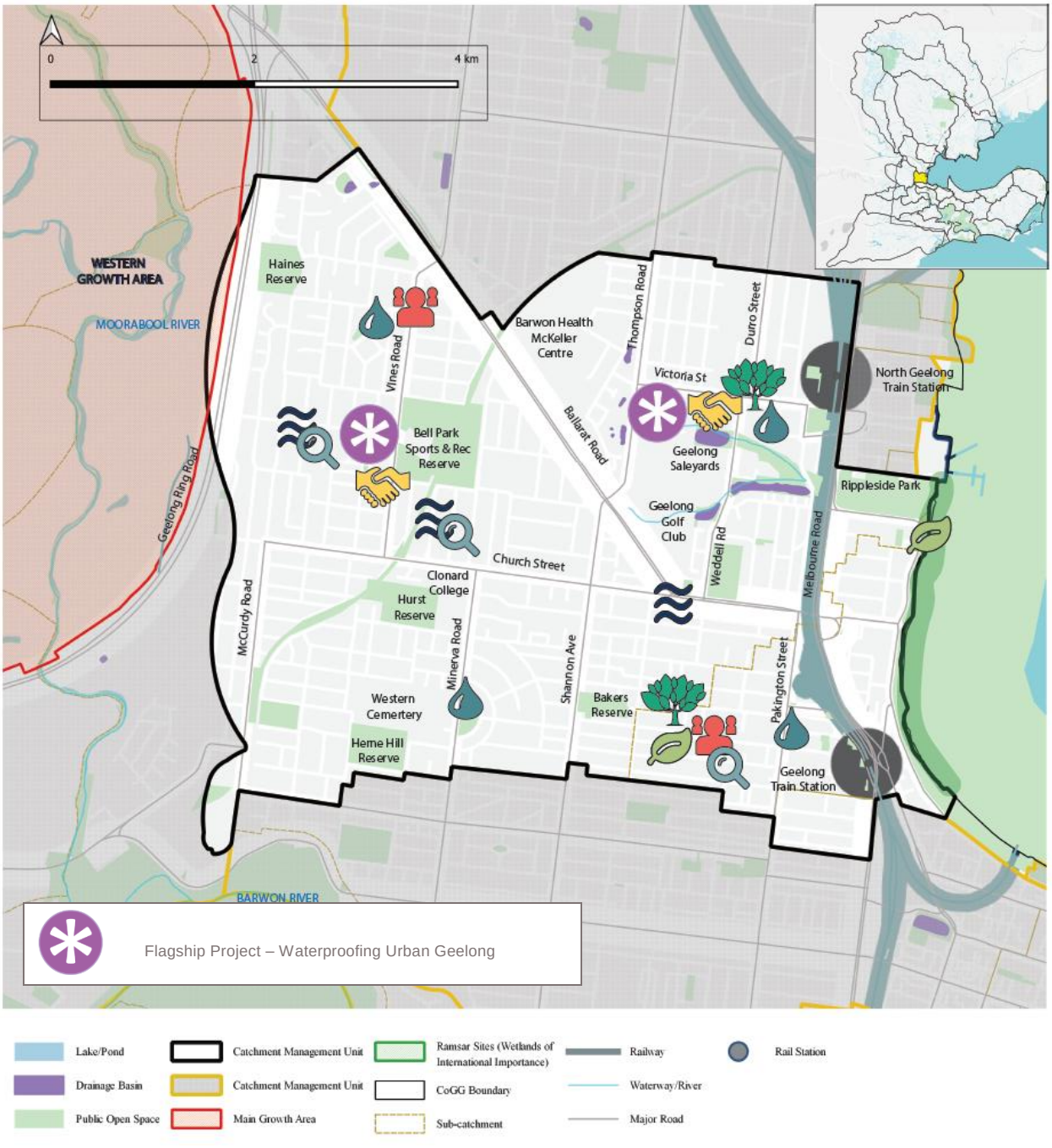
The catchment management unit of Rippleside is in the central area the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs Rippleside, Drumcondra, Geelong West, Herne Hill, Manifold Heights and Hamlyn Heights.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Medium	The catchment management unit has an existing flooding risk that is being investigated through a flood study (2019). This is expected to yield several improvement actions such as changes to planning overlays and/or development of assets in and around the Saleyards precinct in North Geelong. These actions should provide flexibility for future catchment changes as growth continues.

Delivery Schedule

The Rippleside Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2021.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	High	High number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Medium	Medium level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Medium	Moderate opportunity for irrigation of open space or creation of multifunctional community spaces
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Medium	Medium priority for water quality management based on the nature / extent of development in the catchment, and the sensitivity of receiving environments
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	High	Moderate level of current development. Infill development is expected to be significant, and will affect stormwater management requirements
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	High	Significant opportunities for partnership projects identified
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	High	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is limited

Actions

0–2 years

Investigation: Capture flood study recommendations (once complete).

2–5 years

Asset / Non-Asset Solution: Subject to funding, implement actions identified through the flood study

Asset Solution: Identify and deliver IWM opportunities within the catchment aligned with flood study actions

5–10 years

Asset Solution: Identify and deliver IWM opportunities within the catchment

CENTRAL GEELONG CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

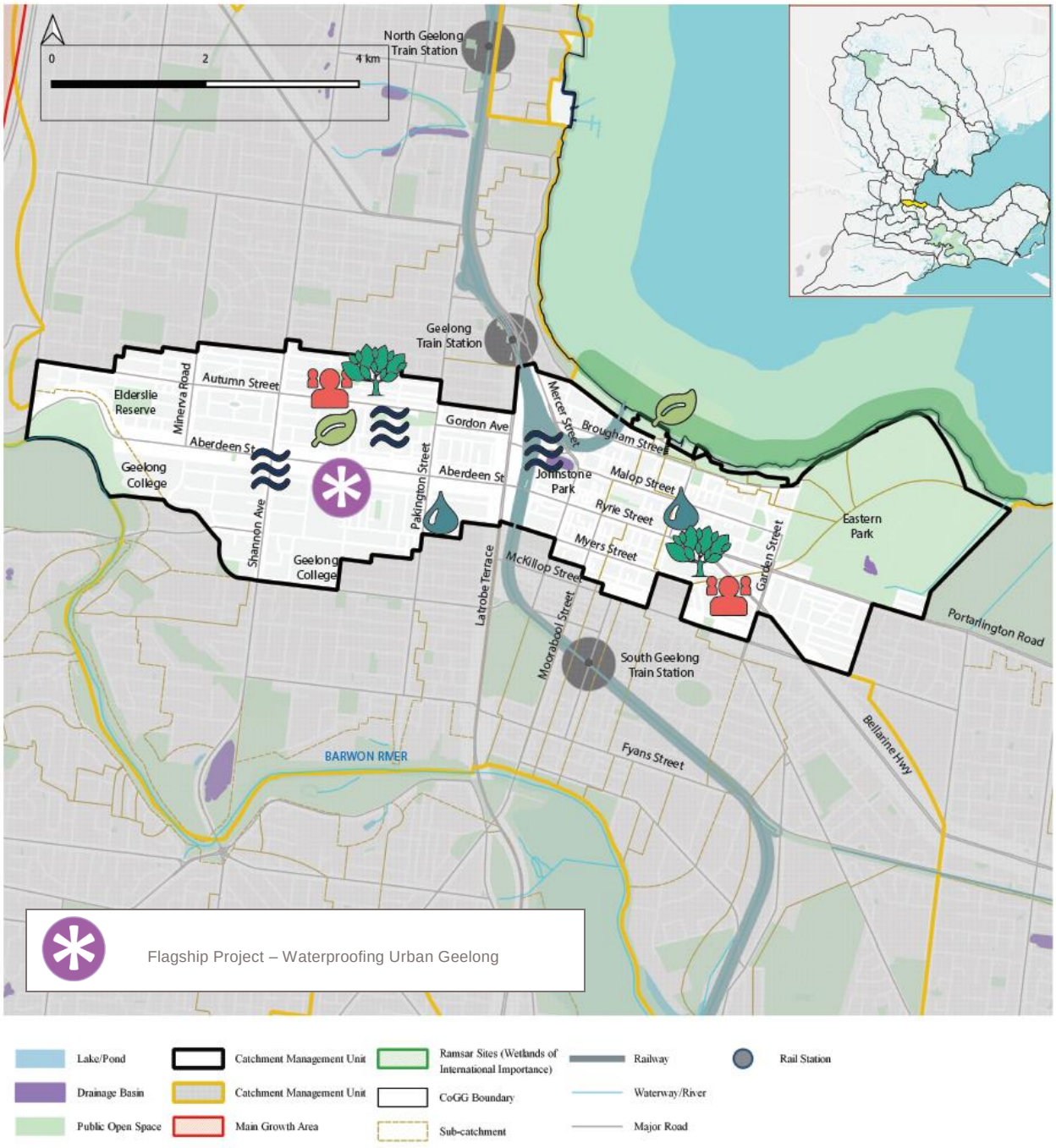
The catchment management unit of Central Geelong is located within the central area the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Geelong and parts of Newtown and Geelong West.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Medium	The City has a medium priority for flood management in the area, with actions underway to manage historical flooding issues. Given the highly urbanized character of the catchment management unit, the City will establish IWM actions which can be implemented when opportunities arise.

Delivery Schedule

The Central Geelong Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2030.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	High	High number of historical flooding events in a densely populated area, due in large part to the high impervious area of the catchment, and older infrastructure not designed to current standards
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Medium	Medium level of tree canopy coverage, less than the City's objective
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Low	Numerous existing open spaces that are irrigated. Opportunities do exist to further integrate stormwater management into these areas
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Medium	Medium priority for water quality based on the nature / extent of development and the value of receiving environments
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Medium	The suburbs of Geelong, Geelong West and Newtown are already densely populated. This trend is expected to intensify, creating changes to stormwater management in the area
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Low	No current partnership projects identified
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	Low	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is high

Actions

0–2 years	2–5 years	5–10 years
Asset Solution: Complete flood mitigation works underway	**Asset Solution:** Identify and deliver IWM opportunities within the catchment	**Asset Solution:** Identify and deliver IWM opportunities within the catchment
Asset Solution: Identify and deliver IWM opportunities within the catchment	**Investigation:** Monitor health of Corio Bay	**Investigation:** Monitor health of Corio Bay
Investigation: Monitor health of Corio Bay		

CERES NORTH CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

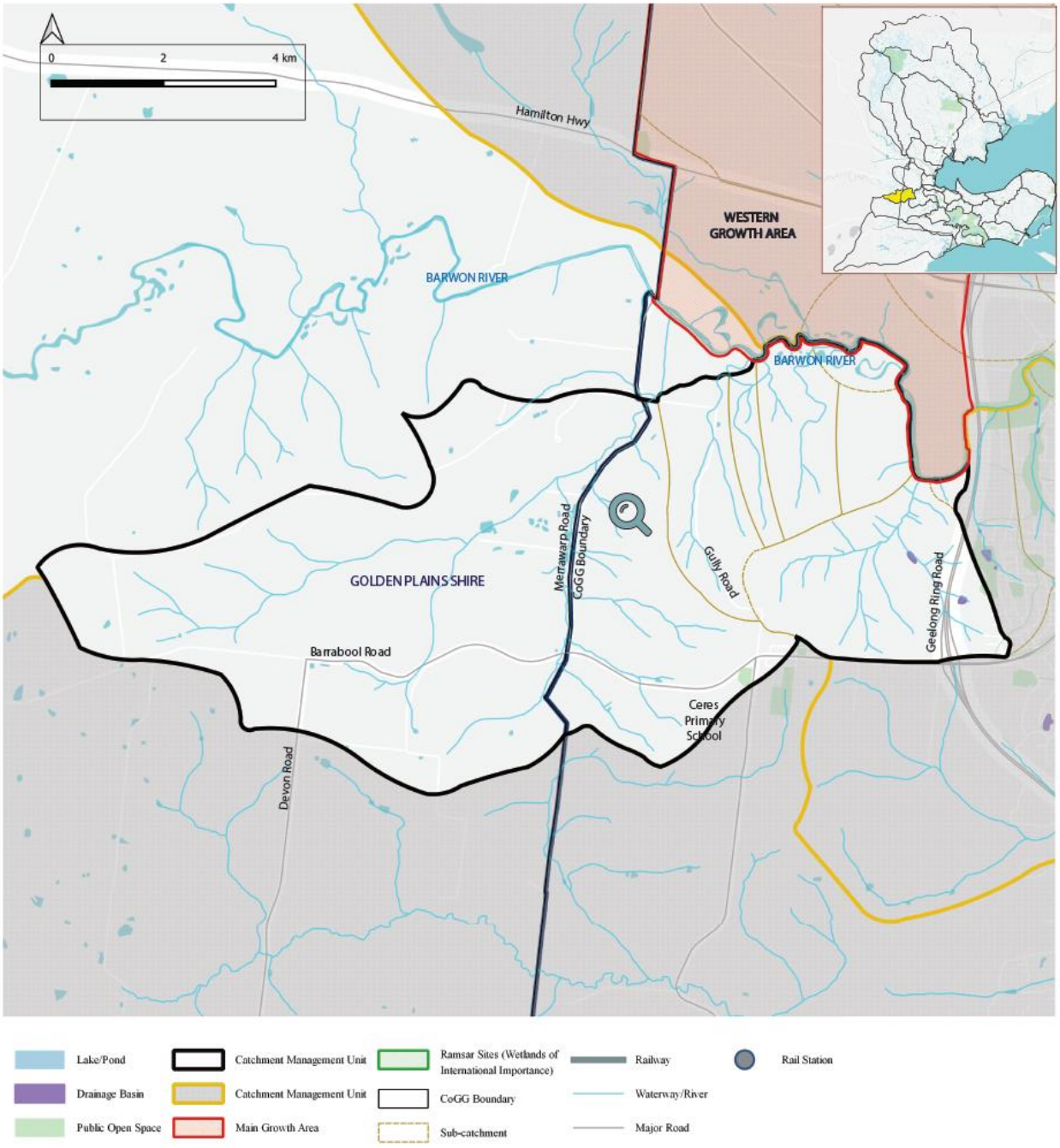
The catchment management unit of Ceres North is located towards the west of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburb of Ceres.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Low	There is no history of flooding or growth expected to require the City to act to better understand the catchment. The City will continue to monitor changes in the Management Unit.

Delivery Schedule

The Ceres North Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2030.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Low	Low number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Medium	Medium level of tree canopy coverage, relative to other areas of the City. Also, the area is predominantly rural
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Low	Rural catchment. Low priority for open space or creation of multifunctional community spaces
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Low	Low priority for water quality based on the nature / extent of development and values of the receiving waterway
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Low	Low level of current and expected low rates of future development
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Low	No current partnership projects identified The catchment management unit is partially located within the Golden Plains Shire area. The Council will engage with the neighboring council to understand issues throughout the catchment
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	High	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is limited

Actions

0–2 Years	2–5 years	5–10 years
Partnership: Partner with neighbouring council and CCMA to ensure Council understand catchment wide issues	Continue to monitor for change	Continue to monitor for change

HIGHTON CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

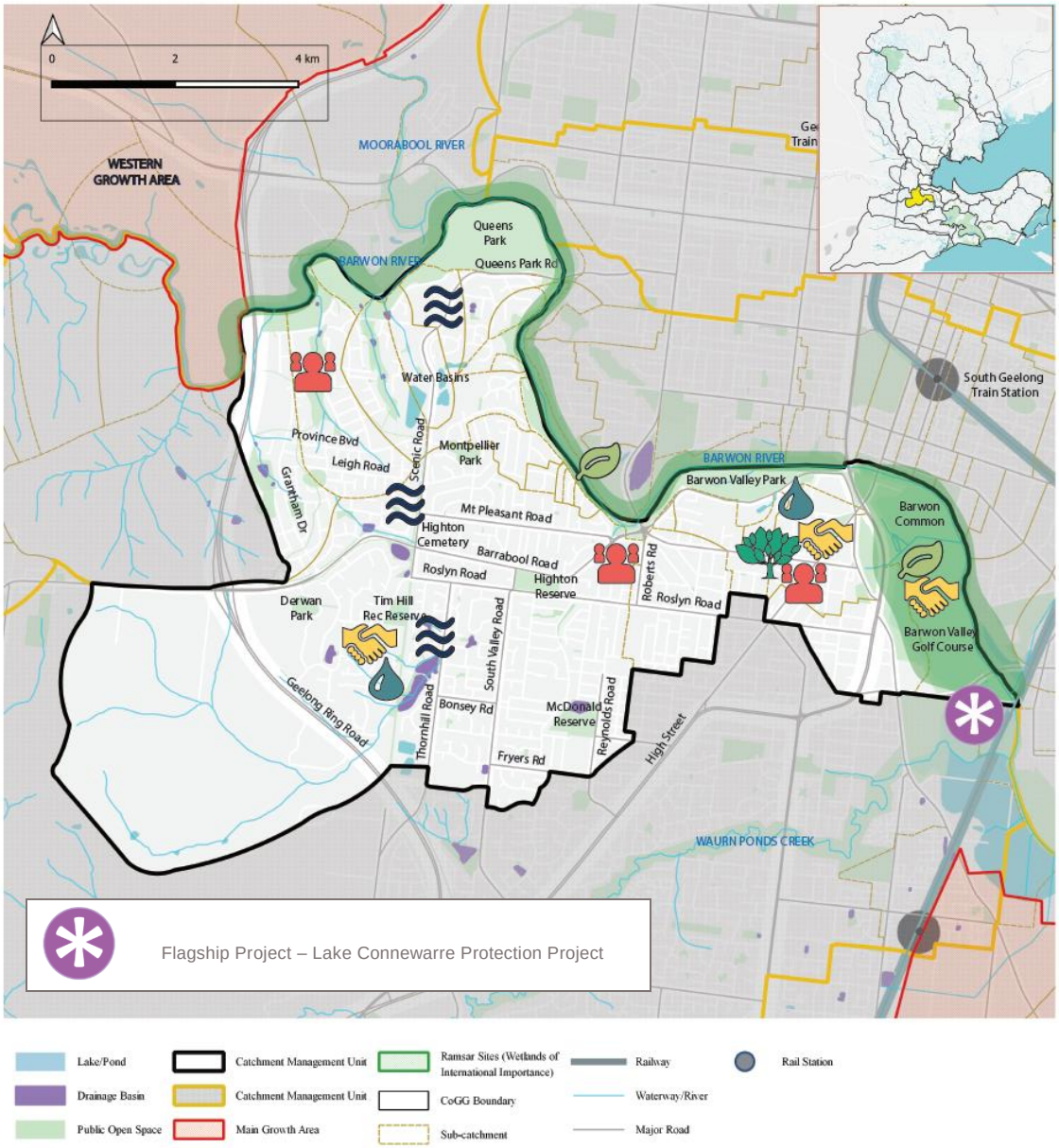
The catchment management unit of Highton is located within the central area the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Highton, Wandana Heights and Belmont.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Medium	The management unit of Highton drains into the Barwon River, which in turn flows into Lake Connewarre. Existing knowledge of water quality outcomes will be improved to better understand risks to this sensitive environment. Flooding risks require ongoing management, but these risks are well understood. Several high criticality retention basins located within the catchment require review. IWM opportunities have been identified within the catchment and will be explored as part of Waterway and Flooding works

Delivery Schedule

The Highton Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2025.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	High	High number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Medium	Medium level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Medium	Moderate opportunity for irrigation of open space and creation of multifunctional community spaces
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	High	High priority for ongoing water quality management as the catchment drains through Lake Connewarre (Ramsar listed). Development within catchment may impact water quality
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Medium	Moderate level of current development, with ongoing future infill expected in some areas
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	High	Opportunities for partnership projects identified. Partnerships required where projects manage discharge into Barwon River
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	Low	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is contemporary and comprehensive following recent flooding studies

Actions

0–2 years

Partnership: Partner with relevant environmental groups and CCMA to ensure Council understands emerging waterway issues

Investigation: Capture flood study recommendations

Investigation: Review retention basins against Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) Standard

2–5 years

Investigation: Complete sampling for water quality and establish a waterway and estuarine health baseline. Capture outcomes in Catchment Management Strategy

Asset Solution: Implement identified IWM opportunities within the catchment

Asset / Non-Asset Solution: Subject to funding, implement actions identified through the flood study to manage flood risk and localised customer impact

Investigation: Review retention basins against ANCOLD Standard

5–10 years

Investigation: Continue to monitor water quality and flood risk

Investigation: Review retention basins against ANCOLD Standard

SOUTH GEELONG CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

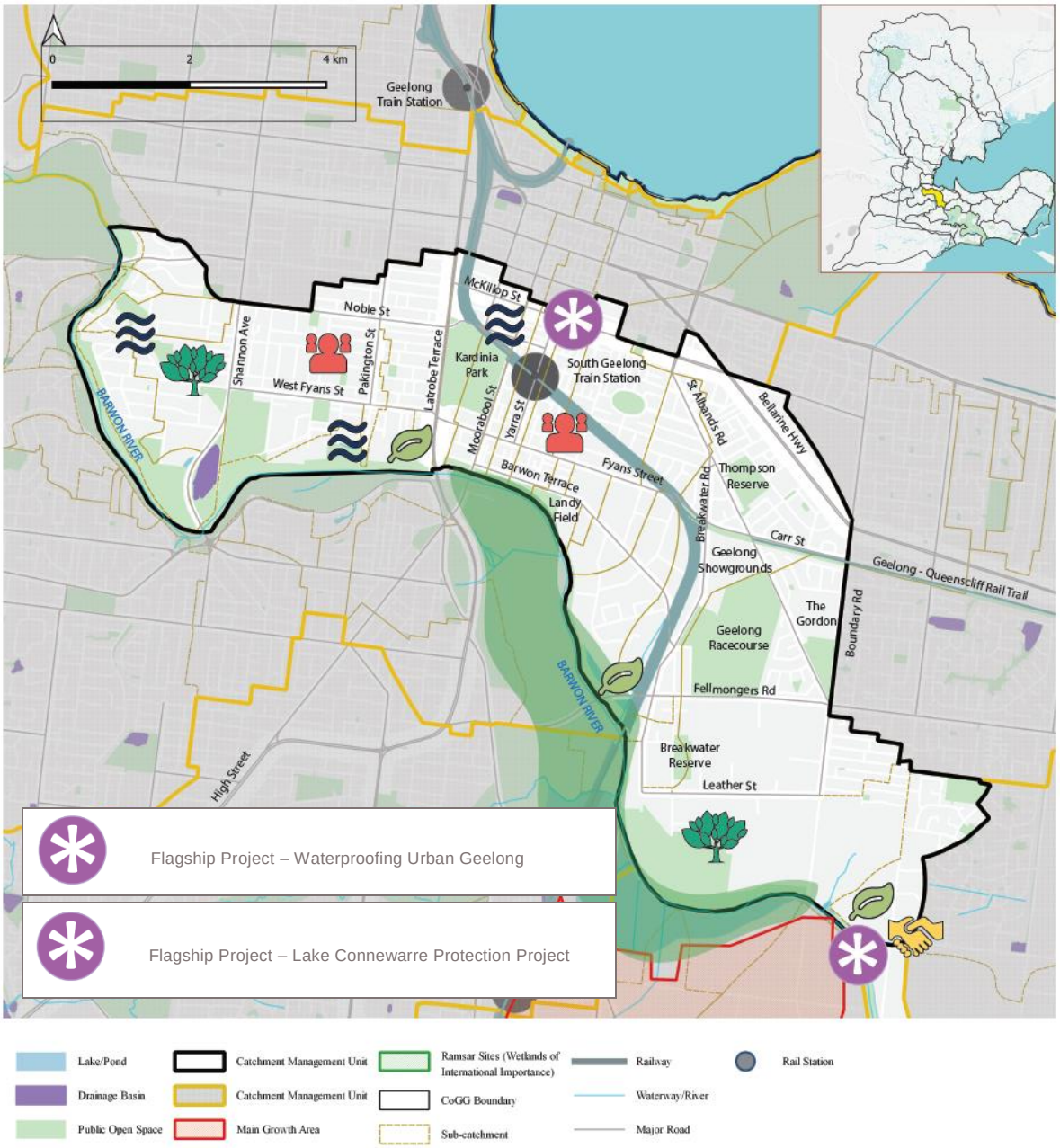
The catchment management unit of South Geelong is located within the central area the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of South Geelong, Newtown, Breakwater and Thomson.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Medium	The catchment management unit of South Geelong drains into the Barwon River, which in turn flows into Lake Connewarre. Existing knowledge of waterway outcomes will be improved to better understand risks to this sensitive environment. Flooding risks require ongoing management, but these risks are well understood.

