

MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 26 July 2022
6:00 pm

City Hall
57 Little Malop Street, Geelong 3220

LIVE STREAMED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE:

www.geelongaustralia.com.au/meetings

COUNCIL:

Cr P Murrihy (Brownbill Ward) - Mayor
Cr T Sullivan (Bellarine Ward) - Deputy Mayor
Cr S Asher (Bellarine Ward)
Cr J Mason (Bellarine Ward)
Cr E Kontelj (Brownbill Ward)
Cr S Mansfield (Brownbill Ward)
Cr B Harwood (Kardinia Ward)
Cr B Moloney (Kardinia Ward)
Cr R Nelson (Kardinia Ward)
Cr A Aitken (Windermere Ward)
Cr K Grzybek (Windermere Ward)

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

Also Present: M Cutter (Chief Executive Officer), G Smith (Director City Planning and Economy), G Wilson-Browne (Director City Services), K Phyland (Director Strategy, People & Performance), T Kirwood (Manager Property, Procurement & Assets), S McKew (Manager Governance)

Opening: The Mayor declared the meeting open at 6.00pm.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1. Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledges the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

1.2. Apologies

Cr E Kontelj

1.3. Leaves of Absence

Cr Mason moved, Cr Nelson seconded -

That Leave of Absence be granted to Cr Grzybek for the period 29 August to 12 September 2022, inclusive.

Carried

1.4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Cr K Grzybek declared a Conflict of Interest in Agenda Item 2.6 - Tender T2200043 - Building Better Bike Connections, Stage 2 South in that Cr Grzybek is an employee of the TAC which is funding the bike lanes.

1.5. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLUTION - Item 1.5.1

Cr Mason moved, Cr Harwood seconded -

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 June 2022 be confirmed.

Carried

1.6. Public Question and Submission Time

The following persons submitted questions prior to the Council Meeting on the following various subjects:

1. Zoe Walter and Friends (on behalf of GSODA Inc.) – Permanent home for the Geelong Society of Operatic Arts;
2. Michael Loughnan – The Community Outpost;
3. David Phillips – Sustainability – CO2 Emissions;
4. Vanessa Whitem – Greater Geelong Planning Scheme;
5. Vicki Perrett – Building Better Bike Connections – Stage 2;
6. Barb Sheehan – Greater Geelong Planning Scheme/Removal of Native Vegetation;
7. Katherine Talbot – 5a Dean Street – Social Housing;
8. Katerina-Larisa Izdebskaia (Vanessa Whitem as Proxy) – Tree Management;
9. Sian Jones – 5a Dean Street – Social Housing;
10. Ingrid Bishop – Building Better Bike Connections – Stage 2;
11. Brendan Hunt – 5a Dean Street – Social Housing;
12. Nova Louise Caddy – Building Better Bike Connections – Stage 2;
13. Nicola Dore – Building Better Bike Connections – Stage 2 – Commonwealth Games; and
14. Kim Ferguson – 5a Dean Street – Social Housing.

Zoe Walter and Friends (on behalf of GSODA Inc) asked:

As teenagers involved in the arts, we often feel like sporting groups are much more celebrated and have amazing facilities. The Council Plan 2018 - 2022 has a key priority to incorporate arts and cultural initiatives into infrastructure development, to enhance our sense of place.

Therefore, can Council please advise if there are any vacant buildings or sites in Geelong that we could access to create a permanent home for our arts group Geelong Society of Operatic & Dramatic Arts (GSODA), which has been providing high quality theatre training and producing shows in Geelong for over 70 years?

Thank you for your question, Zoe.

The Youth Development Unit incorporates Arts into its many programs, projects and events across the municipality, celebrating the achievements and diversity of young people as outlined in our Service Plan. The 2021 Youth Council recommended a central Youth Hub be established and a youth feasibility study is currently being completed to determine the need, in which the arts is a priority, creating a safe, inclusive environment for all young people. The Youth Development Unit's existing partnerships will support the co-location of organisations across all of our Youth Hubs, which we aim to extend to external user groups with a focus on young people.

Michael Loughnan asked:

1. Geelong has citizens in great need to the extent that they attend the "Outpost" for food and to diminish their isolation. There is an ongoing effective volunteer delivered service i.e., "Outpost" delivering good outcomes for a core responsibility of Council.

What justification is there for council not allowing the "Outpost" service to operate on the ground floor of the new council building or nearby property owned by council such as where it currently operates?

Thank you for your questions, Michael.

The City has supported the Outpost service for over 20 years and during the past 5 years has been working with the Committee in the search for alternative options, including City and non-City owned land. The City continues to support the Outpost service in their search for a new location however at this stage does not have a suitable location for the Outpost service within the CBD. Until the City has sold the Busport site the Outpost service is welcome to continue to operate from that site.

2. Is there a cost benefit better option council has to replace Outpost ready to operate now?

In response to the cost/benefit question, the City has been providing the current location at Busport for a peppercorn rent fee of \$1 per year.

3. If amenity is a concern should a Council responsibility be ignored, or can we accept diverse need and celebrate a focus on supporting such needs?

The City has been supporting the Outpost service for over 20 years and during the past 5 years, it has been working with the Committee in the search for alternate options, including City and non-City owned land.

In response to the cost/benefit question, the City has been providing the current location at Busport for a peppercorn rent fee of \$1 per year.

Vanessa Whittem asked:

The Council Meeting Agenda includes Cr Mansfield's proposed motion to require the Chief Executive Officer to allocate resources to provide Council with a report regarding lack of protection of trees on private land in Geelong, measures operating in other municipalities and options and processes to pursue for greater protection. We thank Cr Mansfield for raising the issue.

As a first easy and simple step the Geelong Urban Forest Strategy and Council Tree Management Policy should be included as Incorporated Documents under the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme, thus giving direction to VCAT on interpretation of the planning scheme. In fact, in answer to a question from Bill Marshall at the Council Meeting on 22 February 2022 regarding the City's Environment Strategy 2020-2030 and Urban Forest Strategy 2015-2025, Council stated that "The City will amend the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme as part of our next update to the municipal strategic statement to include these overarching sustainable development goals. This will supplement existing clauses in state sections of the planning scheme including Clause 15.02-1S, which has direction to reduce urban heat island effect by greening urban areas.

Council also has a range of objectives promoting best practice for Environmentally Sustainable Design in Clause 22.71 of the Planning Scheme.”

1. What steps has Council undertaken to date to incorporate these strategies in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme?
2. What steps has Council planned for the future to incorporate these strategies in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme?
3. What is the timeline, if any, for the planned steps?

Thank you for your questions, Vanessa.

An update to the Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) has commenced and this will seek to include the City’s overarching sustainable development goals in the planning scheme. A review of adopted policies and strategies will identify any gaps in the LPPF.

An assessment is being undertaken by the planning staff as to whether the Urban Forest Strategy and Tree Management Policy meet the criteria for inclusion of documents as Incorporated Documents in the planning scheme. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Practitioner’s Guide to Victorian Planning Schemes indicates that “where possible, it is better to extract the specific planning policy or decision requirements from a document and include them directly in the scheme as local planning policy, local schedule provisions or decision guidelines rather than incorporating a document. This is particularly so if only part of the document is relevant or where the document is not written in a way that suitably expresses specific requirements for planning decisions.”

The Local Planning Policy Framework review currently underway is considering how these documents, among many others, will be reflected/implemented in the planning scheme.

The review of the Local Planning Policy Framework is already underway. The findings of the review will be implemented into the planning scheme via a planning scheme amendment. The amendment process will occur in 2023 and takes about 18 months to complete

Vicki Perrett asked:

Growing up in Belmont in the 60’s, I didn’t have a bike or learn to ride like most kids. My parents witnessed a serious incident in which a boy was knocked off his bike by a car in Roslyn Rd and they chose to protect me from a similar fate. So, I only learned to ride as an adult. Today cycling is my preferred mode of travel and exercise and how I connect with friends and nature. Geelong’s population has more than doubled since I was a kid and parents must feel even more anxious for their children’s safety on the roads today.

As our population continues to grow, it’s essential that the City tackles its car dependency if it is to realise its vision and key indicators. Council must also act to deliver on the community’s aspirations for a forward-looking city that cares for its people and the environment. Smart modern cities install infrastructure that encourages active travel and makes their CBD and suburbs livable and connected for all. Only separated bike lanes provide a sufficiently safe environment that will encourage people of all ages to ride. This is especially true for women and children. Build it safe and they will use it.

The community is tired of waiting and the Commonwealth Games are coming to G town in 2026. Will Councillors please stop procrastinating and award the contract so works can begin on Option 2b of the Southern Link ASAP?

Thank you for sharing your experience, Vicki.

Building Better Bike Connections aims to make it safer and easier for anyone to ride with the inclusion of separated bike lanes. The City has already delivered the Western Link and Southern Link Stage 1, which have delivered 4 kilometres of separated cycle lanes in Geelong.

The City is working with the Victorian Government regarding the Commonwealth Games which will include an integrated transport plan.

Barb Sheehan asked:

The objective of Clause 12.01-2S, a state-based clause included in the Geelong Planning Scheme, is to ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation. The clause enumerates avoidance, minimisation and offset payment as strategies

The instructions on the Council website:

(<https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/planning/article/item/8d17548e9237aef.aspx>)

indicate that an existing vegetation plan is only required if native vegetation is present. We note that, even with allowance for exemptions and the varying nature of applications, the submission of an existing vegetation plan in recent planning applications is extremely rare. For example, out of the 23 current planning applications reflected on the City of Greater Geelong advertised planning applications page on Saturday, 23 July, none include an existing vegetation plan. Only three applications include arboricultural reports which do not address general existing vegetation.

1. What are the processes the Council have in place to determine whether any native vegetation is present on a subject site if applicants are not required to provide an existing vegetation site plan?

Thank you for your questions, Barb.

Protection for native vegetation is provided under Clause 52.17 - Native Vegetation of the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme. This statewide policy only applies to land greater than 0.4 hectares (4,000m²) – meaning land smaller than 0.4ha is exempt from requiring a planning permit to remove native vegetation. In addition to Clause 52.17, other permit requirements for native vegetation policies are outlined in Significant Landscape Overlays, Environmental Significance Overlays and Vegetation Protection Overlays.

Where a planning permit application for development requires removal of vegetation, a landscape plan is required to be provided, which ensures compliance with the standards at Clause 54.03-6 (Significant trees objectives) and/or Clause 55.03-8 (Landscaping objectives). The landscape plan can be included as part of a planning application or included as a condition of permit. This plan must be provided prior to the commencement of works.

2. We congratulate Council on implementing the Data Exchange database of trees on public land including street trees. We note, however, that this database does not include trees on private land. How does Council police the removal of native vegetation if it is undocumented on a planning application and not recorded on the Tree database?

Thank you for the positive feedback regarding the Data Exchange database of trees on public land.

As noted, this database does not record trees on private land given a planning permit is not always required to remove trees on private land. If a planning permit was required to remove vegetation, we do have access to GIS mapping systems that allow the planners to assess against aerial imaging that shows timelines of the trees.

3. In the Tree Hollows database on the COGG Data Exchange, locations of trees with hollows are shown by their geographic location. When a planning application is examined, does Council have a procedure for identifying any trees with habitat tree hollows that have been reported on the subject land?

The Tree Hollows database is not currently used to inform planning decisions.

Katherine Talbot asked:

1. During the City's have your say process on the Dean Street site, it was noted in the report that 'around 80% of people who have a connection to the site as they live or own a property near the site are opposed'. Residents have conducted a petition that was presented to Council with 530 paper signatures and currently 294 online who want the site retained for the community as Public Open Space.

With this in mind, why is the City still pushing forward and proposing to partner with a community housing provider and seeking expressions of interest to provide a design for the development?

Does the city also plan to provide designs for the site to be retained as Public Open Space with amenities such as a playground, community garden or parkland? This is what the local community have indicated they wanted for the site when the city asked them to have their say.

Thank you for your questions, Katherine.

The partnership EOI with Registered Housing Provider is part of the City's long-term strategy in scaling up the supply of social and affordable housing for residents in Geelong and to address the lack in social and affordable housing at the municipal level. This partnership is broader than any considerations or proposals for three sites that have been the topic of the Social Housing on Council-owned Land engagement.

The City has taken on board the community's view regarding open space and further discussions with the Registered Housing Provider will help form a collective view through a design process in 2023. The community will be engaged in this process as views on possible outcomes for the site form.

It should be noted that no decision has been made on the future use of the three sites and that the City will be seeking further consultation with the community in 2023.

2. The Dean Street site was set aside as a Plantation Reserve as part of the 1958 development and used by community organisations since that time. In 2000 the site was rezoned for some reason. This seems to be a major oversight for the general area from a past Council, given the amount of infill and lack of parkland for residents. Can this be rectified?

Given the Council's Public Open Space Policy states that residents should be able to access public open space within 400 metres of their homes, how is it that parkland can be so easily rezoned? Has this occurred anywhere else in the municipality?

How can residents in developments both old and new be guaranteed that their parkland won't be taken by careless rezoning practices? Parkland is essential not only for mental health, fitness and community cohesion, but also trees and gardens provide homes for wildlife and pollinators and contribute to cooling suburbs by boosting the Urban canopy and they contribute to Climate targets.

New format planning schemes were introduced in Victoria in 2000 and the parcel was rezoned to Residential 1 Zone in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme. Since then, the parcel and surrounding area has been rezoned to the General Residential Zone. At that time the site was being used for community purposes and it is standard throughout Victoria for land owned by councils for uses such as community halls, libraries, early learning and maternal child health centres etc to be applied with a residential zone.

Any proposal for significant change to land use would include consultation with the community, as is occurring currently with these land parcels.

3. On the Dean Street site has there been consideration to the small street frontage of the site compared to its total land area?

The site is about half the total land area of the three identified sites. Can we deduce by this that of the 100 proposed dwellings, at least 50 or more are being considered for the Dean Street site?

How would general traffic access, emergency vehicle access and even basic garbage collection work for 50 plus dwellings with such small street frontage onto Dean Street and High Street? TLC's emergency gates open onto the site. How would the development impact on the emergency access to TLC?

For that matter how would possible emergency evacuation work for the proposed residents on an elongated block with such a small street frontage?

There has been no consideration in terms of the number of dwellings on the site as a design process with relevant stakeholders had not been undertaken. Assumption of any development impact and objectives based on density are premature at this stage.

Vanessa Whitem (on behalf of Katerina-Larisa Izdebskaia) asked:

1. In an answer to a question from Jeanne Nel de Koker at the Council meeting on 22 February 2022, Council replied that no targeted campaign had ever been run to raise awareness of the Request a Street Tree program.
Is any campaign planned for the 2022-2023 year and how many requests for a street tree planting has the Council received for 2022 to date? We note that Council now maintains a database of Trees on public land, including street trees, on the Data Exchange.

Thank you for your questions, Katerina-Larisa.

The street tree planting program is promoted on the City's website and a street tree can be requested using the online form or by phoning the City's customer service team on 5272 5272. Proactive communications target priority areas. Other community tree planting initiatives such as National Tree Planting Day on Sunday 31 July are promoted via the City's usual communication channels.

The City has received 1,038 requests for street tree planting in the 2022 season to date.

2. What is the procedure for updating the record when a tree is lost whether from death, removal, or other cause?

When a tree on public land is removed, the City arborist responsible for the decision will arrange for the tree's records to be archived.

3. Does that database enable public reporting of trees removed or lost in the City to ensure that an accurate record of net tree number change is available to Council and the public?

The database does not have the facility to allow public reporting on trees. If a member of the community wishes to advise the City of changes to the urban forest, they should contact the City's Customer Service Centre on 5272 5272 or email contactus@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

Sian Jones asked:

1. From community submissions and petitions to date there is clearly extremely strong opposition from the community to this proposal. How does the Council decide whether to proceed with the proposal for 5A Dean Street and what part does community consultation actually play in any decision?

There is a feeling that Council is not listening to the community nor placing enough value on those that this proposal directly impacts both now and into the future.

Thank you for your questions, Sian.

The community feedback identified that many submitters were seeking greater clarity around the proposal. A number of respondents found it hard to support or consider the sites for social housing without the detail around how the three sites might look.

To address these concerns, the City is proposing a collaborative design process in 2023 which will engage with the local communities. Once this process is complete, a recommendation for the future use of each of the sites will come before the Council for a decision. Until that time, the Council will not have a set position on its preferred future use of these sites. The community housing provider the City engages to examine design options for the three sites will consult with the community and will also look at possible alternative uses.

2. Why are there so few FAQs on the 'Have your say' webpage in relation to this proposal? There are only six questions, presumably selected by Council staff, which are not very representative of the many more raised.

These questions were site specific, linked to the community feedback and related to the engagement question which was around the level of support for the development of social housing on the sites.

3. Can someone explain how each of these excerpts from the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme might apply to the high-density proposal for 5A Dean Street?

In order for medium and high-density housing to be embraced by established communities it needs to deliver high quality design and achieve a high level of amenity for future residents while being appropriate for the site and neighbourhood. Encourage buildings to maximise the overall intensity of Central Geelong respecting heritage areas and protecting the amenity of public spaces. Support residential development where the density, mass and scale is complementary to the location, role and character of the specific IHDA.

(a) In order for medium and high-density housing to be embraced by established communities it needs to deliver high quality design and achieve a high level of amenity for future residents while being appropriate for the site and neighbourhood. This line is the context at clause 02.03-1 that relates to Settlement planning. This statement supports the justification for applying design controls and local planning policy for new developments in other parts of the planning scheme.

Policies such as clause 16.01-1L-02 – increased housing diversity areas that will apply if there was a future residential development on 5A Dean Street. The local policy and general residential zone applying to the site guide the scale and form of the development with limits on building heights, setbacks, and future character.

(b) Encourage buildings to maximise the overall intensity of Central Geelong respecting heritage areas and protecting the amenity of public spaces.

This strategic direction relates to Central Geelong and is not applicable to 5A Dean Street.

(c) Support residential development where the density, mass and scale are complementary to the location, role and character of the specific IHDA.

The strategic direction at clause 02.03-6 directs those areas around activities centres such as Belmont High Street (and 5A Dean Street) are the preferred location for housing development and different types of housing such as town houses and apartments. It acknowledges that not all increased housing diversity areas are the same and some areas such as Belmont High Street can accommodate more development than smaller centres such as local centre on the Bellarine Peninsula. All applications are assessed on their merits and their compliance with clause 16.01-1L-02, the general residential zone and ResCode standards.

Sian Jones (on behalf of Brendan Hunt) asked:

1. Social Housing on Council-Owned land report it was noted that the City is proposing to partner with a community housing provider, which the City intends to be a Registered Housing Association/Provider under the Housing Act 1983 (Vic). Can you please provide a link to EOI?

Thank you for your questions, Brendan.

The appointment of Registered Housing Agency (RHA) to act as Trustee for the Geelong Affordable Housing Trust is an action identified as one of the capacity building strategies in the City's Social Housing Plan 2020-2041. A copy of the EOI, now closed, will be forwarded to your postal and email addresses.

2. What is happening with the rectification works to replace the Council owned trees at 5A Dean Street? Given they were on the Council Tree register shouldn't there be a plan in place to revegetate the area?

The City is contacting Scouts Victoria to discuss a way forward. Once a decision is made on future use of the site, appropriate re-vegetation will be identified and undertaken.

3. What is the intention of the Expression of Interest? Is it a conceptual design or a detailed development plan? This situation is raising significant concerns in the local community as the optics around this process appears to be that the plan is moving forward to a development phase before the plan has been voted on! Why are such processes proceeding before a decision has been made? What opportunity does the community have to provide input on this process?

As outlined in response to your first question, the partnership EOI with a Registered Housing Provider is part of the City's long-term strategy in scaling up the supply of social and affordable housing for residents in Geelong and to address the lack of social and affordable housing at the municipal level. This partnership is broader than any considerations or proposals for three sites that have been the topic of the Social Housing on Council-owned land engagement.

The City's aim is to select a Registered Housing Provider and then in 2023 the community will have the opportunity to be involved in a collaborative design process. Once this process is complete, a recommendation for the future use of each of the sites will come before the Council for a decision. At this stage, no decision has been made on the future use of the three sites; rather, the City has taken on board the community's view that to provide informed comment there needs to be a sense of what possible housing may look like on the proposed sites.

Ingrid Bishop asked:

1. Can the COGG engineers explain how much distance people parking in the on streetcar parking spots will have to open their car door and exit the car safely into both the traffic on High St (for the driver) and the bike lane (for the passenger). Specifically, we are seeing a lot of young families shopping on High St and they often need to remove prams and unload babies and children. How will this be done safely when there are cars constantly driving very closely to the parked car on one side and cyclists riding at a fast pace on the other side?
2. Can COGG also explain how TAC and COGG have properly addressed bike safety considerations for cyclists where parked car passenger doors are being opened straight into a bike lane where a cyclist can run straight into it flipping the bike and sending a cyclist flying at risk of great injury or even death due to impact with a pole, pedestrian, shopfront/wall or ground?

3. When voting tonight on awarding the contract for the Building Better Bike Connections – Stage 2, South project, can Council please consider that Belmont Traders and the general community alike seek thoughtful and considered investment into improvement of the High Street streetscape that is inclusive of people with disabilities and young families?

We welcome a dedicated bikeway as part of this however ask that planning is done with the community to ensure the safest possible outcomes for all of the community that takes into account accessibility issues for the vision impaired and people using mobility aids as well as families with young children and babies in prams.

We respectfully ask that you approve the tender for Option 1 (and not 2B) to allow Stage 2 of the Building Better Bikeways to be implemented while planning for comprehensive engagement for much needed improvement to the road and footpaths in the High St shopping precinct can take place that can include a dedicated bike path in the future.

Thank you for your questions, Ingrid.

All parking spaces have been designed in accordance with Australian Standards. Car spaces within the retail precinct on High Street will have a buffer on either side of the parking spaces to cater for car doors opening towards the bike lane and traffic lane.

There is also a range of off-street parking options close-by which may be more suitable for some drivers. We are reviewing opportunities to improve signage along High Street to ensure drivers are aware of these parking options.

The City completed several 'Safety In Design' workshops with road safety experts when developing the detailed designs. The design includes buffers between the parking and cycle lane which is designed to prevent such an incident occurring.

Thank you for your additional feedback which has been received by Councillors for their consideration when deciding on the award of the tender.

Nicola Dore asked:

1. Belmont Traders fully support the long overdue improvement for High Street, in particular option 1, however we would appreciate councillors consider the impact of such works during peak trading period coming off the back of two years of interrupted trade. We request consideration be made that crossings are laid at night to reduce the impact to High Street traffic during the day. We also request that no works be scheduled prior to the Christmas 2022 trading period.
2. Belmont Traders have secured a \$20,000 grant to host community events to showcase the Belmont Traders and will be looking to host these throughout November 2022 - January 2023. To ensure the success of these events we would appreciate being advised of the construction timetable to allow for adequate planning time. The Belmont Traders will be engaging with COGG Events team during this process.
3. Have Councillors had the opportunity to consider the safety impact of option 2b on accessibility issues for the vision impaired and people using mobility aids? With the increase of allied health businesses in High Street, currently three focusing on rehab and neurological conditions, option 2b does not allow for safe access for clients moving in and out of cars. We believe option 1 should be strongly favoured for the least amount of impact for these businesses.

Thank you for your questions, Nicola.

The City will work with High Street traders to minimise any disruption caused by works on the Southern Link of the Building Better Bike Connections project. Details will be finalised with the successful contractor once the tender has been awarded however it is expected the concrete works for the crossings will have minimal impact on traffic flow and will be constructed during normal work hours. The City is also proposing the asphalt works for the speed humps should be completed overnight to minimise disruption.

Works on the Southern Link will not impact on the Christmas 2022 trading period. The City will continue to keep traders and the broader community informed on the project including the construction timeline.

We will work with traders to review the timing of the proposed events alongside the proposed construction timeline to ensure works do not disrupt these events.

An independent Disability Impact Assessment has been completed for the project and determined the bike project has little impact on disability access as per Australian Standards, particularly because there are no disabled carparks on High Street along the shop section between Mt Pleasant and Roslyn Road.

The assessment also highlighted that the proposed pedestrian crossing upgrades at new and existing locations will provide an improvement on the existing level of access across High Street. These upgrades are featured in Option 1 and Option 2b.

Katherine Talbot (on behalf of Kim Ferguson) asked:

1. Highton and Belmont are equal in the ratio of people to land area. Belmont residents are allocated point three percent (.3%) of their land for POS whereas Highton residents have been allocated 10% of their land area for POS. If an opportunity to increase the amount of POS for Belmont residents presented itself in 2022, as a package of vacant land that is already owned by the City of Greater Geelong, such as 5a Dean Street Belmont, would the Geelong Council consider holding onto this land so as to adjust this inequity in Belmont?
2. The City of Greater Geelong Council highlighted in their Open Space Strategy Plan, that runs from 2020 to 2023, the disparity of providing POS in Geelong's existing and older suburbs. Belmont is one of these suburbs and there is only point three percent (.3%) of land used in Belmont for POS. Does the Geelong Council have land set aside in Belmont to adjust this inequity?
3. What is the specific form of criteria used in a meeting to deliberate and decide if 5a Dean Street will become High Density Living or Public Open Space?

Thank you for your questions, Kim.

The requirement to provide public open space within new subdivisions came into effect in the Victorian Planning Scheme in 1989. The planning for the development of new estates in Highton and other areas such as Armstrong Creek are subject to a requirement within the Geelong Planning Scheme for the provision of up to 10% of developable land to be provided as public open space.

The open space contribution requirement was not in effect at the time of the development of the City's more established suburbs and consequently these areas often have a lower provision of public open space compared to new subdivisions. The process for assessing a parcel of land that is available for a change of use is that all relevant planning and service managers assess the land for suitability against relevant strategic and land use plans, legislation, as well as need to deliver their services.

Brendon Chavasse asked the following in relation to the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy:

1. Were the Clubs consulted on this policy prior to progressing as a motion at tonight's Council meeting?
2. Section 2.11 of the policy highlights 'fundraising' as an inability for community clubs to apply for grants if they have electronic gaming machines. Does this include grants to run community events for the community and to facilitate fundraising for charities?

The Mayor took the questions on notice for a written response.

Scott Barnes asked:

I want to highlight that 41% of Australians cycle for transport to work, school or shop and over 50% of our movements on High Street are passing through without stopping. Change is often difficult but ultimately worthwhile when well executed. Swanston Street bike lanes were originally well designed but sadly design changes led to a poor outcome that did not offer bike and car separation. I urge Council tonight to follow through with this well designed and publicly consulted plan, Option 2b to deliver separated bike lanes suitable for safe use by all ages and genders (Option 1 does not provide separation). My children have ridden daily to their school until I moved to Armstrong Creek where no provision was made to provide safe cycling routes to date.

The Mayor thanked Mr Barnes for his comments.

Jeff Schwartz asked:

1. How did the Building Department sign off on a fence line without checking the title fence line on their own map plans?
2. What is happening to the Breakwater Rail Station?

The Mayor requested Mr Schwartz provide his details to enable officers to address his queries.

Alex Robertson asked:

With High Street being the access to/from Geelong, CBD and southern suburbs what consideration has been taken regarding emergency services?

High Street has parking on both sides of the road and the Moorabool Street bridge which adversely impacts on response times, particularly fire and ambulance where minutes are critical in life situations. All emergency services are adversely impacted by existing traffic except for evening/night parking. Service vehicles to High Street premises are also adversely impacted on through traffic, including emergency services.

The Mayor took the questions on notice for a written response.

1.7. Petitions

Cr Mansfield presented a petition containing 360 signatures from Just Spice @ Geelong and Oz Fruit & Vegetables Shop requesting support from Council for free limited time 30 minute parking in front of their businesses from 9am to 9pm.

2. REPORTS

2.1. Youth Council Second Report 2022

Source: Community Life

Director: Robyn Stevens

Purpose

1. To note the second report to Council from the Youth Council Advisory Committee 2022.

Background

2. Twelve local young people were elected to the City of Greater Geelong Youth Council Advisory Committee (Youth Council), and during their 12-month term will serve as the region's official 'youth voice'.
3. Aged between 12 and 17 years, the Youth Council members represent a spread of local towns and suburbs, with three representatives from each of the four Council wards: Bellarine, Brownbill, Kardinia and Windermere.
4. Youth Council provide advice and updates for Council's consideration through monthly Youth Council meetings at City Hall, through collaboration with Councillors via the Councillor Connect Mentoring Program and by consulting with young people through various community engagement activities.

Key Matters

5. Junior Mayor Wren Rowbottom has authored the Youth Council Second Report to Council (attached) and has included Youth Council's activities, discussions and preliminary work since their induction in January of this year.
6. The second report provides input and advice on areas of importance for young people.
7. The input and advice presented has a focus on the following areas: waste management, providing equitable and safe spaces for young people, supporting a dedicated youth space in central Geelong and improving the mental health and wellbeing of young people.

Deputy Junior Mayor, Angelle Mackay addressed the gallery with an overview of the Youth Council's Second Report to Council.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.1

Cr Mansfield moved, Cr Mason seconded -

That Council:

1. **Note the second report provided by the Youth Council Advisory Committee 2022; and**
2. **Request the Chief Executive Officer to refer the advice regarding the beautiful bins project and soft plastics recycling for consideration as part of the City's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

8. Funding for the Youth Council program and activities has been allocated as part of Council's annual budget process.

Community Engagement

9. Youth Council has engaged young people in their wards via social media, using polls and questions to validate recommendations and gain required feedback and input.

Social Equity and Sustainability

10. The Youth Council provides an opportunity for young people to contribute to and be included in civic life.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

11. The activities of the Youth Council comply with the adopted Terms of Reference (TOR).

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

12. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority: Healthy, caring and inclusive community.
13. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:
An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.

Conflict of Interest

14. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

15. Youth Council provides advice to Council on specific issues relating to young people in our community and does not speak on behalf of the Council or the City. The TOR guides the Youth Council.

