MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 23 May 2023
6.00pm

City Hall
57 Little Malop Street, Geelong 3220

LIVE STREAMED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE:

www.geelongaustralia.com.au/meetings

COUNCIL:

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

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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Present: Crs T Sullivan (Mayor), A Aitken, S Asher, M Cadwell, B Harwood, E Kontelj, J Mason, B Moloney, P Murrihy, R Nelson

Also Present: K Phyland (Acting Chief Executive Officer), J Van Slageren (Acting Executive Director City Planning and Design), R Stevens (Executive Director Community Service Delivery), D Greaves (Acting Executive Director City Infrastructure), B Prosser (Acting Executive Director Customer Community and Economy), V Allan (Chief Legal Counsel, Governance & Risk Officer), P Digby (Municipal Monitor)

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, present and emerging. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

1.2. Apologies

Cr K Grzybek.

1.3. Leaves of Absence

Cr Harwood moved, Cr Mason seconded -

That Leave of Absence be granted to Cr Peter Murrihy from 25 May to 3 July 2023, inclusive.

Carried

1.4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Cr Kontelj declared a Conflict of Interest during Council Question Time in that the question related to Balmoral Crescent where Cr Kontelj has family members residing.

1.5. Confirmation of Minutes

Cr Asher moved, Cr Mason seconded -

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 April 2023 be confirmed.

Carried

1.6. Public Question and Submission Time

Council has received a large number of questions that relate to the Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget - Delivery of Library Services, each submitter will receive an individual written response to their questions. The questions and responses have also now been published on-line for full transparency.

The Mayor also provided the meeting with the following Statement regarding Libraries:

I appreciate there are several questions regarding Libraries and a strong show of support from the community in the chamber tonight.

Library funding is part of proposed 2023-24 proposed budget which is still out for community consultation, If you haven't already, I encourage you to put in a formal submission via the City's Have Your Say website before it closes tomorrow evening at 5pm.

The Geelong Regional Library Corporation's draft budget is also available for community feedback, and the City encourage you to submit to that process asking they work within their budget to provide library services to the community.

I will be making the following statement to answer all the questions that have been put to us this evening.

The City of Greater Geelong does not support the closure of any Libraries. The Council values the role libraries play in the community and were determined all libraries in our region would remain open.

Following discussions between the City of Greater Geelong and the Geelong Regional Library Corporation, the City are pleased they have committed not to close any libraries, this is a positive outcome for the community.

The City have advised the Geelong Regional Library Corporation construction of the new Armstrong Creek Library will not be complete in time for the service to open during the 2023-24 financial year. This will reduce their expenses for the year.

We have heard that you do not support the reduction of services that the Geelong Regional Library Corporation are proposing and in many forums, we have discussed opportunities available to them that do not include reducing services, and we hope they will listen to both the City and community and take these up.

The City provides 85 per cent of all council's contributions towards Geelong Regional Library Corporation's total budget and our funding is intended to cover the operation of all libraries in Greater Geelong, new and existing.

Based on the current Greater Geelong population estimate of 276,116, our proposed $12.244 million cash contribution toward the GRLC in 2023-24 equates to $44.34 per resident. This is well above the average spend of our immediate neighbors, and other large regional Victorian cities.

For example, on recent benchmarking, Ballarat invests $27.57 per resident, Bendigo $25.48 per resident and Wyndham $30.33 per resident.

In regards to looking at the model of Library delivery, The Local Government Act 2020 mandates that all library corporations decide on their future within ten years (by 2030). The City will fulfill this requirement with opportunities for consultation and community engagement as required under the Local Government Act 2020.

I would also like to address the questions regarding the Chilwell Library redevelopment.

This project will remain as a priority on the City's list of on-hold projects, which is why the City have been in contact with the State Government requesting funds allocated to the Chilwell Library be held until the second quarter of 2023-24 financial year, when the City will have been able to investigate all opportunities to reinstate, rescope or stage this project within the available funding.

The City will continue to work with the Chilwell Library Group, the community, and our funding partners for this project.

On behalf of the Councillor group, I would like to thank you all for coming here tonight, submitting questions to council, making submissions and coming together as a community in Geelong West and Highton over the weekend.

Chilwell Library

Thank you for your questions about the Chilwell Library redevelopment.

Our projects and services are under enormous financial pressure, meaning the development of our 2023-24 Budget has been challenging. And the City know this has been disappointing news to receive and wish to assure you the City does not underestimate the impact of difficult decisions on our community.

This project will remain as a priority on the City's list of on-hold projects, which is why the City have been in contact with the State Government requesting funds allocated to the Chilwell Library be held until the second quarter of 2023-24 financial year, when the City will have been able to investigate all opportunities to reinstate, rescope or stage this project within the available funding.

The City will continue to work with the Chilwell Library Group, the community, and our funding partners for this project.

Geelong Regional Library Corporation, Libraries, Structure

The City of Greater Geelong does not support the closure of any Libraries. The Council values the role libraries play in the community and were determined all libraries in our region would remain open.

Following discussions between the City of Greater Geelong and the Geelong Regional Library Corporation, the City are pleased they have committed not to close any libraries, this is a positive outcome for the community.

Like many governments and other organisations, the City is under financial pressure due to rapidly rising costs. The Council is facing difficult decisions as it looks to keep the City financially sustainable so it can continue to focus on the critical areas only a council can deliver for their community. Within this context the City are asking all of our service providers to do the same.

The City discussed means available to the Geelong Regional Library Corporation other than reducing services, which the City hope they will take up.

The City have advised the Geelong Regional Library Corporation construction of the new Armstrong Creek Library will not be complete in time for the service to open during the 2023-24 financial year. This will reduce their expenses for the year.

The City's proposed budget for 2023-24 includes a total contribution towards our region's libraries of $13.948 million, including a cash contribution to the Geelong Regional Library Corporation of $12.244 million. In a very challenging economic environment, we have worked hard to allocate a $240,000 increase in library funding from 2022-23.

The City provides 85 per cent of all Council's contributions towards Geelong Regional Library Corporation's total budget and our funding is intended to cover the operation of all libraries in Greater Geelong, new and existing.

The Proposed Budget is available for community feedback until 5pm tomorrow and feedback is welcomed via the City's Have Your Say webpage.

The Geelong Regional Library Corporation's draft budget is also available for community feedback, and the City encourage you to submit to that process asking they work within their budget to provide library services to the community.

The Local Government Act 2020 mandates that all library corporations decide on their future within ten years (by 2030). The City will fulfill this requirement with opportunities for consultation and community engagement as required under the Local Government Act 2020.

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

1. Charlotte Courtot – Tree Management
2. Lynne Dowling – Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services
3. Alysha Dimovski - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services
4. William Ramirez - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services
5. Amy Jenkinson (On behalf of the Friends of Barwon Heads Community Library Inc) - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services
6. Hilary Hoevenaars - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget-Delivery of Library Services
7. Tim Symons - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services
8. Helen Clarke – Proposed Amendment to the Rippleside Planning Scheme for Stage 5, Balmoral Quay
9. David Metcalfe - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services
10. Kelli Lavelle – Kardinia Pool – Season Closing
11. Philip Bade (Barwon Heads Association) – Revenue and Rating Plan and Delivery of Library Services
12. Lauren Wingert – Public Infrastructure – Mount Duneed
13. Andrew Demayo - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services
14. Angela Carr - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services
15. Teagan Mitchell – The Voice Referendum
16. Tracey Stone - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services and Vacant Building (Russell Street, Geelong)
17. Anne McMahon – Delivery of Library Services and Councillor Remuneration
18. John McCourt - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget-Management of Library Services
19. Felicity Dales – Long Term Smart Cities Plan
20. Howard Smith – Social Housing
21. Lindy Mills - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services
22. Joel Carnegie - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Revenue Sources
23. Pati Seller - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services
24. Chrissy Freestone - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget
25. Vikki Perrett – Climate Change Response Plan
26. Peter Read – Geelong Regional Library Corporation
27. Steve O'Brien – Social Housing/Accommodation for the Homeless
28. Jan Laidlaw - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services
29. Adam Palmer - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services
30. Carolyn Gellert – Surveillance Devices Act 1999
31. Gary Oraniuk - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services
32. Jeanne Nel de Koker - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Tree Management and New Organisational Structure
33. Emma Merrigan - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services
34. Colin Bridges – Rates – Barwon Heads
35. Patricia Beardsley - Proposed 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget – Delivery of Library Services

Kelli Lavelle asked the following:

COGG's services and service performance indicators includes strategic direction for residents to be part of a healthy, caring, and inclusive community. This states: healthy community is one where everyone has the opportunity to experience their best possible health and well-being. At least five times a week I swim at the Kardinia Aquatic Centre. Undeniably this experience contributes to my physical and mental health and wellbeing. I do not require the services of a GP, Barwon Health, or a therapist. It took the pandemic to keep KAC open year-round for which I was extremely grateful and I am devastated that you are considering closing it. You could be doing the opposite and promoting the pool to achieve your strategic direction indicated above and get more people swimming.

This pool is our region's only 50 metre outdoor pool. It is well loved and is in keeping with the sporting precinct that is Kardinia Park. Everyone I have spoken to at KAC, the staff, the users and the squads are highly distressed at this proposal. Every time I swim the lanes are full of swimmers.

Question 1:
How can you justify removing access to and closing the Kardinia pool when it contravenes your own goal of 'promoting active and healthy lifestyles at every stage of life'?

Question 2:
What is the cost to the health of the community by removing access to this facility?

Thanks for the questions, Kelli.

The City promotes an active and healthy lifestyle by investment in the Swim Sport and Leisure network including four year-round aquatic facilities. However faced with rapidly rising costs, Counccil are having to make some difficult budget decisions across all of our operations as we look to remain financially sustainable. During winter, the Kardinia pool attracts around 5918 swimmers per month. Based on these numbers and the facility's running costs, ratepayers are 7ecognize7o every swim by $22.50. This is not financially sustainable.

Kardinia Aquatic Centre operated as a seasonal facility prior to COVID, when the Council allocated extra funding to open it during winter due to COVID-related capacity restrictions at our indoor pools. The operating hours funded via this year's proposed budget would therefore be a return to the facility's standard operating hours pre-2021. If you have not already, you are welcome to provide a submission to our proposed budget regarding libraries. This can be done via our Have Your Say page by 5pm tomorrow.

Teagan Mitchell asked the following:

Question 1:
On Friday 26 March 2021 while Cr Asher was Mayor the Council had said they will support the Uluru statement of the heart. To quote Cr Mason in the press release, "We stand with our First Nations People. We've heard them and we will continue to work together, and walk together towards treaty, reconciliation and a strong Aboriginal voice." So I ask you Council, when are you going to tell our community if you as a Council support the voice?

Thanks for the questions, Teagan.

City of Greater Geelong's Council expressed its support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart via a letter to the Prime Minister in March 2021. In the lead up to the referendum, the City is supporting a number of events to assist the community with understanding.

These include 'The Heart – A Shared Journey' forum which has been supported by the City's Kilangitj Aboriginal Advisory Committee, an event in early July "The Elders Talking Country – The Heart – Elders Sharing Knowledge and Their Story", as well as establishing The Heart Community Kiosks, which will be established in key locations around the City over June, July and August to share information on the matter.

Felicity Dales asked the following:

Cr Kontelj declared a Conflict of Interest in the following question and left the meeting room at 6.25pm prior to discussion.

Question 1:
In the Smart City Strategic Framework, the 7th Principle listed is Trust and Transparency. I quote " We will build trust and confidence in our smart city through clear, honest and open dialogue with our citizens." As per previous questions from Residents at Balmoral Quay Rippleside in relation to ongoing Development since 2016 and anticipated for a further 6 years from stages 3-5, they have presented their concerns with the substantial increased traffic volume and safety concerns that haven't been addressed.

Is this part of the Long-Term Smart Cities Plan of Higher Density living with transport being encouraged by bike, scooter, public transport, walking, car sharing and reducing any capability of owning a car with no parking allowances?

Question 2:
The response to the question on Safety was – The City are currently undertaking a feasibility study and concept plan to 8ecognize8 the Bay Trail, which is an existing trail from North Shore through to Central Geelong How does this answer align with Safety in a Congested residential area?

Thanks for the questions, Felicity.

Response Question 1:
The formal Exhibition process for the Balmoral Quay Amendment C436ggee will likely commence around July/August and the community is encouraged to make submissions on this amendment during this time. The Smart City Strategic Framework is a municipal-wide framework plan for Greater Geelong. The Framework has a broad focus, including highlighting the benefits of supporting multiple modes of transport, but it does not provide specific direction on modal shift, nor does it encourage or discourage the provision of car parking.

Response Question 2:
The aim of this Bay Trail Revitalisation project is to improve the existing off-road transport route between North Shore to Geelong Waterfront. Increasing safe transport options between these two destinations will help reduce on-road traffic congestion in nearby areas, including Balmoral Quay.

Cr Kontelj rejoined the meeting at 6.28pm

Howard Smith asked the following:

Question 1:
According to figures published by the Geelong Independent on 18 March 2022, there were 3,300 households in the Geelong area living in social housing but 10,000 households needing social housing. This need is expected to rise to 17,000 households by 2041.

Given the housing and homelessness crisis in Geelong, what action is the Council taking to ensure the targets set in the Council's own Social Housing Plan, starting with 6,000 dwellings by 2031 and a further 6,000 by 2041 are met? And what happens to the further 5,000 households who are expected to need social housing by this time?

Thank you Howard for raising your concerns regarding the housing and homeless issues facing the Geelong community. The City shares your concerns and is taking action that is both an immediate response and contributing to longer term solutions. This is reflected through the City's endorsed Social Housing Plan 2020 – 2041 goals which are to:

- *Increase the supply of social housing across the City area to 13,500 by 2041.*
- *Advocate for increased state and federal investment in new social housing.*
- *Increase supply of social housing by contributing City-owned land to new developments.*
- *Amend the City's Planning Scheme to require the inclusion of social and affordable housing in new developments, based on need.*
- *Continue to 9ecognize9 our neighbourhood areas with high social housing concentration to increase liveability and wellbeing*

Question 2:
Has it been put in the "too hard basket" or is there a definite plan to overcome the current obstacles facing the planned social housing on council land in Belmont, Corio and Bell Post Hill?

Response Question 2:
These are long-term housing outcomes and will be established across the life of the Plan. To ensure ongoing implementation annual actions are reviewed and developed as part of the annual business planning process. You will be provided a copy of the Social Housing Plan 2020 – 2041 update which identifies the achievements to December 2022.

This update is also available on the City's website.

Chrissy Freestone asked the following:

Question 1:
Council's Key Fiscal Objectives include Strategic Direction Sustainable Growth and Environment. The budget document states that four-year priorities under this objective include: - create engaging places and spaces – deliver best practice ESD principles and vibrant neighbourhoods – support our community to build resilience for climate change – support greater indigenous biodiversity. Clearly the urban forest is a major asset and a critical part of achieving these objectives. The budget document provided on the City Council's website does not provide sufficient detail to determine whether the allocation of funds proposed in the budget effectively responds to and addresses these aspirational statements. Consequently, I am unable to identify changes to, and cuts from, specific programs which support the objectives and the urban tree forest.

My questions are regarding particular line items in the budget: What is included in the "Open Space Renewal" budget item under Strategic Direction healthy, caring & inclusive community" (page 17) and what $ amount has been budgeted?

Question 2:
What is included in the initiative shown on page 19 "Environmental and Irrigation Asset Renewal" and how much has been budgeted for it?

Thanks for the questions, Chrissy.

Open Space renewal $3.052 million (pg 72) is an ongoing renewal program for open space assets across the municipality. These funds will be used to renew assets such as lighting, fencing, sports fields and surfaces, playgrounds, skateparks and dog parks as well as outdoor furniture and BBQs. A State Government grant in 2020/21 enabled the detailed collection of open space asset information and modelling of the degradation of these assets over the next 10 years. Based on this modelling the renewal budget has been increased to ensure delivery of the current level of service and ongoing financial sustainability.

The "Environmental and Irrigation Asset Renewal (page 19) is an ongoing renewal program for Environmental and Irrigation assets across the municipality. The amount budgeted for the coming financial year is $740k (pg 66). The Environmental assets earmarked for renewal primarily include our marine and coastal assets (jetties, sea walls, coastal protection structures) along the Bellarine peninsula. Irrigation renewal ensures that the irrigation infrastructure across our parks, gardens and sporting facilities (some 170 sites) remains serviceable and we can continue to deliver the required level of service

Joel Carnegie asked the following:

Question 1:
What alternative revenue sources did CoGG consider in the construction of their recent budget proposal – and did this include a diversity of asset sales (which provides future income from rateable properties), alongside the reversal of the proposition to bring commercial rates in line with residential rates? If not, why not?

Thanks for the questions, Joel.

The City's Long Term Financial Plan considers a variety of aspects for alternative revenue. Diversity of assets are considered in line with return on investment, provision of funding existing and future services and benefit to the community.

As part of the Revenue and Rating Plan endorsed by Council in 2021, the City are simplifying the ratings system by reducing the variation between different rating types. This includes reducing the variation between commercial/industrial rates and residential rates. This means we are progressively bringing the rate in the dollar for commercial/industrial properties down, to support local business and ensure our region is an attractive place for business investment.

Residential rates remain competitive in comparison to other councils across the state.

Vicki Perrett asked the following:

Question 1:
According to the latest UN IPCC climate report AR6, “There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all. The choices we make in this decade will have impacts now and for thousands of years”. The City’s Climate Change Response Plan has a municipal target of net zero community emissions by 2035. However, Snapshot data over the last three years shows Greater Geelong’s carbon emissions are basically static at 3.45 – 3.67 million tonnes. Our emissions are not reducing anywhere near fast enough and the city is not on track to fulfil its aspiration to become a zero-emissions, climate-ready city and region. Other cities are doing much more. For example, the City of Greater Bendigo has established the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration and their municipal goal is to zero emissions by 2030. Its partners provide expertise, experience, resources and financial support. [Ref: https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/Services/Climate-Change-and-Environment/Climate-collaboration/About]

Does the Council stand by the commitment it made when approving the Climate Change Response Plan on 23 November 2021, of accepting its leadership role and promising to work with “the community to achieve net zero emissions and increase our region’s resilience to climate change impacts through coordinated and collective actions”?

Question 2:
Will Council establish a collaborative group composed of community, business, educational institutions and relevant authorities to develop a practical roadmap and an evidence-based implementation plan to achieve its municipal target of net zero by 2035?

Thanks for the questions, Vicki.

The Climate Change Response Plan confirms Council’s commitment to working towards a municipal wide net zero emissions target by 2035. Council 11ecognize11 that it has an important role to play in leading and supporting other organisations and individuals to contribute to this municipal wide emissions reduction target.

Municipal emissions have dropped by 218,000 tonnes CO2e from 2018/19 to 2020/21 and we expect emissions to further decline due to the Victorian Government target of 95% renewable energy supply to the electricity grid.

Key areas that Council is focusing on include:

- *Leading and collaborating*
- *Reducing our operational emissions*
- *Planning to manage climate related risks*
- *Administering the Planning Scheme and new development*
- *Delivering community infrastructure*
- *Supporting community efforts*

We have delivered a range or projects and achievements in each of these areas to date, including developing eLearning programs, providing community grants, hosting a Net Zero forum and switching our infrastructure to renewable energy.

Please contact our Sustainability & Environmental Planning team to for further details on each of these projects, and others.

We are always interested in new ideas and initiatives to help progress towards a climate ready, zero emission City and region.

Diane Cunningham asked the following on behalf of Steve O'Brien:

The number of homeless people in Geelong is growing week by week. They are living in sleeping bags and tents (usually supplied by charity groups). They are sleeping in the parks, by the river, in the streets or in their cars if they are blessed enough to own one. Some of our homeless have jobs and others have been victims of abuse, affected by mental health issues, drugs or alcohol, or made homeless by other life changing circumstances. Our local Geelong council is quick to build multi-purpose centres, swimming pools and spend money on the foreshores of the bay and cater for other minority groups, who are not nearly as unfortunate or even deserving as our local homeless. They are desperate and will be severely affected by, yet again, another cold and wet winter. Numerous charity groups and volunteers are working tirelessly to address our homeless people's needs but have found there is either no housing available or what is available is simply unaffordable.

Question 1
Why does the Geelong Council seem to be avoiding/restricting the funding for accommodation for our homeless?

Thank you Steve for raising your concerns for those experiencing homelessness in our community.

The City shares your concerns and is taking action that is both an immediate response and contributing to longer term solutions. On a day-to-day basis the City works directly with the key services that are providing outreach support to people who are sleeping rough. As part of the longer-term response the City is an active partner in the Geelong Zero project a community led initiative supported by Neami National, the Australian Alliance to End Homelessness (AAEH), Give Where You Live, and a number of local housing, community and support organisations.

This is a collective impact partnership aiming to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief and nonrecurring. This work is underpinned by the City's endorsed Social Housing Plan 2020 – 2041 which outlines our commitment to:

- *Increase the supply of social housing across the City area to 13,500 by 2041.*
- *Advocate for increased state and federal investment in new social housing.*
- *Increase supply of social housing by contributing City-owned land to new developments.*
- *Amend the City's Planning Scheme to require the inclusion of social and affordable housing in new developments, based on need; and*
- *Continue to 12ecognize12 our neighbourhood areas with high social housing concentration to increase liveability and wellbeing.*

Carolyn Gellert asked the following:

Question 1:
With regards to the Surveillance Devices Act 1999, in particular No. 21 of 1999 Part 2—Regulation of installation, use and maintenance of surveillance devices. Item 7 concerning the "Regulation of installation, use and maintenance of optical surveillance devices", clearly states "a person must not knowingly install, use or maintain an optical surveillance device to record visually or observe a private activity to which the person is not a party, without the express or implied consent of each party to the activity". Does the Council intend to comply

with this Act when expressed withdrawal of consent to this type of surveillance is received from members of the community within its jurisdiction?

Question 2:
If so, how does Council intend to guarantee both the rights to privacy as well as the freedom of movement within public spaces, for those in the community who expressly withdraw their consent to the use of optical surveillance devices that record visually or observe their private activity?

Thanks for the questions, Carolyn.

The Surveillance Devices Act 1999 excludes activity where people cannot have a reasonable expectation of privacy because they are in a public place (such as a road, footpath, alley, park, public recreation reserve). Noting that the Safe City Network managed by Council is highly visible, signposted and covers only public places. The CCTV camera feeds from the Safe City Network are accessed by Victoria Police and two trained council officers and the data collected by the cameras is securely held and not stored beyond 30 days unless used for criminal investigations. Facial recognition is strictly prohibited.

Jeanne Nel de Koker asked the following:

Question 1:
Congratulations on the 2022 World Tree City Status. World Tree City status reflects a city's commitment to building a healthy city, now and for the future. It presents an incredible opportunity for Greater Geelong to tap into a global network of cities practicing urban forestry excellence. Eight other Australian cities applied and were 13ecognize13 as a World Tree City. These cities, all have existing Significant Tree Registers, Local Laws and/or policies that manage trees on private land in place. The CoGG Urban Forest Strategy Action Plan, endorsed by the Council in November 2015, included the development and maintenance of a significant tree register as an action to achieve best practice urban tree management.

In 2022, the Council reported that a business plan for implementation of the Significant Tree Register has been developed and confirmed that requests for funding to develop and maintain the Significant Tree register were submitted 'on a number of occasions in previous budget years', specifically for the 2022-23 budget. However, as in previous years, the 2022-23 budget did not provide STR funding. Can the Council confirm a. Whether the proposed/draft 2023-24 budget provides funding for a Significant Tree Register? B. If not, whether the Council would be prepared to work with community organisations like CoolGeelong in a public-private partnership to develop a draft Significant Tree Register policy and framework for Geelong, at no cost to the Council?

Question 2:
The City of Greater Geelong recently implemented a new 13ecognize13on13l structure. The new structure has five directorates: Planning and Design; Community Service Delivery; City Infrastructure; Customer, Community and Economy; and Strategy, Governance and Corporate.

According to the City's website, the changes 'represents us 13ecognize13on the five things we need to be great at to deliver on our 13ecognize13on's strategy' and ensures 'all directorates have a clear and distinct role' and 'a clearer focus'. Pertinently, environment and sustainability do not feature prominently in the new structure and clearer focus. According to the draft budget, one of the four strategic directions guiding the budget is 'sustainable growth

and environment.' Under the five health and well-being priorities you list 'tackling climate change and its impact on health'.

Can the City indicate:

a) How this strategic direction and priority will be pursued within the 'clear and distinct role' and 'a clearer focus' of the new directorates that do not clearly reference the environment, sustainability and climate change?

b) Who will be the CoGG strategic and accountable lead on these important policy objectives in the future to ensure policy cohesion and effective action within and across the five directorates?

Thank you Jeanne for your questions regarding the City of Greater Geelong's tree management.

Response Question 1:
Like many other governments and organisations, the City of Greater Geelong is feeling the impacts of inflation and rising costs. Our projects and services are under financial pressure, meaning the development of our 2023-24 Budget has been challenging.

The City had to focus, first and foremost, on being financially responsible. The City have examined all parts of our organisation to find savings and free up funds to invest back into the community. However, the City have had to make difficult decisions that we understand will cause disappointment.

The proposed budget for 2023-24 does not include funding for a locally managed Significant Tree Register. Budget submission feedback is currently being sought from the public on all topics, you may like to make a submission regarding trees. The submission period closing tomorrow at 5pm on Wednesday 24 May 2023. However, more than 50 of our trees are included on Heritage Victoria's Register of Significant Trees. Community members can nominate trees for the register too, and we encourage you to contribute if you wish. The City has also commenced work to identify the most effective measure for tree protection on private land in urban environments within Geelong. The work includes a review of the Cities existing protections for trees on private land in the planning scheme and the Cities policies and Local Laws. It will also explore external benchmarking and looking at what other Councils have put in place and the process for each option identified including timelines, costs and appropriate community consultation.

Response Part b):
Thank you for your offer to support us in this work. If a Significant Tree Register is identified as a viable option to protect trees, the City will engage with community members, including Cool Geelong, to advance this.

Response Question 2:
The City's recent organization structure change has aligned like functions to be housed together, providing a clearer focus moving forward. This includes ensuring that strategic environment planning functions are aligned to other strategic planning functions including land use in the Planning and Design Directorate, which is where the core accountability sits. Additionally, through the City's annual business planning cycle, all directorates align their work plans and activities to the City's strategic priorities to ensure everyone is working to the same priority goals.

1.7. Petitions

Cr Mason presented the following two petitions from Darren Cheeseman MP, the first containing 216 signatures calling on the City of Greater Geelong to provide funding for the adequate staffing of the Armstrong Creek Library facility to enable community members to be able to access and benefit from the use of this facility.

The second petition containing 520 signatures calling on the City of Greater Geelong to adequately fund the Highton Library to allow it to remain running, adequately staffed and with current hours of business.

2. REPORTS

2.1. 26 January - Community Engagement Outcomes

Source: **Customer, Community and Economy**
Acting Executive Director: **Bryce Prosser**

Purpose

1. To provide Councillors with the outcomes of community engagement for 26 January.

2. For Councillors to consider a recommendation to formally change the way the City of Greater Geelong (City) will commemorate 26 January in 2024 and thereafter.

Background

3. The City currently provides support, sponsorship and funding for community projects and events that take place on 26 January. Councillors participate in and officiate at a range of events on the day including the following:

    3.1. Family Free Fun and Entertainment Day at Rippleside Park;

    3.2. Australia Day 2023 Portarlington;

    3.3. Geelong Nepalese Association Inc Australia Day Celebrations;

    3.4. Two Australian Citizenship Ceremonies; and

    3.5. Festival of Sails events.

4. On 25 May 2022, Council endorsed a six-month community engagement program with First Nations Peoples and the broader community to guide the City's future approach to activities and commemorations held on 26 January.

Key Matters

5. The consultation was supported by advice received from the Kilangitj Aboriginal Advisory Committee - a committee that has been instrumental in providing Council with strong cultural guidance on First Nations Peoples initiatives.

6. The overall feedback from both First Nation communities and the broader communities is that 26 January (Australia Day) would include:

    6.1. Morning cultural ceremony of recognition and acknowledgement of the Wadawurrung and First Nation Peoples experience.

    6.2. As part of the (mid) morning ceremony, the City raises the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in a gesture of healing and a shared journey.

    6.3. City facilitates cultural and educational events/activities across the City, to include a music/arts festival in the city precinct area.

    6.4. To continue to seek First Nation and broader community feedback through forums and other platforms on First Nations Peoples matters.

7. The consultation is the most comprehensive ever undertaken by the City on this topic and recognises that there is a diversity of views on Australia's national day celebrated annually on 26 January.

8. The City received 957 survey responses, 510 responses were from the broader community and 447 responses from First Nations Peoples (equivalent to 12.5% of the First Nation's community). This is the largest number of contributions the City has ever experienced from the First Nations community on any issue.

9. All First Nations respondents (100%) wanted a change to the way the day is commemorated.

10. Across the broader community, 68% of survey respondents said change was needed with suggestions including greater cultural acknowledgment, cultural events, increased inclusion of First Nations Peoples art, music and culture. 32% of the broader community opposed changes to the day.

11. The City is working to advance reconciliation, however any decision to change the date of 'Australia Day' must be made at a Federal Government level.

12. On 16 December 2022, the Australian Government granted local councils the freedom to hold citizenship ceremonies on the three days either side of 26 January.

13. There was widespread support for greater inclusion of First Nation's Cultural Heritage on 26 January.

14. If the recommendation below is endorsed, the City will continue to issue permits for events delivered by the government and other organisations on 26 January, amending any policy and guidelines to reflect the inclusion of First Nation ceremonies and events, such as amending its event and grants guidelines to framework and flag raising protocols; also allowing for amendments to Arts & Culture and other policy areas across Council.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.1

Cr Sullivan moved, Cr Aitken seconded -

That Council:

1. **Note the community feedback for 26 January community consultation;**
2. **Acknowledge and recognise the significant response from the community and from the First Nations Peoples of the Geelong Region;**
3. **Acknowledge and respect the traumatic historical impact to the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and First Nations Peoples of the Geelong Region;**
4. **Support the development of education opportunities for residents to learn and acknowledge the history of 26 January within the Geelong context including:**
   - **4.1 An awareness and education media campaign on The Heart: A Shared Journey (and Council's commitment to the Uluru Statement of the Heart);**
   - **4.2 A series of Community Conversation events; and**
   - **4.3 Continued community engagement and deeper conversations.**
5. **Support the development and delivery of formalised First Nations Peoples acknowledgement, and the support for First Nation cultural events and activities across the Geelong region on 26 January 2024 and each year on 26 January thereafter including:**
   - **5.1 A mid-morning Acknowledgement, Recognition and Truth-Telling Ceremony in Johnstone Park billabong;**
   - **5.2 A Flag Raising Ceremony of the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at City Hall;**
   - **5.3 An Official Opening for cultural celebrations and events; and**
   - **5.4 Continued work with organisers of events on 26 January to recognise First Nations Peoples and include First Nations cultural activities.**
6. **Re-schedule Citizenship Ceremony/Ceremonies to another day within three days of 26 January and incorporate First Nations Peoples elements into the ceremony, continuing to include an Acknowledgment of Country;**
7. **Lead the conversation with other councils, and advocate on behalf of the community to the Federal Government regarding a conversation about change the date or change the day;**
8. **Reconfirm Council's commitment to the Uluru Statement of the Heart; and**
9. **Cease referring to 26 January as Australia Day in all communications and refer to the day as 26 January.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

15. The financial implications from the proposed recommendations are mostly expected to be adsorbed within existing budgets, there may, however, be a requirement for additional budget for formal ceremonies, activities or cultural acknowledgements.

Community Engagement

16. In order to recognise the diversity of opinions on this issue, the City undertook a comprehensive six-month community engagement process from May to December 2022.

17. The City approached the conversation in phases, beginning with recognising and seeking out First Nations Peoples' voices through a survey and two forums in September 2022 that respected community values, cultural safety, and protocols.

18. The City held yarn up circles with Elders, Men and Women's business yarn ups, as well as presentations at key First Nation Peoples Stakeholder Groups, such as the G21 First Nations Pillar Group and the Geelong Aboriginal Employment Taskforce.

19. Engagement with the broader community was undertaken in the second half of 2022, including a survey, a pop-up engagement at the Geelong Show in October 2022, and two community forums in November/December 2022. There was also engagement with the Geelong One Fire Reconciliation Group, the Australia Day Committee, Festival of Sails Committees and the City's Advisory Committees including the Youth Council.

Social Equity and Sustainability

20. Principles of social equity underpinned the City's engagement and future planning will be informed by effective, focussed partnerships and engagement with the First Nations Peoples and broader Greater Geelong community to deliver more culturally inclusive events and activities on 26 January.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

21. This engagement considered state and federal legislative frameworks and policy contexts impacting on 26 January and First Nations People including:

    21.1. *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*;

    21.2. Maggolee, Victorian Aboriginal Local Government Strategy 2022;

    21.3. *Advancing Treaty Process – Aboriginal Victorian Act 2018*;

    21.4. Karreenga Aboriginal Action Plan 2014-17;

    21.5. *Advancing Treaty Act, 2018*;

    21.6. Uluru Statement from the Heart, Council endorsed in 2019;

    21.7. Minutes for Council Meeting - 24 May 2022;

    21.8. Page 72 of 388 20.5. REFLECT – Reconciliation Action Plan;

    21.9. Reconciliation Australia, National Australia Day Committee; and

    21.10. Uluru Statement from the Heart endorsed by Council in April 2021.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

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

23. 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.
Creative and diverse culture.
People feel safe wherever they are.

Conflict of Interest

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

Risk Assessment

25. An increased level of trust has been extended to Council by First Nations Peoples though their participation and sharing of information during this engagement. This trust would be at risk if recommended changes to Council’s support for, and delivery of, events and activities and acknowledgements on 26 January are not made or are limited in any significant way.

Environmental Sustainability

26. There are no environmental sustainability risks in Council approving this report.

Attachments

1. 26 January Conversation Full Community Engagment Report _ May 2023 [**2.1.1** - 19 pages]

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

A CONVERSATION ABOUT 26 JANUARY

FULL ENGAGEMENT REPORT

MAY 2023

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG RESPECTFULLY RECOGNISES THE WADAWURRUNG PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES OF THE DJILANG/GEELONG REGION.

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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Executive Summary

The City's Kilangitj Aboriginal Advisory Committee provides advice to Council on First Nations matters and requested that Council consider engaging with First Nations Peoples and the broader community about 26 January.

In 24 May 2022, Council determined to seek community feedback regarding 26 January and community's expectations, ideas and feelings about Australia Day events, ceremonies and activities.

The key purpose of this conversation has been to understand, respect and acknowledge the experiences and goals of First Nations Peoples while ensuring the wider community's voice is also heard on this topic.

A Deliberative Engagement approach was designed for this project to ensure the City took the time to have fulsome conversations and yarn ups about the subject of Australia Day and the 26 January with the First Nations Peoples of the Djilang/Geelong region and also with the broader community.

In order to reach the key stakeholders, this engagement was conducted in two parts, with First Nations Peoples the key participants in Stage One and the broader community the focus of Stage Two.

Overall, the City received 957 survey responses (447 First Nations Peoples and 510 Broader Community) and received feedback from local organisations as well as 23 attendees of four in-person community forums, 18 at the City's Advisory Committee's forum and 15 attendees at a post engagement ideas workshop.

The feedback received across Stage One and Two is the largest number of contributions we have ever experienced from the First Nations community on any issue.

The questions posed during this engagement were deliberately inquiring and open (qualitative). The City wanted to learn how people felt about January 26 and also how we as a City and region could make the day more inclusive.

When evaluating overall sentiment of feedback received, 100% of First Nations Peoples comments included negative feelings; of sadness, disconnection, or a wish for change about the subject. This overall sentiment for change was echoed by just under 70% of the broader community's feedback.

10% of broader community feedback expressed that there are positive aspects about 26 January that people would like considered too.

Following the close of the six-month engagement period, invitations were sent to the community members who had registered for a yarn up or forums to attend a workshop where community suggestions and ideas were reviewed.

The outcome of the final community workshop was the development of several draft key recommendations that reflected the Stage One and Stage Two survey responses and the previous forums.

All of this information will be presented to the Kilangitj Advisory Committee for any final comments or feedback before being presented to Council in a final report on the project.

Introduction

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In May 2022, the City of Greater Geelong began a conversation about 26th of January – which is known as Australia Day.

For some people in our community, January 26 is a day to celebrate, while for First Nations People it represents a day of mourning, sorrow, and survival.

The City's Kilangitj Aboriginal Advisory Committee provides advice to Council on First Nations matters and requested that Council consider engaging with First Nations Peoples and the broader community about 26 January.

ENGAGEMENT PURPOSE

The key purpose of this conversation has been to understand, respect and acknowledge the experiences and goals of First Nations Peoples while ensuring the wider community's voice is also heard on this topic.

It is anticipated that this engagement will also help strengthen relationships in the community with Council building an increased trust through this collaborative project.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report provides an analysis of the engagement findings from this six-month community engagement conversation and will be presented to Council for consideration as part of a decision-making process.

How we engaged

SNAPSHOT

The City's Kilangitj Aboriginal Advisory Committee has been a valued stakeholder group, initially requesting Council consider this engagement and then also during the project planning.

The approach for this engagement was designed to ensure the City took the time to have real conversations and yarn ups about the subject of Australia Day and the 26 January with the First Nations Peoples of the Djilang/Geelong region and also with the broader community.

This deliberative approach enabled many conversations to take place over a long period of time, ensuring that all the voices would be heard.

The engagement was to be held over a six-month period.

While the foundational engagement tool was a survey, the questions were conversational in nature, designed specifically to elicit thoughtful, considered responses.

The questions were also used as the framework for the yarn-up sessions – two with First Nations Peoples, two with the broader community and also for the final workshop with both First Nations and broader community people where the community's feedback and ideas were considered.

The engagement was promoted widely though online methods, media, social media and via partner organisations, the City's advisory committees and through events and in-person meetings, conversations, and yarns.

Top: *The flag raising at the Wadawurrung NAIDOC event on 4 July 2022, Julie Saylor-Briggs.*

***Bottom**: Have your say stand at the Geelong Show; Felicity Bolitho, Julie Saylor-Briggs and Cr Jim Mason, October 2022.*

Who we engaged

WHO WE PLANNED TO ENGAGE

This engagement was planned to be conducted across the whole municipality, in two parts – so that First Nations Peoples would be the key participants in Stage One with a goal that we reach at least 10% of the First Nations Peoples population in the Djilang/Geelong region, estimated at 3,520 (Census 2021).

As adopted in the resolution by Council in May 2022, First Nations People were consulted from the beginning of the consultation in July through to November, the conversation with the broader community in stage two commenced from October 2022

Stage One engagement included the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Corporation, the Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative community groups, Geelong One Fire Reconciliation Group, the City's Youth Council as well as local First Nations community members.

Stage Two saw the engagement findings from Stage One shared with the community and the survey and forums opened up to hear the broader community's views on the topic.

Stage Two engagement included organisations and groups such the Australia Day Committee, Festival of Sails committee, Lions Club, Victoria Police, Country Fire Association, Barwon Health, Deakin University, Gordon TAFE, the Geelong Public School Association and more.

PARTICIPATION

Overall, the City received 957 survey responses (447 First Nations Peoples and 510 Broader Community) and received feedback from local organisations as well as 23 attendees of four in-person community forums, 18 at the City's Advisory Committee's forum and 15 attendees at a post engagement ideas workshop.

Survey feedback

Stage One:

173 – First Nations (online & hard copy surveys)

(*51 contributions and 5 email submission submitted by the broader community were held over and included in Stage Two*)

Stage Two:

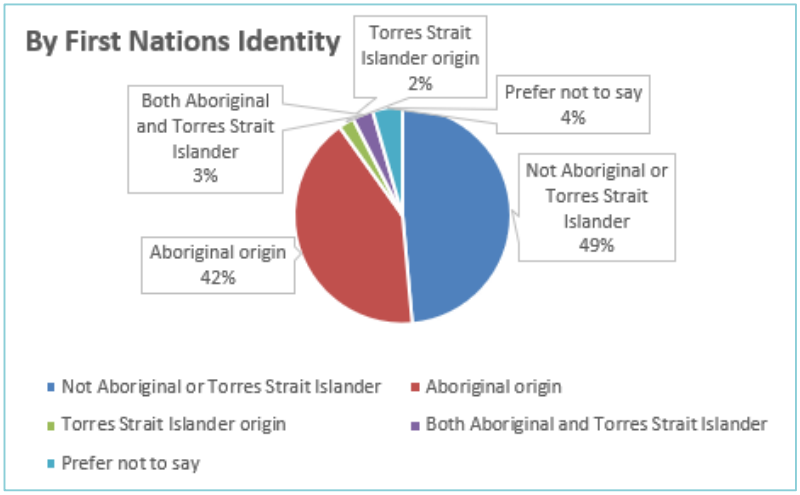
454 – broader community (online & hard copy surveys)

274 – First Nations (online & hard copy surveys)

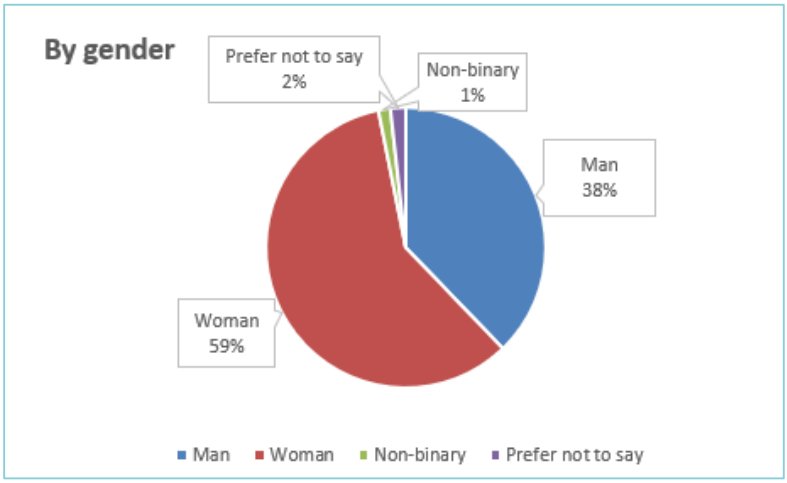
Total contributions: 957

DEMOGRAPHICS (STAGES COMBINED)

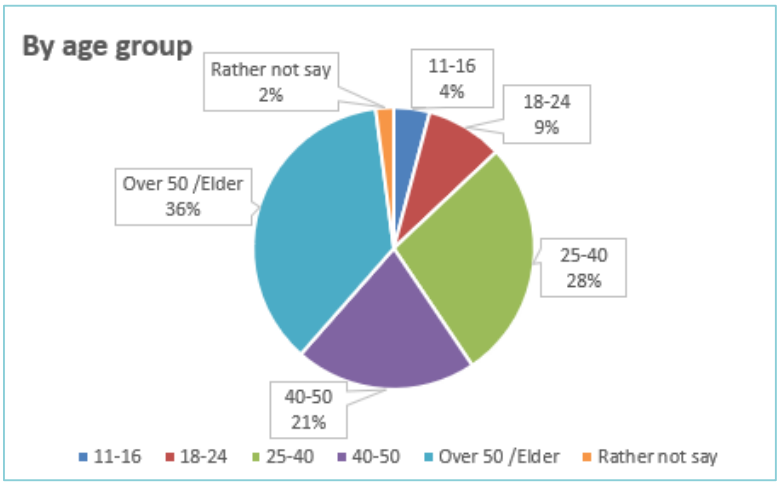
This engagement (Stage One and Stage Two combined) was responded to by an equal distribution of First Nations Peoples and the broader community with 51% First Nations Peoples and 49% non-indigenous respondents.



By gender, respondents were predominantly women at 59% and men at 38%.



When viewed by age, respondents represented all age groups with the Over 50s/Elder representing the largest cohort with 36% and Youth the smallest cohort with 13% of respondents.



WHO ACTIVELY ENGAGED

The aim was to connect with First Nations Peoples living in the Djilang/Geelong region in a two staged approach.

The stakeholder participation goal was met successfully with First Nations Peoples responses representing 12.7% of the First Nations Peoples in the Djilang/Geelong region, this was in great part due to the face-to-face engagement activities undertaken with a large majority of submissions received in-person.

The engagement also successfully received an equal number of respondents from the broader community.

HOW WE COMMUNICATED

This engagement was predominantly focussed on face-to-face conversations, forums and yarns, and to use the HYS page to collect the feedback.

This approach was hugely successful with almost 90% of First Nations People feedback being sourced from in-person activities.

Online, the engagement Have Your Say web page was regularly visited with 4,137 views.

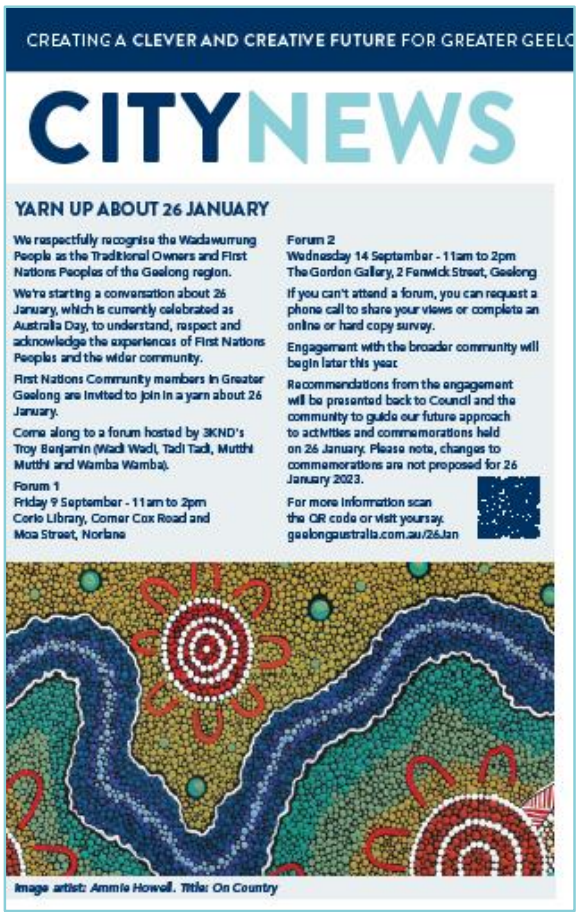
In keeping with this approach, social media was used as a secondary communications channel. A single post was shared early in the engagement period and received a good number of clicks through to the Have Your Say page.

The City also promoted the engagement through three media releases, an article in Community Update (distributed to over 180,000 homes) and in City News (published in local newspapers).

City News (print advertising)
> 18, 19, 20 Aug
> 25, 26, 27 Aug
> 1, 2, 3 Sept
> 8, 9, 10 Sept
> Anakie Advocate - Sept 2022

City News (edm)
> 19 Aug
> 26 Aug
> 10 Sept
> Anakie Advocate - Sept 2022

Hard copy postcards and surveys were also developed (see Attachment one & two) which were distributed at in-person activities.


CREATING A CLEVER AND CREATIVE FUTURE FOR GREATER GEELO

CITYNEWS

YARN UP ABOUT 26 JANUARY

We respectfully recognise the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners and First Nations Peoples of the Geelong region.

We're starting a conversation about 26 January, which is currently celebrated as Australia Day, to understand, respect and acknowledge the experiences of First Nations Peoples and the wider community.

First Nations Community members in Greater Geelong are invited to join in a yarn about 26 January.

Come along to a forum hosted by 3KND's Troy Benjamin (Wadi Wadi, Tadi Tadi, Mutthi Mutthi and Wamba Wamba).

Forum 1
Friday 9 September - 11am to 2pm
Corio Library, Corner Cox Road and Moa Street, Norlane

Forum 2
Wednesday 14 September - 11am to 2pm
The Gordon Gallery, 2 Fenwick Street, Geelong

If you can't attend a forum, you can request a phone call to share your views or complete an online or hard copy survey.

Engagement with the broader community will begin later this year.

Recommendations from the engagement will be presented back to Council and the community to guide our future approach to activities and commemorations held on 26 January. Please note, changes to commemorations are not proposed for 26 January 2023.

For more information scan the QR code or visit yoursay.geelongaustralia.com.au/26Jan

Image artist: Ammie Howell. Title: On Country

Social media post:

See more media in the attachments section.

What we asked

WHAT WE ASKED

During both Stage One (July – November 2022) and Stage Two (October – November 2022) we asked the following questions:

Do you identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

How do you feel about 26 January?

How can we be more inclusive of First Nation heritage and other communities in Greater Geelong?

Following this six-month community conversation, what would you hope council could deliver or put in place?

Do you have anything further you would like to add?

WHY WE ASKED

The questions posed during this engagement were deliberately inquiring and open (qualitative). The City wanted to learn how people felt about January 26 and also how we as a City and region could make the day more inclusive.

We did not ask any quantitative questions because the goal was to hear feedback that was shared openly and unadulterated by an overly designed survey process.

The same questions were put forward during both Stage One and Stage Two of the engagement period.

HOW WE ASKED

The engagement methods included a core survey and four Yarn Up forums held in-person at Wurriki Nyal.

Have Your Say stands were also available to community to have their say at the NAIDOC event and the Geelong Show.