Delivery Schedule

The South Geelong Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2025.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	High	High number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Medium	Medium level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Low	Low priority for irrigation of open space or creation of multifunctional community spaces, given existing extensive river-side areas
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	High	High priority for water quality management as catchment drains through Lake Connewarre (Ramsar listed). Stormwater discharges into the Barwon River may impact water quality
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Medium	Further development is likely in the Management Unit
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Medium	Opportunities for partnership projects identified
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	Low	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is contemporary and comprehensive

Actions

0–2 years

Partnership: Partner with relevant environmental groups and CCMA to ensure Council understands emerging

2–5 years

Investigation: Complete a detailed study into water quality outcomes for the Barwon River and capture recommendations in Catchment Management Strategy to inform required actions and funding

5–10 years

Asset / Non-Asset Solution: Subject to funding, implement actions identified through the water quality study

Investigation: Continue to monitor water quality

MOOLAP CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

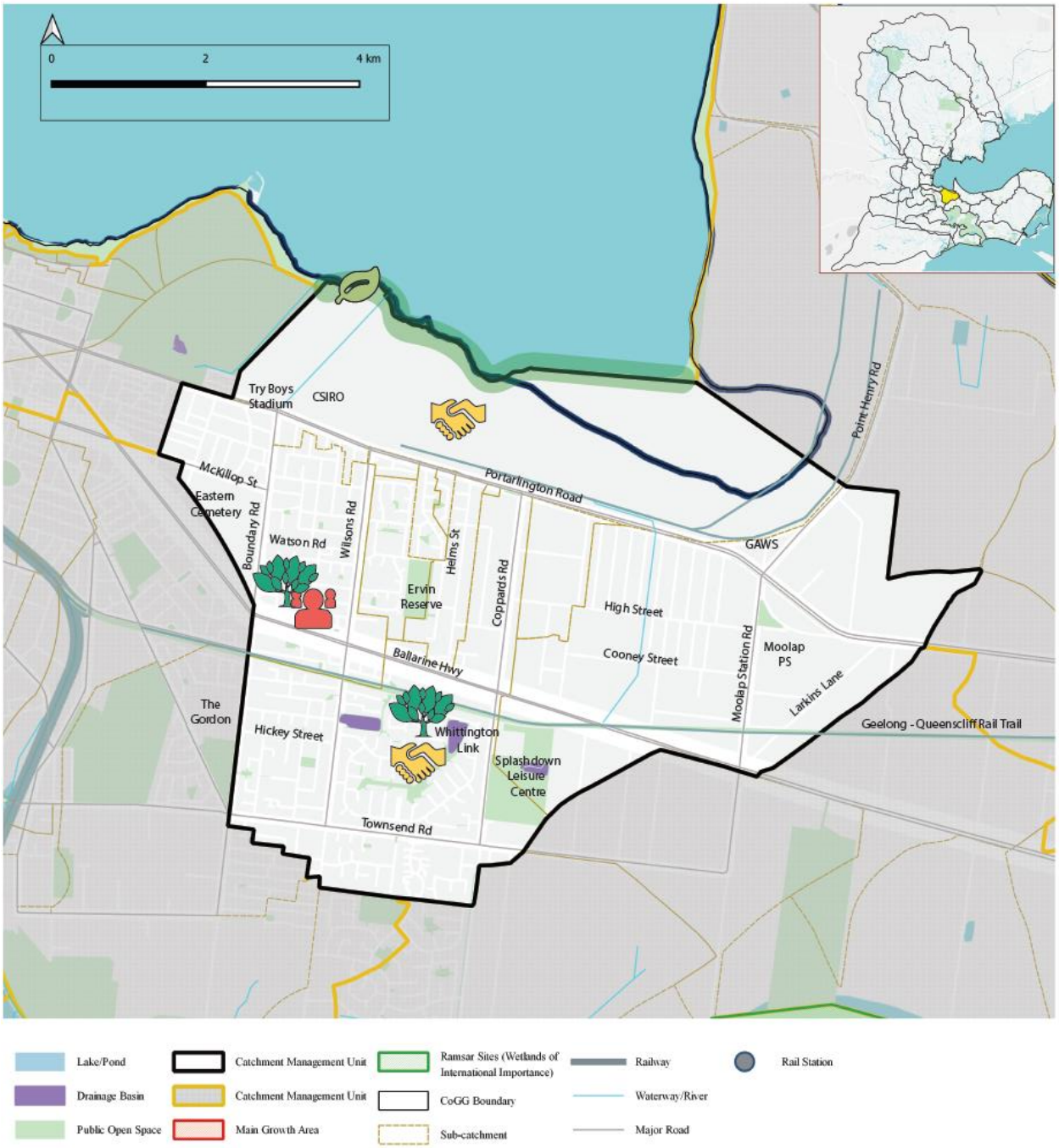
The catchment management unit of Moolap is located within the central area the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Moolap, Newcomb and Whittington.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Medium	The City has assigned a medium priority to continue to monitor water quality from the catchment, given the sensitivity of the receiving environment. The City has a focus on the exploration of IWM opportunities through partnership projects within the catchment

Delivery Schedule

The Moolap Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2030.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Low	Low number of historical flooding events, but known flooding sites across the management unit
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Medium	Medium level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Low	Low priority for irrigation of open space or creation of multifunctional community spaces
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Medium	Medium priority for enhanced management of water quality based on the nature / extent of development and the quality of receiving environments (which include RAMSAR sites)
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Medium	Moderate level of current and future development as infill continues in some areas
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	High	Several opportunities for partnership projects identified
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	Low	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is contemporary and comprehensive

Actions

0–2 years	2–5 years	5–10 years
Asset Solution: Deliver identified IWM opportunities within the catchment	**Asset Solution:** Continue to deliver IWM opportunities within the catchment	**Asset Solution:** Continue to deliver IWM opportunities within the catchment
Investigation: Monitor water quality	**Investigation:** Monitor water quality	**Investigation:** Monitor water quality

WAURN PONDS CREEK CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

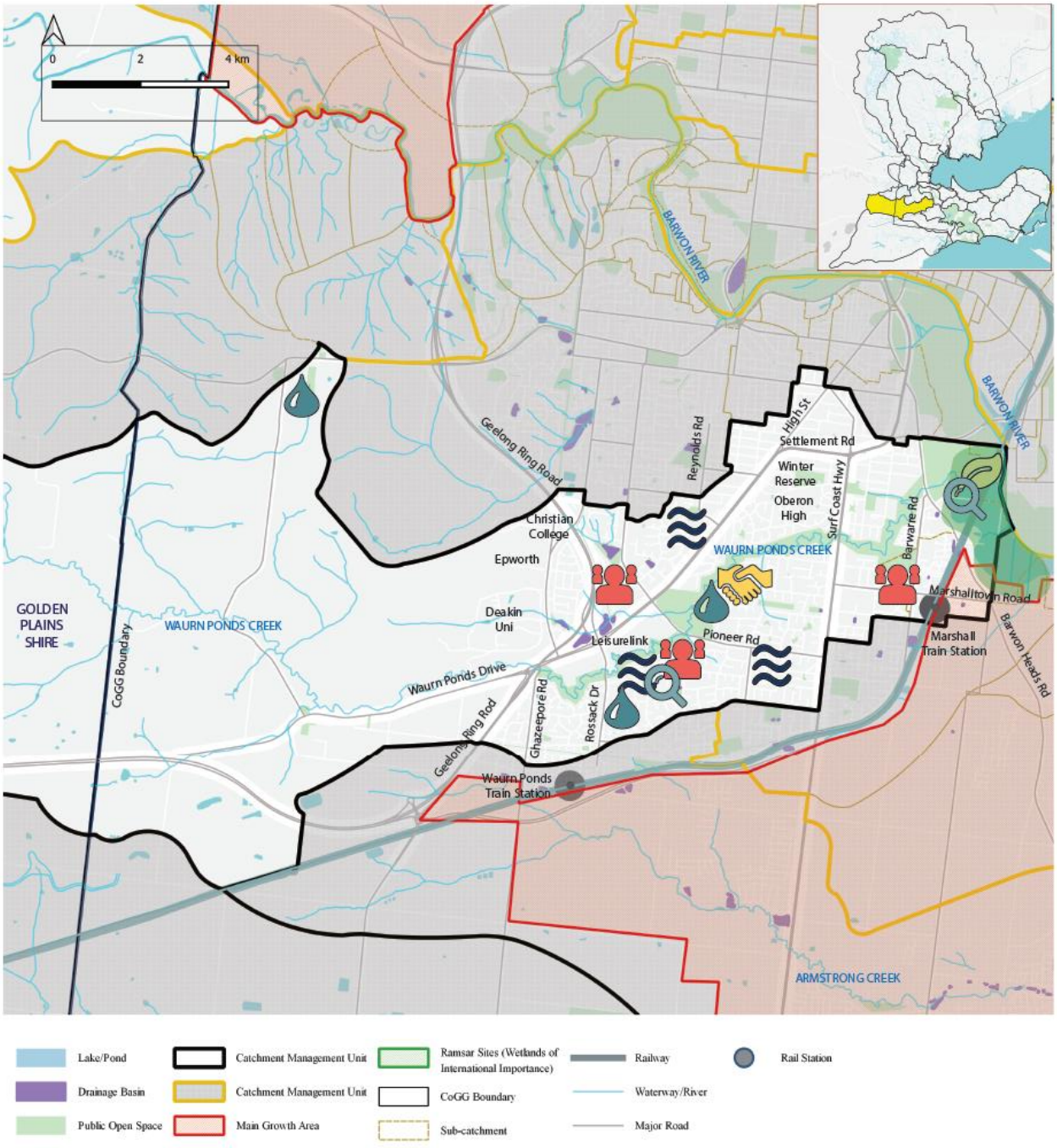
The catchment management unit of Waurn Ponds Creek is located towards the south and west of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Waurn Ponds and Grovedale.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Medium	The City has a focus on the exploration and delivery of IWM opportunities. The City has a medium priority on actions to manage flooding, with emphasis to be placed on mitigating localised flooding issues.

Delivery Schedule

The Waurn Ponds Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2025.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	High	High number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Low	Higher level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	High	High priority for irrigation of open space and the creation of multifunctional community spaces
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Medium	Medium priority for enhanced water quality management based on the nature / extent of development and values of receiving environment
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Medium	Moderate level of current and future development
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	High	Opportunities for partnership projects identified The catchment management unit is partially located within the Golden Plains Shire area. The Council will engage with the neighboring council to understand issues throughout the catchment
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	Medium	Partial knowledge of catchment (flood risk)

Actions

0–2 years

Partnership: Partner with neighbouring council and CCMA to ensure Council understand catchment wide issues

Investigation: Capture flood management recommendations.

2–5 years

Asset / Non-Asset Solutions: Subject to funding, implement flood management actions to manage flood risk and localised customer impact

Asset / Non-Asset Solutions: Seek opportunities to integrate stormwater solutions into public open space when implementing flood management actions

5–10 years

Investigation: Continue to monitor repeat/renew flood risk and assess need to complete flood study to ensure impact of surrounding development is appropriately management

CHARLEMONT CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

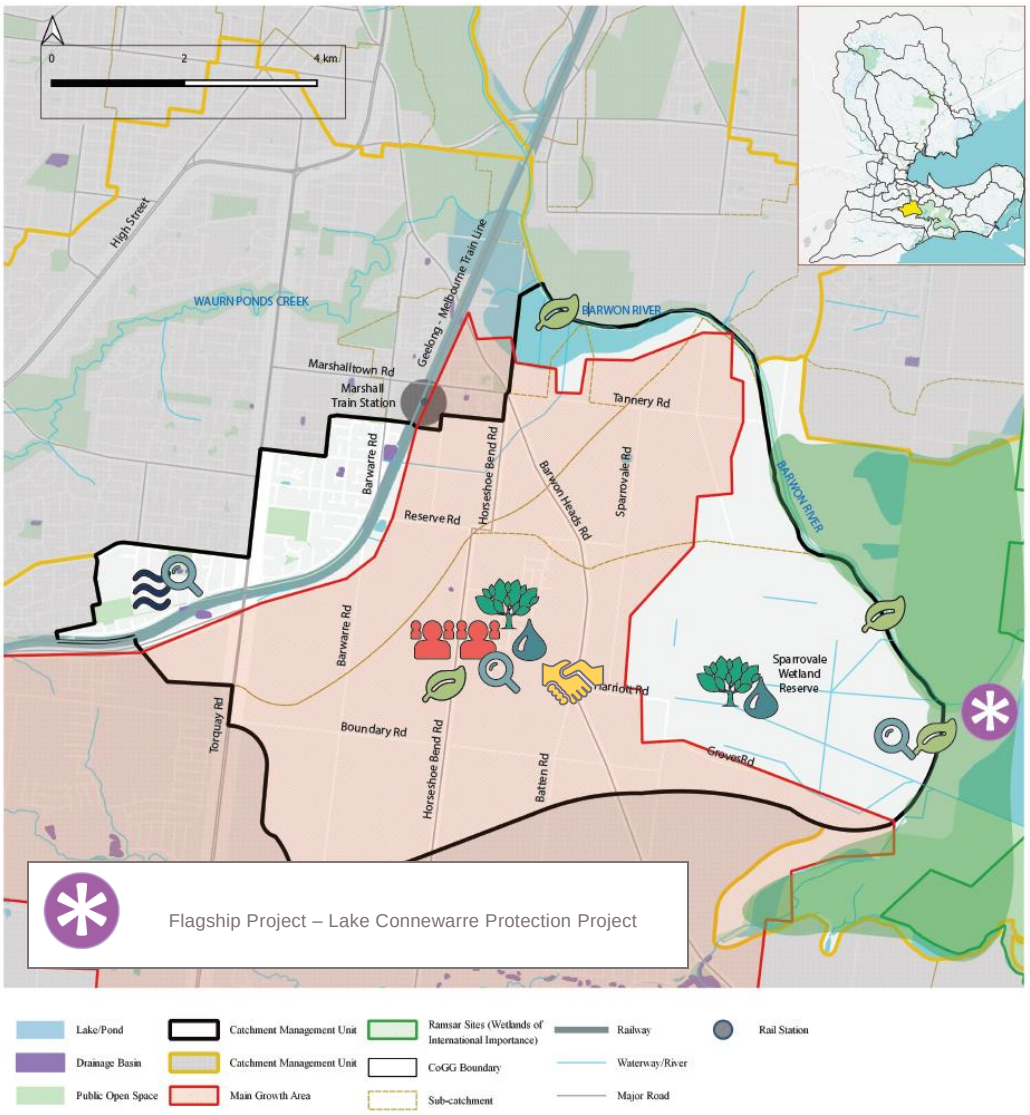
The catchment management unit of Charlemont is located towards the south of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Charlemont and Marshall.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
High	The Catchment Management Unit of Charlemont is covered largely by the Armstrong Creek Growth Area, As the catchment drains into the Lake Connewarre system, the City places a high priority on understanding and managing water quality within the catchment The management of flooding is a high priority due to the flat topography and urban development of the area. Significant opportunities exist for partnership and IWM actions to be delivered as Charlemont continues to develop.

Delivery Schedule

The Charlemont Management Strategy will be delivered by 2022.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Medium	Medium number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	High	Lower level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Medium	Medium priority for irrigation of open space and creation of multifunctional community spaces
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	High	High priority to manage water quality as the catchment drains through Lake Connewarre (Ramsar listed). Development within catchment may impact water quality, emphasis will be placed on the development and management of the Sparrovale Wetlands
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	High	Moderate level of current development and significant rates of future development are expected as the Armstrong Creek / Charlemont area develops
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	High	High level of opportunity for partnership projects expected in the Armstrong Creek Growth Area to achieve best practice outcomes
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	High	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is limited. The City has pre-development knowledge, but the performance of as-build infrastructure needs to be reviewed

Actions

0–2 years

Partnership: Partner with relevant environmental groups, CCMA, and Wadawurrung Aboriginal Co-operative to ensure Council understands emerging waterway issues

Investigation: Complete flood study of the catchment to understand the flood risks and capture recommendations in Catchment Management Strategy to inform required actions and funding

2–5 years

Investigation: Commence a detailed study into water quality outcomes for the Barwon River

Investigation: Complete planning for infrastructure required to service development and plan how that infrastructure will be delivered

Investigation: Funding arrangements to be reviewed for potential special charge

5–10 years

Asset Solution: Deliver infrastructure to support development while seeking to incorporate IWM opportunities

Investigation: Continue to monitor water quality outcomes

Investigation: Assess the need to renew/repeat a flood study to ensure infrastructure is appropriate to service development

REEDY LAKE NORTH CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

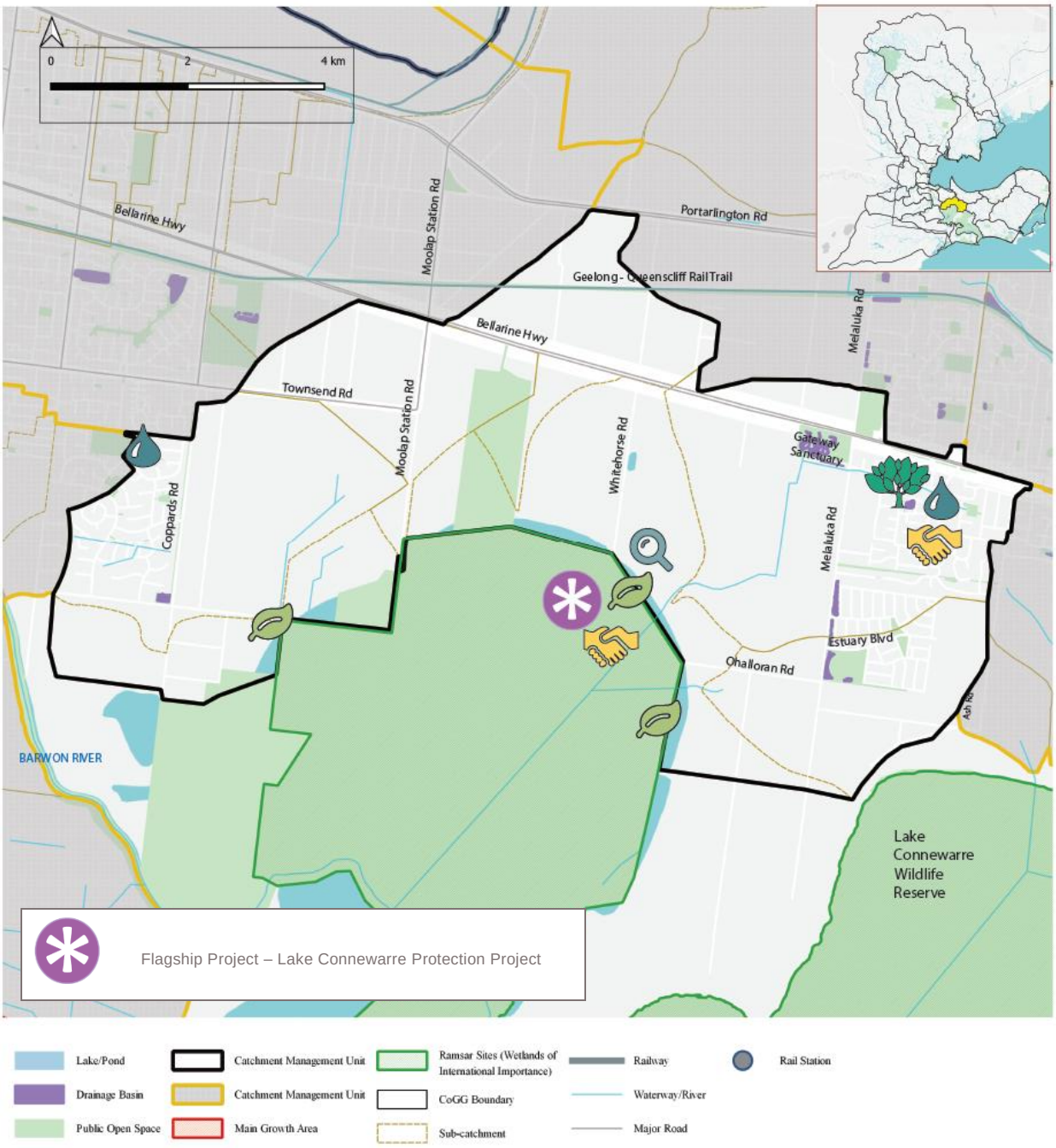
The catchment management unit of Reedy Lake North is in towards the east of the City's service area, and generally includes sections of the suburbs of St Albans Park, Moolap and Leopold.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Medium	The City has a focus on the management of water quality in this Management Unit. This will involve partnerships and ongoing water quality investigations. A medium priority is assigned to implement IWM actions, and integrate stormwater into urban environments, which may include some irrigation of existing open space and delivery of identified IWM priorities

Delivery Schedule

The Reedy Lake Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2025.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Low	Low number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Medium	Medium level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	High	High priority for irrigation of open space and creation of multifunctional community spaces
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	High	High priority for maintaining water quality as the catchment drains through Lake Connewarre (Ramsar listed). Development within catchment may impact water quality
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Low	Limited current development and low rates of expected future development
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Medium	Opportunities for partnership projects identified
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	High	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is limited

Actions

0–2 years

Partnership: Partner with relevant environmental groups and CCMA to ensure Council understands emerging waterway issues

2–5 years

Investigation: Complete a water quality investigation to confirm actual risk to receiving environment and capture recommendations in Catchment Management Strategy to inform required actions and funding

Asset Solution: Deliver identified IWM opportunities within the catchment

5–10 years

Investigation: Continue to monitor water quality

Asset Solution: Continue to identify and deliver IWM opportunities within the catchment

LEOPOLD NORTH CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

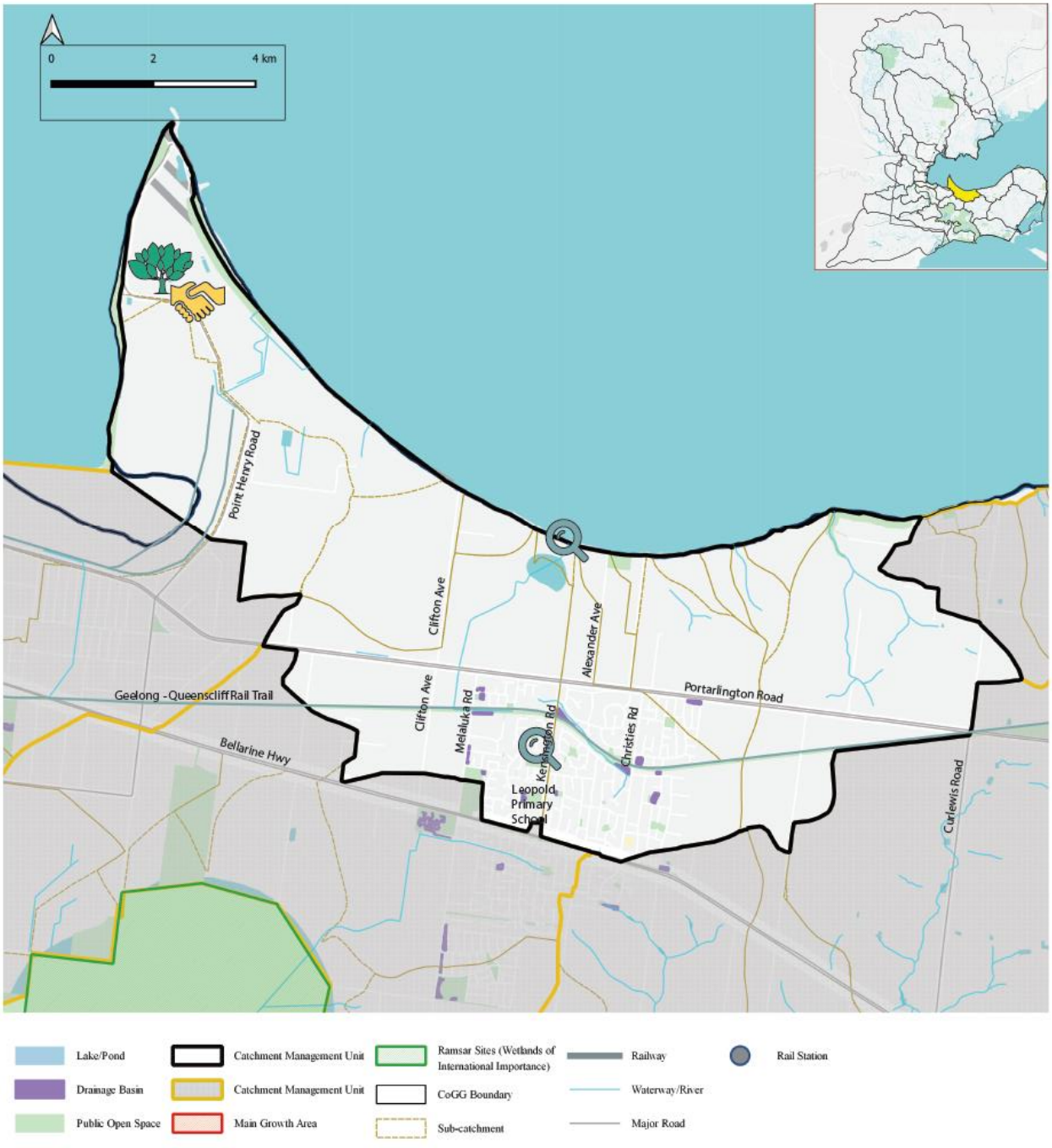
The catchment management unit of Leopold North is in towards the east of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Leopold and parts of Moolap and Curlewis.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Low	The catchment management unit of Leopold generally exhibits low priority for action by the City. Ongoing monitoring of stormwater service performance and rates of growth will occur over time.