Environmental Sustainability

16. There are no environmental implications arising from the subject of this report.

Attachments

1. Youth Council Second Report 2022 [2.1.1 - 6 pages]

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

YOUTH COUNCIL SECOND REPORT TO COUNCIL

Tuesday 26 JULY 2022

JUNIOR MAYOR – WREN ROWBOTTOM

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Junior Mayor's Message

Introduction

Youth Council would like to acknowledge the Wadawurrung people, the traditional owners of the land, waterways and skies, and pay their respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Youth Council would also like to acknowledge and thank Council for its support and mentoring over the last few months. Youth Council members value the feedback and advice received from Councillors, which has informed the recommendations presented in the second Youth Council report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to outline the progress and achievements of Youth Council since the previous report was presented to Council on 22 March. This report also contains advice Youth Council would like to provide to Council on matters of importance for young people as discussed during Councillor Connect Mentoring Program sessions and validated through youth engagement activities undertaken by Youth Council members across the municipality. Youth Council would like to thank all those who helped to shape and validate the recommendations contained within.

What Youth Council Has Achieved Since the First Report

March and April Meetings

Youth Council has been really busy over the last few months hearing from many guest presenters and participating in various opportunities. Youth Council members have grown their understanding of the functions and role of local government and built their knowledge of the Geelong community. The Junior Mayor and Deputy Junior Mayor have been working hard to develop their leadership skills through their coaching activities with staff, and all members have been growing and developing their skills to make a positive contribution on behalf of young people in Geelong.

Within the month of March, Youth Council continued to gather new perspectives on community issues and work. Staff from the City's Healthy Communities department consulted with Youth Council to ensure that the new developed report on community safety captured youth voices and young people's perceptions of their neighbourhoods and communities. Youth Council gave its feedback on the areas in Geelong of most concern and provided advice on how increased community safety could be achieved. For example, Youth Council advised that increased visibility and surveillance of public areas would help young people feel safer, especially around areas like the Geelong bus station by Little Malop Street. The presenters received the advice and informed Youth Council they would return later in the year to consult further to ensure Youth Council's views were accurately captured and contributed to the improvement of community safety. The second presentation also from the Healthy Communities department, was around the newly developed Social Equity Framework. The presenters explained the concept of social equity to Youth Council and highlighted how local governments play a significant role in achieving this in the local community. Youth Council enjoyed the presentation and particularly enjoyed hearing about how the City is working to assist individuals to connect with social groups and opportunities within the community.

In the April meeting, the presentations delivered to Youth Council were focused on health and wellbeing. The first presentation was from Geelong Head to Health, an organisation that provides immediate mental health crisis services for people aged over 18 years dealing with severe circumstances, trauma, and mental illness. They presented to Youth Council seeking suggestions about how to make their service as accessible and welcoming as possible for youth and young adults. The next presentation was delivered by the 2021 Junior Mayor and Junior Deputy Mayor, who discussed their previous achievements, focus areas and goals throughout 2021. They urged the 2022 members to embrace all Youth Council related opportunities throughout the year and also offered to support the Youth Council by providing peer to peer mentoring to help build the skills and knowledge of the 2022 Youth Council group. Meeting with the 2021 Junior Mayor and Junior Deputy Mayor helped the current Youth Council to understand the importance of providing advice to Council and reinforced their interest in and importance of advocating for more fOrT-like youth spaces across Geelong. The presentation concluded with a vote to support the youth space legacy project, as all members shared the belief that increasing youth spaces would significantly contribute to improving the mental health and wellbeing of young people, aligning with Youth

Council's most consistent and most crucial priority area. The 2022 Youth Council appreciate and acknowledge all the 2021 Youth Council's hard work and look forward to collaborating with them in future.

In the May meeting, Youth Council was invited to participate in the Growing Up in Geelong Study by researchers at Deakin's School of Architecture and Built Environment. The research is part of a worldwide project that aims to understand how cities can be better designed to meet the needs of young people. The research will take place across 18 countries, to better understand the effect urban space has on young people's lives. Youth Council is excited to be involved in the workshops to contribute to imagining a more youth friendly Geelong. The second presentation was delivered by the City's Community Infrastructure Planning Unit along with external consultants who invited Youth Council to be involved in the City's Youth Hub Feasibility Study. Based on the Youth Council recommendations made to Council in 2021, Council is progressing the development of a study to identify an appropriate space in Central Geelong that can meet the needs of young people. Youth Council members are excited to participate in opportunities to have their say about both urban space and spaces just for them. Reflecting on the meeting presentations so far this year, it is clear that there is a theme and focus on providing equitable and safe spaces for young people within Geelong. Youth Council would like to echo the 2021 Youth Council's support for youth dedicated spaces as an important area of focus moving forward.

Resignation and New Member

Unfortunately, Youth Council said goodbye to Adrian Wyres in March, who resigned from Youth Council to focus more on himself and his studies. Thank you to Adrian for all his contributions to the Youth Council program, Youth Council wish him well in all his future endeavours. Youth Council happily welcomed our newest member Jason Binding, who has stepped in to represent the Windermere Ward upon Adrian's exit. Youth Council is excited to continue working alongside Jason, who has already contributed significantly to discussions and meetings.

Events and Opportunities

Victorian Local Governance Association

Youth Council was given the amazing opportunity to participate in training held at the fOrT, delivered by the Victorian Local Governance Association. The training allowed members to gain understanding and knowledge of local government, and further develop their understanding of their own responsibilities and roles within Youth Council. Members found the training extremely valuable to learn and discuss as a group how local government works and how to influence Council's decision-making process.

Women In Local Democracy (WILD)

Youth Council had the privilege of attending the Women In Local Democracy event, better known as WILD at the Geelong Library. This organisation aims to have 50/50 equal representation of men and women on local councils across Victoria by 2025. Youth Council members heard from Cr Mansfield who discussed her experience of being a woman in politics and urged people to give their talented female peers a tap on the shoulder to put their hand up for a leadership position, as she received herself. As well as this, there was a speech delivered acknowledging the historical journey women have taken to be elected, which was accompanied by a stunning performance piece which detailed the life of Zillah Crawcour, the first female Councillor of Geelong. This story exemplified the importance of gender parity and is a valuable reminder of both the progress local government has made and is still yet to make.

International Women's Day Celebrations

The Deputy Junior Mayor had the honour of interviewing famed political journalist and author Annabelle Crabb who was joined by Cr Mansfield to discuss the importance of International Women's Day. The Deputy Junior Mayor had the opportunity to assist Cr Mansfield with interviewing Annabelle Crabb and asked a range of questions decided upon by the Geelong Community. This inspirational and engaging interview reinforced to Youth Council the importance of continuing advocacy work to tackle the issue of sexism, and to apply a gender lens to all aspects of daily life to ensure our community members are supported in the most effective way possible.

Connecting With the Community and Testing Recommendations

Youth Council has workshoped and discussed several topics during their meetings to raise with Councillors. After many deliberations Youth Council reached a consensus to address the topic of waste management in their communities. Youth Council discussed as a group what they thought some of the issues were and what they believed some of the solutions could be, that in their opinion would adequately address the issues raised. Youth Council discussed this with Councillors and received their feedback which has informed the advice put forward in this report. However before finalising the advice in this report, Youth Council utilised social media to gather feedback from other young people using polls and questions in the Youth Council story function on Instagram. Youth Council asked for feedback on the topics raised around waste management and on the solutions they had provided. The respondents recognised waste as an issue within their communities and were in support of the recommendations provided by Youth Council. Respondents highlighted the need for further education around waste management directed to all ages, and agreed that if bins were beautified, it would encourage people to use them. Thanks to everyone who participated in Youth Council's online polls. It is great to hear and receive feedback from the youth community in Geelong as it provides Youth Council with the opportunity to ensure they are adequately representing their community's needs.

Youth Council Advice

Support for Food Waste Pilot

Youth Council would like to commend Council on its food waste collection trial in Lara. Youth Council really enjoyed hearing about this program in their Councillor Connect Mentoring sessions and would like to provide their support for both a food waste collection program to be rolled out across Geelong and the establishment of a food organics processing facility in Geelong.

First piece of advice: *Beautiful Bins Project*

Youth Council members would like to see less litter and rubbish in their communities and would like to encourage more people to use bins in public parks, and spaces across Geelong. Youth Council believe that if Council delivered a project to beautify bins in public spaces it would encourage more people to use them. Youth Council's first piece of advice is for Council to consider delivering a beautiful bins project where Council could partner with community groups or schools to design artwork for the bins in the community. This project would create opportunities for young people to actively engage with waste management, be provided with education, and allow them to take ownership of the spaces they are allocated whilst also creating more youth friendly communities. This project could align and expand on the proposed waste ambassador program indicated in the City's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy. This could work to improve waste management in public areas and contribute to many directions listed in the City's Environment Strategy.

Second piece of advice: *Soft Plastics Recycling*

Youth Council's second piece of advice is for Council to consider implementing a soft plastics recycling system for the home. Youth Council commends Council for their ambition to achieve a circular economy by 2030. Youth Council believe that individuals need more education and motivation around reducing waste where possible and recycling more effectively, but also believe that people respond best to behaviour change when it is made as convenient and easy as possible. The City of Melbourne is trialling an initiative to collect soft plastics using an orange bin liner placed in the yellow lid bins as part of their usual recycling service. The City of Melbourne has partnered with Cleanaway who take soft plastic waste to their facility to be processed into new plastic products. Youth Council believe an initiative similar to this would positively contribute to the City's vision of a circular economy.

Youth Council's Priorities for the Next Two Months

Youth Council are looking forward to the next few months of the program including the development of the third Youth Council report and are excited to participate in their next round of Councillor Connect Mentoring Program sessions which will inform the development of their next set of Youth Council recommendations. Youth Council is looking forward to continuing working as a team during upcoming meetings and events to provide insight about the needs of young people, including their participation in the Growing Up in Geelong study with Deakin University and the Central Youth Hub consultations project happening soon. As always it is the Youth Council's priority to make sure that the youth voice is heard and considered. Youth Council look forward to all the presentations coming their way that provide both education and knowledge about what is currently happening in Geelong.

Conclusion

Youth Council would like to extend its gratitude to Councillors and other staff for their support in their Councillor Connect Mentoring Program. Youth Council members have really enjoyed speaking to and learning from Councillors around the topic of waste management. Youth Council enjoyed its training sessions at the fOrT from the Victorian Local Governance Association and the Deputy Junior Mayor was thrilled with the opportunity to interview Annabelle Crabb for the Women's Day event earlier this year. Youth Council look forward to the next 6 months of the program and all the opportunities they will be involved in.

2.2. National Wool Museum: 30 Year Vision and Business Plan

Source: City Planning & Economy
Director: Gareth Smith

Purpose

1. For Council to endorse the proposed National Wool Museum: 30 Year Vision and Business Plan (**Attachment 1**).

Background

2. Opened in 1988, the National Wool Museum (Museum) tells the Australian story of wool, fibre and textiles. It is housed in the landmark Dennys Lascelles Woolstores building (c1872).
3. Since 2010 the Museum has broadened activities to attract new audiences and reflect changes in community and visitor expectations. Prior to COVID-19, the Museum attracted 65,000 – 80,000 on site visitors and 70,000 – 175,000 online participants annually. The Museum collection holds over 8,200 objects of state, national and international significance valued at over \$8 million.

Key Matters

4. The City has undertaken a comprehensive review and research process in developing the National Wool Museum: 30 Year Vision and Business Plan with issues including:
 - 4.1 Research shows that the Museum's specialist focus on wool limits its ability to grow, connect with a broader audience and align with Council's strategic objectives.
5. The proposed Museum Vision and Business Plan:
 - 5.1 Broadens the Museum's scope to be dedicated to Geelong's story of human ingenuity, resilience and enterprise – actively shaping the future of the Geelong region through its relationships, programs and legacy.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.2

Cr Sullivan moved, Cr Mason seconded -

That Council:

1. **Endorse the National Wool Museum 30 Year Vision and Business Plan as detailed in the attached report; and**
2. **Support the development of a Business Case, subject to future funding, to fully scope and cost the investment required for the reinvigorated National Wool Museum and Council's Collection storage needs.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

6. High level cost benefit analysis (conducted by Fran Demetriou in conjunction with Future Tense, and supported by capital cost modelling by WT Partnership), tested assumptions for the proposed Museum vision.
7. The analysis found the expanded vision could deliver net benefits of \$72 million to the region over a 30-year period while not increasing recurrent costs to Council. This provides strong support for further detailed exploration and assessment through a detailed Business Case. A budget submission of \$200,000 for the Business Case will be made as part of the 2023/24 Council budget cycle.
8. A Business Case for the expanded Museum will include detailed financial options for staffing, programming, marketing and venue operations, in addition to options for the potential redevelopment of the Dennys Lascelles Woolstores building.

Community Engagement

9. The development of the Museum vision is informed by ten years of research, benchmarking, asset audits, internal Council and external community engagements, operational reviews and facility assessments. These are detailed in **Attachment 2 – Community Stakeholder Engagements and Related Projects**.
10. The Museum vision is supported by findings and recommendations of: Clever and Creative Future, UNESCO Creative City of Design, the Municipal Heritage Strategy 2017-2021, Council Plan 2018-22, Our Heritage Our Collection Strategic Report 2020 and the Arts & Cultural Strategy 2021.
11. As part of this National Wool Museum 30 Year Vision and Business Plan project, targeted consultations and engagements were conducted with:
 - 11.1 External stakeholders: Wadawurrung Traditional Owners; community heritage and collecting organisations; regional arts, culture and education institutions including Geelong Art Centre, Geelong Gallery, Geelong Heritage Centre, Deakin University, Gordon Institute, Museum partners and Victorian museum sector peak bodies;
 - 11.2 Internal stakeholders: National Wool Museum staff and volunteers and key City of Greater Geelong departments; and
 - 11.3 Cross-sector stakeholders traversing government, business, tourism, community, creative and cultural sectors.
12. Through the engagement process, various matters were presented and addressed in the following way:
 - 12.1 Loss of National title/recognition and value of 'National' Wool Museum: Research identified the national positioning is not recognised by the museum or wool sectors and a focus on wool has limited appeal to visitors;
 - 12.2 Future name for the Museum: A new identity will be developed for the Museum as part of, and in response to the community engagement with the new vision. This is likely to include a new name, visual identity (logo, etc), supporting collateral (website, visitor guides, etc) and supporting marketing campaign;

- 12.3 Loss of wool story: The vision builds on the successes and legacy of the National Wool Museum. It is an evolution and expansion of scope. The story of wool will remain a core component of the Museum;
 - 12.4 Ownership of the National Wool Museum – building and institution: Museums Victoria leadership have been consulted and confirmed Museums Victoria would not consider taking over ownership of the National Wool Museum, or its new incarnation;
 - 12.5 Council's Collection management responsibility: Council's commitments continue to its civic collections as endorsed in the Our Heritage, Our Collection Report. Additionally, the forthcoming Art and Heritage Collections Policy, to be considered by Council for review and endorsement in 2022, will provide an overarching framework and inform Council's commitment to the development, management, preservation of and access to the Art and Heritage Collection;
 - 12.6 Proposed costs to Council: A Significance Audit of the Collection will provide further analysis of scale and need for a future collections storage facility. Additionally, a detailed Business Case and community engagement program will also further scope financial options for any redevelopment to the Dennys Lascelles Woolstores, and related partnership investment; and
 - 12.7 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People representation: Officers confirmed the proposed vision is well supported by the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and the On The Land exhibition already providing and exemplary (and multiple award winning) example of the Museum's close and positive partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
13. Future community and stakeholder engagements such as Have Your Say, public forums and one-on-one consultations will inform future decision making and shape the Museum's identity, program development, collections and partnerships. A sustained campaign will further inform capital projects and investment.

Social Equity and Sustainability

- 14. The vision ensures the Museum directly engages with social equity, notably leadership and respect for principles of inclusion, diversity and cultural safety for First Peoples, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, Refugees, LGBTQIA+, Gender Equity and people with lived experience of disability.
- 15. Proposed changes to the programming and infrastructure upgrades will enable greater community and visitor access to the Museum facility and activities, presenting identified limitations, and the City's Art and Heritage Collections.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

- 16. The National Wool Museum operates in a complex policy and legislative framework on the local, state, national and international level. The following policies and legislation impact on the Museum's services:
 - 16.1 International conventions: *International Convention of Museums (ICOM) Code of Ethics*, *UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing Illicit Import*, *UNESCO Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property 1970*, *UNESCO 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to protect and safeguard the world's cultural heritage*;

- 16.2 National legislation: *Moveable Cultural Heritage Act, Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986, The Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Regulations 2018*; and
- 16.3 Victorian legislation: *Crown Lands Reserves Act, The Museums Act* establishes Museum Victoria, *Heritage Act 2017*. The Dennys Lascelles Wool Stores - National Wool Museum is entered on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR H0587), *Creative Victoria Act 2017, Creative State 2025*.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

- 17. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority:
 - Healthy, caring and inclusive community.
 - Strong local economy.
 - Sustainable growth and environment.
- 18. This report aligns with the Community led 30 Year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:
 - A destination that attracts local and international visitors.
 - A leader in developing and adopting technology.
 - A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities.
 - Creative and diverse culture.
 - Development and implementation of sustainable solutions.

Conflict of Interest

- 19. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

- 20. Without supporting the existing expansion of the Museum's purpose and scope, in addition to the proposed vision and Business Plan, there will be limited:
 - 20.1 Growth through expanded audiences, partnerships and investments;
 - 20.2 Leadership through breadth of experiences, the region's culture and UNESCO design aspirations; and
 - 20.3 Reputation through diminished contemporary experiences, public accessibility and overall positioning of our cultural institutions.
- 21. Without the Museum formally taking responsibility for the management of Council's Collection as part of the vision, the absence of dedicated institutional care and expertise to manage the Collection places Council assets at risk.
- 22. Without a suitable Collections storage, some items also remain at risk of damage or loss. This will put the Museum accreditation at risk of being revoked. It will prevent Council and the City from achieving the goals and measures of success outlined in Clever and Creative, the Municipal Heritage Strategy, Community Plan, Our Heritage Our Collection and the Arts & Cultural Strategy.
- 23. Without supporting the development of a Business Case and plan for the redevelopment of the Denny Lascelles Woolstores, the Museum will be unable to expand and strengthen services and program offerings, leading to a reduction of the forecast visitor numbers, impacting the cost benefit analysis calculations.

Environmental Sustainability

24. The vision and Business Plan provide opportunities to lead both local and global issues of environmental importance through core conservation and exhibition programs.
25. With regard to the future care, management and development of Council's Collections, sustainability principles would be applied to the planning of the conservation management facility and how the items are preserved for future generations.

Attachments

1. NWM Vision and Business Plan [2.2.1 - 30 pages]
2. Community Stakeholder Engagements and Related Projects [2.2.2 - 2 pages]

ATTACHMENT ONE:

NATIONAL WOOL MUSEUM 30 YEAR VISION AND BUSINESS PLAN

Prepared by Future Tense for the City of Greater Geelong

June 2022



FUTURE TENSE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Future Tense would like to acknowledge the Wadawurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the land discussed in this report. We acknowledge the important and ongoing place that all Indigenous people hold in the community. We pay our respects to the Elders, both past and present, and commit to working together in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect for the benefit of the broader community and future generations.

VERSION CONTROL

DATE	COMMENT	AUTHORS
4 November 2021	Draft report	Leith Thomas, Fran Demetriou
14 November 2021	Incorporation of feedback from Martin Paten, Padraic Fisher and Luke Keogh, as well as updates to the economic and social impact analysis	Leith Thomas, Fran Demetriou
16 November 2021	Minor layout and copy edits	Leith Thomas
19 November 2021	Minor layout and copy edits	Leith Thomas
30 November 2021	Refinement of executive summary, image replacement and layout adjustments	Leith Thomas
20 May 2022	Restructured report and copy edits	Leith Thomas
3 June 2022	Minor amendments as per ELT feedback	Leith Thomas
16 June 2022	Minor copy edits	Leith Thomas

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Figure 1: Drawing of the front of the National Wool Museum.



Figure 2: A selection from the exhibition Necessity: Waggas and the Art of Making.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To meet community aspirations, respond to audience expectations, and position Geelong as a global leader culturally, the National Wool Museum needs to evolve. It must expand its institutional scope and purpose from wool, fibre and textiles to encompass all aspects of the region – reflecting the 60,000-year story of Geelong's ingenuity and resilience, celebrating its vibrancy and promise.

This new Vision creates a museum of and for Geelong.
It will be a place for the curious to connect with Geelong's past, engage with its present and actively contribute to its future.

The activities of the Museum will be built around three key pillars:



By 2052, the Museum will be one of the essential drivers of Geelong's culture of curiosity and exploration, leading the region into a sustainable, equitable and better future. It will be a thriving hub of activity, a place for creative endeavour and an essential pillar of Geelong's public life – beloved by locals and a draw for tourists. Programming, activation and events will build skills and capabilities across all ages. Partnerships with industry will enable knowledge from the past to be applied to innovations in the present.

In expanding its scope and purpose, the Museum will be a contemporary cultural destination that builds on its wool and textile legacy by adding to the stories it preserves and presents. It will offer a journey into Geelong through its people, industries and imagined future – featuring experiences and stories found only in Geelong. This reinforces programs and activities the Museum has successfully been developing for several years.

This is a significant opportunity for Geelong. The new and expanded Museum Vision will allow the city to promote its strengths on a national and international stage and lead conversations about realising a sustainable future. It also:

- **Addresses community desires** – this Vision directly responds to the community's consistent calls to use creativity and culture to drive our future and to profile the region's heritage
- **Responds to changing audience expectations** – the new Vision brings the Museum's purpose in line with its programming and addresses global shifts in how museums act as custodians of heritage and engage with their communities
- **Delivers on Council's strategic goals and reflects where the region is heading** – by profiling Geelong nationally and internationally as an innovative and creative hub and realising the ambitions of the UNESCO Creative City of Design designation
- **Aligns the Museum with Geelong's other cultural institutions** – placing it on an equal footing to the Geelong Gallery, Geelong Arts Centre and the Geelong Heritage Centre
- **Strengthens the foreshore and knowledge precincts** – creating an active link with the retail and arts precincts, and
- **Produces significant community benefit** – in terms of both economic and social impacts through increased visitation and expanded engagement with community, industry and the cultural sector.

There is enthusiastic and serious support for the Vision from key stakeholders across economic development, tourism, heritage, creative industries, culture, community development and planning, as well as Museum staff and volunteers. The change is also strongly endorsed by key sector allies such as Museums Victoria, the Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria and the National Trust of Australia – Victoria.

To achieve this Vision, Council's endorsement is being sought to enable operational changes to begin behind the scenes and formalise this transformation. Simultaneously, it will kick-start an ongoing program of engagement to bring the community into the process of shaping this next stage of the Museum's life. This work will lay the foundation for development of a business case for further investment, which will examine options for meeting the needs of the expanded Vision.

The table below outlines the process:

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Endorse Vision					
Commence operational changes					
Engage the community					
Develop the business case					
Secure funding					
Undertake capital works					



Figure 3: Image from Fred Murgatroyd Collection.

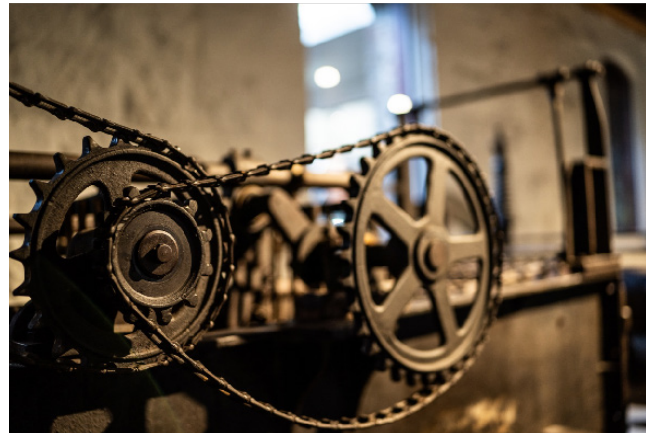


Figure 4: Detail of Dyson & Sons Wool Scour.



Figure 5: An element of the On The Land exhibit.



Figure 6: An education program.



Figure 7: The loom in operation.

1 NEW MUSEUM VISION

It is recommended the National Wool Museum evolve from an institution focused on wool, fibre and textiles into one that encompasses all aspects of the region. It will become an institution dedicated to Geelong's human ingenuity, resilience and enterprise – and actively shape the region's future through its relationships, programs and legacy.

1.1 Vision and purpose

VISION

A museum of and for Geelong

PURPOSE

To be a place for the curious to connect with Geelong's past, engage with its present and actively contribute to its future

1.2 Goals

- Foster curiosity
- Protect and share Geelong's story
- Enable a better future for the region, and
- Strengthen Geelong's culture.

1.3 Strategic objectives

- **Caretaking** – The Museum is a cultural leader in the care, preservation and access to Geelong's rich and layered heritage
- **Accessible and participatory experiences** – The Museum is a space for interaction, exploration, and contribution; a safe and welcoming hub of inclusion and diversity for the community and visitors
- **Ethical and sustainable practices** – The Museum is driven by ethical and sustainable practice and are industry leaders by developing new models of museum practice, and
- **Sharing Geelong** – The Museum is dedicated to sharing with the world that which can only be found in Geelong.

1.4 Guiding principles

- Position First People's living cultures, histories and knowledge at the core of our practice
- Embrace truth in storytelling
- Protect and share Geelong's culture and heritage
- Be future focused, audience centred and embrace challenges
- Offer outstanding, unique, participatory and accessible experiences
- Engage with, welcome, celebrate and anchor our communities
- Build creative and economic value, and
- Share our knowledge with the world.

1.5 Key pillars

The new Museum will be deeply engaged and connected to both our past and future. The activities of the Museum will be built around three key pillars:



1.6 What this looks like in practice

	Caretaking	Accessible experiences	Ethical and sustainable practices	Sharing Geelong
Human enterprise	Collections, exhibitions and activities feature the breadth of the region's 60,000-year legacy of industry and making	Build community through programs that utilise assets in the Collection and across the municipality	Commitment to environmental practice, financial growth, a strong brand and an engaged and high-performing workforce	Celebrate and promote the region's rich history of innovation and its current culture of ingenuity and creativity
Our relationships	Our work focuses on subjects and material where there is regional relevance, where we have comparative advantage or where they are required to provide unmissable experiences	A vibrant living centre that strives to break down barriers to access and enables the exploration of identity, and the multi-faceted and multicultural life of Geelong and the region	Deep engagement and partnership with our stakeholders, including Traditional Owners, community, and industry - contemporary principles, ideas and practice and aligned values	Be a site for bringing people together and actively building communities to advocate for and celebrate specific cultural interest
Shaping Geelong's future	Program of events focused on different challenges facing Geelong	We will grow our audiences by creating unique, engaging and contemporary experiences that showcase our collections, discoveries and stories	Connecting community and industry to the wealth of knowledge contained within the Collection, community ingenuity, imagination and aspiration	Creation of exhibitions and events that can be toured outside Geelong, including digital channels to share our story

1.7 Continuing the story of wool

It is essential to note, this Vision builds on the successes and legacy of the National Wool Museum. It is an evolution and expansion of scope. The story of wool will remain a core component of the Museum and the Collection.

1.8 Management of Council's Collection

Central to the operation of the Museum will be preservation and growth of Council's Art and Heritage Collection. As caretakers of the Collection, the Museum will ensure proper care while enabling greater access to the Collection. This will reduce risk to the Collection, ensure meaningful collecting, provide greater public and stakeholder access to valuable assets and provide expanded learning and educational opportunities.

1.9 What success looks like

By 2052, the Museum will be one of the essential drivers of a culture of curiosity and exploration, leading Geelong into a sustainable, equitable and better future. It will be a thriving hub of activity and an essential pillar of Geelong's public life – beloved by locals and a draw for tourists. Programming, activation and events will build skills and capabilities across all ages. Partnerships with industry will enable knowledge from the past to be applied to innovations in the present.

2 BENEFITS OF THE VISION

The new expanded Vision will allow Geelong to promote its strengths on a national and international stage and lead conversations about realising a sustainable future. It responds to community desires and changing audience expectations. It provides a vehicle for Council to achieve key strategic goals and realise the ambitions of the UNESCO Creative City of Design designation. It will provide significant benefits to the community and, importantly, reflects Geelong's innovative and progressive direction.

2.1 Community and Council Alignment

There are two articulations of the community's desires driving the new and expanded Vision for the Museum. The first is the Clever and Creative Future vision, built from engagement with over 16,000 residents¹. Second are the Guiding Principles for Geelong's designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Design². These were developed from extensive consultations with cross-sector stakeholders and articulate areas of focus for the region.

	Where did these aspirations come from	Objectives the expanded Vision contributes to
Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future	16,000 community members	• A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities • A leader in developing and adopting technology • Creativity drives culture • A destination that attracts local and international visitors • An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community, and • Development and implementation of sustainable solutions.
Geelong: Australia's Creative City of Design – Our Guiding Principles	Targeted discussions with over 60 key Council, business, education, community services, creatives, advocates, and state government stakeholders	• Embrace a design mindset • Nurture creative talent, and • Foster our design culture.

¹ Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future.

² Geelong: Australia's Creative City of Design – Our Guiding Principles

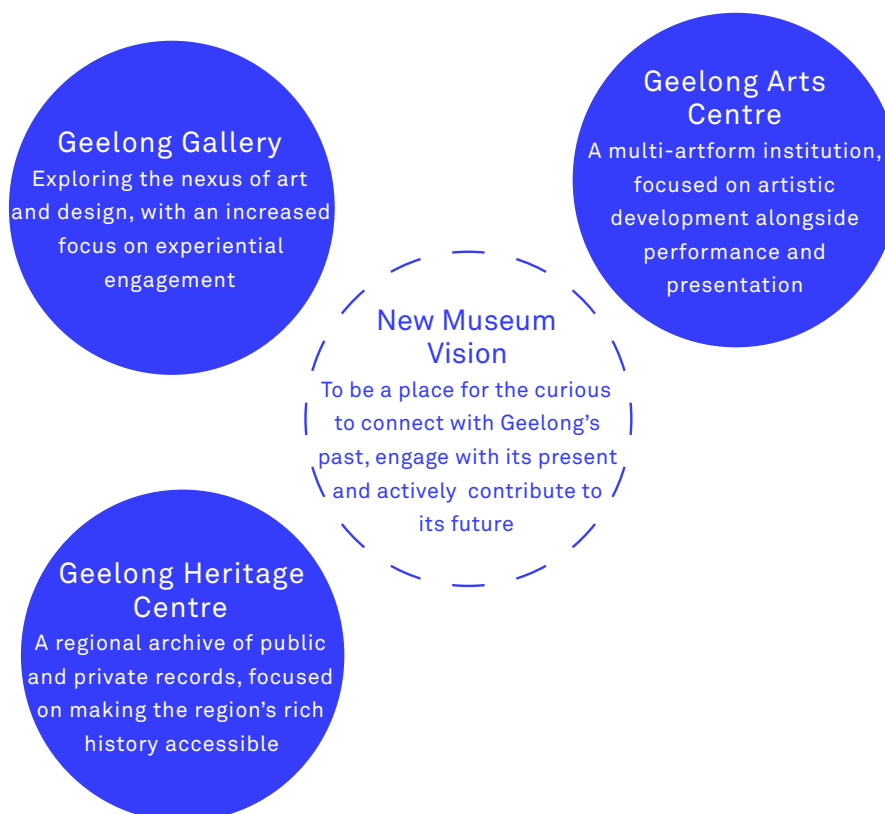
The expanded Vision also contributes to multiple strategic aims articulated across a range of Council and regional strategies.

