

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND SUBMISSIONS TUESDAY 23 JUNE 20206



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SUBMITTER 1. GARY GRIFFIN

Subject: ST LEONARDS ELC

**Relevant City Department: Growth & Place / Corporate Services
Executive Director Jacquie Randles & Troy Edwards**

Question 1:

In April 2026 I asked a question re the St Leonards development Plan fund which was to target an Early Learning Centre. Given that this centre is to be fully funded by the Victorian Government a query re the use of the money was lodged. The result was we were told to "Watch the space." Given that this was two months ago, has there been any planning for the use of the money.

Question 1 Response

Thank you Gary for your question and thank you for speaking with Kate Shearer, Manager Planning and Growth last week.

As Kate mentioned we are working actively to understand fully what the Victorian School Building Authority will be delivering and if the City still have obligations in accordance with the Precinct Structure Plan. We are happy to keep you informed as we work through this.

Question 2:

In April 2026 I asked a question re interest earned on Section 173's put in place by the CoGG. The response was that interest on Section 173's and Development Community Plans is all passed over to General Revenue. Let me start by saying I have no problem with the concept of either levy as they are able to fund valuable community infrastructure. By the very nature of the funds, collection of money, and ultimate construction of a facility, takes a number of years. The St Leonards fund commenced in 2016/17 and is yet to deliver an outcome. Looking at the St Leonards fund in the 2024/25 year it held \$3million dollars in round figures. Detailed Analysis Fund value- \$3,000,000 approx Inflation for 2025/26 rounded down to 4%. Therefore the fund was devalued by \$120,000 in that year. Interest earned.2024/25 Interest on the fund earned at 5% would be \$150,000. This \$150,000 went directly into General Revenue and could be spent on any project or cost directed by CoGG. So money paid in by residents of St Leonards in 2024/25 a. Lost value - \$120000 b. Had interest taken from it- \$150,000 c. Was possibly spent on projects in other parts of the CoGG. I would like to recommend that money collected, maintains the funds at their expected level by returning the interest equivalent to inflation to the fund on a yearly basis. This action does not affect the CoGG budget as no extra funds are taken from the overall budget but rather creates a re-allocation.

Question 2 Response

Thanks for this question Gary.

Officers confirm that interest earned on Section 173 funds held in reserve for future delivery of community infrastructure projects has historically been recorded as consolidated revenue. Officers are undertaking a review of restricted cash reserves in 2026-27 and will consider the issue of the interest being generated from the restricted funds being returned to reserves. Council's obligation to deliver the agreed infrastructure and any shortfall in the funding is met by Council's contribution from general revenue.

SUBMITTER 2. ESTELLE MCKENOVIC

Subject: CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS

**Relevant City Department: Corporate Services
Executive Director Troy Edwards**

Question 1:

Given now half of the 'big four' have been involved in a significant breach of accuracy, trust and confidentiality relating to professional contracts at a federal level, how is Council proactively responding to and reviewing any current contracts with Deloitte and KMPG? Will there be any pauses or changes to contractual agreements - particularly regarding safeguards for AI 'hallucinations' and confidentiality/corruption issues?

Question 1 Response

Thank you for your question Estelle.

Council takes these matters very seriously. All engagements with professional services firms are subject to the City's procurement and contract management processes, with strong confidentiality, conflict of interest and data protection requirements. Council actively reviews and negotiates contract terms to ensure appropriate protections for Council information are in place. Council also notes that its audit work is independently conducted by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office and Astor Audit & Advisory, rather than the firms referenced.

In relation to AI, Council recognises emerging risks such as inaccurate outputs, data leakage and misuse of information. Council is taking a cautious, risk-based approach, with consideration given to the nature of each engagement. For example, we have started introducing "no-AI use without prior written consent" clauses in some of our commercial contracts. We anticipate further changes to our contract management practice as AI use becomes more prevalent amongst suppliers and would-be suppliers.