Officers also attended a range of meetings and sessions with First Nations Peoples, organisations, community groups and businesses.

Pictured: *Kilangitj Advisory Committee member Kayley Nicholson supporting the Yarn Up conversations.*

What we heard

KEY FINDINGS OVERVIEW

We received very strong feedback to this engagement – 957 survey responses. This included 447 contributions from First Nations People, the largest number of contributions we have ever experienced from the First Nations community on any issue.

There was a further 510 submissions received from the broader community.

OVERALL SENTIMENT

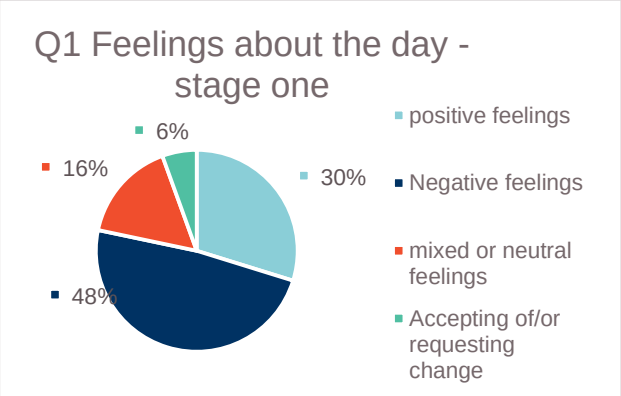
When evaluating overall sentiment of feedback received, 100% of First Nations Peoples comments included negative feelings; of sadness, disconnection, or a wish for change about the subject. This overall sentiment for change was echoed by just under 70% of the broader community's feedback.

10% of broader community feedback expressed that there are positive aspects about 26 January that people would like considered too.

QUESTION ONE

In response to the question *"How do you feel about 26 January?"* the majority of survey respondents (First Nations Peoples and broader community) shared negative feelings, and about a third of all comments (30% First Nations Peoples and 36% Broader Community) included feedback that was either requesting or accepting of change.

STAGE ONE – First Nations Peoples



Verbatim comments - Stage One:

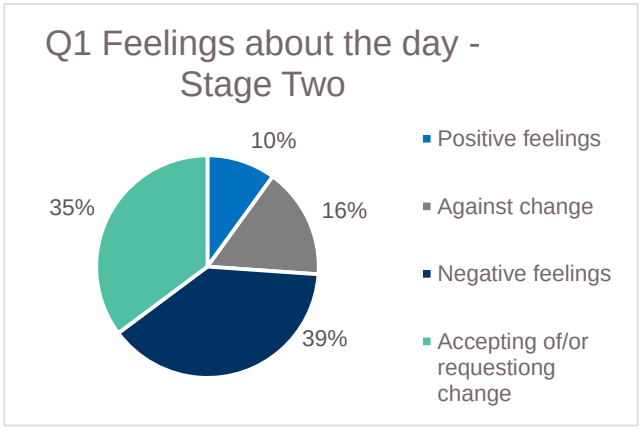
"As an Aboriginal Man Jan 26th is a day that evokes many emotions and thoughts. It's a day of great sadness for our people as it marks a very dark part of our history and with so much of the country celebrating the country on that day it creates a greater divide between aboriginal people and non indigenous people of our country."

"We do nothing and mum is upset all day."

"My Yawuru Mob call it Day of Loss or Sorrow and that's what it is."

"Mixed views. It's National but Indigenous mob left out."

STAGE TWO – Broader community



Verbatim comments - Stage Two:

"As a white person, I feel like it's a day of celebrating stealing a country which is wrong. I still think it's important to have a day dedicated to being Australian (all inclusive) which is not January 26th."

"It has always been Australia day from since my childhood but now the conversation needs to take into account the many wrongs and lack of education to the Australian people."

"January 26 is not a day for celebration - it's the anniversary of a day that marked the beginning of horrific treatment of Indigenous Australians, including mass killings."

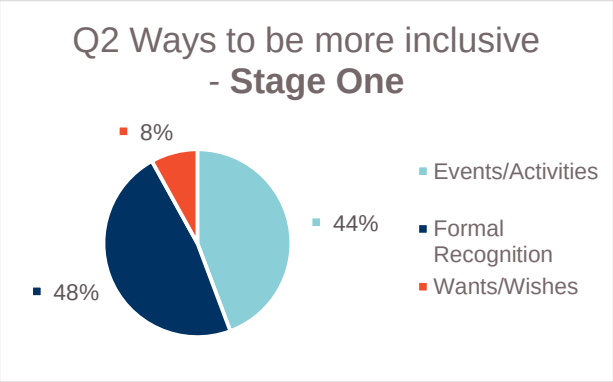
"Leave it the way it is, every country has had bad things happen to them."

QUESTION TWO

In response to the question *"How can we be more inclusive of First Nation heritage and other communities in Greater Geelong?"* there were strong themes from both Stage One and Two around the inclusion of culture and heritage, and for holding formal ceremonies or events of recognition of First Nations Peoples.

And while the City noted it was not asking about changing the date of Australia Day, as it is a Federal government set date, many responses included feedback about "change the date" and "leave the date as it is".

STAGE ONE – First Nations Peoples



Verbatim comments - Stage One:

"Formal acknowledgement with dawn service and 26 Jan concert at Johnsons Park"

"More culture and truth telling. events and music and arts"

"Truth telling events. Morning community open ceremony and celebration"

"Recognition and acknowledgement from Mayor - alongside dawn ceremony and closing events."

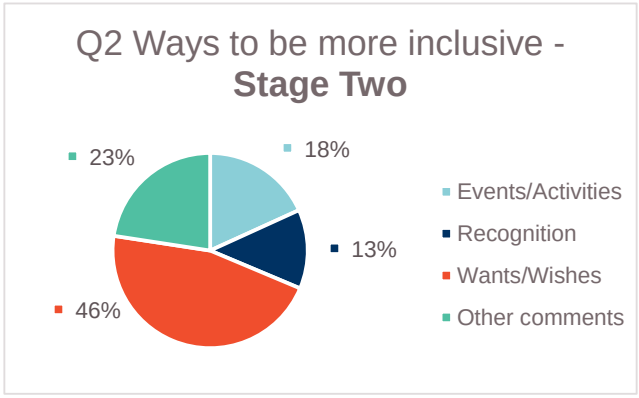
"We should move the celebrations to another, more inclusive day."

"Koorie stuff all day - dance, music, film, ceremonies in the morning and at night then have fireworks in our flag colors - red-yellow-black-ocean blue and green"

"Change the Day not the date"

"Change the date."

STAGE TWO – Broader community



Verbatim comments - Stage Two:

"Formally officially address racism and acknowledgement of country"

"can you have more Aboriginal and Torres Strait stuff like music festivals for youth and something for children and families to learn"

"Geelong Council needs to lobby the Vic & Federal Govts to stop discriminating against First Nations peoples (change bail laws, reduce incarceration, stop police harassment of black peoples & "others", stop child removals, close ALL the gaps, issue permanent visas to all refugees in Australia & bring all those on Manus & Nauru here) & report to the Geelong community on its actions & progress."

"Acknowledge first nations people in a way that is acceptable to them. NOT in a way we think is ok"

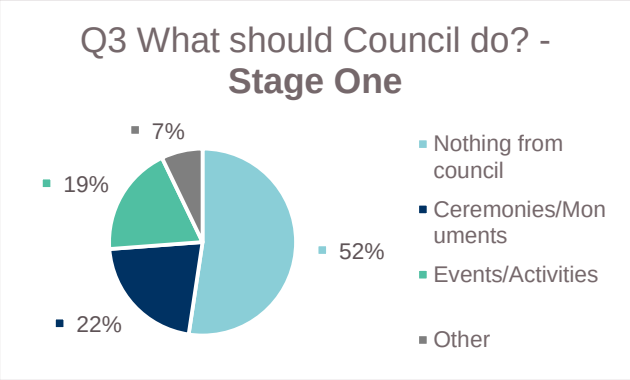
"Change the date."

"Nothing needed we are inclusive for all citizens, nationalities and culture"

QUESTION THREE

The responses to the question *"Following this six-month community conversation, what would you hope council could deliver or put in place*?" showed the greatest difference between Stage One and Stage Two feedback, with many First Nations Peoples saying "nothing" or not seeing a role for Council, while the broader community shared lots of ideas and suggestions for Council.

STAGE ONE – First Nations Peoples



Verbatim comments – Stage One:

"keep the yarn going"

"Yes - can you at least talk truth on this day - stand with us silence is evil"

"Change the date for our future"

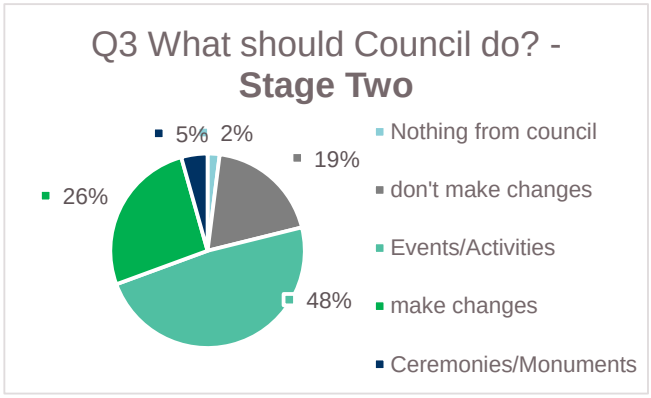
"No more Australia Day - but what about Australians Day?"

"No thank you"

"Nothing."

"Yes - do not stop this conversation but keep it up its best work Council done for ages"

STAGE TWO – Broader community



Verbatim comments – Stage Two:

"I like the ideas already reported for showing respect and sharing stories in all inclusive events. i.e. (from the report) Showing respect on 26 January: First Nations acknowledgement and stories."

"Maybe do citizenships on a different day"

"I think it is pretty clear that there needs to be a change. I think your media needs to be clear and concise with any changes."

"Recognition that Australia Day has outlived its purpose and does not reflect the current nation or its ideals"

"Nothing. Fireworks and a family celebration down at Eastern beach has and is a great way to celebrate being Australian and living in Geelong."

YARN-UPS & FORUMS

Along with the survey, there were two First Nations Peoples Yarn Ups and two broader community Forums to discuss this topic and the questions posed in the surveys.

This is the first time that the City has taken part in such an opportunity for healing and truth-telling Regardless of whether they were at a Yarn Up or a Forum, and the people who participated embraced the opportunity to talk to the City about how they feel as Geelong citizens on the topic of 26 January

At both the Yarn Ups and Forums, everyone fully participated in the spirit of mutual respect and meaningful conversation.

STAGE ONE – Yarn ups

Two small forums with First Nations Peoples during Stage One, allowed for discussion of the survey results and key questions. The themes that emerged are summarised below.

History: "We can't celebrate the successes without first understanding the despair"

There are many painful stories of the history of Geelong, from colonisation and the Frontier Wars, to the Stolen Generations.

Reclamation: "If we can't change the date – let's change the focus"

Recognise it as the day of colonisation and put First Nations voices and stories first. First Nations people want to reclaim their story and share their history.

Wider Change: "There is a groundswell of change"

There is a wider shift in focus for January 26 already occurring and it is time for Geelong to change too. There is momentum at the state and federal level for greater recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including the commitment to the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Other councils are changing, and other big organisations in Geelong are changing too.

Showing respect on 26 January: First Nations acknowledgement and stories

Start with a Dawn Ceremony at the Waterfront with a Cleansing of Country and a minute's silence. It could be followed by Dance and/or a march. Share history and stories. It would be an inclusive gathering of all First Nations communities and non-Indigenous allies and family. Invite schools, invite other agencies. Invite new citizens and welcome them to the land. The afternoon could move to a celebration of cultural diversity.

The second forum also called for a statement of commitment from Council to the First Nations communities and Traditional Owners (broader than January 26).

STAGE TWO – Community Forums

Two forums were also held with the broader community during Stage Two, where the First Nations Peoples feedback was shared with the attendees and then the key questions discussed. The themes that emerged are summarised below.

History: "26 January is not an inclusive date"

Participants shared that they haven't acknowledged Jan 26 for 5/10/15 years (multiple mentions) It's been a learning process – slow change. A national day is needed – we want to celebrate and be proud of being Australian – but it has to be an inclusive date. 26 January is not an inclusive date. (multiple mentions) 'If we're going to call it Australia Day it should be inclusive of everybody.' 'We don't know what it means to celebrate Australia. So we can't do it.' 'Within my family and friends, we all feel it's inappropriate.'

Change the date (13 of the 14 participants expressed that they wanted a different date to celebrate Australia Day)

Inclusiveness: "Listen to First Nations Peoples"

Belief that a Citizenship ceremony and 'citizen re-commitment ceremony' held with First Nations Traditional Owners welcoming people to the land would be more inclusive. Separate the concept of British Australia Day from Australians' Australia Day. We need greater awareness and education. (multiple mentions) "Listen to First Nations Peoples"

A way to move forward together: "Need greater awareness and education"

Separate the concept of British Australia Day from Australians' Australia Day. We need greater awareness and education. (multiple mentions). Hold a morning event – start with First Nations. Sombre, acknowledging, like ANZAC day. Afternoon – celebrate all cultures.

POST ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Following the close of the six-month engagement period, invitations were sent to the community members who had registered for one of the four

yarn ups & forums to attend a workshop where community suggestions and ideas be reviewed.

The purpose of the community workshop was to review the consultation feedback and as a community to develop opportunities and recommendations to put forward to council.

This consultation commenced with community and closed with community as council had requested.

The outcome of the final community workshop was the development of several draft key recommendations that reflected the Stage One and Stage Two survey responses and the previous forums.

What we have done and next steps

REPORTING

An interim engagement report shared after each stage of the engagement project.

Your Say page

Interim Engagement Report – Stage One

Interim Engagement Report – Stage Two

NEXT STEPS

A council report is being prepared which will share the feedback, themes and recommendations included in this document and will be presented to Council for their deliberation.

ATTACHMENTS OVERLEAF

26 JANUARY FEEDBACK

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG RESPECTFULLY RECOGNISES THE WADAWURRUNG PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES OF THE GEELONG (DJILANG) REGION.

We acknowledge that 26 January is traumatic for many First Nation Peoples, and with the growing support from across the community, the City is commencing a six-month conversation in regards to 26 January. This has commenced with First Nations Peoples and will broaden later in the year to include conversation with the broader Geelong communities.

The City is mandated by the Federal government to conduct certain events as part of Australia Day celebrations. However, we are committed to engaging with all communities to build a way forward. We are hosting a series of forums and conversations, and are keen to hear your feedback and comments.

This survey is for First Nations People of the Djilang (Geelong) region.

ABOUT YOU

1. Do you identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

- Not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ☐
- Aboriginal origin ☐
- Torres Strait Islander origin ☐
- Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ☐
- Prefer not to say ☐

2. What town or suburb are you from?

---

3. Please share your name

---

4. Please share your phone number

---

5. Please share your email

ABOUT 26 JANUARY

6. How do you feel about 26 January?

---

7. How can we be more inclusive of First Nation heritage and other communities in Greater Geelong?

---

26 JANUARY FEEDBACK

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

---

8. Following this six-month community conversation, what would you hope council could deliver or put in place?

---

9. Do you have anything further you would like to add?

---

10. Would you like us to keep in touch?

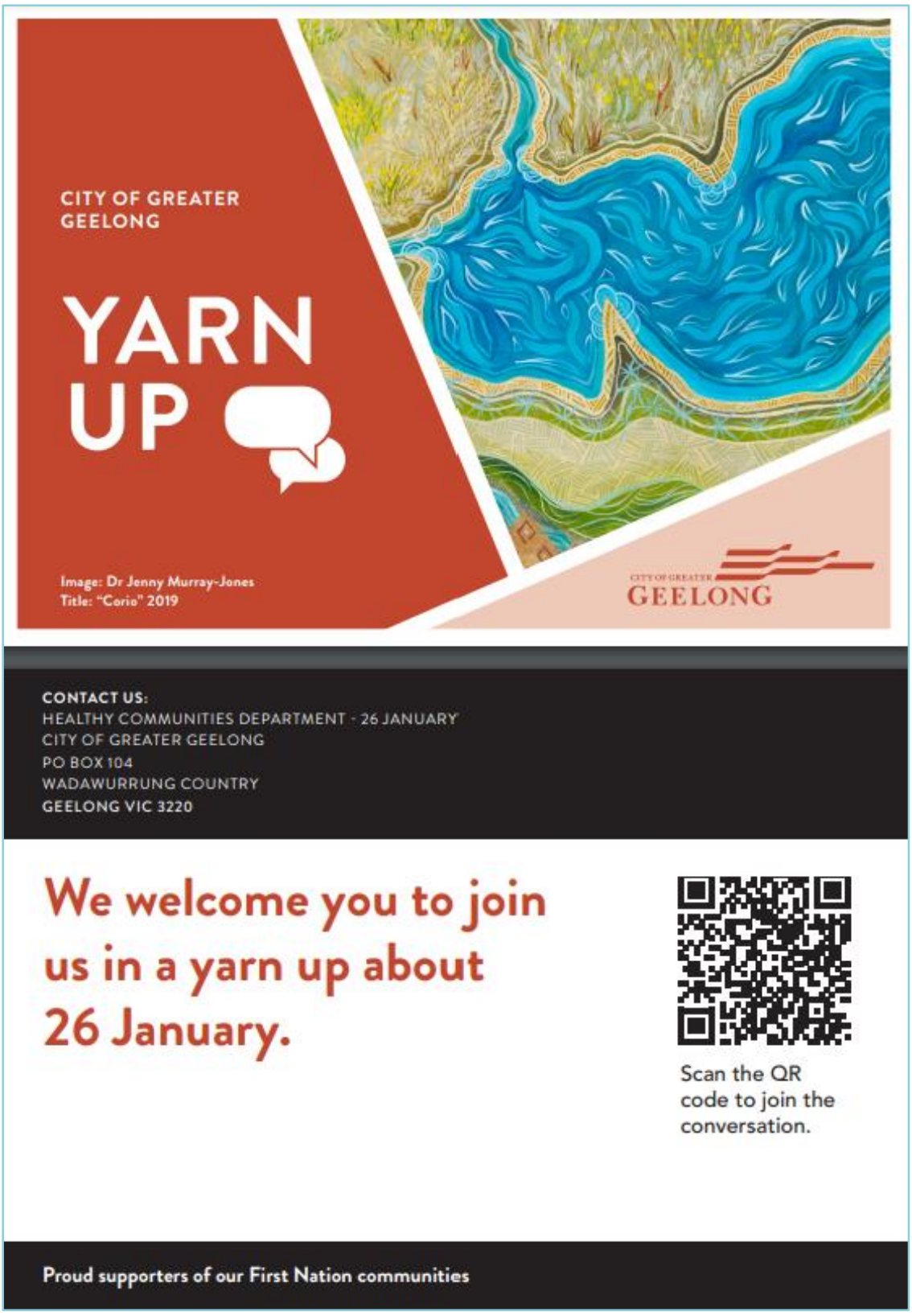
YES ☐

NO ☐

Thanks for taking the time to complete this survey.
You can view our privacy statement at
www.geelongaustralia.com.au/governance

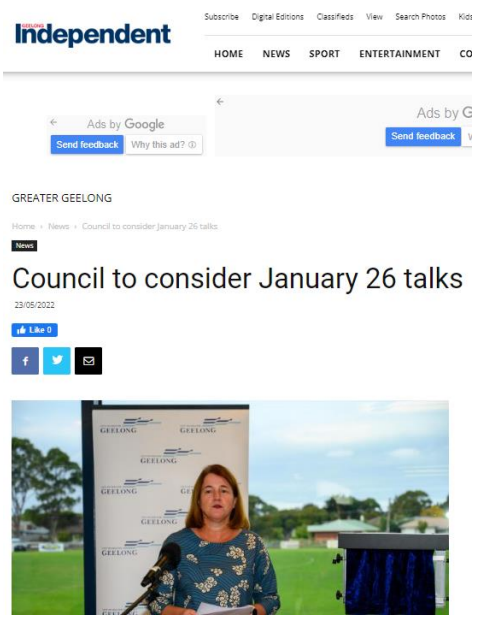
PLEASE RETURN TO:

Healthy Communities department- 26 January
City of Greater Geelong
PO Box 104
Wadawurrung Country
Geelong, VIC 3220


CITY OF GREATER GEELONG
YARN UP
Image: Dr Jenny Murray-Jones
Title: "Corio" 2019
CITY OF GREATER GEELONG
CONTACT US:
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT - 26 JANUARY
CITY OF GREATER GEELONG
PO BOX 104
WADAWURRUNG COUNTRY
GEELONG VIC 3220
We welcome you to join us in a yarn up about 26 January.
Scan the QR code to join the conversation.
Proud supporters of our First Nation communities

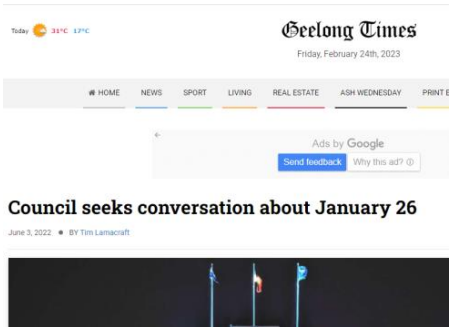
MEDIA CLIPPINGS

https://geelongindy.com.au/news/23-05-2022/council-to-consider-january-26-talks/



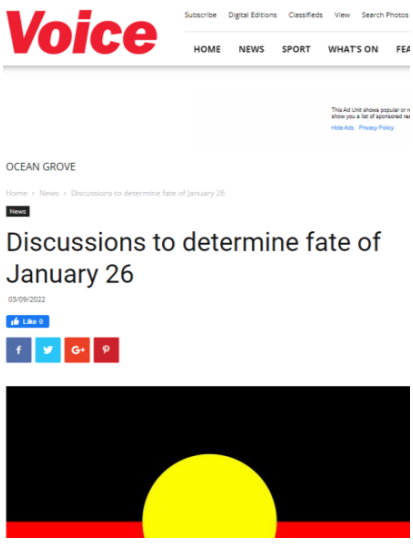
https://geelongindy.com.au/news/19-10-2022/january-26-discussions-continue/

https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/geelongtimes/news/council-seeks-conversation-about-january-26/



https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/geelongtimes/news/council-widens-debate-on-january-26/

https://oceangrovevoice.com.au/news/03-09-2022/discussions-to-determine-fate-of-january-26/



https://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/news/geelong/city-reveals-first-nations-australia-day-engagement-results-opens-consultation-to-wider-community/news-story/cef4acf77ed8c30603f177d4cf011711

2.2. Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve - Master Plan

Source: **Community Service Delivery**
Executive Director: **Robyn Stevens**

Purpose

1. To adopt the final Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan (Master Plan) **Attachment 1.**

Background

2. The current Master Plan was developed in 2010 and is now outdated. Changes in legislation, minimum sporting standards and increased female sports participation necessitate an updated plan.

3. The City first engaged with the community in October-December 2021 to understand how the community use the reserve, what they like and don't like at Hamlyn Park, and what they would like to see in the future.

4. The feedback received identified a number of key themes that were incorporated in the draft Master Plan including:

   4.1. Renew and upgrade sports facilities;

   4.2. Provide places for children and young people to play;

   4.3. Protect mature trees and enhance natural areas;

   4.4. Provide park amenities including pathways, trees, seating etc.; and

   4.5. Deliver a safe place for people to recreate.

5. In October 2022, Council endorsed the draft Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan for the purpose of community engagement.

Key Matters

6. Community engagement on the draft Master Plan recorded over 1,000 views via the City's online Have Your Say platform. The engagement resulted in 125 total contributions and included two face-to-face drop-in sessions. Refer to **Attachment 2** to view the Draft Master Plan Community Engagement Report.

7. Feedback from the community engagement indicated strong support for the draft Master Plan.

8. Minor changes have been made to address concerns identified in the community engagement that now inform the final Master Plan.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.2

Cr Kontelj moved, Cr Murrihy seconded -

That Council:

1. **Adopt the final Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan;**

2. **Note there is no immediate funding available for the implementation of the final Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan however it will be considered as part of Council's future strategic resource planning and annual budget process; and**

3. **Acknowledge the community for their contributions to the Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan throughout the community engagement period.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

9. The total estimated cost for implementation of the Master Plan is $11 million. This cost is not inclusive of recommendations related to Western Heights College.
10. Costs provided for recommendations within the Master Plan are high level, do not include any allowances for non-construction costs or contingencies and may change throughout detailed design and delivery.
11. The Master Plan will be used to inform future social infrastructure planning and investment decisions as part of the annual budget processes.

Community Engagement

12. A Project Reference Group (PRG) was established for the project. The PRG included representatives from all current user groups of the reserve and Western Heights College.
13. A group of local residents known as Residents 3215 was also engaged throughout the Master Plan process to provide input and perspective on the future of Hamlyn Park from a local resident and passive (non-organised) recreation perspective.
14. Two rounds of community engagement were undertaken in the development of the Master Plan. Initial consultation asked the community what they liked and what they would like to see improved at Hamlyn Park. This initial engagement informed the development of the draft Master Plan.
15. The draft Master Plan was released for community consultation for six weeks between 28 October and 9 December 2022.
16. In total there were 1,048 views on the Have Your Say page, resulting in 125 contributions.
17. There were 90 per cent of survey respondents that felt the draft Master Plan reflects the future aspirations and needs of the park in the local area.
18. A total of 84 per cent of survey respondents were satisfied with the draft Master Plan.
19. Feedback on the draft Master Plan informed the final Master Plan with minor changes incorporated into the plan to address identified concerns.

Social Equity and Sustainability

20. A range of social equity matters were identified and considered as part of developing the Master Plan.
21. Recommendations have been identified to improve other sporting and community facilities across the reserve to ensure they are meeting current accessibility and equity standards and are in line with the guidelines from peak body organisations.
22. An enhanced play precinct has been proposed to provide alternative play features to what is provided in the southern playground and provide an engaging play space including opportunities for teenagers.
23. The amenity of the reserve is to be enhanced with a recommendation seeking to undertake additional tree planting, landscaping, and trail connections.
24. Accessibility and safety are a further key theme with several projects aimed at improving pedestrian safety, traffic management and parking.

25. The Master Plan proposes a sustainable level of investment in the park over the next ten years that will improve access and amenities for all participants in both informal recreation and organised sport, particularly female participation.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

26. All recommendations are consistent with the relevant Council policies.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

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

28. 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

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

Risk Assessment

30. There are no known risks associated with the approval and implementation of the final Master Plan.

Environmental Sustainability

31. Initiatives have been included that seek to enhance the landscape amenity and tree cover in the reserve in line with the City’s Urban Forest Strategy 2015-2025 and Sustainability Framework, and Environment Strategy 2020-2030.

32. Facility improvements will include environmentally sustainable design principles.

Attachments

1. Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan Report [**2.2.1** - 50 pages]
2. Draft Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan - Community Engagement Report [**2.2.2** - 15 pages]
3. Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan - Landscape Plan [**2.2.3** - 1 page]

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

HAMLYN PARK RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

FINAL REPORT

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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Acknowledgements

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

We would also like to thank the many individuals and stakeholder groups who willingly shared their time, knowledge and experience to help us develop this plan for the benefit of the Greater Geelong community.

Introduction

The Hamlyn Park Master Plan will provide a vision and short, medium and long-term improvements to meet the future needs and aspirations of reserve user groups and local community.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Sport and recreation are important to the people of Greater Geelong, and Hamlyn Park is a key community asset in the municipality's network of sport and recreation infrastructure, highly used by the community for sport, active recreation and play.

A Master Plan was prepared for the site in 2010. The outcomes of that previous plan have either been realised or superseded. The Master Plan now needs to consider contemporary sporting facility standards, changing participation patterns and the emerging constraints for facilities and at the site.

To ensure a co-ordinated approach to the future development of Hamlyn Park, the new Master Plan will align with community expectations and aspirations for use of the park, service the current and future sport and recreation participation and facility demands, optimise the use of activity areas and deliver long-term sustainability.

METHODOLOGY

To achieve these objectives, the planning process will include a site review, needs assessment and a comprehensive engagement process with key stakeholders and community.

The issues and options generated from these investigations has informed a vision and development ideas. These development ideas have been translated into a concept Master Plan.

This Draft Master Plan Report consolidates the key research findings, vision and strategic directions and concept Master Plan.

A Final Master Plan Report will be completed that includes an implementation plan and cost plan, following the public consultation process.

The project involves the following stages:

Figure 1: Planning Process

Strategic Review

This section reviews the strategic commitments and relationships to the Hamlyn Park Master Plan.

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG STRATEGIES

The City has made strategic commitments to providing social infrastructure and delivering major events as well as environmental sustainability. Key related City policies and strategies are outlined below.

City of Greater Geelong Council Plan 2018-2022

The *City of Greater Geelong Council Plan 2018-2022* provides the overall strategic direction for Council over the coming years. The plan has a number of key themes and within these themes, actionable strategies to help achieve the goals set out in each of these key themes. The themes and strategies relevant to the project are as follows:

- Theme 1 – Improved Health and Safety of our Community

  Promoting healthy eating and promoting active living.
- Theme 2 – Informed Social Infrastructure and Planning

  Providing more quality spaces that support active lifestyles

  Supporting the growth of localised and regional sporting facilities

  Delivering accessible and attractive community infrastructure, based upon community need

  Provide new sport and leisure facilities and upgrade existing ones.
- Theme 3 – A more Inclusive and Diverse Community

  Improving access to facilities and programs for people of all abilities.

The two key objectives relevant to the Master Plan are:

- Supporting the growth of localised and regional sporting facilities.
- Provide new sport and leisure facilities and upgrade existing ones.

Geelong Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2018-2021

The *Geelong Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2018-21* outlines the strategic directions for improving the public health and wellbeing in Greater Geelong.

The second goal of the plan is to 'increase participation in physical activity'.

The Plan supports the following strategies relevant to the project:

- People-centred impacts: putting people, families and communities at the centre of our efforts.
- Place-based impacts: designing and delivering healthy places where people live, learn, work and play.
- Healthy and sustainable environments: reflecting the connection between health and liveable neighbourhoods.

City of Greater Geelong Social Infrastructure Plan 2020

The *Social Infrastructure Plan 2020-2023* outlines the needs of the City of Greater Geelong community, investment priorities and the way forward to ensure that people know what is planned in the place that they live.

The Plan identifies social Infrastructure to be "places and spaces of a communal, human or social nature that is required, by the different areas of the community, and progressively as a community grows". They provide places for community activity and offer a space to meet and connect. Social infrastructure also provides opportunities to grow the regional economy and are considered "key attractors for people to live, work, visit and play" in the City of Greater Geelong.

Leisure and sports facilities are considered social infrastructure. The Plan identifies the following challenges impacting the City's ability to deliver and maintain social infrastructure:

- Significant population growth
- The state of our ageing assets (fit for purpose and asset condition)
- Gaps in provision and connections
- Emerging technologies
- Constrained funding opportunities
- Changing community expectations.

The Plan outlines how the City will respond to these challenges. Specifically, the Plan identifies the following key issues and recommendations for sport and recreation facilities:

- Many of Council's community facilities and assets are ageing and will eventually need renewal and repair.
- As Greater Geelong's community grows, so too does the pressure and demand for access to community facilities and spaces.
- The management, maintenance and increasing costs of providing community assets play a key part in Council's capacity to meet community obligations now and into the future.
- There is a focus on maintaining and improving existing assets to maximise usage, maintain safety and meet contemporary user expectations.
- Council must adopt a strategic approach to managing sports facilities to ensure best value.
- Conduct a complete condition and fit for purpose audit of all outdoor and indoor sport and recreation assets. Develop an Asset Management Plan in line with asset condition.

The table below outlines the social infrastructure planning and investment policy objectives identified in the Plan. The strategic objectives provide a good reference point for decision making.

Table 1: Planning and investment policy objectives

Objectives	Description	Aims
Equitable	Fair access to facilities and services that are required across the municipality including healthy, safe and inclusive places, spaces and services.	Social equity, based on need, for all in the community.
Accessible	Accessible for all abilities, affordable and easy for people to get to.	Fair distribution, universally designed and affordable for all.
Adaptable	Flexible to meet the changing needs of the community and can be used for more than one purpose.	Responsive to changing needs and a range of uses.
Integrated	Integrated with other services where possible and a place for people to come together.	A seamless and positive experience of our services.
Sustainable	Environmentally, fiscally, socially and culturally responsible, well designed, effectively managed and usage is optimised, now and into the future.	Meet our Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) obligations, responsibilities under UNESCO Creative Cities Network, value managed places, spaces and services and ensure efficiency of operation.

Geelong Indoor Recreation Facilities Strategy Review 2021

The *Geelong Indoor Recreation Facilities Strategy Review* identifies a need for an additional 20 indoor sports courts by 2041.

The Stage 3 Master Plan at Western Heights College proposes a new stadium. The school is open to discussions with Council about providing courts for community use.

City of Greater Geelong Environment Strategy 2020-2030

This document outlines a roadmap to improving the region's environment and reducing its environmental footprint. The Strategy outlines several planning and decision-making initiatives to improve the health of the local environment over the next 10 years.

The Strategy acknowledges that to respond to population growth estimates for the City, that it must lead, educate, advocate and support for the improvement, retention, development, and restoration of the natural environment.

Following extensive community consultation, five key goals were identified, including:

- Become a zero-emission, climate ready city and region
- Create greener community spaces;
- Contribute to a circular economy by reducing waste;
- Protect, enhance, and restore our region's biodiversity; and
- Achieve better integrated water management through planning and design.

The Master Plan includes recommendations that align with improving the goals outlined within this Strategy. To ensure these objectives are met, the Master Plan has demonstrated commitment to contributing to a healthier natural environment for the present and future community.

City of Greater Geelong Urban Forest Strategy 2015-2025

This document outlines the key actions and tasks associated with increasing the urban tree population throughout the City to improve the City's look, feel and liveability as well as the health of the community.

The City's *Urban Forest Strategy 2015-2025* has a vision for Geelong to be a 'cool, green city for the future'. This vision aims to be achieved through the development of healthier and more dynamic urban forests and improved tree canopy in streetscapes, urban growth areas, open space areas and reserves.

The addition of tree planting, vegetation, and landscaping within the Master Plan recommendations will improve the Reserve's environmental values and contribute to achieving this vision.

City of Greater Geelong Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan

The purpose of the plan is to explain how the City is going to change the way we do things to better support reconciliation, both within our organisation and with the community.

The plan identifies a number of opportunities to support reconciliation that can be explored through the master plan. These include, but are not limited to:

- Establish and strengthen mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations.
- Promote reconciliation through our sphere of influence.
- Increase understanding, value and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, knowledge and rights through cultural learning.
- Create a physical environment within City of Greater Geelong that is respectful, welcoming and inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Hamlyn Park Master Plan 2010

The Master Plan was prepared in 2010. Key actions were:

- Develop netball change facilities – Not started
- Access improvements to the Ballroom – Not started
- Upgrade Alex Rizun Pavilion – Completed
- Gain permanent access across the railway line – Completed
- Ensure permanent access to the Tom McKean Trail – Completed
- Redevelop bus exchange – Completed
- Develop storage at Alex Rizun Pavilion – Not started
- Remove storage containers – Ongoing
- Upgrade the surface of the two lower tennis courts – Completed
- Drainage at tennis courts – Completed
- Improve the playground – Not started
- Open space area improvements – Not started
- Bike storage – Not started
- Capturing water for reuse – Not started
- Modernise the tennis club rooms – Not started
- Improve the current walking path surface – Not started
- Develop new pathway to the playground – Not started
- Improve Park furniture – Not started
- Landscape improvements – Not started
- Resurface Scout Hall car park – Not started

- Bell Park Sport and Recreation Club building improvements – Not started

Western Heights College Master Plan

Stage 1 and 2 of the Western Heights College Master Plan, which included the development of netball courts and sports oval, has been completed.

Stage 3 includes the development of a one court stadium. The school has now reached the student numbers to entitle them to one court.

The school has since developed a specialist sporting program and partnerships with Barwon Sports Academy, Geelong United Basketball Association, Geelong Netball Association and AFL Barwon.

The school would like to seek funding to complete Stage 3 of the Master Plan and is open to expanding the stadium into a multi-sport court facility.

STATE GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

Victorian Government – Active Victoria

Active Victoria is the Victorian Government's strategic framework for sport and recreation in Victoria. The framework aims to reset the sector following the Covid 19 global pandemic, build on the existing foundations for the state to be recognised as the nation's sporting capital and to deliver a more active Victorian population.

The vision of Active Victoria is to build a thriving, inclusive and connected sport and active recreation sector that benefits all Victorians.

The framework includes twelve key directions:

- Increase and promote opportunities so Victorians can participate in ways that suit them
- Target efforts towards individuals and communities who participate less
- Improve community sport and active recreation infrastructure coordination to better meet demand, with a focus on areas and populations who need it most
- Deliver inclusive, multi-use and sustainable community sport and active recreation infrastructure
- Attract and retain a skilled sport and active recreation workforce (paid and unpaid)
- Promote more financially sustainable organisations that reduce duplication and inefficiencies in service delivery
- Implement frameworks to create safe and inclusive sport and active recreation settings
- Build insights through better use of evidence and data
- Develop a world-leading suite of major stadium and state facilities
- Connected and co-ordinated pathways exist to pursue sport at the highest level
- Invest in state infrastructure that can host international and regional events and support event content that boosts the Victorian economy
- Partner to maximise leverage from investment in Victoria's major events.

This study responds to the strategic directions outlined above, and directly aligns with the identified need to increase participation and deliver multi – use sustainable community sporting infrastructure.

Specifically, this project will be eligible for funding under the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.

STRATEGIC REVIEW KEY FINDINGS

The Hamlyn Park Master Plan will need to support the City's commitments to:

- Improve the health and safety of our community by promoting healthy eating and active living.
- Make informed social infrastructure and planning that provides more quality spaces that support active lifestyles, supporting the growth of localised and regional sporting facilities, delivers accessible and attractive community infrastructure, based upon community need, and provides new sport and leisure facilities, and upgrade existing ones.
- Create a more inclusive and diverse community by improving access to facilities and programs for people.
- Contribute to a healthier natural environment and sustainability.

There are actions that have not been delivered from the 2010 Master Plan. Some of these actions have development proposals from local user groups including a netball pavilion and improvements to the Ballroom. The currency of these actions will need to be considered as part of the new Master Plan.

The Stage 3 Master Plan of Western Heights College is an opportunity to further extend the successful relationship the City and user groups have with the school

in providing a joint use benefit for the school and community sport and recreation. The school is open to investigating a multi-sport court stadium that would help address the current shortfall of 20 indoor sports courts across Greater Geelong.

A new stadium could also support other identified shortfalls or requirements of sports at Hamlyn Park.

Demand Assessment

This section reviews the demographic characteristics influencing participation demand, current participation and trends.

DEMOGRAPHIC REVIEW

The following section summarises the key population and demographic characteristics and trends likely to impact future sports and recreation participation in the City of Greater Geelong.

The resident profile is based wherever possible on the 2016 ABS Census data and has been sourced from .id, an online company that analyses ABS Census data.

Population

- The City of Greater Geelong has an estimated resident population of 252,217 for 2016. Between the 2011 and 2016 census the City's population increased by 22,565 persons.
- There is a large proportion of the City's population that fall into the 5-49 years old age bracket that are most likely to make regular use of outdoor sporting infrastructure. This accounts for 56.4% of the population.
- By 2041, there will be an additional 88,487 people living in the City who fall between the 5-49 years old age bracket.

Diversity

- As of the 2016 census, cultural diversity is lower within the City with 16.2% of residents being born overseas, compared to 33.8% in Greater Melbourne.
- However, cultural diversity is higher within the Northern Growth Corridor, with the percentage of residents being born overseas more closely mirroring the proportion of residents who were born overseas in Greater Melbourne.
- The proportion of residents who speak a language other than English at home within the City (10.6%) is lower than the proportion of residents who speak a language other than English at home in Greater Melbourne (32.3%).

Disadvantage and Social Capital

- The City ranks slightly below the Victorian average SEIFA index score (Social Economic Index For Areas, which represents the general level of socio-economic disadvantage of all the people in the area in which a person lives). The City scores 994.0 on the index, whilst Victoria scores 1010.0. In comparison, Greater Melbourne scores 1021.0.
- Analysis of the individual weekly income levels for the residents of the City shows that there is a lower proportion of residents earning a high income (over $1,750 per week), 8.6% compared to 11.9%, and a higher proportion of residents who earn a low income (under $500 per week), 39.7% compared to 37.8%.
- The findings above indicate a higher level of disadvantage across the City.

Future Population

- The population will grow from 258,834 (ERP 2019) to 393,216 by 2041, almost double the current population.
- The urban growth areas of Greater Geelong are forecast to grow the population of the City by 49.35% in the next 20 years, as follows:
  - The Armstrong Creek Growth Area will deliver 22,000 new lots and a future population of around 55,000-65,000 people.
  - The northern growth area is projected to provide 17,000 new dwelling lots and a population of around 40,000 - 50,000 people.
  - The western growth area is projected to provide 21,000 new dwelling lots and a population of around 55,000 – 65,000 people.
- The City is also experiencing growth in the established suburbs of Ocean Grove, Leopold, Curlewis, Highton and Marshall.

Hamlyn Park Demographic Characteristics

Hamlyn Heights population is projected to grow from 6,842 in 2021 to 8,456 in 2041.

Hamlyn Heights has a higher number of people aged between 20 to 34 years (21.5%), compared to the City average (19.4%). This age group are high users of sport facilities.

Other age group increasing are those 50 to 69 years of age. This age group are high users of recreation and cultural activities.

STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION TRENDS

This analysis of participation data trends for Victoria provides information to assist in determining the need for sport and recreation facilities and services.

Since 2001, data has been collected on participation in exercise, recreation and sport by adults aged 15 years and over. Consistent data was collected via the Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) between 2001 and 2010. Similar data was collected by the ABS between 2011 and 2014. The AusPlay survey was introduced by the Australian Sports Commission in 2015 and collects sports participation data for children aged 0 to 14 and adults aged 15 and over. The latest data was released in April 2022 with results for calendar year 2021. The AusPlay survey results along with other sport and recreation participation research are summarised in this section.

General Participation Trends

Since 2017, on average 83% of the Victorian adult population participated at least once per week in some form of physical activity or sport for exercise or recreation.

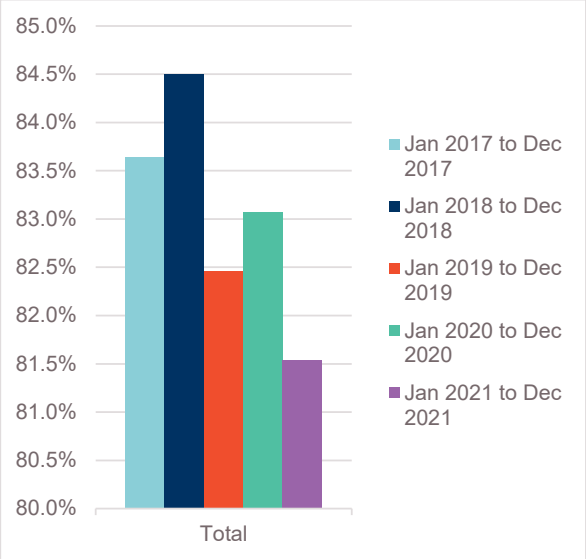


Figure 2: Adult participation at least once per year

Approximately 83% of Victorian females participated at least once per week. This has declined by 2% since 2019. Approximately 80% of Victorian male participated at least once per week. This has declined by 3% since 2019.

The results for participation by Victorians at least once per week by age groups is provided in the following chart.

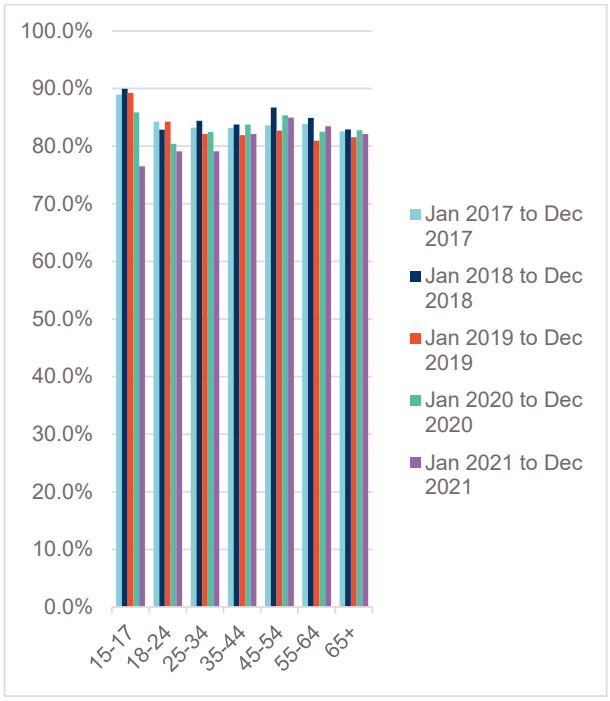


Figure 3: Adult participation at least once per week

A review of the results for once-a-week participation rates indicates that:

- Participation in sport and recreation at least once per week has in past years been the 15 to 17 years age group, however in 2021 this has dropped to 76.5% from 89.3% in 2019
- There has been increases in 45 to 54 years and 55 to 64 years age groups participating at least once per week. The 45 to 54 years increased to 85% in 2021 from 82.7% in 2019 and 54 to 64 years increased to 83.5% from 81% in 2019

Other participation trend insights include:

- The average number of activities of adults participate in a greater mix of activities increasing from 2.01 in 2019 to 2.28 in 2020 and 2.40 in 2021.
- Physically distance or home-based activities are continuing to increase in popularity including walking (recreational), bushwalking, tennis, pilates, mountain biking and canoeing / kayaking.

- The social and mental health benefits of exercise continue to increase in importance for adults where 37% were motivated by the social benefits of participating (30% in 2019) and 30% were motivated by the mental health benefits they gained (21% in 2019). Physical health or fitness (83% in 2021) and fun / enjoyment (48% in 2021) remain the main motivators to participation.
- The use of open space for sport and physical activity in adults has increased from 6% in 2019 to 11% in 2021.

These influences show an increasing demand for a mix of sport and physical activities at our open spaces and a clear link to these places facilitating health and wellbeing benefits.

Sport Specific Trends

The top 15 activities participated in by Victorian adults in 2021 according to AusPlay data indicate that:

- The top five activities have remained stable for the past five years; these are walking (recreational), fitness/ gym, athletics/ track and field, swimming and cycling. Please note that athletics/ track and field includes social running and jogging i.e., Parkrun.
- Walking (recreational) continues to be the most popular activity (45%). This is consistent with previous trends.

The table below show the national participation rates of activities currently undertaken at Hamlyn Park.

- Most of these sports have remained stable or increased over the last five years, which indicates that it is likely the local penetration rate of these sports will remain stable and participation demand will increase in line with population growth.

Table 2: Victorian Adult Sport Specific Participation Rates 2019 to 2021

Sport	Participation Rate 2019	Participation Rate 2020	Participation Rate 2021
AFL	2.7%	2.7%	4.7%
Cricket	2.4%	2.4%	3.2%
Netball	3.3%	2.8%	3%
Tennis	4.2%	5.0%	4.6%

Gender Differences in Sports Participation in Victoria

For Victorian males and females in 2020, according the AusPlay data the gender differences in participation are:

- Females have a much higher participation rate than males in walking (recreational); 55.9% compared to 33.7%.
- Participation in Australian Rules football and cricket is much higher for males than females, where there is similar participation rates for tennis and much higher participation in netball by females than males.

AusPlay Physical Activities Data (Children 0-14 years) in Victoria

For Victorian children, the participation data shows that:

- Swimming (42%) is consistently the most popular activity for Victorian children
- Sports played at Hamlyn Park including Australian Rules football (16%), basketball (11.8%), dancing (11.3%), tennis (8.1%), cricket (6.5%) and netball (5.9%) all feature in the top 10 activities for Victorian Children.

The table on the next page details the top activities undertaken by children in Victoria.

Table 3: Victorian Children Sport Specific Participation for 2019 to 2021

Sport	Participation Rate 2019	Participation Rate 2020	Participation Rate 2021
Basketball	13.7%	12.4%	11.8%
Australian Rules football	16.8%	11.5%	16%
Dancing (Recreational)	10.2%	8.8%	11.3%
Tennis	6.4%	8.2%	8.1%
Netball	5.8%	6.4%	5.9%
Cricket	6.4%	5.4%	6.5%

LOCAL PARTICIPATION AND USE

Bell Park Sport and Recreation Club

Sport or activity provided: Management of the Bell Park Sport and Recreation Club, including responsibility for the Social Club and support of the Cricket, Football, Junior Football, All Abilities Football and Netball sections.