STRATEGY	OBJECTIVES OR AIMS
Our Community Plan	• Strategic Direction 1: Healthy, Caring and Inclusive Community • Strategic Direction 2: Sustainable Growth and Environment • Strategic Direction 3: Strong Local Economy, and • Measure of Success Action: Create a future vision plan for the National Wool Museum.
Arts and Culture Strategy	• Cultivate the strength and vitality of our City's cultural ecosystem • Engage the whole community in our City's cultural life, and • Celebrate our City's distinct, diverse and evolving cultures.
G21 Creative Industries Strategy	• Core Principle 1: Sustainable Creative Industries for the G21 Region, and • Core principle 2: Collaborative Creative Industries for the G21 Region.
Central Geelong Framework Plan	• Connected to place • A sports, tourism and events city • A city for education, innovation, arts and design • A national, state and regional centre for services, and • A city of design excellence.
Heritage Strategy	• Knowing • Protecting • Supporting, and • Communicating and promoting.
Our Heritage, Our Collection	• Recommendation 2 – Provide appropriate resourcing to oversee the collection • Recommendation 3 – Care for the collection through industry standard collection storage facilities • Recommendation 4 – Provide greater access to the collection • Recommendation 5 – Provide specialised services to care for and maintain the collection, and • Recommendation 6 – Build the diversity of the collection through acquisitions that reflect the unique character of Geelong.
Asset Management Policy	• Sound asset management, and • Framework for management of assets.
Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan	• Establish and strengthen mutually beneficial relationships • Promote reconciliation through spheres of influence and positive race relations • Increase understanding, value and recognition through cultural learning • Build respect, and • Create a physical environment that is respectful, welcoming and inclusive.

2.2 Geelong's future

As one of Australia's premiere regional cities, Geelong is bursting with possibility and opportunity. The region has a growing population, advanced engineering and education sectors, an expanding visitor economy and thriving creative sector. Cultural heritage destinations such as the Museum are critical contributors across all these growth areas.

Geelong has three tent pole cultural institutions: the Geelong Gallery, Geelong Arts Centre and the Geelong Library and Heritage Centre. Consultations with leaders of each organisation outlined their future directions:



The expanded Vision places the Museum alongside these institutions, which together present Geelong as a thriving cultural city.

2.3 Building on the Museum's strengths

The Museum has been working in this space for many years, informally presenting the broader story of Geelong. The expanded Vision formalises this work and aligns the institution's purpose with its success in programming. This will allow the Museum to flourish and strengthen its standing as a formally accredited museum. Exhibitions such as the award-winning 'On the Land: Our Story Retold' – which extended beyond wool to present First Peoples' histories – provide an example of what the new Vision for the Museum will look like in practice.

In expanding its scope and purpose, the Museum will build on its legacy with wool, adding to the stories it preserves and presents. It will offer a journey into Geelong through its people, industries and imagined future.

2.4 Key stakeholder support

There is enthusiastic and serious support for the Vision from key stakeholders across economic development, tourism, heritage, creative industries, culture, community development and planning, as well as Museum staff and volunteers.

Targeted consultations with these key stakeholders explored opportunities surrounding the Museum³. Viewpoints expressed included:

- A strong desire to see the Museum grow beyond its current scope
- The imperative that any future Vision for the institution builds on the NWM's strengths and legacy
- Support for embedding First Peoples' living culture and history within the institution
- Particular enthusiasm for focusing on the future and sustainability by celebrating Geelong's unique history
- Acknowledgment that cultural audience expectations are changing and the Museum needs to focus on expanding its appeal among both the local community and visitors to the region, and
- Geelong is aiming to be Australia's number one regional city – having a place to tell the region's story is important.

Priorities identified included the need to:

- Have honest and inclusive engagement with First Nations living cultures, histories and stories
- Embed local people in their histories and give the community a voice
- Provide safe, welcoming and inclusive access
- Activate the space through a diversity of programming
- Focus on quality over quantity
- Increase visitation, both onsite and online through locals and cultural tourists

³ See Appendix C for details.

- Be an institution that leads on social and sector issues and actively takes risks, and
- Be brave, agile and participatory.

Issues, implications and risks highlight by stakeholders included:

- Staff are stretched and under unsustainable pressure
- Facilities do not meet current requirements and demand
- Further operational resources will be required to deliver any expanded activities
- Any new Vision needs to accommodate mid-term plans currently in place
- Significant upgrades to facilities will be required to grow the Museum
- To retain its accreditation as a museum, the institution will need to continue to engage in the acquisition, preservation and public access of the Collection, and
- Consideration of the most appropriate governance and management structures is required for the expanded museum.

These findings all reinforce the new aims of the new Museum Vision.

The expanded Vision is also strongly endorsed by key sector groups such as Museums Victoria, the Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria and the National Trust of Australia – Victoria.

2.5 Community benefit

Alongside meeting the clearly and consistently expressed aspirations of the community, the expanded Vision is forecast to potentially produce up to \$72 million in economic and social benefits to Geelong over 30 years.

This figure comes from a high level economic and social impact assessment of undertaking the expanded Vision⁴. This was done through a Rapid Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA), which included mapping of potential space requirements, consideration of capital infrastructure and operational investments, consideration of changes in visitation and other community benefits. A conservative approach was used, using the upper end of forecast capital and operational costs while limiting the projected benefits.

These calculations are a high level assessment of the potential impact of the expanded Vision and provide an initial 'proof of concept' allowing Council to confidently move forward with detailed planning and assessment of the project through a long form business case.

⁴ This work was undertaken by Fran Demetriou in conjunction with Future Tense, supported by capital cost modelling by WT Partnership.

3 REALISING THE VISION

Council endorsement of this expanded vision for the Museum will enable operational changes to begin behind the scenes and set-up the transformation.

Simultaneously, the community will be brought into the process through an ongoing program of engagement to shape this next stage of the Museum's life. This work will lay the foundation for development of a business case for further investment, which will examine options for meeting the needs of the expanded vision.

3.1 Roadmap

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Endorse Vision					
Commence operational changes					
Engage the community					
Develop the business case					
Secure funding					
Undertake capital works					

3.2 Key activities

Broaden the program and scope

- Expand purpose and programme
- Undertake curatorial planning to map out the application of the three key pillars
- Identify required assets and partnerships to tell those stories, and
- Develop engagement programs to support the key pillars.

Formalise Museum role as custodian of the Art and Heritage Collections

- Consolidate care and management
- Support community collecting organisations
- Identify immediate and long-term needs, and
- Plan for appropriate housing and conservation of the Collection.

Community and stakeholder engagement

- Sustained campaign to engage around the Museum's future, the shape of its program and the stories it tells
- Creative interactive mechanisms for participation, and
- Consult with partners and stakeholders around the naming and identity of the expanded Museum.

Business case for required investments to achieve the expanded vision

- Develop a long form business case in line with Victoria Treasury and Commonwealth investment gateway processes
- Undertake detailed investigations into the spatial and operational requirements, and
- Conduct a full cost benefit analysis study.

3.3 Business Plan priorities

1. **Establish a professional collections management facility** – There is an need to secure Council's Art and Heritage Collection in a fit for purpose facility aligned to international museum industry standards. It will need to include:
 - Space to house and store all of Council's Collection while not on display (including a provision for acquisition and growth)
 - Conservation and research spaces that allow for collections care as well as possible training facilities for professional development and public access opportunities for learning/observing collections care in a curated 'open collections' environment, and
 - Room to support community heritage organisations, providing them with identified museum quality storage for key collections and significant objects
2. **Build the Collection** – The expanded scope of the Vision will require the Museum to undertake a focused acquisitions and loans program so as to have the required items to program in the expanded gallery spaces.
3. **Collections care and access** – Access to collections is a growing issue globally and is an identified priority for Geelong residents. Public collections are a resource of the community and industry. Increased access will be provided through 'open collections' initiatives, exhibitions and displays, pro-active initiatives for institutional object loans and expanded digital and online collections. There are also potential revenue streams from temporary exhibition hire, image and IP licensing, as well as retail opportunities through reproductions and branded merchandise.
4. **Rebranding the Museum** – A new identity will need to be developed for the Museum. This will need to be driven by the community engagement so as to be reflective of their aspirations. A new visual identity (logo, etc) and supporting collateral (website, visitor guides, etc) and supporting marketing campaign can then be developed and launched.
5. **Upgrades to the Woolstores site** – Consideration needs to be given to how the site can be optimised to accommodate the requirements of the Museum's expanded scope. Initial investigations have shown the site can accommodate this growth. Further design exploration will be undertaken during development of the business case.
6. **Expansion of community engagement models** – Establish programs for connecting with different sections of the community based on topics of interest connected to the significant assets within the collection.
7. **Development of touring exhibitions** – Use the research work on the Collection to curate exhibitions specifically designed for the national touring market.
8. **Creative activation** – Establish a program to engage the local creative industries and creative organisations to activate the Museum and connect with audiences in innovative and novel ways.

NEXT STEPS

Stage 1

1. Council to consider endorsement of the National Wool Museum 30 Year Vision and Business Plan
2. Subject to approval, commence business development, programming engagement and operational changes to begin implementation of the Vision
3. Undertake a significance assessment of Council's Art and Heritage Collection, and
4. Identify interim and long term needs of the Collection.

Stage 2

5. Support the development of a Business Case (subject to funding) to fully scope the investment required to realise the reimagined and expanded Museum Vision and Council's Collection storage needs.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Project methodology

Appendix B: Current state of the National Wool Museum

Appendix C: Document and stakeholder details

Appendix A: Project methodology

Future Tense was engaged to develop a 30 year Vision for the National Wool Museum and supporting Business Plan that:

- Defines the purpose and intended impact of the institution
- Positions the Museum as an essential component of Geelong's cultural life and a vehicle for achieving its clever and creative aspirations
- Ensures the Museum is valued by and connected with the community, visitors and the city's other institutions
- Enables the Museum to deliver several of Council's strategic objectives
- Positions the institution as a leader of emerging practices within the national museum sector
- Builds on the institution's legacy and successes
- Expresses a bold vision capable of unlocking investment, and
- Outlines clear steps to achieve the ambitions of the Vision.

This work is informed by ten years of research, benchmarking, collection audits, internal Council and external community engagements and collections audits, strategic reviews and planning around the National Wool Museum, Council's Collection and the Geelong's creative and cultural sectors.

To undertake this work, Future Tense used a staged process of research, development, testing and refinement.

STAGE	INPUTS
Immersion	• Review of relevant strategies, policies and frameworks • Extensive cross-sector consultations for the development of guiding principles for the UNESCO Creative City of Design designation • Targeted consultations with National Wool Museum staff and key stakeholder from across the City of Greater Geelong and key cultural institutions • Review of the National Wool Museum organisation, including operational, financial, programming and marketing data, and • Site visit and assessments.
Distillation and exploration	• Findings from the research compiled and possible options for the Museum developed (outlined below), and • These options were explored in workshops with key City of Greater Geelong stakeholders and National Wool Museum staff.
Refinement and testing	• Feedback from stakeholder was used to develop a robust Vision, and • This Vision was then tested with key City of Greater Geelong managers and relevant Director, National Wool Museum staff and volunteers, Arts and Culture staff, and Portfolio Councillors.
Planning	• Programming, engagement and operations were considered • Spatial requirements were explored and cost estimates for capital investments developed • Proposed staging outlined • A high-level cost benefit analysis and benefit mapping was undertaken to calculate the economic and social impacts of the proposed vision, and • Risks considered.

As part of the consultations with key stakeholders, three speculative propositions were developed in response to the research findings and tested with key stakeholders. The purpose was to explore different broad directions the Museum could take and use the feedback to develop the recommended Vision.

Proposition One: Stay the course and remain 'the' National Wool Museum – This option involved sharpening the focus on wool, fibre and textiles. It would connect past industrial and social impacts to Australia's future. The Museum would further define itself as a national hub for both the historic and contemporary story of wool and related creative and manufacturing industries and skills.

Proposition Two: Evolve into a broad social history museum for the region – The Museum would be central to representing the history of the region. Council's Collection would be consolidated under one entity, cared for, displayed, interpreted and developed within the Museum and across the city. It would offer visitors an engaging way of understanding the past, how it shaped our present, and its influence on the future.

Proposition Three: Become a place for exploring Geelong's future – The Museum builds on the region's ingenuity and future UNESCO Creative City of Design aspirations. It would be a critical hub and resource for building a sustainable future through community creativity and the creative industries. The Museum would be a 'home' for research, skill development, speculation and experimentation – becoming a key part of how Geelong writes its future. It would be a place for grappling with the social, economic and environmental challenges facing Geelong.

Feedback from stakeholders showed strong support for elements of Propositions Two and Three, while noting a need to build on – and not discard or abandon the legacies of the last 30 years' focus on wool and industry. These informed development of the proposed Vision.

Appendix B: Current state of the National Wool Museum

Opened by HRH Queen Elizabeth II in 1988 as a Commonwealth Bicentenary Project, the multi-award-winning National Wool Museum (Museum) focuses on the cultural life of Australians as told through the wool, fibre and textile story. It is operated by the City of Greater Geelong and is housed within the c1872 national landmark Dennys Lascelles Woolstores (Woolstores) bridging Central Geelong and the waterfront districts. Prior to the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic the Museum and Shop consistently attracted between 65,000 – 80,000 visitors with an additional 70,000 – 175,000 digital online exhibition and program participants annually.

The Museum is fully accredited⁵ and manages a collection of items of state, national and international significance, including over 8,200 objects worth in excess of \$8 million⁶. It is Australia's most expansive wool focused heritage collection with particular strength in preserving the Geelong wool and textile story. Key collection items include heritage machinery, samples from Victoria's first woollen mill, a fabric sample from MacArthur's first wool clip, Australia's largest publicly held Wagga quilt collection, the Zakrzewski Spinning Wheel Collection (one of the finest such collections in the world), a significant photographic collection and one of only two known 1910 Axminster Jacquard carpet looms still in operation worldwide. In 2008, an external Significance Assessment described the national importance of the collection. Most of the National Wool Museum collection can be accessed online. The Collection is governed by the National Wool Museum Collection Policy (2017).

Since 2010 the Museum has undertaken significant work around its programming, experimenting with its themes and presentations in response to changing audience expectations and community aspirations. Education and skills development programs have also been developed alongside digital and social media outreach programs.

The National Wool Museum has increasingly developed new visitor experiences and innovative approaches to museum practice. Examples include introducing a layer of interpretation reflecting First Peoples' living culture, Reminiscence Cottage, the Little L Project in partnership with Deakin University and On the Land: Our Story Retold gallery

Today, the National Wool Museum is in a strong position, with a highly skilled and dedicated team whose exhibitions and work have attracted multiple industry awards. This is underpinned by strong management procedures and policies. This has led to the Museum becoming the de facto lead agency for the region's heritage and collecting ecosystem, managing a large portion of Council's Collection and providing support services to collecting organisations throughout the region.

As of 1 June 2022 the Museum has taken over responsibility of the Carousel at the Geelong Waterfront, with the institution absorbing its staff. Significant capital works are required on this facility and will need to be considered as part the Business Case development.

⁵ In 2017 the NWM was accredited through the Association of Museums and Galleries Australia – Victoria (AMaGA-Vic) Museum Accreditation Program (MAP).

⁶ Our Heritage, Our Collection strategic report, 2020.

CHALLENGES FACING THE MUSEUM

The achievements and strengths of the Museum notwithstanding, there are significant challenges inhibiting sustainability and growth. Additional museum standard storage is urgently required, particularly for large objects and items from Council's wider Collection.

Notable issues:

- The onsite collections store, located within the Woolstores facility, does not meet industry standard for environmental controls. This significantly impacts the ongoing care of the collection⁷, limits the capacity to borrow and host external touring exhibitions, and opens the Museum up to potential reputational damage
- The current leased offsite large item collections store presents numerous risks, including a lack of proper environmental controls, poor OH&S compliance and inadequate space. This current arrangement costs Council in excess of \$60,000 per year in lease fees and provides no opportunity to consolidate existing assets or grow the Collection
- Staffing levels and resources are inadequate to sustain current program needs and activity levels – this includes curatorial, collections, programs, operations and maintenance functions. Future Vision and growth is dependent upon increased staffing and resourcing, and
- There are additional challenges with the current Woolstores facility. Disability access is problematic, the retail space has outgrown its current footprint, there is inconsistent exhibition technology across the gallery spaces, the restaurant currently doesn't operate during the Museum's opening hours, and there are cleaning issues related to the nightclub operation.

Museums globally are facing a number of challenges, particularly around how best to manage the responsibility of being custodians of heritage and what that means for collecting, interpreting and engagement practices. Audience expectations are changing, with a growing demand for hands-on and value-added experiences over traditional passive displays. A core focus of the sector is maintaining relevance in the lives of the communities they serve and extending their reach. Thankfully, because of its solid foundations, the National Wool Museum is well placed to lead the way in tackling these challenges.

⁷ From the Our Heritage, Our Collection strategic report (2020) and staff consultations (2021).

Appendix C: Document and stakeholder details

STRATEGIC CONTEXT REVIEW

- Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future
- Our Community Plan 2021-25
- UNESCO Creative City of Design Guiding Principles
- Arts and Cultural Strategy - 4 Year Action Plan 2021-25
- Our Heritage, Our Collection: Strategic Report on the Use and Management of the City of Greater Geelong's Heritage Collection (2020)
- Public Art Strategy (2011)
- Municipal Heritage Strategy 2017-2021
- Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (May 2020 – May 2021)
- Central Geelong Framework Plan (draft)
- Art & Heritage Collections Policy (draft)
- G21 Creative Industries Strategy
- Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan
- Arts and Culture Social Infrastructure Plan

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

National Wool Museum

- Director
- Senior Curator
- Staff
- Volunteers

UNESCO Creative City of Design Guiding Principles consultations

- CEO, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Victorian Government Architect, Office of the Victorian Government Architect
- CEO, Committee for Geelong
- Executive Director, Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine
- CEO Geelong Arts Centre
- Director, Geelong Gallery
- The School of Lost Arts
- Vice Chancellor, Deakin University
- Lecturer, Architecture, Deakin University
- Co-Director, DesignMind, Deakin University International Design & Innovation Platform
- Lecturer, Arts and Education, Deakin
- Chair, Creative Geelong
- Manager Arts & Culture, City of Greater Geelong
- Director, National Wool Museum
- Manager Waterfront and Central Geelong, City of Greater Geelong
- Acting Director Economy Investment and Attraction, City of Greater Geelong
- Acting Manager Corporate Strategy, City of Great Geelong
- Manager Urban Design and Heritage, City of Greater

- Bendigo Creative City of Gastronomy, City of Greater Bendigo
- Cultural Planner, City of Greater Geelong
- Lead Smart Cities, City of Greater Geelong
- CEO, GenU (Karingal St Laurence)
- Coordinator Clever & Creative Vision, City of Greater Geelong
- Senior Manager International, Creative Victoria
- Owner, Hamilton Brothers (Federal Mills Project)
- Secretary, Creative Geelong
- Executive Producer, Platform Arts
- Founder, AustEng
- Co-Director, Boom Gallery
- CEO, Design Institute of Australia
- Senior Curator Contemporary Design and Architecture, National Gallery of Victoria
- Ballarat Creative City of Craft and Folk Art
- Director, Oxygen College
- Project Manager, Paul Kelly Creative
- CEO, Geelong Chamber of Commerce
- Partner, TRACT Consultants
- Director Community Life, City of Greater Geelong
- Stakeholder Engagement, GROW
- Executive, Avalon Airport
- Founder, Codeacious
- Director, Northern Futures
- Partner, Urbis (urban design)
- Director Strategy Screen & Design | Creative Victoria
- Head of Centre, Design & Construction, Gordon TAFE
- Manager, Melbourne Creative City of Literature
- Head of Growth, Runway
- Director, Design Centre, Worksafe
- Director, Tony Grybowski and Associates
- CEO, Bethany Community Support
- Chair, Clean Tech Innovations Geelong
- Corporate Marketing and Communications, Barwon Health

Cultural institutions

- Director, Geelong Gallery
- Director, Geelong Heritage Centre

City of Greater Geelong

- Manager, Arts and Culture
- Cultural Planner
- Director, City Planning and Economy
- Manager, Economic Development
- Executive Director, Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine
- Senior Heritage Planner
- Manager, Urban Design and Heritage
- Senior Leader, Diversity and Inclusion
- Government and Advocacy Leader
- Coordinator Economic Development
- Coordinator, Corporate Asset Management
- Manager Property, Procurement and Assets
- Community Grants and Partnerships Project Manager, Financial Services
- Consultant on Arts and Culture Strategy

Councillors

- Creative Communities and Culture Portfolio Councillors
- Councillor Briefing

ORGANISATIONAL ASSESSMENT

- Draft 30 Year Vision (January 2021)
- Audience Resolution Cultural Market Research 2016
- Benchmarking report 2017
- Social infrastructure plan 2017
- Interim Strategic Plan 2017-18
- Mystery Visit Analysis 2019
- The Gordon Research Report 2017
- Arts and Culture Service Plan 2019-24
- Root Projects Masterplan 2009
- Review of financial, visitation and marketing data
- Heritage Victoria Report

FUTURE TENSE
FUTURE TENSE

Attachment 2 – Community Stakeholder Engagements and Related Projects

The proposed vision is informed by over ten years of review, consultation, community, stakeholder and visitor engagement, programming and exhibition evaluation; including:

Exhibitions and Related Programs

1. ***Necessity: waggas and the art of making do***, 2021
2. ***On the Land: our story retold***, 2021
3. ***We the Makers***, 2020
4. ***#GeelongInventions*** - Deakin University, CADET Virtual Reality Lab and School of Engineering, 2019
5. ***The Little L Project***, February - April 2018
6. ***Iconic Industries***, Deakin University, School of Architecture, 2017
7. ***The 25th Object***, 2014
8. ***Rumour Has It: Whispered Histories of Geelong***, 2013
9. ***Hidden Treasures: Discover Geelong's Community Museums & Collections***, 2011
10. ***Connecting Identities***, 2008

Key Community and Internal Stakeholder Engagements

1. Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, ongoing
2. ***Our Heritage, Our Collection*** – community and stakeholder engagements and community survey, 2019
3. Geelong Museum 2040 Strategic Framework Workshop, July 2019
4. NWM Mystery Shopper Visitor Experience Review 2019
5. ***Getting Sorted*** – needs mapping and redevelopment priorities, May 2019
6. NWM Strategic and Business Planning Workshop, May 2018
7. Deakin University and NWM - Digital Revitalisation in a Museum Setting survey, 2017
8. Wool Museum Primary Research Report, 2017- The Gordon
9. NWM Public Programs Community and Visitor Survey, 2016
10. Audience Resolution – The Arts and Culture in Geelong, Cultural Market Research Survey, 2016.
11. NWM Mystery Shopper external consultant review, 2016
12. NWM Mystery Shopper external consultant review, 2015
13. NWM Mystery Shopper external consultant review, 2014

Strategic Plans, Reviews and Benchmarking

1. NWM Interim Strategic Plan 2017-2019/2020, developed as part of the MAP
2. NWM Benchmarking 2017/2018
3. National Wool Museum Case Study, Social Infrastructure Plan Review, 2016
4. National Wool Museum and Customs House Master Plan, 2009
5. NWM Strategic Direction Report and Benchmarking Review, 2007
6. Cultural Development Unit Best Value Service Review, 2004
7. National Wool Museum Key Accountabilities Review, 2004
8. National Wool Museum Service Development Review, December 2000

2.3. Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas - Planning Scheme Amendment Pathway

Source: City Planning & Economy
Director: Gareth Smith

Purpose

1. The purpose of the report is to consider the planning scheme amendment pathway for the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas.

Background

2. The Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas Framework Plan was implemented into the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme via Amendment C395 in May 2021.
3. Work is underway on two precinct structure plans (PSP) and the biodiversity conservation strategy. To implement these initiatives into the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme, three planning scheme amendments will be required. A further seven PSPs will be developed over the next 10 years that will also require planning scheme amendments.

Key Matters

4. The planning scheme amendment process can be very long and time and resource intensive. Amendment C395 took 25 months to complete from authorisation request to gazettal.
5. An alternative approach to the regular process is to mirror aspects of the planning scheme amendment process by exhibiting a draft planning scheme amendment and asking the Minister to refer it to an advisory committee. Ultimately the Minister implements the amendment under section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1989 (the Act)*. A comparison of the two processes is shown in **Attachment 1**.
6. The objective for an advisory committee for the growth areas is to provide a timely and cost-efficient process to review and resolve on changes to the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme, while maintaining the opportunity for consultation and independent review.
7. Community consultation and Council adoption of a final position is preserved in the proposed process. The draft terms of reference for the advisory committee is provided at **Attachment 2**.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Request the Minister to appoint a Standing Advisory Committee under Part 7, section 151 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to facilitate development in the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas; and
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to finalise a Terms of Reference with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning generally in accordance with Attachment 2.

AMENDED RESOLUTION

Cr Grzybek moved, Cr Aitken seconded –

That Council:

1. Request the Minister to appoint a Standing Advisory Committee under Part 7, section 151 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to facilitate development in the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas; and
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to finalise a Terms of Reference with **consideration from the key stakeholders and** the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning generally in accordance with Attachment 2.

Cr Moloney left the meeting room at 7.31pm

Cr Moloney re-entered the meeting room at 7.34pm

Carried

Financial Sustainability

8. The costs for conducting the alternative approach will be the same as the normal process for the City and submitters. The hearing costs and amendment fees will continue to apply.

Community Engagement

9. The exhibition of the proposed changes to the planning scheme is preserved in the proposed approach and submitters will be able to put their case to the advisory committee.
10. An advisory committee is typically used when Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) or another government agency is the planning authority such as the process used to consider the Central Geelong Framework Plan.

Social Equity and Sustainability

11. Consideration of social equity and sustainability matters would be preserved by the proposed process.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

12. The Minister for Planning is able to appoint an advisory committee under Part 7, section 151 of the Act. The conduct of an advisory committee would be in accordance with a terms of reference which sets out matters such as the purpose, background and method.
13. The objective for an advisory committee for the growth areas is to provide a timely and cost-efficient process to review and resolve on changes to the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme, while maintaining the opportunity for consultation and independent review.
14. It will provide advice as to whether an amendment could be submitted to the Minister for exemption under s20(4) of the Act and approved.
15. The proposed approach replicates the approach used for planning scheme amendments by the Victorian Planning Authority's priority project program.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

16. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority: Sustainable growth and environment.
17. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration: Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.

Conflict of Interest

18. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

19. The recommendation does not raise any high risks for Council. Regular engagement with DELWP will be required to ensure that the department remains supportive of the ultimate use of the s20(4) pathway at the end of the process.

Environmental Sustainability

20. Consideration of environmental sustainability matters would be preserved by the proposed process.

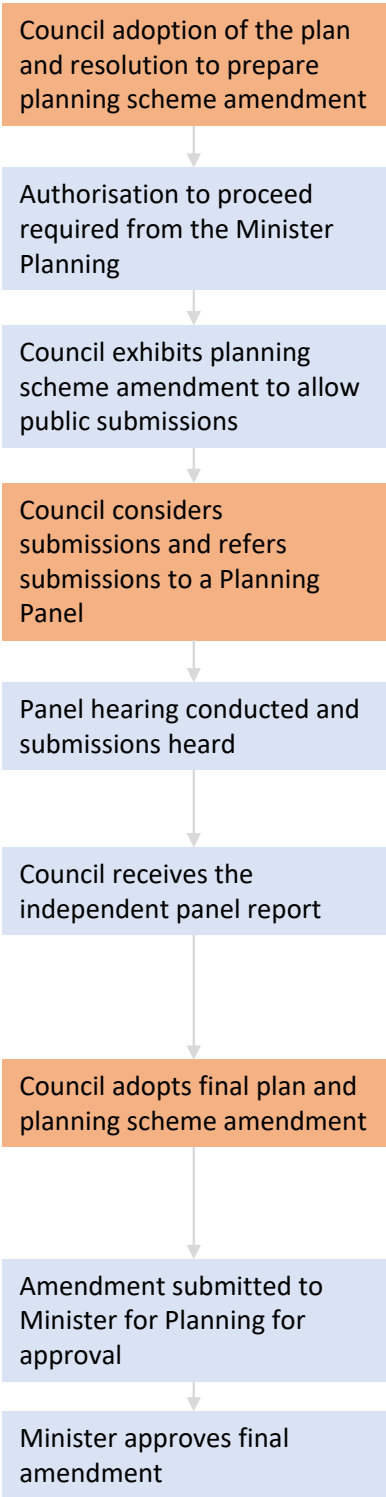
Attachments

1. Amendment pathways [2.3.1 - 1 page]
2. Terms of Reference [2.3.2 - 4 pages]

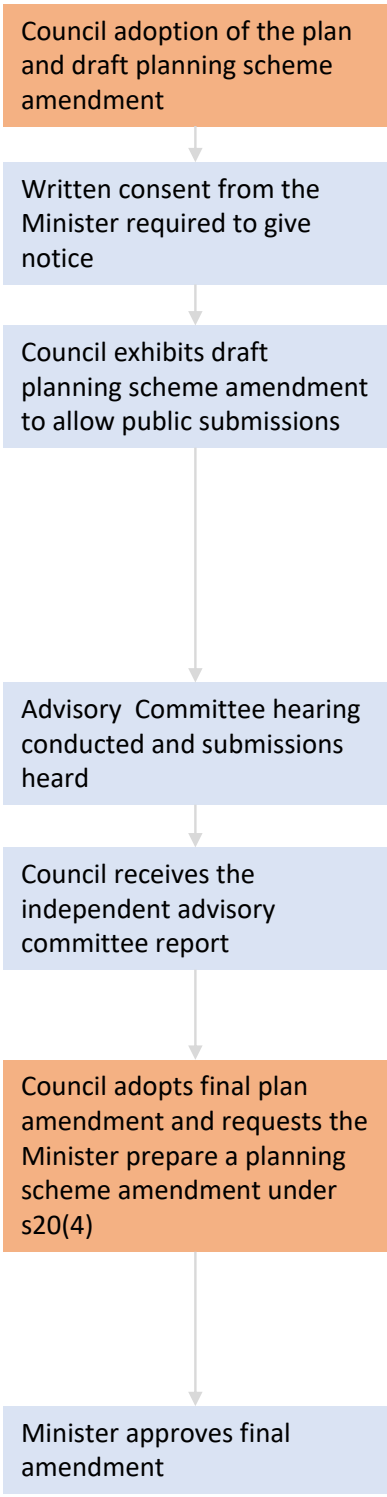
Attachment 1

Comparison of amendment pathways

Standard amendment



Proposed amendment pathway



Terms of Reference

Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas Standing Advisory Committee

Standing Advisory Committee appointed under Part 7, section 151 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) to advise the Minister for Planning and the Greater Geelong City Council on referred planning matters and associated draft Greater Geelong planning scheme provisions to implement the growth areas.