SUBMITTER 3. KATHARINE GLADMAN

Subject: FOOTPATH – GROVEDALE COLLEGE

Relevant City Department: City Infrastructure

Executive Director James Stirton

Question 1:

The section of footpath outside Grovedale College on Burdoo Drive has never been completed. Three generations of school children have trudged over this grassy, muddy section to get to school. It is now dangerous, slippery and unsightly. It would not cost much to put a path there, even loose gravel. Can this be rectified urgently?

Question 1 Response

Thank you Katharine for your question and thank you for speaking with our Civil Infrastructure team this morning.

The City acknowledges the concern about the incomplete section of footpath on Burdoo Drive outside Grovedale College, including the impact this can have on students and families during wet weather.

A preliminary officer assessment has identified that completing the missing section would be more complex than a standard footpath project due to the roadside slope. This would affect the design requirements, drainage considerations and construction cost.

Funding has not currently been allocated to deliver this section of path through the proposed budget, noting current financial constraints and competing priorities across the broader footpath network. However, the City will continue to consider this location as part of future prioritisation and funding opportunities, including where projects can be aligned with broader pedestrian access, safety or renewal works.

SUBMITTER 4. JENNIFER BANTOW

Subject: KARDINIA PARK MASTERPLAN / TREES Relevant City Department: City Life / City Infrastructure
Executive Director Anthony Basford / James Stirton

Question 1:

RE KARDINIA PARK There's a story in the Geelong Advertiser Thurs June 18th, page 8, about Kardinia Park. The story says the CoGG Kardinia Park masterplan will be replaced by the Kardinia Stadium Trust's new plan, and a hotel is proposed in the south-east corner. There's a Senior Citizens Hall, and some of the original Kardinia Park Arboretum trees including a Bunya Pine in the south-east corner. The story also says there's a major company taking an interest in the future of the Park. Council has already relinquished being the Responsible Authority to the State Government for the north-east corner where there was a tan gravel running track and many trees. Kardinia Park is becoming known as Kardinia Car Park. QUESTION ONE Could Council please provide a map showing the total area of Kardinia Park and what percentage of that total area is now covered by asphalt?

Question 1 Response

Thanks for your question Jennifer,

As you have referenced, a new master plan for the Kardinia Park precinct will be developed by Kardinia Park Stadium Trust, in consultation with key stakeholders and the City. The Trust have requested that all queries relating to the precinct be redirected to them for response. We can assist in ensuring your question on asphalt coverage is directed to the appropriate person in Council and we will come back to you with that map.

Question 2:

In the Council Meeting - 24 February 2026 MINUTES 2.1. Community Priority Projects Council: Endorses the City of Greater Geelong 4 Tier Priority Projects (Attachment 1), for advocacy to the Victorian Government, Members of Parliament and endorsed local candidates Attachment 1 of the 4 Tier Priority Projects is an excellent Report that outlines many important proposals. 3 re heritage places - Art Gallery, Railway Station, Marshall Bluestone Cottage Approx 15 proposals are about transport, rail and roads About 20 re sport About 15 re parks The Kardinia Park Netball Complex redevelopment is listed The Kardinia Stadium Trust is NOT the Kardinia Park Trust, it looks after the Stadium not the whole Park. Does Council support the take-over of this public parkland by the Stadium Trust committee. QUESTION TWO Does Council have a detailed list of all the trees in this public park and which trees are recognised as significant, and which date from the the original plantings?

Question 2 Response

Thanks for these questions Jennifer.

The Council has not been contacted by the Kardinia Park Stadium Trust to take over the public parkland. Council would need to consider many factors including community sentiment prior to making such a decision, should it be asked in the future.

The City maintains an inventory of trees located on Council-managed land, including information such as genus, species, condition, significance and other asset attributes. This inventory is publicly accessible via the Geelong Data Exchange and we will share the link with you in our written response.

When viewing the information on the exchange, users should note that the dataset is not a live system. While the City undertakes regular updates and makes every effort to archive removed trees, there may be instances where trees listed in the inventory no longer exist, particularly where removals have been undertaken by external parties.