

Council Meeting

Council Chambers
Civic Centre
Boxshall Street Brighton

Tuesday
18 June 2024
at 6.30pm



Agenda

Chair: Cr Fiona Stitfold (Mayor)

Councillors: Cr Sonia Castelli
Cr Alex del Porto (Deputy Mayor)
Cr Hanna El Mouallem
Cr Laurence Evans OAM
Cr Clarke Martin
Cr Jo Samuel-King

Membership and Quorum

Bayside City Council consists of 7 Councillors. The quorum for a Council meeting is a majority of Councillors (4).

Notice

There is a limit of 10 speakers per eligible Agenda items (5 speakers 'for' and 5 'against' the recommendation) in accordance with Council's Governance Rules.

Members of the community may also lodge a written statement for consideration (no limits per item).

[Requests to be heard \(Request to Speak / Lodge a Written Statement\)](#)

Council also allocates 15 minutes at the start of each monthly Council Meeting for response to public questions.

[Ask a question at a Council Meeting](#)

**Requests to be Heard and Public Questions must be submitted by 9am on the business day before the meeting.*

Meetings are live-streamed via Council's website:

[Live-stream the Council meeting](#)

For further information, please speak with the Governance office on 9599 4444.

Order of Business

- 1. Prayer
- 2. Acknowledgement of Country
- 3. Apologies
- 4. Disclosure of any Conflict of Interest of any Councillor
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1. Prayer

O God
Bless this City, Bayside
Give us courage, strength and wisdom
So that our deliberations
May be for the good of all
Amen

2. Acknowledgement of Country

- ◆ Bayside City Council proudly acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging as well as any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community members with us today.
- ◆ Council acknowledges the Bunurong's continuing relationship to the land and waterways and respects that their connection and spiritual identity is maintained through ancient ceremonies, songlines, dance, art and living culture.
- ◆ Council pays tribute to the invaluable contributions of the Bunurong and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Elders who have guided and continue to guide the work we do.

3. Apologies

4. Disclosure of any Conflict of Interest of any Councillor

5. Adoption and Confirmation of the minutes of previous meeting

- 5.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Bayside City Council held on 21 May 2024.

6. Public Question Time

7. Petitions to Council

7.1 PETITION FOR COUNCIL TO INSTALL AN OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT OR HALF COURT IN BAYSIDE, SPECIFICALLY IN DENDY PARK

Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure - Open Space and Recreation
File No: PSF/24/102 – Doc No: DOC/24/174639

A petition has been received for Council to install an outdoor Basketball court or half court in Bayside, specifically in Dendy Park.

(162 valid signatories were received).

Petition prayer:

"We the undersigned hereby petition the Bayside City Council of Victoria, Australia to install an outdoor Basketball court or half court in the Bayside zone, specifically in Dendy park."

Petition rationale (as submitted by lead petitioner):

As the parents, family and friends of passionate basketball loving tweens and teenagers, we are concerned by the lack of local quality outdoor basketball courts in this area. The available courts are indoor and only accessible under supervised circumstances that prevent ad hoc play.

Our tweens and teenagers need spaces where they can engage in physical outdoor activities and socialise outside the confines of technology. Providing these spaces contributes to improved physical and mental wellbeing.

According to the World Health Organization, regular physical activity can help prevent depression among adolescents. along with reducing the temptation and likelihood of youth crime.

Basketball is increasingly popular - currently the second highest participated team sport in Australia according to the recent Australian Clearinghouse for Sport annual AusPlay survey (AusPlay results | Clearinghouse for Sport). Approximately 5% of the population (15yrs +) play basketball, with 18% of teens aged 15-17 playing, and 10% of 18-24 year olds.

Currently there are very few outdoor basketball courts/half courts in this area and those that exist are very poor quality, not well maintained and aren't built to a specification that allow our children to practice under game day conditions (eg. rings are at incorrect heights, there are no court markings, insufficient space and the surfaces are often dangerous). The Sandringham basketball stadiums are fabulous but are indoors and less accessible for a casual free play across weekdays and weekends.

The installation of a basketball court or half court at Dendy park would encourage many tweens and teenagers to exercise and provide an opportunity for them to gather together, build friendships, learn teamwork skills and enjoy their time outdoors.

Petition Requirements

The petition containing 162 valid signatories meets the required format of a petition in accordance with Chapter 2, Section 58 of Council's Governance Rules.

Officers' Comments

Bayside Council has a number of existing half-court basketball courts and other informal recreation infrastructure throughout the municipality. Some existing half-court basketball courts include popular spaces such as Williams Street Reserve, Hurlingham Park, Elsternwick Park, Wishart Reserve and Peterson Street Reserve.

The existing Dendy Park Master Plan outlines a number of development opportunities. There is no reference in the master plan for a half-court basketball court.

Bayside Council has an existing Recreation Strategy which has expired. Officers are commencing preparations for the review and refresh of this Strategy next year. As part of this review, we will be looking at the total Bayside area for informal and formal recreation infrastructure such as basketball courts and will include community consultation around needs and priorities for everyone in the community.

Recommendation

That the petition be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration and response.

Support Attachments

Nil

8. Minutes of Advisory Committees

8.1 RECORDS OF MEETINGS HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF COUNCIL

Corporate Services - Governance
File No: PSF/24/100 – Doc No: DOC/24/164453

Executive summary

Purpose and background

The purpose of this report is to formally report to Council on the records of meetings held under the auspices of Council in accordance with Section 131 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules.

Key issues

This report fulfils the requirements of reporting on the records of meetings held under the auspices of Council to the next practical Council meeting in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules.

Recommendation

That Council notes the records of meeting/s held under the auspices of Council as required by the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules:

- 28 May 2024 Strategic Issues Discussion
- 4 June 2024 Councillor Briefing.

Support Attachments

1. Record of meeting held under the Auspices of Council - 28 May 2024 Strategic Issues Discussion
2. Record of meeting held under the Auspices of Council - 4 June 2024 Councillor Briefing



Record of meeting held under the auspices of Council

Record in accordance with Section 131 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and
Chapter 10 (Section 10.1) of Council's Governance Rules

<i>Meeting Information</i>	
<i>Meeting Name/Type</i>	Strategic Issues Discussion
<i>Meeting Date</i>	28 May 2024
<i>Start Time</i>	4.00pm
<i>Matters discussed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation from the Odonata Foundation • Bayside Lake Management Plans • Fair Access Policy & Action Plan Final Review • Results of the 2023 Councillor Satisfaction Survey • Response to Petition - Council to review Heritage and Neighbourhood Character Studies • Bayside affordable housing contributions - proposed planning scheme amendment
<i>Attendees</i>	
<i>Councillors</i>	Cr Fiona Stitfold (Mayor) Cr Alex del Porto (Deputy Mayor) Cr Laurence Evans OAM Cr Clarke Martin Cr Jo Samuel-King
<i>Staff</i>	Mick Cummins – Chief Executive Officer Tilla Buden – Director Community and Customer Experience Jill Colson – Director Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Matthew Cripps – Director City Planning and Amenity Kathryn Tozer – Director Corporate Services Terry Callant – Manager Governance James Roscoe – Manager Climate Waste and Integrated Transport Tom Vercoe – Manager Open Space and Recreation Rachael Hudson – Strategic Planning Coordinator David Nankervis – Recreation and Events Coordinator Mitchel Abraham – Strategic Planner Robert Lamb – Council Business Lead Amy Weir – Biodiversity and Conservation Planning Officer Aimee White – Recreation Planner
<i>External Guests</i>	Matt Singleton – Strategy Director, Odonata Foundation
<i>Apologies</i>	
<i>Councillors</i>	Cr Sonia Castelli Cr Hanna El Moullem

<i>Conflict of Interest disclosures</i>		
<i>Matter</i>	<i>Councillor making disclosure</i>	<i>Councillor left meeting</i>
Presentation from the Odonata Foundation	Cr Jo Samuel-King	Yes



Record of meeting held under the auspices of Council

Record in accordance with Section 131 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and
Chapter 10 (Section 10.1) of Council's Governance Rules

<i>Meeting Information</i>	
<i>Meeting Name/Type</i>	Councillor Briefing
<i>Meeting Date</i>	4 June 2024
<i>Start Time</i>	4.00pm
<i>Matters discussed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Plan 2021–25 Year 4 Review and Annual Action Plan 2024–25 • Annual Budget 2024–25 - Community Engagement Results • Stray Golf Ball mitigations at Brighton Golf Course • Draft Economic Development Tourism and Placemaking Strategy 2024–29 • Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan • Climate Emergency Action Plan - Annual Update • Review of the Street and Park Tree Management Policy 2020 • Dendy Street Beach - Update on erosion mitigation options • Bayside Open Space Strategy Review: Key Directions Paper • Highett Grassy Woodland Masterplan 2024 • Biodiversity Action Plan 2024–29
<i>Attendees</i>	
<i>Councillors</i>	Cr Fiona Stitfold (Mayor) Cr Sonia Castelli Cr Alex del Porto (Deputy Mayor) Cr Hanna El Mouallem Cr Laurence Evans OAM Cr Clarke Martin Cr Jo Samuel-King
<i>Staff</i>	Mick Cummins – Chief Executive Officer Tilla Buden – Director Community and Customer Experience Jill Colson – Director Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Matthew Cripps – Director City Planning and Amenity Kathryn Tozer – Director Corporate Services Terry Callant – Manager Governance James Roscoe – Manager Climate Waste and Integrated Transport Bill Shanahan – Chief Financial Officer Jason Stubbs – Manager Commercial Services Tom Vercoe – Manager Open Space and Recreation Anthony Jacobs – Acting Manager Urban Strategy Ryan Cooray – Acting Economic Development Coordinator Amy Weir – Biodiversity and Conservation Planning Officer
<i>External Guests</i>	Nil
<i>Apologies</i>	
<i>Councillors</i>	Nil

<i>Conflict of Interest disclosures</i>		
<i>Matter</i>	<i>Councillor making disclosure</i>	<i>Councillor left meeting</i>
Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan	Cr Jo Samuel-King	Yes
Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan Dendy Street Beach - Update on erosion mitigation options	Cr Sonia Castelli	Yes

8.2 MINUTES OF THE DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 APRIL 2024

Corporate Services - Governance
File No: PSF/24/100 – Doc No: DOC/24/173283

Executive summary

Purpose and background

To present the minutes of the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting held on 29 April 2024 to Council for noting.

The Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee was established in 2020 and was constituted for the purpose of providing advice and supporting Council in the development and implementation of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021–25 (MPHWP) and to consider other strategic and infrastructure issues that may impact people with a disability.

The functions of the Committee are to provide advice and recommendations to Council on the following matters:

- identifying issues of access to the built, social and natural environments
- identifying barriers to inclusion in community and economic life in Bayside
- discussing potential solutions (actions) to identified issues
- providing input and comment on the development of projects and programs for implementation of the Disability Action Plan 2021–25.

In addition, the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee provides specific advice on nominated Council strategies, masterplans, programs and infrastructure priorities.

The Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee membership comprises 2 Councillors appointed by Council and 10 community members appointed through a public expression of interest process.

Key issues

A meeting of the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee was held on 29 April 2024 to consider the following matters:

- Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan - Consultation
- Review of Graffiti Management Plan.

A copy of the 29 April 2024 minutes of the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting is attached for Council's information.

Recommendation

That Council notes the minutes of the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting held on 29 April 2024 (Attachment 1).

Support Attachments

1. Minutes of the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee meeting held on 29 April 2024

Bayside City Council

Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
Meeting - 29 April 2024



**Minutes of the
Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
Meeting**

held in the Bayside Room
Corporate Centre
76 Royal Avenue
Sandringham
on Monday 29 April 2024

The Meeting commenced at 6.30pm

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

The Chair, Cr Martin opened the meeting at 6.37pm and welcomed members of the Committee and officers.

Acknowledgement of Country

Ms Olivier read the acknowledgement of Country:

Bayside City Council proudly acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging as well as any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community members with us today.

Bayside City Council

Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
Meeting - 29 April 2024**2. Present****Councillors:** Cr Clarke Martin (Chair)**External Members:** Ms Amanda Blohm
Ms Emily Costello
Mr Ade Djajamihardja
Ms Isabella Fantasia
Mr Mark Glascodine
Ms Jo Levett
Ms Emma Olivier
Mr Sam Seoud**Officers:**
Joan Andrews Manager Community Care
Ros Pruden Manager Family Youth and Wellbeing
Anthony Jacobs Economic Development Coordinator
Ryan Cooray Economic Development Officer
Vanessa Bradley Community Engagement Coordinator
Josh Connell Community Wellbeing Coordinator
Ben Allars Urban Strategy Admin Officer
Al Harith Alogaily Contract Manager Infrastructure Civil
Robert Lamb Council Business Lead
Jah Smith ISMMF Graffiti Program Officer**Membership and Quorum for the meeting**

There are currently (12) members appointed to the Advisory Committee. The quorum for a meeting is a majority of members (7) and must include at least one Councillor representative.

A quorum for this meeting was reached with no less than 9 members (including 1 Councillor) present at any given time.

3. Apologies

It is recorded that apologies were received from Cr Jo Samuel-King, Mr Andrew Turner and Ms Tara Webb.

Moved: Ms Costello**Seconded: Ms Fantasia**

That the apologies of Cr Jo Samuel-King, Mr Andrew Turner and Ms Tara Webb be noted for the 26 February 2024 Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting.

CARRIED

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Bayside City Council

Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
Meeting - 29 April 2024

4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest of any Councillor

There were no conflicts of interest submitted to the meeting.

5. Adoption and Confirmation of the minutes of previous meeting

- 5.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2024.

Moved: Ms Levett

Moved: Ms Olivier

That the minutes of the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Meeting held on 26 February 2024, as previously circulated, be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings, subject to the reference in item 6.4 (Actions Arising) to 'St Kilda Road' being corrected to 'St Kilda Street'.

CARRIED

6. Reports

6.1 ACTIONS ARISING

There were no current Actions Arising to report however the Council Business Lead noted that the Committee members have each been provided a copy of the revised Charter for the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee – which was adopted at the March Council meeting.

It was requested that this document be updated with the most recent group photo taken of the Committee.

Mr Glasocodine requested that Council publish on its website a list of external advocacy agencies that support people with disability.

Bayside City Council

Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
Meeting - 29 April 2024

6.2 DENDY BEACH VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONSULTATION

City Planning and Amenity - Urban Strategy
File No: FOL/24/351 – Doc No: DOC/24/102204

The Economic Development Officer gave a presentation in relation to the Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan and sought feedback from the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Ms Fantasia raised that there is no beach matting for wheelchair access from the beach to the water and that this should be a smooth surface – also that present signage is poor/confusing.

Other members stated that wooden decking/boarding should be the preferred material (not matting) due to it being a sturdier material and that this should be mandatory.

Ms Olivier raised concern with reference in the Management Plan to "Consider making ramps gentle gradient and consider putting in matting" and disagreed with usage of word "consider" instead of more definitive, results-assured language. Ms Olivier also noted that it is not just visiting to see the beach that is important element of accessibility, but also visiting to swim and enjoy it as an experience.

It was noted generally that there is a need for clear signage and train station directions.

Mr Glascodine indicated that connecting Green Point to Middle Brighton is a good idea and there may be several points where decking can be added to increase access to the beach along the entire foreshore, not just to the bathing boxes – and that having total beach access would be ideal, though may be costly.

The Economic Development Officer indicated that officers are exploring all available options as part of the Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan and also that decking was explored as part of the Dendy Beach Masterplan between Green Point and the Brighton Bathing Boxes, although there was some resistance particularly from Bathing Box owners.

Officers also noted and thanked Ms Blohm for a substantive formal submission on this matter titled "Sand on my Wheels: Accessible Beaches for People with Mobility Disabilities" which informs the Visitor Management Plan and broader beach accessibility.

Noted:

That the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee:

1. notes the draft Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan (Attachment 1)
2. provided feedback to Council officers on the plan's strategies with an emphasis on accessibility and inclusion.

Bayside City Council

Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
Meeting - 29 April 2024

6.3 REVIEW OF GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT PLAN

Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure - City Assets and Presentation
File No: PSF/24/80 – Doc No: DOC/24/113427

The Contract Manager Infrastructure Civil and ISMMF Graffiti Program Officer gave a presentation in relation to the Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan and sought feedback from the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Ms Fantasia stated that graffiti is mainly a problem for people with a disability when it is on wayfinding signage the people with a disability may rely on.

The ISMMF Graffiti Program Officer noted that there is a graffiti removal triage model in place where the target for removal of graffiti that is deemed offensive in nature is within 2 hours – and the target for removal of graffiti is otherwise within 2 business days.

There were various comments around Changing Places facilities often being graffitied and that it is important to keep these facilities free of graffiti so that users can feel safe – and that there should be a triage model that deals more promptly with graffiti on any wayfinding signage that may be relied upon by people with a disability.

Officers noted that the website is the most effective method for reporting graffiti.

Ms Costello proposed that the Graffiti Management Plan deal with legal graffiti art that may be commissioned in certain locations and encouraged employment of artists living with disabilities for such works – for visibility in the community.

Mr Glascodine noted that there is a Victorian peak body for Arts and Disability (Art Access) which are engaged in this kind of work.

Officers encouraged further feedback directly (to officers) or via Council's Have Your Say page.

Noted

That the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee provided feedback to Council officers on the draft Graffiti Management Policy 2024–28.

Bayside City Council

Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
Meeting - 29 April 2024

7. General Business

Ms Fantasia raised that it would be preferable that Council officers offered face-to-face drop-in sessions for all Council projects/matters. The Community Engagement Coordinator advised that group sessions are offered for projects/matters where there is a higher-enough level of community engagement expected. However, even in instances where this is not offered, Council officers will always make themselves available to meet one-on-one with residents/stakeholders as required and offer a variety of other contact methods to meet all needs.

Ms Blohm thanked officers for arranging the installation of a hearing loop in the Bayside Room, Corporate Centre. This now enables Ms Blohm and any other users of the facility who have a hearing disability to participate more fully in meetings.

8. Confirmation of date of future meetings

The next meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Monday 24 June 2024
- Monday 26 August 2024
- Monday 21 October 2024
- Monday 2 December 2024

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 7.17pm.

8.3 MINUTES OF THE RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2024

Corporate Services - Governance
File No: PSF/24/100 – Doc No: DOC/24/173280

Executive summary

Purpose and background

To present the minutes of the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Advisory Group meeting held on 15 May 2024 to Council for noting.

The Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Advisory Group was established in 2019 following Council endorsing a formal commitment to reconciliation with Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The RAP outlines practical actions that will drive Bayside City Council's contribution to reconciliation both internally and in the communities in which it operates. The development and implementation of Council's RAP is guided by the RAP Advisory Group made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives and local residents, community leaders and key agency representatives.

The RAP Advisory Group's objectives are to:

- provide advice and feedback to Council when requested by Council on related reconciliation matters
- work in collaboration with Council officers to support delivery of RAP activities
- help to plan community engagement to achieve reconciliation goals and outcomes
- champion awareness raising activities within the Bayside community
- provide endorsement at key stages of development and implementation of the RAP.

The Advisory Group has no delegated powers.

The Advisory Group's membership requirements are as follows:

- Traditional Owner representative(s) and/or a Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander representatives that live, work, study, volunteer or have a connection with Bayside
(Minimum requirement: 2 members)
- Community members with a demonstrated commitment to Reconciliation and/or experience in RAP development
(Minimum requirement: 5 members)
- Councillor representative appointed by Council
(Minimum requirement: 1 Councillor).

Key issues

A meeting of the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group was held on 15 May 2024 to consider the following matters:

- Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking Strategy - Placemaking Action Plan Referral
- Arts and Culture Program Update
- Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week Events Update

- Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan - Evaluation Report.

A copy of the 15 May 2024 minutes of the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group meeting is attached for Council's information.

Recommendation

That Council notes the minutes of the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group meeting held on 15 May 2024.

Support Attachments

1. Minutes of the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee meeting held on 15 May 2024

Bayside City Council

Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group Meeting - 15 May 2024

Minutes of the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

held in the Mayor's Room
Council Chambers
Civic Centre Precinct – Boxshall Street Brighton
on Wednesday 15 May 2024

The Meeting commenced at 10:00 AM

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

In the absence of the Chair, Mayor Cr Fiona Stitfold, the co-Chair Mr Toscano opened the meeting at 10.03am and welcomed members, including the newly appointed members, of the Advisory Committee and officers to the meeting.

Members and officers were formally introduced around the table.

Acknowledgement of Country

The co-Chair Mr Toscano invited the Manager Governance to read the acknowledgement of country.

Bayside City Council proudly acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging as well as any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community members with us today.

2. Present

Members:

- Mr Josh Toscano (co-Chair)
- Cr Jo Samuel-King
- Mr Jeremy Abbott
- Mr Richard Bowen
- Ms Gulay Cevik
- Ms Jill Orr-Young
- Mr Matt Perfect
- Ms Laura Stewart
- Mr Marcus Tehan

Officers:

- Tilla Buden – Director Community and Customer Experience
- Terry Callant – Manager Governance
- Ros Pruden – Manager Family, Youth and Wellbeing
- Josh Connell – Community Wellbeing Coordinator
- Robert Lamb – Council Business Lead

Bayside City Council Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group Meeting - 15 May 2024**Quorum for the meeting**

The Manager Governance advised the meeting that there are 14 members appointed to the Advisory Committee. The quorum for a meeting is a majority (8) of members including at least one Councillor representative.

A quorum for this meeting was reached no less than 9 members present at any given time (including 1 Councillor and 2 traditional owner representatives and/or Aboriginal / Torres Strait Islander representatives who live, work, study, volunteer or have a connection with Bayside).

3. Apologies

It is recorded that apologies were received from the Mayor, Cr Fiona Stitfold, Aunty Katrina Amon, Ms Jillian West, Mr Bertan Mackali, and Ms Allyson Craigie-Parsons.

Moved: Mr Abbott**Seconded: Mr Perfect**

That the apologies from the Mayor, Cr Fiona Stitfold, Aunty Katrina Amon, Ms Jillian West, Mr Bertan Mackali, and Ms Allyson Craigie-Parsons be noted for the 15 May 2024 Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee meeting.

CARRIED**4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest of any Councillor**

- Cr Jo Samuel-King declared a general conflict of interest in Item 5.1 (Confirmation of the Minutes of the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group Meeting held on 14 February 2024) given Cr Samuel-King's partner is the Strategic Consultant for Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve.

5. Adoption and Confirmation of the minutes of previous meeting

- 5.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group Meeting held on 14 February 2024.

Moved: Mr Abbott**Seconded: Ms Cevik**

That the minutes of the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting held on 14 February 2024, as previously circulated, be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED

6. Reports

6.1 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND PLACEMAKING STRATEGY - PLACEMAKING ACTION PLAN REFERRAL

City Planning and Amenity - Urban Strategy
File No: PSF/23/162 – Doc No: DOC/24/98127

The co-Chair welcomed Council's Place Maker officer to the meeting who provided a presentation on the draft Placemaking Action Plan.

Feedback from members of the Committee included the following points:

- *A concern with the term 'Place Making' as the 'place' is already present – and that there is a need for more indigenous knowledge on this in consideration of the naming of this strategy/action plan – as naming is part of placemaking and the original names have meaning.*
- *That opportunities be explored to engage with indigenous artists and businesses as it was noted that there is a general lack of indigenous Art in public places in Bayside.*
- *A suggestion that there be recognition of different sites around Bayside, remembering the history of the area – with a focus on respect to both old and new generations.*
- *A question was raised whether specific sites were being recommended now or at a later time. Officers noted that the focus is on Activity Centres starting with 7 sites identified under the Placemaking Action Plan.*
- *A concern was raised that Hampton is not as equally represented in the identified sites in comparison to other areas in Bayside.*

Noted:

That the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee noted the draft Placemaking Action Plan, as part of the proposed Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking Strategy, and the Committee looks forward to engaging with the Action Plan to ensure the actions within the plan are inclusive of indigenous culture and history.

6.2 ARTS AND CULTURE PROGRAM UPDATE

Community and Customer Experience - Arts, Culture and Libraries
File No: FOL/24/226 – Doc No: DOC/24/69180

The Co-Chair welcomed the Arts and Culture Coordinator to the meeting who provided a presentation on the Arts and Culture Program update, as follows:

Public Art

Work is progressing on 'Sovering Tree' art work at Landcox Park and it is proposed to launch the public art during Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June 2024). There has been a design modification to the tree since the last presentation as the artist wishes to more accurately depict a scar tree.

A Welcome to Country and/or Healing Ceremony will be held to coincide with the formal launch of the work by the Mayor.

Acquisitions

At the 27 February 2024 Council Meeting, Council endorsed the recommendation of the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee to acquire a set of three framed colour photographs commissioned by Bayside City Council for the 2023 Billilla Lightbox project by Kent Morris titled Cultural Reflections – Billilla Mansion, Rainbow Lorikeet #1 Cultural Reflections – Billilla Mansion, Rainbow Lorikeet #2 and Cultural Reflections – Billilla Mansion, Rainbow Lorikeet #3. Kent Morris is an artist of Barkindji and Irish Heritage living on Yaukut Weelam Country in Melbourne.

Kent Morris has produced three images documenting the gardens and birdlife of Billilla, reflecting on the site as Aboriginal land revealing the continuing presence and patterns of Aboriginal history, culture and knowledge in the contemporary Australian landscape, despite ongoing colonial interventions in the physical and political environments.

Exhibition Bayside Gallery

At the 27 September 2023 meeting of the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee the 2024 to 2025 exhibition program was approved. The 2024 program includes an exhibition of work by Megan Cope, a Quandamooka artist from Moreton Bay/North Stradbroke. Megan's work "often resists prescribed notions of Aboriginality and examine psychogeographies that challenge the grand narrative of 'Australia' and our sense of tie and ownership in a settler colonial stare.

The Megan Cope exhibition will be on display at Bayside Gallery from 29 June to 25 August 2024 with the opening event at 2pm on Saturday 29 June 2024.

Exhibitions – Corporate Centre

Established in 2018, the Ellen José Student Reconciliation Awards are aimed at Bayside primary and secondary school students, bringing awareness of reconciliation to our young people, who are the future of Australia, through art and writing. Entrants are asked to interpret "As a young person, what does reconciliation mean to you?" in their artwork or written piece.

The finalist artworks and written pieces will be displayed at the Bayside Corporate Centre, from 27 May to 28 July 2024. Winners will be announced at the Flag Raising Ceremony to be held on Saturday 25 May 2024.

Bayside City Council Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group Meeting - 15 May 2024

It was suggested that there may be an opportunity to raise awareness and collaborate with local schools about the Arts and Culture program.

Noted:

That the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee noted the Arts and Culture update report.

6.3 RECONCILIATION WEEK AND NAIDOC WEEK EVENTS UPDATE

Community and Customer Experience - Family, Youth and Wellbeing
File No: FOL/24/37 – Doc No: DOC/24/105041

The Community Wellbeing Coordinator provided a presentation on the comprehensive program planned for Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week events within Bayside.

RECONCILIATION WEEK - “Now More Than Ever” 27 May to 3 June

Event 1: Sandringham Library is hosting a “Create your Ellen José Student Reconciliation Award entry” event in collaboration with Living Culture. This event is to support Bayside youth create an artwork that responds to the question “As a young person, what does Reconciliation mean to you?” which can be entered into the Ellen José Student Reconciliation Awards

When: Thursday 4 April, 2.00pm to 3.30pm

Event 2: Bayside Flag Raising Ceremony & Ellen Jose Student Reconciliation Award. Welcome to country” and smoking ceremony by the Traditional owners Bunurong Land Council and to raise the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Flags to commemorate National Reconciliation Week. The event will also celebrate the finalists and winners of the Ellen José Student Reconciliation Awards at our flag raising ceremony.

When: Saturday 25 May 2024, 9.30am

Where: Bayside City Council, 76 Royal Avenue Sandringham

Activities: Welcome to Country & Smoking Ceremony with Bunurong Land Council

Event 3: Sandringham Library Reconciliation Week Celebration

When: Saturday 25 May 2024 1.00pm

Where: Sandringham Library, 8 Waltham Street, Sandringham

Activities: Welcome to Country & Yidiki performance with Bunurong Land Council.

Wanyara hosting a Yarn session followed by a paint session.

Event 4: Internal event for Bayside staff – Point and Be Proud Workshop

When: Tuesday 28 May 2024, 11.00am to 12.00pm

Where: Bayside City Council, 76 Royal Avenue Sandringham and online via Teams

What: Point and Be Proud Workshop with Aunty Katrina from the St Kilda Football Club.

This event aims to educate Bayside staff on the long-term effects of racism on mental health and wellbeing.

Bayside City Council Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group Meeting - 15 May 2024

Event 5: 'Sovering Tree' by Robert Michael Young official launch and unveiling.

When: Wednesday 29 May 2024, 2.00pm to 3.00pm

Where: Landcox Park, Mavis Avenue, Brighton East

What: 'Sovering Tree' 2024 by Robert Michael Young Gunnai, Waradjuri, Gunditjmara, Yorta Yorta public artwork unveiling. The traditional markings and carvings on this artwork tell the stories of First People's ancestors and their roots to country. Just as a real scar tree provides us with an important link to culture and the past, 'Sovering Tree', provides us with a space for conversation about place, history, and healing.

**NAIDOC WEEK - "Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud"
7 – 14 July**

Event 1: Collaboration with Bayley House who will be hosting an Arts Exhibition – Concentric Unity Jintaka – Juku (Jintangka)

When: Opening Friday 5 July 2024 to Final day to the Public Sunday 21 July

Where: Bayley Arts Gallery

Event 2: Movie Screening of Australian movie "Sweet Country" movie screening for approximately 200 attendees including a small popcorn. This event includes a Welcome to Country and Yidiki performance with the Bunurong Land Council.

When: Monday 8 July 2024, 6.00pm to 8.30pm

Where: Palace Cinema, Brighton

Event 3: Football Clinic and Inclusive Leadership Workshop to Community Sports Clubs

This is a collaboration with Headspace and the St Kilda Football Club

When: Wednesday 10 July 2024, 4.30pm to 8pm

Where: Sandringham Football Club, 92 Beach Road, Sandringham

It was noted that due to availability, some of events may not be undertaken during NAIDOC week, though there may be opportunity later in the year.

It was also suggested that promotion of indigenous plants through the Bayside Nursery be undertaken.

Noted:

That the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee noted the report on Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week events.

6.4 INNOVATE RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN - EVALUATION REPORT

Community and Customer Experience - Family, Youth and Wellbeing
File No: FOL/24/37 – Doc No: DOC/24/104698

The Community Wellbeing Coordinator introduced consultant Ms Jacqui Goy, from 'Conversation Co' who presented the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan Evaluation Report.

Feedback from members of the Committee included the following points:

Reference to continuing the relationship with both the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council which is no longer the registered indigenous party within Bayside, and the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation which is the registered party – as both groups have a rich history in the area. It was noted that is important to acknowledge and maintain relationships with all indigenous groups in Bayside.

The Manager Family, Youth and Wellbeing advised this is something that could be explored in the next Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and also that there is now approval in the budget for a permanent position for recruitment of the next RAP officer – this was previously a fixed 2-year term.

A question was raised as to how is success of the RAP is to be measured. The Community Wellbeing Coordinator advised that an audit tool used by Reconciliation Australia will be utilised.

The Community Wellbeing Coordinator also provided a summary of the next steps in this process which include: finalising the evaluation report and development of a stakeholder engagement plan for the RAP. A project plan will be provided at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

Noted:

That the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee noted the report and the evaluation of the existing Innovate RAP which will assist in the development process for the subsequent Innovate RAP.

6.5 ACTIONS ARISING

Community and Customer Experience - Family, Youth and Wellbeing
File No: PSF/24/98 – Doc No: DOC/24/30107

There were no current Actions Arising to report.

Bayside City Council Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Group Meeting - 15 May 2024

7. General Business

There were no items of General Business.

8. Confirmation of date of future meetings

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 31 July 2024.

The co-Chair Mr Toscano declared the meeting closed at 12.05pm.

8.4 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 MAY 2024

Corporate Services - Governance
File No: PSF/24/100 – Doc No: DOC/24/164011

The minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting which forms an attachment are presented in camera in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) and pursuant to Section 3(1) of the Act (confidential information) (a), as it contains Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.

Should Councillors wish to discuss the content of the minutes it would be appropriate that Council resolves to consider the matter in camera.

Executive summary

Purpose and background

To advise Council of the business transacted at the Audit and Risk Committee held on 27 May 2024.

The Audit and Risk Committee is an independent Advisory Committee to Council appointed by Council pursuant to Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act).

The Audit and Risk Committee does not have executive powers or authority to implement actions in areas over which management has responsibility and does not have any delegated financial responsibilities. The Committee does not have any management function and is therefore independent of management.

As part of Council's governance obligations to its community, the Committee was established to assist the Council to discharge its responsibilities under the Act to:

- monitor the compliance of Council policies and procedures with:
 - the overarching governance principles
 - the Act and the regulations and any ministerial directions
 - other relevant laws and obligations
- monitor internal controls
- monitor Council financial and performance reporting
- monitor and provide advice on risk management and fraud prevention systems and controls
- oversee internal audit function
- oversee external audit functions; and monitor related party transactions.

The internal, external auditors and other assurance providers support the Committee by providing independent and objective assurance on internal corporate governance, risk management, internal control and compliance.

Key issues

A meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee was held on 27 May 2024 to consider the following matters:

Business Brought Forward summary from the previous meeting

- Reviewed all outstanding actions

Audit and Risk Committee Work Plan

- Reviewed the Work Plan of the Committee for 2023/24

Chief Executive Officer's Report

- The CEO presented his quarterly report and highlighted key actions specifically relating to the following:
 1. Advance Waste Project
 2. Workcover matter
 3. OHS incident
 4. Aged Care Update
 5. Re-appointment of independent member Mick Jaensch

Divisional Presentation of Strategic Risks and Top Five Operational Risks

- Received a risk presentation by the Director Community and Customer Experience on the strategic risks and top 5 operational risks.

Operational Risk Review

- Reviewed the annual Operational Risks for the organisation.

Executive Team Risk Management Meeting Minutes

- Noted the Minutes of the Executive Team Risk Management meeting.

Insurance Update

- Informed the Committee of the pending insurance premium increases.

External Audit – Interim Management Letter for year ended 30 June 2024

- Received and considered the findings of the External Auditor interim management letter.

Internal Audit – Four Year Strategic Internal Audit Plan (Specific emphasis on 2024/25)

- Received and recommended to Council the adoption of the proposed internal audit plan for 2024/25.

Internal Audit – Occupational Health and Safety

- Received and discussed the Internal Audit review on Occupational Health and Safety.

Internal Audit – Parking appeals

- Received and discussed the Internal Audit review on Parking appeals.

Internal Audit – Cyber security revisit

- Received and discussed the Internal Audit review on Cyber Security revisit.

Internal Auditors – Recent Issues Brief

- Discussed recent audit findings from across the local government sector and beyond.

Internal Audit Status Report

- Received a report on the current status of the 2023–24 internal audit program.

Outstanding Internal Audit Actions

- Reviewed the status of the outstanding internal audit actions.

Status Report on Statutory Compliance Reporting for the 3rd quarter for 2023–24

- The considered a range of statutory compliance reports.

VAGO Parliamentary Report – Results of the 2022–23 Audits – Local Governments

- Considered the response from the organisation on a VAGO parliamentary reports.

Asset Valuations 2023/24

- Provided information to the Committee on the valuation proves of Council assets.

March 2023 Quartley Financial and Capital Report

- Considered the 3rd Quarter Finance and Capital report.

2024 –25 Financial Plan

- Provide high level of summary of Council's draft 2024 –25 Financial Plan.

Results of the Audit and Risk Committee Self-Assessment 2024

- Considered the results of the self-assessment and referred the results to the CEO for tabling at the Council Meeting.

Reappointment of External Independent Member

Council has appointed three external independent members to the Audit and Risk Committee with staggered terms to provide continuity to the Committee. Accordingly, independent member Mick Jaensch's current term will expire on 30 September 2024, and a further term of 4 years has been offered to Mr Jaensch which will continue the staggered membership approach to the Committee.

It is appropriate for Council to formally re-appoint Mr Mick Jaensch to the Audit and Risk Committee for a 3-year term commencing 1 October 2024.

Bi Annual Report of activities of the Audit and Risk Committee to Council.

It is a legislative requirement that a bi-annual report of the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee be presented to Council for oversight.

Accordingly, the Bi-Annual Report to attached for noting.

Audit and Risk Committee – Self Assessment.

It is a legislative requirement that the Audit and Risk Committee undertake an annual self-assessment of the Committee, and the results to be presented to the Chief Executive Officer and tabled at the next available Council Meeting.

The results of the self-assessment indicate the Committee is performing extremely well, and in some instances sector leading. Some improvement opportunities were identified which will be implemented and the Committee will monitor the implementation of the actions.

Attached to this report of the Self-Assessment report for noting.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. notes the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 27 May 2024
2. adopts the following recommendations of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 27 May 2024

Item 9.3.1. Four Year Strategic Internal Audit Plan (Specific emphasis on 2024–25)

That the Audit and Risk Committee:

1. noted the draft four-year Strategic Internal Audit Plan for 2024–25 to 2027–28 with specific emphasis on 2024–25
2. *noted the scheduling of the audits*
3. *recommends to the Audit and Risk Committee and Council that the draft program of internal audits to be undertaken in 2024–25 be adopted.*

Item 9.8.1. Results of the Audit and Risk Committee Self-Assessment 2024

That the Audit and Risk Committee notes the findings of the Audit and Risk Committee April 2024 self-assessment, and a copy of the annual assessment be provided to the Chief Executive Officer for tabling at the June Council meeting in accordance with Section 54 (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020.

3. receives and notes the results of the Audit and Risk Committee self-assessment in accordance with Section 54 (4) of the Local Government Act 2020
4. re-appoints External Independent Member, Mick Jaensch for a further term of 3 years commencing 1 October 2024.

Support Attachments

1. Attachment ARC Biannual Activity Report May 2024
2. Audit and Risk Committee Self-Assessment Questionnaire 2024 - Survey response report
3. Minutes of the 27 May 2024 Audit and Risk Committee (confidential) (separately enclosed)

Bayside City Council Audit and Risk Committee

Audit and Risk Activity Report

May 2024

1. Period of this Report

This report covers Audit and Risk Committee (ARC or Committee) activity from September 2023 to May 2024. In that period the Committee has met on four occasions – on 6 September 2023, 27 November 2023, 26 February 2024, and 27 May 2024.

2. Purpose

This report meets the reporting requirements to Council as mandated by the *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA) pursuant to section 54(5) and importantly provides Council with a summary of the matters that the ARC has addressed in the reporting period in discharging its responsibilities under its Charter.

3. Committee Charter

The ARC’s Charter is set by Council and was last reviewed and approved by Council on July 2020 following changes necessitated by the new LGA. The revised Charter became effective on 28 July 2020.

4. Committee Business

The agendas for our meetings are driven by the Committee’s Annual Work Plan (AWP) and are fulsome. There is always a challenge to complete the agendas for each meeting. At the meetings held in this reporting period, the key (but not all) matters considered are summarised in the table below.

Key Matters Considered at Recent Meetings

	Topic
1	Review of risk management activity in the following areas a) Strategic risks b) Operational risks c) Organisational presentations of strategic and operational risks by Directorates d) Risk Assurance Mapping e) Insurance updates f) Risk Management Strategy and Risk Culture g) Crisis Management
2	Review of external audit activity as follows: a) Officer progress in closing out audit recommendations. b) Annual Financial Statements for year ended 30 June 2023 c) Performance Statement for year ended 30 June 2023 d) Audit strategy for 2023/24. e) Interim Management for year ended 30 June 2024
3	Review of internal audit activity as follows: a) Monitor delivery of the 2023/24 audit plan b) Review of outcomes from the Internal Audit review of Conflicts of Interest, Physical Access Security, Parking Appeals, Occupational Health and Safety and Cyber Security. c) Monitor officer progress in closing out audit recommendations

Bi-Annual Report to Council

May 2024

4	Review of compliance management matters as follows: a) Review and refresh of Council policies and procedures. b) Legislative compliance matters c) Reviewed the Compliance Assurance Checklist results. d) Reviewed the Procurement Performance Report
5	Review of integrity agency reports issued in the reporting period by VAGO, Ombudsman Victoria and IBAC
6	Review of internal control framework matters as follows: a) Outcomes of fraud and corruption control self-assessments by Council officers
7	Review of Council's financial and performance reports Review of Council's management of Asset Valuations for 2023/24 Considered a high-level summary of the 2024/25 Draft Financial Plan.
8	Review of various other risk related matters including: a) Advanced Waste Project b) Council's aged care services expansion c) OHS and Workcover matters. d) Management of the capital budget Considered the results of the Committee's self-assessment

5. Meetings

Member attendance at the three meetings has been consistently high with both external and council members attending meetings either in person or online.

The Committee has met on four occasions as indicated above. Council appointed members of the Committee changed at the Annual Meeting of Council in November 2023. The Council members are Cr Sonia Castelli and Cr Laurence Evans OAM.

The independent members of the Committee appointed by Council are Jennifer Johanson, Mick Jaensch and Geoff Harry (Chair).

The Committee enjoys a strong and healthy working relationship with Council officers. The quality of the meeting agendas and reports are of high quality, and officers engage strongly and positively both during and outside meetings. Officer support for the work of the Committee is excellent.

6. The Committee's Annual Work Plan

The Committee has dealt with all matters scheduled for consideration in the ARC AWP in the reporting period.

The Work Plan also includes the mandatory statutory obligations of the Committee. These include:

- 1) adopting an Annual Work Plan for the Committee and
- 2) undertaking an annual performance assessment of Committee activities against its Charter.

All these matters have been incorporated into the Committee's AWP.

The AWP is reviewed at the beginning of each meeting to ensure its continued relevance.

7. Frequency and Timing of Activity Reports

As indicated earlier in this report, these reports are required to be provided to Council at least twice per annum. The Committee is of the view that these reports need to be informative about the business of the Committee and should be provided on a timely basis to assist Council in discharging its responsibilities in the areas for which the Committee is responsible. Feedback on this report by Council is welcomed.

8. Meeting Schedule for 2024

The Committee's meeting schedule for the remainder of 2024 is as follows:

- 26 August 2024
- 2 September 2024 (Annual financial and performance reports)
- 25 November 2024

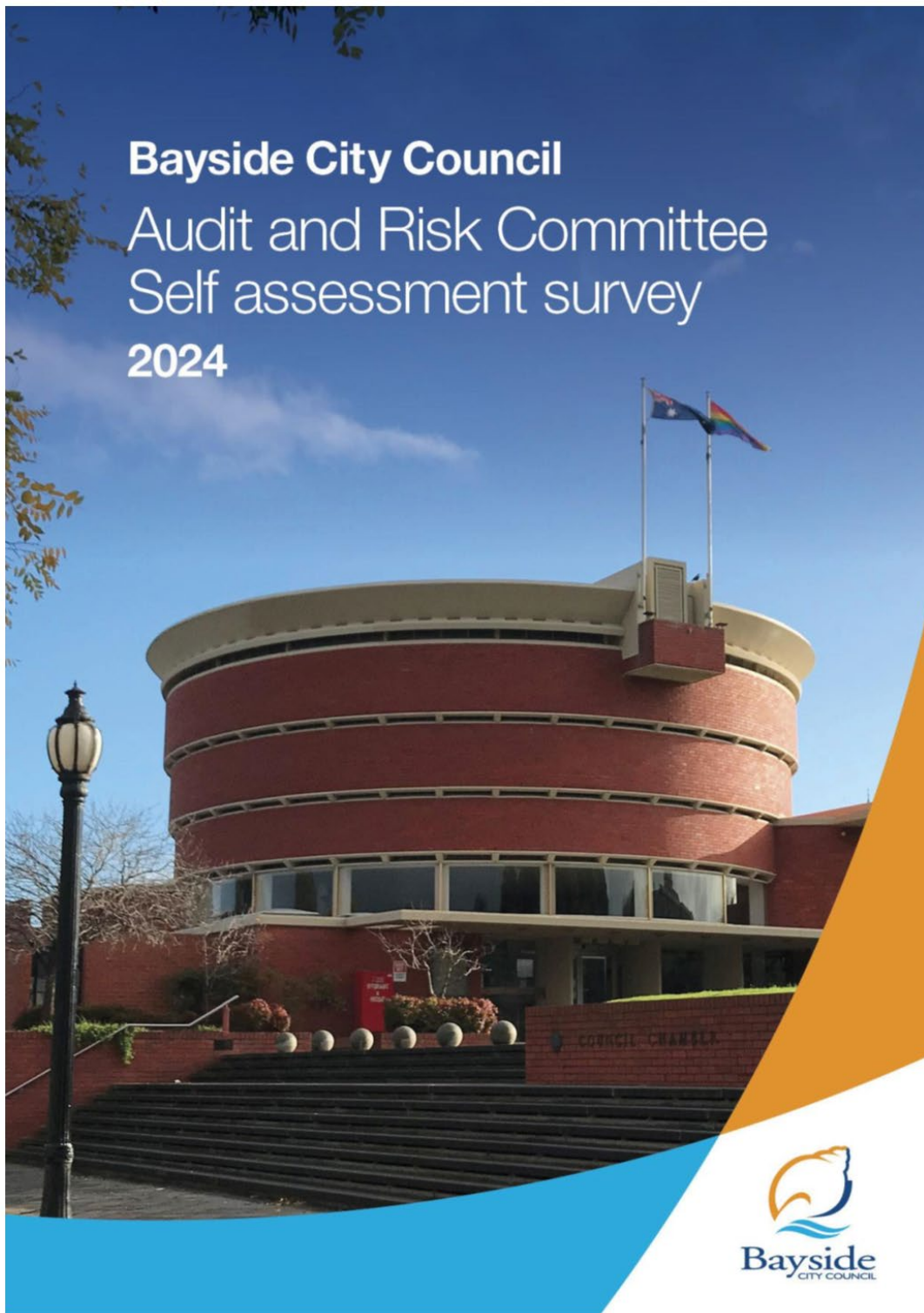
9. Conclusion

If Council wishes to be briefed by the Committee on any matters raised in this report, I would be delighted to attend as required.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Harry

Chair
On behalf of the Audit & Risk Committee
May 2024



Bayside City Council
Audit and Risk Committee
Self assessment survey
2024



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Introduction

Audit and Risk Committee Self-Assessment Questionnaire 2024 was issued using Microsoft teams forms.

The following report is based on the Assessment Questionnaire issued in March 2024, closed 19 April 2024 and to be tabled at the 27 May 2024 meeting of the Committee.

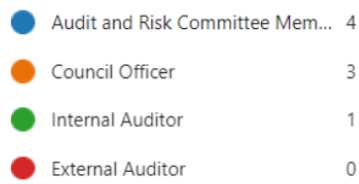
In contrast to the 2023 survey, former Parts A and B (Assessment against the Charter; and Assessment against the Committee's experience at other organisations) were merged to reduce repetition.

Respondents were asked for rating and comments which enable assessment of whether or not the Committee is effectively fulfilling the requirements of the Charter and to identify improvement opportunities for the future.

The survey was issued to 10 people with 8 respondents.

Respondents (8)

1	Jenny Johanson
2	Cr Laurence Evans
3	Mick Cummins (CEO/Officer)
4	Terry Callant (Officer)
5	Geoff Harry
6	Mick Jaensch
7	Kathryn Tozer (Officer)
8	Jordan McFadden (Internal Auditor)



Financial reporting	
	Council's on the whole do not report well on their cash result as against Income Statement but if this is of interest I can separately provide examples of what I think would improve financial reporting in this space.
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	N/A

Performance reporting																					
7 Performance reporting - rating																					
<p>■ Exceeded expectations ■ Meets Expectations ■ Needs improving</p>																					
<p>Annual performance reporting is comprehensive.</p> <p>Six monthly health check on LGPRF performance is useful.</p> <p>The Performance Statement is easy to read and understand.</p> <p>The process for the Committee to consider the Performance Report/Statement is effective.</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Performance Reporting - Rating Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>Exceeded expectations (%)</th> <th>Meets Expectations (%)</th> <th>Needs improving (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual performance reporting is comprehensive.</td> <td>37.5%</td> <td>62.5%</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Six monthly health check on LGPRF performance is useful.</td> <td>50%</td> <td>50%</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Performance Statement is easy to read and understand.</td> <td>62.5%</td> <td>37.5%</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The process for the Committee to consider the Performance Report/Statement is effective.</td> <td>37.5%</td> <td>62.5%</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Item	Exceeded expectations (%)	Meets Expectations (%)	Needs improving (%)	Annual performance reporting is comprehensive.	37.5%	62.5%	-	Six monthly health check on LGPRF performance is useful.	50%	50%	-	The Performance Statement is easy to read and understand.	62.5%	37.5%	-	The process for the Committee to consider the Performance Report/Statement is effective.	37.5%	62.5%	-
Item	Exceeded expectations (%)	Meets Expectations (%)	Needs improving (%)																		
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8 Performance reporting - Comment on what's working well/ what could be improved																					
Audit and Risk Committee Member	<p>Reporting is relevant, accurate, and provides clear performance data, and importantly, Council utilise the LGPRF to enhance its performance where appropriate.</p> <p>Council uses the LGPRF very well to highlight its operational performance and identify potential areas for improvement</p> <p>Such a lot of great work goes on here and often it's the last item on the agenda and we do tend to gloss over it, I think we also need a 1-2 page covering report that highlights what are the key takeaway points.</p>																				
Council Officer	--																				
External Auditor																					
Internal Auditor	N/A																				

9 Performance reporting – Improvement opportunity based on practices from elsewhere	
Audit and Risk Committee Member	None that I can think of - the Committee receives a sense of the assurance provided to support the performance statements, and receiving the reports regularly supports understanding of the results.
	N/A
	Council reports on operational performance better than most other Councils. Very difficult to suggest areas for improvement.
	Nope - you do it better than pretty much anywhere else. South Gippsland does give you a run for your money but that's about it.
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	N/A

Risk Management			
10 Risk Management - rating			
<p> ■ Exceeded expectations ■ Meets expectations ■ Needs improving </p>			
<p>Risk reports considered by the Committee are comprehensive and easy to understand.</p>			
<p>Risk reports adequately provide the Committee with a good understanding of risk management at Bayside.</p>			
<p>The Committee receives regular reports on risk exposure through claims and legal proceedings.</p>			
Item	■	■	■
Risk reports considered by the Committee are comprehensive and easy to understand.	37.5%	62.5%	-
Risk reports adequately provide the Committee with a good understanding of risk management at Bayside.	62.5%	37.5%	-
The Committee receives regular reports on risk exposure through claims and legal proceedings.	37.5%	62.5%	-
11 Risk Management - Comment on what's working well/ what could be improved			
Audit and Risk Committee Member	Receiving minutes of the ELT Risk Management meetings is very beneficial - provides a good understanding of how risk is being managed and general risk management culture throughout the organisation.		
	Council has developed its RM performance and reporting nicely in recent times. I don't see any initiatives for further enhancement of how Council does RM. It is now probably time to consider how Council can do better on RM and RM reporting. A key opportunity is in using the data and knowledge at hand to better understand the RM trends for Council. What are the trends telling Council about emerging risks and risk mitigation activity effectiveness? I have liked what we have seen arising from the risk culture survey. This is an important tool going		

Risk Management	
	forward that will help to maintain a focus on the important things to do as an enterprise in maintaining people focus on risk.
	All good
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	While reporting meets expectations, there are a number of improvements that can be made. these include: establishing target risk ratings, documenting the effectiveness of controls and documenting the expected impact of treatment plans.
12 Risk Management – Improvement opportunity based on practices from elsewhere	
Audit and Risk Committee Member	Alignment between risk treatments and the ensuing outcome on the residual risk would assist in the Committee's ability to assess whether appropriate actions are being undertaken.
	There are few shining examples to refer to on better RM opportunities. Council does this well but needs to avoid resting on it's laurels.
	I refer other Councils regularly to Bayside City Council. My favourite report in the Agenda is the Risk Committee minutes. Please don't change the detail that is included in them. I love the insight it gives me into the management thinking and conversation around risk. As I have said in the past it is akin to the Executive holding an Audit and Risk Committee meeting prior to ours.
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	As above. (establishing target risk ratings, documenting the effectiveness of controls and documenting the expected impact of treatment plans.)

Fraud prevention systems and controls			
13 Fraud prevention systems and controls- items			
■ Exceeded expectations ■ Meets expectations ■ Needs improving			
The committee receives regular updates on fraud occurrences.			
The Committee is comfortable with the review of the Fraud Prevention policy and Fraud Prevention action...			
The annual review of the Procurement policy and the Framework is effective.			
The committee is adequately briefed on matters brought to the attention of the Committee at the...			
Item	■	■	■
The committee receives regular updates on fraud occurrences.	12.5%	87.5%	-
The Committee is comfortable with the review of the Fraud Prevention policy and Fraud Prevention action plan.	12.5%	87.5%	-

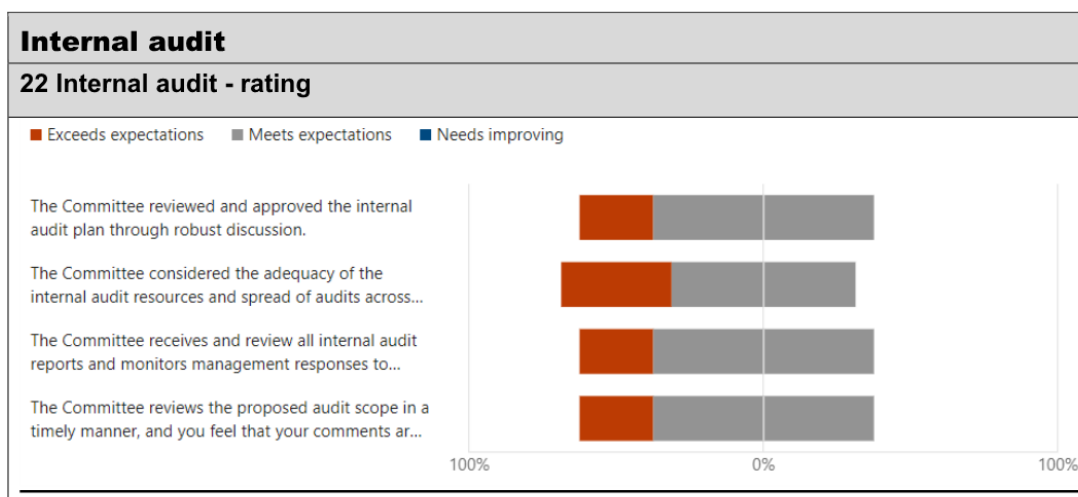
Fraud prevention systems and controls	
The annual review of the Procurement policy and the Framework is effective.	62.5% 37.5% -
The committee is adequately briefed on matters brought to the attention of the Committee at the request of the Council.	25% 75% -
14 Fraud prevention systems and controls - Comment on what's working well/ what could be improved	
Audit and Risk Committee Member	Consideration could be given to ensuring the fraud control plan is risk-based, and that monitoring aligns with areas of higher risk.
	Council does this well. For me the critical point is about making sure that Managers of BU's know and understand the fraud and corruption risks in their areas of responsibility.
	No improvement needed
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	Procurement reporting is clear and comprehensive and fraud and corruption processes including periodic policy review, self-assessment and reporting of matters arising appears appropriate.
15 Fraud prevention systems and controls – Improvement opportunity based on practices from elsewhere	
Audit and Risk Committee Member	The Commonwealth Fraud Prevention Centre is a good reference to utilise for benchmarking - particularly its catalogue of common fraud controls across security, cyber, corruption, etc.
	Nothing to add.
	No
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	As above




Internal control environment	
16 Internal control environment - rating	
<p> ■ Exceeds expectations ■ Meets expectations ■ Needs improving </p> <p>Receiving and reviewing Council's responses to various reports produced by the Government agencies...</p>	
Item	■ ■ ■
Receiving and reviewing Council's responses to various reports produced by the government agencies.	37.5% 62.5% -

Internal control environment	
17 Internal control environment - Comment on what's working well/ what could be improved	
Audit and Risk Committee Member	Generally good reporting and in particular strong focus on IT controls. I like what Council has done in this space, but feel there are opportunities for further improvement. The key question is what are Council's key policies and controls in maintaining an effective and sound ICF and do officers have an appropriate focus on these? The reports at Bayside exceed what is done on any of my other audit and risk committees
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	The committee receives a periodic summary of regulatory reports and these are assessed by management for relevance and opportunities for improvement regarding business operations.
18 Internal control environment – Improvement opportunity based on practices from elsewhere	
Audit and Risk Committee Member	None that I can think of. Nothing to add. No
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	N/A

Compliance Management			
19 Compliance Management rating			
<p>■ Exceeds expectations ■ Meets expectations ■ Needs improving</p>			
Reporting against various Statutory Compliance requirements is considered appropriately by the...			
Various reports relating to compliance registers such as gifts, conflicts of Interest, Travel and Councillor...			
The Compliance Assurance Checklist by the CEO provides the Committee with a level of comfort and...			
The Committee receives regular updates and monitors the 4-year rolling review of policies.			
Items	Exceeds expectations	Meets expectations	Needs improving
Reporting against various Statutory Compliance requirements is considered appropriately by the Committee.	12.5%	87.5%	-
Various reports relating to compliance registers such as gifts, conflicts of Interest, Travel and Councillor expenses are comprehensive and meaningful.	25%	75%	-
The Compliance Assurance Checklist by the CEO provides the Committee with a level of comfort and covers the key areas of compliance.	75%	25%	-

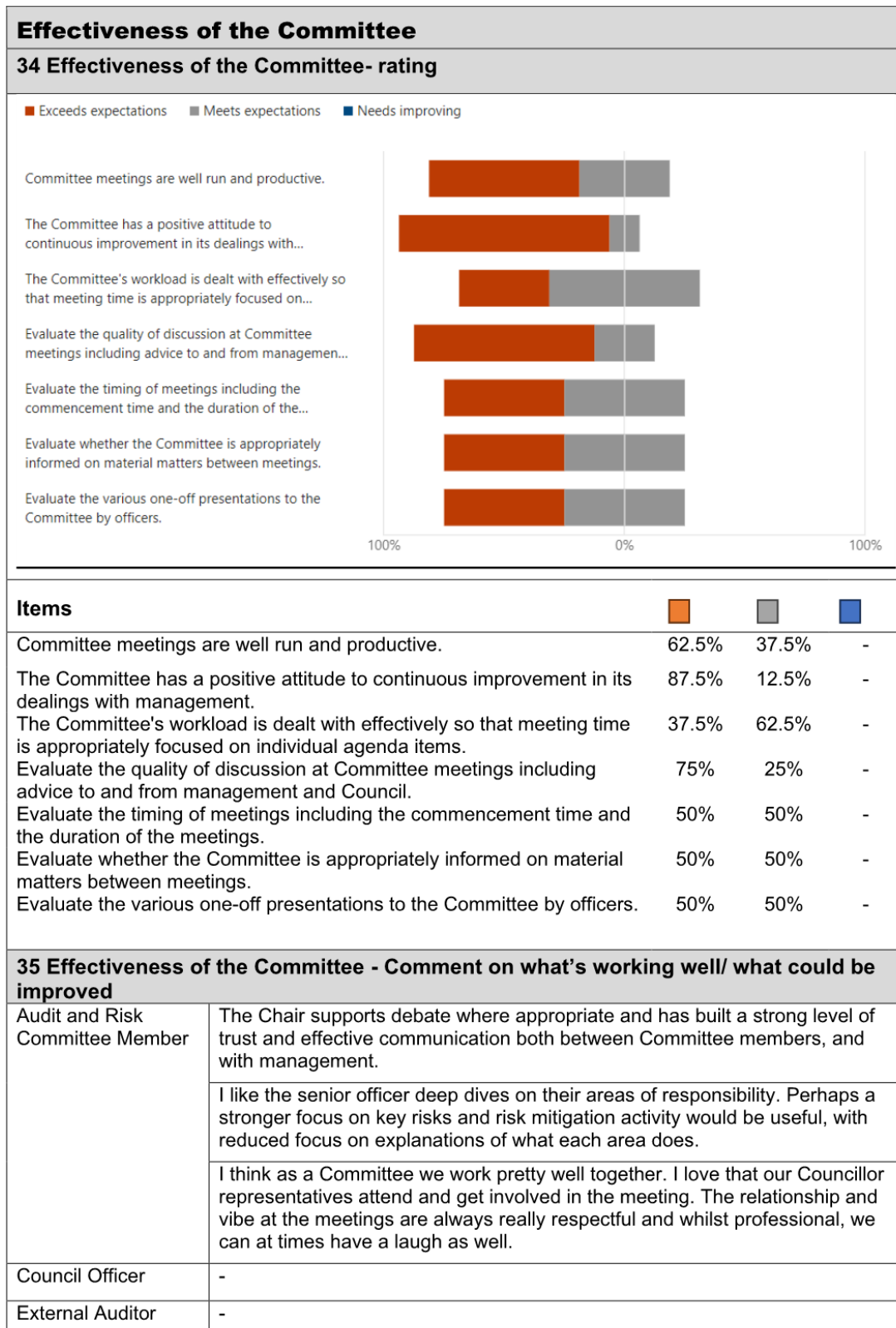
Compliance Management	
The Committee receives regular updates and monitors the 4-year rolling review of policies. 37.5% 62.5% -	
20 Compliance Management - Comment on what's working well/ what could be improved	
Audit and Risk Committee Member	Reporting received by the Committee provides assurance that compliance obligations are effectively identified, and that compliance risk is managed appropriately. Recent important improvements here. Pleased that the organisation sees value in the Questionnaire, but of course there are always better ways of doing this, but at greater cost. The legislative compliance framework at Bayside exceeds anything I have seen at other Councils.
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	Compliance checklist is a good start to help raise awareness of compliance obligations.
21 Compliance Management – Improvement opportunity based on practices from elsewhere	
Audit and Risk Committee Member	None that I can think of. The consideration here is whether there is significant additional value to be gained by a more centrally led compliance management focus. No
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	Opportunities to undertake more detailed reporting against specific compliance obligations and identify where non-compliances are present and treatment plans required however noting this may be a resource intensive exercise.



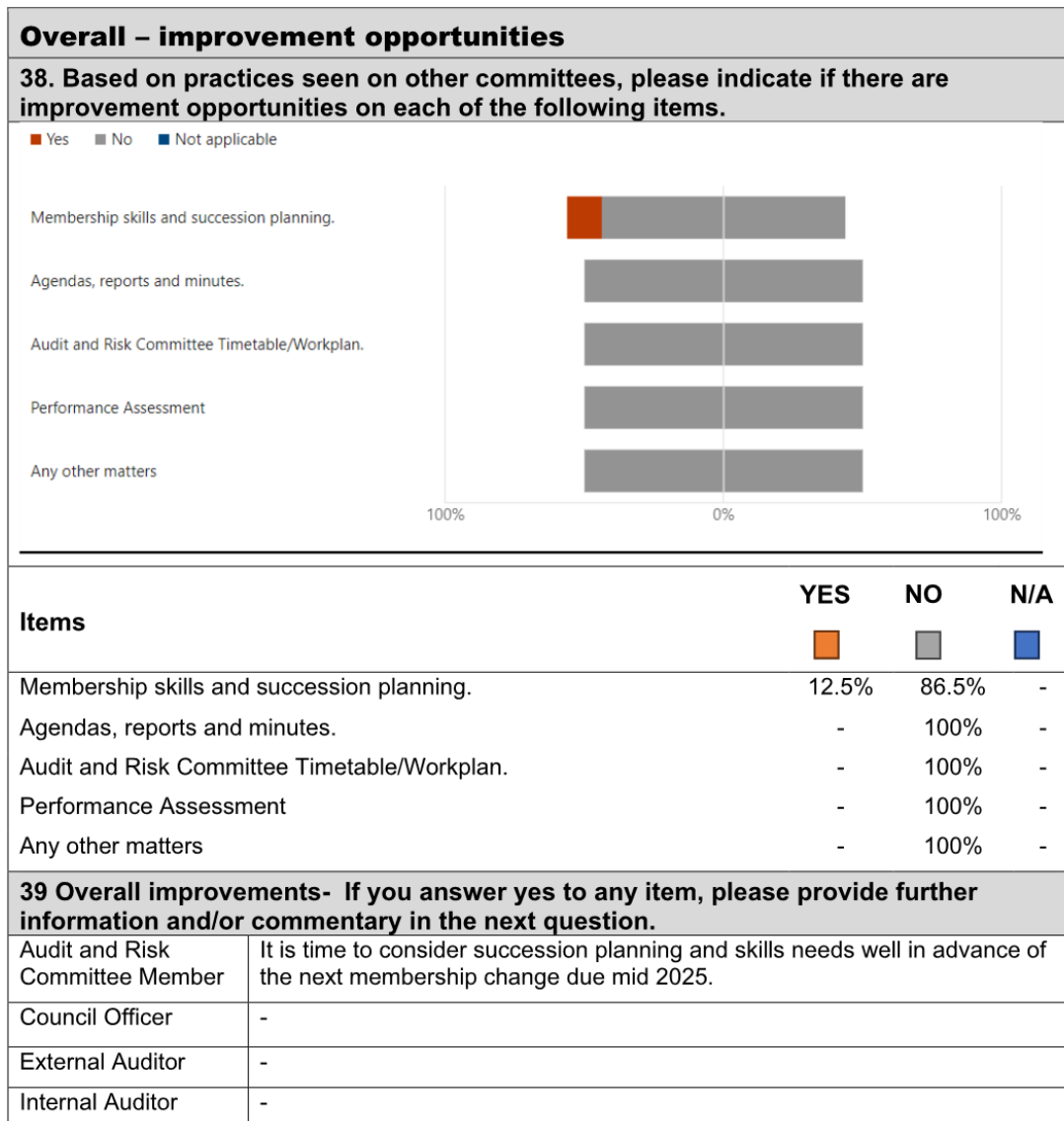
Internal audit			
Items			
The Committee reviewed and approved the internal audit plan through robust discussion.	25%	75%	-
The Committee considered the adequacy of the internal audit resources and spread of audits across the organisation.	37.5%	62.5%	-
The Committee receives and review all internal audit reports and monitors management responses to recommendations.	25%	75%	-
The Committee reviews the proposed audit scope in a timely manner, and you feel that your comments are considered in the finalisation of the audit scope.	25%	75%	-
23 Internal audit - Comment on what's working well/ what could be improved			
Audit and Risk Committee Member	Consideration could be given to improving the reporting of progress against Internal Audit action items - e.g., consider only reporting on actions that are overdue or off track.		
	Nothing to add here		
Council Officer	Pitcher partners are providing excellent services to Bayside and the level of knowledge and competence of their staff/auditors it outstanding.		
External Auditor	-		
Internal Auditor	Audit committee planning and review of Audit committee reports is thorough and well considered with opportunities for the internal auditors, management and the committee to share their views and questions.		
24 Internal audit - Improvement opportunity based on practices from elsewhere			
Audit and Risk Committee Member	RAG reporting where attention is focused on actions that are overdue/off-track, and management's process for confirming appropriateness of date extensions and monitoring to completion.		
	Council's IAP and IA performance are strong performers.		
	Nothing to add		
Council Officer	-		
External Auditor	-		
Internal Auditor	N/A practices operating effectively.		

Reporting to Council	
28 Reporting to Council - rating	
<p>■ Exceeds expectations ■ Meets expectations ■ Needs improving</p> <p>The Committee's communication to Council about its deliberations and decisions are appropriate.</p> <p>Bi-annual reporting to Council of the Committee adequately articulates the activities of the Committee.</p> <p>Self- assessment results are conducted annually, are comprehensive and are referred to Council for follow up.</p>	
Items	
	■ ■ ■
The Committee's communication to Council about its deliberations and decisions are appropriate.	37.5% 62.5% -
Bi-annual reporting to Council of the Committee adequately articulates the activities of the Committee.	25% 75% -
Self- assessment results are conducted annually, are comprehensive and are referred to Council for follow up.	37.5% 62.5% -
29 Reporting to Council - Comment on what's working well/ what could be improved	
Audit and Risk Committee Member	<p>The Chair's biannual report to Council provides a comprehensive description of the activities of the Committee.</p> <p>There may be opportunities here to refresh the biannual activity reporting template.</p> <p>No</p>
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	No specific comments regarding practices.
30 Reporting to Council - Improvement opportunity based on practices from elsewhere	
Audit and Risk Committee Member	<p>None.</p> <p>There is a variety in quality of activity reporting to Councils. Generally I think the sector does this less better than it used to.</p> <p>This is easily the most challenging self-assessment to complete but the one that makes me think the most as well.</p>
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	No specific comments regarding practices.

Agendas, reports and minutes	
31 Agendas, reports and minutes- rating	
<p>■ Exceeds expectations ■ Meets expectations ■ Needs improving</p>	
Items	■ ■ ■
Minutes of the meeting are accurate and with timely distribution following each meeting.	50% 50% -
Agenda papers are of sufficient clarity and quality to enable the Committee to make informed recommendations.	50% 50% -
Agendas are structured to allow sufficient time to discuss all critical issues.	50% 50% -
The Committee receives agendas and supporting papers in sufficient time prior to meetings.	37.5% 62.5% -
32 Agendas, reports and minutes - Comment on what's working well/ what could be improved	
Audit and Risk Committee Member	The minutes are always of high quality, capturing the discussions, decisions and recommendations made during the meetings. Agendas, papers and minutes are of high quality. None
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	Agendas are focussed and succinct, allowing the committee to focus on key areas and have robust discussions where required.
33 Agendas, reports and minutes - Improvement opportunity based on practices from elsewhere	
Audit and Risk Committee Member	None. Refer above Various Councils are playing with some different portals to distribute agenda's etc. What Bayside does though works for me.
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	As above, no further comments.



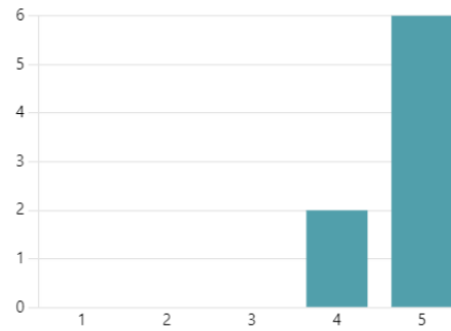
Effectiveness of the Committee	
Internal Auditor	The committee is run in a timely but well considered manner. There appears to be a good working relationship between both management and the committee which enables honest but positive conversations to occur.
36 Effectiveness of the Committee - Improvement opportunity based on practices from elsewhere	
Audit and Risk Committee Member	None.
	I think Bayside's ARC is relatively high performing with limited opportunities for improvement. Views of Council about the Committee's role and effectiveness would be useful.
	Bayside is my favourite ARC to attend.
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	No further comments
37 Committee responsibilities elsewhere not covered – any other Improvement opportunities recommended from elsewhere	
Audit and Risk Committee Member	None.
	There are no significant areas for improvement relative to other Committees
	I think the ARC at Bayside is working well in my view. I am unsure at times how much value we are adding given that I think that the Council is extremely well governed both by the Executive and Council. But I think the ARC is an important check and balance to have..
Council Officer	-
External Auditor	-
Internal Auditor	No further comments



Efficacy and Ease of Self- Assessment survey

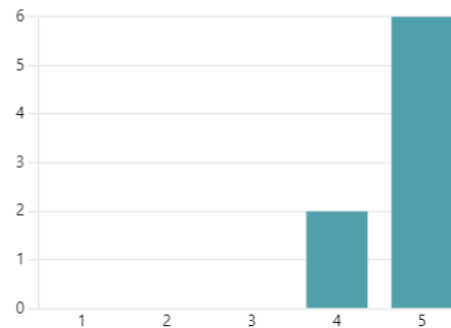
40. This questionnaire and report will facilitate assessment of whether the Committee is effectively fulfilling the requirements of the Charter. Please rate (1=Low - 5 = High)

4.75
Average Rating



41. The self-assessment process was easy to use. Please rate (1=Low - 5 = High)

4.75
Average Rating



8.5 MINUTES OF THE BAYSIDE ARTS AND GALLERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 MAY 2024

Corporate Services - Governance
File No: PSF/24/100 – Doc No: DOC/24/173276

Executive summary

Purpose and background

To present the minutes of the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on 29 May 2024 to Council for noting.

The Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee was established in 2020.

The Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee is constituted for the purpose of providing advice and supporting Council in the development and presentation of an innovative and creative arts program for the City of Bayside including exhibitions and programs at the Bayside Gallery.

The functions of the Committee are to provide advice and recommendations to Council on the following matters:

- the annual exhibition program for the Bayside Gallery
- the annual arts program of public events and activities
- the proposed artists for the annual Studio Artists program at Billilla
- the public art and wall/mural art program across the municipality
- the acquisition and de-accession to the Bayside Council Art and Heritage Collection in accordance with the Bayside Arts and Heritage Collection Policy
- provide advice on the care and preservation of the Bayside Council Art and Heritage collection for future generations
- provide input and guidance into Council's Strategic Plan for the Arts
- contribute, to and support the establishment of mutual beneficial partnerships
- provide advice and evaluate the marketing strategy for arts programming including the Bayside Gallery.

The Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee membership comprises 2 Councillors appointed by Council and up to 10 community members appointed through a public expression of interest process.

Key issues

A meeting of the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee was held on 29 May 2024 to consider the following matters:

- Sandringham Activity Centre Artwork 'A Delicate Balance' extension to Agreement and Future of site
- Quarterly Report January - March 2024
- Bayside Council Art and Heritage Collection Acquisition Proposal.

A copy of the 29 May 2024 minutes of the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee meeting is attached for Council's information.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. notes the minutes of the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on 29 May 2024 (Attachment 1)
2. adopts the following recommendations of the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on 29 May 2024:

Item 6.2 Sandringham Activity Centre Artwork 'A Delicate Balance' Extension to agreement and future of site

That the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee recommends that Council:

1. *supports extending the Agreement for 'A Delicate Balance' by Bernie Gorman to remain in the Sandringham Activity Centre for a further 12 months, until 30 June 2025, following the conclusion of the current agreement which ends on 30 June 2024*
2. *includes a clause in the Agreement that allows the artist to remove the sculpture with 30 days' notice*
3. *considers the site as a future location for Public Art, along with other sites*
4. *considers allocating funding for the site and other sites in future capital budgets for the commissioning of a permanent public artwork that aligns with the aims of the Placemaking Strategy and the 2023–27 Bayside Arts, Culture and Library Strategy.*

Item 6.4 Bayside Council Art and Heritage Collection acquisition proposal

That the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee recommends that Council:

1. *approves the acquisition of the work Evening, farewell (2022) by purchase for \$22,000 and acquires by donation through the Cultural Gifts Program the work Drift (surface and below) valued at \$5,000 for a total of \$23,000 (includes \$1,000 in associated costs related to the valuation) by Lynne Boyd*
2. *approves the donation of the following works by Dean Bowen under the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program valued at \$61,600 (includes \$1,400 in associated cost related to the valuation):*

Babel 2016 Oil on Board 35 X 122 cm

Cargo Boat (Red Star) 2015 Oil on Board 35 X 122

Mammoth 2015 Oil on Board 35 X 122 cm

Magpie 2016 Oil on Board 100 X 100 cm

Boy with an owl 2005 Bronze 19 X 39 X 9 cm

Owl on my Head 2007 Bronze, 43 X 34 X 10 cm

Tree with Perching Owls (Mother and Baby II) 2014 Bronze, 95 X 26 X 13 cm.

Support Attachments

1. Minutes of the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on 29 May 2024

Minutes of the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee Meeting

held in the Mayor's Room, Council Chambers
on Wednesday 29 May 2024

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

In the absence of the Chair Cr Sonia Castelli, the Deputy Chair Cr Alex del Porto declared the meeting opened at 6pm and welcomed members of the Committee and officers to the meeting.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Manager Governance read the acknowledgement of Country:

Bayside City Council proudly acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging as well as any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community members with us today.

2. Present

Councillors	Cr Alex del Porto
External Members	Mr Brian Long Mr Adrian Spurr Ms Bo Rutecki Ms Sarah Morris Mr Brian Hewitt Ms Lyn Stephens
Officers In attendance	Terry Callant – Manager Governance Natalie Brown – Manager Arts, Culture and Libraries Giacomina Pradolini – Arts and Culture Coordinator Joanna Bosse – Gallery Curator Robert Lamb – Council Business Lead

Membership and Quorum of the Committee

There are currently (9) members appointed to the Advisory Committee. The quorum for a meeting is a majority of members (5) and must include at least one Councillor representative.

A quorum for this meeting was reached with no less than 7 members (including 1 Councillor) present at any given time.

Bayside City Council Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee Meeting - 29 May 2024

The Chair advised the Committee that Mr Arvind Vasan has opted not to continue with Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee at the time of the re-appointment of members. It was noted that this vacancy would not be filled at this time.

The Chair thanked Mr Vasan for his service to the Committee and indicated that a letter of appreciation would be forwarded to Mr Vasan to acknowledge his contribution to the Committee.

3. Apologies

An apologies were received from Chair, Cr Sonia Castelli and Ms Louise Doyle.

Moved: Mr Hewitt

Seconded: Ms Stephens

That the apologies of Cr Sonia Castelli and Ms Louise Doyle be received and leave of absence be granted.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest of any Councillor

There were no conflicts of interest submitted to the meeting.

5. Adoption and Confirmation of the minutes of previous meeting

- 5.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee Meeting held on 28 February 2024.

Moved: Mr Long

Seconded: Ms Rutecki

That the minutes of the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee Meeting held on 28 February 2024, as previously circulated, be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED

Bayside City Council Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee Meeting - 29 May 2024

6. Reports

6.1 OUTSTANDING BUSINESS BOUGHT FORWARD

Community and Customer Experience - Arts, Culture and Libraries
File No: FOL/24/226 – Doc No: DOC/24/87102

The Arts and Culture Program Coordinator, Giacomina Pradolini presented the Outstanding Business report, and it was noted that several actions had been completed or were in progress.

The Arts and Culture Program Coordinator advised the meeting that a site investigation report has recently been received for the proposed public art installation in Cheltenham Park. It was suggested that the two members assigned to the EOI process (Ms Spurr and Ms Doyle) for this public art installation attend a site visit in the coming weeks to discuss a proposed location prior to the EOI process commencing.

NOTED

That the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee noted Outstanding Business report.

Bayside City Council Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee Meeting - 29 May 2024

6.2 SANDRINGHAM ACTIVITY CENTRE ARTWORK 'A DELICATE BALANCE' EXTENSION TO AGREEMENT AND FUTURE OF SITE

City Planning and Amenity - Urban Strategy
File No: PSF/23/162 – Doc No: DOC/24/125778

In the absence of a representative from Economic Development team, the Arts and Culture Program Coordinator, Giacomina Pradolini presented the report on the proposed extension of the art installation in the Sandringham Activity Centre known as "A Delicate Balance".

The Committee expressed the view that the existing site in Sandringham Activity Centre may be considered as a site for future installation along with other sites given the endorsed list of preferred sites across the municipality.

Moved: Mr Long

Seconded: Mr Hewitt

That the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee recommends that Council:

1. supports extending the Agreement for 'A Delicate Balance' by Bernie Gorman to remain in the Sandringham Activity Centre for a further 12 months, until 30 June 2025, following the conclusion of the current agreement which ends on 30 June 2024
2. includes a clause in the Agreement that allows the artist to remove the sculpture with 30 days' notice
3. considers the site as a future location for Public Art, along with other sites
4. considers allocating funding for the site and other sites in future capital budgets for the commissioning of a permanent public artwork that aligns with the aims of the Placemaking Strategy and the 2023–27 Bayside Arts, Culture and Library Strategy.

CARRIED

Bayside City Council Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee Meeting - 29 May 2024

6.3 QUARTERLY REPORT JANUARY - MARCH 2024

Community and Customer Experience - Arts, Culture and Libraries
File No: FOL/24/226 – Doc No: DOC/24/131373

The Arts and Culture Program Coordinator, Giacomina Pradolini presented the Quarterly Report for the period January 2024 to March 2024 and highlighted some the activities during the period including:

Bayside Gallery

The exhibition *Lynne Boyd: Holding the silver sea* by nationally renowned Brighton East-based artist Lynne Boyd was installed across both gallery spaces during the quarter. The exhibition included 38 works borrowed from 10 public and private collections plus the artist's estate. An exhibition catalogue with a commissioned essay by Melbourne University art historian Dr Sheridan Palmer (500 copies printed – none remaining) was produced. Total visitation for the exhibition was 1,660 with 222 people attending the opening. The panel discussion with fellow artist and friend Tim Bass and Sheridan Palmer was well attended with 29 people participating.

At the end of April, the exhibition *Holding the silver sea* was deinstalled and all works were returned to lenders, except for the two works proposed for acquisition. The Bayside Painting Prize was installed in the last week of April with the works of the 46 finalists shortlisted for the award installed across both spaces. The opening event was held Thursday evening 2 May and attracted approximately 200 attendees. Judges Dr Rebecca Coates, Director Monash University Museum of Art, and artist Stieg Persson awarded Linda Judge the \$25,000 Major Prize and David Ralph the \$10,000 acquisitive Beckett Local Prize. The latter work will form part of the collection at the conclusion of the exhibition.

The exhibition of works from the Upstanders project that were on display at the Corporate Centre were deinstalled at the end of March and a selection of recently acquired photographs by Jane Burton and Kent Morris were displayed. These will remain on display until the finalists in the Ellen Jose Student Reconciliation Awards are installed for Reconciliation Week activities from 22 May. The works will remain on display through NAIDOC week to 26 July.

Bayside Art and Heritage Collection activity

Six photographs by Jane Burton and Kent Morris were formally accessioned into the collection. As detailed above, these works are now on display at the Corporate Centre. The valuations and processing of the recent donation *She gave me a daisy* by Anne Ross through the Cultural Gifts Program has commenced. The Elsternwick State Park and the Cheltenham *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle or Regret* murals were formally deaccessioned.

The Arts and Culture Program Coordinator also spoke about the very successful "Billilla Afternoon"

The Committee sought an update on the restoration of Billilla. The Manager Arts, Culture and Libraries, Natalie Brown provided the Committee with a verbal status report on the proposed buildings works within the grounds and the restoration of the mansion.

NOTED

That the Bayside Arts and Gallery Committee noted the Quarterly Report for the period January 2024 to March 2024.

Bayside City Council Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee Meeting - 29 May 2024

6.4 BAYSIDE COUNCIL ART AND HERITAGE COLLECTION ACQUISITION PROPOSAL

Community and Customer Experience - Arts, Culture and Libraries
File No: FOL/24/226 – Doc No: DOC/24/134987

The Gallery Curator, Joanna Bosse presented the acquisition proposal and talked through the significant benefits of the proposed acquisition by Lynne Boyd to the Bayside collection.

Lynne Boyd: Holding the silver sea, a major survey exhibition that focussed on the artist's four-decade engagement with Port Philip Bay, was held at Bayside Gallery 2 March to 28 April 2024. Both the works proposed for the Collection were featured in the exhibition. *Evening, farewell* is one of only two works the artist completed in the last year of her life and will be a significant addition to the Collection. In this painterly representational work, vast skies blur into endless reflective seas; a solitary boat adrift in the expanse evokes the sublime and a small sun just visible in the clouded sky alludes to transcendence. The influence of fellow Bayside artist, Clarice Beckett is most evident. The smaller abstraction *Drift (surface and below)* is an excellent representation of her abstract period where she included blocks of high key colour combined with the blue and lilac palette characteristic of her work.

The Gallery Curator also provided background to the generous donation of works by Dean Bowen.

Dean Bowen's studio is based in Bayside where he has worked for close to a decade. The group of works proposed for acquisition represents both his sculpture and painting practice and is a solid representation of the long-standing practice of this nationally recognised artist. The works comprise three small-scale ship paintings, one mid-scale magpie painting and three small-scale bronze works, all of which will be useful additions to the Collection easily displayed at the Corporate Centre or in gallery exhibitions. There are currently no works by Bowen in the Collection.

It was also noted that the current balance of the Arts and Heritage Collection budget for the 2023–24 FY is \$24,541. Associated costs for the proposed donation by Dean Bowen are \$1,400 and the total costs for the acquisition of Lynne Boyd including associated costs for the proposal donation is \$23,000.

The total value of the proposal is \$24,400 which is within budget.

Moved: Ms Morris

Seconded: Ms Stephens

That the Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee recommends that Council:

1. approves the acquisition of the work *Evening, farewell* (2022) by purchase for \$22,000 and acquires by donation through the Cultural Gifts Program the work *Drift (surface and below)* valued at \$5,000 for a total of \$23,000 (includes \$1,000 in associated costs related to the valuation) by Lynne Boyd
2. approves the donation of the following works by Dean Bowen under the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program valued at \$61,600 (includes \$1,400 in associated cost related to the valuation):

Babel 2016 Oil on Board 35 X 122 cm

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Bayside City Council Bayside Arts and Gallery Advisory Committee Meeting - 29 May 2024

Cargo Boat (Red Star) 2015 Oil on Board 35 X 122

Mammoth 2015 Oil on Board 35 X 122 cm

Magpie 2016 Oil on Board 100 X 100 cm

Boy with an owl 2005 Bronze 19 X 39 X 9 cm

Owl on my Head 2007 Bronze, 43 X 34 X 10 cm

Tree with Perching Owls (Mother and Baby II) 2014 Bronze, 95 X 26 X 13 cm.

CARRIED

7. General Business

There were no items of General Business submitted to the meeting.

Letter of Appreciation - Manager Governance

The Deputy Chair advised the Committee that this was the Manager Governance, Terry Callant's last meeting of the Bayside Arts and Gallery Committee, and the Deputy Chair and the Committee expressed that a letter of appreciation be forwarded to Terry Callant on behalf on the Committee. This was acknowledged with acclamation.

8. Confirmation of date of future meetings

The Manager Governance advised the Committee that whilst the next two meetings of the Committee are scheduled for 28 August and 4 December, it is not possible to schedule meetings from 17 September until February given the election period and the intense Councillor induction program.

With this in mind, it was suggested to shift the August meeting to 11 September to enable any final business to be dealt prior to the election period, and the Committee would then reconvene for a meeting to be held on 26 February 2025.

Council officers will arrange for the invitations to be amended to reflect these changes.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.27pm.

9. Reports by Special Committees

10. Reports by the Organisation

10.1 COUNCIL PLAN 2021–25 YEAR 4 REVIEW AND ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2024–25

Corporate Services - Governance
File No: PSF/24/100 – Doc No: DOC/24/166572

Executive summary

Purpose and background

The purpose of this report is to present the Council Plan 2021–25 Year 4 Review and the Annual Action Plan 2024–25 for adoption following community consultation.

Council adopted the Council Plan (2021–25) in accordance with sections S89 and S90 of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Council Plan (2021–25) represents Council's agreed strategic direction and priorities for the four-year term of office and was developed in accordance with the requirement to:

- be supported by the 10-year Financial Plan
- address the Community Vision
- comply with Council's required deliberative engagement processes.

Following an annual review of the Council Plan (2021–25) and preparation of a draft Year 4 action plan, the action plan was shared for community consultation.

The Council Plan Year 4 Review and Annual Action Plan (2024–25) are now proposed for adoption by Council.

Key issues

Council Plan (2021–25) Year 4 Review

In preparation for Year 4, the Council Plan (2021–25) review resulted in proposed refinements previously endorsed including:

- further streamlining of the strategies to achieve the 4 goals, resulting in the slightly modifying wording of 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 into one (2.2.1)
- minor updates to statistics and minor updates to other background data.

These changes result in a Council Plan with 4 goals, 13 strategic objectives and 23 strategies (reduced from 24 in 2022–23). The changes were supported in principle at the Councillor Workshop (19 February 2024) and subsequent information briefings with Councillors on 5 March 2024 and 4 June 2024.

Development of the 2023–24 Annual Action Plan

The attached draft Year 4 Annual Action Plan was developed in consultation with Councillors and senior executive officers to propose a program of work that progresses the strategic direction expressed in the Council Plan.

This draft Action Plan was refined at the Councillor Workshop on 19 February to reflect Councillor aspirations and agenda aligned to the strategic direction and Bayside 2050 Community Vision. The Action Plan was presented at Council briefing on 5 March 2024 as well as further discussion at the council meeting on 19 March 2024.

The Councillors' consideration of the proposed Annual Action Plan was shaped in the context of the Budget and Capital Works program, and with a view to consolidate the Year 4 work program to advance the strategic agenda yet deliver on some significant work within existing resourcing and budget.

It was endorsed for to go out for consultation at the Council meeting on 19 March 2024. Consultation was deferred to go in conjunction with the annual Budget endorsed in the April meeting.

Community Consultation - Have your Say

The draft Year 4 Action Plan was made available for public comment through Council's Have Your Say webpage from 24 April to 14 May 2024.

The consultation report (Attachment 2) shows the platform recorded 298 views, 0 questions and 9 contributors to the survey and 1 submission via the website, plus one via phone and email. Submission commentary is summarised in a table (Attachment 1).

The HYS platform on the Budget ran concurrently and received 36 submissions. Some of these overlap with contributions on the Council Plan Action Plan.

Feedback summary

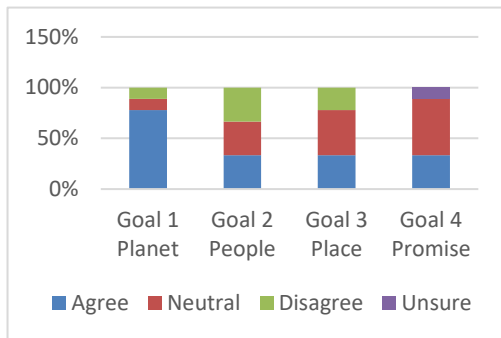
Feedback on the proposed Annual Action Plan was limited, however, the 11 written responses received showed a detailed consideration of the Action Plan.

Of the 9 survey respondents 4 were female, 1 was male and 4 respondents preferred not to say. Eight respondents reside in Bayside, and 1 was a Bayside ratepayer. Two respondents were aged between 61 to 80, 4 were between 41 to 60, and 3 were between 25 to 40. All survey participants (100%) responded they were not a member of the Council Plan community panel in 2021. All survey participants (100%) responded they were not a member of the Council Plan community panel in 2021.

Other responses were a written submission (1) representing Highett; and the phone call/email contribution (1) from a resident from Sandringham.

Analysis of Feedback

The strongest support was for Goal 1 (Planet) with majority support (78%). The other 3 goal areas had a third (33%) support with a third or higher neutral response. Goal 2 (Our People) attracted the most disagreement (33%) which was most around services and facilities for young people and young families.



	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Unsure	
Goal 1 Planet	78%	11%	11%	0%	
Goal 2 People	33%	33%	33%	0%	
Goal 3 Place	33%	44%	22%	0%	
Goal Promise	4	33%	56%	0%	11%

Details of commentary and submissions are summarized in Attachment 1 to this report with officer response.

Attachment 2 is the complete communication and engagement process report. Most comments can be addressed within existing strategic plans and masterplans. As a result of the comments and submission received there are no significant changes recommended to the Council Plan or annual action plan (see Attachment 1).

Council Plan Year 4

The final version of the Council Plan recommended for adoption now includes:

- updates to performance indicator targets following the results of the Community Satisfaction Survey (CSS) 2024, received in May 2024
- updated organisation structure and pictures of new executive members
- updated snapshot information related to carbon emissions in the municipality under Our Planet
- updates to demographic statistics from ABS.

Annual Action Plan amendments

The material issues raised in the HYS commentary can be broadly categorised into 3 areas:

- Issues that are already incorporated into the action plan (and referenced through other plans (Climate Emergency AP; Biodiversity AP such as concerns about impact of development on vegetation (1.2.1 and 1.2.2), traffic emissions (1.1.1 and 3.4.1) and alternative transport (3.4.1).
- More broadly operational or policy matters addressed through existing plans and projects such a maintenance of streetscapes, or youth infrastructure (skateparks etc).
- Matters to be taken as comment such as “[population] growth assumptions are now outdated”, “Action Plan should be clearly aligned to intended outcomes and targets”.

An additional action has been incorporated into the Annual Action Plan in response to a written submission regarding the Suburban Rail Loop and the proposed traffic implications:

3.4.1 Advocate to local state Members of Parliament and Minister for Roads and Road Safety concerning the traffic implications within the Highett and Pennydale areas associated with the proposed construction of the Suburban Rail Loop and the long-term effects on the residential amenity.

The Council Plan Year 4 review and Annual Action Plan 2024-25 is now recommended for adoption, following consultation, including:

- previously endorsed streamlining of strategies to achieve the 4 goals
- previously endorsed changes to demographic and statistical information
- endorsed updates to performance indicator targets
- addition of an action to advocate to state MPs on impacts of the suburban rail loop.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. adopts the changes as articulated in the Year 4 Review of Council Plan (2021–25) as contained in Attachment 3
2. adopts the Annual Action Plan 2024–25 as contained in Attachment 4
3. receives quarterly performance reports against the Annual Action Plan.

Support Attachments

1. Summary of HYS feedback Year 4 Action Plan 2024-25
2. Council Plan Year 4 Action Plan Community Engagement summary report May 2024
3. Council Plan 2021-25 - Year 4 review (Updates not designed)
4. Draft Annual Action Plan - Year 4 2024-25

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Social

The Council Plan 2021–25 supported through the Annual Action Plan identifies a number of actions to enhance Bayside’s social environment through improved community infrastructure and services which impact health, participation, and wellbeing.

Natural Environment

The Council Plan 2021–25 supported through the Annual Action Plan identifies a number of actions to enhance to protect and enhance the natural environment, while balancing community use with the need to protect natural assets for future generations.

Climate Emergency

The Council Plan 2021–25 supported through the Annual Action Plan identifies a number of actions to enhance to lead, act and advocate on the issues of climate emergency, reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the impact on the health of our community and environment.

Built Environment

The Council Plan 2021–25 supported through the Annual Action Plan identifies a number of actions to improve infrastructure, whilst protecting and enhancing neighbourhood character and liveability.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

The development of the Council Plan (2021–25) was informed by the aspirations of the Bayside 2050 Community Vision, community feedback through Have Your Say (March 2020) and an independent Community Deliberative Panel (April to June 2020).

The Annual Action Plan was developed by Council to align the strategic direction of the Council Plan and Bayside 2050 Community vision was available for Community feedback through the Have Your Say webpage. This engagement is consistent with our Community Engagement policy.

Human Rights

The implications of the report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

A Council Plan is required by the *Local Government Act 2020* and must be prepared every four years following Local Government Elections.

The annual Action Plan supports the delivery of the Council Plan.

Finance

The Annual Action Plan does not include financial aspects of the Plan. The allocation of funding to actions and projects is via the Annual Budget process and the 10 Year Financial Plan.

Links to Council policy and strategy

The Strategic Planning Framework provides line of sight between the four-year priorities of the elected Council in the Council Plan and the major strategies and policies that enable Council to deliver against their vision.

The Annual Action Plan outlines Council's commitment to a specific program of work to deliver Council policy and strategy.

Appendix 1 – Summary of Council Plan Action Plan consultation feedback

Feedback on Draft Year 4 Action Plan [DOC/23/379531 - \(Draft Annual Action Plan - Year 4 2024-25\)](#).

Goal	Comment	Officer Comment
<p>Goal 1: Our Planet (3 comments)</p>	<p>Summary of issues: Environmental impact of new housing development and increased density on traffic congestion and vegetation loss</p> <p>1. More strategies to compensate for loss of native trees and shrubs by new housing and dual townhouses. More council support for nature strip planting especially where new places are putting in fake grass/box hedges and front yard basketball courts etc.</p> <p>2. Absolutely - not meeting needs of increasing density there is no plan for non car movement, eg. mothers walking prams, children cycling to school and sport, increasing use of ebikes and scooter. No matter how much we bang on about this, it is never addressed.</p>	<p>See Action Plan 1.1.1, 1.2.2 This is addressed through the implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan and Urban Forest Strategy. Council has its Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan which guides the location for priority nature strip planting, which is currently being implemented. Council has a Gardens for Wildlife program that supports residents to plant out their nature strips to create habitat.</p> <p>See Action Plan 3.4.1 Council's Integrated Transport Strategy sets ambitious and clear goals for improving accessibility throughout Bayside, whilst prioritising non-car travel. Council will continue to deliver pedestrian and cycling projects, and we are targeting further walk and ride to school projects, alongside bicycle workshops that were received well by the community. Council will continue to advocate to State government for further transport improvements via the SRL and LXR projects.</p>

Goal	Comment	Officer Comment
	<p>3. Slow the pace of new housing development in Bayside. Limit access of Combustion Engine Vehicles to Bayside roads and streets, esp large high pollution vehicles including semi-trailers, large SUVs etc. This can be done by adopting slower speed limits on local arterials; speed humps; roundabouts; safe bicycle paths and more street foliage in local streets.</p>	<p>See Action Plan 1.1.1 and 3.4.1 This is addressed through the Council's Integrated Transport Strategy, Climate Emergency Action Plan and Bayside Road Management Plan.</p> <p>Broader actions to limit vehicle types (such as trucks, internal combustion vehicles, etc) are beyond the scope of local government, but some of the other traffic control measures mentioned are currently, and will continue to be, pursued (with DTP approval in some cases). This would occur in line with the <i>Local Area Traffic Management Policy 2023</i>.</p> <p>Bayside Community engagement for Electric Vehicle charging has recently been completed, with final decision on locations pending, which is intended as a measure to enable EV take-up.</p>

Goal	Comment	Officer Comment
<p>Goal 2: Our People (5 comments)</p>	<p>Summary of issues: Want more planning and investment in youth and young families (4) Concern about impact of Tourism added to urban densification (1)</p> <p>4. I would encourage council to look at how to optimise Dendy park for use of teenagers by considering a basketball court and rings near Cummins road where old and poorly used play equipment exists.</p> <p>5. There isn't any investment in youth spaces like skateparks , bmx , climbing walls. These informal spaces keep young people from roaming the streets</p> <p>6. Missing – plan for young families. See comment above</p> <p>7. Needs to be better in investment for people aged 12-35. All of the investment aims to create community for older people (which is great) but investment in youth hubs or skate parks would be great too!</p>	<p>Council is currently reviewing the Recreation Strategy 2013 which will consider recreation infrastructure across Bayside and identify any potential new infrastructure needs to meet community demand.</p> <p>Council is currently reviewing the Recreation Strategy 2013 which will consider recreation infrastructure across Bayside and identify any potential new infrastructure needs to meet community demand.</p> <p>See Action Plan 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 4.2.1 To be considered in the development of new Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan (MHWP) and new Council Plan. The Early Years Infrastructure Plan is under review to meet the needs now and into the future.</p> <p>The Arts, Culture and Libraries Strategy addresses needs of families and young people through the services and programs in libraries and arts and culture provision.</p> <p>As above Council is currently reviewing the Recreation Strategy 2013 which will consider recreation infrastructure across Bayside and identify any potential new infrastructure needs to meet community demand, including the needs of young Bayside residents.</p>

Goal	Comment	Officer Comment
		<p>See Action Plan 2.1.1 Needs of this cohort will be considered through the development of new Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.</p> <p>Youth services undertake an annual youth resilience survey to undertake the needs of young people in Bayside.</p>
	<p>8. This seems to be an odd mix of useful initiatives that support individual growth and creativity, and 'fast economic' initiatives including urban densification that generally have only adverse impacts on local people. EG its not clear that tourism via endless scores of combustion engine vehicle buses helps improve either our local people, or our local place!</p>	<p>Action Plan 2.3.1 and 1.1.1 Comment noted. Issues also to be addressed through implementing both the Economic, Tourism and Placemaking Strategy (EDPTS) and Climate Emergency Action Plan (1.1.1). The EDTPS provides for better tour bus parking and road management that should improve access and egress to the Dendy Beach tourist area</p>
<p>Goal 3: Our Place (7 Comments)</p>	<p>Summary of issues: Invest in youth and young families (2); Planning for density (parking); Strategic planning, cleaning and placemaking in MACs (activity centres) Blackrock, Hampton Street(2); See also additional submissions below on Sandringham, Highett (2)</p> <p>As above –[... optimise Dendy park for use of teenagers..] 9. Need simpler dog leash off leash rules. Not seasonal on foreshore, same all year round either on leash or off leash only. Have some parks/reserves reserved for no dogs eg Ricketts Point marine sanctuary.</p> <p>10. Again there isn't any investment in people ages 12-25</p>	<p>See response above</p> <p>Action Plan 3.1.3 A Municipal wide review of Beach restrictions is planned as part of year four Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP). Dog off leash rules are then applied through the DAMP.</p> <p>See Action Plan 2.1.1 and 4.2.1</p>

Goal	Comment	Officer Comment
	<p>11. Again no plan for increasing density - e.g properly designed driveways, space for 2 cars. Sweep diagrams for streets in all new developments, and so on. Council should require a Plan for street parking during construction.</p> <p>12. In 2019 there was a master plan to upgrade the Black Rock shopping village. Locals were invited to give feedback on the master plan and engage in the 'look' for the village. There has been nothing further advanced and this project seems to be off the table. Black Rock village is in desperate need of an upgrade- in particular the pathways which are extremely dangerous. I would</p>	<p>Council is currently reviewing the Recreation Strategy 2013 which will consider recreation infrastructure across Bayside and identify any potential new infrastructure needs to meet community demand, including the needs of young Bayside residents.</p> <p>Needs of young people will also be considered in the development of new Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan (MHWP) and new Council Plan. The Arts, Culture and Libraries Strategy also considers the needs of young people.</p> <p>Youth services undertake an annual youth resilience survey to undertake the needs of young people in Bayside.</p> <p>See Action Plan 1.1.1 and 3.4.1 The State Government determines minimum requirements for new developments through the Planning Scheme, which covers requirements for car parking (both in terms of quantum, and technical design). These are assessed as part of town planning application process.</p> <p>Management of parking is mostly operational, with the principles outlined in Councils Parking Strategy (Parking Sustainably)</p> <p>Operational. To be addressed through placemaking activities in the new Economic Development Tourism and Placemaking Strategy that will focus on footpath renewals and replacing damaged or worn street furniture in the shopping centre. Individual</p>

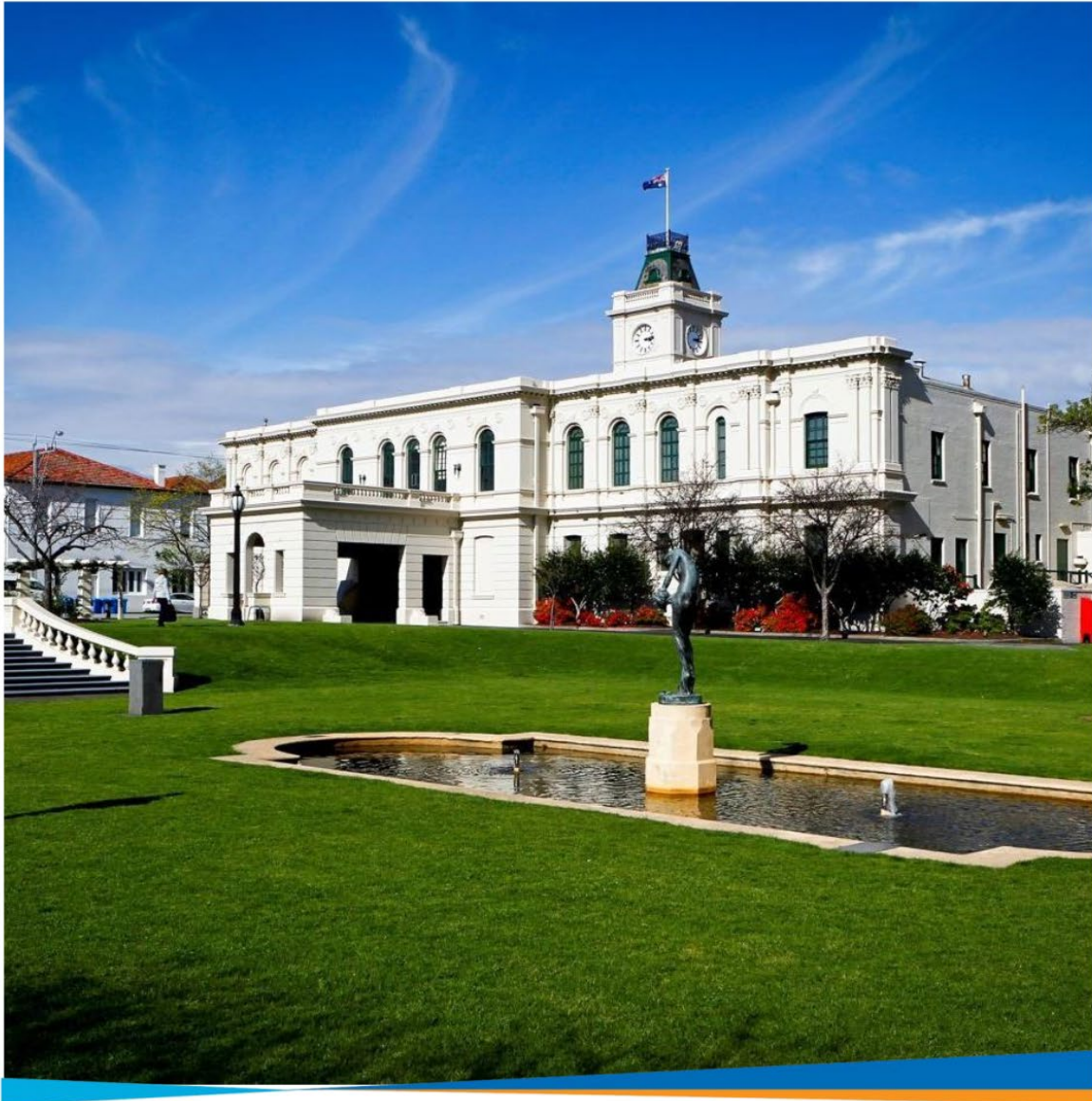
Goal	Comment	Officer Comment
	<p>like council to make clear when this project will commence.</p> <p>13. Hampton street main shopping centre is dirty and needs regular cleaning all the footpaths. The paving you ripped up years ago was so much better. I know live in an apartment and see regularly lack of cleaning. I recently went to Adelaide and there suburbs and main shops in the centre were so clean and had paving like we once had.</p>	<p>placemaking initiatives will be investigated on an individual basis.</p> <p>Addressed through operational programs – street cleaning, pressure washing and footpath maintenance/renewal.</p>
	<p>14. It would be easier to answer this question if each 'action' was accompanied by clear indicators that highlight progress towards anticipated outcomes. Open space suggests expanding the physical parkland footprint (expanding our vegetation cover, tree canopy etc); as well as improving local air quality; and open and expansive cultural initiatives that support social cohesion, lifelong education, creativity, and health & wellbeing.</p>	<p>Taken as comment. Noted</p> <p>There are indicators in the Council Plan and in key strategies to monitor outcomes.</p>
<p>Goal 4: Our Promise (2 comments)</p>	<p>Summary: General comments</p> <p>15. All council staff should be required to ride a bicycle, push a pram, or ride a scooter one day per month. Using google maps or describe self as a casual rider demonstrates little understanding of the area and its issues.</p> <p>16. This is another weird mix of obviously valid actions (improve customer experience, staff induction etc), and complex actions that require detailed expertise (implement council plans and 10 year financial plan).</p>	<p>Taken as comment. Noted</p> <p>Council has existing programs to encourage staff to use alternative transport in the municipality.</p> <p>Taken as comment. Noted</p>

Goal	Comment	Officer Comment
<p>Overall comments</p>	<p>Summary: Youth and families (1); Hampton (development impact) (1) and comment on aligning actions to goals (1)</p> <p>17. Like I stated investment in youth aged infrastructure would be great! (That isn't sport based football or cricket you do a great job at that.)</p> <p>18. The traffic in Hampton Street has more than tripled since I have lived here a long time. I was in Sandringham today and someone commented how bad Hampton street is. This has not helped with the huge amount of 4 or more Apartments going up which means way more vehicles.</p>	<p>See Action Plan 2.1.1 and 4.2.1 To be considered in the development of new Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan (MHWP) and new Council Plan also Early Years Infrastructure Plan and Arts, Culture and Libraries Strategy. Council is currently reviewing the Recreation Strategy 2013 which will consider recreation infrastructure across Bayside and identify any potential new infrastructure needs to meet community demand, including the needs of young Bayside residents.</p> <p>Needs of young people will also be considered in the development of new Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan (MHWP).</p> <p>Youth services undertake an annual youth resilience survey to undertake the needs of young people in Bayside.</p> <p>Hampton Street is an arterial road managed by the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). Council has advocated for priority crossings, reduced speed limits, and improved road surface maintenance. Changes typically require DTP approval.</p> <p>Council will review the Hampton Street Structure Plan 2016 which will seek to understand the impacts of growth in the activity centre and how best for Council to respond. In Action No.2.08 of the Economic Development Tourism and</p>

Goal	Comment	Officer Comment
	<p>19. All elements of the Action Plan should be clearly aligned to intended outcomes and targets. The key outcomes should always be the development and improvement of the safety, health & financial and emotional wellbeing of local citizens, and protection of the physical environment, and social culture and history of the area.</p>	<p>Placemaking Strategy a review is to be undertaken of parking controls in major activity centres, and to explore the roll-out of real-time signage and other technologies to improve parking efficiency in suitable locations</p> <p>Comment Noted.</p> <p>Council Plan has strategic indicators and targets linked to outcomes, as do other strategic plans such as the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.</p>

Goal	Comment	Officer Comment
<p>Additional feedback</p> <p>Email and phone Mr Ross Davies See Appendix 2 - item 6.2.1 for details</p>	<p>Summary : 20. Sandringham Masterplan outdated – streetscape, garden and village needs an upgrade and placemaking refresh. Wants it to be incorporated into strategic planning. (1)</p>	<p>To be addressed through implementing Masterplans and new Economic Development Tourism and Placemaking Strategy.</p> <p>Council will review the Sandringham Village Structure Plan 2016 which will seek to understand the impacts of growth in the activity centre and how best for Council to respond.</p>
<p>Written submission Submission from Highett Progress Association See Appendix 2 – item 6.2.2 for details</p>	<p>Summary – 3 broad issues: 21. Council Plan demographic data : Population assumptions in Council Plan 2021-2025 (4 years ago) – contends that the outlook has changed dramatically citing CSIRO site, Victorian Housing Statement focus on Hampton East, DTP draft standards reducing requirements for off street parking, and SRL directions with significant height increases.</p>	<p>Comment Noted. However it is noted that the population dropped during pandemic and not yet returned to the 2020 level).</p> <p>Municipal population estimated growth to 2041 is 16.84%; Hampton East (29% or 1546); Highett (33.52% or 2974) and Cheltenham (39.94% or 1816).</p> <p>ABS Statistical data is sourced for population assumptions. This data will inform research and engagement for the new Council Plan, Financial Plan, Asset Plan and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.</p>
	<p>22. Our Place – Review Strategic Planning and expenditure allocations – Specifically</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bay Road/Graham Road intersection proposed signalling – outdated, need to revise plan Traffic safety- need a traffic and safety study in Highett to update its modelling and growth /planning in next Council Plan Adjust maintenance to roads and footpaths to address increase useage. 	<p>The intersection of Bay Road/Graham Road upgrade and signalisation is designed to the requirements of the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning, as the intersection is State Government controlled and owned.</p> <p>Any concerns with traffic safety in the local road network can be assessed in line with our <i>Local Area Traffic Management Policy 2023</i>, which</p>

Goal	Comment	Officer Comment
	<p>23. Our People feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan – requires updated demographic data especially in growth areas like Hightett • Kindergarten and MCH services – need to increase services for densification in Hightett 	<p>clearly outlines how local area interventions are determined. Routine inspection of all footpaths and condition audits are undertaken that inform the renewal and maintenance program. Council will respond to community feedback also as required.</p> <p>Comment Noted.</p> <p>In preparation for development of Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan current demographic and health will be sourced and reviewed.</p> <p>Municipal population estimated growth to 2041 is 16.84%; Hampton East (29% or 1546); Hightett (33.52% or 2974) and Cheltenham (39.94% or 1816).</p> <p>Council is undertaking a whole of municipality review of Early Years Infrastructure Plan including future population projections.</p>



**Council Plan Year 4 Action Plan Community
Engagement Summary Report
May 2024**



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1 Overview

Project objective

The [Council Plan 2021 - 2025](#) was developed by a representative community panel to set priorities for Council for the four year council term. It was adopted in July 2021.