Name

1. The Standing Advisory Committee is to be known as the 'Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas Standing Advisory Committee' (the Committee).
2. The Committee is to have members with the following skills:
 - a) Strategic and statutory planning
 - b) Biodiversity
 - c) Urban design
 - d) Development contributions
 - e) Infrastructure planning and civil engineering
 - f) Traffic and transport planning
3. The Committee will include a Lead Chair, Chair/ Deputy Chairs and multiple other appropriately qualified members.
4. The Committee may engage specialist advice as required.

Purpose

5. The purpose of the Committee is to provide a process for the resolution of issues and provide timely advice to the Minister for Planning and the council on specific matters referred to it related to implementation of the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas Framework Plan such as precinct structure plans, development contributions, biodiversity conservation strategy and any associated draft planning scheme amendments.

Background

6. The Northern and Western Geelong Growth Area is the largest growth area in regional Victoria and will be home to at least 110,000 residents. Clause 21.06 of the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme includes the Northern and Western Geelong Framework Plan and identifies as further work the need for precinct structure plans and a biodiversity assessment.
7. The release of two new major development fronts for Geelong implements the Greater Geelong Settlement Strategy to direct further greenfield development to urban Geelong. The release of these new growth fronts requires a carefully managed and coordinated planning and approval process to deliver on the objectives of the Framework Plan.

8. Greater Geelong is experiencing sustained ongoing demand for greenfield housing and an efficient amendment process is necessary to fast track additional greenfield land supply.
9. This Committee process allows submissions to be made to the City of Greater Geelong on a plan or strategy and associated draft planning scheme amendment, with any unresolved issues to be considered by the Committee before the final planning scheme amendment is submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval under section 20(4) the Act.

Method

10. The Committee may meet, and depending on the nature of the referral and the issues raised, undertake consultation that is fit for purpose. This may be on the papers; through round table discussions or forums; or hearings. There must be a quorum of at least two Committee members, including a Chair or Deputy Chair.
11. The Committee will provide a targeted and timely process to assess the merits of discrete unresolved issues associated with the growth areas.
12. The Committee may apply to vary these Terms of Reference in any way it sees fit

Notice

13. The council may seek the written consent of the Minister for Planning or the Minister's delegate to prepare and give notice of a draft planning scheme amendment.
14. As directed by the Minister for Planning, the council will prepare and give notice of a 'draft planning scheme amendment' and receive submissions. The council will consider all submissions and where possible seek to resolve issues with submitters prior to requesting the Minister for Planning refer matters to the Committee.
15. When preparing documentation for public notice, the council must liaise with the Committee to agree to:
 - a) A directions hearing date
 - b) The public hearing dates

The agreed dates are to be included on all notices for public exhibition.

16. The Committee is not expected to carry out additional public notification or referral of matters but may seek the views of any relevant referral authority, responsible authority or government agency.

Referral

17. The council Chief Executive Officer will provide a copy of all submissions received in response to notice, a detailed response to those submissions and the particular matters or unresolved submissions the council considers should be referred to the to the Committee.
18. The Minister for Planning will provide a letter of referral to the Committee Chair, seeking its advice on particular matters or unresolved submissions and/or any other relevant matter. The letter of referral will be a public document. The letter of referral may seek advice on one or more matters.
19. The letter of referral must be accompanied by:

- a) The relevant plan and associated draft planning scheme amendment
- b) The referred submissions
- c) Any supporting background material.

Committee Assessment

- 20. The Committee may inform itself in anyway it sees fit, but must consider:
 - a) The relevant components of the referred plan and associated draft planning scheme amendment that relate to the submissions or issues referred to it
 - b) The referred submissions
 - c) The Greater Geelong Planning Scheme
 - d) The Northern Western Geelong Framework Plan
 - e) The relevant ministerial directions
 - f) Any other material referred to it.
- 21. Depending upon the nature of the referral, the Committee can conduct its proceedings through round table discussions, on the papers or, a public hearing, including by video conference if appropriate.
- 22. The Committee will be provided with the written submissions and other supporting material by parties, and may:
 - a) Direct that parties meet, to discuss and further resolve issues, or
 - b) Act as a mediator to seek to resolve issues in dispute.
- 23. The Committee may direct the council and relevant parties to provide additional information on specified matters.
- 24. The Committee must not consider submissions or evidence on a matter that a planning authority is prevented from considering by operation of section 22(3) and 22(5) of the Act.
- 25. The Committee will be advised by the council of the position of agencies such as the Department of Transport, relevant water authorities, the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and others as required.
- 26. The Committee may invite these groups to participate in any process as required, even if they have not made a submission.

Outcomes

- 27. For each matter referred to it, the Committee must produce a written report for the council and the Minister for Planning, providing the following:
 - a) Whether the referred element(s) of the draft amendment is appropriate
 - b) A summary and assessment of the issues raised in submissions referred to the Committee.
 - c) Any other relevant matters raised in the course of the Committee process.

- d) A list of persons who made submissions considered by the Committee.
 - e) A list of tabled documents.
 - f) A list of persons consulted or heard, including via video conference.
28. The Committee may address more than one draft amendment and/or relevant strategic planning matters and combine its assessment of the draft amendments in a single report.

Submissions are public documents

29. The Committee must retain a library of any written submissions or other supporting documentation provided to it until a decision has been made on its report or five years has passed from the time of its appointment.
30. Any written submissions or other supporting documentation provided to the Committee must be available for public inspection until the submission of its report, unless the Committee specifically directs that the material is to remain 'in camera'. A document may be made available for public inspection electronically.

Timing

31. The Committee is required to commence its process by issuing a written notice of the referral of a matter from the Minister to all referred submitters no later than 10 business days from the date of any specific letter of referral received.
32. The Committee is required to submit its report in writing as soon as practicable but no later than 30 business days from the last day of its proceedings, tabling of submissions or consultation process.
33. The council must release the report of the Committee within 10 business days of its receipt

Fee

34. The fee for the Committee will be set at the current rate for a Panel appointed under Part 8 of the Act.
35. The costs of the Committee and any associated public consultation notification will be met by the council unless an alternative is specified in the letter of referral from the Minister to the Committee.

* Insert Minister for Planning Signature

* Include the standard last page "Project Management" with contact details for the council, DELWP and PPV.

2.4. Endorsement of the Surf Coast Statement of Planning Policy

Source: City Planning & Economy
Director: Gareth Smith

Purpose

1. To present the final Statement of Planning Policy (April 2022) for the Surf Coast Declared Area (DAL) under the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes program for Council endorsement.

Background

2. The Surf Coast DAL was declared in September 2019. The declaration triggers Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) in consultation with Traditional Owners, community, agencies and Council to prepare of a Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) to come up with a 50-year vision for the area and provide policy objectives and strategies to deliver the vision. A detailed timeline and history of the project can be found in **Attachment 1**.
3. The declared area includes a small area in and around Breamlea and the area north of the Surf Coast and Greater Geelong municipal boundary from Mount Duneed Road up to the Armstrong Creek Urban Growth Boundary. A map of the declared area is found in **Attachment 1**.
4. Council endorsed a submission to the phase 3 consultation at its meeting on 2 February 2021. Officers presented this submission to the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) in March/April 2021.
5. The Minister wrote to the Mayor on 14 April 2022 to request Council endorse the final Surf Coast SPP. The Council is a Responsible Public Entity (RPE) under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* which means it is bound by or has to have regard to objectives in the SPP when making decisions within the declared area. Council is required to endorse the SPP as an RPE.

Key Matters

6. Council was generally supportive of the draft Surf Coast SPP subject to some minor changes and more detailed information on how the SPP was to be implemented.
7. The minor recommended changes have been addressed in the final version of the Surf Coast SPP and endorsement is recommended. The SPP aligns with the Council's objectives around sustainable urban development and the protection and management of green breaks.
8. DELWP have committed to working closely with Council to implement the SPP. However, there is currently no implementation plan. See **Attachment 1**.
9. It is recommended the Mayor write to the Minister to request greater clarity on how the SPP will be implemented, the role of RPEs, guidance on how to use the SPP and to express the City's expectation that DELWP should lead and resource the SPP implementation.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.4

Cr Grzybek moved, Cr Harwood seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the Surf Coast Distinctive Area and Landscape Statement of Planning Policy (April 2022); and**
- 2. Write to the Minister for Planning to:**
 - 2.1 Advise of Council's endorsement of the Surf Coast Statement of Planning Policy;**
 - 2.2 Request clarity on the role of a Responsible Public Entity;**
 - 2.3 Request details of how the Statement of Planning Policy should be used; and**
 - 2.4 Confirm the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning will lead and resource the implementation of the Statement of Planning Policy.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

10. There is no cost associated with endorsing the Surf Coast SPP. Once endorsed, the SPP will need to be considered as part of decision making in the declared area. It is unclear if Council will be responsible for carrying out planning scheme amendments to implement recommendations from the technical reports. DELWP have indicated they will introduce the SPP into the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme and ensure there are no policy inconsistencies.

Community Engagement

11. DELWP were responsible for conducting community engagement. There were three phases of community consultation to inform the SPP and a consultation report has been prepared for each phase. These can be accessed on the DELWP project page <https://engage.vic.gov.au/project/distinctive-areas-and-landscapes-program/page/surf-coast>
12. A Standing Advisory Committee was appointed to hear submissions and make recommendations to the Minister. Several submitters from Greater Geelong participated in the hearing process.

Social Equity and Sustainability

13. The three phases of public consultation have sought to provide opportunities for those impacted by the SPP to have input into the final SPP.
14. The SPP contains directions on social and affordable housing and services and infrastructure to support communities.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

15. The SPP has been prepared in accordance with the Distinctive Area and Landscape requirements under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Council's endorsement of the SPP will bind it to certain matters contained within the SPP.
16. Legal proceedings have been initiated by interested parties in the Torquay area against the Minister for Planning about the process and considerations that informed the final SPP. They are seeking the SPP be quashed and declared invalid. The City is not a party to these proceedings, and it does not relate to land in the Greater Geelong municipality.
17. The SPP is required to be endorsed by all Responsible Public Entities before being referred to the Governor in Council for consideration. Once approved by the Governor in Council, the SPP will form part of the state-wide planning provisions with immediate effect and future planning scheme amendments to make local policy changes will need to follow. Until this process is completed the SPP does not form the basis of decision making. The current legal proceedings could impact this process.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

18. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority: Sustainable growth and environment.
19. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:

Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.

Conflict of Interest

20. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

21. There are no significant risks associated with endorsing the Surf Coast SPP. The SPP contains objectives and strategies that will inform decision making in the declared area. The consideration of the SPP can be incorporated into existing decision making processes.

Environmental Sustainability

22. Sustainability is a key consideration within the Surf Coast SPP. Policy domains relating to environment and biodiversity, landscapes, environmental risks and resilience, water quality and security, tourism, agriculture and natural resources and settlements include objectives and strategies to deliver the vision set out in the SPP.

Attachments

1. Surf Coast SPP Endorsement [2.4.1 - 10 pages]

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

ENDORSEMENT OF THE SURF COAST STATEMENT OF PLANNING POLICY

Attachment 1



Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Declaration	1
3	Council resolution to remove the Mount Duneed Area	2
4	Timeline	2
5	Technical Studies	2
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1 INTRODUCTION

The following report outlines the background, process, consultation, submissions and matters for consideration as part of the endorsement of the Surf Coast Statement of Planning Policy (SPP).

2 DECLARATION

The Surf Coast was declared a Distinctive Area and Landscape (DAL) by the Victorian Government in September 2019, with the aim of permanently protecting the area from over-development and preserving its unique environment, landscape and lifestyle. The declaration triggers the preparation of a Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) which includes a 50-year vision and policy guidance on how the vision will be achieved. The SPP is prepared by the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) with feedback from the City.

The declared area covers a small area of Breamlea and the area north of the Surf Coast and Greater Geelong municipal boundary at Mount Duneed Road, taking in Mount Duneed up to the Armstrong Creek Urban Growth Boundary. This area includes the Thompson Valley green break between the urban areas of Armstrong Creek and Torquay.

The declared area is shown in appendix 1.

In September 2021, parts of the Surf Coast Shire and the City of Greater Geelong were redeclared to ensure the previous declaration did not lapse and to provide sufficient time for the finalisation of the Statement of Planning Policy. The declaration commenced on 20 September 2021.

3 COUNCIL RESOLUTION TO REMOVE THE MOUNT DUNEED AREA

In December 2019, Council resolved that it didn't support including the area north of Mount Duneed Road, following concerns from landholders. However, the Minister didn't accept this position in early 2020 and hence the City has made further submissions on the draft SPP on the basis that the land is in the DAL declared area.

4 TIMELINE

The following timeline is adapted from the DELWP project page:

- **Project Commencement**
Programme released April 2019.
- **Phase 1: Public Engagement**
Understanding the significant values of the Surf Coast that the community want to protect. Engagement opened 14 May 2019 - closed 14 June 2019.
- **Declaration**
Declaration of the Surf Coast as a distinctive area and landscape. Declared 19 September 2019.
- **Phase 2: Public Engagement**
Feedback was sought on a draft vision statement and potential policy approaches to inform the draft Statement of Planning Policy. Engagement opened 18 October 2019 - closed 15 November 2019.
- **Phase 3: Public Consultation**
Consultation on the draft Statement of Planning Policy and proposed landscape planning controls (public submissions process). Consultation opened 19 November 2020 - closed 29 January 2021.
- **Council Submission to the Draft SPP**
On 2 February 2021 Council endorsed a submission to the Surf Coast Distinctive Area and Landscape public consultation.
- **Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) Hearing**
Public hearings were held from 15 March to 29 April 2021. Officers presented the City's submission. The Advisory Committee issued its report to the Minister on 25 June 2021.

- **Release of the Final SPP and SAC Report.**

The Advisory Committee Report and final SPP were made public on 14 April 2022.

- **Endorsement of Final Draft Statement of Planning Policy**

Responsible public entities, such as Surf Coast Shire Council and the City of Greater Geelong will be asked to endorse the final draft Surf Coast SPP. April - May 2022.

- **Decision on Final Statement of Planning Policy**

Final Statement of Planning Policy to be decided by the Governor in Council. Once approved it will be operational immediately. Mid 2022.

5 TECHNICAL STUDIES

The preparation of the SPP was informed by technical reports on landscape, settlement, township character, cultural heritage and ecological and hydrological reports for the Torquay North-East Future Residential Investigation Area. All technical studies are available to view on the DELWP project page.

6 PHASE 3 CONSULTATION – DRAFT SPP

Phase 3 public engagement was undertaken by DELWP from 19 November 2020 to 29 January 2021.

On 2 February 2021, Council endorsed a submission to the draft Surf Coast SPP phase 3 consultation. The submission generally supported the sections of the draft Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) that relate to the Greater Geelong municipality, which will guide planning and growth for the declared area for the next 50 years.

All written submissions were referred to the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Standing Advisory Committee to provide advice to the Minister for Planning.

7 IMPLICATIONS OF THE SPP ON THE COUNCIL

Council's role in the preparation and implementation of the SPP is as:

- a Responsible Public Entity (RPE) in relation to the declared area pursuant to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act);
- the planning authority and responsible authority for the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme (Planning Scheme);
- the municipal council for the City of Greater Geelong local government area under the *Local Government Act 2020* (LG Act).

The draft SPP sets out a 50-year vision and objectives and strategies to achieve the vision under the policy domains:

- Aboriginal cultural heritage – Wadawurrung Country;
- Environment and biodiversity;
- Landscapes;
- Environmental risks and resilience;
- Water quality and security;
- Historic heritage;
- Tourism, agriculture and natural resources;
- Strategic infrastructure; and
- Settlements.

Where objectives are binding, the RPE is required to have regard to the strategies to achieve the objective when performing a function or duty or exercising a power in relation to the declared area.

8 STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Public hearings were held from 15 March to 29 April 2021. The Advisory Committee issued its report to the Minister on 25 June 2021. The Advisory Committee Report and final SPP were made public on 14 April 2022.

The Advisory Committee made a number of findings and 28 recommendations. The full report can be accessed at the DELWP project page. The findings relevant to the City of Greater Geelong relate to land south of the Armstrong Creek Growth Area and around Breamlea.

Armstrong Creek Growth Area

There were a number of submissions from various landowners located between the Armstrong Creek UGA and Mount Duneed Road/Lower Duneed Road. Some wanted their land to be considered a potential investigation site, while other landowners along Whites Road wanted their properties to be removed from this process. The SAC saw the key issue being whether the extent of these landholdings should be included in the draft SPP as a potential investigation area.

The SAC found:

- *The land holdings between Mount Duneed Road/Lower Duneed Road and the Armstrong Creek UGA should not be included in the draft SPP as a potential investigation area.*
- *Greater Geelong should determine the location of the protected settlement boundary at an appropriate time in the future.*

And Recommended:

- *Delete reference to the land south of the Armstrong Creek Urban Growth Area in the draft Statement of Planning Policy.*

Breamlea Protected Settlement Boundary

Breamlea is a secluded coastal village of about 100 houses located in the coastal dunes to the east of Torquay—Jan Juc. The Township Zone is applied to all private land in the hamlet, and a BMO, ESO1 and DDO22 apply to this area. This means development must be compatible with identified environmental values and design and development objectives, and bushfire protection measures must be implemented. The existing planning scheme controls do not identify the village for increased dwellings or redevelopment. The key issue to be resolved included whether Breamlea should be included in a protected settlement boundary and whether SLO9 should be applied to the village.

The SAC found:

- *It is appropriate to apply a protected settlement boundary to Breamlea.*

Breamlea Significant Landscape Overlay

The SAC noted submitters were broadly content with SLO9, although Greater Geelong had concerns with permit provisions and triggers, inclusion of public land and potential burden on public land managers, reference to incorporated documents and consistency with existing overlays in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme such as SLO10-13 and SLO9 maps shown as covering Breamlea township.

The SAC found:

- *The application of SLO9 should be revised as follows:*
 - *remove Breamlea township*
 - *remove it from areas zoned for PPRZ.*

9 FINAL SPP – SECTIONS RELEVANT TO GREATER GEELONG

The final SPP was released on 14 April 2022. The release of the final version SPP was accompanied by a Phase 3 Consultation Findings Summary Report and a Statement of Reasons for determination.

The following includes relevant extracts from the SPP and relates to the Armstrong Creek Growth Area and the Breamlea township:

5.9.7 Armstrong Creek Urban Growth Area

The northern boundary of the declared area abuts the Armstrong Creek urban growth area in Geelong. A protected settlement boundary will be needed for this area, to ensure greater protection of the green break between Geelong and Torquay—Jan Juc, which has been identified as a landscape of regional significance.

The resolution of this settlement boundary is subject to the completion of local strategic planning work and public consultation, which will be led by the Greater Geelong City Council in collaboration with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, other relevant agencies and the Wadawurrung. This work should include

consideration of the design and density of development in urban-rural transition areas within the protected settlement boundary that support the regionally significant landscape setting.

Objective 9

The following objective is binding on RPEs.

To plan and manage the sustainable development of settlements in the declared area consistent with the protection of the area's landscape significance, environment and biodiversity, Wadawurrung living cultural and historic heritage values and consistent with the unique character, role and function of each settlement. Strategies Responsible Public Entities are required to have regard to, the following strategies to achieve the objective when performing a function or duty or exercising a power in relation to the declared area.

Strategy

9.1 Direct urban development to a hierarchy of settlements, through designating areas for change and clearly defining protected settlement boundaries for Torquay–Jan Juc, Bellbrae, Breamlea, Mount Duneed and Connewarre settlement areas and the Armstrong Creek urban growth area.

5.9.5 Breamlea

Map 12 [see appendix 2] shows the Breamlea protected settlement boundary. Due to the environmentally sensitive coastal and estuarine environment within which Breamlea sits, there will be no development beyond the current extent of the settlement and no additional infill development within the protected settlement boundary.

The Framework Plan [appendix 3] shows the protected settlement boundary for Breamlea and the annotation that indicates further work is required before the Armstrong Creek urban boundary is finalised.

10 URBAN GEELONG LONG TERM SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY REVIEW PROJECT

Strategic Planning is currently undertaking a review of the settlement boundary for urban Geelong with the aim of introducing it as a 'long-term' boundary. A draft report has been prepared based on the process set out in the Greater Geelong Settlement Strategy. Of relevance to the SPP, the review includes the investigation areas of Armstrong Creek South-West and Armstrong Creek South Central. These precincts are within the declared area and relate to the further strategic work to be done outlined in section 9 above.

The draft report was on public consultation initially for 6 weeks until 13 May, but this was extended for 2 weeks to 27 May. Council will consider a report on the long-term boundary review in mid-late 2022. A planning scheme amendment will be required to implement the long-term boundary into the planning scheme.

11 REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT

The Minister for Planning wrote to the Mayor on 14 April 2022 to request the Council endorse the final SPP in accordance with Section 46AX(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* prior to it being approved by parliament.

12 DELWP RESPONSE TO COUNCIL'S SUBMISSION

While DELWP has provided a summary of the phase 3 consultation findings it has not detailed how the final SPP has responded to submissions. Below is a table outlining whether issues raised in Council's phase 3 submission have been addressed:

COUNCIL SUBMISSION POINT	FINAL SPP
IMPLEMENTATION IN THE PLANNING SCHEME	- Not addressed. Recommend writing to the Minister to request these matters are clarified. - No detail on how Councils will be supported to implement planning controls beyond the initial implementation of the SPP. Council expectation is DELWP will lead and resource this work. - Unclear if planning controls identified through the SPP will be treated as a ministerial amendment.

COUNCIL SUBMISSION POINT	FINAL SPP
	- Unclear what the scope of 10-year review process is and impact on Council. - No Practice Note on how to use the SPP or RPE. Statement of Expectation has been finalised to assist Council to understand obligations and expectations.
FRAMEWORK PLAN - ROADS	Addressed. Improved wording on landscape impacts.
MAP 9 – STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE	Addressed. The incorrect location of the transit corridor has been removed, but so has reference to the transit corridor which has been replaced with 'improve public transport connections subject to further investigations' annotation.
BREAMLEA SLO	To be addressed. DELWP have not indicated whether they agree with the SAC findings. If SLO9 is to proceed, proposed wording on planning controls and its extent to be discussed at some time in the future.

Implementation was the biggest issue raised in Council's submission. There are several unknowns including who will be responsible for resourcing the strategic work identified in the technical reports. DELWP have indicated as per their submission (Document 260 paragraph 16) to the Surf Coast SAC:

16.1 Following the approval of the Statement of Planning Policy (at which point it takes effect), the Department will commence work with both the Surf Coast and Greater Geelong Councils, on an audit of both planning schemes to identify any points at which policy is not consistent with the Statement of Planning Policy. The audit would be led by the Department in a collegiate approach with each Council.

16.2 Once this audit is complete, the Department will work with both Councils on a VC Amendment covering both planning schemes that formally introduces the Statement of Planning Policy and the landscape planning controls into the relevant planning schemes (including necessary update changes to state, regional and local planning provisions which identify the protected settlement boundaries and settlement boundaries).

The Council supports the approach where DELWP lead a VC amendment that implements all aspects of the Surf Coast DAL. The Council made clear in its submission it wouldn't support an approach where the Council leads changes to policy to implement the SPP.

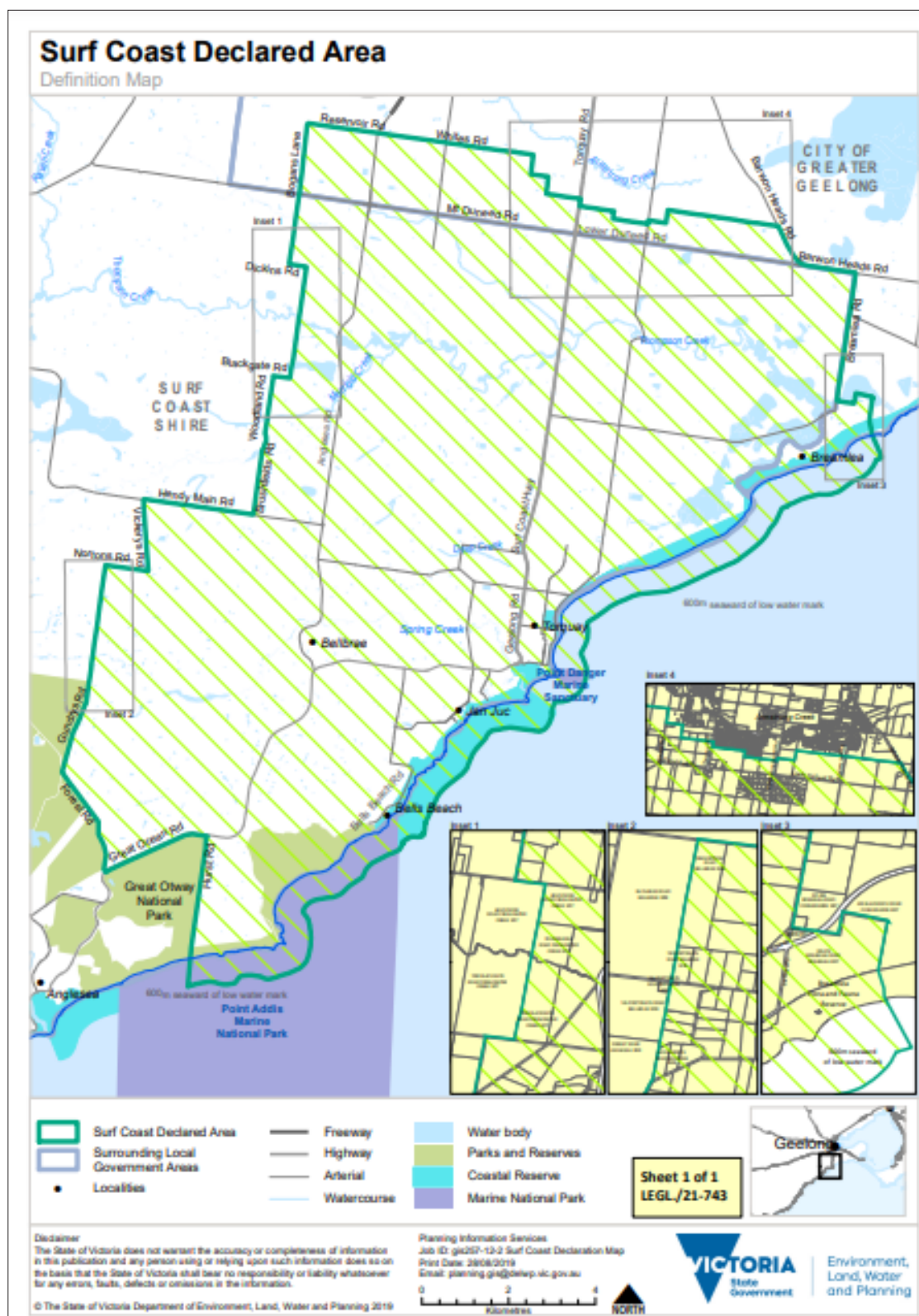
DELWP have indicated it has been working on a Practice Note - Distinctive Areas and Landscapes: How to use a Statement of Planning Policy and a Statement of Expectations which would set out the expectations of RPEs. Ideally, these would have been provided alongside the request to endorse the SPP. To date these have not progressed beyond working drafts. The matter of an 'implementation group' has also been raised but no details have been forthcoming.