Questions						
Where possible, what are your membership numbers across the following Cohorts? Please note - The numbers indicated represent player numbers. There is a social club membership component consisting of social club patrons, as well as family members of players and a strong supporter base. 65 paid up social club members (2021).	**Cohort**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
	0-8 years Male (Sub Junior)	54	68	50	25	71
	0-8 years Female (Sub Junior)	117	23	52	36	45
	Junior Male	252	280	279	122	289
	Junior Female		74	75	93	108
	Senior Male	194	230	260	259	281
	Senior Female	65	66	68	68	66
	Total	582	741	784	603	860
Please list the programs you run (outside of competition and training)	The Bell Park Social Club. Whole Club reviews, Staff training, Compliance checks, Whole club policy development, Towards Zero initiatives, Bell Park Care- an active welfare /support group.					
How many people attend these programs?						
Please detail the days and times you train and compete.	**Use Type**	**Mon**	**Tues**	**Wed**	**Thurs**	**Fri**	**Sat**	**Sun**
	Competition							
	Training							
What events do you run during the year?	Fundraising events- auctions, social functions.							
How many people attend these events?	Between 100- 250 people – more for special events e.g., Team of the Decade presentations.							

A breakdown of Bell Park Sports Club for Junior Football, Senior Football, All Abilities Football, Cricket and Netball sections is provided below.

Bell Park Junior Football Club

Sport or activity provided: Auskick development program to Under 17 junior AFL football coordination. There are 2 x U9, 1 x U10, 1 x U11, 1 x U12 Girls, 2 x U13, 2 x U15 and 1 x U17 teams.

Questions						
Where possible, what are your membership numbers across the following Cohorts? Please note - The numbers indicated represent player numbers. There is a social club membership component consisting of social club patrons, as well as family members of players and a strong supporter base.	**Cohort**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
	0-8 years Male (Sub Junior)	54	68	50	25	71
	0-8 years Female (Sub Junior)	14	8	22	6	10
	Junior Male	221	240	233	171	224
	Junior Female		4	5	23	28
	Senior Male					
	Senior Female					
	Total	289	320	310	225	333
Please list the programs you run (outside of competition and training)	NB AUSKICK numbers are included in the 0-8 figures above. Specialist coaching Kick to Advantage – all junior players every year Player Coach – Brendan McCartney coaching our coaches. - 40 participants Bell Park Academy – every second year, encourages and upskills young players with senior football potential – 20 participants. Read the Play and other targeted programs in conjunction with AFL Barwon.					
How many people attend these programs?	Kick to Advantage - 22					

Please detail the days and times you train and compete.	**Use Type**	**Mon**	**Tues**	**Wed**	**Thurs**	**Fri**	**Sat**	**Sun**
	Competition					x	x	x
	Training		x	x	x			x

What events do you run during the year?	Fundraising events - auctions, senior /Junior player training/half time junior games, barbecues, season launches, presentations, Family social events, Parent social events,
How many people attend these events?	Up to 200 people at some events.

Bell Park Senior Football Club

Sport or activity provided: Senior football coordination of a senior Geelong Football League (GFL) team, a reserve team and U19 team.

Questions								
Where possible, what are your membership numbers across the following Cohorts? Please note - The numbers indicated represent player numbers. There is a social club membership component consisting of social club patrons, as well as family members of players and a strong supporter base.	**Cohort**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**		
	0-8 years Male (Sub Junior)							
	0-8 years Female (Sub Junior)							
	Junior Male							
	Junior Female							
	Senior Male	95	98	102	91	105		
	Senior Female							
	Total	95	98	102	91	105		
Please list the programs you run (outside of competition and training)	Player Coach – Brendan McCartney coaching our coaches. - 40 participants Bell Park Academy – every second year, encourages and upskills young players with senior football potential – 20 participants Junior/senior players days Volunteer training sessions – 20 participants Towards Zero information sessions – 30 to 40 participants							
How many people attend these programs?	See above							
Please detail the days and times you train and compete.	**Use Type**	**Mon**	**Tues**	**Wed**	**Thurs**	**Fri**	**Sat**	**Sun**
	Competition					x	x	x
	Training	x	x		x	x		
What events do you run during the year?	Fundraising events- auctions, social functions. Season launches, presentations,							
How many people attend these events?	Between 100- 250 people							

Geelong Dragons – Bell Park All Abilities Football Program

Sport or activity provided: Coordination of 2 to 3 mixed all abilities AFL football teams now participating in the Western Metropolitan Competition after initial involvement in the Western Country League. Bell Park hosts training and home match days and works with Leisure Networks and a parent management committee to facilitate the opportunity for all abilities players to participate in a purpose driven competition.

Questions							
Where possible, what are your membership numbers across the following Cohorts? Please note - The numbers indicated represent player numbers. There is a social club membership component consisting of social club patrons, as well as family members of players and a strong supporter base	**Cohort**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	
	0-8 years Male (Sub Junior)						
	0-8 years Female (Sub Junior)						
	Junior Male						
	Junior Female						
	Senior Male	23	47	67	67	61	
	Senior Female	5	6	8	8	6	
	Total	28	53	75	75	67	
Please list the programs you run (outside of competition and training)	Social media awareness – 60 Social media interaction re training and connectivity. Refresher re rules/ etc.- 60 Volunteer training - 10						
How many people attend these programs?							
Please detail the days and times you train and compete.	**Use Type**	**Mon**	**Tues**	**Wed**	**Thurs**	**Fri**	**Sat**	**Sun**
	Competition					x		x
	Training	x						
What events do you run during the year?	Fundraising events, family barbecues, season launches, presentations, Zoom connection meetings						
How many people attend these events?	30-50 for team events 200 for a presentation						

Bell Park Cricket Club

Sport or activity provided: Management of the Bell Park Cricket Club, including Woolworths Blasters program, junior and senior cricket teams and an all-abilities cricket team.

Questions						
Where possible, what are your membership numbers across the following Cohorts? Please note - The numbers indicated represent player numbers. There is a social club membership component consisting of social club patrons, as well as family members of players and a strong supporter base.	**Cohort**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
	0-8 years Male (Sub Junior)					30
	0-8 years Female (Sub Junior)					
	Junior Male	31	40	46	51	65
	Junior Female					
	Senior Male	45	45	45	50	50
	Senior Female					
	Total	76	85	91	101	145
Please list the programs you run (outside of competition and training)	The Bell Park Social Club. Whole Club reviews, Staff training, Compliance checks, Whole club policy development, Towards Zero initiatives, Bell Park Care- an active welfare/support group.					
How many people attend these programs?						

Please detail the days and times you train and compete.	**Use Type**	**Mon**	**Tues**	**Wed**	**Thurs**	**Fri**	**Sat**	**Sun**
	Competition							
	Training		x		x	x	x	x

What events do you run during the year?	Fundraising events- auctions, social functions. Woolworths squad All Abilities Cricket 2021 and 22
How many people attend these events?	Between 100- 250 people

Bell Park Netball Club

Sport or activity provided: Management of the Bell Park Netball Club, including Net-Set-Go development program, junior and senior netball teams.

Questions						
Where possible, what are your membership numbers across the following Cohorts? I have only been the President since 2018 so I do not have info relating to 2017. From memory it would be similar to 2018.	**Cohort**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
	0-8 years Male (Sub Junior)					
	0-8 years Female (Sub Junior)			15 x net-set-go participants	30 x net-set-go participants	35 x net-set-go participants
	Junior Male					
	Junior Female		70	70	70	80
	Senior Male					
	Senior Female		60	60	60	60
	Total		**130**	**145**	**160**	**175**
Please list the programs you run (outside of competition and training)	We run a net-set-go program for 10 x Sundays during the main winter season **Net-Set-Go** focuses on girls and boys aged 6-8 years old.					
How many people attend these programs?	35 this year plus parents as the mature guardian (observers)					

Please detail the days and times you train and compete.	**Use Type**	**Mon**	**Tues**	**Wed**	**Thurs**	**Fri**	**Sat**	**Sun**
	Competition						8am – 4pm	
	Training			Junior training 4pm – 7pm	Junior and Senior training 4pm – 8pm			Net- Set-Go – 9am – 10.30am

What events do you run during the year?	Training for our junior and seniors each Wednesday and Thursday from March – September each year. Net-Set-Go – Sunday morning during winter.
How many people attend these events?	The club hosts 9 games at home throughout the winter season and the football and netball would attract large numbers of players, supporters and their families on the day from our club and the club we are competing against. We run a selection of social activities at the club throughout the season.

Geelong Ballroom Dance Club

Sport or activity provided: Management of The Ballroom. Activities include ballroom dancing, jazz and ballet. Other groups that are regular hirers of the venue are the fencing, badminton, gardening and Italian clubs.

Questions							
Where possible, what are your membership numbers across the following Cohorts?	**Cohort**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	
	0-8 years Male (Sub Junior)						
	0-8 years Female (Sub Junior)						
	Junior Male						
	Junior Female						
	Senior Male			45	50	60	
	Senior Female			45	50	60	
	Total			90	100	120	
Please list the programs you run (outside of competition and training)	Ballroom dancing: Saturday dance, private instructors, midweek lessons and dances. Karen Feldman's Dance Studio, **See attached Timetable**						
How many people attend these programs?	Over 700 each week.						
Please detail the days and times you train and compete.	**Use Type**	**Mon**	**Tues**	**Wed**	**Thurs**	**Fri**	**Sat**	**Sun**
	Competition							
	Training	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
What events do you run during the year?	Saturday dance every weekend. Between 30 to 80 people, 7.30 to 11.00pm 3-day Weekend of Dance each October – over 300 people over the weekend. Fundraising / special events dances throughout the year. Approximately 80 to 100 people. New Year's Eve dance – approx. 120 people. Christmas dances. 50 to 80 people Permanent dance and instruction held every Monday and Wednesday – 7.30 to 9.30pm.						
How many people attend these events?	See data above						

Hamlyn Park Tennis Club

Sport or activity provided: Management of the Hamlyn Park Tennis Club, including Hot Shots development program, coaching, junior and senior tennis teams.

Questions										
Where possible, what are your membership numbers across the following Cohorts?	**Cohort**		**2017**		**2018**		**2019**		**2020**	**2021**
	0-8 years Male (Sub Junior)									
	0-8 years Female (Sub Junior)									
	Junior Male									
	Junior Female									
	Senior Male									
	Senior Female									
	Total		160		133		120		112	145
Please list the programs you run (outside of competition and training)	Cardio Tennis, Hot Shots, Coaching									
How many people attend these programs?	20 – 25 for Hotshots and Coaching (noting that we recently appointed a new resident coach in 2021 January									
Please detail the days and times you train and compete.	**Use Type**	**Mon**	**Tues**		**Wed**		**Thurs**	**Fri**	**Sat**	**Sun**
	Competition				10:00am-1:00pm				8:00am-4:00pm	
	Training		4:00pm-7:30pm		About to commence more coaching / cardio tennis		6:00pm-9:00pm			
What events do you run during the year?	Christmas Break Up, Club championships, Open day, School Programs (Western Heights), Hire of Clubrooms.									
How many people attend these events?	In order of listing above - 20 to 50, 20, 30, 30									

Western Heights College

The Western Heights College includes specialist sporting programs for basketball, netball and AFL football. Soccer will be introduced in the next two years.

The school has 650 students (grown from 300 students in last five years) and has an aspiration of growing to 800 students in the next three years. The school has a capacity limit of 1,200 students.

The school utilise the school sports field, netball courts and strength and conditioning gym together with sports facilities off campus. Continued access to these facilities is required in the future. In addition, the school is investigating the future development of a new indoor sports stadium and synthetic soccer pitch.

DEMAND ASSESSMENT KEY FINDINGS

In total, Hamlyn Park provides for seven (7) sport and recreation clubs with a total of 1,125 participants. All sport and recreation groups have maintained or increased membership.

The social rooms and ballroom are hired out for community and private groups functions on a weekly basis.

The Western Heights College also use the football oval and netball courts on the school land. The school student population has increased to over 600 students and provides for a specialist sporting program.

The following demographic characteristics will fuel demand for sport and recreation activities in Hamlyn Heights:

- Growing population from 6,842 in 2021 to 8,456 in 2041.
- High proportion of young adults (between 20 and 29 years) that are high users of sports facilities and older workers/retirees (between 50 to 69 years) that are high users of recreation and cultural activities.
- Ageing community resulting in an increased need to provide accessible and social recreation and therapy-based activities.
- High levels of disadvantage means that sport and recreation participation opportunities will need to be provided in an affordable way. This will be coupled with the continued rise in non-traditional recreation activities.

State-wide participation trends shows that there will be a continued increase in the demand for informal, social and passive recreation opportunities, such as walking, cycling and gym/fitness.

These trends also show that the organised sport and recreation activities currently being undertaken at Hamlyn Park will remain stable in terms of participation rate and in line with population growth.

Sport and Recreation Value

This section identifies benefits of sport and recreation facilities and the participation trends that will influence the behaviour.

VALUE OF OUR PARKS AND SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Our parks, sport and recreation facilities are critical for community health and wellbeing, helping to benefit our community:

Physically and mentally by promoting physical activity and active lifestyles, reducing illness and disease, improving mental health and creating a sense of wellbeing.

Socially by generating stronger and more connected communities with improved social interaction and inclusion through provision of active and vibrant community hubs, access to facilities and resources, opportunities for volunteering and involvement.

Environmentally by developing well-planned and attractive settings encouraging active transport and use of public parks and leisure services. The provision of parks and green environments also include temperature reduction and mitigation of the urban heat island effect; air quality improvement; management of storm water reducing the incidence of flooding and water-borne disease; ecosystem support and biodiversity enhancement.

Economically by assisting to reduce health care cost through reduction in disease and illness associated with lack of physical activity and social interaction. A park and public space network can also provide local employment and investment opportunities and contribute to maintaining a healthy workforce.

Evidence from around the world for building cities and regional areas around public open space, active recreation areas, green streets and walking and cycling infrastructure, has repeatedly demonstrated this approach will deliver improved health, social cohesion, vibrant local economies, productivity, and environmental benefits. [1]

Public open space, sport and recreation infrastructure could be defined as a critical investment in current and future populations. This “Urban Health Infrastructure” delivers multiple returns on investment.

The National Heart Foundation observes:

The health effects of physical activity are compelling. However, the potency of physical activity as a policy investment for Australia extends far beyond health. Active living plays a key role in broader economic and social goals for our nation:

- walking, cycling and public transport are affordable and sustainable solutions to traffic congestion
- these same behaviours contribute to cleaner air, reduced carbon emissions and sustainable environments
- active neighbourhoods and cities are more liveable, with higher levels of social capital and community cohesion and lower levels of crime
- in the context of an ageing community, physical activity enables older Australians to live more active lifestyles with reduced risk from disabling and costly chronic diseases
- fit and active workers are more productive, take fewer sick days and make a positive contribution to our economic wellbeing.

A Blueprint for an Active Australia, 2019

[1] State of New South Wales (Department of Planning, Industry and Environment) 2020 Draft Greener Spaces Design Guide

Sport Australia Report into the Value of Community Sport Infrastructure

In 2018, Sport Australia partnered with KPMG and La Trobe University to investigate the value of community sport infrastructure to Australia. The study quantified the value of community sport infrastructure across Australia to be at least $16.2b.

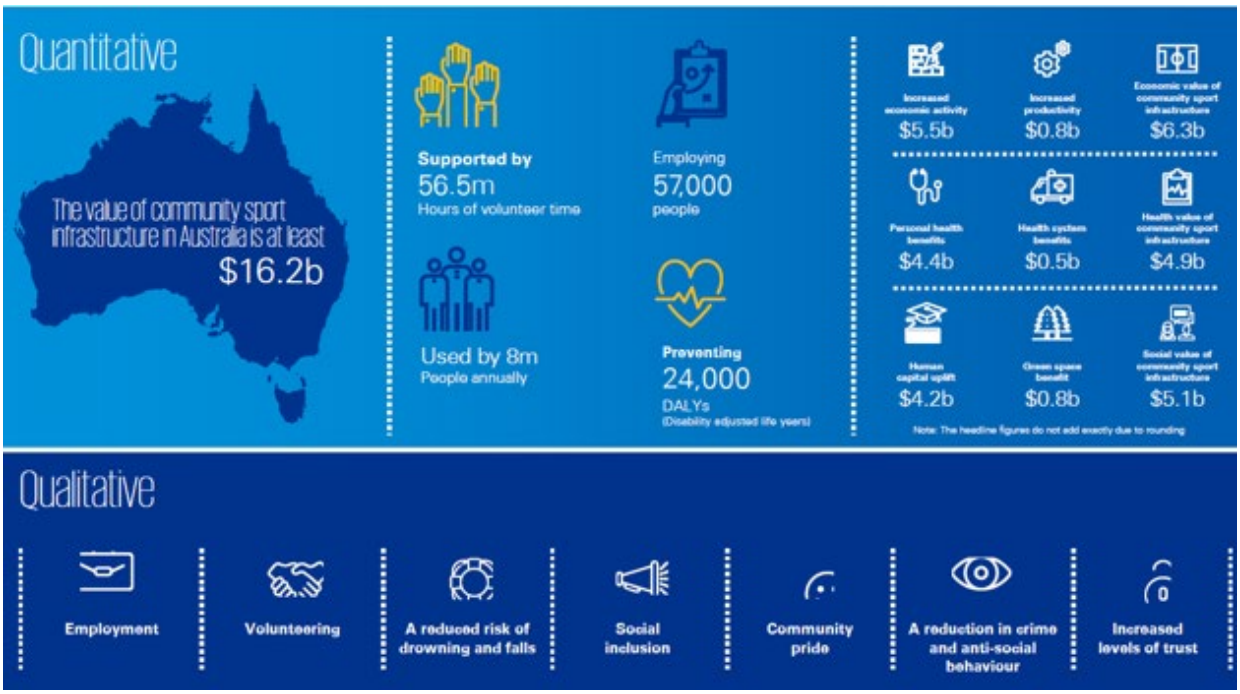


Figure 4: Summary of the Sport Australia report into the value of community sport infrastructure

CHANGES IN HOW WE VALUE PARKS, SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND TRAILS

We value our parks, sport and recreation facilities and trails for they are important to our health and wellbeing and social connectedness with community.

Today we expect a diverse mix of participation opportunities that are accessible and affordable within parks and sport and recreation facilities that are of high quality and offer different experiences. We also expect to have bikeways and walking tracks available in our neighbourhoods that connect where we live to where we would like to go for commuting and recreation (exercise and activity).

The infographic on the next page summarises the key findings from Otium Planning Group research that show the changing attitudes and behaviour towards parks, sport and recreation facilities and trails that need to be considered in the development of the Master Plan.

Increased participation in walking, combined with rising participation in cycling and running in parks and natural areas, means that the demand for pathway networks within open space is probably the largest emerging infrastructure need.

Research has shown the importance of a supportive environment to encouraging participation. This means parks and shaded pathways, natural landscape settings, a sense of safety and good access to public open space.

Many local governments are facing increasing financial constraints to the funding of infrastructure and future maintenance. Planning and finance controls such as contributions caps and borrowing restraints have meant that funding parks and recreation facilities is increasingly difficult. A key challenge is to deliver open space and recreation infrastructure in a timely manner as demand emerges.

The rise of exercise and fitness as recreation has meant that public parks have become the new venues for formal and informal group fitness and social exercise. This is increasing pressure on local parks as well increasing demand for shade and water as key elements.

The infiltration of technology throughout our lives means we have unlimited access to knowledge, information and engagement and expect instantaneous communication. There is potential for increased digitisation of public spaces through virtual and augmented play experiences and use of “smart” features, such, smart benches with solar powered USB charging docs and interactive kiosks.

Increased value on the importance of our environment and sustainability will drive incorporation of sustainable design into parks and playspaces and creation of green spaces and corridors that mitigate urban heat island effects.

National Recreation and Parks Association research shows dog parks are the fastest growing type of park in America. The increasing desire to exercise with our pets is also seen in Australia and is likely to increase demand for dog friendly parks, particularly in urban areas.

Community expectations are increasing as to the quality of parks and sporting facilities and the level of access to these. In particular, there is increasing awareness of “high quality” destination parks with regional scale play and active recreation elements.

Lessons from the Lockdown - Importance of Public Open Space

In addition to these influences, the recent impact of restrictions to reduce/eliminate the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted just how important public spaces, parks, sport and recreation facilities and trails are to the community.

Anecdotal evidence from many towns and cities has highlighted the rapid increase in use of public spaces and how important the opportunity to get outdoors and be active has become to all. It is likely this rapid shift in behaviour will emphasise inequity in provision and may result in more permanent increases in outdoor activity and exercise.

> *"However, the sheer volume of people exercising in the open air has also exposed the limitations of historic design of some public spaces, with too many people crowded onto narrow walkways or poorly laid out parklands. That's why our future precincts, parks and public spaces need to be designed to enable better social distancing, with wider footpaths, segregated cycleways and more linear parks, to meet the increased demand for these precious public spaces."*
>
> Rob Stokes Minister for Planning 12/05/20 Guardian Australia

In October 2020, AusPlay released data on the early impact of Covid-19 on sport and physical activity participation by comparing data for the period of April to June 2020 with April to June 2019. Key findings include:

- The need for more frequent participation appears to have been prompted by Covid-19. 63% of females and 65% of males participated in physical activities 3+ times per week between April to June 2019. This increased to 66% and 70% respectively for April to June 2020.
- Recreational and fitness activities were most popular during April to June 2020. The top three activities for adults during this period were Walking (recreational) (86.3%); Exercise at home (81.6%) and Exercise biking (81.3%).
- Running (41.0%), Jogging (41.8%) and Yoga (38.6%) were the top three recreational and fitness activities adults participated in more in April to June 2020.
- Comparison of ABS emotional and wellbeing data shows an increase in emotions associated with anxiety and depression in April, before stabilising or reducing in June 2020.
- Data on motivation for participation showed physical and mental health and social reasons were more prevalent in April-June 2020 data.

SPORT AND RECREATION VALUE KEY FINDINGS

Hamlyn Park provides several sport and recreation facilities and services that offer physical and mental health, social, environmental, and economic benefits to Geelong.

To continue to provide these benefits and optimise the use by community, Hamlyn Park will need to be designed in a way that can adapt to changing sport and recreation participation trends, leisure patterns and community expectations.

Key trends influencing the provision and design of sport and recreation facilities and services are:

- Participation in physical activity in Victoria has increased, however the majority of the growth has been in unstructured activities such as walking and cycling and gym/fitness.
- It will be critical that the development of or improvements to facilities and grounds are multi-use and are not putting unnecessary financial pressure on Council and do not duplicate facilities with available capacity.
- Insights from the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of local recreation facilities and the growing expectations from the community around the quality of their open spaces and sporting facilities.
- New facilities should be developed in a multi-use hub precinct to ensure the maximum value of investment is achieved, while also not duplicating facilities.
- Sports parks need to incorporate opportunities for co-location of sport with recreational offerings, including providing opportunities for walk/run paths and trails as this is the highest participation physical activity undertaken by the community.
- The large growth in female participation within traditionally male oriented sports is increasing pressures on playing facilities and increasing the need to diversify amenities to be universally accessible.

- Whilst nature and intensity of participation in sport may change over time in consideration of the type of sport, the need for suitable spaces to accommodate community demand will remain. Future facility provision and design needs to ensure spaces are adaptable to accommodate changing participation trends.
- The location of sport and recreation facilities need to be accessible to the majority of the community in order to encourage maximised use.

Councils are responding to these changing trends in several ways. These include:

- Master planning of sport and recreation places and spaces is becoming increasingly important to ensure well-planned, flexible, multi-use spaces that can adapt to community needs into the future.
- Contemporary planning seeks to create 'community hubs' for sport and recreation that can meet a broader range of needs and facilitate higher utilisation and viability.
- Awareness of the importance of ‘risk management’ and the need for a ‘whole-of-life’ approach to facility development and asset management.
- A network of facilities that provide a well-designed mix of community, commercial and service facilities for sport and recreation activities.
- Facility designs need to ensure specific needs of key users can be met, including universal design and female friendly principles.
- Creating environments that enable people to lead active and healthy lives, placing greater focus on integration with urban planning in public spaces, provision and/or connectivity of walking and cycling paths, provision of complementary and connected sport and recreation facilities and program, and the provision and access to parks, nature and open spaces.
- An increased emphasis on public parks, active transport and better access to formal and informal sport and active recreation in response to a global push for more active and healthy environments. For example, WHO (World Health Organisation) call to action for increasing green space is a direct outcome from extensive research into the benefits of green space to people and places.

Site Review

This section reviews the planning context, usage, occupancy and condition of Hamlyn Park.

SITE OVERVIEW

Hamlyn Park Reserve is located at Calvert Street, Hamlyn Heights, and is nestled within a residential area as well as bordering two schools to the east and west.

The primary planning site (**green**) is owned by the City and has a total area of approximately 5.2 hectares. The reserve is zoned Public Parks and Recreation Zone (PPRZ). The primary function of the reserve is for active recreation.

To the west of the primary planning site is Western Heights College on Department of Education and Training (DET) land. This secondary planning area (**blue**) is also zoned PPRZ and currently provides facilities for use by sporting tenants of Hamlyn Park, including football, cricket and netball, under a joint use agreement.

The section of land between the City and DET is owned by VicTrack and is zone Public Use Zone. This is an interface area (**green arrow**) between the primary and secondary planning area and includes a shared use trail (Tom McKean Trail) and high-pressure gas line.

Figure 5: Site Plan

OCCUPANCY AGREEMENTS

The reserve has a large range of user groups including football, netball, tennis, cricket, scouts and community groups such as ballroom dancing.

The current lease and license holders on the site include:

- Bell Park Sport and Recreation Club (Football, Cricket and Netball) – Sports oval and supporting pavilion and social rooms
- Hamlyn Park Tennis Club – Tennis facility including courts and small pavilion
- Geelong Ballroom Dance Club – The Ballroom
- Scouts Victoria – Scout Hall
- The City currently has a Joint Use Agreement with Western Heights College to allow community to access the sports oval and netball courts on school land.

SITE OBSERVATIONS

OPG and City staff conducted a site inspection and observed usage of the reserve in November 2021. The following observations were identified:

- Sporting facilities at the reserve will need to be considered in the context of the reserve hierarchy in the local network.
- Facilities should complement other opportunities that exist or are planned across the catchment area to avoid an over/under-provision of facilities.
- The use of flexible and innovative solutions will be important for maximising multi-use and changing use as community demands vary over time.
- Existing public amenities and access pathways must be retained however, additional public facilities such as playgrounds, park infrastructure, pathways and amenities are required to cater for casual/informal reserve users.
- Social family recreation and play areas are needed in Hamlyn Park to meet the gaps in provision of these places.
- Pathways linking features within the site as well as to destinations outside of the reserve will be an important consideration of the Master Plan.

- There is formal and informal parking and access to the reserve. There are safety concerns from people driving on park areas and across the walking and bike trail. Additional traffic volumes into the site will require careful planning to provide safe entry, parking and exit points for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.
- The traffic management plan will also need to consider emergency vehicle access, peak car parking requirements, overflow parking options and general safety of all users. The needs of all adjacent properties must also be carefully addressed.
- There are multiple buildings onsite that support active recreation use that are no longer considered fit for purpose. Consideration of upgrades or consolidation of buildings will be important.
- Any new facilities or infrastructure will need to integrate and complement the existing infrastructure which have been outlined to be retained and align with relevant guidelines for sport.
- Pavilions will need to include opportunities for multi-use community spaces and consider the potential for consolidation or removal of the existing ageing infrastructure.
- All facilities will need to be developed using the Universal Design Principles, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) Principles and reference the Female Friendly Design Guidelines.
- There are opportunities to improve landscaping (seating, shade trees, drinking fountains, pathways, planted areas) of open space and community use areas to encourage social and family gathering, informal sport and recreation activities, community exercising and support spectator viewing.
- Pathway linkages and beautification between the sites will also be an important consideration of the Master Plan.
- Scouts Hall is old and now disused. Exploring alternative uses for the hall in partnership with Scouts Hall is an opportunity for the Master Plan.
- Western Heights College netball courts and sports oval are critical to support the growing participation of Bell Park Sporting Club groups (football, cricket and netball). The Master Plan will need to assess and confirm the opportunity for ongoing use with the school and determine what, if any, upgrades should be considered on DET land.

ASSET CONDITION

Sports Oval and Lighting

- The main sports oval is in good condition and includes drainage, irrigation and new lighting to competition standards.
- The school oval is in good condition. There is no lighting on the school oval.

Sports Courts and Cricket Nets

- The acrylic netball courts are in good condition and include training lights.
- Three (3) of the synthetic tennis courts have recently been replaced and are in excellent condition. These courts have lighting for competition. The two public courts are serviceable but require renewal in the short to medium term. The public courts do not have lights.
- New cricket training pitches and nets with storage area has recently been installed and are in excellent condition.

Buildings

- The sports pavilion was refurbished in recent years after fire damage. The pavilion is required to support multiple sporting uses and facilities. It is well positioned on the wing of the sports oval and within proximity the netball courts and the Western Heights College oval. However, the pavilion has insufficient change rooms, and they are not designed as gender neutral.
- There are no adequate change facilities to support netball participation, Investigating the development options for improving the provision of gender-neutral change rooms is a priority.
- The Ballroom has an excellent standard dance hall and floor. However, the change rooms, toilets and kitchen are dated and access within the building is via stairs. Delivering universal design access and upgrading the change rooms, toilets and kitchen are priority improvements.
- The Ballroom also has “undamaged, sealed non friable asbestos” that requires a long-term management strategy and safe removal when refurbishing.
- The tennis pavilion is in serviceable condition but basic and falls short of contemporary universal design and female friendly design guideline facility requirements. Delivering universal design access and upgrading the

change rooms, toilets and kitchen are priority improvements.

- The Bell Park Sporting Club Social Rooms support the social activities of the football, cricket and netball clubs. The facility is also a gaming venue. Refurbishment of the social facilities should be considered in the long term.

Other

- The playground is in poor condition and requires renewal in the short term.
- The footpath network is in average condition, disconnected and lacks connectivity between activity areas.
- The car park area near the social rooms is formalised and in good condition, however the entry, internal perimeter road (with bollard) and asphalt car parking area near pavilion, the Ballroom and tennis courts is extensive and informal.
- The BMX track layout is operational however in need of renewal.
- The exercise equipment is in good condition and appears well used by the community and linked with central shared use trail.
- The open space areas are undeveloped and require landscaping treatment to improve the aesthetic, shade and accessibility of the reserve.

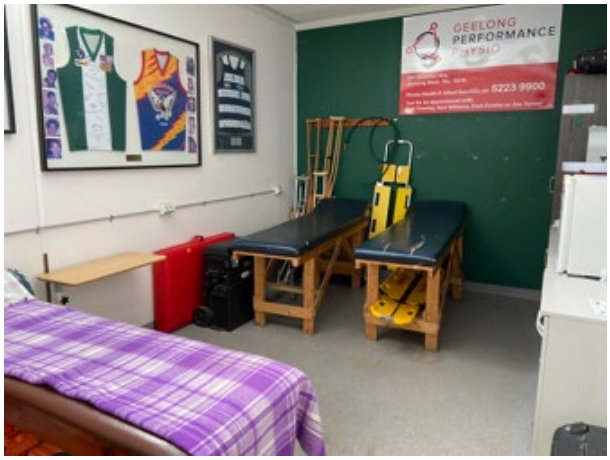
SITE REVIEW KEY FINDINGS

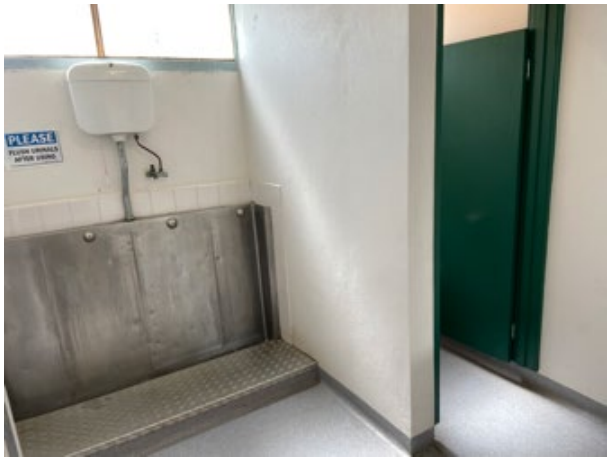
Hamlyn Park offers a wide range of sport and recreation facilities that vary in condition with some requiring renewal.

Key site issues and improvements identified:

- The buildings (main sports pavilion, tennis pavilion and the Ballroom) are not designed to contemporary standards. Universal access (DDA) is an issue, the change rooms are dated, insufficient in number and are not gender neutral. There is limited access to appropriate change facilities for female participants, in particular a lack of netball facilities.
- The upgrade of change room facilities for netball, football and cricket, upgrade of the Ballroom and tennis pavilion, to provide accessible and female friendly facilities, and cater for the future participation growth and profile of users are priority improvements for the reserve. The Ballroom has asbestos that will need to be removed as part of any future redevelopment.
- The ovals are in good condition and the main oval offers competition standard lighting. Lighting the Western Heights College oval and investigating a synthetic surface would disperse training across two sports ovals and address the overuse of both ovals.
- The social family recreation and play areas within the community open space areas are lacking or in poor condition. These areas include the play space, bike track and pathways. A landscape improvement plan is needed that upgrades and extends the play space and bike track areas, activates public open space areas i.e., kick about space, dog park areas, social picnic areas. These areas should be supported by public seating, a connected and upgraded pathway network and shade tree planting.
- There is extensive informal asphalt car parking and some unauthorised access and egress from the park that is leading to unsafe conflict between cars and pedestrians, and inefficient traffic flow and car parking. A traffic management and car parking plan that integrates safe pedestrian flow and crossing between activity areas is recommended.

Photos of the site are shown on the following pages.

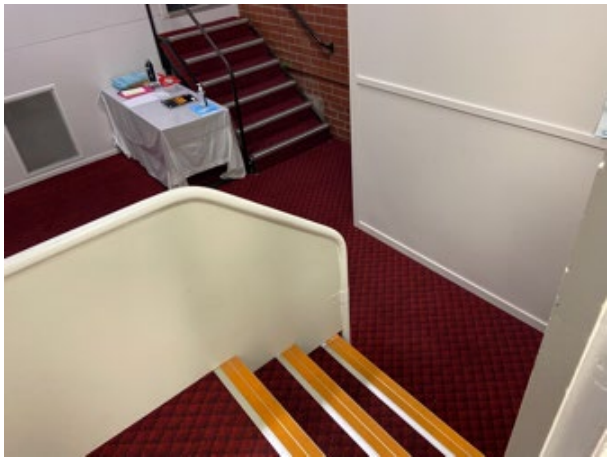

GEELONG
PERFORMANCE


PLEASE

hi sushi
HODGES
HODGES

Bell Park
BELL PARK
VISITORS
You get more with
HODGES
hi sushi

THE BALLROOM



Consultation Summary

This section summarises the community and stakeholder input into the Master Plan.

KEY STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Project Reference Group

Throughout the Master Plan's development, the City worked closely with the Project Reference Group, which was made up of representatives of tenanting user groups of the reserve. The purpose of this group was to provide information to assist in forming recommendations, including guidance around the functionality of the Reserve and its future infrastructure requirements.

Representatives of the group, included:

- Bell Park Sport and Recreation Club
- Geelong Ballroom Dance Club
- Hamlyn Park Tennis Club
- Scouts Victoria
- Western Heights College

'Residents 3215' Local Residents Group

A group of local residents known as Residents 3215 was also engaged throughout the master plan process to provide input and perspective on the future of Hamlyn Park from a local resident and passive (non-organised) recreation perspective.

COMMUNIY CONSULTATION

There were two rounds of engagement with the community.

The **first round of engagement** with the community was undertaken to understand what they like, and what they would like to see improved, through the Master Plan. Engagement took place from 1 November to 3 December 2021 and involved online and face to face engagement opportunities.

The **second round of engagement** was undertaken to receive feedback on the Draft Master Plan and understand if any changes were required to be made for the Final Master Plan. Community engagement took place from 28 October to 9 December 2022 and involved online and face to face engagement opportunities.

Stage 1 Consultation

This first round of engagement with the community was undertaken to understand what they like, and what they would like to see improved, through the Master Plan. Engagement took place from 1 November to 3 December 2021 and involved online and face to face engagement opportunities.

This feedback directly influenced the development of the Draft Master Plan prior to it being released for public exhibition. A detailed overview of the initial consultation can be found as a supporting document to this report. A summary of key themes through this engagement period is identified below:

Respondents wanted to see increased activation and improved facilities, whilst protecting and enhancing the landscape character of the reserve.

Stage 2 Consultation

The City of Greater Geelong invited the community and stakeholders to provide feedback on the Draft Hamlyn Park Reserve Master Plan.

The draft Master Plan identified several priorities including development of compliant, fit for purpose change rooms to support netball participation, and upgrade of other existing

sporting facilities, including the Geelong Ballroom Dance Club building. The plan also includes improvements to pedestrian safety, linkages throughout the reserve, improved play spaces and open spaces to provide greater active recreation and social recreation opportunities within the Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve precinct.

A summary of the consultation process and feedback received is provided below. A separate Stage 2 Engagement Findings Report has been prepared that can be found as a supporting document to this report.

The City of Greater Geelong received the following response to engagement methods:

- 83 online community surveys
- 28 contributions to the quick poll question

2 drop-in sessions with 10 people attending

Key findings from the community survey were:

- Most respondents (90%) felt that the *draft* Master Plan reflects the future aspirations / needs of the park in the local area.
- Of the 83 respondents to the *draft* Master Plan, 43 respondents were very satisfied; 27 respondents somewhat satisfied; 4 respondents were unsure; 7 respondents somewhat dissatisfied; and 2 respondents were very dissatisfied.

Key findings from the quick poll question were:

- There were 93% of respondents that either supported or mostly supported the draft Master Plan and only 3% that did not support the plan.

Key findings from the drop-in sessions were:

- Support for social and family use of reserve and seek in inclusion of barbecues in northern and southern open space areas and access to public toilets.
- Improve safety for pedestrians crossing car park areas and in surrounding local streets.
- Respond to drainage issues along Tom McKean Trail.
- Support sport and recreation improvements, specifically to provide for female participation. Consider operational conflicts between users in design of facilities.

Respondents to the second round of consultation supported the improvements proposed to the reserve including increased activation and improving facilities, whilst protecting and enhancing the landscape character of the reserve.

There were concerns about the balance between sport and parkland / green space areas and whether the proposed improvements go far enough to either support sport participation or community engagement with parkland and nature.

As a result of the feedback received through this period, the draft master plan was updated, and key themes were developed that represent what was heard via the engagement activities.

Changes to the Final Master Plan

The recommended response to feedback identified by community during the second stage of consultation are:

1. Include reference to external security lighting in directions 1 and 2 to light high pedestrian traffic areas.
2. Include “barbecue, covered seating and enhanced tree planting” to strategic direction 8b. Note the detailed design of the play space should incorporate natural elements where possible and develop natural shaded areas through tree planting.
3. Indicated additional tree planting around northern play space and along diagonal path on landscape plan.
4. Note improvement of access and surface condition and drainage to Tom McKean Trail as per ‘City’s Shared Trails Master Plan’ in direction 11.
5. Further highlight pedestrian crossings on landscape plan.
6. Include “consideration of speed humps to Carey Street entrance” to strategic direction 15.
7. Change direction 13 to reference bollards for Tom McKean Trail as well as open space areas and extend visual on landscape plan to clearly indicate treatment. Retain diagonal trail connection between kick about space and pump track.
8. Reduce pedestrian only area and prioritise accessible parking in area between ballroom and sports pavilion.
9. Reduce northern open space area car park and retain access gate. (8f).
10. Include in 11.b “review drainage issue and improve swale along Tom McKean Trail”.
11. Include in 8. New action “rectify drainage issues in northern open space as part of improvement works)”.
12. Investigate car parking improvement on east side of main oval as part of strategic direction 15.
13. Strategic direction 15 to note: Plan to determine appropriate traffic flow, traffic calming measures, pedestrian crossing treatments and signage. Traffic management plan to be completed prior to any related works being undertaken.
14. Consider nature based improvements to the southern playground and open space area that acknowledges the park’s connection to the Wadawurrung People as Traditional Owners of the land, as well as the importance of the local environment, to create a distinct and welcoming pedestrian entrance into the southern section of the reserve.
15. The landscape improvement plan should also consider the opportunity to recognise the parks cultural significance.

Strategic Directions

The market research, site review and engagement findings have identified key issues and development options for Hamlyn Park Master Plan.

KEY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Strategic Support and Partnerships

The key strategic objectives of the Hamlyn Park Master Plan are to:

- Improve the health, wellbeing and safety of the community.
- Provide quality and inclusive spaces that support active lifestyles for a diverse community and are accessible, attractive and based upon community need.
- Support the growth of localised and regional sporting facilities by providing new sport and leisure facilities and upgrading existing ones
- Contribute to a healthier natural environment and support environmental sustainability.
- Pursue opportunities to support reconciliation through partnerships with traditional owners to deliver master plan initiatives.

The market research and engagement process has identified actions in the previous 2010 Master Plan that were not delivered and are still current today.

Western Heights College is a critical partner to the success of sport and recreation at Hamlyn Park. Stage 3 of the Western Heights College Master Plan is an opportunity to further extend this successful relationship by investigating a multi-sport court stadium that would contribute to addressing the shortfall of 20 indoor sports courts in the next 20 years.

Sport and Recreation Participation Growth

Hamlyn Park provides for seven (7) sport and recreation clubs with a total of 1,125 participants. All sport and recreation groups have maintained or increased membership.

Further, the social rooms and Ballroom are hired out for other community and private groups weekly.

The Western Heights College has 650 students that use the football oval and netball courts on the school land. The school now runs a specialist sporting program.

Organised sport and recreation activities at Hamlyn Park are projected to increase in line with the current participation rate and population growth.

Hamlyn Heights will grow from 6,842 in 2021 to 8,456 in 2041 and maintain a higher proportion of young adults that are high users of sports facilities and workers/ retirees that are high users of recreation and cultural activities.

Other demographic and leisure trends impacting the future use of the reserve are:

- An ageing community that will require access to accessible, social recreation and therapy-based activities.
- Increasing demand in informal, social recreation activities like walking, cycling, fitness and play.
- The location around the park supports early learning, primary and secondary schools which means Hamlyn Park is a central destination for children and young people.

Hamlyn Park is very well used with 85% of respondents visiting the reserve at least weekly for organised and informal sport, walking, play and socialising.

Asset Renewal and Upgrade

Hamlyn Park facilities vary in condition with some requiring renewal.

The engagement findings found that 45% of respondents were satisfied with the reserve, whilst 22% were unsatisfied.

The buildings including main sports pavilion, tennis pavilion and the Ballroom are not designed to contemporary standards for universal access and female friendly design; and are insufficient in size and function. There are no change room facilities to support netball participation.

Further, the Ballroom and tennis facility are both of an age and condition that require renewal. The Ballroom has asbestos that will need to be removed as part of any future redevelopment.

A plan for the redevelopment and upgrade of these facilities is needed, including the provision for female change rooms for netball, AFL football and cricket.

All new or upgraded facilities should consider environmentally sensitive design features including solar panels, heat pumps and water tanks.

The playing fields, cricket nets, netball and tennis courts are in good condition. 54% of respondents found the sports oval and courts to be of satisfactory condition. Key renewal and improvement projects include renewal of public tennis courts and installation of lighting on courts and Western Heights College sports oval. This will allow for training to be dispersed across sports fields.

The engagement findings identified priority developments for the reserve were the upgrade of the play space, bike track and footpath network.

Protecting Natural Features and Improving Landscaping

Protecting the mature trees and natural areas and providing park amenity were key themes raised by the community.

A landscape improvement plan that extends the natural open space and treed areas in public open space areas within the reserve and supports ongoing environmental sustainability is recommended.

Community Spaces for Social Family Recreation and Play

The social family recreation and play areas within the community open space areas are lacking or in poor condition. These areas include the play space, bike track and pathways. 54% of respondents were not satisfied with the landscaping of the reserve.

An improvement plan that features upgrades to the play space and bike track areas and activates public open space areas i.e., kick about space, dog park areas, social picnic areas is recommended.

These areas should be supported by public seating, a connected and upgraded pathway network and shade tree planting.

Traffic Management

There is extensive informal asphalt car parking and some unauthorised access and egress from the park that is leading to unsafe conflict between cars and pedestrians, and inefficient traffic flow and car parking. A traffic management and car parking plan that integrates safe pedestrian flow and crossing between activity areas is recommended. Car park and traffic improvements and measures to address unauthorised access and pedestrian safety has been included in the landscape master plan.

VISION

Hamlyn Park is a shared community and school parkland for sport, recreation, socialising and learning. An open space to escape to that encourages active living.

Master Plan Recommendations

Sport and Community Facility Improvements

1. **Pavilion Improvements**

   A) Stage 1 works include development of a change room facility supporting netball courts and WHC oval. Priority improvements include providing unisex change rooms for netball, AFL, cricket and referees. Install security lighting.

The fitness station will need to be relocated north of the new change room facility.

   B) Stage 2 works include refurbishing the Alex Rizun pavilion to meet contemporary sporting standards. Install security lighting

The design of the sports facilities should be fit for purpose and accommodates football, cricket and netball facility requirements and in line with AFL Preferred Facility Guidelines, Netball Victoria Facilities Manual and Cricket Victoria's Community Cricket Facility Guidelines.

Retain scorers' box and consider future refurbishment to improve access and amenity.

   C) Stage 3 works include future refurbishment of social facilities.

2. **Upgrade Geelong Ballroom with improved access, refurbished change rooms / toilets and kitchen. Install external security lighting on buildings to light high pedestrian traffic areas.**

Deliver upgrades to the Geelong Ballroom to provide much needed improvements to access, toilets, change rooms and kitchen. This will require safe removal of asbestos, as per the asbestos report.

3. **Upgrade Hamlyn Heights Tennis Club facility.**

   A) Stage 1 works includes renewal of public courts and install lighting.

   B) Stage 2 works includes refurbishment of tennis facility change rooms / toilets, kitchen and storage. Include security lighting.

The improvement is to be redeveloped in line with Tennis Australia's Infrastructure Planning Resource.

4. **Main sports field improvements.**

   A) Install ball protection fence at the southern end of the main sports fields.

   B) Install new boundary fence and upgrade sports field at time of renewal.

   C) Replace coaches boxes.

Western Heights College Improvements

5. **Support improvements to Western Heights College sports field including training standard lighting, boundary fence and ball protection fence at northern end. Support investigation of feasibility into a synthetic surface for the WHC sports field.**

Installing sports field lighting to training standards will help disperse training activities across two fields and to reduce the use of the main oval during winter season.

Installing a 1.2m high boundary fence around the sports field will limit vehicle access and defines school boundary to students.

Support school's investigation into a synthetic field to increase field capacity and use.

Note: The City supports the improvements identified for Western Heights College, however, does not commit to providing funding for these works.

6. **Support Western Heights College proposal for feasibility and joint use (school and community) of a new multisport court stadium as part of the Stage 3 Master Plan for Western Heights College.**

The multi-sport stadium has the potential to support the school's specialist sporting program and community indoor sport use.

Note: The City supports the improvements identified for Western Heights College, however, does not commit to providing funding for these works.

Open Space and Landscape Improvements

7. **Improved pathway / landscaping to create better connection between active zones. Pathways to consider access and inclusion design features.**

8. **Create a new social family recreation area in northern open space zone.**

   A) Remove the Scout Hall, retain the public toilet and install bollards to remove unauthorised vehicle access

   B) Construct a new district level play space including, covered social seating, drink station, and BBQ and enhance landscaping and tree planting through this zone.

Note: Detailed design should incorporate natural elements where possible and develop natural shaded areas through tree planting and include drainage rectification.

C) Renew and improve bike pump track.

D) Investigate surface improvements including irrigation and drainage to improve formal and informal sporting use.

E) Install ball protection fence or fully enclose cricket nets to ensure safety of northern open space users.

F) Provide a small car park area off Calvert Street including accessible car park spaces.

9. Landscape improvements to southern open space zone.

A) Improve landscaping by protecting mature trees, extending shade tree planting and improve grassed area.

B) Consider nature based improvements to the southern playground and open space area that acknowledges the park's connection to the Wadawurrung People as Traditional Owners of the land, as well as the importance of the local environment, to create a distinct and welcoming pedestrian entrance into the southern section of the reserve.

The improvements will create a place where people can connect with nature amongst the mature gum trees and gather to socialise and a play zone in the southern open space area of the reserve.

10. Create an outdoor forecourt (pedestrian zone) between sports pavilion and Geelong Ballroom.

Providing an outdoor, landscaped, pedestrianised and social seating area between the Geelong Ballroom and sports pavilion will improve safety between pedestrians and car movements at entry points.

11. Upgrade and extend pedestrian pathway network to connect all activity areas with safe crossing areas and with the shared use track (Tom McKean Trail).

A) Improve the pedestrian pathway network by connecting all activity areas with safe crossing areas and the existing shared use track (Tom McKean Trail). All pathways to have appropriate access for all abilities.

B) Improve the Tom McKean Trail including widening, surface improvements, signage, and drainage as per the City's Shared Trails Master Plan.

Extending the footpath network will provide a fitness circuit and provide safe pedestrian movements between activity areas of the reserve.

This footpath network will connect with the city wide trail network through the shared used trail (Tom McKean Trail) dissecting the reserve.

12. Develop a landscape improvement plan for site.

Develop a landscape improvement plan that protects the mature trees onsite and extends shade tree planting in open space areas and along footpath/trail network.

Protection and enhancement of green spaces and tree canopy will support environmental sustainability and biodiversity in line with the City's strategic objectives.