Delivery Schedule

The Leopold North Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2030.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Low	Low number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Medium	Medium level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Low	Low priority for irrigation of open space
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Low	Low priority for enhanced water quality management based on the nature / extent of existing development and waterway values
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Low	Low rates of projected future development
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Low	Limited opportunities for partnership projects identified
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	High	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is limited

Actions

0–2 years	2–5 years	5–10 years
Continue to monitor for change	Continue to monitor for change	Continue to monitor for change

ARMSTRONG CREEK CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

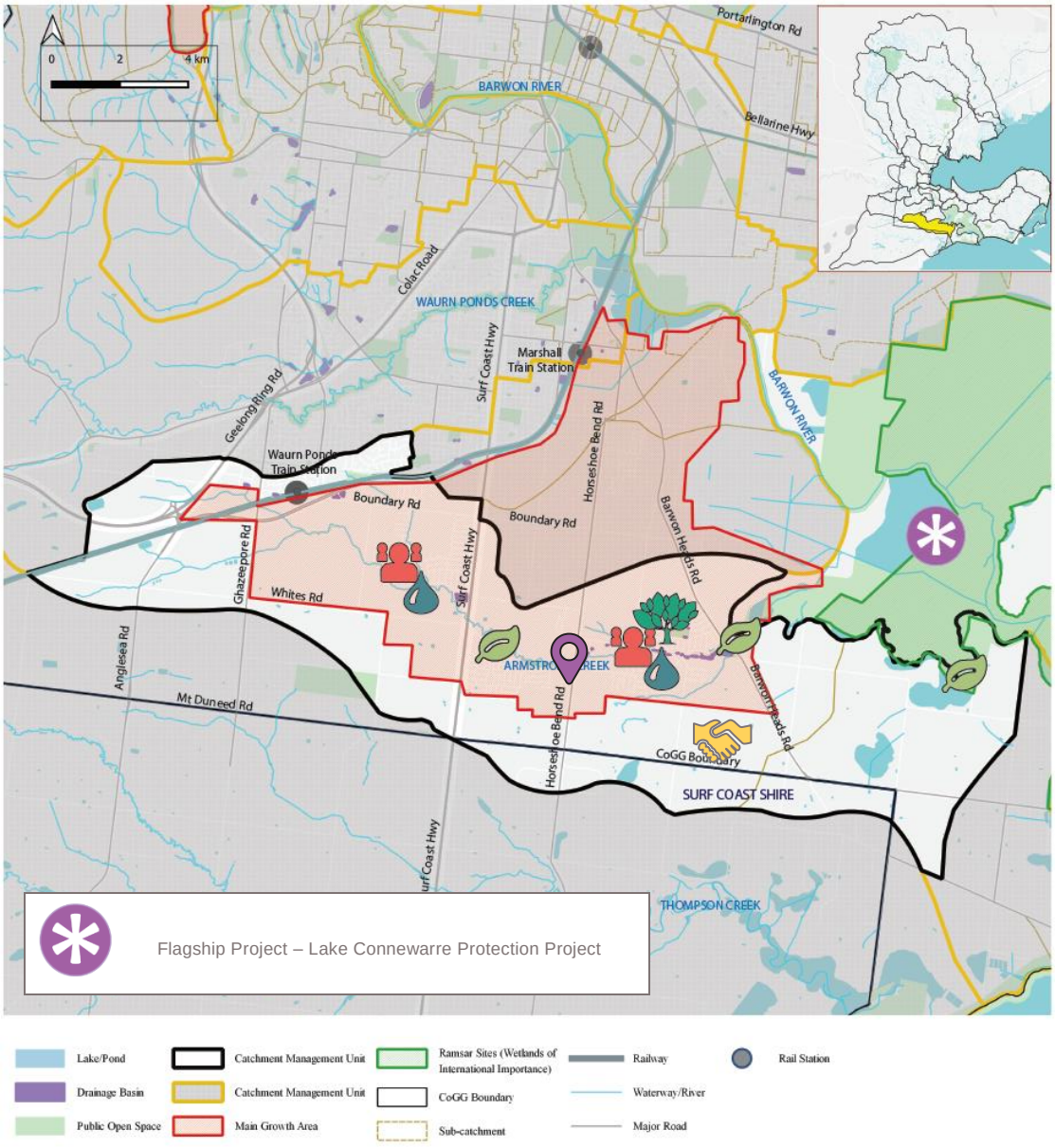
The catchment management unit of Armstrong Creek is in the west of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Armstrong Creek, Mount Duneed and Connewarre.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
High	The catchment management unit of Armstrong Creek is planned and constructed to modern standards. Nevertheless, it is considered a high priority to ensure that the systems and assets (including the Sparrovale Wetlands located in the Charlemont catchment management unit) are installed correctly and in a timely fashion to protect water quality outcomes for Lake Connewarre. Armstrong Creek is identified to hold significant cultural value, its natural flow paths should be carefully managed and protected as the catchment develops.

Delivery Schedule

The Armstrong Creek Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2022.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Low	Low number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Medium	Medium level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Medium	Medium priority for irrigation of open space, and creation of multifunctional spaces. Many of these spaces are already planned or in place across the catchment
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	High	High priority to manage water quality as the catchment drains through Lake Connewarre (Ramsar listed). Emphasis will be placed on the development and management of the Sparrovale Wetlands (Located in the Charlemont catchment management unit)
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	High	Extensive existing development and high rates of expected future development
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	High	High level of opportunity for partnership projects expected in the Armstrong Creek Growth Area to achieve best practice outcomes
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	Low	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is contemporary and comprehensive. The City has pre-development knowledge, but performance of as-built infrastructure will need to be reviewed
	Protect cultural values along waterways.	High	Armstrong Creek identified to have significant cultural values that need to be protected

Actions

0–2 years

Partnership: Partner with relevant environmental groups, CCMA, and Wadawurrung Aboriginal Co-operative to ensure Council understands emerging waterway issues

2–5 years

Investigation: Assess the need to repeat or renew a flood study to ensure infrastructure is appropriate to manage flood risk associated with development

Investigation: Commence a detailed study into water quality outcomes for the Barwon River and capture recommendations in Catchment Management Strategy to inform required actions and funding

5–10 years

Investigation: Continue to monitor water quality

WALLINGTON CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

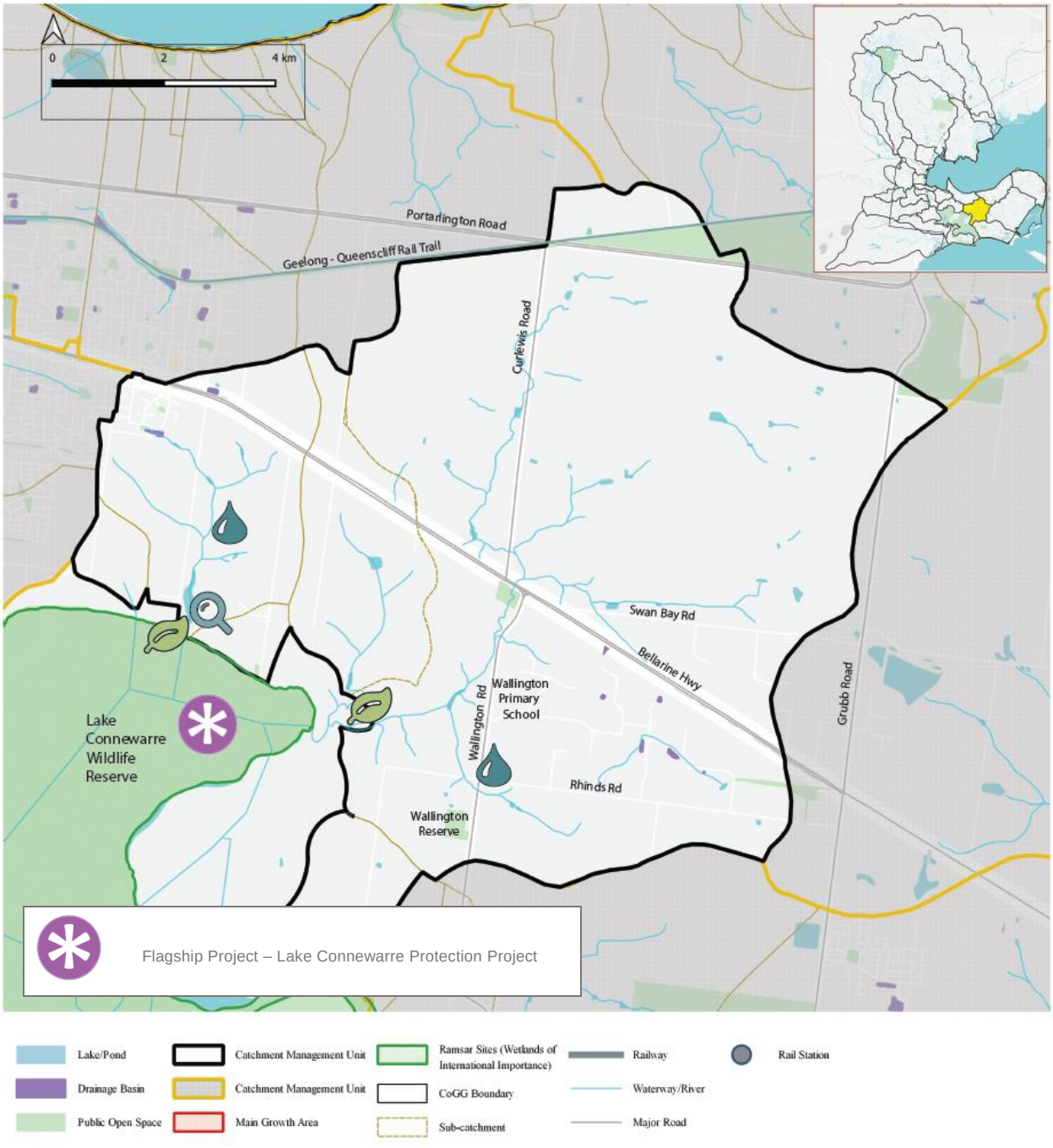
The catchment management unit of Wallington is in the east of the City's service area, and generally includes parts of the suburbs of Wallington, Leopold and Curlewis.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Low	The City has a focus on identifying and delivering opportunities to integrate stormwater into the towns of the Bellarine. Otherwise, the City will maintain an ongoing monitoring of stormwater services performance.

Delivery Schedule

The Wallington Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2030.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Low	Low number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Low	Higher level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	High	High priority for irrigation of open space and creation of multifunctional community spaces given the lack of current irrigated parks, and opportunities for biodiversity / tourism corridors
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Medium	Medium priority for water quality based on the nature / extent of existing development and the values of receiving waterways
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Low	Low rates of future development
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Low	No partnership projects identified.
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	High	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is limited

Actions

0–2 years	2–5 years	5–10 years
Investigation: Explore opportunities to integrate stormwater into natural and built environment.	Continue to monitor for change	Continue to monitor for change

CLIFTON SPRINGS CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

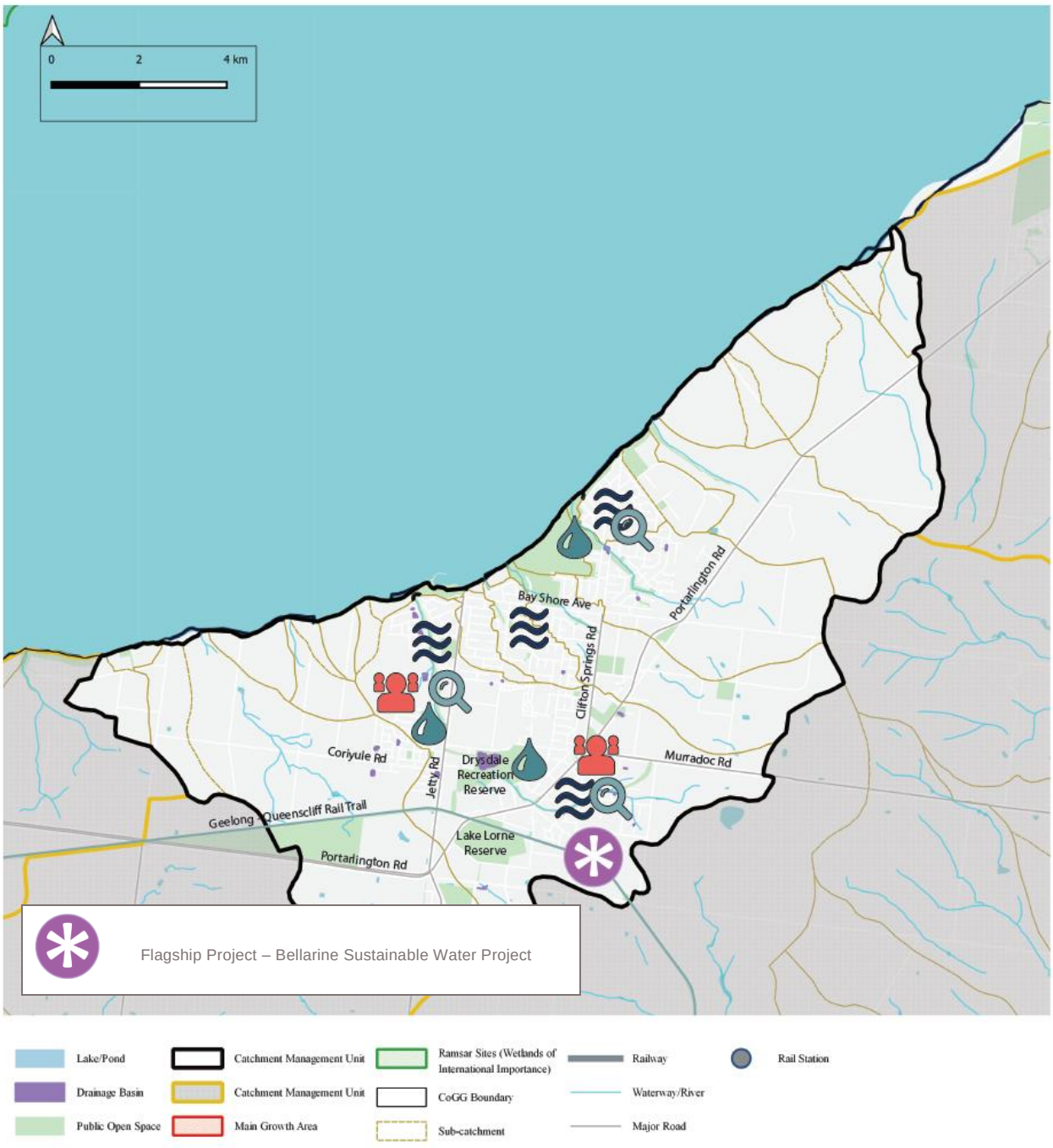
The catchment management unit of Clifton Springs is in the east of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Clifton Springs and Drysdale.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Medium	Managing flooding risk in the Clifton Springs catchment management unit is a focus for the City, particularly given expected future growth in the community. This includes the development of asset and non-asset solutions, for example a formal drainage network and building overlays.

Delivery Schedule

The Clifton Springs Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2021.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	High	High number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Low	Higher level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Medium	Medium priority for irrigation of open space and creation of multifunctional community spaces
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Low	Low priority for water quality based on the nature / extent of current development and the importance of the receiving waterway
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	High	Significant urban development in some areas and moderate rate of ongoing expected future development
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Medium	Recycled water supply from Barwon Water's Treatment Plant in Portarlington may provide partnership opportunity
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	High	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is limited

Actions

0–2 years

Investigation: Complete flood study of the catchment to understand the flood risks

2–5 years

Asset / Non-Asset Solution: Subject to funding, implement actions identified through the flood study to manage flood risk and localised issues

Investigation: Review opportunities for recycled water supply from Barwon Water's Treatment Plant in Portarlington

5–10 years

Asset / Non-Asset Solution: Subject to funding, continue to implement actions identified through the flood study to manage flood risk and localised issues

OCEAN GROVE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

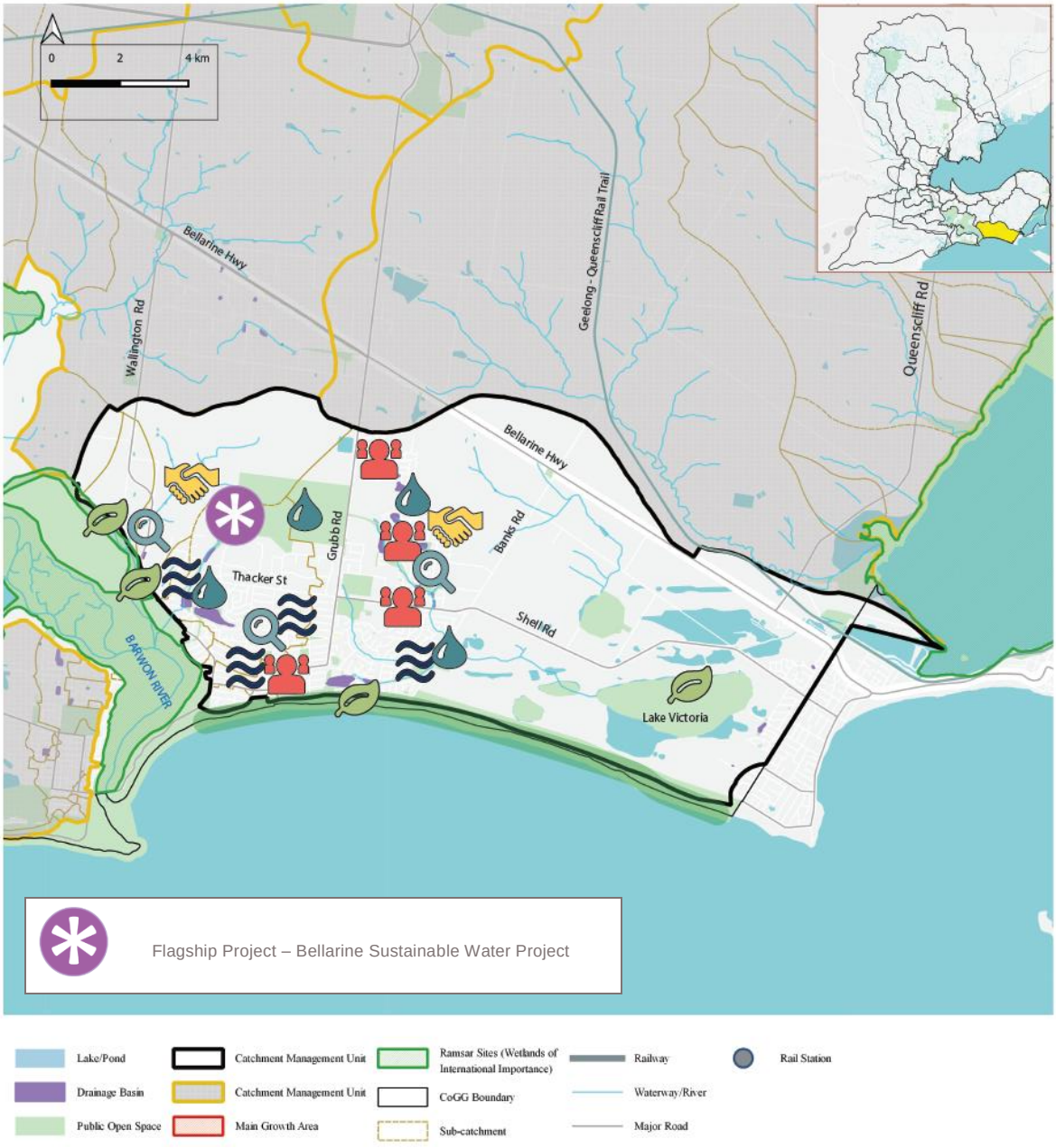
The catchment management unit of Ocean Grove is in the east of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Ocean Grove and parts of Wallington, Point Lonsdale and Marcus Hill.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
High	The City considers it a high priority to understand and manage water quality from the catchment management unit of Ocean Grove. Existing and expected additional future flooding issues, exacerbated by future growth make a focus on flood management a priority. Furthermore, the City's understanding of flooding risk should be updated Some opportunities identified to deliver improved IWM outcomes through irrigation of open space and development of biodiversity corridors (as part of the flagship project for the Bellarine)

Delivery Schedule

The Ocean Grove Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2021.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	High	High number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Low	Higher level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	High	High priority for irrigation of open space and creation of multifunctional community spaces due to relative lack of these assets at present
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	High	High priority to manage water quality risks as the catchment drains through Swan Bay (Ramsar listed). Development and industry within the catchment may impact water quality unless controls are implemented
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	High	Significant development of the catchment management unit has already occurred. Moderate levels of future development expected
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Medium	Opportunities for partnership projects identified
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	High	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is limited

Actions

0–2 years

Partnership: Partner with relevant environmental groups and CCMA to ensure Council understands emerging waterway issues

Investigation: Complete flood study of the catchment to understand the flood risks and capture recommendations in Catchment Management Strategy to inform required actions and funding

2–5 years

Investigation: Complete a water quality investigation to confirm actual risk to receiving environment and capture recommendations in Catchment Management Strategy

Asset / Non-Asset Solution: Subject to funding, implement actions identified through the flood study to manage flood risk and localised issues

Non-Asset Solution: Plan for passive open space irrigation with linkage to stormwater storage and recycled water supplies from Barwon Water

5–10 years

Asset / Non-Asset Solution: Subject to funding, continue to implement actions identified through the flood study to manage flood risk and localised issues

Investigation: Continue to monitor water quality

SWAN BAY CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

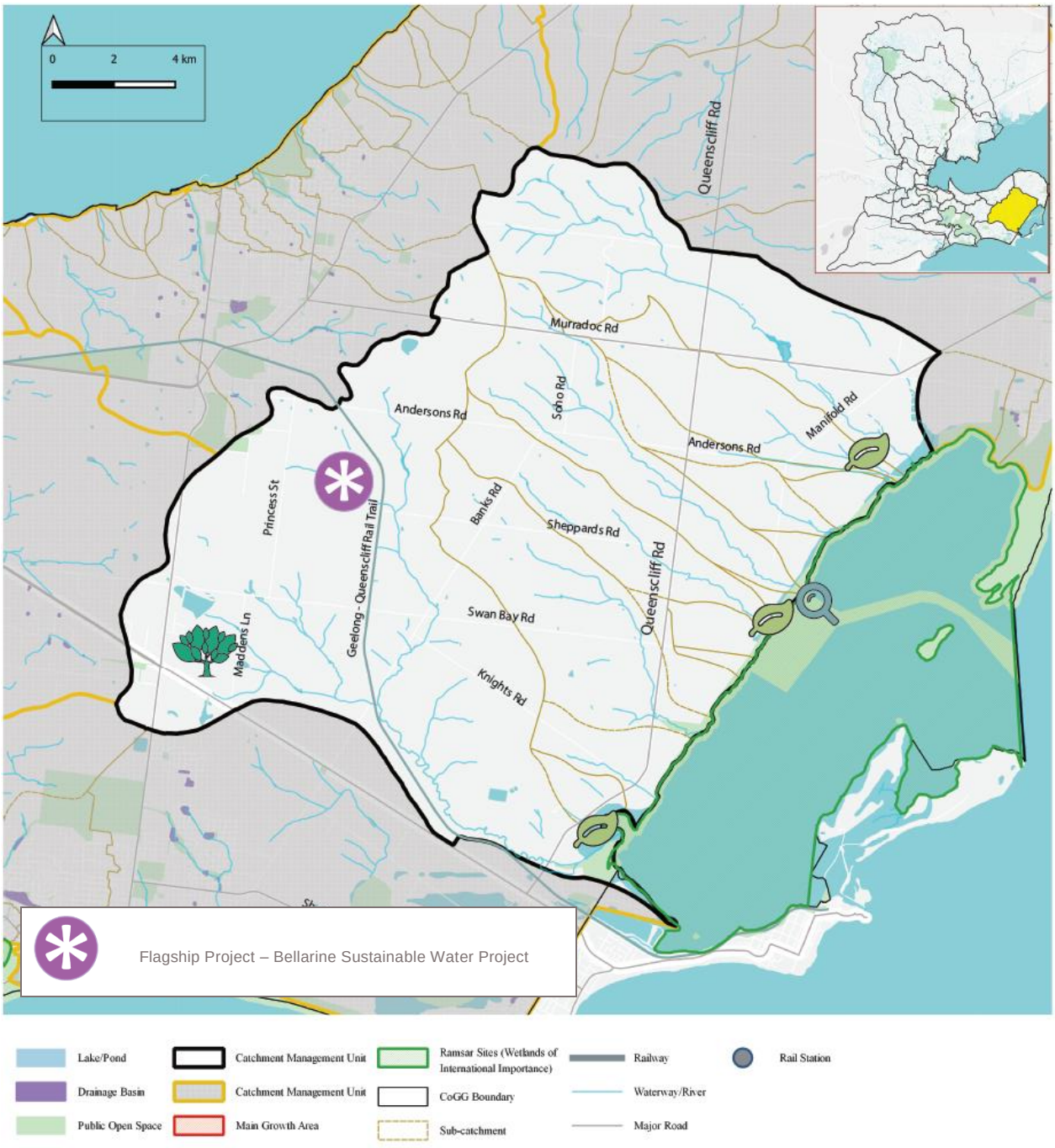
The catchment management unit of Swan Bay is in the east of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Swan Bay and Mannerim and parts of Drysdale and St Leonards.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Medium	The City has a focus on the ongoing management of water quality into Swan Bay.