13 CONCLUSION

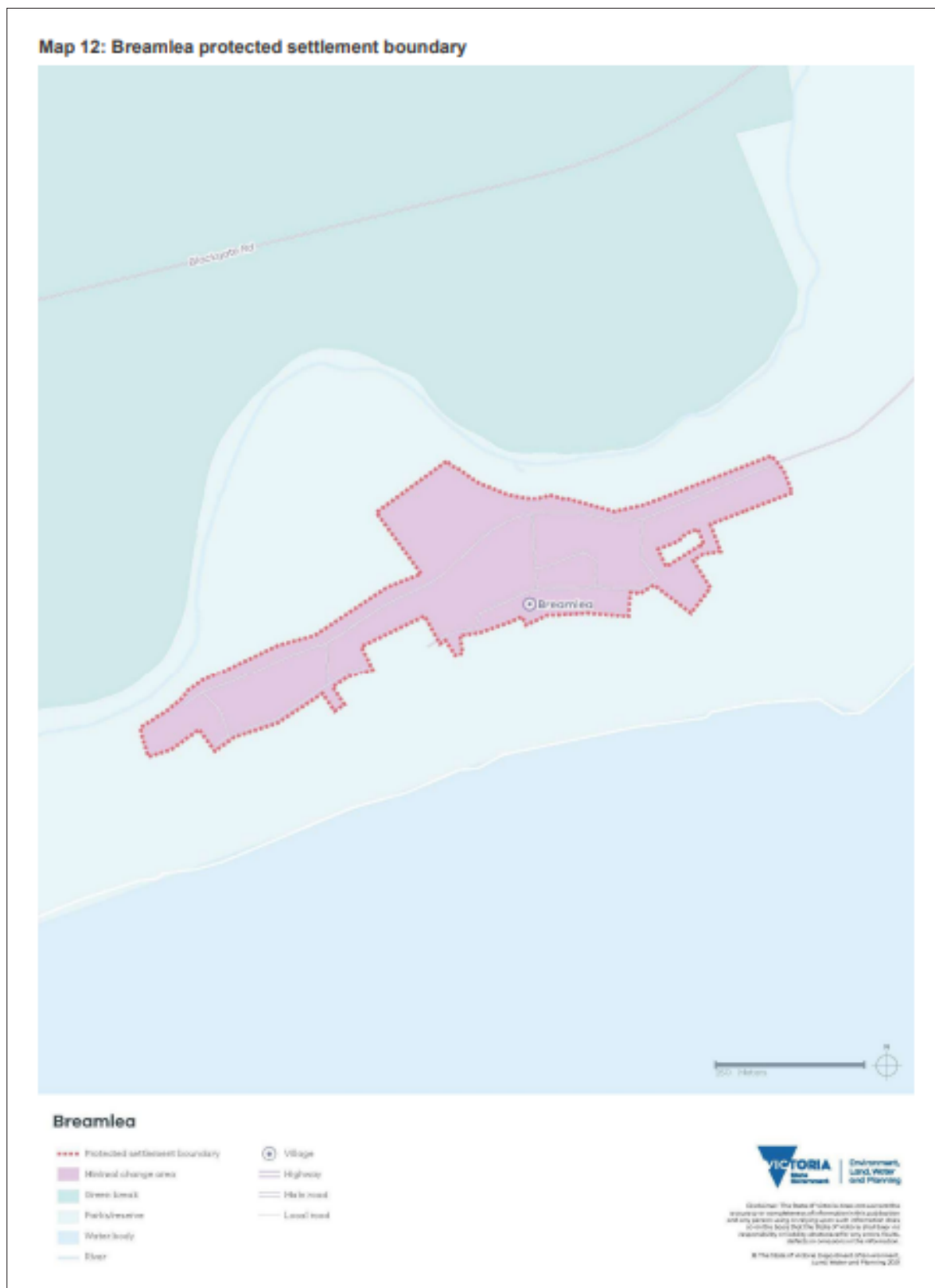
Given the length of time this process has been going (commenced late 2019) it is noted that fundamental guidance on the operation of the SPP such as the Practice Note and Statement of Expectations have still not been completed. It is noted an SPP was approved for the Macedon Ranges in December 2019 after being declared in August 2018. There is also still little to no understanding of how DELWP and councils will work together to deliver some of the strategic work identified. This is despite the fact the City and Surf Coast Shire made it clear in submissions that it was not reasonable to expect local councils to deliver this state government project without additional resourcing.

Notwithstanding these short comings, it is recommended Council endorse the SPP given the time and resources taken to get to this point. It is recommended alongside the endorsement; Council write to the Minister for Planning to request clarity and a commitment to delivery with regards to implementation.

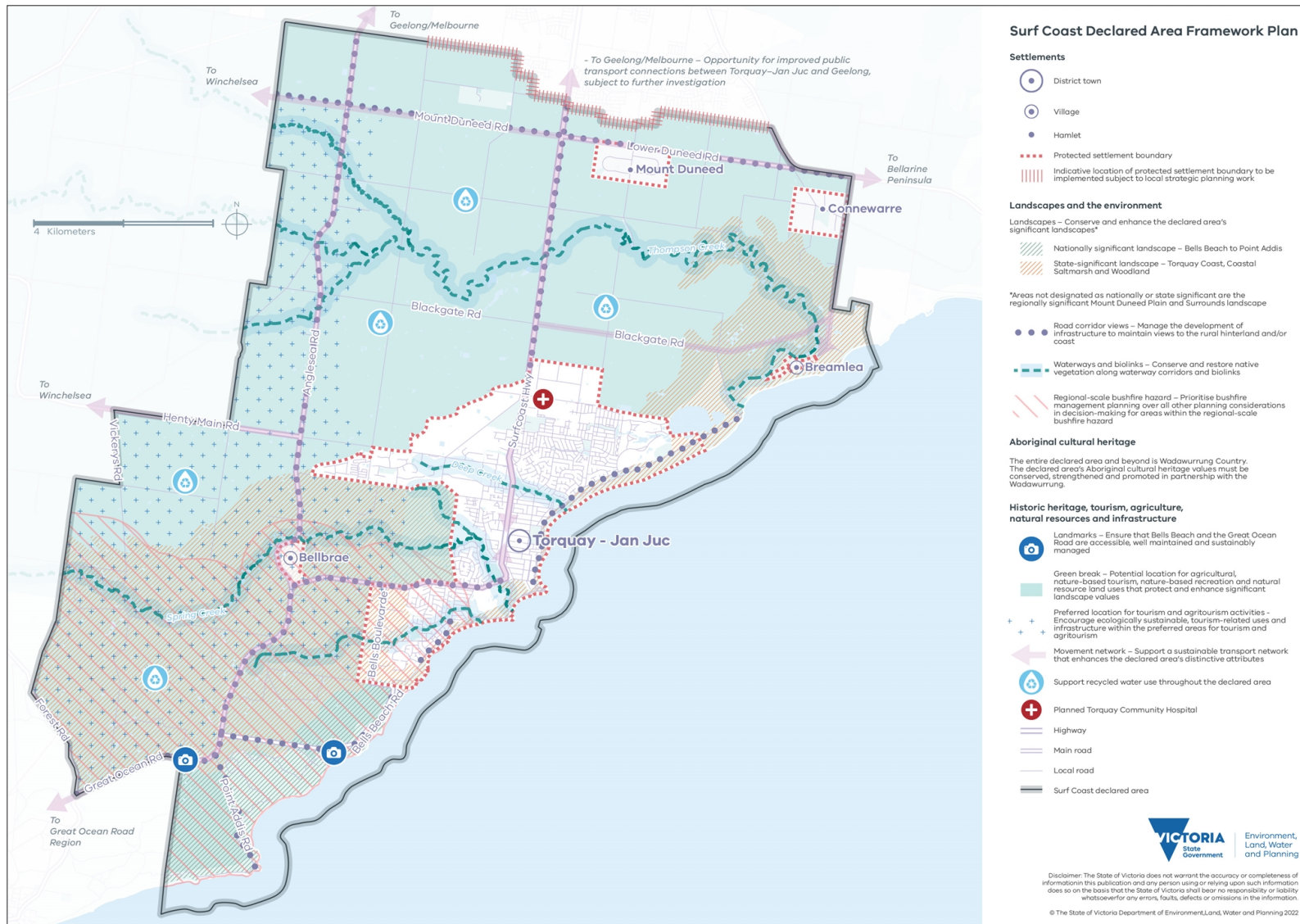
APPENDIX 1 – DECLARED AREA MAP



APPENDIX 2 – BREAMLEA PROTECTED SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY



APPENDIX 3 – SURF COAST FRAMEWORK PLAN



2.5. Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy

Source: Community Life
Director: Robyn Stevens

Purpose

1. To acknowledge the outcome of community engagement on the draft Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy and endorse the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy.

Background

2. The current Electronic Gaming Policy was adopted in May 2017. The review commenced in May 2020 providing Councillors with a background discussion paper.
3. The draft policy is a significant shift from the current policy in that it expands Council's scope to include other forms of gambling, rather than a sole focus on electronic gaming machines (EGMs).

Key Matters

4. The draft policy adopts a public health approach which is guided by harm minimisation principles. The policy focuses on reducing demand by supporting and promoting alternatives to gambling, reducing supply through the promotion of evidence-based sound planning, and reducing harm by fostering community connection and safety.
5. The City recognises there are community benefits resulting from the operations of EGM's and 2019/2020 clubs in Geelong reported to the VCGLR returning \$1,455,800 in financial contributions focused on community. This provides the platform for the City through this policy to work with clubs in a positive and proactive way valuing their community contribution.
6. The draft policy recognises and cross references existing directions such as the standing community grant guidelines utilised when assessing eligible community grant applications to the City. The grant guidelines will apply to two gambling related conditions.
7. The draft policy was open for community engagement from 27 October 2021 to 17 January 2022. Feedback was obtained via email communication with key stakeholders, an online survey, open submission box available through the Have Your Say online platform, social media channels, and three information and discussion sessions with key stakeholders.
8. There were 69 submissions received. Of these, 40 were supportive of the policy, five were neutral and 24 broadly opposed the policy. The feedback gained from both the submissions and the information sessions was coded and analysed. Recommended changes to the policy include stronger definitions and the addition of the criteria for our community grants program.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.5

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION

Cr Mansfield moved, Cr Moloney seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Acknowledge and thank the Greater Geelong community for their feedback and input to the draft Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy; and**
- 2. Endorse the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy.**

AMENDMENT

Cr Aitken moved, Cr Grzybek seconded -

That Council:

- 1. Acknowledge and thank the Greater Geelong community for their feedback and input to the draft Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy; and**
- 2. Endorse the Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy, subject to further consultation and review by the Chief Executive Officer of possible removal of the fundraising events clause restriction on community based electronic gaming machine organisations.**

The amendment was put and lost.

The original motion was put and carried.

Financial Sustainability

9. There are no specific costs involved with the adoption of this policy.
10. In relation to EGM applications, there is a financial cost to the City if the decision is made to contest EGM applications to the Victorian Gaming and Casino Control Commission. Costs that could be incurred include the engagement of specialist legal representation for hearings and expert consultants to assist in the preparation of expert reports for the City.
11. After the adoption of this policy, an action plan will be developed. There is existing budget available for further community engagement, awareness and education, with grant opportunities available for targeted projects.
12. Any programs or projects resulting from this policy and requiring additional resourcing will be considered as part of the Council budget cycle.

Community Engagement

13. The draft policy community engagement period ran for almost 12 weeks, from 27 October 2021 until 17 January 2022. During this time, community members were encouraged to provide feedback via the Have Your Say online page. Three information and feedback sessions targeted at key stakeholders were held. Key stakeholders included local sporting clubs, community groups, organisations and associations, EGM operators, and local counselling and support services. The engagement was widely promoted via social media, radio and print media and direct letters to community groups.

Social Equity and Sustainability

14. The principles of social equity underpinned the development of the draft Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy. This includes effective partnerships and engagement with priority groups and areas, and the consideration of needs and obstacles faced by these groups when planning services and communication. The policy has been informed by current demographic and geographic information that has identified these specific priority areas and groups.
15. The policy recognises that gambling-related harm is experienced by individuals, families, and the broader Greater Geelong community.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

16. The policy has been developed within all state and federal legislative frameworks and policy contexts.
 - 16.1. *Gambling Regulation Act 2003;*
 - 16.2. *Gambling Regulations 2015;*
 - 16.3. *Gambling Legislation Amendment Act 2018;*
 - 16.4. *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008; and*
 - 16.5. *Planning and Environment Act 1987.*

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

17. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority:
Healthy, caring, and inclusive community.
18. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
An inclusive, diverse, healthy, and socially connected community.

Conflict of Interest

19. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

20. Feedback from the community engagement was somewhat divided, with some views opposing the draft policy and others stating that Council was not adequately addressing gambling-related harm and the associated negative impact of gambling experienced by the community. Communication to relevant stakeholders of Council’s decision has been considered and a communication plan which notes the risk involved, has been developed.

Environmental Sustainability

21. There are no environmental implications arising from the subject of this report.

Attachments

1. Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy [2.5.1 - 8 pages]

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

GAMBLING HARM MINIMISATION POLICY

VERSION: 2

Approval Date:

Approved by: Council

Review Date: 01/12/2024

Responsible Officer: Manager, Healthy Communities

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

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Introduction

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline Council and the City of Greater Geelong's approach in responding to all forms of gambling, with a focus on the wellbeing of our community and through adopting a harm minimisation framework.

The policy replaces the 'City of Greater Geelong Electronic Gaming Machine' which was developed in 2017 and reviewed in 2020.

SCOPE

The policy balances a right to undertake legal revenue-generating activity with the overarching need to promote community health and wellbeing. It recognises that gambling harm can be experienced by individuals, their loved ones and the wider community.

The policy outlines Council's position on gambling and refers matters regarding all forms of gambling within Greater Geelong, including responding applications for the installation of new and additional Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs) to the Victorian Gaming and Casino Control Commission (VGCCC).

The policy focuses on preventing and reducing harm by promoting alternatives to gambling, evidence-based planning and community connection. It is underpinned by a harm minimisation framework that centres on supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction.

Definitions

This section defines the key terms used in this policy.

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.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT STATEMENT (CBS)

A gaming venue with a club or racing club licence which receives gaming machine revenue in a financial year must lodge an audited Community Benefit Statement (CBS) with the VGCCC.

Club and racing clubs can show how gaming proceeds help contribute to their wider local communities through the CBS. Clubs must demonstrate they gave the equivalent of at least 8.33% of the venue's gaming revenue to approved community purposes or activities.

ELECTRONIC GAMING MACHINE (EGM)

The Victorian Government *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* (p.17, amended 10 March 2021) defines:

'An Electronic Gaming Machine (EGM) is any device, whether wholly or partly mechanically or electronically operated for the purpose of playing a game of chance or a game of mixed chance and skill. As a result of making a bet on the device, winnings may become payable'.¹

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) of the City, as constituted at a point in time.

GAMBLING

The Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation defines 'gambling as requiring a player to risk losing something of value (usually money) for the chance of winning more. Gambling outcomes may depend on correctly predicting an uncertain outcome or luck'.²

The Victorian Government *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* (p.45, amended 10 March 2021) states:

'For the purposes of this Act, **gambling** means an activity in which

- (a) a prize of money or something else of value is offered or can be won; and
- (b) a person pays or stakes money or some other valuable consideration to participate; and
- (c) the outcome involves, or is presented as involving, an element of chance'.³

For the purpose of this policy, raffles, bingo, and sports tipping for fundraising activities have been excluded.

HARM MINIMISATION

Harm minimisation is a framework that considers the health, social and economic consequences of an activity to the individual and community. The three core elements of harm minimisation are supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction:

- Supply Reduction: Achieving appropriate EGM/1,000 adult population densities; promote sound planning.
- Demand Reduction: Promoting and supporting alternatives such as recreational and social pursuits, community education (for instance, gambling risks) and addressing economic disadvantage.
- Harm Reduction: Promoting gamblers help services; promoting responsible gambling and advocating for inbuilt safety mechanisms in EGMs; promote safety.

¹ <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/gambling-regulation-act-2003/087> (p.17, amended 10 March 2021, accessed 16 March 2021)

² <https://responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/resources/glossary/#g> (accessed 16 March 2021)

³ <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/gambling-regulation-act-2003/087> (accessed 16 March 2021)

Policy

The focus of this policy is on the wellbeing of our community and it is underpinned by a harm minimisation framework which balances the right to undertake legal revenue-generating activity with the need to promote wellbeing in the context of public health and consumer protection. The policy guides decision-making, compliance, and accountability.

PRINCIPLES

The underpinning principles of this policy acknowledge;

- Gambling is a legal activity within the State of Victoria.
- The need to balance the right to undertake legal revenue-generating activities with the need to promote wellbeing.
- Gambling will be considered within the context of public health and consumer protection.
- Gambling is a public health issue affecting individuals, families, and the broader community.
- The City will take a whole of organisation approach to minimising harm, acknowledging that all its activities can contribute to minimising gambling-related harm.
- The impact of electronic gaming machines should not be unevenly distributed through communities or populations.
- Land use planning at the local level has a significant role in addressing and regulating EGMs.
- Council's regulatory and legislative mandate has the capacity to minimise harm experienced from using EGMs.
- Clubs venues with EGMs have a legislative responsibility to provide at least 8.33% of their net gaming machine revenue towards community benefit. The City therefore acknowledges that a small percent of EGM revenue is returned for community purposes or activities.

POLICY STATEMENTS

The following priority areas and policy statements will guide Council's actions and decision-making for the life of this policy. Council will:

1. HEALTH & WELLBEING: Promoting and supporting alternative social and recreation pursuits

- 1.1. Be guided by the *Our Community Plan 2021 – 2025* strategic priorities.
- 1.2. Recognise that Council, through the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008, has a mandated responsibility to care for the community reflected through the integration of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWP) into the Community Plan.
- 1.3. Encourage the development of strategy and policies that consider funding and support services, infrastructure and program initiatives that provide alternate social and recreation choices to gambling.
- 1.4. Be guided by the City's Social Equity Framework 2022-2025.
- 1.5. Support local community-based organisations that generate some of their income from gambling activities, to reduce their reliance on gambling income streams.
- 1.6. Recognise that gambling is harmful for many people, and therefore seek to actively promote responsible and safe gambling environments.
- 1.7. Recognise that the harmful costs from gambling are born by the individual who gambles, their circle, and the community at large. This can in turn impose substantial costs and unintended negative consequences for the community.

2. COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

As in many matters that affect the social and economic wellbeing of the community, council plays a leadership role to support a harm minimisation framework. Over the life of this policy, Council will:

- 2.1. Advocate to the State Government to review the current regional EGM cap in Geelong and influence legislative reform based on evidence-based public health research and policy.
- 2.2. Invest in community infrastructure, community programs and activities as alternatives to all forms of gambling.
- 2.3. Resource activities that enhance capacity building including the promotion and support of the many alternate and positive forms of recreation in our community and ensure community awareness raising is provided annually through gambling harm awareness initiatives and relevant community education programs.

- 2.4. Assess applications for new and additional EGMs against a Social and Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) guided by the Greater Geelong Gaming Policy Framework and taking into consideration community attitudes, feedback and/or concerns. An associated report and recommendations for response to the VGCCC will be referred to Council at a Council meeting.
- 2.5. Not hold Council or City meetings, community events, activities, programs, and social outings in venues that have gambling activities (as defined in this policy).
- 2.6. Install and maintain internet filtering to prevent access to gambling sites on all City public wi-fi.
- 2.7. Not permit gambling promotion or advertising on / in City-owned facilities. This pertains to all forms of gambling.
- 2.8. Support and encourage the clubs with EGMs to allocate their gambling-related community contributions to relevant services targeted towards minimising gambling-related harm.
- 2.9. Incorporate gambling questions in relevant community surveys and during community consultation to better understand gambling harm within Greater Geelong and further support policy and program development.
- 2.10. Actively support any community or sporting club, group, or organisation to divest themselves of EGMs or end financial dependence on gambling sponsorship or revenue. This would be achieved through an agreed transition business plan.
- 2.11. In assessing eligible community grant applications to the City, the current grant guidelines will apply two gambling related conditions. These are;

PRIORITISING APPLICATIONS - If the total request for funding exceeds the grant funds available, the City will prioritise

 - Applications from organisation that do not receive funding from electronic gaming machines or other forms of gambling.

WHAT WON'T BE FUNDED

 - Political, gaming or gambling activities.
 - Fundraising events, prizes, gifts, awards, or sponsorship costs, such as trophies, medals, money, and vouchers.
 - Facilities designated for electronic gaming machine operations (community infrastructure grant program).

3. PARTNERSHIPS & ADVOCACY

Council is in a unique position to collaborate with local organisations and advocate to other levels of government to reduce gambling-related harm experienced by the Great Geelong community. Council will:

- 3.1. Further develop the capacity of the community and the City to understand and respond to the impacts of gambling, including the delivery of socially equitable and responsive infrastructure and services.
- 3.2. Partner with research institutions to develop a strong, robust, and defensible evidence base that will enhance the City's capacity to effectively influence the location, management, and operation of EGMs within the municipality, whilst also contributing to the broader evidence base.
- 3.3. Partner with local government networks, community organisations and key agencies to utilise their expertise in broader advocacy issues, to achieve change and to reform the systems and structures that cause gambling-related harm to the Geelong community.
- 3.4. Advocate to the State Government to reduce the regional cap and advocate for any EGMs given up by venues to be automatically removed from the regional cap. This will contribute to reduced expenditure on EGMs and achieve moving the City of Greater Geelong from the top five local government areas with greatest expenditure in Victoria.

Implementation of this Policy

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Applications for both new and additional EGMs will be advised by this policy and assessed against the social impact assessment guidelines outlined in the Council Procedure for Assessing Gambling Applications Against Council Policies document. This policy will be updated as per the normal council requirements.

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
Gambling Harm Minimisation Procedure – to assist with translating policy into practice	Healthy Communities Department	Destroy 7 years after procedures are superseded	Records Explorer once developed

REVIEW

The City should review and, if necessary, amend this policy within four years of the approval date.

References

- City of Greater Geelong: Our Community Plan 2021-2025
- Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future
- City of Greater Geelong Municipal Strategic Statement
- Greater Geelong Gaming Policy Framework 2007
- City of Greater Geelong Fair Play Strategy 2017
- *Victorian Gambling Regulation Act 2003* (1 July 2020)
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*
- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- The Victorian Gaming and Casino Control Commission | <https://www.vgccc.vic.gov.au/>
- Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation | <https://responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/>

2.6. Public Transparency Policy Review

Source: Office of the Chief Executive
Chief Executive Officer: Martin Cutter

Purpose

1. To seek Council endorsement to release the Draft Public Transparency Policy (**Attachment 2**) for community consultation for a period of three weeks.

Background

2. Council adopted the Public Transparency Policy on 1 September 2020 in accordance with section 57 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).
3. At this meeting, Council resolved to review the policy by September 2022.

Key Matters

4. The Public Transparency Policy describes the way in which Council information is to be made publicly available (section 57) and give effect to the public transparency principles prescribed in section 58 of the Act. Broadly the policy:
 - 4.1. Acknowledges the importance of transparency in local government;
 - 4.2. Incorporates the overarching principles of the Act that “the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured” (section 9(2)(i)); and
 - 4.3. Outlines what information will be made publicly available by the City and how it will be made available and identifies information that will not be made publicly available.
5. Community feedback is sought in relation to the policy before it will be presented to Council by September 2022.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.6

Cr Moloney moved, Cr Sullivan seconded -

That Council:

1. **Endorse the release of the draft Public Transparency Policy**
2. **(Attachment 2) for community consultation for a period of three weeks; and**
3. **Note that a report will be presented to a future Council meeting to adopt the policy.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

6. There are no direct financial implications associated with the contents of this report.

Community Engagement

7. Community and stakeholder consultation on the draft Public Transparency Policy will be undertaken for a period of three weeks. Feedback will be considered and any supported changes will be made to the policy before the policy is presented to Council for adoption.
8. Targeted engagement will include Council's Advisory Committees.

Social Equity and Sustainability

9. The draft Public Transparency Policy demonstrates how decisions made by City officers under delegation or authorisation of the Council under the Act or any other legislation supports transparency, fairness and equity.
10. Access to information by all members of the community is important to ensure transparency, trust and integrity of decision making. The implementation of the policy will consider how the City is able to improve access to information in accordance with the policy.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

11. The draft Public Transparency Policy has been developed in accordance with section 57 and section 58 of the Act.
12. Engagement will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Community Engagement Policy.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

13. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority: High-performing council and organisation.

Conflict of Interest

14. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

15. The policy provides for access to information for the public about processes, decision and actions supports transparency in the operations of the City, and the decisions of the City and the Council. A failure to provide access to information could undermine community trust in decisions made by the City and by the Council.

Environmental Sustainability

16. There are no direct environmental implications associated with the contents of this report.

Attachments

1. DRAFT Public Transparency Policy [**2.6.1** - 11 pages]

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY POLICY

VERSION: ~~1~~2

Approval Date: 1 September 2020

Approved by: Council

Review Date: 1 September 2022

Responsible Officer: ~~Manager~~Director, Governance, ~~Strategy~~
and Performance

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

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Introduction

PURPOSE

This policy outlines how the Council and the City will ensure that it meets its obligations under section 57 and section 58 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

WHY IS TRANSPARENCY IMPORTANT?

Transparent decision making promotes a positive and productive relationship between the Council and the City and the community. It allows the community to have a greater sense of ownership and connection to decisions made by the Council and the City. More so than at any other level of government, local councils provide the opportunity for citizens to engage with decision making directly affecting them and their communities.

Transparent decision making in local government supports accountability, encourages high performance and also increases public confidence in councils and their processes and decisions. Individuals will not always agree with Council or City decisions, but transparency allows them to understand the reasoning in the decision-making process.

Openness, accountability, integrity and honesty are essential to build high levels of trust amongst our community and enables fully informed engagement in the democratic process. Without transparency, effective community engagement, planning, financial management and any number of other council responsibilities cannot be properly performed.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY PRINCIPLES

One of the overarching principles of the Act is that “the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured” (section 9(2)(i)).

Section 58 of the Act states the public transparency principles that must be applied to all aspects of a council’s operations and decision making as follows:

- a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;
- b) Council information must be publicly available unless—
 - i. the information is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act; or
 - ii. public availability of the information would be contrary to the public interest;
- c) Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community;
- d) public awareness of the availability of Council information must be facilitated.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Council and anyone carrying out delegated duties or functions of the Council including Councillors, City staff, ~~and~~ members of Delegated Committees or Advisory Committees, [volunteers and those on work experience](#).

Definitions

CITY

The City of Greater Geelong organisation led by the CEO

COUNCIL

The Greater Geelong City Council comprised of Councillors, and its Delegated Committees

DELEGATED COMMITTEE

A delegated committee established under section 63 of the Act.

THE ACT

Local Government Act (Vic) 2020

FOI ACT

Freedom of Information Act (Vic) 1982

Policy

HOW WILL COUNCIL AND CITY DECISION-MAKING PROCESS BE TRANSPARENT?

Decisions of the Council

Decisions made by the Council must be:

- undertaken in accordance with the Act, any other relevant legislation and Council's Governance Rules;
- conducted in an open and transparent forum, unless otherwise provided in accordance with the provisions in the Act and Governance Rules;
- informed through community engagement, in accordance with the Community Engagement Principles and the Community Engagement Policy; and
- made fairly and on the merits, and where any person whose rights will be directly affected by a decision of the Council, will be entitled to communicate their views and have their interests considered.

Decision made under delegation

City officers making decisions under delegation or authorisation of the Council under the Act or any other legislation must have regard to the public transparency principles in the Act.

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE?

Under the Act (and, in some cases, the *Local Government Act 1989*), certain information must be made publicly available, namely:

- Register of Delegations made by Council;
- Council and Delegated Committees Meeting Minutes;
- Local Laws and any documents incorporated;
- Council Plan;
- Strategic Resource Plan;
- Budget;
- Annual Report;
- Councillor Code of Conduct;
- Procurement Policy;
- ~~Register of interests~~ **Personal Interest Returns**;
- Reappointment of CEO without advertisement;
- Differential Rates; and
- Summary of Campaign Donation Returns.

The following information will also be made publicly available to ensure the community is informed and can benefit from access to information regarding Council's functions and operations:

- All adopted Council policies, plans and strategies;
- Governance Rules;
- Composition, Terms of Reference, Agendas and Minutes of Council Meetings, Committees and Groups;
- Code of Conduct for Council Staff;
- Register of Delegations made by the CEO;

- Register of Authorised Officers;
- Register of Interstate and Overseas Travel by Councillors and Staff;
- Register of Land Leases entered into by Council;
- Register of Donations and Grants made by Council;
- Register of Contracts Awarded by Council; and
- Details of any Council Land proposed for Sale or Exchange.

Under various other Acts administered by Council, the following information will be made publicly available:

- Register of Planning Permits;
- Register of Planning Applications on Advertising;
- Copy of Planning Permits and Endorsed Plans (by application under the FOI Act, charges ~~will~~may apply);
- Copies of Building Permits, plans and documentation (by application under the FOI Act, charges ~~will~~may apply);
- Register of Building Permits, Occupancy Permits and Temporary Approvals;
- Register of Animal Registrations;
- Register of Public Roads; and
- FOI Part II Statement.

WHAT INFORMATION WILL NOT BE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE?

Some information may not be made publicly available. Information will not be publicly available if its release would be contrary to the public interest or not in compliance with the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.

“Confidential information,” as defined in section 3 of the *Local Government Act 2020* will also not be made publicly available. It includes the types of information listed in the following table.

Type	Description
Council business information	Information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.
Security information	Information that is likely to endanger the security of Council property or the safety of any person if released.
Land use planning information	Information that is likely to encourage speculation in land values if prematurely released.
Law enforcement information	Information which would be reasonably likely to prejudice the investigation into an alleged breach of the law or the fair trial or hearing of any person if released.
Legal privileged information	Information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies.
Personal information	Information which would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs if released.
Private commercial information	Information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that relates to trade secrets or that would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage if released.
Confidential meeting information	Records of a Council and delegated committee meetings that are closed to the public to consider confidential information
Internal arbitration information	Confidential information relating internal arbitration about an alleged breach of the councillor code of conduct.
Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information	Confidential information relating to a Councillor Conduct Panel matter
Information prescribed by the Regulations	Information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information for the purposes of the Act
Confidential information under the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>	Information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>

The Chief Executive Officer may decide, in the interests of transparency, to release information that is not publicly available under this policy. However, this will not happen if the release is contrary to law, in breach of contractual requirements or if releasing the information is likely to prejudice Council, cause harm to any person, affect security of council property or is not in the public interest to do so.

Where information is not confidential, and not already available, the principles of a public interest test with consideration also of the resources required to respond to the request will be applied to determine whether information can be released.

The Chief Executive Officer may refuse to release information if it determines that the harm likely to be created by releasing the information will exceed the public benefit in being transparent. When considering possible harm from releasing information, the Chief Executive Officer will consider the potential harm to the community or members of the community. Potential harm to the City will only be a factor if it would also damage the community, such as where it involves a loss of public funds or prevents the City from performing its functions.

HOW CAN INFORMATION BE ACCESSED?

The FOI Act gives you the right to apply for access to documents held by the City. The City is committed to, where possible, proactive and informal release of information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Professional Standards issued by the Victorian Information Commissioner. Read more at www.ovic.vic.gov.au.

A list of available information is provided in the Part II Statement (Statement) published on the City's website in accordance the Freedom of Information Act 1982. This Statement requires government agencies and local councils to publish a number of statements designed to assist members of the public in accessing the information it holds.

HOW WILL INFORMATION BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE?