The Council Plan is implemented each year through an annual Action Plan. At least once in each financial year, Council must consider whether the current Council Plan requires any adjustment in respect of the remaining period of the Council Plan and renew the Annual Action Plan and [Annual Budget](#) for the following year.

The consultation sought feedback on the proposed [Year 4 Action Plan of the Council Plan](#) , from the broader community to inform Council's consideration and adoption of the Action Plan in June 2024.

Project impacts

The review will confirm how Council will deliver services and projects for the final year to achieve the strategic objectives of the Council Plan 2021-25. This process provides an important opportunity for the community to consider how the Council Plan is being delivered and give feedback to Councillors prior to their decision to adopt the Action Plan.

2 Background

This document provides a summary of community and stakeholder feedback on the Council Plan Action Plan for Year 4 (2024-25).

The [Council Plan 2021 - 2025](#) was developed by a [representative community panel](#) to set priorities for Council over the next four years. It was adopted in July 2021. This Action Plan represents the final year of this Council Plan.

The Council Plan is implemented each year through an annual Action Plan. At least once in each financial year, Council must consider whether the current Council Plan requires any adjustment in respect of the remaining period of the Council Plan and renew the Annual Action Plan and [Annual Budget](#) for the following year.

2.1 Engagement process

Community consultation on the proposed Year 4 Action Plan was conducted between 24 April - 14 May 2024. Feedback was sought from the broader Bayside community to inform Council's consideration and adoption of the Action Plan at its meeting on 18 June 2024.

There were 10 participants who submitted feedback via Council's Have Your Say engagement website: 9 by completing the online survey and 1 via an uploaded written statement.

In addition, there was feedback from 1 respondent captured via a phone call and email exchanges.

2.2 Community and stakeholder feedback

Feedback on the proposed Annual Action Plan was limited, however the nine completed surveys showed a high level of detailed consideration of the Action Plan.

Overall, there was more agreement or neutral response that the proposed actions would help progress the delivery of all goals:

- Goal 1: Our Planet (78% (7), agreement 11% (1) neutral, 11% (1) disagreement)
- Goal 2: Our People (33% (3) agreement, 33% (3) neutral, 33% (3) disagreement)
- Goal 3: Our Place (33% (3) agreement, 44% (4) neutral, 22% (2) disagreement)
- Goal 4: Our Promise (33% (3) agreement, 77% (6) neutral or unsure).

Concerns raised included pace and density of new housing development linked to increase of high polluting combustion vehicles into Bayside streets, traffic and pedestrian safety, impact of tourism strategies on locals, including vehicles influx; investment in youth hubs and infrastructure (not just sporting facilities), concerns regarding the outdated masterplans, streetscapes and general cleanliness for Black Rock, Hampton Street and Sandringham village; impact of housing density and appropriate medium-long term planning.

Survey results and community feedback is provided in Section 5 of this report.

2.3 Next steps

Council will consider feedback from the community, including this engagement report, before adopting a proposed Year 4 Action Plan at its meeting on 16 June 2024. Interested community members can also request to be heard at this meeting.

3 Definitions and scope

The scope of the Action Plan covers the whole municipality. Stakeholders are all residents, ratepayers and visitors to Bayside.

3.1 Related Council documents and consultations

- *Bayside 2050* Community Vision from 2021-2050. Due for first review in 2028.
- Bayside Council Plan (2021-25) – strategic plan for current council term
- Draft Annual Budget 2024-25.

4 Consultation process

4.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation was designed to provide community and stakeholders with the opportunity to provide feedback to Council on whether the draft Action Plan will address key community concerns and advance the adopted Council Plan.

4.2 Consultation methodology

Community engagement on the annual Action Plan was designed to give the broader community opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed Plan. The engagement process was open to all Bayside community members between 24 April - 14 May 2024.

Digital engagement tools (websites, online survey and written statement submission form, question and answer forum) were used to deliver the engagement program and assessed as meeting the needs of interested community members and stakeholders.

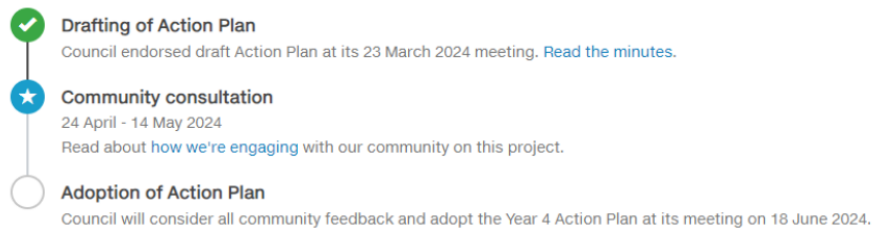
Project information and engagement materials were available in print, as requested.

The broader community were informed of the consultation via digital Council communication channels and targeted social media advertising.

Engagement was assigned at 'Consult' level, noting that the Council Plan 2021 – 2025 was developed through an extensive, deliberative community engagement process.

More information about the scope and design of the engagement program is available in [Appendix 7.2: Engagement Plan Overview](#). [DOC/24/73633 - \(Council Plan - Year 4 Action Plan Engagement Plan Overview\)](#)

Timeline



4.2.1 Consultation phase

The following engagement activities were undertaken:

- Project information on Council's Have Your Say digital engagement website, including opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback via a survey or upload a written statement.
- Phone, post, and email correspondence.

Details	Activity
10 contributions	Have Your Say engagement website
9 survey contributors	Written statement form (1 submissions)
1 written submission	Survey form (9 responses)
207 HYS page visitors	Provision of feedback by post or anonymously (0 submissions) Question and answer forum (0 participants)

4 project followers	
Phone/email (1)	One person phoned and discussed concerns and followed up verifying a summary email of issues; and supplementary email to Mayor Stiffold and Cr Evans.(1)
Social media	Two social media posts were published referencing the consultation on the Council Plan Action Plan and a further two on the budget. Sponsored advertising was used to increase reach. There were 7 comments on the posts, which have not been considered contributions within this report.
2 posts	
Sponsored advertising	
11,500 reach	

4.2.2 Communications activities

It is estimated that communications via Council channels reached more than 15,000 community members.

Table 2: Communications tools, activities, participation, and reach

Details	Activity
Have Your Say engagement website 298 views 263 visits 207 visitors 4 followers	https://yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/council-plan-year-4-action-plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project information on annual Action Plan and Council Plan 2021-2025 (262 visitors) Annual Action Plan (downloaded 39 times) Council Plan 2021-25 (direct web link) Question and answer forum (0 visitors) Engagement Plan Overview (3 visitors)
Council website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> News item: <u>Consultation opens for proposed 2024/25 Budget</u>, which also referenced the engagement of the Council Plan action plan.
Direct email 45,359 emails sent <12,203 recipients	Have Your Say project subscribers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All subscribers (6,818). Sent 24 April: opens 3,783 (55.5%), clicks 476 (7%) across all included projects. This Week in Bayside e-newsletter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 April: 12,165 recipients, 6,590 opens 2 May: 12,173 recipients, 7,566 opens, 9 May: 12,203 recipients, 6,946 opens
Social media Average reach (per post) 2,000	Facebook and Instagram posts promoting consultation. Budget – two unique posts, 30 April and 11 May Council Plan Action Plan – two posts 11 May Sponsored advertising on 11 May

5 Participant profile

Participant profile data was asked only in the survey which received 9 responses.

Of the 9 respondents 4 were female, 1 was male and 4 respondents preferred not to say. Eight respondents reside in Bayside, and 1 was a Bayside ratepayer. Two respondents were aged between 61-80, 4 were between 41-60, and 3 were between 25 – 40. All survey participants (100%) responded they were not a member of the Council Plan community panel in 2021.

The written submission was from a male representing Highett ; and the phone call/email contribution was from male resident from Sandringham.

6 Consultation findings

The following section summarises the key themes which arose in community feedback on Council Plan Year 4 Action Plan. In the interest of stakeholder and community privacy, individual quotes have not been included within this public document. Where there was more than one mention of a topic or item, the number of mentions has been specified in brackets.

6.1 Support for actions

6.1.1 Goal 1: Our Planet

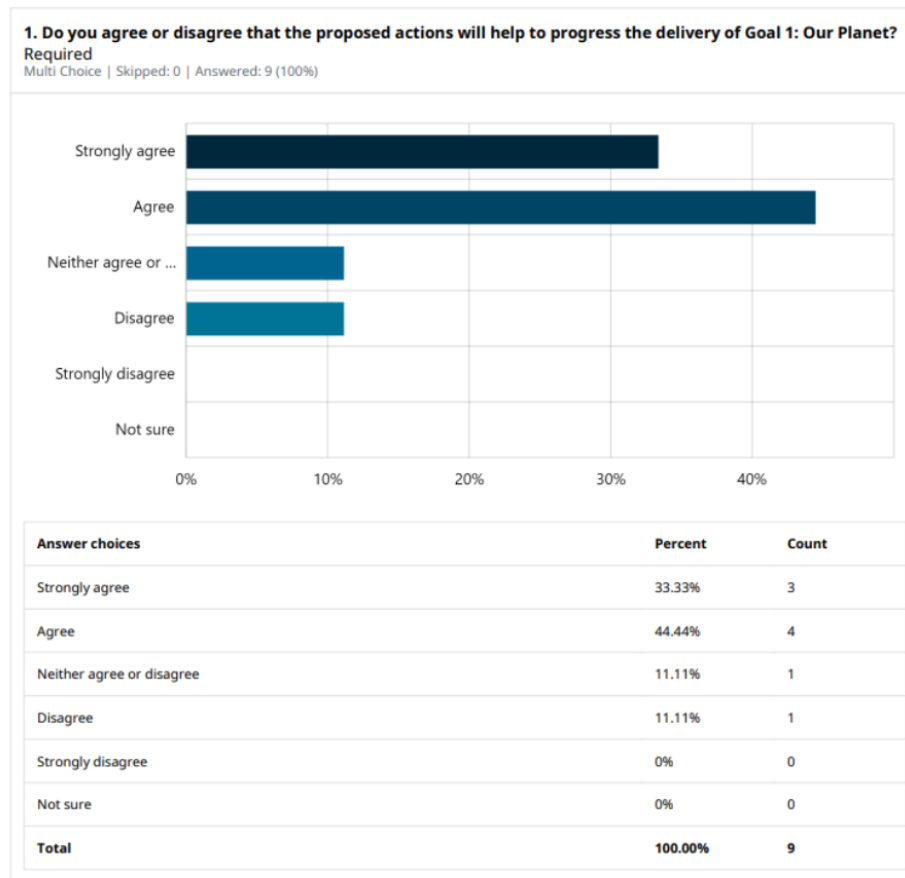


Table 3: Response summary of the survey question “Are there any important actions that you think are missing for Goal 1: Our Planet draft Action Plan?”

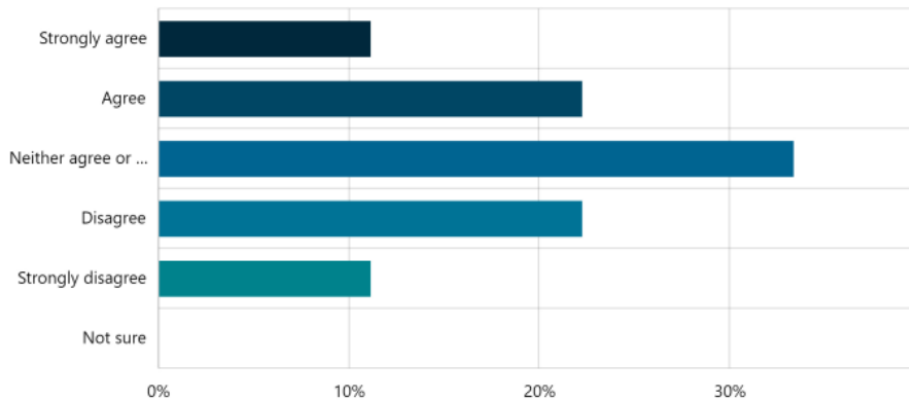
Topic	Community feedback
Environmental impact of new housing development and increased density (3)	Causing increased combustion engine traffic and pollution (1) With increasing density need to plan for non-car movement: mothers with prams, children cycling, increasing scooter and e-bike use (1) Need to compensate for loss of vegetation with increased

density – support nature strip planting (1)

6.1.2 Goal 2: Our People

3. Do you agree or disagree that the proposed actions will help to progress the delivery of Goal 2: Our People?

Required
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 9 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Strongly agree	11.11%	1
Agree	22.22%	2
Neither agree or disagree	33.33%	3
Disagree	22.22%	2
Strongly disagree	11.11%	1
Not sure	0%	0
Total	100.00%	9

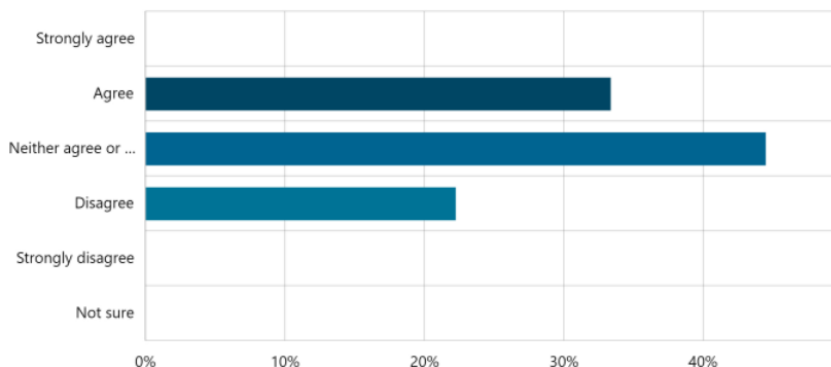
Table 4: Response summary of the survey question “Are there any important actions that you think are missing for Goal 2: Our People draft Action Plan?”

Topic	Community feedback
Young people	Plan for and invest as much in families and young people (especially 12-25) as we do in seniors’ initiatives – eg informal spaces, youth hubs, skateparks, basketball hoops climbing walls, BMX etc (4)
Tourism or “fast” economic development”	Concern tourism does not help local people or local place. (1)

6.1.3 Goal 3: Our Place

5. Do you agree or disagree that the proposed actions will help to progress the delivery of Goal 3: Our Place?

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 9 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Strongly agree	0%	0
Agree	33.33%	3
Neither agree or disagree	44.44%	4
Disagree	22.22%	2
Strongly disagree	0%	0
Not sure	0%	0
Total	100.00%	9

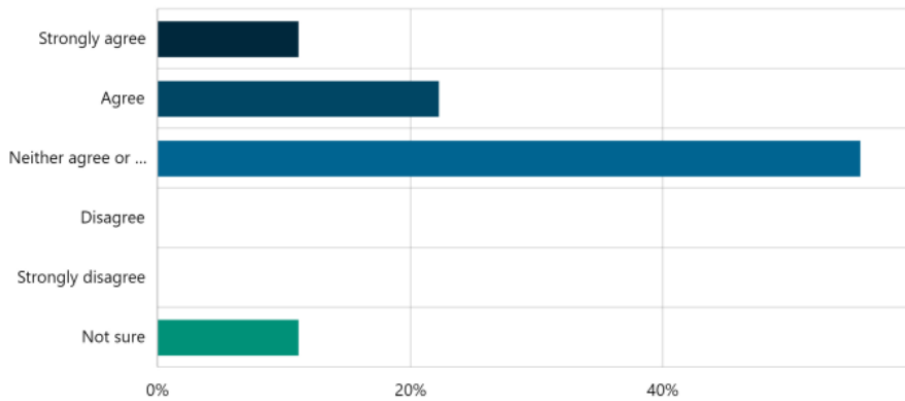
Table 5: Response summary of the survey question “Are there any important actions that you think are missing for Goal 3: Our Place draft Action Plan?”

Topic	Community feedback
Activity centres Strategic planning, maintenance and placemaking (3)	Blackrock Masterplan not being implemented – needs upgrade with unsafe pathways.(1) Sandringham village** - (via email 6.2.1) Masterplan outdated – streetscape, garden and village needs an upgrade and placemaking refresh. (1) Hampton Street activity centre - Dirty and drab appearance (1) Also see separate submission (below) from Highbett Progress Association (1)
Progressing diverse actions	Wants clear indicators for actions (1)
Increasing density	Particularly planning and impact on residential parking (1)
Young people	More investment in youth infrastructure (1)
Dogs off leash	Simpler rules, more areas, year round access to selected part of foreshore (1)

6.1.4 Goal 4: Our Promise

7. Do you agree or disagree that the proposed actions will help to progress the delivery of Goal 4: Our Promise? Required

Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 9 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Strongly agree	11.11%	1
Agree	22.22%	2
Neither agree or disagree	55.56%	5
Disagree	0%	0
Strongly disagree	0%	0
Not sure	11.11%	1
Total	100.00%	9

Table 6: Response summary of the survey question “Are there any important actions that you think are missing for Goal 4: Our Promise draft Action Plan?”

Topic	Community feedback
Improve understanding of non-car transport (1)	(Comment) All council staff should ride a bike/push pram or ride scooter to better understand issues (1)
	(Comment) on mix of operational and strategic actions in the goal.

6.1.5 Other Feedback

Table 7: Response summary of the survey question “Do you have any other feedback you’d like Council to consider for the draft Action Plan?”

Topic	Community feedback
Youth	Consult with younger cohorts, plan more for families and non-car

/families (3)	transport, invest more in non sport-based infrastructure (which we do well).(3)
Hampton (1)	Overdevelopment and associated traffic (1)
General (1)	Actions should align to outcomes and target: should be safety and health, residents' financial and emotional wellbeing, protect physical environment and local social culture and history.

6.2 Written submissions and correspondence

6.2.1 Phone/email correspondence

This feedback came via telephone calls (Friday 3/5/24 to Economic Development team and Monday 6/5/24 with Governance team) and email exchanges; refencing and augmenting an earlier meeting (Feb 2024) by the resident with Mayor Stifold and Matthew Cripps Director City Planning and Amenity; and a separate conversation with Cr Evans.

Topic	Community feedback summary
Sandringham hub improvement	Sandringham village - Masterplan outdated – streetscape, garden and village needs an upgrade and placemaking refresh. Wants it to be incorporated into strategic planning. (1)

Email 1 Council Officer notes Re phone call Monday 6 May 2024. [DOC/24/150893](#)

Looking at the annual action plan and Year 4 Council Plan for strategic mention of proactive planning for the Sandringham village . Disappointed as he had a meeting with Mayor Stifold and council officer (TBC Mattew Cripps) in February 2024.

He understands Council has tried working with community and traders and trying to keep all happy (backed down over Melrose Street trial – his view due to a minority). Pushed from pillar to post between activity centre needs, heritage, planning, developers and traders. Don't see anything in the plan for the village. The streetscape, furniture, landscaping (doesn't like the "south African" garden that's 20 years old), street amenity is poor.

Cited Euroa Council main street that has been refurbished with post covid grant –a tremendous job with lifting streetscape, new pavement, plants, aggregate pathways – made it a meeting place for the whole community.

Sandy is a meeting place – Council should include it in the action plan for the village. Get ambassadors, traders, art group involved. Compared to other activity centres in Bayside and elsewhere. Realises there are budget pressures but start somewhere with street-scaping and small projects that are not capital intensive.

He spoke about a development (retirement home) that contributed to loss of shops fronts and heritage. Feels we are too reactive, not having a proactive plan. He understands funding pressures but without proactive plan is not started. Old village plan is tired and overdue for an upgrade. If there is not something planned for Sandringham – why not?

Councillors are advised by executive. Needs a champion at senior levels. Compared to Bay Road in Brighton or Chapel street.

When asked what success looks like:

- Nice streetscape where parking is managed
- Economically attractive
- Where people want to go
- “place” focus – seating and modernised streetscape encourages people to stay and shop
- Attractive to traders
- Balance traffic vs amenity – put bus station out the back – get foot traffic off the train to linger.

He wanted to see even a phrase in the Council Plan to drive operational attention for the village. Wants to follow up with the officer who was in the meeting with the Mayor. (In summary it sounds like he wants anew Village masterplan and some placemaking.)

[Council will] incorporate this into feedback with Council plan HYS process for 2024-25 [and] advised there were other ways coming up to get his issues in front of the new council (to be elected in October):

- Will be consultation online of priorities for next 4 years
- Opportunity to nominate to be on a panel that would advise the new council
- Run or encourage someone with the same passion and interest in Sandringham to run for council.

Email 2 Respondent to Corporate Planner – confirming issues 7 May 2024

[DOC/24/150893](#)

Thankyou for your email, much appreciated.

Yes this captures our conversation the key point for me being there is nothing strategic for the village? Why not? - and if this is planned and tagged for say 2 years time - could Council get on with smaller projects in the interim? ie streetscape to lift the look and feel of the village ie Project 1 Plantings, Project 2 Pavement (in whole or part), Project 3 street furniture (in whole or part) etc?

The key thing here is the traders and community can see that something is physically happening this calendar year, compared to the discussion I have had with Council with little evidence of any progress over the last 6-8 months?

The basis of my recommendations is my discussion with traders and community people I have coffee and meet with at the Village - asking them how do you think and feel about the village. I have met with the Mayor and Director seeking a response.

I have confirmed [Director CPA] was in the meeting and have phoned and left a message to inquire as to what actions if any have been taken since the meeting and/or what can I and others do ie organise a group meeting of residents who feel the same way etc - Sandringham Village needs a Council Champion.

Email 3 from same Respondent to Mayor, Cr Stitfold and cc to Cr Evans

[DOC/24/144822](#)

I am following up my recent meetings and discussions on the future of the Sandringham Village, based on 6-8 months now of Council and staff engagement to seek some guidance and support for the future of the Village.

What has prompted my email is the review of the Council Action Plan and Economic Development, Tourism & Placemaking Strategy drafts via Have your Say. I approached both documents hoping to record some actions/projects for the future of the Village if not planning and strategy for the future.

The purpose of this email is to seek a meeting with you both to understand Council's position and hopefully plans for this year and beyond. I appreciate there are significant demands on Council budget but at the same time there are incremental opportunities to partner with community support to at least improve the streetscape look and feel of the Village.

Even a recommendation to, for example, to set up a small focus group to support council planning - however this could only be successful if there is support by council.

I have cc [Corporate Planner] in after our recent discussion about the documents and [Cr Evans] who kindly sought to look at a recent example of upgrade I had sent photos of the Euroa Main Street - simple but very effective in lifting the community and traders sense the future building in economic and placemaking development for the town.

I look forward to meeting you both if possible before Council's final deliberations on your planning.

6.2.2 Written submissions

One submission from Douglass Klein for Highett Progress Association. Dated 14 May 2024

Topic	Community feedback summary
Council Plan demographic data	Notes population assumptions in Council Plan 2021-2025 (4 years ago) – contends outlook changed dramatically citing CSIRO site, Victorian Housing Statement focus on Hampton East, DTP draft standards reducing requirements for off street parking, and SRL directions with significant height increases.
Goal 3 - Our Place feedback	Request to review growth assumptions in planning and expenditure allocations. Specifically <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bay Road/Graham Road intersection proposed signalling – outdated, need to revise plan • Traffic safety- need a traffic and safety study in Highett to update its modelling and growth /planning in next Council Plan • Adjust maintenance to roads and footpaths to address increase useage
Goal 2 - Our People feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan – requires updated demographic data especially in growth areas like Highett • Kindergarten and MCH services – need to increase for densification in Highett

6.2.3 Written statement

Highett

Progress Association

May 14th, 2024

Bayside City Council

76 Royal Avenue,

Sandringham VIC 3191

Dear Councillors,

Response to the Bayside City Council – Final Year of the 2021-25 Four Year Plan

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the final year of the 4 Year Plan.

The Highett Progress Association (HPA) only became active in the second half of 2023. So, in considering the Year 4 Plan, we also went back to the original 2021-25 plan, developed almost four years ago. The most striking observation is how the original growth assumptions are now outdated, largely by circumstances outside the control of council.

The 2021-25 plan (page 7) assumed the Bayside population would *'grow slowly at approximately 1% per annum'* to 2031, which was then extrapolated to the number of dwellings, traffic requirements and demands on community infrastructure.

That outlook has changed dramatically, with much higher growth rates now forecast for Highett and across Bayside, driven by multiple factors including:

- Increase in dwellings on the former CSIRO site (Highett Common) from an original 400-600 (as at 2015) to at least 1,022 (February 2022)
- Addition of the Ryman 'Bert Newton' Retirement complex of 130 apartments in Graham Road.
- September 2023 Victorian Housing Statement, nominating Moorabbin (Hampton East) Activity Centre among the first ten centres to each add possibly 6,000 homes in the next ten years. This includes parts of Kingston and Glen Eira Councils but Bayside will see major growth in Hampton East, possibly extending into northern Highett and other suburbs.
- November 2023 Dept of Transport and Planning draft standards to revise parking requirements for new apartments, potentially eliminating most requirements for off road residential parking in locations like Highett with Medium Public Transport Accessibility Levels (PTAL)

- February 2024 Victorian Future Homes Program portending faster approvals for 3 storey apartment blocks in Highett, Cheltenham, Hampton East and Brighton.
- April 28, 2024 Suburban Rail Loop Authority Directions proposing height increases to between 6 and 18 stories in Highett and Cheltenham, well beyond what most observers and certainly our members were expecting.
- A further impact of the SRLA Directions is that the former Gasworks site planned for 1,200-1,400 dwellings in eleven towers from six to eight stories (as of 2018) is likely to increase dramatically, up to 18 stories. Although within Kingston Council, the increased pressures on schooling, childcare and health facilities together with less green space for a much greater population will massively impact all of Highett.

Issues from accelerated growth will be felt across Bayside but Highett will be the crucible.

It appears however from reading the Year 4 Plan that little has changed since 2021. We understand that recent State Government announcements have been delivered in rapid succession and pose challenges to any Council to recalibrate assumptions. We sympathise that, to use an old aphorism, Bayside is being challenged 'to paint a moving bus'. However, it also means that Bayside should not proceed with 'business as usual' in the final year of this plan or when drafting the 2025-29 plan following the October Council elections.

Page 17 of Bayside's original 2021-25 plan stressed the need for **Agility**, to be '*sufficiently agile to adapt to the evolving needs of our community over the next four years*'. This submission is to reinforce that such agility is crucial **within Year 4** and change cannot be postponed.

We ask that Council urgently review the growth assumptions underpinning the many worthwhile programs now underway and initiate revisions so that strategic priorities and expenditure allocations better reflect the world awaiting all of us.

We can think of multiple examples where such leadership and managerial agility should now be directed:

Our Place:

1. **The Bay Road/Graham Road intersection** is due to be signaled before the end of 2025, with a major contribution from Sunkin as the developer of Highett Commons. This commitment accepted in good faith several years ago is already unfit for purpose. As discussed by the HPA with Bayside officers, two lanes must be provided out of Graham Rd to allow right turns while the left lane waits for pedestrians. A one lane solution will not service the current let alone future traffic but will actually increase congestion and exacerbate erratic driving behaviours. Given much higher growth rates now on the horizon, to simply treat the previous

plan as untouchable would be irresponsible and require even more remedial expenditure in future years to then resume land and widen Graham Rd. It is incumbent on Bayside to ensure due diligence of the optimal solution within Year 4, so Council can be fully aware of the issues. As much as it pains us to think this may delay the solution, that could be the correct decision.

2. **Traffic Safety** more widely is a growing issue. The HPA has identified that additional resources will be required this year to quickly analyse the effects of increasing traffic loads on pedestrian safety and forecast how it will be further exacerbated during the major construction of the next five to ten years. Within our response to the 2024/25 budget, we stress the need for a Traffic and Safety study across Highett and our

concerns with Council's reliance on outdated and limited studies and modelling of the traffic effects from the Highett Common development.

Within the next Four Year plan, the Council should update its modelling and growth assumptions and understand the impact on neighbourhood character and residents amenity in key choke points like Highett and Hampton East. Other Melbourne Councils are currently reviewing speed limits and other means to protect residential zones as GPS technology is facilitating driver rat runs through residential communities. The Legislative Assembly report tabled May 1 on 'The Impact of Road Safety Behaviours on Vulnerable Road Users' provides an excellent overview of many issues relevant to Bayside, including how technology is changing the challenge for traffic management.

3. **Maintenance Priorities** - On a more operational level, should the frequency of road and footpath maintenance continue according to past cycles? Or should the budget allocation and priorities between suburbs and streets be regularly reassessed as usage of roads and footpaths increases in specific areas due either to short term construction or medium term increased usage by more vehicle and pedestrian traffic?

Our People:

4. **Development of the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-29** is a major initiative within the Year 4 Plan. It is essential that assumptions underpinning that plan include updated forecasts of demographic trends, so that both our present and future population is included, even more essentially in high growth suburbs like Highett.

5. **Council Kindergartens and Maternal Health capacity** should also be prioritized by suburb to take account of the future population. Places have been an issue within Highett for many years and the shortfall will increase with greater densification.

In summary, the Highett Progress Association urges Council to prepare for the coming revolution. 'Business as Usual' is not sustainable and most definitely not in Highett.

Please follow the spirit of the original 2021-25 plan, **be agile** and plan ahead now, in Year 4, to avoid being caught flat footed or reactive in the years to come.

Yours faithfully,

Douglas Klein

Douglas Klein

On behalf of the Highett Progress Association Inc

Not for profit incorporated association registered in Victoria AO119438T

HighettProgress@yahoo.com

7 Project evaluation

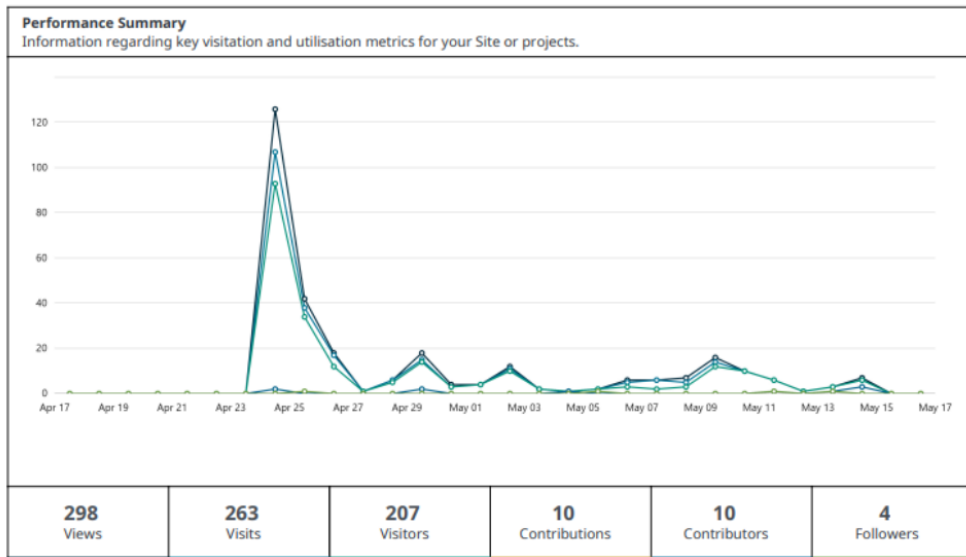
7.1 Participation

The low number of submissions received (11) through the consultation process is broadly consistent with the 2023 consultation where 6 written submissions and 1 email submission was received.

7.2 Engagement

It was proposed that the engagement activities would attract at least:

- 200 views of the Have Your Say project webpages (achieved; 298 views)
- 2 contributions via the Have Your Say online survey or written statement form (achieved, 11).



The goals for Have Your Say webpages were that:

- 2% of visits would have at least one contribution made (met, 3.42%)
- 25% of visits would last at least one active minute (met, 32.7%)
- 20% of visits would have at least two actions performed, such as moving around the project page or clicking on links (met, 32.32%)

7.3 Communication activities

It was proposed that the communication activities would reach at least:

- 15,000 community members (met, more than 15,000)

The chart above shows peaks in visitation to the Have Your Say engagement webpages when the consultation was promoted via direct email to panelists and Have Your Say members on 24 April; and via e-newsletters or social media on 10 May.

7.4 Community engagement plan overview on Have Your Say

Project objective

The [Council Plan 2021 - 2025](#) was developed by a representative community panel to set priorities for Council for the four year council term. It was adopted in July 2021.

The Council Plan is implemented each year through an annual Action Plan. At least once in each financial year, Council must consider whether the current Council Plan requires any adjustment in respect of the remaining period of the Council Plan and renew the Annual Action Plan and [Annual Budget](#) for the following year.

We are seeking feedback on the proposed [Year 4 Action Plan of the Council Plan](#) , from the broader community to inform Council's consideration and adoption of the Action Plan in June 2024.

Project impacts

The review will confirm how Council will deliver services and projects for the next three years to achieve the strategic objectives of the Council Plan 2021-25. This process provides an important opportunity for the community to consider how the Council Plan is being delivered.

What information do we need from the community?

We're seeking feedback on the Council Plan Year 4 Action Plan from community panel members and the broader community.

- Does the Year 4 Action Plan support the strategic intent outlined in the Council Plan 2021-2025?
- Have we got it right? Is anything significant missing?

What can the community influence?

- Provide feedback on the proposed Year 4 Annual Action Plan
- Express views on priority and timing of actions suggested within the Plan

What can't the community influence?

- Council operations, resource allocation and committed major projects
- 2024-2025 Annual Budget ([concurrent consultation on Have Your Say](#))

Stakeholders and community

This stakeholder assessment is a generalised understanding of sections of the community that have a connection to the project or matter. This information is used to understand the types of tools and techniques that will achieve the strongest and most effective outcomes for engagement and communication.

Impact: What level of change the stakeholder / community segment may experience as a result of the project / matter

Interest: What level of interest has been expressed or is anticipated

Influence: Reference to the IAP2 Spectrum

7.4.1.1 Stakeholder / community	7.4.1.2 Impact	7.4.1.3 Interest	7.4.1.4 Influence
Council Plan Community Panel members	L	L-M	Consult
General Bayside community	L	L	Consult

Selected tools and techniques

The tools and techniques selected for this project are informed by the project content, stakeholders and type of feedback sought.

Key tools for communicating the project

- This Week in Bayside e-newsletter
- Email notification to Have Your Say members and Council Plan project subscribers.
- Boosted through advertising on social media.

Key methods for gathering feedback

- Online engagement through Have Your Say, including opportunity to ask questions, as well as provide feedback

Project timelines

The timelines for this phase of public consultation are detailed in the table below.

Date	Activity
23 March 2024	Council endorse draft Council Plan Action Plan
24 April – 14 May 2024	Community consultation
18 June 2024	Council expected to consider community feedback and adoption of Council Plan Action Plan

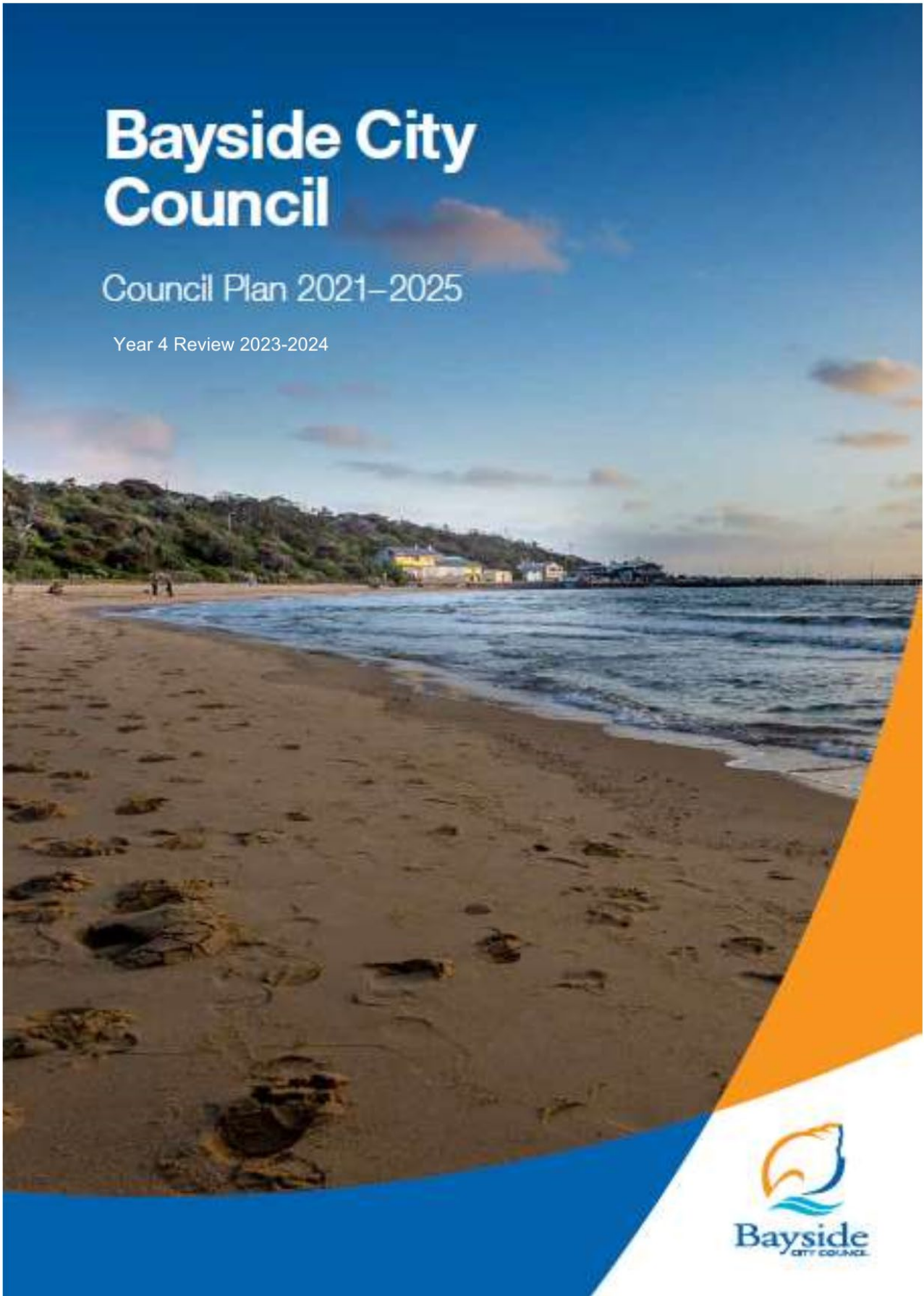
Decision-making process

Council will consider all community feedback and adopt the Year 4 Action Plan at its meeting on 18 June 2024.

Bayside City Council

Council Plan 2021–2025

Year 4 Review 2023-2024



Bayside City Council – Council Plan 2021-2025

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Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Bayside City Council proudly acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council acknowledges the Bunurong’s continuing relationship to the land and waterways and respects that their connection and spiritual identity is maintained through ancient ceremonies, songlines, dance, art and living culture.

Council pays tribute to the invaluable contributions of the Bunurong and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island elders who have guided and continue to guide the work we do.

Message from the Council

We are pleased to share with you the updated Council Plan for 2021-25, a roadmap for working with our residents over the four Council term to realise our longer term aspirations for the future. Our Bayside 2050 Community Vision articulates our shared goals:

Bayside in 2050 leads the way demonstrably as a diverse, healthy and liveable place. We value economic and cultural progress, environmental sustainability and protection of open space and coastline, and we nurture inclusiveness, safety, accessibility, community vibrancy, creativity and innovation.

To reflect the Vision, this Council is focussed on a range of priorities, programs and capital investment.

The plan includes an overarching focus on our role as custodians of the “community of life” that we are all part of in Bayside. This embraces acting more ambitiously on the Climate Emergency; enhancing biodiversity; and protecting the wonderful natural environment that is such an important and special part of Bayside.

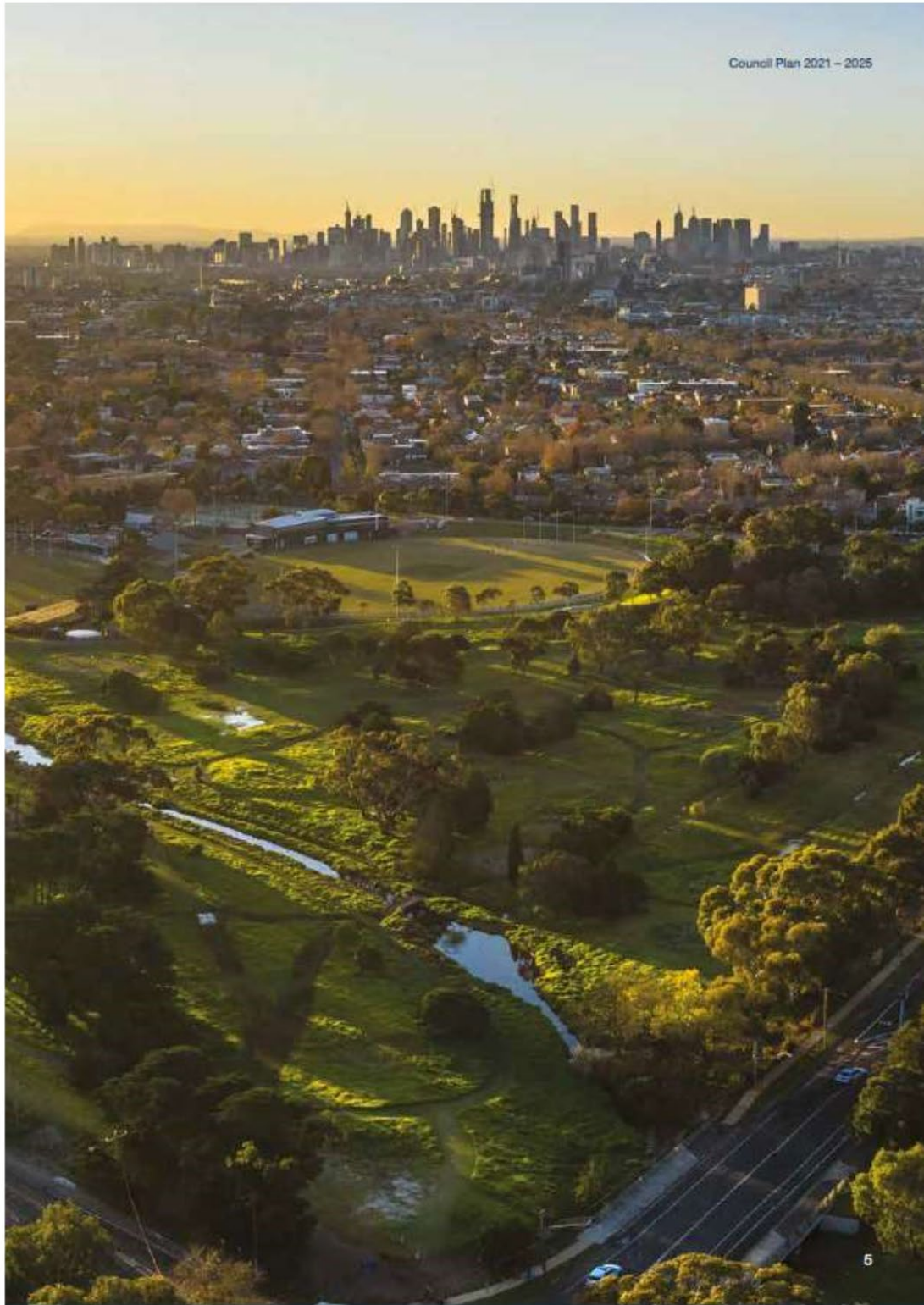
Our four year plan includes

- protecting our open space and reserves, foreshore, natural habitats and species including increasing access to green spaces across Bayside
- conserving our unique places and heritage
- managing sustainable population growth and fostering a vibrant local economy with strong transport connectivity
- ensuring all who live and work here are able to live life to their fullest
- building a strong relationship of trust and partnership between community and Council to address the challenges of the future together.

This Council Plan will guide the direction and delivery of Council's until June 2025. We look forward to working with our wonderful Bayside community to achieve our shared vision for the future.

Bayside Councillors





Our Vision

Bayside City Council's vision is to:

Partner with our community to protect and care for the community of life in Bayside making an inclusive, active, healthy, connected and creative experience for all.

This vision forms Council's response to our community's expectations and our shared priorities for current council term.

It also represents our strongly held belief that we represent a highly engaged and forward-thinking community; a community that expects us to lead and influence change on the big issues that affect all of us in Bayside and the broader global system.

Our Plan delivers this through a focus on:

- Our Planet – Lead better, smarter and sustainable futures
- Our People – Nurture all people and thriving healthy communities
- Our Place – Foster Bayside's liveability, open space and exceptional places
- Our Promise – We promise open and accountable civic leadership

Working with you – the people of Bayside – this plan provides the strategic focus for Council in the medium term.

A snapshot of the Bayside Community

Bayside Population

Most populous life-stages in Bayside

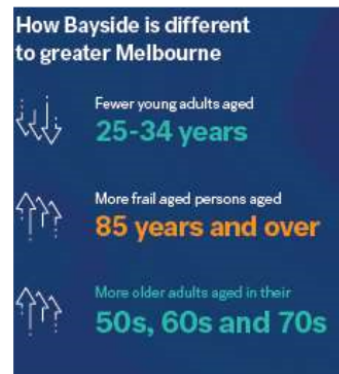
The predicted population for 2024 is 107,734 :

- parents and homebuilders 35-49 years 19.3%
- older workers and pre-retirees 50-59 years 15.6%
- empty nesters and retirees 60-69 years 12.1%



Compared to Greater Melbourne, Bayside has

- fewer young adults aged 25-34 years
- more residents aged 85 years and over
- more residents aged in their 50s, 60s and 70s



Cultural Diversity

- 27.1% of people in the City of Bayside were born overseas, compared with 35.7% in Greater Melbourne.
- 15.4% speak a language other than English at home
- 0.3% residents are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

In 2021, the total population of City of Bayside was estimated to be 102,337 people. It is expected to increase by over 18,044 people to 125,879 (16.84%) by 2041, at an average annual growth rate of 1.04%.

Future population by year 2041

- 18,145 additional residents
- 9180 additional dwellings
- Growth in seniors aged 70-84 (5,398) and in people 85+ (1,331)

Source: <https://forecast.id.com.au/bayside>

Our Planet

Climate emergency

Climate Change has the potential to impact every element of life in Bayside. The impacts include increased maximum and minimum temperatures, more intense rainfall events/inundation, rising sea levels, more hot days and heat waves, less rainfall in winter and spring and harsher and longer fire seasons.

Climate change data shows the planet is already 1.1% warmer than pre-industrial times. Bayside City Council commits to action to contribute to limiting this increase to 1.5% and mitigate the effects.

Local councils have a collective responsibility for over \$380 billion in assets and land. 112 Local Government authorities in Australia (35 of 79 in Victoria) have declared a Climate Emergency (June 2022), representing 44% of Australia's population.

The Monash Sustainability Development Institute indicates that:

- 37% of local governments (representing 21% of the Australian population) commit to zero community emissions by 2050.
- 37% have target to reach net zero emissions by or before 2050 for all, or the majority, of their community emissions
- 58% have a target to reach net zero by 2050 for their operational emissions
- all are taking steps to reduce their operational or community emissions.

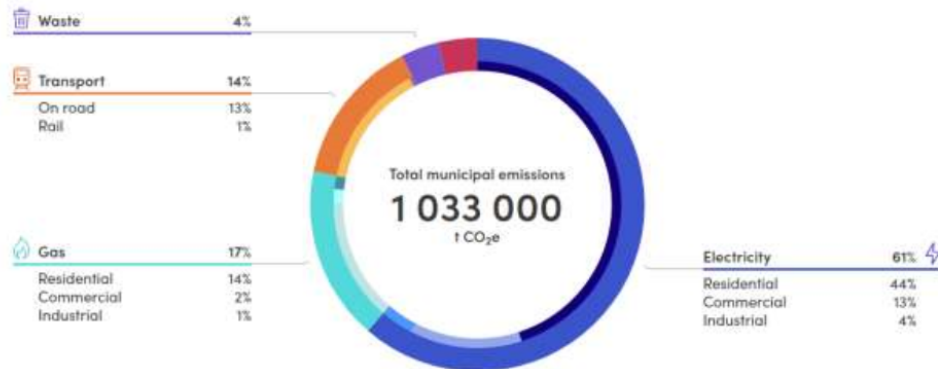
Bayside's emissions profile (2021), is that the Bayside community emits around 1.033 million tonnes of greenhouse gases. This is largely made up of electricity usage (61%), followed by gas (17%), transport (14%), and waste (4%). The electricity and gas figures cover residential, commercial and industrial sources. (<https://snapshotclimate.com.au/locality/municipality/australia/victoria/bayside/2021>)

78% of Bayside's emissions are from Electricity and Gas consumption of which:

- 59% is associated with residential use
- 19% is associated with business use (commercial and industrial)

In December 2021 Council set an ambitious target to reduce Bayside's community greenhouse gas emissions by 75% below 2005 levels by 2030; and achieve net zero emissions by 2035, or earlier. Since the 2020 report, Bayside emissions have fluctuated with some marginal reductions during the pandemic, which have now returned to similar levels overall (78%) but with the greater proportion now associated residential use rather than business use.

Bayside Emissions 2021-22



In Victoria¹

- transport accounts for 23% of all emissions, with cars accounting for over half of these emissions (50.3%)
- electricity generation accounts for 51.8% of all emissions and direct combustion (which includes the burning of gas in homes) accounts for 17%

and in Australia²

- CO2e emissions in the construction sector makes up 18.1% of the carbon footprint.

Source: 1 [Victorian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2021](#), State Government of Victoria); 2 [The Carbon Footprint of Australia's Construction Sector, 2017](#)

Our natural open space

Our natural open space and foreshore can help mitigate the effect of climate change, support biodiversity and the local ecology.

Bayside Land area:	3,719 hectares (37 km ²)
Public open space:	416 hectares
Foreshore	100 hectares represents 23% of open space (17Km long)
Conservation and heathland reserves	75 hectares represents 18% of Bayside's open space portfolio.

Our People

Source: Bayside 2020 Health and Wellbeing Survey Report (Metropolis)

Community resilience and health

Health and Lifestyle

64.1% engage in physical activity four or more days per week. This is higher than the Victorian average of 41.3%

42.3% of residents are considered overweight (pre-obese or obese). Males are more likely than females to be considered overweight or obese

Vulnerable populations

9% (estimated 7,500) of Bayside residents live in poverty "not having enough available income to afford life's necessities such as food clothing or healthcare

Of these 57% of women comprise the majority of Bayside adults living in poverty

2.9% live in public housing, and 2,981 households (7.6%) experience housing stress

12,136 carers provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, chronic illness or old age; 4,734 people need assistance in their day-to-day lives; and 30.6% report one or more health conditions.

Mental Wellbeing

83.2% The majority of residents rate their mental health as very good or excellent

16.6% rate it as good or fair

0.3% rate is as poor

Community Safety

66.7% feel safe walking in the local area during the night

96.1% feel safe walking in the local area during the day

Social connectedness

Bayside residents rated their satisfaction with their community connections at 6.91 out of 10, a level of best satisfaction categorised as "good".

35.4% disagreed they play an active role in community

13.2% reported feeling isolated and out of contact from others

27.2% reported they volunteer regularly

Local Economy and Social Capital

Source <https://profile.id.com.au/bayside/what-do-we-do>

Bayside's largest employment sectors are Health Care, Education and Retail, including our vibrant shopping strips and village style activity centres.

In 2021 Bayside has

- 13,520 local businesses (including a high proportion of home-based businesses)
- 32,850 local jobs

Of people living in Bayside

- 57.6% of the Bayside resident workers travel outside of the area to work
- 42.4% live and work in Bayside

Bayside's social capital is supported through volunteering, community and sporting clubs, social enterprise and community grants and events. In 2020/21 Bayside has registered on the community directory

- 28 friends of and other environment groups
- 28 service clubs
- 26 arts and culture groups
- 65 other activity and advocacy groups
- 141 sporting clubs
- 432 registered volunteers with 27.2% volunteering regularly
- 4 regular farmers markets

Council supports community development, local economy and social capital through grants programs. In the 2022/2023 council introduced grants to encourage sustainable community and distributed other grant funding for some major projects. A total of \$797,982 was distributed for 114 grants:

- 37 Annual Community grants aligned with Council's Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan
- 2 Climate Emergency grants aligned with Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan
- 9 Inclusive Bayside grants supporting organisations to offer greater access to services for people with a disability
- 27 Individual Inclusion and Participation grants supporting residents experiencing financial hardship with social inclusion and participation in community life
- 6 major grants to support the operation of Bayside's Neighbourhood Houses and Community Centres
- 34 small grants to support Events and Festivals that benefit the Bayside community.

Our Place

Active open space

Bayside Land area:	3,719 hectares (37 km ²)
Public open space:	416 hectares
Public golf courses	119 hectares (part of the 416ha open space)
Private golf courses	120 hectares (not included)
Number of open spaces	147

The remaining open space is made up of large regional parks (such as Dendy Park, Cheltenham Park and Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve) and smaller parks distributed across the municipality (such as Bamfield Park, Hanby Street Reserve and Illaroo Reserve), including over 40 sportsgrounds (with varied uses during summer and winter).

Housing

Source <https://housing.id.com.au/bayside>

Residents living in separate houses (60%) and medium-high density apartments (30%)

Higher percentage of housing fully owned (40%) compared with Greater Melbourne average (29%)

Social housing dwellings slightly lower (2.1%) compared with Greater Melbourne average (2.6%)

Need for affordable housing 2.9% of all households (1,096 households in Bayside)

Number of affordable housing sales for people on low or very income (December 2023) 3.4% of sales

Bayside projected housing growth 2021-2041 will see the biggest growth (in number terms) in Highett and Hampton; and by % in Cheltenham.

The former CSIRO site at Highett is the major focus for proposed new community facilities and housing.

Community facilities

Community facilities that support that support community recreation and participation include

4 libraries, 6 community centres, 3 senior citizen centres, 18 scout halls, 3 community halls and other public venues and active open space facilities.

Our Promise

Based on 2023 reporting

Governance

- Number of Council and Council Committee meetings annually – 25
- Number of matters considered at Council meetings annually – 406
- Number of matters considered by Council in camera (confidential) 1.97%
- Number of internal audits per annum – 5
- Number of Council properties (excluding bathing boxes) - 305 properties
- Number of Council properties leased to community - 242 lease/licences

Financial sustainability

Based on 2024/25 adopted budget

- Underlying surplus result 8.1%
- Liquidity (current assets/current liabilities) 182%
- Indebtedness (non-current liabilities as a % of own sourced revenue) 1.6%
- Asset renewal and asset upgrade as a percentage of depreciation 181%
- Rate revenue/adjusted underlying revenue 68.2%
- Rates affordability (Rates as a % of property value) 0.13%

Customer interactions

We engage, communicate and interact with Bayside residents and customers in numerous ways

- Number of active community engagement processes per annum - 37
- 1,490,961 recorded customer interactions (website user sessions, front counter, phone calls, physical mail and emails to contact centre)
- Number Bayside website visits per annum – 1,098,806 visits representing 74% of all customer interactions
- 94.8% satisfaction with the new live chat channel on our website (12,459 interactions)
- Number of Bayside social media followers per annum – Facebook 22,943; Twitter 5,993; Instagram 10,793

There are many other customer interaction points outside of these interactions such as Libraries, Galleries, MCH visits, immunisations, youth services, planning inspections and so on and not all are included in the above figures.

Our Councillors and Wards

This Council was sworn in on 18 November 2020. The Councillors were elected for a period of 4 years and were elected based on 7 single members wards.

Councillors 2020-2024



Councillor role

Councillors are democratically elected to represent the community and advocate on your behalf. We have a responsibility to represent all people who live, participate and invest within the municipality, and to make decisions that will benefit and be in the best long term interest of the whole community.

As Councillors, we determine Council policies and set the strategic direction of the Council through the Council Plan and Financial Plan, have a key advocacy and leadership role and we appoint, manage and support the Chief Executive Officer of the organisation to deliver the strategic objectives of the Council.

Councillor values and behaviours

While we are all elected by our respective communities, sometimes on slightly different issues important to those communities, we are united by the common purpose to lead with honesty and integrity, examine issues on their merits and make decisions that best meet the needs of all in our community.

In our Councillor Code of Conduct, we commit to demonstrate the following values

- Working together constructively
- Treating all people with courtesy, respect and professionalism
- Appreciating our differences and diversity
- Always acting with integrity and honesty.

Our organisation

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) leads Council staff to meet the statutory obligations and is accountable to the Mayor and Councillors for delivering Council's strategies and services. The CEO is responsible for the operations of the Council, to provide professional, relevant and timely information and support to the Council.



Bayside 2050 Community Vision

Council has a legislated responsibility to work with our community to develop a vision for the future of our municipality.

In early 2020 we undertook wide consultation and asked a community panel - a representative group of residents - to develop a vision for Bayside's future. The new Council formally adopted the 2050 Community Vision on 16 February 2021. This vision is a guiding framework that Council and the community can use to shape our decision making so it moves us closer to our desired collective future.

The vision prioritises the key ingredients our community sees as fundamental to Bayside in 2050. It emphasises leading the way in taking action to address the climate emergency while safeguarding our greater community of life and much loved and iconic natural environment.

It focuses on creating an inclusive and liveable place, where all residents can contribute, live rewarding, healthy and connected lives and benefit from the vibrant, creative and engaged community. This includes mobilising our community and building connection, capacity and resilience to address the challenges we face together.

The Community Vision report outlines 10 themes. Within each theme is a series of community priorities, which over the 30 years period of the Community Vision, Council will address these through the development of ongoing 4-year Council Plans.

The Council Plan is our plan, to bring the vision to life as we implement it during this council term.

We will work with our community – both individuals and groups - and other levels of government, to deliver the first four years on the path to 2050.



Theme 1
**The living environment/
natural environment**

Bayside will mitigate coastal erosion and protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity from the effects of climate change in the natural environment.



Theme 2
**Increase & enhance
open space**

Bayside will ensure open space and its protection and amenity is a priority for 2050.



Theme 3
**Transport, Walkability
and Rideability**

Bayside will support provision of effective, sustainable and inclusive transport services and infrastructure.



Theme 4
Community Feel and Direction.

Bayside will be a city that is greener and has more open space and creates a community that is inclusive, respectful and accessible.



Theme 5
Nurturing creativity.

Bayside will nurture creativity.



Theme 6
Promoting innovation

Bayside will nurture innovation to encourage a thriving and vibrant community.



Theme 7
**Council Operations and
Accountability**

Council Operations and Accountability.



Theme 8
Access and Inclusion

Bayside values all individuals. Bayside wishes to demonstrate that they value the lived experiences of all cultures and that they want to be inclusive of people of all abilities in the community.



Theme 9
Built Environment

The built environment includes residential and commercial properties, roads and transport infrastructure and all aspects that a council would 'build'/'rate' as a part of the overall environment across bayside.



Theme 10
**Tourism, Commercial and
Economic Opportunities**

Encouraging a vibrant commercial sector of environmentally compatible industries including tourism, high-tech and commercial activities to underpin the economy of the city.

Integrated Strategic Planning Framework

This Council Plan is a key element of our medium and long term planning and delivery of services to our Community, represented in our Integrated Strategic Planning Framework



This Council Plan is informed by the Community Vision Bayside 2050, and will be supported by ongoing community engagement, other key strategic plans, a range of other longer term strategies and policies, and a 10 year Financial Plan which describes the financial resources required to deliver the Council plan and other strategic plans

The Financial Plan also shows how the viability and financial sustainability of Council will be achieved and maintained over the 10-year period. It helps set the boundaries for available resourcing and funding activity. The focus is on providing stability, predictability and effective management of strategic financial risk.

Context and Structure of the Council Plan

Our *Council Plan 2021-2025* is divided into four goals

- Our Planet – lead better, smarter and sustainable futures
- Our People – nurture all people and thriving healthy communities
- Our Place – foster Bayside’s liveability, open space and exceptional places
- Our Promise – we promise open and accountable civic leadership



Each goal has its own set of strategic objectives and strategies, that are intended to achieve the long-term Community Vision; but also be sufficiently agile to adapt to the evolving needs of our community over the next four years.

The strategic objectives identify the outcomes to be achieved under each commitment, while the strategies specify the broad areas of activity Council will take to achieve these objectives, over four years.

The Council Plan will be supported by an annual Action Plan which details the specific actions we commit to deliver to achieve the strategic objectives in the short and medium term across the four years.

Development of the Council Plan

Councillors arrived at this Plan through consideration of

- Our Community Vision for the future expressed in *Bayside 2050*
- Input from interest groups and other stakeholders through Have Your Say
- Feedback and input from an independent and representative community panel specifically deliberating on the priorities for this four-year plan
- Councillors’ aspirations and ongoing consultations with their respective

constituents.

The Councillors were also guided by reflecting on principles expressed in the Earth Charter, we must think and act boldly and attend to all of the elements that will affect a sustainable future for the community of life.

The Council Plan will be supported by an annual Action Plan which is resourced by the Annual Budget. The annual Action Plan provides greater insight into the planned activities to progress the commitments in our plan.

How will we report on progress and performance?

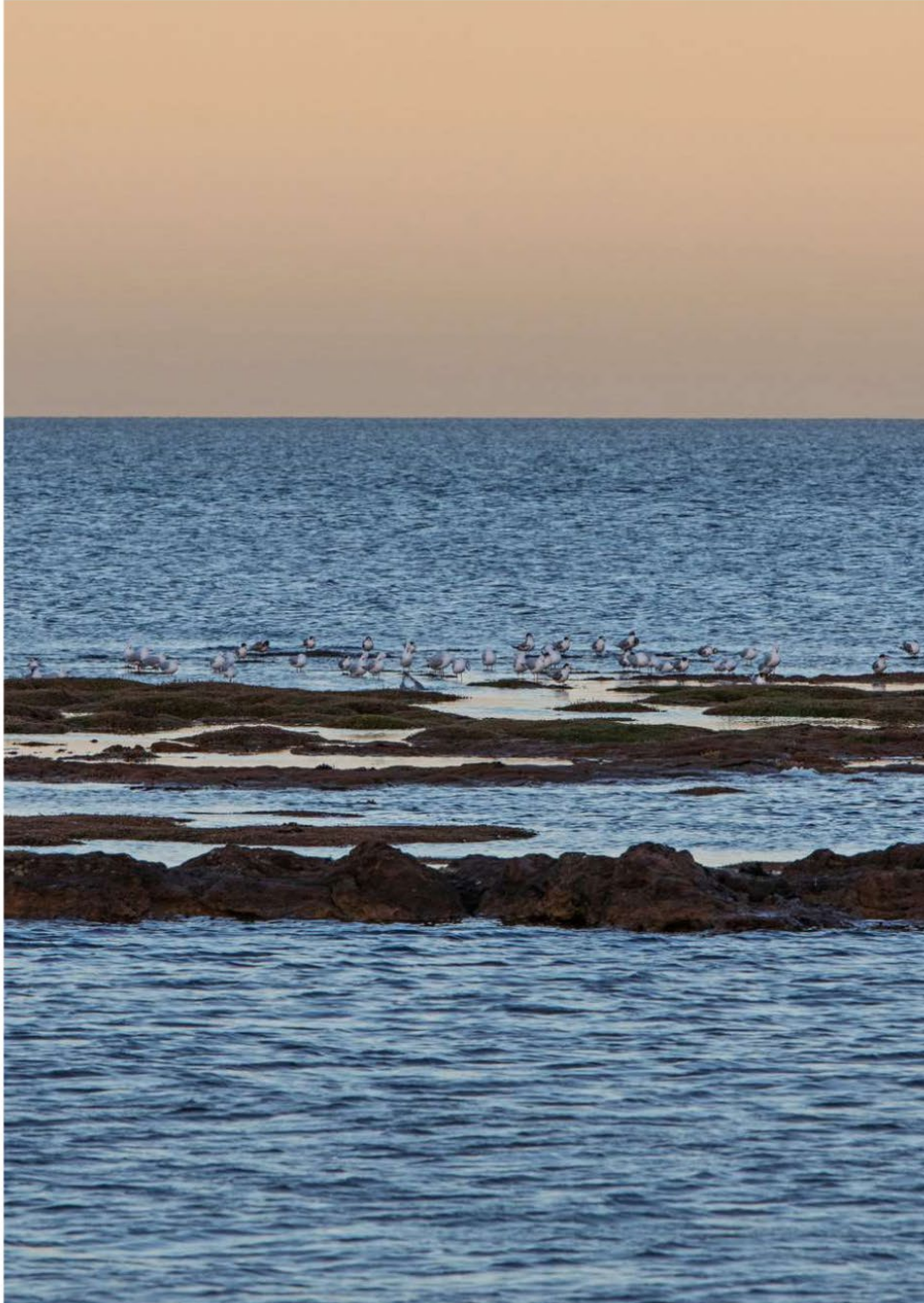
An important feature of the integrated strategic planning framework and Council Plan is the mechanism to

- Communicate progress and “close the loop” by reporting back to the community and
- Continually refreshing and adjusting our annual Action Plans to adapt to changing community needs based on the feedback and other information.

As part of our commitment to open and transparent governance, we report back to the community in Quarterly reports on Council performance and in the Annual Report.

Goal 1: Our Planet

As custodians, we will lead, act and advocate on the critical issues of environmental sustainability and Climate Emergency, and on our shared responsibility to care for and protect Earth's vitality, diversity, beauty and the community of life.



What the community said in their Vision for 2050

Theme 1 The living environment/natural environment

Bayside will mitigate coastal erosion, protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity from the effects of climate change in the natural environment.

This underpins the whole fabric of our vibrant and enjoyable Bayside amenity.

Theme 2 Increase & enhance open space

Bayside will ensure open space, its protection and amenity is a priority for 2050.

This provides an increased sense of community, places for our community to meet and engage; and improves mental and physical health.

Theme 6 Promoting innovation

Bayside will nurture innovation to encourage a thriving and vibrant community.

We seek to encourage creativity and thinking outside the box to improve problem solving and the opportunity to have a competitive advantage.

Council's strategic focus for the next four years

Strategic objectives	Strategies
1.1. Lead and influence change to address the Climate Emergency and strive to reduce its impact on the health of our community, environment and the planet.	1.1.1. Adopt and champion innovative ways of working and evaluate policy against its climate impact to reduce harm.
	1.1.2. Lead and foster awareness to encourage Bayside residents and visitors to think and act in ways that preserve and enhance environmental sustainability and connection to place.
1.2. Protect and enhance our natural and coastal environments, biodiversity and unique ecosystems.	1.2.1. Protect and enhance the biodiversity and health of our natural space and foreshore.
	1.2.2. Enhance vegetation (including the tree canopy) through accelerated tree planting and tree protection on public and private land.
	1.2.3. Partner with and influence government agencies and other entities about our shared responsibility to protect local green spaces, foreshore and marine environments, biodiversity and habitat health.
1.3. Improve environmental sustainability through a circular economy approach to waste management, recycling and energy use.	1.3.1. Reduce the amount of waste generated and disposed in landfill through initiatives to prevent, reduce, recycle and reuse waste

Strategic Indicators

Strategic indicators	Target
Community satisfaction that Council is meeting its environmental responsibilities	Maintain or improve good rating (6.5 - 7.25)
Maintain Council's status as Certified "Carbon Neutral"	Council's is certified as 'Carbon Neutral' against the Climate Active standard
Community satisfaction with the appearance of the beach and foreshore, including bushland	Maintain or improve excellent rating (7.75+)

Strategic indicators	Target
Number of trees planted on public land	More than 2,000 trees per year
Number of formal and informal partnership agreements with government agencies to protect local green spaces, foreshore and marine environments, biodiversity, and habitat health	1 agreement /year
Community satisfaction on the provision and maintenance of street trees	Maintain or improve very good rating (7.25-7.75)
Community satisfaction with waste and recycling services	Maintain or improve excellent rating (7.75+) for Rubbish
	Maintain or improve excellent rating (7.75+) for Recycling
	Maintain or improve excellent rating (7.75+) for Hard rubbish rating
	Maintain or improve excellent rating (7.75+) for Food and Green waste
Diversion of waste from landfill	More than 70%

Major initiatives

- Climate Emergency Action Plan implementation
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve: Wetlands
- Highett Grassy Woodland Masterplan

Services we provide to our community

Environmental Sustainability

- ES programs and management

Open Space Management

- Beach Cleaning
- Plant Nursery
- Tree Amenity Improvements
- Street Tree Management
- Open Space General Maintenance

Recycling and Waste Management

- Waste Management
- Hard Waste Collection
- Green Waste
- Garbage Collection
- Kerbside Recycling
- Municipal Cleaning
- Education Programs
- Litter Collection



Goal 2: Our People

We will plan and advocate for a Bayside where our diverse communities and people can thrive, live healthy and active lives, fostering inclusion and participation through holistic, innovative approaches to economic and social wellbeing.



What the community said in their Vision for 2050

Theme 4 Community feel and direction

Bayside will be a city that is greener and has more open space, and creates a community that is inclusive, respectful and accessible.

Bayside wants to encourage all residents to participate and feel part of the local community. This leads to social cohesion and hence less crime, cost savings, increased standard of living and achieving community goals.

Theme 5 Nurturing creativity

Bayside will nurture creativity.

We celebrate Bayside's leadership in creativity in the arts.

Theme 8 Access and inclusion

Bayside will be inclusive and accessible for all.

Bayside values all individuals. Bayside wishes to demonstrate that they value the lived experiences of all cultures and that they want to be inclusive of people of all abilities in the community.

10 Tourism, commercial and economic opportunities

Bayside encourages a vibrant commercial sector of environmentally compatible industries including tourism, high-tech and commercial activities to underpin the economy of the city.

Council's strategic focus for the next four years

Strategic objectives	Strategies
<p>2.1 Nurture healthy people and resilient communities ensuring services and programs are adaptable to meet diverse and changing needs.</p>	<p>2.1.1. Partner with community, agencies and other levels of government to deliver fit-for-purpose services so all people in Bayside can feel safe and live healthy, resilient, active lives at all ages and stages of their life.</p>
	<p>2.1.2. Facilitate opportunities for people to participate in community life, through volunteering, civic leadership, sport, artistic, cultural and social programs and events, to enable inclusion, social connection, creative expression and wellbeing.</p>
	<p>2.1.3. Respect and care for our First Nation's cultural heritage to build inclusion, celebrate diversity and enhance connection to place.</p>
<p>2.2 Engage with our diverse communities to improve access and inclusion in Bayside</p>	<p>2.2.1 Build social policy and strategy to improve accessibility, diversity, equity and inclusion in our community, including accessible housing, to meet the changing needs of people of Bayside.</p>
<p>2.3 Foster economic vitality, facilitating innovation and investment in our local economy.</p>	<p>2.3.1 Improve the amenity, accessibility and unique sense of place to enhance community connection.</p>
	<p>2.3.2 Foster economic activity and local employment, within Bayside.</p>

Strategic Indicators

Strategic Indicators	Target
Community satisfaction with services provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for children from birth to 5 years of age 	Maintain or improve excellent rating (7.75+)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for youth 	Maintain or improve very good rating (7.25-7.75)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for older people 	Maintain or improve excellent rating (7.75+)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for people with a disability 	Maintain or improve very good rating (7.25-7.75)
Percentage of children enrolled who participate in the maternal child health service	Maintain or improve Target – 80%
Percentage of Aboriginal children enrolled who participate in the maternal child health service	Maintain or improve Target – 80%
Percentage of residents who volunteer ‘regularly’ (once/month or more)	Maintain or improve target - 20%
Number of formal and informal partnership agreements with external and/or government agencies to support resilience initiatives	2 agreements
Community Satisfaction with library services	Maintain or improve excellent rating (7.75+)
Number of community driven events supported by Council	5 events per year
High level of satisfaction from members and participants at BBN events	85%+
Community satisfaction of the availability of parking around business and shopping strips/commercial areas.	Maintain or improve good rating (6.5-7.25)

Major initiatives

- Develop the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-29
- Develop the new Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan
- Expansion of Aged Care services



Services we provide to our community

Aged & Disability Services

- Assessment & Review
- Delivered Meals
- Home Care
- Domestic Care
- Personal Care
- Respite
- Support for Carers
- Social Support
- Community Buses
- Home Maintenance Service
- Home Modification
- Senior Citizens Centres
- Veterans Home Care

Family Services

- Childrens' Services
- Maternal & Child Health
- Immunisation Services
- Central Enrolment – Kinder

School Crossings

Youth Services

- Youth Programs & Events
- Youth Centres

Economic Development and Tourism

- Bayside Business Network
- Tourism
- Business Development

Environmental Health

- Public Health
- Food Safety

Arts & Cultural Services

- Arts & Cultural Programs
- Music Concerts
- Art Gallery
- Black Rock House
- Artist in Residence Program
- Bayside Acquisitive Art Prize

Libraries

- Library Services
- Library IT Classes
- Library Events & Promotions

Community Wellbeing Services

- Wellbeing & Health Planning
- Inclusion & Access
- Community Partnerships
- Volunteer Program

Recreation and Events

- Community Events
- Leisure and Recreation
- Recreation Facility & Halls Administration
- Event Management



Goal 3: Our Place

Our open space and foreshore, our facilities and the built environment are highly valued, shared and enhanced to ensure their sustainability, use, liveability, character, and amenity for current and future generations.



What the community said in their Vision for 2050

Theme 2 Increase & enhance open space

Bayside will ensure open space and its protection and amenity is a priority for 2050.

Increased sense of community provides places for our community to meet and engage; Improves mental and physical health.

Theme 3 Transport walkability & rideability

Bayside will support provision of effective, sustainable and inclusive transport services and infrastructure.

As population grows a good integrated transport system will reduce congestion, decrease the need for parking and be better for the environment, enabling residents and visitors to move freely within the community.

Theme 9 The built environment

The built environment includes residential and commercial properties, roads and transport infrastructure and all aspects that a Council would 'build'/'rate' as part of the overall environment across Bayside.

Caters for multiple and varying views on how to best develop the built environment across the city to allow for future accommodation increases and protection of the liveability of Bayside.



Council’s strategic focus for the next four years

Strategic objectives	Strategies
<p>3.1 Open space is increased, and the foreshore is cared for, to support diverse use and connect to community</p>	<p>3.1.1 Our foreshore, open space and amenities deliver enhanced functionality for a wide range of uses.</p>
	<p>3.1.2 Focus on increasing open space within key residential growth areas in major activity centres.</p>
	<p>3.1.3 Manage our open space and public places to balance the different needs of people who visit, live or work in Bayside.</p>
<p>3.2 Infrastructure and assets are sustainable, accessible and fit-for- purpose now and for the future.</p>	<p>3.2.1 Plan for and implement effective stewardship of all Council assets to ensure our infrastructure is safe, activated, accessible, adaptable, cleaner, fit-for-purpose and environmentally sustainable.</p>
<p>3.3 Land use will enhance Bayside’s liveability and protect the distinctive heritage and character of our various localities</p>	<p>3.3.1 Strategic planning and controls protect and reflect the diverse environmental and heritage values of Bayside.</p>
	<p>3.3.2 Encourage the planning of well-designed new development that is appropriately located and consistent with the preferred neighbourhood character and residential amenity.</p>
<p>3.4 Transport planning and infrastructure facilitates a well-connected, accessible, safe and convenient transport system that contributes to a zero carbon future and Wellbeing.</p>	<p>3.4.1 Integrate our transport planning and traffic management, and employ smart solutions to address changing demand, transport trends and community needs.</p>

Strategic Indicators

Strategic indicator	Target
Community satisfaction with the provision and maintenance of parks, reserves	Maintain or improve excellent rating (7.75+)
Community satisfaction score for sportsgrounds and ovals	Maintain or improve excellent rating (7.75+)
Maintain 100% of asset renewal as a percentage of depreciation	Maintain 100% of asset renewal
Increase activation of Council pavilions during non-sport allocated hours.	Maintain or improve 4.2% 329 hours of community use hours/ 1382 available non-sport hours
Community satisfaction with public toilets	Maintain or improve good rating (6.5-7.25)
Maintain community satisfaction with maintenance and repair of assets and facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sealed roads 	Maintain or improve good rating (6.5-7.25)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drains 	Maintain or improve good rating (6.5-7.25)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpaths 	Maintain or improve good rating (6.5-7.25)
Increase Council and delegate planning decisions upheld at VCAT	Target 60%
Community satisfaction with appearance and quality of new developments in their area	Maintain or improve good rating (6.5-7.25)
Planning applications decided within 60 days	Target – 70%
Average time taken to decide planning applications	Target 65 days
Community satisfaction with protection of local heritage	Maintain or improve good rating (6.5-7.25)
Community satisfaction with on and off-road bike paths (including shared paths)	Maintain or improve very good rating (7.25-7.75)
Community satisfaction on the availability of parking on residents' streets in the local area	Maintain or improve good rating (6.5-7.25)

Major initiatives

- Beaumaris Arts Studio
- Construct the Third Street Black Rock Drainage upgrade
- Construct the Boss James Pavilion upgrade
- Wangara Road Park Masterplan
- Commence restoration of Billilla Mansion and precinct

Services we provide to our community

Animal Management

Asset Management

- Asset Management Systems & Support
- Utilities

Capital Projects

- Project Management
- Project Services

Investigations

Local Laws (inc. Parking and Appeals)

Statutory Planning Services

Traffic and Transport

- Traffic Management
- Transport Planning

Urban Places Design & Advice

Urban Strategic Planning

- Urban Strategy
- Strategic Planning
- General Planning Scheme Amendments

- General Strategic Urban Projects
- Planning Scheme Review

Building and Infrastructure Maintenance

- Road Maintenance
- Drainage Maintenance
- Infrastructure Maintenance
- Commercial Facilities Buildings
- Vendor Sites and Foreshore Facilities
- Community Buildings
- Corporate Centre
- Maintenance Services
- Library Buildings
- Municipal Buildings
- Public Amenities Buildings
- Social Services Buildings
- Sporting Facilities Buildings

Emergency Management

- Municipal Emergency Planning

Asset Protection

Building Surveying

- Statutory Building services



Goal 4: Our Promise

We will engage with and represent for all in our community, and provide ethical, open and accountable stewardship of the Bayside municipality and deliver sustainable services that meet the vision and needs of the current and future generations of Bayside.



What the community said in their Vision for 2050

Theme 7 Council operations and accountability

Bayside City Council serves the needs of its communities, engaging with them, reflecting their desires and aspirations in its activities, including, where appropriate, encouragement for community members to drive the vision.

Theme 6 Promoting Innovation

Bayside will nurture innovation to encourage a thriving and vibrant community.

Creativity and thinking outside the box improve problem solving and the opportunity to have a competitive advantage.

Council's strategic focus for the next four years

Strategic objectives	Strategies
4.1. Identify an agreed program of advocacy to secure funding and policy reform to be a leading voice for change	4.1.1. Identify an agreed program of advocacy, build relationships with government and partner with others to optimise our effort.
4.2. Ensure flexible and transparent decision making through open and accountable governance.	4.2.1 Engage with our community, consider all views and make transparent, evidence based decisions, to build trust in our leadership.
4.3. Provide customer-focussed and effective service delivery and value in all we do.	4.3.1. Ensure integrated planning and sound financial management while allocating resources to meet community needs.
	4.3.2. Provide enhanced services to our community, placing the customer at the centre of everything we do.

Strategic Indicators

Strategic Indicators	Target
Community satisfaction with Council's reputation, lobbying and advocacy	Maintain or improve good rating (6.5-7.25)
Community satisfaction with Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation and engagement 	Maintain or improve good rating (6.5-7.25)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsiveness to community needs 	Maintain or improve good rating (6.5-7.25)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining Trust and confidence of local community 	Maintain or improve good rating (6.5-7.25)
% Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public	> 5% (average rating for similar Councils)
Improve percentage of Council's facilities with current tenancy agreements	Target 92%
Community perception rating that Council provides important services that meet the needs of the whole community	Maintain or improve very good rating (7.25-7.75)
Community perception averaged rating for overall aspects of customer service	Maintain or improve very good rating (7.25-7.75)

Major initiatives

- Review the 10-year Financial Plan
- Implement the 2024-25 Annual Action Plan
- Conduct the Local Government 2024 Elections
- Complete the Councillor Mandatory Induction Program

Services we provide to our community

Chief Executive and Executive Team

Communications and Engagement

- Community Engagement
- Communications
- Advocacy
- Planning and Research

Customer Experience

- Customer Experience/Service desk
- External Contact Centre Services
- Digital Strategy

Enterprise Project Management

Financial Services

- Corporate Finance

Governance

- Audit Management
- Council Support
- Mayoral Functions
- Australia Day
- Citizenship
- Corporate Reporting
- Corporate Planning

Information Services

- Information Management Systems
- IT Corporate Equipment
- Corporate Records Management

Strategy and Performance

- Strategy & Improvement
- Continuous Improvement
- Service Planning & Review

People and Capability

- People & Capability
- Learning and Development
- Payroll

Accounting Services

Rates and Revenue

- Rates and Revenue Administration
- Fire Services Property Levy
- Valuation Services

Fleet Management

Property and Lease Management

- Discontinuance and Sales
- Commercial Services
- Corporate Insurance
- Property and Lease Management
- Car Parks
- Community Facilities
- Council Depot
- Education Facilities
- Foreshore Cafes
- Golf Courses
- Leisure Centres
- Mobile Vendors
- Sporting Facilities
- Telecommunication and Utilities
- Commercial Facilities

Risk and Claims Management

Procurement

Workplace Health and Safety

Overall supporting strategies and plans

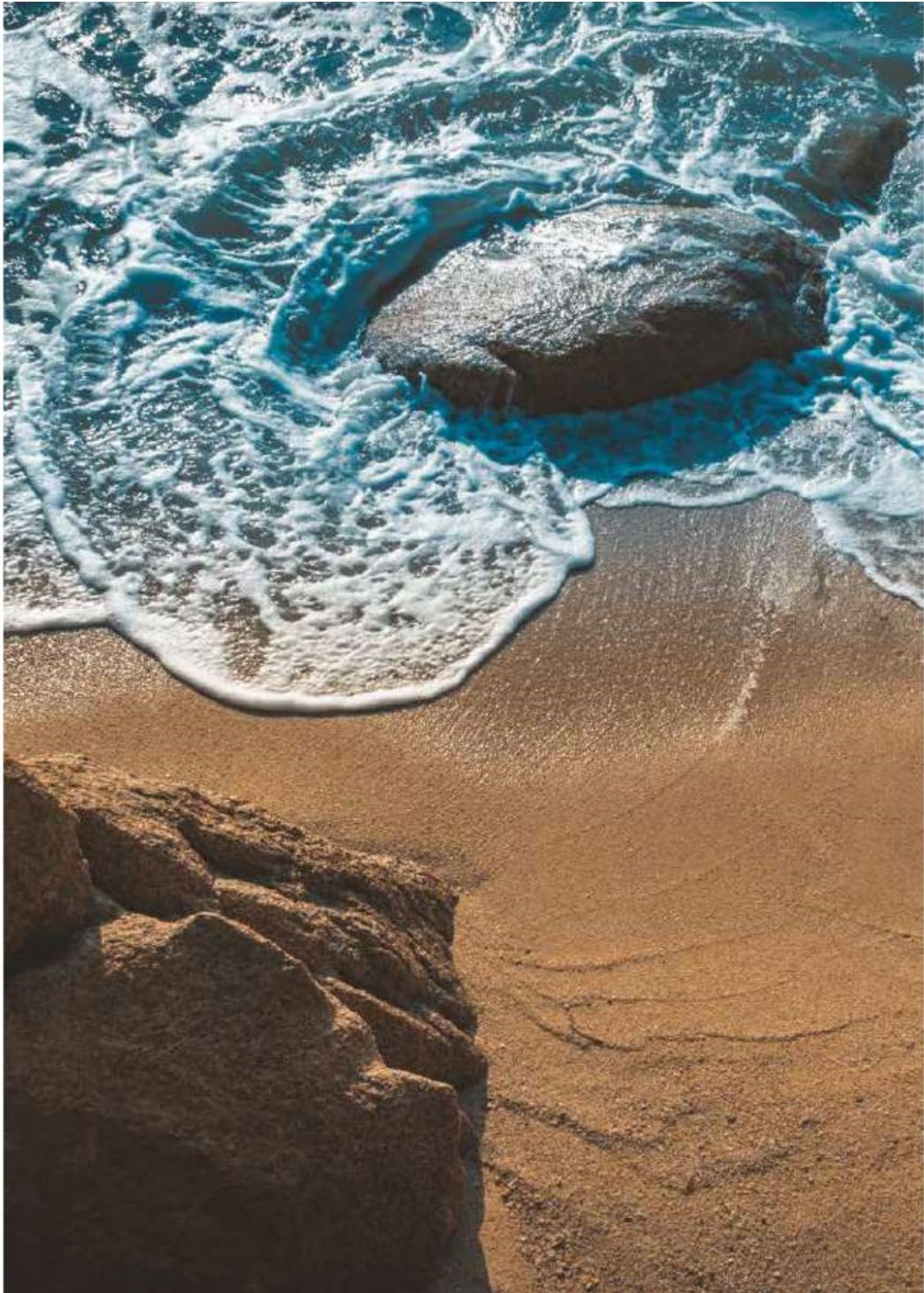
This Council Plan is supported by a range of Council Strategies as outlined below:

Council Strategies

Affordable Housing Strategy 2021
Arts, Culture and Libraries Strategy 2023-2027
Asset Plan 2023-2032
Bay Street Centre Structure Plan 2016
Beaumaris Concourse Structure Plan 2005
Bicycle Action Plan 2019-2026
Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-2027
Black Rock Village Neighbourhood Activity Centre Plan 2009
Buildings Asset Management Plan 2016-2026
Capital Works Program 2024-2029
Church Street Centre Structure Plan 2016
Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2025
Coastal Management Plan 2014-2024
Community Resilience Plan 2021-25
Council Plan 2021-2025
Council Vision 2050
Digital Transformation Strategy 2018-2021
Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021
Drainage Service Driven Asset Management Plan 2015-2025
Early Years Action Plan 2017-2021

Early Years Infrastructure Plan 2018-2028
Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking Strategy 2023
Environmental Sustainability Framework 2016-2025
Financial Plan 2023/2033
Graffiti Management Plan 2019
Hampton East (Moorabbin) Structure Plan 2016
Hampton Street Centre Structure Plan 2016
Healthy Ageing Action Plan 2017-2021
Healthy Community Action Plan 2017-2021
Highett Structure Plan 2018
Housing Strategy 2019-2036
Improving Housing Affordability & Social Housing Options 2018
Integrated Transport Strategy 2018-2028
Integrated Water Management Plan 2019-2034
Library Services Strategic Plan 2018-2022
Martin Street Structure Plan 2016
Municipal Emergency Management Plan
Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025
Municipal Strategic Statement
Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2021
Open Space Strategy 2012-2032 (Bayside)
Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan 2022
Parking Strategy – Parking Sustainably 2023

Playground Improvement Plan 2025-2025
Property Strategy 2018-2021
Public Toilet Strategy 2019-2023
Public Transport Advocacy Statement 2016
Recreation and Open Space Asset Management Plan 2013
Recreation Strategy 'Active by the Bay' 2013-2022
Recycling and Waste Management Strategy 2018-2027
Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2022
Retail, Commercial & Employment Strategy 2016-2030
Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-2025
Risk Management Strategy
Road Service Driven Asset Management Plan 2016
Road Management Plan 2021-2025
Road Safety Strategy 2019-2024
Safeguarding Children Action Plan (2022-2025)
Sandringham Village Structure Plan 2016
Small Activity Centre Strategy 2014
Sportsground Pavilion Improvement Plan 2019-2023
Tennis Strategy 2019-2028
Urban Forest Strategy 2022-40
Volunteer Recruitment Retention and Recognition Plan 2022-26
Walking Strategy 2015-2025



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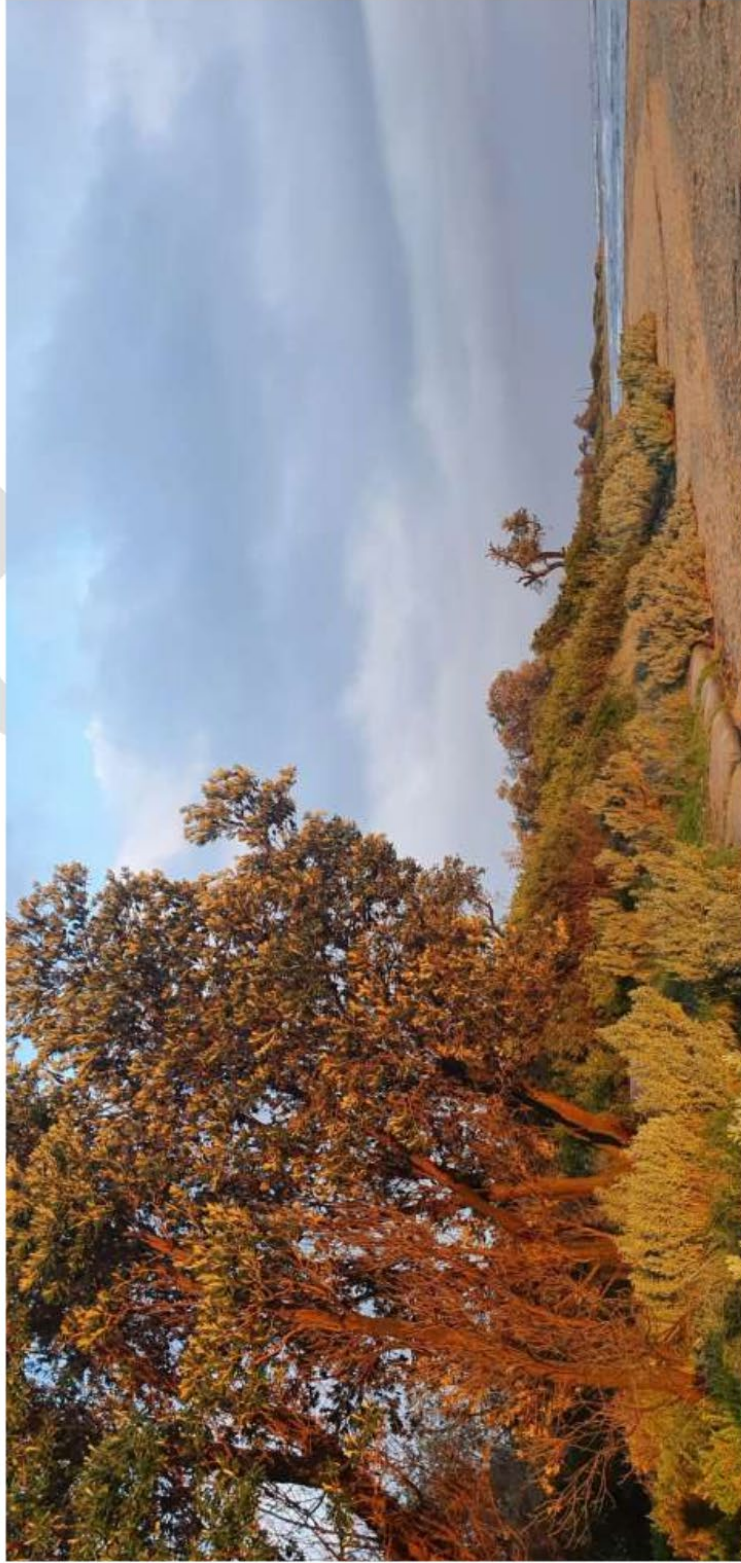
Website

www.bayside.vic.gov.au



Council Plan 2021-2025 Draft Annual Action Plan 2024-25

Currently
43 actions



Photograph Elizabeth Peckle

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Goal1: Our Planet

1. Goal Statement

As custodians, we will lead, act and advocate on the critical issues of environmental sustainability and climate emergency, and on our shared responsibility to care for and protect Earth's vitality, diversity, beauty and the community of life.

10
actions

Major initiatives for Goal 1 include:

- Further implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan,
- Further implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan,
- Construction of the Yalukit William Nature Reserve: Wetlands
- Progression of the Hightett Grassy Woodland Masterplan

1.1. Strategic objective - Lead and influence change to address the Climate Emergency and strive to reduce its impact on the health of our community, environment and the planet.

Strategic Indicators		Target
Community satisfaction that Council is meeting its environmental responsibilities		Maintain or improve Good rating (6.5 - 7.25)
Maintain Council's status as Certified "Carbon Neutral"		Council's is certified as 'Carbon Neutral' against the Climate Active standard

Council Plan Strategies	Annual Actions	Director responsible Manager responsible
1.1.1. Adopt and champion innovative ways of working and evaluate policy against its climate impact to reduce harm.	Implement Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the feasibility of extending the current solar installation program from Council buildings to other Council assets, including carparks and footpath shading. • Continue the roll out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the municipality. 	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Climate Waste and Infrastructure
1.1.2. Lead and foster awareness to encourage Bayside residents and visitors to think and act in ways that preserve and enhance environmental sustainability and connection to place.	Implement the <i>Love Bayside</i> campaign including the Solar Savers program, to enable the community to reduce their carbon footprint, in-line with Council's community emissions net-zero target.	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Climate Waste and Infrastructure

1.2. Strategic Objective - Protect and enhance our natural and coastal environments, biodiversity and unique ecosystems.

Strategic Indicators	Target
Community satisfaction with the appearance of the beach and foreshore, including bushland	Maintain or improve Excellent rating (7.75+)
Number of trees planted on public land	More than 2,000 trees per year
Community satisfaction on the provision and maintenance of street trees	Maintain or improve Good rating (6.5 - 7.25)
Number of formal and informal partnership agreements with government agencies to protect local green spaces, foreshore and marine environments, biodiversity, and habitat health	1 agreement in 2023 /24

Council Plan Strategies	Annual Actions	Director responsible Manager responsible
1.2.1. Protect and enhance the biodiversity and health of our natural space and foreshore.	Implement Biodiversity Action Plan for 2024-25.	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Open Space and Recreation
	Complete development of a Native Vegetation works program.	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Open Space and Recreation
	Progress implementation of Wetlands under the Yalukit William (Elsterwick Park) Masterplan 2020.	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Open Space and Recreation
1.2.2. Enhance vegetation (including the tree canopy) through accelerated tree planting and tree protection on public and private land.	Commence implementation of the Hightett Grassy Woodland Masterplan.	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Open Space and Recreation

1.3. Strategic objective - Improve environmental sustainability through a circular economy approach to waste management, recycling and energy use.

Strategic Indicators	Target
Maintain community satisfaction with waste and recycling services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rubbish - Recycling - Hard rubbish - Food and Green Waste 	Maintain or improve Excellent rating (7.75+) Maintain or improve Excellent rating (7.75+) Maintain or improve Excellent rating (7.75+) Maintain or improve Excellent rating (7.75+)
Diversion of waste from landfill	Target – More than 70%

Council Plan Strategies	Annual Actions	Director responsible
1.3.1.Reduce the amount of waste generated and disposed in landfill through initiatives to prevent, reduce, recycle and reuse waste.	Implement the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy 2018-27, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with Sustainability Victoria, deliver the 'Small change, big impact' campaign to reduce contamination in the kerbside recycling and organics bins. • Review and update Bayside's Recycling and Waste Management Strategy to reflect the transition to the 'circular economy'. • Implement a community waste avoidance and education program to reduce waste generation and improve recycling outcomes. 	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Climate Waste and Integrated Transport
	Continue the collaborative procurement process for an advanced waste processing facility in the South East of Melbourne.	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Climate Waste and Integrated Transport

Goal 2: Our People

2. Goal Statement

We will plan and advocate for a Bayside where our diverse communities and people can thrive, live healthy and active lives, fostering inclusion and participation through holistic, innovative approaches to economic and social wellbeing.

10
actions

Major initiatives for Goal 2 include:

Development of the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan,
Develop the Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan,
Expansion of Aged Care Services

2.1. Strategic objective: Nurture healthy people and resilient communities ensuring services and programs are adaptable to meet diverse and changing needs.

Strategic Indicators	Target
Community satisfaction with services provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for children from birth to 5 years of age for older people for youth 	Maintain Excellent rating (7.75+) Maintain Excellent rating (7.75+) Maintain or improve Very good rating (7.25- 7.75)
Percentage of children enrolled who participate in the maternal child health service	Maintain or improve Target – 80%
Percentage % of Aboriginal children enrolled who participate in the maternal child health service	Maintain or improve Target – 80%
Percentage of residents who volunteer 'sometimes' or 'regularly' (once/month or more)	Maintain or improve target - 20%
Number of formal and informal partnerships with external and/or government agencies to support resilience initiatives.	2 agreements
Community Satisfaction with library services .	Maintain Excellent rating (7.75+)

Council Plan Strategies	Annual Actions	Director responsible
2.1.1.Partner with community, agencies and other levels of government to	Commence development and engagement process for the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan in 2025-29.	Director Community and Customer Experience

Council Plan Strategies	Annual Actions	Director responsible
<p>deliver fit-for purpose services and facilities so all people in Bayside can feel safe and live healthy, resilient, active lives at all ages and stages of their life.</p>	<p>Promote and expand access to aged care services to support residents to age safely at home in the community.</p>	<p>Manager Family, Youth and Wellbeing Director Community and Customer Experience Manager Community Care</p>
<p>2.1.2. Facilitate opportunities for people to participate in community life, through volunteering, civic leadership, sport, artistic, cultural and social programs, to enable inclusion, social connection, creative expression and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Deliver diverse arts, culture and library infrastructure, services and programs in accordance with Bayside Arts, Culture and Libraries strategy. Implement the Billilla strategic business plan to conserve and activate Billilla. Deliver a range of initiatives to continue to implement Bayside's Volunteer Recruitment, Retention and Recognition Plan (2022-26), including with community groups and sports clubs.</p>	<p>Director Community and Customer Experience Manager Arts, Culture and Libraries Director Community and Customer Experience Manager Arts, Culture and Libraries Director Community and Customer Experience Manager Family, Youth and Wellbeing</p>
<p>2.1.3. Respect and care for our First Nation's cultural heritage to build inclusion, celebrate diversity and enhance connection to place.</p>	<p>Develop and commence implementation of Council's second Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.</p>	<p>Director Community and Customer Experience Manager Family, Youth and Wellbeing</p>

2.2. Strategic objective: Engage with our diverse communities to improve access and inclusion in Bayside.

Strategic Indicators		Target
Community satisfaction for services provided for people with a disability		Maintain or improve Very good rating (7.25-7.75)
Council Plan Strategies	Annual Actions	Director responsible
2.2.1. Build social policy and strategy to improve accessibility, diversity, equity and inclusion in our community, including accessible housing to meet the changing needs of people of Bayside.	Actively participate and represent Bayside on the regional Homelessness and Social Housing Charter group to ensure progress on our Affordable Housing Strategy goals. Commence the development and engagement process for the Disability Action Plan in 2025-29.	Director Community and Customer Experience Manager Family, Youth and Wellbeing Director Community and Customer Experience Manager Family, Youth and Wellbeing

2.3. Strategic objective: Foster economic vitality, facilitating innovation and investment in our local economy

Strategic Indicators		Target
High level of satisfaction from members and participants at BBN (Bayside Business Network) events		85%+
Community satisfaction of the availability of parking around business and shopping strips/commercial areas.		Maintain or improve Good rating (6.5 - 7.25)
Number of community driven events supported by Council		5 events per year

Council Plan Strategies	Annual Actions	Director responsible
2.3.1. Improve the amenity, accessibility and unique sense of place of local shopping strips to enhance community connection.	Implement the following first year actions from the Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking with a focus on - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities to implement tour bus operator permits and fees as part of better management of the foreshore. • Investigate the ability to undertake digital marketing and social media assistance programs to support local businesses with low online presence. • Identify opportunities to introduce mural art and lighting to enhance the appearance of activity centres. 	Director City Planning and Amenity Manager Urban Strategy
2.3.2. Foster economic activity and local employment, within Bayside.	Review the membership offering and value proposition of the Bayside Business Network.	Director City Planning and Amenity Manager Urban Strategy

17 actions

Goal 3: Our Place

3. Goal Statement

Our open spaces and foreshore, our facilities and the built environment are highly valued, shared and enhanced to ensure their use, liveability, character, sustainability, and amenity for current and future generations.