Delivery Schedule

The Swan Bay Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2025.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Low	Low number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Medium	Medium level of tree canopy coverage in relation to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Low	Low priority for irrigation of open space or creation of multifunctional community spaces
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	High	High priority for maintaining water quality as the catchment drains through Swan Bay (Ramsar listed)
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Low	Low level of current development and limited expected future development
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Low	No partnership projects identified
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	High	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is limited

Actions

0–2 years	2–5 years	5–10 years
Partnership: Partner with relevant environmental groups and CCMA to ensure Council understands emerging	**Investigation:** Complete sampling for water quality and establish a waterway and estuarine health baseline. Capture outcomes in Catchment Management Strategy to inform required actions and funding	**Investigation:** Continue to monitor water quality

EASTERN BELLARINE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

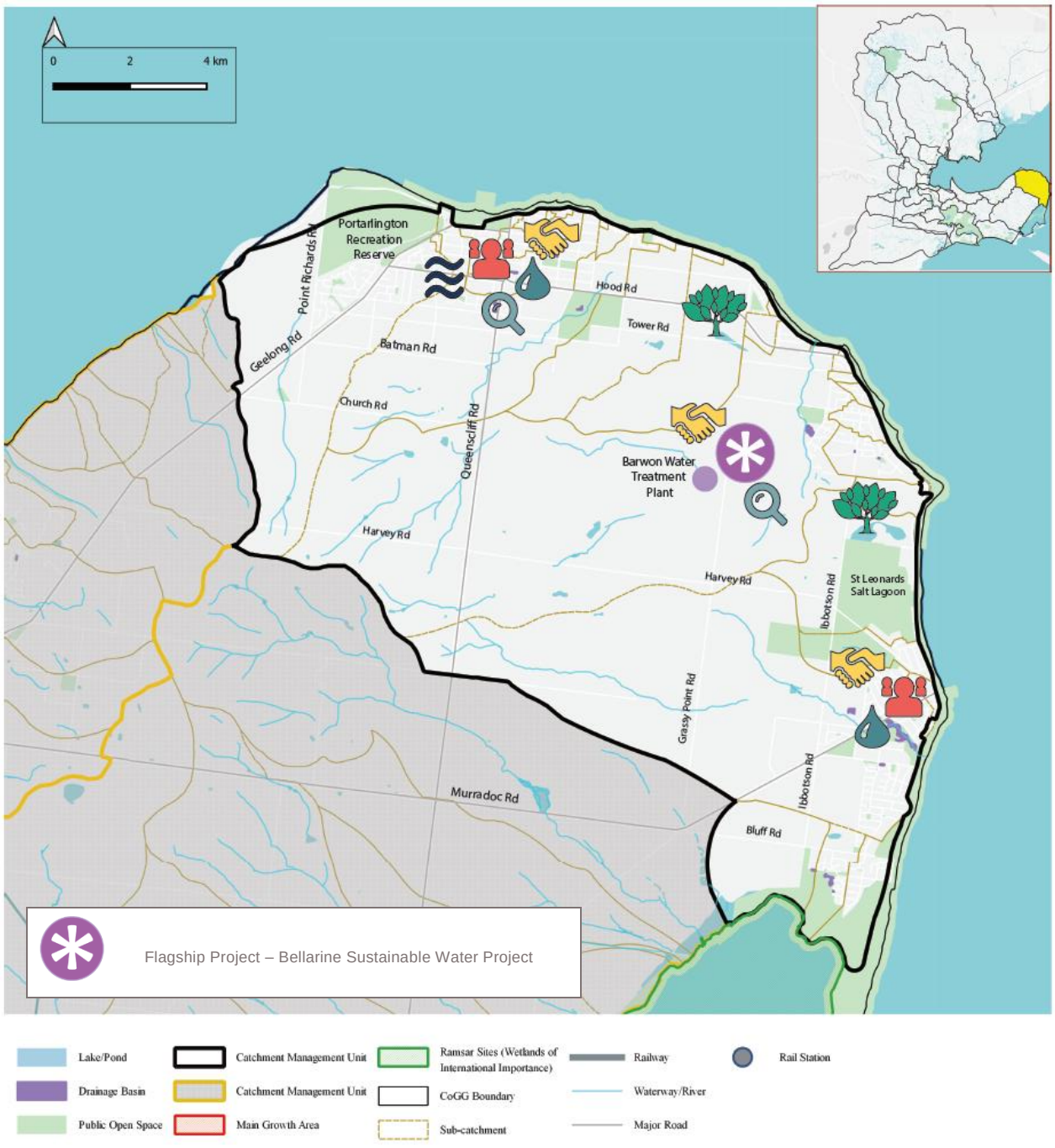
The catchment management unit of Eastern Bellarine is in the east of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Portarlington, Indented Head and St Leonards.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Low	No priority actions identified. The City will monitor the catchment for change.

Delivery Schedule

The Eastern Bellarine Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2030.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Medium	Medium number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Medium	Medium level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Medium	Medium priority for irrigation of open space or creation of multifunctional community spaces
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Low	Low priority for enhanced water quality management actions based on the nature / extent of existing development and values of receiving waterways
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Medium	Medium level of current development in the catchment management unit, with medium levels of expected future development
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Medium	Recycled water supply from Barwon Water's Treatment Plant in Portarlington may provide partnership opportunity
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	High	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is limited

Actions

0–2 years	2–5 years	5–10 years
Continue to monitor for change	Continue to monitor for change	Continue to monitor for change

THOMPSON CREEK CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

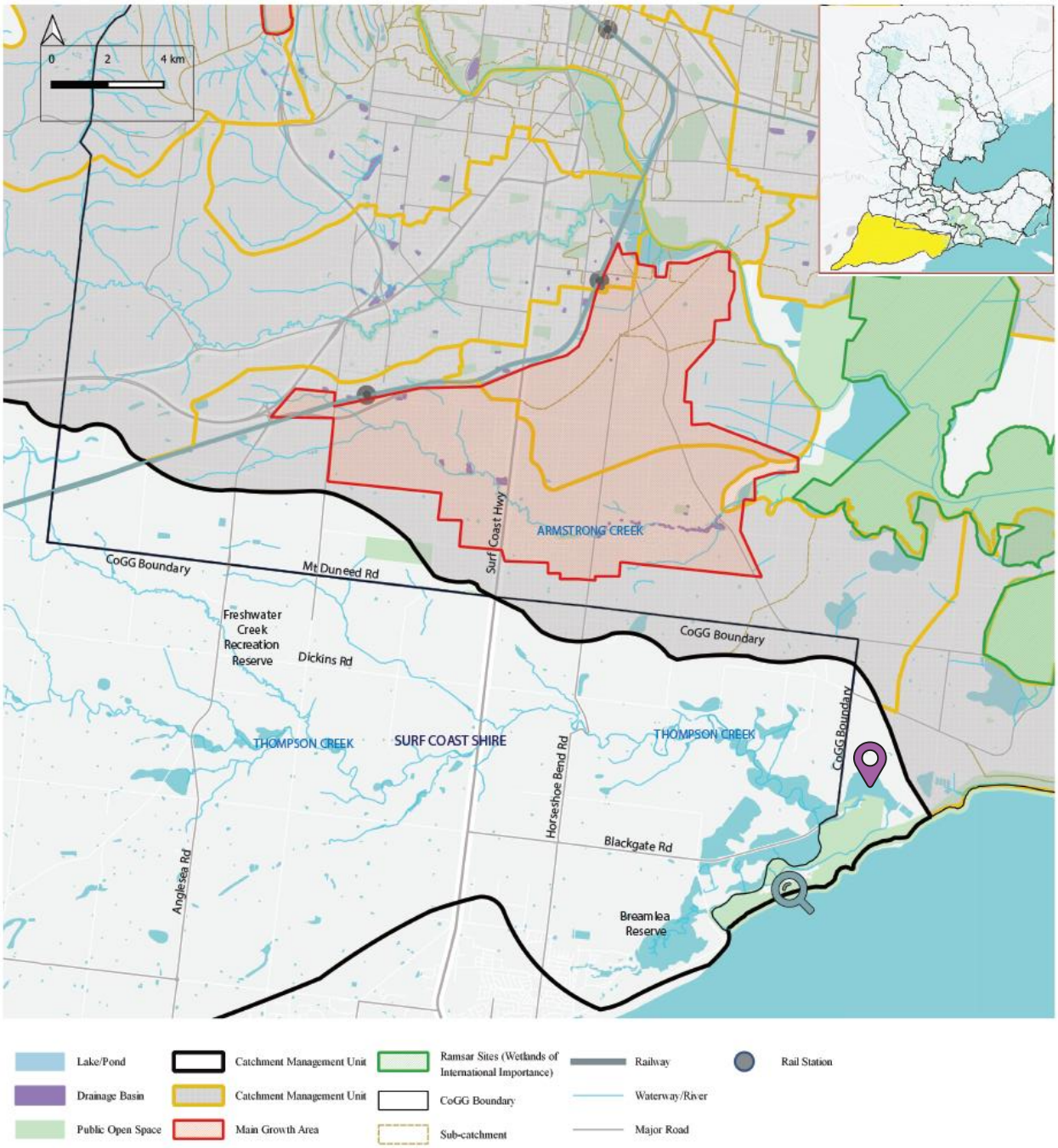
The catchment management unit of Thompson Creek is in the south west of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Breamlea and Mount Duneed.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Low	Thompson Creek is identified to hold significant cultural value. Any development within the catchment should seek to protect the Creek's natural flow paths. The City will monitor the catchment for change.

Delivery Schedule

The Thompson Creek Catchment Management Strategy will be delivered by 2030.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Low	Low number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Low	Higher level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	Low	Low priority for irrigation of open space given existing rural environment
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Low	Low priority for enhanced water quality management based on the nature / extent of development and expected quality of flow to the Thompson Creek
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Low	Limited existing development and low level of expected future development
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Low	No partnership projects identified The catchment management unit is partially located within the Surf Coast Shire area. The Council will engage with the neighboring council to understand issues throughout the catchment
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	High	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is limited
	Protect cultural values along waterways.	High	Thompson Creek identified to have significant cultural values that need to be protected

Actions

0–2 years	2–5 years	5–10 years
Partnership: Partner with neighbouring council, CCMA and Wadawurrung Aboriginal Co-operative to ensure Council understand catchment wide issues	Continue to monitor for change	Continue to monitor for change

BARWON HEADS CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT

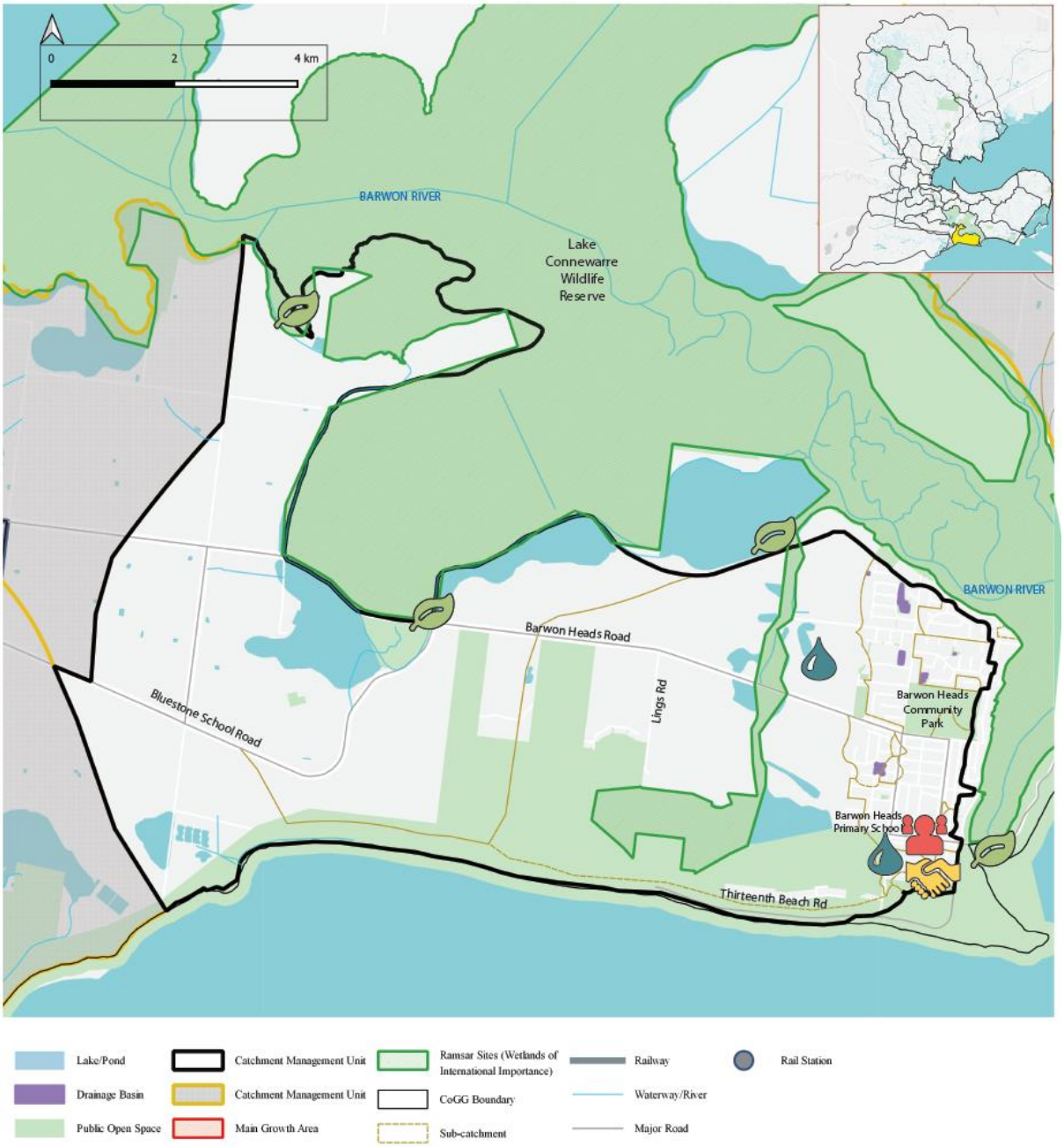
The catchment management unit of Barwon Heads is in the south of the City's service area, and generally includes the suburbs of Barwon Heads and Connewarre.

Prioritisation Summary

Overall Priority	Summary
Medium	The City will explore the creation of multifunctional assets for the catchment management unit of Barwon Heads. These are likely to be opportunistic if/when they occur. No other actions identified, other than ensuring that existing stormwater assets such as pumps and levies are maintained appropriately. The impacts of coastal inundation and erosion may increase risk in the catchment management unit. Consequently, the City will monitor the catchment management unit for change and service performance.

Delivery Schedule

The Barwon Heads Management Strategy will be delivered by 2030.



Status

Icon	Objective	Priority	Commentary
	Reduce the impacts of dangerous stormwater flooding.	Low	Low number of historical flooding events
	Support urban greening through integrated water management.	Low	Higher level of tree canopy coverage relative to other areas of the City
	Integrate stormwater systems to enhance the use of community spaces.	High	High priority for the City to explore irrigation of open space and creation of multifunctional community spaces
	Implement catchment wide practices that guide growth.	Medium	Medium priority to manage water quality risks based on the nature / extent of current development and the sensitive receiving environments of the Barwon River estuary
	Develop partnerships to plan and deliver stormwater solutions.	Medium	Medium level of current development which may be affected by ongoing growth
	Protect the health of receiving waterways, maximising their value and amenity.	Medium	Small scale partnership opportunities identified for IWM
	Implement stormwater systems that can adapt to future needs.	Low	Formal knowledge of catchment (flood risk) is contemporary and comprehensive

Actions

0–2 Years

Non-Asset Solution: Explore opportunities to irrigate public open spaces and multifunctional facilities

Asset Solution: Ensure active infrastructure is appropriately maintained (e.g. pumps)

2–5 years

Asset Solution: Ensure active infrastructure is appropriately maintained (e.g. pumps)

5–10 years

Asset Solution: Ensure active infrastructure is appropriately maintained (e.g. pumps)

Appendix D – Catchment Management Strategy Outline

A Catchment Management Strategy outlines key service outcomes and the current state of the City's **Catchment Management Unit.** The strategy documents the investigation and improvement actions required to manage the performance of the catchment to achieve the service outcomes over the next 10 years.

Each Catchment Management Strategy is an integral component of the delivery of the City's Stormwater Services Strategy (2020).

The development of a Catchment Management Strategy will require:

- Review of existing information which identifies gaps current and desired performance against the Stormwater Service Strategy's objectives.
- Completion of studies, as required by the City, to inform the assessment of the Catchment Management Unit's performance against the Stormwater Services Strategy objectives.
- Engagement with stakeholders and communities to identify service expectations and opportunities for improvement.
- Development of asset and non-asset solutions required to deliver service expectations.
- Documentation of 10-year action pathway and 5-year funding requirements agreed with the City, stakeholders, and community.
- Preparation of a high quality, publicly available Strategy report (up to 10 pages) and Strategy Summary (2 pages) to support final engagement with stakeholders and communities.
- Final engagement with stakeholders and communities to confirm the Catchment Management Strategy.
- Endorsement of the final Catchment Management Strategy by the City.

The structure of a Catchment Management Strategy is provided below.

Catchment Management Unit Stormwater Management Strategy

City of Greater Geelong

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

Define the purpose of the document and provide an overview of the catchment management unit, including key items that may impact the performance of the catchment in the future. Provide a summary of the key catchment actions as identified through the document.

   a. Purpose of the Catchment Management Unit
   b. Catchment Overview
   c. Summary of Key Catchment Actions

2. Stormwater Services

Provide an overview of the stormwater service objectives

   a. Stormwater Service Objectives

3. Performance Summary

Provide an overview and assessment of the current performance of the catchment against each stormwater service objective across Flood, Waterway and Integrated Management. Also detail the status of service objectives relating to community engagement.

a. Flood Management

b. Waterway Management

c. Integrated Water Management

d. Community Engagement

4. Catchment Actions

Detail the actions to be taken over the next 10 years to deliver service outcomes and address shortfalls in service capability.

5. Funding Summary

Detail the required investment to manage the catchment management unit over the next five years across Investigation, Non-Asset Improvement and Asset Improvement Programs.

6. Monitoring and Review

Provide detail on the document review cycle and community engagement approach to ensure community expectations are understood and captured

a. Management Strategy Review Cycle

b. Community Engagement and Meetings

7. DRAFT RABBIT CONTROL PLAN 2020-24

Source:	**City Services – Environment and Waste**
Director:	**Guy Wilson-Browne**
Portfolio:	**Environment**

Purpose

1. To seek council endorsement to release the Draft Rabbit Control Plan 2020-24 **(Attachment 2)** for community engagement.

Background

2. Rabbits are Australia's most serious herbivore vertebrate pest. Rabbits degrade ecosystem quality and resilience by selectively grazing, undermining and preventing regeneration of native vegetation. Rabbits also aggressively compete with livestock for pasture, reduce crop yields, promote the spread of invasive weeds and sustain other vertebrate pests, such as foxes and feral cats.

3. The *Catchment and Land Protection Act (1994)* requires all landowners/land managers to take reasonable steps to prevent the spread of rabbits and, as far as possible, eradicate them.

4. The City receives many queries from the community about rabbits and how they are being controlled. Pest control is a complex issue and there are often varied and conflicting community views on what actions the City should take to control rabbits.

Key Matters

5. The Draft Rabbit Control Plan 2020-24 outlines how the City will control rabbits on City-managed land, while supporting the broader community to reduce rabbit impacts more broadly.

6. The City has developed the Plan giving consideration to:

   6.1 Pest animal legislation and our responsibilities as a land manager;

   6.2 Industry best-practice information and advice sourced from experts including the Victorian Rabbit Action Network and the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions and Agriculture Victoria;

   6.3 The views of Landcare groups, the City's Rural Peri-Urban Advisory Committee and the stakeholders who participated in our pre-Draft community engagement process; and

   6.4 Our role in supporting the rural community to address land management issues.

7. The Draft Rabbit Control Plan 2020-24 describes the impacts that rabbits are having in the Greater Geelong region, identifies rabbit prone locations, priority areas for control, outlines our rabbit control commitments and our vision, goals and actions for the next five years. It also sets out a methodology for effective rabbit control and collaboration with stakeholders and the community that we hope will successfully reduce rabbit impacts.

8. The Rural and Peri Urban Advisory Committee endorsed the Draft Rabbit Control Plan at its meeting on the 5 June 2020.

9. The final Rabbit Control Plan 2020-24 will be implemented via an integrated rabbit control program. These programs achieve long-term pest control using a variety of control techniques (such as ripping, fumigation, baiting, implosion and harbour removal) at the right time, to the right standards. The plan has an integrated management focus to ensure the City can have long-term success controlling rabbits on City-managed reserves and roadsides.

Cr Mason moved, Cr Aitken seconded -

10. That Council endorse the release of the Draft Rabbit Control Plan 2020-24 for community engagement in July and August 2020 (8 weeks).

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

1. The development and implementation of the Rabbit Control Plan 2020-24 will be funded from the City's existing reserve management budget. It is anticipated that the Plan will also assist the City in its applications for external funding opportunities. The City has increased annual rabbit control expenditure from $48,000 in 2018/19 to $165,000 in the 2019/20 financial year.