- The City will make available information on its website or by inspection, where prescribed, and ensure all such information is regularly reviewed, updated, understandable and accessible.
- The City will use social media to publish or stream information, such as Council Meetings, and other online tools, such as Have Your Say, to encourage community engagement and consultation on project and community related matters.
- The City will ensure information as prescribed under Part II of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* - Publication of Certain Documents and Information, is made available on its website.
- The City will endeavour where possible to provide the community with access to information free of charge, but may charge a fee for reasonable costs incurred in providing the documents or where a fee is prescribed by legislation for the provision of information.
- All information must be accessible in accordance with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Implementation of this Policy

RESPONSIBILITIES

Party/parties	Roles and responsibilities
Council	Champion the commitment and principles for public transparency through leadership, modelling practice and decision-making. Adopt the Public Transparency Policy and oversee its implementation.
Executive Leadership Team	Champion behaviours that foster transparency and drive the principles through policy, process and leadership. Implement and ensure compliance with this policy.
Senior Leadership Team	Manage areas of responsibility to ensure public transparency, good governance and community engagement is consistent with this policy.
All Staff	Public transparency is the responsibility of all employees as appropriate to their role and function. All staff respond to requests for information and facilitate provision of information in consultation with their manager and in alignment with the Policy.
Governance Unit	To monitor implementation of this policy and conduct periodic reviews to drive continuous improvement.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

The City commits to monitoring processes, information sharing and decision making to understand the overall level of success in the Policy's implementation.

ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

The Responsible Officer for this policy manages the provision of advice to the organisation regarding this policy.

HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER

This policy has been reviewed against and complies with section 13 of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*, as this Policy aligns with and provides for the protection of an individual's right not to have their privacy unlawfully or arbitrarily interfered with. It is also in line with section 18 which recognises a person's right to participate in the conduct of public affairs.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THIS POLICY

If a member of the community wishes to question a decision about the release of information, this should be raised directly with the officer handling the matter in the first instance.

Reviews of decisions about the release of information can be raised, in order of escalation, as follows:

- The City's FOI Officer at: foi@geelongcity.vic.gov.au
- The Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner: <https://ovic.vic.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/>

If a member of the community is dissatisfied with how their request for information has been handled by the City, they may lodge a complaint, in order of escalation:

- To the City by seeking a complaint review, which may include a review by the City's Internal Ombudsman: <https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/complaints/task/item/8d6099d9ed01bae.aspx>
- To the Victorian Ombudsman's office on (03) 9613 6222. or via the website – www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au.

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
This policy	Chief Executive Officer	Seven years	REX
Records of compliance incidents	~~Director-Manager~~ Governance ~~Strategy and Performance_~~	Seven years	REX
Requests for information	All staff	Seven years	REX
Information published on the website	~~Manager Communications and Marketing~~ <u>Chief Information Officer</u>	Three years	REX

REVIEW

The Council should review and, if necessary, amend this policy within four years of the approval date. A periodic review of this policy will be undertaken to ensure any changes required to strengthen or update the policy are made in a timely manner.

References

- Governance Rules
- Public Transparency Principles
- Governance Framework (Template available from LGV if required based on Geelong model)
- Community Engagement Policy
- Information Privacy Policy
- Health Records Policy
- Information Rights Policy
- Open Data Policy
- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006
- Freedom of Information Act 1982
- Local Government Act 2020
- Local Government Act 1989
- Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010.

2.7. Borrowing Policy Review

Source: Customer & Corporate Services
Acting Director: Karen Olesnicky

Purpose

1. To provide Council with the updated Borrowing Policy for consideration and adoption.

Background

2. Council last adopted the “Council Borrowing Policy” on 12 May 2020.
3. The policy is scheduled for review to incorporate any changes and new information.
4. The Borrowing policy provides the appropriate parameters for Council to undertake new borrowings without compromising the application of sound fiscal management principles. The policy framework allows Council the flexibility to respond to funding requirements while minimising risk.

Key Matters

5. The policy has been reviewed and has been updated to draft version 03 with the following amendments:
 - 5.1. Document title updated from “Council Borrowing Policy” to “Borrowing Policy”;
 - 5.2. Definitions and Local Government Act references updated;
 - 5.3. Borrowing ratios and indebtedness percentage updated; and
 - 5.4. Section on community access to information regarding borrowings has been removed as it is covered by the Public Transparency Policy.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.7

Cr Aitken moved, Cr Harwood seconded -

That Council adopt the Borrowing Policy.

Carried

Financial Sustainability

6. The policy strengthens financial controls and processes across the organisation by providing parameters for Council to undertake borrowings.

Community Engagement

7. Communication is undertaken with business units annually during development of the annual budget and long-term plan documents.

Social Equity and Sustainability

8. The policy recognises that borrowings for capital works provide an important funding source as the assets will be used by present and future ratepayers.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

9. Council borrowing activity is undertaken in accordance with *The Local Government Act 2020* which states that Council's power to borrow is subject to the principles of sound financial management.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

10. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority: High-performing council and organisation.

Conflict of Interest

11. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

12. There are no notable risks with implementing the recommendations of this report.

Environmental Sustainability

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

Attachments

1. Borrowing Policy 2022 [2.7.1 - 9 pages]

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

BORROWING POLICY

**COUNCIL POLICY
VERSION: 3**

Approval Date: TBA

Approved by: Council

Review Date: June 2023

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Authorising Officer: CEO

DRAFT

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Introduction

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide the appropriate parameters for the City to undertake borrowings without compromising the application of sound fiscal management principles. The policy framework allows the City the flexibility to respond to funding requirements while minimising risk.

The borrowing policy ensures that the City has a sound financial framework on which to:

- undertake borrowings;
- manage its loan portfolio; and
- adhere to the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA).

BACKGROUND

Councils must implement the principles of sound financial management. These include managing financial risks; pursuing spending and policies that are consistent with a reasonable degree of stability; and those decisions are made with future generations in mind and ensure the disclosure of financial information.

Borrowing activities will be undertaken in a manner that minimises risk to Council. Section 104 of the LGA outlines:

- A Council cannot borrow money unless the proposed borrowings were included in the budget or revised budget.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Council when considering and determining the annual budget.

City officers must consider the application of this policy when:

- considering new borrowings; and
- refinancing existing borrowings (where long-term benefits of refinancing are greater than the cost of the existing loan).
- as approved by resolution of Council.

Definitions

This section defines the key terms used in this policy.

CAPITAL PROJECT

Means a long term investment project requiring relatively large sums to acquire, construct and/or renew a capital asset (such as buildings). The project would result in a new, expanded or replaced asset.

DEFINED BENEFIT FUND

Is a closed plan to new members from 31 December 1993. The future liabilities of the fund relative to investment performance may necessitate future funding calls.

DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTION PLAN PROJECT

A development contributions plan (DCP) is a mechanism used to levy new development for contributions to planned infrastructure needed by the future community. An approved DCP is a DCP that forms part of a planning scheme.

A DCP project is a project which a contribution has been received from the developer to fund infrastructure and other community items.

LOAN BOOK

Means the collective value of loans held by the City.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE REPORTING FRAMEWORK (LGPRF)

Outlines the measures to be included in the City's performance report.

LONG -TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The long-term financial plan provides an outline of the Council's financial and other resources required to deliver upon key strategic plans over a 10-year period.

SECTION 173 AGREEMENT

Is a legal agreement made between the City of Greater Geelong and another party or parties, under section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

VICTORIAN AUDITOR - GENERAL'S OFFICE (VAGO)

Examines and reports on the management of resources within the public sector.

TREASURY CORPORATION VICTORIA (TCV)

Victorian Government entity that provide the loans to eligible Local Government Councils.

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

POLICY STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Borrowing Policy is underpinned by the following principles:

- The Policy will be adhered to in developing the organisation's long term financial plan and all borrowings must be identified in the plan.
- Council will not borrow to fund operating expenditure. This type of expenditure is to be funded from operating revenue streams (rates, fees and charges etc.).

The exception to this principle would be a call to 'defined benefit' Superannuation Fund. Large calls to 'defined benefit' fund will require a separate report to Council which will include a recommended method of funding – use of working capital, superannuation fund or borrowings.
- Council will not borrow to fund recurrent capital works which is inclusive of acquisition, replacement or renewal of assets (e.g. road resurfacing). This type of expenditure is to be funded from operating revenue streams.
- The City will measure and report on renewal/upgrade expenditure relative to depreciation in order to highlight any renewal gap. This is to ensure assets are renewed as planned without the use of borrowings.
- Borrowings must be linked to the financing of capital project type.
- Cash flows will be phased in order to consolidate the principle and interest requirements of approved capital projects.
- The term of any loan must not exceed the expected economic life of the asset.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

- To ensure the Council's new borrowings are sustainable and comply with legislative requirements.
- To ensure the Loan type and term of loan will be treated on a case by case basis in order to optimise the City's Loan Book.
- To manage cash flow, balance liquidity levels and manage borrowings within desired risk levels.

BORROWING AND RATIOS AND LIMITS

VICTORIAN AUDITOR – GENERAL'S OFFICE REQUIREMENTS

VAGO reviews and reports on the financial sustainability of the Local Government sector. Three indicators best assess the financial sustainability risks associated with borrowing. The City will use the following three indicators when assessing new or refinanced borrowings and ensure borrowings remain within endorsed risk limits:

INDICATOR	FORMULA	DESCRIPTION	RISK
Internal financing (%)	Net operating cash flow / net capital expenditure	This measures the ability of an entity to finance capital works from generated cash flow. The higher the % the greater the ability of the entity to finance capital works from their own funds. Net operating cash flow and net capital expenditure are obtained from the cash flow statement.	Less than 75% - High 75 – 100% - Medium More than 100% - Low
Indebtedness (%)	Non-current liabilities / own-sourced revenue	Comparison of non-current liabilities (mainly comprising borrowings) to own-sourced revenue. The higher the % the less the entity is able to cover non-current liabilities from revenues the entity generates itself. Own source revenue is used rather than total revenue because it does not include grants for contributions.	More than 60% - High 40 – 60% - Medium 40% or less - Low
Indebtedness (TCV) (%)	Total borrowings / own-sourced revenue	The higher the % the less the entity is able to cover non-current liabilities from revenues the entity generates itself. Own source revenue is used rather than total revenue because it does not include grants for contributions.	More than 60% - High 40 – 60% - Medium 40% or less - Low

The City will operate below the high risk range for the above measures to provide flexibility to respond to funding requirements for new or unplanned capital expenditure.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORTING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK (LGPRF)

LGPRF includes two additional ratios:

Debt Commitment Ratio measured as interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans / rate revenue (recommended target 0% to 10%); and

Borrowing Rates Ratio measured as interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue (recommended below 80%)

The City will operate within the target ratio as set by the LGPRF.

CREDIT RATING

The City's credit rating will be assessed by the financial institutions as part of the tender process for new borrowings and will be disclosed to the City.

DETERMINATION OF LOAN TERM AND INTEREST RATE TYPE

The City will complete an analysis of the market to enable a recommendation on the loan term (number of years) and interest rate type (fixed or variable).

Implementation of this Policy

DETERMINATION OF LENDING INSTITUTION

New borrowings will be identified as part of the annual budget process and will be subject to public tender and or TCV process. The public tender process will be in accordance with the City's Procurement Policy and the Act.

LOAN TYPE AND TERM

Council borrowings for the following projects will be a mixture of interest only and principal and interest (P&I) loans based on the following table.

The classification loan type and term are based on the City's ability to recover the cost of the loan from the service/activity being borrowed for:

- Developer Contribution Plans;
- Fees and charges from the service/activity where the financing costs are recoverable (e.g. leisure services, childcare services); and
- Service/activity where there is the opportunity for cost reductions (e.g. renewables) and/or where a number of services/activities can be aggregated where there is an element of cost reduction.

The loan type and term may be varied in accordance with abovementioned section 'Determination of loan term and interest rate type'.

CLASSIFICATION	BORROWING	LOAN TYPE	TERM OF LOAN	RATIONALE
DCP – Fully funded	DCP Projects – land acquisition or where State/Federal contribution to project provides funding	Interest Only	Flexible	Income is to be received over a number of periods and the principal will be reduced accordingly
DCP – other	DCP projects which create an asset with Council responsibilities	P&I	Up to 10 years	P&I repayments to be factored into budget estimates each year
Incremental Revenue – projects which provide Council revenue not linked to rates	Community Asset Projects – Construction projects which create a community asset	P&I	Up to 10 years	P&I repayments to be factored into budget estimates each year
Incremental Revenue or Cost Reduction – projects which provide the City with revenue or cost savings not linked to rates	General – Income or cost savings linked to a Capital project (e.g. landfill cell, LED street lighting)	Interest Only Or P&I	Flexible	Interest to be charged and to form cost of service delivery. Principal to be recovered and accounted for through identified cost savings.

COST ALLOCATION OF BORROWINGS

If the capital project is for a service that is funded by user charges (e.g. leisure services) and borrowings are the agreed funding source then the user charges pricing model will be updated to reflect the total cost of the borrowings.

If the capital project is for a service that is **not** funded by user charges, then borrowings should only be considered where the project is considered by the City to be beneficial to the majority of ratepayers and costs will not be directly attributed to a service.

RESTRICTION

The City will abide by section 104 of the Act whereby money cannot be borrowed unless details of the proposed borrowings are included in the annual budget or revised budget.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

The application of this policy will be monitored through the annual review and update of the City's Long Term Financial Plan, annual budget document and annual financial statements. The documents report on the City's loan portfolio and identify current borrowings.

The City will report on financial sustainability metrics, debt commitment and borrowing rate ratios as part of the annual budget process and in the annual report.

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	Indefinite	Financial Management - Publications

REVIEW

The Policy will be reviewed on a 4-year basis, and key borrowing metrics will be reviewed annually during budget development and endorsed by Council.

The review will include advice from appropriate financial institutions.

References

- The *Local Government Act 2020*
- Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF)
- Victorian Auditor - General's Office (VAGO).

DRAFT

2.8. Tender T2200043 - Building Better Bike Connections, Stage 2 South

Source: Customer & Corporate Services
Acting Director: Karen Olesnicky

Cr K Grzybek declared a Conflict of Interest in Agenda Item 2.6 – Tender T2200043 - Building Better Bike Connections, Stage 2 South in that Cr Grzybek is an employee of the TAC which is funding the bike lanes and left the meeting room at 8.24pm.

Purpose

1. To award Contract C2200043 for the Building Better Bike Connections – Stage 2, South project to Enoch Civil Pty Ltd (ABN 68 111 113 770).

Background

2. In recent years, the Geelong Principal Bicycle Network (Network) was established between the City of Greater Geelong (COGG), VicRoads (now Regional Roads Victoria), Bicycle Network Victoria and other local cycling groups.
3. The Network identifies key cycling corridors which connect major destinations and employment precincts. Investment targets infrastructure upgrades to deliver safety to cyclists and other road and path users, and to promote healthy and sustainable living through active transport.
4. At the 30 April 2019 meeting, Council resolved to progress Option 2b with indented bus bays for the High Street, Belmont section between Mount Pleasant Road and Roslyn Road. With the Covid-19 pandemic since 2020, there has been an economic impact on local traders. Option 1 provides a shared space for vehicles and cyclists and was considered at that time. Option 1 remains a viable option to progress the Strategic Cycling Corridor along High Street, Belmont whilst minimising the impact to the local traders during construction and was supported through community engagement. Option 1 could be a transition to the ultimate Option 2b. At the 22 March 2022 meeting, Council resolved to proceed to tender for pricing on both options 1 and 2b to provide a range of delivery options for Council to consider when awarding the construction tender. Refer to Attachment for Option 1 and 2b concept designs.
5. The State Government committed \$100 million to the Safer Cyclists and Pedestrians Fund to invest in new dedicated paths across Victoria, keeping cyclists separated from traffic. The fund also focuses on improving access to train stations and CBDs, creating new routes, and filling the 'missing links' in existing bicycle networks. As a part of this larger plan, the City of Greater Geelong prioritised the proposed cycling corridors, which were then ranked against applications from other councils across the State. Two of Geelong's Strategic Cycling Corridors were then shortlisted for further concept development, and subsequently approved for delivery. These are:
 - 5.1. The Central Geelong to Waurn Ponds Strategic Cycling Corridor (the Southern Link); and
 - 5.2. The Central Geelong to Herne Hill Strategic Cycling Corridor (the Western Link).

6. The construction of the Western Link and Stage 1 of the Southern Link has been completed and is operational.

Key Matters

7. Engagement was conducted from 28 April to 30 May 2022 to hear feedback on the completed links and detailed design for Stage 2 of the Southern Link. Feedback was mixed as shown attached.
8. A select tender process was conducted for the construction phase of the Building Better Bike Connections – Stage 2, South project.
9. The select tender invite was sent to five interested contractors, and two submissions were received at tender close.
10. The submissions were evaluated in accordance with the processes detailed in the City's 'Procurement and Contracts Manual'.
11. Based on the tenderer's past project experience, expertise, value for money and project risks the Tender Evaluation Panel recommend that Enoch Civil Pty Ltd be awarded the contract for the provision of these works.
12. Subject to Council awarding the Contract, the project will start in September 2022.
13. The lump sum price for the delivery of the project which will be the 2b option (separated) is \$2,667,860.95 excluding GST.

ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **Award Contract C2200043 for the Building Better Bike Connections – Stage 2, South project – Option 2b to Enoch Civil Pty Ltd (ABN 68 111 113 770) for the tendered lump sum price of \$2,667,860.95 excluding GST; and**
2. **Subject to formal approval of the full budget requirement from the TAC, authorise the Chief Executive Officer to execute Contract No. C2200043 and any other documents required by or to give effect to the terms of the Contract on behalf of Council.**

MOTION

Cr Nelson moved, Cr Aitken seconded -

That Council defer consideration of the report until the 23 August Council Meeting.

Carried

Financial Sustainability

14. The TAC has committed funding of \$2,300,000 towards construction of stage two of the southern link.
15. The contract value of \$2,667,860.95 will require an additional \$768,861.95 ex GST of funding to be able to award the above works once a 10% contingency and 5% escalation is allowed for on the project.
16. The TAC has indicated in-principle agreement for the additional funding required to award this contract. Formal approval of the funding increase will be required before contract award.
17. The tender value for the alternative Option 1 (shared area) is \$2,473,236.45 ex GST which would require an additional \$544,500 ex GST of funding to be able to award this option once a 10% contingency and 5% escalation is allowed for on the project. Option 1 would provide an overall project cost reduction of \$223,818.18 ex GST in comparison to Option 2b.

Community Engagement

18. During the project design phase, two rounds of community engagement were held in January 2018 and February 2019.
19. A further round of community engagement was conducted from 28 April to 30 May 2022. The purpose of this engagement was to gather feedback on the completed sections of the project to help identify further improvements, and to share detailed design for stage 2 for feedback to assist as the final stage is progressed. Feedback was mixed as shown attached.
20. There were no opportunities to collaborate on this project as it is a stand-alone project with site specific requirements based in the City of Greater Geelong.

Social Equity and Sustainability

21. The Victorian Cycle Strategy states that women, children and senior Victorians cycle far less than the typical cyclist, who is male and under 45. Making the network safer and lower stress will increase the participation of underrepresented groups.
22. When Hornby Street in Vancouver, Canada, was converted from a painted-on road lane to a protected bike lane, the percentage of female riders increased from 28 to 39 per cent over a four-year period. Separated bike lanes provide an environment where more people in the community, whether younger or older, male or female, feel safer and are more likely to ride.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

23. This tender was advertised in accordance with the requirements of section 108 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the tender process has been conducted in accordance with the City's Procurement Policy.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

24. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority:
Healthy, caring and inclusive community.
Sustainable growth and environment.

25. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
- A fast, reliable and connected transport network.
 - 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.

Conflict of Interest

26. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

27. The tender evaluation process involved the assessment of work, health and safety policies, procedures and risk assessment documents.

Environmental Sustainability

28. According to the City’s Environment Management Strategy, vehicle emissions are the dominant contributor to air pollution in the region. Encouraging a shift away from cars towards cycling and active transport will have a positive effect on air quality.
29. The City has adopted the principles of One Planet Living. Sustainable Transport is one of these principles, aimed at encouraging low carbon modes of transport to reduce emissions.

Attachments

1. BBBC engagement report June 2022 [2.8.1 - 13 pages]
2. BBBC Tender Options 1 and 2b [2.8.2 - 1 page]

Tender Details

Contract Details

30. Contract C2200043 for the Building Better Bike Connections – Stage 2, South.

Invitation to Tender

31. The City issued a select tender T2200043 invite to 5 suitably qualified and experienced contractors, closing 2pm Monday 2 May 2022, to undertake works associated with the Building Better Bike Connections – Stage 2, South project.

Table 1 Invitations to Tender

Medium	Date Advertised
eProcure	Tuesday 29 March 2022

Tender Evaluation Panel

32. The Tender Evaluation Panel comprised the following staff;

Table 2 Tender Evaluation Panel

Position Title	Panel role
Procurement Specialist	Chair
Special Projects Coordinator - Construction & Partnership	Member
Project Manager	Member
Principal Transport Planning Engineer	Member

Tender Submissions

33. Tenders had to meet the following mandatory criteria:
- 33.1. OH&S system – if the tenderer's OH&S processes and procedures do not meet a minimum standard determined by the City, the tenderer will not be considered for the contract.
 - 33.2. City of Greater Geelong Heat and UV Radiation Exposure and Outdoor Clothing Procedures (Long/Long) – if the tenderers did not agree to abide by the City's Long/Long policy, the tenderer will not be considered for the contract.
 - 33.3. OH&S KPI requirements – if the tenderers did not agree to the OH&S KPI requirements being applied to the Contract, the tenderer will not be considered for the contract.
 - 33.4. Traffic signal works must be completed by a VicRoads approved contractor. If you are not, please list approved VicRoads Traffic Signal sub-contractor to be used on this project. Please attached evidence to this online form.

Table 3 Tender Submissions Received

Tender		Conforming tender
A	Enoch Civil Pty Ltd	Yes
B	Tender B	Yes

Tender Evaluation

34. The Tender Evaluation Panel used the following qualitative criteria (in order of weighting) to assess the submissions:

Table 4 Comparative Criteria Weighting

Comparative Criteria	Weighting %
Methodology/plan for performing contract	40
Capability and experience, including past performance	20
Proposed project resourcing	20
Economic & local content contribution (mandatory)	10
Quality Management	10

35. The tender was evaluated by the tender evaluation panel in a two staged process:
- 35.1. Qualitative assessment of a weighted score totalling 100%; and
 - 35.2. Evaluation of price
36. Enoch Civil Pty Ltd were deemed the best value for money tenderer for the City and placed them as the preferred contractor to complete these works.

Tender Evaluation Scores

37. At the conclusion of the evaluation the tenders were ranked in the following order:

Table 5 Tender Evaluation Scores

Tender		Rank
#	Enoch Civil Pty Ltd	1
#	Tender B	2

Post Tender Contact

38. Following the tender evaluation the panel agreed to shortlist Enoch Civil Pty Ltd and requested further clarifications from them regarding their program, price, lead times and stakeholder engagement. The responses to these questions were then discussed at a post tender interview held on the 12 May 2022.
39. As part of the question and interview responses Enoch Civil advised that they would hold their current price for 3 months after submission which takes them to 28 July 2022. Any award beyond that they would need to review their pricing before confirming.

Probity

40. No probity issues were identified during this procurement process

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

BUILDING BETTER BIKE CONNECTIONS



BUILDING BETTER BIKE CONNECTIONS – SOUTHERN LINK, STAGE 2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

The City is creating two new major cycling routes to make it safer and easier for anyone to ride. We received a \$6.3 million grant from the TAC's Safer Pedestrian and Cyclist Fund to create two cycling connections:

- The Western Link connecting central Geelong with Herne Hill via Geelong West.
- The Southern Link to connect central Geelong with Waurin Ponds via Belmont.

Both routes are designed to be used by cyclists of a wide range of ages and abilities to safely ride to destinations like shopping areas and key employment precincts.

The Western Link, and stage 1 of the Southern Link (Moorabool, Carr and Gheringhap streets) have been completed.

During previous community engagement (January 2018 and February 2019) we shared several designs for the second stage of the Southern Link. Option 2b was chosen by the community as the preferred option and was endorsed by Council in April 2019.

With the Western Link and Stage 1 of the Southern link complete we wanted to hear from users about their experience to help us identify any further improvements. We also wanted to share with the community the detailed design for Stage 2 for feedback to assist as we progress this stage of the project.

During the engagement period (28 April to 30 May 2022), more than 260 people engaged with the City:



31 DAYS
of engagement on
BBBC Southern
Link (Stage 2)



51
People following
the project



30+
Attendees at the
information pop-up



239
Participants
in online
survey



30
One on one
call backs

2. WHAT WE HEARD – KEY FINDINGS

The survey was designed to collect feedback from the community on

- their connection with the area – did they cycle, drive, work or live nearby
- how cyclists used the links and how often – for recreation, commuting or other
- their experience driving or cycling along the links
- whether the project meets the aim to create cycling routes that make it safer and easier for anyone to ride to key destinations.

Below is a summary of the key themes we heard via the survey and informal feedback sent to officers, Councillors or lodged via Customer Service.

SUMMARY

Feedback on the completed Western Link

WE ASKED	WE HEARD
PARTICIPANTS TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE OF THE COMPLETED SECTIONS OF THE WESTERN LINK	• 53 participants had ridden a bike along the Western Link • Bike riders who provided mixed feedback (44.7%) typically indicated support for the project but also highlighted a concern or possible improvement • 15 participants mentioned a concern about safety or risk to road uses. • 10 specifically mentioned the increase to safety because of the bike lanes.
PARTICIPANTS IF THE COMPLETED SECTION OF THE WESTERN LINK MET THEIR EXPECTATIONS (1-5 RATING)	• 104 participants responded • Average rating was 2.96 out of 5

Feedback on the completed Southern Link

WE ASKED	WE HEARD
PARTICIPANTS TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE USING THE COMPLETED SECTIONS OF THE SOUTHERN LINK	• 107 participants had ridden a bike along the Southern Link • Mixed sentiment typically indicated general support for the project but also highlighted a concern or possible improvement • The most common statement amongst those that had ridden the completed southern link was a feeling of safety or increased safety with 27 participants mentioning safety in their long text answer • The most common concern raised was increased risk to road users (56), specifically at intersections (31). Driver awareness (21) and bike visibility (18) were suggested as places for improvement. • 30 participants specifically mentioned the increase to safety because of the bike lanes. With a total of 21 participants praising the separated the bike lanes.
IF THE COMPLETED SECTION OF THE SOUTHERN LINK MET THEIR EXPECTATIONS (1-5 RATING)	• 198 participants responded • Average rating was 2.67 out of 5

Feedback on the designs for Stage 2 Southern Link

WE ASKED	WE HEARD
IF THE DESIGN OF STAGE 2 OF THE SOUTHERN LINK MET OUR AIM TO CREATE NEW MAJOR CYCLING ROUTES THAT MAKE IT SAFER AND EASIER FOR ANYONE TO RIDE TO KEY DESTINATIONS	• 39% said yes, while 46% said no and 15% were unsure • Participants were asked to expand on their response, and we received 164 responses • 52% were generally supportive but often provided suggestions for improvements • 46% were unsupportive of the project regardless of any changes to design • 2% of responses were of such brevity that support sentiment could not be assessed • 19 participants specifically praised the separated bike lanes and 18 mentioned the design would increase safety • 29 participants raised concerns with using High Street and suggested a different route would be more beneficial or safer. • The most common concerns related to High Street were: • Increased traffic congestion caused by bike lanes (15) • The steepness of the hill (9) • Poor outcomes for or impact on High Street business (8) • Loss of street parking (8)



Figure 1: Artist impression of Stage 2 Southern Link at High Street

3. HOW WE ENGAGED

ENGAGEMENT TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

A project specific engagement page was developed to provide project information and methods of ways to engage with the City.

TOOL	DESCRIPTION
HAVE YOUR SAY ONLINE PORTAL YOURSAY.GEELONGAUSTRALIA.COM.AU	An online Have Your Say (HYS) project page was designed to share relevant information to encourage community feedback on the completed sections of the BBBC project and the detailed designs for Stage 2. The project page hosted an interactive map, detailed designs, frequently asked questions, and a summary of the 2018 engagement.
SURVEY (ONLINE AND HARDCOPY)	The community could provide feedback on the BBBC project via a survey on the HYS page. A hard copy of the survey was also available on request.
INFORMATION POP-UP	We hosted an information pop-up on 23 May 2022 at Belmont Library. Community members could drop in at any time between 2.30pm and 7pm to view the plans and speak with an officer.
LETTERBOX DROP TO BUSINESSES	We delivered over 100 flyers on two occasions to the traders along High Street, Belmont. The first flyer encouraged traders to visit our project page to provide feedback onstage 2 of the Southern Link. The second flyer informed traders of the pop-up information session.
WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS	Open at any time during the public engagement period. Submissions could be provided by email or mail. Informal feedback sent to officers, Councillors or lodged via Customer Service has been included in this engagement.

COMMUNICATIONS

We used a range of channels to promote the engagement period to the community. This included advertising via print and social media, direct email to residents who participated in our 2018 engagement and flyers to High Street traders.

SOCIAL MEDIA



4,359

Reach and Impressions

114

Actions (Clicks, reactions, shares, comments etc.)



200

Flyers delivered to local businesses



200+

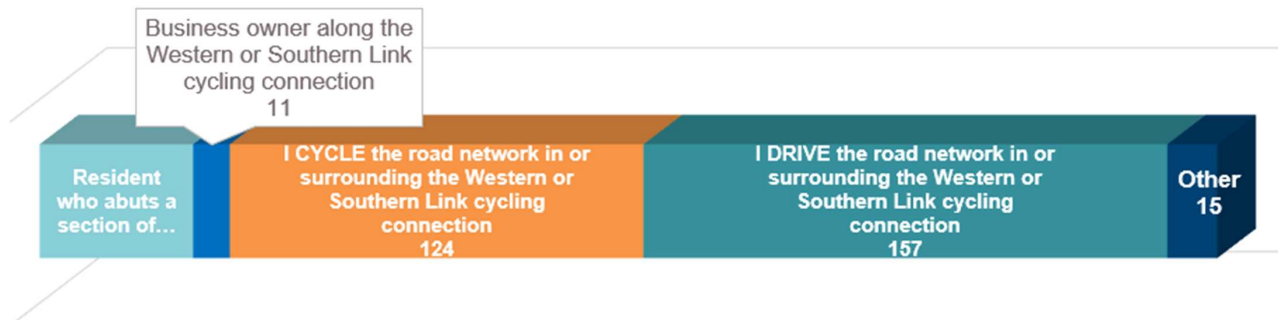
Emails sent to residents who had participated in the 2018 engagement

4. WHO WE ENGAGED WITH

PARTICIPATION

The community were invited to share their connection to the Western and Southern links of the BBBC project.