Major initiatives for Goal 3 include:

- Completion of the Beaumaris Arts Studio
- Development of the Wangara Road Masterplan
- Commence the Billilla Mansion and precinct restoration.
- Construct the Third Street Black Rock Drainage upgrade
- Construct the Boss James Pavilion upgrade

3.1. Strategic objective: Open space is increased, and the foreshore is cared for, to support diverse use and connect to community

Strategic Indicators		Target
Community satisfaction with the provision and maintenance of parks, reserves		Maintain or improve Excellent rating (7.75+)
Community satisfaction score for sports grounds and ovals		Maintain or improve Excellent rating (7.75+)

Council Plan Strategies	Annual Actions	Director responsible
3.1.1. Our foreshore, open space and amenities deliver enhanced functionality for a wide range of uses.	Continue to progress the disabled accessibility to Hampton Life Saving Club.	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Open Space and Recreation
3.1.2. Focus on increasing open space within key residential growth areas in major activity centres.	Finalise the Open Space Strategy review for adoption by Council.	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Open Space and Recreation
3.1.3. Manage our open space and public places to balance the different	Commence implementation the Rehabilitation Plan for Wangara Road (multi-year plan).	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Open Space and Recreation

Council Plan Strategies	Annual Actions	Director responsible
<p>needs of people who visit, live or work in Bayside.</p>	<p>Subject to community consultation, implement off leash dog parks at Banksia Reserve and William St Reserve.</p> <p>Undertake research and engagement to inform the review (in 25/26) of dog restrictions in Ricketts Point and all beaches in accordance with the DAMP.</p>	<p>Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Open Space and Recreation</p> <p>Director City Planning and Amenity Manager Amenity Protection</p>

3.2. Strategic objective: Infrastructure and assets are sustainable, accessible and fit for purpose now and for the future

Strategic Indicators	Target
Maintain 100% of asset renewal as a percentage of depreciation	Maintain 100% of asset renewal
Community satisfaction with public toilets	Maintain or improve Good rating (6.5 - 7.25)
Community satisfaction with maintenance and repair of assets and facilities:	Maintain or improve Good rating (6.5 - 7.25)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sealed local roads Drains Footpaths 	Maintain or improve Good rating (6.5 - 7.25)
Increase activation of Council pavilions during non-sport allocated hours in line with Council's resolution of 16 August 2022 regarding Sportsground Pavilion utilisation.	Maintain or improve 4.2% of community use (329 community use hours/7800 available non sport hours)

Council Plan Strategies	Annual Actions	Director responsible
3.2.1. Plan for and implement effective stewardship of all Council assets to ensure our infrastructure is safe, activated, accessible, adaptable, cleaner, fit-for-purpose and environmentally sustainable.	Progress the development approvals process for the Warm Water Pool.	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Open Space and Recreation
	Undertake a Conservation Management Plan for Higinbotham Hall.	Director Corporate Services Manager Commercial Services
	Deliver Council's adopted program of capital works projects, across diverse categories (major projects, capital projects, replacement and renewal).	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Project services
	Undertake deliberative consultation of Council Asset Plan (2022-32).	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager City Assets and Presentation
	Progress development approvals process for Gateway building at YWNR.	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Open Space and Recreation
	Commence Billilla Mansion restoration works and toilet facilities.	Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager City Assets and Presentation

3.3. Strategic objective: Land use will enhance Bayside's liveability and protect the distinctive heritage and character of our various localities

Strategic Indicators		Target
Increase Council and delegate planning decisions upheld at VCAT		Target 60%
Community satisfaction with appearance and quality of new developments in their area		Maintain or improve Good rating (6.5 - 7.25)
Community satisfaction with aspects of planning and housing development (averaged)		Maintain or improve Good rating (6.5 - 7.25)
Planning applications decided within 60 days		Target – 70%
Average time taken to decide planning applications		Target 65 days
Community satisfaction with protection of local heritage		Maintain or improve Good rating (6.5 - 7.25)
Council Plan Strategies		Annual Actions
Director responsible		Director responsible
3.3.1.Strategic planning and controls protect and reflect the diverse environmental and heritage values of Bayside.	Undertake a review of the Heritage Action Plan 2020.	Director City Planning and Amenity Manager Urban Strategy
3.3.2.Encourage the planning of well-designed new development that is appropriately located and consistent with the preferred neighbourhood character and residential amenity.	Conduct the Built Environment Awards to promote excellence in design incorporating principles of environmental sustainability.	Director City Planning and Amenity Manager Urban Strategy

3.4. Strategic objective: Transport planning and infrastructure facilitates a well-connected, accessible, safe and convenient transport system that contributes to a zero carbon future and wellbeing

Strategic Indicators		Target
Community satisfaction with on and off-road bike paths (including shared paths)		Maintain or improve Very good rating (7.25 - 7.75)
Community satisfaction on the availability of parking on residents' streets in the local area		Maintain or improve Good rating (6.5 - 7.25)

Council Plan Strategies	Annual Actions	Director responsible
3.4.1. Integrate our transport planning and traffic management, and employ smart solutions to address changing demand, transport trends and community needs	<p>Implement the Integrated Transport Strategy 2018-2028, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue delivery of the accessible parking upgrade program. Deliver initiatives, including capital projects and education campaigns, to encourage active and sustainable transport modes. <p>Actively participate and represent Bayside residents in the Suburban Rail Loop and LXP (Highett and Wickham Road) projects to ensure quality outcomes for Bayside residents are achieved, particularly in the precinct planning process.</p> <p>Advocate to local state Members of Parliament and Minister for Roads and Road Safety concerning the traffic implications within the Highett and Pennydale areas associated with the proposed construction of the Suburban Rail Loop and the long-term effects on the residential amenity.</p> <p>Work proactively with the Municipalities of Kingston and Glen Eira; and the Victorian Planning Authority to ensure quality outcomes for Bayside residents and business community in the Moorabbin Activity Centre (Hampton East) to ensure quality outcomes and influence the development of the State Government Structure Plan.</p>	<p>Director, Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure Manager Climate Waste and Integrated Transport</p> <p>Director City Planning and Amenity Manager Urban Strategy</p> <p>Director City Planning and Amenity Manager Urban Strategy</p> <p>Director City Planning and Amenity Manager Urban Strategy</p>

6 actions

Goal 4: Our Promise

4. Goal Statement

We will engage with and represent all in our community, and provide ethical, open and accountable stewardship of the Bayside municipality and deliver sustainable services that meets the vision and needs of the current and future generations of Bayside.

Major initiatives for Goal 4 include:

- Review of the 10 year Financial Plan
- Implementation of the 2024/25 Annual Action Plan
- Conduct the LG 2024 Elections
- Complete the Councillor Mandatory Induction program

4.1. Strategic objective: Identify an agreed program of advocacy to secure funding and policy reform to be a leading voice for change

Strategic Indicators		Target
Community satisfaction with Council's representation, lobbying and advocacy		Maintain or improve Good rating 6.5-7.25
Council Plan Strategies	Annual Actions	Director responsible
4.1.1. Identify an agreed program of advocacy, build relationships with government and partner with others to optimise our effort.	Deliver the advocacy program that focuses on Council priorities aligned the agreed Advocacy Strategy and Council Plan goals.	Director Community and Customer Experience Manager Communications, Engagement and Customer Experience

4.2. Strategic Objective: Ensure flexible and transparent decision making through open and accountable governance.

Strategic Indicators	Target
Community satisfaction with Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation and engagement • Responsiveness to community needs • Maintaining trust and confidence of local community 	Maintain or improve Good rating (6.5 - 7.25) Maintain or improve Good rating (6.5 - 7.25) Maintain or improve Good rating (6.5 - 7.25)
% Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public	> 5% (average rating for similar Councils)

Council Plan Strategies	Annual Actions	Director responsible
4.2.1. Engage with our community, consider all views and make transparent, evidence based decisions, to build trust in our leadership .	Deliver the mandatory Councillor Induction Program to all Councillors to ensure 100% compliance of all modules. Undertake a deliberative engagement process for the development of the 2025-2029 Council Plan and other strategic documents as identified within the Local Government Act 2020.	Director Corporate Services Manager Governance Director Corporate Services Manager Governance

4.3. Strategic Objective: Provide customer focussed and effective service delivery and value in all we do.

Strategic Indicators	Target
Improve percentage of Council's facilities with current tenancy agreements	Target 92%
Community satisfaction that Council provides important services that meet the needs of the whole community	Maintain or improve Very good rating (7.25 - 7.75)
Community perception averaged rating for overall aspects of customer service	Maintain or improve Very good rating (7.25 - 7.75)

Council Plan Strategies	Annual Actions	Dept responsible
4.3.1.Ensure integrated planning and sound financial management while allocating resources to meet community needs.	Develop the 2025 - 2029 Council Plan in collaboration with the newly elected Council. Review the 10 year Financial Plan.	Director Corporate Services Manager Governance Director Corporate Services Manager Finance
4.3.2.Provide enhanced services to our community, placing the customer at the centre of everything we do.	Deliver a program of work that responds to our customers' changing needs, including: * <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the Voice of Customer program to include additional Council services. Develop processes to keep customers informed about every stage of their request. Improve the knowledge and information shared on our website about Council services. Review internal processes to improve customer resolution of service requests. 	Director Community and Customer Experience Manager Communications, Engagement and Customer Experience

10.2 2024-25 BUDGET

Corporate Services - Finance

File No: PSF/24/99 – Doc No: DOC/24/170509

Executive summary

Purpose and background

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider the adoption of the 2024-25 Annual Budget.

Key issues

The proposed Budget has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy 2021 and is in line with Council's commitment to sustainable budgeting, responsible financial management and the Victorian Government's rate cap.

Council has had a well-established and effective ten-year Financial Plan in place which has resulted in significant improvements to the financial sustainability of Council over the last eight years. This has resulted in significant savings in the operating budget, with this funding being redirected to repay debt and increase funds available for the capital program.

The 2024-25 Annual Budget funds Council's services, initiatives and capital program and reflects a financially sustainable position while achieving the strategic objectives outlined in the fourth year of the Council Plan 2021–25.

This \$181.0 million proposed budget commits funding to the Goals of the Council Plan over the next 12 months namely:

- Our Planet – leading better, smarter, and sustainable futures
- Our People – nurturing all people and thriving healthy communities
- Our Place – fostering Bayside's liveability, open spaces and exceptional places
- Our Promise – promising open and accountable civic leadership.

\$55.7 million of the proposed budget is earmarked to deliver important community infrastructure as part of the capital works budget. This continues Council's multi-year program to address historic under-investment and is enabled by continuing strong financial management.

The capital works program will deliver important community infrastructure including:

- Beaumaris Arts Centre \$3.4 million
- Boss James Reserve Pavilion upgrade \$2.8 million
- Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve Gateway Building \$1.8 million
- Dendy Park Athletic Pavilion renewal \$2.7 million
- foreshore, parks and open space infrastructure \$15.4 million including \$4.0 million on Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve Wetlands and \$2.4 million on Wangara Rd park remediation
- important roads, footpath, car park, and drainage projects will also be completed \$16.4 million.

Council will invest \$0.44 million in the Climate Emergency Action Plan implementation, \$0.31 million in the Biodiversity Action Plan and \$0.38 million on progression of the Highbury Grassy Woodland Masterplan.

Council continues to expand its aged care services from the delivery of entry level services to the delivery of Home Care Packages. For the 2024–25 Budget, grant income from home care packages is expected to grow by \$4 million, and Council will deliver \$20 million of fully funded in home CHSP and Aged Care package services to our clients during the year.

It is proposed the average general rate and municipal charge increase by 2.75% in accordance with the rate cap set by the Minister for Local Government, raising \$99.5 million in revenue.

The waste management levy will increase by 0.1% reflecting Council's policy of direct cost recovery. The small increase in 2024–25 reflects Council's successful implementation of waste diversion programs as well as additional income from the new deposit recycling scheme.

Council will continue to maintain a sound cash position with cash and investments to be drawn down by \$4.6 million in 2024–25 and \$40.0 million over the next 4 years to fund Council's capital program.

Please refer to the Annual Budget 2024–25 (Attachment 3) for a full analysis.

Community engagement

Community members and project stakeholders were encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposed Budget between 24 April and 14 May 2024 for the consideration of Council.

There were 86 unique contributions via three methods: 80 online surveys, 3 written statements and 2 submissions to the Q&A forum via Council's Have Your Say engagement website. One submission was received via direct email.

The majority of community feedback on the draft Annual Budget 2024–25 concerned "under-investment in Highett".

Most survey participants (81%, n=65) raised strong concerns about the "lack of investment in Highett" to address the impacts of and accommodate the significant population growth and development of the area. Detailed feedback and specific project requests for Highett were also provided via three written statements.

Key themes included:

- Highett receiving a disproportionately low share of the budget (71%) to address the infrastructure and services needs of the growing population (45%), including upgrades to roads, footpaths, cycle paths, activity centre streetscapes, and the Peterson Reserve Pavilion
- road safety and traffic management concerns within Highett was raised by 38% of respondents, with calls for a full traffic study to be completed to implement improvements
- other comments called for increased asset maintenance (23%) and tree planting
- public safety concerns were also raised by respondents (11%).

Other survey feedback on the draft budget (15) and a direct email submission was varied across issues and suburbs (number of mentions in brackets):

- Infrastructure upgrades (5), including upgrading sporting facilities for teenagers; support for the warm water pool, need to update Cheltenham/Pennydale playgrounds, construct/upgrade skateparks, and upgrade the Sandringham Life Saving Club.
- Inequality in budget allocation between suburbs (4).

- Maintenance to improve uneven and poor condition footpaths/paving in Black Rock and Beaumaris respectively. Another submission supported the upgrade of the Davie Lane surface in Brighton.
- Funding for the provision of safe bicycle tracks, and e-bike subsidies to encourage active transport.
- Focus more on core services (2) such as roads, recreation, waste services, and community facilities.

Officer responses to each of the issues raised in the submissions is included in Attachment 1.

As a result of the community consultation there have not been any recommended changes to the budget.

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires each Council to adopt an annual budget by 30 June each year.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. having considered the submissions received through the community consultation process, adopts the Annual Budget for the financial year 2024-25 and three subsequent financial years 2025-26 to 2027–28 (Attachment 3)
2. adopts the Schedule of Fees and Charges attached to the Annual Budget 2024-25.

Support Attachments

1. 2024-25 Budget - Officers status update on Budget submissions
2. Annual Budget 2024-25 Community Engagement Summary Report May 2024 PDF
3. Bayside City Council Budget 2024-25 (separately enclosed)

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Social

There are no social impacts associated with this report.

Natural Environment

There are no natural environmental impacts associated with this report.

Climate Emergency

There are no climate emergency impacts associated with this report.

Built Environment

There are no built environmental impacts associated with this report.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

The public can make comment and provide feedback on any proposal contained in the Budget. From 24 April 2024, the Proposed Annual Budget 2024–25 was available for public consultation for 21 days via Council’s website www.bayside.vic.gov.au and available for inspection during normal business hours at the Corporate Centre, 76 Royal Avenue, Sandringham and Council’s libraries. A “Have your Say” social media campaign was also run through this period and the results of the campaign and community feedback are submitted for discussion at the Councillor briefing on the 4 June 2024.

Human Right

The implications of the report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

Community engagement on the Annual Budget has been conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council’s Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy.

Finance

In accordance with the legislation, an Annual Budget has been prepared, which details the financial resources required to achieve the Council Plan 2021–25.

Links to Council policy and strategy

The proposed Budget 2024-25 is aligned to Goal 4 Our Promise in the draft Council Plan 2021–25 and the following strategic objectives.

- 4.2.1 We engage with our community, consider all views and report openly enabling people to be informed about and involved in key decisions policies and projects that affect them.
- 4.3.1 Ensure integrated planning and sound financial management while allocating resources to meet community needs.

Officers' status update on the issues raised in the submissions via have your say

1. Lack of investment in Highett

Highett receiving a disproportionately low share of the budget to address the infrastructure and service needs of the growing population (71% of submissions).

Response

The State Government is currently undertaking a number of strategic projects which will have an impact on the future of Bayside, with a direct impact on Hampton East, Highett, and Pennydale. These projects include the delivery of the Activity Centre Program and the Suburban Rail Loop Project. Both of these projects have an emphasis on increasing residential development and densities close to existing and proposed transport and commercial centres. The State Government will also be delivering the Level Crossing Removal at Highett and Wickham Roads by 2029.

Currently the work completed by the State Government is still in its initial phase with the strategic planning for Hampton East Activity Centre project expected to be delivered in late 2024 and the SRL expected to be delivered in mid-2025. Once there is clarity on the State Government's planning direction, Council will be in a better position to focus on what services and infrastructure may need to be supported. It is expected that this will be reflected in the 2025/26 and beyond annual budgets.

The development of the CSIRO site has been considered in context with the area its located and will result in the delivery of community facilities and public open space on the site along with traffic enhancements including the signalisation of the Graham Road and Bay Road intersection.

Road Safety & Traffic Management concerns

2. Bay Road traffic management

i) We need a crossing on bay Rd opposite Aldi to cross safely. To break up traffic so you can turn right from Beaumaris Pde and the other St. The traffic is so busy and the trees planted makes seeing a nightmare.

(ii) Bay Road is a big traffic problem, especially around Southland. Traffic is not managed properly with non-existent lane markings (merge from 2 into 1). A dedicated bike path needs to be built off the road for safety as traffic gets banked up during peak time. What funding has been allocated by the council for traffic studies and the impact of the SRL at William Fry Reserve.

Response

Bay Road is an arterial road under the control and management of the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). Any consideration of a pedestrian crossing on Bay Road would be matter for DTP to consider.

Council is currently assessing the impact of the SRL precinct on Bay Road and the local road network and will form an advocacy position through the development of a formal

position paper. Improved active transport connections, including cycle paths, will be considered through this process.

3. Traffic congestion Wickham & Highett Roads

i) We need to remove the Highett railway crossing on Highett Road and the Wickham Road crossing, it's an absolute nightmare, and with the massive development on graham road introducing 1000 new apartments, it will be impossible to get through Highett.

ii) Highett needs an up-to-date traffic study which has not been completed for a decade. Traffic is out of control. A focus on crime reduction is essential. At times we feel unsafe walking our streets. Considerations for parking permits need to apply where commercial businesses are an issue.

iii) The roads are congested along Wickham & Highett Roads. If we are building new apartments (Highett Commons) we will see a huge increase in traffic. Please spend more money to ease this congestion. I sit at the lights/train tracks for ages!!!! It is a nightmare.

Response

The State Government's Level Crossing Removal Project includes a commitment to remove the level crossings on both Highett Road and Wickham Road. The timing of these removals is not currently known. Up to date information can be found on their website at <https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/level-crossing-removal-project/projects/frankston>. It is anticipated that the removal of these level crossings will ease congestion at the level crossing locations and improve traffic flow along Highett and Wickham Roads.

The entitlements and conditions of issue of our Residential Parking Permits are outlined within Council's Parking Permit Policy 2023. The Policy is available on the Council website at <https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/Parking%20Permit%20Scheme%20Policy%20-%20ENDORSED%2015%208%2023.pdf>.

4. Safe cycling concerns

I am disappointed to see that the budget neglects to address 'density and inclusiveness,' such as the lack of provisions for safe bicycle tracks like those established by neighbouring councils. Issues regarding traffic speed, street parking, and parking on secondary roads and complex intersections like Bluff Road and Tulip Street have not been addressed. Despite our previous survey on safe cycling starting at Sandringham station, the results of which have been disregarded.

Moreover, safety concerns for children cycling to and from school remain unattended. Specifically, the intersections of Balcombe Road and Reserve Road, as well as the safety along Balcombe Road and streets connecting to Black Rock Primary which require immediate attention.

Response

Bluff Road is an arterial road under the control and management of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), and as such any improvements to the intersection of Bluff Road and Tulip Street require DTP action. Officers have advocated for improvements at this intersection and on Bluff Road from Tulip Street to Royal Avenue to improve pedestrian and cycling movements.

Similarly to Bluff Road, Balcombe Road is an arterial road under the control and management of DTP. Council has advocated to DTP for a number of safety improvements in this area recently, and will continue to do so.

We regularly respond to community requests that seek safety and infrastructure improvements, with ad hoc works delivered along the Bay Trail and cycle path improvements at busier centres.

Council will soon commence delivery of stage one of the proposed cycling connection between Sandringham and Cheltenham.

5. Bins at bus stops

- i) Bins at bus stops around bayside need to be improved as litter is becoming normal.
- ii) Highett bus stop doesn't have any seating or bins currently.

Response

Council is currently auditing all major use areas including activity centres, bus stops and in front of schools. This info will be used to manage the performance of the contractor who empties the bins if needed (including how frequently bins are emptied). Data will also be collected to identify bins that need to be installed or upgraded. This work will be delivered from 24/25's Street Furniture Budget as well as repurposed bins that have been removed from other areas.

Public Safety concerns

6. Increase in homeless people since the removal of housing commission on Bluff Rd.

Since the removal of the housing commission housing on the corner off Bluff and Wickham Rd, I have seen an increase in drug affected people wandering the streets. Where have these people moved to? Have they been offered housing or left to fend for themselves. I think that there should be something done about the amount of homeless and drug affected people.

Response

All residents of the housing estate on the corner of Bluff and Wickham Roads were supported into alternative housing both within Bayside and in other metro municipalities. This included practical assistance as required to move and settle into the new housing provisions, which was led and managed by the State Government.

Council recognises homelessness and insecure housing is a growing issue within the Bayside municipality. The Bayside Community Care Team conducts outreach to people who are sleeping rough and assists to find accommodation and connect rough sleepers to relevant support agencies. The team also works with those who are experiencing other forms of homelessness or at risk of homelessness by providing advocacy, case management and practical assistance with specialist services. Community Care receive and action any reports from local businesses and community members relating to concern for people who may be experiencing vulnerability such as homelessness or complex health issues.

Infrastructure upgrades

7. Warm Water Pool

I'd really like to see money spent on getting the proposed hydrotherapy pool built now. I'm with My Aged Care but have been told the waiting list at Caulfield hospital is TOO long and so was transferred months ago to Moorabbin. I'm now 60th on the waiting list of 120.

Response

Council has submitted its planning permit application for the warm water pool which is currently under consideration. Council has allocated \$28.9 million over the four year capital program to facilitate development of the site, which we anticipate will be operational by late 2027.

8. Investment in Cheltenham Bayside – Pennydale Park

Very disappointed about the lack of support for Cheltenham bayside which gets left behind like the poor cousin. We have playgrounds such as Pennydale Park next door to our local kindergarten that has not been updated in decades bar some shade sails and has parts which are completely dangerous. Yet playgrounds in Brighton (middle crescent) have been prioritised which would in no way have the same amount of usage. There is also a desperate need to put a gate on the opposite end of Pennydale Park (Paul street) to keep children from running onto the road. I implore the council to make decisions to improve bayside fairly and not favour Brighton and the wealthier suburbs constantly.

Response

Council has not allocated any significant enhancements to Pennydale park aside from ongoing maintenance and renewal costs. The potential for a gate at the access to Paul Street has been considered however has been previously ruled out due to infrastructure constraints.

9. Peterson Reserve deferral

i) Disappointing to see funds being allocated to certain projects when there are Council assets/facilities that remain de-prioritised causing 'real' community impacts and lack of usability. The Peterson Reserve precinct is specifically the focus of this comment on the back of a recent meeting with the Mayor and a walk through of the appalling facilities that no family is comfortable for their child to use. The impact to the local sporting clubs that use these grounds is real in dropping participation rates and in the middle of winter, kids being forced to get changed outside. What an embarrassment for when visiting teams come to 'beautiful' bayside only to be presented with these facilities.

ii) Peterson Reserve is in dire need of an uplift and is an eyesore to the community.

Response

Council has listed the Peterson Reserve pavilions for renewal to commence from 2025/26.

10. Request for more Skateparks in Bayside

Would love to see investment in new skatepark as the old ones are outdated.

Response

Council is currently updating its Recreation Strategy which will consider the provision of skate parks across Bayside. The Strategy is expected to be finalised by 30 June 2025 with any actions arising from the strategy to be considered as part of future Council budget processes.

11. Sandringham Life Saving Club

What about the Sandringham Life Saving Club and surrounding beach/foreshore? It's probably one of the oldest club houses and is heavily used by a range of different community groups from volunteer patrollers and members to silver salties and the general public. It's in desperate need of an upgrade - inside and out. Plus, there is one public toilet which is not even close to being sufficient during the busy months!

Response

The Sandringham Lifesaving Club is not identified in Council's Sportsground Pavilion Improvement Plan and Council does not currently have budget allocated to undertake any significant renewal of the facility. The tenant of the facility has full responsibility for maintenance and capital improvement of the site.

12. Sporting facilities for teenagers

I would encourage council to consider local sporting facilities for teenagers. For example, without much cost outlay, the old Cummins Road Dendy park playground equipment could be replaced by a basketball court/half court and provide much needed local option to keep teenagers happy, healthy, off technology and supporting health and wellbeing.

Response

Council is currently updating its Recreation Strategy which will consider the provision of recreation assets across Bayside. The Strategy is expected to be finalised by 30 June 2025 with any actions arising from the strategy to be considered as part of future Council budget processes.

13. More dog Parks in Highett

a) I am pleading that council consider a low-cost project that would have significant impact. Please turn the block of land with an old run-down playground in it on Spring St Highett into a dog park. There are 2 fantastic playgrounds (albeit only catering for very young kids) at Basterfield park. The Spring St park equipment is old and rundown. All it really needs is a water tap for the dogs. This would support local dog owners, improve people's incentive to walk rather than drive to a park and also reduce emissions. This is a cheap no brainer for great outcomes.

b) Highett desperately requires dedicated off lead dog parks. I feel we are neglected and forgotten. Sharing facilities with sports fields is not working as the sporting events are prioritised meaning I can seldom walk dogs during ever increasing sporting events. The new Sandringham Netball Centre also decreases access to Merindah Park as Sandringham Secondary College chose to block access from Bay Road.

Please consider the difficulty dog owners in Highett face with literally no place to take our beloved animals.

Response

Council is currently updating its Open Space Strategy which will provide guidance as to the use of public open space across Bayside. This work is expected to be completed by 30 June 2025 and will provide guidance around any potential changes to how open space is used or managed.

14. Investment in Beaumaris

It doesn't look like Beaumaris has had much included in this budget other than the Art building that has already commenced. The concourse pavilion update has not been included, even though it was meant to be endorsed last November.

Response

At its ordinary meeting on 21 November, 2023 Council endorsed the concept design for the permanent shelter and referred it to the four-year capital works program for further consideration, prioritisation, and funding. At present this is scheduled for 2028/29. As a temporary measure Council allocated \$30K per annum to fund the maintenance and up-keep of the temporary marquee.

Road and footpath maintenance

15. Support for the upgrade of laneway surface in Davie Lane Brighton.

We are delighted that the "upgrade of laneway surface in Davie Lane, Brighton" is a line item (on Page 66) of the Bayside City Council Budget 2024/25. Some of our neighbours have been waiting for this project for more than 10 years. All owners/tenants with properties on or adjoining Davie Lane were signatories to a Petition submitted to Council in March 2022.

Our hope is that this project can be completed in the 1st Half of 2024/'25, eliminating dust produced whenever a vehicle drives on Davie Lane and also flooding after a torrential downpour.

It remains for us to express our thanks to all Councillors (for the unanimous vote of approval at the July 2022 Council Meeting), Mick Cummins, CEO (for his letter on March 15, 2024) and Jill Colson, Director Environment, Recreation & Infrastructure) for her support in this process.

Response

Support for the inclusion of funds in the budget to upgrade laneway surface in Davie Lane Brighton is noted.

16. Footpaths in Beaumaris

I have noticed that there are lots of old and uneven footpaths around Beaumaris. I have seen (and been) people tripping over on the uneven pavement. If an elderly person tripped over, it could cost their life. It would be great to invest in the footpaths, especially around parks and playgrounds.

Response

Council Road Management Plan 2023 outlines the service level standard for footpaths across the municipality. Footpaths are inspected and footpaths defects are rectified in accordance with this program by Council's maintenance contractor. Additionally, a footpath renewal program is delivered each year. The list of projects for this program comes from condition data that is collected every 4 years. The proposed Annual Footpath Renewal Budget in 2024/25 is \$2.1M. In 2023/24 \$352,000 of the \$2.064 budget was spent on projects in Beaumaris.

17. Roads

i) Fix our roads, I'm sick of driving over pot holes. It seems I constantly see workman delaying our travel, yet when they pack up and leave. I can't see any difference in the roads. It's a farce!!

ii) Roads around Highett are starting to deteriorate and are in need of action.

Response

Council Road Management Plan 2023 outlines the service level standard for Council roads across the municipality. Roads are inspected and road defects are rectified in accordance with this program by Council's maintenance contractor. Additionally, a road annual resurfacing program is delivered each year. The list of projects for this program comes from condition data that is collected every 4 years. This data has just been collected and is currently being finalised to inform next years program. The proposed annual budget in 2024/25 is \$1.761M.

There is nothing in the budget for Black Rock. Area looks very tired, paving at shops is horrible and safety issue. All funding seems to go towards Brighton! Don't Gidget other areas.

Response

As part of the Annual Footpath Renewal Program a \$47,000 project at Black Rock Activity Centre (shops) is being delivered late this financial year/early in the new financial year. The scope of this project includes spot brick paver reinstatement works for the East side of Bluff Road/Karrakatta and North side of Balcombe Road and replacement of existing deteriorated wooden bollards.

Focus of Council

i) The council plan has become too focused on woke issues and has lost sight of providing services to local rate payers and residents. The council strategy and goals need an overhaul to get back to basics like roads, rates, rubbish, recreation and reading. Consultation groups should be chosen randomly rather than by third party consultants with social bias.

ii) I believe 'lofty goals' can have their place but only after the primary responsibilities of council have been met. The community at large is feeling the effect of sustained high inflation, so it is important that council show how they are allocating ratepayer money responsibly. Terms like 'Climate Emergency' are alarmist and currently unproven, so don't use them. It is imperative that Bayside City Council remember their primary role - maintenance of local roads, footpaths, and drainage systems, waste management and recycling services, parks, recreational facilities, and public spaces, libraries and community centres, animal control and local environmental initiatives.

iii) I feel as usual my corner of Bayside is ignored. Living in Cheltenham - I feel ignored by council.

Response

The Council Plan is developed by Councillors based on community concerns and priorities and tested with the community.

Consultation for the next council plan 2025-2029 will commence later in 2024 with a new Council after elections in October 2024, supported by a community panel to assist council. All Bayside residents and ratepayers will be invited to express interest to participate. Panellists will be selected through random selection anonymously aligned to our municipal demographics (across suburbs, age groups etc) in August- September. This process is specifically intended to ensure that no one group has undue influence, and all voices have an opportunity to be involved.

18. Focus on Finance

The focus seems to be alright at a time when people are finding it financially difficult. I believe a focus on finance that is a reduction on spending and reduce the budget on building by 50% that is from \$30m to \$15m.

Response

Suggestion is noted.



Annual Budget 2024-25

Community engagement summary report

May 2024



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2 Overview

This document provides a summary of community and stakeholder feedback on the proposed Annual Budget 2024-25.

The proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 outlines the services and initiatives to be funded for the next financial year. The proposed Budget is informed by community priorities set out in the [Bayside 2050 Community Vision](#) and [Council Plan 2021 – 2025](#) and [Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2032/33](#).

2.1 Engagement process

Community consultation on the Annual Budget was conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's [Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy 2021](#).

Community members and project stakeholders were encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposed Budget between 24 April and 14 May 2024 for the consideration of Council.

There were 86 unique contributions via three methods: 80 online surveys, 3 written statements and 2 submissions to the Q&A forum via Council's Have Your Say engagement website. One submission was received via direct email.

2.2 Community and stakeholder feedback

The majority of community feedback on the draft Annual Budget 2024-25 concerned "under-investment in Highett".

Most survey participants (81%, n=65) raised strong concerns about the "lack of investment in Highett" to address the impacts of and accommodate the significant population growth and development of the area. Detailed feedback and specific project requests for Highett were also provided via three written statements.

Key themes included:

- Highett receiving a disproportionately low share of the budget (71%) to address the infrastructure and services needs of the growing population (45%), including upgrades to roads, footpaths, cycle paths, activity centre streetscapes, and the Peterson Reserve Pavilion.
- Road safety and traffic management concerns within Highett was raised by 38% of respondents, with calls for a full traffic study to be completed to implement improvements.
- Other comments called for increased asset maintenance (23%) and tree planting.
- Public safety concerns were also raised by respondents (11%).

Other survey feedback on the draft budget (15) and a direct email submission was varied across issues and suburbs (*number of mentions in brackets*):

- Infrastructure upgrades (5), including upgrading sporting facilities for teenagers; support for the warm water pool, need to update Cheltenham/Pennydale playgrounds, construct/upgrade skateparks, and upgrade the Sandringham Life Saving Club.
- Inequality in budget allocation between suburbs (4)
- Maintenance to improve uneven and poor condition footpaths/paving in Black Rock and Beaumaris respectively. Another submission supported the upgrade of the Davie Lane surface in Brighton.
- Funding for the provision of safe bicycle tracks, and e-bike subsidies to encourage active transport.
- Focus more on core services (2) such as roads, recreation, waste services, and community facilities.

All verbatim feedback is included in Section 7 – appendix of this report.

2.3 Next steps

Council will consider community feedback, including this community engagement report, before adopting a proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 at its meeting on 18 June 2024.

Interested community members can also request to be heard at this meeting.

The Local Government Act 2020 requires each Council to adopt an annual budget by 30 June each year.

3 Consultation process

3.1 Definitions and scope

Engagement was conducted to gather community and stakeholder feedback on the proposed Annual Budget 2024-25.

The table below informed the scope and was published as part of the consultation.

Table 1: Scope of influence

Negotiables	Annual Budget 2024-25 - noting that funding priorities have been set by the Bayside 2050 Community Vision, Council Plan 2021 – 2025 and Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2033/34.
Non-negotiables	Legislative requirement for Council to adopt Annual Budget 2024-25 by 30 June 2024.
	Council operations, resource allocation and projects Council has resolved to deliver.
	Waste charge: direct cost recovery due the increase in the State Government landfill levy, an increase in hard waste collections, increased recycling processing costs, and increased green waste and garbage collection and disposal costs.

The table below lists the community members and stakeholders identified as having an interest in the Annual Budget 2024-25 to be considered in the consultation.

Table 2: Community and stakeholder assessment

Stakeholder / community	Impact	Interest	Influence
General Bayside community	L	L	Consult
Individual community members with broad interests in the business of Council and governance	L	H	Consult
Organisations/groups/individuals affected by rescheduled projects	H	H	Consult
Stakeholders with new projects financed through Annual Budget 2024-25	H	H	Consult
Stakeholder groups/associations/organisations	L	M	Consult

Local businesses/traders	L	M	Consult
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Level of engagement

Engagement on the Annual Budget 2024-25 was assigned at 'Consult' level, noting limitations on influence because funding priorities are informed by the Bayside 2050 Community Vision, Council Plan 2021 – 2025 and Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2033/34. These plans were subject to extensive, deliberative community engagement programs.

3.2 Consultation methodology

Community engagement on the Annual Budget 2024-25 was designed to provide stakeholders and the broader community with opportunities to provide feedback on the proposed Budget. The engagement process was open to all members of the City of Bayside municipality between 24 April and 14 May 2024.

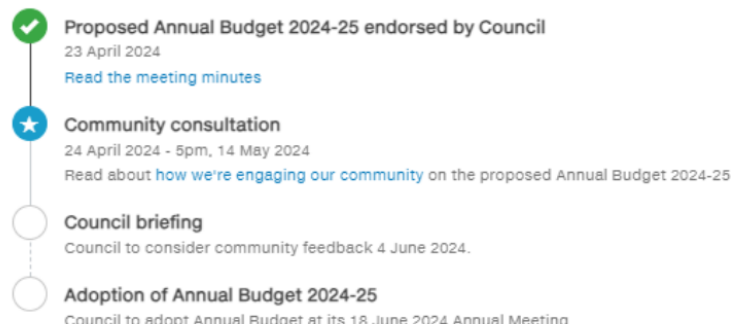
Digital engagement tools (websites, online survey, written statement submission form, and question and answer forum) were used to deliver the engagement program and assessed as meeting the needs of interested community members and stakeholders.

Project information and engagement materials were available in print, as requested/required.

Communications via Council channels and targeted social media advertising were undertaken to ensure community members and project stakeholders were aware of the consultation and encouraged to participate.

Figure 1: Timeline and phases for engagement on the proposed Budget

Timeline



3.2.1 Engagement activities

The following engagement activities were undertaken:

- Project information on Council’s Have Your Say digital engagement website, including opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback via a survey or upload a written statement.
- Phone, post, and email correspondence.

Table 3: Engagement activities and participation

Details	Activity
24 April – 14 May 2023	Have Your Say engagement website
86 contributions*	
85 contributors	
14 project followers	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of feedback by post or anonymously (0 submissions) <p>*one survey response was submitted twice and the duplicate was removed.</p>
Email 1 submission	1 submission was received via direct email to Bill Shanahan, Chief Financial Officer.
Social media	Two social media posts were published referencing the consultation on the budget, as well as sponsored advertising. Comments (8) on the social media posts were not considered submissions within this report.

3.2.2 Communications activities

It is estimated that communications via Council channels reached more than 15,000 community members. Social media advertising assisted in raising awareness of the consultation, especially among Bayside residents who may not subscribe to Council communications channels.

Table 4: Communications tools, activities, participation, and reach

Details	Activity
Have Your Say engagement website 952 views 765 visits 638 visitors	yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/annual-budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project information on proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 and alignment with Council Plan 2021-2025 (542 visitors) Annual Budget 2024-25 PDF (19 downloads) Question and answer forum (21 visitors) Engagement Plan Overview (24 visitors)
Council website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> News item: Consultation opens for proposed 2024/25 Budget Website homepage banner 24 April – 13 May
Direct email 45,359 emails sent <12,203 recipients	Have Your Say project subscribers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All subscribers (6,818). Sent 24 April: opens 3,783 (55.5%), clicks 476 (7%) across all included projects. This Week in Bayside e-newsletter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 April: 12,165 recipients, 6,590 opens, 156 links clicked 2 May: 12,173 recipients, 7,566 opens, 14 links clicked 9 May: 12,203 recipients, 6,946 opens, 49 links clicked
Social media Average reach (per post) 2,000	Facebook and Instagram posts promoting consultation Budget – two unique posts, 30 April and 11 May Sponsored advertising from 11 May
Print c.40,000	Let's Talk Bayside magazine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April/May issue Distributed to all Bayside households (40,000)

Media coverage

There was no media coverage of the proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 consultation.

4 Participant profile

Participant profile data was asked for survey respondents (80) only, with all demographic questions optional. Representative participation was not considered achievable for this consultation due to the historic low level of interest and participation in budget consultations. To encourage participation there was no requirement to provide personal information or to register/sign-in to provide feedback.

Connection to Bayside

Almost all (94%, n=75) of survey participants responded they are a Bayside homeowner/ratepayer, while three are a tenant. Two respondents are an owner/operator of a Bayside business, and 5 (6%) are a member of a community group or organisation.

All age brackets between 20 – 84 years were represented except 70 – 74 years. Most participants were aged between 40 and 54 years (51%).

All Bayside suburbs were represented by between 1 – 5 participants. Highett was significantly over-represented with 75% (61) of participants residing in that suburb.

Some respondents listed themselves as belonging to/representing one or multiple community groups or organisations, which included the Highett Progress Association, Highett Community Hub, Bayside U3A, and East Sandringham Junior Football Club.

Most respondents (67%) said they had the information they needed to provide feedback on the Budget and information was very (16%) or mostly (61%) easy to find and understand. This is significantly lower than previous years, with 21% (16) finding information mostly hard to find/understand.

Table 5: Participant demographics compared to Bayside population profile

	Demographic	Bayside 2021 Census	Participants (%)
Gender	Male	47.8%	33.75% (27)
	Female	52.2%	57.5% (46)
	Unknown	-	7.5% (6)
	Prefer to self-identify	-	1.25% (1)
Age	18-24	7.8%	2.75% (2)
	25-34	7.8%	8% (6)
	35-49	19.4%	48.5% (35)
	50-59	15.7%	23% (17)
	60-69	12.1%	11% (8)
	70-84	12.2%	7% (5)
	85+	3.4%	0%
	Undisclosed	-	11% (8)
Suburb	Beaumaris	12.8%	6.2% (5)
	Black Rock	6.2%	2.5% (2)
	Brighton	23.7%	3.7% (3)
	Brighton East	15.6%	1.2% (1)
	Cheltenham	3.9%	2.5% (2)
	Hampton	13.6%	1.2% (1)
	Hampton East	4.9%	2.5% (2)
	Highett	7.6%	75.3% (61)

Sandringham	11.8%	3.7% (3)
Outside Bayside / Other	-	1.2% (1)

5 Consultation findings

The following section includes the verbatim feedback received on the proposed budget. Personal details have been redacted from this report.

5.1 Community feedback - survey

5.1.1 Investment in Highett

Within major initiatives, the proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 allocates \$383,000 for the Highett Grassy Woodland masterplan implementation. The budget also references an allowance for additional services which will commence in the coming years including the new Highett Library and Community Hub at the former CSIRO site.

In response to the draft budget, most survey participants (81%, n=65) raised strong concerns about the 'lack of investment in Highett' to address and accommodate the significant future growth and development in the area.

Detailed feedback on the 'underinvestment in Highett' was also provided via three written statements, which are in the appendix (Section 7) of this report, along with verbatim survey responses.

Key themes emerging through survey feedback related to Highett:

- **Budget allocation:** A strong sentiment from 57 respondents (71%) that Highett is receiving a disproportionately low share of the budget, despite Highett accounting for around 10% of the population.
- **Upgrade infrastructure and amenities:** Concerns were raised by 34 respondents about the current state of infrastructure in Highett, including roads, footpaths, cycle paths, activity centres, as well as amenities such as seating and rubbish bins at bus stops. An urgent need to update the Peterson Reserve Pavilion was also highlighted.
- **Population growth and development:** Highett's significant population growth due large development projects was raised by 36 (45%) of respondents. Comments referenced that more open space, infrastructure and services are needed to support the rapidly increasing population.
- **Road safety and traffic management:** Concern about road safety and traffic congestion, particularly on major roads and intersections, and near schools and community centres, was raised by 30 respondents (38%), with calls for more pedestrian crossings in high traffic areas and supervised crossings near schools, as well as extending lower speed limits on some roads. Some recommended that a full traffic study is needed to identify problem areas and implement improvements.
- **Maintenance:** Some comments (18) reference the need for more regular maintenance such as filling in potholes and repairing broken footpaths. Tree planting and streetscape updates are also requested.
- **Public safety:** Nine comments mention issues affecting public safety, including concerns about drug-affected and/or homeless individuals and the need for measures and support services to help address these concerns.
- **Dog parks:** Two comments requested new dedicated off-leash dog parks in Highett.

- **Transparency:** One comment requested that the budget details investment by ward and suburb.

Verbatim feedback is published in Appendix 7.1

5.1.2 General feedback on the budget

15 survey submissions were also received on a range of issues relating to the draft budget:

- Five submissions included references to **infrastructure upgrades**, including upgrading sporting facilities for teenagers; support for the warm water pool, need to update Cheltenham/Pennydale playgrounds, construct/upgrade skateparks, and upgrade the Sandringham Life Saving Club.
- Four submissions referenced **inequality in budget allocation** between suburbs, but another suggested the capital budget is halved.
- Two submissions called for **greater maintenance to improve uneven and poor condition footpaths/paving** in Black Rock and Beaumaris respectively, while another submission supported the upgrade of the Davie Lane surface in Brighton.
- A lack of **funding for the provision of safe bicycle tracks** was raised in one submission.
- Two submissions requested that Council **focus more on core services** such as roads, recreation, waste services, and community facilities instead of climate or 'woke' issues.

Verbatim feedback is included in appendix 7.3

5.2 Community feedback – Q&A forum

An online Q&A forum was hosted on the project's Have Your Say page. Two questions were received during the consultation period.

5.2.1 Question 1

Church St Xmas Street Decorations

A statement was received via the Q&A forum regarding the aged and poor condition of the Church Street Activity Centre Christmas decorations.

A response was provided to this question and published on the [Have Your Say webpage](#).

5.2.2 Question 2

Bicycle infrastructure

A question was asked about 'no funding for bicycle infrastructure in this budget', including a request to allocate some budget to build safe, physically separated bicycle lanes.

A response was provided to this question and published on the [Have Your Say webpage](#).

5.3 Direct email

5.3.1 Email 1 – Promotion of active local transport / e-bike subsidies

"I appreciate the Council's regular updates and surveys regarding improvements to Bayside community services and infrastructure.

I have noted Council support for households to assist the transition to Net Zero carbon emissions, so I would like to point you to an opportunity which you seem to have missed: I see very little action from Council to promote active local transport.

I do notice that there are small improvements being made to shared paths, but honestly you are just fiddling around the edges.

E-bike rebates and subsidies are available in many places across Europe and the US, and have proven to increase cycling uptake. I hear that Tasmania leads Australia by providing the first e-bike rebates, with the Holdfast Bay the first council in Australia to offer such rebates, followed by the City of Adelaide.

Bayside has many advantages as a healthy place to live and work, but one obvious shortcoming is traffic congestion at school times.

E-bike subsidies would be easy to adopt and have proven to be effective in promoting health and environmental objectives. Most importantly for ratepayers, active transport is cost effective.” Resident, Brighton.

6 Project Evaluation

6.1.1 Participation

A very high number of submissions were received (86) through the 2024 consultation process in comparison to previous years: 2023 (37), 2022: (12), 2021: (67), 2020: (7).

This was driven by the number of contributions (76%, n=65) from Highett community members.

6.1.2 Engagement

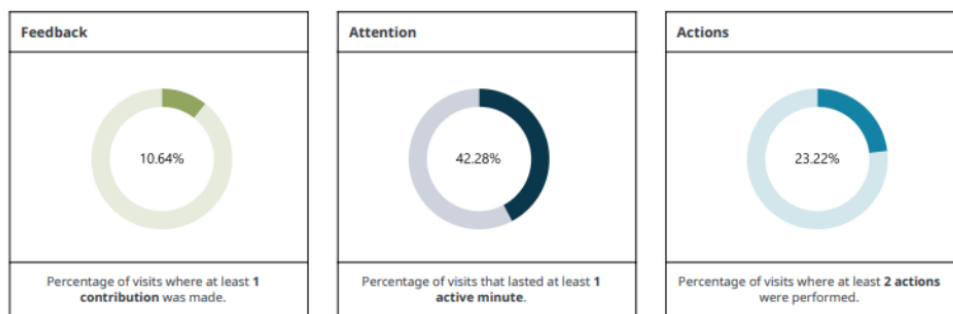
It was proposed that the engagement activities would attract at least:

- 500 views of the Have Your Say project webpages (exceeded; 958 views)
- 10 contributions via the Have Your Say online survey or written statement form (exceeded; 83)

958 Views	771 Visits	643 Visitors	86 Contributions	85 Contributors	14 Followers
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In terms of conversion, the goals for Have Your Say webpages were that:

- 2% of visits would have at least one contribution made (exceeded, 10.5%)
- 25% of visits would last at least one active minute (exceeded, 42%)
- 20% of visits would have at least two actions performed, such as moving around the project page or clicking on links (achieved, 23%)



Satisfaction with the information provided to survey participants was moderate. Of the 75 survey participants who responded to the question: ‘Did you have the information you needed to provide your feedback on the Budget?’, a small majority (57%) selected information was very (16%) or mostly easy (51%) to find and/or understand; 21% said it was mostly hard to find and/or understand, 1 found it very hard and 8 were not sure.

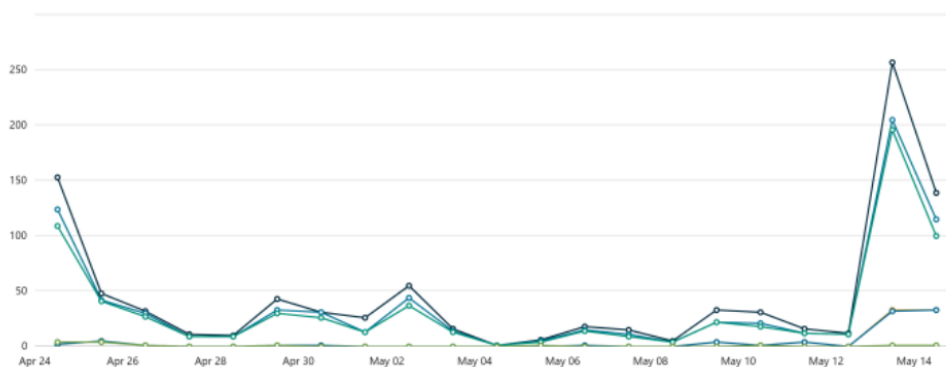
Community consultation on the Annual Budget, under the Local Government Act 2020 (Section 63), requires Council to develop its Annual Budget in accordance with its Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy. The principles of this Policy were met, including the publication of an Engagement Plan Overview (appendix 7.5).

6.1.3 Communications

It was proposed that the communication activities would reach at least:

- 15,000 community members (exceeded)
- All correspondence and submissions were received via Council channels (achieved)

The chart below shows the spikes in visitation to the Have Your Say engagement webpages when the consultation was promoted via news on Council’s website and direct email (24 April) and social media on 30 April and 11 May (including sponsored advertising); and e-newsletters on 24 April, 2 May and 9 May.



7 Appendix

7.1 Verbatim survey feedback referencing investment in Highett

The suburb Highett is only receiving 380 thousand. While this is a big step up from previous years, it still pales in comparison to some of the other suburbs such as Brighton receiving around 15 million. I understand that an argument for this could be the fact that Brighton is larger than Highett (almost 3 times) but it still does not explain the difference in the allocation of the Annual Budget.

Highett amounts to around 10% of the population for our area, and especially with the large ongoing construction for more apartments, it will rise to around 15%. As such, it does not make a lot of sense for Highett to receive less than 1% of the total budget, especially with the rest of the suburbs receiving a minimum around \$3 million.

I ask for your understanding in seeing how the residents of Highett are upset and disappointed in how the allocation of the Annual Budget is currently shown, and that some of the Budget is moved to improve some of the infrastructure, such as the bus stops, more open space, improving facilities in the area, more pedestrian crossings near high traffic areas such as Aldi. If nothing else, please consider filling in potholes around the area.

As a new Bayside resident having moved to Highett less than a year ago, I appreciate many of the natural advantages of this area and the work of the Bayside Council and Officers in maintaining and growing the amenities for the community. However, from interacting with many neighbours and others I've met in the community, Bayside does seem divided between the beach suburbs and those 'inland', the haves and the have nots. Cheltenham, Highett and Hampton East do not enjoy the same amenities and environment as in the other wealthier suburbs, whether looking at the quality of tree coverage, parks

(both quality and quantity), regularity of road repairs and broken footpaths and Bayside capital expenditure.

Under 'Our Promise' regarding transparent and accountable civic leadership, I suggest that capital and operating investment should be considered and tracked by Ward and suburb and published. This divide may be due to historical issues, the quality of recent representation and also whether the community itself has been proactive enough in making its voice heard. But as those three inland suburbs are also in line for the greatest future disruption and densification from SRL, LXP and massive private development, I ask that the Council and Officers consider the allocation of resources and how a fairer split of budgets can be achieved, related more to need than historical trends.

The budget allocated to Highett is comically low compared to the rest of the suburbs. We only have ~1% of the budget, despite representing *[editorial note: no further comment provided]*

Fix our roads, I'm sick of driving over pot holes. It seems I constantly see workman delaying our travel, yet when they pack up and leave. I can't see any difference in the roads. It's a farce!!

Where's the funding for Highett? Is this a joke? You really think Brighton, Sandringham, Hampton need that much more than Highett?

Highett requires more than the 1% allocation! With the massive growth and projects planned in the area, the infrastructure and focus requirements have increased. Bay Rd, Highett and Wickham Rd are portal roads to much of the Bayside region, none of the Bayside residents are going to want to enter their exclusive suburbs via slums. Letting this area deteriorate will have a large effect on the values, monetary or "lifestyle". This budget has been very poorly thought out.

Highett is only getting 1% of the budget, however Highett represents about 10% of the population in bayside. Highett needs a lot of upgrading, but just gets ignored in the budget. How is that fair when Highett residents pay rates to Bayside City council, but money does not get spent our suburb. This needs to be changed and fair amount allocated to Highett who need it more than most of the surrounding suburbs.

Only 1% of budget going to Highett is ridiculous given the extra development and revenue being gained. Not happy and will advocate strongly against council.

As a ratepayer in Highett, my feedback is that the budget does not fairly represent and distribute capital works funds to all suburbs. Highett is allocated only \$380,000 of capital works funding, the lowest for all Bayside Council suburbs - and the lowest by a large margin, with the next lowest suburbs Sandringham, Cheltenham and Black Rock receiving 3 million dollars of capital works funding. Highett represents 10% of Bayside's population, increasing to 14% with the Highett Common development. Black rock and Cheltenham have lower population percentages, at 8% and 4% yet receive significantly more funding for capital works. Sandringham has 13% population so only slightly more than Highett yet receives significantly more capital works funding.

I'd like to see a review of the budget with a fairer distribution of capital works funding so that all Bayside residents can see increased amenity in their local area and receive value from the rates they are paying.

There appears to insufficient funds allocated to Highett - with the over development approved by this council it is disappointing to see that the budget allocation is not equitable to the amount of revenue that is being generated by extra apartments homes the over development is making. This needs a review and how about for a change to consider community feedback than to simply continue with ignoring it ?

Once again Highett has been shortchanged in the Budget.

With a massive population increase in the Highett Common development we need to improve traffic management in that area. We need confirmation that the long awaited Highett Library on the Bayside side of the tracks will happen.

More open space needs to occur in Highett (excluding the con job in Highett Common).

1% of the Budget allocated to Highett is a disgrace.

I have campaigned for years for traffic lights in front of Aldi store in Bay Road. This is an extremely dangerous area and getting busier.

Would like to see more investment in Highett. We have had a large increase in residence and traffic - pedestrian and cars recently with apartments near the train station and Nepean Hwy as well as the huge Ramsay aged care site. Graham Rd is soon to be even more congested with the over-development of the CSIRO site. I appreciate the preservations of Grassy Woodlands but why are there not more considerations to current traffic issues in Highett, more trees, bins and making the Highett shopping strip more appealing.

There is not enough budget allocation for capital works within Highett!

Allocating 1% of your budget to Highett is incredibly contemptuous. We have more than 1% of the population so why are we being underfunded? Given that this suburb is about to undergo massive change, the Council needs to be investing in improved infrastructure and services PROACTIVELY, not reactively. I would imagine that if Highett is receiving 1% of the budget then are rates will be discounted accordingly??

Once again, Highett has been overlooked for any sort of material budget allocations. Given the proposed rapid increase to the population in Highett in the coming years not least due to the development of the CSIRO site, Highett should receive a larger proportion of the budget allocation for services, infrastructure, beautification etc. Brighton, as an example, is already adequately provided for. Electronic bins? Seriously? I suggest that Council rethinks it budget allocation for Highett as a matter of priority.

How will the budget target Highett that is growing rapidly in population.

- Stage 1 of the Highett Commons will see Highett's rapid rise with first occupancy in 2025 with x13 more towers to follow. What plans does the council have for surrounding streets and footpaths that desperately need resurfacing, widening, and bike paths? I.e Highett Road.

- Highett bus stop doesn't have any seating or bins currently.

- Safety has become a large problem around Highett train station and surrounding apartment blocks, after DHS relocating people with addictions and mental health issues with no supervision or oversight. Locals are being physically attacked and abused. How will the council address safety in the area? Has there been any funding allocated for this issue.

- Bay Road is a big traffic problem, especially around Southland. Traffic is not managed properly with non existent lane markings (merge from 2 into 1). A dedicated bike path needs to be built off the road for safety as traffic gets banked up during peak time. What funding has been allocated by the council for traffic studies and the impact of the SRL at William Fry Reserve?

Peterson Reserve is in dire need of an uplift and is an eyesore to the community.

Roads around Highett are starting to deteriorate and are in need of action.

Bins at bus stops around bayside need to be improved as litter is becoming normal.

As a Bayside rate payer in Highett, my expectation is that my rates will go towards further developing Highett and not the other well financed suburbs!

Especially now with Council's announcement of increase in our rates.

It's quite appalling that Highett is barely included in the new budget plans. Why is my money not being spent on my community?

The population in Highett has increased yet there have been no improvements to: roads, footpaths and cycle paths, pedestrian and community safety, public rubbish bins, street lighting, parks, parking availability, arts and culture, accessibility.

I urge Council to reconsider the budget plans and include the above basic amenities for Highett.

Given the population expansion would love to see more investment into Highett. Out of the bayside suburbs it seems the budget is hardly geared towards this area at all.

Highett needs more money and resources spent to cover the increasing population. More road and safety infrastructure!

We need a crossing on bay Rd opposite Aldi to cross safely. To break up traffic so you can turn right from Beaumaris pde and the other st. The traffic is so busy and the trees planted makes seeing a nightmare.

Highett is lacking infrastructure upgrades and expansion to facilitate and cope with the major residential developments over the next few years. Has the council a plan for this???

Underinvestment in Highett - we are the poor cousins to the higher profile and more affluent suburbs.

I am pleading that council consider a low-cost project that would have significant impact. Please turn the block of land with an old run-down playground in it on spring st Highett into a dog park. There are 2 fantastic playgrounds (albeit only catering for very young kids) at Basterfield Park. The spring st park equipment is old and rundown. All it really needs is a water tap for the dogs. This would support local dog owners, improve people's incentive to walk rather than drive to a park and also reduce emissions. This is a cheap no brainer for great outcomes.

Highett, as the fastest growing suburb in Bayside, appears severely underrepresented in the Budget plans. Basic infrastructure needs to be looked at and plans put in place to cater for the expanding population and additional stress that will be placed on roads, local amenities, and many other areas. While some may not be under the responsibility of local government, a great deal is. Once again, Bayside Council seems to have forgotten Highett.

Yet again hardly any focus on Highett. With a growing population more focus needs to be spent on Highett, truly are the poor cousins of Bayside. Surely we have someone advocating for us on the council??

Highett is set to double in population in the coming years, yet Bayside have NO future plans on improving our basic needs like road and pedestrian safety or ANY new amenities for our community! In fact Bayside have not done a full traffic study of Highett in almost a decade, with no future plans of doing so.

The only project for Highett is the grassy woodlands, what a joke that the residents of Highett don't feature or seem to matter?

The past year we got an 'oranges' art installation at the Peterson reserve park. Will the Bayside Council spend ANOTHER year without our basic needs being met!

Highett desperately requires dedicated off lead dog parks. I feel we are neglected and forgotten. Sharing facilities with sports fields is not working as the sporting events are prioritised meaning I can seldom walk dogs during ever increasing sporting events. The new Sandringham Netball Centre also decreases access to Merindah Park as Sandringham Secondary College chose to block access from Bay Road. Please consider the difficulty dog owners in Highett face with literally no place to take our beloved animals.

I think it's grossly unfair that only 1% of the budget has been attributed to Highett when we have approx 7% of the population of Bayside.

The infrastructure in Bay and Highett Roads will need attention if anyone from Sandringham, Black Rock, Hampton and Beaumaris wish to visit Southland Shopping Centre in the coming years. The roads will be crammed with traffic from the impending CSIRO development and the population growth afforded by the government wanting to increase density around SRL. Not to mention the closing of Latrobe St crossing. There's only so many roads that lead out of Bayside....

I think your forgetting that the majority of council funding will not be coming Highett way. We have huge buildings being built residential housing everywhere far too many cars on our roads. Criminals are going haywire in Highett breaking and entering houses and apartments also units. You take our money and give hardly anything I return. Don't rely

on us to vote you back in next election seeming we aren't important enough for you. It's not rocket science.

Absolutely disgraceful that so little of this budget is allocated to Highett, given the massive increase in population that the suburb is experiencing due the huge number of apartments being approved.

You need to make serious investments into infrastructure and public facilities in Highett to cater to this new growth.

So with all the new development and influx of thousands of new residents where is the attention to infrastructure to support this. You are allowing current residents to be crowded in instead of sharing the load across Bayside. You treat Highett and Cheltenham as third class citizens. Only 1% of the budget allocated to us yet our rates rise like everyone else's and BCC will gain thousands more ratepayers here but we get nothing but disdain in return. Stop favouring the beach suburbs and look after all of us.

Please consider increasing the share of the Budget allocated to supporting the development of the Highett road network and community services to adequately cater for the massive increase in population expected over the coming years due to the Sunkin private development on the former CSIRO site.

The roads are congested along Wickham & Highet Roads. If we are building new apartments (Highet Commons) we will see a huge increase in traffic. Please spend more money to ease this congestion. I sit at the lights/train tracks for ages!!!!

It is a nightmare. Plus since the removal of the housing commission housing on the corner off Bluff and Wickham Rd, I have seen an increase in drug affected people wandering the streets. Where have these people moved to? Have they been offered housing or left to fend for themselves. I think that there should be something done about the amount of homeless and drug affected people.

Rates are going up and yet very little budget is allocated to Highett. How is this possible?

Highett needs to be a priority in the annual budget for 2024-25 as it is often neglected with other suburbs given priority. With only 1% allocated in the budget to Highett it doesn't address the many areas of need within the community. Please provide improvements to the following areas in Highett - Pedestrian crossing on Worthing Road (Highett Community Centre)

- New pocket-parks and open space for all to enjoy.
- Full traffic study to identify improvements to road and pedestrian safety across Highett (not done since 2015)
- Graham Rd/Bay Rd intersection upgrade (3 lane)
- Updated streetscape in Highett Rd (to improve trade)
- Better seating at Highett Rd Bus stop (Highett Station) inc. bins.
- Toilet and additional sporting facilities for Highland Reserve
- Extension of 40 zone past Worthing Road to improve community safety.
- Pedestrian crossing at Bay Rd (Aldi)
- Pedestrian crossing at Highett Rd (before Worthing Rd)
- School Hour Traffic Attendant at Worthing Rd/Wickham Rd (to improve safety for foot traffic to Moorabbin Primary School).

More facilities for Highett. Improve roads, do a traffic study to see the problem areas, more seating and rubbish bins in the area.

Not enough has been spent on HIGHETT. This suburb has boomed and continues to grow. We won't support any council that won't set better funding to HIGHETT.

Highett is in need of some major upgrades. Although, there are plans to upgrade the Highett grassy woodlands, it is disappointing to see that not much else of the budget seems to be going towards Highett. The following upgrades are needed for Highett:

- a seat and a rubbish bin at the station bus stop

- development of our roads and infrastructure
- safety around our crossings
- a clean up/fresh paint of the shop fronts
- a major improvement to the road along View Lane

It is a real shame to see our rates are going to increase with little plans to improve the liveability and basic needs of Highett.

Highett needs major improvement. Lyle Anderson Reserve toilets are unsafe and in desperate need of an upgrade. This should be a priority considering the new buildings on Graham Road and the population will be needing to use green space. The cyclone fencing around Highland Avenue playground is grotesque and the park needs public amenities as there are no public toilets in the vicinity. People have seen workers, children urinating behind the bushes due to the lack of amenities, where else are people supposed to go. Children from the local high school also pass here on the way home and the park is used by parents with young children and could be used for birthday parties but the lack of toilets reduces the potential for use. The small park on Spring rd Highett is outdated and needs more trees and plants, a landscaping makeover to improve it and new play equipment for children as the seesaws are outdated and unsafe as they are over 40 years old and unsafe to use. Disappointed to see wealthier suburbs such as Brighton allocated more funding and Highett who needs it more left behind.

Only 1% of the budget is allocated to Highett yet the population is set to double. What more can you do to keep Highett protected from major high rises and keep roads clear from traffic and protect more greenery with so much development.

Would love to see more focus and more investments in Highett. Don't forget how quickly and rapidly the suburb is growing.

The minimal investment in Highett is concerning. Despite its growing significance in the bayside demographic, our community spaces and parks suffer from bare minimum maintenance and urgently require upgrades.

It's absolutely disgraceful how little effort and funds are spent on Highett. As rate payers in such a growth suburb the council has given all Highett residents a giant slap in the face. This must change. Many Highett locals are young families and the future generations of bayside and we deserve more respect, planning and infrastructure to ensure the continued growth and appeal of our neighbourhoods.

Saddened to see so little investment in Highett despite this suburb being the fastest growing community in Bayside with the population set to massively grow in coming years. I'd love to see funds more evenly split between between the suburbs. Highett is in need of more recognition and acknowledgement.

Additionally, I'd like to see more of the budget consider building community resilience through mental health programs such as those aimed at reducing isolation within the bayside community, groups/programs to enhance social and emotional wellbeing in young children and adolescents and groups/programs for people and children fleeing family violence at the hands of bayside residents.

Please make further investment into the Highett suburb as this has been growing very quickly and the services do not match the growth rate.

I would like to see more of the budget focused on Highett. As a particularly high growth suburb within the council area, we need to ensure we have better services to meet the scale of all the new developments coming. I don't see this reflected in the current budget plans.

What about Highett? Sure, the Highett Grassy Woodlands development is great. Highett has a massive increase in housing planned, though, especially apartments, yet Highett is having no investment in roads, traffic congestion minimisation, parks, no more resources given to graffiti removal or waste management, MCH centres, kinder, drainage. It's all going to other areas of Bayside. What about Highett?

We need to I remove the Highett railway crossing on Highett road and the Wickham road crossing, it's an absolute nightmare, and with the massive development on graham road introducing 1000 new apartments, it will be impossible to get through Highett

Not enough being spent in Highett to address liveability. Highett is a suburb that's about to grow in population very quickly by 2025.

Highett seems to not have a big allocation % and seems to be under-represented. There is plenty of opportunity to upgrade and improve Highett as a suburb of bayside:

New trees and replace existing trees. As an example the trees on Train St are horrible and need to be replaced.

Footpaths and road upgrade. Highett road needs resealing as since gas works is horrible.

Upgrade parks and equipment. The park on spring road is from the 70's.

Clean up area, garden beds around Highett station. Clean and fix footpaths on Highett road

More Xmas decorations.

There is so much more investment for Highett to improve the area. I understand it's not church st or bay road. But a little more support. I hope these considerations are taken in to account.

Where is Highett in this budget? With all the newly approved developments, SRL and removal of Highett train station we need an urgent traffic study at the very least. Traffic in the area is becoming a real challenge already. More street lighting is also needed for safety reasons, there is so much theft, break ins in the area at the moment in addition to many individuals with mental health / drug issues roaming the streets, as a female I don't feel safe at night. Bins seem to be overflowing frequently and I'm concerned about all the massage places that have suddenly popped-up.

Please consider Highett in your budget. The traffic is gridlock most of the time, particularly on Highett Road. The removal of the level crossing at Wickham Road and Highett Road needs to be a priority, given the development happening around the area such as the Highett Commons.

Questioning how you plan to focus on Highett and the developments and infrastructure needs to Highett that are growing. Even revamping and revitalizing Bluff Road shopping strip. These should have as much focus as surrounding suburb needs.

It is a disgrace that Highett is only going to receive 1% of next year's budget. Our rates are as high (and increasing) the same as everyone else! We need traffic improvement, parks improvement, and general amenities. The main street of Highett needs a makeover to encourage more people to go there and improve the shopping.

You have RUINED Highett... it is a mess!!! Try living in Graham Rd at the moment...

You should be ashamed of how little you are doing for what was a charming place to live... we are fortunate enough to be about to move...SHAME on your lack of care for Highett!!!!

Why is Highett getting a poor share of the funds. The council has used Highett for new housing to protect Brighton but fails to provide sufficient funds to support us.

Once again, Highett has been completely ignored when it comes to allocating any aspect of budget funds.

The completely outdated and frankly dangerous amenities at Peterson reserve has again been overlooked. It is used every day for school sport, and every weekend for team sport. There are no facilities for female athletes and the minimal facilities that exist for male athletes are decrepit and frankly unsafe for junior athletes.

Despite asking for years for additional crossovers to be installed at Peterson reserve at the corner of frederico/peterson and near the playground, so that there is access for prams and wheelchairs, there are once again, still no funds allocated for making it more accessible. Despite rebuilding the toilet in 2023/2024 it is still not wheelchair friendly. There is no wheelchair access to the club rooms.

Highett is set to be most densely populated suburb in all of bayside with the upcoming approved development, with residents therefore contributing to a significant majority of rates, yet they are allocated a measly 1% of the budget.

Bayside council represents MORE than just Brighton, Hampton and Sandringham. It would do the councillors to remember their commitment to improving ALL of bayside, and NOT just the suburb they reside in themselves.

Highett needs an up to date traffic study which has not been completed for a decade. Traffic is out of control. A focus on crime reduction is essential. At times we feel unsafe walking our streets. Considerations for parking permits need to apply where commercial businesses are an issue.

That about 1% of the budget is spent on Highett. We have roads that need new bitumen as they are terrible to drive down. The whole area would benefit from a traffic survey. Plus, we need better security in the area due to the poor behaviour of residents that have been placed in public housing in the area.

How about some allocation for Highett. One project!

Highett could do with

- Pedestrian crossing on Worthing Road (Highett Community Centre)
- New pocket-parks and open space
- Full traffic study to identify improvements to road and pedestrian safety across Highett (not done since 2015)
- Graham Rd/Bay Rd intersection upgrade (3 lane)
- Updated streetscape in Highett Rd (to improve trade)
- Better seating at Highett Rd Bus stop (Highett Station) inc. bins.
- Toilet and additional sporting facilities for Highland Reserve
- Extension of 40 zone past Worthing Road to improve community safety.
- Pedestrian crossing at Bay Rd (Aldi)
- Pedestrian crossing at Highett Rd (before Worthing Rd)
- School Hour Traffic Attendant at Worthing Rd/Wickham Rd (to improve safety)

Let's hope we can elect a representative who live sun our ward to make some changes

I am very disappointed with Highett receiving only 1% of the budget given the large amount of growth expected in the next financial year and beyond. Our road and pedestrian safety is at a crisis point and will only be exasperated by further trucks and cars in the first stage of the Highett Commons (former CSIRO site). Highett will be generating a large amount of revenue for the council yet almost no spend on improving amenity, liveability and safety for the Highett community. By the end of 2025 we will have some 2,000 new residents to accommodate and no provisions have been made in this budget to improve Highett's activity centre, sporting facilities or provide more open space. This simply isn't good enough!

Highett urgently needs a traffic safety analysis and a large proportion of road upgrades needs to be allocated to pedestrian crossings on Highett Road and Worthing Road to provide safe access to the Highett Community Centre/Kindergarten and a safe walking path to Moorabbin primary school.

Highett has the least green space in Bayside and although budget spend on The Highett Grassy woodlands is needed it will not help Highett's need for open space and better community amenity.

I am completely unsatisfied with the disproportionate budget spend on improvements to Brighton each year when Highett is lacking so much in streetscape and activity centre improvements, those that would help enhance local businesses.

The Highett community has been asking for sufficient seating on Highett Road where the bus stop outside of Highett station has NO seating or rubbish bin and the bus stop outside Woolworths on Highett Rd has only one seat and the community are sitting on the curb daily. These are basic needs which continually get rejected by council and Highett's rates

are spent on improving other suburbs. While Brighton gets electronic bins and hot water pools, families in Highett cannot safely cross the road to our schools and kindergarten and are resorted to sitting on the curb in our High street.

Budget allocation should be attributed to the optimal solution for the Graham Rd/ Bay Rd intersection and not the intersection configuration indicated to be paid by Sunkin. Graham Road needs two lane exit in order to facilitate the large number of new cars from The Highett Commons. Budget allocation must be made by council to perform an independent evaluation and solution to make this intersection suitable, including petition to government for funding.

Highett road needs traffic slowing measures by way of extending the 40 zone to start before Worthing Road as well as a pedestrian crossing which allows families to cross Highett Rd and walk safely down Worthing Road.

A pedestrian crossing is urgently needed on Worthing Road outside The Highett Community Centre. It is appalling that Highett's family and community hub has NO safe pedestrian access. This is needed in 2024/25 budget as a matter of urgency! Signage to indicate children zone is also required the length of Worthing Road.

Council also need to investigate measures to provide safe pedestrian crossings on Worthing/Wickham Rd until such time as the rail is removed. This is a very dangerous crossing for pedestrians during school hours.

Council also need to perform a traffic study on the Neighbourhood residential zone affected by the newly created exit road on Middleton Street from The Highett Commons. It is noted that a significant amount of 2024/25 budget is attributed to the management of Netball parking however the Highett Commons will generate 4,000+ daily car movements, far more than the Sandringham Netball centre yet no traffic study or safety measures have been allocated to the protection of Highett Neighbourhood Residential Zone affected by the new Middleton Street exit Road. Council needs to add this traffic study and application to this 2024/25 budget also.

Disappointing to see funds being allocated to certain projects when there are Council assets/facilities that remain de-prioritised causing 'real' community impacts and lack of usability. The Peterson Reserve precinct is specifically the focus of this comment on the back of a recent meeting with the Mayor and a walk through of the appalling facilities that no family is comfortable for their child to use. The impact to the local sporting clubs that use these grounds is real in dropping participation rates and in the middle of winter, kids being forced to get changed outside. What an embarrassment for when visiting teams come to 'beautiful' bayside only to be presented with these facilities.

Although the Bayside half of Highett is having thousands of new apartments imposed on this once peaceful suburb, there seems to be no forward planning in the budget for this suburb. Supposedly we should be grateful for the grassy woodlands allocation, which has always been there and will now be shared with thousands of residents from the Sunkin towers. Where is the forward planning for traffic controls, playgrounds and open space for all of these people? With the income from rates that will be received from these developments, Highett deserves a fairer allocation of Bayside funds to develop the infrastructure needed now.

Once again HIGHETT has been left out in Bayside Councils latest budget. This does not seem fair when council approved high density living without addressing traffic movement into the Local Neighbourhood Area and open spaces.

Written statements referencing investment in Highett

7.1.1 Written statement 1: Highett Progress Association



Bayside City Council
76 Royal Avenue,
Sandringham VIC 3191

14 May 2024

Dear Councillors,

Response to the Bayside City Council – Proposed Annual Budget for 2024-2025

We thank you for the opportunity to provide written feedback in response to Council's proposed budget.

The Highett Progress Association (HPA) notes and welcomes Council's commitment to funding the restoration of the Highett Grassy Woodlands area.

The HPA notes however that aside from The Highett Grassy Woodlands, there is minimal projected spending allocated for Highett. The HPA seeks the allocation of funds for specific items falling under the categories of Our Planet, Our People and Our Place for the benefit of the Highett community, as outlined below.

Highett is currently undergoing an unprecedented level of change and growth. The major development approved by Council on the former CSIRO site exemplifies the significant growth anticipated in Highett in the near future. Whilst the full impact of the completion of the fully developed CSIRO site is yet to be felt, residents are already experiencing extreme traffic congestion and associated safety issues which need to be addressed now.

A traffic report commissioned by Council and completed by O'Brien's in 2015 was the last conclusive publicly available study on traffic levels and behaviours within the Highett (Bayside) Activity Centre. That study outlined that Graham Road and Middleton Street were even then operating near saturation (at least 95% capacity) – with traffic having heavily increased since then – and will far exceed theoretical capacity by first occupancy at The Highett Commons in 2025. To the knowledge of the HPA, there has been no independent study since that date – only traffic surveys commissioned by the developer of the CSIRO site, which did not include pedestrian safety concerns nor the dangerous impact on surrounding streets. Given the Council has not independently assessed Highett's road and pedestrian safety for almost a decade, it is critical this be addressed in the 2024/25 budget.

Highett residents including members of the HPA have expressed their lived experience of near misses and/or accidents on a weekly basis at dangerous intersections such as Graham/Bay Roads and Worthing/Highett Roads. And observed risky crossings by families navigating their way to the Highett Community Centre, Child Maternal Health Centre,

Community Kindergarten and Moorabbin Primary School. These family facilities currently have NO pedestrian crossing.

Specific Requests for Funding in Highett

The HPA seeks specific allocation in the Bayside City Council budget for the 2024/2025 year for the following items:

1. An independent traffic study into the Highett area concerning current congestion AND future known traffic levels, and how pedestrian and driver safety may be optimised, with particular attention to each of the following intersections:
 - (a) Graham Road/Bay Road (see "Urgently Needed Traffic Study" below)
 - (b) Worthing Road/Highett Road (see **enclosed** photograph)
 - (c) Middleton Street/Bay Road
 - (d) Middleton Street/Highett Road
 - (e) Wickham Road/Worthing Road
 - (f) Cloyne St/Bay Rd
 - (g) Beaumaris Pde/Bay Rd
 - (h) Jackson Rd/Bay Rd

Urgently Needed Traffic Study

An urgent analysis of the optimal outcome for the Bay Rd/Graham Rd intersection needs to be prioritised in this coming budget. The current proposal will not service the current - let alone future – population but will likely further increase congestion and exacerbate erratic driving behaviours. As the intersection upgrade is planned for mid to late 2025, it is essential that the necessary study is completed in 2024. The HPA has discussed this with Bayside Planners and the CEO of Bayside, who share our concern that the current proposal for a two-lane intersection (being a single lane in each direction) will not meet the needs of the expected population using Graham Rd and that supplementary investment will hence be required in future years to widen the intersection and increase traffic flow in each traffic sequence. We urge the necessary investigation be completed this year, so Council is then fully aware of the issues and can request funding for an appropriate solution, including land acquisition to upgrade the intersection to three lanes on Graham Rd.

2. Installation of a pedestrian crossing and school signage on Worthing Road to facilitate safe crossing for thousands of families accessing the Highett Community Centre, Highett Youth Centre, Child Maternal Health Nurses and Livingston Community Kindergarten. Worthing Road will be one of the main roads heavily affected by the congestion and diverted traffic caused by Stage 1 construction at The Highett Commons as well as future upgrades to Highett Station and projected future population and is already experiencing dangerous levels of traffic with NO safe crossing for families. As the main pedestrian passageway for Livingston Kindergarten and Moorabbin Primary, this pedestrian crossing simply cannot be delayed another year without serious and life-threatening consequences to our most vulnerable. With a speed bump already located at the site (at No.9 Worthing Road) this would be a minor upgrade for council with significant benefits to safety of the entire Highett community.

3. Extension of the existing 40 kph speed limit along Highett Rd in the direction of Albert Street, and **investigation** into an additional pedestrian crossing on **Highett road (near Worthing Road)**, to **slow traffic and** facilitate families safely crossing Highett Road to the Worthing Road family corridor. The intersection of Highett Road and Worthing Road is very busy at peak times, with frequent pedestrian crossings and cars turning in and out of the intersection, creating multiple near misses on an almost daily basis. As the main passage for families accessing the community facilities, traffic must be slowed on Highett Rd BEFORE Worthing Road preferably **with the use of electronic signage**.
4. Investment into safe school-hour crossing assistance on Wickham Road/Worthing Road, to facilitate families walking to and from Moorabbin Primary School - being the local state primary school for the majority of Highett. This is an extremely dangerous site for crossing and needs Council intervention until signalisation is installed as part of the XRL level crossing removal (proposed 2029). The community again cannot wait until 2029 and beyond for safety to be addressed at such a dangerous, school-zone intersection.
5. Installation of two (2) additional bench seats at the bus stop outside the Woolworths Supermarket/Apartment Complex on Highett Road. There is presently a single seat, inadequate for a major bus stop opposite a train station and the number of passengers typically waiting at peak times, who are then forced to sit on a concrete plinth or stand if the existing bench seat is fully occupied. This also creates congestion on the footpath, and difficulty for passing pedestrians.
6. Installation of a larger rubbish bin, and the addition of a recycling bin at the bus stop outside the Woolworths Apartment Complex on Highett Road. The existing small bin regularly overflows, and there is no other nearby receptacle, so recyclable items are strewn about the footpath, creating a safety hazard for pedestrians – as per the **enclosed** photograph.
7. Installation of a bench seat at the bus stop nearest to Highett Station (out the front of the shop “Hudlow” and the restaurant “Abbiocco”). There is presently no seat at all for passengers awaiting the bus, which is manifestly inadequate – as can be seen from the **enclosed** picture, showing the current situation of waiting passengers having to resort to sitting on the steps due to a lack of proper seating.

Consistency with Goals & Objectives

The HPA submits that the above requests while modest are important – the totality of the requested items would require minimal expenditure when compared with funds allocated in the proposed budget for other Bayside areas, yet they would maximise the safety and amenity of the Highett community.

The requests meet Council’s articulated goals as follows:

Our Planet – promoting the use of sustainable transport and recycling.

Our Place – traffic & transport; assets & investigations; infrastructure - parks, open spaces & streetscapes

Our People – safety; school crossings & amenities.

Whilst many projects are on the horizon that will massively increase density and potentially adversely affect Highett’s future liveability, the HPA submits that it is already urgent today to consider the current traffic and safety circumstances. Major construction projects such as the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) and the SRL station will exacerbate existing problems due to traffic being diverted into alternative routes running parallel to the train lines for extended periods.

The HPA asks that Council allocates funding to each of the above items. HPA Committee members would welcome the opportunity to host Councillors on a walking tour of areas relevant to these requests, commencing from local institution the Flour House in Graham Road, through to our community centre on Worthing Rd.

Yours faithfully,



Angela Burr

BSc, LLB & Acc. Spec. (Fam.)

For and on behalf of the Highbett Progress Association Inc.

Email: highbettprogress@yahoo.com

Relevant Photographs

1. Bus stop at 284-286 Highbett Road, outside the Woolworths Shopping Centre/Apartment Complex – with insufficient seating, and inadequate provision of recycling and rubbish bins.



2. Bus stop at 499 Highbett Road, on the north side adjacent to city-bound platform of Highbett Train Station – no proper seating for waiting passengers.



3. Photograph of the corner of Worthing Road & Highett Road showing typical traffic congestion at peak times. Families typically cross Highett Road in the vicinity of or at this intersection immediately before and after school pick up in heavy traffic.



7.1.2 Written statement 2: Highett resident (Kerryn), Highett

Response to Bayside City Council – Annual Budget 2024/2025

The Bayside City Council's Annual Budget 2024/2025 fails to address the significant policy and legislative changes regarding zoning for housing densification in the Highett and Pennydale areas of Bayside.

The following areas require significant investment from the Bayside City Council ('BCC) to ensure the residents of Highett and Pennydale have the infrastructure and amenities for the forecast population growth over the short and medium term.

Graham Road and Bay Road Intersection – Installation of traffic lights

It is critical this intersection is 3 lanes, allowing a dedicated right turning lane from Graham to Bay Road. BCC needs to work closely with all stakeholders, State Government, Sunkin (Developer of the former CSIRO site) and local residents to ensure an appropriate intersection is designed and installed to adequately meet the needs of the local community, both present and future.

Proposed Funding Areas

1. Allocate funds for a traffic management plan for Highett and the Pennydale Area
2. Allocate funds sufficient to ensure an appropriate 3 lane signalled intersection is installed at the Graham Road/Bay Road Intersection
3. Increase advocacy with all stakeholders, Developer and State Government to ensure an appropriate joint funding model for this intersection.

Additional Facilities for the Highett & Pennydale Area

Planning for proposed Highett library and the community hub, should be commencing in the next financial year. In addition, planning should also be undertaken to understand the requirements for kindergarten places and Maternal Health requirements for an area which will see significant population growth in the short to medium term.

- Proposed Funding Areas
 1. Allocate funding to an Amenities & Facilities Infrastructure review for the Highett and Pennydale Area to better understand the services/infrastructure required and the timeline and cost for delivery of these services.

As a Bayside City Council resident, I would like to see more advocacy from BCC on behalf of residents with the State Government. While BCC may be limited with regards to State Government policy direction, there needs to be genuine engagement with regards to working towards positive outcomes for residents and minimising and or mitigating poor outcomes.

Kind regards

Kerryn – Highett resident.

7.1.3 Written statement 3: Increase budget expenditure for Highett (anonymous)

The current budget proposal is severely skewed towards providing services and improvements to Brighton, at the detriment of Bayside residents in all other suburbs. My primary request through this submission is to increase the budget expenditure in Highett to similar levels for other suburbs (from \$380k to \$3m). The oversized expenditure in Brighton (over \$15m) should be reduced to account for this. I include two specific recommendations below for consideration by Council.

Executive Summary

If you look at expenses reported in the budget's executive summary, under "our planet", \$380k going to the Highett Woodlands and \$5.8m is going towards the Yalukit Reserve in Brighton (on top of \$2.9m for Brighton in the previous budget under this heading).

Under "our place", Brighton receives \$9.1m (Billilla Mansion, Head St Drainage, Brighton Town Hall, Dendy Park Pavilion), Beaumaris receives \$3.4m (Arts Studio), Hampton \$2.8m (Boss James Pavilion), Cheltenham \$2.4m (Wangara Rd), Black Rock \$1.4m (drainage) – on top of the previous budget where Brighton received \$2.7m (Dendy St Pavilion, Warm Water Pool, Billilla), Sandringham \$1m (Tulip St Basketball Courts), and Cheltenham \$168k (Wangara Rd Park). The reality is far higher (see below), however \$0 is going to improvements in Highett.

Overall, every suburb in Bayside except Highett has been allocated between \$3m to over \$15m to capital works – Highett has only the \$380k for the Highett Grassy Woodlands in this budget.

Details

It is incredibly difficult to look at capital works expenditure as only a small number of items are listed by suburb, many are just the street name or other short form title.

Recommendation for council 1 – Annual budgets should list how much funding is allocated to each suburb for capital works, for transparency to constituents and councillors. Start with this budget (2024-2025)!

Nevertheless, I soldiered on and started to research the capital works allocated to each suburb. Please take a look at the distribution of your capital works in this budget by suburb:

- **Beaumaris >\$4m** (Banksia Reserve, Beaumaris Reserve, Beaumaris Arts Centre, Beaumaris Children's Centre), 17% population
- **Black Rock >\$3m** (Tricks Reserve, Red Bluff Ramp, Half Moon Bay renewal, Black Rock Ramp, Draining Third Street), 8% population
- **Brighton >\$15m** (Yalukit Wetlands, Yalukit Gateway, Dendy Beach, Warm Water Pool, Billilla House, Billillia Toilets, Brighton Town Hall, Draining Head St, Upgrading Kinane St, Elsternwick Oval, Elsternwick Park, Dendy Park Athletic Pavilion, Brighton Beach Oval Paviion, Middle Brighton Baths, Brighton Kinder Service, Church St Laneway, Davie Lane Laneway, Durrant St Footpath Connectivity, Bay Trail, Active Transport Improvement), 28% population
- **Cheltenham >\$3m** (Wangara Road Park, Public Art Installation, Jack Barker Pavilion, Correa Ave Laneway), 4% population
- **Hampton >\$4m** (Hampton Foreshore, Boss James Reserve Pavilion, Thomas St Carpark, Thomas St Toilets), 17% population
- **Highett \$380k** (Highett Grassy Woodlands), 10% population – rising to 14% with The Highett Common implementation
- **Sandringham >\$3m** (Sandy Beach Gardens, Wangara Rd Park, Wangara Rd Carpark, Netball Centre, Bike Paths), 13% population

To put Highett's paltry allocation of \$380k in context, you have \$340k in the budget just to replace your council monitors and AV equipment this year. And this is not an anomaly – last year's budget allocation to Highett was a measly \$69k!

Recommendation for council 2 – Highett has the least green space and public amenity in the whole of Bayside. In addition, Stage 1 of the largest housing project in Bayside history has commenced this year at The Highett Commons, which will severely impact road/pedestrian safety, amenity and liveability in Highett. Consequently, Council needs to reject this draft budget and increase the percentage of capital works expenditure to include the needs of Highett residents. Examples of what we need in Highett include:

- A full traffic study to identify improvements to road and pedestrian safety across Highett (not done since 2015), particularly focussing on the impacts on Middleton St, Graham Rd and surrounds from The Highett Commons.
- New pocket-parks and open space
- Pedestrian crossing on Worthing Road (Highett Community Centre)
- Graham Rd/Bay Rd intersection upgrade (3 lane)
- Updated streetscape in Highett Rd (to improve trade)
- Better seating at Highett Rd Bus stop (Highett Station)
- Bins at Highett Rd Bus stop (Highett Station).
- Toilet and additional sporting facilities for Highland Reserve
- Extension of 40 zone past Worthing Road to improve community safety.
- Pedestrian crossing at Bay Rd (near Aldi)
- Pedestrian crossing at Highett Rd (before Worthing Rd)
- School Hour Traffic Attendant at Worthing Rd/Wickham Rd (to improve safety for foot traffic to Moorabbin Primary School).

7.2 General verbatim feedback on the draft budget

Some submissions have been split across categories. All feedback has been included within the appendix tables.

Topic	Community feedback
Budget allocation (5 mentions)	<p>I feel as usual my corner of Bayside is ignored. Living in Cheltenham - I feel ignored by council.</p> <p>It doesn't look like Beaumaris has had much included in this budget other than the Arts building that has already commenced. The concourse pavilion update has not been included, even though it was meant to be endorsed last November.</p> <p>There is nothing in the budget for Black Rock. All funding seems to go towards Brighton! Don't forget other areas.</p> <p>Very disappointed about the lack of support for Cheltenham bayside which gets left behind like the poor cousin... I implore the council to make decisions to improve bayside fairly and not favour Brighton and the wealthier suburbs constantly.</p> <p>The focus seems to be alright at a time when people are finding it financially difficult, I believe a focus on finance that is a reduction on spending and reduce the budget on building by 50% that is from \$30m to \$15m</p>

Infrastructure upgrades (5 mentions)	<p>I would encourage council to consider local sporting facilities for teenagers. For example, without much cost outlay, the old cummins road denny park playground equipment could be replaced by a basketball court/half court and provide much needed local option to keep teenagers happy, healthy, off technology and supporting health and wellbeing.</p> <p>I'd really like to see money spent on getting the proposed hydrotherapy pool built now. I'm with My Aged Care but have been told the waiting list at Caulfield hospital is TOO long and so was transferred months ago to Moorabbin. I'm now 60 th on the waiting list of 120</p> <p>Playgrounds such as Pennydale park (Cheltenham) next door to our local kindergarten has not been updated in decades bar some shade sails and has parts which are completely dangerous. Yet playgrounds in Brighton (middle crescent) have been prioritised which would in no way have the same amount of usage. There is also a desperate need to put a gate on the opposite end of pennydale park (Paul street) to keep children from running onto the road.</p> <p>Would love to see investment in new skatepark as the old ones are outdated.</p> <p>What about the Sandringham Life Saving Club and surrounding beach/foreshore? It's probably one of the oldest club houses and is heavily used by a range of different community groups from volunteer patrollers and members to silver salties and the general public. It's in desperate need of an upgrade - inside and out. Plus there is one public toilet which is not even close to being sufficient during the busy months!</p>
Maintenance (3 mentions)	<p>Paving at Black Rock shops is horrible and safety issue. Area looks very tired.</p> <p>Delighted that the ""upgrade of laneway surface in Davie Lane, Brighton"" is a line item (on Page 66) of the Bayside City Council Budget 2024/'25. Some of our neighbours have been waiting for this project for more than 10 years. All owners/tenants with properties on or adjoining Davie Lane were signatories to a Petition submitted to Council in March 2022. Our hope is that this project can be completed in the 1st Half of 2024/'25, eliminating dust produced whenever a vehicle drives on Davie Lane and also flooding after a torrential downpour.</p> <p>I have noticed that there are lots of old and uneven footpaths around Beaumaris. I have seen (and been) people tripping over on the uneven pavement. If an elderly person tripped over, it could cost their life. It would be great to invest in the footpaths, especially around parks and playgrounds.</p>
More focus on core services (2 mentions)	<p>The council plan has become too focused on woke issues and has lost sight of providing services to local rate payers and residents. The council strategy and goals need an overhaul to get back to basics like roads,</p>

rates, rubbish, recreation and reading. Consultation groups should be chosen randomly rather than by third party consultants with social bias.

I believe 'lofty goals' can have their place but only after the primary responsibilities of council have been met. The community at large is feeling the effect of sustained high inflation, so it is important that council show how they are allocating ratepayer money responsibly. Terms like 'Climate Emergency' are alarmist and currently unproven, so don't use them. It is imperative that Bayside City Council remember their primary role - maintenance of local roads, footpaths, and drainage systems, waste management and recycling services, parks, recreational facilities, and public spaces, libraries and community centers, animal control and local environmental initiatives.

Road / cycling safety (1 mention)	"I am disappointed to see that the budget neglects to address 'density and inclusiveness,' such as the lack of provisions for safe bicycle tracks like those established by neighbouring councils. Issues regarding traffic speed, street parking, and parking on secondary roads and complex intersections like Bluff Road and Tulip Street have not been addressed. Despite our previous survey on safe cycling starting at Sandringham station, the results of which have been disregarded. Moreover, safety concerns for children cycling to and from school remain unattended. Specifically, the intersections of Balcombe Road and Reserve Road, as well as the safety along Balcombe Road and streets connecting to Black Rock Primary which require immediate attention."
Other	Wanted to complete the survey but it wouldn't open. Consultation? [submitted via the survey]

7.3 Have Your Say online survey

Participants were provided with an option to complete a survey or upload a written statement. Items with an asterisk were required.

Your feedback

Please provide your feedback on the Annual Budget 2024-25*

- I understand that written feedback submitted is not confidential and may be published in a Community Engagement Report and/or in relevant meeting agendas on Council's website.*

[Open comment box]

About you

This section contains optional questions to help us understand the sections of our community that have provided feedback. The information you provide is confidential and non-identifiable.

Connection to Bayside

- Do you identify as any of the following? Please select all that apply.
- Bayside homeowner/ratepayer
- Bayside tenant
- Own/operate a business in Bayside
- Visitor to Bayside but live outside the area
- Member of a community group or organisation (name of your group)

- Person with a lived experience of disability or their carer
- Other (please specify):
- Prefer not to say

Age Group [drop-down list]

Gender [drop-down list]

Suburb [drop-down list]

How did you hear about this project?

- Signage
- Bayside City Council website
- This Week in Bayside e-newsletter
- Social media
- Email from Council
- Drop-in engagement session
- Other

Did you have the information you needed to provide your feedback on the budget?

- Information was very easy to find/understand
- Information was mostly easy to find/understand
- Information was mostly hard to find/understand
- Information was very hard to find/understand
- I'm not sure

7.4 Community engagement plan overview on Have Your Say

Project objective

The Annual Budget 2024-25 outlines the services and initiatives to be funded for the next financial year.

Following Council's in-principle approval of the proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 on 23 April 2024, community members and project stakeholders are encouraged to provide their feedback on the proposed Budget between 24 April and 14 May 2024 for the consideration of Council.

Community consultation on the Annual Budget is conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy 2021.

Project impacts

Council's proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 is informed by the Bayside 2050 Community Vision, the Council Plan 2021 – 2025 and Financial Plan 2021-31. The Budget funds services and initiatives Council has committed to deliver.

The proposed \$181 million budget commits Council to action in four key areas over the next 12 months:

- **Our Planet** – leading better, smarter and sustainable futures
- **Our People** – nurturing all people and thriving healthy communities
- **Our Place** – fostering Bayside's liveability, open spaces and exceptional places
- **Our Promise** – promising open and accountable civic leadership.

The ambitious agenda delivered by this budget will be funded by a rate increase of 2.75%, which is in accordance with the Victorian Government's rate cap. This rate increase is essential for the continuation of our community services and capital investment.

The waste service charge incorporating kerbside collection and recycling is not subject to the rate cap legislation and will increase by 0.1%.

\$55.7 million is earmarked to deliver important community infrastructure via the capital works program. This continues Council's multi-year program to address historic under-investment and is enabled by continuing strong financial management.

Highlights

- Investment in our Aged Care Services so we can expand to the delivery of Home Care Packages to meet the increasing needs of our ageing community.
- Taking action on Climate Change by further implementing the Climate Emergency Action Plan and the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Continuing the transformation of Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve into a natural urban oasis to benefit thousands of Baysiders and visitors for years to come.
- Upgrades to footpaths, roads and drainage, foreshore and parks, and sports pavilions to support accessibility, recreation, and liveability in Bayside.

What key initiatives are included in this year's budget?

The Annual Budget 2024/25 includes the following key initiatives:

- Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Highett Grassy Woodland Masterplan
- Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve: Wetlands
- Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan
- Expansion of Aged Care Services
- Completion of the Beaumaris Arts Studio
- Wangara Road Masterplan
- Billilla Mansion and precinct restoration
- Third Street Black Rock drainage upgrade
- Boss James Pavilion upgrade

Deferred Projects

The table below lists key changes to the 4 year capital program.

Note: The table does not list every project in the 4 year capital program, it includes only:

- cancelled projects
- projects deferred beyond 4 years
- projects where the budget has been reduced.

	Summary of Budget Reductions					Total	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	Total 7 Years
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28						
Cancelled:										
Masonic Hall Upgrade	(540,000)				(540,000)					(540,000)
Cheltenham Scout Hall & Station Building Design & Construction		(500,000)	(2,000,000)		(2,500,000)					(2,500,000)
Brighton Town Hall Clocktower Renewal Works (2022/23)	(401,997)				(401,997)					(401,997)
Dendy Street Beach Long Term Erosion Solution Implementation		235,000	(2,735,000)		(2,500,000)					(2,500,000)
Contemplative Garden at Higinbotham Hall		(50,000)	(150,000)		(200,000)					(200,000)
Highbett Village Streetscape (Train Street to Highbett Station) - Stage 2			(150,000)		(150,000)					(150,000)
Sandringham Village		(250,000)	(250,000)	(2,410,000)	(2,910,000)					(2,910,000)
Black Rock Activity Centre		(250,000)	(250,000)	(750,000)	(1,250,000)					(1,250,000)
Annual Footpath Renewal Program	160,000	160,000	160,000	160,000	640,000					640,000
Deferred:										
Rehabilitation of southern carpark at Tjilatjirin Reserve (2022/23)	(90,563)	(283,619)	(225,818)		(600,000)	90,563	283,619	225,818		-
Tulip Street Baseball Pavilion Redevelopment			(400,000)	(3,100,000)	(3,500,000)	400,000	3,100,000			-
Sandringham Athletics Centre - Pavilion Redevelopment			(500,000)	(4,700,000)	(5,200,000)	500,000	4,700,000			-
Moorabbin West Oval Sports Pavilion Redevelopment		(407,800)	(4,792,200)	407,800	(4,792,200)	2,396,100	2,396,100			-
Beaumaris Concourse Permanent Shelter				(735,000)	(735,000)	735,000				-
Early Years Strategy Implementation							4,500,000		1,500,000	-
Thomas Street, Hampton Reconstruction	(1,500,000)	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(6,000,000)	1,500,000	4,000,000			-
Green Point Tram Shelter Refurbishment	(344,340)				(344,340)	344,340				-
Budget reduced:										
Billilla House Renewal Works (2022/23)			(5,000,000)		(5,000,000)					(5,000,000)
Library Infrastructure Upgrade Program			(150,000)		(150,000)					(150,000)
Information Technology Upgrades		(2,791,000)	(2,250,000)		(5,041,000)					(5,041,000)
Playground Improvement Plan Implementation	(356,763)	(286,474)	(356,763)		(1,000,000)					(1,000,000)
	(3,073,663)	(8,423,893)	(23,049,781)	(13,127,200)	(47,674,537)	5,966,003	18,979,719	1,725,818		(21,002,997)

What information do we need from the community?

We are engaging with our community to seek feedback on Council’s Proposed Annual Budget 2024-25.

What can the community influence?

- Annual Budget 2024-25 -noting that funding priorities have been set by the Bayside 2050 Community Vision, Council Plan 2021 – 2025 and Financial Plan 2021-31.

What can’t the community influence?

- Legislative requirement for Council to adopt Annual Budget 2024-25 by 30 June 2024
- Council operations, resource allocation and projects Council has resolved to deliver
- Waste charge: direct cost recovery due the increase in the State Government landfill levy, an increase in hard waste collections, increased recycling processing costs, and increased green waste and garbage collection and disposal costs.

Stakeholders and community

This stakeholder assessment is a generalised understanding of sections of the community that have a connection to the project or matter. This information is used to understand the types of tools and techniques that will achieve the strongest and most effective outcomes for engagement and communication.

- Impact: What level of change the stakeholder / community segment may experience as a result of the project / matter
- Interest: What level of interest has been expressed or is anticipated
- Influence: Reference to the IAP2 Spectrum

Stakeholder / community	Impact	Interest	Influence
General Bayside community	L	L	Consult
Individual community members with broad interests in the business of Council and governance	L	H	Consult
Organisations/groups/individuals affected by rescheduled projects	H	H	Consult

Stakeholders with new projects financed through Annual Budget 2024-25	H	H	Consult
Stakeholder groups/associations/organisations	L	M	Consult
Local businesses/traders	L	M	Consult

Selected tools and techniques

The tools and techniques selected for this project are informed by the project content, stakeholders and type of feedback sought.

Key tools for communicating the project

- Email notification to Have Your Say members, including those who subscribe to projects affected by this year's budget.
- Council website and e-newsletter, *This Week in Bayside*
- Social media
- Video and/or infographics
- Digital screens in Corporate Centre and libraries

Key methods for gathering feedback

- Have Your Say project webpage, including feedback forms and opportunities to ask questions
- Post, phone and email correspondence.

Project timelines

Proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 endorsed by Council - 23 April 2024 Council meeting

Community consultation - 24 April - 14 May 2024

Adoption of Annual Budget 2024-25: Council to consider community feedback at its 4 June briefing meeting and adoption of Annual Budget 2024-25 on 18 June 2024

Decision-making process

The Annual Budget 2024-25 is informed by community priorities articulated in the [Bayside 2050 Community Vision](#) and [Council Plan 2021-2025](#).

The Annual Budget 2024-25 is informed by community priorities articulated in the Bayside 2050 Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2025.

Following the close of community engagement on 14 May 2024, community and stakeholder feedback will be considered and amendments made to the proposed Budget, if required.

Council will consider a report on community engagement on the Budget on the 04 June briefing and adopt the proposed Annual Budget 2024-25 at its meeting on 18 June 2024. The agenda for this meeting will be available to view here when published.

Interested community members will also have an opportunity to request to be heard at the Council meeting on 18 June 2024 and speak to Council at the meeting or provide a written statement which will be published in the meeting agenda.

Under the Local Government Act 2020, Council must adopt an annual budget by the 30 June 2024.

More information

For more information about this project please contact Bill Shanahan, Finance Manager, on 03 9599 4340 or bshanahan@bayside.vic.gov.au

10.3 DECLARATION OF RATES AND CHARGES

Corporate Services - Finance

File No: PSF/23/168 – Doc No: DOC/24/172397

Executive summary

This report proposes that Council declare rates and charges for the 12-month rating year from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

The increase in the average general rate and municipal charge will be 2.75% in compliance with the rate cap. This is in line with the Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) which has capped rate increases by Victorian councils to the forecast movement in the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Purpose and background

Council, on 23 April 2024, prepared a Budget for the year ending 30 June 2025 and commenced community consultation in accordance with Council's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy. Pursuant to Section 158 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council must declare the amount to be collected from rates and charges at least once in each financial year and before 31 August 2024. The Declaration of the Rates and Charges will facilitate the commencement of the preparation of the 2024–25 Valuation and Rate Notices.

Key issues

A key decision of Council is to determine the level of rate increase that will address funding levels for capital works and service provision for the municipality and maintain Council's long-term financial sustainability.

The increase in the average general rate and municipal charge will be 2.75% in compliance with the rate cap and will raise \$99.036 million (excluding Rates raised under the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963). This is in line with the Fair Go Rates System (FGRS) which has capped rate increases by Victorian Councils at 2.75%. Council has not elected to apply to the Essential Services Commission (ESC) for a variation for 2024-25.

An annual service charge for waste will raise \$17.441 million which reflects the direct cost recovery of waste services. Rate revenue declared in accordance with the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963 will raise \$0.304 million.

In total, Council will raise rates and charges of \$116.781 million.

Waste Management Charge

Bayside has a policy of direct cost recovery for waste services. The Waste Service Charge for 2024–25 will increase by 0.06% reflecting the cost of providing waste services. The service charge for a 140-litre bin will increase from \$404.20 to \$404.45 per annum. The service charge for an 80-litre bin will increase from \$307.20 to \$307.38 per annum, and the 240-litre bin service charge will increase from \$501.20 to \$501.52 per annum. The service charge for a shared 140 litre bin will increase from \$307.20 to \$307.38 per annum per property, a shared 80 litre bin will increase from \$210.20 to \$210.31 per annum per property, and a shared 240 litre bin will increase from \$404.20 to \$404.45 per annum per property. The service charge for properties with no waste service available will increase from \$90.65 to \$93.14 per annum, as will the charge for properties that choose not to utilise Council's waste service. Total waste revenue is expected to be \$17.441 million.

Municipal Charge

The Municipal Charge for 2024–25 is \$173.46. Revenue from the municipal charge is anticipated to be \$8.295 million in 2024–25 (excluding those raised under the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963). Under Section 159(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, up to a maximum of 20% of the total revenue from rates and charges may be levied as a municipal charge. The municipal charge ensures all properties pay an equitable contribution towards the unavoidable fixed costs of Council.

Cultural and Recreational Lands Act

On the basis of cost to Council, it has been calculated that for the purposes of determining the charges payable under the Cultural and Recreation Lands Act (CRLA), (notionally 60% of the rate in the dollar) can be attributable to sporting clubs and other CRLA properties. This percentage was determined following the completion of an allocation of actual Council service costs that are applicable to the CRLA properties.

In 2023, Council introduced a further category for Public Golf Clubs, which is 25% of the standard CRLA rate in the dollar (or 15% of the General rate).

The charge is calculated by multiplying the 'In use' valuation by 60% or 15% of the rate in the dollar. 'In use' valuations were determined following consultation with Council's legal representative, Maddocks, and Council's then contract-valuer, Matheson Stephen Valuations. All CRLA properties have utilised the Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) valuations. PPRZ recognises areas for public recreation and open space. These valuations are used for consistency and fairness by our valuation contractors. The 'in use' valuation is preferred for the following reasons:

- a fairer and more equitable basis for determining valuation according to community Benefit
- reflects a valuation process that recognises the character of recreational lands role within the community
- a methodology that enables minimal discrimination between public & residential zoning from a community benefit perspective.

When the 'in use' valuation as assessed by the Valuer General's current contract valuer is multiplied by the relevant CRLA rate in the dollar, and a charge equivalent to the Municipal Charge is then added, the resulting charge will become the 'deemed' Cultural and Recreational Lands Rate for 2024–25.

Recommendation

That Council formally declares the Rates and Charges for the 2024–25 Rating Year as follows:

1. Amount Intended To be Raised

That an amount of \$116,781,422 be declared as the amount which Council intends to raise by General Rates, Municipal Charge, Annual Service Charge and an amount in lieu of

General Rates (in accordance with the *Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963*) described later in this Resolution, which amount is calculated as follows:

General Rates	\$90,740,820
Municipal Charge	\$8,295,551 (excluding CRLA properties)
Annual Service Charge (Waste)	\$17,441,036
Amount in lieu of General Rates in accordance with Cultural and	
Recreational Lands Act	\$304,015
TOTAL	\$116,781,422

2. General Rates

- 2.1 That a General Rate be applied at a uniform rate of 0.103074 cents for each dollar of Capital Improved Value be declared in respect of the 2024-25 Financial Year.
- 2.2 That in accordance with the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963, the amounts payable as rates be the amounts set out in the attached "Cultural and Recreational Lands Summary" in respect of the 2024-25 Financial Year for all land to which that Act applies.