The landscape improvement plan should also consider the opportunity to recognise the parks cultural significance through:

Use of indigenous planting as a key theme throughout the precinct.

Potential for Indigenous interpretive signage throughout the precinct.

Nature based playground designs as part of the detailed design process.

Traffic Management Improvements

13. Install bollards along Tom McKean Trail as well as open space areas.

Installing bollards along the Tom McKean Trail and open space areas will address unauthorised vehicle access into the open space areas of the reserve.

14. Remove fence, formalise car parking and install alternative traffic calming measures.

Removing the fence that is no longer required for school bus drop off and pick up will improve traffic flow around the site.

15. Prepare a detailed traffic management plan for site.

A) Prepare a detailed traffic management and car parking plan to determine appropriate traffic flow, traffic calming measures, pedestrian crossing treatments and signage.

The traffic management and car parking plan is to be completed before any car park works are undertaken and should:

- Create an efficient traffic flow and car parking area in southern asphalt area and internal access road along eastern boundary.
- Address unauthorised access and egress from the park that is leading to unsafe conflict between cars and pedestrians.
- Integrates safe pedestrian flow and crossing between activity areas.
- Provides accessible car parking at active zones.
- Review function and safety of entry points.

B) Investigate opportunity for forward facing car parks on east side of oval.

C) Investigate speed humps on Bayview Parade.

16. Create Connection to school/overflow car park.

Master Plan

Key Directions:
LEGEND
Sports facility & open space improvements.
Community facility improvements.
Existing trees.
New trees & landscaping.
Accessible Carparking Space.
Bollards.
Pedestrian safe crossing area.
CALVERT ST
QUAMBY S
CALVERT ST
CAREY ST
LILY ST

Implementation Plan

The master plan, concept plans and cost plans are important ingredients to securing investment from a range of sources.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A collaborative approach to investment is required to achieve recommendations. Opportunities for partnerships via club, local, state, and other community sources should be explored. At the time of writing this report, the below funding programs and opportunities are available and align with recommendations.

City of Greater Geelong's Community Infrastructure Grants Program

This program aims to support funding for the planning and delivery of capital works projects for community groups within the City of Greater Geelong.

Sport & Recreation Victoria Local Sports Infrastructure Fund

This Fund aims to provide a range of grant opportunities across funding streams including Female Friendly Facilities, Community Sports Lighting and Scoreboards and Fixed Equipment.

Sport & Recreation Victoria Community Cricket Program

This Program aims to support cricket participation in Victoria through high-quality and welcoming facilities. The objectives of this program aim to be achieved through providing funding for projects such as upgrading of existing and construction of practice facilities, club room developments, playing field upgrades and sports lighting initiatives.

Sport & Recreation Victoria Country Football & Netball Program

This fund aims to enhance participation opportunities in football and netball through improved playing surfaces, gender-neutral player and umpire change facilities and sports lighting upgrades

Club fundraising

Clubs tenanting Hamlyn Park may have opportunities to fundraise to support the delivery of the identified infrastructure upgrades. Where applicable, clubs should be encouraged to create a sinking fund that helps support the implementation of the Master Plan and to support Council in their pursuits to leverage both internal and external funds.

Council's budget process

Each year Council prepares a budget which provides funding for the delivery of community services, programs, and infrastructure in line with its respective Council Plan. There are opportunities for items identified within the Master Plan to be considered via this process.

Council's cyclical budgets

Council has cyclical budgets for the maintenance and renewal of minor infrastructure items. A small number of recommendations within the Master Plan could be considered within relevant cyclical programs.

IMPLEMENTATION SHEDULE

The following table outlines each individual recommendation within the Master Plan and provides indicative capital costs for implementation as well as priority. Note that the following exclusions and assumptions have been applied within the cost estimates provided below:

- Costs below do not include any allowances for non-construction costs.
- Costs below are current as of March 2023 using the best available information and do not include contingency or cost escalations that would need to be applied at the time of funding these projects.
- The cost plan is indicative only of the possible order of cost. All components of the cost plan are subject to further detailed design and investigation and would need to be confirmed at that point.

Recommendation		Priority	Indicative Cost	Funding Opportunity
Sport and Community Facility Improvements				
1	**Pavilion Improvements**			
A)	Stage 1 works include development of a change room facility supporting netball courts and WHC oval. Priority improvements include providing unisex change rooms for netball, AFL, cricket and referees.	High	$3,000,000	CoGG BELREC Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) WHC
B)	Stage 2 works include refurbishing the Alex Rizun pavilion to meet contemporary sporting standards.	High	$2,000,000	CoGG BELREC SRV
C)	Stage 3 works include future refurbishment of social facilities.	Low	$200,000	BELREC
2	**Upgrade Geelong Ballroom with improved access, refurbished change rooms / toilets and kitchen. Install external security lighting on buildings to light high pedestrian traffic areas.**	High	$2,000,000	CoGG GBDC
3	**Upgrade Hamlyn Heights Tennis Club facility**			
A)	Stage 1 works includes renewal of synthetic public courts and install lighting.	Med	$165,000	CoGG HPTC SRV
B)	Stage 2 works includes refurbishment of tennis facility change rooms / toilets, kitchen and storage. Include Security Lighting	Med	$500,000	
4	**Main sports field improvements**			
A)	Install ball protection fence at the southern end of the main sports fields.	Low	$40,000	CoGG BELREC
B)	Install new boundary fence and upgrade sports field at time of renewal.	Low	$750,000	CoGG BELREC SRV
C)	Replace coaches boxes.	Low	$19,000	CoGG BELREC
Western Heights College Improvements				
5	**Support improvements to Western Heights College sports field including training standard lighting, boundary fence and ball protection fence at northern end. Support investigation of feasibility into a synthetic surface for the WHC sports field.**	High	$450,000	WHC BELREC CoGG (CIG)
6	**Support Western Heights College proposal for feasibility and joint use (school and community) of a new multisport court stadium as part of the Stage 3 Master Plan for Western Heights College.**	Med	$16,000,000	WHC State Gov
Open Space and Landscape Improvements				
7	**Improved pathway / landscaping to create better connection between active zones. Pathways to consider access and inclusion design features.**	Low	$70,000	CoGG BELREC
8	**Create a new social family recreation area in northern open space zone:**			
A)	Remove the Scout Hall, retain the public toilet and install bollards to remove unauthorised vehicle access	Med	$12,500	CoGG SRV
B)	Construct a new district level play space including, covered social seating, drink station, and BBQ and enhance landscaping and tree planting through this zone.	Med	$610,000	
C)	Renew and improve bike pump track	Med	$350,000	
D)	Investigate surface improvements including irrigation and drainage to improve formal and informal sporting use.	Med	$150,000	
E)	Install ball protection fence or fully enclose cricket nets to ensure safety of northern open space users.	Med	$40,000	
F)	Provide a small car park area off Calvert Street including accessible car park spaces.	Med	$75,000	

Recommendation		Priority	Indicative Cost	Funding Opportunity
Sport and Community Facility Improvements				
9	**Landscape improvements to southern open space zone.**			
A)	Improve landscaping by protecting mature trees, extending shade tree planting and improve grassed area	Low	$70,000	CoGG
B)	Consider nature based improvements to the southern playground and open space area that acknowledges the park's connection to the Wadawurrung People as Traditional Owners of the land, as well as the importance of the local environment, to create a distinct and welcoming pedestrian entrance into the southern section of the reserve.	Low	$130,000	CoGG
10	**Create an outdoor forecourt (pedestrian zone) between sports pavilion and Geelong Ballroom.**	High	$200,000	CoGG
11	**Upgrade and extend pedestrian pathway network to connect all activity areas with safe crossing areas and with the shared use track (Tom McKean Trail).**			
A)	Improve the pedestrian pathway network by connecting all activity areas with safe crossing areas and the existing shared use track (Tom McKean Trail). All pathways to have appropriate access for all abilities	Low	$90,000	CoGG
B)	Improve the Tom McKean Trail including widening, surface improvements, signage and drainage as per the City's Shared Trails Master Plan.	Low	$170,000	CoGG
12	**Develop a landscape improvement plan for site.**	Med	$90,000	CoGG
Traffic Management Improvements				
13	**Install bollards along Tom McKean Trail as well as open space areas.**	High	$100,000	CoGG
14	**Remove fence, formalise car parking and install alternative traffic calming measures.**	Med	$12,500	CoGG
15	**Prepare a detailed traffic management plan for site.**			
A)	Prepare a detailed traffic management and car parking plan to determine appropriate traffic flow, traffic calming measures, pedestrian crossing treatments and signage.	High	$50,000	CoGG
B)	Investigate opportunity for forward facing car parks on east side of oval.	Low	$5,000	
C)	Investigate speed humps on Bayview Parade.	Low	$20,000	
16	**Create Connection to school/overflow car park**	Low	$45,000	CoGG

Warranties and Disclaimers

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Otium Planning Group has offices in Auckland, Brisbane, Cairns, Christchurch, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

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We have not conducted an audit of the information provided by others but have accepted it in good faith. Some of the information may have been provided 'commercial in confidence' and as such these venues or sources of information are not specifically identified. Readers should be aware that the preparation of this report may have necessitated projections of the future that are inherently uncertain and that our opinion is based on the underlying representations, assumptions and projections detailed in this report.

There will be differences between projected and actual results because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected and those differences may be material. We do not express an opinion as to whether actual results will approximate projected results, nor can we confirm, underwrite or guarantee the achievability of the projections as it is not possible to substantiate assumptions which are based on future events.

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GREATER GEELONG

HAMLYN PARK RECREATION RESERVE MASTER PLAN

FINAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT
FEBRUARY 2023

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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Introduction

The City of Greater Geelong recently invited the community and stakeholders to provide feedback on the Draft Hamlyn Park Reserve Master Plan.

The draft master plan was prepared following an extensive planning process that included a site and needs analysis, issues and opportunities report, an initial first round of community engagement and master plan design process. The first round of community engagement took place from 1 November to 3 December 2021 and involved online and face to face engagement opportunities with key stakeholders and community. This stage one consultation process asked the community about what they liked and what they would like to see improved at Hamlyn Park Reserve. The feedback from the stage 1 consultation was used to develop the draft master plan.

The draft master plan identified several priorities including development of compliant, fit for purpose change rooms to support netball participation, and upgrade of other existing sporting facilities, including the Geelong Ballroom Dance Club building. The plan also includes improvements to pedestrian safety, linkages throughout the reserve, improved play spaces and open spaces to provide greater active recreation and social recreation opportunities within the Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve precinct.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report summaries the stage 2 community engagement process, which was to seek feedback on the draft master plan, and how that feedback has influenced the final plan.

This report consolidates the feedback received from the community through the engagement process. The report also highlights how this feedback has been incorporated into the final plan.

The information contained in this report is intended to 'close the loop' with community members and stakeholders that contributed to the engagement process.

It will also be used by Councillors who will be endorsing the final master plan.

Image 1: Main oval - Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve

Image 2: Southern open space area - Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve

Image 3: Main oval - Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve

How we engaged

The stage 2 community engagement period was conducted over six weeks, from 28 October to 9 December in 2022.

Our core engagement was conducted via the City's Have Your Say online platform, which was supplemented by two face-to-face drop-in sessions.

The engagement was promoted via many channels, including direct mailout, posters in the park, a media release, and the City's Facebook page. A targeted post on Facebook created a reach of over 6,500.

In total, there were over 1,000 views of the Have Your Say project page, which converted to 125 contributions. To encourage contributions, the platform offered a quick view of the draft master plan, quick and full survey options. This was also supported by phone and email contacts and the onsite drop-in sessions.

Engagement details	
Have Your Say online platform	An online 'Have Your Say' (HYS) project page was designed to share relevant information to encourage community feedback. A quick view map of the draft master plan was provided on the HYS page to allow respondents to easily view the plan.
Survey (online and hardcopy)	A quick poll and detailed survey was available to understand the level of support for the draft plan. The survey was available on online and/or in hard copies if required. The online survey was the core feedback tool provided targeting people with 10-15 minutes of available time. 111 contributions were made through the surveys. The survey sought feedback on the community's support for the plan, any issues with the plans, and any other feedback. The survey included some information and about peoples use and connection to the park.
Email	The project manager's email address was provided on the Have Your Say Page and posters/flyers enabling people to provide feedback through a more direct method. One email was received providing feedback about the plan.
Phone calls	The project manager's phone number was provided on all posters and flyers that was distributed with the mailout. This enabled people who may not access to the internet to provide feedback. A call back option was also provided on the webpage for those wanting to speak to an officer at a suitable time. We received one phone call about the project.
Drop-in sessions	Two onsite drop-in sessions were held on 15 and 19 of October at the Reserve, to provide face-to-face engagement with our project team. Large format posters were displayed along with copies of the plan. Attendees were encouraged to discuss issues with our team and provide a sticky note comment on the maps about an area of interest. IPads were also provided for attendees to submit their feedback to our online tools. In total 14 individual comments were recorded.

Who we engaged

Hamlyn Park Reserve is an important community asset that is accessed by a wide range of community users for many activities. Due to this we targeted local residents and groups, but also provided opportunities for the broader community to contribute their views.

In total, 95 people participated in the Hamlyn Park Reserve Draft Master Plan (stage 2) engagement process.

Additionally, the Project Reference Group represented all the stakeholder groups actively leasing or licensing space in the park, as well as community representatives.

As a whole, the engagement reached a representative sample of the intended target audience and was a success in terms of its reach amongst the community.

SURVEY RESPONDENT BREAKDOWN

Of the survey respondents 57% said they are a local resident (including 47% from Hamlyn Heights), with 69% members belonging to a community organisation or sporting club and 53% regular users of the reserve. Remaining responses were occasional users of the reserve or other. This data provided some insights into the community and the fact that many people were involved in several groups along with being local residents.

The graph below (Figure 2) shows the spread of respondents from different age groups. Most respondents were between the ages of 35 and 49 years (26.51%), however there was a good representation of views from across all adult age groups.

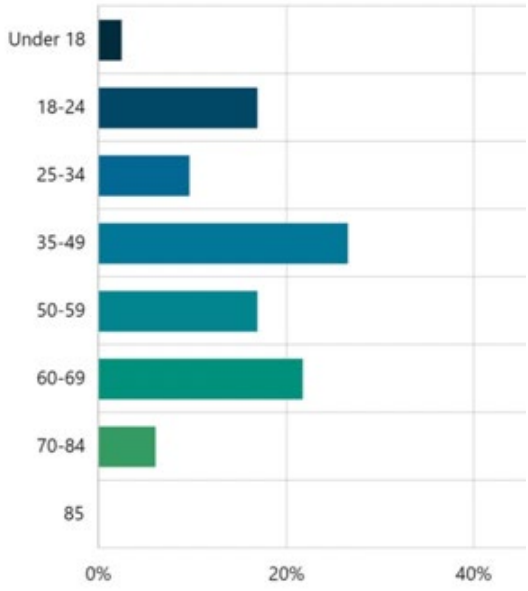

Figure 1: Survey respondent age profile

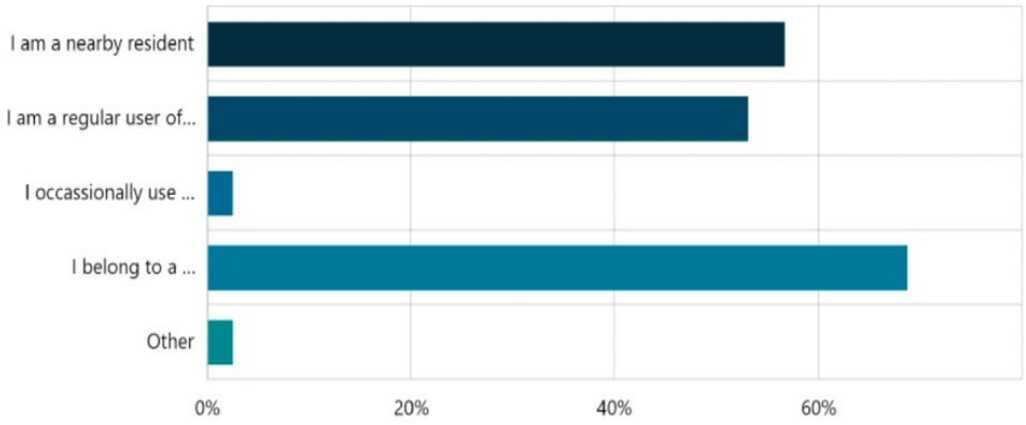

Figure 1: Survey respondents by type

What we heard

The level of engagement gives us a high degree of confidence that the feedback we received was representative of the community's views and aspirations for the park and, importantly, their views on the draft plan.

All feedback was analysed to identify key themes and specific issues that needed to be reflected on and, where appropriate, incorporated into the plan.

There has been a very spirited response to the draft master plan, with respondents from all the different feedback areas showing how passionately they care about their reserve. Even with some contention over specific zones in the reserve, there is significant support overall for upgrading and investing in this important community resource.

The first questions in the survey revealed feedback that was generally very positive with:

- 90%of survey respondents felt that the *draft* master plan reflects the future aspirations / needs of the park in the local area.
- 84%of survey respondents were satisfied with the draft master plan
- 52% of the respondents were very satisfied with the draft master plan.

The feedback was grouped into five key themes, ranked in terms of the level of feedback:

1. Upgrading sport and community facilities
2. Park amenity and passive recreation
3. Pedestrian safety, vehicle movement and car parking
4. Master plan delivery
5. Natural environment.

BREAKDOWN OF FINDINGS

Overall support of master plan

As Figure 4 shows, more than 80 per cent of survey respondents were satisfied with the draft master plan overall.

Of those not satisfied with the plan, 4 respondents were unsure, 7 somewhat dissatisfied and only 2 very dissatisfied.

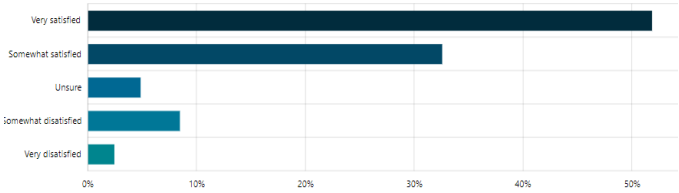

Figure 2: Survey respondent satisfaction with draft plan

Most respondents (90%) felt that the draft master plan reflects the future aspirations / needs of the park in the local area.

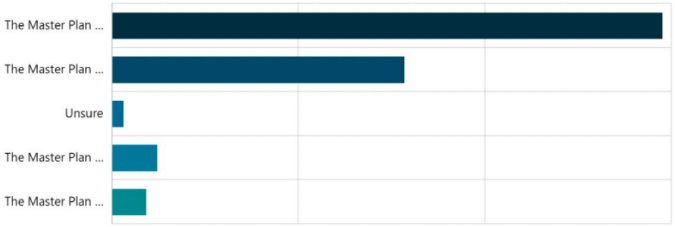

Figure 3: draft master plan reflective of future aspirations and needs

The draft master plan was also strongly supported through the quick poll with 97 percent of respondents supporting the plan.

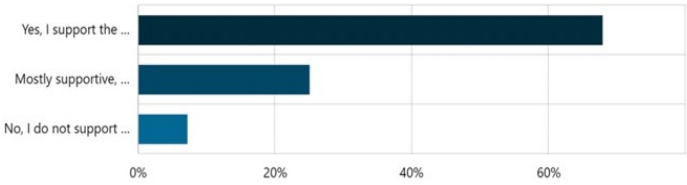

Figure 4: Quick Poll respondents supportive of draft plan

KEY THEMES

key themes have been determined based on the number of respondents who identified that theme as their prime interest.

Because there were so many comments in each key theme, sub-themes were created to capture the conversation across all feedback. The most common sub-themes are outlined in this report.

Respondents to the second round of consultation supported the improvements proposed to the reserve including increased activation and improving facilities, whilst protecting and enhancing the landscape character of the reserve.

There were concerns about the balance between sport and parkland / green space areas and whether the proposed improvements go far enough to support safe sport and passive participation with parkland and nature.

The infographic below shows the key themes raised during the community engagement process.

KEY THEME 1 – UPGRADING SPORT AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Image 4: Alex Rizun Pavilion

This theme generated the most significant amount of feedback from the engagement. There were 65 comments relating to the improvement of sport and community facilities within the reserve.

55 of the discussion points were supportive of improved facilities, particularly for female participants as well as general improvements to facilities within the reserve.

10 points of discussion identified concerns that the improvements did not go far enough including additional facilities, concern for the quality of improvements and they will not be adequate to facilitate all users.

Sub-Theme – Female Friendly Facilities

Of all the topics within 'Key Theme 1' the area that most people were concerned with was upgrading of sporting facilities to support female participation. There were 18 points of discussion on this sub-theme, making it the most discussed topic within 'Key Theme 1'. The feedback suggests that the community feel an overhaul of the facilities is needed, with particular interest in upgrading change rooms (especially women's change rooms) and creating facilities to be proud of.

Sub-Theme – Upgrading Sporting and Community Facilities

16 points of discussion supported the upgrade of sporting and community facilities in general with a further 3 comments specifically referring to improving the Geelong Ballroom. Concerns raised relating to this theme were providing shelter for spectators (3) the need for larger sporting facilities (2) and the quality of improvements (1).

The feedback relating to this theme clearly indicates community support for improved facilities.

Sub-Theme – General Reserve improvements

There were 14 points of discussion supporting improving components of the reserve that are in need of renewal. A concern was raised that the improvements identified would not be enough to facilitate all users of the park. The feedback again indicates strong support for renewal and upgrade of the reserve.

Verbatim comments

"Finally have netball facilities close to the courts that everyone can enjoy and having some shelter from the weather. Necessary upgrade to support women's sport"

"The upgrade to the Ballroom is exciting. This is a great venue for dancers and needs to be retained. An upgrade will improve access for broader community groups"

"Many improvements that will enhance the park for users"

KEY THEME 2 – PARK AMENITY AND PASSIVE RECREATION

The second largest point of discussion identified relates to the improvement of park amenity and passive recreation opportunities. There were 47 comments relating to this theme, with 25 comments indicating support for the proposed improvements while 22 comments identified concerns with specific items relating to this theme.

Overall, the feedback received is supportive of improvements proposed to the passive open space aspects of the reserve. While concerns are raised with specific details of some improvements, the comments still indicated support but would like clarity on certain details.

Image 5: Passive Recreation Area

Sub-Theme – Improvement to play space and shared spaces

There were 19 points of discussion supporting the proposed improvements to playgrounds and shared spaces with 9 specifically referencing the playground improvements and 6 identifying improvements to the pump track.

The concerns raised relating to the proposed spaces included the following: Request for a public toilet and BBQ facilities in the southern area of the reserve (3), flooding concerns with northern playground proposal (2), seeking a larger playground (2), more seats and tables (2), the inclusion of the additional playground (1), play spaces for people with disabilities (1), impact on neighbours to the proposed northern playground (1), Seek inclusion of water play (1), seek drinking stations and sheltered areas near plays paces (1), Seek all weather play space (1), access to an outdoor basketball court (2), include a soccer minifield (1) and facilities for dog walkers (1).

It was clear in the feedback that many respondents are supportive of improvements to the play spaces and shared passive areas with concerns generally relating to the level of upgrade with some concerns about the additional northern play space.

Sub-Theme – Walking trails

A clear sub theme relating to the improvement of passive open space was the improvement of the trail network within and around the reserve. This theme is also picked up again in theme 3 regarding traffic management and vehicle safety.

13 responses relate to the improvement of the reserve's pathways. 9 comments were supportive of the proposed improvements while the 4 concerns raised seek the improvement of the trails identify specific improvements they would like to see, these are; retaining the existing diagonal path through the northern open space (2), improving paths for people with disabilities (1) and improvements to the shared trail surface (1).

"Long overdue upgrade of facilities and infrastructure to all of this area to provide much more equitable and necessary set up for all participants and community"

"The positive impact it will have on our community and the children in it"

KEY THEME 3 – PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, VEHICLE MOVEMENT AND CAR PARKING

Image 6: Entry way and pedestrian crossing

20 responses provided feedback that centred around pedestrian safety, vehicle movement within the reserve and car parking.

The responses clearly support improvements to pedestrian safety and vehicle movement, however,

question the detail of the proposals. Comments included; Pedestrian safety around the reserve needs to be improved (3), remove vehicle access from green space and Tom McKean trail (1), improve parking along Calvert Street side of the oval (1), concern around access and amount of parking (1), concern about hoon behaviour in proposed northern play space car park (2), seek speed humps on Bayview Parade (1).

Sub-Theme – Ballroom car parking

10 responses identified concerns about the reduction in parking outside of the Geelong ballroom building to create the pedestrian friendly zone between the ballroom and Alex Rizun Pavilion. The comments centred around there not being enough car parking available for ballroom users and safe access for people with limited mobility and children.

"Much needed parking between The Ballroom and Cricket Club will be lost. Disabled, senior citizens and parents with children really benefit when they can park so close to the Ballroom. When these facilities are operating at the same time, parking is at a premium and the pedestrian movement can be a concern with traffic and people."

KEY THEME 4 – MASTER PLAN DELIVERY

17 responses related to the City's delivery of the master plan. These responses clearly indicate the community's desire for Council to deliver on the master plan priorities to improve the health and wellbeing of residents for the Hamlyn Heights area.

Of the 17 responses, 12 sought for Council to commit funding to the delivery of the master plan. Other comments included a concern for value for money of the master plan and the City's ability to deliver.

"My major concern is being supported by Council and local political parties to make this happen. We are a growing close-knit club and all we need is the necessary support to ensure this plan is executed"

Image 7: Tom McKean trail

KEY THEME 5 – NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

This theme relates to the protection and enhancement of green spaces and tree canopy at Hamlyn Park Reserve. The theme clearly outlines the balance of protecting and enhancing the important environmental values of the reserve while also improving sport and community facilities on an active sports reserve.

There were 12 discussion points around this theme with 5 responses supportive of the master plan's proposed improvements to green spaces, landscaping and additional tree planting.

Alternatively, 7 responses indicated that they felt the master plan did not go far enough to increase the reserves environmental values and would like to see further increase green space and planting. They also felt that the plan is too focused on sporting infrastructure.

It is clear through the community consultation that a balance between environmental protection and enhancement, and the improvement of sporting facilities to meet modern standards and expectations is required. The mixed responses received in relation to this theme appears to indicate the master plan is on the right track to achieve that balance.

"It acknowledges the established mature trees and value of open spaces, along with existing sports/community facilities and their need to be modernised"

"The Planned upgrade appears heavily biased toward the interests of the sporting groups and the needs of the WHC"

Image 8: Southern open space area

How we are responding

The key purpose of seeking community input is to ensure the master plan reflects the needs and aspirations of the community.

The project team reviewed and considered all feedback and key themes in preparation of the final plan, incorporating the following amendments.

KEY THEME 1 – UPGRADING SPORT AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The majority of feedback provided was clearly supportive of the proposed upgrades to facilities as shown in the master plan with further consultation with key users to continue during the development of the projects.

No changes have been made to the master plan.

KEY THEME 2 – PARK AMENITY AND PASSIVE RECREATION

Feedback provided was generally supportive of the proposals for the passive open space elements of the reserve. In relation to some of the concerns raised in this theme the master plan identifies:

- Improvement of walking trails
- Enhanced play space in the north with drink stations, sheltered seating and an outdoor multi-use court
- Improved seating, landscaping, planting and surface to southern open space/play space area
- Bollard treatment to remove vehicle access from open space areas
- Open space kick about area

In addition, the following changes have been made to the plan:

- Include reference to provision of a BBQ in northern play space proposal
- Review drainage in northern area as part of play space development and open space improvement
- Consider nature based improvements to the southern playground and open space area that acknowledges the park's connection to the Wadawurrung People as Traditional Owners of the land, as well as the importance of the local environment, to create a distinct and welcoming pedestrian entrance into the southern section of the reserve.
- Note improvement of access and surface conditions as per the City's 'Shared Trails Master Plan as part of pathway improvements and investigate drainage improvements
- Identify the diagonal pathway through the northern open space section on the master plan.

KEY THEME 3 – PEDESTRIAN SAFEY, VEHICLE MOVEMENT AND CAR PARKING

Community feedback supported improvements to pedestrian safety and vehicle movement however, feedback suggested further detail was required and a review of the pedestrian area between the Geelong Ballroom building and Alex Rizun Pavilion. The following changes have been made to the master plan:

- Clearly indicate bollard treatments to remove vehicles from open space areas and Tom McKean Trail and provide access for authorised vehicles
- Identify raised and signed pedestrian crossing where pathways intersect with the car park/road
- Reduce size of proposed new north car park, note existing gate to be retained to reduce antisocial behaviour.
- Investigate car parking improvement on east side of main oval
- Investigate installation of speed humps on Bayview Parade to the south of the reserve.
- Reduce size of pedestrian zone between the Geelong Ballroom building and Alex Rizun pavilion and ensure accessible car parks are suitably located outside of the ballroom building.
- Include security lighting to light high use car parks.

KEY THEME 4 – MASTER PLAN DELIVERY

There are no changes to the master plan required from this feedback. This report notes the community's desire for investment into improvements to facilities and open space at Hamlyn Park.

KEY THEME 5 – NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Feedback identified the need to balance protecting and enhancing the important environmental values of the reserve while also improving sport and community facilities on an active sports reserve.

While the master plan identifies improved landscaping and tree planting in both the northern and southern areas of the reserve, as well as along the Tom McKean trail, the following changes have been made to the master plan:

- Reduction of proposed car park in northern section of the reserve
- Clearly indicate additional tree planting along with landscaping around the northern passive open space and play space area.
- Note the detailed design of the play space should incorporate natural elements where possible and develop natural shaded areas through tree planting.
- The landscape improvement plan should also consider the opportunity to recognise the parks cultural significance and promote reconciliation.

Conclusion

All feedback and proposed responses have been discussed with individual stakeholder groups and the Project Reference Group and incorporated into the final master plan.

Both the updated plan and this report will be tabled for discussion and endorsement at the May 2023 Council meeting.

Key Directions:

LEGEND

- Sports facility & open space improvements.
- Community facility improvements.
- Existing trees.
- New trees & landscaping.
- Accessible Carparking Space.
- Bollards.
- Pedestrian safe crossing area.

1. Pavilion Improvements:
   a) Stage 1 works include development of a change room facility supporting netball courts and WHC oval and relocation of fitness station. Priority improvements include providing unisex change rooms for netball, AFL, cricket and referees.
   b) Stage 2 works include refurbishing the Alex Rizun Pavilion to meet contemporary sporting standards.
   c) Stage 3 works include future refurbishment of social facilities.
2. Upgrade Geelong Ballroom with improved access, refurbished change rooms / toilets and kitchen.
   Install external security lighting on buildings to light high pedestrian traffic areas.
3. Upgrade Hamlyn Heights Tennis Club facility:
   3a. Stage 1 works includes renewal of public courts and install lighting.
   3b. Stage 2 works includes refurbishment of tennis facility change rooms / toilets, kitchen and storage. Include security lighting.
4. Main sports field improvements:
   4a. Install ball protection fence at the southern end of the main sports fields.
   4b. Install new boundary fence and upgrade sports field at time of renewal.
   4c. Replace coaches boxes.
5. Support improvements to Western Heights College sports field including training standard lighting, boundary fence and ball protection fence at northern end. Support the investigation of feasibility into a synthetic surface for the WHC sports field.
6. Support the development of a new multisport court stadium as part of the Stage 3 Master Plan for Western Heights College. Consider support facilities including change rooms if timing is suitable.
7. Improved pathways / landscaping to create better connection between active zones. Pathways to consider access and inclusion design features.
8. Create new social family recreation area in northern open space zone:
   8a. Remove the Scout hall, retain the public toilet and install bollards to remove vehicle access.
   8b. Construct a new district level playspace including, covered social seating, drink station and BBQ and enhance landscaping and tree planting through this zone. Note: Detailed design should incorporate natural elements where possible and develop natural shaded areas through tree planting and include drainage rectification.
   8c. Renew and improve bike pump track.
   8d. Investigate surface improvements irrigation and drainage to improve informal / formal sporting use.
   8e. Install a ball protection fence or fully enclose cricket nets to ensure safety of northern open space users.
   8f. Provide small car park area including two Accessible spaces.
   8g. Retain existing gate.
9. Landscape improvements to southern open space zone:
   9a. Improve landscaping by protecting mature trees, extending shade tree planting and improves grassed area.
   9b. Consider nature based improvements to the southern playground and open space area that acknowledges the park's connection to the Wadawarrung People as Traditional Owners of the land, as well as the importance of the local environment, to create a distinct and welcoming pedestrian entrnace to the southern section of the reserve.
10. Create an outdoor forecourt (pedestrian zone) between sports pavilion and Geelong Ballroom.
11. Upgrade and extend the pedestrian pathway network to connect all activity areas with safe crossing areas and with the shared use track:
    11a. Improve the pedestrian pathway network by connecting all activity areas with safe crossing areas and the existing shared use Tom McKean Trail. All pathways to have appropriate access for all abilities.
    11b. Improve the Tom McKean Trail including widening, surface improvements, signage and drainage as per the City's 'Shared Trails Master Plan'.
12. Develop a landscape improvement plan to protect mature trees and extend landscaping.
13. Install bollards along Tom Mckean Trail as well as open space areas to remove unorthaurised vehicle access.
14. Remove fence, formalise car parking and install traffic calming measures.
15. Prepare a traffic management and car parking plan for site that includes:
    15a. Detailed plan that determines appropriate traffic flow, traffic calming measures, pedestrian crossing treatments and signage.
    15b. Investigate opportunity for inward facing car parks on east side of oval.
    15c. Investigate speed humps on Bayview Parade to Carey Street entrance.
16. Create connection to School / overflow carpark.

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Hamlyn Park

Hamlyn Park Reserve Master Plan

Scale 1:2000 @A3

21/03/2023 Final

email@hbarch.com.au

2.3. Consideration of Submissions and Adoption of Amendment C443ggee and Planning Permit PP-750-2022 - Norlane Community Initiatives 4-8 Spruhan Avenue, Norlane

Source: **Planning and Design**
Executive Director: **Gareth Smith**

Purpose

1. To consider the submissions and adopt Amendment C443ggee and Planning Permit PP-750-2023 – Norlane Community Initiatives (NCI) at 4-8 Spruhan Avenue, Norlane.

Background

2. Amendment C443ggee affects the land at 4-8 Spruhan Avenue, Norlane. This land is home to the not-for-profit NCI which provides community services to the local area.

3. The amendment proposes to change the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme to allow the removal of two restrictive covenants from the land which prevent the construction of more than one dwelling on the land.

4. A concurrent planning permit seeks to permit the renovations and expansions of the existing building, continued use of the land for community services (place of assembly), display of business identification signs, and waiver of some on-site car parking spaces.

5. Attachment 1 supplies a background summary of the amendment process and the submissions received.

Key Matters

6. Exhibition of the amendment in February and March 2023 resulted in twelve (12) written submissions. All submissions supported the amendment, with one submission seeking a change to the proposed planning permit to provide five more on-site car parking spaces.

7. The City and the applicant met with the submitter to discuss their submission and tendered a small revision to the plans that provided for one additional on-site car parking space.

8. The submitter has advised that the change to the planning permit is accepted and satisfies their submission.

9. As the planning permit has been changed to address the submission, there has been no need to refer the amendment to an independent planning panel for review.

10. The amendment and planning permit with changes is now able to be adopted by Council.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.3

Cr Aitken moved, Cr Mason seconded -

That Council:

1. **Adopt Amendment C443ggee to the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme for 4-8 Spruhan Avenue, Norlane as contained in Attachment 1 of this report;**

2. **Submit the adopted Amendment C443ggee together with the prescribed information to the Minister for Planning requesting approval; and**

3. **Recommend to the Minister for Planning that Planning Permit PP-750-2022 be approved in the form outlined in Attachment 1 of this report.**

Cr Moloney left the meeting room at 7.32pm
Cr Moloney rejoined the meeting at 7.34

Carried

Financial Sustainability

11. The City has previously advised the applicant that it will grant a waiver of the modest adoption fee for this planning scheme amendment.

Community Engagement

12. Amendment C443ggee and the accompanying Planning Permit PP-750-2022 were on exhibition with notices given to prescribed ministers, relevant agencies/authorities, adjoining owner/occupiers and to all parties affected by the same restrictive covenant. Notice was also published in the local newspaper, government gazette and on Council's and the Department of Transport and Planning websites. A notice was also displayed on the subject land as required by the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

13. Submitters will be notified of the final decision of Council and the Minister for Planning.

Social Equity and Sustainability

14. The amendment and planning permit will make a positive contribution to the local Norlane community by facilitating the continued use of the land for community services. This is reflected by the positive and supportive submissions about the amendment and the value and impact of the work of NCI.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

15. Amendment C443ggee is consistent with the planning policy framework of the planning scheme and uses the appropriate planning tools to facilitate the use and redevelopment of the site.

16. The amendment is consistent with the objectives of planning in Victoria outlined in the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*:

    16.1. to provide for the fair, orderly, economic, and sustainable use, and development of land;

    16.2. to secure a pleasant, efficient, and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria;

    16.3. to protect public utilities and other assets and enable the orderly provision and coordination of public utilities and other facilities for the benefit of the community; and

    16.4. to balance the present and future interests of all Victorians.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

17. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority:
    Healthy, caring and inclusive community.
    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.
    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. Not proceeding with this planning scheme amendment will result in the NCI service no longer being able to operate and serve the local Norlane community.

Environmental Sustainability

21. The amendment will not have an environmental impact on the area.

Attachments

1. Attachment for C443ggee Adoption Report D23 181421 [**2.3.1** - 18 pages]

Background

1. Amendment C443ggee and permit application PP-750-2022 is a combined planning permit application and planning scheme amendment under section 96A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987.*

2. The land subject to the amendment and the concurrent planning permit is at 4-8 Spruhan Avenue, Norlane as shown on the plan below:

3. The land included in the application comprises the following lots and is owned by the Baptist Union of Victoria:

   3.1 Lots 348 and 349 plan of subdivision 113342, within Certificate of Title Volume 6100 Folio 946; and

   3.2 Lot 350 on plan of subdivision 113342, within Certificate of Title Volume 5084 Folio 763.

4. Two restrictive covenants are registered against the subject site, being:

   4.1 Restrictive covenant 1641285 created on 12 February 1937 in respect of lots 348 and 349; and

   4.2 Restrictive covenant 1445490 created on 31 January 1930 in respect of lot 350.

5. The restrictive covenants provide that the proprietor of the land will not, amongst other things:

   5.1 Excavate on or in the subject site or remove or permit to be removed any soil or other material therefrom except such as building construction or the layout of a garden may necessitate;

5.2 Erect or construct or allow to be erected or constructed any building or erection other than one dwelling house with usual outbuildings and fences to cost not less than five hundred pounds (including outbuildings and fences); or

5.3 Carry on or permit to be carried on upon the land any trade or business and not to erect not permit to be erected or to remain erected thereon any sign hoarding or other erection used or intended to be used for advertisement.

6. The combined application has been made by Ratio Consultants on behalf Norlane Community Initiatives (NCI). NCI is a not-for-profit community organisation that provides community services from the subject site.

7. The amendment proposes to amend the schedule to Clause 52.02 to remove the registered restrictive covenants 1641285 and 1445490 burdening the subject site, which prevent the construction of more than one dwelling on the site.

8. The planning permit application is sought to facilitate the use and development of the subject site. Specifically, it proposes to allow, subject to conditions:

8.1 Buildings and works associated with the existing building on site;

8.2 A technical change of use from place of worship to a place of assembly;

8.3 Removal of an easement, pursuant to Clause 52.02 (note that the planning scheme amendment deals with this matter);

8.4 A waiver of car parking spaces; and

8.5 Business identification signage.

9. The land is owned by the Baptist Union of Victoria. NCI has been operating at the subject site for the past five years. Urban Seed had been operating from the site for the twelve years prior to this. There was a direct handover of the lease to NCI when Urban Seed ceased operations. The historical operations undertaken by NCI on the land comprise community related uses with typical activities including:

9.1 Monday neighbourhood meal (50 participants);

9.2 Monday peoples pantry (20 participants);

9.3 Private music lessons (5 participants); and

9.4 Sunday congregation (15 participants).

10. At present all programs at the subject site have temporarily ceased until the redevelopment can occur.

Discussion

11. Amendment C443ggee was exhibited between 9 February and 13 March 2023. As a result of this public exhibition of the proposal, 12 submissions were received.

12. These submissions are summarised and responded to in the table on the following pages.

13. All submissions have either supported or offered no objection (submission from Powercor) with many highlighting the value and impact of the NCI services for them personally and for their local community.

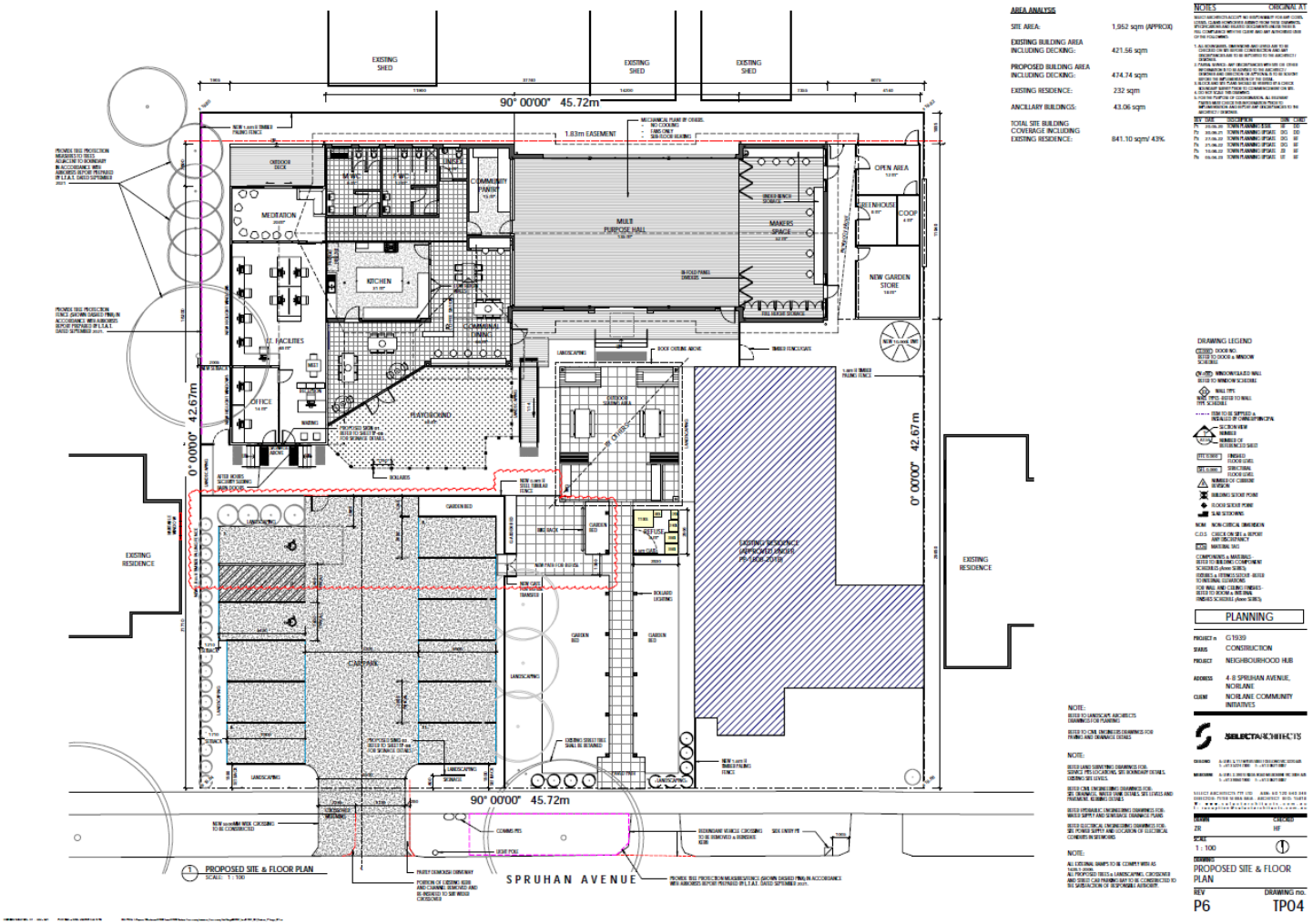
14. Only one submission sought a change to the planning permit seeking the provision of five additional on-site (also referred to as off-street) car parking spaces in the walkway/garden area on the eastern side of the site.

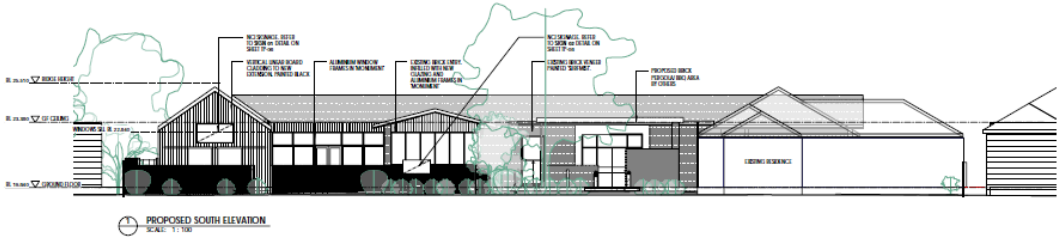
15. Whilst not considered necessary based on the proposed usage of the redeveloped site and the ample on-street parking availability in the area, the applicant has proposed a small change to the plans to provide one additional parking space on-site. This was discussed with the submitter in a meeting held on 5 April 2023. The submitter was accepting of this change and advised that it addressed their submission. This has been confirmed in writing.

16. As the only submission seeking a change to the planning permit has been resolved with a small change to the plans, there has been no need to refer the combined amendment and planning permit to an independent planning panel for review. Council can now adopt the amendment inclusive of the change to the planning permit.

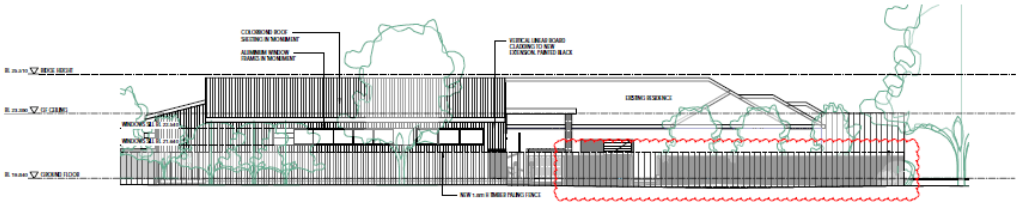
17. The amended site plan showing the additional one-on-site car parking space is shown in the following image:

Revised site and floor plan and elevation plan incorporating one additional on-site car parking space

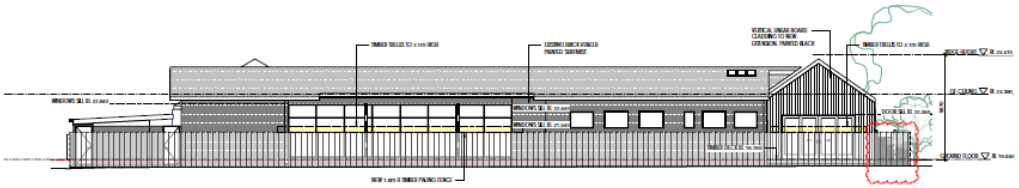




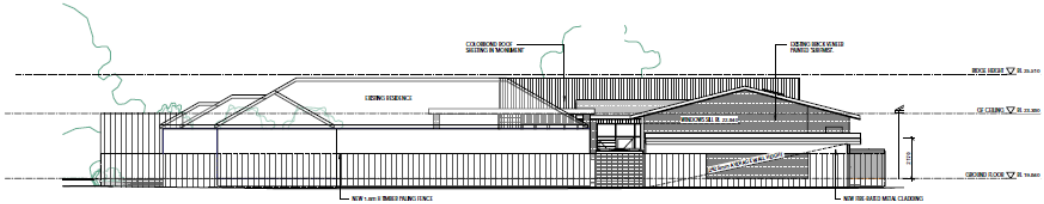
PROPOSED SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1 : 100



PROPOSED WEST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1 : 100



PROPOSED NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1 : 100



PROPOSED EAST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1 : 100

NOTES

DRAWING LEGEND

PLANNING

PROJECT n G1939
STATUS CONSTRUCTION
PROJECT NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB
ADDRESS 4-8 SPRUHAN AVENUE, NORLANE
CLIENT NORLANE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

SELECTARCHITECTS

DRAWN DG
CHECKED RF
SCALE 1 : 100
DRAWING PROPOSED ELEVATIONS
REV P6
DRAWING no. TP05

Summary of Submissions and Officer Response

No.	Name	Type	Submission	Officer Response
1	T. Allen	Supports	Registers wholehearted endorsement of the proposal. Lived close to the site for four years and had many interactions with the work of Norlane Community Initiatives at that site. When first moved to the area a few years ago NCI was a major community hub and an important place for the submitter to build connections. Has been involved in community development work across Victoria for over a decade and has have never witnessed such an incredibly mixed crowd of people coming together to share meals, supplies and stories. The site has hosted unforgettable community meals, the weddings of several dear friends, and the album launch of their band. It brings together people of so many different walks of life, and that kind of intimate connection to our neighbours is something our city, country and world sorely needs. Believes the proposed developments will only serve to strengthen NCI's ability to facilitate such flourishing and deserves special consideration on these grounds.	Strong support welcomed and noted
2	Local landowner	Supports amendment – seeks change to planning permit	Approves of the amendments and upgrade of the premises. It is the submitters recommendation that there should be more off-street parking provided. The garden/walkway to the right should be reconfigured and utilized for 5 more spaces. The submitter considered that this will future -proof the development for future growth and parking demand.	Support for the amendment and premises upgrade welcomed and noted. The request to change the plans to provide 5 more on-site parking spaces has been reviewed by the City and the applicant. It is considered that this is an excessive request as there are ample street parking spaces in the area to adequately meet the demand for parking in the peak times of Monday afternoon and early evening. This is supported by the detailed traffic report and assessment accompanying the application.