Graph 1: Participant connection to the Building Better Bike Connections (BBBC) project



We further analysed showed that participants generally interacted with the network in a range of ways.

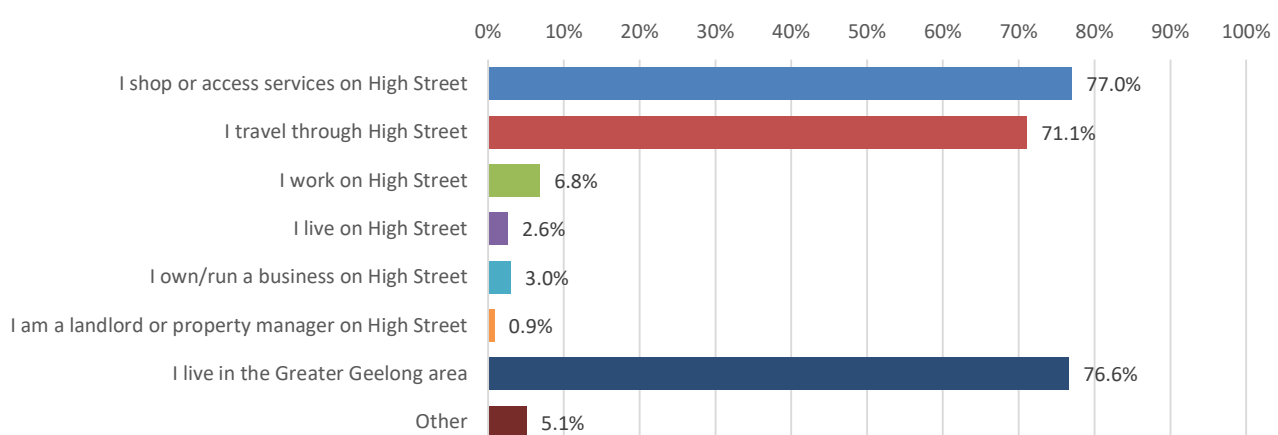
Of the 124 cyclists that responded to the survey

- 84% also drive the road network
- 24% live near a section of the western or southern link
- 24% live, visit or work in the area surrounding the western or southern cycling connection
- 24% Only cycle
- 3% own a business along the western or southern link

Of the 157 drivers that responded to the survey

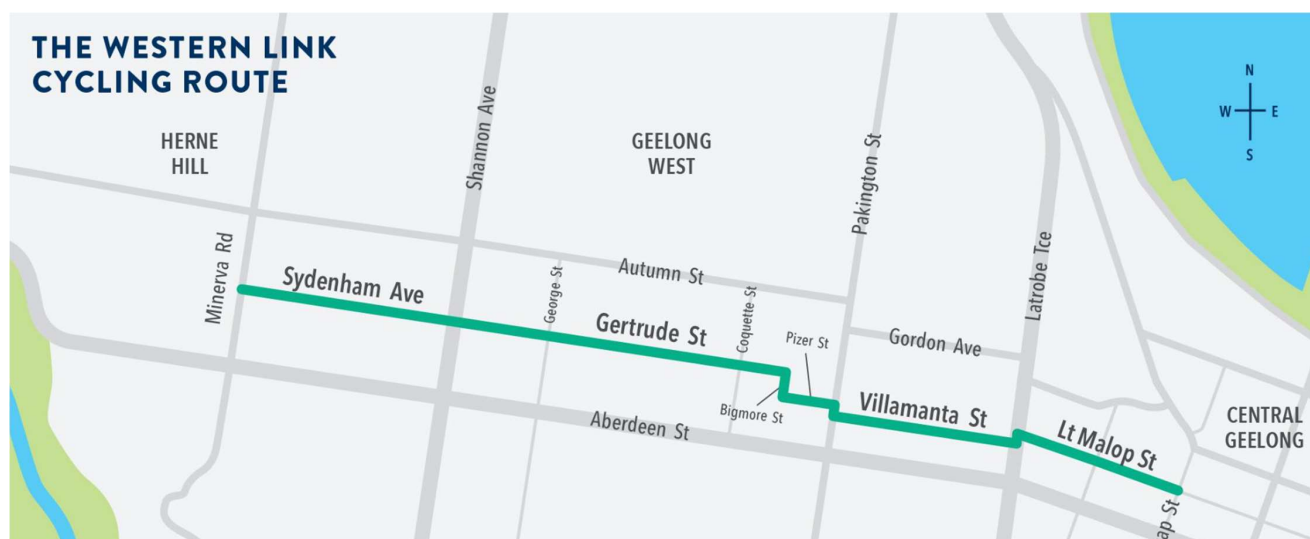
- 84% also cycle the road network
- 82% live, visit or work in the area surrounding the western or southern cycling connection
- 33% live near a section of the western or southern link
- 26% only drive
- 5% own a business along the western or southern link

Graph 2: Participants connection to High Street, Belmont



5. WHAT WE HEARD – DETAILED ANALYSIS

FEEDBACK ON THE COMPLETED WESTERN LINK



WE ASKED

PARTICIPANTS WHO HAD RIDDEN THE COMPLETED SECTIONS HOW THEY USE THE WESTERN LINK

WE HEARD

- 53 participants had ridden a bike along the Western Link
 - 52.8% for recreational riding
 - 13.2% for commuting
 - 28.3% for a mixture of both
 - 5.6% (3 participants) selected other

PARTICIPANTS TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE USING THE WESTERN LINK OF THE BUILDING BETTER BIKE CONNECTIONS PROJECT

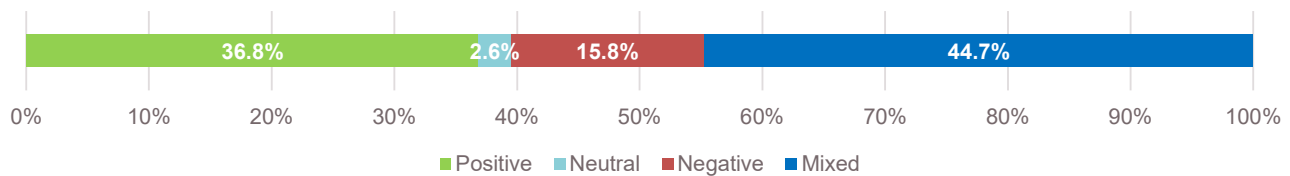
Feedback from participants who have ridden the completed section of the Western Link

- The following insights were derived from the 43 participants who had said they had ridden a bike along the Western Link
- Sentiment was generally positive (37%) or mixed (45%) with 16% negative and 2% neutral (See Graph 3)
- Mixed sentiment typically indicated general support for the project but also highlighted a concern or possible improvement
 - 7 participants mentioned feeling safer using the bike lines
 - 5 specifically mentioned using the bike paths with children and families
 - Several possible improvements were raised; including clearer or more markings and signage (4) to help inform road users of the change in condition. This would also address other concerns raised such as poor visibility (2) and confusion in design (5).

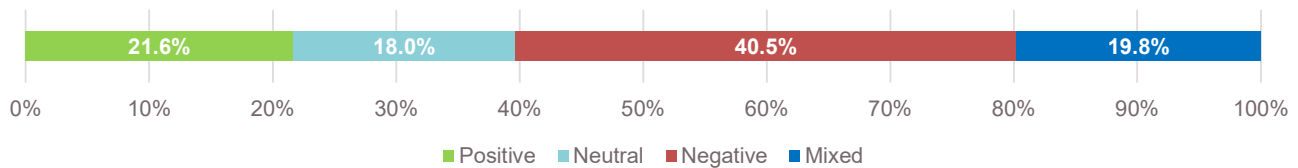
Overall feedback from participants regarding the completed section of the Western Link

- The following insights were derived from the wider 111 participant answers to the question
- Sentiment was mixed; 40.5% negative, 21.6% positive, 19.8% mixed and 18% neutral
- 23 participants wrote generally supportive comments without specific feedback (see Graph 4)
- The most common concerns raised were the appearance of underutilisation of the bike paths (16 participants) and by extension the feeling that investing in bike paths was a waste of money (11)
- 15 participants mentioned a concern about safety or risk to road users. While 10 specifically mentioned the increase to safety because of the bike lanes.
- 10 participants raised concerns that the route was not connected to other parts of the network or key areas within Geelong, including the northern suburbs.
- 6 participants requested clearer or more signage and markings while 4 found the route unclear or confusing

Graph 3: Analysis of feedback provided by cyclists on the Western Link by sentiment



Graph 4: Analysis of all feedback provided on the Western Link by sentiment



Verbatim quotes



Positive feedback

- I live on the Western link and work in the City. The link is great especially the crossing on Pakington Street. The traffic is calmer on this bike route and car drivers are aware to look out for cyclists.
- It makes it easier and safer to ride along this route. I have noticed many students riding along this route and have been pleased to see they have a safe way to ride to and from school.
- Much safer for bike riders and easy for drivers like myself to navigate.
- The signage and pavement details make it easy for a driver to be aware this is a bike zone.



Mixed feedback

- All my family has been able to ride more safely with the new bike lanes. Unfortunately there are not enough of the new lanes to be able to get to many places by bike, and they don't yet connect very well.
- Any lane and awareness is great, but the links are clunky and hard to follow verging on dangerous at times.
- It is imperative that there is infrastructure for cyclists in Geelong. This route was a lazy attempt to create safe cycle paths. Unless it is constantly upgraded with lines and signage otherwise a waste of \$\$.



Negative feedback

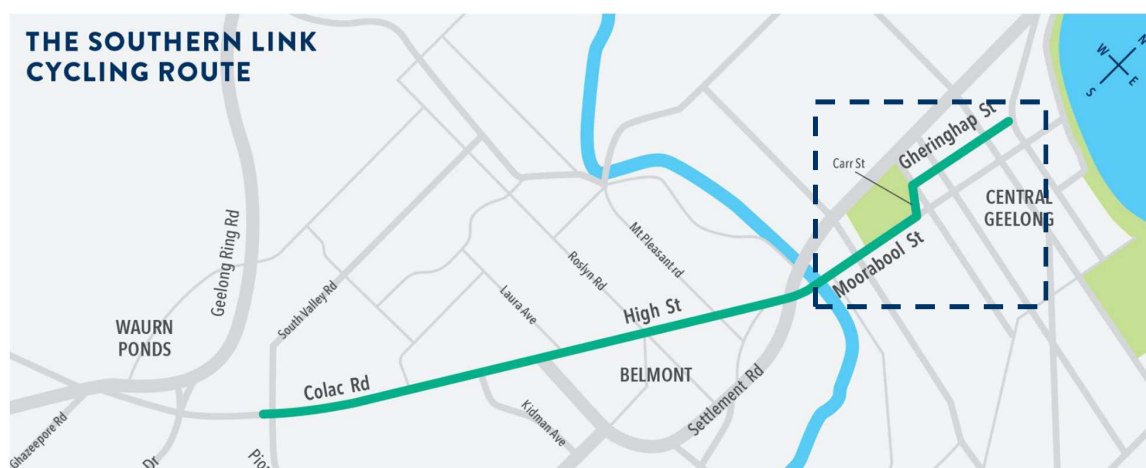
- Have not seen one cyclist in Malop Street ever!
- I thought this would be really good, but it's disruptive to traffic flow.
- Why are we wasting countless millions of dollars on these projects that a tiny fraction of the community uses?
- Waste of money, taking out our customers car parks, riders have no respect for traffic laws.
- I believe that bicycle paths are a waste of money.
- Bicycle are an inefficient and dangerous form of transport. Bicycle owners and users are elitist and undeserving of the millions spent on useless means of transport.



Neutral feedback

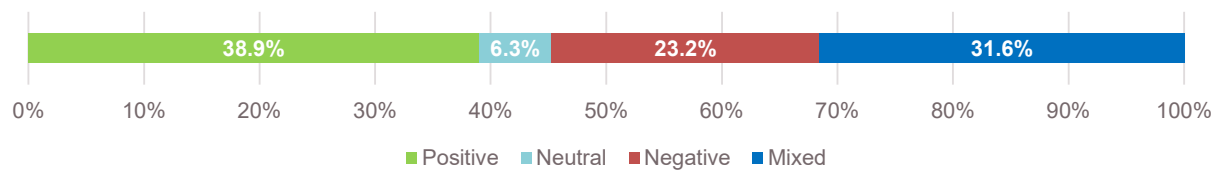
- Where wide streets can accommodate bike lanes this should be prioritised. Hopefully the streets chosen are on an existing bicycle route and are connected to other routes.
- I haven't ridden it yet
- I live in Belmont and have a friend that lives in Herne Hill. We both have cargo bikes to carry our kids and we ride together occasionally for recreation. Sometimes I got his way, sometimes he heads over my way

FEEDBACK ON THE COMPLETED SECTIONS OF SOUTHERN LINK

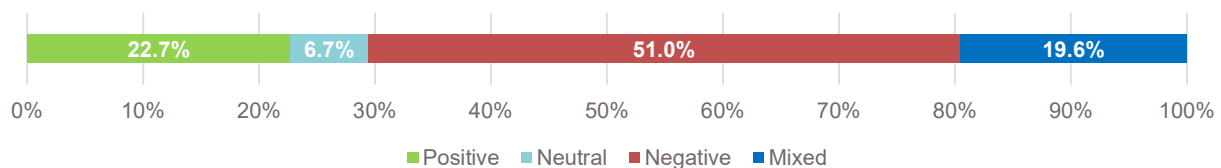


WE ASKED	WE HEARD
PARTICIPANTS WHO HAD RIDDEN THE COMPLETED SECTIONS HOW THEY USE THE SOUTHERN LINK	107 participants had ridden a bike along the Southern Link 32.1% for recreational riding 27.4% for commuting 37.8% for a mixture of both 3.7% (4 participants) selected other 1 participant did not answer
PARTICIPANTS TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE USING THE COMPLETED SECTION OF THE SOUTHERN LINK OF THE BUILDING BETTER BIKE CONNECTIONS PROJECT	Feedback from participants who have ridden the completed section of the Southern Link 95 participants said they had ridden a bike along the COMPLETED section of the Southern Link - Response sentiment for those that had ridden the southern link was largely positive (39%) with 32% mixed, 23% negative and 6% neutral (see graph 5) - Mixed sentiment typically indicated general support for the project but also highlighted a concern or possible improvement - The most common statement amongst those that had ridden the completed southern link was a feeling of safety or increased safety with 27 participants mentioning safety in their response 21 participants wrote generally supportive comments without specific feedback 18 participants mentioned the advantage and benefit of separated bikes lanes 14 participants had concerns about obstacles on or near the bike path blocking the lane. For example, temporary traffic signs used in road works. - Several possible improvements were raised; including clearer or more markings and signage (4) to help inform road users of the change in condition. This would also address other concerns raised such as confusion in design (19) and poor driver awareness (17).
	Overall feedback on the completed Southern Link - The following insights were derived from the wider 194 participant answers to the question - Sentiment was largely (51%) negative with 23% positive, 20% mixed and 7% neutral 25 participants wrote generally supportive comments without specific feedback - The most common concern raised was increased risk to road users (56), specifically at intersections (31). Driver awareness (21) and bike visibility (18) were suggested as places for improvement. - However, 30 participants specifically mentioned the increase to safety because of the bike lanes. With a total of 21 participants praising the separated the bike lanes. 30 participants thought the bike paths were underutilised and by extension the feeling that investing in bike paths was a waste of money (15) 15 participants raised concerns that the route was not connected to other parts of the network or key areas within Geelong, including the northern suburbs.

Graph 5: Analysis of feedback provided by cyclists on the completed section of the Southern Link by sentiment



Graph 6: Analysis of all feedback provided on the completed section of the Southern Link by sentiment



Verbatim Quotes

Positive feedback

- They are a great initiative I like how they are completely segregated from the road meaning I feel much safer on my commute.
- The new section is a dramatic improvement on the user experience when compared to the prior road space allocation. It's now a joy to ride along this corridor.
- I have found the Southern Link from the river into the Geelong CBD to be excellent. Despite the challenge of the shared path area outside the Shell service station and street crossing at Park Avenue
- Well done CoGG! The separated bike lanes work well - it's a big step in the right direction. As a cyclist, I feel significantly safer. As a driver as well, there is no change.

Mixed feedback

- Overall I'm really happy to have them there. I do feel they are let down by many features of their design and construction, which could be improved in future sections, or progressively in the future.
- I feel much safer riding my bike on the new sections of the Southern Link compared to riding along High Street. I find the existing bus stops are uncomfortable to ride over because the ramps on either side are quite steep. It would have been great if more trees could have been incorporated into these sections.
- I see well designed bicycle lanes but I rarely see anyone using them. I don't see (maybe I'm not looking properly) places where people can leave their bicycles for long periods where there isn't the fear of having them stolen, and where they are protected from the weather

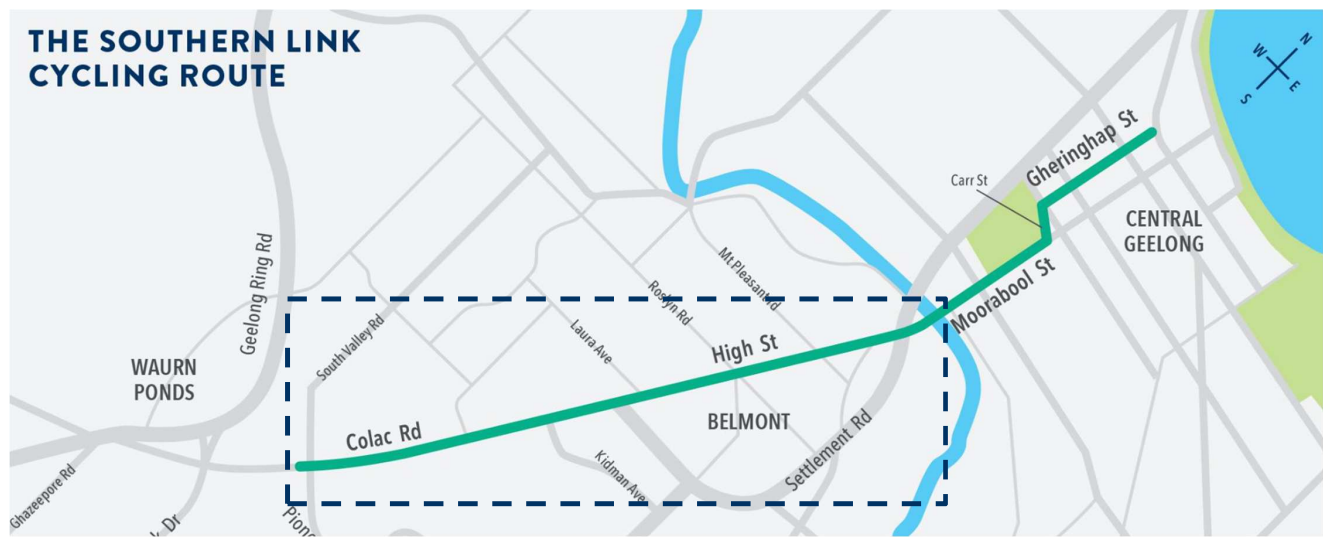
Negative feedback

- Absolutely ridiculous where the parked cars are now. They constantly hold up traffic as cars have to merge behind them. There are rarely any bike using them.
- Not great with the construction site part way up the hill. Too many curves and road crossings aren't great when cars parked in nearby spots especially for riding visibility.
- Terrible use of space with parking bays stuck out and impacting roadway, trip hazard in Moorabool St leaving stadium.
- I have not seen anyone riding on this link since it's completion & it has reduced car parking. & ease for drivers, why waste the money constructing these links for very little usage. Whether council likes it or not we are car drivers!
- The road is now dangerous for every user. Nothing aligns, the traffic flow is all over the place and parking reduced.

Neutral feedback

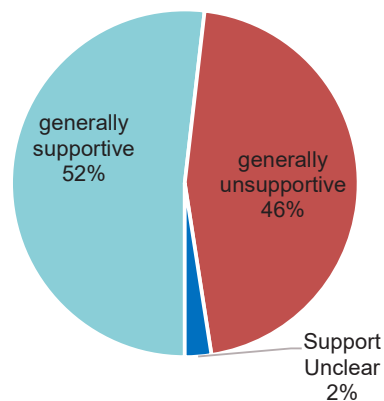
- Need to market route to locals and visitors alike.
- Cyclists are still using the road instead of the bike lanes...
- I still see some cyclists travelling into the CBD on alternate roads, so it would be good to ensure they are educated to use the link. Making cultural change like this takes time and perseverance; I urge council to persist with the plan and give it the time needed to change to habits for cyclists and drivers.
- We need the same to connect the North!! I've tried several times to ride my bike from Corio into town and it's just dangerous.

FEEDBACK ON DESIGN OF STAGE 2 SOUTHERN LINK

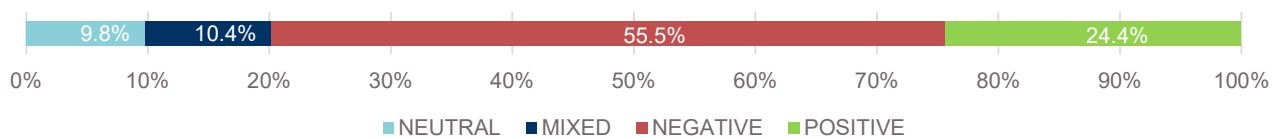


WE ASKED	WE HEARD
PARTICIPANTS ASKED IF THEY FELT THE DESIGN MET THE AIM TO CREATE NEW MAJOR CYCLING ROUTES THAT WOULD MAKE IT SAFER AND EASIER FOR ANYONE TO RIDE	• 39% said yes, • 46% said no • 15% were unsure
PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED TO EXPAND ON THEIR ANSWER	• 164 responses were recorded ○ 52% of responses were generally supportive of the project as a whole but often provided suggestions for possible improvements ○ 46% of responses were unsupportive of the project regardless of any changes to design ○ 2% of responses were of such brevity that support sentiment could not be assessed • Participants used the text response to raise concerns and suggestions for improvement to the design. • 19 participants specifically praised the separated bike lanes and 18 mentioned the design would increase safety. • 29 participants raised concerns with using High Street and suggested a different route would be more beneficial or safer. • The most common concerns related to High Street were: ○ Increased traffic congestion caused by bike lanes (15) ○ The steepness of the hill (9) ○ Poor outcomes for or impact on High Street business (8) ○ Loss of street parking (8) • 38 participants raised concerns relating to risk or safety however no specific safety issue was raised a high number of times. • 10 participants found the designs provided confusing or hard to understand.

Graph 7: Analysis of feedback provided on the design for Stage 2 of the Southern Link



Graph 8: Analysis of all feedback provided on the designs for Stage 2 of the Southern Link by sentiment



Verbatim comments



Positive feedback

- The BBBC project is great - it's a no-brainer. Any change is going to be a challenge. Surely there is enough support for the project - do we keep needing to consult the community only to hear the same thing. Let's just build it and be proud of it!
- It is useful for travelling to the shops
- Designs appear to be easy to use and sensible. I'd feel much more comfortable riding with my child to High Street.
- Option 2B wasn't my preferred option, in 2018 I thought a lane on each side would be better but I've come round to two lanes on one side. The main thing is the cars are away from us so we don't get killed
- Separated lanes are essential to maximise the amount of cyclists who feel safe to use them.
- I think it's a good way to meet the needs and wants of both cyclists and car users.



Mixed feedback

- It would be even better if dedicated separated bike lanes were provided but I understand that this can not be achieved in the space available. Don't forget to include street tree planting to provide shade and make the route attractive.
- The separated sections along high St retail are critical. The move from bidirectional path to one way at mt pleasant Rd is the correct place for this. I am not sure that bidirectional path is correct along settlement Rd.
- Would be direct and fine for cyclists but not for the local shopping strip. Francis Street is a wide street with less traffic which may be a better alternative.



Negative feedback

- It is focussed on bike riders only and should take into consideration everyone who is affected by this project.
- No one ride this way! It's a waste of my rates!
- Safety concerns around Cambra Rd. The new pedestrian crossing between Apex and Allit Avenue looks too close to the merge onto High Street, drivers may get annoyed. Concrete barriers between bike lane and parking/footpath slightly hazardous - Scandi design?
- People don't ride their bikes around this area, they drive cars to shop, use services. Parking is already challenging along High St this will make it disastrous. Local businesses are leaving & moving to shopping centres, local strip shopping will die
- Stop spending money on cyclists!!!
- Who is going to ride up the high street hill



Neutral feedback

- Uses a very busy and narrow street (High Street) where the new bike lanes are to be constructed. Have any alternatives been looked at to get cyclists safely between Roslyn and Moorabool St bridge.
- The new route should be via Francis Street, Belmont
- It might look okay on paper but it will depend on the actual implementation, quality of surface and traffic behaviour.
- I am concerned that drivers would take time to adapt to the new design

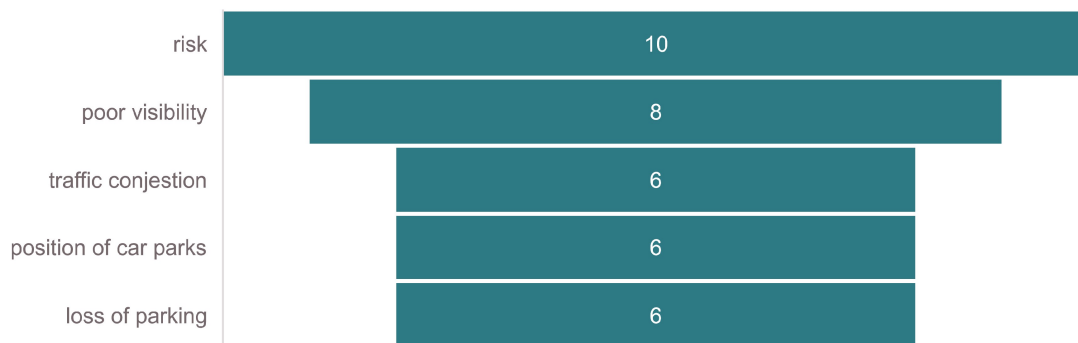
WRITTEN FEEDBACK

We received an additional 59 comments through channels outside of the Have Your Say survey. This included

- 41 requests for service
- 13 comments via Facebook
- 4 emails
- 1 phone call (unrelated to the call back request in the survey)
- 0 hard copy surveys returned

The feedback was reviewed using the same methodology as the survey by tagging common words and phrases. Feedback provided outside of the survey was generally negative or mixed. Mixed feedback was generally supportive of the project but identified potential improvements.

Graph 9: Most frequent themes raised regarding the BBBC project outside of the survey



6. CONCLUSION

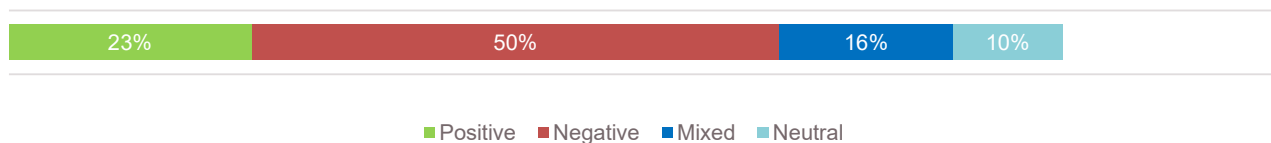
We received 469 comments across 3 questions relating to the completed sections of the BBBC project and the designs on Stage 2 of the Southern Link.

The comments were analysed to understand the general sentiment of the feedback (Graph 10).

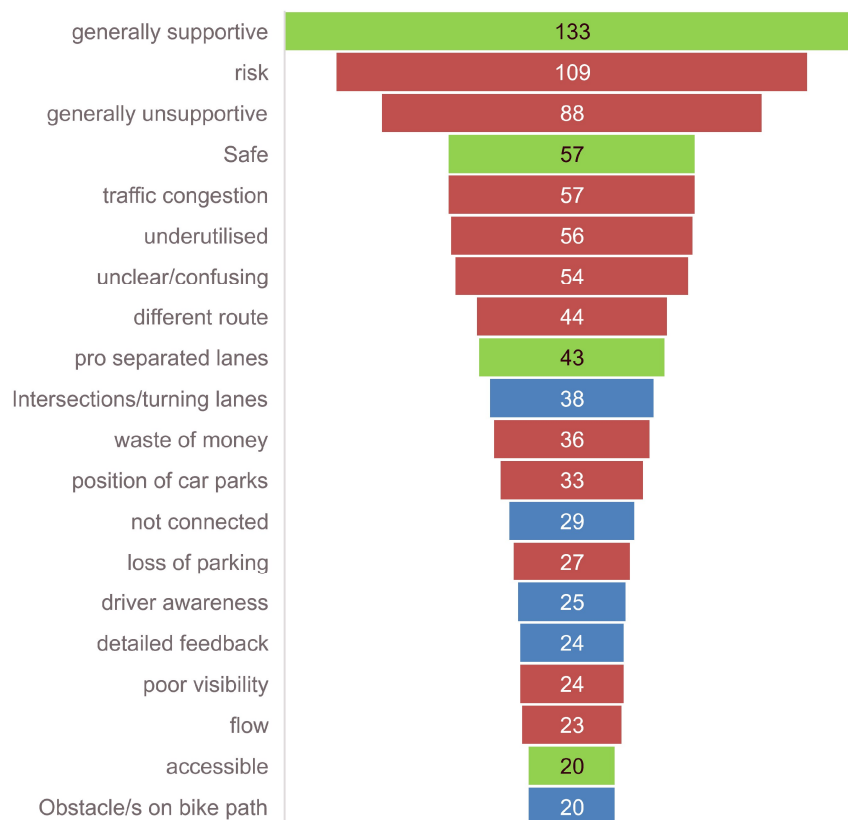
Each of the comments were also tagged to gauge the frequency of themes. We applied 73 unique tags to the comments with many comments raising more than one theme. Feedback was varied and centred around safety, design, and amenity.