3. Municipal Charge

- 3.1 That a Municipal Charge is declared in respect of the 2024-25 Financial Year.
- 3.2 That the Municipal Charge is declared for the purpose of covering some of the administrative costs of Council.
- 3.3 That a Municipal Charge in the sum of \$173.46 for each general rateable land (or part thereof) in respect of which a municipal charge may be levied is declared in respect to the 2024–25 financial year.
- 3.4 That it is confirmed that the Municipal Charge is declared in respect of all general rateable land within the municipal district in respect of which a Municipal Charge may be levied.

4. Annual Service Charges

- 4.1 That pursuant to the provisions of Section 162 of the Local Government Act 1989, an Annual Service Charge relating to Waste Management be declared for each rateable property:
 - 4.1.1 The Annual Service Charge is charged on each rateable property (excluding Advertising Signs, Electricity Substations, Telecommunication Towers and Bathing Boxes) in the sum of \$501.52 for a 240-litre mobile garbage bin or \$404.45 for a 140-litre mobile garbage bin or a shared 240-litre mobile garbage bin or \$307.38 for an 80-

litre mobile garbage bin or a shared 140-litre mobile garbage bin or \$210.31 for a shared 80-litre mobile garbage bin.

- 4.1.2 That an amount of \$93.14 be charged as a waste contribution if no waste service is available.
- 4.1.3 That an amount of \$93.14 be charged as a waste availability service charge where no waste service is provided by Council but such a service is available.
- 4.1.4 That an amount of \$97.07 be charged for each additional 80-litre waste bin, \$194.14 for each additional 140-litre waste bin, and \$291.21 for each additional 240-litre waste bin on each rateable property.
- 4.1.5 That an amount of \$81.51 be charged for each additional recycling bin on each rateable property, or the first recycling bin if no waste bin is provided.
- 4.1.6 That an amount of \$99.00 be charged for each additional food and green waste bin on each rateable property, or the first food and green waste bin if no waste bin is provided.
- 4.1.7 The Annual Service Charge is declared in respect of the 2024–25 Financial Year.
- 4.2 That pursuant to the provisions of Section 221 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, an Annual Service Charge relating to Waste Management is declared on each non-rateable property where the service is provided:
 - 4.2.1 The Annual Service Charge is levied on each non-rateable property in the sum of \$501.52 for a 240-litre mobile garbage bin or \$404.45 for a 140-litre mobile garbage bin or a shared 240-litre mobile garbage bin or \$307.38 for an 80-litre mobile garbage bin or a shared 140-litre mobile garbage bin or \$210.31 for a shared 80-litre mobile garbage bin.
 - 4.2.2 That an amount of \$97.07 be charged for each additional 80-litre waste bin, \$194.14 for each additional 140-litre waste bin, and \$291.21 for each additional 240-litre waste bin on each non-rateable property.
 - 4.2.3 That an amount of \$81.51 be charged for the second or subsequent recycling bin on each non-rateable property, or the first recycling bin if no waste bin is provided.
 - 4.2.4 That an amount of \$99.00 be charged for the second or subsequent green waste bin on each non-rateable property, or the first green waste bin if no waste bin is provided.
 - 4.2.5 The Annual Service Charge is declared in respect of the 2024-25 Financial Year.

5. Incentives

An incentive is given at the rate of 2.2 percent (2.2%) discount in relation to the total amount payable for the sum of the Rates, Municipal Charge and Annual Service Charges if full payment is received by 31 August 2024.

6. Rate Payments

6.1 Rates are payable in four instalments due by 30 September 2024, 30 November 2024, 28 February 2025 and 31 May 2025.

6.2 Where the first instalment has not been paid by 30 September 2024, rates are due in a lump sum and payable by 15 February 2025.

7. Consequential

7.1 It be recorded that Council requires any person to pay interest on any amounts of rates and charges which:

- That person is liable to pay; and
- Have not been paid by the date specified for their payment.

7.2 The Revenue Coordinator is authorised to levy and recover the rates, municipal and annual service charges and interest described earlier in this Resolution in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.

Support Attachments

Nil

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Social

There are no social impacts associated with this report.

Natural Environment

There are no natural environmental impacts associated with this report.

Climate Emergency

There are no climate emergency impacts associated with this report.

Built Environment

There are no built environmental impacts associated with this report.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

The public can make comment and provide feedback on any proposal contained in the Budget.

The Proposed Annual Budget 2024–25 was available for public consultation for 21 days from 24 April 2024 via Council's website www.bayside.vic.gov.au and available for inspection during normal business hours at the Corporate Centre, 76 Royal Avenue, Sandringham and Council's libraries. A "Have your Say" social media campaign was run through this period and the results of the campaign and community feedback were presented for discussion at a Councillor briefing on 4 June 2024.

Equity Impact

The implications of this report have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020.

Human Rights

The implications of the report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

Pursuant to Section 158 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and Section 94 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council must at least once in each financial year and before 30 June 2024 declare the amount to be collected from rates and charges.

Finance

The declaration of rates and charges will enable Council to raise rates and charges revenue in accordance with the rates and charges included in the 2024–25 budget.

Links to Council policy and strategy

The rates and charges are levied in accordance with Council's Revenue and Rating Plan 2021–22 to 2024–25.

Description	2024/25 Rates + Municipal Charge
Elsternwick Park Tennis Centre (Tiebreak Enterprises Pty Ltd)	4193.32
Elsternwick Park Sports Club Inc	3884.10
Royal Brighton Yacht Club	9635.59
West Brighton Club	8831.62
Middle Brighton Tennis Club	3884.10
Brighton Croquet Club	3636.72
Dendy Park Tennis Club	8213.18
Brighton Bowling & Sporting Clubs	5492.04
Brighton Beach Bowls Club	1936.01
Hurlingham Park Tennis Club	3574.88
Hampton Bowls Club	6976.30
Hampton Tennis Club	2585.38
Sandringham Athletic Club Inc.	760.98
Sandringham Youth Club	2121.55
Sandringham Angling Club	822.82
Sandringham Club	6605.24
Royal Melbourne Golf Club	88795.91
Black Rock Bowling & Tennis Club	5368.36
Sandringham Bowls Club	4069.63
Sandringham Football Club Beach Oval	1843.25
Hampton Sailing Club	1441.26
Sandringham Yacht Club	10996.16
Sandringham Croquet Club	2152.47
Black Rock Yacht Club	1688.64
Stella Maris Tennis Club	2523.53
Gray Court Reserve P/L	1410.34
Beaumaris Bowls Club	3568.70
Beaumaris Lawn Tennis Club	3327.50
Beaumaris Lawn Tennis Club	4564.38
Beaumaris Community Centre Tennis Club	3389.35
Beaumaris Yacht Club	621.83
Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron	4749.92
Highett Bowls Club	3234.74
Highett Tennis Club	1101.12
Cheltenham Golf Club	513.60
Royal Melbourne Golf Club	29858.58
Victoria Golf Club	48597.31
Cheltenham Golf Club	3760.41
Victorian Amateur Football Association	1255.73
Basterfield Tennis Club	2028.78
TOTAL	304,015.33

10.4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOURISM AND PLACEMAKING STRATEGY 2024–29

City Planning and Amenity - Urban Strategy
File No: FOL/24/351 – Doc No: DOC/24/154045

Executive summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking Strategy 2024–29 (EDTPS) (Attachment 2) for adoption.

Background

The EDTPS has been developed to guide Bayside City Council's efforts in supporting the local economy, fostering sustainable tourism, and creating vibrant, functional activity centres that resonate with the community that use them. It fulfills Council Plan action 2.3.2.1 'Complete the Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking Strategy and submit to Council for adoption.'

The Strategy assesses and addresses post-pandemic repercussions on the Bayside economy as well as identifying the consequent opportunities, including shifts and trends in tourism, working from home, new technology innovations and workforce recovery.

A specialist consultant, SGS, was engaged to develop the EDTPS by analysing the community feedback and data received from community engagement undertaken with the local business community, specific stakeholder groups and the wider community throughout the municipality.

The consultant also produced an updated Bayside Business Monitor to provide a snapshot analysis of the physical and economic characteristics and changes to 5 of Bayside's Major Activity Centres and Bayside Business District (BBD) in the wake of COVID-19. The Business Monitor has been used to provide context and evidence to inform the Strategy.

Strategy formulation

Converging Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking, within an integrated strategy brings a holistic and strategic approach to delivering a five-year vision. It provides direction to support local businesses, emphasises sustainability, attracts investment and tourism, and fosters a sense of social connection by creating vibrant and attractive activity centres.

The Strategy formulation was informed by comprehensive background analysis that included:

- the consultant's background economic analysis on the state of the economy and global and national trends
- a detailed assessment of the local economy including the completion of a Business Monitor
- a comprehensive audit and placemaking evaluation of 7 activity centres
- reviewing relevant Council policies and strategies
- feedback from phase 1 of the Community engagement

These inputs resulted in the creation of a vision statement and 4 objectives:

"To create a thriving community that celebrates its natural beauty and cultural richness. We envision a dynamic economy built upon sustainable industries, fostering innovation and job growth while preserving our natural coastal environment. Our commitment to tourism showcases our picturesque landscapes, vibrant local culture, and iconic heritage sites,

attracting visitors both locally and from around the world. Our public spaces are welcoming, accessible, engaging and safe community hubs that reflect the heart and soul of Bayside."

- **Objective 1:** *Proactively address climate change by promoting decarbonisation and assisting local businesses in transitioning to a sustainable and circular economy.*
- **Objective 2:** *Enhance Bayside's dynamic centres through strategic, community-centric placemaking, to support local economic growth and cultivate a deep connection and identity of place within the community it serves.*
- **Objective 3:** *Develop a nuanced visitor offer, which enhances the natural, cultural and heritage assets of Bayside while respecting the diverse interests of all stakeholders.*
- **Objective 4:** *Cultivate a thriving and robust local economy, creating job opportunities for a skilled workforce, nurturing a responsive local business community attuned to community needs, and being agile in adapting to changing economic circumstances.*

To implement the Strategy an Action Plan is outlined over the next 5 years that provides a clear path to identify the timing and resources required to achieve the Strategy's objectives and vision.

Bayside strategy context

Bayside in comparison to other Local Government Areas (LGAs) has a well performing local economy, with low unemployment and strong growth. Jobs growth within the municipality is forecasted to grow at a rate of 1.78 percent compared to Greater Melbourne's average of 1.5 percent. As of late 2022, Bayside's unemployment rate was recorded as 1.8 percent of the Bayside labour force. This is the lowest rate across the benchmark LGAs and has consistently been low during the prior decade.

Some of the major factors envisaged to impact Bayside in the foreseeable future are:

- the growing impact of environmental factors on future economic growth
- the new wave of advanced technology, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, cloud computing, and robotics
- the ageing population – Bayside has an older population with a median age of 45, whereas Greater Melbourne has a median age of 37
- the growth of the Care Economy i.e., the rapid growth in the health care and social services sector in Bayside.

Whilst acknowledging the 41 activity centres of Bayside the Strategy focuses on the 7 Centres identified as being the primary contributors to Bayside's economy:

1. Major Activity Centres - Bay Street, Church Street, Hampton Street and Sandringham Village.
2. Local Neighbourhood Activity Centres - Martin Street (Gardenvale), Black Rock Village and Beaumaris Concourse.

Hihett and Hampton East are two centres where the functional activity area crosses municipal boundaries. Consequently, it is considered each require a coordinated approach with the relevant neighbouring Councils to be staged collaboratively and separately to this EDTPS.

The Strategy's Action Plan is stretched over five years ensuring it is achievable within the existing resources of staff and budgets. No additional financial resourcing is proposed in the

short term as initiatives will be funded from the existing operational budget of the Economic Development Unit.

The Action Plan takes an integrated approach, supporting the varying sectors of the local economy whilst focussing on the 4 objectives. For instance, the strategy contains actions such as:

- supporting business transition to environmentally friendly practices through government programs and initiatives
- development of the Nighttime Economy – to encourage after hours activations
- supporting traders' associations with social media campaigns
- undertake placemaking initiatives across the municipality.

At the 18 April 2024 Council Meeting, It was resolved that Council:

1. *notes the extensive community and stakeholder engagement process undertaken in development of the draft Economic Development Tourism, and Placemaking Strategy (2024–29)*
2. *endorses the draft Economic Development Tourism, and Placemaking Strategy (2024–29) for the purposes of community consultation*
3. *notes the completion of the Bayside Business Monitor which reviewed the five (5) designated Major Activity Centres across Bayside (Church Street, Hampton Street, Bay Street, Sandringham Village and Moorabbin-Hampton East), as well as the Bayside Business District*
4. *receives a report at the 18 June 2024 Council Meeting to consider outcomes of the community engagement; any subsequent changes to the strategy; and the adoption of the Economic Development Tourism, and Placemaking Strategy (2024–29).*

Key issues

Community engagement

Extensive community and stakeholder engagement to inform and develop the Strategy has been undertaken via two phases.

Phase 1 (over a 4-week period) Prior to presenting to Council, to ensure an informed draft strategy was developed, feedback was captured from more than 1,000 community members, in addition economic data and audits of sites and plans were undertaken. A consultant, SGS, was commissioned to analyse the results, together with their background in economic analysis on the state of the economy, global and national trends, to produce the draft Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking Strategy.

Phase 2 (24 April to 9 May 2024) As per the Council resolution, community engagement shared the draft Strategy and explored if the community believe that:

- Council's draft was sound
- Council had listened to the feedback
- the proposed initiatives would boost the Bayside economy over the next 5 years.

The consultation was promoted through the following outlets and platforms:

- Have Your Say – Council website.
- Emails to all relevant groups, committees, and business operators.

- Phase 1 participants.
- Social media.
- The Bayside Tourism Network was consulted at lengths on the tourism components of the EDTPS to ensure the strategy had their input and support.
- Specific meetings with representatives from Traders associations from the four MACs and the SNACs of Highett, Black Rock, and Beaumaris.

Interested parties could also engage directly with Council through the online “Have Your Say” website page, including the opportunity to ask questions, as well as book meetings with Council officers.

The Phase 2 engagement received feedback from 62 individuals and groups. Council appointed consultant, Metropolis Research, to compile and analyse the results (Attachment 1). The key finding from the consultation exercise was that the majority of the 48 self-selected online survey respondents were:

- 62% Satisfied
- 6% Neutral
- 25% Dissatisfied.

Feedback specifically from business operators were that they were concerned with the objective to decarbonise and to commit to the circular economy. By having it as an objective some business operators expressed concerns that Council would be seeking to impose measures that could be detrimental to their business operations

Some general comments were received in relation to missed opportunities, including:

- increased cleaning and maintenance
- increased parking
- more/better support and engagement with business
- more/better events and activities

Council has addressed these concerns and recommends the following revisions to the Strategy:

1) *Modify* - Objective 1 to - ‘Proactively address climate change by assisting local businesses in transitioning to a sustainable economy.’

2) *Add* – relating to cleaning and maintenance – ‘Increased frequency of monitoring and responsiveness to litter, street cleanliness, maintenance and upkeep of street furniture to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the centres.’

3) *Add* - Encourage businesses to implement responsible waste management practices through Council's regular trader newsletter updates.

4) *Add* - relating to increased parking – ‘Review parking controls in MACs and explore the roll-out of real-time signage and other technologies to improve parking efficiency in suitable locations.’

5) *Add* - relating to increased parking – ‘Develop an assessment criterion to establish when a Parking Precinct Plan is required to manage existing and future parking demands within each Major Activity Centre (As outlined in Action 2 of the Parking Strategy 2023-2033)’

6) *Add* – relating to better support/engagement - ‘Establish annual ‘listening forums’ in Major Activity Centres, coordinating with local stakeholders and traders to promote participation and gather valuable feedback.’

7) *Revise* – relating to better events – ‘Attract and gain leverage from renowned major events, enhancing Bayside’s cultural landscape while fostering economic growth and community engagement.’

8) *Clarify* – in the strategy that “Placemaking” is an internationally accepted term as defined by various authorities such as the *Council of Europe* and by *Melbourne University*.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. notes the extensive community consultation and engagement process undertaken in preparing the Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking Strategy 2024–29
2. adopts the Economic Development Tourism and Placemaking Strategy 2024–29, (Attachment 2).

Support Attachments

1. Community Engagement Summary Report
2. Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking Strategy (EDTPS)

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Social

Bayside has a strong local economy, very low unemployment, and a highly educated and skilled workforce. The challenge for Bayside is the ageing demographics and how as a community we care for our elderly. The Strategy seeks to encourage businesses to consider Bayside's well-resourced growing elderly community as a potential growth market for a range of goods and services.

Natural Environment

The approach to the strategy formulation has been to focus on promoting environmental sustainability. For instance, a range of tourism initiatives are considered eco -friendly inviting visitors to take care and be gentle on the local natural environment.

Climate Emergency

The first objective of the Strategy is to "Proactively address climate change by promoting decarbonisation and assisting local businesses in transitioning to a sustainable and circular economy." The Action Plan has several initiatives to address council's declared climate emergency.

Built Environment

The Strategy proposes to continue with the Built Environment Awards and a range of placemaking initiatives in activity centres. These initiatives should continue to enhance the local built environment.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

Extensive community engagement was undertaken, commencing 13 April 2023 to 10 May 2023, a period of 4 weeks to capture feedback to inform the strategy formulation. The consultation activities included an online survey and digital ideas board, community engagement sessions, discussions with traders and Council advisory groups.

Equity Impact

The implications of this report have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020.

Human Rights

The implications of the Strategy report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

Not considered applicable to this report.

Finance

Council's Chief Financial Officer was consulted and has reviewed the recommendation outlined in this report. The Strategy's Action Plan is stretched over five years ensuring it is achievable within the existing resources of staff and budgets. No additional financial resourcing is proposed in the short term as initiatives will be funded from existing operational budget of the Economic Development Unit.

Links to Council policy and strategy

In formulating the Strategy, the consultants considered the Community Plan, Council Plan and several other strategies including:

- Economic Development Strategy (2014–19)
- Bayside Tourism Strategy (2013–18)
- Bayside Arts, Culture and Libraries Strategy (2023–27)
- Bayside Open Space Strategy
- Retail, Commercial and Employment Strategy (2016–30)
- Bayside Small Activity Centre Strategy (2014).



Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking Strategy

Community Engagement Summary Report

June 2024



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2 Background

Bayside City Council is supporting the sustainable growth and development of Bayside's economy through a new five-year Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking Strategy. The Strategy will promote the best of Bayside, strengthen connections between people and the places they share, and provide support for local businesses.

The draft strategy was informed using economic data, site plans and audits, and feedback from over 1,000 community members and stakeholders, gathered during the Phase 1 community engagement program (April – May 2023).

The Phase 2 consultation explored community sentiment for the draft strategy including the initiatives proposed to boost Bayside's economy over the next 5 years.

This document provides a summary of community feedback on the draft Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking Strategy. It focuses on the overall level of support for the proposed strategy, the level of support or opposition to the eight proposed initiatives, any missed opportunities, and anything that the community feels should be excluded from the strategy.

3 Consultation process

3.1 Consultation purpose

The purpose of the consultation was to understand the community's views about the draft Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking Strategy.

The consultation focused on community feedback on the Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking Strategy, with a focus on the overall level of support for the proposed strategy, the level of support or opposition to the eight proposed initiatives, any missed opportunities, and anything that the community feels should be excluded from the strategy.

3.2 Consultation methodology

The tools and techniques selected for this project were informed by the project content, stakeholders, and type of feedback sought.

The community engagement program was open between 24 April and 9 May 2024, with the Have Your Say website open for this period.

The consultation process included an online survey available on the Have Your Say website. The option was also available for stakeholders, businesses, residents, and other interested parties to provide written and email submissions to Council, as well as one-on-one telephone, online or in-person discussions with Council officers.

The consultation was promoted through the following:

- Project page on Have Your Say engagement platform.
- Direct email to relevant Have Your Say members (6,801 unique subscribers)

- Direct email to Have Your Say project subscribers (71 unique subscribers).
- Direct email to relevant groups, committees, and business operators.
- This Week in Bayside (Council e-newsletter).
- Council website (news story).
- Social media, including sponsored posts.
- In the Loop (Bayside Council staff weekly e-newsletter)
- Inside Word (weekly Councillor update)
- CEO Reflections (weekly Council all staff meeting)
- Traders Association / Bayside Tourism Network meetings

Interested participants could also engage directly with Council through the online engagement tool Have Your Say, including the opportunity to ask questions on the project’s Q&A forum, as well as bookable meetings with key stakeholder groups.

The survey was available in accessible formats on request.

Metropolis Research was not responsible for the design of the survey instruments and was commissioned by the Bayside City Council to compile and analyse the results from the consultation exercise, and to prepare this report for Council.

4 Participant profile

A total of 48 respondents completed the self-selected online survey, with the location breakdown as outlined in the following table. This includes both the suburb of residence as well as the suburb in which their business was located.

There was no demographic information collected from the online survey respondents, or from those who provided written or emailed submissions, or telephone engagements with Council officers.

	Suburb	Bayside 2021 Census	Online survey respondents (%) (residence)	Online survey respondents (%) (business)
Suburb	Beaumaris	14%	6%	5%
	Black Rock	7%	11%	5%
	Brighton	24%	33%	45%
	Brighton East	16%	22%	
	Cheltenham	4%	6%	5%
	Hampton	14%	6%	10%

Hampton East	5%	0%	0%
Highbury	7%	0%	10%
Sandringham	11%	17%	20%

5 Consultation findings

The following section summarises the key themes which arose in community feedback on the Economic Development, Tourism and Placemaking Strategy consultation.

The consultation includes feedback from 62 individuals and groups, including:

- 48 Have Your Say online consultation survey respondents.
- Council officer attendance at 2 meetings (6 members from the Bayside Traders Associations, and 6 from the Bayside Tourism Network)
- One written submission
- One conversation (by telephone) with Council officers.

5.1 Feedback summary

The following key findings were identified in the data collected from the consultation exercise:

- **Connection to Bayside / strategy** – of the 48 survey respondents, 20 were Bayside business owners, 17 were Bayside residents, 9 worked in Bayside, 7 were visitors to Bayside, 2 were from community groups, and 2 had other relationships with Bayside.
- **Participation in first phase of consultation** – 17 of the 48 survey respondents had participated in the first phase of consultation for the strategy, and of these 17, 10 felt that most or all of their feedback had been reflected in the strategy, 4 thought a little was reflected, whilst 3 considered that their feedback had not been reflected at all.
- **Overall satisfaction with the strategy** – Of the 48 survey respondents, 28 (62%) were satisfied, 6 were neutral, and 11 (25%) were not satisfied, for an average satisfaction of 6.7 out of 10. The 20 business owner respondents (6.9 out of 10 with 63% satisfied) were notably more satisfied than the 17 Bayside resident respondents (5.3 out of 10 with 33% satisfied).
- **Most effective initiatives / actions to support business, tourism and creating great places** – the initiatives that the survey respondents were most likely to consider most effective were to delivery more events and initiatives (56%) and increased street cleaning and maintenance in shopping precincts (50%). The initiative that was least likely to be considered effective was developing a range of official Bayside tourism merchandise (17%).
- **Missed opportunities** – 19 of the 48 online survey respondents believed there were opportunities missed in the draft strategy, with the most common being increased cleaning and maintenance (8 responses), increased parking (7), more / better support and engagement with business (6), more / better community art, events, and activities

(5), and several members from the Bayside Tourism Network and Bayside Traders Association also made reference to activities and facilities for youth (4 responses).

- **Proposed actions / initiatives that should be excluded from the strategy** – 10 of the 48 online survey respondents nominated at least one proposed action or initiative that should be excluded, with the most common being climate change and decarbonisation (6 responses), circular economy incentives (5), and developing a range of official Bayside tourism merchandise (3).
- **Other feedback and suggestions from meetings, written, and telephone submissions** – there were a range of issues raised in relation to the draft strategy from other participants (including the Bayside Traders Association, Bayside Tourism Network, written and telephone resident submissions). Whilst a wide range of issues were canvassed by a small number of individuals, the most common issues raised were as follows:
 - Increased parking (14 comments), cleanliness and maintenance (13), events and activations (11), marketing and promotion tips (10), support for business, restaurants, and shopping centre (9), activities and facilities for youth (7), more or better lighting and signage (7), inadequate funding / resources for the strategy and or placemaking in general (6), more / better bicycle paths and infrastructure (4), better public transport (3), better tourism traffic management (2), and the inclusion of Sandringham Village in the strategy (1).

5.2 Support for actions

The key finding from the consultation exercise was that the majority (62%) of the 48 self-selected online survey respondents were satisfied with the Economic Development and Tourism Placemaking Strategy whilst 25% were dissatisfied.

The 3 initiatives or actions that the survey respondents considered most effective for supporting businesses, tourism, and creating great places were to deliver more events and activations (56%), increased street cleaning and maintenance in shopping precincts (50%), and 'Shop Local' and social media campaigns to support local business (46%).

The 3 initiatives that were considered least effective were to develop a range of official Bayside tourism merchandise (17%), improve signage and lighting to increase visitation to shopping districts (27%), and offer mentoring and training programs to local business owners (27%).

5.3 Item-specific feedback

The following sections outline the summarised results for each of the questions included in the intercept and online surveys, including:

- Connection to Bayside.
- Participation in the Phase 1 community consultation, and whether the draft strategy reflected any feedback provided.
- Overall satisfaction with the draft strategy.
- Most effective initiatives or actions for supporting businesses, tourism, and creating great places.

- Opportunities missed in the draft strategy.
- Actions or initiatives that should be excluded from the draft strategy.
- Additional feedback from submissions and consultations with Council officers.

5.3.1 Connection to Bayside City Council/ the draft strategy:

Of the 48 online survey respondents, 20 were Bayside business owners, 17 were Bayside residents, 16 worked or were visitors to Bayside, 2 were community group members, and 2 had other relationships with Bayside.

Whilst conscious of the small sample size of 48 online respondents, the sample does include a good mix of businesses and residents.

In addition, there was feedback from 12 businesses through the Bayside Traders Association (6) and the Bayside Tourism Network (6).

Connection to the draft strategy
Bayside City Council - 2024 EDTPS Strategy Survey
(Number and percent of total respondents)

Response	2024	
	Number	Percent
Bayside business owner	20	42%
Bayside resident	17	35%
Work in Bayside	9	19%
Visitor to Bayside	7	15%
Member of a community or friends of group	2	4%
<i>Rotary Club of Brighton, Brighton Recreation Centre, Bayside Art Show</i>	1	2%
<i>Sandringham bowls club</i>	1	2%
Other	2	4%
<i>Multiple ratepayer</i>	1	2%
<i>I've been a long term member of BBN</i>	1	2%
Total responses	57	

5.3.2 Participation in the Phase 1 consultation:

Of the 48 survey respondents, 17 (36%) reported that they had participated in the Phase 1 consultation in relation to the strategy.

Participated in the first phase of community consultation

Bayside City Council - 2024 EDTPS Strategy Survey

(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)

<i>Response</i>	<i>2024</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Yes	17	36%
No	20	43%
I'm not sure	10	21%
Not stated	1	
Total	48	100%

Of these 17 respondents, 10 reported that most or all of their feedback was reflected in the draft strategy.

The draft strategy reflected the feedback

Bayside City Council - 2024 EDTPS Strategy Survey

(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)

<i>Response</i>	<i>2024</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Yes, all of it	5	29%
Most of it	5	29%
A little bit	4	24%
Not at all	3	18%
Total	17	100%

5.3.3 Overall satisfaction with the draft strategy:

Of the 48 survey respondents, the majority (28) were satisfied or very satisfied with the draft strategy, with an average satisfaction score of 6.7 out of 10, or a “good” level of satisfaction.

Whilst the sample size was very small, it is noted that the 20 business owner respondents (6.9 out of 10) were notably more likely to be satisfied with the draft strategy than the 17 resident respondents (5.3).

Satisfaction with the draft strategy overall
Bayside City Council - 2024 EDTPS Strategy Survey
(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)

<i>Response</i>	<i>2024</i>		<i>Business owner</i>	<i>Resident</i>
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>		
Five	18	40%	47%	20%
Four	10	22%	16%	13%
Three	6	13%	11%	33%
Two	7	16%	16%	27%
One	4	9%	11%	7%
Can't say	3		1	2
Total	48	100%	20	17
<i>Average</i>	<i>6.7 out of 10</i>		<i>6.9</i>	<i>5.3</i>

5.3.4 Most effective initiatives or actions for supporting businesses, tourism, and creating great places:

The online survey respondents were asked to identify which of the 8 initiatives they considered to be most effective for supporting businesses, tourism, and creating great places.

The initiatives that respondents were most likely to consider most effective were to delivery more events and initiatives (56%) and increased street cleaning and maintenance in shopping precincts (50%).

It is noted that less than one-third of the 48 respondents considered offering mentoring and training programs, to local business owners (27%), improved signage and lighting to increase visitation to shopping precincts (27%), and to develop a range of official Bayside tourism merchandise (17%) to be most effective at supporting businesses, tourism, and creating great places.

Most effective initiatives or actions for supporting businesses, tourism, and creating great places
Bayside City Council - 2024 EDTPS Strategy Survey
(Number and percent of total respondents)

<i>Response</i>	<i>2024</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Deliver more events and activations	27	56%
Increased street cleaning and maintenance in shopping precincts	24	50%
'Shop Local' and social media campaigns to support local businesses	22	46%
Implement more murals and public art in shopping strips	20	42%
'Circular economy' incentives to lower businesses' production and waste costs	20	42%
Offer mentoring and training programs to local business owners	13	27%
Improve signage and lighting to increase visitation to shopping precincts	13	27%
Develop a range of official Bayside tourism merchandise	8	17%
Total responses	147	

5.3.5 Priority of initiatives from the Bayside Tourism Network:

The 6 Bayside Tourism Network members were asked to rate the priority of 8 proposed initiatives or actions from the draft strategy.

From the small sample of 6 Bayside Tourism Network members, most considered 6 of the initiatives to be at least neutral. There was less agreement (and fewer views expressed) about the initiative to organise heritage focused events and developing a visiting friends and family marketing campaign.

Priority of selected initiatives or actions for the draft strategy
Bayside City Council - 2024 EDTPS Strategy Survey
(Number and index score scale 0 - 10)

Response	Number	Average	High priority (5)	Somewhat high priority	Neutral (3)	Somewhat low priority	Low priority (1)
Implement Initiatives outlined in the adopted Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan to effectively manage and enhance visitor experience	6	9.2	5	0	1	0	0
Conduct a comprehensive review of the Architectural Trail and include recipients of the Built Environment Awards where applicable, ensuring alignment with current architectural excellence standards	5	9.0	4	0	1	0	0
Sponsor community events that promote visitation to Bayside such as the Great Bayside Swim, Bayside Art Show and national and world championship sailing events	5	8.5	3	1	1	0	0
Attract and gain leverage from renowned major events, such as the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, enhancing Bayside's cultural and culinary landscape while fostering economic growth and community engagement	5	8.0	2	2	1	0	0
Establish a spend tracking tool to monitor and analyse expenditure patterns of local activity centres. Use this data to evaluate the efficacy of activations and initiatives, and tailor support to centres to drive increased	4	6.9	2	1	0	0	1
Conduct a biennial publicity campaign to raise awareness of the diverse trails within Bayside, enhancing community engagement and promoting local exploration	5	6.5	1	1	3	0	0
Organise heritage-focused events in Bayside's activity centres, fostering community engagement, promoting visitation	3	5.0	0	1	1	1	0
Develop a Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) marketing campaign spotlighting Bayside's top attractions. Enhance the overall visitor experience by intergrating connects to local shopping precincts and markets, offering a diverse and enriching exploration of the area	3	5.0	1	0	1	0	1

5.3.6 Important opportunities / initiatives missed from the draft strategy:

Of the 48 survey respondents, 19 believed that there were important opportunities or initiatives missed from the draft strategy.

Important opportunities / initiatives missed from the draft strategy
Bayside City Council - 2024 EDTPS Strategy Survey
(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)

Response	2024	
	Number	Percent
Yes	19	40%
No	20	43%
I'm not sure	8	17%
Not stated	1	
Total	48	100%

The 19 respondents provided a total of 46 separate responses as to the missed opportunities. These have been broadly categorised, as follows:

- Increased cleaning and maintenance 8
- Increased parking 7
- More / better support and engagement with business 6
- More / better community art, events, and activities 5
- Better public transport services and facilities 3
- More / better bike tracks and amenities 3
- More / better lighting 3
- Better tourist traffic management 2
- Rates and fees reduction 2
- Better animal management 1
- Better safety 1
- Better streetscape improvements 1
- Increased employment 1
- Increased marketing and promotion 1
- Increased open space 1
- Showcasing history and heritage of area 1

Bayside Traders Association Feedback:

The 6 Bayside Traders Association members also identified some missed opportunities, including appropriate funding for the strategy to be implemented (1), more artwork in shopping centres (1), more budget for placemaking (1), more parking (1).

Bayside Tourism Network Feedback:

The 6 Bayside Tourism Network members also identified some missed opportunities, including activities and facilities for youth (4), support for business, restaurants, and shopping centres (3%), the development of an App (1), increased parking (1), and links with golf clubs and events (1).

5.3.7 Proposed actions that should be excluded from the draft strategy:

Of the 48 survey respondents, 10 believed that there were actions or initiatives that should be excluded from the draft strategy.

Proposed actions that should not be included in the draft strategy

Bayside City Council - 2024 EDTPS Strategy Survey

(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)

Response	2024	
	Number	Percent
Yes	10	21%
No	24	51%
I'm not sure	13	28%
Not stated	1	
Total	48	100%

The 10 respondents provided a total of 20 separate responses as to the actions or initiatives that should be excluded from the draft strategy, as follows:

- Climate change and decarbonisation 6
- 'Circular economy' incentives 5
- Develop a range of official Bayside tourism merchandise 3
- Deliver more events and activations 2
- 'Shop Local' and social media campaigns 1
- Offer mentoring and training programs to local business 1
- No need for engagement with First Nations People 1
- The strategy is too generic and lacking a specific action plan 1

5.3.8 Summary of feedback from The Bayside Traders Association, Bayside Tourism Network, and written and telephone submissions:

There were a range of issues raised in relation to the draft strategy from participants (other than the online survey respondents). These 97 responses have been broadly categorised as follows:

- Increased parking 14
- Cleanliness and maintenance 13
- Events and activations 11
- Marketing and promotion tips 10
- Support for business / restaurants / shopping centres 9
- Activities and facilities for the youth 7
- More / better lighting and signage 7
- Inadequate funding / resources 6
- More / better bike tracks and amenities 4
- Better public transport services and facilities 3
- Better tourist traffic management 2
- Rates and fees reduction 2

- Better animal management 1
- Better safety 1
- Better streetscape improvements 1
- Develop a range of official Bayside tourism merchandise 1
- Increased employment 1
- Open space 1
- Concern over whether Sandringham Village is included 1
- Showcasing history and heritage of area 1

The one telephone conversation between a resident and a Council officer raised an extensive list of specific issues, with many of them covered in the above summary.

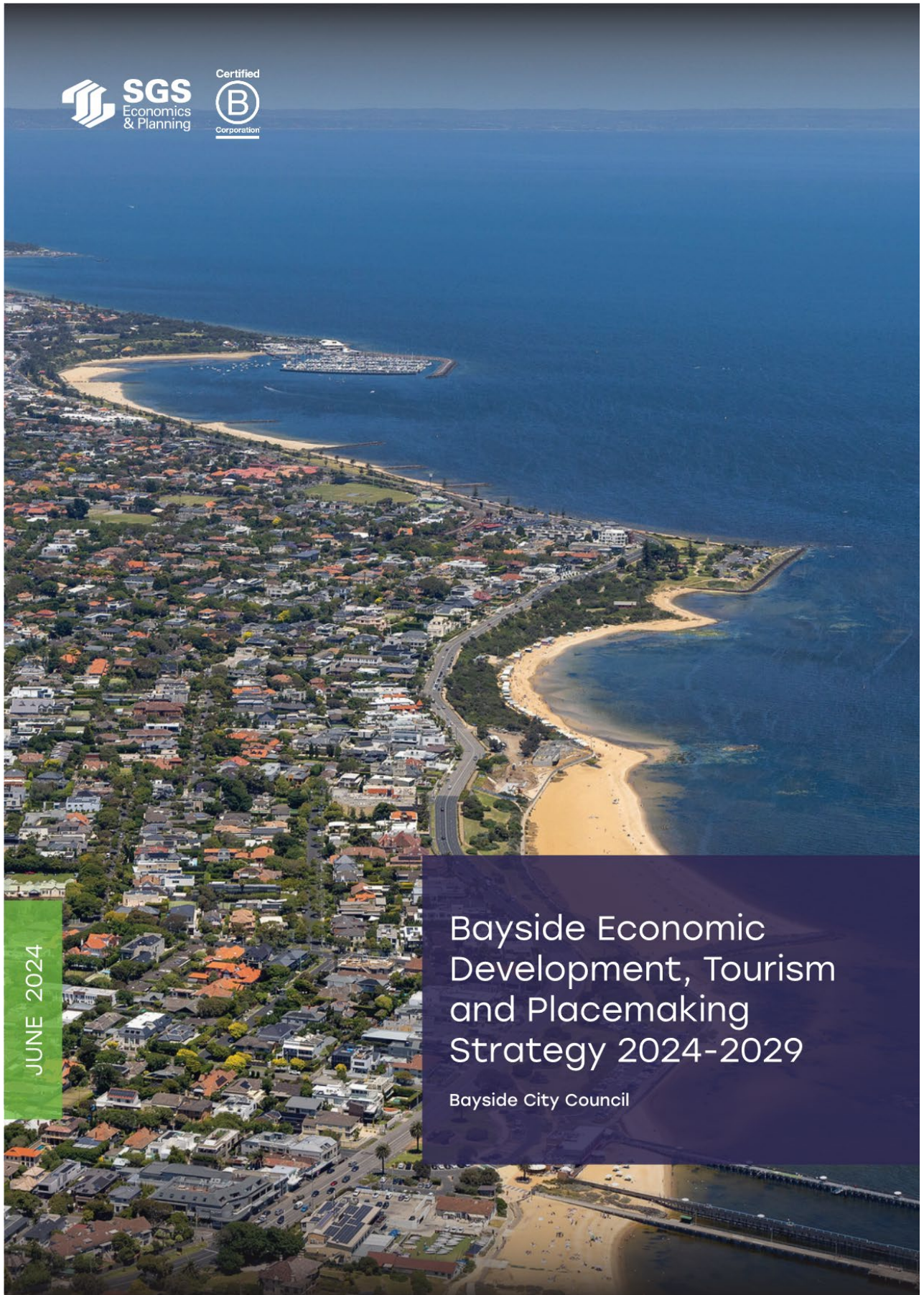
5.4 Project Evaluation

The various consultation exercises that underpinned this consultation program were a useful set of tools to provide residents, visitors, and other interested parties to provide feedback to Council on the Economic Development and Tourism Placemaking Strategy.

As always, with consultation exercise such as this which are self-selected (i.e., the participants take active steps to choose to participate), the results reflect the views of those in the community who were both aware of the consultation and sufficiently engaged to take active steps to participate.

The most common methods by which the 48 respondents were made aware of the consultation was via an email from Council (15 respondents), Council website (13), This Week in Bayside e-newsletter (9), word of mouth (6), and social media (5).

Of the 48 survey respondents, 93% of those who provided a response reported that it was very or mostly easy to find and understand the information they needed in order to provide feedback on the draft strategy.





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OFFICES IN CANBERRA, HOBART, MELBOURNE, AND SYDNEY ON THE COUNTRY OF THE NGAMBRI/NGUNNAWAL/NGARIGO, MUWININA/PALAWA, WURUNDJERI, AND GADIGAL PEOPLES.

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Attachments to the Strategy

Attachment 1: Economic Background Analysis

Attachment 1.1 – Bayside Business District (BBD)

Attachment 1.2 - Night-time Economy Study

Attachment 1.3 - Bayside Business Monitor

Attachment 2: Tourism Background Analysis

Attachment 3: Placemaking Background Analysis

Attachment 3.1 - Placemaking Action Plan (PAP)

Attachment 3.2 – Community Engagement Report (Placemaking Action Plan)

Attachment 4: Community Engagement Report (Economic Development, Tourism & Placemaking)

Acknowledgement of Country

Bayside City Council proudly acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council acknowledges the Bunurong's continuing relationship to the land and the waterways and respects that their connection and spiritual identity is maintained through ancient ceremonies, song lines, dance, art and living culture.

Council pays tribute to the invaluable contributions of the Bunurong and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island elders who have guided and continue to guide the work we do.



01

Introduction

1. Introduction

1.1 Scope and purpose of the Strategy

Background

Bayside City Council (Council) is preparing an Economic Development, Tourism & Placemaking Strategy (EDTPS) to provide clear direction and focus for achieving increased economic activity, sustainable tourism, and vibrant and attractive activity centres. Key priorities will create the conditions for a strong, adaptive, sustainable, and thriving future-focussed economy within Bayside. The Strategy will also provide guiding principles to promote sustainable tourism and create engaging, safe and inclusive places and spaces throughout Bayside's activity centres where people want to live, work, play and learn.

The key purpose of this Strategy is to:

- Build on the actions delivered through the 2014-2019 Economic Development Strategy and 2013-2018 Tourism Strategy.
- Incorporate placemaking as a tool to drive economic activity, tourism, amenity and connectedness for Bayside's activity centres.
- Reflect the changing economic conditions and opportunities facing Bayside including:
 - ☐ Industry disruptors – current and future trends;
 - ☐ Economic and job growth;
 - ☐ The unique economic development effects that Covid-19 has on the global, Australian and local economy;
 - ☐ Regional opportunities, and
 - ☐ Articulate Council's role and the focus for economic development, tourism and placemaking for the period 2024 – 2029.

Bayside in context

Bayside is located in Melbourne's south-east, around 8km from the Melbourne CBD. Bayside is bounded by Port Phillip Bay in the west and the Nepean Highway and Frankston railway line to the east, covering an area of 37 square kilometres. Over 102,000 people reside in Bayside (ABS Estimated Resident Population data, 2022) representing one of the most affluent socio-economic demographics in Melbourne. The local government area is home to some of Melbourne's iconic natural assets along its foreshore, coast and parks.

Bayside contributes to the wider economic region on the south-east primarily through Major Activity Centres (MACs) across Bayside. The EDTPS focuses on four MACs including Bay Street, Hampton Street, Church Street and Sandringham Village, the BBD as well as three Large Neighbourhood Activity Centres (LNACs) Gardenvale, Black Rock Village and Beaumaris Concourse.

Each of these are considered 'Activity Centres'. Activity Centres are defined in Plan Melbourne, a Victorian State Government strategy intended to regulate development and growth across Metropolitan Melbourne, as mixed-use Centres. Activity Centres are found across all Melbourne in different sizes and scales, often containing a combination of retail, commercial and residential uses. Plan Melbourne establishes a hierarchy of Centres based on their size, scale and role across the city. At the top are Metropolitan Activity Centres. These are supported by Major Centres and Neighbourhood Centres. Bay Street, Church Street, Hampton Street and Sandringham Village are considered "Major" Activity Centres and Martin Street, Black Rock Village and Beaumaris Concourse are considered "Large" Neighbourhood Activity Centres (LNACs).

Highbett and Hampton East are two Centres where the functional activity area traverses municipal boundaries. Consequently, it is considered they require a coordinated approach with the relevant neighbouring Councils.

Hampton East is considered a MAC and is currently ear-marked by the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) as an area for future development. The VPA are undertaking the development of Hampton East via their Activity Centre Program, part of the Housing Statement, encouraging the development of 60,000 new homes across 10 activity centres throughout Melbourne. Council will work with the VPA alongside Kingston and Glen Eira Councils to ensure the Centre review is undertaken to align with Council's policies and priorities and any resulting new planning controls and provisions, as part of this process.

It is acknowledged that the Bayside economy is made up of a larger network of 5 Major Activity Centres, Local Neighbourhood Activity Centres (LNACs) and Small Neighbourhood Activity Centres (SNACs), and the BBD as shown in the map below.

FIGURE 1: BAYSIDE'S ACTIVITY CENTRES



Source: SGS Economics & Planning, 2023

1.2 Local economic development tourism and placemaking as a concept

Economic development

Economic development typically refers to growing a local economy. This means growth in economic activity, such as more exports of locally manufactured products, or more visitors spending money on retail and hospitality offerings. Growth, in turn, allows businesses to invest in new equipment, hire more people and pay higher wages. Greater economic activity also means higher government revenues and more money to spend on better quality services for the community. Economic development enables a higher standard of living for people in Bayside.

Understanding how well a local economy functions also goes beyond growth measures and the number of jobs. Economic development must include a fair distribution of wealth, be environmentally sustainable and pursue climate action. Economic prosperity is closely linked to liveability and an equitable distribution of opportunity. Supporting local activity centres, community events, and access to high-quality infrastructure and services enables a strong economy and great communities.

Tourism

Tourism is a key contributor to economic development in local economies. Tourism attracts visitors into the area and generates income, employment and investment. A tourist or visitor is any person travelling for business or leisure. Tourism brings broader benefits to the local economy and stimulates other businesses and sectors such as hospitality, retail and entertainment services.

In 2019 tourism was estimated to be worth \$9,090 million to Greater Melbourne's economy (in direct and indirect Gross Regional Product), representing 2.7 per cent of the region's economy. In 2020 visitor spending in the region from domestic tourism fell by 70 per cent, from \$20,341 million to \$6,198 million (Tourism Research Australia, 2021, National Visitor Survey, Regional Expenditure Model (REM)), while international expenditure came to a halt due to the closure of Australia's international borders. Since then, expenditure has rebounded strongly, with Tourism Research Australia expecting a full recovery, however concerns remain for the largest tourism cohort, that is Chinese visitors, and the strength of the Chinese economy. Concerns also exist with inflationary pressures abroad and the disposable income available to international tourists.

Placemaking

Placemaking is an internationally accepted term as defined by various authorities such as *The Council of Europe* and *Melbourne University*. It is an approach to designing public spaces that prioritises people. It aims to create vibrant and welcoming public spaces that promote social interaction and cultural exchange. Placemaking recognises that public spaces play an essential role in the social and cultural life of communities, and that they are critical to creating a sense of place and identity. Placemaking applies creative, playful, engaging and inspiring uses of everyday space complementing the specific needs and goals of a community. Some examples of placemaking projects might include creating public art installations, adding seating or lighting to a park or centre, or organising community events.

The goal of placemaking is to create public spaces that are not just functional, but also foster a sense of community and social connection. By creating places that people want to spend time in, placemaking can help to improve the health and wellbeing of the community and create a stronger sense of belonging and connection to ensure long-term sustainability and prosperity. Successful placemaking not only generates important social outcomes for the community but provides real economic benefit.

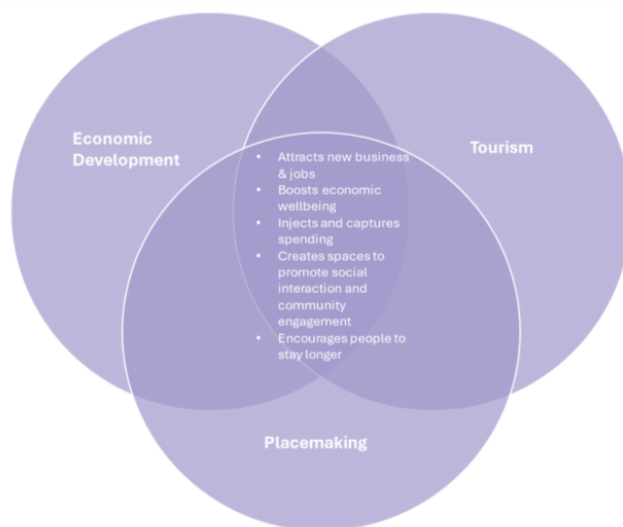
1.3 Local economic development, tourism and placemaking working together in Bayside

It is recognised that the areas of tourism, economic development and placemaking are strongly interlinked. Economic development fosters initiatives that incentivise and attract new businesses and jobs to improve the economic wellbeing of a community. Tourism stimulates local economies by injecting and capturing spending from outside of the local area. Placemaking creates public spaces that

promote social interaction and community engagement, attracting tourists, encouraging them to stay longer, and enhancing the health and wellbeing of the community.

Converging the three components of tourism, economic development and placemaking in this Strategy provides a strategic holistic approach and sets a vision in delivering future economic, community and environmental benefits to Bayside.

FIGURE 2: THREE COMPONENTS OF THE STRATEGY



1.4 Strategic alignment

Bayside 2050

The Bayside 2050 Community Vision is an aspirational view of a desired future for Bayside that sets out the key priorities and values that Council and the community will use to help make decisions to shape the future of Bayside. Through this, Council and community developed a community vision statement:

“Bayside in 2050 leads the way demonstrably as a diverse, healthy and liveable place. We value economic and cultural progress, environmental sustainability and protection of open spaces and coastline, and we nurture inclusiveness, safety, accessibility, community vibrancy, creativity and innovation.”

Bayside Council Plan 2021-2025

The Council Plan sets Council’s vision goals, strategic objectives and strategies over a four-year period.

Bayside City Council’s vision is to:

“Partner with our community to protect and care for the community of life in Bayside making an inclusive, active, healthy, connected and creative experience for all.”

The Plan aims to deliver on this vision through four focus areas or goals. Each of the goals strategically align with the themes developed in the Bayside 2050 Community Vision.

- Goal 1: Our Planet
 - ☑ Lead better, smarter and sustainable futures.
- Goal 2: Our People
 - ☑ Nurture all people and thriving healthy communities.
- Goal 3: Our Place
 - ☑ Foster Bayside’s liveability, open space and exceptional places.
- Goal 4: Our Promise
 - ☑ We promise open and accountable civic leadership.

Other Council policies and strategies

Local economic development involves numerous functions within the Council, including specific projects and programs, as well as more indirect policies and actions aimed at fostering various economic benefits such as transportation improvements, land use planning, and the enhancement of community health and well-being. The EDTPS maintains a mutually beneficial relationship with these strategic plans. It draws insights and analysis from these documents while simultaneously establishing goals and a framework for economic development.

Other Council policies and strategies considered in forming this Strategy include:

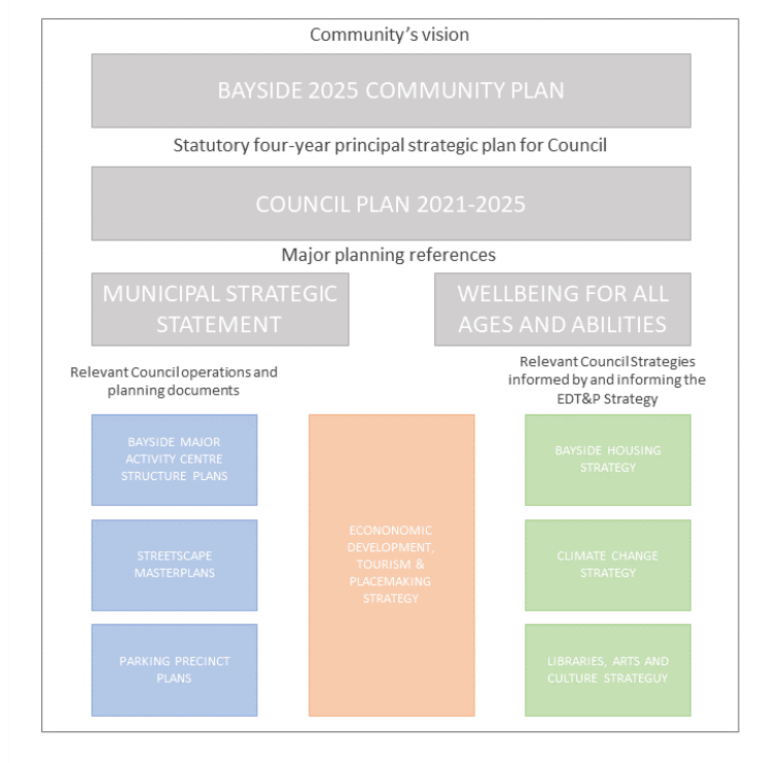
- Economic Development Strategy (2014)
- Bayside Tourism Strategy (2013)
- Bayside Arts, Culture and Libraries Strategy (2023–2027)
- Bayside Open Space Strategy
- Retail, Commercial and Employment Strategy (2016-2030)
- Bayside Small Activity Centre Strategy (2014)

The Strategy is also informed by the Bayside Business Monitor (Attachment 1.3). The Business Monitor has been produced by Council on an approximate five-year cycle to provide analysis of the physical and economic characteristics and changes of Bayside’s commercial precincts. The Business Monitor informs Council’s economic development interventions and Action Plan. It is intended to undertake the Business Monitor at the close of the Strategy in 2029.

The EDTPS sits beneath the Council Plan and aligns with and supports Council and community ambitions in many existing strategy areas.

For alignment of Council policies and strategies see Figure 3, below.

FIGURE 3: ALIGNMENT OF THE EDTPS WITHIN COUNCIL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES



1.5 The Role of Council

Under the *Local Government Act (2020)* Councils are charged with providing good governance in their municipalities for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community. Moreover, the *Act* points to governance principles that Councils are expected to adhere to including:

- Prioritising the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- Promoting the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of the municipality; and
- Engaging in strategic planning and strategic decision making after considering state, national and regional plans.

Given the nature of the challenges and opportunities facing the economy, it is important to be clear about Council’s agency and the impact it can make.

Firstly, Council provides a range of services directly to local business to simply meet the standard expectations of support held by the business community. These services include regulations and local laws, capital works, business support and advice, training and skills development for business owners/managers, promotion campaigns and capacity building initiatives such as staging of local events.

Examples of these services are:

- Business newsletters with current seminars, workshops and training information as well as providing a Business Concierge service and a liaison for each MAC.
- Promotional campaigns such as:
 - ☐ “The Whole Picture” exhibition, an art installation of historical Brighton images displayed along the walls of Bay Street Brighton; and
 - ☐ The social media campaign “The Faces Of” where local business owners in MACs and LNACs share their stories with the local community via social media platforms.
- Supporting local events including the Sandringham Festival at Sandringham Village, a program of Activity Centre Christmas activations and themed events such as the Hampton Street Car Rally, Hampton.

Other direct services include the provision of commercial and industrial zoned land, infrastructure services (local roads, drainage etc.), streetscape improvements, investment attraction and business site brokerage, street cleansing and waste management and the provision and management of economic assets like visitor centres, libraries, and art centres.

Examples of these direct services are:

- Promotional campaigns such as:
 - ☐ Delivery of expanded capital works programs such as the Dendy Beach Pavilion and associated Visitor Management Plan
 - ☐ Centre footpath maintenance and upgrade program
 - ☐ Weekly Centre footpath and street cleaning and monthly pressure cleaning

Council also advocates on behalf of the community for funding and the delivery of services or infrastructure that are not the direct responsibility of Council to deliver. Council can also advocate for behaviours and actions from the community and businesses to better Bayside.

Examples of these are:

- Buy local campaigns ran across Bayside however specific to each Centre
- Encouraging behaviour change by promoting green initiatives via Council newsletters
- Securing funding to improve Council processes for the provision of permits

Council also often facilitates outcomes for its community through building partnerships, changing regulations, promoting opportunities, and building the capacity of community members and organisations.

Examples of community outcomes facilitated by Council:

- Regular business networking opportunities through the Bayside Business Network (BBN)
- Partnerships with Rotary Clubs to deliver community events including The Bayside Art Show, The Great Bayside Swim and local farmers' markets
- Support Trader Associations to deliver themed events to their Centre

The Strategy is a tool for both advocacy and facilitation. The Strategy provides a vision for the future of the economy, which aims to galvanise and harmonise the economic development activities of all stakeholders, including the Commonwealth and State Governments and their agencies, local business leaders, local institutions, and the general community.



02

How the Strategy was prepared

2. How the Strategy was prepared

Approach to the task

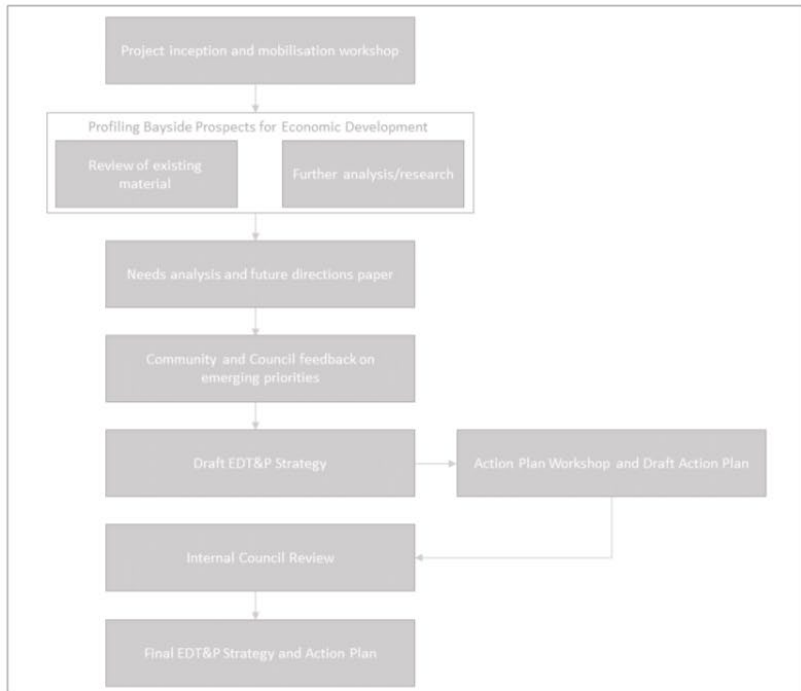
Understanding the local Bayside context and economy, including its strengths, gaps and opportunities for the community, was at the project's core. The local context was explored through stakeholder engagement and utilising Council's strong understanding of the local business community. Other inputs in drafting this Strategy include SGS's background economic analysis on the state of the economy and global and national trends, background information on the Bayside Business District (Attachment 1 - 1.1), a previously completed Night Time Economy Study (Attachment 1 - 1.2), an updated Bayside Business Monitor (Attachment 1 - 1.3), Tourism Background Analysis (Attachment 2) and a Placemaking Background Analysis (Attachment 3). A focus on what is important right now, as well as taking a global perspective was a feature of the process.

Extensive community consultation was undertaken with the local business community as well as the wider population in the process of formulating the Strategy's objectives, and actions (Attachment 4 – Community Engagement Report).

The Strategy that has emerged demonstrates rigorous economic analysis and carries the local context of Bayside. The aim is to generate a Strategy supported with an Action Plan that is financially responsible in a constrained fiscal environment that is innovative and practically prioritised to deliver over five years. The Action Plan is also targeted, realistic, achievable and represents Council's contributions in setting Bayside up for future prosperity.

The work was completed in stages, as shown in the figure below.

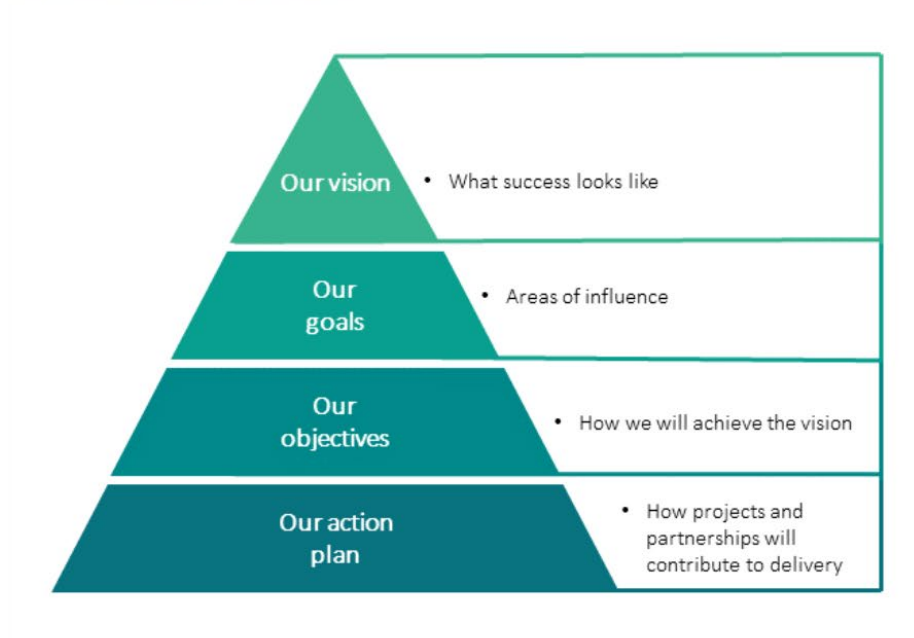
FIGURE 4: PROJECT PROCESS DIAGRAM

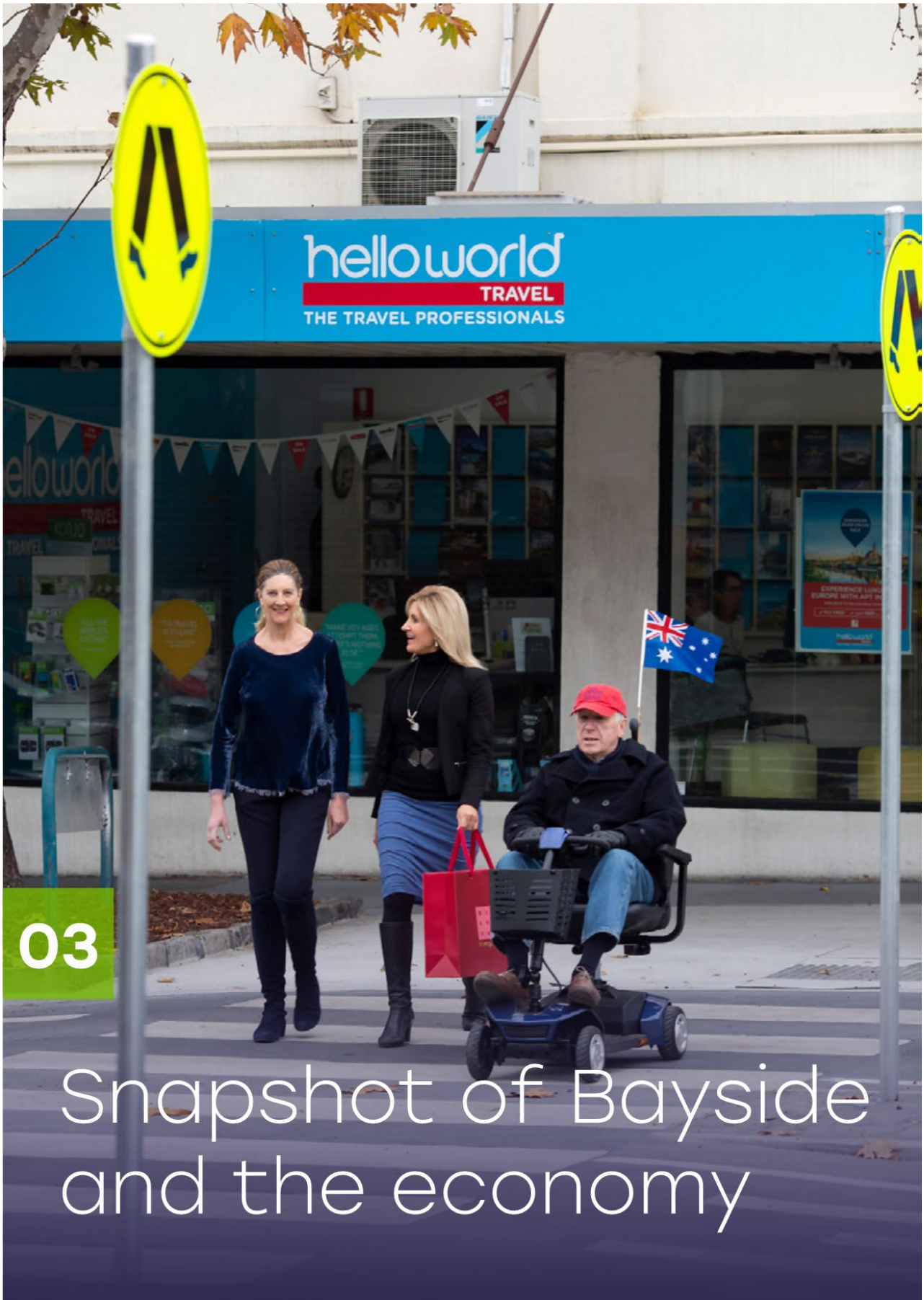


Structure of the Strategy

The figure below outlines how the Strategy is structured and linked together. The Strategy outlines our ambition for Bayside, followed by how we will achieve this.

FIGURE 5: STRUCTURE OF THE STRATEGY





3. Snapshot of Bayside and the economy

Bayside City in Context

Bayside is located in Melbourne’s south-east, around 8km from the Melbourne CBD. Bayside is bounded by Port Phillip Bay in the west and the Nepean Highway and Frankston railway line to the east, covering an area of 37 square kilometres. Over 102,000 people reside in Bayside and enjoy a high quality of life.

Gross Regional Product

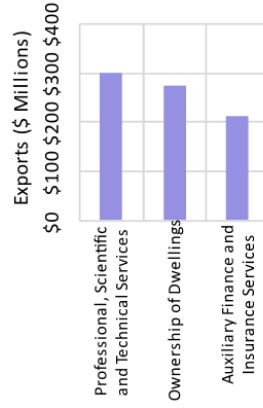
Bayside’s GRP was \$3.14 billion in 2021, generated by nearly 9,000 local businesses, government institutions and 29,656 workers. Our economic growth has been strong, peaking at 6% in 2022. Our economy has rebounded strongly from the effects of Covid-19 with a GRP growth rate above pre-pandemic levels.



Regional Exports

Professional, scientific and technical services is the largest industry in Bayside generating around \$300 million for the Bayside economy in 2020/21. Three other sub-industries have an export value above \$200 million: auxiliary financial and insurance services, residential building construction and non-residential property operators and real estate agents.

TOP 3 EXPORTS FROM THE BAYSIDE ECONOMY



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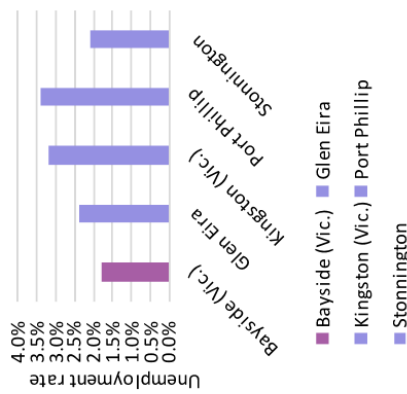
Economic Performance

Our community is prosperous with low unemployment, a highly skilled workforce and a diversity in key industries. Bayside has high participation rates from both youth and female workers, pointing to a more inclusive economy.

Infrastructure upgrades and investment

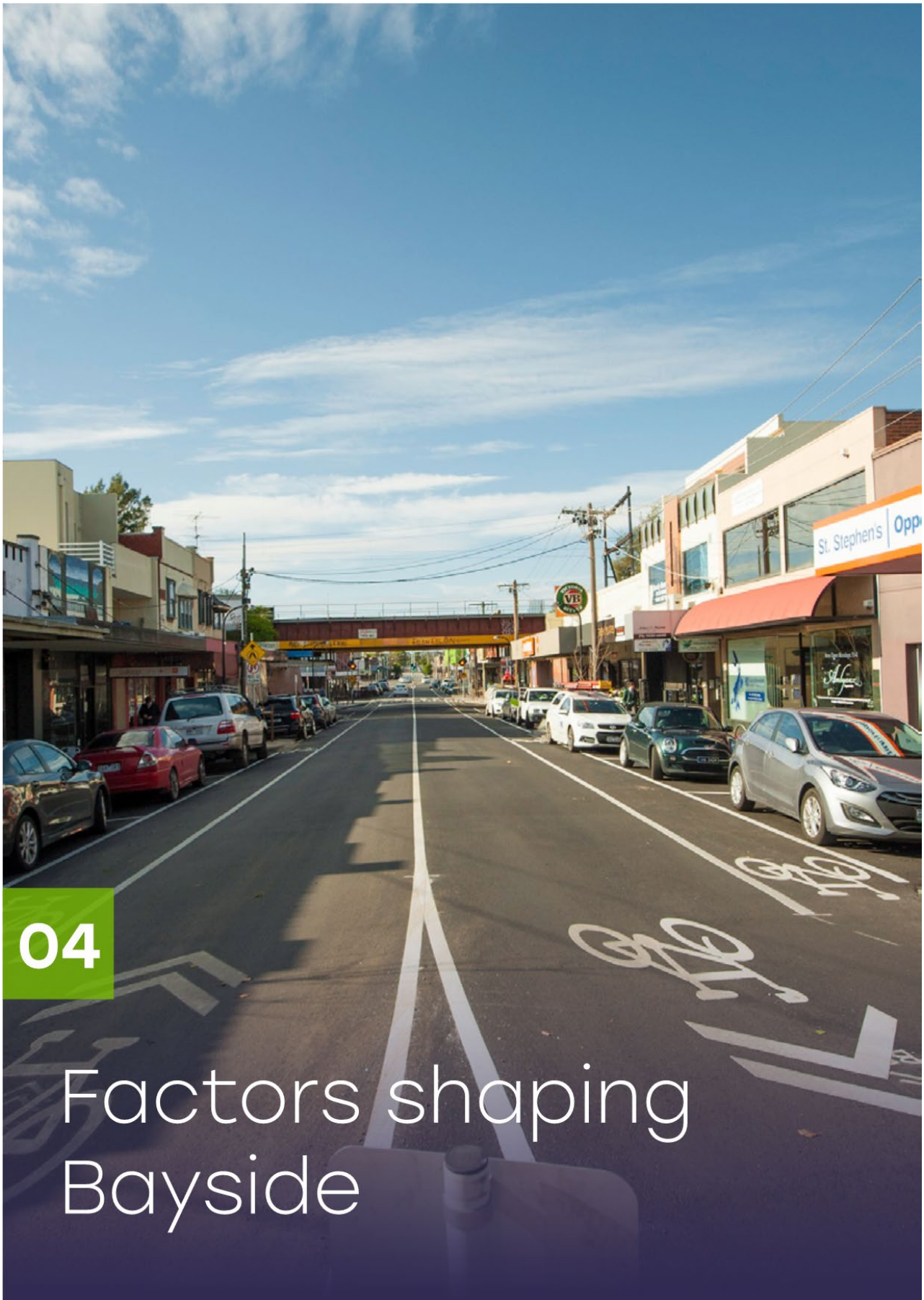
There are a number of key infrastructure and transport projects that will help to shape Bayside's future. The Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) offers an opportunity to link the Bayside economy into the wider region through the nearby Cheltenham station. Level crossing removal projects also provide a chance to transform activity centres through urban design upgrades.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE COMPARED TO SELECT LGAS



Opportunities

There are opportunities to improve economic performance, aligned with goals to support and develop local businesses, to responsibly attract investment and to enable innovation



04

Factors shaping Bayside

4. Factors shaping Bayside

Our economy is connected and open. Technological change, national and global events will shape our economic performance. Key factors shaping the economy are set out in this section.

Industry 4.0

The economy is undergoing technological shifts driven by a new wave of advanced technology, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, cloud computing, and robotics, among others. These technological advances are expected to most profoundly impact the manufacturing sector, logistics, healthcare, and energy use and distribution. It is also expected to significantly change the nature of work, as many routine tasks are automated. These trends are not only having significant implications for 'how' people work, but also 'where' and 'when' they work.

The BBD is seeing a shift from traditional manufacturing to knowledge-based industries in line with industry 4.0 trends. This area is a key economic precinct within Bayside.

The knowledge economy

Due to a growing and increasingly affluent and educated population, economic growth in major western countries is increasingly driven by knowledge-based service industries. There is an ongoing transition from 'making and growing things' to a broad portfolio of knowledge sectors. This has been evident in the BBD's transition from a traditional industrial precinct to a business district that has seen increasing growth in knowledge economy related businesses.

The potential of the BBD to transition to its use in the knowledge economy is being curtailed by the significant levels of vacancy in the Melbourne CBD. In February 2024 the CBD vacancy rate was estimated at 16.4%*. This high level of vacancy and the subsequent lower rents contributed to a major employer from the BBD, estimated 600+ employees, recently relocating to the CBD. The CBD vacancy rates are projected to continue as office workers proceed with the hybrid working model.

Bayside has a highly educated workforce with over a quarter of Bayside residents holding a post-school qualification predominantly in management, commerce and health. Bayside has a higher share of residents educated in these fields than across Greater Melbourne.

Ageing population

Like many western countries, the pace of the Australian population is ageing much faster than in the past. People worldwide are living longer. This demographic shift has significant implications for health, policy, social systems and the role of the workforce and economy. Ageing populations require specific services such as targeted health and community infrastructure and services that support in-home care. Economic centres will need to cater to shopping, medical care, social services, recreation, and activities. It is also equally necessary that the built environment, infrastructure, and transport services to these

economic centres support their mobility needs. Therefore, this ageing population will require sufficient availability of local services to be distributed throughout local areas to ensure their needs are met.

Bayside is likely to find the challenges of an ageing population more prevalent than in other areas across Greater Melbourne as, compared with Greater Melbourne, Bayside has an older population with a median age of 45, whereas Greater Melbourne has a median age of 37.

Growth of the care economy

The care economy is Australia's fastest-growing employment sector, fuelled by population growth and ageing. Health care and social services are essential to the health and wellbeing of the people of Bayside. These services help people to lead the life they want, regardless of age, language barriers or disability. Healthcare, aged care and social services are also major economic sectors. The care and learning economy generates over \$500 million worth of economic activity in the city and is growing. The sector provides jobs, can drive innovation and be an exporter by selling services to the region and products overseas. As such, it has enormous potential to drive inclusive local economic development.

The health care sector is one of Australia's highest-performing sectors, growing at double the pace of Australia's GDP. With an ageing population, new technology innovations and investments post the pandemic, the health care sector can only continue growing.

Bayside's local workforce has a higher specialisation in the health care industry compared to Greater Melbourne due to health care facilities such as Sandringham Hospital and Linacre Private Hospital being located within the municipality.

Major transport projects

Major transport infrastructure projects are underway and mass transit projects like the Metro Tunnel and Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) will transform the city. In particular, the SRL will strengthen the role of major activity centres where new stations will be located, including Cheltenham and the BBD. As the Level Crossing Removal Project continues across Melbourne, Highett is set to remove two level crossings (Wickham Road and Highett Road) which will bring with it opportunities for a transformation of the Centre.

These major transit projects will greater connect Bayside to surrounding markets, workers and opportunities.

Labour shortages

The demand for workers in specific sectors such as education, health and construction has significantly increased over the COVID-19 pandemic period. The National Skills Commission has identified key occupations to be considered in shortage.¹ Specifically, the need for health professionals increased nationally by 47 percentage points in 2022.² For Victoria, the Commission also identifies strong future

*Australian Financial Review Feb 2024 (Property Council's bi-annual CBD's office markets update).

¹ Occupations are in shortage when employers are unable to fill or have difficulty filling vacancies for an occupation or cannot meet significant specialised skill needs within that occupation, at current levels of remuneration and conditions of employment, and in reasonably accessible locations. Based on this definition, the primary measure of an occupational shortage is the ability of employers to fill vacancies (known as the vacancy fill rate).

² National Skills Commission, 2022 Skills Priority List Key Findings Report

demand for registered nurses and general practitioners in the health professional category; software engineers and data scientists in the professional and technical services, and technicians and trade occupations such as electricians and engineers.

As of late 2022, just 1.8 per cent of the Bayside labour force was unemployed.³ This is the lowest unemployment rate in the region. Sharp falls in numbers and rates of unemployment and underemployment are indications that the labour market is tightening rapidly.

COVID-19 impacts by industry sector

The economy was disrupted by the COVID-19 global pandemic of 2020-2022. Business owners suffered as they closed to protect the community from illness. The community suffered as well, as day-to-day lives were upended in lockdown, jobs were lost, and studies were undertaken from home. COVID-19 has accelerated trends already occurring across Australia and Melbourne, such as increasing automation, the rise of the digital economy, and the shift towards online retailing. While these macroeconomic trends will drive increasing economic outputs, the short-term impact of COVID-19 has been negative.

Before COVID-19, tourism in Victoria represented 6.4 per cent of Gross State Product (GSP). In 2020-21, it represented only 2.3 per cent.⁴ The sector continues to recover as overseas migration resumes, but it is uncertain how fast the recovery will be as risks in the global economy have emerged with low economic recovery from China and less disposable income from foreigners due to inflationary pressures abroad. The retail trade and arts and recreation industries have not seen the number of businesses rebound to pre-pandemic levels.

Bayside has seen growth in the number of businesses trading within the municipality and in 2022 professional, scientific and technical services, health care and social assistance, accommodation and food services industries were above pre-pandemic levels. During the pandemic, Bayside City Council expanded its social media presence to promote local businesses. Feedback was received that this was extremely impactful work that continues to benefit the local business community.

Working from Home

Increased levels of working from home was a trend before the pandemic but accelerated rapidly during COVID-19. For jobs where working from home is possible, most workers now choose to work in a hybrid model, spending a few days in an office and the rest at home and in their local communities. Most businesses will still locate in cities because by clustering together, firms and individuals will continue to benefit from knowledge spillovers, labour market interactions/pooling, and linkages between intermediate and final-goods suppliers. However, the shift in working location from the CBD to suburban areas (at least some days a week) is causing a spreading out of economic activity. As residents work online, there will be an increased demand for local healthcare, education, personal services (hairdressers, mechanics etc.), hospitality and retail. Therefore, as fewer people leave the local area for work each day, combined with a growing population, the need for local household serving industries will rise.

³ ABS Labour Force and National Skills Commission Small Area Labour Market data, 2022.

⁴ Business Victoria, Victoria's Visitor Economy Performance Results – year ending September 2022.

Given the residential nature of the municipality, high skill levels and the small economic base, it is not surprising that around half of Bayside's residents work from home.⁵ Co-working spaces appear to be providing a solution to the growing demand for a more flexible work life.

Promoting the circular economy

Economic activity uses resources and generates emissions and waste. Circular economy initiatives addresses these issues by treating waste as a resource, and can therefore enhance profitability as well as lead to lower production and waste management costs. The 'circularity' of the economy has profound influences on everything from precinct development, supply chain processes and manufacturing processes. It is, therefore, a concept that can and should underpin economic development to sustain prosperity.

Council is committed to creating a sustainable and resilient community. In response, Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and developed the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2025. The Action Plan emphasises reducing emissions, promoting and encouraging a circular economy and prioritising climate mitigation and adaption. Following this, Council adopted a community greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 75% below 2005 levels by 2030, and net zero by 2035. Educating and mobilising the community as partners is central to this effort, and therefore this strategy sets out to educate local business owners on the advantages of circular economy initiatives, supporting their voluntary participation. Council is also contributing through integrated water management, developing an urban forest and supporting better urban design to mitigate climate threats like urban heat island effects. Council plays a critical role in emergency planning and recovery and has both an Emergency Management Plan and a Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Community focussed economic development

New economic development thinking focuses on community outcomes. One example is community wealth building (CWB), which is about creating a fairer and more sustainable economy. CWB initiatives aim to retain and build wealth that adds social value from within rather than relying on external inward investment. Anchor institutions who employ and spend a lot of money locally, like hospitals, schools, large businesses and Council itself, have a critical role in this agenda as they are large commercial, public and social sector organisations with a significant stake in a city, distinct from businesses whose capital is ultimately mobile.

A key aspect of building an inclusive economy is a change of mindset. Development is not only about what can be attracted or constructed through external investment but more about what the city already has and how it can be nurtured to build from within.

Bayside's 2050 Community Vision is an aspirational view of a desired future for Bayside that sets out the key priorities and values that Council and the community will use to help make decisions to shape the future of Bayside.

Tourism 4.0/Experience economy

The term 'Experience Economy' was coined in 1998 by the Harvard Business Review. The phenomenon took off some years later with Millennials in the desire for wanderlust travel through the rise of social media and in the search for happiness and tourism experiences that align with their personal values and interests. Consumer needs have shifted beyond retail goods, with a greater focus on happiness and

⁵ ABS Travel Method to Work data, 2021 as shown in Figure 36 of Background Analysis Report.

experiences and expectations for a unique experience. This is also commonly referred to as Tourism 4.0. Tourism 4.0 initiatives aim to reduce the adverse effects of tourism on the environment, increase the use of technology in the tourism sector, and develop cooperation models among partners.

In response, many tourism businesses now aim to provide a more personalised travelling experience. Technology has played a role in this, as consumers have become more educated and can search, validate and communicate their preferences online. As a result, big data analytics play a more vital role within this new ecosystem. To remain agile in this competitive market, businesses must correctly understand and embed the customer base into the experience.

The creative industry also plays a role in tourism by increasing the attractiveness and authenticity within an area and increasing visitation.

In Bayside, our approach to the 'experience economy' focuses on improving the tour experience, by integrating our coastal trails with information on indigenous heritage, history, art and the environment through an innovative guided tour app. This technology enhances visitor experiences while gathering data on preferences and usage, guiding our tourism development. Additionally, Council seeks to better understand tourism spend and its impact across the municipality through spend mapping tools to measure the efficacy of our support initiatives and refine our strategies to leverage a greater benefit from visitation for Bayside's local economy.

The Bayside Tourism Network (BTN), a committee of local tourism experts, meet regularly to provide their local tourism industry expertise on Council's tourism strategies and initiatives, ranging from the Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan (DBVMP) to international events such as the Tasar World Championships held at Sandringham Yacht Club.

The night-time economy

City centres are now much more than a hub for workers and business activities during 9-5 hours Monday to Friday. In recent years, night-time economies (NTEs) have been increasingly recognised for their importance to a city's social, cultural and economic value. The 24-hour economy balances daytime activities with a vibrant night life from 6pm to 6am. Cities worldwide and within Australia have recognised the great potential for a 24-hour economy to drive economic growth.

The 24-hour economy supports various industries, including live music and music venues, theatres, recreation, transport, gyms, retail, and hospitality. While NTEs help economic growth, there are many other benefits, including improved safety, cultural activation, visitor appeal, increased diversity of experience and improved city reputation.

More broadly, cities recognise the importance of NTEs in creating more economically diverse cities as the world emerges from the COVID-19 crisis. Industries associated with NTEs (e.g. food and beverage services, arts and recreation) were those most severely impacted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and 24-hour economy strategies can help facilitate their recovery and development.

New demand for NTE activities in Bayside will be generated through increasing populations in the vicinity of Centres. As both local and state planning policy continues to direct higher density living options around our activity centres and public transport nodes, there will be an increased number of people living in close vicinity to our activity centres, boosting demand for NTE activities and services.

Accessible tourism

As communities seek to improve their inclusion and accessibility, so do tourist destinations. Accessible

tourism is another emerging trend, incorporating options and experiences that are open to those with a disability or who have special needs requirements when travelling. People with a disability account for 11 per cent of Australia's overall tourism expenditure, and the benefits of tapping into that market are far-reaching – more people can enjoy travel, and the tourism industry sees more visitation and spending. People with disability spend similar amounts on trips compared to people without. However, their trips tend to have a multiplier effect because they travel in larger groups, making their total trip expenditure greater.

In accessible tourism, information is as important as the spaces themselves. Bayside is extending and improving on accessibility for all abilities, however better communication channels need to be developed highlighting tourism locations that are accessible.

Bayside already offers a range of accessible tourism options, including:

- Ricketts Point beach wheelchair access ramp to the water
- Wheelchair and stroller-friendly walking paths
- Accessible public toilets
- Accessible transport options

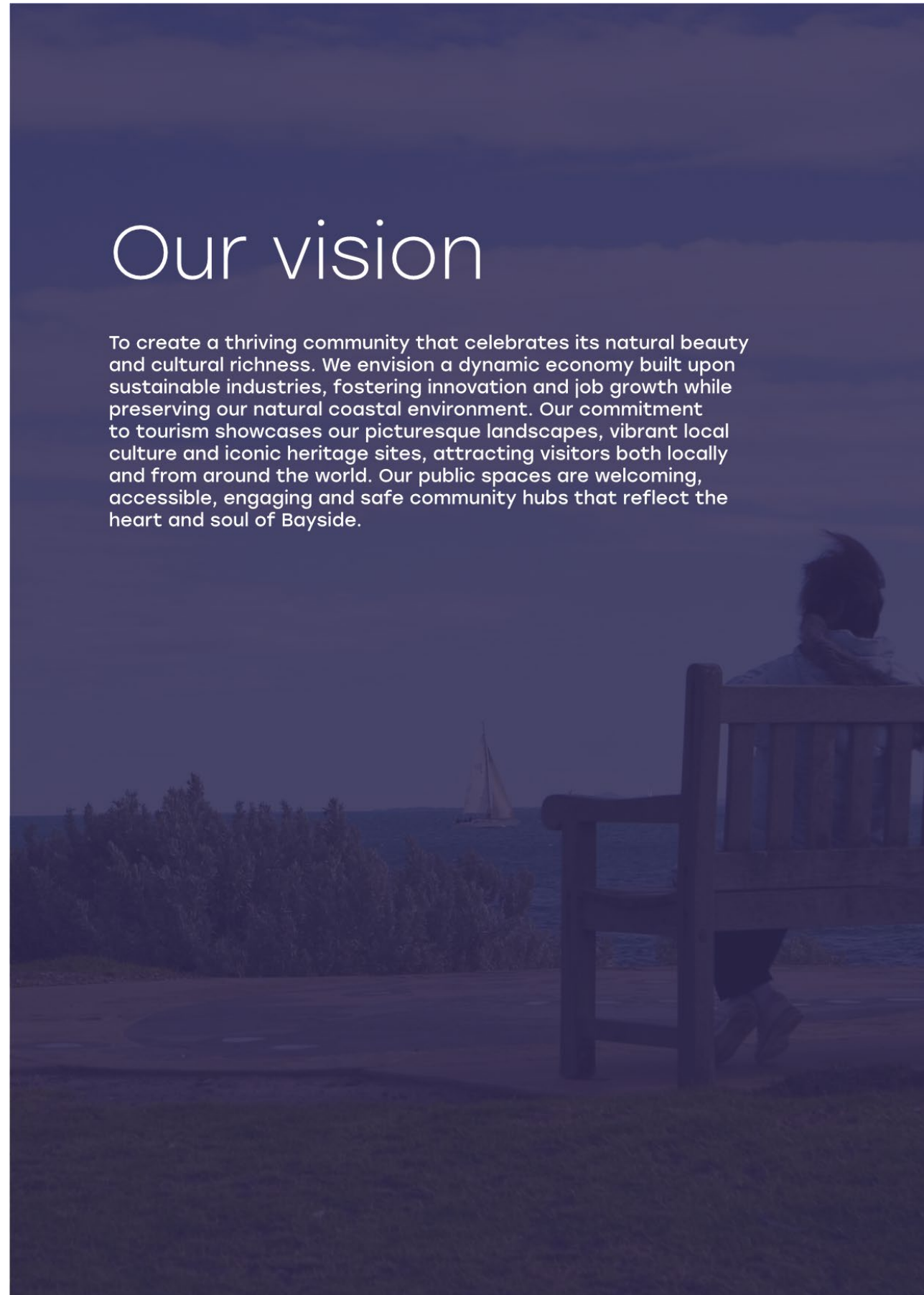


05

Our vision

Our vision

To create a thriving community that celebrates its natural beauty and cultural richness. We envision a dynamic economy built upon sustainable industries, fostering innovation and job growth while preserving our natural coastal environment. Our commitment to tourism showcases our picturesque landscapes, vibrant local culture and iconic heritage sites, attracting visitors both locally and from around the world. Our public spaces are welcoming, accessible, engaging and safe community hubs that reflect the heart and soul of Bayside.





06

Our objectives

6. Our objectives

6.1 Overview

Aligned with the Vision, the objectives and actions have been formulated to increase local economic activity. This creates a locally connected economy using a people-centred approach to local economic development and redirecting wealth back into the local economy so that residents and businesses experience greater benefits and control in their economy.

Objective 1	Proactively address climate change by assisting local businesses in transitioning to a sustainable economy.
Objective 2	Enhance Bayside’s dynamic centres through strategic, customer-centric placemaking, to support local economic growth and cultivate a deep connection and identity of place within the community it serves.
Objective 3	Develop a nuanced visitor offer, which enhances the natural, cultural and heritage assets of Bayside while respecting the diverse interests of all stakeholders.
Objective 4	Cultivate a thriving and robust local economy, creating job opportunities for a skilled workforce, nurturing a responsive local business community attuned to community needs, and being agile in adapting to changing economic circumstances.

Objective 1: Proactively address climate change by assisting local businesses in transitioning to a sustainable economy.

Council is committed to reaching its net emission, zero emissions target and is leading circular economy and sustainability initiatives. In Bayside, the community highly values its beaches, foreshore and open spaces. As a beachside municipality, Bayside is vulnerable to climate change impacts - storm surge, coastal erosion, sea level rise and extreme heat. Therefore, action on the climate emergency is very important for the community’s economic future.

From an economic development and tourism perspective, the move towards circular production models and improved management of emissions, resources and waste need to be handled delicately to avoid negatively impacting local businesses. These adjustments should drive profitability and sustainability when aligned with the interests of business owners. Implementing circular economy principles not only fosters investment and innovation, but also can prove profitable for businesses by transforming waste into valuable resources. Furthermore, enhancing climate adaptation and managing climate risks and natural disasters are crucial for securing investment that strengthens industries, infrastructure and community resilience.



Council is committed to reducing its emissions and demonstrates this across a number of policies and strategies, including:

- Council Plan Actions and Council Vision
- Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-25

- Environmental Sustainability Framework
- Integrated Water Management Plan
- Waste & Recycling Strategy
- Urban Forest Strategy
- Built Environment Awards – Sustainable Housing

Council has a key role in promoting circular economy principles across the business network of Bayside.

Examples of relevant actions for this objective include:

- Support interested businesses' transition to environmentally friendly practices and sustainable technologies through government programs and initiatives
- Explore circular economy programs and incentives (ie. lower waste and material costs) to encourage sustainable practices and resource efficiency with interested local businesses.
- Facilitate interested businesses' transition to green power by offering power purchasing agreements, fostering sustainable energy practices and reducing environmental impact.



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Objective 2: Enhance Bayside’s dynamic centres through strategic, community-centric placemaking, to support local economic growth and cultivate a deep connection and identity of place within the community it serves.

The existing urban amenity, social infrastructure, transport and placemaking already make Bayside an attractive place to live, visit and work. But opportunities to evolve and improve the function of major and local activity centres needs to constantly be pursued to ensure high footfall to support entrepreneurship and new and thriving businesses.

A strength of Bayside is the well-dispersed and diverse range of Centres. Bayside’s thriving local shopping villages are crucial to the local economy. Activity Centres provide access to local services, community facilities, public transport and employment. The development of Activity Centres has been the focus of prior Council policies and actions. However, place development is ever evolving and remains a critical task for economic development.



Council plays a key role in creating and activating places such as:

- **Amenity services and infrastructure:** with the provision of essential community infrastructure, services, and amenity within activity centres.
- **Placemaking and activation:** implementing and supporting placemaking activation to create vibrant, safe and accessible public spaces and places for the community to connect, engage and enjoy.
- **Marketing and promotion:** promoting activity centres as desirable places to live, work, play, shop and invest.
- **Events and programs:** delivering and supporting events and programs that have social, cultural, and economic benefit for the community.

Examples of relevant actions for this objective include:

- Increased frequency of monitoring and responsiveness to litter, street cleanliness, maintenance and upkeep of street furniture to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the centres.
- Explore potential enhancements within the centres including the public art/murals, ambient lighting, centre-branded wayfinding signage and street furniture
- Deliver the Christmas decoration program safely, featuring high-quality and prominently displayed decorations to enhance foot traffic in Bayside’s Activity Centres during the festive season.



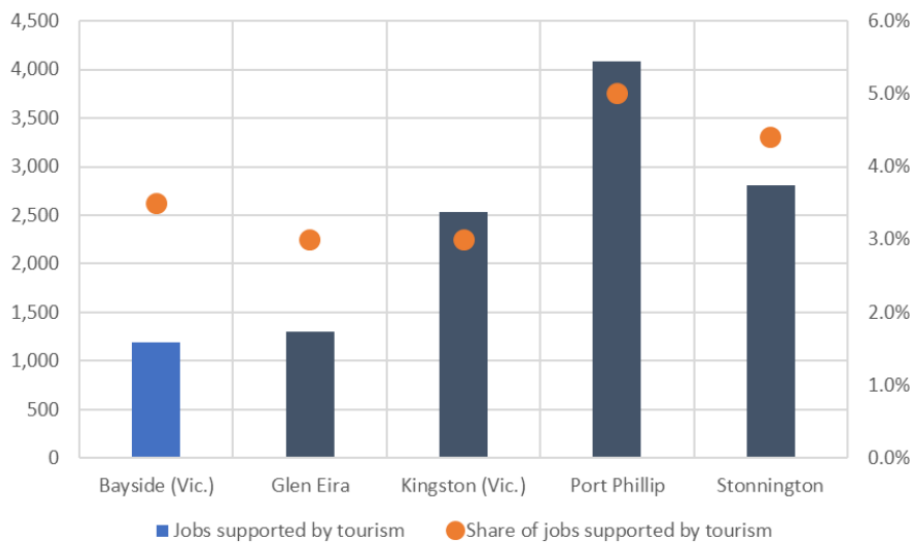
Objective 3: Develop a nuanced visitor offer, which enhances the natural, cultural and heritage assets of Bayside while respecting the diverse interests of all stakeholders.

Tourism relates to people spending money in places they don't usually live or work. This includes residents of Greater Melbourne (not just interstate or international arrivals) travelling to Bayside for day trips. They might visit natural areas, shop, visit arts or hospitality venues, or use local services like health care or education. For example, people visit Bayside for its beaches and walk or bicycle with friends. They then visit a local café for coffee or lunch, spending money in the local economy.

The attraction of tourists generates income for businesses across many sectors, including accommodation, hospitality, retail, transport and food producers (bakeries, breweries etc.). The creative industry also plays a role by increasing visitation through events, markets and activations.

Tourism has the potential to play a larger role in the Bayside economy. Bayside has just under 1,200 people employed in tourism-related industries, 3.5 per cent of total employment. Industries related to tourism also provide export revenue for the local economy, including retail trade (\$114 million), food and beverage services (\$101 million) and sports and recreation (\$76 million).

FIGURE 6: JOBS SUPPORTED BY TOURISM, 2021



Source: REMPLAN, economic profiles, using ABS 2021 Census Place of Work Employment.

From an artistic and cultural standpoint, Bayside is already home to events like the Sandringham Festival, Bayside Art Show, events held on the grounds of Billilla Mansion, international sailing regattas, international golfing events, local farmers markets, local artists and street festivals. More recently, the

Museum of Play and Art opened in Sandringham and has been described as Australia’s most acclaimed children’s museum by Visit Victoria.

Bayside’s coastline is home to the most important urban fossil sites in Australia, and these areas are being surveyed by organisations such as Museums Victoria and amateur enthusiasts. There is an opportunity to further build Bayside’s culture, historical and creative tourism offerings, and night-time economy, including celebrating First Nations’ culture and traditions. The quality and scale of accommodation supply should also be considered, including the role of AirBnB.

Building Bayside’s tourism sector that attracts a sustainable number of visitors and maximises the City’s unique location and natural assets is an opportunity for growth in the Bayside economy. There are opportunities to develop and bring together Bayside’s unique environmental, cultural, and historical selling points. A cohesive brand and itinerary of attractions can be developed.

Building cultural and environmental tourism aligns with changing consumer demands. Consumers are shifting their spending from goods retailing to a greater focus on experiences. The uniqueness of the offer is essential, and it must be authentic to place and sustainable.

Examples of relevant actions for this objective include:

- Coordinate and lead the Bayside Tourism Network (BTN) meetings to strategically guide Council’s tourism initiatives.
- Distribute tourism collateral to the local community via the website, local businesses, and to key tourism outlets such as the Melbourne Visitor Centre
- Implement initiatives outlined in the adopted Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan (VMP) to effectively management and enhance visitor experience



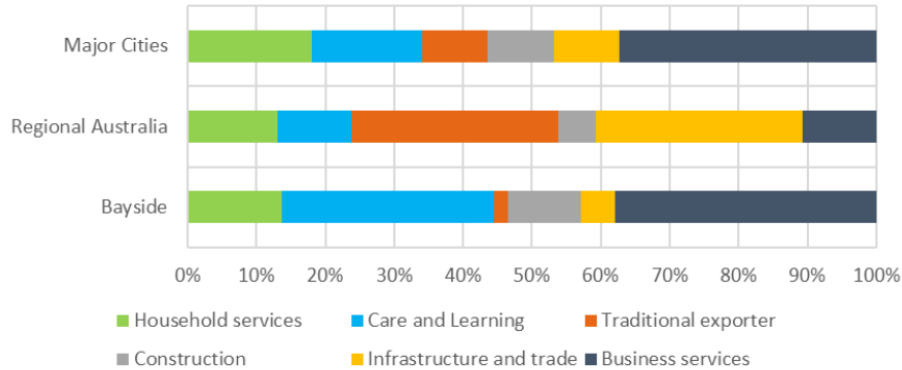
Objective 4: Cultivate a thriving and robust local economy, creating job opportunities for a skilled workforce, nurturing a responsive local business community attuned to community needs, and being agile in adapting to changing economic circumstances.

Bayside’s economic development depends upon the skills of thousands of local business owners and entrepreneurs. Businesses' health and ability to grow, employ people, and develop products is critical to local economic development. Much of the desired economic growth can come from positive change in businesses already in Bayside. These businesses can become larger, more innovative, productive or export into new markets. The emergence of new local firms is also critical. New firms include businesses moving into Bayside (aided by business attraction and facilitation), start-ups and new entries created locally through entrepreneurship or community projects.

For Bayside, there are tourism, retail, and hospitality opportunities. Other opportunities include supporting the growing knowledge economy and health care catering to local demographics (an aging population). For community support, developing industries in Bayside must be environmentally sustainable, sensitive to the built form of Bayside, not have amenity impacts and align with the Council's vision and plan.

Local government has a unique role in economic development as the level of government that deals most closely with businesses. Local governance, leadership and the quality and diversity of business support services are enablers of economic prosperity.

FIGURE 7: SHARE OF GROSS VALUE ADDED BY CORE AND SUPPORTING ECONOMIES



Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2022) - Australia’s Economic Wellbeing Dataset (internal).

Although Bayside accounts for 1.6 per cent of Victoria’s population, businesses in Bayside generate 1 per cent of the State’s income, measured in Gross Regional Product. Given the residential nature of the municipality, high skill levels and the small economic base, it is not surprising that around half of Bayside’s residents leave each day for work (SGS - source?). How and where people work is undergoing significant structural changes.

With the rise of communication technology, the use of flexible labour (consultants, freelancers, crowdsourced labour) and workers seeking more flexible lifestyles, where people work has been slowly changing for many years. But COVID-19 catalysed the shift with the forced experimentation of working from home. This has manifested in a spatial redistribution of work across Melbourne by eliminating the 5-day-a-week commute for many workers. Even if residents are employed by employers outside of Bayside, they will spend more time and money in the local economy.

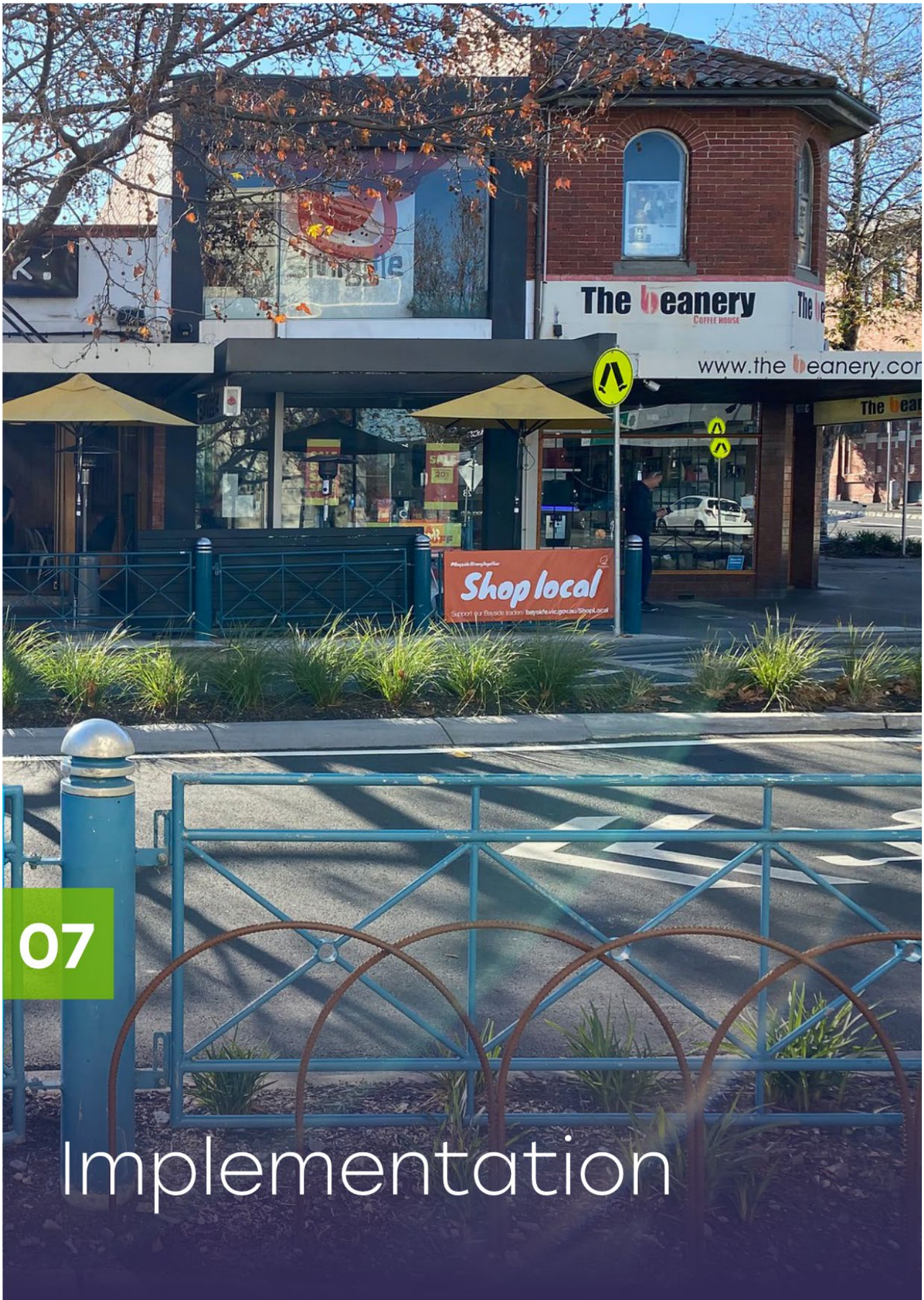
A shift in the working location to suburban areas (at least some days a week) is causing a spreading out of economic activity. As residents work online, there will be an increased demand for local healthcare, education, personal services (hairdressers, mechanics etc.), hospitality and retail. As fewer people leave the local area each day, combined with a growing population, the need for local household serving industries will rise. The shift to working from home also increases the demand for co-working spaces and satellite hubs for large businesses, which Council can look to develop and support. From these trends, there is an economic base to support vibrant 20-minute economies – where most residents’ needs can be accessed within 20 minutes of non-car transport.

From an economic perspective, there is benefit from vibrant local economies of small businesses, as this supports income and wealth retention. Reducing loss of revenue through localised spending patterns and dense local supply chains is an opportunity to grow the local economy.

Examples of relevant actions for this objective include:

- Create social media campaigns for key activity centres, incorporating various channels and strategies to maximise outreach and effectiveness.
- Partner with traders’ associations to deliver events and activations aimed at increasing visitation, fostering a sense of civic pride and belonging, and promoting social connections within the community.
- Work closely with the Suburban Rail Loop Authority (SRLA) on the development of the Cheltenham Precinct Plan for the Bayside Business District (BBD) to ensure positive outcomes for the local community





7. Implementation

This Strategy has been prepared in the context of the municipality's planning framework and Council's broad vision and priorities for the economy and community. The Strategy will be achieved over time in partnership with State and Federal government agencies, businesses, trader associations, service groups and the community.

Implementation of the strategy will be guided by aligning Council's vision, goals and objectives (below) to deliver an informed and curated action plan for Bayside's environmental sustainability and economic growth.

Vision

"To create a thriving community that celebrates its natural beauty and cultural richness. We envision a dynamic economy built upon sustainable industries, fostering innovation and job growth while preserving our natural coastal environment. Our commitment to tourism showcases our picturesque landscapes, vibrant local culture and iconic heritage sites, attracting visitors both locally and from around the world. Our public spaces are welcoming, accessible, engaging and safe community hubs that reflect the heart and soul of Bayside."

Goals

The following principles align with Council's four focus areas and goals developed in the Council Plan 2021-2025:

- **Goal 1 - Our Planet** - Lead better, smarter and sustainable futures.
- **Goal 2 - Our People** - Nurture all people and thriving healthy communities.
- **Goal 3 - Our Place** - Foster Bayside's liveability, open space and exceptional places.
- **Goal 4 - Our Promise** - We promise open and accountable civic leadership.

Objectives

- **Objective 1:** Proactively address climate change assisting local businesses in transitioning to a sustainable economy.
- **Objective 2:** Enhance Bayside's dynamic centres through strategic, customer-centric placemaking, to support local economic growth and cultivate a deep connection and identity of place within the community it serves.
- **Objective 3:** Develop a nuanced visitor offer, which enhances the natural, cultural and heritage assets of Bayside while respecting the diverse interests of all stakeholders.
- **Objective 4:** Cultivate a thriving and robust local economy, creating job opportunities for a skilled workforce, nurturing a responsive local business community attuned to community needs, and being agile in adapting to changing economic circumstances.

Timeframe

An indicative timeframe and relevant stakeholders are identified for each action in the Action Plan. Timeframes categories are as follows:

- Short term (1 year)
- Medium term (2 – 3 years)
- Long term (3 – 5 years)

Monitoring and evaluation

The implementation of the Strategy should be regularly monitored and evaluated by Council's Economic Development Unit (EDU). The team will work with key stakeholders to undertake an annual review to ensure the Strategy remains relevant and responsive.

An annual progress report on the Strategy's implementation should be considered. Additional information sources that will be used to track progress, include:

- Participant feedback in business and community workshops.
- Business/Traders Associations and group meetings.
- Council's internal information sources.

Summary:

The Action Plan (below) provides a planned and current list of actions for Council to establish a prioritised response. A comprehensive cost analysis will be undertaken to determine how and when an action will be resourced with appropriate budgets and staffing to enable delivery of the action.