Community Engagement

2. The City undertook extensive community consultation to help develop the Draft Rabbit Control Plan 2020-24. A total of 580 specific comments were received across all consultation processes.

3. The consultation occurred in two phases:

    3.1 Phase one was conducted in December 2018 and January 2019. Comments were received from 16 participants via a community workshop and a community feedback form. The feedback form was distributed in partnership with the Bellarine Catchment Network and the Geelong Landcare Network; and

    3.2 Phase two occurred from August to October 2019. Comments were received from 90 participants via three workshops and a survey. Three open-house style community workshops (Leopold, Lara and Geelong) where held and 72 responses were received via the online survey on our 'Have Your Say' web page. A printed copy of the survey was also available on request. The views of the Rural Peri-Urban Advisory Committee were also sought.

Social Equity Considerations

4. The implementation of the Rabbit Control Plan 2020-24 will encourage and support connections between and within communities in relation to rabbit control and environmental restoration projects.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

5. The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* requires all landowners/land managers to take reasonable steps to prevent the spread of rabbits and, as far as possible, eradicate them.

6. Rabbits are a "key threatening process" to protected native flora, fauna and vegetation communities under the Federal *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the *Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

7. Other relevant legislation and policies are listed on page 10 of the Draft Rabbit Control Plan 2020-24.

Alignment to Council Plan

8. The Draft Rabbit Control Plan 2020-24 is aligned with the following sections of the Council Plan 2018-20:

    8.1 Effective Environmental Management – Key priority: Managing pest plants and animals more effectively;

8.2 Planned Sustainable Development - Key priorities: Delivering biodiversity conservation programs and Preserving nature reserves, rural and coastal environments; and

8.3 Organisational Leadership, Strategy and Governance – Key priorities: Communicating and engaging with the community more effectively, in areas of need and Using Data and analytics to make better decisions.

Conflict of Interest

9. There are no direct or indirect conflict of interest issues associated with officers and the development of the Draft Rabbit Control Plan 2020-24.

Risk Assessment

10. There are a range of risks associated with undertaking rabbit control. These include occupational health and safety risks in relation to working with chemicals and machinery, as well as risks to public safety, wildlife, cultural heritage, native vegetation, soils and the City's reputation. Controls must be put in place that effectively mitigate these risks prior to works commencing at a site.

11. The Draft Rabbit Control Plan 2020-24 states that for all rabbit control activities, we will identify processes and control measures before we start work. Our goal is to be a leader when it comes to managing safety and risk. Risks will be addressed by applying a variety of management tools including: risk assessments, site hazard identifications, risk registers, risk management plans and hazard maps, safe work method statements, safe operating procedures and contractor safety checklists.

Environmental Implications

12. The implementation of the Rabbit Control Plan 2020-24 will reduce rabbit numbers across the municipality which will help to protect and enhance our regions environment and amenity.

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

RABBIT CONTROL PLAN 2020–24

DRAFT



CITY OF GREATER GEELONG



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

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



From the moment they were introduced in the 1850s, rabbits have been destructive to our region's natural environment and to our agricultural industry.

In large numbers they degrade the quality of our ecosystem, compete with livestock for pasture, reduce crop yields, promote the spread of invasive weeds and sustain other vertebrate pests, such as foxes and feral cats.

They can also create problems at our community and nature reserves, degrading sites with high environmental value and damaging sports and recreational facilities.

The City of Greater Geelong's *Draft Rabbit Control Plan 2020-2024* sets a clear vision and details a variety of integrated strategies for reducing the rabbit population on City-owned land and controlling it at manageable levels.

The plan also outlines how the City will partner with Landcare groups to support the community to effectively manage rabbits on private land. It will be implemented with the help of funding from the City's Restoring Rural Landscapes program, an exciting new initiative with a major focus on pest plant and animal control.

Thank you to the many members of our community who have offered their insights to help the development of this plan, including local Landcare groups and the City's Rural and Peri-Urban Advisory Committee. Thanks also to the City staff who have brought the plan to this point.

The goals and strategies set out in this document are innovative and we believe they'll set a new bar for other local governments aiming to manage their rabbit populations.

Please visit our "Have your Say" page at yousay.geelongaustralia.com.au to share your feedback on the draft plan. Your suggestions are most welcome.

CR STEPHANIE ASHER

Mayor, City of Greater Geelong

Rabbits – an introduced pest

The first rabbits were introduced in 1859 when 24 rabbits arrived in Corio Bay in Geelong on 'The Lightning' on route to Thomas Austin of Barwon Park, Winchelsea.

From Winchelsea, their fast rate of reproduction allowed them to expand into new territories, spreading at an astounding rate of 70 kilometres per year across Victoria.

Rabbit numbers in Australia peaked at over one billion just prior to the release of the first biological control, Myxomatosis, in 1951. Afterwards, numbers dropped to one million, but have been growing since, despite the release of other biocontrol agents over the intervening years.

Currently there are about 400 million rabbits across Australia, with around 20 million in Victoria (Bloomfield, T 2018c).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As an introduced species, rabbits thrive at the expense of many native plants and animals. They degrade ecosystems and landscapes, damage community infrastructure and impact agricultural production. As a land manager, we have a responsibility to prevent the spread of rabbits and, where possible, eradicate them.

The purpose of this document is to explain how we plan to control rabbits on City-managed land, while supporting the broader community to reduce their impact more broadly.

We discuss the impact rabbits are having in the Greater Geelong region, and outline our rabbit control commitments. We also set out a methodology for integrated rabbit control and collaboration with stakeholders and the community that we hope will successfully reduce rabbit impacts.

Finally, we set out our vision, goals and actions for the next five years.

In developing this plan, we have considered the following:

- pest animal legislation and our responsibilities as a land manager
- industry best-practice and advice sourced from industry experts, including the Victorian Rabbit Action Network (VRAN), the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions and Agriculture Victoria
- rabbit control constraints and risks
- the views of Landcare groups, our Rural Peri-Urban Advisory Committee and stakeholders who participated in our community engagement process (see page 9)
- our role in supporting the rural community to address land management issues
- appropriate ways to prioritise rabbit control, given the size of our municipality, and
- how best to monitor and continuously improve our rabbit control activities.



Figure 1: A rabbit-proof fence protects an indigenous grassland at Mount Brandon (Barwon and Moorabool River Reserve), Highton. Rabbit grazing impacts are evident outside of the fenced area.

INTRODUCTION

European rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) are not a natural part of Australia's ecology. As an introduced species, a thriving rabbit population has a significant impact on agriculture and comes at the expense of many native plants and animals. They degrade landscapes in the Greater Geelong region by:

- digging warrens
- selectively grazing on vegetation and undermining native vegetation
- preventing natural regeneration and damaging revegetated sites (Figure 2)
- promoting the spread of invasive weeds
- aggressively competing with livestock for pasture
- reducing crop yields
- sustaining and supporting other vertebrate pests, such as foxes and feral cats
- causing soil erosion
- increasing waterway siltation
- degrading ecosystem quality and resilience
- degrading cultural heritage sites
- creating unsafe surfaces for vehicles and pedestrians and
- undermining buildings and road structural integrity.

For all the reasons listed above, rabbits are considered to be Australia's most serious herbivore vertebrate pest. There are 304 species of native plants and animals adversely affected by competition and land degradation by rabbits.

The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* requires all landowners to take reasonable steps to prevent the spread of rabbits and, as far as possible, eradicate them.

What is an Integrated Rabbit Control Program?

This plan is underpinned by an Integrated Rabbit Control Program. These programs achieve long-term pest control using a variety of control techniques – such as ripping, fumigation, baiting, implosion and harbour removal – at the right time, to the right standards (DEDJTR 2018).



Figure 2: Rabbit grazing impacts on revegetated indigenous species along the Ted Wilson Trail, Hamlyn Heights. Rabbits are constantly eating she-oak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) growth above the top of the tree guard.



Figure 3: Native poa grasses trimmed by rabbits.

OUR REGION



Covering 1,252 km², the Greater Geelong municipality is a very biodiverse region. We have some of the most breathtaking landscapes in Australia – from rugged untouched coastline on the Bellarine Peninsula, to wildflower-infused grassland on the volcanic plain, to majestic open forest in the Brisbane Ranges.

BIODIVERSITY

Our coastlines, waterways, wetlands, bush and grassland nature reserves all provide important habitat for native plants and animals, and are places of rich biodiversity.

Our natural environment has been subject to extensive clearing for agriculture and urban expansion since European settlement. Remaining areas are also under threat from further clearing for development, climate change, and pest plants and animals, such as rabbits.

Rabbits are a 'key threatening process" to protected native flora, fauna and vegetation communities under the *Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* and the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.*

AGRICULTURE

The gross value of agriculture production in our region was $495 million in 2017–18, with poultry, sheep and lambs, and wool contributing 56 per cent of this figure (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment 2020). The damage to agriculture from rabbits has been increasing over the past two decades as immunity levels to the Calicivirus (or Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease) in the rabbit population has been slowly rising (DEDJTR 2018).

POPULATION GROWTH

The Greater Geelong region is currently experiencing strong population growth and our population is predicted to exceed 393,000 by 2041 (Forecast.id, 2019). This growth will increase the size of the urban-rural interface – known as peri-urban areas – and will expose more people to the harmful impacts of rabbits. It will also put pressure on our existing areas of biodiversity as rabbits are forced to look for new areas to build warrens.

RABBITS IN OUR LANDSCAPE

Natural landscapes in our region are many and varied. These landscapes vary not only in form, but also in soil type and underlying geology – from poorly draining basalt clays on the volcanic plains around Little River, to the deeper, often sandier soils formed by alluvial processes that are usually found on the Bellarine, or near waterways.

Rabbit populations tend to establish warren systems in deep loams and/or sandy soils as they are easy to dig and free draining. We will therefore prioritise these areas for control measures in an aim to reduce rabbit dispersal across the landscape.

The type of City-managed land we manage where rabbits can be an issue include:

- waterways – Hovells Creek, Waurn Ponds Creek, Barwon River, Moorabool River, Lake Lorne and McLeod's Waterholes
- roadsides and trails – the Bellarine Rail Trail, Ted Wilson Trail, Knights Road, Creswell Road and Manifold Road
- reserves – Haines Reserve, Drysdale Pony Club and Mount Duneed Recreation Reserve.

"Though the rabbit makes the warren, it's the warren that makes the rabbit."

Successful rabbit breeding depends on the availability of burrows and warrens.

The burrow, when first dug, is approximately one metre long and is used for both breeding and shelter from climate extremes and predators. The most successful breeding occurs in larger, more complex warren systems, which are made up of numerous single entrance burrows.

Surface harbour is important for shelter, but will not enable successful breeding (Bloomfield T 2018a).

A long-term, successful control program must effectively treat warrens to prevent rabbits from re-populating the treated area.

OUR COMMITMENT TO CONTROL RABBITS

We have increased our focus on rabbits in response to strong community advocacy demanding action on pest plant and animals that are impacting on agriculture and the environment. The Rural and Peri-Urban Advisory Committee has played a vital role in this, as well as the development of our Restoring Rural Landscapes program. Implementing an effective rabbit control program requires a long term commitment of 15 years or more. The City therefore commits to renewing this plan in 2024.

RURAL AND PERI-URBAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Council authorised the formation of the Greater Geelong Rural and Peri-Urban Advisory Committee in May 2018. The objective of the committee is to consider and advise Council on matters relevant to rural and peri-urban constituents.

Pest plant and animal management is a key interest of the committee. A sub-committee, made up of passionate and experienced members, has been established to guide the development of relevant recommendations.

RESTORING RURAL LANDSCAPES

Restoring Rural Landscapes is a City-funded program that commenced in 2019–20 to increase pest plant and animal control activities. In its first year, the program has focused on controlling pest plant and animals on City-managed land.

Phase one has focused on four target areas within the municipality (Figure 4). Phase two of the program will extend into new zones, while maintaining the works that have occurred within phase one zones. While this work is being undertaken, traditional pest plant and animal control programs are being maintained outside of the target areas.

The four target areas are:

1. Lara zone – Hovells Creek catchment and surrounds
2. Drysdale zone – includes Curlewis, Leopold East, Wallington North
3. Swan Bay Catchment zone
4. South-west zone – Batesford, Fyansford, Ceres, the Barrabool Hills, Waurn Ponds and Mount Duneed.

The target areas were selected because they contain:

1. High-value landscapes and significant habitats that need to be protected.
2. Many rabbit priority areas – waterways, reserves or roadsides – and large rabbit populations.
3. Many roadsides and reserves, with high-threat noxious weeds.
4. A higher proportion of City-managed reserves than other areas, so we can have a greater influence.
5. Active community groups we can partner with to achieve our joint objectives.

CASE STUDY:

Knights Road, Mannerim (within the Swan Bay Catchment target area)

The roadside located at the south-eastern end of Knights Road, Mannerim, is heavily infested with rabbits. In 2019, prior to control works, warren mapping calculated a high density of warrens (Figure 5).

One of the control challenges at this site is that it supports protected remnant native vegetation (Figure 6). We therefore used fumigation to treat the warrens near the native vegetation, as it creates less disturbance, and only ripped areas where damage would be minimal. This work was done in consultation with the adjoining landowners and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

Since our control efforts commenced in 2019, we have fumigated over 200 warrens (over 640 burrows) and ripped over 25 warren systems on the roadside. These works, combined with the rabbit control efforts of adjoining landowners, have reduced rabbit numbers on the roadside. We are monitoring these results and will perform more control activities as required.

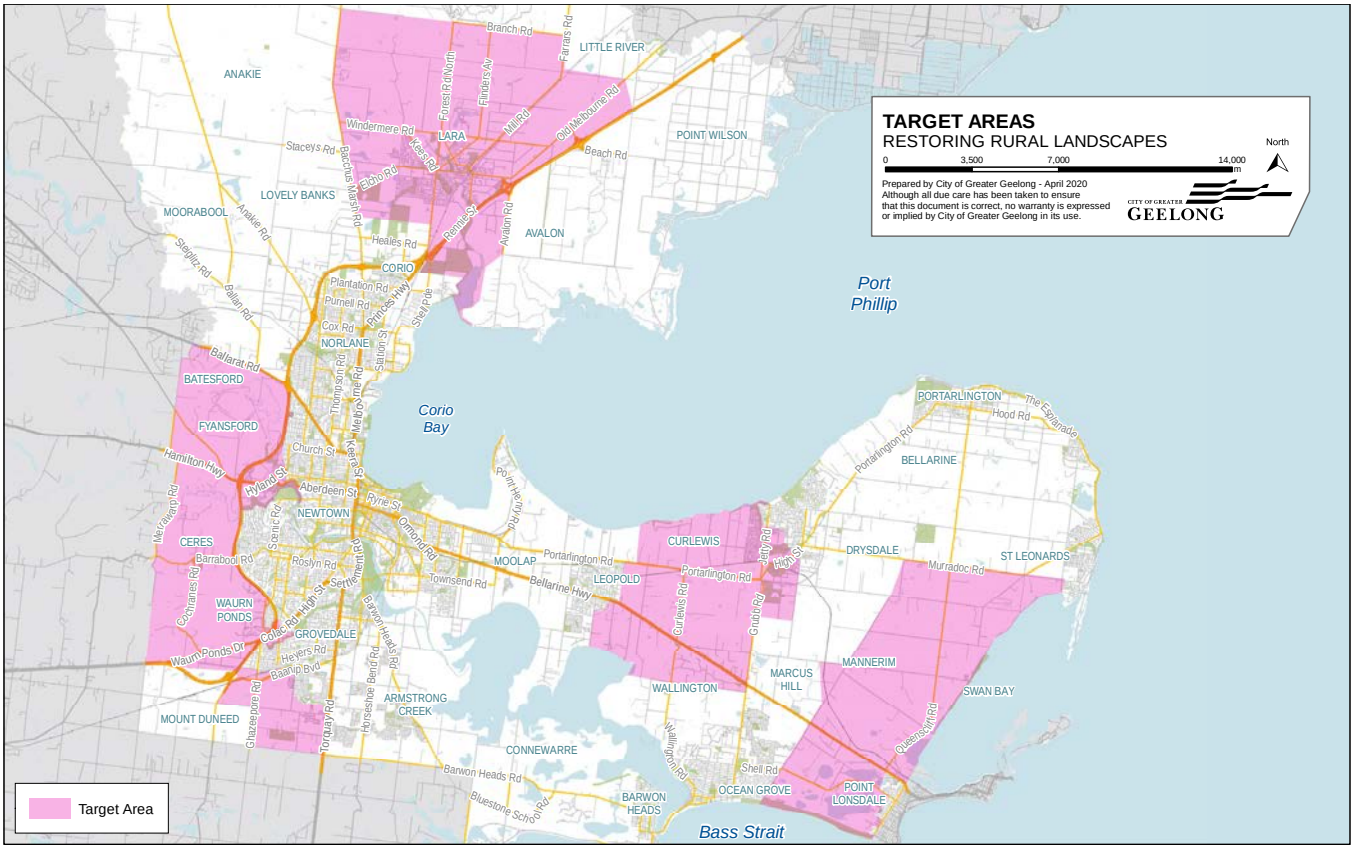


Figure 4: Phase one target areas for the Restoring Rural Landscapes Program

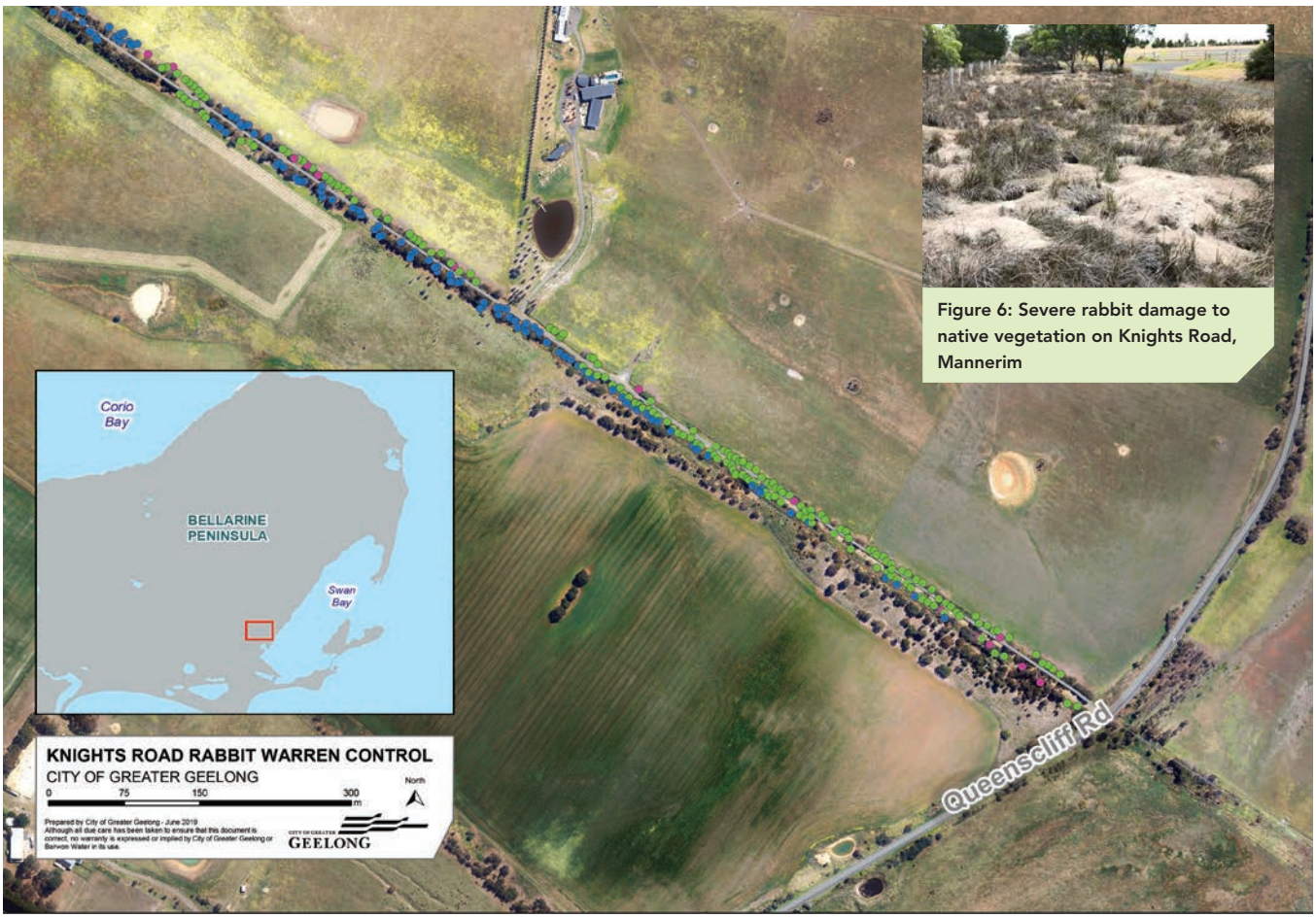


Figure 5: Each coloured dot represents a warren system located on the Knights Road roadside (2019)

Figure 6: Severe rabbit damage to native vegetation on Knights Road, Mannerim

THE BIGGER PICTURE

This plan has been informed by federal and state legislation and policies, as well as regional efforts to control invasive species.

It aligns with the community-led clever and creative vision, our *2018-22 Council Plan* and other relevant corporate policies and strategies. Its content has been guided by expert advice on managing rabbits and community expectations.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR RABBIT CONTROL?

Under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* we are required to take all reasonable steps to control rabbits on our land. We identify priority sites and allocate resources to help control rabbits at these locations through our annual rabbit control program.

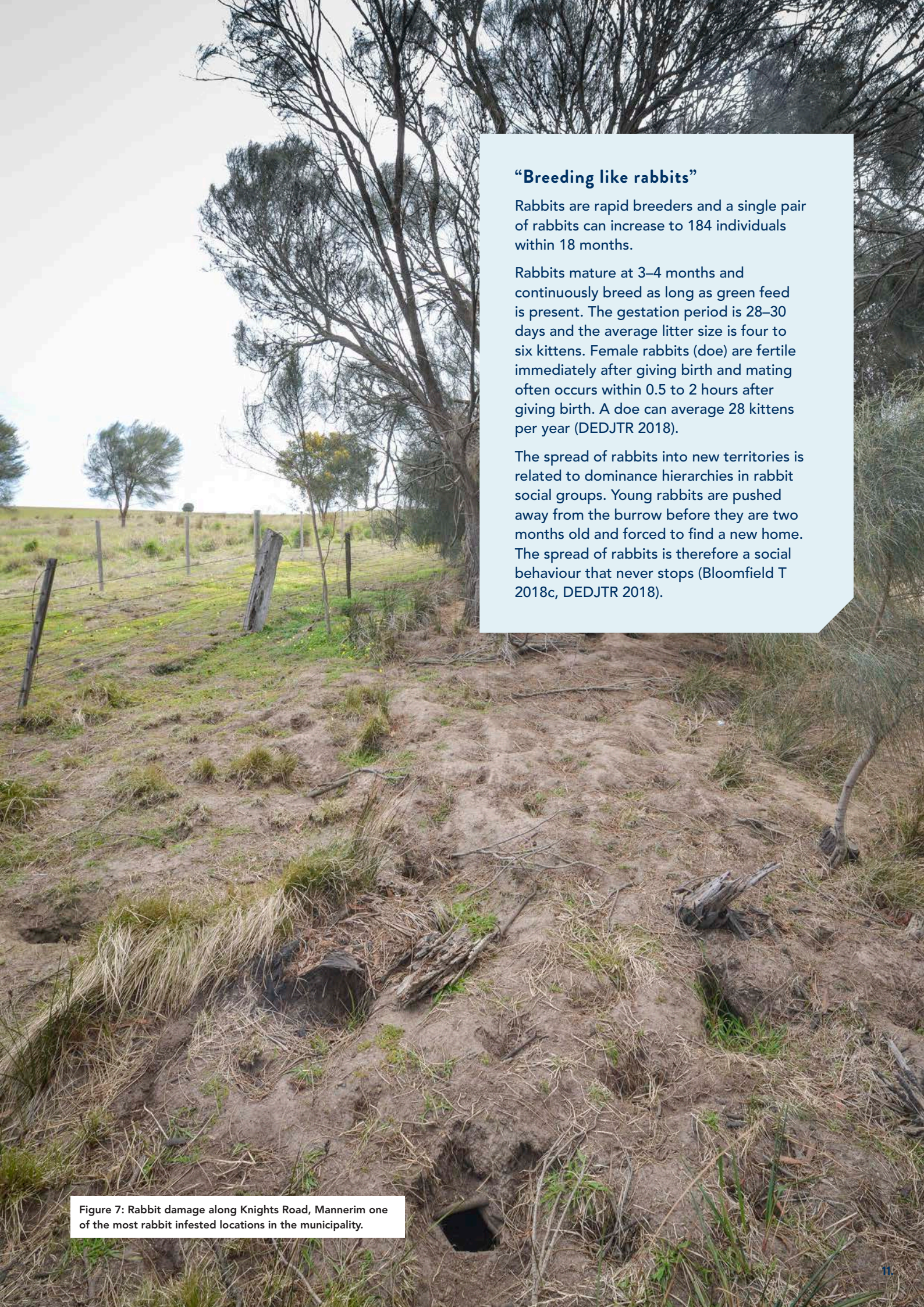
Effective rabbit control over the long term requires an integrated control program with neighbouring landowners all working toward the goal of eradication. This is why we are committed to adopting a whole-of-landscape approach to rabbit control – that is, seeking to collaborate with our neighbours and other stakeholders to achieve prolonged benefit across larger areas.