No.	Name	Type	Submission	Officer Response
				In consideration of the submission though, the applicant has been able to amend the plans to provide for one additional on-site parking space. This change necessitates the removal of an existing on-site tree. This was discussed in a meeting between the submitter, applicant, and the City on 5th April. The submitter considered this proposed compromise and agreed to accept this as addressing their submission. This has been confirmed in writing on 12th April.
3	Uniting (VicTas) Ltd	Supports	Supports the proposed redevelopment of the Spruhan Ave Baptist Church into a Neighbourhood Hub. Unfortunately, at the end of March Uniting will need to cease services from its Wendover Avenue location due to the impending sale of the site. The proposed redevelopment will offer a great community hub to some of the most disadvantaged community members in the state. The opportunity for the hub to develop it's dining hall, community cafe and kitchen as well as its urban farm will go some way towards supporting food security in the area, as well as providing space for the community to interact and connect. If the redevelopment is successful, would look to support their future programs where possible.	Strong support welcomed and noted
4	Local resident	Supports	Happy to support the amendment for the removal of the restricted covenant. The Norlane Community Initiative proved a vital and most important service to the community and its people. Has lived in home for over 50 years and personally knows some of the people who are involved with the NCI and knows how beneficial it would be to the program moving forward to be able to provide their service from the one site.	Strong support welcomed and noted
5	S. Duncan	Supports	This will be such a great development for the Norlane and northern suburbs. Having lots of involvement as a volunteer in the northern suburbs, this development will transform an unusable location into a community hub that all will be welcome to use and engage with. It looks amazing and believes it will provide	Strong support welcomed and noted

No.	Name	Type	Submission	Officer Response
			another pivotal environment to develop a sense of community and mutual support for those in Norlane.	
6	A. Irwin	Supports	Is a Chaplain working within the Norlane area. Supports the amendment. The development of this facility will continue the work that has already started, providing social networks for the local community. It will be a place where life skills and values are reinforced and modelled, and relationships built.	Strong support welcomed and noted
7	L.Bisinella Developments Pty Ltd		The work undertaken by NCI in the north of Geelong is of critical importance to the community as it provides a valuable asset for the local community to use. NCI is building a network of relationships and creating spaces for belonging and enhancing social capital, investing in people's strengths and skills while building community resilience. Across these communities, there are spaces that play an important role in helping people in our community connect with each other and access vital services. Because of this, NCI is seeking to improve and invest in these spaces and activate them so that they benefit the needs of the people who live there. Company has been a long-term supporter of NCI's work and various programs including its meals programs and during the COVID period. With the help of the community, the company put together a team of partners and supporters who are helping realise this dream. Supports the amendment and planning permit as exhibited.	Strong support welcomed and noted
8	A. Paterson	Supports	Has been an enthusiastic supporter of NCI for many years, as an advisor to the Percy Baxter Charitable Trust, has seen firsthand the amazing contribution that this organisation plays in the community of Norlane. The facilities that are planned on the Spruhan Avenue site will provide a very valuable resource for the local community along with an important base from where the community workers will be able to operate. Both Council and the Norlane community are very fortunate to have this organisation and its team of community leaders along with the professional and volunteer staff working to improve the life and wellbeing of the community. Strongly encourages the relevant authorities to award whatever planning permissions are required for this capital project to proceed.	Strong support welcomed and noted
9	Powercor	No objection	Does not object to the amendment or the permit and provides 4 conditions for the planning permit	The conditions required by Powercor are incorporated into the final planning permit.
10	J. Solis	Supports	Fully supports the amendment and planning permit to allow for renovations and new development at 4-8 Spruhan Avenue, Norlane where NCI operates. Has lived nearby (short walking distance) for many years. As a proud Norlane resident and	Strong support and personal connection stories welcomed and noted

No.	Name	Type	Submission	Officer Response
			community member, appreciates and values the presence and initiatives available to them and my community through NCI. Is also hopeful and excited about NCI's vision coming to light through its future initiatives. Discovered the presence of NCI after meeting other Norlane community members in an open garden organised by a close neighbour. The submitter and partner are avid urban farmers and had established their garden to a point where a number of neighbours (most not known to them at the time) were interested in seeing what they had achieved in their backyard. Their attraction to Norlane and reasons for buying a property there were housing affordability, the size of the block - to serve their urban farming vision, and connection with the Norlane community. Even though had connected with a few neighbours before the open garden, it was the connection with NCI that made the submitter feel as though their dream to live in connection with their community started to become a bigger reality. Attended their first Monday night community dinner at the Spruhan Avenue site in early 2019 and since then have been involved in a variety of initiatives facilitated by NCI. Has had the opportunity to both receive and give back - through volunteering. This has given the submitter both a sense of belonging and purpose. The submitter has made genuine and strong friendships and feels valued as a friend by others. The property/building at Spruhan Avenue is not only a physical hub for NCI initiatives, but it's a place also where we belong, meet each other and new people, share, learn to make bread from scratch, make music, take our children to play and learn, make and grow healthy food. Basically, a place where we do life together. Hopes the renovations and new development can be realised in the near future. Has missed being able to walk around the corner to meet and join in on activities - while the building has not been fit for purpose. Has also missed being able to invite new people along. The current state of the property/building does not represent the heart and soul of NCI and more importantly the people of our community and what they deserve. Understands that the proposed amendment and planning permit are only part of the journey to make the plan come to life. Cannot think of any contemporary or common-sense reasons to oppose these, or any negative impacts the amendment would present on the submitter or their community. Hopes that common sense will prevail, and this part of the NCI's journey will be promptly marked as 'completed' on the to do list.	
11	B. Uppill	Supports	Supports this amendment. Previously, the site and building has been an integral part of the local community, providing spaces to be, eat, create and grow. Since its closure, and the closure of other services in the area, the need for such spaces for community gathering, building and resilience has not gone away. The accessibility	Strong support welcomed and noted

No.	Name	Type	Submission	Officer Response
			to the building and services is vital to those in the local community who are on their own and less able to go further. Abandoned lots and buildings attract stigma and anti-social behaviour so renovating this space will also spruce up the look and feel of Norlane - not just aesthetically but communally.	
12	Local residents	Supports	Supports the amendment because the continued use of the site for community-related services is important. There is a need for more community support services in this area and too many blocks of land are being sold to landlords and estate agents for commercial gain. The proposals for future initiatives are excellent. Please keep the land at 4-8 Spruhan Avenue for the community.	Strong support welcomed and noted

Amendment to be Adopted

Planning and Environment Act 1987

GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

AMENDMENT C443ggee

INSTRUCTION SHEET

The planning authority for this amendment is the City of Greater Geelong.

The Greater Geelong Planning Scheme is amended as follows:

Planning Scheme Ordinance

The Planning Scheme Ordinance is amended as follows:

1. In **Particular Provisions** – Clause 52.02, replace the Schedule with a new Schedule in the form of the attached document.

End of document

GREATER GEELONG PLANNING SCHEME

19/01/2006
VC37

SCHEDULE TO CLAUSE 52.02 EASEMENTS, RESTRICTIONS AND RESERVES

1.0 Under Section 23 of the Subdivision Act 1988

~~05/02/2021 -/-/----~~
~~C356ggee~~ Proposed C443ggee

Land	Easement Or Restriction	Requirement
64 Princes Highway, Norlane (Lot 1 on Title Plan 429809S)	Restrictive covenant contained in Instrument 1693682	Remove
4-8 Spruhan Avenue, Norlane (Lots 348 and 349 within Certificate of Title Volume 6100 Folio 946; and Lot 350 on Plan of Subdivision 011342 within Certificate of Title Volume 5084 Folio 763)	Restrictive covenants contained in Instrument 1641285 and Instrument 1445490	Remove

2.0 Under Section 24A of the Subdivision Act 1988

19/01/2006
VC37

Land	Person	Action
None specified		

3.0 Under Section 36 of the Subdivision Act 1988

19/01/2006
VC37

Land	Easement or right of way	Requirement
None specified		

Planning Permit to be Adopted

Planning and Environment Regulations 2015 - Form 9. Section 96J

PLANNING PERMIT

GRANTED UNDER SECTION 96I OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987

Permit No.: PP-750-2022

Planning scheme: Greater Geelong Planning Scheme

Responsible authority: Greater Geelong City Council

ADDRESS OF THE LAND: 4-8 SPRUHAN AVENUE, NORLANE

THE PERMIT ALLOWS: USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF A PLACE OF ASSEMBLY, REDUCTION OF CARPARKING AND CONSTRUCT AND DISPLAY BUSINESS IDENTIFICATION SIGNAGE

THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS APPLY TO THIS PERMIT:

Endorsed Plans

1. The use and development as shown on the endorsed plan(s) must not be altered without the written consent of the Responsible Authority.

2. The location and details of the signage, including those of the supporting structure, as shown on the endorsed plans, must not be altered without the written consent of the Responsible Authority.

Amended Waste Management Plan

3. Before the use commences, an amended Waste Management Plan must be submitted to and approved by the responsible authority. The amended Waste Management Plan must appropriately demonstrate how private waste collection vehicles can service this development.

Landscaping

4. Prior to the works commencing, a landscape plan prepared by a suitably qualified or experienced person to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority, must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. When approved, the plan will be endorsed and form part of the permit. The plan(s) must be drawn to scale and show:

   a) A survey (including botanical names) of all existing vegetation to be retained and/ or removed;
   b) Details of surface finishes of pathways and driveways;
   c) A planting schedule of all proposed trees, shrubs and ground covers including botanical names, common names, pot sizes, sizes at maturity, and quantities of each plant;
   d) Landscaping and planting within all open areas of the site;
   e) Landscaping generally in accordance with the plans submitted dated 11/04/2023.

   all to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Date issued:	**Date permit comes into operation:**	**Signature for the responsible authority:**
N/A	N/A	

Stormwater Management

5. The site stormwater system must be designed and installed such that the site stormwater discharge is not increased by the proposed development. An appropriate on site detention system designed in accordance with the Infrastructure Design Manual is required, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority

Prior to Use Commencing

6. Prior to the use commencing, the developer must:

   a) Construct the site stormwater system including a single connection to kerb & channel in Spruhan Avenue or other nominated point/s as approved by the Responsible Authority. The stormwater connection must be in accordance with City of Greater Geelong Standard Drawings;
   b) Construct vehicle crossing in accordance with the requirements and standards of the City of Greater Geelong;
   c) Construct vehicle crossing of 5.5 metres wide and centred on the parking aisle;
   d) Remove any redundant vehicle crossings with kerb and channel and the footpath/nature strip area reinstated to match existing construction in the street;
   e) Construct the car park including accessways, surface with an all-weather sealed coat and linemark the car and accessways;
   f) Complete all buildings and works including landscaping works in accordance with the endorsed plans.

   all to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Landscaping

7. The landscaping shown on the endorsed plans must be maintained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Hours of Operation

8. Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Responsible Authority, the use hereby approved must only operate during the following times:

   - Monday to Sunday – 9am to 9pm.

Pump System

9. Unless otherwise approved by the Responsible Authority and prior to the commencement of the development, the land owner must enter into an agreement with the Responsible Authority pursuant to Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. All costs associated with setting up the agreement must be borne by the land owner. The agreement is to be registered on title and run with the land, and is to provide to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority:

   a) All storm water runoff is to be collected on site and discharged to the legal point of discharge using a pump system or as otherwise nominated by the responsible authority. The pump system is to be designed and constructed in accordance with Australian Standard 3500 Part 3.2 Section 9;
   b) In the event of any operational difficulties with the pump system, it is the responsibility of the land owner to rectify these difficulties;
   c) Any pump system is to be replaced by gravity discharge if and when available, and if directed by the Responsible Authority, at the land owner's full cost.

Date issued:	**Date permit comes into operation:**	**Signature for the responsible authority:**
N/A	N/A	

DRAFT

d) Provision is made (if appropriate) in any subdivision for Body Corporate drainage works, and access to those drainage works to be on common property or within an easement in favour of the Body Corporate.

Tree Protection Management Plan

10. The Tree Assessment Management Plan by Let's Talk About Trees (August 2022) and its recommendations are endorsed as the Tree Protection Management Plan for this site and form part of the permit.

The approved Tree Protection Management Plan must not be amended or altered without the consent of the Responsible Authority.

Prior to the commencement of any works at the site (including demolition and excavation whether or not a planning permit is required), a letter of engagement must be provided to us (as the Responsible Authority) from the Project Arborist selected to oversee all relevant tree protection works. In accordance with Australian Standard 4970-2009 Protection of trees on developments sites the Project Arborist must be an appropriately experienced and qualified professional (minimum AQF Level 5 Arborist).

Tree Protection Zones

11. Prior to the works commencing (including any demolition works), Tree Protection Fencing must be installed and maintained until works are completed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

All works within the nominated Tree Protection Zones must be:

- Carried out in accordance with Australian Standard 4373–2007 Pruning of amenity trees and Australian Standard 4970–2009 Protection of trees on development sites;
- Overseen by a suitably qualified, level-5 arborist;
- Carried out to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority by suitably trained and qualified arboricultural staff.

Works encroaching within the nominated Tree Protection Zones must not be undertaken without the written consent of the Responsible Authority.

12. Prior to occupation of the development, a written statement from the Project Arborist must be submitted to the Responsible Authority that certifies that the following items have been addressed as part of the works:

- Installation and correct placement of tree protection fencing 2 weeks prior to works commencing and for the duration of works;
- Attendance during Tree Protection Zone incursions;
- Adherence to Australian Standard 4970–2009 Protection of trees on development sites.

No Amplified Music

13. No amplified music, including live amplified music, must be played or piped to external areas without the further written consent of the Responsible Authority.

Security Alarms

14. All security alarms or similar devices installed on the land must be of a silent type in accordance with any current standard published by Standards Australia International Limited and be connected to a monitored security service.

Date issued:	**Date permit comes into operation:**	**Signature for the responsible authority:**
N/A	N/A	

Deliveries to the Site

15. All deliveries to the property and truck movements offsite must be in adherence with the EPA Noise Control Guidelines (publication 1245) which are:

- 7am – 10pm Monday to Saturday
- 9am – 10pm Sundays and public holidays.

Plant and Equipment Insulation

16. All external plant and equipment must be acoustically treated or placed in soundproof housing to reduce noise to a level satisfactory to the Responsible Authority.

General Amenity

17. The amenity of the area must not be detrimentally affected by the use or development through the:

a) Transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land;
b) Appearance of any building, works or materials;
c) Emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, odour, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, grit or oil;
d) Presence of vermin;

to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Signage

18. The signage must be constructed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Garbage Storage

19. Provision must be made on the land for the storage and collection of garbage and other solid waste. This area must be graded, drained and screened from public view to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

20. The storage, removal and disposal of such/garbage refuse must be undertaken in such a manner so as to avoid any nuisance, pollution or loss amenity to the surrounding area and must at all times be to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Regular Waste Removal

21. All waste material must be regularly removed from the site to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority in accordance with the Waste Management Plan.

Powercor conditions

22. The applicant shall ensure that existing and proposed buildings and electrical installations on the subject land are compliant with the Victorian Service and Installation Rules (VSIR). Notes: Where electrical works are required to achieve VSIR compliance, a registered electrical contractor must be engaged to undertake such works.

23. Any buildings/structures must comply with the clearances required by the Electricity Safety (Installations) Regulations.

Date issued:	**Date permit comes into operation:**	**Signature for the responsible authority:**
N/A	N/A	

24. Any construction work must comply with the Energy Safe Victoria's "No Go Zone" rules. Notes: To apply for a permit to work go to our website: https://customer.portal.powercor.com.au/mysupply/CIAWQuickCalculator and apply on line through the No Go Zone Assessment.

25. Any access entrances/crossovers must be at least a minimum distance of 1m from any Powercor assets.

Expiry of Permit

26. This permit will expire if one of the following circumstances applies:

    a) The use and/or development is not commenced within two (2) years of the date of this permit.
    b) The development is not completed within four (4) years of the date of this permit.

    The Responsible Authority may extend the periods referred to if a request is made in writing before the permit expires; or

    a) within six (6) months after the permit expires where the use or development has not yet started; or
    b) within twelve (12) months after the permit expires, where the development allowed by the permit has lawfully commenced before the permit expiry.

27. This permit, as it relates to signage, will also expire 15 years from the date of issue, at which time the signage and all supporting structures must be removed and the site made good to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Notes

1. In the instance that minor pruning is anticipated the applicant must contact Council's Parks Planning Officers on 5272 5272 (treeplanning@geelongcity.vic.gov.au) to lodge a request and provide adequate notice.
2. Construction of the site stormwater connection/s is to be inspected by Council Representative prior to any backfilling. An appropriate fee equivalent to 3.25% of total cost of civil works, excluding GST (a minimum fee of $100 applies if the 3.25% amount is less than $100), is to be paid to Council for inspection. Relevant evidential documentation of the cost is to be provided.
3. All internal property drainage must be designed and constructed to satisfy AS/NZS 3500.
4. A Vehicle Crossing Permit must be obtained prior to commencement of works.
5. Where the legal point of discharge is kerb and channel, discharge velocity at the kerb must be no greater than 1.5 m/s with a maximum discharge flow rate of 10 l/s and the outlet directed at an angle of 45o to the direction of flow in the kerb and channel.
6. A pre-commencement meeting with Council's engineering department is required to be undertaken prior to works starting. To organise this meeting please contact 5272 4426

Date issued:	**Date permit comes into operation:**	**Signature for the responsible authority:**
N/A	N/A	

Planning and Environment Regulations 2015 - Form 9. Section 96J

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PERMIT

WHAT HAS BEEN DECIDED?

The Responsible Authority has issued a permit. The permit was granted by the Minister under section 96I of the **Planning and Environment Act 1987** on approval of Amendment No.C443ggee to the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme.

WHEN DOES THE PERMIT BEGIN?

The permit operates from a day specified in the permit being a day on or after the day on which the amendment to which the permit applies comes into operation.

WHEN DOES A PERMIT EXPIRE?

1. A permit for the development of land expires if—
   - the development or any stage of it does not start within the time specified in the permit; or
   - the development requires the certification of a plan of subdivision or consolidation under the **Subdivision Act 1988** and the plan is not certified within two years of the issue of a permit, unless the permit contains a different provision; or
   - the development or any stage is not completed within the time specified in the permit, or, if no time is specified, within two years after the issue of the permit or in the case of a subdivision or consolidation within 5 years of the certification of the plan of subdivision or consolidation under the **Subdivision Act 1988**.
2. A permit for the use of land expires if—
   - the use does not start within the time specified in the permit, or if no time is specified, within two years after the issue of the permit; or
   - the use is discontinued for a period of two years.
3. A permit for the development and use of land expires if—
   - the development or any stage of it does not start within the time specified in the permit; or
   - the development or any stage of it is not completed within the time specified in the permit, or, if no time is specified, within two years after the issue of the permit; or
   - the use does not start within the time specified in the permit, or, if no time is specified, within two years after the completion of the development: or
   - the use is discontinued for a period of two years.
4. If a permit for the use of land or the development and use of land or relating to any of the circumstances mentioned in section 6A(2) of the **Planning and Environment Act 1987**, or to any combination of use, development or any of those circumstances requires the certification of a plan under the **Subdivision Act 1988**, unless the permit contains a different provision—
   - the use or development of any stage is to be taken to have started when the plan is certified; and
   - the permit expires if the plan is not certified within two years of the issue of the permit.
5. The expiry of a permit does not affect the validity of anything done under that permit before the expiry.

WHAT ABOUT REVIEWS?

- In accordance with section 96M of the **Planning and Environment Act 1987**, the applicant may not apply to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal for a review of any condition in this permit.

DRAFT

2.4. Year to Date Quarterly Financial Report – March 2023

Source:	**Strategy, Governance and Corporate**
Chief Financial Officer:	**Darren Schultz**

Purpose

1. To present to Council the financial performance information from 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Background

2. On 28 June 2022, the 2022-23 budget was adopted with a recurrent operating surplus of $0.1 million and a non-recurrent surplus of $187.8 million, resulting in a net surplus of $187.9 million.

Key Matters

3. The recurrent operating result to 31 March 2023 is a deficit of $17.2 million, which compares to the budgeted deficit of $10.3 million. This represents a less than anticipated outcome by ($6.9 million). A summary of the year-to-date recurrent variances is provided in the attachment.

4. The non-recurrent result (including gifted assets from developers, recognition of infrastructure, capital income, sale of properties, developer cash contributions to infrastructure etc) for the period was a surplus of $49.5 million, compared to a budgeted surplus of $122.2 million. This represents a lower than anticipated outcome by ($72.2 million). A summary of the non-recurrent variances is provided in the attachment.

5. The total surplus of $32.2 million is ($79.6 million) is unfavourable to the year-to-date budget.

6. Capital expenditure year-to-date is $112.8 million against a year-to-date budget of $128.1 million and $15.3 million lower than budget expectations.

7. The cash and investment balance of $127.2 million is ($93.9 million) lower than budgeted, with $56.2 million budgeted borrowings being deferred and delay in settlement of sale of assets of $33.8 million. The settlement of 21 Gheringhap St (Civic Centre Car Park) will occur in June 2023 which is later than assumed in the budget.

8. The current full year forecast is an expected deficit of $8.1 million, which is ($8.2 million) unfavourable to budget. The unfavourable forecast is materially driven by external services and depreciation, with offsets by the increase in Commonwealth assistance grants and higher than budgeted interest on investments.

9. There were no environmental upgrade agreements entered into for the quarter. There is one existing agreement in place valued at $115,000.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.4

Cr Harwood moved, Cr Aitken seconded -

That Council endorse the Year to Date Quarterly Financial Management Report – March 2023.

Cr Mason left the meeting room at 7.38pm
Cr Mason rejoined the meeting at 7.40pm
Cr Nelson left the meeting room at 7.41pm
Cr Nelson rejoined the meeting at 7.42pm

Carried

Financial Sustainability

10. As detailed within the attached Year to Date Quarterly Financial Management Report – March 2023.

Community Engagement

11. Community engagement was undertaken during the development of the 2022-23 budget. Internal consultation has occurred with managers on the development of the full year forecast. Project managers have been consulted and provided the latest project updates which have been factored into this report.

Social Equity and Sustainability

12. Incomes and expenditures on the City's social equity programs are included in the attached Year to Date Quarterly Financial Management Report – March 2023.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

13. The report is provided in accordance with requirements under section 97 of the *Local Government Act 2020.*

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

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

15. This report aligns with the Community led 30-year Vision, "Greater Geelong: A Clever and Creative Future" community aspiration:
A prosperous economy that supports jobs and education opportunities.

Conflict of Interest

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

Risk Assessment

17. There are no high or extreme risks arising from the subject of this report.

Environmental Sustainability

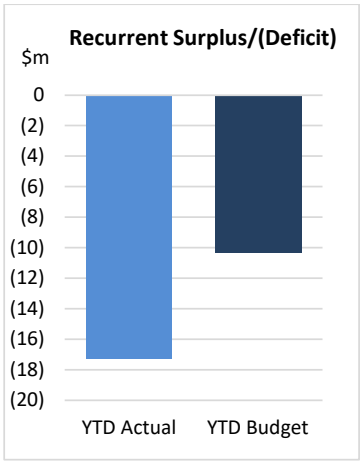
18. Incomes, expenditure and investments focus on the preservation and enhancement of the City's commitment to environmental strategies and targets.

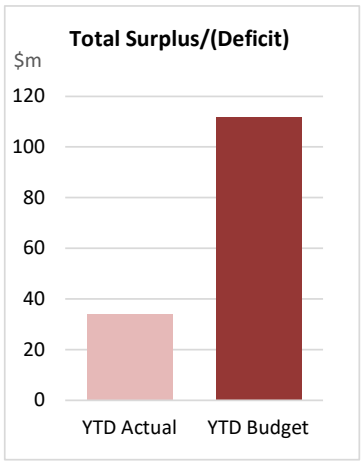
Attachments

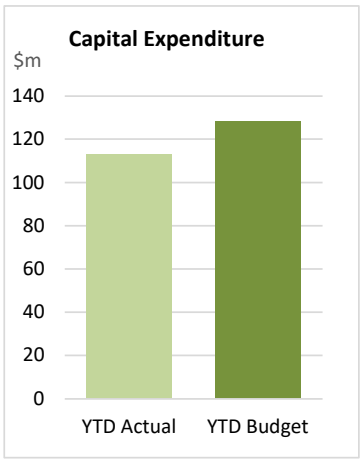
1. Quarterly Financial Management Report - Attachment for Doc Assembler Final [**2.4.1** - 10 pages]

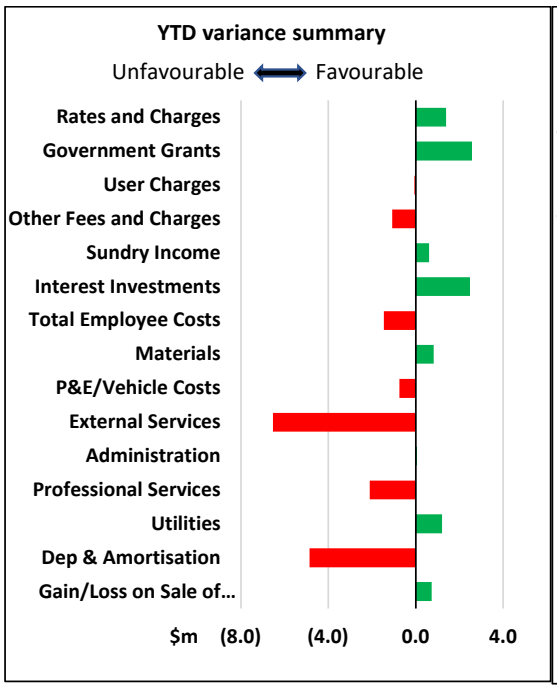
QUARTERLY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT

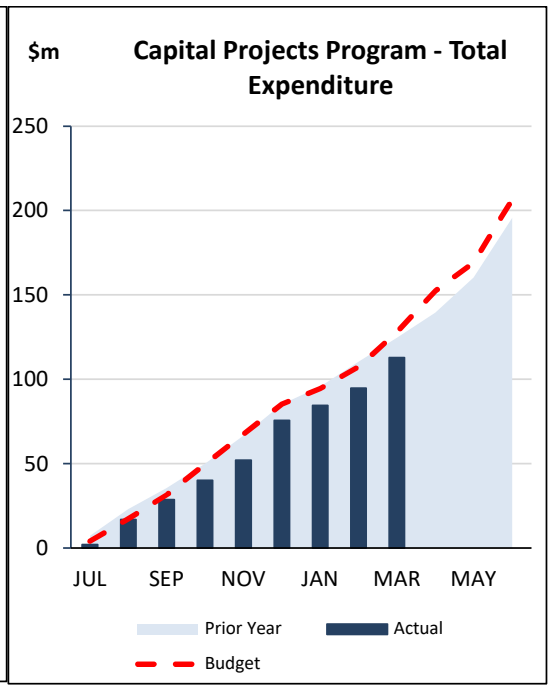
March 2023











The following table outlines the year-to-date performance versus budget as at 31 March 2023. The full year forecast is projecting a recurrent deficit of $8.1 million which is $8.2 million unfavourable to budget and a non-recurrent surplus of $138.7 million which is 48.7 million unfavourable to budget.

Overall Summary						
	YTD Actual $m	YTD Budget $m	YTD Var Fav/ (Unfav) $m	FY Budget $m	FY Forecast $m	FY Var Forecast v Budget $m
Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit)	(17.2)	(10.3)	**(6.9)**	0.1	(8.1)	**(8.2)**
Non-Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit)	49.5	122.2	**(72.7)**	187.8	138.7	**(49.1)**
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	32.2	111.9	**(79.6)**	187.9	130.6	**(57.3)**
Capital Expenditure	112.8	128.1	**15.3**	206.5	150.9	**55.6**
Closing Net Cash Positive/(Negative)	127.2	221.1	**(93.9)**	202.1	164.2	**(37.9)**

Recurrent Summary						
	YTD Actual $m	YTD Budget $m	YTD Var Fav/ (Unfav) $m	FY Budget $m	FY Forecast $m	FY Var Forecast v Budget $m
Recurrent Income	316.7	310.7	**6.0**	430.5	438.3	**7.8**
Recurrent Expenditure	333.9	346.8	**(12.9)**	430.4	446.4	**(16.0)**
Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit)	**(17.2)**	**(10.3)**	**(6.9)**	0.1	(8.1)	**(8.2)**
YTD Variance - $6.9m unfavourable						

1. The following major variances contributed to this recurrent result:

Income:

1.1 **Rates & Charges $1.4 million favourable** – driven by higher number of supplementary rates being processed and additional waste charges.

1.2 **Government Grants $2.6 million favourable** – Due to timing in increased federal funding and increased funding with home care packages exceeding expectations.

1.3 **Interest Investments $2.5 million favourable** – due to higher than anticipated interest rates.

Expenditure:

1.4 **External Services ($6.5 million) unfavourable** – due to increased utilisation of waste disposal & recycling which has increased revenue for user charges for these services. Further, service delivery within home care packages and Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) exceeding expectations, which is offset by increased grant income. Unbudgeted emergency works has also been required for Landy Field due to a flooding event in the first half of FY23.

1.5 **Professional Services ($2.1 million) unfavourable** – driven by increased utilisation of consultants across the organisation and higher than budgeted legal obligations.

1.6 **Utilities $1.2m favourable** – the material drivers in the favourable variance have been lower usage in water (due to a higher than anticipated rainfall) and electricity (with a LED initiative saving).

Non-Recurrent Summary						
	YTD Actual $m	YTD Budget $m	YTD Var Fav/ (Unfav) $m	FY Budget $m	FY Forecast $m	FY Var Forecast v Budget $m
Non-Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit)	49.5	122.2	**(72.7)**	187.8	138.7	**(49.1)**
YTD Variance – ($72.7m) unfavourable						

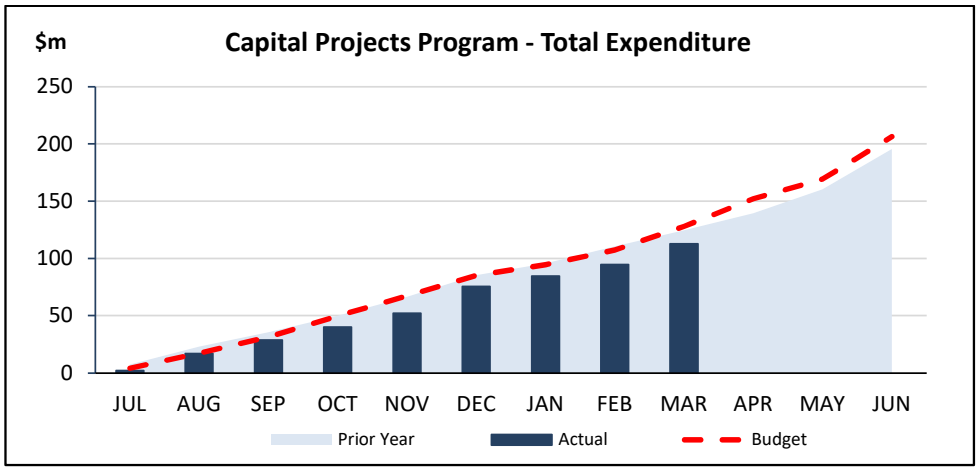
2. The unfavourable non-recurrent result is a contribution of lower than budgeted asset sales, recognition of infrastructure, developer contributions and asset reclassifications. Asset sales are unfavourable to budget by ($15.1 million) due to timing of settlement dates and is expected to come in higher than budgeted at full year. Recognition of infrastructure is unfavourable to budget by ($15.1 million) and is expected to come back in line with budget before the end of the financial year. Also developer cash contributions are trailing budget by ($8.8m). Additional to this we have had asset classifications with a prior year adjustment being recognised of ($33.9 million).

Capital Expenditure Summary				
	YTD Actual $m	YTD Budget $m	YTD Var Underspent/ (Overspent) $m	FY Budget $m
Capital Expenditure	112.8	128.1	**15.3**	206.5
YTD Variance – $15.3m underspent				

3. Capital expenditure is $15.3 million lower than budget expectations. The table below shows the significant project spend items against the associated annual budget.

Project	YTD Actual Spend $m	Annual budget Spend $m	Remaining Spend $m
Northern Aquatic and Community Hub (Northern Arc)	25.4	50.4	25.0
Armstrong Creek West Community Hub – design & construction	8.2	8.2	0.00
North Bellarine Aquatic Centre	5.3	10.8	5.5
Asphalt- Road Surfacing Program	4.6	6.3	1.7
Drysdale Library	5.1	6.2	1.1
Dedicated and Heavy Fleet	2.3	2.8	0.5
Footpath renewals	2.5	3.5	1.0
Armstrong Creek town centre Library and Learning Hub design	2.4	7.0	4.6

4. The graph below summarises total capital gross expenditure to date.



Environmental Upgrade Agreements

5. The City has one environmental upgrade agreement in place and will continue to note the debt on the Land Information Certificate.

5.1 An environmental upgrade agreement was entered into in June 2017 for Lot 2 on Plan Subdivision 041455, Volume 08704 Folio 526.

- The total charge for this agreement is $115k and all payments that have fallen due have been remitted.
- The total value of payments that are yet to fall due is $49k.

Operating Statement
as at 31 March 2023

	Current Month		Year To Date		Full Year		
	ACT	Δ BUD	ACT	Δ BUD	FOR	BUD	Δ BUD
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
RECURRENT INCOME							
Rates and Charges	24,063	723	215,762	1,401	285,851	284,193	1,658
Government Grants.	3,814	289	37,886	2,579	68,548	64,921	3,627
User Charges	5,896	84	46,251	(58)	61,324	61,474	(150)
Other Fees and Charges	1,441	(351)	10,571	(1,073)	15,295	15,884	(589)
Sundry Income	691	413	3,450	614	3,912	3,736	176
Interest Investments	510	481	2,741	2,489	3,371	336	3,035
Total Recurrent Income	**36,416**	**1,638**	**316,660**	**5,952**	**438,302**	**430,544**	**7,758**
RECURRENT EXPENDITURE							
Salary Related Expenditure	17,881	(901)	141,309	(1,640)	188,092	186,209	(1,883)
Other Employment Costs	311	148	1,961	182	3,078	3,008	(70)
General Works - Materials	719	(26)	5,729	825	7,368	8,572	1,204
General Works - Plant/Equipment/Vehicle Costs	223	858	11,031	(743)	14,521	13,470	(1,051)
General Works - External Services	9,484	(2,526)	66,077	(6,537)	87,016	80,275	(6,741)
Administration	2,031	834	31,479	70	41,966	42,844	878
Professional Services	994	97	8,036	(2,107)	12,142	8,960	(3,182)
Utilities	423	401	6,315	1,207	8,948	9,997	1,049
Depreciation	7,208	(781)	62,719	(4,867)	83,981	77,132	(6,849)
Gain/Loss on Sale of Plant & Equipment	1	(9)	(758)	735	(706)	(30)	676
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Recurrent Expenditure	**39,275**	**(1,906)**	**333,899**	**(12,874)**	**446,406**	**430,437**	**(15,969)**
Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit)	**(2,860)**	**(268)**	**(17,240)**	**(6,922)**	**(8,104)**	**107**	**(8,211)**
NON-RECURRENT INCOME							
Capital Grants and Income	2,379	(3,427)	14,316	(1,261)	30,165	32,993	(2,828)
Developer Cash Contributions	2,886	(124)	24,976	(8,831)	35,361	49,352	(13,991)
Gain/(Loss) on Sale of Property	(1)	(1,257)	84	(15,075)	20,297	18,928	1,369
Recognition of Infrastructure	--	(5,822)	44,939	(15,061)	90,000	90,000	-
Total Non-Recurrent Income	**9,442**	**(10,629)**	**84,315**	**(40,229)**	**175,823**	**191,273**	**(15,450)**
NON-RECURRENT EXPENDITURE							
Loss on Disposal of Infrastructure	891	502	891	1,442	3,175	3,500	325
Non Council Assets/Prior Yr Adj	-	-	33,937	(33,937)	33,937	-	(33,937)
Asset Demolition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disbursements	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Non-Recurrent Expenditure	**891**	**502**	**34,828**	**(32,495)**	**37,112**	**3,500**	**(33,612)**
Non-Recurrent Surplus/(Deficit)	**8,551**	**(11,132)**	**49,486**	**(72,724)**	**138,711**	**187,773**	**(49,062)**
TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**5,691**	**(11,400)**	**32,247**	**(79,647)**	**130,607**	**187,880**	**(57,273)**

Statement of Financial Position
as at 31 December 2022

	Current Month	Prior Month	FY22
Assets	$'000	$'000	$'000
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	50,673	72,686	100,455
Trade and Other Receivables	205,901	225,777	22,713
Other Financial Assets	35,524	35,412	45,151
Inventories	1,299	2,556	1,706
Other assets	5,203	5,950	5,776
Current Assets	**298,600**	**342,382**	**175,800**
Non-Current Assets			
Receivables	11,478	11,478	11,478
Investments	9,119	9,119	9,119
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	3,957,732	3,964,090	3,976,240
Right-of-use Assets	4,088	950	1,038
Intangible Assets	1,870	1,902	2,063
Work in Progress	275,246	251,807	207,557
Total Non-Current Assets	**4,259,531**	**4,239,346**	**4,207,493**
Total Assets	**4,558,131**	**4,581,728**	**4,383,293**
Liability			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	190,560	215,358	66,386
Trust funds and deposits	30,478	34,826	12,540
Provisions	42,907	41,381	38,789
Loans	13,551	13,934	14,062
Lease liabilities	294	207	369
Current Liabilities	**277,791**	**305,706**	**132,146**
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	16,650	17,056	18,645
Loans	120,072	120,880	126,030
Lease liabilities	3,840	767	692
Non-Current Liabilities	**140,562**	**138,703**	**145,367**
Liabilities	**418,353**	**444,409**	**277,513**
Net Assets	**4,139,778**	**4,137,319**	**4,105,780**
Equity			
Accumulated surplus	1,782,476	1,780,017	1,748,479
Reserves - Asset Revaluation	108,134	108,134	108,134
Reserves - Other	2,249,168	2,249,168	2,249,168
Equity	**4,139,778**	**4,137,319**	**4,105,780**

Statement of Financial Position
as at 31 March 2023

	Current Month	Prior Month	FY22
Assets	$'000	$'000	$'000
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	86,504	106,783	92,557
Trade and Other Receivables	71,400	102,366	65,937
Other Financial Assets	40,661	35,629	45,142
Inventories	1,258	1,255	1,296
Other assets	8,431	5,351	3,917
Current Assets	**208,255**	**251,384**	**208,849**
Non-Current Assets			
Receivables	11,478	11,478	15,317
Investments	9,119	9,119	9,327
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	3,992,800	3,994,895	2,908,521
Right-of-use Assets	7,618	6,959	1,210
Intangible Assets	1,773	1,805	2,160
Work in Progress	306,695	290,247	191,574
Total Non-Current Assets	**4,329,483**	**4,314,502**	**4,207,493**
Total Assets	**4,537,738**	**4,565,886**	**4,383,293**
Liability			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	126,498	150,611	123,673
Trust funds and deposits	20,947	30,669	19,850
Provisions	43,554	42,891	39,039
Loans	13,289	13,248	12,272
Lease liabilities	314	368	708
Current Liabilities	**204,602**	**237,787**	**195,542**
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	15,874	16,026	17,228
Loans	117,064	118,308	96,599
Lease liabilities	7,417	6,676	564
Non-Current Liabilities	**140,355**	**141,010**	**114,391**
Liabilities	**344,957**	**378,797**	**309,933**
Net Assets	**4,192,781**	**4,187,089**	**3,027,027**
Equity			
Accumulated surplus	1,780,725	1,775,034	1,737,735
Reserves	2,412,056	2,412,056	1,289,292
Equity	**4,192,781**	**4,187,089**	**3,027,027**

Statement of Cash Flows
as at March 2023

	ACT	BUD	Δ BUD
	$'000	$'000	$'000
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Payments			
Employee costs	(146,459)	(143,078)	(3,381)
General works / Utilities / Disbursements	(107,167)	(101,969)	(5,198)
Administration / Professional services	(40,407)	(35,027)	(5,380)
Interest expense	(3,031)	(2,582)	(449)
	(297,064)	**(282,657)**	**(14,407)**
Receipts			
General rates	237,028	239,347	(2,319)
Fees and charges	65,020	58,873	6,147
Investment income	2,741	252	2,489
GST recoveries on operating transactions	17,349	12,891	4,458
Government grants	37,985	39,707	(1,722)
	360,123	**351,070**	**9,053**
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities	**63,059**	**68,413**	**(5,354)**
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Payments for land & buildings, plant & equipment and infrastructure assets	(111,005)	(118,272)	7,267
Capital Income	14,316	15,578	(1,262)
Proceeds from sale of land & buildings	(807)	33,037	(33,844)
Proceeds from sale of plant & equipment	758	1,133	(375)
Developer cash contribution	24,976	33,807	(8,831)
Net Cash Outflow from Investing Activities	**(71,762)**	**(34,717)**	**(37,045)**
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Repayment of borrowings	(9,738)	(9,570)	(168)
Proceeds from new loans	0	56,197	(56,197)
Net Cash Outflow from Financial Activities	**(9,738)**	**46,627**	**(56,365)**
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held	**(18,441)**	**80,323**	**(98,764)**
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	145,606	140,810	4,796
Cash at the End of Current Period	**127,165**	**221,133**	**(93,968)**

	YTD Actual $m	YTD Budget $m	YTD Var Fav/ (Unfav) $m	FY Budget $m
Closing Net Cash Positive/(Negative)	127.1	221.1	**(93.9)**	202.1
YTD Variance – ($93.9m) unfavourable				

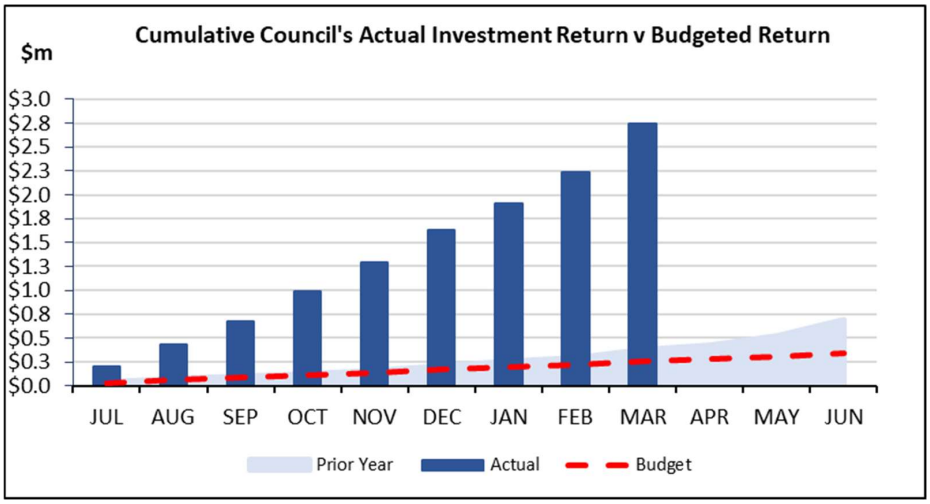
6. The cash and investment balance of $127.2million is ($93.9 million) unfavourable to budget. Timing of asset sales ($34 million) and no utilisation of the budgeted loan drawdown ($56 million) is the main driver of this unfavourable position.

7. Council has future commitments of $76.1 million, as detailed below:

Long service leave	$24.1m
Statutory reserves	$21.3m
Refundable deposits	$11.8m
Income in advance	$23.7m
Total	**$76.1m**

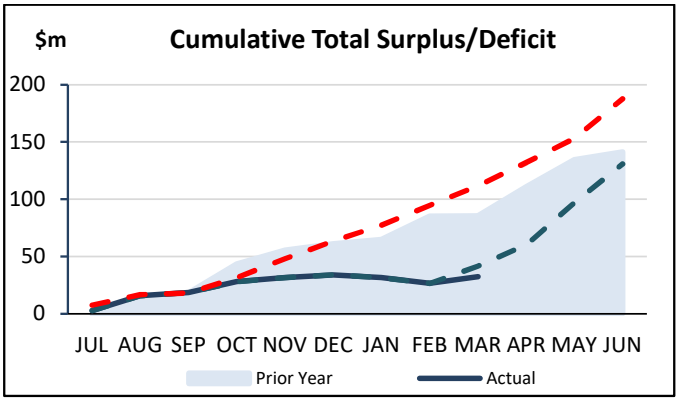
8. The landfill provision balance is currently $16.7 million.

9. Working capital funds are invested in short term deposits and investment returns are as follows:



10. Investment returns are currently $2.5 million favourable to budget and $2.4 million above this time last year. This is driven by increased interest rates over the last nine months to date.

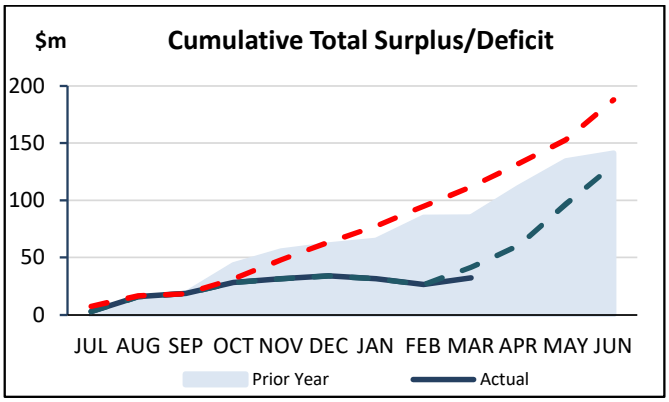
Financial Performance Indicators



The **recurrent deficit** of $17.2 million is unfavourable to budget by ($6.9 million). External services, professional services and depreciation costs are all exceeding budget expectations. Softening the result is favourable positions in rates and charges, government grants and utilities

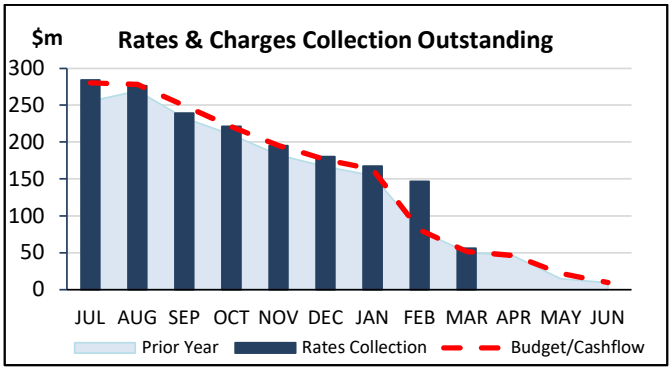
At the same time last year, the result was a recurrent surplus of $3.2 million

The full year recurrent forecast indicates a deficit of $8.1 million.

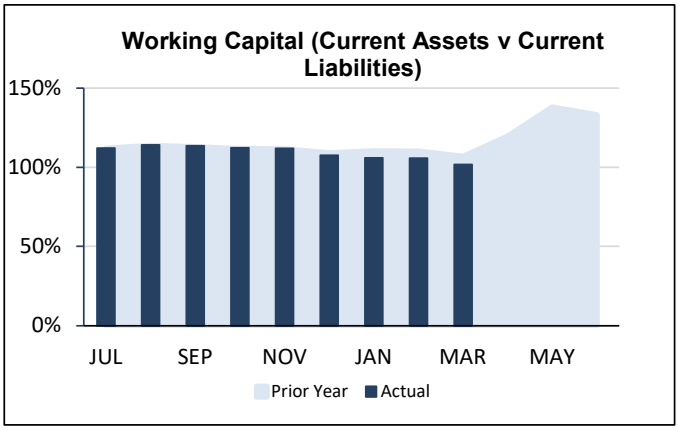


The **total surplus** of $32.2 million is unfavourable to budget by ($79.6million) with the main drivers being timing of asset sales ($15.1 million), recognition of infrastructure ($15.1 million), developer cash contributions trailing budget by ($8.8 million), $32.2 million in reclassification of assets (Non-Council Assets/Prior yearr Adjustments) and this years deficit recurrent position.

At the same time last year, the total surplus was $85.5 million. In the current year, the of $32.2 million surplus has been impacted by the reclassification of assets (Non Council Assets/Prior year Adjustments) and this year's deficit recurrent position.



Rates collection is unfavorable to budget by ($4.1 million), with 79% of full year rates received as at 31 March 2023. The continuation of monitoring of collections and hardship is a key focus, as collection rates have dropped below prior year levels.