08

Action plan

8. Action plan

Objective #1:

Proactively address climate change by assisting local businesses in transitioning to a sustainable economy

TABLE 1: OBJECTIVE 1 ACTIONS

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
1.01	Support interested businesses' transition to environmentally friendly practices and sustainable technologies through government programs and initiatives				M	No. of businesses supported in government programs
1.02	Enhance active transport routes, improving connectivity between activity centres, residential areas, and key visitor destinations to promote sustainable mobility and accessibility.				L	No. of people using active transport options Improved connectivity metrics
1.03	Explore circular economy programs and incentives (ie. lower waste and material costs), to encourage sustainable practices and resource efficiency with local businesses.				M	Report on circular economy programs for local businesses

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
						observable improvement in resource efficiency
1.04	Promote Council's Business Efficiency Hub as a centralised resource offering information on energy efficiency, electrification, and available grants.				S	No. of businesses accessing the hub
1.05	Facilitate interested businesses' transition to green power by offering power purchasing agreements, fostering sustainable energy practices, and reducing environmental impact.				M	No. of businesses switching to green power through agreements
1.06	Advocate for increased public transport options to connect activity centres and key attractions, improving accessibility and enhancing mobility for residents and visitors alike.				L	Number of new public transport routes, usage rates
1.07	Investigate the opportunity for eco-tourism tours along Bayside's foreshore, to encourage volunteerism in the care of the environment				M	Options for eco-tours investigated
1.08	Encourage businesses to implement responsible waste management practices through Council's regular trader newsletter updates.				M	No. of newsletters distributed

Objective #2:
Enhance Bayside’s dynamic centres through strategic, community-centric placemaking, to support local economic growth and cultivate a deep connection and identity of place within the community it serves.

TABLE 3: OBJECTIVE 2 ACTIONS

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
2.01	Increased frequency of monitoring and responsiveness to litter, street cleanliness, maintenance and upkeep of street furniture to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the centres.				M	Improved cleaning regimes implemented
2.02	Deliver the Christmas decoration program safely, featuring high-quality and prominently displayed decorations to enhance foot traffic in Bayside’s Activity Centres during the festive season.				S	Program delivered safely
2.03	Implement a Christmas decoration voucher program to encourage local businesses to decorate their shopfronts, foster a festive spirit and supporting the community’s retail sector.				M	Number of participating businesses

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
2.04	Launch the Christmas Shops on Show competition, inviting businesses to creatively decorate their windows. Drive foot traffic to activity centres through digital media campaigns.				S	Business participation rate, engagement metrics from social media campaigns
2.05	Implement a shop local campaign that can be replicated across each centre to boost place connection and civic pride.				M	Community feedback on place connection Observable increase in local business support
2.06	Develop guidelines/specifications to guide the strategic maintenance and renewal of assets within Bayside's activity centres reflective of their scale being Major, Large and Small				L	Guidelines completed
2.07	Investigate options to create safer, pedestrian-friendly activity centres, and provide a greater balance of sustainable transport modes, such as walking and cycling.				L	Options investigated. Opportunities to create safer, pedestrian-friendly centres pursued

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
2.08	Review parking controls in major activity centres, and explore the roll-out of real-time signage and other technologies to improve parking efficiency in suitable locations				L	Parking controls reviewed and improvements implemented
2.09	Develop an assessment criterion to establish when a Parking Precinct Plan is required to manage existing and future parking demands within each Major Activity Centre (As outlined in Action 2 of the Parking Strategy 2023-2033)				L	Assessment criterion developed
Martin Street Activity Centre (See: Placemaking Action Plan for details, Pg 28)						
2.10	Explore potential enhancements in the centre by evaluating options for the installation of vibrant murals, strategic placement of planters, ambient lighting, centre-branded wayfinding signage, and engaging historical exhibits to enrich the community's cultural and aesthetic experience.				M	Placemaking initiatives implemented
2.11	Explore the possibility of artwork and signage on the rail bridge and abutment to holistically highlight the Centre's place identity. Reduce the visual dominance of the bridge and function as a gateway.				L	Artwork/signage implemented (subject to Vic Track approval)

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
Bay Street Activity Centre (See: Placemaking Action Plan for details, Pg 44)						
2.12	Explore the potential for enriching the centre with vibrant murals, decorative planters with integrated seating, centre-branded wayfinding signage, artistic lighting, and lively markets to enhance the community's aesthetic appeal and social vibrancy				M	Placemaking initiatives implemented
2.13	Investigate options to increase public space and footpath width to create a more pedestrian-friendly place.				L	Opportunities for increased public space and footpath width pursued
2.14	Explore partnership opportunities with the art house cinema to activate footpath and rear parking areas with outdoor activities for film festival events. Add parklets to the front of the cinema.				M	Arrange meeting with the cinema to explore activation opportunities
Church Street Activity Centre (See: Placemaking Action Plan for details, Pg 60)						
2.15	Conduct thorough assessments for seasonal activations and the integration of public art, while investigating opportunities to improve infrastructure with the addition of dynamic lighting, clear wayfinding signage, and ample				M	Placemaking initiatives implemented

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
	bicycle parking solutions to improve accessibility and engagement					
2.16	Seek opportunities to provide more spaces for footpath dining and social gathering.				M	No. of footpath trading permits
Hampton Street Activity Centre (See: Placemaking Action Plan for details, Pg 76)						
2.17	Proactively seek out and assess prospects for creating engaging murals, dynamic community activations, enhanced lighting for safety and ambiance, as well as expanding bike rack installations to support sustainable transportation.				M	Placemaking initiatives implemented
2.18	Improve pedestrian amenities and experience including advocating for safer crossings particularly on Hampton Street/Beach Road, and implementing Centre-branded wayfinding, especially around the Station and access points/intersections with Hampton Street and routes to the beach.				M	Advocacy to be undertaken Wayfinding signage to be implemented
Sandringham Village Activity Centre (See: Placemaking Action Plan for details, Pg 92)						

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
2.19	Explore enhancements in urban aesthetics and functionality through the strategic placement of wayfinding signage, landscaping upgrades, and artistic installations, enhancing pedestrian safety, enhancing ambient lighting, and developing a distinctive beach branding that resonates with both residents and visitors				M	Placemaking initiatives implemented
2.20	Explore initiatives to boost the beach access on Melrose Street such as wayfinding, signage, beach inspired public art to bridge both sides of the Centre – station to the beach, street seating pavilions. Consider roadway artwork, such as eye catching or unique pedestrian crossing marking.				L	Wayfinding options explored and implemented.
Black Rock Village Activity Centre (See: Placemaking Action Plan for details, Pg.108)						
2.21	Examine the potential to elevating place branding, install ambient lighting, and implement intuitive wayfinding signage to guide visitors. Additionally, assess the feasibility of introducing farmers/craft markets to foster community engagement and support local producers				M	Placemaking initiatives implemented

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
2.22	Work with Black Rock House to collaborate on existing and future activations to increase footfall to the Black Rock Activity Centre.				S	Higher attendance Positive activation feedback
Beaumaris Concourse Activity Centre (See: Placemaking Action Plan for details, Pg 124)						
2.23	Leverage the art deco and mid-century heritage design to create wayfinding or branding guidelines that could complement the Centre's identity.				L	Deliver wayfinding/branding guidelines
2.24	Conduct a lighting review to identify areas where ambient lights, sculptural/artistic lights or safety lights could be appropriately installed. This will help grow a night-time economy.				M	Lighting review undertaken
2.25	Investigate opportunities to activate the Reserve Road frontage through gateway art installations, lighting, or utilising the open space for food-trucks, pop up booths, shops, kiosks and the like or to host regular arts and crafts market or farmers market that integrates with the permanent pavilion.				L	Opportunities for activation determined and implemented

Objective #3:

Develop a nuanced visitor offer, which enhances the natural, cultural and heritage assets of Bayside while respecting the diverse interests of all stakeholders.

TABLE 4: OBJECTIVE 3 ACTIONS

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
3.01	Coordinate and lead Bayside Tourism Network (BTN) meetings to strategically guide Council's tourism initiatives.				S	No. of meetings held. Initiatives launched
3.02	Distribute tourism collateral to the local community via the website, local businesses, and to key tourism outlets such as the Melbourne Visitor Centre				S	Website traffic, distribution quantity, feedback from local businesses.
3.03	Implement initiatives outlined in the adopted Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan (VMP) to effectively manage and enhance visitor experience				L	Refer to the Dendy Beach VMP.
3.04	Conduct a comprehensive review of the Architectural Trail and include recipients of the Built Environment Awards where applicable, ensuring alignment with current architectural excellence standards.				M	Number of trail updates. Inclusion of award recipients.

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
3.05	Sponsor community events that promote visitation to Bayside such as the Great Bayside Swim, Bayside Art Show and national and world championship sailing events.				S	Event attendance figures provided
3.06	Conduct a biennial publicity campaign to raise awareness of the diverse trails within Bayside, enhancing community engagement and promoting local exploration.				M	Campaign Reach (impressions and engagements)
3.07	Organise heritage-focused events in Bayside's activity centres, to cultivate civic pride, encourage community participation, and attract visitation				M	No. of attendees. Post event satisfaction surveys
3.08	Expand the Activity Centre Event and Celebration Program (ACECP) to include partnerships with hospitality venues in activity centres, stimulating nighttime activation and fostering vibrant community engagement after hours.				M	No. of partnerships and events hosted/sponsored Measurable increase in spend in activity centres
3.09	To stimulate Bayside's night-time economy, establish a visitor attraction program featuring local hospitality and entertainment options				M	Participation rates, feedback from businesses and visitors. increased spend in activity centres during evenings

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
3.10	Develop a Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) marketing campaign spotlighting Bayside's top attractions. Enhance the overall visitor experience by integrating connections to local shopping precincts and markets, offering a diverse and enriching exploration of the area.				M	Campaign reach. Increase in visitor numbers
3.11	Establish a spend tracking tool to monitor and analyse expenditure patterns of local activity centres. Use this data to evaluate the efficacy of activations and initiatives, and tailor support to centres to drive increased footfall.				S	Usage of tool, insights gained from expenditure data, and changes in footfall and business support.
3.12	Improve signage at Brighton Beach and Middle Brighton Railway Stations as key entry points to welcome visitors to Dendy precinct, enhancing their arrival experience and promoting exploration of the area.				L	Signage improvements undertaken
3.13	Attract and gain leverage from renowned major events, enhancing Bayside's cultural landscape while fostering economic growth and community engagement.				M	No. of major events attracted. Economic impact on Bayside.
3.14	Conduct a review of existing bicycle paths to assess feasibility for expansion, evaluate current usage levels, and enhance signage for improved navigation and safety.				L	No. of trails enhanced, usage stats.

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
3.15	Develop a range of official Bayside Tourism Merchandise and seek to make it available with participating businesses.	Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking	M	Merchandise range developed

Objective #4:
Cultivate a thriving and robust local economy, creating job opportunities for a skilled workforce, nurturing a responsive local business community attuned to community needs, and being agile in adapting to changing economic circumstances.

TABLE 4: OBJECTIVE 4 ACTIONS

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
4.01	Facilitate the establishment of a Trader Association and develop a trader database for the Nepean Hwy/South Rd portion of the Hampton East, Major Activity Centre				S	Successful formation of the association.
4.02	Support Trader Associations by facilitating AGMs, actively participating in meetings, and assisting in the development of tailored, centre-specific initiatives to promote the collective interests of local businesses within the centre.				S	No. of AGMs facilitated No. of initiatives contributed to
4.03	Create social media campaigns for key activity centres, incorporating various channels and strategies to maximise outreach and effectiveness.				S	Reach and engagement metrics across channels.
4.04	Promote responsible development practices by organising the Bayside Built Environment Awards (BEA), recognising				S	Awards program conducted

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
	and celebrating projects that contribute positively to the local built environment.					
4.05	Provide tailored social media & marketing training programs aimed at enhancing the digital skills of local business owners and improving their online presence, with a particular focus on those from Small Neighbourhood Activity Centres.				M	Participation rates.
4.06	Regularly update the Economic Development Dashboard with key economic metrics on a biannual basis to ensure stakeholders have access to current and relevant data for informed decision-making.				S	Timeliness and frequency of updates. User engagement with the dashboard
4.07	Promote various government grants and support programs to Bayside businesses via Council's website and trader newsletters				S	Newsletter open rate No. of clicks on grant related information
4.08	Create a database of businesses involved in the care economy, with the goal of establishing a network of care services to enhance support within the sector.				M	Creation of the database.

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
4.09	Promote the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in recruitment, internships, and work placements among local Bayside employers, fostering diversity and inclusion in the workforce.				S	No. of clicks on promotions
4.10	Work closely with the Suburban Rail Loop Authority (SRLA) on the development of the Cheltenham Precinct Plan for the Bayside Business District (BBB) to ensure positive outcomes for the local community				M	Effective advocacy of local community interests in the Cheltenham precinct plan
4.11	Facilitate business-to-business networking opportunities through the implementation of the Bayside Business Network (BBN) program of events.				S	No. of networking events held, attendee numbers and event feedback.
4.12	Provide a "One-Stop-Shop" Concierge service to welcome new businesses, offering guidance on available Council programs and expediting necessary approvals or permits to streamline their establishment process.				S	No. of businesses assisted, satisfaction ratings, and observable reduction in approval times.
4.13	Establish a network comprising key stakeholder groups in the Bayside Business District (BBB) to collaboratively develop a vision and identity for the area following the construction of Cheltenham station.				S	Formation of network

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
4.14	Conduct a review of the Bayside Small Activity Centres Strategy (2019) to assess its effectiveness and identify areas for enhancement or refinement.				L	Identification of strategy effectiveness, revise as required
4.15	Partner with traders' associations to deliver events and activations aimed at increasing visitation, fostering a sense of civic pride and belonging, and promoting social connections within the community.				M	No. activations undertaken with traders associations Observable increase in spend
4.16	Within the context of the SRL Cheltenham station, conduct an analysis of commuter demographics and perform a gap analysis of the current offerings within the Bayside Business District (BBD) to align with the potential new customer base. Identify any gaps and develop an attraction campaign to bring in new and relevant businesses to fill those gaps.				M	Gaps identified Successful business attraction campaign
4.17	Partner with Kingston and Glen Eira City Councils to advocate for outcomes that align with Council's plans, priorities and community values through the VPA Hampton East (Moorabbin) Activity Centre Review.				M	Advocacy outcomes that align with Council's plans

Action ID	Action	Related area			Timing (S/M/L)	Measure
		Economic Development	Tourism	Placemaking		
4.18	Undertake a consumer behaviour study to increase the competitiveness and growth of local businesses in Bayside Activity Centres.				L	Insights into consumer behaviours Actionable strategies implemented for traders
4.19	Offer business mentoring and training opportunities to local business owners, focusing on areas such as digital skills, financial management, scaling and sustainable business practices				M	No. of attendees to training programs
4.20	Investigate the formation of landlord associations to collaborate on strategically enhancing and revitalising activity centres.				L	Establishment of the landlord associations.
4.21	Establish annual 'listening forums' in Major Activity Centres, coordinating with local stakeholders and traders to promote participation to gather valuable feedback.				M	Annual listening forums are held.

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10.5 DENDY BEACH VISITOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

City Planning and Amenity - Urban Strategy
File No: FOL/24/351 – Doc No: DOC/24/99198

Executive summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the outcomes of the community engagement and the revised Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan (VMP) for adoption.

Background

The VMP has been developed to address the challenges resulting from increasing visitation to Dendy Beach and the Brighton Bathing Boxes. The plan also aims to fulfill Council Plan Action 3.1.3.2 (Develop a Destination Visitor Management Plan for Dendy Street Beach for Council Adoption).

The VMP represents a proactive step towards ensuring that Dendy Beach and its surrounds remains a valued asset for the local community and visitors. It seeks to balance accessibility and sustainability, reflecting the community's values and expectations for the area.

To develop the VMP, Council engaged a specialist consultant, The APP Group. The APP Group conducted a full audit of the precinct, engaged a comprehensive reverse brief and information gathering process with all relevant teams within Council, and facilitated on-going internal collaboration.

The draft plan underwent significant refinement and was discussed in detail with Councillors at the 28 November 2023 Strategic Issues Discussion. Councillors expressed broad support for the strategic objectives of the plan and identified the need for further internal stakeholder work prior to community consultation. This additional work was completed, and Council approved the plan for community consultation at the 19 March 2024 Council Meeting.

The community consultation period has now closed, and the feedback received has been analysed. Based on this feedback revisions have been made. This report discusses the outcomes of the community engagement process and presents the revised VMP for Council's consideration.

Key issues

The VMP addresses several key issues that have persisted within the precinct, they include:

- overcrowding at the bathing boxes, which can not only detract from the visitor experience but also poses sustainability issues, as well as inconveniences for residents and bathing box owners
- inadequate wayfinding and directional signage, leading to a fragmented experience for visitors, particularly in connectivity between major arrival points such as Middle Brighton Station, Brighton Beach station and the bus drop-off points
- lack of provision of Tour bus parking and drop-off points, which has resulted in numerous complaints from residents, particularly those in residential streets where buses tend to park.

These recurring challenges have highlighted the need for a holistic and coordinated management approach. The plan aims to address these key concerns (and others identified) in a comprehensive and holistic way, by covering off on the following key components:

- Visitor Management and Experience
- Traffic and Parking Management
- Waste Management
- Environment & Sustainability
- Wayfinding and Signage
- Marketing and Branding
- Facilities Management
- Accessibility.

Each of these areas has been addressed within the VMP to create a sustainable approach to managing this key tourist precinct, balancing the diverse needs of all stakeholders, which includes nearby residents, bathing box owners, commercial operators, visitors, tour bus operators, and the Bayside community.

Community engagement process

The community engagement process for the VMP was comprehensive and designed to ensure broad and inclusive participation from the diverse range of stakeholders that use Dendy Beach. The engagement aimed to gauge:

- community sentiment for the plan overall
- the level of support for the proposed operational improvements and aspirational strategies for the precinct, including revitalisation of The Baths, a viewing deck at Green Point, and greater car parking provision
- new ideas to enhance and improve the visitor experience and deliver the strategic objectives
- identification of any gaps in the draft plan.

The process was conducted from 21 March to 21 April 2024 and employed multiple methods to gather feedback effectively.

Who was engaged?

Feedback was received from approximately 307 participants. Details of the engagement can be found in the Community Engagement Summary Report (Attachment 1).

As part of this process, Council engaged with:

- local residents
- Brighton Bathing Box Association and owners
- Brighton Life Saving Club
- tour operators
- operators of the Brighton Savoy, Middle Brighton Baths, and Dendy Pavilion Café

- Bayside Advisory Groups (Bayside Tourism Network, Bayside Health Ageing Reference Group, Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, Reconciliation Action Plan Committee)
- “Friends of” and environmental groups (Friends of Brighton Dunes, Friend of Picnic Point, Black Rock, and Sandringham Conservation Association)
- Bayside Traders Associations
- Royal Brighton Yacht Club.

Summary of Feedback

Overall Satisfaction:

- 86% of respondents were either satisfied (59%) or neutral (27%) with the VMP, representing majority support for the plan.
- The average satisfaction rating was 6.7 out of 10.

Support for Initiatives:

Of the 13 initiatives tested the majority received strong support, with the 4 least supported initiatives still receiving mild support:

The least supported initiatives included:

- other activities to attend nearby (5.9 out of 10)
- increasing carpark at Green Point (5.9)
- more hospitality options (6.5)
- multilingual information boards (6.7).

For reference, a score of 8 and above indicates extremely strong support, while a score of 5.5 and above is considered as receiving mild support.

Given the plan balances the often-opposing needs of stakeholders and a broader cross-section of the community, receiving majority support is a positive result. A positive result is indicative that the plan has effectively addressed the diverse needs and expectations of stakeholders.

Revision to the VMP

As a result of community feedback, the following revisions have been made to the VMP:

1. Accessibility (Section 6, Pg 44): Revision following feedback from the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DAIAC).
2. Expanded Study Area (Section 2, Pg 2): Now includes the Royal Brighton Yacht Club.
3. Pedestrian Safety (Section 7, Pg 48): Advocating for pedestrian crossing/s at strategic points along the Esplanade with DTP, close to the bathing boxes.
4. Visitors to the Foreshore (Section 3.2, Pg 16) – Identification of visitors, recognition of Bathing Box owners.

5. Additional Bike Racks (Section 7, Pg 48): Recommended installation of additional bike racks near The Baths.
6. Public Fitness Equipment (Section 6, Pg 45): Recommended installation of public workout/fitness equipment along the foreshore.
7. Wildlife Protection (Section 10, Pg 66): Recognising the need for identification of native wildlife and what's required to protect their habitat.
8. Uber/Ride-Share Drop-off Zones (Section 7.3, Pg 54): Implementation of designated ride-share drop-off zones.

These revisions ensure that the VMP aligns with community needs and expectations.

Conclusion

The Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan (VMP) has been developed through extensive internal and community engagement and feedback.

Receiving majority support from a diverse range of stakeholders demonstrates the plan's effectiveness in balancing competing needs. The revisions made in response to feedback further align the plan with community values and expectations.

Adopting the VMP will ensure the sustainable management of Dendy Beach, enhancing visitor experience, protecting the environment, and maintaining community harmony and continuous improvement of the precinct.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. notes the extensive community consultation, engagement and revisions undertaken in preparing the Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan
2. adopts the Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan (Attachment 2).

Support Attachments

1. Community Engagement Summary Report
2. Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan (VMP)

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Social

The plan aims to address community concerns and visitor needs at Dendy Beach, contributing to improved social interactions and experiences. This involves creating safer and more inclusive spaces, ensuring better accessibility, and facilitating harmonious environment for residents, tourists, and other stakeholders.

Natural Environment

The plan seeks to protect and preserve the natural environment at Dendy Beach while accommodating visitor needs. It encompasses sustainable practices that focus on minimising environmental impact, conservation of the foreshore and local flora and fauna, and implementing responsible waste management.

Climate Emergency

The plan's sustainable practices and aspirations for efficient traffic management align with climate emergency considerations. By implementing sustainable initiatives, such as waste reductions strategies and sustainable transportation options, the place actively contributes to reducing the carbon footprint of visitors.

Built Environment

Visitor management will ensure the preservation of built environment and infrastructure at Dendy Beach. This involves maintenance of essential amenities including the Pavilion, pathways, toilet blocks and surrounding public amenities through a facilities management plan. The plan also envisions future enhancements to the precinct for the enjoyment of visitors while respecting the historical and cultural significance of the built environment.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

Community engagement will be a key aspect in the development of the plan, ensuring all key stakeholders are involved in the refining the plans final outcomes, to ensure an effective, nuanced approach that balances their needs.

Equity Impact

The implications of this report have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020.

In development of this plan, the requirement for Equity Impact pre-assessment has been completed. The pre-assessment concluded that this plan: b) does meet the requirement for a comprehensive Equity Impact Assessment (EIA).

The EIA was completed on 04 October 2023.

Human Rights

The implications of the report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

Failure to implement the strategies of the VMP may expose the Council to potential legal liabilities. Legal consequences might arise from safety hazards, insufficient accessibility, and non-compliance.

Finance

Council's Chief Financial Officer was consulted and has reviewed the recommendation outlined in this report.

It is noted that the VMP has been developed to provide a vision and strategic direction to inform future operational and capital priorities and decisions. The concepts include in the VMP are currently not funded.

Links to Council policy and strategy

The need for the DBVMP is specifically identified in Council Plan Action 3.1.3.2 – Develop a Destination Visitor Management Plan for Dendy Street Beach for Council Adoption.

In addition, the development of the DBVMP closely aligns with the broader objectives of the Bayside City Council Plan 2021–25 and more specifically corresponds to the following themes:

Theme 1 – The living environment/natural environment

Bayside will mitigate coastal erosion and protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity from the effects of climate change in the natural environment

Theme 2 – Increase and enhance open space

Bayside will ensure open space and its protection and amenity is a priority for 2050

Theme 3 – Transport, walkability and rideability

Bayside will support provision of effective, sustainable, and inclusive transport services and infrastructure

Theme 4 – Community feel and direction

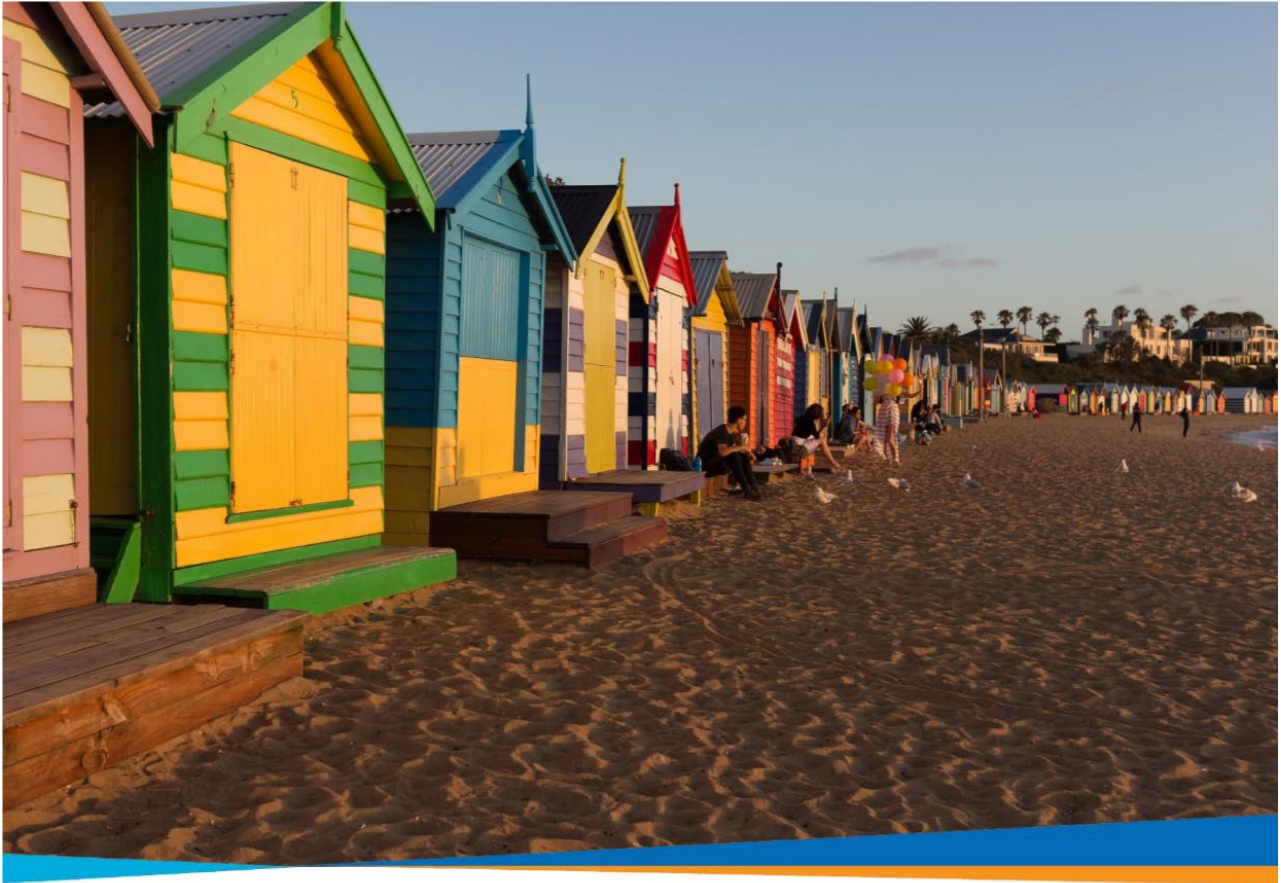
Bayside will be a city that is greener and has more open space and creates a community that is inclusive, respectful, and accessible

Theme 8 – Access and inclusion

Bayside values all individuals. Bayside wishes to demonstrate that they value the lived experiences of all cultures, and they want to be inclusive of people of all abilities in the community.

Theme 10 – Tourism, commercial and economic opportunities

Encouraging a vibrant commercial sector of environmentally compatible industries including tourism, high-tech and commercial activities to underpin the economy of the city.



Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan

Community Engagement Summary Report

May 2024



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2 Background

The Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan (VMP) covers the foreshore area from The Middle Brighton Baths (The Baths) to Green Point. The creation of the VMP builds on the Dendy Beach Masterplan and is an action of the Council Plan 2021 - 2025.

The VMP aims to enhance the visitor experience and reduce impact to locals by easing challenges created by the popularity of the Brighton Bathing Boxes, the iconic beach, and the new Dendy Beach Pavilion with café which will open in 2024. It also aims to leverage this destination's popularity to deliver economic benefits from tourism to other Bayside areas.

Identified challenges experienced within the precinct include:

- Tourist bus parking and traffic congestion
- Appropriate access to essential public amenities (including toilets, change facilities and rubbish bins)
- Inadequate directional and wayfinding signage from car parks and local public transport hubs, especially for non-English speaking visitors
- Issues experienced by Bathing Box owners and local residents, including visitor behaviour and parking congestion in residential streets.

The VMP aligns with the [Bayside 2050 Community Vision](#), the [Council Plan 2021 - 25](#), the [Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2022-24](#), and the [Bayside Tourism Strategy 2013](#).

This document provides a summary of community feedback on the *Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan*, with a focus on support or opposition to the 13 proposed initiatives to improve visitor experience, views about how to enhance the visitor experience, preserve and protect the natural environment, balance stakeholder needs, and deliver sustainable tourism and economic viability; resident and visitor views about the proposed plan, and other suggestions in relation to the management of the Dendy Beach area.

The feedback obtained through the consultation included a total of 147 self-selected *Have Your Say* online surveys, 82 randomly selected intercept survey respondents surveyed on-site at Dendy Beach, 33 written submissions, Council officer meetings with DAIAC, the Bayside Tourism Network, and the Bayside Health Ageing Reference Group which included approximately 30 participants, along with four face-to-face and 11 telephone conversations with individuals (two of whom also provided written submissions).

3 Consultation process

3.1 Consultation purpose

The purpose of the consultation was to understand the community's views about the Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan.

The consultation focused on community support or opposition to the 13 proposed initiatives to improve visitor experience, views about how to enhance the visitor experience, preserve and protect the natural environment, balance stakeholder needs, and deliver sustainable tourism and economic viability, resident and visitor views about the proposed plan, and other suggestions in relation to the management of the Dendy Beach area.

3.2 Consultation methodology

The tools and techniques selected for this project were informed by the project content, stakeholders, and type of feedback sought.

The communication program ran between 21 March and 21 April 2024, with the *Have Your Say* website open for this period.

The consultation process included an online survey available on the *Have Your Say* website and face-to-face intercept surveys conducted on-site at Dendy Beach. Residents and other interested parties also had the opportunity to provide written and emailed submissions to Council, as well as one-on-one telephone, video or in-person discussions with Council officers.

The consultation was promoted through the following:

- Project page on Have Your Say engagement platform.
- Direct email to relevant Have Your Say members.
- Direct email to relevant groups, committees, and business operators.
- Letter posted to local residents.
- Signage at Dendy Beach, the Baths, and Green Point.
- Let's Talk Bayside magazine (bi-monthly print magazine).
- This Week in Bayside (Council e-newsletter).
- Council website (news story).
- Social media, including sponsored posts.

Metropolis Research interview staff conducted a total of 14 hours of intercept survey time, over four sessions between 24 - 30 March 2024.

Metropolis Research was not responsible for the design of the survey instruments.

The intercept survey timings were advertised by Council via the Have Your Say project page, and on-site signage in each activity centre on the days the surveys were conducted.

Interested participants could also provide direct feedback through the Have Your Say online engagement tool, including the opportunity to ask questions and book a meeting with Council officers. Feedback was also gathered at committee, network, and reference group meetings with key stakeholder groups.

The survey was available in accessible formats on request.

4 Participant profile

A total of 229 respondents were surveyed via the randomly approached intercept survey and the self-selected online participation portal, with the demographic and location breakdown as outlined in the following table.

Given that the majority of the intercept survey respondents were not Bayside residents, the demographic profile of these respondents reflects the visitor experience, and not the local Bayside community.

The self-selected online survey respondents, whilst mostly Bayside residents, were also skewed towards neighbouring suburbs rather than being drawn evenly from across Bayside City Council. It is worth noting, the self-selected online survey demographic questions are not mandatory.

There was also no demographic information collected from individuals or groups who provided written or emailed submissions, or telephone and / or in-person engagements with Council officers.

	Demographic	Bayside 2021 Census	Intercept survey respondents (%)	Online survey respondents (%)
Gender	Male	48%	38%	36%
	Female	52%	61%	63%
	Non-binary / self-describe	-	1%	1%
	Prefer not to say	-	0	0
Age	18 to 34 years	20%	50%	15%
	35 to 44 years	17%	17%	11%
	45 to 59 years	30%	23%	40%
	60 to 74 years	21%	7%	31%
	75 years and over	12%	2%	14%
Suburb	Beaumaris	14%	0%	4%
	Black Rock	7%	0%	4%
	Brighton	24%	74%	55%
	Brighton East	16%	21%	16%
	Cheltenham	4%	0%	0%
	Hampton	14%	5%	8%
	Hampton East	5%	0%	3%
	Highett	7%	0%	7%
	Sandringham	11%	0%	3%
	Outside Bayside	-	0%	0%

5 Consultation findings

The following section summarises the key themes which arose in community feedback on the Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan consultation.

The consultation includes feedback from 305 individuals and groups, including:

- 147 *Have Your Say* online consultation survey respondents.

- 82 Intercept survey respondents
- 33 written submissions
- Council officer attendance at three meetings (DAIAC, Bayside Tourism Network, Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group)
- 15 conversations (in-person and by telephone) with Council officers (two of whom also provided written submissions).

5.1 Feedback summary

The following key findings were identified in the data collected from the community engagement campaign:

- **Connection to Dendy Beach** – of the 229 survey participants, 53% were residents of Bayside, 25% were neighbouring residents to the site, 25% were tourists (mostly via the intercept survey), 18 were members of a local community group / organisation, 13 were bathing box owners, four were business owners / operators, and four were tour operators.
- **Visiting Dendy Beach** – neighbouring residents mostly visited the area on a regular basis (at least weekly) throughout the year, whilst Bayside residents were somewhat more likely to visit occasionally. Respondents who were tourists were most likely to rarely or never visit (other than the visit at which they were surveyed).
- **Challenges to visiting the precinct** – Of the 229 survey respondents (combined intercept and online), 75 respondents (33%) reported that they experienced accessibility barriers or challenges when visiting the Dendy Beach area.
 - *Suggestions for how Council could improve accessibility / reduce barriers* – included more or better parking (20 responses), better access to the beach (19 responses), more or better pedestrian and bicycle crossing over main roads (18 response), more or better bicycle pathways and facilities (15 responses), and better traffic management and / or roads (13 responses).
- **Support / opposition to the Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan**
 - A majority (59%) of the 147 online survey respondents supported and 14% opposed the plan. This question was not asked of the intercept respondents as most of these would not have viewed the plan. The majority of the written and other submissions were generally supportive of the Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan, but with a range of issues raised that submitters felt should be addressed as part of the plan.
- **Support / opposition to the 13 proposed measures to improve visitor experience**
 - On average, taken as a single group of 229 survey respondents, there was at least mild support for all of the 13 proposed measures to improve visitor experience at Dendy Beach, as follows:
 - *Upgraded, more accessible public toilets* – average support score of 8.8 out of 10, with 90% support and 1% opposed.
 - *New sustainability initiatives* – average support of 8.7, with 90% support and 4% opposed.

- *Smart waste bins for quicker collection* – average support of 8.3, with 85% support and 5% opposed.
- *Improving pathways between the Baths and Green Point* – average support of 8.2, with 82% support and 6% opposed.
- *Revitalising Middle Brighton Baths* – average support of 7.9, with 79% support and 6% opposed.
- *Clear wayfinding signage from public transport* – average support of 7.5, with 71% support and 6% opposed.
- *Dedicated and timed parking for tour buses* – average support of 7.2, with 67% support and 12% opposed.
- *Multilingual information boards* – average support of 6.7, with 59% support and 15% opposed.
- *More hospitality options* – average support of 6.5, with 59% support and 25% opposed.
- *Increased parking at The Baths* – average support of 6.4, with 57% support and 23% opposed.
- *Building a viewing deck* – average support of 6.3, with 57% support and 24% opposed.
- *Other activities to attend nearby* – average support of 5.9, with 50% support and 21% opposed.
- *Increased parking at Green Point* – average support of 5.9, with 49% support and 26% opposed.
- **Suggestions as to how to improve four outcomes** – online and intercept survey respondents were asked for suggestions as to how to improve four outcomes, as follows:
 - *Enhance visitor experience* – the most common responses were for more / better outdoor amenities, exercise, and playground equipment (30 responses), more / better facilities such as change rooms, toilets, etc (27), more / better shops, restaurants, and / or cafes (25), and more / better signage (19).
 - *Preserve and protect the natural environment* – the most common responses were related to cleanliness, management, and upkeep of the foreshore (42 responses), improve, and protect the environment, vegetation, and trees (35), better infrastructure (10), better animal and pest control (10), more or improved pathways and bicycle facilities (7), and constrain visitor / bus numbers (7).
 - *Balance stakeholder needs* – the most common responses included constraining visitor / bus numbers (12 responses), resident, owner, and tourist

priority (11), more or better parking (8), and more or improved pathways and bicycle facilities (5).

- *Deliver sustainable tourism and economic viability* – the most common responses included constrain visitor / bus numbers (15 responses), more or better shops, restaurants, and / or cafes (12), more or better parking (8), and cleanliness, management, and upkeep of the foreshore (5).
- **Other survey comments and suggestions** – the most common other suggestions about the Dendy Beach foreshore or anything survey respondents felt was missing from the plan included better traffic management / roads (13 responses), more or better parking (13), constrain visitor / bus numbers (12), more or better facilities like change rooms, toilets, sports facilities, and lifesaving facilities (11), and more or better cycling pathways and bicycle facilities (10).
- **Written submission feedback** – there was general support from most of the individuals and organisations making written or verbal submissions, with particular reference made to the following:
 - *Tour operators and a variety of local businesses* - were generally supportive, although there were a range of issues raised, including several related to parking issues, particularly tour buses.
 - *Bathing box owners and other community members* – whilst there was support for the plan from most of these individuals, there were a range of issues of concern raised. Many of these related to the behaviour of visitors, and the impact of visitors (and tourists) on local amenity and the peaceful use of the space by local residents. There were concerns that improved visitor facilities and amenity would encourage additional visitor numbers, increasing the negative impacts on local residents, and also the impact on the local environment.

5.2 Support for actions

The key finding from the consultation exercise was that the majority (59%) of the 147 self-selected online survey respondents supported the *Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan*, whilst 14% opposed the plan.

Taken as a single group of 229 self-selected online and randomly approached intercept survey respondents, the majority supported each of the 13 initiatives from the proposed *Visitor Management Plan*.

Of the 13 initiatives the six that were supported least were other activities to attend nearby (5.9 out of 10), increased parking at Green Point (5.9), building a viewing deck (6.3), increased parking at The Baths (6.4), and more hospitality options (6.5), and multilingual information boards (6.7).

Neighbouring resident and some other groups of respondents expressed some concerns around several of the initiatives, including the multilingual information boards, more hospitality options, and other activities or events to attend nearby.

It is noted, however, that all respondent groups were at least neutral (rated 5 out of 10) for each of the 13 initiatives.

There were a range of issues raised by survey respondents and those making submissions, including concerns by bathing box owners and some local residents about the impact of increased visitor numbers on the amenity of the area and the quiet enjoyment of the area by local residents and bathing box owners. There were some concerns that improved visitor amenity would exacerbate these issues.

5.3 Item-specific feedback

The following sections outline the summarised results for each of the questions included in the intercept and online surveys, including:

- Connection to the Dendy Beach precinct.
- Frequency of visiting the precinct.
- Any challenges to visiting the precinct and how Council could help with them.
- Level of support or opposition to the *Visitor Management Plan* (online only).
- Level of support or opposition to the 13 initiatives to improve and / or manage the precinct.
- Other issues respondents feel should be addressed in the *Visitor Management Plan*.

5.3.1 Connection to the Dendy Beach precinct:

The majority (53%) of respondents to both surveys as a single group were Bayside residents, with 57 of the 229 respondents being residents neighbouring the precinct.

The intercept survey aimed to include a substantial number of tourists, and this was clearly evident in these results, with 65% of the intercept survey respondents being tourists and 25% of the total sample of respondents from both surveys as a single group.

There were also some local business owners / operators, bathing box owners, tour operators, and community group / organisation members included in the intercept and online survey respondents.

Connection to the Dendy Beach precinct between the Brighton Baths and Green Point**Bayside City Council - 2024 Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan***(Number and percent of total respondents)*

Response	All surveys		Online	Intercept
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
Bayside resident	122	53%	68%	27%
Neighbouring resident	57	25%	30%	16%
Tourist	57	25%	3%	65%
Member of a community group / organisation	18	8%	5%	12%
Bathing Box owner	13	6%	3%	10%
Other member	10	4%	3%	6%
Business owner / operator	4	2%	3%	0%
Member of Brighton Life Saving Club	4	2%	1%	4%
Tour operator	4	2%	1%	2%
Member of Brighton Yacht Club	2	1%	0%	2%
Member of the Friends of Brighton Dunes	1	0%	1%	0%
Member of the Bayside Tourism Network	1	0%	1%	0%
Member of a Traders Association	0	0%	0%	0%
Other	4	2%	3%	0%
Prefer not to say	2	1%	1%	0%
Total responses	279		171	108
<i>Respondents identifying at least one response</i>		228 (99%)	146 (99%)	82 (100%)

In addition to the 229 online and intercept survey respondents, there were a total of 25 submissions made, 15 conversations with Council officers, and Council offer attendance at three meetings (Bayside Tourism Network, Bayside Health Ageing Reference Group, and DAIAC).

5.3.2 Frequency of visiting the Dendy Beach precinct:

The majority of neighbouring residents reported visiting the area at least weekly throughout the year, with the broader Bayside resident respondents somewhat less likely to frequently visit and a little more likely to occasionally visit throughout the year.

Tourists were most likely to rarely visit the area, which is consistent with their status as tourists. It appears that the tourists were most likely to visit in winter and summer.

Frequency of visiting the Dendy Beach area
Bayside City Council - 2024 Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan
(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)

Response	Summer			Autumn		
	Neighbouring residents	Bayside residents	Tourists	Neighbouring residents	Bayside residents	Tourists
Daily	54%	30%	2%	42%	25%	2%
Regularly (weekly)	33%	44%	13%	40%	39%	7%
Occasionally (monthly)	9%	20%	7%	14%	26%	6%
Rarely	4%	5%	63%	4%	8%	26%
Never	0%	2%	16%	0%	2%	60%
Not stated	0	0	1	0	0	2
Total	57	122	57	57	122	57

Response	Winter			Spring		
	Neighbouring residents	Bayside residents	Tourists	Neighbouring residents	Bayside residents	Tourists
Daily	32%	16%	4%	42%	23%	2%
Regularly (weekly)	40%	43%	4%	42%	44%	9%
Occasionally (monthly)	21%	25%	20%	12%	25%	11%
Rarely	7%	10%	72%	4%	7%	18%
Never	0%	6%	0%	0%	2%	60%
Not stated	0	0	3	0	0	2
Total	57	122	57	57	122	57

5.3.3 Challenges when visiting the foreshore around Dendy Beach and how Council could help:

Approximately one-third of the survey respondents reported that they experienced accessibility barriers or challenges when visiting the foreshore around Dendy Beach.

Experience accessibility barriers or challenges visiting the Dendy Beach foreshore

Bayside City Council - 2024 Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan

(Number and percent of respondents providing a response)

Response	Intercept		Online	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Yes	25	31%	50	37%
No	56	69%	86	63%
Not sure / not stated	1		11	
Total	82	100%	147	100%

The following table outlines the responses received in relation to how Council could help address the accessibility barriers and challenges when visiting Dendy Beach foreshore. Many of these comments related to a preference for more parking (20 responses), better pedestrian access to the beach (19 responses), better pedestrian and bicycle crossings over the main roads (18 responses), and better pathways and bicycle facilities (15 responses).

Suggestions how Council could help alleviate the accessibility challenges

Bayside City Council - 2024 Dendy Beach Community Consultation

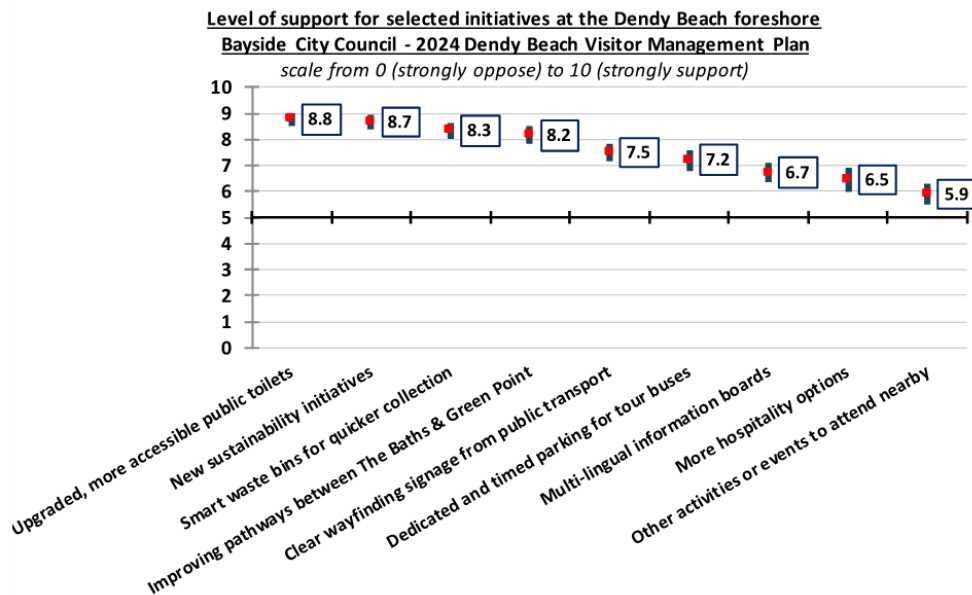
(Number and percent of respondents experiencing challenges accessing)

Response	All surveys		Online	Intercept
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
More / better parking	20	9%	28%	24%
Better access to beach	19	8%	18%	40%
More / better pedestrian and bike crossing	18	8%	32%	8%
More / better pathways and bike facilities	15	7%	22%	16%
Better traffic management / roads	13	6%	20%	12%
Better infrastructure	6	3%	10%	4%
More / better facilities like change rooms, toilets, sports	4	2%	8%	0%
More / better signage	4	2%	8%	0%
Building / planning issues	3	1%	6%	0%
Better public / active transportation	2	1%	2%	4%
More / better outdoor amenities, exercise and playgrounds	2	1%	2%	4%
Better animal / pest management	1	0%	2%	0%
Better footpaths	1	0%	2%	0%
Cleanliness, management and upkeep of foreshore	1	0%	2%	0%
Enforcement of local laws / policing	1	0%	2%	0%
History of area / preservation of aboriginal heritage	1	0%	2%	0%
Total responses	111		83	28

5.3.4 Support / opposition to nine operational actions initiatives to improve visitor experience:

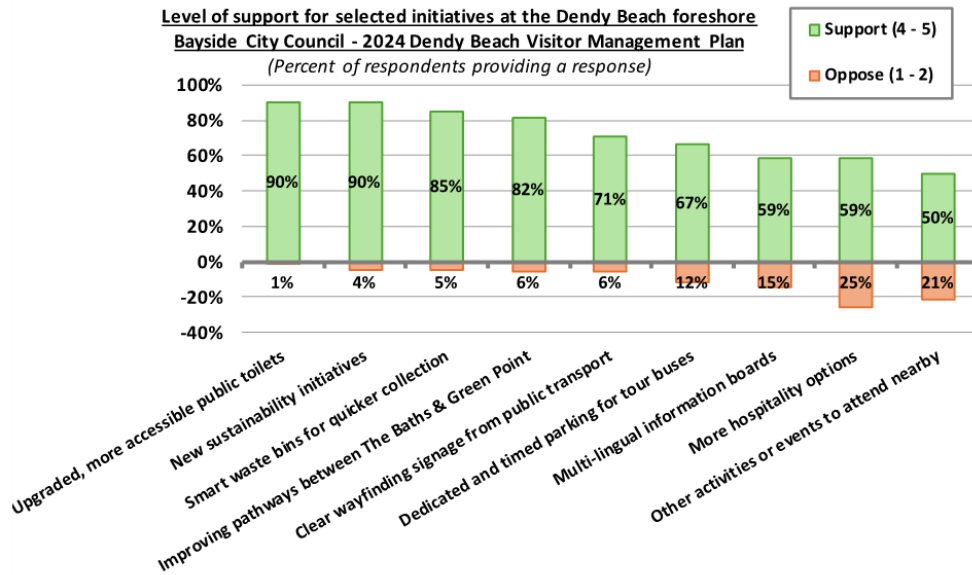
On average, the 229 respondents (as a group) were supportive of each of the nine initiatives to improve visitor experience at Dendy Beach, with average scores of more than five out of 10. This is based on a scale from zero (strongly oppose) to 10 (strongly support) where five is neutral (neither support nor oppose).

It is noted, however, that support for other activities or events to attend nearby (5.9), more hospitality options (6.5), and multilingual information boards (6.7) was relatively mild.



The following graph provides a breakdown of these results into the proportion who supported (i.e., rated support at four or five out of five), and those who opposed (i.e., rated support at one or two out of five).

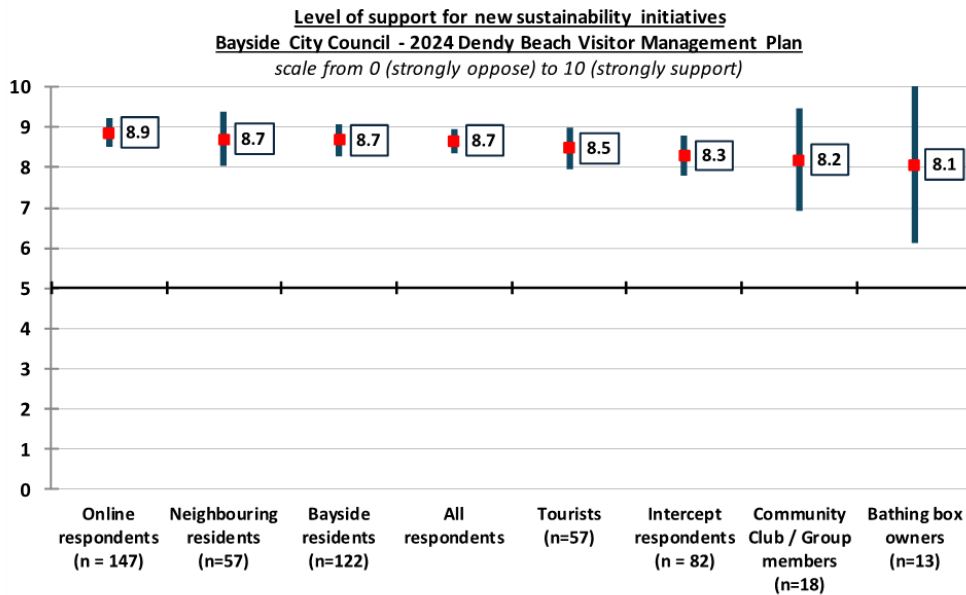
It is noted that a majority of the 229 survey respondents (both online and intercept) supported each of the nine initiatives, although attention is drawn to the 21% who opposed other activities or events to attend nearby, and the 25% who opposed more hospitality options.



The following section provides a breakdown of the average level of support or opposition to each of these nine initiatives between neighbouring residents, Bayside residents, tourists, community club or group members, and bathing box owners.

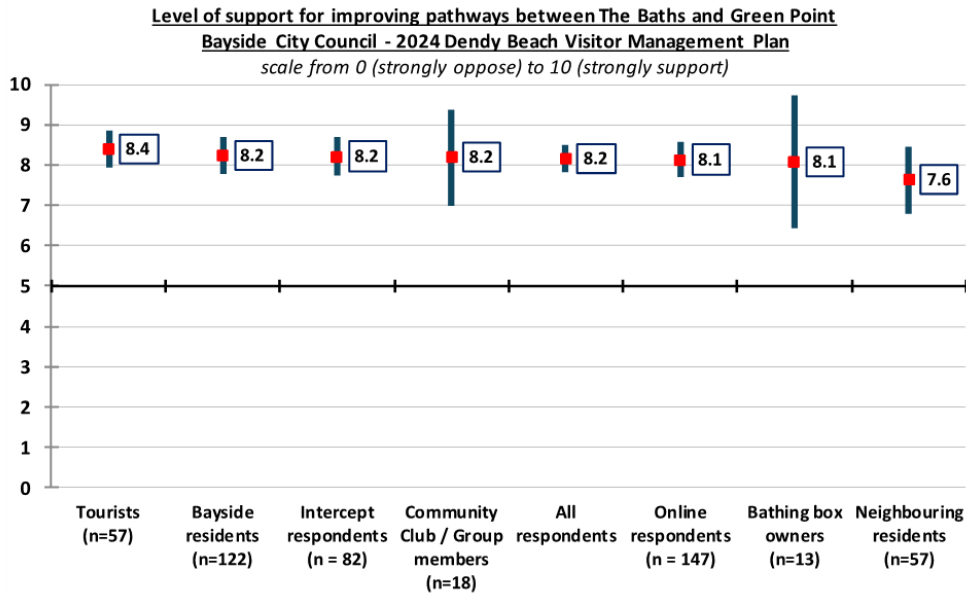
New sustainability initiatives:

There was overwhelming support from all respondent groups for new sustainability initiatives, with all groups reporting levels of support of more than eight out of 10.



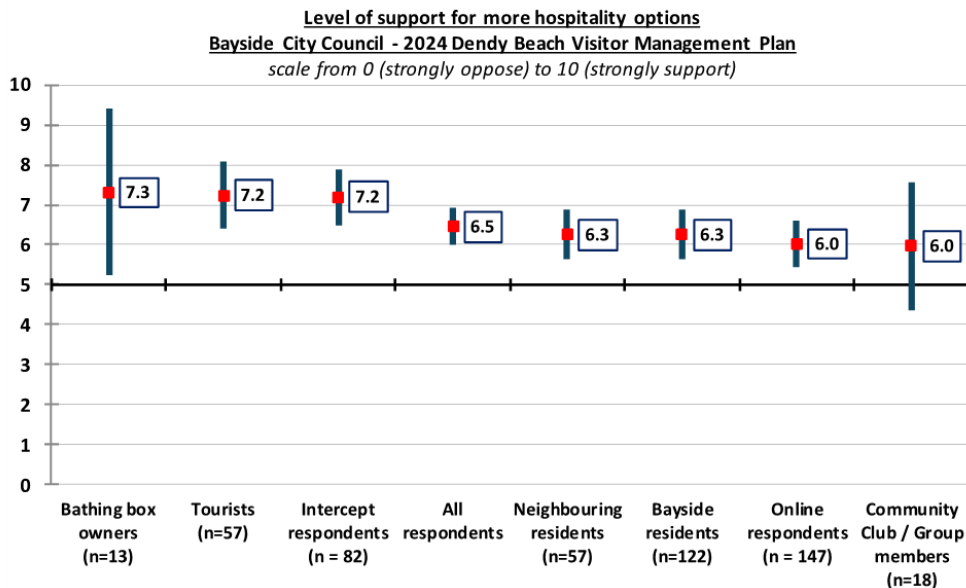
Improved pathways between the Baths and Green Point:

There was overwhelming support from most respondent groups for improved pathways between the Baths and Green Point, with the 57 neighbouring resident respondents marginally less in support than the average of all respondents, although still at a strong level of support.



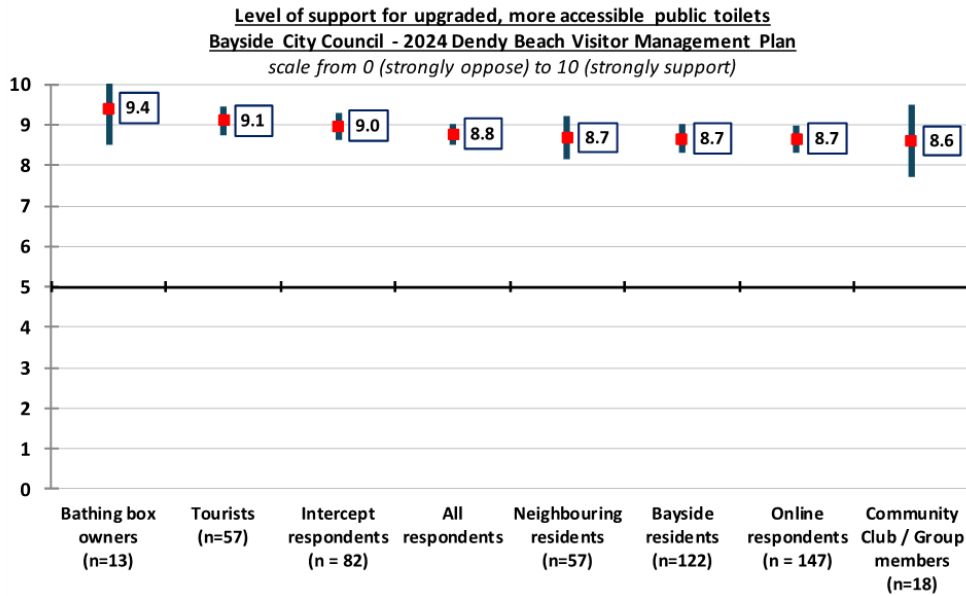
More hospitality options:

There was moderate to strong support for more hospitality options from all respondent groups.



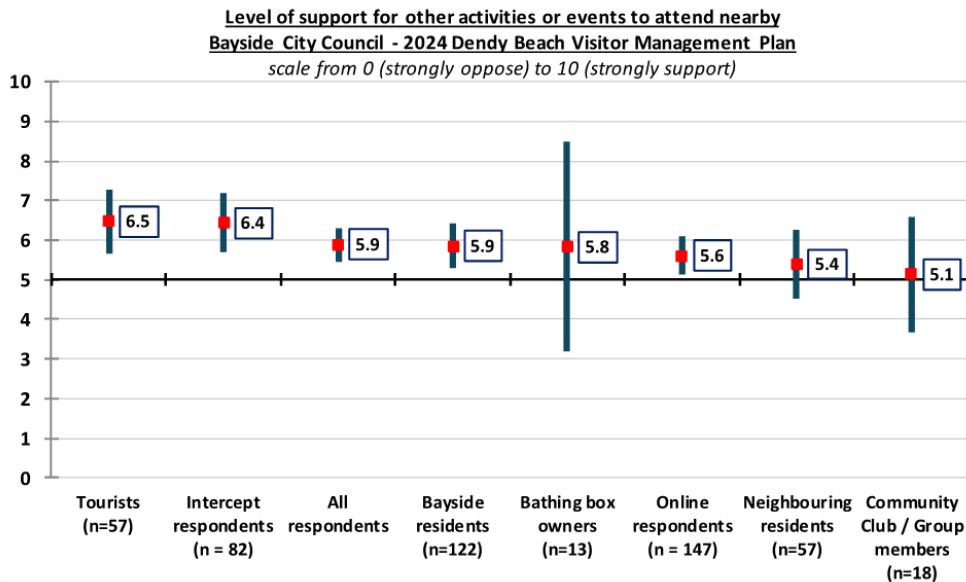
Upgraded, more accessible public toilets:

There was overwhelming support from all respondent groups for upgraded, more accessible public toilets.



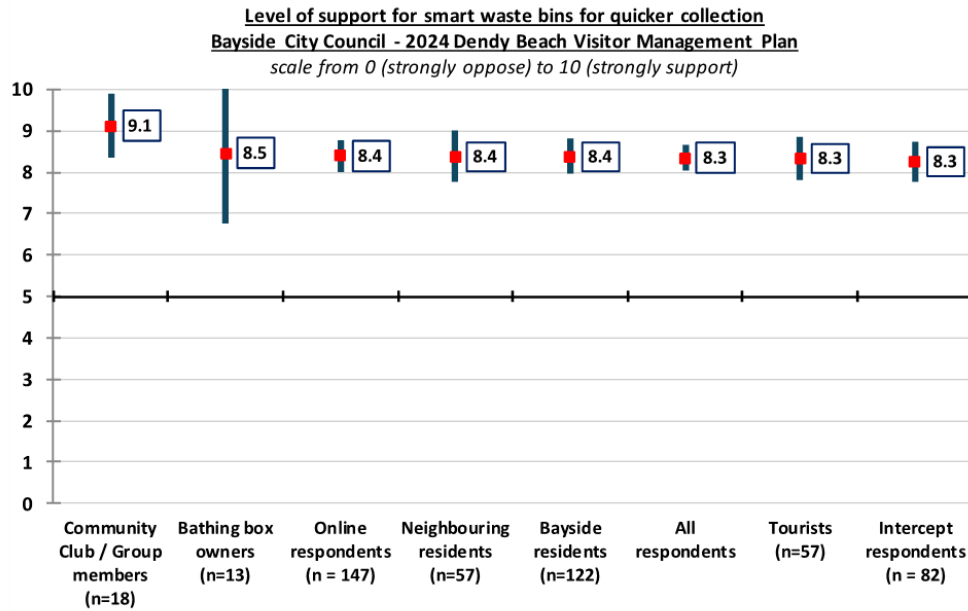
Other activities or events to attend nearby:

There was neutral to moderate levels of support for activities or events to attend nearby recorded by respondent groups. It is noted that residents, community group and club members and bathing box owners were notably less in support of other nearby activities.



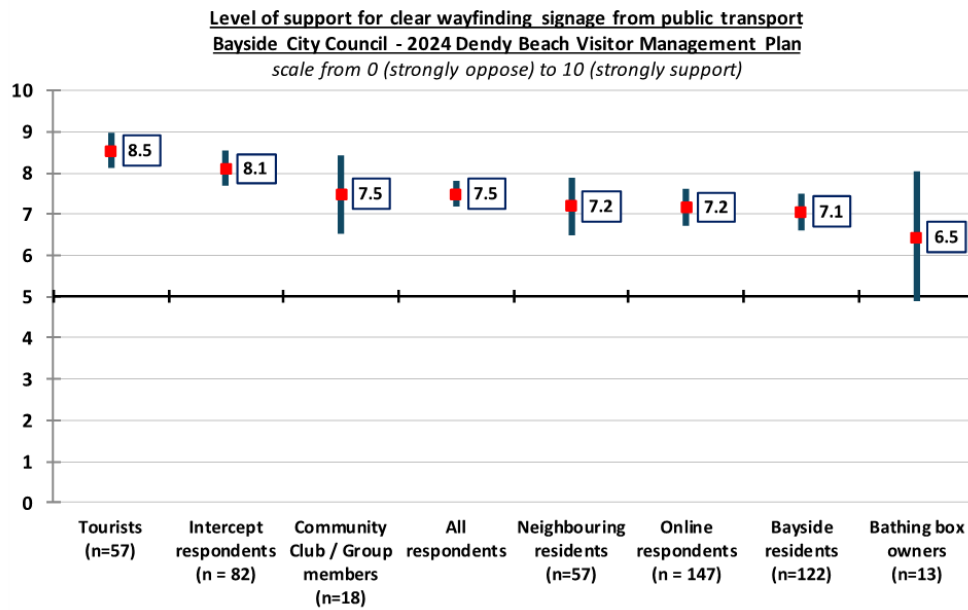
Smart waste bins for quicker collection:

There was overwhelming support from all respondent groups for smart waste bins for quicker collection.



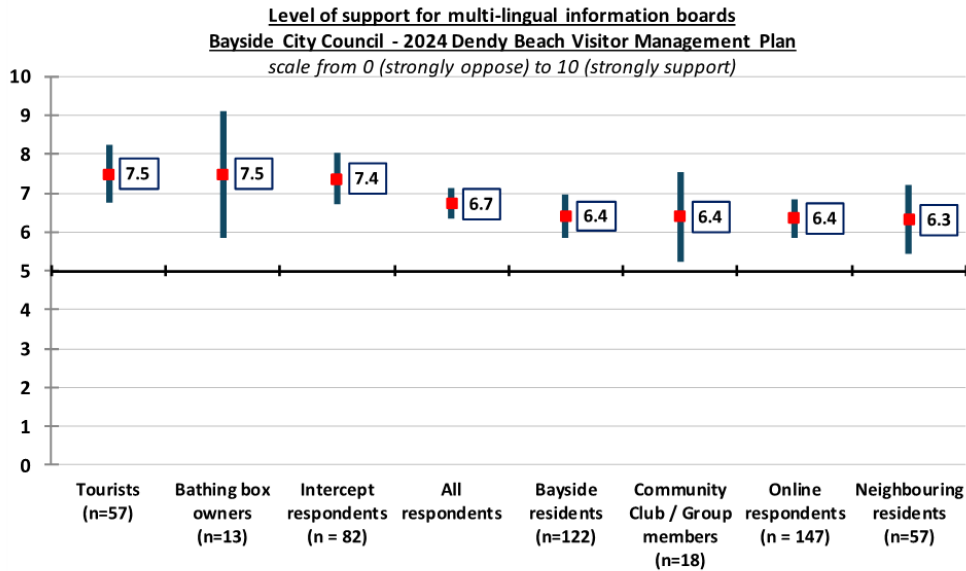
Clear wayfinding signage from public transport to Dendy Beach:

There was moderate to very strong support from all respondent profile groups for clear wayfinding signage from public transport. Attention is drawn to the moderate support for clear wayfinding signage from bathing box owners.



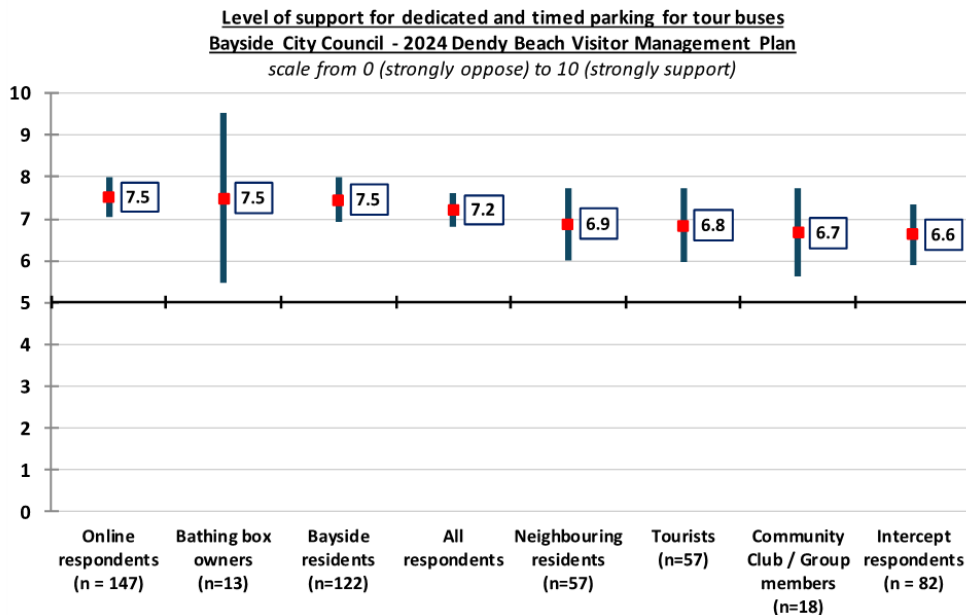
Multilingual information boards:

There was moderate to strong support for multilingual information boards from all respondent groups, with neighbouring residents the least supportive but still at a moderate level.



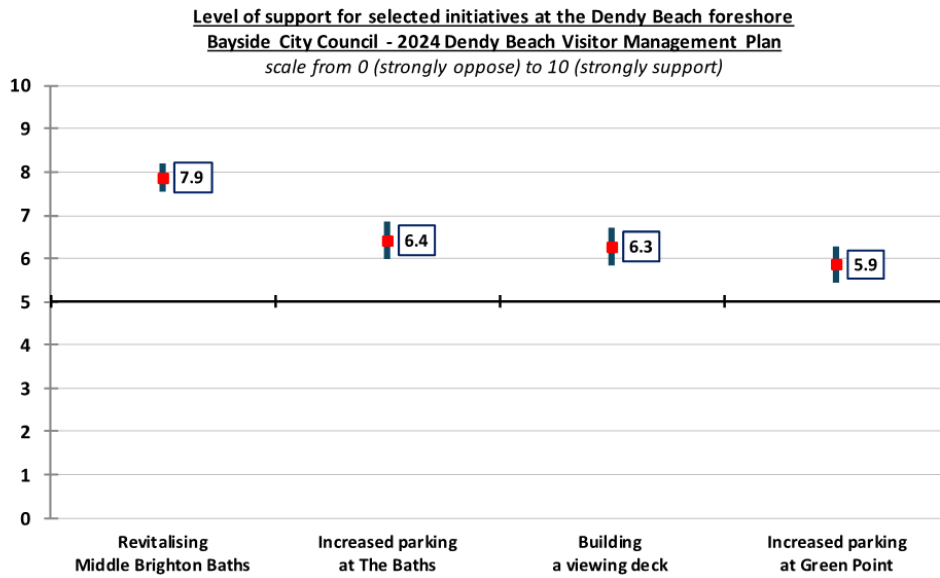
Dedicated and timed parking for tour buses:

There was moderate to strong support from respondent groups for dedicated and timed parking for tour buses. Support for these measures were strongest from neighbouring residents and bathing box owners.

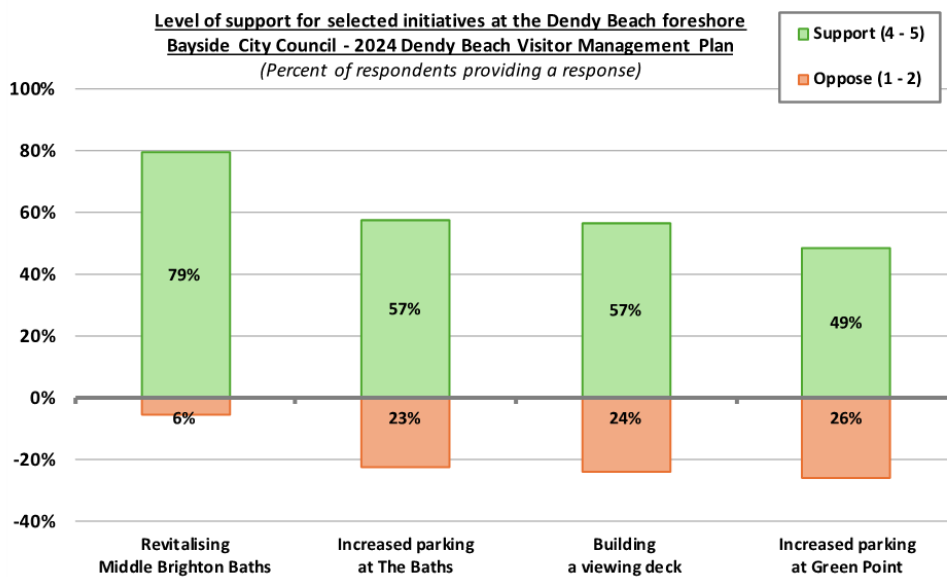


5.3.5 Support / opposition to the four aspirational future idea initiatives to improve visitor experience:

The following graph provides the average level of support or opposition to each of four key initiatives. There was overwhelming support for revitalising the Middle Brighton Baths (7.9), moderate support for increased parking at the Baths (6.4 out of 10) and building a viewing deck (6.3), and mild support for increased parking at Green Point (5.9).

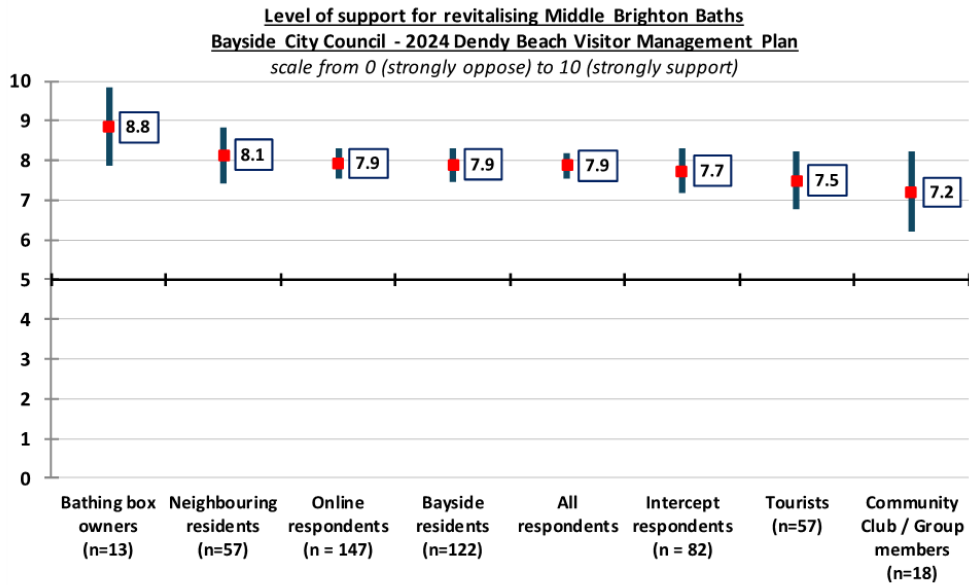


Whilst there was majority support for three of these four initiatives, it is noted that approximately one-quarter of the total 229 survey respondents were opposed to increased parking at the Baths (23% opposed), building a viewing deck at Green Point (24%), and increased parking at Green Point (26%).



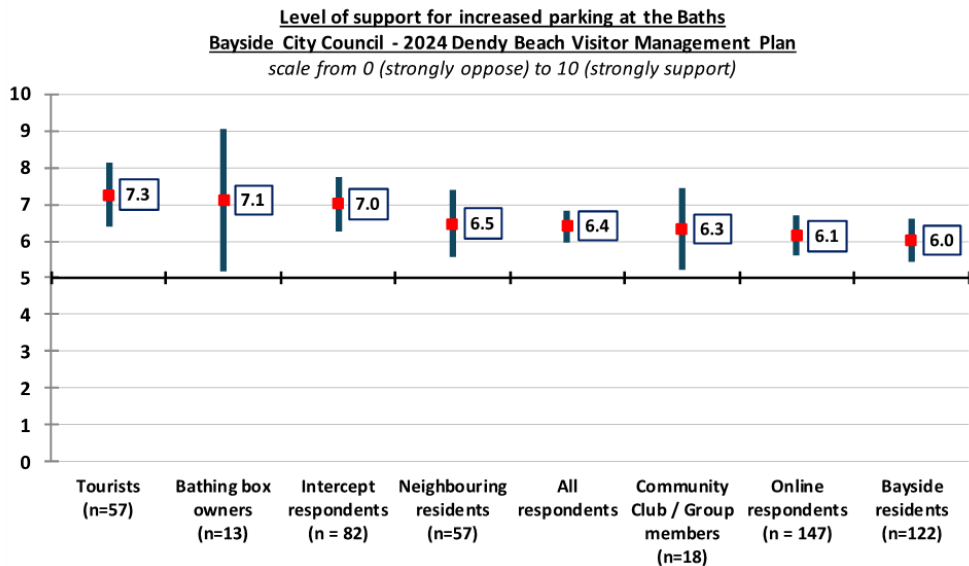
Revitalising Middle Brighton Baths:

There was strong to extremely strong support for revitalising the Middle Brighton Baths, although the 18 respondents from community club / group members were somewhat less in support than other groups (although still at a strong level).



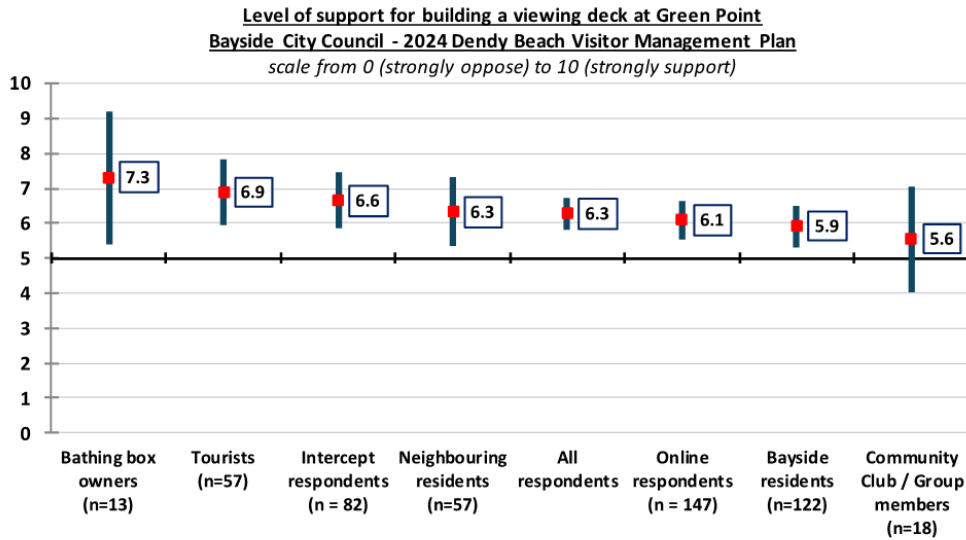
Increased parking at the Baths:

There was moderate to strong support from respondent groups for increased parking at the baths, with tourists the most supportive, and Bayside residents only moderately in support.



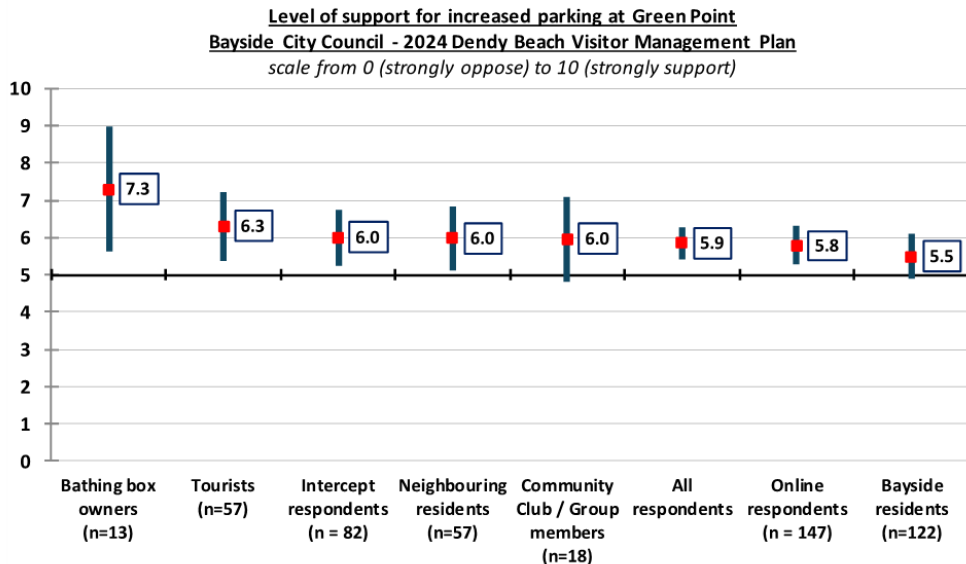
Building a viewing deck at Green Point:

There was mild to strong support from respondent groups for building a viewing deck at Green Point. Bayside residents and the 18 respondents from community groups and clubs were the least supportive of this initiative, although still, on average, mildly in support.



Increased parking at Green Point:

There was mild to strong support from respondent groups for increased parking at Green Point, with bathing box owners strongly in support. Bayside residents were the least supportive of this initiative, although still, on average, mildly in support.



5.3.6 Suggestions to enhance the visitor experience:

The most common suggestions as to how to enhance the visitor experience were more or better outdoor amenities including exercise and playground equipment (30 responses), more or better facilities such as change rooms, toilets, sports, and lifesaving facilities (27 responses), more or better shops, restaurants, and cafes (25 responses), and more or better signage (19 responses).

Clearly, the intercept survey respondents (mostly but not exclusively tourists) were more likely to suggest improvements to enhance the visitor experience than the online respondents who were mostly residents.

Suggestions to enhance visitor experience
Bayside City Council - 2024 Dendy Beach Community Consultation
(Number and percent of total respondents)

Response	All surveys		Online	Intercept
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
More / better outdoor amenities, exercise and playgrounds	30	13%	10%	20%
More / better facilities (e.g., change rooms, toilets, sports)	27	12%	7%	21%
More / better shops, restaurants and cafés	25	11%	7%	18%
More / better signage	19	8%	4%	16%
Cleanliness, management and upkeep of foreshore	14	6%	3%	11%
More / better parking	13	6%	3%	10%
Better traffic management / roads	10	4%	4%	5%
More / better pathways and bike facilities	10	4%	4%	5%
More / better pedestrian / bike crossing	9	4%	6%	0%
Better access to beach	9	4%	2%	8%
More / better information	8	3%	3%	4%
Better infrastructure	8	3%	2%	6%
Constrain visitor / tour bus numbers	7	3%	3%	4%
History of area / preservation of aboriginal heritage	5	2%	3%	1%
Improve and protect natural environment / vegetation / trees	5	2%	1%	4%
More activities / events / art / culture	3	1%	2%	0%
Increase bathing boxes / allow rentals	3	1%	1%	1%
Better animal / pest management	2	1%	1%	0%
Better public transport / active transportation	2	1%	1%	0%
Less parking	2	1%	1%	0%
More / better lighting	2	1%	0%	3%
More / better marketing and promotion	2	1%	0%	3%
Safety, security and policing	2	1%	0%	3%
Stop over commercialisation	2	1%	0%	3%
Tourist etiquette / awareness	2	1%	0%	3%
Resident / owner / tourist priority	1	0%	0%	1%
Other	6	3%	3%	1%
No change	4	2%	2%	1%
Total responses	232		112	120

5.3.7 Suggestions to preserve and protect the natural environment:

The most common suggestions as to how to preserve and protect the natural environment related to cleanliness, management, and upkeep of the foreshore (42 responses), improve and protect the natural environment including vegetation and trees (35 responses), better infrastructure (10 responses), and better animal and pest management (10 responses).

Suggestions to preserve and protect natural environment
Bayside City Council - 2024 Dendy Beach Community Consultation
(Number and percent of total respondents)

Response	All surveys		Online	Intercept
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
Cleanliness, management and upkeep of foreshore	42	18%	14%	26%
Improve and protect natural environment / vegetation / trees	35	15%	13%	20%
Better infrastructure	10	4%	5%	3%
Better animal / pest management	10	4%	4%	5%
More / better pathways and bike facilities	7	3%	5%	0%
Constrain visitor / bus numbers	7	3%	3%	3%
More / better signage	5	2%	3%	1%
Building / planning issues	4	2%	2%	1%
More / better parking	3	1%	2%	0%
Beautification of area	2	1%	1%	0%
General positive	2	1%	1%	0%
More / better facilities like change rooms, showers, toilets	2	1%	1%	0%
More / better outdoor amenities, exercise and playgrounds	2	1%	1%	0%
Better traffic management / roads	2	1%	0%	3%
Reduction of plastics	2	1%	0%	3%
Stop over-commercialisation	2	1%	0%	3%
Better access to beach	1	0%	1%	0%
Better public / active transportation	1	0%	1%	0%
Better safety, security and policing	1	0%	1%	0%
Fees / charges for tourists	1	0%	1%	0%
Less activities / events / art / culture	1	0%	1%	0%
Less parking	1	0%	1%	0%
More / better information	1	0%	1%	0%
History of area / preservation of aboriginal heritage	1	0%	1%	0%
Sustainability	1	0%	1%	0%
Tourist etiquette education / awareness	1	0%	0%	1%
Other	6	3%	3%	1%
No change	3	1%	1%	1%
Total responses	150		100	50

5.3.8 Suggestions to balance stakeholder needs:

The most common suggestions to balance stakeholder needs were to constrain visitor / bus numbers (12 responses), to prioritise residents, owners, or tourists (11 responses), more or better parking (8 responses).

Suggestions to balance stakeholder needs
Bayside City Council - 2024 Dendy Beach Community Consultation
(Number and percent of total respondents)

Response	All surveys			
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
Constrain visitor / bus numbers	12	5%	5%	5%
Resident / owner / tourist priority	11	5%	7%	1%
More / better parking	8	3%	4%	3%
More / better pathways and bike facilities	5	2%	3%	0%
Enforcement of local laws / policing	5	2%	2%	3%
Cleanliness, management and upkeep of foreshore	4	2%	3%	0%
More / better facilities like change rooms, showers, toilets	4	2%	3%	0%
Improve and protect natural environment / vegetation / trees	4	2%	2%	1%
Better financial management	3	1%	2%	0%
Better traffic management / roads	3	1%	2%	0%
More / better shops, restaurants and cafés	3	1%	2%	0%
Tourist etiquette education / awareness	3	1%	2%	0%
Better footpaths	1	0%	1%	0%
Building / planning issues	1	0%	1%	0%
Fees / charges for tourists	1	0%	1%	0%
Better public / active transportation	1	0%	0%	1%
Increase bathing boxes / allow rentals	1	0%	0%	1%
More / better lighting	1	0%	0%	1%
More / better pedestrian and bike crossing	1	0%	0%	1%
More / better signage	1	0%	0%	1%
Safety, security and policing	1	0%	0%	1%
Other	8	3%	5%	1%
No change	1	0%	1%	0%
Total responses	83		66	17

5.3.9 Suggestions to deliver sustainable tourism and economic viability:

The most common suggestions as to how to deliver sustainable tourism and economic viability were to constrain visitor / bus numbers (15 responses), more or better shops, restaurants, and cafes (12 responses), and more or better parking (8 responses).

Suggestions to deliver sustainable tourism
Bayside City Council - 2024 Dendy Beach Community Consultation
(Number and percent of total respondents)

Response	All surveys			
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
Constrain visitor / tour bus numbers	15	7%	7%	5%
More / better shops, restaurants and cafes	12	5%	7%	1%
More / better parking	8	3%	5%	1%
Cleanliness, management and upkeep of foreshore	5	2%	2%	3%
Improve, protect natural environment / vegetation / trees	4	2%	1%	3%
Better public / active transportation	4	2%	1%	4%
Better traffic management / roads	3	1%	2%	0%
Fees / charges for tourists	3	1%	2%	0%
Resident / owner / tourist priority	3	1%	2%	0%
Sustainability	3	1%	2%	0%
History of area / preservation of aboriginal heritage	3	1%	1%	1%
More / better marketing and promotion	3	1%	1%	3%
More / better pathways and bike facilities	3	1%	1%	3%
Less parking	2	1%	1%	0%
Tourist etiquette education / awareness	2	1%	1%	0%
More / better outdoor amenities, exercise and playgrounds	2	1%	0%	3%
More / better signage	2	1%	0%	3%
Beautification of area	1	0%	1%	0%
Better infrastructure	1	0%	1%	0%
Building / planning issues	1	0%	1%	0%
Better animal / pest management	1	0%	0%	1%
More / better information	1	0%	0%	1%
Other	5	2%	1%	5%
No change	3	1%	1%	1%

5.3.10 Other comments / suggestions about the Dendy Beach foreshore and / or the management plan:

The main suggestions made by survey respondents as to anything they felt was missed in the plan or suggestions about the Dendy Beach foreshore included better traffic management and / or roads (13 responses), more or better parking (13 response), constrain visitor / bus numbers (12 responses), more or better facilities like change rooms, toilets, sports facilities, lifesaving facilities (11 responses), and more or better cycling pathways and bicycle facilities (10 responses).

Other suggestions / anything that was missed from the Visitor Management Plan

Bayside City Council - 2024 Dendy Beach Community Consultation

(Number and percent of total respondents)

Response	All surveys		Online	Intercept
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
Better traffic management / roads	13	6%	8%	2%
More / better parking	13	6%	7%	4%
Constrain visitor / tour bus numbers	12	5%	8%	1%
More / better facilities like change rooms, toilets, sports	11	5%	4%	6%
More / better pathways and bike facilities	10	4%	7%	0%
Resident / owner / tourist priority	7	3%	5%	0%
Cleanliness, management and upkeep of foreshore	7	3%	4%	2%
More / better shops, restaurants and cafés	7	3%	4%	2%
General negative	6	3%	4%	0%
General positive	6	3%	4%	0%
More / better pedestrian and bike crossing	6	3%	4%	0%
More / better signage	6	3%	4%	1%
Enforcement of local laws / policing	6	3%	3%	2%
Better access to beach	6	3%	2%	4%
More / better outdoor amenities, exercise and playgrounds	6	3%	1%	5%
Improve and protect natural environment / vegetation / trees	4	2%	3%	0%
Tourist etiquette education / awareness	4	2%	3%	0%
Better animal / pest management	4	2%	2%	1%
Beautification of area	3	1%	2%	0%
History of area / preservation of aboriginal heritage	3	1%	2%	0%
More activities / events / art / culture	3	1%	2%	0%
Better financial management	3	1%	1%	1%
More / better lighting	3	1%	1%	2%
Building / planning issues	1	0%	1%	0%
Fees / charges for tourists	1	0%	1%	0%
Increase bathing boxes / allow rentals	1	0%	1%	0%
Safety, security and policing	1	0%	1%	0%
Stop over-commercialisation	1	0%	1%	0%
Better infrastructure	1	0%	0%	1%
Better public / active transportation	0	0%	0%	0%
Other	8	3%	4%	2%
No change	3	1%	1%	2%
Total responses	166		132	34

5.3.11 Summary of feedback from Bayside Tourism Network Session / Tour operators / commercial operators:

There was a total of 14 contributions, from a total of approximately 19 individuals. Of these 14 submissions, majority were generally supportive of the *Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan*, although a range of issues were raised for consideration:

Concerns of The Baths Operator:

- Mainly due to limited parking bays and further reducing parking is detrimental to those who use it 365 days. (On further discussions with the operator it was clarified that the plan intends to increase the parking, not reduce)
- A range of concerns were related to the impacts on parking particularly from tour buses. Sufficient planning should be made to accommodate bus parking.
- Insufficient parking for persons with disability.
- Insufficient public toilets at Middle Brighton to accommodate visitors in coaches.
- Insufficient bike racks.
- Existing businesses should not be affected by any changes to the area.

Concerns of the Pavilion Café Operator:

- Implementing tour operator permits may deter visitation to the bathing boxes which will result in less customers for our business.
- Opposed to starting the journey from Brighton Baths and / or installing mobile vendors between Green Point and Brighton Baths as they feel this will take away business from Dendy Beach and mobile vendors will cheapen the place.
- Opposed to shifting people away from the bathing boxes as they feel it will hurt their business.

Support by Royal Brighton Yacht Club:

- They want the precinct to include RBYC as the Northern Bookend and to have a bus parking area on the south end of Middle Brighton Baths car park.
- RBYC object to bus parking area on the Northern end of Middle Brighton Baths car park.
- RBYC want to be included as part of the precinct.
- Are happy to have their facilities open to public.

Tour operator generally supportive of bookend idea:

- The bathing boxes are an attraction en-route to Phillip Island, not the end destination. For bookending to work Bayside needs to create a “must visit experience”
- enhancements should include more than just a viewing platform and picnic area at Green Point as it will not create a transformative experience.

- Overall likes the theory of the bookending concept.

Bayside Tourism Network:

- Support the bookend proposal but feel that it is skewed towards the tour bus operators, and they want to stagger visiting times.
- They were approving of the signage outlining directions and expected behaviours.
- They were also supportive of some of the items in the plan to be implemented immediately.

Other issues raised:

- Need to ensure that any products should be sustainably sourced, locally developed and designed with indigenous involvement. Manufacturing junk should not happen.
- A business case should be undertaken to ensure forecasting of profit and loss, risks, and opportunities.
- Need to build multi-level parking instead of using more land space.
- Need dedicated bus parking facilities for tour operators.
- Need Uber drop off zones.
- Need to address privacy issues for Beach box owners.
- Need to create a Bayside app or web link for visitors.
- Need to support groups associated with coastline and parklands to restore marine reserves and not just carbon reduction.
- Need to improve restrooms.
- Better cleanliness and waste management including interactive garbage.
- Better upkeep of picnic area.
- More shelters, seating, and shade structures for visitors.
- Better beach accessibility.
- More navigational aids and signage and QR codes.
- Nighttime visibility.
- Pathway to connect Green Point and Dendy beach is good and incorporate vegetation that becomes itself a feature.
- Existing footpaths should be wider.
- Protection of marine and wildlife, permeable parking surfaces and living walls.
- EV charging stations and use of solar technology.

- Better access to the trains and public transport.

5.3.12 Summary of feedback from Brighton Bathing Box owners:

There was a total of 13 individual submissions made by Brighton Bathing box owners including written submissions and direct meetings with Council officers.

It is important to note, however, that in addition to these 13 individual submissions, 13 respondents to the intercept and online surveys identified as bathing box owners, and as a group, these 13 bathing box owners were generally supportive of each of the 13 initiatives.

Of the 13 individual submissions received, six were generally supportive of the *Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan*, and four generally opposed, citing a wide range of issues of concern, and three did not provide a view (were seeking information, etc.).

Some of these submissions were quite detailed in nature, but in general terms, the main issues of concern raised in these submissions are outlined below. These issues were raised without any priority ranking, as follows:

- Promote responsible behaviour by visitors, particularly tourists.
- Improve connectivity to Green Point.
- No need for additional infrastructure on Green Point.
- Bus operators should pay for permits.
- No other events should be held in the area.
- Council could erect signage to explain private ownership of the boxes / that ask people to treat others with respect.
- Café to help local business benefit from tourism in the area.
- As an annual fee is paid to own the boxes, Council should help with their maintenance (e.g., sand / erosion stopping airflow) as the Council states they are “a drawcard” for Bayside.
- Council should consider buying a bathing box or erecting one near the café to provide photo opportunities for tourists.
- Provide special parking for bathing box owners.
- Enhance the toilets.

5.3.13 Summary of feedback from Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee:

Feedback on the plan was made by five members, both at the meeting with Council officers and as separate submissions. The DAIAC members were generally supportive of the *Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan*, but raised a few issues that were important for persons with disability, as follows:

- Unobstructed beach access due to mobility issues, including seamless routes of travel for persons with mobility challenges.
- Wooden decking was preferable to soft beach matting.
- Stable support while at the beach (not just beach matting).
- Access to the water for persons with mobility challenges.
- Kerb ramps at street intersections.
- Appropriate universal standardised signage for people with mobility disabilities.
- Assistive equipment 'tool libraries' which organisers of local beach events can borrow.

5.3.14 Summary of feedback from Bayside Healthy Ageing Reference Group:

Feedback on the plan was received from two members of the reference group. Whilst they were generally supportive of the plan, they made the following points:

- Support bookending Dendy Beach, Green Point and Brighton Baths for outdoor performances and activities.
- Need for Advance Warning signage (i.e., advise distance) for entry to parking.
- Need bigger ENTRY and EXIT signs – current ones are too small.
- Consider installing the brown tourist signs used throughout Victoria (white text on brown background for tourism attractions).
- Better directional signage for people utilising public transport, e.g., from the Brighton Beach train stop.
- Concerns around safety as drivers (particularly international visitors) entering the parking area are not always aware they are crossing a bike and pedestrian path.
- As ratepayers, residents should have priority parking over visitors.
- Concerns about irresponsible dog owners.
- Install educational signage about the Rakali as they are often mistaken for rats.

5.3.15 Summary of community members written / email feedback:

There were 10 submissions made by community members, including one on behalf of the Friends of the Dunes and one on behalf of Yallukit Willam Nature Association / Love our street & beach Patrol / Tangaroa Blue.

Whilst most of these submissions were generally supportive of the plan, there were several issues raised in these submissions that they felt should be addressed or considered as part of the plan. These are outlined below, with no priority ranking as each issue was raised by only a handful of individuals at most, as follows:

- Concerns that upgrades are resulting in increased traffic, noise, pollution, and anti-social behaviour.
- More car parks will result in loss of native vegetation, it is better to ease parking restrictions on side streets instead.
- Too much signage will result in visual pollution, so make iPhone maps more attractive. Or QR codes for different languages.
- Outdoor activities and food vans will be detrimental to visitor attraction and will take away from the main attraction of beach boxes.
- Keith Court Car Park needs to be renamed to Brighton LSC car park.
- The review is skewed heavily for visitors / tourists and not for residents / ratepayers.
- Relocate dog waste bags to Dendy Street entry bins.
- Separation of bike and walking paths.
- One-way pedestrian flows from The Baths to Green Point.
- Places to buy souvenirs, or through vending machines.
- Pedestrian crossing and signage to alert drivers to presence of pedestrians.
- Accessible boardwalk that allows pedestrians to easily travel between Green Point and the Dendy Pavilion while providing beach access between those points.
- There is a risk of overdeveloping the area which is beautiful as it is currently.
- More amenities like toilets, showers, bins, drinking fountains.
- Dedicated bus parking.
- Increase parking patrols / fines.
- Increased cleanliness and maintenance of area funded by extra revenues raised.
- Need to cut down a tree in Brighton Beach Gardens.
- Concerned with initiative which impact the natural bush, the dune behind the Bathing boxes and the beach itself.
- Concerned with how the movement of visitors from Green Point to bathing boxes will be improved.
- Do not support boardwalk option or with Bay Trail duplication.
- Do not support mechanical litter removal of litter.
- Do not support excessive seaweed removal as it prevents sand erosion and is a habitat for creatures.

5.4 Project Evaluation

The various consultation exercises that underpinned this community engagement were a useful set of tools to provide residents, visitors, and other interested parties the opportunity to provide feedback to Council on the Visitor Management Plan.

As always, with consultation exercises such as this which are predominantly self-selected (i.e., the participants take active steps to choose to participate), the results reflect the views of those in the community who were both aware of the consultation and sufficiently engaged to take active steps to participate.

This is particularly relevant in relation to the views of local residents, some of whom registered some concerns around several of the proposed initiatives. It is difficult to quantify how much these views would reflect those of all the local residents who may or may not have chosen to engage.



Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan

June 2024

Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan

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Revision	Date	Purpose of Revision	Update by	Signed
Rev 0	30/05/23	Issued for BCC Review	Uddhav Naik	UN
Rev 1	8/11/23	Draft – For BCC Review	Uddhav Naik	UN
Rev 2	14/12/23	Draft – Inclusion of Interdependencies for BCC Review	Uddhav Naik	UN
Rev 3	5/2/24	Internal Review	Ryan Cooray	RC
Rev 4	20/2/24	Internal Review	Ryan Cooray	RC
Rev 5	17/05/24	Incorporate comments from Community Consultation	Uddhav Naik Ryan Cooray	UN RC

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Disclaimer:

The document relies on a number of key assumptions and data provided by Bayside City Council. Whilst the document is considered to be true and correct at the date of publication, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact upon the accuracy of the material. Although every effort has been made to provide complete and accurate information, The APP Group makes no warranties, express or implied, or representations as to the accuracy of content.



Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan

1. Executive Summary

The Visitor Management Plan (VMP) outlines a strategic roadmap for Bayside City Council (BCC) to manage heritage and visitor engagement sustainably, aligning with its dedication to safeguarding and enhancing the area's natural, cultural, and historical assets. Addressing key aspects such as visitor experience, marketing, facility and traffic management, waste disposal, wayfinding, accessibility, and environmental sustainability, the VMP aims to create a cohesive and coordinated approach toward managing this tourist key attraction and its surrounds.

The key objectives of the VMP include:

- Enhancing Visitor Experience
- Preserving and Protecting the Natural Environment
- Balancing Stakeholder Needs, and
- Delivering Sustainable Tourism and Economic Viability

To realise these goals and deliver on the aspirations set out in this plan, the Council recognises the necessity of forging partnerships with private sector businesses, government entities, neighbouring local councils, community groups and tourism operators. These collaborative efforts are essential for the holistic development and implementation of the VMP. In the short term, the VMP identifies the following actions as critical for addressing a number of pressing challenges:

- Implementing temporary carparking changes for bus parking and reinforce use of existing bus parking at Green Point as an overflow
- Incorporate temporary pictogram wayfinding to support visitors from diverse backgrounds to navigate to Dendy Beach prior to the implementation of permanent wayfinding signage.
- Commence traffic and pedestrian surveys to determine capacity and trends for a minimum of 12 months

Looking Forward

In the longer term, the VMP proposes the concept of 'bookending the precinct' as its core pillar. This approach is designed to address multiple challenges within the precinct by distributing visitor flow more evenly across the area.

The successful implementation of the opportunities proposed within this plan hinges on thorough project planning. This includes extensive community consultation, obtaining necessary approvals from coastal and regulatory bodies, and integrating these initiatives within the Council's budgetary frameworks to secure funding.

In essence, the VMP represents a comprehensive strategy that underscores BCC's commitment to effectively manage Dendy Beach for the community. It acknowledges the complexity of managing a dynamic and diverse environment and outlines a clear, actionable path forward, rooted in collaboration, sustainability, and strategic planning.

Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan

2. Introduction

The City of Bayside, often simply referred to as 'Bayside' is a popular coastal destination along Victoria's expansive coastline. With a population of just over 100,000 residents, Bayside is home to the iconic Brighton Bathing Boxes, the region's most visited tourist attraction, drawing an estimated 1,000,000+ visitors annually, the typical visitor demographic is composed of:

- 70% Local,
- 20% Interstate and Regional, and
- 10% International.

For most of its 17-kilometre journey the Bayside foreshore faces west-ward offering expansive views across Port Phillip Bay and the distinctive You Yangs mountain range. The beaches, cliff-top paths and promenades present a perfect view of the setting sun and city skyline, drawing locals and tourists alike.

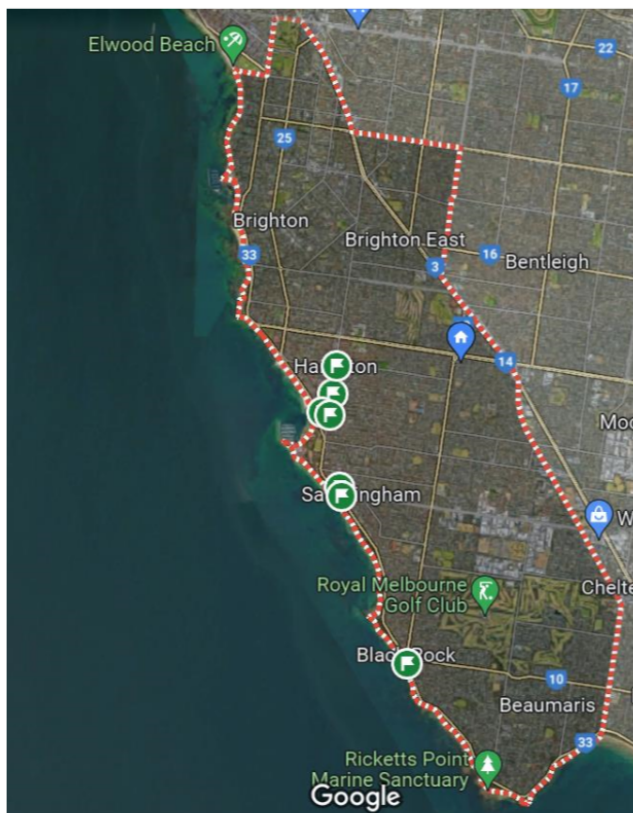


Figure 1: City of Bayside referred to as 'Bayside'

Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan

This document provides an overview for the Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan (VMP), which covers the extent from and including Royal Brighton Yacht Club and Middle Brighton Baths on the northern end, Brighton Bathing Boxes in the center, and Green Point at the southern end. This extent will be referred to as 'the Foreshore'. Over the years the Foreshore has experienced a significant increase in visitor numbers, which has led to various challenges in managing the beach effectively. This VMP aims to address these challenges and enhance the overall visitor experience while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Foreshore.



Figure 2: The study area or 'the Foreshore' encompassing the area from The Royal Brighton Yacht Club, The Baths, Dendy Beach to Green Point

Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan

2.1. Purpose Statement

The purpose of the VMP is to:

establish a comprehensive strategy for visitor experience and sustainable management of all visitors to the Foreshore.

Sustainable visitor management means managing the protection, recreational use and development of natural, cultural and historic heritage to engage the visitors of today while also safeguarding options for future generations.

2.2. Objective of the Plan

In doing so it is envisaged the VMP, will:



Enhance Visitor Experience



Preserve and Protect Natural Environment



Balance Stakeholder Needs



Deliver Sustainable Tourism and Economic Viability

Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan

Goal 1: Enhance Visitor Experience

Alignment: Place

- Develop and implement initiatives to improve visitor services, facilities, and amenities at Dendy Beach.
- Provide clear and accessible information to visitors regarding beach rules, safety measures, and available facilities.
- Create engaging programs and events that cater to the diverse interests and needs of visitors.
- Offer diverse activities and experiences for visitors.

Goal 2: Preserve and Protect the Natural Environment

Alignment: Planet

- Implement sustainable practices and initiatives to minimise the environmental impact of visitor activities.
- Promote responsible behaviour among visitors through education and awareness campaigns.
- Enhance waste management systems to ensure proper disposal and recycling of waste generated at the beach.
- Protect and preserve the biodiversity and natural habitats in and around The Foreshore.

Goal 3: Balancing Stakeholder Needs

Alignment: People

- Creating a destination that is welcoming for diverse communities and people ensuring The Foreshore is inclusive, respectful and accessible
- Respecting traditional landowners and cultural heritage, as well as amenity of local residents and bathing box owners

Goal 4: Deliver Sustainable Tourism and Economic Viability:

Alignment: Promise

- Develop a comprehensive communication and marketing strategy to channel and leverage existing visitation to benefit the broader Bayside economy, while celebrating cultural and heritage significance.
- Uphold The Foreshore as a sustainable world class tourism destination, highlighting its unique natural and cultural assets.
- Monitor and assess the economic impact of tourism on the local economy and ensure its long-term viability.
- Support local businesses and initiatives that contribute to the vibrancy and sustainability of the precinct.

By aligning the VMP objectives with the four overarching goals outlined in the Bayside City Council Plan 2021-2025, Dendy Beach can be managed effectively, ensuring a positive visitor experience, environmental sustainability, and community satisfaction.

Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan

2.3. Plans and Policies

- Dendy Beach Conservation Management Plan
- Council Plan 2021-2025
- Bayside Integrated Transport Strategy
- Bayside Walking Strategy
- Bicycle Action Plan 2019–26
- Bathing Box and Boatshed Policy 2010
- Property Strategy 2022–26
- Bayside Road Management Plan
- Public Toilet Strategy 2019-2023
- Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan
- Bayside Open Space Strategy
- Bayside Open Space Strategy: suburb analysis and action plan
- Dendy Street Beach Masterplan
- North Road Foreshore Masterplan
- Shared Trail Upgrades
- Significant Trees Management Policy 2020
- Recycling and Waste Management Strategy 2018–27
- Bayside Tree Strategy
- Bayside Urban Forest Strategy 2022-40
- Parking Strategy 2023-33

2.4. Concurrent Projects

- Bay Trail Duplication Project
- Dendy Beach Pavilion
- Dendy Beach Erosion Mitigation Project
- Public Toilet and Shower Renewal (Norwood Avenue/Kinane Street)
- Coastal and Marine Management Plan/Coastal Management Plan

2.5. Regulatory Compliance and Strategic Alignment

The implementation of the VMP is subject to a compliance check against relevant legislation and policy, particularly concerning actions within the coastal and marine planning domains. The feasibility of delivery on the VMP's actions is dependent on attaining the necessary permits, approvals and authorisations during the project planning stage.