The key stakeholders involved in rabbit control are:

- Agriculture Victoria – the lead agency responsible for pest animal legislation oversight and enforcement
- the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority – supports land managers and environment groups by giving grants to support on-ground pest plant and animal removal.
- coastal committee's of management – these include Parks Victoria, Barwon Water, Regional Roads Victoria, VicTrack and others
- other key support and advisory groups – the Victorian Rabbit Action Network (VRAN) and the our Rural and Peri-Urban Advisory Committee
- special interest groups – regional Landcare, environmental, 'friends of' and other volunteer groups
- the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation and
- private land owners.

Table 1 Legislation and policy guiding rabbit control in the City of Greater Geelong

LEVEL	LEGISLATION AND POLICY
Federal	*Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994*
	Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017-27
	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
State	*Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*
	Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of use) Act 1994
	Biosecurity Strategy for Victoria
	Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
	Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981
	Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
	Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework
	Local Government Act 1989
	National Parks Act 1975
	Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986
	Wildlife Act 1975
	Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037
Regional	*Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019*
Local	*Biodiversity Strategy 2004*
	Environment Management Strategy 2020–30
	Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future
	The City of Greater Geelong Council Plan 2018–22



"Breeding like rabbits"

Rabbits are rapid breeders and a single pair of rabbits can increase to 184 individuals within 18 months.

Rabbits mature at 3–4 months and continuously breed as long as green feed is present. The gestation period is 28–30 days and the average litter size is four to six kittens. Female rabbits (doe) are fertile immediately after giving birth and mating often occurs within 0.5 to 2 hours after giving birth. A doe can average 28 kittens per year (DEDJTR 2018).

The spread of rabbits into new territories is related to dominance hierarchies in rabbit social groups. Young rabbits are pushed away from the burrow before they are two months old and forced to find a new home. The spread of rabbits is therefore a social behaviour that never stops (Bloomfield T 2018c, DEDJTR 2018).

Figure 7: Rabbit damage along Knights Road, Mannerim one of the most rabbit infested locations in the municipality.

THE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS



Figure 8: Community consultation session in progress at the Leopold Community Hub

We carried out extensive community engagement – from November 2018 to October 2019 – taking the opportunity to collate a diverse range of ideas, concerns, issues and opportunities.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Phase one

- November 2018 – Rabbit control community feedback form
- 6 December 2018 – Bellarine community workshop
- December 2018 – Feedback form distributed via Geelong Landcare Network contact list

Phase two*

- August 2019 – Three open-house style community workshops (Leopold, Lara and Geelong)
- August–September 2019 – Conducted an online survey on our 'Have Your Say' web page, with hardcopies available on request (72 responses received)

The information from the first two engagement phases was collated into the *Rabbit Control Plan – Community Consultation Report 2019*, which was used to inform this plan.

***Note: The plan was placed on hold from February to July 2019 while we planned, prepared and performed rabbit control activities.**

Phase three

Phase three of the community consultation will commence once this draft plan is endorsed by Council. The plan will be placed on our 'Have Your Say' page for feedback and comment.

The plan will then be reviewed in lieu of comments received, with the final draft due to be presented to Council by the end of 2020.

WHAT WE HEARD

We heard from 108 people during the first two phases of consultation.

The main findings were:

- 63 per cent of respondents felt that rabbit numbers have increased in their local area over the past three years.
- 63 per cent identified rabbit burrowing and grazing behaviours as having the most damaging impacts.
- 34 per cent of respondents were concerned about the impacts on native flora and fauna.
- In a multiple-choice survey question: What are your main concerns about rabbits? (Figure 9)
  - 90 per cent of respondents were concerned about rabbit impacts to natural areas
  - 63 per cent of respondents were concerned about rabbits not being controlled on public land
  - of least concern was potential off-target impacts of baiting with Pindone.

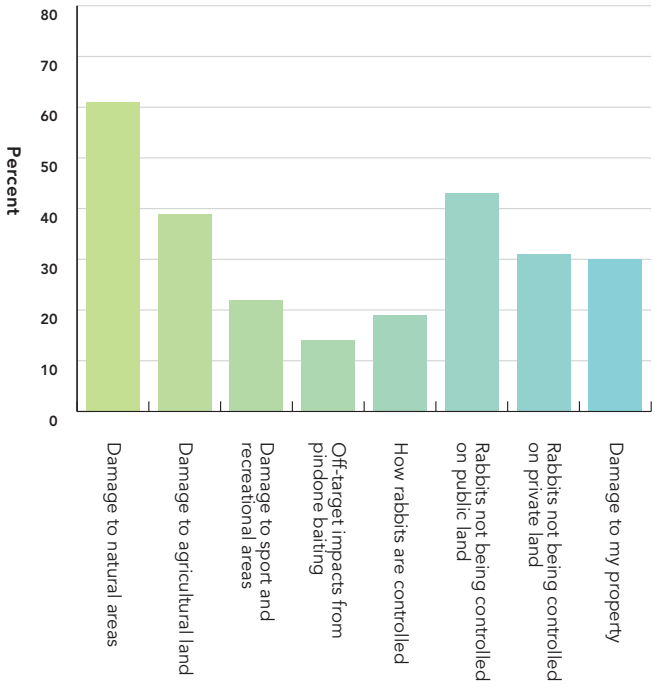


Figure 9: Survey responses to 'What are your main concerns about rabbits?'

- When asked about 'hotspot' areas for rabbits across the municipality, the majority of respondents answered public land (63 per cent), but only 13 per cent said private land.
- The most frequently identified rabbit hotspots – Drysdale, Wallington and Curlewis – are all on the Bellarine Peninsula
- The Bellarine Rail Trail was identified as the most rabbit-infested City-owned reserve (one third of comments).
- City-managed roadsides were also frequently mentioned as problem areas. In particular:
  - Knights Road, Mannerim (23 per cent of responses) and
  - Manifold Road, St Leonards (20 per cent of responses).
- The method most commonly used by respondents to control rabbits was Pindone baiting, followed by warren fumigation and harbour removal.
- Warren fumigation and integrated control were the techniques most consistently identified as effective.
- 40 per cent of all comments focused on how the community could be supported to control rabbits.
- Key themes included:
  - how the City should focus on partnerships with the community and other agencies
  - that the City needs to better communicate the harm that rabbits cause to the broader community
  - the importance of enforcing current legislation to make sure rabbits are effectively controlled.
- The importance of our role was also highlighted in several ways:
  - bringing communities together in rural and peri-urban communities
  - bridging the gap between the community's understanding about rabbit damage and effective ways to control them
  - improving community and stakeholder communication

WHAT SHAPED THIS PLAN

As well as the extensive community engagement process, this plan has been shaped by a number of other factors, including our guiding principles, current challenges and constraints, risk management and best practice rabbit control.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

When addressing rabbit control challenges across the municipality, we will:

PRINCIPLE	OUR COMMITMENT
Commit	We are committed to providing adequate, long-term resourcing to achieve effective rabbit control on City-managed land and support landowners and community groups to control rabbits on private land. This commitment is born of: • our legal responsibility to prevent the growth and spread of rabbits • our social responsibility to support the community in their attempts to control pest animals • the need to address the devastating effects rabbits have on the environment and other community assets.
Prioritise and deliver	We'll evaluate and rank management zones and specific sites each year to identify the priority areas. We'll prioritise rabbit control in areas where there is existing community action, significant rabbit impacts, high-value biodiversity and/or other community assets present. We'll deliver effective rabbit control by utilising a range of control techniques (dependant on site constraints) to maximise our long-term successes. To be industry leaders, we'll apply and adapt best practice rabbit management and trial new techniques.
Mitigate and evaluate	We'll mitigate risks to the public, cultural heritage, wildlife and native vegetation by systematically identifying hazards and applying controls on a site-by-site basis. We will implement our risk management system to identify and address risks associated with all rabbit control tasks. We will identify and prioritise the most effective techniques, within the constraints of each site. If site constraints prevent the use of a particular control technique, then we'll commit to applying alternative techniques or innovative solutions rather than allowing the problem to get worse. We'll monitor results and measure successes to better understand the effectiveness of the program. We'll adapt the program and refine processes to increase program effectiveness and efficiency. We'll seek to apply monitoring techniques that enable us to measure improvements to assets and not rely entirely on rabbit counts as an indicator of success.

PRINCIPLE	OUR COMMITMENT
Collaborate and empower	We'll establish new and foster existing relationships with land management partners and government agencies. We'll collaborate with other land managers and the community to achieve greater value for investment. We'll also continue to seek advice from industry experts and rabbit action networks. As collaboration is a critical component of an effective, long-term rabbit control program, this will be our focus. Effective collaboration will also build trust and improve relationships with stakeholders and the community. We'll support and empower community groups and rural landowners to undertake effective rabbit control.
Communicate and engage	We'll communicate plans, experiences, learnings and results with stakeholders and the community. Our messages will focus on how and why effective rabbit control benefits the community. We'll listen to the community about where and how rabbits are impacting them. We'll also celebrate our successes with them. We'll create resources to engage with and educate the community about the impacts of rabbits and the importance of employing an integrated control program when managing rabbits on their property. We'll empower community groups and landowners to effectively control rabbits on a landscape wide by running training and incentive programs and encouraging a coordinated approach.



Figure 10: Rabbits dictate what species of vegetation survives and regenerates – only boxthorn and blanket weed are thriving at the location above.

Key rabbit control considerations:

Rabbits populations benefit from:

- land managers with a poor understanding of rabbit biology and ecology in the local environment
- landscapes with abundant spiny woody weeds, such as gorse and boxthorn, and other surface harbour
- well-established warren systems
- poorly-planned, small-scale and disconnected control programs
- short-term program funding commitments and
- a lack of commitment to creating a sustainable, long-term change in the landscape.

Conversely, research in Victoria has shown that well-run and coordinated control programs – including broad-scale warren ripping – were able to reduce rabbit populations by 80–97 per cent. These rabbit numbers were also maintained at these low levels for 20 years (McPhee and Butler 2010., Forsyth et al., 2016).

RABBIT CONTROL CONSTRAINTS

Rabbit control activities on City-managed land are always going to be constrained by a range of factors, as described below in Table 2.

Table 2: Rabbit control constraints

CONSTRAINT	DESCRIPTION	LEGISLATION
Community perception / understanding	There is some misunderstanding and misinformation in the community about the risks involved with our rabbit control program. As a consequence, some sections of the community underestimate the harm that rabbits cause to farms, parks, open space, native plants, wildlife and habitats.	*Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* *Wildlife Act 1975*
Cultural heritage	Many of our reserves are within, or close to, areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance. To avoid damaging these sites, we need to be cautious about carrying out rabbit removal works that will impact the soil, such as warren ripping. We work with Traditional Owners to achieve effective rabbit control in areas of cultural significance.	*Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*
Increasing resistance to biocontrol agents	Releasing biocontrol agents can achieve short-term reductions in rabbit numbers over large geographical areas. However, in rabbit populations, rapid rates of reproduction allow resistant genes to quickly build up, so that numbers can replenish. Therefore, while they are important, biocontrol agents can only have a limited role in minimising rabbits.	
Lack of coordinated action	Areas treated for rabbits can quickly be reinfested by rabbits from untreated areas. It is therefore essential that neighbours work together and coordinate their actions.	
Native vegetation as harbour for rabbits	Rabbit warrens are sometimes located beneath native vegetation. As native vegetation is protected in Victoria, planning processes will be followed prior to undertaking warren removal works. Our priority is always to avoid or minimise impacts to native vegetation. We will aim to restore any native vegetation impacted by rabbit control activities.	*Planning and Environment Act 1987* *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
Wildlife and pets	We perform rabbit control to protect and enhance the habitat available for native wildlife. Our rabbit control programs are performed in accordance with best practice guidelines from the relevant authorities.	*Wildlife Act 1975*
Roadsides	Local governments have only recently become legally responsible for managing noxious weeds and pest animals on roadsides. Without ongoing rabbit control, these roadsides have consequently come to support large infestations.	*Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* *Road Management Act 2004*

CONSTRAINT	DESCRIPTION	LEGISLATION
Weed harbour	Rabbits often dig warrens beneath weeds that offer protection from predators, such as African boxthorn or gorse. Weed harbour therefore must be removed for warrens to be effectively treated.	*Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
Risk management	There are a range of risks associated with undertaking rabbit control on our reserves. These include occupational health and safety risks in relation to working with chemicals and machinery. Controls are put in place that effectively mitigate these risks prior to works commencing at a site.	*Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994* *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992*

MANAGING RISK

In all rabbit control activities, we aim to identify processes and control measures well before we start work. Our goal is to be a leader when it comes to managing safety and risk.

We will continue to address risks by applying a variety of risk management tools, including:

- risk registers
- risk assessments
- site hazard identifications
- risk management plans and hazard maps
- safe work method statements
- safe operating procedures and
- contractor safety checklists.



Figure 11: Pindone baiting location 2020.

OUR METHODOLOGY

INTEGRATED RABBIT CONTROL

We can only implement effective rabbit control if we use a variety of control methods at the optimal time. Knowing the values and constraints of our sites, and the impacts rabbits are having on these values, is also essential.

In developing this plan, we have sought advice from rabbit control experts and started an annual monitoring program on our key reserves. The information we've gathered so far has helped us identify the following best-practice control process.

Our integrated rabbit control program will involve the following steps:

1. **Assess** rabbit populations, the damage they are causing, their warren systems (which should be mapped) and site-specific risks and constraints – environmental, cultural and safety.
2. **Bait** to reduce rabbit numbers prior to warren and harbour removal.
3. **Remove** harbour such as woody weeds, rubbish, rock and soil stockpiles.
4. **Destroy** warrens via ripping, implosion or other methods – the technique chosen will vary according to site constraints, such as the presence of native vegetation, closeness of cultural heritage sites and underground utility assets.
5. **Monitor** the effectiveness of the program, measuring both rabbit numbers and biodiversity, and modify where necessary.
6. **Maintain** success by fumigating, re-ripping, spot baiting and long netting, as required.

The success of this process will be reviewed annually, and changes made as required.

In addition to the above, we'll also use the following rabbit control techniques when opportunities arise:

7. **Release** strains of calicivirus, or other biocontrol agents, made available by government biosecurity agencies.
8. **Install** rabbit-proof fencing when high-value assets need to be isolated from grazing impacts, or to protect treated areas from re-infestation.

RABBIT PRIORITY AREA SCORING TOOL

We will prioritise how each of our reserves will be treated when planning our annual rabbit control program. Each of our reserves and roadsides will be scored against a set of criteria and ranked. Factors we will assess include:

- site location
- site significance (environmental, agricultural, social, cultural or recreational assets)
- rabbit population size and impact
- impact to communities and neighbouring properties
- rabbit control actions planned, or being undertaken, on neighbouring properties.

When resources allow, we will treat all known rabbit priority areas annually. When there's not sufficient resources, we'll treat sites in order of priority, only stopping once funding runs out, or the season ends.

DATA COLLECTION, MONITORING AND REPORTING

To assess the effectiveness of the control program and identify opportunities to improve it, priority sites will be monitored annually, and warren locations mapped. The results of the program will be summarised then reported to Council and the community at the end of each year.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

To support the community to better address rabbit issues, we will do the following:

- produce a range of community education materials
- introduce incentive programs to assist landowners
- support Landcare and rabbit action groups to run field days and other activities and
- publish a rural landowner education toolkit, as part of the Restoring Rural Landscapes Program.

OUR *RABBIT CONTROL PLAN 2020–24*

VISION

Apply an integrated approach to rabbit control, supported by the community, that enables natural regeneration on our reserves, and restores natural and rural landscapes. We aspire to have no active rabbit warrens on City managed land.



GOALS

1. To reduce active rabbit warrens on City-managed land to less than one per hectare in the Restoring Rural Landscape areas by 2024.
2. To identify the extent of the rabbit infestations on City-managed land outside of the Restoring Rural Landscape areas by 2024.
3. To partner with all Landcare groups in programs that will engage and equip rural landowners to control rabbits by 2024.

OBJECTIVES

PRINCIPLE	OBJECTIVE
Commit	Sufficiently resource rabbit control to achieve and maintain our goals.
Prioritise and deliver	Rabbit control prioritised in areas where there is existing community action, significant rabbit impacts, high-value biodiversity and/or other community assets. Use the full suite of available control techniques to maximise impact. Act where we can achieve the best results.
Mitigate and evaluate	Identify hazards and adopt control measures to minimise risk of harm. Monitor results and measure success to better understand the rabbit problem and adapt the program.
Collaborate and empower	Establish new relationships, and foster existing ones, with our land management partners and government agencies. Support and empower community groups and rural landowners to undertake effective rabbit control.
Communicate and engage	Share our plans, results and learnings with the community and partner agencies. Create resources that engage the community about rabbits, the damage they cause and control methods.

ACTION PLAN 2020–2024

PRINCIPLE	ACTION	TIMING	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
Commit	1. Approve an annual budget that supports effective rabbit control across all City-managed land for the life of this plan and beyond.	Annual	Adequate resources for the effective implementation of this plan allocated.
	2. Extend the term of the Rural and Peri-Urban Advisory Committee.	June 2024	The term of the committee is extended.
	3. Advocate to the Victorian Government to commit more resources for extension, enforcement and biological control.	Ongoing	Meet once a year, or as situations arise.
	4. Plan to be reviewed in 2024 as part of our long term commitment to effective rabbit control.	2024	Reviewed plan adopted and implemented.
Prioritise and Deliver	5. Use a site prioritisation tool for City-managed land to target resources effectively.	Annual	All sites ranked and priority sites identified each year.
	6. Map rabbit warrens on priority sites.	2024	All rabbit warrens on priority sites mapped
	7. Undertake extensive works program on priority sites, applying all steps of our integrated rabbit control program (see page 8), installing fencing where appropriate.	Annual	Reduce all warrens to one-per-hectare, or low enough to support natural regeneration.
	8. Deliver restoration projects on sites that have been impacted by rabbit control activities. This may include intensive weed control to encourage natural regeneration, and revegetation.	Annual	Two restoration projects each year.
	9. Trial new and innovative rabbit control techniques.	2024	Trial any new control technique approved by the Centre for Invasive Species.
Mitigate and Evaluate	10. Develop and implement a site-specific risk management framework for rabbit control that considers public safety, occupational health and safety, cultural heritage, native vegetation and wildlife risks.	June 2021	No rabbit-control-related incidents involving public safety, occupational health and safety, cultural heritage, native vegetation or wildlife.
	11. Require contractors adhere to our site-specific risk management framework for rabbit control and undertake regular audits.	June 2021	No rabbit-control-related incidents involving public safety, occupational health and safety, cultural heritage, native vegetation or wildlife.
	12. Increase the number, frequency and variety of rabbit monitoring methods used on priority sites.	June 2021	An improved understanding of rabbit impacts, population dynamics and the effectiveness of control programs.
	13. Explore new and emerging monitoring technologies, such as remote sensing cameras and drones.	December 2021	The most effective and efficient technologies identified.
	14. Annually review and adapt rabbit control program.	Annual	Continuous improvement in rabbit control resulting in a greater reduction in rabbit impacts and numbers each year.
	15. Ensure land handed over to the City by developers is free from rabbits and rabbits warrens, and is made rabbit-proof where required.	June 2021	Rabbit control conditions applied to all new developments.

PRINCIPLE	ACTION	TIMING	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
Collaborate and Empower	16. Partner with Landcare groups to develop assistance programs, equipping landowners to control rabbits.	June 2021	Assistance program introduced.
	17. Partner with Landcare groups and the Victorian Rabbit Action Network to deliver collaborative events for landowners in the region.	Annual	Support two rabbit collaborative events in the Geelong region – one on the Bellarine Peninsula and one elsewhere.
	18. Partner with Landcare and industry experts to organise a rabbit forum.	December 2023	Rabbit forum is held, with presentations from industry experts.
	19. Maintain regular correspondence with Landcare groups and agencies.	Annual	Attend four Landcare group meetings a year.
	20. Establish demonstration sites at prominent locations within Restoring Rural Landscape zones to demonstrate successful rabbit control programs.	June 2021	Three demonstration areas established, monitored and results promoted.
	21. Collaborate with the Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation to enter into an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Land Management Agreement for priority reserves.	December 2022	Agreement is signed and implemented.
	22. Reconvene Public Land Rabbit Control Group with government agencies.	Annual	Hold two meetings per year (December and June).
	23. Identify and report rabbit infestations on private land to Agriculture Victoria and advocate for a rabbit compliance program.	Annual	Agriculture Victoria regularly informed about heavily-infested properties.
	24. Connect with universities and government agencies to encourage new rabbit control and monitoring technique trials.	Ongoing	Discuss partnership opportunities with two universities/TAFE institutions and the Centre of Invasive Species.
Communicate and Engage	25. Develop a rabbit control communication plan.	Ongoing	Report to councillors once a year. Report annually to the community. Report to the City's Rural and Peri-Urban Advisory Committee quarterly. Promote rabbit control plan at two rural events each year. Promote community control programs using our communication channels. Update the rabbit control web page as required – approximately three times a year – and include maps and annual program information.
	26. Create a rural land management education toolkit that covers rabbit and weed control.	June 2021	Education toolkit created and distribution started. Investigate and trial the use of online applications.

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Conservation volunteers installing a new rabbit-proof fence at a direct seeding site at Mt Brandon.

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

TIME LIMIT:

As per Council Meeting Procedures Local Law 2017 (3.31.2) a meeting may not continue after 10pm unless a majority of members present vote in favour of its continuance.

Cr Grzybek moved, Cr Mason seconded –

That the meeting continue to proceed as per Council Meeting Procedures Local Law 2017 (3.31.2).

Carried.

8. CEO EMPLOYMENT MATTERS POLICY REVIEW

Source:	**People & Culture**
Director:	**Kaarina Phyland**
Portfolio:	**Leadership and Governance**

Purpose

1. To provide an update on the proposed changes to the CEO Employment Matters Policy (**Attachment 2**).

Background

2. The current CEO Employment Matters Policy was developed on 28 November 2017 and is due to expire on 28 November 2020.

3. The policy has been updated to reflect required changes to:

   3.1 the CEO appointment and performance assessment; and

   3.2 the revised requirements in appointing a new member -

   in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act).

Key Matters

4. This policy sets the framework for the appointment of the CEO under section 94 of the Act, determining the CEO's performance and development plan, assessing the CEO's performance against that plan at least once per year and determining the remuneration of the CEO.

5. The policy sets the conditions for the establishment of a committee to be formed in accordance with the Act for the purposes of the CEO's appointment and ongoing performance and development plan and assessment.

6. The policy has a review date of 31 December 2021. This has been set to align with the implementation of the new Local Government Act 2020 and the associated changes to the CEO recruitment and performance matters.