The most frequently mentioned themes are displayed in Graph 11 below.

Graph 10: Analysis of feedback provided on the three open text questions



Graph 11: Top 20 most frequently raised themes



From the feedback we collected during the engagement period there were also a number of specific requests regarding the completed sections and the design for Stage of the Southern Link. These items will be reviewed separately, and a summary will be provided on the BBBC web page along with a response from the City.

We will continue to update the community as the project progresses via the BBBC engagement page <https://yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/building-better-bike-connections>.

OPTION 1 AND 2B CONCEPT DESIGNS

Option 1



Option 2b



2.9. Tender T2200049: Armstrong Creek Town Centre Library - Construction

Source: Customer & Corporate Services
Acting Director: Karen Olesnicky

** Cr Grzybek re-entered the meeting room at 8.27pm.*

Purpose

1. To award Contract C2200049 for the Armstrong Creek Town Centre Library – Construction to A W Nicholson Pty Ltd (ABN 14 118 404 381).

Background

2. The Armstrong Creek Town Centre Library is one of a number of community facilities which the City of Greater Geelong is required to develop in response to the current and future needs of local children, families and residents within the Armstrong Creek Growth Area.
3. The Buchan Group Melbourne Pty Ltd was appointed by the City in January 2021 to complete the design of the library.

Key Matters

4. The Procurement Services unit administered an open tender process on behalf of Capital Projects for the construction phase of the Armstrong Creek Town Centre Library.
5. The submissions were evaluated in accordance with the processes detailed in the City's 'Procurement and Contracts Manual'.
6. Based on the tenderer's project experience, expertise, value for money and project risks the Tender Evaluation Panel recommend that A W Nicholson Pty Ltd be awarded the contract for the provision of these works.
7. Subject to Council awarding the contract, the project will commence 30 August 2022.
8. The lump sum price for the delivery of the project is up to \$18,382,751 excluding GST.

Cr Nelson moved, Cr Moloney seconded -

That Council:

1. **Award Contract C2200049 to A W Nicholson Pty Ltd (ABN 14 118 404 381) for the Armstrong Creek Town Centre Library - Construction for the tendered lump sum price of up to \$18,382,751 excluding GST to include value management options currently under negotiation; and**
2. **Authorise to the Chief Executive Officer to execute Contract No. C2200049 and any other documents required by or to give effect to the terms of the Contract on behalf of Council.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

9. The Armstrong Creek Town Centre Library has been identified as a key Developer Contribution Plan (DCP) infrastructure item to be delivered to service the community of Armstrong Creek.
10. The project has come in within the allocated project budget.
11. The project has \$1,500,000 funding from the State Government through the Living Libraries Grant. The remainder of the project is funded by the City of Greater Geelong.

Community Engagement

12. The City established a Project Control & Working Group, which engaged with the Geelong Regional Library Corporation, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, local school and community organisations.
13. Residents were engaged to inform the design of the new library in an extensive engagement process through “Have Your Say” and a community survey process in March 2021.
14. The tender was a standard construction project which did not have any opportunities for collaboration.

Social Equity and Sustainability

15. The library will be the first social infrastructure delivered in the town centre to service the entire Armstrong Creek growth area including:
 - 15.1. A free library service to cater for the forecasted 55,000-65,000 population located centrally and accessible by car, public transport and active transport options.
 - 15.2. Library catalogue, children’s story time, multipurpose spaces, co-working, outdoor terraces and creative spaces for programming designed to enable intergenerational access to spaces.
 - 15.3. Celebration of Wadawurrung heritage in the building design.
 - 15.4. Universal accessibility features.
 - 15.5. Public toilets (including gender neutral, unisex ambulant, ambulant toilet facilities and nappy changing facilities).

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

16. This tender was advertised in accordance with the requirements of section 108 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the tender process has been conducted in accordance with the City’s Procurement Policy.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

17. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority:
Healthy, caring and inclusive community.
Strong local economy.
Sustainable growth and environment.
18. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, “Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future” community aspiration:
An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.
Development and implementation of sustainable solutions.
Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.

Conflict of Interest

19. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

20. The tender evaluation process involved the assessment of work, health and safety policies, procedures and risk assessment documents.

Environmental Sustainability

21. This project will be a certified “Design & As Built” 5 Star Green Star by Green Building Council of Australia. This is an independent verification that demonstrates the building’s design and construction has achieved a 5 Star rating.

Attachments

Nil

Tender Details

Contract Details

22. Contract C2200049: Armstrong Creek Town Centre Library – Construction.

Invitation to Tender

23. The City issued an open tender T2200049, closing 2pm Friday 06 May 2022, seeking to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced contractor to undertake works associated with the Armstrong Creek Town Centre Library project

Table 1 Invitations to Tender

Medium	Date Advertised
Geelong Times (including Armstrong Creek Times & Bellarine Times)	Saturday 01 April 2022
eProcure	Saturday 01 April 2022

Tender Evaluation Panel

24. The Tender Evaluation Panel comprised the following staff and external advisors:

Table 2 Tender Evaluation Panel

Position Title	Panel role
Procurement Specialist	Chair
Manager Capital Projects	Member
Coordinator Capital Projects	Member
Community Infrastructure Planner	Member
Quantity Surveyor	Advice
Project Architect	Advice
Probity Advisor	Advice

Tender Submissions

25. Tenderers had to meet the following mandatory criteria:
- 25.1. OH&S system – if the tenderer's OH&S processes and procedures do not meet a minimum standard determined by the City, the tenderer will not be considered for the contract;
 - 25.2. Must attend the mandatory site inspection;
 - 25.3. Must have completed a project as the head contractor of a 4 star or greater green star building, which has achieved Design & As Built 4 star (or greater) certification through the Green Building Council; and
 - 25.4. Must have completed equivalent works as the head contractor exceeding \$5,000,000 (ex GST) in the past 5 years.

Table 3 Tender Submissions Received

Tender		Conforming tender
A	A W Nicholson Pty Ltd	Yes
B	Tender B	Yes
C	Tender C	Yes
D	Tender C	Yes

Tender Evaluation

26. The Tender Evaluation Panel used the following qualitative criteria (in order of weighting):

Table 4 Comparative Criteria Weighting

Comparative Criteria	Weighting %
Methodology & plan for performing contract	40%
Capability and experience, including past performance last 5 years	25%
Proposed project resourcing	20%
Economic & local content contribution (mandatory)	10%
Quality management systems	5%

27. The tender was evaluated by the Tender Evaluation Panel in a two staged process:
- 27.1. Qualitative assessment of a weighted score totalling 100%; and
- 27.2. Evaluation of price against weighted score:
- VFM= Tendered Price ÷ Weighted Score (lowest VFM Score = preferred supplier).
28. A W Nicholson Pty Ltd were deemed the best value for money tenderer, demonstrating best value for money for the City and placing them as the preferred.

Tender Evaluation Scores

29. At the conclusion of the evaluation the tenders were ranked in the following order:

Table 5 Tender Evaluation Scores

Tender		Rank
A	A W Nicholson Pty Ltd	1
B	Tender B	2
C	Tender C	3
D	Tender C	4

Post Tender Contact

30. The tender evaluation panel sought clarifications in writing prior to an interview with A W Nicholson Pty Ltd and Tender B. These clarifications were regarding construction program, methodology and value management options.

Probity

31. The City engaged the services of a probity advisor to provide independent, experienced and objective probity advice.
32. No probity issues were identified.

2.10. Tender T2200078: Anakie Reserve Social Room Upgrade

Source: Customer & Corporate Services
Acting Director: Karen Olesnicky

Purpose

1. To award Contract C2200078 for the Anakie Reserve Social Room Upgrade to Rendine Constructions Pty Ltd (ABN 29 005 366 129).

Background

2. The Anakie Reserve Social Room Upgrade responds to the continued growth of sporting participation at the reserve and will provide accessible and modern facilities to the Anakie Community Sports Club and Anakie Cricket Club. The existing social room facility is not accessible and falls short of modern facility standards and sporting guidelines. The new social room will provide a new multi-purpose social room facility which aligns with the state sporting association facility development guidelines and meets the tenant club's operational needs.
3. The Anakie Reserve Social Facility Redevelopment is to be located on Council owned land at 45 De Motts Road, Anakie 3221.
4. AVOR Architecture was appointed by Council in October 2021 to complete the design of the facility.

Key Matters

5. The Procurement Services unit administered an open tender process on behalf of Capital Projects for the construction phase of the Anakie Reserve Social Room Upgrade.
6. Based on the tenderer's project experience, expertise, value for money and project risks the Tender Evaluation Panel recommend that Rendine Constructions Pty Ltd be awarded the contract for the provision of these works.
7. Subject to Council awarding the contract, the project will commence August 2022.
8. The lump sum price for the delivery of the project is \$2,459,784.00 excluding GST.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.10

Cr Aitken moved, Cr Grzybek seconded -

That Council:

1. **Award Contract C2200078 to Rendine Constructions Pty Ltd (ABN 29 005 366 129) for the Anakie Reserve Social Room Upgrade for the tendered lump sum price of \$2,459,784.00 excluding GST; and**
2. **Authorise to the Chief Executive Officer to execute Contract No. C2200078 and any other documents required by or to give effect to the terms of the Contract on behalf of Council.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

9. The project has come in within the allocated budget.
10. The project has \$2,500,000 funding from the City of Greater Geelong.

Community Engagement

11. This project included consultation with the Anakie Community Sports Club and Anakie Cricket Club. There were no broader community engagement opportunities.
12. This tender was a standard construction project which did not have any opportunities for collaboration.

Social Equity and Sustainability

13. The facility will service the entire community including a focus on inclusive participation and diversity and the provision of modern infrastructure that supports female and all abilities involvement.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

14. This tender was advertised in accordance with the requirements of section 108 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the tender process has been conducted in accordance with the City's Procurement Policy.
15. The submissions were evaluated in accordance with the processes detailed in the City's 'Procurement and Contracts Manual'.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

16. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority:
Healthy, caring and inclusive community.
Sustainable growth and environment.
17. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:
An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.
Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.

Conflict of Interest

18. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

19. The tender evaluation process involved the assessment of work, health and safety policies, procedures and risk assessment documents

Environmental Sustainability

20. This project included a sustainable design assessment with a 56% Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard targeted for the project.

Attachments

Nil

Tender Details

Contract Details

21. Contract C2200078: Anakie Reserve Social Room Upgrade

Invitation to Tender

22. The City issued an open tender T2200078, closing 2pm Wednesday 8 June 2022, seeking to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced contractor to undertake works associated with the Anakie Reserve Social Room Upgrade.

Table 1 Invitations to Tender

Medium	Date Advertised
Geelong Times (including Armstrong Creek Times & Bellarine Times)	Thursday 5 May 2022
eProcure	Friday 6 May 2022

Tender Evaluation Panel

23. The Tender Evaluation Panel comprised the following staff and external advisors:

Table 2 Tender Evaluation Panel

Position Title	Panel role
Procurement Services Officer title	Chair
Manager Capital Projects	Member
Project Manager & OH&S Officer	Member
Project Manager	Member
Quantity Survey	Advice
Project Architect	Advice
Project Architect	Advice

Tender Submissions

24. Tenders had to meet the following mandatory criteria:
- 24.1. OH&S system – if the tenderer's OH&S processes and procedures do not meet a minimum standard determined by the City, the tenderer will not be considered for the contract;
- 24.2. Must have attended the nominated mandatory site meeting briefing; and
- 24.3. Must have completed equivalent works as a head contract exceeding \$1,500,000 (ex GST) in the past 5 years.

Table 3 Tender Submissions Received

Tender	Conforming tender
--------	-------------------

A	Rendine Constructions Pty Ltd	Yes
B	Tender B	Yes

Tender Evaluation

25. The Tender Evaluation Panel used the following qualitative criteria (in order of weighting):

Table 4 Comparative Criteria Weighting

Comparative Criteria	Weighting %
Methodology and plan for performing contract	30
Capability and experience	30
Proposed project resourcing	20
Economic and Social Sustainability Considerations (Local Content)	10
Quality Management	5
Risk Management	5

26. The tender was evaluated by the tender evaluation panel in a two staged process:
- 26.1. Qualitative assessment of a weighted score totalling 100%; and
- 26.2. Value For Money
27. Rendine Constructions Pty Ltd were deemed the best value for money tenderer, demonstrating best value for money for the City, and placing them as the preferred.

Tender Evaluation Scores

28. At the conclusion of the evaluation the tenders were ranked in the following order:

Table 5 Tender Evaluation Scores

Tender	Rank
# Rendine Constructions Pty Ltd	1
# Tender B	2

Post Tender Contact

29. The tender evaluation panel sought clarifications in writing from Rendine Constructions Pty Ltd and Tender B. These clarifications were regarding construction program, methodology and value management options.

Probity

30. No probity issues were identified.

2.11. G21 Pillar Refresh Councillor Appointments

Source: Strategy, People & Performance

Director: Kaarina Phyland

Purpose

1. To appoint City of Greater Geelong Councillors to the refreshed G21 Pillars.

Background

2. G21 has consolidated its eight strategic Pillars into four, to enable a more holistic, strategic discussion of ideas and projects. The structure also aims to enable cross-pillar relationships and content sharing.
3. G21 is now seeking representatives from each of the G21 Local Government members to form part of the refreshed Pillars.

Key Matters

4. The four Pillars under the new structure are:
 - 4.1. First Nations Conservation;
 - 4.2. Health & Wellbeing;
 - 4.3. Culture and Economic Development; and
 - 4.4. Sustainability.
5. Councillor representation is not sought on the First Nations Conservation Pillar.
6. In addition to Councillor representation on the remaining three Pillars, there will also be Councillor representation on the new Managing Growth Advisory Group which is to have a planning and transport focus and will play a central role in the development of the new G21 Region Plan.

ORIGINAL OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council update its representation to the G21 Pillars in line with the new structure and appoint the following:

- 1. Cr Murrihy to the Health & Wellbeing Pillar (with Cr Mansfield as agreed delegate);**
- 2. Cr Sullivan to the Cultural & Economic Development Pillar (with Cr Murrihy as agreed delegate);**
- 3. Cr Moloney to the Sustainability Pillar (with Cr Mason as agreed delegate); and**
- 4. Cr Harwood to the Managing Growth Advisory Group (with Cr Grzybek as agreed delegate).**

REVISED OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Cr Mason moved, Cr Sullivan seconded -

That Council update its representation to the G21 Pillars in line with the new structure and appoint the following:

- 1. Cr Murrihy to the Health & Wellbeing Pillar (with Cr Mansfield as agreed delegate);**
- 2. Cr Sullivan to the Cultural & Economic Development Pillar (with Cr **Mason** as agreed delegate);**
- 3. Cr Moloney to the Sustainability Pillar (with Cr Mason as agreed delegate); and**
- 4. Cr Harwood to the Managing Growth Advisory Group (with Cr Grzybek as agreed delegate).**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

7. The appointment of Councillors to G21 Pillars and their representation contributes to the financial sustainability of the region.

Community Engagement

8. G21 Pillar refresh has been undertaken based on feedback from existing pillar and council members. The new structure is aimed at achieving more project-based outcomes.

Social Equity and Sustainability

9. Representation on the refreshed Pillars will allow Council to play a key role in considering issues relating to social equity and sustainability throughout the G21 region.
10. The following officer positions have been appointed to the new G21 Pillars and Advisory Group:
 - 10.1. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senior Policy Officer to First Nations Conservation;
 - 10.2. Director Community Life to Health & Wellbeing;
 - 10.3. Director City Planning and Economy to Culture and Economic Development;
 - 10.4. Director City Services to Sustainability; and
 - 10.5. Director City Planning and Economy to the Managing Growth Advisory Group.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

11. No relevant law, policy or legal implications have been identified as part of this report.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

12. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority:
 - Healthy, caring and inclusive community.
 - Strong local economy.
 - Sustainable growth and environment.
13. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:
 - A destination that attracts local and international visitors.
 - A fast, reliable and connected transport network.
 - A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities.
 - An inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.
 - Creative and diverse culture.
 - Development and implementation of sustainable solutions.
 - Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.

Conflict of Interest

14. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

15. No risks have been identified as a result of this report.

Environmental Sustainability

16. Representation on the refreshed Sustainability Pillar will allow Council to play a key role in considering and actioning environmental issues throughout the G21 region.

2.12. Planning Authorisation - Council to Staff

Source: Office of the Chief Executive
Chief Executive Officer: Martin Cutter

Purpose

1. To appoint City officers as authorised officers under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (P&EA).

Background

2. City officers are appointed as authorised officers to exercise statutory powers under various Acts and regulations. Appointments as authorised officers are to individual staff members.
3. The P&EA regulates enforcement and is reliant on authorised officers acting on behalf of the responsible authority (Council).

Key Matters

4. Where there is a specific power within an Act, Council should appoint authorised officers pursuant to that Act. This is the case for the P&EA.
5. **Attachment 1** sets out the Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation under the P&EA and lists the staff members to whom this authorisation applies.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.12

Cr Grzybek moved, Cr Harwood seconded -

In the exercise of the powers conferred by s 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Council resolves that:

1. **City staff referred to in the Instrument (Attachment 1) be appointed and authorised as set out in the Instrument;**
2. **The Instrument comes into force immediately upon the resolution of Council; and**
3. **The Instrument be signed by the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of Council.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

6. There are no financial sustainability implications arising from the subject of this report.

Community Engagement

7. Relevant City managers have been consulted regarding this recommended appointment and authorisation.

Social Equity and Sustainability

8. There are no social equity sustainability implications arising from the subject of this report.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

9. The recommended appointment and authorisation of staff members complies with the relevant provisions of the P&EA and the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

10. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority:
High-performing council and organisation.

Conflict of Interest

11. No officer involved in the preparation of this report declared a general or material conflict of interest.

Risk Assessment

12. There are no significant or high risks associated with the subject of this report.

Environmental Sustainability

13. There are no environmental sustainability implications arising from the subject of this report.

Attachments

1. Planning Authorisations Council to Staff July 2022 (1) [2.12.1 - 2 pages]

Greater Geelong City Council

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation

(Planning and Environment Act 1987 only)

Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (*Planning and Environment Act 1987*)

In this instrument "**officer**" means –

**Andrew Zarb
Adrienne Golaboski
Cynthia Quach**

By this instrument of appointment and authorisation Greater Geelong City Council -

1. under section 147(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* - appoints the officers to be authorised officers for the purposes of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the regulations made under that Act; and
2. under section 313 of the *Local Government Act 2020* authorises the officers generally to institute proceedings for offences against the Acts and regulations described in this instrument.

It is declared that this instrument comes into force immediately upon the resolution of Council.

This instrument is authorised by a resolution of the Greater Geelong City Council on 26 July 2022.

Signed for GREATER GEELONG CITY COUNCIL by
MARTIN CUTTER, Chief Executive Officer

Chief Executive Officer

Date:

3. NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION – Cr Mansfield

3.1. Protection of Trees on Private Land

Background

In response to increasing development and housing diversity needs in Greater Geelong, Council is continuing to receive regular feedback regarding the removal of trees on private land.

Council highly values the immense benefits of the City's urban tree population. Our Urban Forest Strategy 2015-2025 focuses on enhancing the public and private tree population in the suburbs and townships across Greater Geelong. This includes increasing planting more trees and protecting existing trees. The Strategy highlight the role of established trees in urban cooling, drawing down carbon, providing habitat for fauna, and creating the character of residential areas. The principles, directions and recommendations in the Urban Forest Strategy continue to be major factors in Council decision-making processes relating to these matters.

In addition, there are a number of clauses currently in place in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme to address sustainable design, shading and urban heat principles. There are also specific requirements in place for planning permit applications to include landscape plans and meet a minimum level of permeability and garden area in appropriate zones. Further, in some General Residential and Neighbourhood Residential Zone areas, there is a requirement for canopy trees to be planted for each dwelling constructed.

Currently, only limited native trees are protected on private land through the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme. In the absence of a more comprehensive approach, Council has limited ability to protect other trees and vegetation on private land.

Such a policy would set out measures to increase protection of trees on private land in urban environments, potentially including Council policy expansion, the introduction of local laws and/or planning scheme controls.

To help determine which measures would be most effective for our municipality, it is important to undertake an assessment of the approaches used other local government areas and the existing knowledge of vegetation coverage and tools available to regulate its removal. DELWP provide guidance on how this can be done:

https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0029/96563/PPN07-Vegetation-Protection-in-Urban-Areas.pdf .

This initial assessment will enable us to evaluate the regulatory options, examine the extent of areas that should be subject to a detailed vegetation study, determine the cost and program of work.

Preparation of a significant tree register is planned subject to a a successful Council budget bid. This assessment will complement the preparation of the register by considering if private trees should be included and how it will be implemented.

Community engagement would also form an integral part of the development of any new approach to managing trees on private land.

Policy work of this nature is a long-term proposition. In order to continue protecting and increasing our urban forest effectively, it is important this work starts as soon as possible.

RESOLUTION - Item 3.1

Cr Mansfield moved, Cr Moloney seconded -

That Council:

- 1. That Council requests the Chief Executive Officer to allocate the resources to provide a report to Council by 30 June 2023 that:**
 - 1.1 Summarises existing protections for trees on private land in Greater Geelong;**
 - 1.2 Investigates policies and planning controls in place in other municipalities that provide greater protection for trees on private land;**
 - 1.3 Outlines options for enhancing protection of trees on private land in urban environments within Greater Geelong, including potential pros and cons; and**
 - 1.4 Identifies the process/s for introduction of any such initiatives, should Council wish to pursue them, including timelines, costs and community consultation.**

Carried

4. RECORD OF INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

Source: Office of the Chief Executive
Chief Executive Officer: Martin Cutter

Summary

1. The Governance Rules of the City of Greater Geelong require the tabling of records of informal meetings of Councillors at the next convenient Council meeting and that their record be included in the minutes of that Council meeting.
2. A summary of the informal meetings of Councillors is attached.

RESOLUTION - Item 4.1

Cr Harwood moved, Cr Grzybek seconded -

That Council receive the summary of the informal meetings of Councillors for the period to 26 July 2022.

Carried

**INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS
(Council Meeting 26 July 2022)**

Informal Meeting Details	Councillor Attendance/Apology	Officer Attendance	Agenda Items	Conflict of Interest Disclosures
Strategic Discussion 6 July 2022	Crs Aitken, Harwood, Mansfield, Moloney, Murrihy <i>Apologies : Crs Asher, Sullivan, Kontelj, Grzybek, Mason (Leave of Absence)</i>	M Cutter (CEO) G Smith (DIR) R Stevens (DIR) B Doyle (A/DIR) S McKew (MGR) J Lane (MGR) A Higgs (MGR) B Hartley (MGR)	- Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy - Regional and Indoor Sports and Events Centre - G21 Pillar Structure Refresh	Nil
Councillor Briefing 12 July 2022	Crs Sullivan, Aitken, Harwood, Kontelj, Mansfield, Moloney, Murrihy, Nelson <i>Apologies : Crs Asher, Grzybek, Mason (Leave of Absence)</i>	M Cutter (CEO) R Stevens (DIR) G Smith (DIR) G Wilson-Browne (DIR) K Olesnicki (A/DIR) K Pizzi (MGR) J Hurse (MGR) J Lane (MGR) A Higgs (MGR) J Wishart (MGR) J Douglas (A/MGR) K Shearer (CO ORD) J Malone (CO ORD) M Macgugan (CORP COMM LEAD) K Ivens (SNR ADVISOR CEO)	<i>Presentations:</i> - Lara Community Hub – Scope and Options <i>Discussion:</i> - Building Better Bike Connections – Stage 2 South <i>Council Reports:</i> - Youth Council Second Report 2022 - National Wool Museum 30 Year Vision and Business Plan - Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas – Planning Scheme Amendment Pathway - Endorsement of the Surf Coast Statement of Planning Policy - Gambling Harm Minimisation Policy - Public Transparency Policy Review - Borrowing Policy Review - Tender T2200043 – Building Better Bike Connections, Stage 2 South - Tender T2200049 – Armstrong Creek Town Centre Library – Construction	Nil

			• Tender T2200078 Anakie Reserve Social Room Upgrade • G21 Pillar Refresh Councillor Appointments • Audit and Risk Committee Summary Report June 2022 (Confidential)	
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5. PLANNING DELEGATIONS

Source: City Planning & Economy
Director: Gareth Smith

Purpose

1. To provide the schedule of planning permit applications determined under delegation since the last report.

Background

2. Section 11 of the *Local Government Act 2020* 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. Section 63 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and section 188 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* allow Council to establish a delegated committee with the power to determine planning permit applications.
4. Council to Staff Instrument of Delegation allows staff to determine planning permit applications where there are less than 6 objections lodged.
5. The Planning Committee's terms of reference provide for determination of planning permit applications where there are 6 or more objections lodged.
6. The City is required by Council to provide information on planning permit applications determined under delegation.

Key Matters

7. The Schedule attached to this report provides information on the planning permit applications determined under delegation since the last report.

RESOLUTION - Item 5.1

Cr Harwood moved, Cr Grzybek seconded -

That Council receive the information in the Schedule titled Planning Decisions Report June 2022.

Carried

Planning Decisions June 2022

App No	Location	Application Type	Decision Date	Description	Authority/ No of Objectors
PP-127-2022	10 Read Street, NEWTOWN VIC 3220	Construction of Two Dwellings and a Two Lot Subdivision	15/06/2022	NOD - Delegate	3
PP-1283-2021	11 Flinders Parade, BARWON HEADS VIC 3227	Demolition of Existing Dwelling and Buildings and Works Associated with the Construction of a New Dwelling and Relocation of Boat Shed in a Heritage Overlay	23/06/2022	NOD - Delegate	5
PP-1320-2021	1/105 Skene Street, NEWTOWN VIC 3220	Use of land for sale and consumption of liquor (general licence)	3/06/2022	NOD - Delegate	3
PP-1529-2021	248 Mount Pleasant Road, HIGHTON VIC 3216	Construction of Three (3) Double Storey Dwellings	24/06/2022	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-1551-2021	9 Heytesbury Drive, LEOPOLD VIC 3224	Construction of Two (2) Dwellings and Two (2) Lot Subdivision	3/06/2022	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-164-2022	161 Bellerine Street, GEELONG VIC 3220	Partial Demolition and Alteration of Existing Building, Demolition of Outbuildings, Demolition and Construction of Front Fence, Change of Use to a Medical Centre in a Heritage Overlay	1/06/2022	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-173-2021	22 Tova Avenue, BELL POST HILL VIC 3215	Construction of Three (3) Dwellings and a Three (3) Lot Subdivision	30/06/2022	NOD - Delegate	3
PP-211-2022	12 Corio Street, BELMONT VIC 3216	Partial Demolition & Buildings and Works Associated with an Existing Dwelling in a Heritage Overlay	27/06/2022	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-238-2022	76-80 Newcombe Street, PORTARLINGTON VIC 3223	Increase of Licensed Area of Existing Hotel (General Licence)	3/06/2022	NOD - Delegate	2
PP-302-2022	101 Autumn Street, GEELONG WEST VIC 3218	Construction of a Dwelling and a Vehicle Crossover in a Heritage Overlay	1/06/2022	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-416-2022	110 Mount Pleasant Road, BELMONT VIC 3216	Use and development of the land for a Bar a Liquor Licence and reduction to the standard car parking requirement	24/06/2022	NOD - Delegate	4
PP-70-2022	4 Noel Road, MOOLAP VIC 3224	Use and Development of the land for a Medical Centre and Display of Business Identification Signs (Floodlit)	7/06/2022	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-710-2021	19-39 Oxley Street, PORTARLINGTON VIC 3223	Use and Development of a Dwelling	28/06/2022	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-71-2022	61 Helms Street, NEWCOMB VIC 3219	Construction of Eight (8) Dwellings	22/06/2022	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-1090-2019	9 Commander Way, CORIO VIC 3214	Multi Lot Subdivision	3/06/2022	Permit Refused - VCAT	VCAT
PP-1289-2021	45 Gillets Road, LARA VIC 3212	Use and Development of the Land for a Caravan and Camping Park	10/06/2022	Informal Refusal	Decision Making Committee
PP-1343-2020	11 Georgia Grove, CORIO VIC 3214	Construction of Four (4) Dwellings and Four (4) Lot Subdivision	30/06/2022	Permit Refused	VCAT
PP-553-2021	6 Taroonga Court, NORLANE VIC 3214	Construction of Four (4) Dwellings	24/06/2022	NOD - Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-610-2015/C	23A Cruickshank Avenue, OCEAN GROVE VIC 3226	Construction of Two (2) Double Storey Dwellings and Two (2) Lot Subdivision	24/06/2022	Refusal to Grant an Amended Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-802-2021	55 Yarra Street, GEELONG VIC 3220	Construction and Display of an Electronic Promotion Sign	28/06/2022	Permit Issued - VCAT	VCAT
PP-905-2015	155 Staughton Vale Road, STAUGHTON VALE VIC 3340	Use and Development of a School in Association with Agriculture and Outdoor Education and Use and Development of a Caretakers Residence	14/06/2022	Extended Planning Permit	Delegated Authority

6. CONFIDENTIAL

Council will close the meeting to the public in accordance with the provision of section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* to consider the following item:

6.1. Audit and Risk Committee Summary Report June 2022 (Confidential)

Source: Customer & Corporate Services
A/Director: Karen Olesnicky

CONFIDENTIAL

RESOLUTION - Item 6.1

Cr Harwood moved, Cr Grzybek seconded -

That Council consider this report at the conclusion of the meeting as it is designated confidential by the Chief Executive Officer for the purposes of sections 3(1) and 66(5) of the Local Government Act 2020, the information contained in this report is confidential because it contains Council business information being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations. This section is applicable because of the sensitive and varied nature of the information received and considered by the Audit and Risk Committee from time-to-time which can pertain to external stakeholders also.

Carried

CLOSE OF MEETING

Cr Nelson moved, Cr Mason seconded -

That the meeting be closed to the public.

Carried

The meeting was closed to the public at 9.00pm

Cr Harwood moved, Cr Sullivan seconded -

That the meeting be re-opened to the public.

Carried

The meeting was opened to the public at 9.02pm

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.02pm on Tuesday 26 July 2022.

Signed: _____

Cr Peter Murrihy (Mayor)

Date: _____