Therefore, actions proposed within the VMP are provisional, with an understanding that they may need to be adjusted or, if necessary, discontinued by Council, in order to conform with regulatory standards or meet legal requirements.

Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan

Additionally, the VMP seeks to align with the emerging Coastal Marine Management Plan (CMMP), which is currently under development. This proactive alignment ensures that the VMP will not only meet current regulatory and legislative standards but also seamlessly integrate with the broader strategic environmental and coastal management goals embodied by the CMMP.

2.6. Funding and Budgetary Considerations

All initiatives outlined in this Visitor Management Plan are subject to Bayside City Council's budgetary framework and funding allocation processes. The implementation of these strategies will be prioritised based on available resources, fiscal considerations, and strategic alignment with the Council's broader objectives. Funding approval for each initiative will be sought through the Council's established budgetary procedures to ensure financial sustainability and strategic investment in the precinct's future.

2.7. Heritage Overlay Across the Foreshore

- The Foreshore has a heritage overlay across much of the Foreshore.
- The proposed initiatives shown below will need to consider heritage impacts and ensure that the developments align with the heritage requirements.
- As part of early planning, advice from Heritage Consultant should be sought to determine the extent of works that could be granted along The Foreshore.

2.7.1 Exemptions to Heritage

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) and allow certain works and activities to proceed without a permit.

Established under s.92(1) of the *Heritage Act 2017 (Vic)*, general exemptions are designed to ensure that everyday management, maintenance and upkeep of registered places and objects can take place without having to apply for approvals from Heritage Victoria. Works and activities covered by general exemptions must not harm the fabric of the registered place or object, and should positively contribute to its management.

Specific exemptions may also apply to the object or place and should be checked prior to proceeding with works. If there is an inconsistency between specific exemptions and works or activities permitted by general exemptions, then exemptions specific to the place or object prevail. Works cannot be undertaken in accordance with general exemptions if they contravene specific exemptions.

General exemptions are designed to maintain and preserve the heritage significance of your place, and cover common works across a range of categories:

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1. Maintenance and cleaning
2. Minor repairs
3. Painting and wallpapering
4. Internal fit outs
5. Testing, survey and exploration
6. Services
7. Safety and security
8. Cemeteries and burial sites
9. Vegetation and landscape management
10. Temporary events and structures
11. Signage
12. Transport operations (rail and road)
13. Agricultural operations.

More information on exempt works and activities, minor repairs, notification requirements and record keeping of general exemptions are identified in the [General permit exemptions December 2022 guidelines](#).



Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan

3. Visitor Management Experience

STRATEGIC FOCUS: Position the visitors and local community at the heart of a sustainable and positive experience.

3.1. Key Elements of Visitor Experience

When considering the visitor experience to The Foreshore, several critical factors come into play. Addressing these ensures that visitors have a memorable, safe, and enjoyable time. It also provides a comprehensive strategy, to consider elements that can impact the visitor experience.

	Key Elements	Why is it important?
1	Marketing and Branding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective marketing is needed to leverage existing visitation to benefit the entire municipality Collaborations with private tourism operators assists in the management of crowd numbers, congestion, and guiding visitor behaviour. To effectively target and engage individuals across different cultures, backgrounds and age demographics.
2	Facility Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean and safe facilities and amenities provide a positive tactile experience for locals and visitors Continuous and effective asset maintenance proves to be more cost-effective over time
3	Traffic Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing the flow of traffic, including cars and tourist buses is critical to avoid overcrowding during the peak periods of summer.
4	Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective waste management protects the natural environment but also guides visitor behaviour
5	Wayfinding and Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear signs and maps provide a safe and clear path for visitors to their destinations. Information about local flora and fauna, safety guidelines, historical or cultural significance, improve visitor understanding and appreciation.

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	Key Elements	Why is it important?
6	Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To accommodate the accessibility needs of individuals with disabilities, the ageing population, and people of diverse gender identities
7	Environment and Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise the environmental footprint, promote sustainable practices, and educate visitors on respecting nature contribute to a responsible and enriched experience.

3.2. Visitors to the Foreshore

In developing the VMP, understanding the diverse categories of visitors is critical to enabling a plan that navigates various needs and requirements. Through a preliminary view, the visitors to the Foreshore can be categorised in these four groups, each with slightly differing focus.

3.2.1. Brighton Bathing Boxes Owners and Bayside Local Residents

Both groups frequently visit Dendy Beach. They have a vested interest in the upkeep and policies governing the area. Their feedback is key to supporting community-based initiatives and maintaining local culture. They likely visit the Foreshore regularly throughout the week.

In addition, the Bathing Box owners, who hold leases to these iconic structures, play a pivotal role in the beach’s appeal. They are committed to protecting their asset (the bathing box) from damage or misuse.

Their typical activities may include walking, jogging, cycling, dog walking, picnicking, socialising, sunbaking, water activities, and photography.

3.2.2. Greater Melbourne

Includes people who frequent Dendy Street Beach for leisure. They are likely to be familiar with the area. They may visit the Foreshore on weekends.

Some of the key activities they may undertake also include walking, jogging, cycling, dog walking, picnicking, socialising, sunbaking, water activities, and photography.

3.2.3. Regional and Interstate

Visitors from both regional areas and other states often come to Dendy Beach and the Brighton Bathing Boxes, either as first-timers or returning after some time away. Interstate visitors may already be somewhat familiar with the area from previous visits.

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These visitors play a significant role in boosting the local economy by spending on accommodation, dining, and various activities. Typically, their visits are brief, focused on enjoying the sun, scenic views and photography.

3.2.4. International

International visitors to Dendy Street Beach, often experiencing the area for the first time, may not be familiar with the local context. Many use the Brighton Bathing Boxes as a picturesque stopover en route to destinations like Phillip Island. For some of these visitors, English might not be their preferred language.

Currently, their contribution to Bayside's local economy is modest, however the plan identifies potential to value capture by creating opportunity for greater spending on dining, tourism merchandise and other activities.

Typically, their visits are brief and focus on enjoying the scenic views, capturing photos, and quick toilet stops.

3.3. Foreshore Anchors and Attractions

The below key attractions along the foreshore serve as integral anchors. Strategically positioned, these four key attractions, frame and enhance the visitor experience, by providing visitors areas to enjoy the Foreshore and explore the beaches and surrounding areas.

3.3.1. Brighton Bathing Boxes

The Brighton Bathing Boxes stand as Bayside's premier tourist attraction. Comprising 93 brightly coloured beach huts along Dendy Beach, these iconic structures possess uniform Victorian features, painted weatherboards, and corrugated iron roofs. The immense popularity of these boxes is a central factor prompting the need for a comprehensive Visitor Management Plan.

3.3.2. Dendy Beach Pavilion

The new Dendy Beach Pavilion stands as the centrepiece upgrade aimed at improving the visitor experience of this iconic precinct. The redevelopment includes:

- a modern pavilion including public toilets, facilities for Brighton Life-Saving Club including a lifesavers' beach observation area, a versatile training space and a small café offering coffee and refreshments with level access from the car park
- remediation of unsightly storm water outfall

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- enhancements to the car park, shared trail and beach access pathways.
- Creation of new lower and upper forecourts, contributing to an overall enriched environment

3.3.3. The Baths Middle Brighton

For over 140 years, The Baths has stood as an iconic epicentre for local recreation in Bayside, Melbourne. As one of only two remaining Sea Baths in all of Victoria, Brighton Baths has transformed from a swim-club to an all-inclusive, one-of-a-kind destination for Lifestyle, Wellbeing and Fitness. The Baths also hosts the northern public carpark

Prior to the construction of the new Dendy Beach Pavilion it was the exclusive provider of hospitality in the precinct. With an indoor dining room and rear deck offering panoramic views of the Port Phillip Bay, and a front deck fish and chip shop kiosk.

3.3.4. Royal Brighton Yacht Club

Established in the late 1800s the Royal Brighton Yacht Club today is one of Australia's premier yacht clubs, offering a wide range of sailing events and activities year-round. Its marina offers berthing for sailing and motor yachts up to 60ft in length. The Olympic Restaurant and Bar, Members' Bar, and Bayview room offer stunning views of Port Phillip Bay.

3.3.5. Green Point

Renowned for its picturesque clifftop lookout showcasing views of the iconic Brighton Bathing Boxes and Melbourne's city skyline, Green Point is situated just south of Dendy Beach. The features expansive, lush grassy spaces, amenities for picnics, and serves as an on-grade foreshore carpark.

3.4. Strategic Bookending of Dendy Beach

The concept of 'Strategically Bookending' Dendy Beach forms the core of the VMP, operating in synergy with other strategies to holistically address the precinct's ongoing challenges.

The above existing developments present opportunities as anchors to guide visitors in a strategic approach which will empower the Council to efficiently manage the surge of visitors, whilst simultaneously elevating the visitor experience. Strategic Bookending not only redistributes visitor concentration from the overcrowded bathing boxes to other areas within the precinct but also facilitates a natural flow for tour operators.

Along with the proposed expansion of parking facilities at each bookend, this strategy has the potential to alleviate traffic congestion, prevent buses from parking in residential areas, and stimulate the local economy. Ultimately, Strategic Bookending serves as a comprehensive solution,

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significantly enhancing the visitor experience and contributing to the sustainable management of Dendy Beach. The following three initiatives outline our approach to implementing the bookending strategy:

3.4.1. Initiative 1: Revitalisation of The Baths Middle Brighton outdoor area

- The St. Kilda and Port Phillip area is a hub of nightlife, clubs, and bars. Although it hosts the St Kilda Baths, the demographic and attraction of The Baths is distinct to Bayside.
- There is a clear opportunity to brand the Foreshore as a hub for health and well-being, by enhancing The Baths' core function.
- By further uplifting the first landmark of Bayside as a hub for health and well-being, the Council can look to develop alternative to the restaurant style approach undertaken by Elwood Bathers and St. Kilda Baths.
- There is an opportunity to increase car and bus parking at the site (refer to section 7: Traffic Management)
- This development would also assist in book-ending the Bathing Boxes, drawing the attention on either side by attracting visitors to other locations in the Foreshore.



Figure 3: The Baths outdoor area for revitalisation.

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3.4.2. Initiative 2: Hardscape and Landscape integration between The Baths and Dendy Beach Pavilion and improved connectivity to Green Point

- Developing the connection between The Baths and Dendy Pavilion would encourage tourists to start their 'journey' from The Baths car park and end at Green Point (refer next section).
- To improve the connectivity between the Baths and Dendy Pavilion it is recommended to utilise the existing hardscaped pathway along the foreshore, making this the primary route. This would assist in drawing away tourists from the Esplanade alleviating the interactions with locals and cyclists.
- To develop the connectivity between Dendy Pavilion and Green Point, it would be recommended to utilise the opportunities presented:
 - by the Bay Trail Duplication project, or
 - a boardwalk along the foreshore commencing from Norwood Avenue beach steps to Green Point.
- It is not recommended:
 - that both the Bay Trail Duplication and boardwalk are undertaken due to the likely substantial loss of vegetation.
 - to develop a boardwalk between Dendy Pavilion and Norwood Avenue beach steps, as it would draw further tourist toward the Bathing Boxes.
- The marketing of this journey would assist collaboration with the tour operators to drop off their customers at The Baths and pick them up from Green Point. This operation would alleviate the congestion at the Dendy Pavilion/Keith Court car park, the smallest of the three car parks, as well as surrounding residential streets.
- The improvement between the Baths and Dendy Pavilion would;
 - offer commercial operators in the area further opportunities for revenue generation, along with the Council.
 - provide opportunity to install temporary / mobile food and beverage points during peak summer period would assist in generating revenue from visitors.

Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan



Figure 4: Potential hardscape/landscape integration between The Baths and Dendy Pavilion

3.4.3. Initiative 3: New viewing platform and enhancement of the picnic area at Green Point

Green Point is a popular sunset viewing destination. A number of locals and tourists alike undertake evening visits.

This area also serves as a start or end to commence the Bathing Boxes journey.

The area is popular with families who picnic in the green and the adjacent beaches.

Considering the scenic outlook of the city skyline and bathing boxes is the premier attraction of this viewpoint, it is advisable to incorporate a photo opportunity frame on the deck.

- By enhancing this area's facilities, the area would further draw the focus from the Bathing Boxes and instead create a journey from The Baths to Green Point.
- An installation of temporary / mobile food and beverage point during peak summer period could be considered to generate revenue.
- There is an opportunity to increase car and bus parking at the site (refer to section 7: Traffic Management)

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Figure 5: Location for viewing deck at Green Point

3.3 Leveraging Bathing Box Visitation

The significance of Melbourne's tourism industry to Victoria's economy is undeniable, with a valuation of A\$21.7 billion and the creation of over 210,000 jobs. The comprehensive visitor expenditure, amounting to \$20.3 billion for the year ending December 2019, underscores tourism's pivotal role in generating employment for approximately 130,000 individuals. The contribution of international visitors, who spent \$8.2 billion during their stays, alongside the noteworthy expenditures by holidaymakers and domestic visitors, illustrates the profound impact of tourism on the local economy.

In order to maximise the benefit to Bayside's local economy from tourism, the goal is to leverage the Bathing Boxes to increase visitation stay and spend and improve engagement with the surrounding Bayside local businesses. It is expected that this approach may also assist alleviate the stresses at the Bathing Boxes.

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Desired Outcome	Approach
Visitors increasing length of stay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a range of quality, innovative and authentic products, services and experiences; • High quality customer service; • Tourism Ambassador Program; and • Assisting businesses such as motels to develop strategies to encourage an increased stay or return visit
Visitors visiting other areas within Bayside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalise existing facilities or develop new facilities to attract tourists • Focussed marketing and branding strategy • Collaborate with tour operators



Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan

4. Marketing and Branding

STRATEGIC FOCUS: *Leverage existing visitation for broader benefits and explore opportunities to partner with tourism operators and local businesses for sustainable tourism.*

This section focuses on managing, distributing and deriving benefit from current visitation while not solely focusing on escalating tourism to the foreshore. The communication and marketing strategy is designed to uphold sustainable tourism, foster business engagement, and support the local community. The objective is to balance the amenity of local residents, the interests of local commercial operators and the preservation of the surrounding natural environment.

4.1. Sustainable Tourism

Sustainable tourism is important for several key reasons:

Focus	Why is this important?
Environmental Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable tourism helps to minimise the ecological impact of travel, conserving wildlife, and natural resources for future generations.
Cultural Preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It supports the preservation of local cultures and traditions, ensuring that tourism does not lead to cultural homogenisation or loss.
Economic Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By focusing on long-term profitability rather than short-term gains, sustainable tourism can provide stable economic benefits to communities without degrading their resources.
Community Well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It prioritises the quality of life for local residents, ensuring that tourism does not disrupt local living conditions but instead contributes positively.
Education and Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable tourism educates tourists about the importance of conservation, cultural sensitivity, and environmental issues, fostering a more responsible and informed visitors.

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Potential options for promoting sustainable tourism include:

Initiatives	How can these be implemented?
Develop Sustainable Tourism Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish guidelines that focus on minimising tourism’s negative impact on the environment, culture, and local communities
Promote Eco-friendly Accommodations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage hotels and accommodation providers to adopt green practices such as reducing waste, conserving water, and using renewable energy sources.
Support Local Economies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage tourists to buy local products and use local services, which helps to ensure that the economic benefits of tourism are distributed within the community.
Educate Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on how to travel responsibly, respect local cultures, and protect natural resources.
Encourage Off-Season Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote travel during off-peak times to reduce the pressure on destinations during high seasons, leading to better experiences for visitors and less stress on localities.
Implement Sustainable Transportation Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the use of public transportation, cycling, walking, and other low-carbon modes of transport.
Promote Conservation Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with conservation organisations to protect natural areas and wildlife and involve tourists in these efforts through volunteer opportunities or educational tours.
Monitor and Manage Visitor Numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement measures to control the number of visitors in sensitive areas to avoid over-tourism and its associated negative impacts.
Certifications and Labels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain sustainability certifications from recognised organisations to build trust with consumers who are interested in sustainable travel.
Partnerships and Collaboration:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local communities, tourist operators, and businesses to create a united front for sustainable tourism practices.
Digital Marketing for Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use digital platforms to highlight sustainable practices and educate potential tourists. For instance, sharing images and stories of sustainable tourism practices on social media can raise awareness and influence traveller choices.

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4.1.1. Digital Marketing

Digital marketing provides a cost effective and responsive method of managing, targeting and leveraging visitation for engagement with the broader Bayside economy:

Type	Method
Retargeting through pay-per-click Advertising (PPC):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Platforms like Google and Facebook Ads to run targeted ads, promoting alternate bayside offerings for those searching for terms relating to The Brighton bathing boxes
Social Media Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create engaging tourism content on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter
Email Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Bayside's existing newsletters and publications to promote sustainable tourism content and initiatives.
Content Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use blogs, videos, and other content forms to provide value and disburse visitors.
Affiliate and Influencer Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with popular figures and local influencers to promote Bayside and other areas.
Analytics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track and analyse behaviour and refine marketing strategies accordingly.

4.1.2. Traditional Marketing

In addition to digital marketing, traditional forms of marketing could be considered relevant in the promotion of surrounding attractions, seasonal events and activities, local shopping precincts and businesses.

Type	Method
Print Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use brochures, flyers, posters, and postcards for advertising.
Broadcast Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise on radio
Billboards and Outdoor Ads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Display advertisements in strategic locations.
Direct Mail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send promotional materials directly to potential visitors' homes.
Events and Sponsorships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsor or host events that resonate with the Foreshore's offerings.

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4.2. Partnerships and Collaborations

The strategic aim of forging collaborations and partnerships is to ensure the Council achieves effective management of the Foreshore, financially sustainable outcomes and strengthens its capacity for safe, long-term operations.

Engaging with businesses and other organisations is crucial for enhancing tourism management at The Foreshore, providing visitors with enriching experiences while adhering to safety standards and Council guidelines. Possible partnership and collaborations include:

Partnership	Purpose	Benefit
Traders Associations	To promote local businesses to tourists, integrating them into the overall visitor experience.	Stimulates the local economy by driving visitor traffic to local shops, cafes, and services, fostering community prosperity.
Environmental Conservation Groups	To implement sustainable tourism practices that protect and preserve The Foreshore’s natural environment	Ensures the long-term viability of the beach as a tourist attraction while promoting environmental stewardship
Tourism Operators	To manage tour bus operations, effectively communicate with international visitors, and understand visitor numbers	Mitigate issues that stem from traffic congestion and bus parking, convey important safety information, behavioural guidance and sustainability standards with visitors, and resource visitation effectively
Government Agencies	To secure funding, permits, and support for infrastructure projects and tourism initiatives	Facilitates the development of visitor amenities and services, ensuring compliance with regulations and standards
Commercial Operators	Collaborate with local operators to create products, services and experiences	Creates revenue opportunity for the Council while stimulating the local economy

Each of these partnerships and collaborations brings unique strengths to the management of tourism at The Foreshore, creating a comprehensive approach that addresses financial sustainability, safety, environmental preservation, and visitor satisfaction. By working together with these entities, the Council can ensure a vibrant, accessible, and sustainable future for The Foreshore as a premier destination.

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4.3. Tourism Merchandise

The introduction of official Bayside tourism merchandise represents a strategic initiative within the Visitor Management Plan to enhance the visitor experience and contribute to the economic and brand vitality of the Bayside area. Emphasis is placed on selecting the most environmentally preferable options in alignment with Bayside’s commitment to sustainable outcomes.

This section outlines the multifaceted benefits of implementing such merchandise, alongside a proposal for distribution and a preliminary list of merchandise items for consideration.

4.3.1. The Benefits of Implementing Merchandise:

- **Brand Strengthening:** Official merchandise will serve as a tangible representation of the Bayside brand, reinforcing its identity, values and its commitment to sustainability. Each item will act as a brand ambassador, spreading awareness and fostering a sense of connection among visitors and residents alike.
- **Revenue Generation:** Merchandise sales offer a direct financial benefit Council and local businesses, creating an additional revenue stream that can support further tourism and community development initiatives.
- **Enhancing Visitor Experience:** Providing visitors with the opportunity to purchase unique keepsakes contributes to making their visit to Dendy Beach and other Bayside attractions memorable. Merchandise can encapsulate the essence of their experience, allowing them to take a piece of Bayside home.
- **Local Business Engagement:** By proposing that the merchandise be sold on consignment through participating local businesses, this initiative supports local commerce, driving foot traffic and potentially increasing sales of other products and services.

4.3.2. Distribution Strategy

The merchandise will be made available through a network of local businesses, sold on consignment to maximise reach and engagement. This approach ensures that the benefits of this initiative—both financial and brand-related—flow through to the local community and economy, fostering a collective commitment to sustainability.

4.3.3. Preliminary list of Merchandise for consideration

The Council could explore implementing the following or similar merchandise:

Item	Description
Biodegradable Postcards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Featuring iconic Bayside landmarks, made from recycled or plant-based materials

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Item	Description
Puzzles / Toys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puzzles and toys made from recycled materials featuring Bayside landmarks or icons.
Reusable Tote Bags	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crafted from recycled materials, adorned with local art celebrating Bayside's natural and cultural heritage
Sustainably Sourced T-shirts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnering with eco-conscious brands to offer apparel that showcases Bayside through sustainable fabrics and ethical manufacturing practices.
Stainless Steel Water Bottles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durable, reusable bottles branded with Bayside imagery to encourage reduction in single-use plastic consumption.

4.4. Tour Bus Operator Permits

International visitors to Dendy Beach represent an estimated 10% of total visitation (approx. 70,000 – 100,000 visitors per annum), the majority of whom arrive via. bus tours.

It is advised that the Council explore the introduction of tour bus operator permits. These permits are not only a potential revenue source for the Council but also offer several benefits in effectively managing the precinct, they include:

- They would allow BCC to better regulate and manage the influx of tourist buses and visitors to Dendy Beach, ensuring a sustainable visitation pattern
- The permits would enable a direct communication channel with operators, by creating a database of all tour companies frequenting Dendy Beach. This will assist in disseminating information related to traffic management, as well as conveying expectations and distributing visitor information material on behavioural guidelines, safety and environmental preservation
- Furthermore, the initiative would facilitate the gathering of accurate data regarding visitor numbers, aiding in future planning and resource allocation.

It is recommended that the Council explore the potential for a partnership with Bass Coast Shire to introduce a joint tour permit, recognising that a significant proportion of tour operators visit the Bathing Boxes as a stopover en-route to Phillip Island.

Council should look to update existing or implement new tourism materials to include visitor information that outlines behavioural guidelines, safety and environmental preservation.

A guide to implementing the permits is outlined below.

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Category	Stage	Description
Application Process	Online Portal	Develop a digital portal where bus operators can apply, renew, and pay for permits.
	Documentation	Require operators to submit necessary documentation, including bus details, company information, driver credentials, and insurance proof.
	Review	Set a timeframe (e.g.; 28 days) for BCC to review applications and approve or deny based on criteria.
Permit Pricing Structure	Tiered Pricing	Consider charging based on bus size or passenger capacity.
	Duration	Offer annual or pro-rata permits to cater to different operator needs.
	Peak and Off-Peak	Implement higher fees during peak tourist seasons or times to manage congestion.
	Discounts	Offer discounts for operators promoting eco-friendly buses or off-season travel.
Restrictions and Regulations	Timings	Specify arrival and departure timings to avoid congestion during peak hours.
	Bus Zones	Designate specific zones for tourist buses for parking or pick-up/drop-off.
	Stay Duration	Limit the time a bus can remain parked in the area. e.g: "Two min drop off and pick up zone"
Revenue Utilisation	Infrastructure Maintenance	Use a portion of the revenue for maintaining and enhancing bus zones and related infrastructure.
	Sustainability Projects:	Invest in eco-friendly projects or facilities upgrades, enhancing the overall visitor experience.

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Category	Stage	Description
Monitoring and Compliance	Inspections	Conduct random inspections to ensure buses and operators comply with permit regulations and park legally
Tourist Operator Engagement	Feedback Mechanism:	Allow bus operators to give feedback on the permit system, identifying areas of improvement.
	Regular Updates	Keep operators informed about any changes in rules, pricing, or schedules.
	Collaborations	Engage with large tour companies for potential partnerships or bulk permit deals.
Marking and Signage	Signage:	Install clear signs indicating bus zones, timings, and rules.
Periodic Review	Data Analysis:	Evaluate the number of permits issued, revenue generated, and any reported issues or violations.
	Strategy Adjustments	Based on the review, adjust pricing, regulations, or timings to better suit the evolving needs of Brighton Beach and the Council.

4.5. Events and Programs

Melbourne's dynamic culture, arts scene, and coastal attractions, present numerous event opportunities to enhance tourism. The rationale behind proposing events aligns with our strategy to disperse visitor concentration away from purely Dendy Beach.

By spotlighting various other sections of the foreshore and different areas within Bayside, we aim to alleviate overcrowding and enhance the overall visitor experience. Furthermore, events and activations capitalise on existing visitation, funnelling economic benefits into Bayside's local economy and directing foot traffic toward our local businesses.

4.5.1. Summary of current events

The City of Bayside hosts a variety of beach and water-related events throughout the year. Some of the highlighted events include:

Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan

Event	Description
Bathing Box Classic, Brighton Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bathing Box Classic is the annual swim event for Brighton Life Saving Club. The event is part of the Great Vic Open Water Swim and takes place in February each year.
Bayside Farmers' Market, Sandringham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held on the fourth Saturday of every month, this farmers' market brings local produce and goods to Trey Bit Reserve near Jetty Road, Sandringham, offering a shopping experience close to the beach from 25th November 2023 to 24th August 2024.
2XU Triathlons, Green Point & Sandringham Foreshore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This triathlon series is sporting occasion that involves swimming, biking, and running and is expected to draw participants and spectators to the Bayside beaches.
The Great Bayside Swim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held on Australia Day, this has become an iconic community swim event organised by the Brighton Rotary Club and attracting hundreds of participants and spectators, with all funds raised going back to the community.
IRONMAN Melbourne 70.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This triathlon event is a significant sporting occasion that involves swimming, biking, and running and is expected to draw participants and spectators to the Bayside beaches.
Cerberus Swim Classic, Half Moon Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cerberus Swim Classic is an open water swim at Half Moon Bay. The event usually facilitates approximately 600 participants across the day, with all water safety provided by Half Moon Bay Surf Life Saving Club members.

In addition to the above events, below are some events that Council could consider to leverage tourism, alleviate congestion away from the Bathing Boxes, and direct it towards other parts of beach foreshore or Bayside.

These events could be strategically implemented in various Bayside locations during peak visitation periods. Council could either independently organise these events, or instead explore partnerships or sponsorships with existing events to take place in bayside.

4.5.2. Considerations for general population events across Bayside

These events are suitable for groups of all ages to attend from youth to seniors.

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Event	Description
Sustainable Living Expo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host workshops, talks, and stalls promoting sustainable living, including eco-friendly products and organic food.
Race Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise annual sporting events, comprising swimming in the bay, cycling through scenic routes, and running along the coast.
Vintage Car Rally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attract car enthusiasts by hosting a vintage car exhibition and rally.
Food and Wine Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrate the diverse culinary scene with local restaurants and cafes. Taking a cue from the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival in Port Phillip, the Council could host its own showcasing local and international cuisines, which can significantly contribute to local businesses and council revenue.
Heritage Walks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise guided tours emphasising Bayside's history, architecture, and cultural landmarks.
Beach Volleyball Tournament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the expansive beaches, a beach sports event can attract both participants and spectators.
Eco Conservation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasise the importance of dune conservation, coastal vegetation, and marine life protection through workshops and hands-on activities. Eco-tours, snorkelling, and guided walks, akin to those offered in Sydney's coastal councils, could capitalise on Bayside's natural coastline and marine life.
Seaside Literature Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise a literature festival with book launches, author panels, and poetry readings, leveraging the calm seaside backdrop for inspiration.
Outdoor Film Theatre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watching films in a drive-in car park

4.5.3. Health and Wellness events

To cement the status of Bayside as a health and well-being hub in Melbourne, it would be vital to host related events. The Council could consider some of the following events in other areas of Bayside, leveraging the visitation numbers from the Bathing Boxes.

Event	Description
Yoga and Meditation Retreats:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue promoting the yoga sessions at The Baths

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Event	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-day events focusing on yoga practices, guided meditation sessions, and workshops on holistic health.
Mental Health Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events that focus on mental health topics, featuring psychologists, therapists, and survivors sharing their experiences and coping strategies at locations such as Brighton Savoy
Health & Fitness Festivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrate fitness with diverse workout sessions, such as HIIT, Zumba, Pilates, and dance at The Baths or any other facility.
Nutritional and Cooking Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands-on sessions teaching attendees to cook healthy and nutritious meals. Dietitians can provide guidance on balanced diets
Health Screenings & Fairs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer basic health screenings, such as blood pressure checks, glucose tests, and vision tests.
Mindfulness & Stress Reduction Seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops focusing on mindfulness techniques, deep breathing exercises, and strategies to manage and reduce stress
Wellness Retreats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-day events in nature-centric locations, offering detox diets, spa treatments, therapy sessions, and nature walks
Therapeutic Art & Craft Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands-on workshops focusing on therapeutic arts and crafts like pottery, painting, or knitting
Beach Walks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised beach walks or hikes, focusing on the therapeutic benefits of nature.
Sound Healing & Music Therapy Sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions using sound bowls, therapeutic instruments, and music to promote emotional and mental healing.
Self-care & Resilience Building Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops teaching attendees the importance of self-care, setting boundaries, and building resilience.
Sleep & Insomnia Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experts provide tips on sleep hygiene, the importance of rest, and coping mechanisms for insomnia

4.5.4. Events for the Ageing Demographic

Organising events for the older adults requires considering factors like mobility, interests, cognitive functioning, and the potential for social interaction. The Council could consider the following events in other areas of Bayside, leveraging the visitation numbers from the Bathing Boxes.

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Event	Description
Gentle Exercise Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions such as Tai Chi, chair yoga, or water aerobics designed to be low impact but beneficial for flexibility and balance.
Memory Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities that stimulate the brain, such as puzzle solving, memory games, or trivia quizzes.
Art and Craft Sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops teaching skills like painting, knitting, pottery, or scrapbooking
Book Clubs or Reading Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly or weekly gatherings to discuss a chosen book or share personal readings.
Musical Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir sessions, karaoke, or simply listening to live music or performances from earlier eras.
Gardening Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities centered around planting, maintaining, and enjoying community gardens.
Cooking or Baking Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions teaching how to prepare simple dishes, revisiting traditional recipes, and explore different cuisines.
Board Game or Card Game Afternoons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetups to play classics like chess, checkers, bridge, or bingo
Digital Literacy Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching the elderly how to use technology, such as smartphones, tablets, or social media.
Dance and Movement Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage movement, rhythm, and dance in a therapeutic setting



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5. Facility Management

STRATEGIC FOCUS: *Create a well-maintained, sustainable, and welcoming environment that caters to the diverse needs of visitors and locals. This will be achieved through best practices that enhance the longevity, utility, and accessibility of facilities, while making the location a safe and prime destination.*

Well-maintained, safe and accessible facilities are directly linked to visitor satisfaction and play a pivotal role in ensuring the Foreshore's sustainability. Moreover, effective facility management not only preserves the destination's appeal and longevity, but also proves to be more cost-effective over time.

5.1. Assessment and Inventory

- Conduct a thorough audit of all existing facilities, noting their current conditions, age, utility, and capacity.
- Catalogue and prioritise facilities based on usage frequency and importance to visitors.
- Engage a specialised team to survey and document each facility using standardised templates.
- Use drone imagery or GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping for a comprehensive view.
- Implement an inventory management software to update and track facilities in real-time.
- Engage an expert team to survey facilities, utilising drones for aerial views. Introduce an inventory management software for real-time updates, categorising facilities based on usage and condition.

5.2. Maintenance and Inspections

- Develop a digital maintenance calendar specifying check dates, responsible personnel, and the nature of maintenance required.
- Engage contractors for routine and preventive maintenance tasks.
- Store a reserve of critical parts and materials for quick repairs.
- Utilise a ticketing system where staff or visitors can report issues requiring attention.

5.3. Continuity Planning

- Stay updated with global trends in beach facility management through memberships in related associations or forums (ie. Great Ocean Road Coast & Parks Authority)
- Organise a task force every 5 years to envision the future landscape of the Foreshore facilities.
- Collaborate with urban design students from local universities for fresh, innovative ideas.

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5.4. Daily Operations

- Implement a mentorship system where seasoned staff can guide and train newer members.
- Identify skill gaps among staff and tailor training modules accordingly.

5.5. Technology Integration

- Identify suitable IoT solutions and oversee their installation.
- Develop a central dashboard where real-time data from sensors is displayed and analysed.
- Periodically update technology infrastructure to ensure compatibility and security.

5.6. Safety

- Organise regular safety drills for staff, including fire evacuation, first aid, and emergency protocols.
- Install tamper-proof and weather-resistant security cameras.
- Engage local law enforcement in periodic workshops to brief them on facility layouts and potential risks.

5.7. Facility Management Regimes

Based on the preceding factors the below table proposed a list of regimes to improve and maintain the Foreshore conditions.

Area	Regime	Requirements
Restroom Maintenance (public toilets)	Cleaning Schedules	Regular cleaning and maintenance of restroom facilities to ensure cleanliness, hygiene, and proper functioning.
	Plumbing System Inspections	Regular inspection of plumbing systems.
	Supply Replenishment	Replenishment of supplies such as toilet paper and hand soap.
	Prompt Repairs and Maintenance	Regularly inspecting restroom facilities for any signs of damage, wear and tear, or maintenance issues.
Waste Management	Placement of Waste Bins	Ongoing assessment of appropriate and adequate locations within the precinct for waste bins based on user traffic and convenience.

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Area	Regime	Requirements
	Litter Removal	Implementing a regular cleaning schedule to remove litter from picnic areas, including tables, benches, and barbecue facilities.
	Regular Waste Collection and Disposal	Ensuring regular waste collection and disposal.
	Promoting Recycling and Waste Segregation	Install clear signage and labels on waste bins to educate users about proper waste segregation. Subsequently review to track implementation.
	Monitoring and auditing	Regularly monitoring waste management practices to ensure compliance with established procedures.
Picnic Area Maintenance	Inspection and Repair of Furniture	Conducting routine inspections of picnic equipment, such as tables, benches, and barbecue facilities, to identify any damage or maintenance issues.
	Environmental Maintenance	Maintaining the surrounding environment of the picnic areas by mowing grass, trimming vegetation, and removing any hazardous or obstructive objects.
	Visitor Experience Enhancement	Maintenance of shelters, seating, and shade structures in picnic areas to offer protection from the weather and enhance visitor comfort.
	Seating and Shade Sails	Regularly inspecting and maintaining seating areas and shade structures to address any damage, wear and tear, or safety concerns.
Pathway and Trail Maintenance	Surface Inspection	Conducting visual inspections of pathways, trails, and boardwalks surfaces to identify any cracks, potholes, or uneven areas that require maintenance or repair

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Area	Regime	Requirements
	Trapping Hazard Mitigation	Addressing any identified tripping hazards promptly, such as filling cracks or potholes, leveling uneven surfaces, or repairing loose boards.
	Lighting Maintenance	Checking the functionality of lighting fixtures along pathways, trails, and boardwalks.
	Accessibility Assessment	Evaluating the accessibility of pathways, trails, and boardwalks for visitors with disabilities or mobility challenges.
	Collaboration with Relevant Authorities	Collaborating with relevant authorities or agencies responsible for public works and infrastructure to address any major repairs or renovations required.
	Documentation	Maintaining a record of inspections, maintenance activities, and repairs performed on pathways, trails, and boardwalks.
	Signage and Markings	Checking the visibility and condition of signs and markings along pathways, trails and boardwalks.
Beach Cleaning	Litter Removal	Establishing a routine cleaning schedule to regularly remove litter from the beach area.
	Seaweed and Debris Management	Monitoring the beach area for the accumulation of seaweed, driftwood, or other manmade debris. Seaweed and driftwood clean-up to be undertaken periodically.
	Beach Sand Maintenance	Assessing the quality of the sand periodically, checking for signs of erosion or contamination.
	Beach Erosion	Implementing measures to prevent or mitigate beach erosion, such as sandbag installations, dune restoration, or beach nourishment projects.

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Note that the Facilities Management for The Baths and the Dendy Pavilion will be undertaken and determined by the operators under their commercial lease agreements.



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6. Accessibility

STRATEGIC FOCUS: *Align with best practices in access and inclusion, aiming to make the Foreshore more accessible and welcoming to the diverse groups and needs of its users,*

6.1. Proposed Improvements

Accessibility issues can significantly impact the experience of individuals with disabilities, older adults, families with young children, and tourists from diverse cultural backgrounds. The below table suggest a list of actions that can be explored by council to improve each area:

Ref	Area	Solution	How does it help?
1	Beach Foreshore	<p>Install DDA-compliant ramps with a gentler gradient. Consider the use of beach matting to provide a firm surface for wheelchairs and strollers.</p> <p>Further assessment to be undertaken to determine appropriate location and feasibility. Based on preliminary assessment, this could be undertaken at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access ramp from Middle Brighton Pier or adjacent to the Pier. • Review of the beach area and access in front of the new Dendy Pavilion • Holloway Beach, via SSS Holloway Scout Hall 	Enhances beach and water access for persons with disabilities and mobility challenges.
2	Brighton Beach and Dendy Beach	Regular maintenance to clear sand from tactile. Implement tactile ground surface indicators (TGSIs) that are less prone to being obscured.	Improves safety and navigation for the visually impaired
3	Beach foreshore	Upgrade signage with clear, large fonts and universally recognised symbols. Include directional signs to key locations.	Assists visitors in navigating the Foreshore more easily.

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Ref	Area	Solution	How does it help?
4	Beach foreshore	Conduct a thorough assessment to identify uneven surfaces and natural features that could pose a risk. Install warning signs and consider re-paving where necessary.	Reduces trip hazards, improving safety for all visitors.
5	Beach foreshore	Introduce QR codes with access to languages most commonly spoken by visitors. Use pictograms where possible.	Accommodates non-English speakers and enhances the experience of international tourists. People with disabilities and people with diverse backgrounds
6	The Esplanade	Implement traffic calming measures such as speed humps, better lighting at crossings, and convex mirrors at blind spots. Consider pedestrian overpasses or underpasses at high-traffic points.	Mitigates safety risks for pedestrians crossing the Esplanade.
7	All areas outside carpark	Review existing and implement environmentally friendly lighting where possible, such as motion-sensor LED lights, to illuminate paths while minimising light pollution.	Improves visibility and safety during night-time without disturbing wildlife.
8	the Foreshore	Increase the number of benches and rest areas, ensuring they are well-maintained. Include seating options with back support and armrests.	Provides ample and comfortable resting spaces for elderly visitors and those needing frequent breaks.
9	the Foreshore	Implementation of public fitness equipment	Promotes community health and wellness
10	the Foreshore	Develop a boardwalk with a suitable surface finish to allow access for all groups. The boardwalk must be considered in association with the Bay Trail Duplication Project, to avoid significant loss of native vegetation.	Access to beach for diverse groups.



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7. Traffic Management

STRATEGIC FOCUS: *Provide smooth, safe, and continuous improvement of operations, while alleviating congestion and enhancing accessibility.*

Effective traffic management is key to addressing several critical issues persisting at the Foreshore, like traffic congestion, vehicles encroaching on residential streets, and pedestrian safety when crossing the Esplanade.

As the Esplanade management falls under the Department of Transport and Planning, it limits the Council's implementation capabilities in some circumstances, instead requiring strong advocacy. By promoting these measures, we aim to enhance visitor access, ensure safety, and reduce the impact on local residents, maintaining Dendy Beach as a safe, accessible destination while preserving local community well-being.

Outlined below is a summary of the issues and initiatives pertaining to traffic management.

7.1. Current Observations and Proposed Solutions

Ref	Area	Current Issue	Solutions
1	The Baths	There are only two-signalised intersections with pedestrian crossings along Beach Road between the Baths and Green Point meaning pedestrians may jaywalk to access site. It also creates safety issues due to blind spots.	Consider advocating for a signalised intersection as the access point attracts a significant number of visitors
2	All car parks	The Precinct typically operates satisfactorily outside of peak periods, during seasonal peaks (i.e. summer) it is considered the Precinct operates at or above capacity.	Review car parking lay outs to provide additional parking.
4	The Baths	Conflicts between pedestrian and cyclist lanes	Review of existing signage and layout. Advance warning required. Advance warning may include speed humps / signage / rumble strips / flashing lights.
5	Bay Trail	Undersized bike paths and share paths were noted throughout	Review bay trail

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Ref	Area	Current Issue	Solutions
6	The Baths	Incorrect parking of bikes on infrastructure due to lack of available bike racks	Strategically place bike racks near The Baths. Provide signage around not parking bikes on infrastructure
7	The Esplanade	Pedestrians were seen crossing Beach Road (at no signalised/ zebra crossing) at points where they had direct access to the Dendy Beach	Advocate for up to two pedestrian crossings. The location of these crossings and typology is to be determined through further assessment. However, preliminary assessment suggest locations at Park & Wellington Streets
8	The foreshore	Tour buses on Beach Road and surrounding local streets blocking streets and private driveway	Consideration can be given to introducing seasonal parking restrictions within adjacent local residential streets
9	The foreshore	Vehicles blocking private roads and driveways on Beach Road and local streets accessing Beach Road	Install signs for no parking
10	All	Pedestrian desire lines	Consider providing footpath connection.

7.2. Vehicular Traffic Management

There are two different types of vehicles that occupy the parking area at the Foreshore, tourist operated buses and cars. The user-groups have their associated set of unique challenges, including:

- Tour buses parking The Esplanade and side streets, blocking traffic and access to private residences.
- Cars parking in 'No Standing' areas.

The issues are a result of inadequate parking allowances within the Foreshore to cater for summer visitations. The current parking at The Baths, Dendy Pavilion, and Green Point does not allow for bus parking, leading to tour operators parking along The Esplanade and the various side streets. To mitigate these issues, a number of key initiatives are proposed in the subsequent sections.

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7.2.1 Interim Solutions for Tour Bus Parking

Keith Court car park will remain out of service throughout the summer of 2023/24. Despite its pending reopening, bus congestion due to rising visitation numbers is expected to persist as a significant issue. To effectively address this, a permanent solution is necessary, which will be explored following traffic counts and assessments conducted over a minimum period of 12 months to accurately assess and manage the impact.

In the interim, to mitigate the effects of bus traffic and alleviate the burden on residential streets, two temporary parking solutions have been evaluated. Each option presents a viable means to lessen the impact of tour bus operations in the area. The Visitor Management Plan (VMP) suggests a preferred primary option, which involves allocating bus parking spaces along the Esplanade, and a contingency option if met with unforeseen challenges.

7.2.1.1. Preferred Option – The Esplanade (Opposite 164 Esplanade, Brighton)

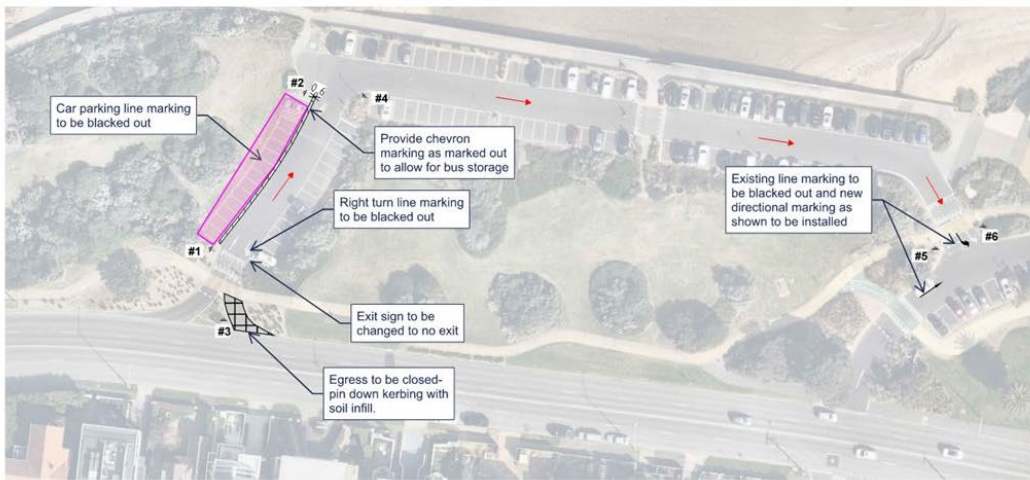
It is proposed to utilise existing parking spaces along the Esplanade for bus pick-up/drop-off and parking. This solution is not only simpler to implement but this option offers significant safety advantages by circumventing the challenges of navigating buses through tight turning circles and hazards presented by cars Middle Brighton car park. Additionally, its proximity to the pavilion makes it a much more walkable option.



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7.2.1.2. Contingency Option – The Baths Car Park

As a contingency option, the Council could consider the temporary conversion of the 13 identified car parking spaces into one designated bus parking spot and one bus pick-up/drop-off zone with 15-minute restrictions. Additionally, pursuing this option would necessitate consultation with the commercial operator of the baths mitigate any potential disruptions.



Due to the possibility of traffic incidents occurring from this change, active traffic management would be required at the entrances and exits of the car park. Temporary LED road sign and other temporary signs will need to inform this change disruptions.

SIGNAGE SCHEDULE



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7.2.2 Permanent Changes for Buses and Car Parking

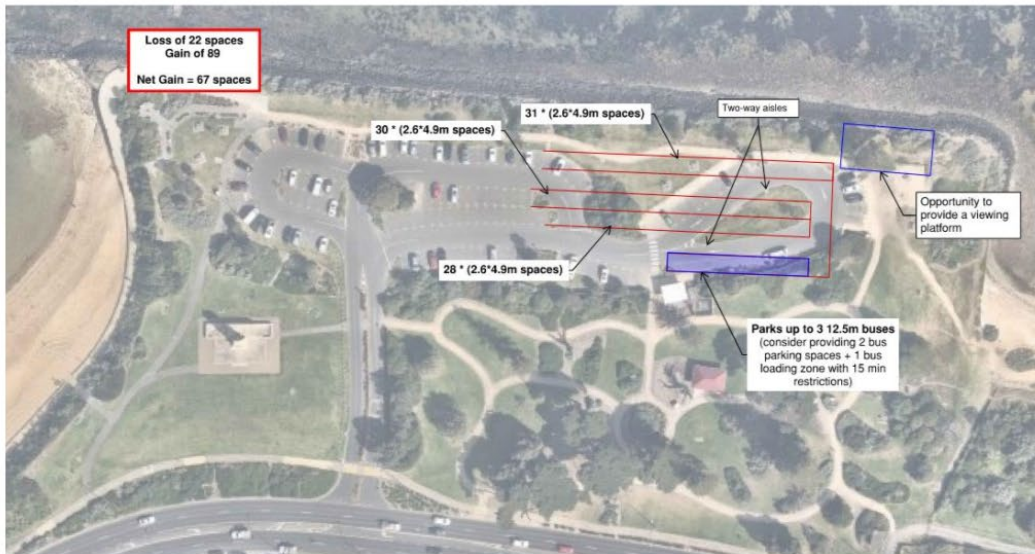
This section proposes expanding existing Council owned car parks at Green Point and Middle Brighton Baths to accommodate more cars and buses, presenting the most practical solution to the address enduring challenges surrounding traffic/parking congestion and the disruption caused to residential streets. These recommendations however are provisional, contingent upon traffic counts and to measure demand and assess potential impacts.

These assessments are critical to confirming the necessity of the parking expansions, ensuring they not only address the community's needs, but also align with Council's commitment to sustainable traffic management, environmental preservation and community well-being.

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7.2.2.1. Green Point

Green Point car park provides an opportunity to maximise the car and bus parking, alleviating the stress at Keith Court carpark and surrounding residential streets. After exploring two options to enhance parking capacity, the following table summarises our findings and recommends one option as a provisional permanent measure.

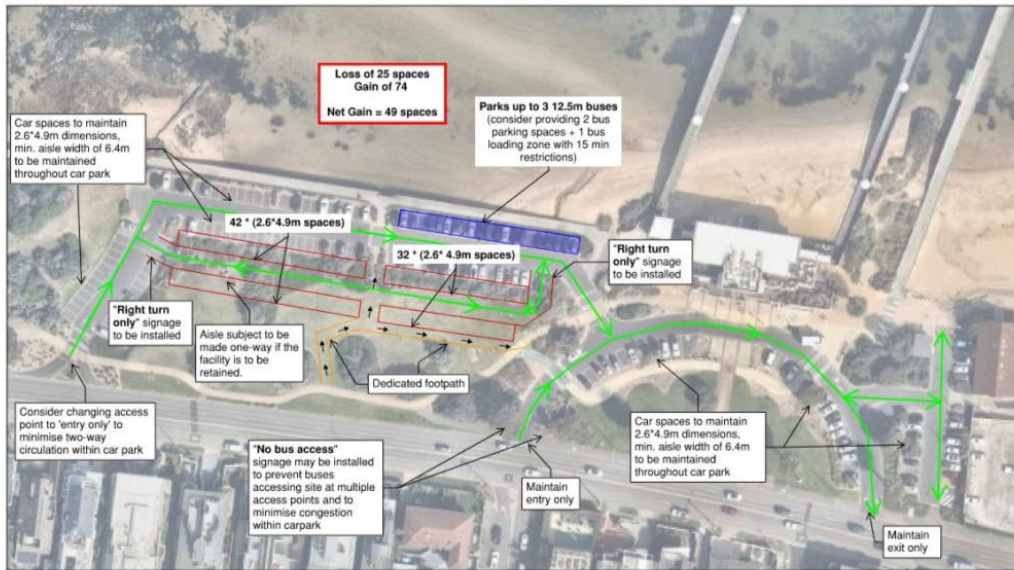


Option	Net Gain	Impact	Recommendation
1	98 car parks 4 x 12.5m buses	Loss of visitor seating	This option is not recommended as it limits the future use of the site, by placing focus solely on parking. This severely limits the ability of Green Point to function as a destination.
2	67 car parks 3 x 12.5m buses	Nominal	This option is recommended as it rationalises the car park, while retaining the existing seating area. It also supports the opportunity to develop a viewing platform.

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7.2.2.2 The Baths

The two options outlined below explore additional car and bus parking. Implementing these changes will alleviate the parking stress at Dendy Pavilion. The below table explores two options and the preferred is dependent on the ability to mitigate traffic hazards within the Baths car park.



Option	Net Gain	Impact	Recommendation
1	70 car parks	Nominal	This option would be recommended should the bus parking not be viable in this car park for operational purposes
2	49 car parks 2 x 12.5m buses	Traffic movement risk of incidents	This layout is recommended, contingent upon Council's ability to effectively address traffic safety risks.

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7.3 Uber, Rideshare, and Taxi Drop-off

Integrating Uber and rideshare services with designated carpark bays can improve visitor flow, decrease parking congestion, and enhance the overall experience. By establishing specific drop-off zones within existing carparks, this process can be streamlined effectively. The placement of these bays will undergo further assessment, and it is recommended an initial trial period is undertaken for verify their effectiveness.

Additionally, the allocation of rideshare bays is dependent on demand assessments, and may only be feasible after an increase in overall car park capacity is realised, ensuring that these changes do not reduce parking availability for visitors.

7.4 Technological Improvements

7.4.1 Electronic Parking Overstay Detection System (PODS)

Electronic Parking Overstay Detection System (PODS) could be installed at parking bays. Smart parking systems use sensors to detect the presence or absence of vehicles in car parks as well as overstay. This is expected to mitigate additional congestion within carparks when they are at or nearing capacity.

7.4.2 Automatic License Plate Recognition

Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) system can be an alternative to PODS with assets limited at entrance and exit locations. This would present a lesser asset maintenance.

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7.5 Seasonal Parking Restrictions

Implementation of seasonal restrictions will lead to reducing congestion, promoting safety, ensuring buses use designated tourist spots, and preserving the aesthetics of the neighbourhood.

Category	Stage	Description
Data Collection	Traffic Analysis	Conduct studies to understand the current flow of buses and cars, noting peak times and problematic areas.
Restriction Designation	Seasonal Timing	Clearly define the peak season, for example, December to February for summer.
	Specific Zones	Identify side streets where parking restrictions will be imposed. Consider proximity to main attractions and the capacity of alternative parking areas.
Signage and Wayfinding	Bus Parking	Clearly mark and promote areas designated for bus parking. Ensure they are equipped to handle large vehicles and are conveniently located for tourist drop-offs and pickups.
	Car Parking	Expand or promote alternative parking areas for visitors traveling by car, possibly at a distance with shuttle service to the main attraction.
Permits and Pricing	Dynamic Pricing	Implement higher parking fees in unrestricted zones during peak seasons to discourage prolonged parking.
Surveillance and Enforcement	Patrols	Deploy regular patrols, especially during peak times, to monitor compliance and issue fines when necessary.
Feedback	Periodic Review	Analyse the effectiveness of the restrictions at the end of each season and adjust accordingly.
		Allow residents, bus operators, and visitors to provide feedback on the parking restrictions.

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8 Waste Management

STRATEGIC FOCUS: *Adopt sustainable waste management practices, to improve recycling and reducing waste.*

The Bayside City Council's strategy to reducing the impact of waste generated by the Bayside community that is disposed to landfill is a commitment to meeting community expectations that are addressed by Goal 1: Our Planet of the Council Plan 2021-2025:

Incorporating effective waste management practices into the visitor management plan for the Precinct is essential to ensure a clean and sustainable environment.

Outlined below is a summary of the issues and initiatives:

8.1 Current Observations

Ref	Area	Current Issue	Why is this an issue?
1	The foreshore	Lack of labelling and signage for waste & recycling	Visitors may be confused about where to dispose of their waste, leading to improper sorting, increased contamination of recyclables, and reduced recycling rates. This can also increase the workload for waste management staff who must sort through improperly disposed items.
2	The Esplanade	Bins not present near the shared path	Due to inaccessible nature of some bins, visitors are more likely to litter, negatively affecting the cleanliness of the area, potentially harming the wild-life and degrading the natural environment and visitor experience.
3	The foreshore	Inconsistent bin types and Information.	Different looking bins with varying information can confuse visitors about waste segregation practices. This inconsistency can lead to waste contamination, reducing the effectiveness of recycling programs and increasing landfill waste.
4	The foreshore	No wayfinding information/ signage provided for visitors to be able to locate the closest bins.	Lack of clear directions to the nearest disposal points can discourage proper waste disposal, leading to littering and an untidy environment. It can also reduce the accessibility of waste facilities for those with disabilities or those unfamiliar with the area.

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Ref	Area	Current Issue	Why is this an issue?
5	The foreshore	QR codes to inform council of full bins available at some bins, but not all bins	Without a uniform system to alert council staff to full or overflowing bins, there can be delays in servicing, leading to overflow issues, increased litter, and potential health hazards.
6	The foreshore	Insufficient Sustainable Disposal and Technology Initiatives:	Without a focus on sustainability and technology, waste management practices may not keep pace with environmental standards, leading to increased carbon emissions, higher waste disposal costs, and a failure to meet community expectations for environmental stewardship.

8.2 Proposed Solutions

Ref	Area	Current Issue	Solutions
1	The foreshore	Lack of labelling and signage for waste & recycling	<p>Solution: Implement uniform, clearly labelled signs for all bins. Use colour-coded bins and icons that are universally recognisable. Employ educational signage that illustrates what waste goes into each bin.</p> <p>Sustainability Aspect: Use recycled materials for all signage and bins.</p> <p>Technology Implementation: Include NFC (Near Field Communication) tags or QR codes on signs that link to educational resources about proper waste disposal.</p>

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Ref	Area	Current Issue	Solutions
2	The Esplanade	Bins not present near the shared path	<p>Solution: As per the identified strategic locations for bin placement, ensure there's a mix of waste and recycling bins placed at regular intervals.</p> <p>Sustainability Aspect: Incorporate bins made from recycled materials and ensure they are designed to prevent spillage and protect local wildlife.</p> <p>Technology Implementation: Integrate smart sensors in bins to monitor waste levels and optimise collection routes.</p>
3	The foreshore	Inconsistent bin types and Information.	<p>Solution: Standardise bins across the area to ensure consistency in appearance and function. Offer clear, concise information on each bin regarding its use.</p> <p>Sustainability Aspect: Choose bin designs that facilitate easy recycling and are made from long-lasting, sustainable materials.</p> <p>Technology Implementation: Utilise an app that guides users on waste segregation and educates them on the impact of proper waste disposal.</p>
4	The foreshore	No wayfinding information/ signage provided for visitors to be able to locate the closest bins.	<p>Solution: Create a map of bin locations and incorporate it into existing wayfinding systems. Include this information in brochures, apps, and on-site maps.</p> <p>Sustainability Aspect: Ensure all printed materials are made from sustainable, recycled paper and encourage the use of digital formats where possible.</p> <p>Technology Implementation: Develop an interactive map or app feature that allows visitors to find the nearest bin location using GPS.</p>

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Ref	Area	Current Issue	Solutions
5	The foreshore	QR codes to inform council of full bins available at some bins, but not all bins	<p>Solution: Standardise the use of QR codes across all bins to report issues like full bins or contamination. Ensure they are highly visible and easily scannable.</p> <p>Sustainability Aspect: The immediate reporting allows for efficient waste management and can help in reducing the carbon footprint of waste collection services.</p> <p>Technology Implementation: Use the data from QR code scans to analyse waste patterns and inform future waste management strategies.</p>
6	The foreshore	Insufficient Sustainable Disposal and Technology Initiatives:	<p>Solution: Introduce initiatives such as 'The Beach Hand Bin'. It is an innovative and convenient device designed to collect and catch small litter while at the beach.</p>

8.3 Smart Waste Bins

In addition to the above Council could consider implementing smart waste bins for enhancing waste management efficiency within the Foreshore. These innovative bins, equipped with sensor technology, offer several compelling advantages that align with environmental sustainability goals and operational efficiency, some these include:

Benefit	Explanation
Optimised collection schedules	Smart bins use sensors to monitor waste levels in real time, enabling waste collection services to respond dynamically. This not only ensures bins are emptied at optimal times, preventing overflow and reducing litter, but also streamlines collection routes to save time and resources.

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Benefit	Explanation
Reduced environmental impact	By optimising collection schedules, smart waste bins can significantly decrease the carbon footprint associated with waste management. Fewer collection trips mean reduced emissions from waste collection vehicles, contributing to the council's sustainability objectives.
Cleaner public spaces	Smart bins can be designed to compact waste, increasing their capacity and reducing the frequency of collections needed. This keeps public spaces cleaner and more attractive, enhancing the overall experience for residents and visitors.
Data-driven insights	The data collected by smart bins can provide valuable insights into waste generation patterns, helping the council to make informed decisions about waste management strategies, public education campaigns, and environmental policies.
Cost Savings	Although the initial investment in smart waste bins may be higher than traditional bins, the long-term savings in operational costs can be substantial.

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9 Wayfinding and Signage

***STRATEGIC FOCUS:** Improve wayfinding and signage to enhance visitor experience and align with Council guidelines*

9.1 Signage Audit

An extensive audit has been conducted on the existing signage within the precinct, focusing on critical factors such as inclusivity and accessibility, the clarity of messaging, and the effectiveness of wayfinding signage for reaching Dendy Beach from key public transport / drop-off points. This comprehensive review was aimed at ensuring that all visitors, regardless of background or ability, can navigate the area easily and safely.

The findings from this audit have identified the necessity for improvements in navigational signage. Specifically, enhancements are recommended for routes leading from Middle Brighton Station to the Esplanade, Brighton Beach Station to the Esplanade, and from Green Point to the Esplanade. To address these needs, the audit led to the formulation of seven overarching strategic recommendations for signage improvement in the precinct. These enhancements are crucial for facilitating a seamless visitor journey, improving the overall accessibility of the area, and reinforcing the precinct's commitment to inclusivity and clear communication.

9.2 Strategic Recommendations

1. Tie into existing networks by aligning with other wayfinding systems in place
2. Create a welcoming experience for visitors to the beach by defining primary and secondary entry points.
3. Incorporate pictograms to support visitors from diverse backgrounds navigate to Dendy Beach.
4. Provide reassurance along key routes and decision points.
5. Ensure regulatory and behavioural information is shown clearly.
6. Revitalise the existing wayfinding and signage across the Foreshore
7. Incorporate QR codes on signage (where viable) with access to other languages to cater to individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds



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10 Environmental Sustainability

STRATEGIC FOCUS: *Prioritise environmental sustainability to protect and enhance the natural coastal environment.*

Environmentally conscious initiatives that aim to reduce energy and water usage save money in the long run. The principles of sustainable development have been translated into the concept of sustainable tourism, which seeks to harmonise tourism and tourism development by improving the quality of the local environment and resources. Core principles of sustainable tourism include:

- improving the quality of life of the host community,
- providing high quality experiences for visitors, and
- maintaining the quality of the local environment on which both the host community and the visitors depend

To maintain an excellent visitor experience, the Council will need to create specific guidelines for environmental sustainability at the Foreshore.

The Council needs to consider sustainability through operations. Within this VMP, several initiatives have been outlined:

Ref	Initiative	How does this assist?
1	Consideration of low footprint mobile vendors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces the likelihood of impact to the Foreshore environment
2	Recommendation to not develop both a boardwalk and bay trail duplication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces the likelihood of vegetation loss
3	Operational change to for the bus parking to take priority, prior to implementing physical car park changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces the likelihood of vegetation loss
4	Smart and data driven waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases efficiencies in operations
5	The Beach Hand Bin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports reduction of waste in the Foreshore
6	Standardisation of waste bins and signage to minimise material wastage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists in improvements to waste management

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Ref	Initiative	How does this assist?
7	Optimisation of facilities management procedures to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases efficiencies in operations
8	Sustainable cuisine and green retail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports reliance of locally derived ingredients and reduces reliance on supply chains.

The following priorities serve as the foundation of the environmentally sustainable approach in this VMP.

Do no harm: includes measures to avoid environmental impact, such as waste run-off into the water.

Waste Management: developing long-term strategies for recycling and addressing challenging waste items.

Energy Resource Consumption: Focusing on infrastructure improvements to enhance energy efficiency.

Education and Outreach: Educating council staff and business operators about their role as stewards of the Foreshore.

These priorities are necessary for successful sustainable tourism. They include both environmental and social facets of sustainability as well as a priority to maintain a successful partnership to achieve sustainability goals. Avoiding conflicts with cultural and historical zones while implementing environmental sustainability initiatives is vital in conserving the environmental character of the Foreshore.

A long-term environmental sustainability strategy should be developed to protect the Foreshore and its amenities. A shared vision and common sustainability objectives between programs within the organisation are critical to creating a cohesive strategy.

10.1 List of further sustainability initiatives for consideration

Ref	Initiative	What needs to be done
1	Beach Clean-Up Programs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and encourage further beach cleanup events through education, awareness and advocacy of community events/initiatives

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Ref	Initiative	What needs to be done
2	Dune Restoration and Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase indigenous vegetation through planting and working closely with local volunteer groups to manage dune systems. • Investigate ways to protect flora and fauna, and redirect foot traffic where possible, to prevent disruption to dune systems.
3	Marine Life Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with volunteer groups and stakeholders to monitor and protect local marine life. • Work with State Government to implement actions that result from the emerging Coastal Marine Management Plan. • Advocate for areas where fishing and boating are limited/controlled.
4	Stormwater Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce initiatives to reduce runoff and improve stormwater systems.
5	Plastic-Free Initiatives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage vendors and restaurants to use biodegradable or reusable packaging.
6	Education and Information:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information for commercial operators and visitors on environmental issues, conservation, sustainability practices, and local ecosystems.
7	Renewable Energy Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install solar panels on public buildings and amenities where appropriate.
8	Green Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate permeable materials for parking lots to reduce runoff. • Where possible, implement green roofs and living walls on public structures to increase biodiversity
9	Active Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the use of bicycles and public transport by improving infrastructure like bike lanes and shuttle services. • Offer electric vehicle charging stations in parking areas.
10	Waste Reduction and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement comprehensive recycling programs. • Investigate the implementation of compostable waste bins for organic matter.

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Ref	Initiative	What needs to be done
11	Wildlife Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake Investigation to document presence of any native wildlife in the Foreshore and Bayside • Ensure visitor signage highlights the importance of responsible pet control to protect sensitive habitat and wildlife. • Ensure any new lighting design considers impacts on wildlife.
12	Sustainable Fishing and Boating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support State Government catch and release programs and sustainable fishing practices. • Encourage the use of eco-friendly boating practices to minimise water pollution.
13	Climate Change Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for state government to assess and reinforce coastal infrastructure to withstand extreme weather and rising sea levels. • Work with state government and relevant authorities to ensure marine ecosystems are adequately planned for in response to climate change and sea-level rise.
14	Community Involvement and Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster partnerships with local environment groups and businesses for joint sustainability projects. • Promote and engage in existing volunteer citizen scientist programs, and consider new opportunities where possible.

10.6 RESPONSE TO PETITION FOR COUNCIL TO REVIEW HERITAGE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER STUDIES

City Planning and Amenity - Urban Strategy
File No: PSF/24/105 – Doc No: DOC/24/154140

Executive summary

Purpose and background

The purpose of this report is to provide a response to the petition received at the 23 April 2024 Council meeting seeking Council to review its Heritage and Neighbourhood Character studies.

The petition requested:

“We, the undersigned, hereby petition Bayside City Council Victoria to review the current Heritage and Neighbourhood Character reports and commission a new study/report to support the protection of houses and/or groups of houses that should be given protection status (for all era/period styles). Based on this work, Council undertakes the relevant planning scheme amendments to give force and effect to the protection of those identified houses/group of houses.

We request that particular focus is given to the residential component of the designated Activity Centres of Hampton and Sandringham. To this end, we ask Council to consider Boyd Ward as a pilot area to commence this work”.

Key issues

Council has an adopted Heritage Action Plan, June 2020 (‘the action plan’) which has been developed in accordance with Heritage Victoria’s *Municipal Heritage Strategies: A guide for Councils*. The purpose of the action plan is to identify and prioritise Council’s future heritage work program over a 15-year period. The action plan has identified the need to undertake the following studies:

Bayside Mid-Century Modern Heritage

The Mid-Century Modern Heritage study was to undertake a municipal wide heritage assessment of mid-century modern architecture within Bayside. This study has been completed and is in the process of being implemented via Planning Scheme Amendment C192bays. A panel hearing was held 26 February to 1 March, and a panel report has been issued. A report will be presented to Council in July to consider the outcomes of the panel report.

Review of the Inter-War Heritage Study

The purpose of this study is to ensure the properties identified as being of heritage significance of the inter-war period (1918 to 1939) are protected.

At the December 2022 Council Meeting Council resolved to defer the commencement of the Inter-War Heritage Study and the allocation of relevant funding to the newly elected Council in November 2024 for further consideration at the March 2025 Council Meeting.

Council also resolved to reallocate the current funding for the Inter-War Heritage Study in the 2022–23, 2023–24 and 2024–25 budgets to support the restoration and repair work at Billilla Historic Mansion.

Gap Study

The heritage action plan identifies the need for a Gap Study which will work across the different eras of development to determine if there are eras or types of development that have been missed in previous studies. The action plan refers to this as a lower priority action to be addressed within 10 to 15 years.

Response to Petition

The petition raises concerns regarding the increasing number of apartment developments in residential areas, and the impact of these developments on the Edwardian and early 20th century homes, their gardens, and mature trees.

It is requested that heritage studies are undertaken, with prioritisation of the Activity Centres of Hampton and Sandringham, to ensure the protection of this era of housing.

Staging Future Heritage Studies

Council has the option to undertake any further heritage studies in a staged or suburb by suburb basis, or to undertake them in one Municipal wide study. There are a number of benefits to staging studies – namely being able to prioritise areas of perceived need, and the ability to stage the funding over a number of years.

However, there are also a number of disadvantages of this approach.

Heritage Studies, and their subsequent amendments, are a highly divisive process within the community. Undertaking a staged approach would likely lead to additional concern in the community particularly around the prioritisation of areas, and the uncertainty of when areas will be reviewed.

Also, in any staged approach there will be the need to ensure the same process, with the same assessment criteria to be used in each stage of the assessment. Undertaking the process over a number of years risks differences in methodology impacted on by personnel changes, or the availability of the same heritage consultant.

There are also likely to be additional costs across the life of the project, in comparison to undertaking a streamlined approach of reviewing all eras and areas in one study. Whilst staging the studies will allow for smaller amounts to be budgeted each year, there are economies of scale of engaging a consultant once to undertake a project and running one amendment process to implement it. In particular, the costs associated with the amendment process – such as panel hearings, expert witnesses and legal representation are likely to be significantly higher in this approach.

Recommendations for Council

An action has been included in the draft Council Plan for the 2024–25 financial year to review the heritage action plan. It is timely to review the plan in light of the progress of the Mid-

Century Modern heritage review and amendment, and the request of this petition to undertake further heritage review.

The review of the heritage action plan will allow the new Council, to be declared in November 2024, to consider the timing of future heritage studies, whether there is an appetite to stage the studies on a suburb or precinct basis and consider the budgetary implications of the preferred approach.

Therefore, it is recommended that Council receives a report to the March 2025 Council meeting considering the heritage strategy review, and any recommendations on undertaking the Inter-war Heritage study and gap analysis.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. notes the options available to undertake future heritage studies
2. undertakes a review of the heritage action plan, including recommendations for the progress of the Interwar Heritage Study and any Gap analysis
3. receives a report at the March 2025 Council Meeting.

Support Attachments

Nil

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Social

Bayside has a rich history and heritage, which the Bayside community is proud to celebrate and possess. Historic buildings, landscapes, places, and objects all contribute to Bayside's liveability, character, and community cohesion.

Celebrating those places, objects and artefacts that make a significant contribution to Bayside is therefore a vital function of Council, for current and future generations. This is consistent with the Bayside community's desire to see neighbourhoods and amenity protected, with development sympathetic or responsive to the natural and built environment.

Natural Environment

Protecting Bayside's unique natural environment and landscape is a priority of the Heritage Action Plan. Where a Heritage Overlay applies to a property and a tree control is applied in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay, a planning permit is required to remove, destroy, or lop a tree.

Climate Emergency

Ensuring new residential developments in Bayside are environmentally sustainable and climate resilient is an important objective of the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020–25. Places that are found to be of heritage significance can implement environmentally sustainable features on their property and the application of a Heritage Overlay does not prohibit this.

Built Environment

Protecting Bayside's rich history and heritage is a priority of the Heritage Action Plan.

An implementation of a heritage study would ensure these places are protected, and any development proposed will be sympathetic or responsive to the built environment.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

If a heritage study progresses via the planning scheme amendment process property owners and the public have the opportunity to make submissions to Council as to whether they agree or disagree with proposed Heritage Overlays.

Equity Impact

The implications of this report have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Human Rights

The implications of the report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

Council has a responsibility for heritage preservation, consistent with the objective located at Section 4(1)(d) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (the Act) to 'conserve and enhance

those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historical interest, or otherwise of cultural value’.

Finance

Council reallocated the current funding for the Inter-War Heritage Study in the 2022–23, 2023–24 and 2024–25 budgets to support the restoration and repair work at Billilla Historic Mansion. Budget. Should Council wish to progress any Heritage Studies in the 2024–25, Financial Year funds would need to be allocated in the budget to do so.

Links to Council policy and strategy

Community Vision 2050

The preparation of a Heritage Study aligns with the Community Vision 2050. As outlined in the Community Vision, it is Council’s role and responsibility as a local government to protect significant heritage buildings, streetscapes, and precincts. Buildings of significance are protected and enhanced for future generations to enjoy, and neighbourhoods reflect the distinctive character of Bayside’s various suburbs. The Community Vision notes that Council is working through a ten-year program (being the Heritage Action Plan 2020) to identify and protect heritage buildings across all eras of architecture.

Council Plan 2021–25

The Council Plan 2021–25 contains four main goals, with Goal 3 being ‘Our Place.’ A Strategic objective underpinned by this goal is:

‘Land use will enhance Bayside’s liveability and protect the distinctive heritage and character of our various localities.’

As outlined in the Council Plan, the following strategy set to achieve this objective:

‘Strategic planning and controls protect and reflect the diverse environmental and heritage values of Bayside.’

A Heritage Study seeks to protect residential places that have been identified as heritage significant. The inclusion of these properties within the Heritage Overlay of the Bayside Planning Scheme aligns with the goals of the Council Plan.

Bayside Housing Strategy 2019

The Bayside Housing Strategy 2019 guides how residential development in Bayside will be planned and managed over the next 20 years. As discussed within the Housing Strategy, ‘the existence of heritage significance does not preclude more intensive residential development; however, it does require a more sensitive approach to retaining and incorporating the important heritage values within the development’. As also noted in the Vision, New housing development will respect and enhance Bayside’s valued built and natural heritage and neighbourhood character, incorporating best practice environmentally sustainable design to help the municipality respond to climate change.

Heritage Action Plan 2020

The Heritage Action Plan 2020 guides Council’s work program for the identification, protection, management, and promotion of Bayside’s heritage assets

10.7 BAYSIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTRIBUTIONS

City Planning and Amenity - Urban Strategy
File No: PSF/24/105 – Doc No: DOC/24/145741

Executive summary

Purpose and background

The purpose of this report is to present Council with an approach to commence a planning scheme amendment to facilitate the delivery of an affordable housing contribution for applicable development across the City of Bayside.

This proposed Amendment follows on from Amendment C184bays which was approved by the Minister for Planning in May 2023. Amendment C184bays incorporated the Bayside Affordable Housing Strategy 2021 (the Strategy) into the Bayside Planning Scheme and gave direction for Council to undertake further strategic work to explore other planning tools to achieve an increase in the supply of affordable housing.

The proposed Amendment is supported by the Affordable Housing Contributions Background Report written by SGS Economics and Planning (the 'Background Report') (Attachment 1 to this Report).

Key issues

Need for affordable housing contributions

The Strategy, alongside the attached Background Report, articulates the increasing need for affordable housing in Bayside and more widely across Victoria. Despite this need, there is still a lack of guidance and leadership from the State Government which has created an entirely voluntary regime to delivering affordable housing.

In the absence of a state-wide provision, it is recognised that Council's efforts would be best directed to raising revenue to support the delivery of affordable housing.

Council previously had endorsed the 'Homes for Homes model'. This model sought a mandatory contribution to be made through the application of a planning permit. This practice was abandoned due to VCAT and legal advice advising that the condition could not continue to be implementing in the absence of requirements in the planning scheme.

The proposed approach will allow Council to resume requiring an affordable housing contribution, backed by the appropriate provisions in the planning scheme.

Development of strategic justification

Council has appointed SGS Economics and Planning to undertake work to provide the strategic justification for the implementation of a mandatory contribution in the Bayside Planning Scheme. The document recommends an *inclusionary requirements* approach – this means that new development should include a cash contribution to support off-site provision of affordable housing. This is similar to carparking and open space requirements, which are established practices in planning scheme across Victoria.

The works prepared has recommended a maximum justifiable contribution rate of 2.9% of the Gross Realisation Value (GRV) of the total value or market price of a development. The findings of this work, included in the Background Report in Attachment 1, is further outlined below.

Whilst SGS have recommended a maximum rate, Officers have developed three further options for consideration. These options are justifiable via the SGS work; however, provide lower contribution rates that may be more palatable to Council and the community. These rates consist of 1.75%, 0.92% and 0.35% and are further detailed in Attachment 2.

There are two elements of the consultants' contribution rate which officers have sought to vary in the alternative approaches outlined in Attachment 2.

1. The consultants' contribution rate is based on a State-wide need for social and affordable housing. Alternative Approach 2 amends this rate to reflect the localised need within Bayside rather than the whole of Victoria approach.
2. The consultants' contribution rate assumes the share of need that should be met by the development sector is equal to that of the Commonwealth and State governments. Alternative Approach 3 assumes that the development sector should only be responsible for a 20% share, given there are already various taxes in place that the development industry is required to pay.
3. Alternative Approach 4 combines approaches 2 and 3 above and is based off a localised need within Bayside as well as assuming a 20% share for the development sector.

The four options provide a range of minimum to maximum contribution rates for Council to consider. It is important to note that all approaches attempt to conceptualise an appropriate level of contribution from the housing industry to provide a contribution for housing affordability. Any approach selected by Council will need to be tested through the Planning Scheme Amendment process.

Contributions rate methodology

The maximum 2.9% rate contribution was calculated by Council's consultant using the following four steps:

- *Step 1: Identify the need for social and affordable housing in Victoria.* At this step, a need is established using a Victoria-wide average to establish a consistent baseline standard (for example not fluctuating due to short term or localised factors) as a percentage of housing floorspace.
- *Step 2: Determine the share of need to be met by the development sector.* This step recognises that the responsibility for meeting housing is shared between Commonwealth and State governments as well as the development sector (including local government). The contribution rate is therefore discounted to reflect a split between these three spheres.
- *Step 3: Calculate inclusionary requirement contribution rate for all market residential and non-residential floor space.* The contribution rate is adjusted to reflect that the contribution is to be sought not just from residential floor space, but also from non-residential development. This broadens the base from which contribution is sought and therefore lowers the percentage rate.
- *Step 4: Adjust the contribution rate to account for community housing providers' ability to pay.* The rate is discounted to reflect that not all housing contributions are to be provided to providers at zero cost; some of the housing can be provided at a discount. The rate is therefore reduced to reflect that the contribution does not need to meet the full cost of all provided housing.

Applying an Affordable Housing Contribution

The recommended implementation path to facilitate the collection of an affordable housing contribution is through the application of a municipal-wide Specific Controls Overlay (SCO) in the Bayside Planning Scheme. This would activate an incorporated document that outlines the contribution requirements.

The contribution is proposed to be calculated as a percentage of Gross Realisation Value (GRV) of the total value or market price of an eligible development. The SGS report proposed that a contribution would be required for any planning permit applications that generate a net increase in floor area, for the following land uses:

- Accommodation (excluding residential aged care facility, rooming house, rural worker accommodation, and small second dwellings)
- Industry
- Office
- Retail premises
- Warehouse

Single dwellings, extensions to dwellings and replacement buildings would all be exempt from requiring a contribution.

Council officers are of the view that such application of the contribution should only be imposed on non-residential uses where there is an Accommodation element included. It would be considered inappropriate to place a contribution requirement for social or affordable housing where there is no housing being delivered on a site.

Collection of Funds

It is proposed that the collection of the contribution would be sought through a condition on the planning permit. The condition would require a section 173 agreement to be entered into which provides the legal mechanism and obligation on the owner to comply with the requirements of the condition.

It is proposed that the contribution would be paid directly to an independent third party organisation such as Homes for Homes. Bayside City Council would not be involved in any collection or distribution of the contributions.

Setting a precedent for Local Government

There are councils within Victoria that are seeking alternative approaches to facilitate the delivery of social and affordable housing. However, the introduction of a municipal wide affordable housing contribution in Bayside would be the first of its kind.

Mornington Peninsula Shire recently resolved to commence community engagement on their draft Affordable Housing Development Contributions Strategy which also proposes to apply a municipal wide affordable housing contribution in a similar manner to what is proposed here. Following the resolution at the 16 April 2024 Council Meeting to consult with the community on the proposed contribution regime, there has been significant media and development industry attention.

There is a likely perception within the development industry that an affordable housing contribution will be impactful. Council officers recognise that the contribution adds to the final sale price of land but that this can be factored in as a predictable fixed cost as part of purchasing calculations. Furthermore, the application of this contribution would not be overnight, and officers would look to apply transitional provisions in the implementation of the contribution.

If Council resolved to prepare a Planning Scheme Amendment to introduce a municipal wide mandatory contribution, there is a potential that the Minister for Planning may have concerns regarding our approach. Given there has been no previous precedence for setting a municipal wide contribution by local governments and State government, along with the current State Government policy setting of dealing with housing affordability through the facilitation of greater provision of dwellings, there may be a level of interrogation placed on our proposed Planning Scheme Amendment. However, Bayside has committed to advocating for the provision of affordable housing in Bayside and Greater Melbourne. Officers consider even if the Planning Scheme Amendment is not authorised by the Minister, this provides a good platform to advocate for improved affordable housing provisions at a State level.

Next Steps

Council officers recommend that a Planning Scheme Amendment be prepared which seeks to facilitate the delivery of an affordable housing contribution policy for applicable development across the City of Bayside, at a 0.35% contribution rate.

Officers recommend this rate as the most suitable, providing the least amount of 'impact' whilst still achieving a significant revenue when applied at the municipal scale that is proposed.

If a Planning Scheme Amendment were granted authorisation by the Minister for Planning, a public exhibition period would then be provided where Council officers would seek to test the level of support across the community and housing industry for the proposed contribution rate. It is recommended to not commence this consultation until after the Declaration of the Election expected on 16 November 2024.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. notes the Affordable Housing Contributions Background report
2. instructs Council officers to prepare a Planning Scheme Amendment to introduce an Affordable Housing Contribution into the Bayside Planning Scheme at the rate of 0.35%
3. writes to the Minister for Planning to seek authorisation to commence a Planning Scheme Amendment for public exhibition in December 2024 at the earliest.

Support Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Bayside Affordable Housing Contributions - Final Report
2. Attachment 2 - Officers Alternative Methodology for calculating an Affordable Housing Contribution Rate

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Social

A lack of affordable housing means a greater risk of experiencing vulnerability. When households find themselves in financial stress, finding affordable options that do not require an excessive commute to work or to visit loved ones are vital. As Council is not a provider of affordable housing, it is recognised that our efforts would be best directed to raising revenue to support the delivery of affordable housing in the Municipality by a registered affordable housing provider.

Natural Environment

There are no direct or indirect impacts from on the natural environment in result of progressing an affordable housing contribution. An action from the Affordable Housing Strategy includes Council advocacy for environmentally sustainable design outcomes for new developments.

Climate Emergency

The report does not identify actions directly relating to climate change. Energy efficiency objectives for apartment developments are already set within the Bayside Planning Scheme and new development is required to incorporate the relevant environmentally sustainable design into development.

Built Environment

The Affordable Housing Strategy identifies actions that Council can undertake to assist the increase of supply of appropriate and accessible, affordable housing in Bayside. New development that is of greater density and includes social and affordable housing is encouraged within activity centres and housing growth areas which is consistent with Council's existing strategic framework.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* sets out the statutory requirements for exhibition of a Planning Scheme Amendment. The amendment will be exhibited in accordance with these requirements – which include exhibition for a minimum of 30 days.

Equity Impact

The implications of this report have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020. Human Rights

The implications of the report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Finance

It is proposed the affordable housing contributions would not be received by Council, these would be directed to an affordable housing association or provider, such as Homes for Homes.

Should the amendment be authorised by the Minister for Planning, and exhibition be undertaken it is likely that an independent planning panel will need to be appointed. Funds have been allocated in the Urban Strategy operating budget to fund this.

Links to Council policy and strategy

Council identified the need to act in relation to affordable housing through the Council Plan 2021–25 and the Bayside Housing Strategy 2019. Council has also had success implementing its 'Improving Housing Affordability and Social Housing Options in Bayside: Advocacy Action Plan', adopted by Council in June 2018.

Council Plan 2021–25

The Bayside Council Plan 2021–25 has four key goals: Our Planet, Our People, Our Place, Our Promise.

The proposed report and proposed amendment support Goal 2: Our People, Goal 3: Our Place and Goal 4: Our Promise.

The following strategic objectives align with this project:

2.2.1 In partnership with others, we facilitate an appropriate mix of inclusive, sustainable, and affordable housing, including social housing, to meet the changing needs of people of Bayside.

Bayside Housing Strategy 2019

The Bayside Housing Strategy 2019 sets out a strategic framework for housing and residential development in Bayside over the next fifteen years.

Bayside Affordable Housing Strategy 2021

The purpose of the Bayside Affordable Housing Strategy 2021 is to increase the supply of appropriate and accessible affordable housing in Bayside through *advocacy, partnerships, direct interventions and support and planning tools and processes*.

The Strategy recognises in the absence of a State-wide provision facilitating Inclusionary Zoning in the Planning Scheme, Council can explore other planning tools to achieve an increase in the supply of affordable housing.

An action of the Strategy includes, 'ensure that where it is not possible for private development to provide affordable housing on site, a contribution can still be made by way of a condition of permit. Council will determine the appropriate tool to implement this, whether that be through a policy response or a development contributions control.'

Affordable housing contributions | Background report

City of Bayside

April 2024





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Glossary of Terms

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is defined in the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* as “housing (including social housing) that is appropriate to the needs of very low, low, and moderate-income households.” The income ranges for these three income 'quintiles' are published in the Victorian Government Gazette and reviewed annually.

Affordable Housing Requirement

A requirement to provide affordable housing that is imposed upon a developer through planning scheme provisions. These may be mandatory (not able to be varied or waived by council) or discretionary (able to be varied or waived by council).

These requirements are distinguished from voluntary contributions (defined below).

Community Housing

Community housing is housing owned and/or managed by registered community housing providers, not-for-profit organisations regulated by the State Government. It comprises long-term rental housing that offers subsidised rent costing not more than 30 per cent of a total household's income.

The community housing sector and Homes Victoria often work in partnership to deliver housing to those who need support. Some community housing providers specialise in helping specific groups, like people with a disability, women, singles and older people.

Crisis Accommodation

Crisis and emergency accommodation is a form of transitional housing that includes a range of specialist services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Homelessness

When a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives, they are considered homeless if their current living arrangement is in a dwelling that is inadequate, has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and non-extendable, or does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations.

Homes Victoria

Homes Victoria was established in November 2020 to deliver the Victorian Government's Big Housing Build program, which aims to deliver 12000 social and affordable homes across Victoria. Homes Victoria provides administrative functions and public housing tenancy management, and sits within the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. They form part of the body corporate established under Section 9(2) of the *Housing Act 1983*. In providing public housing, they are able to purchase, develop, lease and sell property.

Housing Affordability

Housing affordability refers to the relationship between household spending on housing (e.g. mortgage payments or rents) and household incomes. The concept of housing affordability is different to the concept of 'affordable housing', which is defined above.

Housing First Model

A strategic response to homelessness that prioritises permanent and stable housing. The guiding principle of Housing First is that safe and secure housing should be quickly provided prior to, and not conditional upon, addressing other health and well-being issues.¹

Housing Stress

Households are considered to be in housing stress when more than 30 per cent of their total household income is spent on housing costs. This Strategy focuses on households who are experiencing *rental* housing stress, while explicitly excluding those under mortgage stress (homeowners) as initiatives required to address mortgage stress are outside the purview of responsibilities of local government.

Inclusionary zoning

Inclusionary zoning is a land use planning intervention by government that either mandates or creates incentives so that a proportion of a residential development includes a number of social or affordable housing dwellings.

Key worker accommodation

Housing provided at discounted rent for key workers, defined as *an employee who provides a vital service, especially in the essential services, health, or education sectors*.

This report takes a broader approach to housing provision, covering a range of very low, low, and moderate-income households, and does not focus specifically on housing for key workers. This reflects the 'Housing First' model.

Mixed-tenure Housing

Mixed-tenure housing involves a portion of a private market housing development allocated to be social or affordable housing. The portion allocated for social or affordable housing is typically owned and managed by a public agency or not-for-profit organisation.

Public Housing

Public housing is housing owned and managed by the government. Homes Victoria, part of the Victorian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, lead the management and delivery of public housing in Victoria. It comprises long-term rental housing that offers subsidised rent costing not more than 30 per cent of a total household's income.

¹ Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (2018), What is the Housing First model and how does it help those experiencing homelessness? Available: <https://www.ahuri.edu.au/analysis/brief/what-housing-first-model-and-how-does-it-help-those-experiencing-homelessness>

Private Market Housing

Private market housing refers to a dwelling owned by an individual or corporation that does not include housing owned by a public agency or not-for-profit organisation.

Registered Community Housing Provider

A registered community housing provider or agency, as defined by Section 4(1) of *the Housing Act 1983*, is a not-for-profit organisation, approved by the State Government, to provide community housing. The scale at which they are able to develop, own and manage community housing differs across organisations. The Housing Registrar registers community housing providers and is responsible for the regulatory oversight of the community housing sector in Victoria. The Community Housing Industry Association Victoria is the peak industry body for the community housing sector.

Section 173 Agreement

An agreement under Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Section 173 Agreement). It is a legal contract that runs with the title to the subject land; it enables the responsible authority (e.g. Council) to negotiate with an owner of land regarding conditions or restrictions on the use or development of the land, or to achieve other planning objectives in relation to the land. Within the planning system, Council can facilitate affordable housing through voluntary agreements with a private developer or landowner, pursuant to Section 173.

Social Housing

Social housing includes both public housing (managed by government) and community housing (managed by registered Community Housing Providers which are not-for-profit organisations), as defined under the *Housing Act 1983*. It comprises long-term rental housing that offers subsidised rent costing not more than 30 per cent of a total household's income.

Transitional Housing

Transitional housing is short-term accommodation that acts as a temporary option before a household is able to move to a long-term tenancy in public housing, community housing or the private market.

Victorian Housing Register

The Victorian Housing Register is where eligible lower income households can register for social housing in Victoria. It is the entry point for access to public and community housing. The waiting time for an application varies depending on a household's preferred options and can be for as long as 3-10 years. Priority access is provided for people who are homeless and receiving support, are escaping or have escaped family violence, have a disability or significant support needs and/or need to move for health reasons.

Gross Realisation Value (GRV)

The total value (market price) of a development.

Voluntary Affordable Housing Contribution / Voluntary Contribution

A contribution to affordable housing made by a developer on a purely voluntary basis, rather than required or compelled through planning scheme provisions or as a condition of permit). Compare affordable housing requirement (defined above).

Executive summary

Every member of the City of Bayside community deserves a safe and secure home. To achieve this goal, the City of Bayside is seeking to establish a new policy to collect contributions for affordable housing from the development sector.

Amendments to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* in 2018 have provided local governments across Victoria with an opportunity to seek voluntary contributions for affordable housing from development through the planning permit application process. However, these have not been effective in securing significant supply of affordable housing.

Bayside City Council is therefore exploring options for a more transparent, equitable and effective approach to seeking contributions to affordable housing.

Contributions for affordable housing are strategically justified in Bayside City Council on the basis that affordable housing is a form of essential infrastructure in that is part of the essential foundation of a community. As such, development proponents have an obligation to contribute towards the provision of such infrastructure to ensure the formation of inclusive and successful communities.

This document recommends an *inclusionary requirements* approach. New development should include affordable housing infrastructure or an equivalent cash contribution to support off-site provision.

Similar mechanisms include car parking and open space requirements (and their cash-in-lieu equivalents), which are established municipal-wide inclusionary requirement policies in planning schemes across the state.

There are currently several inclusionary requirement policies for affordable housing in operation in Victoria. Current examples apply within select precincts, such as Arden, Altona North, Fishermans Bend and Fitzroy. However, Bayside City Council is proposing to implement a municipal-wide contributions policy for affordable housing.

This approach is currently novel in Victoria, where successive state governments either have had no explicit policy regarding affordable housing contributions, or have only endorsed voluntary contributions. It is intended to provide a consistent and equitable approach across the council, while also ensuring a meaningful contribution towards meeting growing need for affordable housing. It is acknowledged that implementation of such a policy is likely to be challenging, given the Victorian planning system does not currently provide a purpose-designed mechanism for seeking contributions for affordable housing through the planning permit application process.

An effective affordable housing development contributions rate of 2.9 per cent of total Gross Realisation Value (GRV) of a development has been calculated for Bayside City Council.

It is recommended that this rate would apply to new dwellings and new non-residential development across the municipality. Land use exemptions include residential aged care facility, rooming house and rural worker accommodation, community purpose buildings such as education and childcare and small

second dwellings. Development exemptions include single dwellings, extensions to existing dwellings and replacement buildings. The contribution would be in the form of dwelling or cash contributions.

The requirement would also apply to new residential subdivision (other than existing buildings, or where a contribution has already been made). To allow markets to adjust and remove the prospect of shock effects, consideration might be given to the introduction of a lower contribution rate initially which could increase over time to the 2.9% rate.

The recommended implementation path to facilitate the collection of affordable housing contributions is through the application of a municipal-wide Specific Controls Overlay (SCO) in the Bayside Planning Scheme. This would activate an incorporated document that outlines contribution requirements. It is proposed to apply the SCO to all non-publicly zoned land in the municipality.

Structure of this supporting background document for affordable housing contributions:

Chapter 1 outlines the purpose of this document, the need for affordable housing (with further analysis and methodology in **Appendix A** and **B**) and the definition of affordable housing.

Chapter 2 outlines the legislative policy context, the roles of State Government, Local Government and community housing organisations, and the precedents for affordable housing contributions (with the full summary in **Appendix C**).

Chapter 3 presents the strategic justification for seeking contributions for affordable housing from the development sector.

Chapter 4 establishes an appropriate affordable housing contributions rate and assesses the feasibility of its application across Bayside. **Appendix D** outlines the method for calculating the contribution rate and **Appendix E** provides floorspace data inputs. **Appendix F** includes the feasibility analysis for the proposed contributions rate.

Chapter 5 recommends appropriate statutory mechanisms for implementation of the contribution rate in the Bayside Planning Scheme (with further analysis of statutory implementation options in **Appendix G**).

1. Introduction

Bayside City Council is taking action to deliver affordable housing that meets the needs of the local community. This background report will support a Planning Scheme Amendment to introduce a new affordable housing contributions policy across the municipality.

1.1 Purpose of this background report

The need for affordable housing in the City of Bayside

Bayside City Council recognises the need to deliver affordable housing in the municipality to support vulnerable cohorts in the community. The *Bayside Affordable Housing Strategy (2021)* seeks to support low and very low income households across all household types.

SGS Economics & Planning was previously engaged by Bayside City Council to assess need for housing assistance in City of Bayside (*Bayside Council Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme Implementation Support, 2022*). This work affirmed there is acute need for affordable housing.

Key insights from that analysis include:

- There is little to no rental stock available in any part of Bayside that is affordable to those on very low incomes, and very little available for households with low incomes.
- A third (32 per cent) of Bayside residents, or nearly 2,700 households, are in rental stress with more than 30 per cent of their income required for rent.
- An estimated 16 per cent of households in Bayside were in need of affordable housing in 2021, which is forecast to increase to 22 per cent by 2041, equating to over 11,000 households.
- The need for housing assistance is forecast to increase to over 11,000 households by 2041, representing 22% of Bayside households. Approximately, only 1,000 households currently have access to social housing within Bayside.

The need for housing assistance is summarised in Table 1, and further detailed analysis is included in **Appendix A**.

TABLE 1: TOTAL NEED AND SHARE OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS IN NEED OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE, 2021-2041

HOUSEHOLD TYPE <i>by priority of assistance</i>	BAYSIDE LGA 2021-2041
Homeless	500 → 439 1%
Severe rental stress	3,475 → 10,069 8% - 22%
Moderate rental stress	2,489 → 295 6% - 1%
Living in social housing	1,050 → 874 2% - 2%
TOTAL need for assistance	7,013 → 11,239 16% - 24%

Note: the social housing count comprises long-term accommodation (not temporary accommodation), source: Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

Note: the homeless count uses 2016 Census data.

Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2022), Housing Assistance Demand model

An affordable housing contributions policy for Bayside

Bayside City Council is taking action to accommodate the unmet need for affordable housing summarised above. Council recognises that without supporting policy, the voluntary contributions mechanism available through the planning permit application process is insufficient; it creates uncertainty and is inadequate. Local policy implementation is required to provide clarity about affordable housing targets, and ensure meaningful action is taken.

A strong case can be made for the integration in the Bayside Planning Scheme of an affordable housing contributions scheme that treats affordable housing as essential infrastructure, reflective of the necessity for appropriate housing to support a growing and diverse community.

Building on Council’s existing strategic work and the broader policy and governance context, this report aims to establish a transparent and strategically justified approach to seeking contributions for affordable housing from development through the planning permit application process.

Objectives of this report

This report will support a Planning Scheme Amendment to introduce a new affordable housing contributions policy across the City of Bayside. It seeks to:

- Define the quantum of affordable housing contribution that Council is seeking.
- Justify the percentage or percentage range being sought by Council based on the established demand, and the anticipated supply that can be reached.
- Establish that the chosen contribution mechanism is appropriate to achieve Council objectives.
- Provide quantitative evidence to justify the contribution rate.
- Establish a nexus between the contribution rate and the affordable housing needs of Bayside.

1.2 What is affordable housing?

Definition of affordable housing

The affordability of housing depends on the income of a household. When housing costs are too high, relative to income, a household can find themselves in housing stress. Housing stress is a situation in which a household's costs towards housing are so high that they must sacrifice food, health care, education and other necessities.

A definition of affordable housing was introduced in Section 3AA of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* in June 2018. Affordable housing is defined as:

"Housing (including social housing) that is appropriate to the needs of very low, low, and moderate-income households."

As part of this definition, the Victorian Government does not provide definitive guidance on what is meant by 'appropriate to the needs' of households within the defined income bands.

Income ranges for the three income 'quintiles' are provided by the Victorian Government for three different household types: single adults, couples without dependents and families with dependents. These are updated periodically, and the current ranges for Greater Melbourne are shown in Table 2.

This report focuses on the provision of *affordable rental housing*.

While affordable housing can also include models of shared ownership and private market rentals, this Strategy focuses on government subsidised and community rental housing. Policy solutions influencing outcomes for other forms of affordable housing are typically outside of the remit of local government.

TABLE 2: INCOME RANGES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING (GREATER CAPITAL CITY STATISTICAL AREA OF MELBOURNE), JUNE 2023

	Very low-income range (annual)	Low-income range (annual)	Moderate income range (annual)
Single adult	Up to \$29,770	\$29,771 to \$47,630	\$47,631 to \$71,450
Couple, no dependant	Up to \$44,650	\$44,651 to \$71,450	\$71,451 to \$107,170
Family (with one or two parents) and dependent children	Up to \$62,510	\$62,511 to \$100,030	\$100,031 to \$150,030

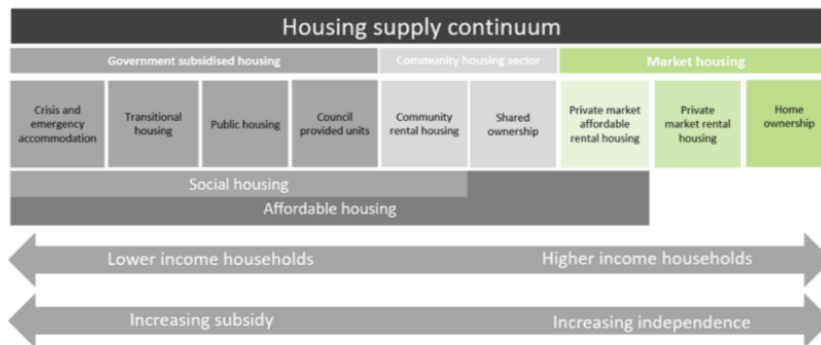
Source: Victorian Government Gazette (2023), *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Section 3AB – Specification of income ranges.

Different types of affordable housing

Level of income provides an indication of the level of housing subsidy and type of housing support required. Social housing is generally targeted at households on low to very-low income as they require greater subsidised rents. Affordable housing is suitable for households on moderate incomes with more financial capacity, requiring less rental subsidy.

There are a range of housing types that are required to suit the needs of households across their lifetime, depending on household income and household preferences. It is useful to think of the various types of housing as forming a housing supply continuum where the level of assistance or subsidy required is highest at one end of the continuum, and progressively decreases at the other. This concept is illustrated in Figure 1. It is noted there are other types of specialised housing, such as aged care and assisted living, which are outside the scope of this report.

FIGURE 1: HOUSING SUPPLY CONTINUUM



Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2021)

The types of housing in the housing supply continuum include:

- **Home ownership and private market affordable rental housing** are the categories furthest to the right of the spectrum. This is housing provided on the open market without any government subsidy. This makes up the largest portion of affordable housing because most households can generally find themselves a dwelling that they can afford when searching the rental market. These are commonly accessed by moderate to high income households.
- **Social housing** is a subset of affordable housing, defined as housing that is provided to eligible households, with rents subsidised to ensure that households pay an affordable rent. It includes public housing and community housing, provided to very-low and low income households, based on particular income thresholds.
 - ☐ **Public housing** owned by the Victorian Government (Homes Victoria) is generally made available to the lowest income groups and households with the highest needs who are homeless, escaping or have escaped family violence, have a disability or significant support needs or with special housing needs. Crisis and emergency accommodation and transitional housing are also funded by government.
 - ☐ **Community housing** owned and operated by Community Housing Providers (Registered Housing Agencies), accommodates a broader range of households. They accommodate both high needs households that have very little or no income as well as some households that can afford to pay higher rents that may, in some instances, be much closer to market rents.

Some models are designed to help people purchase a home in the affordable housing spectrum, such as **shared ownership**. However, these models and their associated policies should be kept separate from affordable housing because they have different objectives and impacts.

2. Policy context and precedents

This section outlines the key legislative planning context for affordable housing delivery, and the roles of State Government, Local Government and Community Housing Providers in delivering affordable housing. A summary of precedents for affordable housing contribution policies instigated by various Councils is included.

2.1 Legislative planning context

This section provides the key legislative planning context at the State Government level that shapes and informs affordable housing targets and delivery across the State.

Planning and Environment Act (1987)

On 1 July 2018 several amendments were made to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. This was in response to the recognition of the critical need to increase the supply of affordable housing noted in *Homes for Victorians: Affordability, Access and Choice* and *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*.

The changes included:

- Inclusion of a new objective: “to facilitate the provision of affordable housing in Victoria.”
- A definition for affordable housing.
- Clarification that Responsible Authorities can enter into a Section 173 Agreement with a landowner related to the provision of affordable housing.

At the same time, State Government published guidance for councils in securing voluntary housing contributions, along with a Governor in Council order specifying the income ranges for affordable housing (excluding social housing) targeting very low, low and moderate income households.

To date, State Government policy allows for agreements under Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* that provide for the provision of Affordable Housing. These agreements are voluntary and at the discretion of a landowner.

Plan Melbourne 2017-50

This strategic plan for Greater Melbourne provides long-term guidance to accommodate Melbourne’s future population and employment growth, as well as high-level direction for social and affordable housing. It acknowledges several planning-related barriers to affordable housing provision including the lack of clarity (when the strategy was prepared) within legislation as to what constitutes affordable housing, as well as the absence of clear planning tools and mechanisms. Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 highlights a number of areas in which affordable housing is to be addressed by the planning system, including:

- *Policy 2.3.2 – Streamline decision-making processes for social housing proposals (applicable to both the government and the community housing sector).*
- *Policy 2.3.3 – Strengthen the role of planning in facilitating and delivering the supply of social and affordable housing.*
- *Policy 2.3.4 – Create ways to capture and share value uplift through planning controls.*

Actions include adopting definitions of social and affordable housing into the planning system (which subsequently occurred, as outlined above) and the creation of planning provisions and tools to deliver social and affordable housing. There are also several actions focused on exploring inclusionary zoning and mechanisms to capture and share value created through planning controls.

Planning Policy Framework

The Planning Policy Framework currently provides only limited guidance as to how council can influence affordable housing, with Clause 16.01-2S referring to the provision of affordable housing through local housing policies, advocacy, the development application process (such as negotiated voluntary agreements), and sufficient provision of land.

The objective is:

To deliver more affordable housing closer to jobs, transport and services.

The strategies are:

Improve housing affordability by:

- *Ensuring land supply continues to be sufficient to meet demand.*
- *Increasing choice in housing type, tenure and cost to meet the needs of households as they move through life cycle changes and to support diverse communities.*
- *Promoting good housing and urban design to minimise negative environmental impacts and keep costs down for residents and the wider community.*
- *Encouraging a significant proportion of new development to be affordable for households on very low to moderate incomes.*

Increase the supply of well-located affordable housing by:

- *Facilitating a mix of private, affordable and social housing in suburbs, activity centres and urban renewal precincts.*
- *Ensuring the redevelopment and renewal of public housing stock better meets community needs.*

Facilitate the delivery of social housing by identifying surplus government land suitable for housing.

2.2 The role of State Government

The State Government is contributing to the delivery of social and affordable housing primarily through the initiatives managed by **Homes Victoria** (Department of Families, Fairness, Housing):

- Delivery and management of public housing tenancies.
- Partnerships with Community Housing Providers who deliver and manage community housing tenancies.
- Delivery of the Big Housing Build program:
 - ▣ The Homes Victoria Big Housing Build program was announced in 2020 as a stimulus response to the COVID-19 pandemic, allocating \$5.3 billion over four years to build over 12,000 new social housing dwellings. This incorporates funds for Strategic Partnership Projects including:
 - \$1.3 billion under the Social Housing Growth Fund
 - \$2.1 billion under a partnership with the private and community housing sectors
- 10-Year Strategy for Social and Affordable Housing (pending):
 - ▣ The discussion paper for this future strategy was launched in 2021 and the final strategy is still pending. It will potentially signal a new approach to shared planning and co-contributions, for example, the opportunity and expectations of councils and community groups contributing equity (land) to social housing projects. It may also signal opportunities for new partnerships between state and local government through a 'Social and Affordable Housing Compact'. These agreements will aim to increase social and affordable housing across local government areas or regions.

Victoria's Housing Statement 2024-2034 released in 2023, proposes to build upon existing programs such as the Big Housing Build through increased funding. It also presents a patchwork of programs to increase social housing stock. In these programs, there are no clear social and affordable housing targets for the State or by Local Government Area, but they are expected to increase social and affordable housing stock across Victoria if successfully implemented.

One of the proposed programs – the expansion of Victoria's Development Facilitation Program – seeks to incentivise developers to provide 10 per cent affordable housing in medium to high density developments worth at least \$50 million (within Greater Melbourne), by providing a streamlined planning process if these criteria are met.

Development contributions for affordable housing at the State level

Affordable housing contributions have not been successfully implemented at the State level.

The Victorian Government proposed a new **Social and Affordable Housing Contribution (SAHC)** in February 2022 which was quickly abandoned following strong opposition from the property development sector. This contribution aimed to “deliver social housing projects for Victorians who need them the most”, applying to metropolitan Melbourne, Greater Geelong, Ballarat, and Greater Bendigo. It proposed applying a levy of 1.75 per cent of the market value to new developments of three or more dwellings, or the subdivision of land that results in three or more new residential lots. The State Government proposed to allocate the funds (collected by the State Revenue Office of Victoria prior to the issuing of a building permit or statement of compliance) through a competitive grants process to Community Housing Agencies. It was anticipated that this contribution would have delivered up to 1,700 new social and affordable housing units over 10 years.

This flat levy would have replaced the existing patchwork system of voluntary contributions for social and affordable housing in the Victorian planning system, as well as treating social and affordable housing as essential infrastructure for successful communities.