7. The concept of an interview panel has been introduced to replace the sub-committee and is to be made up of the following from the Committee: Mayor (or Deputy in the Mayor's absence), one Councillor appointed by the Committee, the independent member and the Recruitment Consultant. This provides greater clarity as to who will be responsible for conducting the interviews which wasn't previously covered.

Cr Asher moved, Cr Grzybek seconded -

8. That Council approve and adopt the amended CEO Employment Matters Policy (Attachment 2).

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

1. The independent member will be paid a sitting fee of $500 per meeting. There will be 4 meetings per year. The independent member will also be entitled to any additional expenses including travel costs and extra meetings as required. People and Culture will be responsible for these costs.

Community Engagement

2. The appointment of the CEO is a matter for Council and is not subject to community consultation.

Social Equity Considerations

3. Best practice recruitment processes have been incorporated into the policy to support equitable and fair recruitment of the City's CEO.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

4. The policy supports the requirements of the Act and will be reviewed prior to 31 December 2021 to ensure it meets the changes and requirements in the 2020 Act.

Alignment to Council Plan

5. The Policy aligns with Organisational Leadership, Strategy and Governance and contributes to strengthening our governance frameworks in accordance with the *Council Plan 2018-2022*.

Conflict of Interest

6. No officer involved in the preparation of this report have a direct or indirect interest in matters to which this report relates.

Risk Assessment

7. The integrity of the processes associated with the employment of the CEO and compliance with legislative provisions of the Local Government Act 1989 are supported by the terms of this policy.

Environmental Implications

8. There are no known environmental implications associated with this report.

Attachment 2

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

CEO EMPLOYMENT MATTERS COUNCIL POLICY

VERSION: 2

Approval Date: xx/06/2020

Approved by: Council

Review Date: 31/12/2021

Responsible Officer: Director, People and Culture

Authorising Officer: Executive Leadership Team

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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Introduction

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to support the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989, to assist Council in fulfilling its responsibilities relating to CEO employment and performance matters. This policy revokes the CEO Employment Matters *policy Version 1 approved on 28 November 2017.*

OVERVIEW

The Council is responsible for the appointment of the CEO under section 94 of the Act, determining the CEO's performance and development plan, assessing the CEO's performance against that plan at least once per year and determining the remuneration of the CEO.

SCOPE

This policy sets out the composition, role and functions of the CEO Employment Matters Committee.

REFERENCES

Local Government Act (1989)

Definitions

This section defines the key terms used in this policy.

ACT

Local Government Act 1989

CEO

Chief Executive Officer

CITY

The City of Greater Geelong organisation led by the CEO.

COMMITTEE

The committee established under this policy known as the *CEO Employment Matters Committee*

COUNCIL

The City of Greater Geelong Council comprised of elected councillors and led by the Mayor.

COUNCILLOR

Mayor or Councillor as defined by the Act.

ELT

The Executive Leadership Team of the City, as constituted from time to time.

PANEL

The panel that will conduct interviews of selected candidates comprised of the following members of the Committee:

(i) The Mayor, or, in the Mayor's absence, the Deputy Mayor

(ii) A Councillor nominated by the Committee

(iii) The independent member; and

(iv) The Recruitment Consultant.

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

Nationally recognised consultant with specialist expertise in sourcing and evaluating candidates for Senior Executive roles.

Policy

LEADING PRACTICE PRINCIPLES

- The Council will carry out its functions relating to the selection, appointment, remuneration and performance review of the CEO in accordance with a number of leading practice principles:
  - decision-making processes that are fair, accessible and applied consistently in comparable circumstances;
  - decision-making criteria that is relevant, objective and available to the CEO;
  - documentation that is sufficiently clear and comprehensive to render decisions transparent and capable of effective review;
  - employment decisions that are based on the proper assessment of the CEO's work-related qualities, abilities and potential against the genuine requirements of the role; and
  - decisions to appoint a new CEO that are based on competitive selection, open processes and objective criteria.

CEO EMPLOYMENT MATTERS COMMITTEE

- The Committee was established for the purposes of recruiting the CEO, determining the CEO's performance and development plan, assessing the CEO's performance against that plan and determining the remuneration of the CEO.
- Membership of the Committee shall consist of the following:
  - Mayor (Chairperson);
  - Deputy Mayor; and
  - up to three (3) other Councillors; and
  - an Independent Member.
- The Committee will meet at least four times a year, with authority to convene additional meetings as circumstances require.
- A quorum of the chairperson and at least two other members will be necessary to transact business of the Committee.
- The Committee's role is to assist and advise the Council on matters including:
  - recruitment of the CEO or acting CEO;
  - determining the performance and development plan of the CEO;
  - providing constructive balanced feedback to the CEO;
  - monitoring the CEO's achievement of the performance and development plan at 6 monthly intervals, with quarterly reports against key performance indicators tabled at Committee meetings; and
  - CEO remuneration and other contractual conditions of employment.
- The Director, People and Culture or their delegate has the responsibility to provide:
  - information and any necessary training for members of the Committee in relation to their responsibilities under the Act
  - officer advice in respect to matters before the Committee;
  - administrative, secretarial and logistical support to the Committee.

RECRUITMENT AND TERM OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER

- The Independent Member will be appointed in accordance with the Committee Representation Council Policy. In the event of a declared conflict of interest, the ELT will appoint two directors who will assume responsibility for the appointment of the Independent Member to fill the position of Independent Member of the Committee after seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced candidates from the public. To the extent this policy is inconsistent with any other City policy regarding the appointment of an Independent Member to the CEO Employment matters committee only, this policy will prevail.
- The term of appointment of the Independent Member will be two years, with the option of a further two one-year terms or one, two-year term extension at the discretion of the Council.

ROLE OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER

- Duties of the Independent Member include:
  - to actively participate in the Committee's annual review of the CEO's performance and development;
  - actively participate in the development of a draft performance and development plan for the next 12-month period for consideration by the Council; and
  - provide advice and guidance to the Committee on any matter pertaining to the CEO's employment with Council.

REMUNERATION FOR INDEPENDENT MEMBER

- The Independent Member will be remunerated as follows:
  - a sitting fee per meeting, together with reimbursement of travel costs (where applicable) in line with the relevant ATO tables. The fee to be paid has regard for the specific roles and responsibilities of the independent member as set out in this policy;
  - the fee will be paid to the Independent Member immediately following his/her attendance at each of the four scheduled committee meetings; and
  - an additional fee will be paid to the Independent Member for every meeting of the Committee attended over and above the four meetings required each year.

RECRUITMENT OF A CEO

- The Council's role is to appoint the CEO, on the advice of the Committee.
- The Committee shall, in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and with the assistance of the Director, People and Culture, seek and appoint an independent Recruitment Consultant to manage and conduct the process of selection of a suitable candidate for the position of CEO.
- The Committee shall, in conjunction with the Recruitment Consultant, develop and agree upon:
  - a recruitment sub-committee charged with interviewing candidates identified by the Recruitment Consultant;
  - a search and selection process and timeframe;
  - setting the salary and conditions based on industry benchmarks;
  - key accountabilities;
  - key selection criteria;
  - candidate application material;
  - a candidate identification strategy;
  - methods of applicant evaluation – embracing diversity and gender equity principles and best practice processes to eliminate bias; and
  - public relations activities.

- The Committee shall seek Council approval of preparatory work.
- The Committee shall, in conjunction with the Recruitment Consultant:
  - oversee the development of the candidate pool by the Recruitment Consultant, providing feedback on the quality and diversity of candidates being identified;
  - review the Recruitment Consultant's report on the candidate pool and select between 5 to 8 candidates from that pool for preliminary interview by the Panel; and
  - shortlist the final 3 candidates for interview by the full Council.
- Once the preferred candidate is determined by the full Council, with the support of the Recruitment Consultant, the Committee shall negotiate the terms of employment within the contractual framework of employment provided by the Council in accordance with the Act
- The Committee shall then:
  - ensure, through the Recruitment Consultant, that all candidates are updated on the outcome of the recruitment and selection process; and
  - develop and recommend to the Council an on-boarding program for the new CEO.

CEO PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND PLANNING PROCESS

- The Council on advice from the Committee is responsible for determining the CEO's performance and development plan with the CEO, assessing the CEO's performance against that plan at least once per year and determining the remuneration of the CEO.
- The Committee's role is to:
  - prepare a draft performance and development plan for Council's consideration;
  - seek expert independent advice on the facilitation and criteria for the performance and development plan and review;
  - seek expert independent advice on remuneration benchmarks from a nationally recognised recruitment consultant; and
  - conduct a performance review of the CEO and make recommendations to Council on matters including whether:
    - the CEO meets the performance and development plan criteria; and
    - to vary performance and development plan criteria, remuneration, or other terms and conditions of the contract.
- The Committee shall:
  - ensure the independent advice is carried out;
  - ensure that the CEO is consulted and advised of the process;
  - in consultation with the CEO, identify and agree upon the performance and development plan goals and activities that the CEO should work towards achieving over a 12 month period;
  - ensure that the CEO is given the opportunity to present his/her self-assessment to the Committee;
  - attend to the collection and collation of Council feedback in relation to the CEO's performance as measured against the performance and development plan approved by Council;
  - review the CEO's remuneration package as a component of the annual review;
  - report to Council Meeting seeking decision on outcomes of the review process in relation to:
    - the CEO's achievement of the performance criteria;
    - any proposed variation in salary;

- the setting of the performance and development plan for the measurement of the CEO's performance for the next 12 month period;
- agree with the CEO on a personal and professional development plan for the next 12 month period; and
- whether any options of the CEO's contract should be exercised in accordance with the contract.

Implementation of this Policy

MONITORING AND REPORTING

This Policy will be monitored by the Director, People and Culture in relation to any legislative change that may affect its' terms and conditions.

ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

The Director, People and Culture manages the provision of advice to the organisation regarding this policy. Independent professional advice will be sought in relation to the matters dealt with in this policy.

RECORDS

The City must retain records associated with this policy and its implementation for at least the period shown below.

Record	Retention / Disposal Authority	Retention Period	Location
Instrument of Delegation	Director, Governance	Permanent	ReX
Employment Contract	Director, People and Culture	Permanent	ReX

REVIEW

The City should review and, if necessary, amend this policy within three years of the approval date.

9. PROCUREMENT POLICY UPDATE

Source: **Customer & Corporate Services – Property, Procurement & Assets**
Director: **Michael Dugina**
Portfolio: **Finance**

Purpose

1. To seek Council approval to adopt the updated Procurement Policy following the annual review.

Background

2. *The Local Government Act (Vic) 1989* (Act) was amended in 2008 requiring the City to develop, approve and annually review its Procurement Policy.

Key Matters

3. The review of the policy is in line with the Council's obligations under the Act.
4. The Procurement Policy provides a framework for the purchase of goods, works, and services that emphasises value-for-money while conducting business in a fair and equitable manner. The purpose of the policy is to:
   - 4.1 Provide guidance, consistency, and controls over procurement activities;
   - 4.2 Demonstrate accountability to rate payers;
   - 4.3 Provide guidance on ethical behaviour in public sector purchasing;
   - 4.4 Demonstrate best practice elements in purchasing; and
   - 4.5 Increase probity of obtaining the right outcome when purchasing goods, works, and services.
5. This revision has been based on feedback received from internal and external stakeholders, as well as current trends in the field. A summary of changes to the policy are located on **Attachment 2** and the updated Procurement Policy is at **Attachment 3.**
6. The changes to the Policy are designed to continue the City's focus on social and sustainable procurement outcomes. Key elements and outcomes of the Procurement Policy are detailed in **Attachment 1**.
7. Through procurement strategies, over the twelve-month period for calendar year 2019 59.76% of the total Council procurement spend was made with businesses in the Geelong region (or $139,850,145).
8. Any other major changes to the Policy will occur next review period in preparation for the Local Government Act 2020 changes commencing 1 July 2021.

Cr Aitken moved, Cr Kontelj seconded -

9. That Council adopt the updated Procurement Policy.

Carried.

Attachment 1

Financial Implications

1. The City expends in the order of $200 million annually on procuring goods, works and services. Our commitment to local spend, job creation and value for money continues with these policy amendments.

2. The City is committed to buying from local businesses on a value-for-money basis and supports the engagement of local suppliers, sub-contractors, and apprentices. The City continues to improve its local spend commitments through the application of relevant criteria being applied to tenders and quotations through social and sustainability outcomes, engagement of apprentices and trainees, engagement with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises and persons, and the ongoing commitment with the GROW initiative.

3. The criteria for local content and engagement is applied at 10% of the total weighted score for all procurement activity, and 5% applied to the other criteria that is applied when applicable based on the category of goods, services or works being procured.

Community Engagement

4. There are no community engagement implications associated with updates to this policy, however, once approved the updated policy will be published and communicated via the Geelong Australia website.

Social Equity Considerations

5. The policy articulates the City's ongoing commitment to the principles of social equity in procurement and strengthened through our partnership with G21's Region Opportunities for Work Compact (GROW). The City of Greater Geelong has been a signatory to the G21 GROW Compact since November 2015 and continues to be an active supporter of the program.

6. The City recently partnered with GROW in developing a Lighthouse Project in relation to the City's Civic Accommodation Office Building and Precinct Project, where the tenderers and their consortiums are being encouraged to engage with GROW and become signatories. Tenderers who take the opportunity to become GROW signatories will create employment opportunities for GROW target job seekers, which will have positive social outcomes for local people.

7. The Policy also encourages any social procurement initiatives put forward by a supplier and lists a number that the City supports through our strategies and policies.

Policy/Legal/Statutory Implications

8. Review of the policy is in accordance with Section 186 of the Act.

Alignment to Council Plan

9. The policy has been reviewed and updated to align with our 30-year vision, Greater Geelong Clever and Creative and the community aspirations.

Conflict of Interest

10. No officer involved in the preparation of this report have a direct or indirect interest in matters to which this report relates.

Risk Assessment

11. The policy accords with the Enterprise Risk Management Framework and applies risk management strategies at all stages of the procurement process.

Environmental Implications

12. The policy states that sustained value must be demonstrated, where applicable in the City's procurement, including the built and natural environment.

Attachment 2

Summary of Changes within Policy

Introduction

Compliance paragraph inserted into the Introduction of the Procurement Policy as recommended by Audit review.

5.2 Supply by Contract

An amendment to clause 5.2 to refer to Contract Templates and types (approved) used by the City for contracts.

5.3 Supply by Purchase Order

Added clause 5.3 in reference to Supply by Purchase (PO) order, in that as part of the quotation process a PO must be raised and issued prior to goods, services or works being provided by the supplier.

5.4 OH&S and Other Mandatory Requirements

An amendment to clause 5.4 referencing that supplier/service providers and contractors must provide their OH&S evidence prior to commencing the provision of goods, services or works to the City.

6.2 Small Business Charter

Add paragraph to clause 6.2 in relation to the City signing up to the small business charter and the commitment made in relation to this proposition.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

COUNCIL PROCUREMENT POLICY

VERSION: 08

Approval Date: DD Month YYYY of official approval

Approved by: Council

Review Date: 30 June 2021

Responsible Officer: Manager Property, Procurement & Assets

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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Introduction

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- provide policy and guidance to the City to allow consistency and control over procurement activities;
- demonstrate accountability to rate payers; provide guidance on ethical behaviour in public sector purchasing;
- demonstrate the application of elements of best practice in purchasing;
- increase the probability of obtaining the right outcome when purchasing goods and services; and
- minimise and manage risk in procurement.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all contracting and procurement activities at the City and is binding upon Councillors, City officers and temporary employees, contractors and consultants while engaged by the City.

This Procurement Policy is made under Section 186A of the *Local Government Act 1989.* This section of the Act requires the City to prepare, approve and comply with a procurement policy encompassing the principles, processes and procedures applied to all purchases of goods, services and works by the City.

This policy is supported by the Procurement and Contracts Management Manual.

COMPLIANCE

Any non-conformance to this policy must be reported to the relevant manager and the Manager Property Procurement and Assets.

Definitions

This section defines the key terms used in this policy.

ACT

The *Local Government Act 1989.*

CITY

The City of Greater Geelong organisation led by the CEO.

COUNCIL

The City of Greater Geelong Council comprised of elected councillors and led by the Mayor.

ELT

The Executive Leadership Team of the City, as constituted from time to time.

1.1 Treatment of GST

All monetary values related to this policy **exclude GST** except where specifically stated otherwise.

1.2 Role of Procurement

The role of procurement is to carry out activities relating to procurement in such a way that the goods, services and works are procured of the right quality, from the right source, at the right cost and be delivered on time and within budget, to achieve a value for money outcome for the City.

The Procurement team will lead and oversee the process for all of the City's tender processes, acting as the City's independent representative between it and its potential suppliers

2 EFFECTIVE LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY COMPLIANCE AND CONTROL

2.1 Legislative Compliance

The Act requires the City to publicly tender contractual procurements over certain thresholds.

The key legislative requirements for this Policy include:

- section 186 (power to enter into contracts)
- section 186A (Procurement Policy)
- section 3C (Objectives of Council)
- section 208B (Best Value Principles)
- sections 77A, 77B, 78, 78A to 78E, 79, 79B to 79D, 80, 80A to 80C, 81, 95 and 95AA (Conflict of Interest)
- section 98 (Delegations)
- section 140 (Accounts and Records)
- The relevant provisions of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth).*

2.2 Conduct of Councillors and City Staff

Councillors and City Staff, in their carrying out of duties in relation to procurement, are to ensure they:

- Conduct themselves ethically and with integrity;
- Comply with the City's Gifts and Hospitality Policy;
- Declare and effectively manage real, perceived and potential conflicts of interest;
- Maintain confidentiality and security of information; and
- Comply with the relevant Codes of Conduct:
  - Councillor Code of Conduct;
  - Staff Code of Conduct.

2.3 Tender and Quotation Processes

All tender and quotation processes shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of this policy, the Procurement and Contracts Manual and any associated procedures, relevant legislation, relevant Australian Standards and the Act.

2.4 Fair and Honest Dealing

All prospective contractors and suppliers must be afforded an equal opportunity to tender or quote.

2.5 Accountability and Transparency

The City's instrument of delegation determines the seniority levels of staff authority, required for expenditure on each instance of procurement.

Measures which intentionally seek to avoid the requirement to give public notice, for example contract splitting, placing multiple orders, seeking multiple quotations with a single supplier or engaging in effect a single supplier under different guises, are considered to breach the requirement to call public tenders where threshold values would otherwise be reached.

2.6 Disclosure of Information

Information received by the City that is Commercial in Confidence must not be disclosed and is to be stored in a secure location.

Councillors and City staff are to protect, by refusing to release or discuss the following:

- information disclosed by organisations in tenders, quotations or during tender negotiations;
- all information that is Commercial in Confidence; and
- pre-contract information including but not limited to information provided in quotes and tenders or subsequently provided in pre-contract negotiations.

3 GOVERNANCE

3.1 Structure

The City shall:

- establish a procurement management responsibility structure and delegations ensuring accountability, traceability and auditable procurement decisions;
- ensure that the City's procurement structure:
  - is flexible enough to purchase in a timely manner the diverse range of goods, works and services required by the City;
  - ensures that prospective contractors and suppliers are afforded an equal opportunity to tender/quote;
  - ensures that all participating prospective contractors and suppliers are treated fairly and equitably;
  - encourages competition; and
  - ensures that policies that impinge on the purchasing policies and practices are communicated and implemented.

3.2 Methods

The City's standard methods for purchasing goods, services and works shall be by:

- purchasing card;
- purchase order following a quotation process;
- under contract following a tender or quotation process; or
- under purchasing schemes including collaborative purchasing arrangements with other councils and commercial schemes such as provided by Procurement Australia, Municipal Association of Victoria Procurement, Supply Clusters of Australia, State Purchase Contracts, Whole of Victorian Government Contracts and the Construction Suppliers Register.

3.3 Responsible Financial Management

The principle of responsible financial management shall be applied to all procurement activities. Where the tender sum exceeds budget allocation, the City will review the scope of the particular project or submit a report for expenditure variation to budget.

City staff must not authorise the expenditure of funds in excess of their financial delegations.

3.4 Probity Advisor/Auditor

The City may appoint a probity advisor or probity auditor for all tender processes with an expected spend of over $1 million or any projects that are under $1 million deemed as having a higher risk for reputational, political, or time constraints.

Departures from this policy must be approved by the relevant Director, the Manager and Manager Property, Procurement and Assets upon being satisfied that the procurement activity is rated at a low risk for the City.

4 PROCUREMENT THRESHOLDS AND COMPETITION

4.1 Requirement

The City's procurement thresholds may be amended from time to time to alter minimum spend competition thresholds, but at all times clear guidelines will be provided. These will be decided based on the size and complexity of the proposed procurement activities.

In the event that a high-risk procurement activity is to be undertaken, delegates are encouraged to seek process support from Procurement Services.

4.2 Tenders

Purchase of all goods, services and works for which the estimated expenditure exceeds the compulsory tender thresholds pursuant to Section 186 of the Act, must be undertaken by public tender unless approved exemptions are available. There is no specific time limit applicable to the length of a contract which is subject to the thresholds. The City will determine the optimum period for the contract, on the basis of value for money and the efficiency and effectiveness of the procurement and then assess the value of the contract.

4.3 Quotations

For purchases of goods, services and works having a total valuation of less than compulsory tender thresholds the City will maintain a formalised system of procurement guidelines.

4.4 Evaluation of Tenders and Quotations

All tenders and quotations are to be evaluated by an evaluation panel of no less than two persons, in a two staged process:

1. Quantitative assessment of a weighted score totalling 100%; and
2. Evaluation of price against weighted score
    - VFM^i = Tendered Price ÷ Weighted Score

4.5 Purchasing Cards

A select number of purchasing cards are available for the low cost and of high-volume purchases of goods and services. They must be used strictly in accordance with the City's Purchasing Card policy.

4.6 Petty Cash

A petty cash system operates to reimburse legitimate, urgent and operational business expenses incurred by City staff in the course of discharging their roles. The maximum claim for petty cash is $50 and must be authorised by the requesting officer's supervisor.

4.7 Agency

Council may use the services of a third-party agent to undertake a tender on its behalf.

4.8 Emergencies

The City may enter into a contract, the value of which reaches the threshold amounts, for the provision of goods, services or works without first putting that contract to public tender, if it is resolved by a manager or above that the contract must be entered into because of an emergency. An example of an emergency is floods, bushfires, natural disasters, risk to persons or property, etc.

4.9 Variations

Contract and Scope variations must be approved in accordance with the CEO to Staff Delegations – Power to Approve Contract Variations. Variations should not exceed the available budget, and where the budget is exceeded there may be a requirement to submit a report to Council.

Coordinators & Superintendent Representatives may approve variations to contracts up to the lesser of these two options; 10% of the original contract value or a maximum of $30,000. Where the aggregate of all variations exceeds 10% or is greater than $30,000 they must be referred to the Manager for authorisation.

Managers/Superintendents may approve variations to contracts up to the lesser of these two options; 20% of the original contract value or a maximum of $100,000. Where the aggregate of all variations exceeds 10% or is greater than $100,000 they must be referred to the General Manager for authorisation.

Directors may approve variations to contracts up to the lesser of these two options; 30% of the original contract value or a maximum of $200,000. Where the aggregate of all variations exceeds 30% or is greater than $200,000 they must be referred to the CEO for authorisation.

In the case of large projects, Directors could seek special CEO delegation to increase from the maximum variation limit of $200,000. Once delegate approval has been obtained the Superintendent will issue the approval letter to the Contractor.

4.10 Ministerial Exemption

The Minister for Local Government may exercise his or her discretionary power to approve an arrangement for the purposes of the Act, a contract that the City wishes to enter into without first exposing that contract to public tender. Ministerial exemptions will only be sought in exceptional circumstances.

4.11 Request for Quote Exemptions

In circumstances where three quotes cannot be sought, the CEO holds the relevant delegation to approve an exemption from quoting.

In the event that an exemption is sought, endorsement of the exemption must be obtained by both the Director Governance, Strategy and Performance and Manager Property, Procurement and Assets prior to seeking CEO approval.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 General

The City is to manage all aspects of its procurement processes in accordance with the Risk Management Policy and in such a way that all risks, including Occupational Health and Safety, are identified, analysed, evaluated, treated, monitored and communicated to the standard required by the law, in accordance with Australian Standards.