Working Capital ratio is marginally unfavourable compared to the same time last year with a slight increase in current liabilities.

The budget allows for total loan borrowings of $56m to be taken out during the financial year to cover capital projects in development which is yet to be utilised.

2.5. Community Grants - 2023-24 Guidelines

Source: **Strategy, Governance and Corporate**
Chief Financial Officer: **Darren Schultz**

Purpose

1. To seek Council's approval of the 2023-24 Grant Guidelines and advise Council of the key dates for the 2023-24 grants.

Background

2. The City offers a range of competitive grants to support projects, events, activities, and capital works that benefit the community.

3. All grants operate under the City's Standard Guidelines which includes an application and assessment processes, eligibility criteria and requirements for successful applicants. Each grant has its own objectives, priority areas and criteria which are detailed in their own set of guidelines.

Key Matters

4. The 2023-24 grants are scheduled to open starting June 2023 and funding recommendations will be presented to Council for endorsement between November 2023 and January 2024.

5. Approved guidelines are required by May 2023 to open the grants to the public in June.

6. Changes to the guidelines are informed by feedback from the community, Councillors and Council officers.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.5

Cr Aitken moved, Cr Harwood seconded -

That Council:

1. **Approve the changes to the 2023-24 Grant Guidelines listed in the table attached to this report and authorise the Acting Chief Executive Officer to make administrative changes to the 2023-24 Grant Guidelines;**

2. **Approve the 2023-24 Grant Guidelines attached to this report;**

3. **Note that the 2023-24 grants will open starting June 2023; and**

4. **Note that funding recommendations will be presented to Council for endorsement between November 2023 and January 2024.**

Carried

Financial Sustainability

7. There are no financial implications for the City in changing the grant guidelines.
8. The 2023-24 grants budget will be adopted at the June 2023 Council meeting.

Community Engagement

9. Changes to the grant guidelines has considered feedback from Councillors, applicants, assessors, and officers.
10. City officers collect feedback during the year from the community by phone and email. The SmartyGrants online application system provides applicants with the opportunity to provide feedback on how easy or hard the application process is, the time taken to complete an application and general feedback.
11. The City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senior Policy Officer has provided general advice for all grant guidelines and is responsible for the First Nations Cultural Heritage Grant guidelines.
12. Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation has appointed representatives on the assessment panel for the First Nations Cultural Heritage Grant, and their feedback has been incorporated into proposed changes.

Social Equity and Sustainability

13. The grant guidelines prioritise community impact, access, and participation.

Relevant Law/Policy/Legal Implications

14. The grant guidelines respond to Council's Community Investment and Support Fund policy.

Alignment to Community Plan and Vision

15. This report aligns with Our Community Plan 2021-2025 strategic priority:
    Healthy, caring and inclusive community.
    Strong local economy.
    Sustainable growth and environment.
16. 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.
    Creative and diverse culture.
    Sustainable development that supports population growth and protects the natural environment.

Conflict of Interest

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

Risk Assessment

18. There are no high or extreme risks associated with implementing the recommendations contained in this report.

Environmental Sustainability

19. The grants include funding opportunities for environmental initiatives.

20. Some grants include environmental impacts as an assessment criterion.

Attachments

1. Summary of changes to guidelines [**2.5.1** - 3 pages]
2. Grants list and key dates [**2.5.2** - 7 pages]
3. 2023-24 Arts Projects Grant Guidelines [**2.5.3** - 12 pages]
4. 2023-24 Climate Change Partnership Grant Guidelines [**2.5.4** - 12 pages]
5. 2023-24 Community Events Grant Guidelines [**2.5.5** - 12 pages]
6. 2023-24 Community Infrastructure Grant Guidelines [**2.5.6** - 18 pages]
7. 2023-24 Community Infrastructure Grants - Exemption From Match-Funding [**2.5.7** - 5 pages]
8. 2023-24 Environmental Sustainability Grant Guidelines [**2.5.8** - 13 pages]
9. 2023-24 First Nations Cultural Heritage Grant Guidelines [**2.5.9** - 15 pages]
10. 2023-24 Geelong Heritage Grant Guidelines [**2.5.10** - 15 pages]
11. 2023-24 Healthy & Connected Communities Grant Guidelines [**2.5.11** - 12 pages]

2023-24 GRANTS – PROPOSED CHANGES TO GUIDELINES

Ref	Grant	Proposed change	Comment
1.	All grants	Include the City's expectations for applicants proposing projects that involve First Nations Communities and Cultural Heritage.	The City will only provide funding for projects that have genuine engagement with First Nations communities and comply with the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006). This proposed change provides guidance to applicants.
2.	Climate Change Partnership	Remove category for multi-year funding	It is not possible to commit funding for more than one year as the Community Grants budgets are approved on an annual basis.
3.	Climate Change Partnership	Eligible applicants can include schools and businesses (previously excluded) but only if they partner with another school or not-for-profit organisation.	This proposed change encourages collaboration and partnerships between organisations with similar values which expands the community impact of projects and spreads project responsibilities and risks between several parties.
4.	Community Events	Remove category for multi-year funding	It is not possible to commit funding for more than one year as the Community Grants budgets are approved on an annual basis.
5.	Community Events	Update definitions to explain that a *moderate* event is expected to attract three hundred or more attendees.	The City first offered this grant in 2019-20 and its purpose has always been to support moderate sized events. Until now, the guidelines have not included a definition of moderate. The proposed definition provides a reasonable and minimum economic return for funding and supports those applicants not eligible for Major Events funding. Smaller events, in particular community cultural celebrations are best suited for Healthy & Connected Communities grants. Applications for events with anticipated attendances less than three hundred remain eligible to apply but might ranked as a lower priority or receive partial funding.

<table>
<tr><th>Ref</th><th>Grant</th><th>Proposed change</th><th>Comment</th></tr>
<tr><td>6.</td><td>Community Events</td><td>Increase the weighting for the Well-planned assessment criteria.<table><tr><th></th><th>Existing Weighting %</th><th>Proposed Weighting %</th></tr><tr><td>Well-planned</td><td>40%</td><td>50%</td></tr><tr><td>Community Impact</td><td>30%</td><td>25%</td></tr><tr><td>Strategic Impact</td><td>30%</td><td>25%</td></tr></table></td><td>This change is proposed to recognise the importance of quality event management for a successful outcome.</td></tr>
<tr><td>7.</td><td>Community Infrastructure Grants</td><td>Clarification (not change) of Planning Grants. Funding is available for:
Strategic Infrastructure Planning: Facility Development Plans
Infrastructure design: Concept through to detailed design for future infrastructure projects
Detailed Designs (tender documentation) for projects under $350k, e.g., netball courts, cricket practice facilities, sports lighting
This City will not fund:
Business cases
Feasibility assessments</td><td>The information about planning grants is improved to provide greater clarity for applicants, assessors and decision makers.

The City’s aim is to support planning for projects that have a strong likelihood of being delivered.</td></tr>
<tr><td>8.</td><td>First Nations Cultural Heritage Grants</td><td>Introduce a three-step application process:

1. Potential applicants must first attend an information assessment.
2. Interested applicants may then choose to present their projects to the Assessment Panel for review.
3. If the Panel is supportive of the project, the City will invite the applicant to apply for funding.</td><td>This change is proposed to allow for dialogue between applicants and the Assessment Panel, so that the City can provide guidance on genuine consultation with our First Nations Community and ensure proposed projects comply with the requirements of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act (2006).</td></tr>
<tr><td>9.</td><td>Geelong Heritage Grants</td><td>Reduce maximum grant amount for conservation works from $50,000 to $40,000

(Note: the maximum was reduced from $70k to $50k in 2022-23)</td><td>This change is proposed to allow a greater number of projects to be funded.</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>Ref</th><th>Grant</th><th>Proposed change</th><th>Comment</th></tr>
<tr><td>10.</td><td>Geelong Heritage Grants</td><td>Increase the weighting for heritage benefit assessment criteria.<table><tr><th>Criteria</th><th>Existing Weighting %</th><th>Proposed Weighting %</th></tr><tr><td>Heritage benefit</td><td>30</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Community benefit</td><td>30</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>Well-planned project</td><td>40</td><td>40</td></tr></table></td><td>This change is proposed to reinforce the importance of achieving heritage outcomes for this grant funding.</td></tr>
<tr><td>11.</td><td>Health & Connected Communities</td><td>Change the weighting of the assessment criteria for equipment category.<table><tr><th>Criteria</th><th>Existing Weighting %</th><th>Proposed Weighting %</th></tr><tr><td>Community impact</td><td>70</td><td>60</td></tr><tr><td>Well-planned project</td><td>15</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>Environmental impact</td><td>15</td><td>15</td></tr></table></td><td>This change is proposed so that the weightings are the same as the Environmental Sustainability Grants equipment category.</td></tr>
</table>

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

2023-24 COMMUNITY GRANTS LIST AND KEY DATES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

2023-24 Grants

The following tables list the grants that will be offered in 2023-24 and include information on eligibility and funding available.

Grants are listed in alphabetical order.

TABLE 1: COUNCIL ENDORSED GRANTS

Grant Name	What will be funded	Who Can Apply?	Grant Budget	Maximum funding per applicant?	When*
Arts Projects	Support to deliver arts projects in the City of Greater Geelong. Available to those working in all art forms, including but not limited to, music, dance, visual arts, fashion, interpretation, writing/literature, performing arts, design, film/video and digital media.	Not for profit community organisations Arts businesses Individual/Sole traders	$200,000 (LY: $220,000)	$10,000	Once per financial year
Climate Change Partnership Grants	Funding for projects and activities that will be carried out over a period of one to two financial years.	Not for profit community organisations Commercial entities and schools in partnership with a not-for-profit group	$130,000 (LY: $100,000)	$50,000	Once per financial year
Community Events	Operating expense to run safe, moderate sized, public events that provide economic and community benefits to the greater Geelong region.	Not for profit community organisations Commercial entities	$180,000 (LY: $200,000)	$10,000	Once per financial year

Grant Name	What will be funded	Who Can Apply?	Grant Budget	Maximum funding per applicant?	When*
Community Infrastructure	**Planning for Capital Works** Costs associated with facility development planning, concept designs and detailed designs for future infrastructure projects that demonstrate strong community benefit and align with key priority areas of this program.	Not for profit community organisations: -who operate on public land managed or owned by Council, or Crown land where the management of the facility is community based and there is access for the broader community (Public) -not located on Council owned or managed land; or managed or maintained by Council which provide access for the broader community (Private)	$2,700,000 (LY: 3,000,000)	$50,000	Once per financial year
	Capital Works To assist with cost of ready to go community infrastructure projects. Infrastructure projects must be openly accessible to and have strong community benefits and align with the key priority areas of this program. Not applicable for the purchase of land.			$350,000	
Environmental Sustainability	**Capital Works** Small environmental capital works (e.g. water tanks, solar panels).	Not for profit community organisations School and Learning Institutions – only for activities that are not curriculum based and the primary benefit is for the wider community	$90,000 (LY: $150,000)	$10,000	Once per financial year
	Projects For the delivery of responsive environmental sustainability projects, programs and community activities.			$10,000	
	Equipment To assist with the cost of small equipment purchases that help community groups to deliver services and programs.			$2,000	

Grant Name	What will be funded	Who Can Apply?	Grant Budget	Maximum funding per applicant?	When*
First Nations Cultural Heritage	Projects that recognise, restore, protect and preserve both tangible and intangible Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.	Not for profit community organisations Commercial entities Schools	$90,000 (LY: $100,000)	Funding requests cannot exceed the total grant budget available of $90,000.	Once per financial year
Geelong Heritage	**Conservation Works** Building or streetscape projects that are visible to the public and focus on presentation to a street or public space and have an identified historic value.	Not for profit community organisations Commercial entities Owners and/or occupiers of properties	$90,000 (LY: $100,000)	Up to 70% of eligible project costs with a maximum of $40,000	Once per financial year
	Planning Feasibility and investigation projects to provide technical, planning, project scoping advice for future restoration projects.			Up to 100% of eligible project costs with a maximum of $10,000	
Healthy & Connected Communities	**Projects** For projects, programs, activities, forums or events, and equipment necessary to deliver the activities (up to $2,000) that improve health and wellbeing, build community capacity and benefit the broader community.	Not for profit community organisations	$245,000 (LY: $263,000)	$10,000	Once per financial year
	Equipment To assist with the cost of small equipment purchases that help community groups: deliver services and programs; improve health and safety outcomes; or improve resources that support volunteer groups.			$2,000	

TABLE 2: EXECUTIVE ENDORSED GRANTS

Grant Name	What will be funded?	Who Can Apply?	Grant Budget	Maximum funding per applicant	When?
Artists & Creatives Professional Development	Travel, accommodation, fees, incidentals and in some circumstances, remuneration.	Individuals	TBC	$2,000	Opens after Arts Projects Grants are announced
Arts Projects Quick Response	Support urgent arts, culture and heritage projects whose timelines prevent the applicant from applying to Arts Projects	Not for profit community organisations Art businesses Individual/Sole traders	TBC	$2,000	Opens after Arts Projects Grants are announced
Community Events Quick Response	Support for moderate sized events which bring economic benefits to the City with timelines that prevent the applicant from applying to the Community Events main round	Not for profit community organisations Commercial enterprises Individual/Sole traders	TBC	$10,000	Opens after Community Events Grants round closes
Children's Week	Small grants to facilitate events held during Children's Week, an international event designated by the United Nations and celebrated annually in the fourth week of October	Not for profit community organisations	$5,000 (LY: $10,000)	$500	Once per financial year
Positive Ageing	Small grants to support a community hosted events and experiences such as workshops, dances, concerts, sporting activities and tours that celebrate our ageing community. This grant replaces the Geelong Seniors Festival Grants	Not for profit community organisations	$24,000 (LY: $24,000)	$1,000	Once per financial year

Grant Name	What will be funded?	Who Can Apply?	Grant Budget	Maximum funding per applicant	When?
Neighbourhood Houses	Partnership with Neighbourhood Houses for operating costs and community development projects	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Neighbourhood Houses	$167,500 (LY: $182,500)	$12,500	Once per financial year
Christmas in the Community	Small grants to provide greater equity and inclusion for festive celebrations across the municipality, with a focus on the Northern and Eastern Suburbs	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Neighbourhood Houses	$36,0000 (LY: $40,000)	$4,000	Once per financial year

***WHEN**

If there are funds remaining in the grant pool, the City may choose to offer a second round of grants. Unsuccessful applicants are advised to review their application to make sure it fits the assessment criteria before re-applying.

2023-24 Key Dates

COUNCIL ENDORSED GRANTS

Applications will be accepted until 5.00 p.m. on the application closing date. Late submissions will not be accepted.

GRANT	GRANT APPLICATION DATES	FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS ENDORSED	NOTIFICATION TO APPLICANTS
Arts Projects Community Events Environmental Sustainability Healthy & Connected Communities Climate Change Partnership	Open 3 June 2023 Close 24 July 2023	28 November 2023	1 December 2023
Community Infrastructure Geelong Heritage	Open 3 June 2023 Close 21 August 2023	12 December 2023	15 December 2023
First Nations Cultural Heritage	August 2023 November 2023	January 2024	January/February 2024

EXECUTIVE ENDORSED GRANTS

Applications will be accepted until 5.00 p.m. on the application closing date. Late submissions will not be accepted.

GRANT	GRANT APPLICATION DATES	FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS ENDORSED	NOTIFICATION TO APPLICANTS
Positive Ageing	25 March to 22 May 2023	Within four to eight weeks of applications closing date.	5-7 business days from endorsement of funding recommendations
Christmas in the Community Children's week Neighbourhood Houses (NHH)	Open 3 June 2023 Close 31 July 2023	Within four to eight weeks of applications closing date.	5-7 business days from endorsement of funding recommendations
Arts Professional Development Arts Projects –Quick Response Community Events – Quick Response	Open January 2024	Within four to six weeks of receiving the application	5-7 business days from endorsement of funding recommendations

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

ARTS PROJECTS GRANTS

2023-24 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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About these grants

The purpose of the Arts Projects Grants is to cultivate the strength, diversity and vitality of our City's arts and cultural ecosystem; engage the whole community in our City's cultural life; and celebrate our City's distinct, diverse and evolving culture.

These grants deliver on the Arts and Culture Strategy 2021-23 to deliver a competitive grants program in support of arts and cultural projects, enhancing funding for contemporary arts practice.

The objectives of these grants are to:

- build awareness and knowledge of First Nations People's culture and engage First Nations artists to lead project development or consultation
- encourage cross artform and industry collaboration and partnerships for a vibrant arts and cultural ecosystem which supports local and municipal-wide creative endeavour
- increase opportunities for community participation and diverse engagement through inclusive and accessible arts and cultural programs
- celebrate our local heritage and stories across the municipality through high quality contemporary practice
- provide arts and cultural activities in diverse and non-traditional indoor and outdoor locations across the municipality
- enhance Geelong's brand as a creative City

There is a total amount of $200,000 available for the City's arts grants. Individual grants for Arts Projects applications are up to $10,000 per application.

GRANT	WHAT WILL BE FUNDED	MAXIMUM FUNDING PER APPLICANT
Arts Projects	Support for individuals, collectives, creative businesses, groups and organisations to deliver arts projects in the City of Greater Geelong. Available to those working in all art forms, including but not limited to, music, dance, visual arts, fashion, interpretation, writing/literature, performing arts, design, film/video, gaming, and digital media.	$10,000

- only one proposal can be considered per applicant per financial year

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this grant must be made via our SmartyGrants online system.

There are two ways you can access the online application form:

1. Visit the Community Grants page at the Geelong Australia website, select the grant program you wish to apply for from the list, click the 'Apply online' button that appears on the page, log-in or create an account.
2. Visit https://geelong.smartygrants.com.au/applicant, select 'current rounds' at the top right of the page, select the grant you wish to apply for, log-in or create an account then complete and submit

the form.

KEY DATES

Applications will be accepted until 5.00 pm on the closing date. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Applications open:	3 June 2023
Applications close:	24 July 2023
Notification to applicants:	1 December 2023
Activity start and end:	Activity cannot start until after notification date and must be completed within 12 months
Acquittal due:	Within one month of completion of activity

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Proposed projects or events may require permits or approvals.

These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in the project plan. Grant funding cannot be used to pay for a permit or approval issued by the City.

You do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, but if your funding application is successful, securing them is a condition of the grant. The City will not make any grant payments until the relevant permits and approvals are secured and submitted with the funding agreement.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. Please refer to the assessment criteria under ‘well planned projects’ on page 9.

FIRST NATIONS

For all applicants intending to apply for a grant with a First Nations theme you must provide evidence of engagement with First Nations Communities, and/or the specific First Nation community groups identified in your proposal.

You must also demonstrate awareness and understanding of the Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006) and/or the City’s Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan and/or Social Equity Framework which includes the City’s support to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

You are strongly encouraged to talk to the Grants Team prior to applying.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To discuss your project or request help with the application process, please contact our grants team at communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au, or call 5272 5560.

NOT THE RIGHT GRANT FOR YOU?

There are a variety of other funding opportunities available. Find out more by visiting www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants

Who can and can't apply?

The City's grants are primarily offered to not-for-profit community organisations with some exceptions to suit the objectives of individual grants.

The following table describes who is and isn't eligible to apply for funding through these grants:

APPLICANT TYPE	YES	NO
Not-for-profits - incorporated bodies, co-operatives or associations	✓	
Registered charitable organisations – refer to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	✓	
Unincorporated bodies with an auspice	✓	
For-profits - commercial entities, businesses	✓	
Individual/Sole Traders (entity type with Australian Business Register)	✓	
Schools and learning institutions		X
Individuals (without an ABN)		X
Applicants that have received funding from this grant in the current financial year (applies only when a second grant round is offered by the City)		X
Applicants with outstanding acquittals for grant funding from the City – including auspices		X
Applicants with outstanding debts or arrears to the City of Greater Geelong or in legal proceedings with the City		X
An organisation involved in legal proceedings relating to winding up its operations, or experiencing insolvency or bankruptcy (this includes any legal bankruptcy-related actions against the organisation's directors or officers)		X

WHAT IF YOU ARE NOT INCORPORATED?

If you are a not-for-profit organisation group or collective, you can still apply by using an auspice.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support your application. If you're successful, the auspice receives the grant money on your behalf so you can undertake the project work.

If you are planning on using an auspice, please:

- obtain approval from your proposed auspice before you submit your application
- ensure the auspice signs the application form and funding agreement and provides their banking details in the application

Some auspice organisations may charge an auspice fee. This is at their discretion and should be negotiated between the applicant and the auspice.

What can you apply for?

Your grant activity must take place within the City of Greater Geelong.

The following is a list of ideas and examples that will be considered for funding. It is a guide only and the list should not be considered exhaustive.

- creative developments of new and unique works
- immersive temporary installations
- cross artform/industry artistic projects that include collaboration and partnerships
- experimental, contemporary, and innovative new work delivered in unique spaces
- arts and cultural programs that invite diverse community participation

The following is a list of expenditure that will be considered for funding.

- artist fees (artists should be appropriately paid)
- materials
- venue and studio hire
- equipment purchases or hire
- publicity and promotion
- inclusion and access costs
- documentation and evaluation

What won't be funded?

ARTS PROJECTS GRANTS

The following items, activities or projects will not be funded by Arts Projects grants:

- permanent public art such as murals and sculptures
- business as usual workshops and activities
- projects/campaigns of a political or religious nature
- catering including alcohol
- capital works – including building, renovations, refurbishments to the inside or outside of a building or to any outdoor spaces such as playgrounds, sporting groups, parks or reserves etc.
- professional development training for artists and volunteers (may be eligible under the Artist and Creatives Professional Development Grants)
- activities that may be covered by Federal or State Education Training funding – e.g., school fete activities based on school grounds, school art workshops

CITY'S COMMUNITY GRANTS

In general, the following items, activities or projects will not be funded by any of the City's Community Grants.

- projects or activities that occur outside the City of Greater Geelong municipality (where activities also have outcome/s that occur outside the municipality, only the portion taking place within Greater Geelong is eligible)
- cost of Council services where fees are normally charged e.g., Council rates, waste removal, building or planning permits or approvals, parking etc.
- existing staff and salary costs (funds to cover costs for additional staffing or contractors, that relate directly to the grant application, will be considered)
- requests for retrospective purchases or projects, or where activities commence prior to notification of funding outcome
- fundraising events where the main aim is to directly fundraise for a charity
- prizes, gifts, awards or sponsorship costs, such as trophies, medals, money and vouchers
- political, gaming or gambling activities
- activities and expenditure that can be considered core business e.g., ongoing projects and activities, administration overheads such as utilities, insurances and fees
- additional funding for previously successful applications
- projects, activities or events that could potentially commit the City to funding on an ongoing basis
- projects, activities or events that better meet the criteria of another City of Greater Geelong grant or program

How are applications assessed?

All applications received will go through the following assessment process:

- eligibility checks –applications are checked against the criteria on pages 5 to 8 determine their eligibility
- officer panel assessment – eligible applications are assessed according to the assessment criteria and priority areas (see tables below)
- independent (community) panel assessment – the panel reviews the officer assessments and recommends funding allocations to Council in a council report
- Council review and endorsement – funding recommendations are further reviewed by Council then endorsed

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on a weighted average scoring system, as shown in the tables below:

Key criteria – weighting	What we look for when assessing a project grant application
Community and Cultural Benefit– 35%	• community participation and audience growth opportunities • public presentation of project • creating connections, networks and platforms for local artists and participants • inclusion of diverse artist, groups or communities • economic benefit and value to artists and creative groups
Project Rationale –35%	• clear explanation of the idea and artistic approach taken to address project need • identified need (e.g., the community need for this project/why you need to do this) • artistic merit, creative expression and innovation • the feasibility and relevance of the proposed project
Well Planned Project – 30%	• detailed project plan • confirmation of artists/collaborators/partners etc. • reasonable artist fees • evidence that the proposed venue/location is suitable and available for the event (if applicable) • a clear, balanced budget showing total income equals total expenditure. The budget must describe and show the total cost of the project including contingency and list any other additional sources of funds that will contribute to the total project income • detailed quotes or estimates from suppliers as evidence of your project costs* • experience of the people involved in delivery or your activity

* Acceptable evidence of costs includes:

- quotes with supplier's business name ABN/ACN and contact details
- screenshots from online retailers including item description, price, supplier’s business name

- project staff/contractor costs calculated from industry awards or codes of practice including NAVA updated Payment Standards for Artists: https://code.visualarts.net.au/

PRIORITISING APPLICATIONS

If the total request for funding exceeds the grant funds available, we will prioritise:

- applications that have not received funding from this grant in previous financial years
- applications that closely align with the City of Greater Geelong's Arts and Cultural Strategy 2021-2031
- originality quality and artistic merit of the project
- applications from organisations that do not receive funding from electronic gaming machines

GRANT ALLOCATION INFORMATION

Applications can be made to multiple grant programs for relevant and distinct projects or programs.

A single project, event, activity or program will only be funded in one grant program category within a given financial year. This means we will not fund part of a project in one grant program, and part in another.

We generally only fund projects once. You cannot rely on this grant for ongoing or recurrent funding. However, we will consider funding a project again if there are compelling reasons, in line with the objectives of this grant. Any decision to award further funding will be based on the merit of the application.

Grant amounts allocated are specific to the grant category as detailed in each individual program guidelines.

Grant amounts offered to successful applicants are based on outcomes determined during the assessment process and in line with budget limitations.

In some cases, applicants may also be offered partial funding to run a reduced or modified project.

What happens next?

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If your application is successful, you will be notified in writing within one week after funding recommendations are endorsed.

You will be sent a funding agreement explaining the terms and conditions of our offer. Once you sign and return the agreement, we will send your funding within 30 working days.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS UNSUCCESSFUL

If your application is unsuccessful, you will be notified in writing.

As grants are a competitive process, even if an application meets the criteria, it may not be competitive against other applications.

If you would like further feedback on why your application was unsuccessful, please contact communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

If there are funds remaining in the grant pool, we may choose to offer a second round of grants. While unsuccessful applicants are eligible to reapply, we would recommend revising the application to make sure it fits the assessment criteria before doing so.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

If your grant is successful you will be required to enter into a funding agreement that will establish:

a. the terms and conditions of funding;
b. the details of the activity;
c. the deliverables;
d. reporting requirements; and
e. the schedule of payments.

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, PROMOTION AND MARKETING

Successful grant applicants must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong as a funding source.

This can be done by using the City's logo in marketing and publicity materials, social media, acknowledgement at launches and/or invitations for Councillors or City representatives to attend events.

COVID-19

All activities must comply with the latest health advice and government restrictions, as detailed at: https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/

FINANCIAL ACQUITTAL, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

A project evaluation and financial acquittal must be provided within one month of the agreed completion date for the project. The financial acquittal is an income and expenditure statement for the grant confirming that funding has been spent on the activity in accordance with the funding agreement.

City officers may request meetings with the applicant to check progress or undertake an independent audit of the books and records of the applicant as they relate directly to the grant.

Applicants must maintain accurate financial records for the grant and make them available to the City in the event of any audit by the City into the use of the grant.

INSURANCE

If required, you must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in the grant application and include a PLI certificate of currency with your application. Applicants using an auspice would include a certificate from the Auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

Grant payments are made to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required prior to releasing any grant funds. The Grants Team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this at the appropriate time.

If successful applicants do not provide either an ABN or a "Statement by a Supplier" form, the City may be required to withhold the top marginal tax rate (i.e., 45%) from the grant payment.

TIMING AND WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDING

Successful applicants must spend their allocated funds within 12 months of notification unless their funding agreement extends beyond 12 months or otherwise negotiated.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year the grant was awarded or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

VARIATION TO FUNDED PROJECTS

Projects are funded for delivery as described in the funding agreement. Successful applicants must seek approval in writing from the City if changes need to be made. This includes delays to the original completion date or the ability to fully expend the grant funds within the agreed timeframes.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if you are unable to confirm alternative arrangements within a reasonable time frame.

If a project is discontinued or the grant funds are no longer required, all funds must be repaid to the City.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

2023-24 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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About these grants

The purpose of the Climate Change Partnership Grants is for the Geelong community to achieve net zero community emissions and increase resilience to climate change impacts through a coordinated and collective response.

This partnership grant is an action listed in the City's Climate Change Response Plan and is a new approach to an urgent issue. Our goal is to become a zero-emissions, climate-ready city and region.

The City uses the principles of co-design to implement the grants, by working in partnership with the community and business to address the urgency of climate change.

The grants support existing work by our community and business groups to create new opportunities or extend on existing and significant projects. They fund new and innovative activities and projects, as well as the tried and true.

These are competitive grants open to all eligible applicants. They aim to encourage a wide variety of grass roots community groups to apply. The objectives of these grants are to support community led projects and activities that support community efforts to:

- transition to a net zero emissions environment by 2035
- increase energy efficiency and renewable energy production
- switch to sustainable transport and cleaner fuels
- increase carbon storage
- increase awareness and understanding of climate change impacts
- increase collaboration

There is total funding available of $130,000, with individual grants being offered of up to $50,000 per application. We expect to fund 4 to 6 applications per year at an average of $20,000 to $30,000 each.

GRANT	WHAT WILL BE FUNDED	MAXIMUM FUNDING PER APPLICANT
Climate Change Partnerships	Funding for projects and activities that will be carried out over a period of one to two financial years	$130,000

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this grant must be made via our SmartyGrants online system.

There are two ways you can access the online application form:

1. Visit the Community Grants page at the Geelong Australia website, select the grant program you wish to apply for from the list, click the 'Apply online' button that appears on the page, log-in or create an account.
2. Visit https://geelong.smartygrants.com.au/applicant, select 'current rounds' at the top right of the page, select the grant you wish to apply for, log-in or create an account then complete and submit the form.

KEY DATES

Applications will be accepted until 5.00 pm on the closing date. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Applications open:	3 June 2023
Applications close:	24 July 2023
Notification to applicants:	1 December 2023
Activity start and end:	Activity cannot start until the funding agreement is signed

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Proposed projects or events may require permits or approvals.

These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in the project plan. Grant funding cannot be used to pay for a permit or approval issued by the City.

You do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, but if your funding application is successful, securing them is a condition of the grant. The City will not make any grant payments until the relevant permits and approvals are secured and submitted with the funding agreement.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. Please refer to the assessment criteria under ‘well planned projects’ on page 9.

FIRST NATIONS

For all applicants intending to apply for a grant with a First Nations theme you must provide evidence of engagement with First Nations Communities, and/or the specific First Nation community groups identified in your proposal.

You must also demonstrate awareness and understanding of the Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006) and/or the City’s Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan and/or Social Equity Framework which includes the City’s support to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

You are strongly encouraged to talk to the Grants Team prior to applying.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To discuss your project or request help with the application process, please contact our grants team at communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au, or call 5272 5560.

NOT THE RIGHT GRANT FOR YOU?

There are a variety of other funding opportunities available. Find out more by visiting www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants

Who can and can't apply?

The City's grants are primarily offered to not-for-profit community organisations with some exceptions to suit the objectives of individual grants.

The following table describes who is and isn't eligible to apply for funding through these grants:

APPLICANT TYPE	YES	NO
Not-for-profits - incorporated bodies, co-operatives or associations	✓	
Registered charitable organisations – refer to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	✓	
Unincorporated bodies with an auspice	✓	
Schools and learning institutions - only if in partnership with at least one other school and a not-for-profit organisation.	✓	
For-profits - commercial entities, businesses only if in partnership with a not-for-profit organisation	✓	
Individual/Sole Traders (entity type with Australian Business Register)		X
Individuals (without an ABN)		X
Applicants that have received funding from this grant in the current financial year (applies only when a second grant round is offered by the City)		X
Applicants with outstanding acquittals for grant funding from the City – including auspices		X
Applicants with outstanding debts or arrears to the City of Greater Geelong or in legal proceedings with the City		X
An organisation involved in legal proceedings relating to winding up its operations, or experiencing insolvency or bankruptcy (this includes any legal bankruptcy-related actions against the organisation's directors or officers)		X

WHAT IF YOU ARE NOT INCORPORATED?

If you are a not-for-profit organisation, you can still apply by using an auspice.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support your application. If you're successful, the auspice receives the grant money on your behalf so you can undertake the project work.

If you are planning on using an auspice, please:

- obtain approval from your proposed auspice before you submit your application
- ensure the auspice signs the application form and funding agreement and provides their banking details in the application

Some auspice organisations may charge an auspice fee. This is at their discretion and should be negotiated between the applicant and the auspice.

What can you apply for?

Your grant activity must take place within the City of Greater Geelong.

The following is a list of ideas and examples that will be considered for funding. It is a guide only and the list should not be considered exhaustive:

- emissions reduction activities
- community awareness, education and training, mentoring, master classes, communication resources, workshops
- energy audits, energy efficiency upgrades, solar feasibility assessments, advice and information on energy efficient homes and businesses
- community owned renewable energy projects
- renewable energy bulk buy programs or power purchase agreements
- transition to electric homes and businesses and increased access to renewables
- climate safer places and energy efficiency upgrades to support community members most vulnerable to climate change impacts

The following is a list of expenditure that will be considered for funding:

- costs for additional staffing that relate directly to the grant project
- consultants or contractors
- equipment required to deliver the project's aims

What won't be funded?

CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

The following items, activities or projects will not be funded by Climate Change Partnerships Grants:

- projects that do not respond to climate change
- projects more suitable to the Environmental Sustainability Grants
- projects that do not align with the City's Environment Strategy and the Climate Change Response Plan

CITY'S COMMUNITY GRANTS

In general, the following items, activities or projects will not be funded by any of the City's Community Grants.

- projects or activities that occur outside the City of Greater Geelong municipality (where activities also have outcome/s that occur outside the municipality, only the portion taking place within Greater Geelong is eligible)
- cost of Council services where fees are normally charged e.g., Council rates, waste removal, building or planning permits or approvals, parking etc.
- existing staff and salary costs (funds to cover costs for additional staffing or contractors, that relate directly to the grant application, will be considered)
- requests for retrospective purchases or projects, or where activities commence prior to notification of funding outcome
- fundraising events where the main aim is to directly fundraise for a charity
- prizes, gifts, awards or sponsorship costs, such as trophies, medals, money and vouchers.
- political, gaming or gambling activities
- activities and expenditure that can be considered core business e.g., ongoing projects and activities, administration overheads such as utilities, insurances and fees
- additional funding for previously successful applications
- projects, activities or events that could potentially commit the City to funding on an ongoing basis
- projects, activities or events that better meet the criteria of another City of Greater Geelong grant or program

How are applications assessed?

All applications received will go through the following assessment process

- eligibility checks –applications are checked against the criteria on pages 5 to 8 to determine their eligibility
- officer panel assessment – eligible applications are assessed according to the assessment criteria and priority areas (see tables below)
- independent (community) panel assessment – the panel reviews the officer assessments and recommends funding allocations to Council in a council report
- Council review and endorsement – funding recommendations are further reviewed by Council then endorsed

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on a weighted average scoring system, as shown in the tables below:

Key criteria – weighting	What we look for when assessing a project grant application
Climate Change Benefits 40%	• a community or environmental need for the activity or works proposed • the long-term social, environmental and/or economic benefits of the proposed activity • the extent that the project contributes towards a zero-emission climate-ready City and region • a strong alignment to the focus areas on page 6 of the Climate Change Response Plan, that are relevant to your project
Community Engagement 20%	• the extent of active community engagement in climate change initiatives • alignment with Principle 1 of the Climate Change Response Plan that focuses on community awareness, education, capacity building, governance, and accountability
Well planned Project 40%	• your understanding of any permits and approvals that may be required • evidence that the proposed venue/location is suitable and available for the event (if applicable) • a clear, balanced budget showing total income equals total expenditure. The budget must describe and show the total cost of the project including contingency and list any other additional sources of funds that will contribute to the total project income • experience of the people involved in delivery or your activity • detailed quotes from suppliers as evidence of your project costs - project cost up to $25k = one written comprehensive quote - project cost $25k-$50k = three current written comprehensive quotes

PRIORITISING APPLICATIONS

If the total request for funding exceeds the grant funds available, we will prioritise

- applications that have not received funding from this grant in the previous financial year
- applications from organisation that do not receive funding from electronic gaming machines

GRANT ALLOCATION INFORMATION

Applications can be made to multiple grant programs for relevant and distinct projects or programs.

A single project, event, activity or program will only be funded in one grant program category within a given financial year. This means we will not fund part of a project in one grant program, and part in another.

We generally only fund projects once. You cannot rely on this grant for ongoing or recurrent funding. However, we will consider funding a project again if there are compelling reasons, in line with the objectives of this grant. Any decision to award further funding will be based on the merit of the application.

Grant amounts allocated are specific to the grant category as detailed in each individual program guidelines.

Grant amounts offered to successful applicants are based on outcomes determined during the assessment process and in line with budget limitations.

In some cases, applicants may also be offered partial funding to run a reduced or modified project.

What happens next?

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If your application is successful, you will be notified in writing within one week after funding recommendations are endorsed.

A project officer from the City will contact you to outline the next steps in the process.

After your discussions with the project officer, the City will send you a funding agreement which will outline the grant terms, conditions and payment details.

The City will not make any grant payments without a signed funding agreement, so please do not start your project until you have returned a signed agreement.

Applicants should note that there may be considerable time between close of applications and finalising a funding agreement. This should be factored into project timelines, expiry dates on quotes and project cashflow.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS UNSUCCESSFUL

If your application is unsuccessful, you will be notified in writing.

As grants are a competitive process, even if an application meets the criteria, it may not be competitive against other applications.

If you would like further feedback on why your application was unsuccessful, please contact communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

If there are funds remaining in the grant pool, we may choose to offer a second round of grants. While unsuccessful applicants are eligible to reapply, we would recommend revising the application to make sure it fits the assessment criteria before doing so.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

If your grant is successful you will be required to enter into a funding agreement that will establish:

a. the terms and conditions of funding;
b. the details of the activity;
c. the deliverables;
d. reporting requirements; and
e. the schedule of payments.

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, PROMOTION AND MARKETING

Successful grant applicants must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong as a funding source.

This can be done by using the City's logo in marketing and publicity materials, social media, acknowledgement at launches and/or invitations for Councillors or City representatives to attend events.

COVID-19

All activities must comply with the latest health advice and government restrictions, as detailed at: https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/

FINANCIAL ACQUITTAL, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

A project evaluation and financial acquittal must be provided within one month of the agreed completion date for the project. The financial acquittal is an income and expenditure statement for the grant confirming that funding has been spent on the activity in accordance with the funding agreement.

City officers may request meetings with the applicant to check progress or undertake an independent audit of the books and records of the applicant as they relate directly to the grant.

Applicants must maintain accurate financial records for the grant and make them available to the City in the event of any audit by the City into the use of the grant.

INSURANCE

If required, you must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in the grant application and include a PLI certificate of currency with your application. Applicants using an auspice would include a certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

Grant payments are made to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required prior to releasing any grant funds. The Grants Team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this at the appropriate time.

If successful applicants do not provide either an ABN or a "Statement by a Supplier" form, the City may be required to withhold the top marginal tax rate (i.e., 45%) from the grant payment.

TIMING AND WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDING

Successful applicants must spend their allocated funds within 12 months of notification unless their funding agreement extends beyond 12 months or otherwise negotiated.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year the grant was awarded or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

VARIATION TO FUNDED PROJECTS

Projects are funded for delivery as described in the funding agreement. Successful applicants must seek approval in writing from the City if changes need to be made. This includes delays to the original completion date or the ability to fully expend the grant funds within the agreed timeframes.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if you are unable to confirm alternative arrangements within a reasonable time frame.

If a project is discontinued or the grant funds are no longer required, all funds must be repaid to the City.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

COMMUNITY EVENTS GRANTS

2023-24 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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About these grants

The purpose of the Community Events Grants is to support moderate sized events which contribute to an inclusive and diverse events calendar, increase community connection, provide opportunities for participation, and bring economic benefits to the City of Greater Geelong.

The objectives of these grants are to:

- support a diverse and inclusive annual calendar of events
- generate economic impact through increased spend for the region businesses and supporting key industries
- support event growth and long-term sustainability

There is total funding available of $180,000 with individual grants being offered of up to $10,000 per application.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY EVENT?

A community event is an organised gathering for a common purpose which is conducted on a one-off or periodic basis, open to members of the public, publicly announced or advertised, and may be subject to specific licence, approvals or permits.

By their nature, community events involve gatherings within a defined space, often high density, and include a broad range of activities, such as the service of food and beverages and entertainment.

Moderate sized community events are expected to attract 300 or more attendees.

GRANT	WHAT WILL BE FUNDED	MAXIMUM FUNDING PER APPLICANT
Community Events	Operating expenses to run safe, moderate sized, public events that provide economic, and community benefits to the greater Geelong region	$10,000

HOW TO APPLY

You are strongly encouraged to discuss your application with the City's Events Services Team on 5272 4139. Please enquire soon after grants open to allow adequate time for the discussion prior to submitting your application.

Applications for this grant must be made via our SmartyGrants online system.

There are two ways you can access the online application form:

1. Visit the Community Grants page at the Geelong Australia website, select the grant program you wish to apply for from the list, click the 'Apply online' button that appears on the page, log-in or create an account.
2. Visit https://geelong.smartygrants.com.au/applicant, select 'current rounds' at the top right of the page, select the grant you wish to apply for, log-in or create an account then complete and submit the form.

KEY DATES

Applications will be accepted until 5.00 pm on the closing date. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Applications open:	3 June 2023
Applications close:	24 July 2023
Notification to applicants:	1 December 2023
Activity start and end:	Activity cannot start until after 1 January 2024

QUICK RESPONSE GRANTS

If your event meets the eligibility criteria for a Community Events Grant, however the timelines prevent you from applying within the stated application period, you may be eligible to apply for Quick Response funding. This program is very limited and requires exceptional circumstances. To discuss Quick Response funding, please contact our Event Services Team on 5272 4139.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Proposed projects or events may require permits or approvals.

These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in the project plan.

You do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, but if your funding application is successful, securing them is a condition of the grant.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. Please refer to the assessment criteria under ‘well planned projects’ on page 9.

FIRST NATIONS

For all applicants intending to apply for a grant with a First Nations theme you must provide evidence of engagement with First Nations Communities, and/or the specific First Nation community groups identified in your proposal.

You must also demonstrate awareness and understanding of the Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006) and/or the City’s Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan and/or Social Equity Framework which includes the City’s support to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

You are strongly encouraged to talk to the Grants Team prior to applying.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To discuss your project or request help with the application process, please contact our grants team at communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au, or call 5272 5560.

NOT THE RIGHT GRANT FOR YOU?

There are a variety of other funding opportunities available. Find out more by visiting www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants

Who can and can't apply?

The City's grants are primarily offered to not-for-profit community organisations with some exceptions to suit the objectives of individual grants.

The following table describes who is and isn't eligible to apply for funding through these grants:

APPLICANT TYPE	YES	NO
Not-for-profits - incorporated bodies, co-operatives or associations	✓	
Registered charitable organisations – refer to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	✓	
Unincorporated bodies with an auspice	✓	
Schools and learning institutions – only for activities that are not curriculum based and the primary benefit is for the wider community	✓	
For-profits - commercial entities, businesses	✓	
Individual/Sole Traders (entity type with Australian Business Register)	✓	
Individuals (without an ABN)		X
Applicants that have received funding from this grant in the current financial year (applies only when a second grant round is offered by the City)		X
Applicants with outstanding acquittals for grant funding from the City – including auspices		X
Applicants with outstanding debts or arrears to the City of Greater Geelong or in legal proceedings with the City		X
An organisation involved in legal proceedings relating to winding up its operations, or experiencing insolvency or bankruptcy (this includes any legal bankruptcy-related actions against the organisation's directors or officers)		X

WHAT IF YOU ARE NOT INCORPORATED?

If you are a not-for-profit organisation, you can still apply by using an auspice.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support your application. If you're successful, the auspice receives the grant money on your behalf so you can undertake the project work.

If you are planning on using an auspice, please:

- obtain approval from your proposed auspice before you submit your application
- ensure the auspice signs the application form and funding agreement and provides their banking details in the application

Some auspice organisations may charge an auspice fee. This is at their discretion and should be negotiated between the applicant and the auspice.

What can you apply for?

These grants are open only to applications for events:

- staged from **1 January 2024** and
- held within the City of Greater Geelong municipality and
- advertised to the general public to attend and

As this is a competitive process, not all applications will necessarily be funded even if they are eligible. In some cases, applicants may also be offered partial funding. Factors that determine the final grant amount offered include:

- time of year with a preference for off-peak
- multiple day events
- expected attendances of 300 or more
- local and non-local visitation
- engagement with local businesses
- number of applications in the grant round

The following is a list of ideas and examples that will be considered for funding:

- conferences, trade shows
- food and wine festivals
- Christmas carols
- state or national sporting events

What won't be funded?

COMMUNITY EVENTS GRANTS

The following items, activities or projects will not be funded by Community Event grants:

- events that are ongoing, regular activities of a venue e.g., monthly markets, seasonal sporting events
- events, that due to their nature, are unlikely to be supported by relevant stakeholders
- events that are held prior to the 1st of January 2024
- events held outside the City of Greater Geelong municipality

CITY'S COMMUNITY GRANTS

In general, the following items, activities or projects will not be funded by any of the City's Community Grants.

- projects or activities that occur outside the City of Greater Geelong municipality (where activities also have outcome/s that occur outside the municipality, only the portion taking place within Greater Geelong is eligible)
- cost of Council services where fees are normally charged e.g., Council rates, waste removal, building or planning permits or approvals, parking etc.
- existing staff and salary costs (funds to cover costs for additional staffing or contractors, that relate directly to the grant application, will be considered)
- requests for retrospective purchases or projects, or where activities commence prior to notification of funding outcome
- fundraising events where the main aim is to directly fundraise for a charity
- prizes, gifts, awards, or sponsorship costs, such as trophies, medals, money and vouchers
- political, gaming or gambling activities
- activities and expenditure that can be considered core business e.g., ongoing projects and activities, administration overheads such as utilities, insurances and fees
- additional funding for previously successful applications
- projects, activities, or events that could potentially commit the City to funding on an ongoing basis
- projects, activities, or events that better meet the criteria of another City of Greater Geelong grant or program

How are applications assessed?

All applications received will go through the following assessment process:

- eligibility checks –applications are checked against the criteria on pages 5 to 8 to determine their eligibility
- officer panel assessment – eligible applications are assessed according to the assessment criteria and priority areas (see tables below)
- independent (community) panel assessment – the panel reviews the officer assessments and recommends funding allocations to Council in a council report
- Council review and endorsement – funding recommendations are further reviewed by Council then endorsed

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on a weighted average scoring system, as shown in the tables below:

Key criteria – weighting	What we look for when assessing a grant application
Well planned – 50%	**Event rationale** • the reasons for staging/developing the event including details on the target audience, participants, and spectators **Event plan and budget** • expertise and experience of the team responsible for planning and delivering the event • an event plan (site plan, schedule, marketing, logistics, etc.) • a risk assessment to ensure the safety of the public, participants, staff, and volunteers • a clear budget that details all project costs including contingency and all income sources relevant to the project. The budget must show events aren't solely reliant on grant income by demonstrating some costs will be self-funded or confirmed to come from other income streams • that the funding request is realistic for the expected attendance and economic return • an understanding of the permits and approvals that will be required for the event to proceed, including evidence that the venue or location is booked • demonstrate quality and uniqueness of the event
Strategic impact – 25%	• contribution to a diverse and balanced (seasonal and geographical) calendar of events • demonstrate how the event will contribute economic impact to the municipality by enticing audiences that support local economy to the City
Community impact – 25%	• is inclusive and accessible • how the event will be promoted to the general public • opportunities for free or low-cost involvement for participants

PRIORITISING APPLICATIONS

If the total request for funding exceeds the grant funds available, we will prioritise:

- applications that have not received funding from this grant in the previous financial year
- applications from organisation that do not receive funding from electronic gaming machines

GRANT ALLOCATION INFORMATION

Applications can be made to multiple grant programs for relevant and distinct projects or programs.

A single project, event, activity or program will only be funded in one grant program category within a given financial year. This means we will not fund part of a project in one grant program, and part in another.

We generally only fund projects once. You cannot rely on this grant for ongoing or recurrent funding. However, we will consider funding a project again if there are compelling reasons, in line with the objectives of this grant. Any decision to award further funding will be based on the merit of the application.

Grant amounts allocated are specific to the grant category as detailed in each individual program guidelines.

Grant amounts offered to successful applicants are based on outcomes determined during the assessment process and in line with budget limitations.

In some cases, applicants may also be offered partial funding to run a reduced or modified project.

What happens next?

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If your application is successful, you will be notified in writing within one week after funding recommendations are endorsed.

You will be sent a funding agreement explaining the terms and conditions of our offer. Once you sign and return the agreement, we will send your funding within 30 working days.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS UNSUCCESSFUL

If your application is unsuccessful, you will be notified in writing.

As grants are a competitive process, even if an application meets the criteria, it may not be competitive against other applications.