This policy was based on an in-principle agreement between the Victorian Government and the development industry and formed part of a broader planning reform package. It is noted several of the planning reform proposals put forward by the government in negotiations on the SAHC have now been implemented in *Victoria’s Housing Statement 2024-2034*.

2.3 The role of Local Government

There is lack of clear guidance from State Government relating to the implementation of affordable housing at the local level, and there are no agreed State affordable housing targets.

Councils can deliver affordable housing using council owned land. Council could play a development role to grow affordable housing, or transfer land to a CHO². However, this pathway is not free of complexities, and is out of scope of this report.

In relation to development on private land, State Government guidance endorses only the provision of affordable housing through voluntary agreements with a private developer or landowner, pursuant to Section 173 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. This voluntary agreement process is the basis for implementing development contributions for affordable housing. It is left to council to undertake individual negotiations on a case-by-case basis. Agreements relating to the provision of affordable housing are intended to be voluntary and at the discretion of the planning applicant.

² The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and CHIA Vic have produced a range of resources for councils and Registered Housing Associations to help with the development of social housing on Local Government land.

The outcomes of negotiations undertaken within such a framework are likely to vary considerably, leading to lack of delivery of housing and inequitable outcomes for developers.³

The emphasis upon voluntary contributions also means that there little guidance from the State Government about how, if it all, Planning Schemes can contribute to achieving affordable housing beyond generalised statements of support.

2.4 The role of Community Housing Organisations

A Community Housing Organisation (CHO) is a not-for-profit organisation, approved by the State Government, to provide community housing (as defined by Section 4(1) of *the Housing Act 1983*). The scale at which they are able to develop, own and manage community housing varies across organisations. The Housing Registrar registers community housing providers and is responsible for the regulatory oversight of the community housing sector in Victoria.

Along with the State Government (Homes Victoria), CHOs provide a critical means for delivering and managing social housing in Victoria, and ensuring those on the Victorian social housing waiting list are provided with appropriate shelter.

The Community Housing Industry Association Victoria (CHIA Vic) is the peak industry body for the community housing sector. They have identified that on the ground, CHOs are experiencing significant challenges in sourcing suitable development sites for community housing. CHIA Vic are currently developing a 10-year sector wide roadmap that seeks to address these issues, including through sector consultation and engagement. They are looking to establish how the community housing sector can grow by 30,000 units over 10 years.

State Government has conveyed clear support for partnership with CHOs. When incorporating affordable housing in development proposals, CHOs are often the first option for transferring those affordable housing units for management. For instance, the Fishermans Bend Framework 2018 'support[s] a partnership approach between government, private industry, and the community housing sector to deliver a range of affordable housing options' (Policy 3.5.1).

2.5 Precedents for affordable housing contribution policies

There remains little explicit policy or guidance from Victorian Government about implementing inclusionary requirements for affordable housing. The default situation remains that municipalities must continue to work within the current voluntary contributions arrangements. This is despite the recent final report from the Senate Inquiry into the worsening rental crisis in Australia, which makes many recommendations around private rental housing, including that "the Australian Government coordinate with state and territory governments to implement mandatory inclusionary zoning for all

³ For some discussion of the challenges of a negotiation-based model see Katrina Raynor, Matthew Palm, and Georgia Warren-Myers, "Ambiguous, Confusing, and Not Delivering Enough Housing," *Journal of the American Planning Association* 87, no. 4 (May 2021): 542–55.

new developments” (Recommendation 4).⁴ The Chair recommends the Australian Government coordinate with State and Territory Governments to implement mandatory inclusionary zoning for all new developments.

In recent decisions by Planning Panels Victoria (PPV) and the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT), the principle of that affordable housing is essential infrastructure has been given legitimacy and practical application.

Table 3 provides a summary of existing affordable housing contributions policies in Victoria. These examples represent an inclusionary requirement approach to the spatial application of this policy – refer to Chapter 3.1 for discussion on this framework.

A comprehensive overview of precedents is provided in **Appendix C**.

TABLE 3: EXAMPLES OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTRIBUTION POLICIES

Location	Planning Scheme	Inclusionary contribution policy or requirement
Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal Area	Melbourne	Minimum 6 per cent affordable housing contribution (applied through policy).
West Melbourne Structure Plan Area	Melbourne	Minimum 6 per cent affordable housing contribution at no cost (applied through policy and reinforced through the zone).
Arden Structure Plan Area	Melbourne	Minimum 6 per cent affordable housing contribution at 50 per cent discount (applied through policy, reinforced at zone).
Epping renewal site	Whittlesea	5 per cent affordable housing contribution (applied as a mandatory requirement through development plan under a DPO)

Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2023)

To date, inclusionary requirements for affordable housing in Victoria have been implemented at the site or precinct-scale, as demonstrated by the examples above and in Appendix C. Application of such a policy on a municipal-wide basis is currently novel within the Victorian Planning system, however, is increasingly being pursued by local governments across the state. This is because:

- The principles underpinning inclusionary requirements are applicable to development in different contexts, regardless of scale.
- Adopting a municipal-wide approach provides a more consistent and equitable approach to development regulation.

⁴ Parliament of Australia (2023), The worsening rental crisis in Australia, Final report. Available: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Worseningrentalcrisis/Final_Report

- High and increasing levels of need for housing assistance, and the relatively resource intensive nature of amending the planning scheme, warrants the pursuit of policy that is likely to be more impactful.

It is noted inclusionary policies for affordable housing have been implemented at the municipal scale in other jurisdictions in Australia, for example in the City of Sydney.⁵

⁵ City of Sydney (2023), City of Sydney affordable housing program, <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/affordable-housing-contributions/city-of-sydney-affordable-housing-program>

3. Development contributions for affordable housing

This chapter introduces the four frames of development contributions. It presents the strategic justification for implementing inclusionary affordable housing requirements for development proposals via the planning permit application process and discusses the potential for contributions to be a planning requirement.

3.1 Strategic framework

Four frames of development contributions

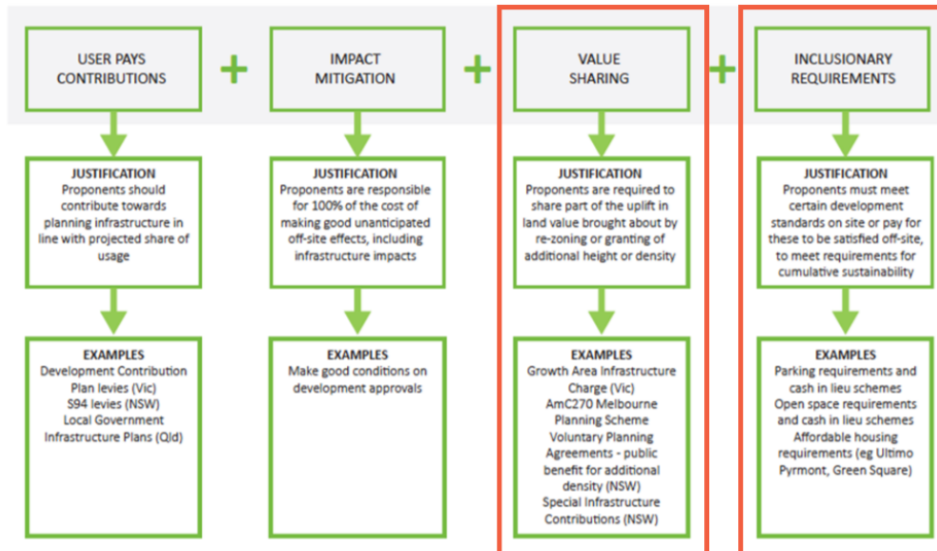
It is crucial to understand the requirement for affordable housing within the broader scope of various contributions and obligations that developers might face.

Conceptually, any requirement for a development contribution will fall into one of four mutually exclusive and additive categories. These are:

- **User charges:** A key principle in development contributions is that developers must make payments to support shared infrastructure, which their projects will utilise. The guiding principle is that each developer's contribution should be proportional to their anticipated use of the infrastructure. This approach is in line with the principles of user charges, as reflected in Development Contributions Levies.
- **Impact fees:** Whereas user charges apply to planned infrastructure, impact fees apply when a development creates unanticipated demands on local infrastructure because of its particular design or timing.
- **Value sharing or value capture arrangements:** 'Value sharing' or value capture contributions capture part of the uplift in the unimproved land value that follows from an infrastructure investment, site rezoning or development approval which allows for a higher value or more intensive land use. Value sharing requirements are based on a separate and distinct principle related to efficiently regulating community-approved development rights.
- **Inclusionary requirements:** Inclusionary requirements are about ensuring that successive developments meet community expectations in relation to liveability, efficiency and sustainability. Parking and open space requirements, or their cash-in-lieu equivalents for off-site provisions are examples.

Figure 2 provides an overview of the development contribution frameworks and their respective justifications. The justifications guide what contributions can be fairly sought under each frame. Value sharing and inclusionary requirements are the most relevant with respect to affordable housing contributions across Victoria. Further details about these approaches are described below.

FIGURE 2: FOUR DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION TYPES



Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2023)

Development contributions for affordable housing

Value sharing

‘Value sharing’ or value capture contributions target part of the uplift in the unimproved land value that follows from infrastructure investment, site rezoning, or development approval which allows for a higher value or more intensive land use.⁶

Value sharing is premised on efficient regulation of community sanctioned development rights. Regulation of land use and development through planning schemes in Victoria represents a form of restriction on market access necessitated by the objective of economic efficiency. The State deliberately and systematically rations access to ‘development rights’ via planning regulations. Governments apply this rationing because it is expected to generate a net community benefit (that is, an efficiency or welfare gain) compared to allowing urban development to proceed on a ‘laissez faire’ basis.

The value of regulated development rights is factored into the price of land. For example, all things equal, a piece of land which is enabled for use as a major shopping centre will be more valuable than land without this privileged access to retail centre development rights. Similarly, land enabled for a multi-storey apartment building will be worth more than otherwise equivalent land designated for a

⁶ Spiller, M., Spencer, A. and Fensham, P. (2017) Value capture through development licence fees, Occasional Paper, SGS Economics & Planning Pty Ltd.

single household dwelling, land zoned for mixed use residential will be more valuable than land designated for industrial uses, and so on.

Inclusionary requirements

The 'inclusionary requirements' approach is premised on the role of affordable housing as essential infrastructure.

In this context, the word *infrastructure* is used in its fullest sense which encompasses the basic framework or underlying foundation of a system along with associated capital works and services. Affordable housing is an essential foundation to cities and regions. In order to develop successful communities, development proponents have shared responsibility for funding this infrastructure just as they do other key community assets such as open space.

Affordable housing has also been recognised as essential infrastructure for sustainable communities by Infrastructure Victoria, which has identified affordable housing as a priority in the *Victoria's Infrastructure Strategy 2021-2051* and noted that responsibility for funding its provision should be shared across the spheres of government and the development process, as occurs with other types of infrastructure.

Under the inclusionary requirements approach, all development is expected to supply itself with sufficient infrastructure – in this case affordable housing – to meet the need generated from that development. In this way, successive developments will ultimately generate sufficient affordable housing to meet an appropriate proportion of the needs in the planned community.

Inclusionary provisions are based on minimum acceptable standards of development. The acceptable standard (whether it be affordable housing or other amenities such as car parking, water sensitive urban design, renewable power generation, etc.) may be provided off site through cash infrastructure contributions or onsite through in-kind infrastructure contributions.

Inclusionary requirements should be applied across all developments that generate the demand for infrastructure provision. While non-residential development also requires access to affordable housing to create and sustain a local workforce, within Victoria inclusionary requirements for affordable housing have only been applied across residential developments.

3.2 Who is responsible for affordable housing provision?

The need for more affordable housing is not isolated to the City of Bayside alone, nor is it solely Council's responsibility to address that need. There are many forces and institutions driving housing affordability outcomes in Bayside and other locations that are beyond the direct purview or influence of Council. These relate to broader economic conditions, monetary policy settings, wages and the dynamics of the housing cycle.

Historically, the task of supplying affordable housing has been borne by the broad-based tax systems operated by Federal and State governments. Changes in Victorian Government policy in recent years, including amendments to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, have – symbolically at least – recognised the role of local government in the provision of affordable housing.

While the powers of local government remain limited, these changes strengthen the view that the large and increasing shortfall of affordable housing can be best addressed by action from all three tiers of government, in partnership with the private and community sectors.

In defining a potential target for addressing need across the municipality, the benefits generated through adequate provision of providing sufficient affordable housing fall within three broader impact categories. Each of these categories aligns with the scope of responsibility of the three tiers of government:⁷

- Mitigating after-housing-cost poverty⁸ for low-income households.
- Facilitating supply of key workers with relevant skills for the regional economy (as distinct from the provision of key worker accommodation).
- Creating better neighbourhoods by supporting diversity and inclusion in placemaking.

As the Federal Government is responsible for social security, poverty mitigation is within their scope. Similarly, the Victorian Government has primary responsibility for spatial labour markets, and therefore the second impact category rests with the State. Responsibility for the third impact category to do with neighbourhood impact rests with developers and the planning system; that is, those involved in creating better places.

Taking each of the benefits to be of equal importance to the entire community of Bayside would require the Federal Government, the Victorian government and the development process and planning system to each deliver one third of the overall measured need for affordable housing in the municipality.

3.3 Affordable housing as a broad inclusionary requirement

As discussed in Chapter 2, the practice advocated by State Government has been to pursue affordable housing through voluntary contributions. There is some precedent for inclusionary affordable housing requirements in planning schemes, but these have been limited to either site- and precinct-scale requirements, or value sharing mechanisms that require a trade-off at the planning permit stage (for example, approving additional height or yield in return for a contribution).

This has created a dichotomy between:

- An entirely voluntary regime that is broad-based but ineffective at delivering housing.
- Stronger regimes that (sometimes) impose binding obligations but are limited to distinct specific locations or which trade off other planning outcomes.

An inclusionary approach as advocated for in this section requires a shift to a mechanism that is both a requirement and not spatially limited or dependent on trading other outcomes. This will provide

⁷ SGS Economics and Planning (2023), 'National Housing Assistance Policy: Trends and Prospects'. Available: https://sgsep.com.au/assets/main/SGS-Economics-and-Planning_Commonwealth-housing-policy_occasional-paper.pdf

⁸ The level of poverty experienced by low-income families after they have paid for their housing expenses.

greater certainty for council, the community and developers, improving both the efficacy and efficiency of affordable housing delivery.

Voluntary contributions versus requirements

The Victorian Government's framing of affordable housing primarily as achieved through voluntary contributions has contributed to some confusion about the approaches that can be applied through planning schemes and planning scheme assessments to *require* a contribution.

In this report, the term "affordable housing requirement" is used to refer to any requirement for a housing that is imposed upon a developer without being purely voluntary. For example, this might be a condition of a planning permit for development, in a situation where the developer did not proactively volunteer such a contribution. Conditions of a permit need to satisfy well-recognised tests of validity. The issue of implementation is discussed in more detail in Chapter 5, but at a minimum the imposition of such a condition would require some basis in the planning scheme.

The concept of a requirement should be distinguished from the concept of a *mandatory* affordable housing requirement. While this and similar terms are sometimes used to distinguish an affordable housing requirement from voluntary contribution, a mandatory contribution – meaning one that cannot be varied or waived – should be understood as the opposite extreme of a purely voluntary contribution.

In practice, the planning scheme can outline requirements that are between these extremes – and indeed it is more common for scheme requirements to allow some discretion to exist. Of the examples cited at Table 3 in Section 2.5, only the Epping Renewal site in the city of Whittlesea is mandatory.

Even where discretionary, requirements such as those in Chapter 2.5 nevertheless establish a basis in the planning scheme for a planning permit to validly impose a condition requiring a contribution (subject to the discussion below). This can be compared to a permit condition requiring a reduction in height of a building made with reference to a built form provision. While such a condition may be challenged on the merits, it would not be correct to say that such a reduction in height was invalid unless voluntarily offered by the proponent.

The validity of financial contribution requirements

Notwithstanding the above, a question has arisen as to whether the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* allows for the collection of financial contributions as a requirement (whether based on mandatory or discretionary controls). This has arisen partly because of the State Government's stated commitment to voluntary agreements, combined with longstanding legal constraints around collection of financial contributions towards the provision of infrastructure and other works.

The Act includes a detailed regime for requiring infrastructure contributions, which does not appear to allow for collection of affordable housing contributions due to the limited types of infrastructure referred to in the supporting Ministerial Direction. However, if it is accepted that this framework is not an appropriate means for collecting contributions for affordable housing, the question arises as to whether the Act allows for contributions to be required outside of that framework.

It is noted that the section of the Act that governs conditions on planning permits requiring contributions includes – at s 62(6)(b) – allowance for conditions to require a contribution that is required by a planning scheme. This is separate to the clause that allows collection of infrastructure

contributions and is understood to be the basis by which other parts of the scheme require contributions.

Core provisions of the Victoria Planning Provisions that require contributions (or allow for local schedules to do so) are:

- Clause 53.01 – which requires contributions for provision of public open space (noting that this is provision and its predecessors stand separate to the provisions under s 18 and 18A of the *Subdivision Act 1988*).⁹
- Clause 45.09-6 of the Parking Overlay – which allows for local schedules to require contributions in lieu of providing car parking.

It is also relatively common for precinct-based provisions to require financial contributions. This commonly includes through Development Plan Overlays, but also through other bespoke provisions such as schedules to the Special Use Zone and Activity Centre Zone.

Precinct-based versus municipality-wide requirements

The examples cited in Chapter 2.5 and Appendix C include affordable housing requirements which establish a precedent for inclusionary contribution requirements in Victorian planning provisions, but as noted they are spatially limited (focused on select precincts).

It appears that acceptance of such precinct-based requirements has arisen because:

- Such precinct-based controls have usually arisen from rezoning that has created new development potential, so these are accepted as a form of value sharing despite their inclusionary nature.
- The provisions are accepted by the applicant and so are framed as voluntary contributions.

In practice these two rationales are frequently linked, as a proponent of a rezoning is much more likely to volunteer to accept a contribution regime to achieve the uplift associated with the planning authority's agreement to rezone land.

A difficulty with pursuing an approach based on taking contributions only in up-zoned precincts is that it creates inequitable spatial outcomes. While in the short term a form of equity exists in that a proponent may be willing to accept the contribution requirement due to the value created by the rezoning, in the medium to longer term these sites bear a disproportionate burden in terms of provisions of affordable housing.

Relatedly, such provisions create an ongoing in-principle concern regarding the nexus between the planning permission and the condition imposed. Where contributions are required in only a particular location, the question arises as to why a development in that specific location should make a contribution when other development does not. This may, depending on the framing of the scheme provision, provide a basis for challenging permit conditions requiring contributions.

⁹ Both the planning scheme and *Subdivision Act* note that s 18 of the Act stands separate to requirements imposed by schemes. Section 18A governs scheme-imposed requirements but does not include a section enabling them. This section was added to the Act well after the provisions in the scheme that require contributions.

Precinct-based approaches may also be counterproductive in that they impose additional development requirements in preferred locations for development. For example, if an Activity Centre Zone is applied in a preferred centre that is expected to accommodate significant growth, a value sharing approach might justify including a contribution requirement. However, this would mean that a preferred location has an obligation to provide affordable housing that does not exist in less preferred locations. This may risk creating perverse planning outcomes by disincentivising development in preferred locations.

A broad-based inclusionary approach reduces these concerns by sharing the load of contributions, and reducing the extent spatial disparity in where contributions are sought.

Supplementary value sharing at the planning permit stage

The value sharing approach has also underpinned provisions that require an affordable housing contribution as an offset for another planning outcome, such as variation of a height controls. These capture a supplementary value share at the permit stage, beyond any original uplift created by the rezoning. An example is the provisions of Capital City Zone Schedule 2 in the City of Melbourne, which allows for variations to floor area ratio controls if public benefits (including affordable housing) are realised.

Such mechanisms risk trading off other development objectives and eroding the intent of the provisions against which the value uplift is created. For example, if a provision such as a height controls is frequently varied in return for another public benefit, the original purpose of the provision may not be achieved. Unless height controls are constrained below truly desired levels to create an incentive – itself an inappropriate outcome – the achieved height with the affordable housing provision will by definition be beyond the intended outcome of the provision.

Such mechanisms are also limited in the quantity of housing they can provide, as they by their nature can capture only a proportion of the “extra” yield of a development, rather than a proportion of the total.

3.4 Price impacts of inclusionary affordable housing requirements

The cost of inclusionary requirements is unlikely to be passed on to home buyers. Developers are ‘price takers’ not ‘price makers’. They operate in competitive markets where their product is a small part of a large offering open to consumers, including turnover in the stock of existing housing.

Therefore, developers cannot operate on a cost-plus basis (where the sale price is determined by adding a mark-up to a purchase price). Instead, they must work within the prices allowed by the market within which they are operating. Market prices will be determined by a range of factors beyond the control of the developer, including interest rates, the state of the economy and buyer sentiment.

Conventional practice when developers initiate projects is to work back from an anticipated market allowable price for their planned product, and then deduct their costs, including a margin for profit and risk, to arrive at the maximum price they can pay for a site to host their project. An inclusionary requirement for social and affordable housing would be duly factored into the developer’s costs and deducted from the price they will be prepared to pay for the development site. This is comparable to

what currently occurs for other comparable contributions required through planning provisions, such as open space and parking.

In this way, the cost of an affordable housing planning requirement will be passed back to the seller of development land, rather than forward to home buyers.

One possible exception to this argument relates to developers who are holding the land at the time the contribution is introduced. If the contribution is introduced with no phase-in process, such a developer would not have the opportunity to price-in the contribution. A staged introduction of the contribution could eliminate or mitigate this problem.

3.5 Preferred approach for City of Bayside

Voluntary contributions are ineffective in achieving a substantial quantity of housing, and are inherently inequitable.

The value sharing approach similarly has notable limitations in that:

- It applies in only limited circumstances, reducing the quantity of housing that can be provided.
- It creates an inequitable burden on certain sites and precincts to provide housing.
- It risks disincentivising development in preferred locations.
- When applied at the planning permit stage, it trades off housing outcomes against other planning objectives.

For these reasons it is considered that an effective affordable housing provision should:

- Be based on inclusionary rather than value-sharing principles.
- Include requirements rather than being voluntary.
- Applied as broadly as possible spatially (which at a local level means municipality-wide).

The inclusionary requirements framework is therefore the preferred approach for applying affordable housing contributions in the City of Bayside. It recognises that, to support successful communities, development proponents have shared responsibility for funding of affordable housing infrastructure. It also reflects affordable housing as essential infrastructure.

4. Establishing an affordable housing contributions rate

The effective affordable housing contribution to be applied across Bayside City Council is **2.9 per cent** of total GRV of a development. The methodology for determining this rate, and the feasibility of applying it across the City of Bayside, are outlined in this chapter.

4.1 Calculating the contributions rate

Table 4 summarises the calculation for getting to the 2.9% contribution rate for Bayside City Council. Refer to **Appendix D** for an expanded methodology and calculations.

TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTRIBUTION CALCULATION

Steps	Calculation	Value
Step 1: Identify Victorian affordable housing need	Estimated percentage of dwellings required as affordable housing across Victoria.	14%
Step 2: Determine the share of need to be met through local development	Share of responsibility – one-third assigned to development sector, one-third to State Government and one-third to Commonwealth Government. (14% x 1/3)	4.7%
Step 3: Calculate a contribution rate for all market residential and non-residential floor space.	25% = percentage of floorspace that is non-residential 75% = percentage of floorspace that is residential. Conversion factor: (86% + 25%) / 75% = 119% Contribution rate applied to all market floor space: 4.7% / 119% = 3.91%	3.91%
Step 4: Adjust the contribution rate to account for ability for housing agencies to pay developers for a portion of housing	Share of very low income households (64% of Victorian households in need of affordable housing) at a 100% discount: 3.91% x 64% x 100% = 2.50% Share of low and moderate income households (36% of Victorian households in need of affordable housing) at a 30% discount: 3.91% x 36% x 30% = 0.42% 2.50% + 0.42% = 2.93%	2.93%

Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024)

4.2 Overview of contributions rate methodology

This section explains the calculation steps, for how an equitable and logical process was applied to reach a contribution rate that is suitable for meeting the affordable housing need in Bayside City Council.

Strategic framework

The calculation method is based on the 'inclusionary requirements' strategic framework outlined in Chapter 3, which treats social and affordable housing as essential infrastructure, to support successful and sustainable communities in Bayside. Provision of affordable housing infrastructure will make for inclusive neighbourhoods. It will also help ensure that Bayside residents have access to health, education, retail and hospitality services that rely, in part, on low and moderately paid workers.

Having established the strategic justification for adopting an inclusionary requirement approach to affordable housing contributions, the next step is to determine an appropriate rate for Bayside City Council.

The methodology used follows four steps:

- *Step 1: Identify the need for social and affordable housing in Victoria.* At this step, a need is established using a Victoria-wide average to establish a consistent baseline standard (for example not fluctuating due to short term or localised factors) as a percentage of housing floorspace.
- *Step 2: Determine the share of need to be met by the development sector.* This step recognises that the responsibility for meeting housing is shared between Commonwealth and state governments as well as the development sector. The contribution rate is therefore discounted to reflect a split between these three spheres.
- *Step 3: Calculate inclusionary requirement contribution rate for all market residential and non-residential floor space.* The contribution rate is adjusted to reflect that the contribution is to be sought not just from residential floor space, but also from non-residential development. This broadens the base from which contribution is sought and therefore lowers the percentage rate.
- *Step 4: Adjust the contribution rate to account for community housing providers' ability to pay.* The rate is discounted to reflect that not all housing contributions are to be provided to providers at zero cost; some of the housing can be provided at a discount. The rate is therefore reduced to reflect that the contribution does not need to meet the full cost of all provided housing.

These steps are described in more detail below.

Step 1: Establish affordable housing need

The amount of this infrastructure required for Bayside is based on the average requirement for social and affordable housing across Victoria. This approach is similar to that applied in planning for open space which is expected to serve a community for many generations; the amount provided should reflect long term need rather than prevailing short term conditions in a particular community.

Best available estimates suggest that across Victoria, and therefore in Bayside, the requirement for long term social and affordable housing infrastructure amounts to 14% of all dwellings.

Step 2: Determine the share of need to be met by the development sector

Like other forms of urban infrastructure, the cost of providing social and affordable housing is appropriately shared between governments (Commonwealth and State) and developers.

Social and affordable housing delivers three sets of benefits: poverty mitigation; access to local services staffed by moderate and low paid workers; and the creation of inclusive and diverse communities. These three categories align respectively with the responsibilities of the Commonwealth Government, the State Government and developers. Assuming that the three sets of benefits have equal weighting, the cost of supplying social and affordable housing infrastructure should be shared equally between the Commonwealth, the State and developers.

This means that a third of the cost of supplying essential social and affordable housing infrastructure in Bayside would rest with developers in Bayside. That is, developers would need to provide the resources to ensure that 14%/3 (4.7%) of all new dwellings added to Bayside is in the form of social and affordable housing.

Step 3: Calculate inclusionary requirement contribution rate for all market residential and non-residential floor space

Social and affordable housing provision will serve the whole Bayside community; therefore, all developers, including those producing commercial, retail and other non-residential uses, should pay their fair share towards this essential infrastructure.

Non-residential development is expected to comprise around 25% of all new development in Bayside.

For every 100 sqm of new floorspace added to the municipality in the years ahead, 25 sqm will be for non-residential uses. Meanwhile, the 75 sqm of residential floorspace would notionally comprise 86% for market (i.e. 64.5 sqm) and 14% for social and affordable housing (10.5 sqm). As noted, one third of the social and affordable housing floorspace ($10.5 \text{ sqm} / 3 = 3.5 \text{ sqm}$) would be funded from developer contributions. These developer contributions would be carried by both non-residential and for-market residential projects.

On this basis, proponents of development would be required to transfer the equivalent of 3.9% ($3.5 / (25 + 64.5)$) of their for-market floorspace as social and affordable housing. However, not all of this transfer needs to occur at a zero price to social and affordable housing providers.

Step 4: Adjust the contribution rate to account for community housing providers' ability to pay

Registered community housing providers would be responsible for managing social and affordable housing tenancies. They would be leasing properties to a mix of tenants, from those on low and very low income up to those on moderate incomes, as per the spectrum of eligible households identified in the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Tenants on low and very low incomes are estimated to comprise around 64% of the need for this infrastructure. These households will be paying low, income adjusted, rents. These will be insufficient for the social and affordable housing provider to generate a surplus after maintenance and operating costs which could be used to service a loan to help pay for the dwellings in question. Therefore, 64% of the dwelling floorspace made available by proponents under the social and affordable housing

requirement would need to be transferred to providers for free. That is, 64% of the 3.91% floorspace dedication for social and affordable housing – or 2.5% - would be provided at zero price.

For the remaining 36% of dwelling floorspace made available by proponents for social and affordable housing, the providers will be able to pay a price. This is because they will be accommodating moderate income households who, while paying sub-market rates, will still allow the housing provider to service a loan for part of the value of the dwelling. The calculation here assumes that providers can pay around 70% of the market price of dwellings occupied by moderate income households. That is, they would require that portion of floorspace dedicated by developers that will be occupied by moderate income households to be transferred at a discount to market price of 30%. That is, 36% of the 3.91% dedication for social and affordable housing would be provided at a cost to the developer of 30% of market price. The cost to the developer for this component of their infrastructure contribution is therefore $3.91\% \times 0.36 \times 0.30 = 0.42\%$.

In total, the cost of the social and affordable housing contribution to the developer will be the equivalent of 2.5% of marketed floorspace for social and affordable housing to be transferred for free, plus the equivalent of 0.42% of marketed floorspace for housing transferred at 30% discount to market.

These steps lead to a final contributions rate of 2.9% for Bayside City Council. A proponent would be required to provide housing, or cash in lieu, equivalent to 2.9% of the marketed floorspace in their project.

4.3 Impact of affordable housing contribution on development feasibility

SGS's analysis (with sales evidence input and review of modelling assumptions informed by M3 Property, certified valuers) was completed to identify the impact of a proposed 2.9 per cent affordable housing contribution on redevelopment, predominately residential development in the LGA. The primary questions this analysis answers are:

- **Per cent impact:** How much does the proposed contribution impact redevelopment viability, as measured as a per cent of Residual Land Value (RLV)?
- **Duration of impact:** What is the estimated duration (in years) of such an impact on RLV?
- **Impact on mixed-use development (activity centres):** Would the proposed contribution impact mixed-use redevelopment (in the context of activity centres) differently from residential redevelopment (outside of activity centres, i.e., throughout the remainder of the LGA)?

In answering these questions, SGS applied a standard residual land value (RLV) modelling methodology, in which development costs, land acquisition costs, planning fees and charges, as well as a risk-adjusted development margin are accounted for to quantify the RLV for three scenarios:

- **Existing Use**, or the land value associated with the existing uses.
- **Baseline Redevelopment**, i.e., the implied land value of a prototypical redevelopment.
- **Redevelopment with Contribution**, i.e., the RLV of a prototypical redevelopment including the contribution.

SGS's analysis found the following:

- **Per cent impact:** The proposed 2.9 per cent affordable housing contribution is estimated to reduce the RLV by 4 to 6 per cent across the residential prototypes representative of redevelopment across the LGA (excluding redevelopment in activity centres).
- **Duration of impact:** If supportable residential dwelling sales prices appreciate at 2 to 3 per cent above costs in the foreseeable future, analysis indicates that the impact of the proposed affordable housing contribution would be mitigated by approximately 1 to 1 and ½ years of market escalation.
- **Impact on mixed-use redevelopment (in activity centres):** A review and re-analysis of work completed by SGS in December 2022 indicates that the proposed 2.9 per cent affordable housing contribution is estimated to reduce the RLVs of redevelopment by 13 to 20 per cent. Applying the same methodological approach to the escalation of realisable values (for the residential and non-residential components of the modelled redevelopment prototypes) and development costs, SGS determined that the impact of the proposed affordable housing contribution would similarly be mitigated by approximately 1 year of market escalation.

5. Implementation

This chapter outlines how the affordable housing contributions policy is proposed to be implemented through the Bayside Planning Scheme and integrated in the planning permit application process. It also provides options for how contributions will be collected and distributed.

5.1 State-level guidance

The following State-level policies currently provide the relevant guidance for implementing affordable housing requirements at the local level.

Planning and Environment Act 1987

As noted earlier in this report, the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* was amended in 2018 to include specific sections relating to housing affordability. These sections contain:

- A new objective under section 16, “to facilitate the provision of affordable housing in Victoria”.
- Changes that clarify that Responsible Authorities can enter into an agreement with landowners and others under Section 173 of the Act, for the provision of affordable housing as part of a development.
- A definition of affordable housing at section 3AA of the Act.

Current guidance from the Department of Transport and Planning endorses the use of a Section 173 Agreement as the preferred method of securing affordable housing.

State Policy

Clause 16.01-2S of the Planning Policy Framework (PPF) sets out the state policy for Housing Affordability. This is quoted in full at Section 2.1.

The strategies do not endorse any specific intervention to achieve affordable housing on private land beyond “encouraging” affordable housing.

Significantly, the State Government’s September 2023 Housing Statement did not include any proposal for a new implementation mechanism – such as an inclusionary zoning mechanism, or a reinstatement of the previously proposed SAHC levy.

5.2 Planning implementation options at the local level

At the local level, several parts of the planning scheme can be used to encourage delivery of affordable housing at a municipal level. These are:

- **Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS):** The context for affordable housing requirements and an overarching strategic direction to facilitate affordable housing can be included in the MPS (most relevantly at Clause 02.03).
- **Planning Policy Framework (PPF):** A local level (L) policy can be drafted to sit under the State Clause 16.01-2S Housing affordability to specify the local objective, strategies, and policy guidelines to facilitate affordable housing. The existing Bayside local policy at Clause 16.01-2L reflects the desire to provide affordable housing but – informed by the existing state government approach – references only rezoning, negotiated agreements, and partnerships with providers as implementation measures.
- **Special purpose zones and associated schedules:** The zones and schedules that can be applied to facilitate an affordable housing contribution are the Special Use Zone, Comprehensive Development Zone and Activity Centre Zone.
- **Built form overlays and associated schedules:** The overlays and schedules that can be applied to facilitate an affordable housing contribution are the Incorporated Plan Overlay, and Development Plan Overlay. Both of these overlays extinguish third party notice and appeal rights.
- **Other overlays and associated schedule:** The Specific Controls Overlay can theoretically be applied to facilitate affordable housing (see discussion below).

The merits of each of these are discussed in more detail in **Appendix G**.

In addition to the above, the Development Contributions Plan Overlay warrants comment. While this overlay can provide a municipality-wide contributions framework, it is not able to be used for affordable housing contributions as affordable housing is not recognised as an eligible infrastructure asset class under the relevant Ministerial Direction.

It is not considered that an effective inclusionary requirement could be achieved by policy in the MPS and PPF alone. This is due to both to the inherently discretionary nature of policy, and because conditions requiring a financial contribution without endorsement of a scheme requirement could breach s 62(6) of the Act.

Special purpose zones and associated schedules can only achieve precinct-based solutions. Difficulties with precinct-based approaches are discussed at Chapter 3.3.

The key provisions available for implementation of an inclusionary requirement are therefore the Development Plan Overlay (DPO) and the Special Controls Overlay (SCO).

Limitations of the Development Plan Overlay

The DPO is a tool that has successfully been used in several planning schemes to secure affordable housing contributions within specific precincts. Examples include Yarra Planning Scheme DPO15 and DPO16, Whittlesea Planning Scheme DPO39 and Maribyrnong Planning Scheme DPO7. In each case, there is policy that a Section 173 Agreement be entered into to secure affordable housing. It is possible to include this as a mandatory requirement.

The significant drawback of the DPO is that provision overrides all notice requirements under any provision of the scheme and will continue to apply as long as the overlay applies. There is no option to “turn off” the notice exemption in the schedule to the overlay, and councils are not permitted to include requirements in the schedule that add alternate consultation paths.

While the implications of the notice exemption may be minimal in newly developed estates, the effect of the exemption is more serious where residents are present within or immediately around the area covered by the overlay. It also becomes more problematic over time even in new development precincts, as the residents of the new estate will not have the benefits of normal planning notification and appeal rights.

These aspects of the overlay seriously limit the ability to apply it for this purpose. It would certainly not be suitable for a municipality-wide application; but it would have limitations even for individual precincts. However, if a Development Plan Overlay was to be applied for other purposes to a site (for instance, to manage built form outcomes or traffic circulation networks), it would be a suitable mechanism to introduce an affordable housing contribution.

Potential to apply the Specific Controls Overlay

The SCO is a tool that enables the Planning Authority to draft a bespoke planning control that can either replace the other provisions of the scheme or sit alongside the existing provisions in the scheme that apply to the land in question, or a combination. It enables specific controls in an Incorporated Document to override other parts of the planning scheme or impose additional requirements.

The purpose of this control is:

'To apply specific controls designed to achieve a particular land use and development outcome in extraordinary circumstances'.

The SCO enables controls to be included in planning schemes that would otherwise not be achieved using other controls. This control could therefore stipulate an affordable housing contributions requirement, that sits on top of the underlying planning provisions that already apply to the land (such as the zone, any overlays and policy). The SCO could theoretically be applied across the municipality.

The SCO can only be used as a planning control in an "extraordinary circumstance" as referred to in the purpose of the overlay. This is likely to be a barrier in the acceptance of its use.

In this case, it is argued that the extraordinary circumstance arises because of the exhaustion of all other implementation options to deliver on the objectives of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and state planning policy to facilitate affordable housing.

The application of the SCO at a municipal level is essentially doing the job that a broad-based inclusionary zoning mechanism would do. As previously noted, the State Government has to date chosen not to take an inclusionary zoning approach, and this was not a mechanism that was canvassed in the Victoria's Housing Statement, released in September 2023. The final report of the Commonwealth Senate *Inquiry into the worsening housing crisis* identified that inclusionary zoning should be pursued, and included a recommendation that the Australian and state governments work together to develop an inclusionary zoning mechanism so things may change in the future.

There is no definition either legally or through case law, or any accompanying practice note for the SCO, to explain what constitutes "extraordinary" circumstances are, or whether the SCO can in fact be used for procuring affordable housing contributions.

While technically possible, it is acknowledged that the approach of applying an SCO to facilitate affordable housing has not been tried. Given its novel nature, it will be challenging to obtain the necessary support and approval from the State Government.

Being a novel approach, this may be a difficult control to introduce for political reasons and it should also be expected that there will be resistance from the Department of Transport and Planning to the blanket application of the SCO for this purpose.

Pursuing this pathway does however open the opportunity for a discussion at the State level about the lack of suitable tools in the VPP to secure affordable housing contributions, a discussion that would be of benefit to the community considering Victoria's housing crisis.

Crucially, the recommendation of the use of the SCO has not been taken lightly. It is considered that extraordinary circumstances arise because of the following combination of circumstance, policy and implementation factors:

- The State Government's Housing Statement recognises the need for a "reset" and "a more active planning system" to increase the supply of affordable housing.¹⁰
- The Commonwealth Senate *Inquiry into the worsening housing crisis* has endorsed inclusionary affordable housing requirements, but no State Government tool has been provided to achieve this in a standardised manner.
- Statements in planning policy and the MPS are ineffective if not accompanied by another provision and may not allow for conditions to be validly imposed under s 62(6) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.
- Most standard VPP zones are not able to apply an affordable housing requirement. Use of zones would therefore require extensive and inappropriate use of "bespoke" zones such as the Special Use Zone across the entire municipality.
- Customised zones could be used for individual precincts, but this results in less housing, an inequitable distribution of contributions, and risks perverse incentives by increasing obligations in preferred locations for development, as argued in Section 3.3.
- The Development Contributions Plan Overlay cannot be used, as affordable housing cannot plausibly be argued to be a form of infrastructure that falls within the categories nominated in the applicable Ministerial Direction.
- The Development Plan Overlay extinguishes notice requirements and is unsuitable for municipality-wide application.

The SCO has been recommended as an implementation option only once all other outcomes to achieve a broad-based inclusionary approach have been exhausted.

5.3 Contribution application and exemptions

The following outlines the suggested application of the contribution requirement.

¹⁰ *Victoria's Housing Statement*, page 3.

It is noted that the following recommendations are based on the assumption that a broadly applied inclusionary requirement is most desirable and can be justified as argued in this report. Nevertheless, it is recognised that there may be challenges to acceptance of such an approach.

Narrowing or reduction of the requirements – for example through a reduced rate, selective exemptions, or application only to residential development – will reduce the quantum of contribution housing collected under the scheme, and may introduce some inequities in its application. However even a narrowed inclusionary requirement would likely be more effective than the current voluntary model.

Without resiling from the approach recommended below, a narrower or reduced application can logically be supported in accordance with this report, but noting that this will come at the cost of reduced effectiveness of the scheme.

Applicable zones

It is proposed that the policy apply to all land except land in a public land zone. The public land zones are normally applied to public land owned or managed by a government department or public land manager. They include the following zones:

- Public Use Zone
- Public Park and Recreation Zone
- Public Conservation and Resource Zone
- Transport Zone

The rationale for excluding the public land zones is that land in these zones is owned by government or statutory authorities, and the purpose of development in these zones is to provide a community benefit. Development in these zones is generally funded by the community (through government funds).

Land use and development triggers

It is proposed that the policy requirement will apply to any planning permit applications that generate a net increase in floor area, for the following land uses:

- Accommodation (excluding residential aged care facility, rooming house, rural worker accommodation, and small second dwelling)
- Industry
- Office
- Retail premises
- Warehouse

The requirement would also apply to new residential subdivision (other than existing buildings, or where a contribution has already been made).

The following development is exempt from the policy requirement:

- Single dwellings
- Extensions to existing dwellings
- Replacement buildings

The rationale behind this list is as follows:

- The list includes uses other than accommodation (specifically industry, office, retail premises and warehouse) to recognise that the benefit of affordable housing is to the whole community, not just residents of an area. Affordable housing provides a more diverse range of housing options that supports both residents and commercial activities that require workers and customers. This is the reason why the affordable housing contribution is proposed to apply more widely than just to accommodation uses.
- Replacement dwellings, and additions to new dwellings, are not included as in most cases additional demand is not generated, and in cases where it is, the administrative burden of managing the application would outweigh the benefit.
- However, extensions to other forms of accommodation, industry, office, retail premises and warehouse are included as generally extra demand will be generated in the form of additional residents or employees. Social and affordable housing provision will serve the whole Bayside community; therefore, all developers, including those producing commercial, retail and other non-residential uses, should pay their fair share towards this essential infrastructure.
- While new single dwellings on an existing lot do generate new demand, and arguably should be included in a broad-based inclusionary requirement, they have been excluded because they frequently do not need a permit, meaning that they cannot be drawn into the mechanism without adding a permit trigger. This would cause significant administrative complexity while adding a relatively modest number of new developments into the requirement (as there are not expected to be large numbers of vacant lots in Bayside.)
- Public uses (such as schools, community facilities, recreational facilities, etc) are excluded from the contribution as they are already providing a community benefit. This includes the following use groupings: education centre group, leisure and recreation group and place of assembly group.
- Some accommodation uses already provide a community benefit by providing diverse and affordable housing, and the imposition of an additional affordable housing contribution may make them unviable, and unaffordable to prospective tenants. These uses include residential aged care facility, rooming house rural worker accommodation and small second dwellings. It is noted that these uses are already provided separate facilitative provisions in the Victorian Planning Scheme.

5.4 Recommended implementation pathway

The recommended policy implementation pathway involves setting a clear expectation in the scheme for affordable housing contributions using both policy and the SCO (along with its associated Incorporated Document). Planning permit applicants will be required to provide an affordable housing contributions as a condition of a permit for eligible development. This would be relevant for planning

permit applications for both residential and non-residential development that generate a net increase in the number of buildings.

It is proposed to apply the SCO to all non-publicly zoned land across the municipality.

The benefit of this pathway is it provides transparency to all development applications regarding the required affordable housing contribution.

Contributions will be secured by a condition on the planning permit, requiring the applicant to either make the contribution prior to development, or to enter into a Section 173 Agreement to make the agreed contribution. This allows a choice between simply demonstrating a contribution, or the use of a Section 173 Agreement. The latter option allows for flexibility, including – if council considered it appropriate – adjusting the timing of payment (for example to better align with realisation of profit from development).

The administrative costs associated with preparing a Section 173 agreement can be minimised by Council developing a standard agreement and making it available to applicants at no costs.

5.5 Staged implementation

As noted in Section 3.4 above, the incidence of affordable housing contributions will fall on land sellers as, provided the cost are pre-notified, they can be passed back rather passed forward. To reduce the impact of affordable contribution requirements on land sellers (and developers that have recently purchased land) consideration might be given to the introduction of a lower contribution rate initially which could increase over time to the maximum rate as calculated in chapter 4. This gradual introduction of the contribution requirement would allow markets to adjust and remove the prospect of any shock effects as a result of the new policy.

5.6 Administering development contributions

This report assumes that contributions could be made directly to a registered housing provider. For large residential developments this may include housing, but for smaller projects and non-residential development this will usually be a financial contribution. In this case, the amount of the financial contribution should be equivalent to the 2.6 per cent of the total gross realisation value (GRV) of the residential floor space in the development. The GRV can be provided by the developer to Council. Alternatively, Council can request that an independent valuer provide this figure.

The direct contribution model is only one model for administering contributions. Other options are:

- **Local trust:** Council could develop a local trust for the City of Bayside which is either managed by Council or managed by someone else on behalf of Council.
- **Regional trust:** a regional or state level trust could be established to collect affordable housing contributions across a range of council areas. This could be established by a collective group of councils or the state government. While this could provide strong outcomes for the region, it is likely to take time and would require strong advocacy and partnerships from councils.

- **Development of a housing agency:** Council could develop a specific housing agency to collect, manage, and develop affordable housing within the City of Bayside. This is the current approach of Merri-bek City Council.

Fundamentally, all options involve a different balance between efficiency, administrative costs and burden (on both council and developers), and accountability and transparency. The option of paying contributions directly to housing agencies minimises administrative burden for council and reduces the loss of funds due to administrative costs. However, it does reduce accountability and transparency in terms of how funds are spent and outcomes are monitored.

Appendix A: Affordable housing need analysis

SGS was engaged in 2022 to undertake an analysis of affordable housing need in the City of Bayside. The method for estimating need for housing assistance and the key results are summarised below. Refer to **Appendix B** for further detail on the method for SGS' Housing Assistance Demand model.

Estimating need for affordable housing

SGS' Housing Assistance Demand (HAD) model estimates the number of households that are:

- Experiencing rental stress (moderate or severe stress),
- Experiencing homelessness (acute need of housing assistance), and
- Living in social housing (who would be in rental stress if they did not receive housing assistance).

These households are used as a base to measure the level of need for housing assistance, which is interpreted as the demand for social and affordable housing units.

The HAD model estimates the number of households experiencing rental stress due to financial constraints only, and only focuses on low-income households who cannot comfortably afford rents in the private market (paying more than 30 per cent of their income on rent). The model does not account for mortgage stress (households paying more than 30 per cent of their income on mortgages for properties in which they live). While high mortgages may impact on the funds households have available for discretionary as well as essential purchases, households in mortgage stress generally have more economic assets and have the options of selling their home, and so are regarded as less in need of housing assistance.

Summary of current need and supply

The demand for affordable housing in Bayside is acute and getting worse. ABS Census data shows that as of 2016 there were just over 1,000 *households* who have *unmet* need for affordable housing, with the largest cohort being families, closely followed by lone persons, and then couples.¹¹

2021 Census data shows a third (32 per cent) of Bayside residents, or nearly 2,700 households, are in rental stress with more than 30 per cent of their income required for rent. For homeowners, mortgage stress is lower, at 16 per cent, but due to higher home ownership rates compared to renting, this still accounts for nearly 2,100 households who are spending more than 30 per cent of their income on the mortgage. In total this accounts for nearly 4,800 households in some form of housing stress.

¹¹ .id. community (2022), <https://housing.id.com.au/bayside/stress-and-need#>

The 2022 report *Minimum Supply of Social Housing Analysis* finds that there are 1,230 households in Bayside in the very low income bracket (or lowest 10 per cent of household incomes) who do not own their own home, which, importantly, does not include the much larger cohort of 'low income' households (the next 30 per cent).

There is little to no rental stock available in any part of Bayside that is affordable to those on very low incomes, and very little available for households with low incomes.

Bayside's 2021 Housing Strategy Review indicated that there is a need for approximately 422-541 additional dwellings per year to meet general population growth. While ABS data indicates that this has roughly been the average historic trend for completed dwellings, there are two reasons why this may still be a concern:

- One is the present state of affordable housing stock that this historic provision has provided. Though dwelling approvals remained high, the private market has not stepped in to replace the disinvestment in social housing. The 2023 Rental Affordability Index data illustrates the wider trend that declining affordability is the case for all income levels, though of course, this is less problematic for those on higher incomes.
- The other reason is that the future does not appear to be any better without significant additional investment. The outlook sees an increase of households on low and very low incomes shifting from moderate rental stress to severe rental stress, with the homeless population more or less unchanged. There are, however, a handful of projects that have been identified that will be of some assistance for affordable housing in Victoria and Bayside.

Victoria's Big Housing Build (BHB) is investing \$5 billion to build over 12,000 new homes over a four-year period across Victoria, with 9,300 of these being social housing. As part of this program, Homes Victoria will develop a 'social and affordable housing compact' with local governments to assist them in identifying priorities for social housing growth in their municipality. The BHB projects planned within Bayside include:

- **New Street, Brighton:** renewal of existing housing, with 299 homes that will include social, affordable, and private rentals. This development is required to achieve a 50:50 split of social to market rental housing, and will include a range of 1-3 bedroom dwellings, with all social housing designed to a minimum Silver level of Liveable Housing Australia (LHA) certification, and at least 5% of the new social housing homes to be easy to access for Victorians with disabilities. These are estimated to be complete in early 2024.
- **Bluff Road, Hampton East:** replaces older low-rise housing with a larger number of new and more energy efficient and sustainable homes. The number of new dwellings for this site is not clear (material states that there will be more than 1,400 new homes across four separate development sites, one of which is Bluff Road), but will follow the same model as the New Street development above with a 50:50 split of social to market rental housing.
- **Graham Road and Middleton Street, Highett:** the former CSIRO site will be developed into a new residential precinct. Covering nine hectares and located close to shopping and public transport, it will include four hectares of open space and community facilities and support a little over 1,000 dwellings. Dwelling types will include 1-4 bedrooms covering medium and high density forms. Crucially, however, this large development does not touch the very low to low income range, being

“relatively more affordable... compared to the Bayside median”, which as already noted is quite high.

The 2022 report for Bayside by Knox City Council, *Minimum Supply of Social Housing Analysis by Local Government Area – Bayside City Council* finds that despite median house prices rapidly increasing at the same time as access to social housing decreasing, there is currently an adequate supply of social housing for those in the lowest 10 per cent of household incomes (or the ‘very low’ bracket). The findings are summarised in Table 5.

TABLE 5: SOCIAL HOUSING SUPPLY IN BAYSIDE

Current minimum supply of social housing in Bayside (2021)	
1,230	Bayside households in the target group in 2021 (2.9% of total households)
1,209	Number of local social housing dwellings at 2021 (2021 DHHS data)
30	Estimated number of affordable private rentals in 2021
9	Social housing/affordable private rentals surplus to the needs of the most housing vulnerable as of 2021

Source: Knox City Council (2022)

The report estimates that by 2041 there will be a shortfall of approximately 250 dwellings, requiring an additional 15 social housing or affordable private dwellings per year to meet the needs of those in the ‘very low’ household income bracket. If we generously assume that half of the 299 units at New Street and a similar number at Bluff Road can provide affordable housing for the lowest 10 per cent of household incomes, then the 250 estimated number of affordable dwellings should be provided.

While this is encouraging for those on the lower end of the ‘very low’ household income bracket, there is a much larger cohort of the remaining ‘very low’, and even more in the ‘low’ household income bracket to provide affordable housing for.

Future affordable housing need

As indicated in Table 6, an estimated 16 percent of households were in need of affordable housing in 2021. This includes the households currently living in long-term social housing (not temporary accommodation), who would otherwise likely be experiencing rental stress.

The need for housing assistance is forecast to increase to over 11,000 households by 2041, representing 22% of Bayside households. In particular, the number of households in severe rental stress is estimated to increase from 8% in 2021 (3,400 households) to 22% in 2041 (10,000 households).

TABLE 6: TOTAL NEED AND SHARE OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS IN NEED OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE, 2021-2041

HOUSEHOLD TYPE <i>by priority of assistance</i>	BAYSIDE LGA 2021-2041
Homeless	500 → 439 1%
Severe rental stress	3,475 → 10,069 8% - 22%
Moderate rental stress	2,489 → 295 6% - 1%
Living in social housing	1,050 → 874 2% - 2%
TOTAL need for assistance	7,013 → 11,239 16% - 24%

Note: the social housing count comprises long-term accommodation (not temporary accommodation), source: Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

Note: the homeless count uses 2016 Census data as the release of 2021 Census data is still pending.

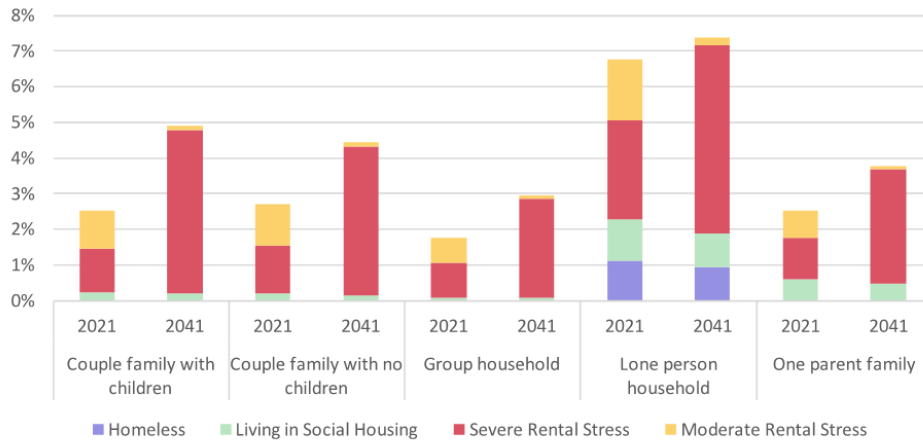
Source: SGS Economics and Planning 2022, Housing Assistance Demand model

Need by household type

Overall, the greatest need for housing assistance is among lone person households, followed by couple families with children, couple families with no children, and one parent families. A total of 13 per cent of all households in Bayside were experiencing **rental stress** in 2021. It is forecast that the proportion of severe rental stress will increase across all household groups by 2041 if there is no intervention.

Households living in **social housing** are comprised only of very-low income bands. They represent a mix of household types, but the majority are lone person and one parent family households. It is noted that the count of **homeless** people assumes that this cohort only comprises lone person households.

FIGURE 3: COHORTS IN NEED OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE, BAYSIDE, 2021-2041



Source: SGS Economics and Planning 2022, Housing Assistance Demand model

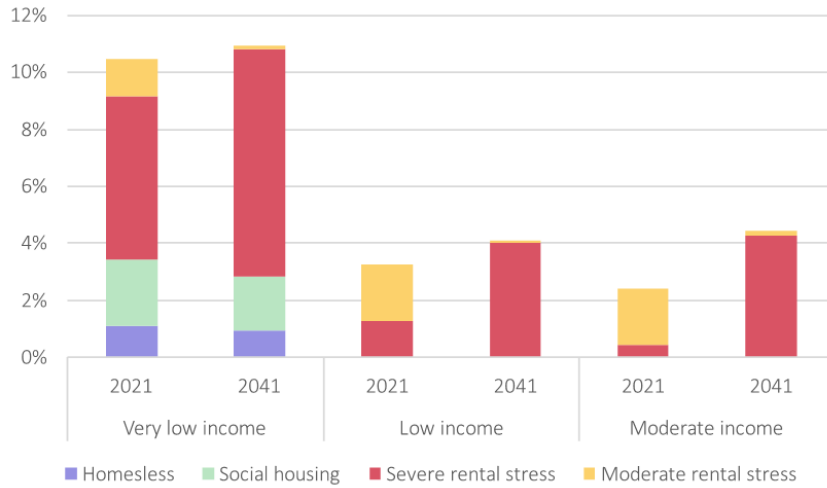
Need by income level

Level of income provides an indication of the need for social versus affordable housing. Social housing is more suited for households on low to very-low incomes, while affordable housing can be suited to households on moderate incomes.

In Bayside, of the estimated 11,000 total households that will need housing assistance in 2041, approximately 45 per cent will comprise very-low-income households, and 35 per cent will comprise low- and moderate-income households respectively.

When considering need for housing assistance across income levels, those households on very-low incomes are most vulnerable to rental stress. As indicated in Figure 19, of the total households in Bayside, 5 per cent were on low and moderate incomes and experiencing severe rental stress. This is in comparison to approximately 10 per cent for very-low-income households. By 2041, households experiencing moderate stress will be pushed into severe stress.

FIGURE 4: COHORTS IN NEED OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE BY INCOME LEVEL, BAYSIDE, 2021-2041



Source: SGS Economics and Planning 2022, Housing Assistance Demand model

Appendix B: Method for estimating need for housing assistance

To understand the need for housing assistance, the Housing Assistance Demand (HAD) model produced by SGS has been applied. An overview of the HAD model is shown in Figure 5.

This model was originally produced by SGS in 2018 for the Victorian State Government. It has since been further developed and refined to apply to local government areas across Victoria. The model has been applied across many SGS strategic planning projects. Results from the HAD model have been incorporated in evidence tested in hearings conducted at Planning Panels Victoria (PPV) as part of planning scheme amendment proposals, including several precinct-scale inclusionary requirement and value capture policies.

The HAD model estimates the number of households that may require housing assistance, i.e. the demand for affordable housing. It models this demand by calculating the:

1. Number of households experiencing moderate and severe rental stress (not mortgage stress)
2. Number of people experiencing homelessness
3. Number of households living in social housing (people living in either community housing or state-provided social housing)

The HAD model further disaggregates these groups by income level (very low, low, and moderate) as indicated in Table 5. The income ranges are published in the Governor in Council Order under section 3AB of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and updated annually (Table 7). In the HAD modelling, these incomes are deflated to be consistent with reported incomes in the 2021 ABS Census.

The HAD model estimates the number of households experiencing rental stress due to financial constraints only and focuses on households that cannot comfortably afford rents in the private market (paying more than 30 per cent of their income on rent).

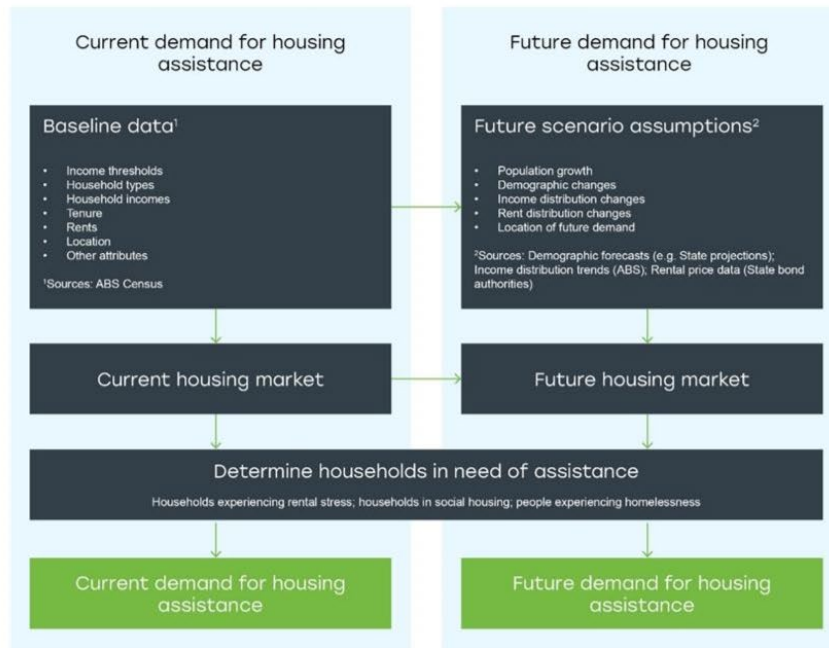
The number of households in stress in each category is based on these stress rates and aligned with population forecasts, with three scenarios created (low central and high) reflecting the likely future movements of incomes and rents. The central scenario has been reported in this Strategy as it represents the most likely outcome.

TABLE 7: AFFORDABLE HOUSING WEEKLY INCOME THRESHOLDS, GREATER CAPITAL CITY STATISTICAL AREA OF MELBOURNE, 2023

Household type	Very-low income	Low income	Moderate income
Single	Up to \$513	\$513 to \$821	\$821 to \$1,231
Couple (no dependants)	Up to \$769	\$769 to \$1,231	\$1,231 to \$1,847
Family (single or couple with dependent children)	Up to \$1,077	\$1,077 to \$1,724	\$1,724 to \$2,586

Source: Victorian Government Gazette (22 June 2023)

FIGURE 5: OVERVIEW OF SGS' HOUSING ASSISTANCE DEMAND MODEL



Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2023)

Appendix C: Precedents for affordable housing contributions policies

This appendix provides an overview of affordable housing contribution policies implemented across various Local Government Areas, in Table 8 (ordered alphabetically by council). These policies were implemented in the relevant planning schemes, in most cases following consideration by a planning panel.

TABLE 8: SUMMARY OF PRECEDENTS – AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

Planning Scheme Amendment	Location in Planning Scheme	Site	Requirement	Scale	Headline SAH objective	Nominated discount to market price	Effective SAH contribution rate (at no cost)	Supplementary value share arrangement
Amendment C155glen – Glen Eira Planning Scheme Gazetted 31/03/2021	SCHEDULE 2 TO CLAUSE 37.02 COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT ZONE	East Village, City of Glen Eira	Mandatory, but only applies to supplementary value share.	Redevelopment of former industrial area producing 3,000 plus dwellings	Provide for 10% of the number of dwellings beyond 3,000 (1 in 10) to be provided as affordable housing dwellings (Value Share)	None specified	Not specified	10% of the number of dwellings beyond 3,000 (1 in 10) provided as affordable housing
Amendment C088 – Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme Gazetted 24/09/2018	SCHEDULE 2 TO CLAUSE 37.02 COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT ZONE	Altona North Precinct 15, Hobsons Bay	Mandatory inclusionary requirement, applied through S 173.	Urban renewal infill site producing up to 3,000 dwellings	A number of dwellings equal to 5 per cent of the total dwellings that are constructed on the land rounded down to the nearest whole number, must be identified as Affordable Housing Dwellings. The price at which the Affordable Housing Dwellings are to be made available for purchase to the Council or a Housing Agency must not exceed	25%	1.25%	No

Planning Scheme Amendment	Location in Planning Scheme	Site	Requirement	Scale	Headline SAH objective	Nominated discount to market price	Effective SAH contribution rate (at no cost)	Supplementary value share arrangement
Amendment C160mari – Maribyrnong Planning Scheme Gazetted 27/05/2019	SCHEDULE 7 TO CLAUSE 43.04 DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY	Bradmill Precinct, West Yarraville	Highly discretionary inclusionary requirement – requires production of a report.	Development of a residential estate producing up to 1,000 dwellings	an amount that is 25% less than the current 12-month median unit price for a two-bedroom unit in Altona North	None specified	Not specified	No
Amendment GC81 – Melbourne Planning Scheme and Port Phillip Planning Scheme Gazetted 05/10/2018	Local Policy: CLAUSE 22.15-4.3 (CoPP) CLAUSE 11.03-6 L-06 (CoM)	Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal Area	Discretionary guideline. The Minister did not support mandatory affordable housing contributions, stating that these were not supported in the existing statutory framework. This is reinforced by the Review Panel's findings that Victoria's policy framework is geared towards	Urban renewal area	Providing at least six per cent of dwellings as Affordable housing, with additional Social housing dwellings provided as part of a Social housing uplift scheme. The Panel supported flexibility in the 6 per cent contributions, but found that there is more work needed to facilitate this.	None specified	Not specified	Social housing uplift equivalent to eight additional private dwellings of equivalent size for each social housing unit provided. The Panel supports the delivery of social housing in Fishermans Bend, but states that any uplift scheme needs to be in proportion to the base number of dwellings permitted.

Planning Scheme Amendment	Location in Planning Scheme	Site	Requirement	Scale	Headline SAH objective	Nominated discount to market price	Effective SAH contribution rate (at no cost)	Supplementary value share arrangement
			voluntary contributions, with the Housing Affordability Act cited for its support for voluntary Section 173 Agreements.		Since the implementation of this Clause the Fishermans Bend Framework 2018 has been developed. The Framework includes specific strategies to ensure that adequate social and affordable housing infrastructure is provided. The framework and the Planning Scheme do not indicate what cost the affordable housing will be provided at. Based on feedback from Council a 30 per cent discount is the rate being applied across most applications.			
Amendment C270meib – Melbourne Planning Scheme Gazetted 23/11/2016	SCHEDULE 2 TO CLAUSE 37.04 CAPITAL CITY ZONE	Central City	Yes – but achieved through value sharing.	Central City	Development exceeding a FAR of 18.1 would trigger the Floor Area Uplift	None specified	Not specified	Any uplift must be supplemented by a public benefit (e.g. affordable housing).

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Planning Scheme Amendment	Location in Planning Scheme	Site	Requirement	Scale	Headline SAH objective	Nominated discount to market price	Effective SAH contribution rate (at no cost)	Supplementary value share arrangement
					<p>Scheme (Value Share).</p> <p>Development in excess must provide defined 'public benefits', which would need to be agreed on prior to proceeding. There are five public benefit categories set out in the Guidelines, including social housing on site.</p>			
Amendment C309 (or C385 melb) – Melbourne Planning Scheme Gazetted 10/05/2022	SCHEDULE 6 TO CLAUSE 37.01 SPECIAL USE ZONE CLAUSE 11.03-6L-15	West Melbourne Structure Plan	Discretionary – expressed through a decision guideline.	Mixed use area undergoing incremental redevelopment, producing around 6,700 dwellings	<p>One in sixteen dwellings within the development (at least 6%) should be an affordable housing dwelling. This should be provided to a Housing Provider at no cost or to be held in an affordable housing Trust and managed for the sole purpose of affordable housing.</p>	100%	6.0%	No

Planning Scheme Amendment	Location in Planning Scheme	Site	Requirement	Scale	Headline SAH objective	Nominated discount to market price	Effective SAH contribution rate (at no cost)	Supplementary value share arrangement
Amendment C407meib – Melbourne Planning Scheme Gazetted 28/07/2022	SCHEDULE 7 TO CLAUSE 37.01 SPECIAL USE ZONE CLAUSE 11.03-6L-01	Arden Precinct	Discretionary inclusionary requirement – expressed as policy.	Redevelopment of former industrial area	Providing a minimum 6 per cent of dwellings at 50 per cent discount	50%	3.0%	No
Amendment C123 – Merri-bek Planning Scheme Gazetted 15/10/2015	SCHEDULE 1 TO CLAUSE 37.08 ACTIVITY CENTRE ZONE	Coburg Activity Centre	Highly discretionary inclusionary requirement	Implements the land use and built form directions from the Central Coburg 2020 Structure Plan (2006) and Colours of Coburg Place Framework and Strategies (2010), the community framework of The Coburg Initiative	To encourage and facilitate the provision of affordable housing choices for people in the lowest 40% of income groups.	None specified	Not specified	Variation to height controls can use affordable housing as justification.
Amendment C156mona – Monash Planning Scheme Gazetted 10/09/2021	SCHEDULE 2 TO CLAUSE 37.02 COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT ZONE	Clayton PMP Printing Site, City of Monash	Mandatory inclusionary requirement, achieved through S 173.	Redevelopment of former industrial area	The delivery of up to ten (10) per cent Affordable Housing through: Transfer of a land parcel or parcels with the capacity to support the development of 10 per cent of the site's total dwellings as Affordable Housing dwellings; or Sale of four per cent of total dwellings as	Various	Not specified	No

Planning Scheme Amendment	Location in Planning Scheme	Site	Requirement	Scale	Headline SAH objective	Nominated discount to market price	Effective SAH contribution rate (at no cost)	Supplementary value share arrangement
					<p>completed dwellings at a 50 per cent discount to the established market value to a Registered Housing Agency for use as Affordable (rental) Housing; or</p> <p>The gifting of two per cent of total dwellings as Affordable Housing, delivered in the form of completed dwellings gifted to a Registered Housing Agency for use as Affordable (rental) Housing; or</p> <p>Any other model that achieves ten per cent of total dwellings as Affordable Housing for a minimum 15-year period.</p>			

Planning Scheme Amendment	Location in Planning Scheme	Site	Requirement	Scale	Headline SAH objective	Nominated discount to market price	Effective SAH contribution rate (at no cost)	Supplementary value share arrangement
Amendment C207moon Moonee Valley Planning Scheme Gazetted 28/01/2022	SCHEDULE 1 TO CLAUSE 37.08 ACTIVITY CENTRE ZONE	Moonee Ponds Activity Centre	Mandatory inclusionary	Mixed use centre undergoing incremental redevelopment	Facilitation provision of affordable housing including five per cent of the total number of dwellings in Precinct 9	None specified	Not specified	No
Amendment C204 – Whittlesea Planning Scheme Gazetted 30/9/2021	SCHEDULE 2 TO CLAUSE 37.08 ACTIVITY CENTRE ZONE	Plenty Valley Town Centre	Precinct 1: Broad discretionary inclusionary requirement Precinct 2A: Mandatory but supplementary value share (see column at right)	Town centre development	Precinct 1: Civic- New residential developments should integrate 5% of dwellings as social housing and 10% of dwellings as affordable housing. Precinct 2: Transport Hub- New residential development in Precinct 2A which exceeds 13.5m in height must integrate 5% of the additional dwellings as social housing and 10% of the additional dwellings as affordable housing.	None specified	Not specified	Yes, in precinct 2A. Development which exceeds 13.5m in height must integrate 5% of the additional dwellings as social housing and 10% of the additional dwellings as affordable housing.

Planning Scheme Amendment	Location in Planning Scheme	Site	Requirement	Scale	Headline SAH objective	Nominated discount to market price	Effective SAH contribution rate (at no cost)	Supplementary value share arrangement
Amendment C213 – Whittlesea Planning Scheme Gazetted 27/8/2020	SCHEDULE 39 TO CLAUSE 43.04 DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY	Former Epping Quarry and landfill	Development plan must provide for 10% affordable housing or alternative. Once a development plan is approved, permits must comply. Prior to the approval of a Development Plan, the landowner must enter into a Section 173 Agreement.	Rehabilitation of former quarry and landfill for mixed use purposes. Including commercial, retail and residential	Delivery of 5% of the overall housing stock as social housing, and the delivery of 10% of overall housing stock as affordable housing or make other arrangements	None specified	Not specified	No
Amendment C203Yran – Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme Gazetted 28/01/2022	SCHEDULE 1, TO CLAUSE 37.02 COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT ZONE	Lilydale Quarry, Yarra Ranges	Discretionary inclusionary requirement	Quarry redevelopment producing 3,250 dwellings plus ancillary uses	Equal to 5 per cent of the total dwellings proposed to be delivered	None specified	Not specified	No
Amendment C223Yara – Yarra Planning Scheme Gazetted 06/05/2021	SCHEDULE 15 TO CLAUSE 43.04 DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY	81-95 Burnley St and 26 Doonside St, Richmond, City of Yarra	Mandatory inclusionary	Residential and commercial development producing 500 dwellings	Provision of 10 per cent of the total number of dwellings	None specified	Not specified	No

Planning Scheme Amendment	Location in Planning Scheme	Site	Requirement	Scale	Headline SAH objective	Nominated discount to market price	Effective SAH contribution rate (at no cost)	Supplementary value share arrangement
Amendment C263Yarra – Yarra Planning Scheme Gazetted 21/07/2022	SCHEDULE 16 TO CLAUSE 43.04 DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY	Fitzroy Gasworks, City of Yarra	Discretionary inclusionary requirement – development plan needs to address but schedule does not express as a mandatory requirement, and target is for up to 20%.	Redevelopment of former industrial area producing 1,200	Provision of up to 20 per cent of dwellings as affordable housing	None specified	Not specified	No

Further relevant panel discussions

The following proposed amendments were overall not supported by Planning Panels Victoria, and the Planning Scheme Amendments were not approved.

Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme Amendment C184 Part 2 (June 2015)

This Amendment referred to the proposed rezoning of surplus South East Water land in Mount Eliza from PUZ1 to NRZ1 as well as the application of the Environmental Audit Overlay. It also aimed to restrict the use of land by directing that two of the 24 lots affected by the Amendment cannot be used for dwellings, unless the dwelling are occupied by persons eligible for public housing. The purpose of the Panel Hearing was to assess whether the land should be zoned for residential purposes. The Panel found that it should be and that there was no strategic justification to restrict the use of two lots for residents eligible for public housing. It was thought that such a restrictive provision was not an appropriate mechanism for encouraging greater housing diversity and affordability and would be difficult to monitor and enforce.

Council was advised to explore mechanisms outside the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme to encourage greater housing diversity and affordability. It was thought that approaches to the Amendment could either:

- Make the land more attractive for private developers or non-profit housing providers to buy and develop for affordable housing for low-income earners; or
- Facilitate other types of residential buildings, such as a boarding house, subject to removal of a covenant affecting the land.

Overall, the Panel did not take issue with the need for affordable or social housing. However the panel did not think that the proposed mechanism was an effective or appropriate means of achieving it.

Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme Amendment C131

The Amendment concerned the application of new residential zones across Hobsons Bay. There was an identified issue around whether or not the requirements for affordable housing contributions were clear. A submission referred to the Affordable Housing Policy Statement 2016 and Hobsons Bay Preparing Social Impact Assessment – Applicant C112 Guidelines as background documents – highlighting a discrepancy between the Statement targets for 10 per cent affordable housing contribution when recent decisions by the Minister for Planning have sought contributions of around 4 per cent. In response to this the Panel found that Council could not seek a 10 per cent affordable housing contribution because the Affordable Housing Policy Statement 2016 is listed as a background document. The Panel supports further strategic work if Council wish to pursue affordable housing contributions through the planning process, and that any policy regarding contributions be included as appropriate in the Planning Scheme.

Appendix D: Method for calculating affordable housing contributions rate

The steps required to determine the affordable housing contributions rate are summarised in the table below and elaborated in the following pages.

TABLE 9: SUMMARY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTRIBUTION CALCULATION

Steps	Calculation	Value
Step 1: Identify Victorian affordable housing need	Estimated percentage of dwellings required as affordable housing.	14%
Step 2: Determine the share of need to be met through local development	Share of responsibility – one-third assigned to development sector, one-third to State Government and one-third to Commonwealth Government. $(14\% \times 1/3)$	4.7%
Step 3: Calculate a contribution rate for all market residential and non-residential floor space. (This step adjusts the contribution rate to account for the inclusion of non-residential floor space and the exemption of social and affordable housing floor space).	Conversion factor when contribution rate is applied to all market floor space: 86% = dwellings that are not required as affordable housing (100%-14%) 25% = percentage of floorspace that is non-residential 75% = percentage of floorspace that is residential. Conversion factor: $(86\% + 25\%) / 75\% = 119\%$ Contribution rate applied to all market floor space: $4.7\% / 119\% = 3.91\%$	3.91%
Step 4: Adjust the contribution rate to account for ability for housing agencies to pay developers for a portion of housing	Share of very low income households (64% of Victorian households in need of affordable housing) at a 100% discount: $3.91\% \times 64\% \times 100\% = 2.50\%$ Share of low and moderate income households (36% of Victorian households in need of affordable housing) at a 30% discount: $3.91\% \times 36\% \times 30\% = 0.42\%$ $2.50\% + 0.42\% = 2.93\%$	2.93%

Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024)

Step 1: Identify Victorian affordable housing need

The framing of inclusionary requirements suggests that all developments should contribute to affordable and social housing in the same way as they do for parks, roads, community facilities and other essential infrastructure.

Given that affordable housing is essential infrastructure necessary for the long-term sustainability of all communities, its requirement in any given community should be determined based on consistent per capita ratios. Every community in Victoria should have access to the equivalent proportion of social housing, in the same way that they all require similar rates of open space provision. Therefore, it is appropriate to adopt a state-wide percentage rate of need in determining a social housing contribution rate in the council.

Estimates of the need for affordable rental housing in Victoria, inclusive of social housing as defined in the *Planning and Environment Act*, are shown in Table 10 using data from both the 2016 and 2021 censuses.

In 2016, an estimated 14.5% of all households across Victoria needed housing assistance. The estimate for 2021 is lower at 11.3%. However, this estimate is unlikely to reflect normal conditions. The 2021 Census was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, during a period when rents were unusually low due to reduced demand, while at the same time many lower income households benefited from (temporarily) higher welfare payments to mitigate the economic impact of job losses. In Melbourne, the average rent fell by 12% between March 2020 and mid-2021 but had returned to pre-pandemic level by mid-2022 (see Figure 6).

Therefore, the 2016 census provides the last reliable measurement of need for housing assistance and should be used as the basis for Council’s affordable housing contributions policy.

TABLE 10: ESTIMATED AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEED, VICTORIA, 2016 AND 2021

Household category	2016	2021
(A) Homeless	24,818	21,492
(B) In social housing	71,358	91,376
€ In severe rental stress	137,484	114,150
(D) In moderate rental stress	116,338	67,025
(E) Total households in need of housing assistance (including those in social housing)	349,998	294,043
(F) Total households	2,416,554	2,591,147
(G) Percentage of total households in need of affordable housi€(E)/(F)	14.5%	11.3%

Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024), based on ABS Census 2016 and 2021

FIGURE 6: INDEX OF MELBOURNE AVERAGE RENTS (MARCH 2020 = 100)



Source: Helm, T. (2023) Melbourne's Pandemic Rental Dynamics: An (Un)Natural Experiment in Excess Supply, Prosper Australia Research Institute.

Step 2: Determine the share of need to be met through local development

Like other essential infrastructure for successful communities, the funding of the requirement for social and affordable housing is a shared responsibility between the Commonwealth Government, the State Government, and those engaged in the land development process.

Arguably, the externalities associated with the adequate provision of social and affordable housing infrastructure can be divided into three, equally weighted, categories – poverty mitigation, better labour markets and better places.¹² These align respectively to the roles of the Commonwealth, the State Government, and developers/landowners.

Accordingly, each of these parties should meet one third of the cost of providing the required percentage of the affordable housing infrastructure (Table 11).¹³ As such, it is reasonable that the Federal Government, the state government, and development proponents should each provide 4.7% of the required affordable housing (one third of 14%).

¹² SGS Economics and Planning (2023). 'National housing assistance policy: Trends and prospects. Available: https://sgsep.com.au/assets/main/SGS-Economics-and-Planning_Commonwealth-housing-policy_occasional-paper.pdf

¹³ Note: The measurement of need for housing assistance based on the 2016 ABS Census has been rounded down from 1.5% to 1.4% to avoid overestimates.

TABLE 11: AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROVISION

	Responsibility	Weighting
Commonwealth Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Social security	1/3
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigating poverty	
State Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Spatial labour markets	1/3
Development process	<input type="checkbox"/> Creating better places	1/3

Source: SGS Economics and Planning (2024), 'National housing assistance policy: Trends and prospects'

Step 3: Calculate inclusionary requirement contribution rate for all market residential and non-residential floor space

The 4.7% contribution requirement from local development refers specifically to the share of residential development only (as the benchmark is the share of dwellings). Inclusionary requirements, however, should be applied across all development types that use this essential infrastructure, including both residential and non-residential floorspace. This is because the efficiency and continuity of businesses and organisations which occupy non-residential developments in Bayside, including retailing, hospitality, health services, childcare, aged care and education among others, will in part be dependent on availability of lower paid workers. Reliability and continuity in the supply of these workers depends, in turn, on the availability of local affordable accommodation. In other words, social and affordable housing infrastructure supports local services as well as households. At the same time, the inclusionary requirement contribution rate is not applied to new social and affordable housing floorspace.

Within the LGA, residential development accounts for approximately 75% of the total floor space, while non-residential development comprises around 25% of floor space (as detailed in Appendix E).¹⁴ Additionally, as discussed above, an estimated 14% of all dwellings (or residential floor space) would need to be designated as social or affordable housing to address the total demand for housing assistance.

By applying the contribution rate to all market floor space (including both residential and non-residential), the rate is reduced to **3.91%**. This adjustment is due to a larger pool of new floor space contributing to achieving the targeted share of affordable housing supported by local development. Detailed calculations are provided in Table 10.

For estimated floorspace data inputs, refer to **Appendix E**.

¹⁴ Based on 2021 Census job types and SGS floor space ratio modelling data.

TABLE 12: AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTRIBUTION RATE WHEN APPLIED TO ALL FLOOR SPACE IN BAYSIDE CITY COUNCIL

	Residential floor space		Non-residential floor space.	Total
	Social & Affordable Housing	Market housing	Market	
Ratio of residential to non-residential development	75%		25%	100%
Share of housing required to be social and affordable				14%
Notional 'units' of development by floor space type (all residential = 100 units)	(100*14%) = 14	(100 - 14) = 86	(25/75*100) = 33	(14+86+33) = 133
Development to which a contribution is applied	-	86	33	(86+33) = 119 (A)
Contribution from local development (1/3 of 14%)				4.67% (B)
Contribution from local development applied to market res. and non-res. floor space (B x 100/A)				3.91%
Adjust for housing agencies ability to pay (see table 10, step 4, above)				2.93%

Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024)

Step 4: Adjust the contribution rate to account for housing agencies' ability to pay

To provide housing for very low income households, deep subsidies are required to cover the costs of housing provision as these households can only afford very modest rents. In contrast, housing low to moderate incomes households requires a lower level of subsidy as these households can afford (sub-market) rents. This increase in rent, in part, offsets the costs incurred by housing agencies (e.g. servicing loans, maintenance, overheads, etc.).

Across Victoria, of those households experiencing housing stress, 64% are classified as very low income, while 36% fall into the low to moderate income category. Consequently, housing agencies will need to house 64% of tenants with little or no operating surplus from the dwellings in question; meaning agencies will have no capacity to raise capital to support this housing.

Meanwhile, 36% of tenants will be able to pay rent which, even at affordable levels relative to income, will still provide the housing agency with a modest surplus that they can use to partly fund provision of the relevant dwellings.

The method uses assumptions, based on current practice in other precincts in Melbourne including Fishermans Bend. It is assumed that households on low to moderate incomes are able to generate enough income to adequately make their rental payments to housing agencies. The rental yield generated by housing agencies is expected to be enough to cover all the expenses associated with operating and maintaining the rental housing units, provided housing agencies can purchase the housing at 30% discount market rate, a benchmark which is based on other precedents such as Fishermans Bend.

Given this, SGS have assumed that for very low income households the dwellings need to be provided at 100% discount from the market rate. However, for low to moderate income households housing agencies can contribute to the purchase of dwellings, however they need to be provided at a 30% discount on the market price.

Based on the above four steps, the effective affordable housing contribution to be applied across Bayside City Council is **2.9%** of total GRV of the development (Table 13).

TABLE 13: LEVEL OF INCOME WITHIN VICTORIA AND EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION RATE

Income level	Number of households	Percentage of households	Housing contribution and % discount	Effective affordable housing contribution
Very low	248,712	64%	64% of 3.91% at 100% discount	2.50%
Low income	69,423	36%	36% of 3.91% at 30% discount	0.42%
Moderate income	69,423			
Total	387,558	100%		2.9%

Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024)

Appendix E: Floorspace estimates

The table below shows the total increase in residential and non-residential floorspace in Bayside between 2011 and 2021. It is a key input in Step 3 of calculating the contribution rate (**Appendix D**). The floorspace estimates in the table below have been prepared using ABS Census data for dwellings and job types.

TABLE 14: INCREASE IN RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL FLOORSPACE – 2011 TO 2021

Type	Floorspace per dwelling/job (sqm)	Floorspace (sqm)	Total (sqm)	%
Detached/Separate	484	200	96,841	
Medium-density	3,564	140	498,998	
High-density	1,092	80	87,322	
Dwelling floor space			683,161	75%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	-33	100	-3,300	
Mining	-5	100	-493	
Manufacturing	-144	80	-11,516	
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	-54	100	-5,405	
Construction	414	80	33,159	
Wholesale Trade	-174	80	-13,932	
Retail Trade	646	30	19,366	
Accommodation and Food Services	129	26	3,362	
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	-21	75	-1,611	
Information Media and Telecommunications	178	24	4,273	
Financial and Insurance Services	1,095	19	20,812	
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	54	34	1,834	
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	1,643	22	36,145	

Type	Floorspace per dwelling/job (sqm)	Floorspace (sqm)	Total (sqm)	%
Administrative and Support Services	322	25	8,050	
Public Administration and Safety	749	19	14,228	
Education and Training	993	50	49,631	
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,679	31	52,046	
Arts and Recreation Services	193	80	15,428	
Other Services	65	43	2,803	
Employment floor space			224,882	25%
Total			908,043	

Source: ABS Census data (2011 and 2021) for dwellings and job types (2024)

Appendix F: Feasibility analysis

This appendix reports on the impact to the RLV and duration of such impact of the proposed affordable housing contribution on:

- **Residential redevelopment in non-activity centres.** This analysis was commissioned in 2024 and utilised 2024 inputs and assumptions regarding residential realisable values, construction costs, borrowing rates, etc.
- **Mixed-use redevelopment in activity centres.** This analysis is a reporting of work completed in December 2022, using 2022 inputs and assumptions regarding residential as well as non-residential realisable values, construction costs, borrowing rates, etc. SGS was not commissioned (in 2024) to update the inputs and assumptions for such activity centre-based redevelopment prototypes. However, SGS did replicate the basic calculation scenarios to assess the impact of the contribution on the RLV in redevelopment and the duration of its impact to present comparable findings (albeit based on different time periods).

Residential redevelopment in non-activity centres

This section characterises the **impact of the proposed affordable housing contribution rate on the feasibility of redevelopment prototypes**, representative of typical infill residential development occurring throughout the LGA (excluding the activity centres).

Approach and methodology

SGS's methodology follows standard residual land value (RLV) modelling, which incorporates development costs, land acquisition costs, related fees and charges, as well as an appropriate risk-adjusted return.

SGS's methodology is tailored to quantify the impacts of the proposed affordable housing contribution by quantifying the RLV for three different development scenarios:

- **Existing Use Value (EUV)** – the land value associated with the existing uses.
- **Redevelopment RLV** – the residual land value of a prototypical infill redevelopment without an affordable housing contribution, i.e., whether a redevelopment without the contribution is viable under today's market conditions.
- **Redevelopment RLV with Contribution** – the residual land value of a prototypical infill development with the proposed 2.93 per cent affordable housing contribution, i.e., whether a redevelopment with the contribution is viable in today's market.

SGS completed further modelling to identify the length of time during which revenues may escalate at some rate above development costs such that the RLV in redevelopment (with and without the proposed affordable housing contribution) may reach a point greater than or equal to the EUV. Under such circumstances, redevelopment becomes viable and the impact of the proposed contribution has

been mitigated by the escalation of revenues over costs (without compromising the developer’s margin). In this analysis (discussed at the end of this section), SGS’s modelling identified the impact in terms of length of time attributable to the proposed contribution.

Inputs and assumptions

Redevelopment prototypes

SGS tested the four redevelopment prototypes shown in Table 15. Locations were selected on the basis of the range (from low to high) in land and realisable values representative of the LGA. Redevelopment is modelled as infill, where an existing use would be replaced with new dwellings. Specifically, SGS’s modelling of redevelopment reflects a scenario where an existing single detached dwelling is demolished and replaced with two attached dwellings (duplex or townhouse project).

As shown below, ‘Existing Use’ characteristics of redevelopment have a lot size of 600 square metres with a dwelling of an average of 200 square metres. Assumptions were informed by analysis conducted by M3 Property using property sales databases. The locations selected for analysis were also informed by analysis of property databases to isolate mutually exclusive market areas defined largely by a representative range of distinct realisable values (discussed further in this section).

TABLE 15: PROTOTYPE LOCATIONAL VARIATION AND LAND USE TYPOLOGIES

Location	Lot Size	Existing Use		Redevelopment	
		Dwellings	Dwelling Size	Dwellings	Dwelling Size
Brighton / Brighton East / Hampton	600 sqm	1	200 sqm	2	150 sqm
Hampton / Black Rock / Sandringham	600 sqm	1	200 sqm	2	150 sqm
Hampton East / Highett / Cheltenham	600 sqm	1	200 sqm	2	150 sqm
Beaumaris	600 sqm	1	200 sqm	2	150 sqm

Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024)

Cost assumptions

The following building cost assumptions have been sourced from industry publications and incorporated into each redevelopment prototype.

TABLE 16: BUILDING AND DEMOLITION COSTS

Costs	Value	Metric	Source
Demolition	\$77	Per sqm lot area	Rawlinsons, 2024
Townhouse (multi-unit)	\$3,763 (high quality finish)	Per sqm of building area	Rawlinsons, 2024
Parking	\$35,000	Per surface parking space	Based on Rawlinsons, 2024 and consultation with M3 Property

Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024)

TABLE 17: SOFT COST ASSUMPTIONS USED IN MODELLING

Costs	Value/ metric	Source
Professional fees	8.5% of hard costs (HC)	Industry standard
Project management	1.5% of HC	Industry standard
Marketing and advertising	1.5% of gross realisable value	Industry standard
Legal fees	0.5% of HC	Industry standard
Contingency	10% of HC and some soft costs	Industry standard
Land Acquisition costs (e.g., title fees, valuer study)	0.5% of estimated RLV	Industry standard
Cost of financing (assumes conventional debt on 50% of total development costs + estimated RLV at an interest rate of 8.0%)	Ranges between 5.0% and 11.0% of HC	Formula-based, industry standard, current financing market assumption
Planning charges and fees	Varies – calculated on individual type of application by value.	Bayside Council Charges for Planning Services and Open Space Contributions ^{15,16}
Stamp duty	Calculated per formula	State Revenue Office, Victoria
Car parking rates	3+ bedrooms: 2 spaces	Cl. 52.06-5 Car Parking, number of car parking spaces required ¹⁷

¹⁵ <https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-06/Planning%20Fees%202022%20-%202023.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/services/planning-and-building/public-open-space-contributions#:~:text=When%20proposing%20to%20subdivide%20your,public%20parks%2C%20playgrounds%20and%20reserves.>

¹⁷ <https://planning-schemes.app.planning.vic.gov.au/Bayside/ordinance/52.06>

Developer fees, profit, etc	15% of net project revenues	Industry standard
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Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024)

Revenue assumptions

Based on sales evidence collected by and discussed with M3 Property, SGS factored redevelopment revenues for redevelopment per dwelling according to the level of finish (linked to the building costs as shown previously in Table 18) and price points shown below.

TABLE 18: DWELLING SALES PRICES

Location	Standard of Finish	Avg. \$ per sqm	Dwelling size	Price
Brighton / Brighton East / Hampton	High	\$15,000	150 sqm	\$2,250,000
Hampton / Black Rock / Sandringham	High	\$12,500	150 sqm	\$1,875,000
Hampton East / Highett / Cheltenham	High	\$9,500	150 sqm	\$1,425,000
Beaumaris	High	\$11,500	150 sqm	\$1,725,000

Source: M3 Property; SGS Economics & Planning (2024)

Existing use values

Sales evidence collected by and discussed with M3 Property was used to understand the value of land for existing uses. Based on comparable sales of 60 properties within the recent past (last 12 months or more, depending on location and volume of sales), which contained sales with average lot sizes of 650 sqm, the following assumptions were developed.

TABLE 19: EXISTING USE VALUES

Location	Sales price	Lot size	Land per sqm
Brighton / Brighton East / Hampton	\$2,880,000	600 sqm	\$4,800
Hampton / Black Rock / Sandringham	\$1,920,000	600 sqm	\$3,200
Hampton East / Highett / Cheltenham	\$1,320,000	600 sqm	\$2,200
Beaumaris	\$1,560,000	600 sqm	\$2,600

Source: M3 Property; SGS Economics & Planning (2024)

Results

The following outputs of the feasibility modelling are discussed in this section.

- **Viability of redevelopment without the affordable housing contribution.** This gives consideration to whether, under current market conditions, a redevelopment is viable at all.
- **Viability of redevelopment with the proposed 2.93 per cent affordable housing contribution.** This gives consideration to whether, under current market conditions, a redevelopment is viable with the added cost of the contribution.
- **Comparison of the RLVs between the above two scenarios.** The results of the modelling are compared to isolate the extent to which the proposed 2.93 per cent contribution impacts the RLV of the redevelopment, regardless of the viability of the redevelopment.
- **Duration of the impact on viability.** For both scenarios, SGS’s modelling incorporates a series of escalations in sales prices as well as all building costs and associated fees (including, for example, indexed escalations of local infrastructure contributions).

Viability of redevelopment

The outputs as shown below reflect the nature of the current market. Under current market conditions for costs and sales prices, modelling suggests that current RLVs are not high enough to support a viable redevelopment in any of the areas tested. RLVs are currently between 40 per cent and 54 per cent lower than current existing use values (EUV).

TABLE 20: RLV FOR REDEVELOPMENT WITHOUT AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTRIBUTION

	Net Revenue	TDC	RLV	EUV	RLV – EUV
Brighton / Brighton East / Hampton	\$4,090,909	\$2,442,892	\$1,648,017	\$2,880,000	-\$1,231,983
Hampton / Black Rock / Sandringham	\$3,409,091	\$2,281,121	\$1,127,970	\$1,920,000	-\$792,030
Hampton East / Highett / Cheltenham	\$2,590,909	\$2,134,310	\$456,599	\$1,320,000	-\$863,401
Beaumaris	\$3,136,364	\$2,265,680	\$870,684	\$1,560,000	-\$689,316

Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024)

Viability of redevelopment with affordable housing contribution

The addition of the 2.93 per cent affordable housing contribution further reduces the RLVs across each tested geography. The resulting RLVs are in the range of 45 per cent to 70 per cent lower than current EUVs.

TABLE 21: RLV FOR REDEVELOPMENT WITH 2.93% AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTRIBUTION

	Net Revenue	TDC	RLV	EUV	RLV – EUV
Brighton / Brighton East / Hampton	\$4,102,895	\$2,570,123	\$1,532,773	\$2,880,000	-\$1,347,227
Hampton / Black Rock / Sandringham	\$3,419,080	\$2,387,147	\$1,031,933	\$1,920,000	-\$888,067
Hampton East / Highett / Cheltenham	\$2,598,500	\$2,214,547	\$383,954	\$1,320,000	-\$936,046
Beaumaris	\$3,145,553	\$2,362,809	\$782,745	\$1,560,000	-\$777,255

Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024)

Impact of the proposed 2.93 per cent contribution

The purpose of the feasibility testing, however, is not to foreclose on the supportability of an affordable housing contribution on the basis of the fact that the market cannot currently support redevelopment in general.

The purpose, rather, is to isolate the impact of the contribution itself. As such, SGS compared the RLVs of redevelopment without the contribution, and redevelopment with the contribution. **As shown, one of the central findings of the feasibility impact analysis is that the proposed affordable housing contribution would reduce RLVs across tested locations between 4 per cent and 6 per cent.**

TABLE 22: IMPACT OF 2.93% AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTRIBUTION

	Redevelopment RLV w/o AHC	Redevelopment RLV w/ AHC	RLV w/o AHC – RLV w/AHC	Impact (as % of RLV w/o AHC)
Brighton / Brighton East / Hampton	\$1,648,017	\$1,532,773	-\$115,244	-4%
Hampton / Black Rock / Sandringham	\$1,127,970	\$1,031,933	-\$96,037	-5%
Hampton East / Highett / Cheltenham	\$456,599	\$383,954	-\$72,645	-6%
Beaumaris	\$870,684	\$782,745	-\$87,939	-6%

Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024)

Duration of impact

The second central finding of the feasibility impact assessment relates to length of time associated with the impact to a project’s RLV. The following table represents the outputs of SGS’s modelling in which the duration of the impact to a redevelopment’s RLV is estimated in years.

This duration is defined as the length of time during which project revenues would need to escalate above project costs such that 1) redevelopment without the contribution is viable (where the RLV is greater than or equal to the EUV), and 2) redevelopment with the proposed 2.93 per cent contribution is viable (also where the RLV is greater than or equal to the EUV). In SGS’s modelling and outputs shown below, SGS assumed generalised basic longer-term historic average rates to highlight a differential of 3 per cent per annum between revenue and cost escalation (for example, 6 per cent per annum escalation in sales prices and 3 per cent per annum escalation in construction costs).

The results illustrate that for the RLV in redevelopment without the contribution to reach a level equal to or greater than the EUV, 5 to 7 years of revenue escalation above cost escalation would need to occur. For the RLV in redevelopment with the proposed contribution, approximately 6 to 9 years of escalation would need to occur.

The difference between the two scenarios illustrates **that the proposed contribution can be mitigated by a single year of revenue over cost escalation (if greater than or equal to the modelled 3 per cent, per annum). This can be translated into policy implementation as, for example, Council publicly announcing to the market that such a contribution will take effect 12 months from the date of announcement.**

TABLE 23: IMPACT OF 2.93% AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTRIBUTION

	Years for RLV ≥ EUV		
	Redevelopment w/o AHC	Redevelopment w/ AHC	Difference
Brighton / Brighton East / Hampton	6.2 years	7.1 years	0.9 years
Hampton / Black Rock / Sandringham	5.1 years	6.0 years	0.9 years
Hampton East / Highett / Cheltenham	7.5 years	8.6 years	1.0 years
Beaumaris	4.7 years	5.7 years	1.1 years

Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024)

Mixed-use redevelopment in activity centres

This section characterises the **impact of the proposed affordable housing contribution rate on the feasibility of redevelopment prototypes**, representative of typical infill mixed-use redevelopment in the activity centres, as originally identified by SGS, M3 Property and Bayside Council in work completed in December 2022.

As noted at the beginning of this appendix section, SGS did replicate the basic calculation scenarios (and recompile results from that model) to assess and report on the impact of the contribution on the RLV in redevelopment and the duration of its impact to present comparable findings.

Approach and methodology

SGS’s methodology follows standard residual land value (RLV) modelling, which incorporates development costs, land acquisition costs, related fees and charges, as well as an appropriate risk-adjusted return.

SGS’s methodology is tailored to quantify the impacts of the proposed affordable housing contribution by quantifying the RLV for three different development scenarios:

- **Existing Use Value (EUV)** – the land value associated with the existing uses.
- **Redevelopment RLV** – the residual land value of a prototypical infill redevelopment without an affordable housing contribution, i.e., whether a redevelopment without the contribution is viable under today’s market conditions.
- **Redevelopment RLV with Contribution** – the residual land value of a prototypical infill development with the proposed 2.93 per cent affordable housing contribution, i.e., whether a redevelopment with the contribution is viable in today’s market.

SGS completed further modelling to identify the length of time during which revenues may escalate at some rate above development costs such that the RLV in redevelopment (with and without the proposed affordable housing contribution) may reach a point greater than or equal to the EUV. Under such circumstances, redevelopment becomes viable and the impact of the proposed contribution has

been mitigated by the escalation of revenues over costs (without compromising the developer’s margin). In this analysis (discussed at the end of this section), SGS’s modelling identified the impact in terms of length of time attributable to the proposed contribution.

Inputs and assumptions

Redevelopment prototypes

Major characteristics of the development prototypes were determined with staff input, including 1) location, 2) scale of development (density), and 3) land use typologies. Bayside’s major activity centres function as primary locational attributes, which align with rail public transport lines and stations. The activity centres also align with mixed-use corridors, e.g., major streets with a surrounding contiguous mix of residential and commercial uses. The following five activity centres were identified as **locations** for modelling.

TABLE 24: PROTOTYPE LOCATIONS FOR REDEVELOPMENT IN ACTIVITY CENTRES

	Medium Density (up to 4 floors)	Higher Density (4 to 8 floors)
Bay Street Activity Centre	tested	n/a ¹
Church Street Activity Centre	tested	n/a ¹
Hampton East Activity Centre	tested	tested
Sandringham Village Activity Centre	tested	n/a ¹
Hampton Street Activity Centre	tested	tested

Note 1: As noted in the narrative, although not the intent of the Council, the sensitivity testing does effectively accomplish the testing of higher densities in these activity centres.

Source: SGS, 2022.

As shown below, a critical assumption to the redevelopment prototypes is the **site area** identified for redevelopment. There are a handful, if any, large sites (e.g., surface car parks) available for acquisition and redevelopment. As such, all modelling assumes the necessity of land assemblage or amalgamation, because to accommodate a redevelopment site of 1,400 sqm to 1,800 sqm, assemblage of approximately six (6) to seven (7) would be necessary. SGS consulted with Council staff as well as aerial imagery to identify typical lot sizes. Further discussion of Existing Use (As-Is) assumptions are provided in the following sections.

TABLE 25: PROTOTYPES FOR REDEVELOPMENT IN ACTIVITY CENTRES

	Mixed-use context	
	Land Use	Lot Size
Bay Street Activity Centre – Medium Density	Mixed-use zoning	1,400 sqm
Church Street Activity Centre – Medium Density	Mixed-use zoning	1,400 sqm
Hampton East Activity Centre – Medium Density	Mixed-use zoning	1,400 sqm

Sandringham Village Activity Centre – Medium Density	Mixed-use zoning	1,400 sqm
Hampton Street Activity Centre – Medium Density	Mixed-use zoning	1,400 sqm
Hampton East Activity Centre – Higher Density	Mixed-use zoning	1,500 sqm
Hampton Street Activity Centre – Higher Density	Mixed-use zoning	1,500 sqm

Source: SGS, 2022.

The modelling uses built form parameters for each development prototype that are grounded in an understanding of the scale and type of development occurring within activity centres in Bayside, using documented market research of new developments wherever possible. Assumptions around height, floors in a development and broad land use mixes (e.g., ground floor commercial) were also developed in consultation with Council staff, as well as reviewed with M3 Property. Cost and revenue assumptions are then applied (as discussed in the following section).

Mixed-use context prototypes are defined by the following array of characteristics. It should be noted that these are the parameters that define the **baseline** development prototypes only. As described below, there are broad and specific assumptions used in the modelling, such as the building envelope, building efficiency factor, and the portion of the amount of net leasable area on the ground floor for commercial uses (e.g., retail).

- **Building Envelope (modelled assumption = 90%)** – expressed as a percent of square metres of the lot area containing the building’s footprint
- **Ground Floor Efficiency (modelled assumption = 50%)** – expressed as a percent of gross floor area (GFA) on the ground floor dedicated to ground floor net leasable/saleable uses. In the mixed-use context prototypes, ground floor is commercial use.
- **Other Floor Efficiency (modelled assumption = 85%)** – expressed as a percent of gross floor area (GFA) throughout the remainder of the building’s floors that is leasable or saleable, i.e., excluding common areas, circulation, mechanicals, etc.

Additional to these broader assumptions, the following table illustrates the baseline built form characteristics for mixed-use context projects, including the floor area ratio (FAR), gross floor area (GFA), residential and commercial net saleable area, the number of residential units, and the number of floors in the prototype. As noted above, these assumptions were developed by analysing the characteristics of new development in each activity centre across Bayside.

TABLE 26: REDEVELOPMENT PROTOTYPE FOR REDEVELOPMENT IN ACTIVITY CENTRES

	Baseline FAR	Total GFA	Commercial NSA	Residential NSA	Residential Units	Floors
Bay Street Activity Centre – Medium Density	2.0 : 1	2,800 sqm	630 sqm	1,750 sqm	22	3
Church Street Activity Centre – Medium Density	2.0 : 1	2,800 sqm	630 sqm	1,750 sqm	22	3
Hampton East Activity Centre – Medium Density	3.0 : 1	4,200 sqm	630 sqm	2,940 sqm	37	4
Sandringham Village Activity Centre – Medium Density	3.0 : 1	4,200 sqm	630 sqm	2,940 sqm	37	4
Hampton Street Activity Centre – Medium Density	3.0 : 1	4,200 sqm	630 sqm	2,940 sqm	37	4
Hampton East Activity Centre – Higher Density	5.0 : 1	7,500 sqm	675 sqm	5,700 sqm	71	6
Hampton Street Activity Centre – Higher Density	5.0 : 1	7,500 sqm	675 sqm	5,700 sqm	71	6

Source: SGS, 2022.

Cost Assumptions

Hard and soft cost assumptions are discussed below. The key hard cost assumptions that have been used in the feasibility testing are outlined in Table 27 below. All ranges presented have been escalated by 7.5 percent above the published Rawlinson’s 2022 cost factors.¹⁸ This escalator is applied (as distinct from an escalator over time in the context of a discounted cash flow analysis) to ensure that cost and revenue inputs are representative of a single recent point in time. All dollar values are expressed on a per-square metre basis.

TABLE 27: HARD COST ASSUMPTIONS FOR REDEVELOPMENT IN ACTIVITY CENTRES

Costs	Value	Metric	Source
Demolition	\$64 - \$117	Per square metre of building area	Rawlinsons Australia Construction Handbook 2022
Townhouse (multi-unit)	\$2,295 - \$2,599 (medium to high finish)	Per square metre of building area	Rawlinsons Australia Construction Handbook 2022 (escalated 7.5 per cent) anticipated for December 2022

¹⁸ This cost escalation factor is different to inflation. While it has been reported by the ABS that core inflation has increased by an annualised rate of 7.3% through Q3 2022, construction costs represent only a portion of the total basket of goods and services which are represented by the overall consumer price index (CPI).

Medium density apartment (maximum 3 floors)	\$2,252 - \$2,502 (medium to high finish) Plus \$8,579 - \$12,868 per unit for balconies (8 to 12 sqm)	Per square metre of building area Average balcony size accommodates 1 to 3-bdrm units	Rawlinsons Australia Construction Handbook 2022 (escalated 7.5 per cent) anticipated for December 2022
Higher-density (4 to 8 floors)	\$2,849 - \$3,959 (medium to prestige finish) Plus \$8,579 - \$12,868 per unit for balconies (8 to 12 sqm)	Per square metre of building area Average balcony size accommodates 1 to 3-bdrm units	Rawlinsons Australia Construction Handbook 2022 (escalated 7.5 per cent) anticipated for December 2022
Commercial construction	\$1,871 \$2,822 \$196	Per square metre of building area, mid quality: Up to 3 levels 4 to 7 levels Per square metre of building area, commercial/ retail shop finishes	Rawlinsons Australia Construction Handbook 2022 (escalated 7.5 per cent) anticipated for December 2022
Parking	\$73,584	Per car parking space, assumes 32 sqm per space gross (including circulation)	Based on (and increased from) Rawlinsons Australia Construction Handbook 2022 (escalated 7.5 per cent) anticipated for December 2022

Source: SGS, 2022.