Procurement risk is the potential for failures of a procurement process designed to purchase services, products or resources. Common types of procurement risk include fraud, cost, quality and delivery risks.

5.2 Supply by Contract

The provision of goods, services and works by contract potentially exposes the City to risk. The City will minimise its risk exposure by measures such as:

- standardising contracts to include current, relevant clauses;
- ensuring the contract or purchase order reflects the tender pricing;
- requiring security deposits where appropriate;
- referring specifications to relevant experts;
- requiring a correctly executed contractual agreement before commencement;
- use of or reference to relevant Australian Standards (or equivalent); and
- effectively managing the contract including monitoring and enforcing performance.

Only Contract templates approved by the City's Governance and Legal Teams are to be used or entered into by the City[1].

[1] Contract templates are listed on the reference page to this policy and detailed in the Procurement and Contract Management Manual.

5.3 Supply by Purchase Order

Where procurements are arranged following a quotation process, a Purchase Order must be raised on Oracle and issued to the supplier/service provider prior to the goods, services or works required being provided.

5.4 OH&S and Other Mandatory Requirements

The City requires all contractors, service providers and volunteers to comply with all OH&S legislative requirements. These are mandatory requirements and non-compliance will disqualify prospective suppliers. Suppliers must provide evidence of certification or policy when providing goods, services or works, prior to the commencement of the delivery of these goods, services or works.

5.5 Disability Considerations

The legislative requirements of the Disability Act 2006 and Regulations 2007 and the City's Disability Action Plan, are to be considered by City staff to ensure that procurement processes and decisions do not directly and indirectly discriminate against people with a disability.

5.6 Contract Management

The purpose of contract management is to ensure that the City, and where applicable its customers, receive the goods, services or works provided to the required standards of quality and quantity as intended by the contract.

6 SUSTAINABLE VALUE

6.1 Economic and Social Sustainability Considerations

The City is committed to buying from local businesses where such purchases may be justified on value for money grounds, while remaining compliant with the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 and other fair-trading legislation requirements.

Where practicable, the City will fully examine the benefits available through purchasing goods, services or works from suppliers/contractors within the Geelong Region, by applying a weighted score component of 10% for local content of total weighted score in tenders and quotations.

The City is committed to procurement that supports local businesses and economic diversity and viability by:

- generating local employment;
- taking into account the life cycle of products purchased;
- building relationships and encouraging purchasing by contractors from local suppliers; and
- fostering innovation and emerging sectors.

6.2 Other Local and Social Considerations

Depending on the procurement type, there may be a necessity to apply additional criterion factors to quotations and tendering, including an appropriate weighting (i.e. 5%-10%) based on the following:

a. G21 (GROW)

- A part of social procurement is to include opportunities of employment for residents within the low socioeconomic regions of Geelong in the delivery of goods or services; and
- The City will identify opportunities to work with social enterprises and other not-for-profit businesses in the G21 Region which deliver social outcomes as part of doing business, either directly or as part of our supply chain.

b. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

- The City will identify opportunities to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders businesses or enterprises engaged as a contractor or sub-contractor or supplier; and/or
- The City will identify opportunity for an individual who identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as a result of the provision of goods, services or works to the City of Greater Geelong.

c. Recycled Content and Environment Consideration

- The City will consider the use of recycled materials in relation to goods or material being purchased, including construction materials for the City's Works programs; and

- Consideration of the environmental impact are to include:
  - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
  - Use of recycled materials;
  - Recycling of used material;
  - Reducing waste to landfill;
  - Reducing water consumption;
  - Encouraging improved environmental management;
  - Select products/services that have minimal impact on natural resources and biodiversity; and
  - Improving our ability to adapt to climate change.

d. Gender Equity Considerations

- The City commits to ensuring that everyone in the Geelong municipality, regardless of their gender identity have access to equal power, resources and opportunities, and are treated with dignity, respect and fairness.
- The City will seek to identify opportunities to address any perceived imbalances that can be impacted via our procurement activities

e. Other Social Outcomes

- The City is aware that individual suppliers may have their own social outcomes which they support. Prospective suppliers will be encouraged to provide details of what social outcome they support and how.

f. Clever and Creative

- The City of Greater Geelong is working toward being recognised regionally, nationally and internationally, as a clever and creative city-region. Delivering a clever and creative future will influence the City's connections and design, its prosperity and creativity, and increase its resilience through sustainable solutions.
- All tenders and quotations are to have a weighting of 5% of the total weighted score for Clever and Creative and scored relative to the innovation of the solution offered in responses.

g. Small Business Charter

- The City has signed the VSBC's Small Business Friendly Charter, officially becoming a small business friendly council.
- As a small business friendly council, the City commits to:
  - Reducing payment times for small business suppliers;
  - Working with small businesses to manage the impacts of infrastructure projects;
  - Streamlining the approval process for starting a business; and
  - Helping set up and support local business networks.

Implementation of this Policy

MONITORING AND REPORTING

ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

The Responsible Officer for this policy manages the provision of advice to the organisation regarding this policy.

RECORDS

The City must retain records associated with this policy and its implementation for at least the period shown below.

Record	Retention / Disposal Authority	Retention Period	Location
Certified copies of records		As per PROV	DMS

REVIEW

Section 186A(7) of the Act requires that this policy must be reviewed at least one in each financial year, a Council must review the current procurement policy and may, in accordance with section 186A amend the procurement policy.

References

- Procurement and Contracts Manual
- Councillors - Code of Conduct Policy
- Confidential Information Procedure
- Fraud Control Policy
- Gifts & Hospitality Policy
- Goods & Services Tax Policy
- Occupational Health & Safety Policy
- City Safe – Heat and UV Radiation Procedure
- Risk Management Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct Policy
- Council Purchasing Card Policy
- Environment Management Strategy
- Sustainable Water Use Plan
- Local Government Act 1989
- Competition and Consumer Act 2010
- Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
- Disability Act 2006 & Regulations 2007
- G21 Region Opportunities for Work Strategic Plan
- Contract templates:
  - Major Works (AS 4000-1997)
  - Design & Construct Works (AS 4902-2000)
  - Supply of Equipment with Installation (AS 4910-2002)
  - Consultancy General Conditions – Single Assignment
  - Consultancy General Conditions – Ongoing Assignment
  - Services General Conditions
  - Ongoing Provision of Physical Services
  - General Conditions – Purchase of Goods
  - IT Products and Services

[i] VFM = Value for Money, where the lowest VFM will represent the lowest price resulting from the formulae, and would determine Preferred Tenderer based on this principle.

10. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Source: **Community Life – Social Planning & Investment**
Director: **Robyn Stevens**
Portfolio: **Planning**

Cr Nelson moved, Cr Sullivan seconded -

That in accordance with Section 89 (2) (e) of the Local Government Act 1989, this proposed development matter be considered at the conclusion of all other business at which time the meeting be closed to members of the public.

Carried.

11. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORT

Source: **Governance, Strategy & Performance**
Director: **Rebecca Leonard**
Portfolio: **Leadership and Governance**

Cr Aitken moved, Cr Sullivan seconded -

That in accordance with Section 89 (2) (h) of the Local Government Act 1989, this matter which the Council considers would prejudice the Council or any person, be considered at the conclusion of all other business at which time the meeting be closed to members of the public.

Carried.

NOTICE OF MOTION – Cr Aitken

COVID-19 COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE INCREASE FREEZE AND SENIOR OFFICER WAGE FREEZE

The COVID-19 pandemic has had and will continue to have a significant impact on our community and our economy in the City of Greater Geelong.

Council's finances have not been immune to the impacts of COVID-19. We have suffered significant loss of income with the closure and restriction of services. Council has also announced multi-million dollar investments in community and economic support packages. Both the income losses and the cost of the support packages contribute to major deficits in 2019-20 and 2020-2021.

The Mayor, Councillors and the CEO have considered their leadership responsibility during these unprecedented times. Councillors and the CEO wish to demonstrate their respect for the financial impacts being experienced by the City because of COVID-19.

Councillors as a collective group wish to support a 12-month freeze on increases of Councillor allowances starting from 1 July 2020. Council can make such a decision for the remainder of this Council's term only, and the current Council strongly advocates that the new elected Council due in November 2020 continues the allowance increase freeze until 30 June 2021. To support a 12-month Councillor Allowance increase freeze, Council proposes to not budget for such an increase in the 2020-2021 budget. The CEO has also contributed his support and leadership of the Councillors by offering a 12-month increase freeze on his remuneration starting from 1 July 2020.

In addition, the CEO has advised that the Executive Leadership Team and all Senior Officers of the organisation have also been informed and have accepted that there will be no increases to salaries for the next 12 months from 1 July 2020.

The actual financial impact of the proposed 12 months allowance increase freeze and wage freeze will not address the deficit faced by the City in the next financial year, however, it strongly demonstrates that Councillors, the CEO and Senior Officers at the City understand that they can, and are committed to assist with, the financial pressures that the City and Geelong community is experiencing.

Cr Aitken moved, Cr Grzybek seconded -

That Council:

1. **Agree to freeze Councillor and Mayoral allowances increases from 1 July 2020 until the end of this Council's term and encourages the newly elected Council in November 2020 to extend the allowance increase freeze until 30 June 2021;**
2. **Request the 2020-2021 Council budget be amended to not include a budget increase for Councillor and Mayoral allowances for 2020-2021;**
3. **Support the CEO's offer to freeze his remuneration for 12 months starting from 1 July 2020 and requests this be formally adopted by the CEO Employment Matters Committee in their next meeting; and**
4. **Note and supports the decision of the Executive Leadership Team and Senior Officers at the City to accept the CEO decision to not increase their salaries for 12 months from 1 July 2020.**

Carried Unanimously.

Division Requested:

For: Crs Murnane, Nelson, Harwood, Sullivan, Mason, Grzybek, Asher, Kontelj, Mansfield, Murrihy, Aitken

NOTICE OF MOTION – Cr MURNANE

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

The City of Greater Geelong is currently implementing projects to support sustainable travel, in particular active transport. In 2019 Council endorsed the Building Better Bikes Western and Southern Link projects, which will provide safe and direct infrastructure to encourage and support active travel.

We know for the majority of the community, the car is the primary method of travel to work, shopping and to school. Capacity to ease vehicle congestion is finite, our ability to provide additional traffic lanes, bigger intersections and more parking is constrained by the amount of space we have. It can also conflict with pedestrians and our aim to create high amenity retail and green spaces.

There is an urgent need for the City to maintain momentum in planning, developing and delivering sustainable transport projects. To ensure we have sustainable movement for the future we need to start planning and delivering the infrastructure now.

There are a number of existing transport strategies and plans, both developed by the City of Greater Geelong and State Government agencies that guide our delivery of sustainable transport. It is important we continue to work to resolve the challenges of making transport more sustainable, as well as support the existing principles, directions and objectives in existing plans and supporting Council's 30-year vision *A Clever and Creative Future* and Council Plan.

The COVID-19 pandemic is establishing 'new normals' for our community, working practices and the economy. We have seen an increase in recreation activity, communities and local businesses adapting to new needs and many workplaces working remotely from home. Many of these trends will continue post-pandemic and there is a great opportunity to change our travel behaviour. To do so, infrastructure is needed to support the community and make active transport alternatives a viable choice and safe to use.

Cr Murnane moved, Cr Grzybek seconded -

That Council request the Chief Executive Officer to provide a report back to Council by December 2020 that:

1. **Outlines how Council will continue planning for transport to become increasingly sustainable as growth across the region continues, including how existing plans align with strategic transport planning underway by the City and other agencies;**
2. **Describes how we are collaborating with key stakeholders and State Government agencies to coordinate the municipality's transport planning;**
3. **Provides an update on completed, current and proposed active transport infrastructure projects; and**
4. **Identifies short and long-term sustainable transport projects that are ready for funding, particularly those that support active travel and other means to reduce dependence on vehicle travel for commuting, shopping and recreation.**

Carried.

NOTICE OF MOTION – Cr Kontelj

GEELONG CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE

As has been previously acknowledged by this Council, the COVID-19 Pandemic is possibly a once in a lifetime event, which has and will have significant impact on our community and our economy.

As the City endeavours to navigate through the current challenges and recover post COVID-19, it is extremely important we transition out of the Pandemic environment with a healthy and active Central Business District (CBD).

In order to achieve this, Council requires and welcomes advice, feedback and suggestions from the business community to help guide its future CBD related decisions and initiatives.

Cr Kontelj moved, Cr Aitken seconded -

That Council:

1. **Request the Chief Executive Officer to call for nominations from prominent, experienced and respected business people in Geelong to form a CBD engagement Task Force to provide feedback and suggestions on the following matters:**

   1.1 Public transport servicing the CBD;

   1.2 On and off-street parking in the CBD;

   1.3 The Central Geelong Marketing Committee;

   1.4 Central Geelong Marketing levy; and

   1.5 Commercial rates.

2. **To be eligible to be a member of the Geelong CBD engagement Task Force you must:**

   2.1 Own or operate a business in the 3220 postcode; and/or own a commercial property in the 3220 postcode; and

   2.2 Not to be a current member of the Central Geelong Marketing Committee;

3. **Nominations must be received by 9 July 2020. The process for nominations to be advertised on the City's website; and**

4. **Request the Chief Executive Officer to provide all feedback and a report to Council by 22 September 2020.**

Amendment

Cr Mason moved, Cr Harwood seconded –

That Council request the Chief Executive Officer to:

1. **Prepare a report for Council to consider establishing a CBD engagement Task Force to provide feedback and suggestions on the best way to reinvigorate Central Geelong following the economic impact from the COVID19 pandemic, including but not limited to:**

   1.1 Public transport servicing the CBD;

   1.2 On and off-street parking in the CBD;

   1.3 The Central Geelong Marketing Committee;

   1.4 Central Geelong Marketing levy; and

   1.5 Commercial rates;

2. **Prepare a comprehensive Terms of Reference where a broad based stakeholder membership will be defined for the Task Force including timelines for reporting back to Council; and**

3. **Request the Chief Executive Officer bring the report, including the Terms of Reference to Council by 14 July 2020.**

Lost.

Division Requested:

For: **Crs Murrihy, Harwood, Mason, Mansfield, Murnane**
Against: **Crs Aitken, Kontelj, Asher, Grzybek, Sullivan, Nelson**

The substantive motion was then put and carried. **Carried.**

Division Requested:
For: **Crs Nelson, Harwood, Sullivan, Grzybek, Asher, Kontelj, Aitken**
Against: **Crs Murrihy, Mansfield, Mason, Murnane**

ASSEMBLY OF COUNCIL RECORD

Source: **Governance, Strategy and Performance**
Chief Executive Officer: **Martin Cutter**
Portfolio: **Leadership & Governance**

Summary

1. Section 80A (2) of the Local Government Act 1989 requires the record of an Assembly of Council be reported to the next practicable Ordinary Meeting of Council.
2. A record of Assembly of Council meeting(s) is attached as an Appendix to this report.

Cr Mansfield moved, Cr Sullivan seconded -

3. That the information be received.

Carried.

RECORD OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCIL
(Council Meeting 30 June 2020)

Assembly Details	Councillors	Officer Attendees	Agenda Items	Conflict of Interest Disclosures
Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee 1 June 2020	Cr Aitken	G Wilson-Browne (DIR) V Shelton (MGR) L McCallum (MGR) E Wheatland (CO ORD)	• 'My Story' – launch and suggestion of movie show for International Day of People with Disability 2020 • Civic Precinct – opportunities for further engagement with the Advisory Committee • Bellarine Rail Trail and Pedestrian Safety • Council Home Care Services – Impact of COVID-19 •	• Nil
Council Briefing 2 June 2020	Crs Asher, Grzybek, Aitken, Harwood, Kontelj, Mansfield, Mason, Murrihy, Murnane, Nelson, Sullivan	M Cutter (CEO B Luxford (DIR) G Smith (DIR) M Dugina (DIR) G Wilson-Browne (DIR) R Leonard (DIR) R Stevens (DIR) K Phyland (DIR) J Lane (MGR) B Ince (EXEC DIR) T Ellis (MGR) L McCallum (MGR) M Paten (MGR) M Pakzamir (Chief Information Officer) C Ruiter (CO ORD) J Brown (CO ORD) D Bushell (Clr Liaison Off) L Raimondo (Adv to Mayor and CEO) K Ivens (Snr Advisor - Mayor & CEO) M Macgugan (Snr Comm Adv)	• Tree Management Policy • Road Discontinuance and Sale – 43 Hodgson Street, Ocean Grove • Road Renaming – Section of Manzeene Avenue, Lara • Central Geelong Marketing – Terms of Reference • Youth Council Second Report 2020 • Council Meetings During COVID-19 and an Update to the Public Question and Submission Time Policy • Sustainability Framework - Update	• Nil

Council Briefing 16 June 2020	Crs, Asher, Aitken, Grzybek, Harwood, Kontelj, Mansfield, Mason, Murrihy, Murnane, Nelson, Sullivan	M Cutter (CEO B Luxford (DIR) G Smith (DIR) M Dugina (DIR) R Leonard (DIR) R Stevens (DIR) G Wilson-Browne (DIR) K Phyland (DIR) J Hurse (MGR) B Ince (EXEC DIR) J Van Slageren (MGR) V Shelton (MGR) J Bryce (CO ORD) J Hinch (CO ORD) K Olesnicky (CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER) N O'Shea (FINANCIAL PLANNING & STRAT) M Gallon (MGR) M Paten (MGR) S Beck (MGR) J Brown (CO ORD) L Raimondo (ADV TO MAYOR & CEO) K Ivens (Snr Advisor - Mayor & CEO) M Macgugan (SNR COMM ADV)	• COVID-19 Community and Economic Support Package – Medium to Longer Term • Declaration of 2020-21 Rates, Adoption of 2018-22 Council Plan Update 2020 and 2020-21 Budget • 2020-21 Grants Program • Restricting Vehicles in Little Malop – Alternative Access Options • Stormwater Services Strategy 2020-30 • Draft Rabbit Control Plan 2020-24 • CEO Employment Matters Policy Review • Proposed Development *(Confidential)* • Audit and Risk Committee Summary Report *(Confidential)*	• Nil

PLANNING DELEGATIONS

Source:	**Planning, Design & Development – City Development**
Director:	**Gareth Smith**
Portfolio:	**Planning**

Purpose

1. To provide the schedule of planning permit applications determined under delegation since the last report.

Background

2. Section 98 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and section 188 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* empower Council to delegate its powers, duties and functions under relevant legislation to members of Council staff.

3. Sections 86 and 87 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and section 188 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* allow Council to establish special committees with delegated powers to determine planning permit applications.

4. At its meeting on 9 July 2019, Council:

   4.1 Amended the Council to staff instrument of delegation to allow staff delegates to determine planning permit applications where there are less than 6 objections lodged; and

   4.2 Amended the Planning Committee's terms of reference to provide for its determination, if required, of planning permit applications where there are 6 or more objections lodged.

5. The City is required by Council to provide information on planning permit applications determined under delegation.

Key Matters

6. The Schedule attached to this report provides information on the planning permit applications determined under delegation since the last report.

Cr Sullivan moved, Cr Mason seconded -

7. That Council receive the information in the Schedule.

Carried.

Planning Decisions Report - May 2020

App Number	Location	Application Type	Decision Date	Description	Authority Description/
PP-1060-2019	34 Virginia Street, NEWTOWN VIC 3220	Demolition of Dwelling, Construction of a Replacement Dwelling in Heritage Overlay	1/5/2020	Refusal to Grant a Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-1069-2019	1750 Barwon Heads Road, CONNEWARRE VIC 3227	Multi Lot Subdivision of Land (13 Lots)	1/5/2020	NOD--Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-1071-2017	8 Griffen Street, HAMLYN HEIGHTS VIC 3215	Construction of Five (5) Dwellings and a Five (5) Lot Subdivision	26/5/2020	Extended Planning Permit	Delegated Authority
PP-1288-2019	PARENT - 6 Chamberlain Drive, ARMSTRONG CREEK VIC 3217	Removal of Native Vegetation	8/5/2020	Refusal to Grant a Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-1291-2016	81 Gertrude Street, GEELONG WEST VIC 3218	Construction of Four (4) Double Storey Dwellings and a Four (4) Lot Subdivision	8/5/2020	Refusal to Grant a Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-1296-2019	14 Dane Avenue, BELL POST HILL VIC 3215	Variation of Restrictive Covenant U344215E so as to allow the eave height of a building not exceeding 5.2m above the undisturbed natural ground level at the highest point of the subject land (covenant provides for 3.3m currently)	1/5/2020	Refusal to Grant a Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-213-2018	159 Melbourne Road, RIPPLESIDE VIC 3215	Partial Demolition of the Existing Building, Buildings and Works to the Existing Dwelling and Shop, Use and Construction of Two (2) Triple Storey Dwellings within a Heritage Overlay and a Reduction in the Number of Car Parking Spaces Required	22/5/2020	NOD--Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-258-2019	130 Princes Highway, NORLANE VIC 3214	Buildings and Works for the Construction of Two (2) Additional Dwellings	1/5/2020	Refusal to Grant a Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-510-2018	1A Golf Links Road, BARWON HEADS VIC 3227	Development of a Golf Hole and Removal of Native Vegetation	14/5/2020	Refusal to Grant a Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-514-2019	27-29 Marlo Street, HAMLYN HEIGHTS VIC 3215	Development of the Land for Nine (9) Dwellings and Nine (9) Lot Subdivision	1/5/2020	NOD--Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-623-2019	135 Fitzroy Street, GEELONG VIC 3220	Partial Demolition, Construction of Forty (40) Dwellings including Seven (7) Apartments, and a Multi-lot Subdivision	27/5/2020	Grant a Planning Permit	Delegated Authority
PP-104-2020	31 Kanimbla Avenue, LEOPOLD VIC 3224	Construction of Two Additional Dwellings	11-May-2020	NOD - Delegate	3

PP-1055-2019	55 Virginia Street, NEWTOWN VIC 3220	Partial Demolition and Buildings and Works Associated with Construction of Two (2) Dwellings, Front Fencing and Vehicular Crossovers in a Heritage Overlay and Two (2) Lot Subdivision	22-May-2020	NOD - Delegate	4
PP-1118-2019	9 Bruthen Road, HIGHTON VIC 3216	Buildings and Works Associated with Construction of Three (3) Dwellings, Three (3) Lot Subdivision and Removal of Easement E4	15-May-2020	NOD - Delegate	5
PP-1228-2018	78 Elizabeth Street, GEELONG WEST VIC 3218	Demolition, Construction of Two (2) Dwellings including Garages and Front Fences, and Two (2) Lot Subdivision	13-May-2020	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-129-2020	64 Wimmera Avenue, MANIFOLD HEIGHTS VIC 3218	Construction of Three (3) Dwellings and Three (3) Lot Subdivision	7-May-2020	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-1298-2019	32 Rennie Street, LARA VIC 3212	Buildings and Works for the Construction of Three (3) Dwellings and a Three (3) Lot Subdivision	15-May-2020	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-139-2020	51 Rose Avenue, NORLANE VIC 3214	Buildings and Works for the Construction of Two (2) Dwellings	22-May-2020	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-220-2020	77 Hitchcock Avenue, BARWON HEADS VIC 3227	Change of Use for a Liquor Licence (On-Premises Licence)	29-May-2020	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-667-2019	290 Church Street, HAMLYN HEIGHTS VIC 3215	Buildings and Works Associated with the Construction of Two (2) Dwellings and a Two (2) Lot Subdivision and Creation and Alteration of Access to a Road Zone Category 1	18-May-2020	NOD - Delegate	1

Cr Sullivan moved, Cr Mason seconded -

That the meeting be closed to the public.

Carried.

The Meeting was closed to the public at 11.14pm

Cr Nelson moved, Cr Grzybek seconded -

That the Meeting be opened to the public.

Carried.

The Meeting was opened to the public at 11.20pm

A record of the proceedings of this section of the meeting is contained in a Confidential Minute Book.

CLOSE OF MEETING

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 11.20pm Tuesday, 30 June 2020.

Signed: _____

Cr Stephanie Asher (Mayor)

Date: _____