If you would like further feedback on why your application was unsuccessful, please contact communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

If there are funds remaining in the grant pool, we may choose to offer a second round of grants. While unsuccessful applicants are eligible to reapply, we would recommend revising the application to make sure it fits the assessment criteria before doing so.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

If your grant is successful, you will be required to enter into a funding agreement that will establish:

a. the terms and conditions of funding;
b. the details of the activity;
c. the deliverables;
d. reporting requirements; and
e. the schedule of payments.

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, PROMOTION AND MARKETING

Successful grant applicants must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong as a funding source.

This can be done by using the City's logo in marketing and publicity materials, social media, acknowledgement at launches and/or invitations for Councillors or City representatives to attend events.

COVID-19

All activities must comply with the latest health advice and government restrictions, as detailed at: https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/

FINANCIAL ACQUITTAL, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

A project evaluation and financial acquittal must be provided within one month of the agreed completion date for the project. The financial acquittal is an income and expenditure statement for the grant confirming that funding has been spent on the activity in accordance with the funding agreement.

City officers may request meetings with the applicant to check progress or undertake an independent audit of the books and records of the applicant as they relate directly to the grant.

Applicants must maintain accurate financial records for the grant and make them available to the City in the event of any audit by the City into the use of the grant.

INSURANCE

If required, you must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in the grant application and include a PLI certificate of currency with your application. Applicants using an auspice would include a certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

Grant payments are made to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required prior to releasing any grant funds. The Grants Team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this at the appropriate time.

If successful applicants do not provide either an ABN or a "Statement by a Supplier" form, the City may be required to withhold the top marginal tax rate (i.e., 45%) from the grant payment.

TIMING AND WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDING

Successful applicants must spend their allocated funds within 12 months of notification unless their funding agreement extends beyond 12 months or otherwise negotiated.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year the grant was awarded or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

VARIATION TO FUNDED PROJECTS

Projects are funded for delivery as described in the funding agreement. Successful applicants must seek approval in writing from the City if changes need to be made. This includes delays to the original completion date or the ability to fully expend the grant funds within the agreed timeframes.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if you are unable to confirm alternative arrangements within a reasonable time frame.

If a project is discontinued or the grant funds are no longer required, all funds must be repaid to the City.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

2023-24 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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About these grants

The purpose of these grants is to support the planning and delivery of community-led infrastructure projects that provide access to places, spaces, and services where and when people need them the most; and provide facilities that foster and facilitate positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

The City's role is to deliver liveable and accessible places, promote active and healthy lifestyles at every stage of life, deliver services and programs more equitably and support people to stay connected with others in their local community. We also need to create an environment where everyone feels welcome and valued for their unique contribution – regardless of age, ability, gender, cultural background, geographic location, or income status.

Community infrastructure does this by providing places and spaces for building community. It includes open spaces, recreation and sports facilities, arts and cultural facilities, community centres, early years facilities and meeting places.

There is total funding available of $2,700,000 with individual grants being offered of up to $50,000 for planning and $350,000 for capital works per application.

The grant is divided into two categories (see table below) and our aim is to help eligible community organisations to renew, upgrade, or build new facilities to provide a better level of service, increase programs or improve how spaces function.

CATEGORY	WHAT WILL BE FUNDED	MAXIMUM FUNDING PER APPLICANT
Planning	Costs associated with facility development planning, concept designs and detailed designs for future infrastructure projects that demonstrate strong community benefit and align with key priority areas of this program	$50,000
Capital Works	To assist with cost of ready to go community infrastructure projects. Infrastructure projects must be openly accessible to and have strong community benefits and align with the key priority areas of this program Not applicable for the purchase of land	$350,000

- only one proposal can be considered per applicant per financial year
- success with a planning application is not a guarantee for funding in subsequent years for delivery of capital works

YOU WILL HAVE TO MATCH OUR FUNDING

The City will only fund up to two-thirds of your total project cost to the maximum grant funding offered.

You must match our funding with one dollar for every two dollars we grant and provide any remaining funding required. Evidence of match-funding must be provided for all applications.

Match-funding ensures project viability and demonstrates community commitment to finalising the project.

Example of match-funding amounts			
Total Project Cost	City of Greater Geelong funding (2/3 of total project cost)	Applicant match-funding (one dollar for every two dollars funding)	Additional applicant contribution
$45,000	$30,000	$15,000	nil
$525,000	$350,000 (maximum grant)	$175,000	nil
$600,000	$350,000 (maximum grant)	$175,000	$75,000

MATCH-FUNDING EXEMPTIONS

Organisations who wish to apply for a full or partial exemption from match-funding must apply via our SmartyGrants online system.

Important – If you are applying for an exemption, you must do this first and include the outcome of the assessment with your Planning or Capital Works funding application.

The application for match-funding exemption requires you to:

- describe the project and estimate the total cost
- explain why you cannot contribute the required funds
- outline how much you can contribute (if any)
- provide financial statements for the last three years*
- address the assessment criteria (listed below)

* Note: Financial statements must include an income and expenditure report and balance sheet.

Assessment of exemptions will take into consideration:

- financial capacity of the applicant to contribute funds
- improved access to service
- age of organisation (with a preference to support new and emerging organisations)
- diversity and/or disadvantage of applicant's members, community, or location
- alignment to the City's policies

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this grant must be made via our SmartyGrants online system.

There are two ways you can access the online application form:

1. Visit the Community Grants page at the Geelong Australia website, select the grant program you wish to apply for from the list, click the 'Apply online' button that appears on the page, log-in or create an account.
2. Visit https://geelong.smartygrants.com.au/applicant, select 'current rounds' at the top right of the page, select the grant you wish to apply for, log-in or create an account then complete and submit the form.

KEY DATES

Applications will be accepted until 5.00 pm on the closing date. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Match-funding applications open	3 June 2023
Match-funding applications close	10 July 2023
Grant applications open:	3 June 2023
Grant applications close:	21 August 2023
Notification to applicants:	15 December 2023
Project start and end:	funding is for projects scheduled to start after the notification date. It is expected that projects are ready-to-go and can be completed within 12 months of execution of the funding agreement.

You are encouraged to apply for match funding exemption as early as possible. We will notify you of the outcome within 2 to 3 weeks of receiving your application.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Your project may require permits or approvals.

These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in the project plan.

You do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, but if your funding application is successful, securing them is a condition of the grant. The City may choose not to make any grant payments until the relevant permits and approvals are secured and submitted with the funding agreement.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. Please refer to the assessment criteria under ‘well planned projects’ on page 14.

FIRST NATIONS

For all applicants intending to apply for a grant with a First Nations theme you must provide evidence of engagement with First Nations Communities, and/or the specific First Nation community groups identified in your proposal.

You must also demonstrate awareness and understanding of the Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006) and/or the City’s Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan and/or Social Equity Framework which includes the City’s support to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

You are strongly encouraged to talk to the Grants Team prior to applying.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To discuss your project or request help with the application process, please contact our grants team at communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au, or call 5272 5560.

NOT THE RIGHT GRANT FOR YOU?

There are a variety of other funding opportunities available. Find out more by visiting www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants

Who can and can't apply?

The City's grants are primarily offered to not-for-profit community organisations with some exceptions to suit the objectives of individual grants.

The following table describes who is and isn't eligible to apply for funding through this grant:

APPLICANT TYPE	YES	NO
Not-for-profit, incorporated bodies or registered under company law who operate on public land managed or owned by Council, or Crown land where the management of the facility is community based and there is access for the broader community (herein referred to as "PUBLIC").	✓	
Not-for-profit, incorporated bodies or registered under company law who operate in facilities NOT located on Council owned or managed land; or managed or maintained by Council (herein referred to as "PRIVATE") which provide access for the broader community.	✓	
Unincorporated bodies with an auspice	✓	
Schools and learning institutions – only for activities that are not curriculum based and the primary benefit is for the wider community	✓	
For-profits - commercial entities, businesses		X
Individual/Sole Traders (entity type with Australian Business Register)		X
Individuals (without an ABN)		X
Tenant clubs/organisations that have not resolved a breach of the Victorian Code for Community Sport.		X
Applicants that have received funding from this grant in the current financial year (applies only when a second grant round is offered by the City)		X
Applicants with outstanding acquittals for grant funding from the City – including auspices		X
Applicants with outstanding debts or arrears to the City of Greater Geelong or in legal proceedings with the City		X
An organisation involved in legal proceedings relating to winding up its operations, or experiencing insolvency or bankruptcy (this includes any legal bankruptcy-related actions against the organisation's directors or officers)		X

WHAT IF YOU ARE NOT INCORPORATED?

If you are a not-for-profit organisation, you can still apply by using an auspice.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support your application. If you're successful, the auspice receives the grant money on your behalf so you can undertake the project work.

If you are planning on using an auspice, please:

- obtain approval from your proposed auspice before you submit your application
- ensure the auspice signs the application form and funding agreement and provides their banking details in the application

Some auspice organisations may charge an auspice fee. This is at their discretion and should be negotiated between the applicant and the auspice.

What can you apply for?

Your grant activity must take place within the City of Greater Geelong

These grants are to renew, upgrade and build new community infrastructure. Applicants can apply for either planning or project delivery. The following is a list of ideas and examples that will be considered for funding. It is a guide only and the list should not be considered exhaustive.

Planning grants

Community groups can apply for planning grants to fund strategic planning or design development for future infrastructure developments such as:

- strategic infrastructure planning – facility development plans
- infrastructure design – concept through to detailed design for future infrastructure projects
- detailed designs (tender documentation) for projects under $350k e.g., netball courts, cricket practice facilities, sports lighting

Note: the City reserves the right to project manage any successful planning grant applications for City assets.

Capital works grants

Renewal Projects - means to bring an asset back up to its original standard

- change room renewal
- pavilion renewal
- cricket training facilities including nets
- kitchen refurbishments
- accessibility upgrades to comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements e.g., ramps and toilets

Upgrade Projects – means to make the asset better than original standard

- pavilion upgrades
- change room upgrades
- indoor and outdoor lights: new technology, increase lumens, compliance with sporting codes
- replacing turf pitches
- digital scoreboards
- environmental initiatives

Build New Projects – means brand new assets

- community gardens (not for plants, soil, tools etc)
- cricket nets
- behind/safety goal netting
- outdoor lights that improve participation and safety
- multipurpose training facilities

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Information you need for your application:

Match-funding exemption applications

- financial statements (income and expenditure statement plus balance sheet) for the last three years.
- estimate of project cost

Grant applications

- evidence that all other funding sources are secured
- notification of outcome of match-funding exemption application
- letter from landowner with approval for all applications on Private or Crown land
- letter from the City of Greater Geelong with approval for all applications on City land or assets
- letters of support for the proposed work from all other tenants or users of the facility
- quotes as per the guideline requirements
  - project cost up to $25K = one current written quote
  - project cost $25K-$150K = three current written quotes
  - project cost $150K and above = three current written quotes and an independent quantity surveyor's (QS) report. You may choose to include as a minimum the QS report only. If your application is successful, you must provide three quotes to secure funding and enter into a funding agreement

    Note: to qualify as current, quote/s cannot be older than six months at the time of submitting your application.
- any works on Council land or Council assets must be undertaken by a commercial builder unless otherwise exempt by the building code
- concept design drawings for your proposal, particularly for projects requesting $150K and above in funding
- site plans – a map of the site (surveyed) that provides an aerial image of the asset being proposed including its location and extent for consideration within the context of existing site conditions i.e., trees, services, fences, buildings, existing assets
- a certificate of currency for public liability insurance with a minimum cover of $20 million for any one occurrence

PROJECT BUDGETS AND GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

It is the responsibility of your organisation to determine whether GST applies and if so, comply with GST reporting and payment rules.

Entities registered for GST or required to be registered for GST may be required to collect and remit GST on grant funds awarded.

Entities that are registered for GST or required to be registered for GST may also be entitled to claim GST input tax credits in respect of project expenditures.

If you are registered for GST and submit a valid tax invoice, the City will pay the grant funding amount plus GST.

If you are not registered for GST or not required to be registered for GST, the City will pay the grant funding amount only without GST.

PROJECT BUDGETS AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Your project budget can include in-kind contributions for goods and services. Examples include volunteer labour for qualified trades (e.g., electrician, plumber) or donated building materials.

The value of in-kind contributions is based on your best estimate and must be supported by evidence such as a quote with a waiver of fees or the cash value of donated goods from a third-party supplier.

The volunteer cost of project management or committee time is not accepted as an in-kind contribution.

The City reserves the right to request that the proposed value of goods or services is included as a cash expense in the project budget for successful applications. This may result in a request for additional match-funding from the applicant.

What won't be funded?

The following items, activities or projects will not be funded by Community Infrastructure Grants:

- capital works applications for projects with total costs more than $3.5 million (there is no project cost limit for planning applications)
- types of planning:
  - business cases
  - feasibility assessments
  - any planning not for infrastructure projects
- maintenance –expenditure that keeps the asset in its current condition for example:
  - painting
  - replacement of carpets
  - repair works to broken items
  - cleaning
  - replacing broken equipment.
- furniture and fittings e.g., couches, tables, chairs, curtains, TVs
- equipment and appliances e.g., BBQs, stoves, fridges, dishwashers, ovens, commercial kitchen equipment
- purchase of land
- public art installations
- costs associated with insurance claims; repair works caused by natural disasters such as fire or because of vandalism
- projects that do not meet relevant Australian standards (e.g., lighting projects or netball court dimensions)
- projects where contributions from funding partners or other grant/funding programs are not confirmed in writing within a timeframe stipulated by Council
- facilities designated for electronic gaming machine operations
- bar facilities
- projects previously funded by the City of Greater Geelong (exception will be made if applicant can demonstrate additional or new uses resulting in increases in participation or program outcomes)

CITY'S COMMUNITY GRANTS

In general, the following items, activities or projects will not be funded by any of the City's Community Grants.

- projects or activities that occur outside the City of Greater Geelong municipality (where activities also have outcome/s that occur outside the municipality, only the portion taking place within Greater Geelong is eligible)
- cost of Council services where fees are normally charged e.g., Council rates, waste removal, building or planning permits or approvals, parking etc.
- existing staff and salary costs (funds to cover costs for additional staffing or contractors, that relate directly to the grant application, will be considered)
- requests for retrospective purchases or projects, or where activities commence prior to notification of funding outcome
- fundraising events where the main aim is to directly fundraise for a charity

- prizes, gifts, awards or sponsorship costs, such as trophies, medals, money and vouchers.
- political, gaming or gambling activities
- activities and expenditure that can be considered core business e.g., ongoing projects and activities, administration overheads such as utilities, insurances and fees.
- additional funding for previously successful applications
- projects, activities or events that could potentially commit the City to funding on an ongoing basis
- projects, activities or events that better meet the criteria of another City of Greater Geelong grant or program

How are applications assessed?

All applications received will go through the following assessment process

- eligibility checks –applications are checked against the criteria on pages 7 to 13 to determine their eligibility
- officer panel assessment – eligible applications are assessed according to the assessment criteria and priority areas (see tables below)
- independent (community) panel assessment – the panel reviews the officer assessments and recommends funding allocations to Council in a council report
- Council review and endorsement – funding recommendations are further reviewed by Council then endorsed

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on a weighted average scoring system, as shown in the tables below:

Planning and Capital Works Applications	
Key criteria – weighting	**What we look for when assessing an application**
Well Planned Project 40%	• a clear description of what is included in the project (scope) and that the project is ready to proceed • relevant construction and/or architectural drawings and approvals • support letters for projects that involve partnerships with other organisations • support letters for all other tenants and users of the facility • demonstrated capacity that the applicant has the necessary expertise to support the delivery of the project • provision of a clear, balanced budget that shows total income equals total expenditure. Budgets must describe and show the total cost of the project including a minimum contingency of 10% and list any other additional sources of funds that will contribute to the total project income • if there are no other additional sources of funding, applicants must provide evidence of exemption from match-funding • that the funding represents value for public money by providing written quotes that accurately reflect the complete scope of proposed works as follows: – project cost up to $25K = one current written quote – project cost $25K-$150K = three current written quotes – project cost $150K and above = three current written quotes and an independent quantity surveyors (QS) report. You may choose to include as a minimum the QS report only. If your application is successful, you must provide three quotes to secure funding and enter into a funding agreement Note: to qualify as current, quote/s cannot be older than six months at the time of submitting your application. • for lighting projects, it is highly recommended that applications for lighting projects:

	– have switchboard and existing power supply inspected – include $10K-$15K for design – include a contingency of 20%
Community Impact 55%	• that your project responds to a clear need or gap in community infrastructure • how your project will deliver one or all the following: – strengthen the capacity of an organisation or groups to deliver existing programs – provide or generate additional services for the community – have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of our local community – the community feels welcome and valued for their unique contribution (regardless of age, ability, gender, cultural background, geographic location or income status) • for PRIVATE applicants, how is long-term ongoing community access to the infrastructure guaranteed
Environmental Impact 5%	The application must demonstrate that the project improves the environmental sustainability of community infrastructure from concept and design, through to decommissioning by delivering one or more of the following environmental benefits • reduced demand for limited and non-renewable resources such as water, materials, and fossil fuel-based energy • reduced greenhouse gas emissions • reduced pollution, toxic by-products, and waste production

NOMINATED PRIORITY FUNDING THEMES

The Council may on an annual basis nominate priority funding themes which will attract an additional score as part of the application assessment. The nominated priority funding themes for 2023-24 attracting additional scores are:

Priority Themes	
Key criteria – weighting	**What we look for when assessing an application**
Access for all abilities 10%	• Demonstration that the project will empower people with a disability to be active contributors and participants in our community
Social equity 10%	• The outcomes of social equity are intended to result in an increased sense of belonging, universal participation and a level playing field for all

PRIORITISING APPLICATIONS

If the total request for funding exceeds the grant funds available, we will prioritise:

- applications that have not received funding from this grant in the previous financial year
- applications from organisation that do not receive funding from electronic gaming machines

GRANT ALLOCATION INFORMATION

Applications can be made to multiple grant programs for relevant and distinct projects or programs.

A single project, event, activity, or program will only be funded in one grant program category within a given financial year. This means we will not fund part of a project in one grant program, and part in another.

We generally only fund projects once. You cannot rely on this grant for ongoing or recurrent funding. However, we will consider funding a project again if there are compelling reasons, in line with the objectives of this grant. Any decision to award further funding will be based on the merit of the application.

Grant amounts allocated are specific to the grant category as detailed in each individual program guidelines.

Grant amounts offered to successful applicants are based on outcomes determined during the assessment process and in line with budget limitations.

In some cases, applicants may also be offered partial funding to run a reduced or modified project.

What happens next?

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If your application is successful, you will be notified in writing within one week after funding recommendations are endorsed.

A project officer from the City will contact you to outline the next steps in the process.

The City may choose to seek additional quotes or run a tender process for projects on City land or assets, and is not obligated to use the applicant's preferred contractor.

After your discussions with the project officer, the City will send you a funding agreement which will outline the grant terms, conditions and payment details.

The City will not make any grant payments without a signed funding agreement, so please do not start your project until you have discussed it, and the grant, with an officer and have returned a signed agreement.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS UNSUCCESSFUL

If your application is unsuccessful, you will be notified in writing.

As grants are a competitive process, even if an application meets the criteria, it may not be competitive against other applications.

If you would like further feedback on why your application was unsuccessful, please contact communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

If there are funds remaining in the grant pool, we may choose to offer a second round of grants. While unsuccessful applicants are eligible to reapply, we would recommend revising the application to make sure it fits the assessment criteria before doing so.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

If your grant is successful, you will be required to enter into a funding agreement that will establish:

a. the terms and conditions of funding;
b. the details of the activity;
c. the deliverables;
d. reporting requirements; and
e. the schedule of payments.

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, PROMOTION AND MARKETING

Successful grant applicants must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong as a funding source.

This can be done by using the City's logo in marketing and publicity materials, social media, acknowledgement at launches and/or invitations for Councillors or City representatives to attend events.

COVID-19

All activities must comply with the latest health advice and government restrictions, as detailed at: https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/

FINANCIAL ACQUITTAL, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

A project evaluation and financial acquittal must be provided within one month of the agreed completion date for the project. The financial acquittal is an income and expenditure statement for the grant confirming that funding has been spent on the activity in accordance with the funding agreement.

City officers may request meetings with the applicant to check progress or undertake an independent audit of the books and records of the applicant as they relate directly to the grant.

Applicants must maintain accurate financial records for the grant and make them available to the City in the event of any audit by the City into the use of the grant.

INSURANCE

If required, you must arrange public liability Insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in the grant application and include a PLI certificate of currency with your application. Applicants using an auspice would include a certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

Grant payments are made to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required prior to releasing any grant funds. The Grants Team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this at the appropriate time.

If successful applicants do not provide either an ABN or a "Statement by a Supplier" form, the City may be required to withhold the top marginal tax rate (i.e. 45%) from the grant payment.

TIMING AND WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDING

Successful applicants must spend their allocated funds within 12 months of notification unless their funding agreement extends beyond 12 months or otherwise negotiated.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year the grant was awarded or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

VARIATION TO FUNDED PROJECTS

Projects are funded for delivery as described in the funding agreement. Successful applicants must seek approval in writing from the City if changes need to be made. This includes delays to the original completion date or the ability to fully expend the grant funds within the agreed timeframes.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if you are unable to confirm alternative arrangements within a reasonable time frame.

If a project is discontinued or the grant funds are no longer required, all funds must be repaid to the City.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS:

EXEMPTION FROM MATCH-FUNDING

2023-24 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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Introduction

MATCH-FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS EXPLAINED

Organisations applying for funding through the City's Community Infrastructure Grants are required to match-fund one dollar for every two dollars they receive. If the funds required from the City exceed the maximum grant allowed, groups must either fund this or seek contributions from other sources (see examples in Table 1 below). Evidence of this contribution must be provided in the grant application. The maximum amount of funding granted for an application is $350,000.

Table 1: Examples of funding contribution arrangements

Total project cost	City of Greater Geelong grant (2/3 of total project cost)	Applicant contribution (one dollar for every two dollars funding)	Additional applicant contribution
$45,000	$30,000	$15,000	nil
$350,000	$233,334	$116,666	nil
$525,000	$350,000 (maximum grant)	$175,000	nil
$600,000	$350,000 (maximum grant)	$175,000	$75,000

The value of match-funding can be cash or the value of in-kind goods and services or a combination of both, (except for in-kind project management)

Table 2: Examples of full and partial exemption

Total project cost	City of Greater Geelong grant	Applicant contribution if exempt from match-funding	Additional applicant contribution
$45,000	$40,000	$5,000 (partial exemption)	nil
$350,000	$350,000	$0 (full exemption)	nil
$525,000	$350,000 (maximum grant)	$175,000	nil
$600,000	$350,000 (maximum grant)	$175,000	$75,000

APPLYING FOR AN EXEMPTION

Applicants requesting a full or partial exemption from match-funding must apply via our SmartyGrants online system.

To apply for a match-funding exemption, you must:

- describe the project and estimate the total cost
- explain why you cannot contribute the required funds
- outline how much you can contribute (if any)
- provide financial statements for the last three years* and
- address the assessment criteria

* Note: Financial statements must include an Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet for each of the three previous years.

KEY DATES

Applications will be accepted until 5.00pm on the closing date. Incomplete or late submissions of applications will not be accepted.

Grant Applications open:	3 June 2023
Match-funding exemptions close:	10 July 2023

You are encouraged to apply for match funding exemption as early as possible.

ASSESSMENT

All applications received will go through the following assessment process:

- Pre-eligibility check – applications will be checked to make sure the proposed project meets the Community Infrastructure Grant guidelines and will not be used to operate electronic gaming machines.
- Financial capacity check – applications are assessed to determine whether the applicant has the capacity to match-fund in full. Applications will only proceed to suitability checks if they pass this review.
- Suitability check – if the applicant is unable to meet the match-funding requirement, their request will be assessed using the remaining criteria
- Assessment of additional factors – in some cases, applications may be given a higher or lower priority due to other factors, such as:
  - whether the recipient organisation receives revenue from electronic gaming machines (these applications will be given a lower priority)
  - other factors not defined in these criteria, such as the importance of the facility to the community, the size of the funding request and the responsibility of owners or national/peak bodies for local assets.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

CRITERIA	What we look for when assessing an application
Financial Capacity Check	
Financial resources	Does your organisation have the financial resources to contribute $1 for every $2 of grant funding? What level of contribution can you make?
Suitability check	
Impact of facility condition	Does the current condition of your infrastructure impact on service delivery?
Age of organisation	Are you a new and emerging group with limited financial resources, looking to grow?
Level of geographic disadvantage	Location of facility
Inclusive and Diverse	Does your organisation help the City achieve the desired outcome of Our Community Plan to create an environment where everyone feels welcome and valued for their unique contribution – regardless of age, ability, gender, cultural background, geographic location or income status.

PROJECT BUDGETS AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Your estimated project budget can include in-kind contributions for goods and services. Examples include volunteer labour for qualified trades (e.g., electrician, plumber) or donated building materials.

The value of in-kind contributions is based on your best estimate and must be supported by evidence such as a quote with a waiver of fees or the cash value of donated goods from a third-party supplier.

The volunteer cost of project management or committee time is not accepted as an in-kind contribution.

The City reserves the right to request that the proposed value of goods or services is included as a cash expense in the project budget for successful applications. This may result in a request for additional match-funding from the applicant.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We will notify you of the outcome within 2 to 3 weeks of receiving your application.

If you choose to continue with a grant funding application, you must include the outcome of the exemption application with your funding submission.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS

2023-24 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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About these grants

The purpose of the Environmental Sustainability Grants is to support the initiation, development and delivery of projects that enhance our natural environment and drive environmental sustainability actions across the Geelong region.

We look for projects that assist the City to improve the health of our local environment, reduce our environmental footprint and protect the lifestyle our community enjoys. The grants help to raise the profile of the Geelong municipality as a leader in addressing climate change and environmental challenges and opportunities.

The grants respond directly to the goals of the City's Environment Strategy 2020-2030 to:

- Goal 1: Become a zero-emission, climate-ready city region
- Goal 2: Create greener community spaces
- Goal 3: Contribute to a circular economy by reducing waste
- Goal 4: Protect, enhance and restore our region's biodiversity
- Goal 5: Achieve better integrated water management through planning and design

The grants are available to support a wide range of community groups for a variety of projects.

There is total funding available of $90,000 with individual grants being offered of up to $10,000 for small environmental capital works, up to $10,000 per application for projects and up to $2,000 for small equipment purchases.

The grant is divided into three categories (see table below) and our aim is to help community groups deliver environmental outcomes that benefit the region.

CATEGORY	WHAT WILL BE FUNDED	MAXIMUM FUNDING PER APPLICANT
Capital Works	Small environmental capital works (e.g., water tanks, solar)	$10,000*
Projects	For the delivery of responsive environmental sustainability projects, programs and community activities	$10,000
Equipment	To assist with the cost of small equipment purchases that help community groups to deliver services and programs	$2,000

*For capital works above $10,000, applicants are advised to apply for a Community Infrastructure Grant

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this grant must be made via our SmartyGrants online system.

There are two ways you can access the online application form:

1. Visit the Community Grants page at the Geelong Australia website, select the grant program you wish to apply for from the list, click the 'Apply online' button that appears on the page, log-in or create an account.
2. Visit https://geelong.smartygrants.com.au/applicant, select 'current rounds' at the top right of the page, select the grant you wish to apply for, log-in or create an account then complete and submit the form.

KEY DATES

Applications will be accepted until 5.00 pm on the closing date. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Applications open:	3 June 2023
Applications close:	24 July 2023
Notification to applicants:	1 December 2023
Activity start and end:	Activity cannot start until after notification date and must be completed within 12 months

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Proposed projects or events may require permits or approvals.

These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in the project plan. Grant funding cannot be used to pay for a permit or approval issued by the City.

You do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, but if your funding application is successful, securing them is a condition of the grant. The City will not make any grant payments until the relevant permits and approvals are secured and submitted with the funding agreement.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. Please refer to the assessment criteria under 'well planned projects' on pages 9 and 10.

FIRST NATIONS

For all applicants intending to apply for a grant with a First Nations theme you must provide evidence of engagement with First Nations Communities, and/or the specific First Nation community groups identified in your proposal.

You must also demonstrate awareness and understanding of the Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006) and/or the City's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan and/or Social Equity Framework which includes the City's support to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

You are strongly encouraged to talk to the Grants Team prior to applying.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To discuss your project or request help with the application process, please contact our grants team at communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au, or call on 5272 5560.

NOT THE RIGHT GRANT FOR YOU?

There are a variety of other funding opportunities available. Find out more by visiting www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants

Who can and can't apply?

The City's grants are primarily offered to not-for-profit community organisations with some exceptions to suit the objectives of individual grants.

The following table describes who is and isn't eligible to apply for funding through these grants:

APPLICANT TYPE	YES	NO
Not-for-profits - incorporated bodies, co-operatives or associations	✓	
Registered charitable organisations – refer to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	✓	
Unincorporated bodies with an auspice	✓	
Schools and learning institutions – only for activities that are not curriculum based and the primary benefit is for the wider community	✓	
Landowners or authorised managers	✓	
For-profits - commercial entities, businesses		X
Individual/Sole Traders (entity type with Australian Business Register)		X
Applicants that have received funding from this grant in the current financial year (applies only when a second grant round is offered by the City)		X
Applicants with outstanding acquittals for grant funding from the City – including auspices		X
Applicants with outstanding debts or arrears to the City of Greater Geelong or in legal proceedings with the City		X
An organisation involved in legal proceedings relating to winding up its operations, or experiencing insolvency or bankruptcy (this includes any legal bankruptcy-related actions against the organisation's directors or officers)		X

WHAT IF YOU ARE NOT INCORPORATED?

If you are a not-for-profit organisation, you can still apply by using an auspice.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support your application. If you're successful, the auspice receives the grant money on your behalf so you can undertake the project work.

If you are planning on using an auspice, please:

- obtain approval from your proposed auspice before you submit your application
- ensure the auspice signs the application form and funding agreement and provides their banking details in the application

Some auspice organisations may charge an auspice fee. This is at their discretion and should be negotiated between the applicant and the auspice.

What can you apply for?

Your grant activity must take place within the City of Greater Geelong.

The following is a list of ideas and examples that will be considered for funding. It is guide only and the list should not be considered exhaustive.

Capital works

In this category we are seeking proposals to support the sustainable and efficient use of natural resources, including energy, water and materials. Suggested ideas that are suitable for applications include:

- solar installations
- water tanks
- high efficiency water irrigation.

Projects

In this category, we are seeking proposals that improve the health of our local environment, reduce our environmental footprint, and protect the lifestyle our community enjoys. Suggested ideas that are suitable for applications include:

Protect our Natural Environment

- re-vegetation with indigenous (locally native) plants
- purchase of re-vegetation materials and equipment
- pest plant and/or animal control measures
- creating healthy waterways

Environmental Sustainability

- sustainable transport e.g., reducing fossil fuels associated with transport, bicycle skills training, end-of-trip facilities, carpooling initiatives
- reducing waste e.g., reducing waste going to landfill, recycling systems, composting systems
- greening urban spaces e.g., urban/rooftop gardens, sustainable food production, community gardens, local food events, connecting people to nature, reducing urban heat

Community Engagement

- community events that engage on environmental or sustainability themes
- development of educational or capacity building materials and resources
- development of a strategic or business plan, or land management plans for a community group
- initiatives that build capacity and promote best practice in the natural environment or environmental sustainability e.g., workshops, networking events, training and skill development

Equipment

Note: Equipment must remain the property of the applicant organisation and be located within the City of Greater Geelong.

In this category we provide support for small equipment purchases that help community groups deliver services and programs and directly contribute to positive environmental benefits or outcomes. Suggested ideas that are suitable for applications include:

- tools for tree planting and weed removal
- tree guards to reduce damage to newly planted trees

What won't be funded?

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS

The following will not be funded by the Environmental Sustainability Grants:

- removal of native vegetation or other environmental assets
- re-vegetation with non-indigenous plants
- works or equipment for landscaping without positive biodiversity benefits or outcomes
- upgrading facilities where the sustainability outcomes or credentials are minimal or incidental
- events or initiatives that do not have a clear focus on environment or sustainability outcomes
- projects on designated private land will be excluded for consideration unless there is a broader environmental and community benefit, e.g., creating a biodiversity corridor across private lands

CITY'S COMMUNITY GRANTS

In general, the following items, activities or projects will not be funded by any of the City's Community Grants.

- projects or activities that occur outside the City of Greater Geelong municipality (where activities also have outcome/s that occur outside the municipality, only the portion taking place within Greater Geelong is eligible)
- cost of Council services where fees are normally charged e.g., Council rates, waste removal, building or planning permits or approvals, parking etc.
- existing staff and salary costs (funds to cover costs for additional staffing or contractors, that relate directly to the grant application, will be considered)
- requests for retrospective purchases or projects, or where activities commence prior to notification of funding outcome
- fundraising events where the main aim is to directly fundraise for a charity
- prizes, gifts, awards or sponsorship costs, such as trophies, medals, money and vouchers
- political, gaming or gambling activities
- activities and expenditure that can be considered core business e.g., ongoing projects and activities, administration overheads such as utilities, insurances and fees
- additional funding for previously successful applications
- projects, activities or events that could potentially commit the City to funding on an ongoing basis
- projects, activities or events that better meet the criteria of another City of Greater Geelong grant or program

How are applications assessed?

All applications received will go through the following assessment process:

- eligibility checks –applications are checked against the criteria on pages 5 to 8 to determine their eligibility
- officer panel assessment – eligible applications are assessed according to the assessment criteria and priority areas (see tables below)
- independent (community) panel assessment – the panel reviews the officer assessments and recommends funding allocations to Council in a council report
- Council review and endorsement – funding recommendations are further reviewed by Council then endorsed

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on a weighted average scoring system, as shown in the tables below:

CATEGORY – CAPITAL WORKS AND PROJECTS	
Key criteria – weighting	**What we look for when assessing a project grant application**
Well Planned Project **25%**	**The application must demonstrate:** • your understanding of any permits and approvals that may be required • evidence that the proposed venue/location is suitable and available for the event (if applicable) • a clear, balanced budget showing total income equals total expenditure. The budget must describe and show the total cost of the project including contingency and list any other additional sources of funds that will contribute to the total project income • detailed quotes or estimates from suppliers as evidence of your project costs * • experience of the people involved in delivery or your activity
Community Impact **15%**	**Considers how the project will:** • lead and support education and/or capacity building for business and community to encourage sustainable practice • achieve greater environmental sustainability outcomes for our community by working with others • harness community knowledge to drive sustainable change • improve access to programs for people with all abilities • have a direct or indirect impact on local economic growth, business and/or organisational capacity.
Environmental Impact **60%**	**Considers how your project responds to the City's Environment Strategy 2020-30 goals by:** • reducing carbon emissions • increasing take-up of energy efficiency and renewable power • building community resilience to the impacts of climate change

CATEGORY – CAPITAL WORKS AND PROJECTS	
	• increasing the quantity and quality of our protected natural environment. • seals and supports our community to adopt sustainable practices to move toward zero-waste. • manages our water efficiently using best practice standards. • greens our urban spaces - Supports partnerships and programs that engage our community in environmental restoration projects.

CATEGORY - EQUIPMENT	
Key criteria – weighting	**What we look for when assessing an equipment grant application**
Well-planned project **25%**	• clear reasons why the equipment is needed, and how it will be used. • where it will be located and who will have access to it. • a clear, well-balanced budget that shows: – the total cost of the equipment. – additional funding sources that will contribute to total equipment costs, or an explanation of why additional funding isn't possible. • current and comprehensive written quote(s), sourced within the last six months.
Community impact **60%**	• explanation of how purchasing the equipment will have a positive impact on your club, group or the community.
Environmental impact **15%**	• that you have minimised the environmental impact of the purchase by considering factors such as disposal of packaging, choice of supplier and opportunity to recycle redundant equipment. • that you have chosen equipment with warranties for repairs and maintenance and longer life (if this is an option).
TOTAL 100%	

* Acceptable evidence of costs includes:

- quotes with supplier's business name ABN/ACN and contact details
- screenshots from online retailers including item description, price, supplier's business name

project staff/contractor costs calculated from industry awards or codes of practice

PRIORITISING APPLICATIONS

If the total request for funding exceeds the grant funds available, we will prioritise

- applications that have not received funding from this grant in the previous financial year
- applications from organisation that do not receive funding from electronic gaming machines

GRANT ALLOCATION INFORMATION

Applications can be made to multiple grant programs for relevant and distinct projects or programs.

A single project, event, activity or program will only be funded in one grant program category within a given financial year. This means we will not fund part of a project in one grant program, and part in another.

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In some cases, applicants may also be offered partial funding to run a reduced or modified project.

What happens next?

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If your application is successful, you will be notified in writing within one week after funding recommendations are endorsed.

You will be sent a funding agreement explaining the terms and conditions of our offer. Once you sign and return the agreement, we will send your funding within 30 working days.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS UNSUCCESSFUL

If your application is unsuccessful, you will be notified in writing.

As grants are a competitive process, even if an application meets the criteria, it may not be competitive against other applications.

If you would like further feedback on why your application was unsuccessful, please contact communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

If there are funds remaining in the grant pool, we may choose to offer a second round of grants. While unsuccessful applicants are eligible to reapply, we would recommend revising the application to make sure it fits the assessment criteria before doing so.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

If your grant is successful you will be required to enter into a funding agreement that will establish:

a. the terms and conditions of funding;
b. the details of the activity;
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Applicants must maintain accurate financial records for the grant and make them available to the City in the event of any audit by the City into the use of the grant.

INSURANCE

If required, you must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in the grant application and include a PLI certificate of currency with your application. Applicants using an auspice would include a certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

Grant payments are made to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required prior to releasing any grant funds. The Grants Team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this at the appropriate time.

If successful applicants do not provide either an ABN or a "Statement by a Supplier" form, the City may be required to withhold the top marginal tax rate (i.e., 45%) from the grant payment.

TIMING AND WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDING

Successful applicants must spend their allocated funds within 12 months of notification unless their funding agreement extends beyond 12 months or otherwise negotiated.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year the grant was awarded or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

VARIATION TO FUNDED PROJECTS

Projects are funded for delivery as described in the funding agreement. Successful applicants must seek approval in writing from the City if changes need to be made. This includes delays to the original completion date or the ability to fully expend the grant funds within the agreed timeframes.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if you are unable to confirm alternative arrangements within a reasonable time frame.

If a project is discontinued or the grant funds are no longer required, all funds must be repaid to the City.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANTS

2023-24 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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Acknowledgement for Country

We Acknowledge the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the Land, Waterways and Skies. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

We Acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of our Greater Geelong community today.

About these grants

The purpose of the First Nations Cultural Heritage Grants is to protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, promote a greater appreciation and awareness of our Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Geelong and improve the skills and expertise of heritage professionals.

This grant was established in 2021 in collaboration with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) and is guided by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. The objectives of the grant are:

- to protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in the greater Geelong area
- to conserve and protect items of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage that are included on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register (VAHR)
- to improve knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage particularly as it relates to Traditional Owners as protectors of their Cultural Heritage
- to increase understanding, respect and celebration of and cultural participation in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- to support connection to Country and self-determination

There is total funding available of $90,000 with no limit on individual grant amounts.

GRANT	WHAT WILL BE FUNDED	MAXIMUM FUNDING PER APPLICANT
First Nations Cultural Heritage	Projects that recognise, restore, protect and preserve both tangible and intangible, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	Applicants may request the suitable amount of funding that is required for their project. Funding requests cannot exceed the total grant budget available of $90,000

CONTEXT

This grant has been developed in accordance with the City's legislative obligations under the State's Aboriginal Heritage Act (the Act) 2006, the commitments in our Reconciliation Action Plan and in the spirit of the Uluru Statement of the Heart. For a better understanding of these important documents, please refer below.

Legislation

The Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (the Act) provides for the protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Victoria. The Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018 give effect to the Act. The Act defines Cultural and Intangible Heritage as follows:

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Section 4 of the Act defines Aboriginal Cultural Heritage as Aboriginal places, objects and Aboriginal Ancestral remains. An Aboriginal place is defined as an area in Victoria or the coastal waters of Victoria that is of Cultural Heritage significance to Aboriginal people generally or of a particular community or group of Aboriginal people in Victoria.

Aboriginal Intangible Heritage

Section 79B of the Act, defines Aboriginal Intangible Heritage as any knowledge of or expression of Aboriginal tradition, other than Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, and includes oral traditions, performing arts,

stories, rituals, festivals, social practices, craft, visual arts, and environmental and ecological knowledge, but does not include anything that is widely known to the public.

Uluru Statement from the Heart

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is addressed to the Australia people and states 'We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.'

The City's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan

The City's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan explains 'how we are going to change the ways we do things to better support reconciliation, both within our origination and with the community.' The Plan identifies three opportunity actions including establishing this grant.

HOW TO APPLY

This is a competitive grant open to the public for applications and has a three-step application process.

Potential applicants must first attend an information session held by the City which will explain all aspects of the grant including Cultural Heritage legislation, expectations for engagement with First Nations Community with your project and other matters such as eligibility and project planning.

Interested applicants may then choose to present their project to the assessment panel for review, discussion and feedback. The City will support applicants by providing a template for this presentation.

If the panel is supportive of the project, the City will provide the applicant with an invitation to apply for funding.

The funding application must be made online via SmartyGrants, the web-based grants management program used by the City to administer all of its grant programs.

Applications cannot be made on paper forms or submitted by email, post or hand delivery.

Applications containing all relevant information and documents must be submitted by the closing date. Late applications will not be accepted.

KEY DATES

Applications will be accepted until 5.00 pm on the closing date. Late submissions of applications will not be accepted.

Information Session	August 2023
Presentation to Assessment Panel	September/October 2023
Funding applications close	November 30, 2023
Notification to applicants:	January/February 2024
Activity start and end:	Activity cannot start until after notification date and must be completed within 12 to 18 months of executing a funding agreement

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Proposed projects may require permits or approvals.

Applicants must consider whether the proposed works will require approval under the State Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 *and Regulations 2018* and/or Greater Geelong Planning Scheme. This may include a permit to undertake works and/or action or requirement to prepare a Cultural Heritage Management Permit (CHMP).

These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in the project plan. Approval under these Acts requires formal consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Party, WTOAC, and applicants may start the permits and approvals process prior to applying for grant funding.

For Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, the City encourages all work to avoid impacts to Aboriginal sites. Where avoidance is not feasible, then the scale of impact is to be minimised or mitigated.

Note: You do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, but if your funding application is successful, securing them is a condition of the grant. The City will not make any grant payments until the relevant permits and approvals are secured and submitted with the funding agreement.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. Please refer to the assessment criteria under 'well-planned project' on page 12.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To discuss your project or request help with the application process and SmartyGrants, please contact our grants team at communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au, or call 5272 5560.

You are encouraged to also discuss your application with the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Senior Policy Officer.

To discuss your project with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation please call 5222 5889.

RESOURCES

It is important to the City that applicants can submit a well thought through and well-developed application that answers all eligibility questions, addresses all the criteria and provides the evidence and support documents required. To assist applicants, we have compiled a list of useful website links as follows:

- Aboriginal Heritage Legislation www.aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-heritage-legislation
- Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register – refer to Aboriginal Victoria staff for assistance www.aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au/victorian-aboriginal-heritage-register
- Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation www.aboriginalheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/wadawurrung-traditional-owners-aboriginal-corporation
- Greater Geelong Planning Scheme – refer to Statutory Planning staff for assistance https://planning-schemes.api.delwp.vic.gov.au/schemes/greatergeelong
- Find out more about Victoria's Aboriginal places and objects www.aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-places-and-objects

NOT THE RIGHT GRANT FOR YOU?

There are a variety of other funding opportunities available. Find out more by visiting www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants

Who can and can't apply?

The City's grants are primarily offered to not-for-profit community organisations with some exceptions to suit the objectives of individual grants.

The following table describes who is and isn't eligible to apply for funding through these grants:

APPLICANT TYPE	YES	NO
Not-for-profits - incorporated bodies, co-operatives or associations	✓	
Registered charitable organisations – refer to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	✓	
Unincorporated bodies with an auspice	✓	
Schools and learning institutions – only for activities that are not curriculum based and the primary benefit is for the wider community	✓	
For-profits - commercial entities, businesses	✓	
Individual/Sole Traders (entity type with Australian Business Register)		X
Individuals (without an ABN)		X
Government Departments and Agencies		X
Organisations that have breached their Reconciliation Action Plan as determined by Reconciliation Australia		X
Organisations in breach of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and/or the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme		X
Applicants that have received funding from this grant in the current financial year (applies only when a second grant round is offered by the City)		X
Applicants with outstanding acquittals for grant funding from the City – including auspices		X
Applicants with outstanding debts or arrears to the City of Greater Geelong or in legal proceedings with the City		X
An organisation involved in legal proceedings relating to winding up its operations, or experiencing insolvency or bankruptcy (this includes any legal bankruptcy-related actions against the organisation's directors or officers)		X

WHAT IF YOU ARE NOT INCORPORATED?

If you are a not-for-profit organisation, you can still apply by using an auspice.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support your application. If you're successful, the auspice receives the grant money on your behalf so you can undertake the project work.

If you are planning on using an auspice, please:

- obtain approval from your proposed auspice before you submit your application
- ensure the auspice signs the application form and funding agreement and provides their banking details in the application

Some auspice organisations may charge an auspice fee. This is at their discretion and should be negotiated between the applicant and the auspice.

What can you apply for?

Your grant activity must take place within the City of Greater Geelong.

Grants are available for Tangible Cultural Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage projects. These terms are explained on page 5 of these guidelines. The following is a list of ideas and examples that will be considered for funding. It is guide only and the list should not be considered exhaustive.

CRITICAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

This is not an arts grant. The current view on Arts as it pertains to Traditional Owners is that:

- Victoria is not a dot painting state
- Victorian First Nations visual arts is more aligned to linework, as a design state in terms of artist expression of Cultural Heritage
- Music – most Victorian Traditional Owners do not endorse didgeridoo music

TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE PROJECTS

- Land use projects that demonstrate the Cultural Narrative and/or significance of an area of Land.
- Water use projects including Traditional Aquacultural - fishing farming systems (rock pools), water-craft - transport – travel.
- Ancestral Remains Repatriation Projects – bringing them home projects to rest the remains of Ancestors on Country as per the legislation.
- Cultural Heritage Restoration Projects that demonstrate living Cultural practices, such as repatriation or restoration of tangible objects, such as axe heads, flints, water-crafts or dwellings and other projects of tangible Cultural Heritage significance.

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE PROJECTS

- Languages and Knowledge Systems Projects - place naming projects – Language revival projects that demonstrate the Language connection to land and water.
- Ancestral and oral traditions – social practices – kinship systems.
- Environmental and Ecological systems – Fire Season Calendar, food production systems, traditional healing and medicines.
- Living Cultural Practices and Customs – includes law/lore, birthing ceremony, possum skin ceremony, Traditional women's and men's ceremony as living Cultural rites and customs.
- Arts – includes dance, song, and artwork that strongly demonstrates living Cultural practices and customs.

OTHER PROJECTS:

- Academic and/or Community Intangible Cultural Heritage restorative-based research projects, such as Language, and Traditional healing/medicines.
- Community Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage practices and customs restorative projects – such as, Traditional stone ceremony practices, possum skin ceremony, and Traditional canoe/watercraft making and ceremony in Language.

What won't be funded?

FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANTS

The following items, activities or projects will not be funded by First Nations Cultural Heritage Grants.

- heritage management documents required for statutory or legal purposes, for example fees required to be submitted to the Registered Aboriginal Party, except for the development of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan
- major capital works

CITY'S COMMUNITY GRANTS

In general, the following items, activities or projects will not be funded by any of the City's Community Grants.

- projects or activities that occur outside the City of Greater Geelong municipality (where activities also have outcome/s that occur outside the municipality, only the portion taking place within Greater Geelong is eligible)
- cost of Council services where fees are normally charged e.g., Council rates, waste removal, building or planning permits or approvals, parking etc.
- existing staff and salary costs (funds to cover costs for additional staffing or contractors, that relate directly to the grant application, will be considered)
- requests for retrospective purchases or projects, or where activities commence prior to notification of funding outcome
- fundraising events where the main aim is to directly fundraise for a charity
- prizes, gifts, awards or sponsorship costs, such as trophies, medals, money and vouchers.
- political, gaming or gambling activities
- activities and expenditure that can be considered core business e.g., ongoing projects and activities, administration overheads such as utilities, insurances and fees
- additional funding for previously successful applications
- projects, activities or events that could potentially commit the City to funding on an ongoing basis
- projects, activities or events that better meet the criteria of another City of Greater Geelong grant or program

How are applications assessed?

All applications received will go through the following assessment process

- eligibility checks –applications are checked against the criteria on pages 8 to 11 to determine their eligibility
- eligible applications are assessed by a panel of Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and City officer/s with First Nations experience and knowledge
- assessment outcomes are reviewed jointly by Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and City officer/s to make recommendations to Council
- Council review and endorsement – funding recommendations are further reviewed by Council then endorsed

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on a weighted average scoring system, as shown in the tables below:

Key criteria – weighting	What we look for when assessing an application
Cultural Heritage Benefits – 40%	• the long-term Cultural Heritage benefits of the activity • the level of risk to the Cultural Heritage significance of the item or Cultural Knowledge (with priority to items with more immediate urgent need) • the extent that the project links to an item of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage significance that is included on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register AND/OR an approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan or Cultural Heritage Permit.
Community Engagement - 20%	• the extent of active and continuous community engagement in understanding, celebrating and participating in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.
Well Planned Project - 40%	• a clear description of what is included in the project (i.e., scope) • letter of support from the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation • relevant documentation including plans (e.g., architectural, engineering, building) and photographs • permits as required (e.g., cultural management, planning, building) • specialist heritage advice if relevant • evidence that the applicant has the necessary expertise to support delivery of the activity • a clear, balanced budget that shows total income equals total expenditure. The budget must describe and show the total cost of the activity including contingency and list any other sources of funds that will contribute to the total project income. • written quotes* that accurately reflect the complete scope of proposed works as follows: – project cost up to $25K = one written quote – project cost $25K-$90K = three current written quotes.
Total 100%	

* Acceptable evidence of costs includes:

- quotes with supplier's business name ABN/ACN and contact details
- screenshots from online retailers including item description, price, supplier's business name
- project staff/contractor costs calculated from industry awards or codes of practice

PRIORITISING APPLICATIONS

If the total request for funding exceeds the grant funds available, we will prioritise

- applications relating to items with immediate or urgent need
- applications that have not received funding from the City in the previous financial year
- applications from organisation that do not receive funding from electronic gaming machines

GRANT ALLOCATION INFORMATION

Applications can be made to multiple grant programs for relevant and distinct projects or programs.

A single project, event, activity, or program will only be funded in one grant program category within a given financial year. This means we will not fund part of a project in one grant program, and part in another.

We generally only fund projects once. You cannot rely on this grant for ongoing or recurrent funding. However, we will consider funding a project again if there are compelling reasons, in line with the objectives of this grant. Any decision to award further funding will be based on the merit of the application.

Grant amounts allocated are specific to the grant category as detailed in each individual program guidelines.

Grant amounts offered to successful applicants are based on outcomes determined during the assessment process and in line with budget limitations.

In some cases, applicants may also be offered partial funding to run a reduced or modified project.

What happens next?

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If your application is successful, you will be notified in writing within one week after funding recommendations are endorsed.

You will be sent a funding agreement explaining the terms and conditions of our offer. Once you sign and return the agreement, we will send your funding within 30 working days.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS UNSUCCESSFUL

If your application is unsuccessful, you will be notified in writing.

As grants are a competitive process, even if an application meets the criteria, it may not be competitive against other applications.

If you would like further feedback on why your application was unsuccessful, please contact communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

If there are funds remaining in the grant pool, we may choose to offer a second round of grants. While unsuccessful applicants are eligible to reapply, we would recommend revising the application to make sure it fits the assessment criteria before doing so.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

If your grant is successful, you will be required to enter into a funding agreement that will establish:

a. the terms and conditions of funding;
b. the details of the activity;
c. the deliverables;
d. reporting requirements; and
e. the schedule of payments.

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, PROMOTION AND MARKETING

Successful grant applicants must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong as a funding source.

This can be done by using the City's logo in marketing and publicity materials, social media, acknowledgement at launches and/or invitations for Councillors or City representatives to attend events.

COVID-19

All activities must comply with the latest health advice and government restrictions, as detailed at: https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/

FINANCIAL ACQUITTAL, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

A project evaluation and financial acquittal must be provided within one month of the agreed completion date for the project. The financial acquittal is an income and expenditure statement for the grant confirming that funding has been spent on the activity in accordance with the funding agreement.

City officers may request meetings with the applicant to check progress or undertake an independent audit of the books and records of the applicant as they relate directly to the grant.

Applicants must maintain accurate financial records for the grant and make them available to the City in the event of any audit by the City into the use of the grant.

INSURANCE

If required, you must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in the grant application and include a PLI certificate of currency with your application. Applicants using an auspice would include a certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

Grant payments are made to the Applicant (or Auspice).

A tax invoice is required prior to releasing any grant funds. The Grants Team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this at the appropriate time.

If successful applicants do not provide either an ABN or a "Statement by a Supplier" form, the City may be required to withhold the top marginal tax rate (i.e., 45%) from the grant payment.

TIMING AND WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDING

Successful applicants must spend their allocated funds within 12 months of notification unless their funding agreement extends beyond 12 months or otherwise negotiated.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year the grant was awarded or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

VARIATION TO FUNDED PROJECTS

Projects are funded for delivery as described in the funding agreement. Successful applicants must seek approval in writing from the City if changes need to be made. This includes delays to the original completion date or the ability to fully expend the grant funds within the agreed timeframes.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if you are unable to confirm alternative arrangements within a reasonable time frame.

If a project is discontinued or the grant funds are no longer required, all funds must be repaid to the City.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

GEELONG HERITAGE GRANTS

2023-24 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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About these grants

The purpose of these grants is to assist owners in conserving heritage buildings within the Greater Geelong region that contribute to the visual character of the city's streetscapes and public space and/or provide community amenity.

The objectives of these grants are:

- to enhance the appearance and grandeur of heritage buildings through appropriate restoration and reconstruction of exterior heritage features to a significant period of the building's history
- to enhance the visual quality of the city's streetscapes and public spaces
- support property owners in delivering conservation work beyond routine maintenance
- encourage heritage restoration projects which have been identified through heritage studies and/or other evidence as beneficial to the city's streetscapes and public space
- celebrate and raise the awareness and appreciation of our heritage

Our priority is to support:

- major conservation works or repairs to key facades or street frontages of the building
- removal of street front additions or alterations that are unsympathetic to the historical character or style of the building
- reinstatement of street front heritage features that have been altered or removed over time, including verandahs and balconies, parapet details, shopfronts, windows and entranceways, historic signage, etc.
- heritage tourism works that will increase visitation and provide indirect benefits to the local community

There is total funding available of $90,000 which is divided into two categories:

CATEGORY	WHAT WILL BE FUNDED	MAXIMUM FUNDING PER APPLICANT
Conservation works	Building or streetscape projects that are visible to the public and focus on presentation to a street or public space and have an identified historic value	Up to 70% of eligible project costs with a maximum of $40,000
Planning	Feasibility and investigation projects to provide technical, planning, and project scoping advice for future restoration projects	Up to 100% of eligible project costs with a maximum of $10,000

- only one proposal can be considered per applicant per financial year
- success with a planning application is not a guarantee for funding in subsequent years for delivery of conservation works

HERITAGE PROJECTS

For the purposes of this grant, heritage projects relate to places that:

- are included within a heritage overlay
- are within an identified heritage precinct
- are included in a community-based heritage list (including those of the National Trust, Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Institution of Engineers Australia)

If unsure, applicants should confirm eligibility with the City's Built Heritage Coordinator before applying, by emailing urbandesignandheritage@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this grant must be made via our SmartyGrants online system.

There are two ways you can access the online application form:

1. Visit the Community Grants page at the Geelong Australia website, select the grant program you wish to apply for from the list, click the 'Apply online' button that appears on the page, log-in or create an account.
2. Visit https://geelong.smartygrants.com.au/applicant, select 'current rounds' at the top right of the page, select the grant you wish to apply for, log-in or create an account then complete and submit the form.

KEY DATES

Applications will be accepted until 5.00 pm on the closing date. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Applications open:	3 June 2023
Applications close:	21 August 2023
Notification to applicants:	15 December 2023
Activity start and end:	Activity cannot start until the funding agreement is signed and must be completed within 12 months

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Applicants must consider whether the proposed works will require any permits or approvals for example, a building permit or planning permit from the City, or a permit or works exemption from Heritage Victoria.

These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in the project plan. Grant funding cannot be used to pay for a permit or approval issued by the City.

You do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, but if your funding application is successful, securing them is a condition of the grant. The City will not make any grant payments until the relevant permits and approvals are secured and submitted with the funding agreement.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. Please refer to the assessment criteria under 'well planned projects' on pages 11 and 12.

FIRST NATIONS

For all applicants intending to apply for a grant with a First Nations theme you must provide evidence of engagement with First Nations Communities, and/or the specific First Nation community groups identified in your proposal.

You must also demonstrate awareness and understanding of the Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006) and/or the City's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan and/or Social Equity Framework which includes the City's support to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

You are strongly encouraged to the Grants Team prior to applying.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To discuss your project or request help with the application process, please contact our grants team at communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au, or call 5272 5560.

NOT THE RIGHT GRANT FOR YOU?

There are a variety of other funding opportunities available. Find out more by visiting www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants

Who can and can't apply?

The City's grants are primarily offered to not-for-profit community organisations with some exceptions to suit the objectives of individual grants.

The following table describes who is and isn't eligible to apply for funding through these grants:

APPLICANT TYPE	YES	NO
Owners or authorised land managers of eligible properties	✓	
User groups of eligible properties who have the support of the owner or authorised land manager, including: • Not-for-profit, incorporated bodies, co-operatives or associations • Registered charitable organisations – refer to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission • Unincorporated bodies with an auspice	✓	
Owners or other persons who have undertaken works on the property without an appropriate permit or approval within the last 10 years.		X
Applicants that have received funding from this grant in the current financial year (applies only when a second grant round is offered by the City)		X
Applicants with outstanding acquittals for grant funding from the City – including auspices		X
Applicants with outstanding debts or arrears to the City of Greater Geelong or in legal proceedings with the City		X
An organisation involved in legal proceedings relating to winding up its operations, or experiencing insolvency or bankruptcy (this includes any legal bankruptcy-related actions against the organisation's directors or officers)		X

WHAT IF YOU ARE NOT INCORPORATED?

If you are a not-for-profit organisation, you can still apply by using an auspice.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support your application. If you're successful, the auspice receives the grant money on your behalf so you can undertake the project work.

If you are planning on using an auspice, please:

- obtain approval from your proposed auspice before you submit your application.
- ensure the auspice signs the application form and funding agreement and provides their banking details in the application.

Some auspice organisations may charge an auspice fee. This is at their discretion and should be negotiated between the applicant and the auspice.

What can you apply for?

Your grant activity must take place within the City of Greater Geelong.

The following is a list of ideas and examples that will be considered for funding. It is a guide only and the list should not be considered exhaustive.

Category 1 – Conservation Works

Funding up to 70% of eligible projects costs to a maximum of $40,000.

In this category we are seeking to support projects relating to a building or streetscape with identified historic value. Project ideas include:

- rejuvenation of building facade
- replacing non-heritage building elements with heritage building elements
- reinstating verandahs and balconies
- window repairs or replacement
- reinstating heritage elements that have been removed
- repairing finials, chimneys, gables, gargoyles, or leadlight features

Eligible projects costs include:

- heritage specialist trades
- general trades
- materials
- painting

Category 2 - Planning

Funding up to 100% of eligible projects costs to a maximum of $10,000.

In this category we are seeking to support project feasibility and investigation of works directly relevant to conserving or interpreting the heritage significance of the building. Suggested ideas include:

- planning – conservation works and sustainable use options
- project scoping including technical investigations and design
- environmental testing (e.g., hazardous materials)

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Information you need for your application:

- a current copy of title for the land. This can be obtained online at www.landata.vic.gov.au or by visiting the Land Information Centre located at Level 10, 570 Bourke Street, Melbourne
- applicants that are not property owners must provide a signed support letter from the property owner indicating the owner is both fully informed and fully supportive of the proposal
- a copy of any live planning permit and endorsed plans related to the property, inclusive of conservation-related or general development works
- a statement or outline of the heritage skills of the consultants or tradespersons that will be engaged to undertake the works, and their abilities (including examples) to plan works, undertake traditional work and repairs associated with heritage buildings
- confirmation whether the consultant or contractor being engaged is listed on the consultant's directory provided by Heritage Victoria at https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/consultants-directory (for planning grants)

What won't be funded?

GEELONG HERITAGE GRANTS

The following items, activities or projects will not be funded by the Geelong Heritage Grants.

- building conservation works that involve substantial change to the original design and significant fabric, for instance painting a building in a colour that historically never existed, installing a verandah on a building that historically did not have a verandah, and installing metal windows on a building that historically had timber windows
- interior works or works which are not easily visible to the public
- works which have been required by a building or emergency order issued by the City of Greater Geelong
- projects for properties where monies (including rates) are owing to the City of Greater Geelong
- works that have been completed or have commenced prior to notification of the funding outcome
- works that would generally be considered routine maintenance on most buildings (heritage or otherwise). This exclusion may be waived at the discretion of Council, in exceptional circumstances such as:
  - where the cost or complexity of such work is far greater than the owner of an equivalent non-heritage property would face and/or
  - the nature of the building or organisation limits the capacity to provide money for essential maintenance works

CITY'S COMMUNITY GRANTS

In general, the following items, activities or projects will not be funded by any of the City's Community Grants.

- projects or activities that occur outside the City of Greater Geelong municipality (where activities also have outcome/s that occur outside the municipality, only the portion taking place within Greater Geelong is eligible)
- cost of Council services where fees are normally charged e.g., Council rates, waste removal, building or planning permits or approvals, parking etc.
- existing staff and salary costs (funds to cover costs for additional staffing or contractors, that relate directly to the grant application, will be considered)
- requests for retrospective purchases or projects, or where activities commence prior to notification of funding outcome
- fundraising events where the main aim is to directly fundraise for a charity
- prizes, gifts, awards or sponsorship costs, such as trophies, medals, money and vouchers
- political, gaming or gambling activities
- activities and expenditure that can be considered core business e.g., ongoing projects and activities, administration overheads such as utilities, insurances and fees
- additional funding for previously successful applications
- projects, activities or events that could potentially commit the City to funding on an ongoing basis
- projects, activities or events that better meet the criteria of another City of Greater Geelong grant or program

How are applications assessed?

All applications received will go through the following assessment process:

- eligibility checks –applications are checked against the criteria on pages 6 to 10 to determine their eligibility
- officer panel assessment – eligible applications are assessed according to the assessment criteria and priority areas (see tables below)
- independent (community) panel assessment – the panel reviews the officer assessments and recommends funding allocations to Council in a council report
- Council review and endorsement – funding recommendations are further reviewed by Council then endorsed

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on a weighted average scoring system, as shown in the tables below:

Key criteria – weighting	What we look for when assessing a project grant application
Heritage Benefit – 40%	• that the project will result in a positive heritage conservation outcome such as: – delivering major conservation works to a façade/street front – removing unsympathetic alterations and additions from a façade – reinstating lost heritage features on a facade
Community Benefit – 40%	• that the project will deliver a visible enhancement to a streetscape or public space, through enhancing the presentation and condition of the heritage place • there is a demonstrated public need for the project based on a net community benefit • the project will act as a catalyst for change within a streetscape that provides significant opportunities for heritage restoration projects
Well planned project – 20%	• evidence that the applicant (or a project manager, consultant or tradesperson engaged by the applicant) has the necessary expertise to support the delivery of the project and have experience working on similar projects associated with heritage buildings • a clear, balanced budget that shows total income equals total expenditure. Budgets must describe and show the total cost of the project including contingency and list any other additional sources of funds that will contribute to the total project income • evidence that the project is accurately costed and represents value for public money by providing written quotes • detailed quotes or estimates from suppliers as evidence of your project costs. * • supporting documentation, including plans, photographs and other documents to clearly outline the intended works

	• clear description of what is included in the project (scope) and that the project is ready to proceed • where the applicant is proposing other works to the building such as addition of alterations to improve amenity (which are not conservation work), that the works documentation and budget clearly identify what is and what is not conservation work intended to be funded by the grant
TOTAL 100%	

* Acceptable evidence of costs includes:

- quotes with supplier's business name ABN/ACN and contact details
- screenshots from online retailers including item description, price, supplier's business name

Project staff/contractor costs calculated from industry awards or codes of practice

PRIORITISING APPLICATIONS

If the total request for funding exceeds the grant funds available, we will prioritise:

- applications that will deliver the greatest heritage and community benefit as per the weighted assessment criteria
- applications that have not received funding from this grant in the previous financial year
- applications from organisation that do not receive funding from electronic gaming machines

GRANT ALLOCATION INFORMATION

Applications can be made to multiple grant programs for relevant and distinct projects or programs.

A single project, event, activity or program will only be funded in one grant program category within a given financial year. This means we will not fund part of a project in one grant program, and part in another.

We generally only fund projects once. You cannot rely on this grant for ongoing or recurrent funding. However, we will consider funding a project again if there are compelling reasons, in line with the objectives of this grant. Any decision to award further funding will be based on the merit of the application.

Grant amounts allocated are specific to the grant category as detailed in each individual program guidelines.

Grant amounts offered to successful applicants are based on outcomes determined during the assessment process and in line with budget limitations.

In some cases, applicants may also be offered partial funding to run a reduced or modified project.

What happens next?

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If your application is successful, you will be notified in writing within one week after funding recommendations are endorsed.

A project officer from the City will contact you to outline the next steps in the process.

After your discussions with the project officer, the City will send you a funding agreement which will outline the grant terms, conditions and payment details.

The City will not make any grant payments without a signed funding agreement, so please do not start your project until you have returned a signed agreement.

Applicants should note that there may be considerable time between close of applications and finalising a funding agreement. This should be factored into project timelines, expiry dates on quotes and project cashflow.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS UNSUCCESSFUL

If your application is unsuccessful, you will be notified in writing.

As grants are a competitive process, even if an application meets the criteria, it may not be competitive against other applications.

If you would like further feedback on why your application was unsuccessful, please contact communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

If there are funds remaining in the grant pool, we may choose to offer a second round of grants. While unsuccessful applicants are eligible to reapply, we would recommend revising the application to make sure it fits the assessment criteria before doing so.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

If your grant is successful you will be required to enter into a funding agreement that will establish:

a. the terms and conditions of funding;
b. the details of the activity;
c. the deliverables;
d. reporting requirements; and
e. the schedule of payments.

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, PROMOTION AND MARKETING

Successful grant applicants must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong as a funding source.

This can be done by using the City's logo in marketing and publicity materials, social media, acknowledgement at launches and/or invitations for Councillors or City representatives to attend events.

COVID-19

All activities must comply with the latest health advice and government restrictions, as detailed at: https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/

FINANCIAL ACQUITTAL, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

A project evaluation and financial acquittal must be provided within one month of the agreed completion date for the project. The financial acquittal is an income and expenditure statement for the grant confirming that funding has been spent on the activity in accordance with the funding agreement.

City officers may request meetings with the applicant to check progress or undertake an independent audit of the books and records of the applicant as they relate directly to the grant.

Applicants must maintain accurate financial records for the grant and make them available to the City in the event of any audit by the City into the use of the grant.

INSURANCE

If required, you must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in the grant application and include a PLI certificate of currency with your application. Applicants using an auspice would include a certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

Grant payments are made to the Applicant (or Auspice).

A tax invoice is required prior to releasing any grant funds. The Grants Team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this at the appropriate time.

If successful applicants do not provide either an ABN or a "Statement by a Supplier" form, the City may be required to withhold the top marginal tax rate (i.e., 45%) from the grant payment.

TIMING AND WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDING

Successful applicants must spend their allocated funds within 12 months of notification unless their funding agreement extends beyond 12 months or otherwise negotiated.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year the grant was awarded or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

VARIATION TO FUNDED PROJECTS

Projects are funded for delivery as described in the funding agreement. Successful applicants must seek approval in writing from the City if changes need to be made. This includes delays to the original completion date or the ability to fully expend the grant funds within the agreed timeframes.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if you are unable to confirm alternative arrangements within a reasonable time frame.

If a project is discontinued or the grant funds are no longer required, all funds must be repaid to the City.

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

HEALTHY & CONNECTED COMMUNITIES GRANTS

2023-24 GUIDELINES

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG

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About these grants

The purpose of the Healthy & Connected Communities Grants (HCC) is to support projects, activities, forums, or events that respond to a community need and will improve the health, wellbeing and capacity of our community.

A healthy community is one where everyone has the opportunity to experience their best possible health and wellbeing.

The HCC grant aims are to:

- help our community, recreation groups and volunteers to prosper and grow
- promote and deliver health and wellbeing initiatives (e.g., healthy eating, active living)
- foster and embrace an inclusive community culture and community connectedness
- support a safer and more resilient community

The City recognises the importance of providing fair and equitable resources, programs, and opportunities to every member of our community. Research and data shows priority groups experience increased disadvantage such as: structural inequalities; linguistic and cultural barriers; and discrimination and stigma.

Therefore, this grant prioritises projects, activities, forums and events that help to respond to a community need with a focus on the identified priority groups listed in the Social Equity Framework. These groups are included in the assessment criteria.

There is total funding available of $245,000 with individual grants being offered of up to $10,000 or $2,000 per application.

The grant is divided into two categories (see table below) and our aim is to support community groups to improve the health and wellbeing of our community. You can only apply for one category per funding round.

CATEGORY	WHAT WILL BE FUNDED	MAXIMUM FUNDING PER APPLICANT
Project grants	For projects, programs, activities, forums or events, and equipment necessary to deliver the activities (up to $2,000) that improve health and wellbeing, build community capacity and benefit the broader community.	$10,000
Equipment grants	To assist with the cost of small equipment purchases that help community groups deliver services and programs, improve health and safety outcomes or improve resources that support volunteer groups.	$2,000

- only one proposal can be considered per applicant per financial year

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this grant must be made via our SmartyGrants online system.

There are two ways you can access the online application form:

1. Visit the Community Grants page at the Geelong Australia website, select the grant program you wish to apply for from the list, click the 'Apply online' button that appears on the page, log-in or create an account.
2. Visit https://geelong.smartygrants.com.au/applicant, select 'current rounds' at the top right of the page, select the grant you wish to apply for, log-in or create an account then complete and submit the form.

KEY DATES

Applications will be accepted until 5.00 pm on the closing date. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Applications open:	3 June 2023
Applications close:	24 July 2023
Notification to applicants:	1 December 2023
Activity start and end:	Activity cannot start until after notification date and must be completed within 12 months

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Proposed projects or events may require permits or approvals.

These processes are separate to the grant application process and require additional time and budget in the project plan. Grant funding cannot be used to pay for a permit or approval issued by the City.

You do not need to secure permits or approvals before applying, but if your funding application is successful, securing them is a condition of the grant. The City will not make any grant payments until the relevant permits and approvals are secured and submitted with the funding agreement.

You must demonstrate that you are aware of the necessary permits and approvals in your application. Please refer to the assessment criteria under 'well planned projects' on pages 8-9.

FIRST NATIONS

For all applicants intending to apply for a grant with a First Nations theme you must provide evidence of engagement with First Nations Communities, and/or the specific First Nation community groups identified in your proposal.

You must also demonstrate awareness and understanding of the Aboriginal Heritage Act (2006) and/or the City's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan and/or Social Equity Framework which includes the City's support to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

You are strongly encouraged to talk to the Grants Team prior to applying.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To discuss your project or request help with the application process, please contact our grants team at communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au, or call 5272 5560.

NOT THE RIGHT GRANT FOR YOU?

There are a variety of other funding opportunities available. Find out more by visiting www.geelongaustralia.com.au/grants

Who can and can't apply?

The City's grants are primarily offered to not-for-profit community organisations with some exceptions to suit the objectives of individual grants.

The following table describes who is and isn't eligible to apply for funding through these grants:

APPLICANT TYPE	YES	NO
Not-for-profits - incorporated bodies, co-operatives or associations	✓	
Registered charitable organisations – refer to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	✓	
Unincorporated bodies with an auspice	✓	
Schools and learning institutions – only for activities that are not curriculum based and the primary benefit is for the wider community	✓	
For-profits - commercial entities, businesses		X
Individual/Sole Traders (entity type with Australian Business Register)		X
Individuals (without an ABN)		X
Applicants that have received funding from this grant in the current financial year (applies only when a second grant round is offered by the City)		X
Applicants with outstanding acquittals for grant funding from the City – including auspices		X
Applicants with outstanding debts or arrears to the City of Greater Geelong or in legal proceedings with the City		X
An organisation involved in legal proceedings relating to winding up its operations, or experiencing insolvency or bankruptcy (this includes any legal bankruptcy-related actions against the organisation's directors or officers)		X

WHAT IF YOU ARE NOT INCORPORATED?

If you are a not-for-profit organisation, you can still apply by using an auspice.

An auspice is an organisation that meets our eligibility criteria and agrees to support your application. If you're successful, the auspice receives the grant money on your behalf so you can undertake the project work.

If you are planning on using an auspice, please:

- obtain approval from your proposed auspice before you submit your application.
- ensure the auspice signs the application form and funding agreement and provides their banking details in the application.

Some auspice organisations may charge an auspice fee. This is at their discretion and should be negotiated between the applicant and the auspice.

What can you apply for?

Your grant activity must take place within the City of Greater Geelong.

PROJECT GRANTS

In this category we are seeking proposals that will benefit the community. Suggested ideas that are suitable for applications include:

- initiatives that promote healthy lifestyles, such as those that increase community participation in physical activities, recreational pursuits or promote and improve healthy eating
- initiatives aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing outcomes in the community
- community celebrations or events that mark a specific milestone, a significant anniversary or promote community inclusion and social connections
- activities that strengthen community relationships and encourage active participation in community life
- initiatives that complement or support existing programs, or strategies that aim to raise awareness or address complex social issues, such as discrimination, gender equality, family violence or community safety
- initiatives that address specific needs of Aboriginal, multicultural and new arrival communities, LGBTQIA+ people, children, young people, seniors and people with disabilities
- training opportunities for volunteers
- establishment costs of setting up a new community group
- development of strategic or business plans to facilitate and assist community groups to identify and achieve goals and objectives that are consistent with their charter
- equipment directly related to project delivery. The total request for equipment purchases must not exceed $2,000 and must comply with the requirements for equipment grants

Note: We generally only fund projects once. Applicants cannot rely on this grant for ongoing or recurrent funding. However, we will consider funding a project again if there are compelling reasons, in line with the objectives of this grant. Any decision to award further funding will be based on the merit of the application**.**

EQUIPMENT GRANTS

Note: Equipment must remain the property of the applicant organisation and be located within the City of Greater Geelong.

In this category we provide support for small equipment purchases that help community groups to deliver services and programs, improve health and safety outcomes and improve resources for volunteers.

Suggested ideas that are suitable for applications include:

- sporting equipment, such as soccer nets and crash mats (excludes consumable items such as sporting balls)
- office equipment, such as laptops and office furniture
- kitchenware, such as kettles, crockery and microwave ovens
- general equipment, such as tables, chairs and barbeques
- equipment costs of setting up a new community group

What won't be funded?

HEALTHY & CONNECTED COMMUNITIES GRANTS

The following items, activities or projects will not be funded by Healthy & Connected Communities Grants:

- equipment requiring building permits or building owner permission for installation
- fixed equipment that requires installation work such as plumbing, electrical or carpentry
- administration (including printing and stationary) that is a usual business requirement
- projects that duplicate or do not link with developed strategies of other local service responses (unless evidence of need, coordination and cooperation is demonstrated)
- player uniforms (unless there are compelling reasons, in line with the objectives of this grant)
- consumable sporting equipment such as sporting balls
- learning institutions seeking funding for programs or equipment that does not have a benefit for the wider community
- budget items that have not been substantiated with suitable supporting evidence – for example, quotes or price estimates

CITY'S COMMUNITY GRANTS

In general, the following items, activities or projects will not be funded by any of the City's Community Grants:

- projects or activities that occur outside the City of Greater Geelong municipality (where activities also have outcome/s that occur outside the municipality, only the portion taking place within Greater Geelong is eligible)
- cost of Council services where fees are normally charged e.g., Council rates, waste removal, building or planning permits or approvals, parking etc.
- existing staff and salary costs (funds to cover costs for additional staffing or contractors, that relate directly to the grant application, will be considered)
- requests for retrospective purchases or projects, or where activities commence prior to notification of funding outcome
- fundraising events where the main aim is to directly fundraise for a charity
- prizes, gifts, awards or sponsorship costs, such as trophies, medals, money and vouchers
- political, gaming or gambling activities
- activities and expenditure that can be considered core business e.g., ongoing projects and activities, administration overheads such as utilities, insurances and fees
- additional funding for previously successful applications
- projects, activities or events that could potentially commit the City to funding on an ongoing basis
- projects, activities or events that better meet the criteria of another City of Greater Geelong grant or program

How are applications assessed?

All applications received will go through the following assessment process

- eligibility checks –applications are checked against the criteria on pages 5 to 7 to determine their eligibility
- officer panel assessment – eligible applications are assessed according to the assessment criteria and priority areas (see tables below)
- independent (community) panel assessment – the panel reviews the officer assessments and recommends funding allocations to Council in a council report
- Council review and endorsement – funding recommendations are further reviewed by Council then endorsed

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on a weighted average scoring system, as shown in the tables below:

CATEGORY – PROJECT GRANTS	
Key criteria – weighting	**What we look for when assessing a project grant application**
Community Impact **65%**	• a strong alignment with the 'HCC Grants' aims' • a sound rationale for the project idea, highlighting a community need, aspiration, or issue, and how the project will be successful in addressing this need Applications that can demonstrate one or more of the following outcomes will be prioritised: • support local Aboriginal people to achieve their priorities • promote gender equity and diversity • support older people, young people and children in our community • support multicultural communities and respect for cultural diversity • improve access to programs, events, and activities for people with all abilities • provide equitable access to programs, events, and activities to people from a low socioeconomic background or who are geographically disadvantaged
Well planned project **30%**	• a well-considered project plan, or a clear list of tasks and timelines that are achievable • an understanding of the permits and approvals that will be required for an event to proceed, including evidence that the venue or location is suitable and available e.g., copy of venue booking form • that the organisation delivering the project has the capacity to do so – the people involved have the required skills and knowledge • a budget showing total income equals total expenditure. It must show the total cost of the project and list any other additional sources of funds that will contribute to the total project income.

CATEGORY – PROJECT GRANTS	
	• detailed quotes or estimates from suppliers as evidence of your project costs * – Applications without supporting evidence will not receive funding.
Environmental impact 5%	• how the activity will have a positive impact on the environment (e.g. planting trees) or • the steps taken to minimise the environmental impact of the activity (e.g. minimise waste)
TOTAL 100%	

EQUIPMENT GRANTS	
Key criteria – weighting	**What we look for when assessing an equipment grant application**
Community impact 60%	• how your organisation contributes to a healthy, caring, and inclusive community • how purchasing the equipment will positively impact your organisation and the community
Well-planned project 25%	The application must demonstrate: • clear reasons why the equipment is needed • where it will be located and who will have access to it • a clear, balanced budget that shows: – the total cost of the equipment – additional funding sources that will contribute to total equipment costs, or an explanation of why additional funding isn't possible. • detailed quotes or estimates from suppliers as evidence of your project costs * – Applications without supporting evidence will not receive funding
Environmental impact 15%	The application must demonstrate: • that you have minimised the environmental impact of the purchase by considering factors such as disposal of packaging, choice of supplier and opportunity to recycle redundant equipment • that you have chosen equipment with warranties for repairs and maintenance and longer life (if this is an option)
TOTAL 100%	

* Acceptable evidence of costs includes:

• quotes with supplier's business name ABN/ACN and contact details

• screenshots from online retailers including item description, price, supplier's business name

project staff/contractor costs calculated from industry awards or codes of practice

PRIORITISING APPLICATIONS

If the total request for funding exceeds the grant funds available, we will prioritise:

- applications that have not received funding from this grant in the previous financial year
- applications from organisation that do not receive funding from electronic gaming machines

GRANT ALLOCATION INFORMATION

Applications can be made to multiple grant programs for relevant and distinct projects or programs.

A single project, event, activity or program will only be funded in one grant program category within a given financial year. This means we will not fund part of a project in one grant program, and part in another.

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Grant amounts allocated are specific to the grant category as detailed in each individual program guidelines.

Grant amounts offered to successful applicants are based on outcomes determined during the assessment process and in line with budget limitations.

In some cases, applicants may also be offered partial funding to run a reduced or modified project.

What happens next?

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

If your application is successful, you will be notified in writing within one week after funding recommendations are endorsed.

You will be sent a funding agreement explaining the terms and conditions of our offer. Once you sign and return the agreement, we will send your funding within 30 working days.

IF YOUR APPLICATION IS UNSUCCESSFUL

If your application is unsuccessful, you will be notified in writing.

As grants are a competitive process, even if an application meets the criteria, it may not be competitive against other applications.

If you would like further feedback on why your application was unsuccessful, please contact communitygrants@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

If there are funds remaining in the grant pool, we may choose to offer a second round of grants. While unsuccessful applicants are eligible to reapply, we would recommend revising the application to make sure it fits the assessment criteria before doing so.

FUNDING AGREEMENTS

If your grant is successful you will be required to enter into a funding agreement that will establish:

a. the terms and conditions of funding;
b. the details of the activity;
c. the deliverables;
d. reporting requirements; and
e. the schedule of payments.

General information

The following information applies to all City of Greater Geelong grants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, PROMOTION AND MARKETING

Successful grant applicants must acknowledge the City of Greater Geelong as a funding source.

This can be done by using the City's logo in marketing and publicity materials, social media, acknowledgement at launches and/or invitations for Councillors or City representatives to attend events.

COVID-19

All activities must comply with the latest health advice and government restrictions, as detailed at: https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/

FINANCIAL ACQUITTAL, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

A project evaluation and financial acquittal must be provided within one month of the agreed completion date for the project. The financial acquittal is an income and expenditure statement for the grant confirming that funding has been spent on the activity in accordance with the funding agreement.

City officers may request meetings with the applicant to check progress or undertake an independent audit of the books and records of the applicant as they relate directly to the grant.

Applicants must maintain accurate financial records for the grant and make them available to the City in the event of any audit by the City into the use of the grant.

INSURANCE

If required, you must arrange public liability insurance (PLI) to cover the activity detailed in the grant application and include a PLI certificate of currency with your application. Applicants using an auspice would include a certificate from the auspice organisation.

A policy statement or receipt of payment is not an acceptable substitute for the certificate of currency.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

Grant payments are made to the applicant (or auspice).

A tax invoice is required prior to releasing any grant funds. The Grants Team will contact successful grant applicants to arrange this at the appropriate time.

If successful applicants do not provide either an ABN or a "Statement by a Supplier" form, the City may be required to withhold the top marginal tax rate (i.e., 45%) from the grant payment.

TIMING AND WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDING

Successful applicants must spend their allocated funds within 12 months of notification unless their funding agreement extends beyond 12 months or otherwise negotiated.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if we do not receive a tax invoice within the financial year the grant was awarded or by the due date/s included in the agreement.

VARIATION TO FUNDED PROJECTS

Projects are funded for delivery as described in the funding agreement. Successful applicants must seek approval in writing from the City if changes need to be made. This includes delays to the original completion date or the ability to fully expend the grant funds within the agreed timeframes.

The City reserves the right to withdraw funding if you are unable to confirm alternative arrangements within a reasonable time frame.

If a project is discontinued or the grant funds are no longer required, all funds must be repaid to the City.

2.6. Planning Authorisation - Council to Staff

Source:	**Strategy, Governance and Corporate**
Chief Legal Counsel, Governance & Risk Officer:	**Vesna Allan**

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 member to whom this authorisation applies.

RESOLUTION - Item 2.6

Cr Mason moved, Cr Cadwell 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 May 2023 [**2.6.1** - 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 Page

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 31 January 2023.

Signed for GREATER GEELONG CITY COUNCIL by
KAARINA PHYLAND, Acting Chief Executive Officer

_____
A/Chief Executive Officer

Date:

3. NOTICE OF MOTION

3.1. Cr Nelson - Notice of Motion - Delivery of Library Services

Background

The City of Greater Geelong does not support closure of core community services the Council provides like Libraries. Since 1997 the Council has delivered library services via a corporation model. This model adds overheads to the operations of the City's community libraries which are paid for by the City of Greater Geelong's rate payers.

The recent exhibition of the Council's draft 2023-24 to 2026-27 Budget included a total contribution towards the Geelong Regional Library Corporation (GRLC) of $13.948 million, with a cash contribution of $12.244 million. The proposed amount is a $240,000 increase on funding from 2022-23. The amount the Council contributes to the GRLC is 85% of the GRLC's operating budget.

In response to the proposed funding in Council's draft budget, the GRLC proposed to close 3 libraries within the Geelong region (Barwon Heads, Highton, and Geelong West) and transition the Chilwell Library to an unstaffed model.

Under the *Local Government Act 2020* this corporation structure is required to be reviewed. With the announcement of proposed closures and the shift to an unstaffed model for the Chilwell Library, and the review required to determine compliance with the LGA2020, the Council must strategically consider what the best model for the delivery of library services within the Greater Geelong community is to ensure continuation of our community services.

The review should include:

1. the steps necessary for the Council to exit the GRLC and return library services to an inhouse model at Council; and

2. examine the commercial, financial, operational, and human resource implications on a proposed in-house model with a view to including the transition of existing GRLC staff to be Council employees and ensuring all library sites within the municipality are kept open to the community.

Original Recommendation

That Council in response to the proposed closures of the Barwon Heads, Highton and Geelong West sites by the Geelong Regional Library Corporation (GRLC), direct the Chief Executive Officer to bring a report back to Council for the June, 2023 Council meeting setting out the steps necessary for Council to:

1. **exit the GRLC and return library services to an inhouse model at Council; and**
2. **examine the commercial, financial and operational implications on a proposed in-house model with a view to including the transition of existing GRLC staff to be Council employees and ensuring all library sites within the municipality are kept open to the community.**

***** The Notice of Motion was withdrawn from the agenda by Cr Nelson.***

4. URGENT BUSINESS

4.1. Urgent Business - Transport Innovation Study Tour

Note: Introduction of Urgent Business requires two-thirds majority of Councillors present.

Background

As part of my councillor professional development, I (Cr Belinda Moloney) wish to attend the Dutch Transport Innovation Study Tour, ran by the Institute for Sensible Transport from June 25 to June 30. The study tour includes a curated week of field trips and engaging lectures showcase the successes and failures that have made the Netherlands a hotbed of transport innovation.

These lectures and the tour will provide valuable insights towards transport best practice that will be presented to the councillor group and the learnings may be utilised by the City of Greater Geelong councillors in future discussions surrounding active transport, cycling infrastructure and other innovative applications.

Geelong is undergoing massive transformation and have referenced the City Utrecht and other international examples when referring to 'best practice' implementation of our active transport infrastructure including the Green Spine and Stage 1 of the Better Bikes Connections project. This tour offers expert lectures and field trips a deep insight into:

- Applying the principles of sustainable safety, road network design and Dutch traffic planning principles
- Translational practice: How to translate best practice into the car-dependent cities of Australia/US/NZ/UK
- The world's largest bicycle parking facility (Utrecht Centraal Station)
- Electric vehicle charging policy and practice; and
- Bicycle infrastructure network planning.

The study tour costs are $7,308 (includes transportation, accommodation and some meals).

The estimated flight costs are $4,500.

Airport transfer costs are estimated at $200.

All other expenses including food are estimated at around $700.

All costs related to the study tour and travel will be incurred by Cr Moloney.

The learnings of this study tour will be documented and detailed in a report submitted to Council within 2 months of the study tour attendance.

Further information about the study tour and the itinerary can be found at http://sensibletransport.org.au/study-tour/

RESOLUTION - Item 4.1

Cr Moloney moved, Cr Harwood seconded -

That Council, approve for Cr Moloney to self-fund her attendance at the Dutch Transport Innovation Study Tour in June 2023, as a delegate of the City of Greater Geelong, and table a report to Council within 2 months of attendance detailing the learnings from the study tour.

Carried

5. RECORD OF INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

Source: **Chief Executive Officer**
Acting CEO: **Kaarina Phyland**

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 5.1

Cr Aitken moved, Cr Nelson seconded –

That Council receive the summary of the informal meetings of Councillors for the period to 23 May 2023.

Carried

INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS
(Council Meeting 23 May 2023)

Informal Meeting Details	Councillor Attendance/Apology	Officer Attendance	Agenda Items	Conflict of Interest Disclosures
Strategic Session **2 May 2022**	Crs Sullivan, Aitken, Grzybek, Mason, Harwood, Cadwell, Murrihy, Kontelj, Nelson *Apology: Cr Moloney (Leave of Absence)*	K Phyland (A/CEO) R Stevens (EXEC DIR) D Greaves (A/EXEC DIR) B Prosser (A/EXEC DIR) J Daly (MGR) V Allan (Chief Legal Counsel, Governance and Risk Officer) *Also present:* *P Dorling, Municipal Monitor*	• Central Geelong Planning • Mercer and Gheringhap Masterplan	• Nil
Councillor Briefing **9 May 2023**	Crs Sullivan, Aitken, Asher, Grzybek, Mason, Harwood, Cadwell, Murrihy, Kontelj, Moloney, Nelson	K Phyland (A/CEO) G Smith (EXEC DIR) R Stevens (EXEC DIR) D Greaves (A/EXEC DIR) B Prosser (A/EXEC DIR) V Allan (Chief Legal Counsel, Governance and Risk Officer) J Douglas (A/MGR) K Pizzi (MGR) E Davis (MGR) D Schultz (Chief Financial Officer) S Beck (MGR) J Hurse (MGR) K Ivens (MGR) J Saylor (OFF) *Also present:* *P Digby – Municipal Monitor*	*Presentations:* • Audit and Risk Activity Report *Reports:* • 26 January – Community Engagement Outcomes • Pakington Street Urban Design Framework North Precinct – Deliberative Engagement • Hamlyn Park Recreation Reserve – Master Plan • Mercer and Gheringhap Streetscape Master Plan • Consideration of Submissions and Adoption of Amendment C443ggee and Planning Permit PP-750-2022 Norlane Community Initiatives 4-8 Spruhan Avenue, Norlane • Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas – Strategic Assessment • Year to Date Quarterly Financial Report – March 2023	• Cr Kontelj declared a Conflict of Interest in the Northern and Western Geelong Growth Areas – Strategic Assessment and left the meeting prior to discussion. • Cr Grzybek declared a Conflict of Interest in Community Grants – 2023-24 Guidelines and left the meeting prior to discussion.

			• Upcoming International Delegate Opportunities • Community Grants – 2023-24 Guidelines • Community Grants 2022-23 Round Two (Confidential) • Audit and Risk Committee Summary Report (Confidential) • Planning Authorisation – Council to Staff	

6. PLANNING DELEGATIONS

Source:	**Planning and Design**
Executive 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 6.1

Cr Asher moved, Cr Mason seconded -

That Council receive the information in the Schedule entitled Planning Decisions Report April 2023.

Carried

Planning Decisions Report

App No	Location	Application Type	Decision Date	Description	Authority Description/ No of Objectors
PP-1027-2014/D	181-199 Matthews Road, LEOPOLD VIC 3224	Use of Land for a Restaurant, Residential Hotel and Place of Assembly (Function Centre) in the Farming Zone. Construction of Buildings and Works for a Residential Hotel and Place of Assembly (Function Centre) on Land in the Farming Zone. Construction of Buildings and Works on Land in the Environmental Significance Overlay Schedule 2. Construction of Buildings and Works on Land in the Significant Landscape Overlay Schedule 10. Use of Land for the Sale and Consumption Of Liquor under Clause 52.27. Use of Land for a Helicopter Landing Site under Clause 52.15 Generally in Accordance with the Endorsed Plans.	26/04/2023	Amended Permit Issued	VCAT
PP-1060-2019	34 Virginia Street, NEWTOWN VIC 3220	Demolition of Dwelling, Construction of a Replacement Dwelling in Heritage Overlay	5/04/2023	Extended Planning Permit	Delegated Authority
PP-1104-2022	32 Purrumbete Avenue, MANIFOLD HEIGHTS VIC 3218	Construction of Two (2) Dwellings and Two (2) Lot Subdivision	12/04/2023	Grant a Planning Permit	Delegated Authority
PP-1139-2020	232 Latrobe Terrace, GEELONG WEST VIC 3218	Buildings and Works Associated with the Construction of 13 Dwellings and Alteration of Access to a Road in a Transport Zone 2	6/04/2023	NOD - Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-1255-2022	22 Marlin Drive, OCEAN GROVE VIC 3226	Construction of a Second Dwelling and Two (2) Lot Subdivision	17/04/2023	No Appeal Lodged - Permit Issued	Delegated Authority
PP-1312-2021	57 The Parade, OCEAN GROVE VIC 3226	Construction of a Three Storey Building containing 16 Dwellings	21/04/2023	Refusal	Planning Committee
PP-145-2021	27 Buckley Falls Road, HIGHTON VIC 3216	Construction of Four (4) Dwellings	18/04/2023	Refusal	Decision Making Committee
PP-1576-2021	14 Neiley Street, NEWTOWN VIC 3220	Construction of Three (3) Dwellings	13/04/2023	NOD - Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee

PP-406-2022	17 Driftwood Street, OCEAN GROVE VIC 3226	Construction of Two (2) Dwellings and Two (2) Lot Subdivision	12/04/2023	NOD - Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-689-2019/A	72-80 Buckley Grove, MOOLAP VIC 3224	Use of the land for a Transfer Station and Materials Recycling and Associated Advertising Signage	20/04/2023	Grant an Amended Planning Permit	Delegated Authority
PP-704-2022	4 Vermeer Court, GROVEDALE VIC 3216	Construction of Four (4) Dwellings and Four (4) Lot Subdivision	18/04/2023	NOD - Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-813-2022	8 Newcombe Street, PORTARLINGTON VIC 3223	Construction of Two (2) Dwellings and Create and Alter Access to a Road in a Transport Zone 2	14/04/2023	Grant a Planning Permit	Delegated Authority
PP-895-2022	56 Church Street, GROVEDALE VIC 3216	Construction of Twenty-One (21) Dwellings, Twenty-One (21) Lot Subdivision and Reduction of Visitor Car Parking Requirements	6/04/2023	NOD - Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-911-2022	12 Jabiru Close, OCEAN GROVE VIC 3226	Construction of Two (2) Dwellings and Two (2) Lot Residential Subdivision, Removal of Tree	11/04/2023	Grant a Planning Permit	Delegated Authority
PP-956-2022	42 South Street, BELMONT VIC 3216	Construction of Two (2) Dwellings and Two (2) Lot Subdivision	12/04/2023	NOD - Planning Permit	Decision Making Committee
PP-998-2014	85 Bates Road, LITTLE RIVER VIC 3211	Buildings and Works for Construction of Four (4) Agricultural Greenhouses and Stormwater Detention Basin	28/04/2023	Extended Planning Permit	Delegated Authority
PP-1061-2022	95 Old Ballarat Road, BATESFORD VIC 3213	Use of Land as a Contractor's Depot (Plumbing Business) in Association with a Dwelling	19/04/2023	NOD - Delegate	3
PP-1139-2022	15 Bromley Street, THOMSON VIC 3219	Construction of Three (3) Dwellings	21/04/2023	NOD - Delegate	2
PP-1148-2022	6 Goandra Drive, OCEAN GROVE VIC 3226	Variation to Restrictive Covenant PS546298 on lot 2 on Plan of Subdivision PS546298	14/04/2023	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-1338-2022	14 Richmond Street, GEELONG VIC 3220	Construction of Three (3) Dwellings and Three (3) Lot Subdivision	26/04/2023	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-581-2022	5-7 Glenburn Street, NEWCOMB VIC 3219	Construction of Eight (8) Dwellings, Eight (8) Lot Subdivision and Removal of an Easement	6/04/2023	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-780-2022	12 Platypus Court, OCEAN GROVE VIC 3226	Construction of Two (2) Dwellings	6/04/2023	NOD - Delegate	4

PP-793-2022	7 Fairview Avenue, NEWTOWN VIC 3220	Partial Demolition of a Dwelling, Alterations and Additions to a Dwelling, Demolition of Garage and Construction of Garage	11/04/2023	NOD - Delegate	1
PP-955-2022	PARENT - 69-93 Hams Road, WAURN PONDS VIC 3216	Use of the Land as a Residential Village and Associated Buildings and Works	6/04/2023	NOD - Delegate	
PP-975-2022	70 Forster Street, NORLANE VIC 3214	Construction of Four (4) Dwellings	18/04/2023	NOD - Delegate	2
PP-995-2022	12 Heron Crescent, BARWON HEADS VIC 3227	Construction of Two (2) Dwellings	21/04/2023	NOD - Delegate	4

7. 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 items:

7.1. Community Grants 2022-23 Round Two (Confidential)

Source:	**Strategy, Governance and Corporate**
Chief Financial Officer:	**Darren Schultz**

CONFIDENTIAL

RESOLUTION - Item 7.1

Cr Asher moved, Cr Mason 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.

Carried

7.2. Audit and Risk Committee Summary Report (Confidential)

Source:	**Strategy, Governance and Corporate**
Chief Legal Counsel, Governance & Risk Officer:	**Vesna Allan**

CONFIDENTIAL

RESOLUTION - Item 7.2

Cr Nelson moved, Cr Asher seconded -

That Council consider this report at the conclusion of the meeting as it is designated confidential by the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 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 & Risk Committee from time-to-time which can pertain to external stakeholders also.

Carried

CLOSE OF MEETING

Cr Mason moved, Cr Asher seconded -

That the meeting be closed to the public.

Carried

The meeting was closed to the public at 8.23pm

Cr Nelson moved, Cr Mason seconded -

That the meeting be re-opened to the public.

Carried

The meeting was re-opened to the public at 8.28pm

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.28pm on Tuesday 23 May 2023.

Signed: _____

Cr Trent Sullivan (Mayor)

Date: _____