TABLE 28: SOFT COST ASSUMPTIONS USED IN MODELLING REDEVELOPMENT IN ACTIVITY CENTRES

Costs	Value/ metric	Source
Professional fees	8.5% of hard costs (HC)	Industry standard
Project management	1.5% of HC	Industry standard
Marketing and advertising	1.0% of gross realisable value	Industry standard
Legal fees	2.0% of HC	Industry standard
Contingency	10% of HC and some soft costs	Industry standard
Land Acquisition costs (e.g., title fees, valuer study)	0.5% of estimated RLV	Industry standard

Land amalgamation premium	15% of 'As-is' RLV	Formula-based
Cost of financing (assumes conventional debt on 50% of total development costs + estimated RLV at an interest rate of 7.0%)	Ranges between 5.0% and 11.0% of HC	Formula-based, industry standard, current financing market assumption
Planning charges and fees	Varies – calculated on individual type of application by value.	Bayside Council Charges for Planning Services and Open Space Contributions ^{19,20}
Stamp duty	Calculated per formula	State Revenue Office, Victoria
Car parking rates	1-2 bedrooms: 1 space 3+ bedrooms: 2 spaces (buildings with 5+ units: 1 additional space per 5 units)	Cl. 52.06-5 Car Parking, number of car parking spaces required ²¹
Developer fees, profit, etc	20% of total development costs (including estimated RLV) ²²	Industry standard

Source: SGS, 2022.

Bayside Council Ordinance Section 52.06 provides details on car parking requirements for the range of possible land use typologies.²³ **Table 29** provides the relevant land use typologies for modelling. As described in Council's ordinance, a development's car parking requirements are calculated by multiplying the figure in Column A or Column B (whichever applies) by the measure (for example square metres, number of patrons or number of bedrooms) in Column C. The rules governing whether Column A or Column B apply are as follows:

- Column A applies unless Column B applies.
- Column B applies if 1) any part of the land is identified as being within the Principal Public Transport Network Area as shown on the Principal Public Transport Network Area Maps (State Government of Victoria, August 2018); or 2) a schedule to the Parking Overlay or another provision of the planning scheme specifies that Column B applies.

SGS has applied the car parking rate assumptions in the following manner: 1) an average residential car parking rate assumes a typical distribution of unit types in redevelopment of: 20% one-bedroom units, 60% two-bedroom units, and 20% three- or larger bedroom units (based on analysis of sales evidence

¹⁹ <https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-06/Planning%20Fees%202022%20-%202023.pdf>

²⁰ <https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/services/planning-and-building/public-open-space-contributions#:~:text=When%20proposing%20to%20subdivide%20your,public%20parks%2C%20playgrounds%20and%20reserves.>

²¹ <https://planning-schemes.app.planning.vic.gov.au/Bayside/ordinance/52.06>

²² This differs from the 15% amalgamation premium.

²³ <https://planning-schemes.app.planning.vic.gov.au/Bayside/ordinance/52.06>

of existing and off-the-plan housing units); 2) an average commercial car parking rate assumes that floor area is “shop (other than listed)” as reflective of other commercial uses with the same rate – e.g., bar, convenience shop, food and drink premises, restaurant.

TABLE 29: CAR PARKING RATES USED FOR REDEVELOPMENT IN ACTIVITY CENTRES

Land Use Typology	Column A	Column B	Car Parking Measure
Dwelling	1	1	To each one or two bedroom dwelling, plus
	2	2	To each three or more bedroom dwelling (with studies or studios that are separate rooms counted as a bedrooms) plus
Commercial (Office)	3.5	3	To each 100 sq m of net floor area
Restaurant		3.5	To each 100 sq m of leasable floor area
Bar		3.5	To each 100 sq m of leasable floor area
Shop	4	3.5	To each 100 sq m of leasable floor area

Source: Bayside Council; SGS, 2022.

Revenue Assumptions

Revenue assumptions are discussed below in two broad categories – 1) sales and lease/rental rate potentials in **redevelopment**, and 2) the sales and/or lease or rental rates of that constitute the existing land uses (**as-is values**).

- **Mixed-use context** – reflecting the typical distribution of units by bedrooms in the development prototypes, unit sizes are an average of 80 sqm, excluding an average 8 sqm balcony per unit. These units are scaled to reflect the weighted average of apartment units built in developments with a 20/60/20 percent split between 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom units of different sizes.

The price points (i.e., sales prices per sqm and average sales prices shown in **Table 30**) reflect the sales evidence through 2022 of existing and off-the-plan apartment and townhouse sales in each activity centre.²⁴ In general, they reflect the dynamics of Bayside’s market in which Bay Street and Church Street activity centres will be able to command the higher average price points, followed by activity centres south, including Sandringham Village and Hampton Street. Hampton East activity centre, being located a greater distance from the coast line is assumed to command the lowest among the price points.

²⁴ As with the application of a weighted average car parking rate to reflect the typical distribution of units in a redevelopment, the average sales price of units in the modelling reflects the weighted average unit size, e.g., a two-bedroom unit.

TABLE 30: REVENUE ASSUMPTIONS FOR REDEVELOPMENT IN ACTIVITY CENTRES

Activity Centre	\$/ sqm	Sales Price
Bay Street Medium Density	\$17,000	\$1,360,000
Church Street Medium Density	\$17,000	\$1,360,000
Hampton East Medium Density	\$12,000	\$960,000
Sandringham Village Medium Density	\$14,000	\$1,120,000
Hampton Street Medium Density	\$13,500	\$1,080,000
Hampton East Higher Density	\$12,000	\$960,000
Hampton Street Higher Density	\$13,000	\$1,040,000

Source: SGS, 2022.

Through evaluation of SGS market research, M3 Property sales evidence of commercial market sales transactions of existing product and leasing information, the following characteristics were attributed to the commercial elements of mixed-use context prototypes:

- **Office** – net effective rents of \$475 per sqm, with a yield of 5.5%, sales commission of 2.0% and a vacancy rate of 5.0%.
- **Retail**– net effective rents of \$500 per sqm, with a yield of 5.5%, sales commission of 2.0% and a vacancy rate of 5.0%.

Existing use values

In order to identify a threshold for viability above which the land sales transaction can occur, the following rule must be satisfied: The residual land value (RLV) estimated for redevelopment must be greater than the RLV of the existing uses plus an amalgamation premium of 15 percent.

Existing Use (As-Is) value assumptions were calibrated with land sales evidence in Bayside in which transactions had occurred between land owners and a developer (not an investor seeking to buy and hold existing uses).²⁵ The sales evidence suggested sites ranging between 1,000 and 1,700 sqm of land with sales prices ranging between \$5,000 and \$7,000 per square metre of land. Information on the transactions included descriptions of existing uses, such as 1) single-level residential uses, 2) ground floor commercial with a single level of residential above, and 3) single-level commercial uses.

²⁵ Land sales transactions reflecting a buyer acquiring property for investment purposes (i.e., seeking to obtain a yield on an income-producing property) will have a different willingness to pay than a purchaser acquiring property for redevelopment purposes.

TABLE 31: EXISTING USE VALUE FOR REDEVELOPMENT IN ACTIVITY CENTRES

	Lot Size	RLV	RLV per Land sqm
Bay Street Activity Centre – Medium Density	1,400 sqm	\$7,982,917	\$5,702
Church Street Activity Centre – Medium Density	1,400 sqm	\$8,821,123	\$6,301
Hampton East Activity Centre – Medium Density	1,400 sqm	\$7,560,963	\$5,401
Sandringham Village Activity Centre – Medium Density	1,400 sqm	\$8,191,043	\$5,851
Hampton Street Activity Centre – Medium Density	1,400 sqm	\$7,921,334	\$5,658
Hampton East Activity Centre – Higher Density	1,500 sqm	\$8,101,031	\$5,401
Hampton Street Activity Centre – Higher Density	1,500 sqm	\$8,776,117	\$5,851

Source: SGS, 2022.

The following rental and lease rates were estimated using analysis of rental listings across Bayside and its five activity centres, as well as commercial property market reports from CBRE, Savills, and JLL. The following assumptions result in land values matching the market’s willingness to pay (i.e., within the \$5,000 to \$7,000 per sqm of land range). Reaching such land value ranges also included commercial and residential yields (for rental properties) at 6.0 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively.

TABLE 32: NON-RESIDENTIAL EXISTING USE VALUES IN ACTIVITY CENTRES

Activity Centre	Weekly rental rate	Commercial net eff. Rent
Bay Street Medium Density	\$350	\$350 / sqm
Church Street Medium Density	\$350	n/a
Hampton East Medium Density	\$300	n/a
Sandringham Village Medium Density	\$325	n/a
Hampton Street Medium Density	\$325	\$300 / sqm
Hampton East Higher Density	\$300	n/a
Hampton Street Higher Density	\$325	n/a

Source: SGS, 2022.

Results

The following results represent a re-reporting of specific values from SGS’s 2022 model, in which the 2.93% contribution was inputted. Inputs such as baseline residential and non-residential realisable values, as well as construction costs were not adjusted for 2024 conditions. The values reported below, however, reflect the same methodology as discussed above regarding the impact of the proposed

contribution on residential redevelopment in non-activity centres. As such, the tables below report on the impact of the proposed contribution to the RLV and the duration of the impact, isolating the impact of the proposed contribution specifically.

Table 33 illustrates the difference between the EUV and RLV in redevelopment without the affordable housing contribution. The analysis illustrates that (even with 2022 inputs and assumptions of revenues and costs), only a few of the sites modelled were viable under then-current market assumptions.

TABLE 33: RLV FOR REDEVELOPMENT WITHOUT CONTRIBUTION IN ACTIVITY CENTRES

	Net Revenue	TDC	RLV	EUV	RLV – EUV
Bay Street Medium Density	\$32,366,664	\$26,460,890	\$5,905,774	\$7,982,917	-\$2,077,143
Church Street Medium Density	\$32,366,664	\$26,460,890	\$5,905,774	\$8,821,123	-\$2,915,349
Hampton East Medium Density	\$37,393,936	\$32,915,060	\$4,478,876	\$7,560,963	-\$3,082,086
Sandringham Village Medium Density	\$42,739,391	\$34,485,725	\$8,253,666	\$8,191,043	\$62,624
Hampton Street Medium Density	\$41,403,027	\$34,093,058	\$7,309,969	\$7,921,334	-\$611,365
Hampton East Higher Density	\$67,883,114	\$58,622,987	\$9,260,127	\$8,101,031	\$1,159,096
Hampton Street Higher Density	\$73,064,932	\$60,187,944	\$12,876,988	\$8,776,117	\$4,100,871

Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024), based on data from 2022

Table 34 illustrates the difference between EUV and RLV with the proposed contribution.

TABLE 34: RLV FOR REDEVELOPMENT WITH 2.93% CONTRIBUTION IN ACTIVITY CENTRES

	Net Revenue	TDC	RLV	EUV	RLV – EUV
Bay Street Medium Density	\$32,445,907	\$27,297,479	\$5,148,428	\$7,982,917	-\$2,834,489
Church Street Medium Density	\$32,445,907	\$27,297,479	\$5,148,428	\$8,821,123	-\$3,672,695
Hampton East Medium Density	\$37,487,909	\$33,907,157	\$3,580,753	\$7,560,963	-\$3,980,210
Sandringham Village Medium Density	\$42,849,026	\$35,643,171	\$7,205,855	\$8,191,043	-\$985,187
Hampton Street Medium Density	\$41,508,747	\$35,209,167	\$6,299,580	\$7,921,334	-\$1,621,754
Hampton East Higher Density	\$68,065,306	\$60,547,929	\$7,517,377	\$8,101,031	-\$583,654
Hampton Street Higher Density	\$73,262,307	\$62,273,299	\$10,989,008	\$8,776,117	\$2,212,891

Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024), based on data from 2022

Impact of the proposed 2.93 per cent contribution

Table 35 illustrates that the proposed affordable housing contribution, as applied to mixed-use redevelopments in activity centres, would reduce RLVs across tested locations between 13 per cent and 20 per cent.

TABLE 35: IMPACT OF 2.93% AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTRIBUTION IN ACTIVITY CENTRES

	Redevelopment RLV w/o AHC	Redevelopment RLV w/ AHC	RLV w/o AHC – RLV w/AHC	Impact (as % of RLV w/o AHC)
Bay Street Medium Density	\$5,905,774	\$5,148,428	-\$757,346	-13%
Church Street Medium Density	\$5,905,774	\$5,148,428	-\$757,346	-13%
Hampton East Medium Density	\$4,478,876	\$3,580,753	-\$898,124	-20%
Sandringham Village Medium Density	\$8,253,666	\$7,205,855	-\$1,047,811	-13%

Hampton Street Medium Density	\$7,309,969	\$6,299,580	-\$1,010,389	-14%
Hampton East Higher Density	\$9,260,127	\$7,517,377	-\$1,742,750	-19%
Hampton Street Higher Density	\$12,876,988	\$10,989,008	-\$1,887,979	-15%

Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024)

Duration of impact

Table 36 illustrates that, applying a similar approach to the escalation of realisable values (for residential and non-residential components of the redevelopment prototypes) and development costs, the impact of the proposed affordable housing contribution would be mitigated by approximately 1 year of market escalation (an identical result to the analysis of duration of impact on residential redevelopment in non-activity centre areas throughout the LGA discussed in the section above).

TABLE 36: DURATION OF IMPACT OF CONTRIBUTION IN ACTIVITY CENTRES

	Years for RLV ≥ EUV		
	Redevelopment w/o AHC	Redevelopment w/ AHC	Difference
Bay Street Medium Density	3.1 years	4.1 years	0.9 years
Church Street Medium Density	4.0 years	5.0 years	1.0 years
Hampton East Medium Density	3.8 years	4.9 years	1.1 years
Sandringham Village Medium Density	1.0 years	1.8 years	0.8 years
Hampton Street Medium Density	1.5 years	2.4 years	0.9 years
Hampton East Higher Density	0.4 years	1.3 years	0.9 years
Hampton Street Higher Density	-1.0 years	-0.2 years	0.9 years

Note: Negative values indicate that the prototype is already viable and does not require escalation of revenues over costs in order for the RLV to be equal to or greater than the EUV.

Source: SGS Economics & Planning (2024)

Analytical assumptions and limitations

SGS acknowledges a variety of limitations to development feasibility modelling. The Reserve Bank of Australia and other central banks around the world have adjusted their target cash rates in response to macroeconomic conditions including high rates of inflation. These changes in borrowing conditions have ushered in impacts for borrowers (cost of capital and borrowing) and for purchasers (realisable values and yields). In general, such changes have had and continue to have an immediate impact on a few key inputs and assumptions used in SGS's modelling, primarily:

- Construction materials and labour costs
- Cost of conventional debt
- Realisable values
- Yield or capitalisation rates, as investors demand higher returns from investment

Such considerations imply downside risks associated with SGS's modelling. And while this assessment has modelled the impact of potential risks (embedded in a benchmark development margin), there is still a risk that conditions change to a greater extent than were contemplated in the modelling.

There are a variety of factors and conditions in which development feasibility and the supportability of the proposed affordable housing contribution could be **improved**:

- Dwelling or floorspace potentials are higher than modelled.
- EUV assumptions are lower than modelled.
- Construction costs are lower than modelled.
- Supportable realisable values (for residential and non-residential uses) are higher than those modelled.

Feasibility and the supportability of the proposed stormwater charge could be **negatively impacted** under any one or combination of the following conditions:

- Dwelling or floorspace potentials are lower than modelled.
- EUV assumptions are higher than modelled.
- Construction costs are higher than modelled.
- Supportable realisable values (for residential and non-residential uses) are lower than those modelled.

Disclaimer: The modelling in this study has been undertaken to test the impact of a proposed affordable housing contribution. Inputs and assumptions relevant to development costs and realisable values for each prototype, such as site dimensions, GFA, site work, hard and soft costs, financing, as well as supportable realisable values, vacancy, and yield have been informed and reviewed by a Certified Valuation Firm (M3 Property) with an understanding of the redevelopment potentials for each site identified.

To the extent that an actual development were proceeding, actual costings from contractors and other trades professionals would need to be obtained to provide refinement of these costs and realisable value potentials. Under such conditions, actual inputs and assumptions for such development may be materially differ from those used by SGS in this study.

Appendix G: Planning implementation options

Available Implementation Mechanisms

As outlined in Section 5 of the report, the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) do not currently contain a specific tool to achieve contributions for affordable housing. This is despite the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* containing an objective to facilitate the provision of affordable housing in Victoria. The lack of available tools greatly limits the ability to enforce affordable housing requirements. This is especially the case for municipality-wide implementation, which would require interventions at the planning permit stage.

The key planning implementation options available are:

- **Voluntary Agreements:** Implemented through Section 173 Agreements.
- **Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS):** This provides the context for affordable housing requirements and an overarching strategic direction to facilitate affordable housing, which can be included in Clause 2.03.
- **Planning Policy Framework (PPF):** A local level (L) policy can be drafted to sit under the State Clause 16.01-2S Housing affordability to specify local objectives, strategies and policy guidelines to facilitate affordable housing.
- **Special purpose zones and associated schedules:** These include the Special Use Zone, Comprehensive Development Zone and Activity Centre Zone, which can be applied to facilitate an affordable housing contribution.
- **Built form overlays and associated schedules:** These overlays and schedules, such as Incorporated Plan Overlay, Development Plan Overlay, can be applied to facilitate an affordable housing contribution.
- **Other overlays and associated schedule:** The Specific Controls Overlay can be applied to facilitate affordable housing.

State Government direction currently endorses the use of voluntary agreements, which are implemented through Section 173 Agreements. This approach relies on voluntary participation by developers. This greatly reduces its effectiveness and fails to ensure an equitable sharing of the costs associated with providing affordable housing.

The suite of overlays that are currently used to collect development contributions (the Development Contributions Plan Overlay, the Infrastructure Contributions Plan Overlay and the Infrastructure Contributions Overlay) are not suitable for collecting affordable housing contributions as affordable housing is not recognised as a category of infrastructure for the purpose of these overlays.

The table below outlines the merits of each of the zone, overlay and associated schedules.

Tool	Scope of the tool for delivering affordable housing through value capture	Comments
ZONES		
Activity Centre Zone (ACZ)	<p>Table of uses allows conditions to be included against uses, which could incorporate an affordable housing requirement.</p> <p>A permit requirement to enter into a Section 173 Agreement to provide affordable housing can be included.</p>	<p>A structure plan is required to underpin the ACZ.</p> <p>Only suitable for defined activity centres.</p>
Special Use Zone (SUZ)	<p>Table of uses allows conditions to be included against uses, which could incorporate an affordable housing requirement.</p> <p>A permit requirement to enter into a Section 173 Agreement to provide affordable housing can be included.</p>	<p>This tool is only meant to be applied in exceptional circumstances where the standard zones will not deliver the desired outcome.</p> <p>West Melbourne Amendment C309 has used this zone to achieve a highly discretionary affordable housing contribution (see Appendix C).</p> <p>It is not suitable for a municipal wide approach.</p>
Residential Growth Zone (RGZ)	<p>The schedule allows for a maximum height to be specified. The 'default' height is 13.5m.</p> <p>Objectives can be specified in the schedule to the zone.</p>	<p>A policy in the zone schedule could specify that maximum height will only be permitted if an affordable housing contribution is made.</p> <p>Only suitable for residential areas that are zoned RGZ.</p> <p>This method can only achieve a contribution as a value share trade-off for additional development capacity; it cannot include a broad inclusionary requirement.</p>
Comprehensive Development Zone (CDZ)	<p>Table of uses allows conditions to be included against uses, which could incorporate an affordable housing requirement.</p> <p>A permit requirement to enter into a Section 173 Agreement to provide affordable housing can be included.</p>	<p>This tool is only applied where a Comprehensive Development Plan has been prepared and applies to a specific precinct/area covered by the CDZ.</p> <p>It is not suitable for a municipal wide approach.</p>
Development Plan Overlay (DPO)	<p>Can include a permit requirement that a Section 173 Agreement be entered.</p> <p>Can include guidance and requirements about how affordable housing will be delivered.</p>	<p>A development plan is not incorporated into the planning scheme. It can be introduced or changed 'to the satisfaction of the responsible authority'. A planning</p>

Tool	Scope of the tool for delivering affordable housing through value capture	Comments
		<p>scheme amendment is not needed to amend an approved plan.</p> <p>Once implemented, the DPO exempts subsequent permits from public review/notification process under all parts of the scheme. Therefore, it should normally be applied to development proposals that are not likely to significantly affect third-party interests, self-contained sites where ownership is limited to one or two parties and sites that contain no existing residential population and do not adjoin established residential areas.</p> <p>As noted in Appendix C, this method has already been used for inclusionary affordable housing contributions in other councils (Whittlesea DPO39).</p> <p>This is a suitable tool to use on a case by case basis for rezonings and precincts (if no broader inclusionary requirement applies).</p> <p>A disadvantage is that it extinguishes third party notice and appeal rights.</p> <p>It is not appropriate for municipal wide application due to the notice and review exemption, and because it requires a development plan to be prepared prior to approval of use or development on the land. This tool is designed for comprehensive development of larger sites, not lot by lot planning permit applications.</p> <p>See further discussion below.</p>
<p>Incorporated Plan Overlay (IPO)</p>	<p>Can include a permit requirement that a Section 173 Agreement be entered.</p> <p>Can include guidance and requirements about how affordable housing will be delivered.</p>	<p>The plan will be an incorporated document, part of the planning scheme. A planning scheme amendment will be needed to introduce or change the plan.</p> <p>The IPO should normally be used for sites that are likely to affect third-party interests and sites comprising multiple lots in different ownership.</p> <p>A disadvantage is that it extinguishes third party notice and appeal rights.</p>

Tool	Scope of the tool for delivering affordable housing through value capture	Comments
		<p>Due to the complexities in amending approved plans (via a planning scheme amendment) this tool is rarely used.</p> <p>The tool generally has the same disadvantages as the DPO, and is similarly unsuitable for municipality-wide application.</p>
<p>Development Contributions Plan Overlay (DCPO) and Infrastructure Contributions Plan Overlay (ICPO)</p>	<p>These overlays are the standard tools for collecting contributions towards infrastructure. The ICPO is used in greenfield settings, so the DCPO is the relevant tool for Bayside.</p> <p>The use of the tools is framed by legislation (Part 3B of the Planning and Environment Act 1987) and Ministerial Directions (for the DPO, the Ministerial Direction on the Preparation and Content of Development Contributions Plans).</p>	<p>DCPOs are the standard tool for collecting infrastructure contributions outside of a greenfield setting. However part 5 of the Ministerial Direction on the Preparation and Content of Development Contributions Plans outlines what may be funded from a DCPO.</p> <p>This list does not include affordable housing. There is a reference to “community facilities” but it is considered that attempting to argue that affordable housing fell within that definition would stretch the simple meaning of those words beyond a defensible understanding.</p>
<p>Design and Development Overlay (DDO)</p>	<p>This overlay can only control-built form and design issues.</p>	<p>Affordable housing is not a built form issue.</p> <p>Not an ideal tool for collecting affordable housing contributions as it contradicts the purpose of the overlay.</p> <p>Could possibly be used for situations where affordable housing was exchanged for a built form outcome (such as varying a discretionary height).</p>
<p>Specific Controls Overlay (SCO)</p>	<p>The overlay schedule is accompanied by an Incorporated Document.</p> <p>The Incorporated Document could include the requirements for affordable housing contributions.</p> <p>Enables specific controls to override other requirements of the planning scheme.</p>	<p>This approach has not been tested.</p> <p>The SCO is only meant to be applied in ‘extraordinary’ circumstances.</p> <p>Has typically been used to permit uses that are otherwise prohibited by the zone.</p> <p>Because it can be used to override any other scheme provision it provides a pathway for an inclusionary requirement.</p> <p>See further discussion below.</p>

Policy Statements in the MPS and PPF

A local clause in the PPF can express in-principle support for provision for affordable housing. This could be included as a stand-alone policy statement or as support for another implementation mechanism.

The Bayside cl 16.10-2L currently supports negotiated agreements through the following strategy:

Support opportunities to increase the provision of affordable housing on sites across Bayside through:

...

Negotiated affordable housing agreements with landowners, including Section 173 Agreements under the Act.

An example of (slightly) broader encouragement of inclusion of affordable housing is at Clause 16.01-2L of the Merri-bek Planning Scheme, which has the following strategy:

Encourage developments to include affordable housing to be owned and managed by a registered housing association, registered housing provider or the Director of Housing.

A statement expressed in such terms has some value in clearly asserting the need to consider affordable housing issues in planning assessments and can plant a flag for further strategic work.

The effectiveness of policy could be improved through stronger direction that:

- Uses language with stronger verbs than “encourage” and “support”; ideally policy should be to “require” contributions (noting that this will usually require support from another scheme mechanism, as discussed below).
- Provides clarity about expected development types and thresholds that should include affordable housing.
- Provides clarity about the expected amount of affordable housing developments should include.

Such statements give a stronger basis to require inclusion of affordable housing. They can act as policy guidance to guide the exercise of discretion in individual applications.

There would, however, be challenges with such a policy in terms of:

- Potential for State Government to not allow it to be included in the scheme.
- Risk that the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal declines to apply it (for example because conditions based on it were not considered fair and reasonable in particular circumstances).
- Risk of legal challenge, notably on the grounds that conditions based on the policy were contrary to the National Trust Principle (which means that the condition must align with the purpose for which the planning permission was sought).
- Potential equity issues, given that the policy would only apply to those matters needing permission.

There are considerable challenges associated with a policy of this type. That said, there are precedents in other policy areas (notably Environmentally Sustainable Design) for such sweeping statements of policy to gradually be given more weight over time as the prevailing thinking shifts within the industry.

It should be noted, however, that such policy certainly cannot impose mandatory requirements. It is also likely that if financial contributions were required through a permit condition based on a policy alone, those conditions could be subject to challenge, as the condition would have been imposed without the scheme requiring it. This would likely mean the condition breached s 62(6) of the Act. Ultimately, a policy would need support from another provision to enable a financial contribution to be sought by permit condition.

Planning policy can also express a policy intent to pursue the application of affordable housing requirements as part of rezoning proposals. Such a policy can help underpin the justification of future amendments but will ultimately be dependent on another planning tool to achieve desired outcomes.

The most suitable provisions for applying an affordable housing contribution based on the above analysis are the Specific Controls Overlay and the Development Plan Overlay. The details of each follow.

Development Plan Overlay

The Development Plan Overlay is one of the key mechanisms available for applying bespoke development controls.

The Schedule could outline requirements for future permit applicants to enter into a Section 173 Agreement, committing to specified affordable housing contributions.

However, a key shortcoming of the Development Plan Overlay is that it introduces a notice exemption (cl 43.04-3), as follows:

If a development plan has been prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority, an application under any provision of this planning scheme is exempt from the notice requirements of section 52(1)(a), (b) and (d), the decision requirements of section 64(1), (2) and (3) and the review rights of section 82(1) of the Act.

This provision overrides all notice requirements under any provision of the scheme and will continue to apply as long as the overlay applies. There is no option to “turn off” the notice exemption in the schedule to the overlay, and councils are not permitted to include requirements in the schedule that add alternate consultation paths.

While the implications of the notice exemption may be minimal in newly developed estates, the effect of the exemption is more serious where residents are present within or immediately around the area covered by the overlay.

This seriously limits the ability to apply the overlay for this purpose. It would certainly not be suitable for a municipality-wide application; but it would have limitations even for individual precincts.

Specific Controls Overlay

The Specific Controls Overlay is an alternate overlay for the application of bespoke development provisions.

The SCO is a relatively new tool in the VPPs. It was introduced via Amendment VC148 as part of the Victorian Government’s Smart Planning Program. It was designed to spatially recognise Incorporated Documents that applied to specific sites and were previously listed in Clause 51.01 Specific sites and inclusions. This has made the application of Incorporated Documents much more transparent as the

application of the control is now mapped as part of the relevant planning scheme, on VicPlan, and is visible on planning property reports.

The purpose of the overlay is:

To apply specific controls designed to achieve a particular land use and development outcome in extraordinary circumstances.

The reference to “extraordinary circumstances” suggests the overlay’s status as a tool of last resort. This may be a barrier to the state government accepting its use, despite the lack of any suitable alternative provision.

If accepted by the State Government, however, the provision allows requirements framed in the same terms as the Development Overlay discussed above. It does not, however, include a notice exemption, making it much more suitable for this purpose than the Development Plan Overlay.

The lack of the notice exemption means the SCO could be applied municipality wide. This means it could theoretically be used to provide a regulatory “hook” to implement a contribution requirement at the planning application stage, offering a more robust policy mechanism than relying on policy alone.

Application of an overlay to an entire municipality is unusual, but not unheard of – some councils have Development Contributions Plan Overlays across the entire council area, for example. However, it is important to note that an SCO has never been applied municipal wide for the purposes of procuring affordable housing contributions.

Preferred mechanism: Specific Controls Overlay

Based on the above assessment, the tools that are most suitable for use to facilitate affordable housing contributions is the Specific Controls Overlay as:

- The State Government’s Housing Statement recognises the need for a “reset” and “a more active planning system” to increase the supply of affordable housing.²⁶
- The Commonwealth Senate *Inquiry into the worsening housing crisis* has endorsed inclusionary affordable housing requirements, but no State Government tool has been provided to achieve this in a standardised manner.
- Statements in planning policy and the MPS are ineffective if not accompanied by another provision and may not allow for conditions to be validly imposed under s 62(6) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.
- Most standard VPP zones are not able to apply an affordable housing requirement. Use of zones would therefore require extensive and inappropriate use of “bespoke” zones such as the Special Use Zone across the entire municipality.
- Customised zones could be used for individual precincts, but this results in less housing, an inequitable distribution of contributions, and risks perverse incentives by increasing obligations in preferred locations for development, as argued in Section 3.3.

²⁶ *Victoria’s Housing Statement*, page 3.

- The Development Contributions Plan Overlay cannot be used, as affordable housing cannot plausibly be argued to be a form of infrastructure that falls within the categories nominated in the applicable Ministerial Direction.
- The Development Plan Overlay extinguishes notice requirements and is unsuitable for municipality-wide application.

No other planning scheme tool is available that achieves these objectives.

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Attachment 2: Alternative Methodology to setting a contribution rate

Approach 1: State-wide Need for Affordable housing		
Steps	Calculation	Value
Step 1: Identify Victorian affordable housing need	Estimated percentage of dwellings required as affordable housing across Victoria.	14%
Step 2: Determine the share of need to be met through local development	Share of responsibility – one-third assigned to development sector, one-third to State Government and one-third to Commonwealth Government. (14% x 1/3)	4.7%
Step 3: Calculate a contribution rate for all market residential and non-residential floor space.	25% = percentage of floorspace that is non-residential 75% = percentage of floorspace that is residential. Conversion factor: (86% + 25%) / 75% = 119% Contribution rate applied to all market floor space: 4.7% / 119% = 3.91%	3.91%
Step 4: Adjust the contribution rate to account for ability for housing agencies to pay developers for a portion of housing	Share of very low income households (64% of Victorian households in need of affordable housing) at a 100% discount: 3.91% x 64% x 100% = 2.50% Share of low and moderate income households (36% of Victorian households in need of affordable housing) at a 30% discount: 3.91% x 36% x 30% = 0.42% 2.50% + 0.42% = 2.93%	2.93%

Attachment 2: Alternative Methodology to setting a contribution rate

Approach 2: Local Need for Affordable housing		
Steps	Calculation	Value
Step 1: Identify Victorian affordable housing need	Estimated percentage of dwellings required as affordable housing across Bayside.	2.9% ¹
Step 2: Determine the share of need to be met through local development	Share of responsibility – one-third assigned to development sector, one-third to State Government and one-third to Commonwealth Government. (2.9% x 1/3)	0.96%
Step 3: Calculate a contribution rate for all market residential and non-residential floor space.	25% = percentage of floorspace that is non-residential 75% = percentage of floorspace that is residential. Conversion factor: (86% + 25%) / 75% = 119% Contribution rate applied to all market floor space: 0.96% / 119% = 0.81%	0.81%
Step 4: Adjust the contribution rate to account for ability for housing agencies to pay developers for a portion of housing	Share of very low income households (64% ² of Victorian households in need of affordable housing) at a 100% discount: 0.81% x 0.7% x 100% = 0.56% Share of low and moderate income households (36% ³ of Victorian households in need of affordable housing) at a 30% discount: 0.81 x 1.5% x 30% = 0.36% 0.56% + 0.36% = 0.92%	0.92%

¹ 2.9% of the Bayside population are in need of affordable housing, as per .id consultants data available here: <https://housing.id.com.au/bayside/affordable-housing-need#how-many-households-are-in-need-of-affordable-housing>

² 64% of very low income Victorian households in need has been replaced with 0.7% of Bayside very low income households in need.

This has calculated by utilising .id data identifying the number of households within the very low income bracket and determining what percentage this is of all households in Bayside (using 2021 census data).

³ 36% of low and moderate income households in Victoria in need has been replaced with 1.5% of Bayside low and moderate income households in need. *This has calculated by utilising .id data identifying the number of households within the low and moderate income bracket and determining what percentage this is of all households in Bayside (using 2021 census data).*

Attachment 2: Alternative Methodology to setting a contribution rate

Approach 3: Reduced share of responsibility		
Steps	Calculation	Value
Step 1: Identify Victorian affordable housing need	Estimated percentage of dwellings required as affordable housing across Victoria.	14%
Step 2: Determine the share of need to be met through local development	Share of responsibility – only 20% of share to be assigned to the local development industry. This assumed reduction is based on margins in the development industry at a historic low – with tax initiatives such as the windfall gains tax and vacant land tax further exacerbating the issue. $14\% \times 20\% = 2.8\%$	2.8%
Step 3: Calculate a contribution rate for all market residential and non-residential floor space.	25% = percentage of floorspace that is non-residential 75% = percentage of floorspace that is residential. Conversion factor: $(86\% + 25\%) / 75\% = 119\%$ Contribution rate applied to all market floor space: $2.8\% / 119\% = 2.35\%$	2.35%
Step 4: Adjust the contribution rate to account for ability for housing agencies to pay developers for a portion of housing	Share of very low income households (64% of Victorian households in need of affordable housing) at a 100% discount: $2.35\% \times 64\% \times 100\% = 1.5\%$ Share of low and moderate income households (36% of Victorian households in need of affordable housing) at a 30% discount: $2.35\% \times 36\% \times 30\% = 0.25\%$ $1.5\% + 0.25\% = 1.75\%$	1.75%

Attachment 2: Alternative Methodology to setting a contribution rate

Approach 4: Local Need for Affordable housing and Reduced share of responsibility		
Steps	Calculation	Value
Step 1: Identify Victorian affordable housing need	Estimated percentage of dwellings required as affordable housing across Bayside.	2.9%
Step 2: Determine the share of need to be met through local development	Share of responsibility – only 20% of share to be assigned to the local development industry. This assumed reduction is based on margins in the development industry at a historic low – with tax initiatives such as the windfall gains tax and vacant land tax further exacerbating the issue. $2.9\% \times 20\% = 0.58\%$	0.58%
Step 3: Calculate a contribution rate for all market residential and non-residential floor space.	25% = percentage of floorspace that is non-residential 75% = percentage of floorspace that is residential. Conversion factor: $(86\% + 25\%) / 75\% = 119\%$ Contribution rate applied to all market floor space: $0.58\% / 119\% = 0.48\%$	0.48%
Step 4: Adjust the contribution rate to account for ability for housing agencies to pay developers for a portion of housing	Share of very low income households (64% of Victorian households in need of affordable housing) at a 100% discount: $0.48\% \times 64\% \times 100\% = 0.30\%$ Share of low and moderate income households (36% of Victorian households in need of affordable housing) at a 30% discount: $0.48\% \times 36\% \times 30\% = 0.05\%$ $0.30\% + 0.05\% = 0.35\%$	0.35%

10.8 STRAY GOLF BALL MITIGATIONS AT BRIGHTON GOLF COURSE

Corporate Services - Commercial Services
File No: PSF/24/88 – Doc No: DOC/24/172718

Executive summary

Purpose and background

This report is in response to Notice of Motion 329 from the 15 August 2023 Council Meeting where it was resolved:

That Council:

1. *works with residents and the tenant of Brighton Golf Course to create and implement a plan to reduce the number of stray golf balls from the Brighton Golf Course into neighbouring properties. The plan will include:*
 - *a schedule of actions to be put in place by 30 October 2023 that includes potential changes to the golf course to reduce stray golf balls as well as key dates for completing work*
 - *a clear, streamlined and documented process for reporting incidents and for residents to claim when property damage occurs*
 - *a process for all parties to collectively track and manage golf balls now and during the implementation of mitigation strategies*
2. *on implementation of the above strategies and following a six month trial period, if Council does not consider that there has been a sufficient reduction in golf balls escaping the course, alternative options will be presented to Council for consideration*
3. *receives a report at the June 2024 Council meeting on the impacts of the mitigation strategies implemented.*

Following this resolution, officers worked with the tenant at the site to complete each of the abovementioned tasks and to monitor the mitigation strategies that were put in place. This report sets out the observations made regarding the effectiveness of the strategies and suggests appropriate next steps.

Key issues

Documented Incident Process and ball-tracking

Following the August 2023 meeting, an incident reporting and ball tracking procedure was developed by the tenant and approved by Council. Residents along the effected boundary of the Golf Course were provided written correspondence on 4 December 2023 that outlined this process. In summary, the process provides for:

- one central online reporting system
- a dedicated contact for reporting and following up the status of incidents reported
- a procedure for tracking and reporting instances of golf ball escape.

Council receives a regular report from the tenant on incidents and the number of golf balls escaping.

Mitigation Actions

Mitigation actions completed following the August 2023 meeting included new signage warning players of the risk and liability for stray shots, additional tree planting and moving the tee block for the seventh and ninth hole to better utilise existing netting.

The tenant has also investigated relocation the tee block on the seventh hole in particular weather conditions, short term modifications of the ninth tee and implementing ball tracking technology to deter player behaviour that contributes to increased ball escapes. In the long term, once the newly planted trees are established in five to ten years this will provide an effective screen to balls along this boundary as it is difficult for a golf ball to pass through the canopy of a tree.

In the meantime, the more immediate modifications to the structure of the course would likely assist in reducing the number of golf balls escaping the site simply by virtue of the types of clubs used and power of shot required to play particular holes. If the holes are shorter, a lesser swing is required and therefore the margin for error decreases. This reduces the likelihood of stray shots. However, modifications to the par of each tee (i.e. changing what is currently a par five into two par threes would result in three par threes in a row) would impact how the course plays and is likely to lead to reduced patronage of the golf course.

In summary, the mitigations put in place have reduced the number of golf balls escaping over the Glencairn Avenue boundary fence. However, they have not completely eliminated the issue with escapes still occurring.

It is the Council officers' view based on reports commissioned by golf course designers that the only way to significantly reduce the number of golf balls escaping and effectively manage the issue is to pursue more robust interventions. Advice recommends either the installation of additional net fencing to block the most likely paths of escape or to redesign the relevant holes to change the type of shot being hit by players.

It is therefore recommended that these two potential strategies be investigated with the tenant.

Recommendation

That Council notes this report and the proposed next steps to work with the tenant to explore a potential redesign of the ninth hole at Brighton Golf Course to reduce escape of stray golf balls or in the alternative to consider installing additional netting along the boundary with Glencairn Avenue should a redesign not be feasible.

Support Attachments

Nil

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Social

As a public golf course, the Brighton Golf Course is accessible to the community and provides an important recreational and social outlet. The intention of this report is to balance the benefits of that recreational outlet with the potential impacts of that activity in an area that is increasingly urbanising.

Natural Environment

The mitigation strategies in place have not involved removing or disturbing any of the existing vegetation and more trees have been planted and will continue to be planted. The design of any barrier fence would need to be sympathetic to the surrounding environment and insofar as possible not require any removal of vegetation.

Climate Emergency

The planting of native and local trees will continue on the golf course.

Built Environment

There are no proposed modifications to the buildings on site in this report. However, if a new net fence is installed more investigations may be required to understand implications and approvals required.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

The report responds to ongoing concerns from residents in relation to stray golf balls. As the site is leased, the golf course operator is the primary community contact for day to day matters on site and has implemented changes to reporting and recording of stray balls as per the notice of motion.

Equity Impact

The implications of this report have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020.

Human Rights

The implications of the report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

The terms of the lease require the tenant to mitigate the escape of golf balls from the site. As such, officers are working with the tenant to implement the agreed trial mitigations and develop long term solutions.

Finance

There are no financial implications of the specific subject matter of this report. It is proposed to work with the tenant to address further mitigation actions.

Links to Council policy and strategy

The proposed mitigation actions link to the Council Plan in particular 3.2 Infrastructure and assets are sustainable, accessible and fit for purpose now and for the future.

10.9 DENDY STREET BEACH - EROSION MITIGATION UPDATE

Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure - Open Space and Recreation
File No: PSF/24/102 – Doc No: DOC/24/88515

Executive summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update in relation to options being considered to manage medium and long term sand erosion at Dendy Street Beach.

Background

Dendy Street Beach is a popular coastal destination, home to the iconic Brighton Bathing Boxes, Bayside's premier tourist attraction drawing an estimated 1,000,000+ visitors annually. It has iconic status not only in Melbourne but around the world as a recognised heritage beachscape with the famous bathing boxes.

The Beach is unique as the only beach in Bayside that is "owned" by Council. Other beaches and coastline along the 17kms of Bayside foreshore are Crown Land and managed by Council on behalf of the Victorian Government. There are various heritage overlays across the foreshore and an important indigenous cultural heritage.

Erosion has been observed for several years along Dendy Street Beach. In 2021, several of the southernmost bathing boxes footings became severely exposed and vulnerable after several consecutive storms eroded the beach. Sea levels are expected to continue to rise, and exacerbate the risk of coastal erosion.

Council was able to install sandbags to provide a short-term level of protection. In addition to sandbags, 3200m³ of beach renourishment was then undertaken to provide additional resilience to potential coastal erosion. Sand was quarried from the beach at Middle Brighton (south of the Brighton Sea Baths) and deposited on Dendy Street Beach. These works were completed in early 2022 for a cost of approximately \$250,000. The cost to install the sandbags was approximately \$40,000, and the rest of the budget was spent on beach renourishment.

Following these works, which were always acknowledged as short to medium term solutions (3-5 years), Council began investigating longer term mitigation options.

Council has also begun the process of drafting a Coastal and Marine Management Plan (CMMP). The CMMP will be a ten-year plan that guides appropriate and effective management of Bayside's marine and coastal areas. CMMPs are being developed under the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* and *Marine and Coastal Policy 2020*. CMMPs are intended to be the primary management tool to guide coastal management in Victoria.

Key issues

Dendy Street Beach is the stretch of foreshore between the Brighton Lifesaving Club and Holloways Bend. This section of beach is about 600m long and forms a small embayment between two rocky reefs at the northern and southern ends. The beach has varied width in sections, it is substantial in the north and narrower in the south. There are 96 bathing boxes located in the study area which are set back at various distances from the toe of the beach.

Other infrastructure within the Dendy Street Beach precinct includes three geotextile sandbag revetments and fencing behind the bathing boxes. The most recent sandbag revetment was constructed early 2022 following the consecutive storms that eroded the beach in 2021.

The dune fence is informal in nature and sits approximately 2-3 metres behind the bathing boxes, running the entire length along the front of the primary dune, with occasional gaps for beach access. The purpose of this fence is to protect the vegetation on the dune from pedestrian traffic.

Sea levels are expected to rise across the globe which will exacerbate the risk of coastal erosion. An increase in sea level translates to more waves hitting the shore with greater force, increasing the rate and severity of beach erosion. By 2030, sea levels are expected to have risen by 0.15m, which would see the foreshore recede (migrate inland) by almost 3m. By 2070 sea levels are predicted to rise by 0.47m, which would see the foreshore recede by over 9m. Under both these scenarios, the bathing boxes in their current locations would be unusable, and mostly likely destroyed.

A Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment (PPBCHA) commissioned by DEECA shows that the bathing boxes are at risk of inundation and erosion under current conditions, even without any sea level rise.

Current situation

The mitigation works completed in early 2022 were reviewed after 12 months to check performance. This review concluded that the sandbags installed on Dendy Street Beach in 2022 are invisible from the beach surface and the beach is healthy one year after the beach renourishment.

Based on the shoreline analysis, the 3,200m³ of sand placed along Dendy St Beach in early 2022 has remained on the beach. Natural erosion and accretion will have continued to happen since early 2022.

While the beach is in a healthy stable state at present, additional beach width is required to protect the beach boxes from severe or ongoing storm erosion (like the conditions that occurred in late 2021) as well as future sea level rise and associated coastal erosion.

Ongoing beach renourishment

Beach renourishment occurs to provide a wide beach for protection against the more severe erosion events. The previous nourishment occurred 2 years ago and has lasted well. To maintain a wide beach without construction of any structures, renourishment of 5,000m³ every 3 to 4 years is required. Previous cost to renourish in 2022 was approximately \$250,000. Council has allocated money in its 4-year capital program for further renourishment works.

Coastal erosion

The impact of foreshore erosion due to wave activity and sea level rise is a worldwide coastal process that is likely to impact land managers for the foreseeable future.

Most scientific organisations expect sea level rise to continue. Sea levels are expected to rise by a figure of between 0.5 and 1.1m this century. Rising sea levels will exacerbate the risk of coastal erosion across the globe.

Coastal adaption decision should be made in alignment with current State legislation and policy. They should also consider scientific data that is informed by skilled and technical experts in coastal and marine management.

Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment (PPBCHA)

DEECA has recently released the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment (PPBCHA). The PPBCHA is a bay-wide assessment that has been completed to assist land managers to better understand coastal hazards for their regions.

The PBBCHA modelled a number of sea level rise predictions at increments from 0.0m sea level rise to 1.4m sea level rise. Results were mapped to visualise where inundation hazard impacts may be experienced (“hazard extents”) for different storm events and sea level rise scenarios.

The PPBCHA shows that the bathing boxes are at risk of inundation and erosion under current conditions, 0.0m sea level rise. The level of potential inundation and erosion increases with each incremental rise.

With the bathing boxes already at risk of inundation, this risk increases with each proposed incremental increase in sea level rise to the point where the bathing boxes are permanently inundated. Beach renourishment alone will not be sufficient to protect the bathing boxes and other assets located on Dendy Street Beach, and the success of potential long terms options are expected to vary depending on sea level rise and storm surge.

Council officers have been advised that Victoria’s *Marine and Coastal Act (MaCA) 2018* should guide its approach to managing coastal hazards. The direction to decision makers including local councils and land managers on a range of issues such as dealing with the impacts of climate change, population growth and ageing coastal structures.

The MACA adopts the following intervention hierarchy:

- Non-Intervention (do nothing)
- Avoid
- Nature-Based Protection
- Accommodate
- Retreat
- Protect.

Both the works completed to install sandbags and renourish the beach, and the breakwater/groyne solution, are classified as ‘protect’ – the least preferred option in the intervention hierarchy.

Heritage Victoria

All of Dendy Street Beach is included on the Victorian Heritage register. During discussions with Heritage Victoria (HV) Council was advised that HV is not supportive of removing the Bathing Boxes. HV prefer interventions that are located off the beach, have a low visibility, and do not interfere with views to Melbourne’s skyline. HV prefer breakwaters to groynes.

Mitigation Strategies

Medium Term Mitigation

Undertake beach renourishment along Dendy Street Beach once every 3 to 4 years, subject to Council budget. In the case of an emergency such as significant storm event, the allocated funding for that 3 to 4 year period could be utilised to undertake immediate works.

As a short to medium term solution, it is a suitable and relatively cost-effective option.

Longer term concept developments

Longer term erosion mitigation options considered include:

Design	Description	Approx Cost
One groyne	One large rock groyne of 115m length located at the Brighton Lifesaving Club with beach renourishment to a minimum 20m beach width at the southernmost bathing box.	\$3.4M
Two groynes	Two smaller rock groynes of 75m length, one located at the Brighton Lifesaving Club, and the other located at the toilet facilities and stair access, with beach renourishment to a minimum 20m beach width at the southernmost bathing box.	\$2.6M
One offshore breakwater	One large 110m long rock breakwater located 125m offshore of the Brighton Lifesaving Club with beach renourishment to a minimum 20m beach width at the southernmost bathing box.	\$4.9M
A series of 5 offshore breakwaters	Five x 55m long rock breakwaters located between 90m to 95m offshore of the Dendy St Beach with beach renourishment to a minimum 15m beach width at varying locations along the shoreline.	\$4.1M
Offshore reef	A series of semi-submerged artificial reef structures, each 35m long, and located between 90m to 95m offshore of the beach. The reefs are placed in two overlapping rows and extend between the natural reefs at the Brighton Lifesaving Club and Holloway Bend headlands.	Not costed

Following extensive works by two coastal marine consultants, which were independently peer reviewed, the most suitable options were a two groyne or breakwater solution.

In addition to ad-hoc nourishment of approximately 1000m³ to 2000m³ every 5 years, the groyne and breakwater solutions would also require regular maintenance. This would include:

- regular condition inspections – typically done annually and after severe storms
- replacement of displaced armour rock after large storms.

The cost associated with maintaining a breakwater or groynes has not been considered as part of this Report as the costings are preliminary in nature and would need to be subject to a more detailed design and costing before proceeding. It is also worth noting that there is no funding allocated to this project in council's capital program.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. continues to monitor the condition of Dendy Street Beach
2. continues to undertake beach renourishment along Dendy Street Beach as a medium-term approach to managing beach erosion
3. incorporates consideration of a long-term solution as part of Council's Coastal and Marine Management Plan, currently under development
4. continues to engage with the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action in relation to long term erosion options at Dendy Street Beach.

Support Attachments

Nil

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Social

Dendy Street Beach is a popular stretch of the Bayside foreshore. It is also home to the internationally renowned and iconic bathing boxes. Any erosion of the beach will have a negative impact on people's ability to visit and enjoy the space.

Natural Environment

The erosion of Dendy Street Beach is likely to have a long-term negative impact on items of cultural and ecological significance such as Aboriginal middens, sand dunes, and coastal vegetation.

Climate Emergency

Any works completed to protect Dendy Street Beach will be required in response to sea level rise and a more dynamic climate that appears to be generating more regular and severe weather events. Coastal adaptation planning is a requirement of DEECA in response to Climate Change.

Built Environment

It is generally accepted that the foreshore experiences increased levels of erosion following sea level rise, storm and weather events as a result of climate change. The erosion of Dendy Street Beach is likely to have a long-term impact on the Brighton Bathing Boxes. The Brighton Bathing Boxes are a popular tourist attraction and also listed on the Heritage Register.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

Council officers have previously informed stakeholders of the emergency sandbagging works, short-term beach renourishment works, and works to investigate long-term options.

Equity Impact

The implications of this report have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

a) does not meet the requirement for a comprehensive Equity Impact Assessment (EIA) at this time and it has been approved by the EIA Lead not to progress with the assessment.

Human Rights

The implications of the report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

Due to the proposed scale and nature of the groyne and breakwater solutions, the following approvals are likely to be required prior to any works commencing.

- Planning – Any works may require planning approval from Bayside City Council.

- Heritage Permit – Any works within the Registered Place will likely require approval from Heritage Victoria.
- MaCA - Any works below the high-water mark or on Middle Brighton Beach will require Marine and Coastal ACT consent (MaCA) from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action ('DEECA').
- Works Permit - Any works below the high-water mark may require approval from Parks Victoria.
- EPA – Any works may require approval from the EPA.
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage – As works would be confined to the beach and possibly offshore, it is not anticipated that any Aboriginal Cultural Heritage approvals will be required. However, this will be confirmed with a Heritage Consultant and/or the RAP.

Council has previously obtained Marine and Coastal ACT Consent to harvest sand from North Brighton Beach, or to import sand from a quarry for the purpose of beach renourishment along Dendy Street Beach.

Finance

Council has allocated approximately \$530,000 in its 4-year capital program for beach renourishment only. There is no budget allocated for any longer-term solution.

Links to Council policy and strategy

The investigation into the work required to protect Dendy Street Beach will contribute towards the following areas of the Council Plan 2021–25:

Goal 1: Our Planet

- Protect and enhance the biodiversity and health of our natural space and foreshore.

Goal 3: Our Place

- Our foreshore, open space and amenities deliver enhanced functionality for a wide range of uses; and
- Manage our open space and public places to balance the different needs of people who visit, live or work in Bayside.

Goal 4: Our Promise

- Engage with our community, consider all views and report openly enabling people to be informed about and involved in key decisions policies and projects that affect them.

10.10 BAYSIDE BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2024–29

Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure - Open Space and Recreation
File No: PSF/24/102 – Doc No: DOC/24/126492

Executive summary

Purpose and background

This report presents the updated 5-year Biodiversity Action Plan 2024–29 to Council for endorsement following consultation with Bayside environmental groups.

The Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan 2018–27 (BAP) was developed in 2018 as a key outcome of the Bayside Environmental Sustainability Framework 2016–25 (ESF).

The 2018 BAP was prepared in conjunction with Bayside environmental and 'Friends of' groups using a whole of ecosystem approach and provided 54 specific actions to address Council's specific biodiversity goals at the time, under the following themes - biodiversity conservation and protection, integrating biodiversity and natural resource management, managing threatening processes, improving our knowledge and community involvement.

The revised BAP has retained a similar structure to the 2018 BAP, and actions have been listed under the following goals with the provision of an additional section created to improve collaboration with Traditional Owners:

- Understanding Bayside's biodiversity values for conservation, protection and management.
- Managing biodiversity and threatening processes.
- Improving our biodiversity knowledge.
- Traditional owner inclusion in biodiversity management (new section).

Key issues

The 2024 BAP review process sought to assess the successful completion or otherwise of the 54 actions contained within the 2018 BAP, reflect current International, Federal and State government policy and legislation, reflect current Council plans and strategies that may have superseded and/or completed BAP actions via other projects, and remove any superfluous and/or redundant actions.

The review found that all 54 actions within the 2018 BAP had been initiated with 8 completed, 35 ongoing and 11 still underway – noting that the ongoing actions cannot be considered as completed due to the continuation of these actions within current operational and/or multi-year projects. Additionally, a scoring matrix which assessed each action on completeness versus effectiveness found that 48 actions had medium and high scores suggesting that these had achieved a significant improvement in biodiversity outcomes for the municipality.

The result of the 2024 review is the provision of an updated BAP to achieve Council's biodiversity goals over the next 5 years.

Biodiversity Action Plan 2024–29

The 2024 BAP contains 48 revised actions to be delivered over the next 5 years to improve biodiversity outcomes within Bayside. It also includes additional recommended actions for the following topics:

Traditional Owner Engagement

It is recommended that Council consult with and seek advice from the relevant Traditional Owner representatives when preparing environmental management plans, strategies and action plans. There are also opportunities to encourage future collaborative partnerships with Traditional Owners and existing 'Friends of' groups to share local knowledge.

Provision of management recommendations for realistic fauna species to attract to Bayside

Bayside has a variety of habitats that have the potential to attract a range of native fauna species, however the urbanisation of Bayside means that many species may have dispersal limitations and unfortunately this has also led to the local extinction of many terrestrial mammal species. The updated BAP recommends focusing on attracting arboreal and volant mammals (such as microbats), and other flying animals including birds and invertebrates as these can disperse more easily into restored areas of habitat.

Continuing to implement the *Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan 2022* will ensure that additional planting under trees is undertaken to provide a complex structure of canopy, shrub and ground cover to attract and retain wildlife.

Recommendations for measuring and monitoring the success of biodiversity improvements

Improved monitoring will also become a key part of the updated BAP. It is recommended that annual surveys are undertaken for a range of biological indicators – woodland birds, microbats, invertebrates and *Banksia* species (see Biological Indicator Species section of this paper). These surveys will allow Council to evaluate progress of restoration activities.

Recommended Biological Indicator Species to assist in the evaluation of biodiversity progress.

Biological indicators are living organisms (animals, plants or fungi) that can be used to monitor positive or negative changes in an ecosystem such as biodiversity improvements. Biological indicators need to meet a set of criteria and be able to show a measurable change in response to ecosystem change (such as revegetation).

The following animals have been selected as suitable indicator species for Bayside:

- Superb Fairy Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*), Silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis*), Brown Thornbill (*Acanthiza pusilla*) and Bronzewing Pigeon (*Phaps chalcoptera*).
- Microbats including – Gould's Wattle Bat (*Chalinolobus gouldii*), Lesser Long-eared Bat (*Nyctophilus geoffroyi*) and Little Forest Bat (*Vespadelus vulturnus*).
- Blue Banded-bee (*Amigella* spp.) and Jezebel Butterflies (*Delias* spp.)
- Coast Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) and Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*).

As Council continues to grow and expand its 'Gardens for Wildlife' program, other species could also be considered for inclusion. This could include the addition of local frog species as many are easily identifiable via their calls, appreciated by the local naturalist community and sensitive to environmental degradation, and could be useful indicator species.

Feedback from 'Friends of' and other environmental groups

The updated BAP was made available to all environmental and 'Friends of' groups to gather feedback during May 2024.

The updated BAP was also discussed with attendees of the Environmental Forum, held on 14 May 2024 and feedback gathered. In addition to responses received at the Environmental Forum, five detailed submissions were received via email to Council officers.

Overall, feedback on the revised BAP was positive and any proposed amendments sought to either clarify or highlight further information.

Following consultation, some minor amendments were made to the BAP based on the comments received.

These included:

- removing some coastal focussed actions and deferring them to the development of the Bayside Coastal and Marine Management Plan (currently underway)
- strengthening the wording around the impacts of dogs in conservation areas and highlighting the importance of dogs remaining prohibited from fenced areas to protect significant indigenous vegetation
- strengthening collaborative opportunities between environmental groups, Council staff and Traditional Owners
- highlighting Council's 'Garden for Wildlife' program in more detail.

The chapter (section four) containing links to relevant International, Federal and State policy was reallocated as an appendix and a new section was created to discuss the selection criteria and proposed indicator species to monitor for biological improvements – previously this was an Appendix in the BAP, but following feedback from the groups, it was considered to have a higher priority in the document.

The updated *Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan 2024 – 2029* is included at Attachment 1.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. notes the feedback received from Council's 'Friends of' and other environmental groups in relation to the Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan 2024–29
2. adopts the updated Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan 2024–29
3. notifies interested parties who contributed to the Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan update.

Support Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - FINAL Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan June 2024

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Social

Bayside has 77 hectares of open space specifically managed for conservation, comprising 56.7 hectares along 17 kms of foreshore and 20.4 hectares in 8 inland reserves. Each of the 8 bushland reserves and 7 areas of remnant coastal vegetation along the foreshore have active 'Friends of' or other environmental groups that weed, plant, water and advocate for the conservation and protection of remnant vegetation and the native animals that these areas support.

Protecting local biodiversity was a key priority identified by the Bayside community during development of the Bayside 2050 Community Vision.

Natural Environment

Open spaces in urban areas have a very important function for biodiversity as they can be some of the few remaining places where a variety of native fauna and indigenous flora are able to persist. Bayside is fortunate in having remnant areas of bushland and coastal vegetation that provide important habitat for many species.

The updated BAP seeks to protect and enhance the biodiversity and ecological health of Bayside's natural spaces. Monitoring of identified Biological Indicator Species during implementation of the BAP can then be used to assess the progress and/or success of BAP actions (such as habitat planting projects, nest box installation etc.)

Council anticipates developing a weed and pest management plan in 2024/25 as part of the committed budget to implement the BAP.

Climate Emergency

As part of the review process and to understand how to effectively plan for revegetation under future climate change scenarios, a climate change risk assessment exercise was conducted using projections from the Victoria Future Climate Tool (DEECA 2024c).

Making informed decisions will allow Bayside to ensure resilience for indigenous vegetation communities against the future impacts of climate change and understand if species outside the Sandbelt region would be suitable for reintroduction.

Built Environment

There are no known implications for the built environment associated with this report.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

Two consultation sessions were held with key stakeholders (representatives from Bayside's environmental and 'Friends of' groups).

A 2-hour community consultation session was held on Thursday 7 March 2024 to inform development of the updated BAP. Representatives attended from the following groups:

- Beaumaris Conservation Society.
- Friends of Long Hollow Heathland.
- Friends of George Street Reserve.

- Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary.
- Friends of Ricketts Point.
- Friends of Native Wildlife.
- Friends of Merindah Park and the Urban Forest.

This workshop discussed the achievements to date of the existing BAP and proposed recommendations for the updated BAP. The workshop also provided opportunities for each participant to assist with shaping the document – in particular, identifying the top 5 biodiversity priorities for Bayside and the selection of Biodiversity Indicator Species.

The updated BAP was then presented to the Environmental Forum, held on Tuesday 13 May. The forum was attended by representatives from the following groups:

- Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary.
- Friends of Brighton Dunes.
- Friends of George Street Reserve.
- Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland.
- Bayside Community Nursery.
- Friends of Long Hollow Heathland Sanctuary
- Friends of Merindah Park and the Urban Forest.
- Village Zero.
- Bayside Climate Action Group.

This forum provided an opportunity for environmental representatives to discuss a variety of plans and strategies with Council officers and gather feedback. Responses were collated and reviewed and where appropriate, incorporated into the final Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan 2024–29.

A separate submission was also received from Friends of Native Wildlife.

Equity Impact

The implications of this report have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

In development of this plan, the requirement for Equity Impact pre-assessment has been completed. The pre-assessment concluded that this policy/strategy/plan/program/service: a) does not meet the requirement for a comprehensive Equity Impact Assessment (EIA) at this time and it has been approved by the EIA Lead not to progress with the assessment.

Human Rights

The implications of the report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

There are no known legal implications associated with this report.

Finance

The updated BAP contains 48 actions. Of those, it is proposed that approximately half of the proposed actions can be undertaken within existing budget. Some proposed actions are already supported and funded via other Council endorsed strategies – such as implementing the recommendations of the Urban Forest Strategy 2022, the Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan 2022 and the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022–26.

The remaining actions comprise a range of new initiatives or projects that are currently unfunded. Funding for these will need to be sought during future budget considerations.

Links to Council policy and strategy

Review of the Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan is identified in the Bayside City Council Annual Action Plan 2023–24 under Goal 1 Our Planet Strategic Objective 1.2:

1.2.1. Protect and enhance the biodiversity and health of our natural space and foreshore.

Undertake and complete a review of the Biodiversity Action Plan, including:

- Surveys for flora and fauna groups where data is currently limited in conservation reserves and key wetlands and waterways and submit to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA).
- Implement management strategy for significant/rare species.
- Implement the Biodiversity Notice of Motions with a focus on delivering on ground actions.

The updated BAP outlines actions and recommendations to improve biodiversity opportunities and creates synergies with existing Council strategies such as the Urban Forest Strategy 2022 and the Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan 2022.

It also provides biodiversity considerations to be included in upcoming Council projects such as development of the Bayside Coastal and Marine Management Plan (in development), the Hihett Grassy Woodland Masterplan 2024 and preparation of the 2024 Native Vegetation Works Program (underway).



Draft Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan

Bayside City Council

June 2024



Superb Fairywren on a saltbush photographed at Dendy Street Beach, Bayside.

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Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*) at Tjilatjirin Reserve

1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Bayside City Council proudly acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council acknowledges the Bunurong's continuing relationship to the land and waterways and respects that their connection and spiritual identify is maintained through ancient ceremonies, songlines, dance, art and living culture.

Council pays tribute to the invaluable contributions of the Bunurong and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders who have guided and continue to guide the work we do.

2 Introduction

Bayside City Council is committed to maintaining biodiversity assets and increasing conservation effort within its natural areas. The decline in Australia's biodiversity is considered to be one of the key environmental issues of our time.

One of the key actions in the *Environmental Sustainability Framework 2016-2025* was to develop a Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) using a whole of ecosystem approach, and addressing a number of issues including:

- Maximising conservation of habitat diversity and connectivity;
- Promotion of Indigenous plants and increasing biodiversity and ecosystem health on public and private land;
- Raising awareness of biodiversity within Council and the community through education;
- Measuring the quality and extent of existing flora and fauna and changes to these over time;
- Addressing weeds, controlling introduced species and pest animal issues; and
- Developing a monitoring and data collection system.

More recently, the *Bayside City Council Plan 2021-2025* recognises the importance of maintaining biodiversity with specific actions including:

- 1.2.1. Protect and enhance the biodiversity and health of our natural space and foreshore.
- 2.2. Enhance vegetation (including the tree canopy) through accelerated tree planting and tree protection on public and private land.
- 1.2.3. Partner with and influence government agencies and other entities about our shared responsibility to protect local green space, foreshore and marine environments, biodiversity and habitat health.

This BAP provides specific actions to implement the strategic objectives of the *Environmental Sustainability Framework 2016-2025* and other issues raised through community consultation.

3 A review of the BAP 2018-2027

The *Bayside City Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2018 - 2027* (BAP 2018) provides actions driving management of bushland reserves, environmental planning controls, control of pest animal and plants, management of threatened species, use of fire and measures to combat the impacts of climate change. Since its development in 2018, there has been numerous policy changes in the biodiversity space at a national, state, regional and local level. Arcadis Australia Pty Ltd (Arcadis) were engaged to undertake a review of the existing action plan with the aim of updating the BAP so that it reflects current policy changes. The review also aimed to evaluate

the progress on existing actions and make recommendations for improvements or additional actions that would improve biodiversity outcomes.

The BAP 2018 included 54 actions from three main themes; Understanding Bayside's biodiversity values for conservation, protection and management, managing biodiversity and threatening processes and improving our biodiversity knowledge.

The review was used to determine that all the actions within the BAP had been initiated. As part of the review, a scoring matrix which assessed each action on completeness and effectiveness was used to determine that 48 actions had medium and high scores suggesting a significant improvement in biodiversity outcomes for the municipality.

The review also identified some actions which were no longer required to be included in an updated BAP as they have been incorporated into other Council documents such as the Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) 2022 and Native Vegetation Works Program (NVWP) for 2024.

As part of this review, a new section of actions is proposed covering Traditional Owners and their involvement in management of reserves within the Bayside area. This includes ensuring the Traditional Owners are consulted where possible. It is expected that this section may change depending on discussions with the traditional owners of the area, the Bunurong people.

Monitoring was suggested to become a key part of the updated BAP. It was recommended that Bayside City Council undertake surveys for biological indicator species. This includes annual surveys for woodland birds, microbats, invertebrates and Banksia. These surveys would allow Council to evaluate progress from restoration activities. It would also allow for greater data collection and engagement opportunities with local environment groups and the broader community.

Key stakeholder consultation

A consultation session was held with key stakeholders (7 March 2024) to discuss changes to the BAP and opportunities were provided for each participant to assist with shaping the document and list their priorities.

A working document

The BAP is considered a dynamic document and will need to remain flexible and adaptable to change. It is expected that minor changes may be made as policy is updated. A review of this action plan is recommended every five years.

4 Relevant legislation

The Council plans and strategies listed below have specific biodiversity actions which link with the Biodiversity Action Plan. Additional local, state, national and international legislation and policy is shown in Appendix 2.

Council Plan 2021-2025

The current Council Plan includes two themes that have specific targets for biodiversity management. There details are below:

Themes

Theme 1. The Living environment/natural environment: Bayside will mitigate coastal erosion and protect and enhance Indigenous biodiversity from the effects of climate change in the natural environment.

Theme 2 Increase & enhance open space Bayside will ensure open space and its protection and amenity is a priority for 2050.

Strategies objectives

1.2. Protect and enhance our natural and coastal environments, biodiversity and unique ecosystems.

Strategy species actions:

- 1.2.1. Protect and enhance the biodiversity and health of our natural space and foreshore.
- 2.2. Enhance vegetation (including the tree canopy) through accelerated tree planting and tree protection on public and private land.
- 1.2.3. Partner with and influence government agencies and other entities about our shared responsibility to protect local green space, foreshore and marine environments, biodiversity and habitat health.

Ecological data review for the Bayside City Council Municipality (2017)

A data review of flora and fauna records for the Bayside municipality was undertaken prior to the development of the BAP 2018 (see Ecology Australia 2017) with the aim of identifying opportunities where further survey work or potential habitat augmentation work would be beneficial. A series of recommendations were made, aimed at increasing the understanding of ecological values in the Bayside municipality, and guiding future management works to maintain, protect, and enhance suitable habitat for these values. Key recommendations included:

- Undertake general fauna surveys at bushland reserves to increase the data available as many reserves have little or no recent data publicly available.
- Undertake targeted Water Rat/Rakali (*Hydromys chrysogaster*) population surveys for comparison with data recorded in 2006 by Biosis and develop and action a plan to address known threats.
- Undertake a general frog survey in sites containing wetland areas, particularly targeting autumn and spring/summer breeding species.
- A fungi and bryophyte survey was recommended as no fungi data and very little non-vascular plant data was available. Data collected should be entered into the VBA or FungiMap, and the survey should target a select few relatively intact areas of bush that have a varied fire and weed invasion history.
- Encourage local naturalists and natural resource managers (e.g. Citywide) who undertake flora and fauna surveys to enter their data into publicly available databases such as the VBA by providing funding, grants or other forms of support.
- A rapid survey of some select marine habitat would be beneficial, particularly in and adjoining marine reserves.
- Undertake supplementary plantings and habitat protection works for threatened plant species known to occur in the municipality.
- An investigation into the widespread lack of recruitment of *Banksia integrifolia* across its range is warranted, and Bayside could contribute to this research.
- Monitor the success of the Powerful Owl hollow creation works before investing further in this program.

Native Vegetation Works Program (Stage 1, 2010 and Stage 2, 2013 – Planning for undertaking Stage 3 of the NVWP is currently underway)

Council manages native vegetation in its seven conservation reserves and along the foreshore via the Native Vegetation Works Program (NVWP). The NVWP identifies priority species (both Indigenous and weed species)

and makes recommendations for their management and/or control). A review of the NVWP is currently underway. As part of this project, current management of conservation reserves will also be reviewed to ensure that habitat values within them are maximised.

As well as a series of reserve specific actions, the NVWP 2008 provides several broad biodiversity actions which include:

- Convene a workshop to discuss the issue of herbicide use in the reserve system, particularly aimed at the non-professional managers. This forum/workshop would explore weed control options and outline why herbicide use in certain locations and contexts is required to achieve management objectives.
- Convene a workshop to discuss the issue of ecological burning to improve the biodiversity of bushland remnants. This could also incorporate the political issues associated with the removal of ecological out-of-balance species such as Coastal Tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*), which is primarily managed through the use of fire.
- Evaluate the need to further investigate tree decline in the reserves, whether because of diseases or excessive possum browsing.
- Ensure all staff and contractors are familiar with and respond to the protocols developed by the Department of Primary Industries if and when Myrtle Rust is detected.

Urban Forest Strategy (2022)

Council endorsed its *Urban Forest Strategy* (UFS) in 2022. The UFS addresses tree canopy aspirations for the municipality including an increase in tree and vegetation cover to reach 30% across the municipality by 2040, and an increase in the use of native and indigenous species types across public tree plantings.

- Increase tree and vegetation cover to reach 30% across the municipality by 2040.
- Create a diverse and healthy urban forest that reinforces better outcomes for biodiversity.
- Improve the ability to monitor and track Bayside's urban forest.
- Maintain existing canopy cover across the Bayside municipality and avoid further decline.
- Learn together, educate each other, encourage and celebrate greater care and protection of the Bayside Urban Forest.

Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan

Council endorsed the *Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan* (PIHLP) in 2022. The aim of the PIHLP is to increase the diversity of indigenous plantings in Council-owned open space outside the conservation reserve system to improve habitat and create connections for native fauna.

The PIHLP included specific actions for four main areas:

- Conservation reserves
- Parklands
- Streetscapes
- wetlands, waterbodies and creek corridors

Some key actions across include:

- Using the planting palette as a guide, ensure plantings include a mixture of species which provide a range of habitat resources.

- Where absent, add native logs, woody debris, leaf litter/mulch and rocks of varying sizes to planting zones, particularly around edges of patches, in varying configurations. Where possible use timber and woody debris salvaged from native trees removed as part of arboricultural works.
- Identify suitable host trees for establishment of native mistletoes. Trees should be mature and where possible solitary to prevent browsing from possums whilst plants are establishing.
- Use locally Indigenous tree species in streetscape plantings with high habitat values (e.g. stringybarks, hollow-developing species, nectar/pollen producing species).
- Where practicable, create 'no mow' areas where mowing is prohibited allowing tall groundcover to develop to >30cm. Ideally establish Indigenous species in these areas e.g. tussock grasses.
- Encourage residential properties to plant Indigenous groundcover, shrubs and trees in front gardens to increase the extent and width of habitat along streets.
- Control pest animals such as Common Myna, as well as weeds, in accordance with previous advice provided in *Bayside Fauna Survey* (Practical Ecology 2012) and *Bayside Native Vegetation Works program* (Ecology Australia 2013).

Artificial Cavity Action review and action plan

Council has agreed to fund the development of an artificial cavity action plan. This plan will incorporate a mixture of chain saw hollows, log hollows and nest boxes designed to provide additional habitat opportunities for targeted fauna species in Bayside and will be a separate document to the BAP. A review of the Artificial Cavity (Arcadis 2023) Program at Council recommended actions which included:

- All species records from the hollows to be recorded in the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. Council should consider providing groups with training on how to collect and record data suitable for submission to the Atlas.
- Council to coordinate annual hollow checks in collaboration with community groups. Statistics can be used to compare results of different areas and changes in species demographics across the shire. The results can be uploaded to the Atlas and added to an annual report which can be made available to the public to showcase the project.
- Council to investigate if the artificial cavities can be used to evaluate the success of the Bayside Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan. A strategic approach could be to install hollows in key areas where works are planned to determine if there are changes in species composition and abundance following enhancement.
- Council to provide groups with recommendations for nest box designs including the use of suitable materials, minimum thickness of timber, colour of paint and internal ladders in all nest boxes. This information is to be developed as part of an artificial cavity Action Plan.

City Council Wildlife Friendly Lighting Policy (2021)

Council proactively developed a Wildlife Friendly Lighting Policy in 2021 to address management of lighting within sportsgrounds and other sporting facilities. This policy adheres to the *National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife: Including marine turtles, seabirds and migratory shorebirds* (DBCA 2020). Artificial lighting has the potential to cause light pollution to impact on neighbouring bushland reserves. Similar to air and water, darkness has conservation value to the wildlife that utilise natural and modified habitats. Animals perceive light differently from humans, which makes it difficult to quantify light impacts. Actions in this policy include:

- When appropriate, assess lighting in open space located on Council owned or managed land (with a priority for areas adjacent to bushland reserves and the foreshore); and replace lighting with wildlife friendly lights to reduce the impact to native wildlife in Bayside from lighting;
- Ensure any new lighting requests are assessed prior to installation to take into consideration recommendations outlined in the National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife: Including marine turtles, seabirds and migratory shorebirds (2017), incorporating the following design principles:

Best Practice Lighting Design

- Start with natural darkness and only add light for specific purposes.
- Use adaptive light controls to manage light timing, intensity, and colour.
- Light only the object or area intended – keep lights close to the ground, directed, and shielded to avoid light spill.
- Use the lowest intensity lighting appropriate for the task.
- Use non-reflective, dark-coloured surfaces.
- Use lights with reduced or filtered blue, violet, and ultra-violet wavelengths, which have been shown to be particularly problematic for wildlife.

Domestic animal management plan

The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* requires all Council's to prepare a new Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) every four years. Bayside City Council is currently preparing for the next plan in the year of 2025/26. Dogs and cats can have a significantly negative impact on biodiversity. Council currently has a cat curfew in place whereby owners are required to keep their cats indoors at night – the time when the highest rates of predation on native wildlife occur. As part of implementing the current DAMP actions, Council officers will be undertaking an investigation of dog off-leash access in environmentally sensitive areas.

The current DAMP contains some actions relevant to the BAP 2024 including:

- Improve education material for cat owners who ignore the cat curfew to improve understanding and compliance.
- Review Dog off-leash restrictions adjacent to Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary and all beaches.
- Transition to cat containment (day and night) requiring all owners of cats to keep their cat on their property and not allow their cat to wander beyond the owner's property at any time.

Weed and Pest Management Plan

At its 15 August 2023 Ordinary Meeting Council resolved to seek funding for a Weed & Pest Management Plan in the 2024/25 financial year.



Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bergii*) Bayside Foreshore.

Council Notices of Motion

Council officers responded to a range of Notices of Motion from Council during 2021 and 2022 that have had contributed towards the achievement of BAP outcomes and had positive impacts on biodiversity. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- NOM 307 – Landcox Park Lake – this sought to improve the water quality at Landcox Park Lake.
- NOM 308 – Grey-headed Flying Fox Protection Measures – this sought to remove barbed wire on Council owned and managed land.
- NOM 309 – Nature-Rich Bayside – this sought to develop the Wildlife Friendly Lighting Policy, review nest boxes in Bayside and provide guidelines, and create Water for Wildlife in Bayside parks and reserves.
- NOM 314 – Butterfly-friendly Bayside – this sought to review Councils use of herbicides and pesticides, protect mistletoe populations in Bayside and create more opportunities for planting butterfly and insect attracting Indigenous flowers and grasses throughout the municipality.
- NOM 315 – Wildlife-friendly gardens and nature strips – this sought to remove barriers for residents to plant Indigenous plants into their nature strips, encourage wildlife friendly gardening and encourage wildlife-friendly cat ownership.
- NOM 317 – Noisy Miner Project – Restoring the Balance – this sought to address the threat to smaller native birds by the dominating presence of Noisy Miners.
- NOM 319 – Powerful Owl Protection – Second-generation Anti-coagulant Rodenticides – this sought to phase out the use of SGAR's within Bayside and make a submission to the Review of Anticoagulant Rodenticides currently being completed by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.
- NOM 323 – Formation of a South-eastern Councils Biodiversity Network – this sought to explore support for the establishment of a South-eastern Councils Biodiversity Network to share information, collaborate and provide advocacy on biodiversity issues.



Musk Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta concinna*) at Sandringham Golf Links

5 Bayside biodiversity

Bayside has 77.09 hectares of open space specifically managed for conservation, comprising 56.72 hectares along 17 kms of foreshore and 20.37 hectares in the eight inland reserves. Significant sites include:

Foreshore reserves

- Beaumaris Foreshore – north
- Black Rock – south
- Brighton Dunes
- Picnic Point
- Red Bluff
- Ricketts Point Hinterland (landside) and Foreshore
- Sandringham Foreshore – south



Sun Orchid, John Eichler

Inland reserves

- Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve
- Balcombe Park
- Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary
- Cheltenham Park Flora and Fauna Reserve
- Donald MacDonald Reserve
- George Street Reserve
- Gramatan Avenue Heathland Sanctuary
- Long Hollow Heathland
- Highett Grassy Woodland Reserve



Tiger Orchid, John Eichler

These areas provide examples of vulnerable and endangered Ecological Vegetation Classes, and habitat for rare or threatened flora and fauna species, much of which continue to decline in extent, condition and population size in the greater Melbourne region and beyond.

The Bayside municipality is located within the Sandbelt region of south-eastern Melbourne, which is part of the Brighton Coastal Plain geomorphological unit - a broad coastal plain or low plateau of sandy soil 30 to 40 m above sea level that extends from Brighton to Springvale.

The vegetation of the Bayside is largely dominated by Coastal Headland Scrub, Coastal Dune Scrub, Coastal Dune Grassland, or Coast Banksia Woodland Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs). Without exception, the foreshore is the most defining feature of Bayside's character, which covers a total of 99 hectares (including public and private land) along the Port Phillip Bay coastline.

Inland from the coast, the land would have been dominated by Heathy Woodland, Sand Heathland, Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland and Grassy Woodland EVCs prior to European settlement. These areas have largely been converted to residential land with only a small number of bushland remnants remain.

The 115-hectare Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary located off Beaumaris is part of a system of 13 Marine National Parks and 11 smaller Marine Sanctuaries created in November 2002 by the Victorian Government to ensure that representative samples of Victoria's diverse marine environment are conserved for future generations. It protects a range of marine life and is highly valued for its diverse marine life, fish nurseries, and migrant and resident bird populations.

Port Phillip Bay water quality fluctuates with rainfall and the impact of polluted waterways or outlets that discharge into the Bay. Elster Creek is the only substantial waterway in Bayside and provides important habitat for the range of flora and fauna, despite being highly modified from its natural form, containing sections of concrete channel and underground pipe. Bayside also has significant coastal cliffs in the Beaumaris area where many fossils dated to six million years ago have been found, including various molluscs and the bones of whales, sharks, rays, dolphins, birds and marsupials (Fitzgerald and Schmidt 2001).

In addition to public open space, the private and public golf courses that enhance the character of Bayside also comprise areas of Indigenous vegetation that provide habitat, seed collection banks, educational resources and wildlife corridors through the municipality.

Tree-lined streets and established gardens (some of which are native) also contribute to the landscape character and biodiversity values of Bayside.

Biennial monitoring of trees indicate that Bayside comprises of approximately 45,000 native and non-native street trees, plus approximately 15,000 trees in parks and reserves.



6 Biological indicator species

Biological indicators are living organism (animals, plants, fungi) that can be used to monitor positive or negative changes in an ecosystem such as biodiversity improvements.

Bayside City Council will undertake an annual monitoring program that will allow Council to evaluate land management practices over time. Surveys will allow Council to evaluate the success of revegetation and habitat connectivity programs as identified within the PIHLP (2022) and UFS (2022). The surveys can be achieved through targeted monitoring for key biological indicator species. The surveys for these species could be undertaken in partnership with community groups adding additional value to the program.

Council would report on the findings in a dedicated regular report showing increase/decrease in abundances of these species. The report would include survey information on specific conservation reserves as well as surveys conducted more broadly across private land.

Each biological indicator species selected needs to meet a set of criteria (Holt and Miller 2010) such as be readily detectable and able to populate new suitable habitats with ease. The species must be able to show a measurable change in response to ecosystem changes (e.g./revegetation).

Specific criteria for selecting these species includes:

- **Detectability**

Species that can readily be detected are more suitable. Owls are a great indicator of ecosystem health; however, they occur in low numbers and are difficult to detect. To measure change overtime, lots of data is required.

- **Mobility**

Highly mobile species such as bats and birds will readily accept new habitats if suitable habitat characteristics are provided. Species such as reptiles and frogs have limited ability to disperse large distances within urban settings and therefore do not make suitable target species for this application. Flying animals are much more suitable.

- **Habitat utilisation**

The selected species must have the ability to occur within a broad suite of habitats including coastal foreshore, woodlands, riparian areas, wetlands, and urban backyards.

- **Community involvement**

Species that can be detected through the assistance of community members can make the data easier to collect. This could mean embracing already existing programs including the Council's nest box program, bat monitoring and birds. There is also an opportunity to engage more broadly with all residents within Bayside to assist in collecting this data, e.g. Participate in the 'BirdLife Aussie Backyard Bird Count' or host their own 'Bio Blitz.'

Recommended species

The following fauna species are to be used as the biological indicator species.

Woodland birds

- Superb Fairywren (indicator for understorey and plant diversity)
- Common Bronzewing Pigeon (iconic species)
- Silveryeye (indicator for understorey and plant diversity)
- Brown Thornbill (indicator for understorey and plant diversity)

Microbats

Species such as:

- Gould's Wattle Bat (indicator of environmental health and invertebrates)
- Lesser Long-eared Bat (indicator of environmental health and invertebrates)

Invertebrates

- Blue-banded Bee (indicator of connectivity and species richness)
- Jezebel Butterfly (Mistletoe abundance)

As Council continues to grow and expand its 'Gardens for Wildlife' program, other species could also be considered for inclusion. One taxon for consideration could include the addition of local frog species as many are easily identifiable via their calls, appreciated by the local naturalist community and sensitive to environmental degradation, and could be useful indicator species.

Climate change monitoring

Coast Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) and Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*)

Banksia is locally common in Bayside occurring in several bushland reserves particularly along the foreshore. This genera is readily detected due to its prominent flowers and leaves. The aim of this data collection would be to ascertain if the populations of Coast Banksia and Silver Banksia are stable and to monitor for any dieback. Some studies have shown that Banksia are susceptible to the impacts of a climate changes such as reduced rainfall (Yates et al. 2010; Bennet and Attiwill 1996). While a lack of disturbance such as fire and high competition for resources was also shown to impact on this species (Gent and Morgan 2007). Either way, this species is sensitive to change, and a long-term monitoring program would allow Council to monitor ecosystem changes in habitats dominated.

Monitoring would include identifying up to 10 populations of Banksia. Initially, the project would aim to collect baseline data including:

- mapping the Banksia polygons at the site to identify a coverage.
- scoring any dieback across the sub-population
- scoring any recruitment
- Photograph points with GPS of each point for reference

Annual monitoring should be undertaken following summer each year to determine if the summer heat has impacted the plants. Data should be collected on:

- Scoring noticeable dieback including recently dead foliage or limbs
- Number of dead trees
- Scoring recruitment
- Undertaking Photograph points at the same locations
- After 5 years, the populations should be remapped to determine if there has been any decreases in coverage.



Silver Banksia photographed at Bayside.

7 Biodiversity actions

The actions in this Plan address Council's biodiversity goals:

- Biodiversity conservation and protections
- Integrating biodiversity and natural resource management
- Managing threatening processes
- Improving our knowledge
- Community involvement
- Traditional Owner inclusion

The following sections provide a list of key biodiversity actions. Similar to the BAP 2018, these actions are organised into the same three separate sections. However, an additional section has been created for Traditional owners:

- Understanding Bayside's biodiversity values for conservation, protection and management
- Managing biodiversity and threatening processes
- Improving our biodiversity knowledge
- Traditional Owner inclusion in biodiversity management

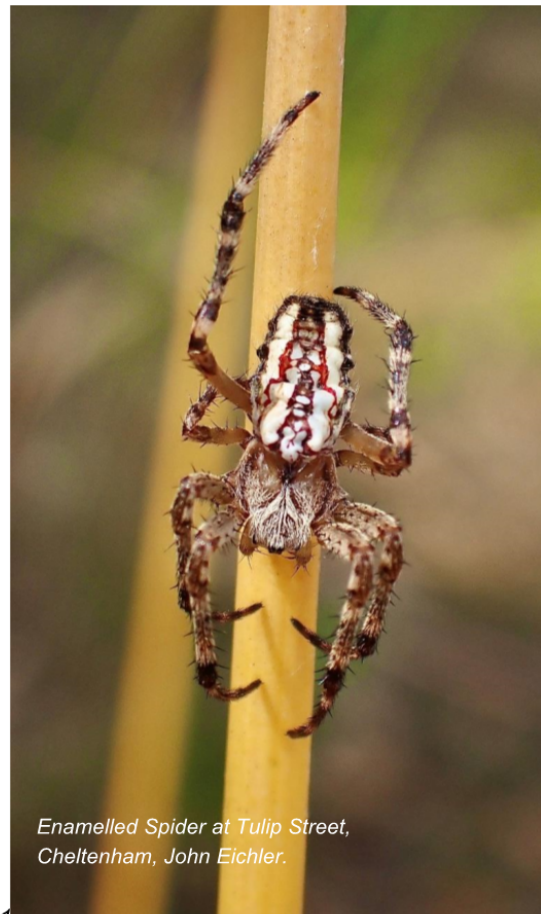
The actions in the following sections also show the estimated timeframes for delivery of each and the approximate costs (see below):

Table 1. Recommended timeframe for the action

Timeframe	Years
Short	0-4
Medium	4-7
Long	8-10
Ongoing	

Table 2. Costs

Cost	Years
\$	0-\$10,000
\$\$	\$10,000-\$50,000
\$\$\$	\$50,000-\$100,000
\$\$\$\$	\$100,000+



7.1 Understanding Bayside's biodiversity values for conservation, protection and management

Identify areas of important biological diversity and threatening processes

Bayside City Council is currently working on developing an updated Native Vegetation Works program in 2024 which will supersede the previous one. However, it is recommended that Council continue to revise this important program on a 10-year annual basis.

Additionally, the *Bayside Fauna Survey 2011-2012: Reserve fauna habitat assessment and management recommendations* (Practical Ecology 2012) report needs to be updated every 10 years. This should include any new areas such as Highett Grassy Woodland and Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve. It should also remove any actions that have been completed or add in any new relevant actions. Future reviews should consult with relevant Friends Groups.

Open spaces in urban areas have an especially important function for biodiversity as they can be some of the few remaining places where a variety of ecosystems are able to persist. To help identify key habitats, Council should work with volunteers to develop better data collection tools for the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas which will assist in identifying key habitats for flora and fauna. The *Ecological Data Review* (Ecology Australia 2017) has several recommendations for collecting data on a variety of taxa and helping to map our important habitats.

Table 3. Identify areas of important biological diversity and threatening processes

No.	Action	Timeframe	Cost
1	Update the Bayside Native Vegetation Works Program on a 10 yearly basis.	Long	\$\$\$\$
2	Update the Bayside Fauna Survey on a 10 yearly basis.	Long	\$\$\$
3	Assist volunteers with collation of flora and fauna data collected.	Short	\$
4	Map GIS layers and share shapefiles with contractors including citywide including locations of nest boxes/artificial cavities/hollows, significant trees, mistletoes and threatened species	Short	\$\$
5	Implement the recommendations for further biodiversity survey work in the Ecological data review for the Bayside City Council Municipality (Ecology Australia 2017a).	Medium	\$\$\$\$

7.2 Managing biodiversity and threatening processes

Effectively manage biodiversity in conservation reserves

Essential to management is a detailed understanding of the key threatened and regionally significant species that Council is working to protect. A dedicated action plan to identify and conserve these species is required. This will be achieved by engaging ecological experts and consulting with community groups to document known populations of significant and iconic local species that are at risk of decline and local extinction.

While some species may never return due to landscape changes (macropods, etc.), many mobile species such as birds and bats may return if the suitable habitat characteristics and resources are provided.

Providing a diverse range of habitat for smaller reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates can be achieved via the retention and placement of rocks, logs, leaf litter and woody debris, both in conservation reserves and other parks and gardens.

A threatened species action plan would also identify whether reintroduction of some species is feasible at suitable locations and should be investigated.

For example, Grey Headed Flying Fox (GHFF) are known to frequent Bayside to browse on seasonal food trees when they fruit and/or flower. As noted in its' *Notice of Motion 308 - Grey-headed Flying Fox Protection Measures*, Council will continue to look for opportunities to provide food trees for GHFF throughout Bayside as part of implementing planting for the *Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan 2022*. Similarly, the investigation of suitable locations areas that may be appropriate for the reintroduction of the Growling Grass-Frog – another threatened species – could also be sought.

As Long Hollow Heathland and Balcombe Park were historically wetter sites, inputting water with low nutrient levels may be beneficial to the vegetation. If opportunities to increase water flows into these reserves arise, ground water and vegetation monitoring data will be required to determine the potential impacts. This was further investigated via *Ecological implications of proposed hydrological changes at Long Hollow Heathland Reserve, Beaumaris* (Ecology Australia 2017b).

Following the installation of ground water bores, these sites should continue to be monitored to determine whether works should be undertaken to restore historically damper areas should future investigations recommend that this is required and/or feasible.

Council also needs to continue to support Friends Groups through group email lists to key individuals and through ongoing facilitated workshops.

Supporting the ongoing publication of the *Banksia Bulletin* provides a critical environmental educational resource for both Friends and the broader Bayside community.

Table 4. Effectively manage biodiversity in conservation reserves

No.	Action	Timeframe	Cost
6	Continue to manage works as outlined in the various management plans prepared for the municipality, as well as updated versions	Ongoing	Existing
7	Undertake a threatened and locally significant plant and animal action plan to assist with mitigating impacts and conserving local species. This should include plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.	Medium	\$\$\$
8	Continue to explore appropriate locations to plant GHFF food tree species for consideration and inclusion as part of implementing the <i>Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan 2022</i> and prioritise food tree species that do not attract bird pest species.	Ongoing	Existing
9	Investigate suitable locations that may be appropriate to reintroduce the Growling Grass Frog in Bayside.	Medium	\$\$
10	Continue groundwater and vegetation monitoring at Long Hollow Heathland and Balcombe Park for future investigation into hydrological changes.	Ongoing	Existing
11	Continue to support Friends Groups by providing equipment, materials and knowledge to promote and conserve biodiversity.	Ongoing	\$\$

Effectively manage biodiversity on other public land and promote in private land.

This section highlights the importance of maintaining land and waters, even spaces occupied and frequented by people, as spaces where flora and fauna can thrive in order to support biodiversity. Conservation on public land requires investment in education to ensure private residents take effective measures.

Where possible, Indigenous trees (of local provenance) should be used for street tree plantings. Non-Indigenous Eucalyptus and Corymbia tree species should not be used unless planting sites are appropriate and size of nature strips are not prohibitive.

Residents are encouraged to plant Indigenous species into their gardens through initiatives such as ‘Gardens for Wildlife’. Residents that have properties that immediately adjoin reserves and along wildlife corridors should be priority. This could be through biodiversity education, articles in local newspapers/newsletters and incentives such as Indigenous plant give-aways.

Council is also currently encouraging residents to revegetate nature strips. They have created information with recommended plant lists and design features which can be included. Council will be working with local residents to showcase some of the innovative examples.

Artificial lighting is a significant risk to wildlife communities that rely on patches of darkness. Council is to complete an impact assessment for any major artificial lighting upgrades that could increase spillage into bushland reserves and hi-quality roadside habitat.

Community groups including Friends of Native Wildlife and the Yalukit Willam Nature Association have built a sophisticated nest box program. Building on the successes of this program, the Artificial Cavity Review will be completed and will outline some key recommendations for management of Council’s nest boxes and mechanically carved hollows. This includes ensuring nest boxes are correctly installed, monitored and data kept. It is essential that Council continue to implement the actions in this review.

Table 5. Effectively manage biodiversity on other public land and promote in private land

No.	Action	Timeframe	Cost
12	Council to use more than 50% Indigenous species for street trees and nature strip plantings	Ongoing	\$\$
13	Continue to support the Gardens for Wildlife Program through promotions via Councils newsletters, website and social media channels	Ongoing	Existing
14	Increase the number of planted nature strips is to a minimum of 20 per year.	Ongoing	\$\$
15	Monitor for unauthorised residential garden expansion into public parks/foreshore	Ongoing	Existing
16	Council to get independent assessment to measure impact to wildlife from significant lighting upgrades to sites adjacent to bushland areas or high-quality roadsides	Ongoing	\$\$
17	Council to investigate other areas where light pollution can be minimised.	Ongoing	\$
18	Council to implement the actions contained within the Bayside Artificial Cavity Review including prepare an Action Plan.	Short	\$\$

Weeds, over-abundant native species, pest animals, pathogens

This section relates to the effect of weeds, over-abundant native species, pest animals, and pathogens on biodiversity. Weeds include exotic species that are not considered native to Victoria; and non-Indigenous native

species which may be outside of their known vegetation communities. Council is to follow weed control works up with revegetation where appropriate. Some situations may warrant leaving killed weed shrubs in situ as habitat for small birds or replacement in lieu of natural habitat growth.

Residents need live immediately adjacent need to be made aware of environmental weeds. This could be achieved through encouraging them to bushland working bees and distributing information on weeds of Bayside.

Table 6. Weeds, over-abundant native species, pest animals, pathogens

No.	Action	Timeframe	Cost
19	Undertake weed and pest animal management as detailed in the Bayside Native Vegetation Works Programs (Ecology Australia 2008, 2012, 2013) and Bayside Fauna Survey (Practical Ecology 2012).	Ongoing	Existing
20	Manage over abundant Indigenous plant species such as Dodder-laurel parasitic climbers and Bracken fern.	Ongoing	Existing
21	Council to continue to provide support to the Bayside Indian Myna Action Group for trapping of Mynas	Ongoing	Existing
22	Council to continue to advocate to the State Government regarding the abolition of protection of Noisy Miners and ensure planting strategies embedded in various Council policies avoid planting structures that favour Noisy Miners.	Ongoing	Existing

Fire management to maintain heathland diversity

Bayside is to continuing to burn up to 4000 m² to achieve a 20-year burn program, and consideration of revegetating burnt sites with the former heathland canopy dominant species that have largely disappeared Prickly and Heath Tea-tree (*Leptospermum myrsinoides* and *L. continentale*), Scrub/Green She-oak (*Allocasuarina paludosa/paradoxa*), Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*) and/or Eucalypts – where appropriate.

To achieve this, additional staffing and funding resources will be required to complete burn preparation works, conduct the burn safely and effectively, and undertake adequate follow up control after the burn.

An Ecological Burn Plan is developed for every controlled burn within a bushland reserve that includes engaging with local volunteers to share knowledge and resources before, during and after each burn.

The updated NVWP (in development) will provide further advice and specific actions for burn practices.

Table 7. Fire management to maintain heathland diversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Cost
23	Implement the recommendations of the Burning regime advice for Bayside City Council's inland reserves report (Ecology Australia 2015) – also see NVWP 2024	Ongoing	\$\$
24	Investigate opportunities to utilise Traditional Owners in planning for and carrying out ecological burns including participation with field crew or follow up monitoring.	Short	\$\$

Domestic animals

This section relates to protecting the local biodiversity from domestic animals such as dogs and cats. Where possible on the foreshore (particularly at Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary), apply a consistent approach between Parks Victoria and Bayside City Council to increase protection of significant biodiversity values from wildlife predation and disturbance, and nutrient enrichment of vegetation from faeces.

It should be noted that Bayside prohibits dogs from within fenced areas in conservation reserves. This is critical to maintain to protect sensitive indigenous vegetation and regeneration from trampling and other negative impacts of dogs.

In order to ensure the cat curfew is implemented, Council needs to continue to promote the benefits of the curfew for native species to residents. This could be achieved through educational content such as factsheets or newsletter articles. Showcasing of owners who do the right thing could also be a great way to champion for change and encourage cat owners to abide by the rules.

Table 8. Domestic animals

No.	Action	Timeframe	Cost
25	Support Council's cat curfew by providing ongoing education to the community regarding the importance of keeping cats inside and harm to wildlife	Ongoing	\$
26	Support the updated Domestic Animal Management Plan where it relates to areas of environmental sensitivity	Ongoing	\$

Pollution and litter

Council is to minimise and treat storm water run-off where possible, especially in areas adjoining conservation reserves and the bay. Where possible, work with Melbourne Water to undertake water quality improvement projects such as Water Sensitive Urban Design that also improve habitat for fish, macroinvertebrates and stream side vegetation. If wetlands or water treatment systems are being constructed in the municipality, augment their habitat values for wildlife with suitable Indigenous plantings and careful placement of large woody debris.

Educate residents and community of their responsibilities with rubbish dumping (including garden waste) and prosecute known offenders.

Table 9. Pollution and litter

No.	Action	Timeframe	Cost
27	Target chemical use to direct application methods where possible.	Ongoing	\$\$
28	Ensure appropriate responses to reports of pollution are undertaken.	Ongoing	\$

Detrimental and conflicting land uses

Bushcrew staff and volunteers must be vigilant at identifying and reporting cubby houses, camps and informal tracks. Staff need to clearly demark access tracks with fencing and signage as appropriate to discourage the creation of informal tracks. This is particularly important along foreshore areas. If informal tracks are identified they should be rehabilitated as soon as possible, and signage installed to discourage future activities.

If cubby houses or camp locations are identified, immediately dismantle and rehabilitate as appropriate. Develop and implement a formal process to rapidly evict squatters including early intervention and response from the Department of Human Services. Unpermitted clearing of native vegetation to create camps, cubby houses, informal tracks, etc. is in breach of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and should be halted immediately.

Exposed tree roots caused by tracks should be assessed by an Arborist and managed according to their recommendations (e.g. recover with soil).

Council should consider educational paths to prevent these detrimental land uses. Information contained within the Council newsletters could be promoted broadly to all residents.

Table 10. Detrimental and conflicting land uses

No.	Action	Timeframe	Cost
29	Discourage the creation of cubby houses, squatters' camps, informal tracks and bike jumps in areas of native vegetation.	Ongoing	Existing
30	Protect tree roots from damage caused by designated and informal tracks.	Ongoing	Existing

Climate change adaptation

It is expected that Council will always consider the recent and well supported scientific evidence when addressing issues related to climate change (e.g. sea-level rise, droughts, floods, heatwaves). When addressing climate change related issues, Council will consider the impacts to biodiversity and ways to minimise the threats.

To identify species most vulnerable to climate change, an Action Plan is proposed to allow for a risk assessment. Those identified at being most at risk may be subject to greater protection and enhanced revegetation techniques. Council has a Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2025 which contains several actions for reducing emissions.

Table 11. Climate change adaptation

No.	Action	Timeframe	Cost
31	Address climate change [biodiversity] related issues when developing Council policies and plans.	Ongoing	Existing
32	Undertake a dedicated climate change and biodiversity Action Plan to identify vulnerable species at most risk and mitigation strategies	Medium	\$\$

7.3 Improving our biodiversity knowledge

Increase public awareness and involvement

There is a need to increase awareness of importance of nature and of protecting biodiversity by holding regular bushwalks/workshops led by staff/volunteers with ecological knowledge. These can include wildflower walks, spotlighting events, workshops to create nest boxes and insect hotels, etc. Ideally, these talks would be conducted so that they appeal to a broader audience outside of the friends' groups and attract new members.

There is also a need to continue to promote the Council native plant nursery which grows and supplies around 100,000 Indigenous plants, grasses and trees for planting in parks, inland and coastal bushland reserves, as well as, selling quality stock to the community and local businesses. Dedicated volunteers run the nursery and propagate high-quality local Indigenous plants that are otherwise unavailable or hard to source.

Council should consider creating a calendar of events to target education and awareness events such as Threatened Species Day, Biodiversity Month, National Tree Day, Council Open Days, etc. By organising the events well in advance, partnering community groups can promote the workshops. Council's communications team should assist in promoting the workshops and events via social media to maximise attendance.

In order to keep track of Council's biodiversity action plan implementation and to promote the progress being made to a broader audience, Council should create an annual 'state of the environment' report to highlight the key achievements in the past year. Items that could be reported on include number of plantings, number of fauna observations, key threatened species observations, nest box occupancy records, Banksia Bulletin newsletters produced, and events held.

The *Banksia Bulletin* is a critically important tool for communicating Council's environmental education. Council is to ensure libraries have a biodiversity resources section including back issues of the *Banksia Bulletin* and

regularly published articles in Council network newspapers outlining biodiversity issues and actions. The readership of this publication should be increased to reach people outside of the typical environment groups. This could be achieved by advertising it through the Bayside newsletter 'Let's talk Bayside,' Council website and via community events.

Table 12. Increase public awareness and involvement

No.	Action	Timeframe	Cost
33	Host five biodiversity workshops annually aimed at educating community.	Ongoing	\$
34	Create easily accessible resources on Bayside's biodiversity to promote community participation and education.	Ongoing	\$
35	Create an annual report to list all biodiversity achievements within the last year.	Ongoing	\$
36	Council to produce and annual calendar of environment events each year (November/December) for the following year.	Ongoing	\$\$
37	Grow the subscriber numbers to the <i>Banksia Bulletin</i> newsletter by 50 additional people each year.	Ongoing	\$

Monitoring and evaluating our biodiversity

Critical to any biodiversity action plan is a method of monitoring progress. It is recommended that Council undertake annual monitoring of biological indicators to allow for evaluation of Council's progress on biodiversity. Biological indicators are living organism (animals, plants, fungi) that can be used to monitor positive or negative changes in an ecosystem such as biodiversity improvements.

The precise details for the bio-indicator monitoring would be delivered in a monitoring program. All data collected should be added to state government atlases.

There is a severe shortage of Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (DEECA 2024) data for Bayside City Council. A number of species are not shown within the atlas despite extensive local knowledge demonstrating that they do occur. This is important as the data contained within the atlas is used in environmental planning and for determining priority conservation areas. It is proposed that Council consider manually uploading data from iNaturalist to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas each year. This could be achieved through the recruitment of a volunteer ecologist which could allow Council to complete these tasks with a low budget while also providing local students with an opportunity to upskill.

Table 13. Monitoring and evaluating our biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Cost
38	Prepare a biodiversity monitoring program for biological indicator species	Short	\$\$
39	Undertake annual monitoring of biological indicator species including abundance and diversity of species (Birds, Microbats, Invertebrates and Banksia)	Short	\$
40	Produce an annual report regarding the survey effort, detections and changes in numbers of each of the biological indicator species	Short	Existing
41	Council to upload a minimum 1000 VBA records annually	Short to Medium	Existing

42	Make it compulsory (include in contract) for ecological contractors and consultants working in Bayside to upload all species record data collected to the VBA	Short	Existing
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Incorporating biodiversity values within Council

This section ensures that biodiversity values are incorporated into other areas within Council. One area that has been proposed in the last BAP is the development of a 'Biodiversity Working Group' to raise awareness and build connections between different organisations. Council currently has an informal group of key environmental community group members which act as a working group. It is proposed that Council continue to consult with these members on relevant issues and policy. If possible, the group should also include Bayside City Council strategic planners, arborists, open space and local laws representatives.

Table 14. Incorporating biodiversity values within Council

No.	Action	Timeframe	Cost
43	Continue to work with the key stakeholders in the community as a 'Biodiversity Working Group' to facilitate a training and awareness program from Council staff, contractors and environmental volunteers	AOA	Existing
44	Implement the <i>Urban Forest Strategy (2022)</i>	Medium	\$\$\$\$
45	Implement the <i>Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan (2022)</i>	Medium	\$\$
46	Implement the <i>Native Vegetation Works Program (2024)</i> – currently in development	Medium	\$\$\$\$

7.4 Traditional Owner inclusion in biodiversity management

In the past four years, environmental policy across all organisations has seen a significant transition to increase the opportunities for Traditional Owners in biodiversity management. This includes providing opportunities for consultation and working jointly with Traditional Owner groups to manage conservation reserves in partnership with the existing friends' groups. This aligns well with key strategic actions contained within the Victorian Government Biodiversity Strategy and the regional Port Phillip and Westernport Regional Catchment Management Strategy.

There is an opportunity for Bayside City Council to work collaboratively with the Traditional Owners to incorporate their knowledge into management and education.

It is assumed that the actions in this section will be updated once engagement activities have been completed with the key stakeholders.

Table 15. Traditional Owner inclusion in biodiversity management

No.	Action	Timeframe	Cost
47	Council to engage and consult with the relevant Traditional Owner representatives when preparing environmental management plans, strategies and action plans	AOA	\$
48	Host at least one annual talk, event and/or demonstration about traditional ecological knowledge, and Traditional Owner management and culture	Short	\$



Black Kite, occasional visitor to Bayside.

8 Acknowledgements

- Bayside City Council would like to thank the following people and organisations for their input and assistance in preparing this Biodiversity Action Plan:
- William Terry and Elvira Lanham (document authors)
- Amy Weir – Bayside City Council
- Sue Forster – Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary, Bayside Community Nursery, Mother Stock area
- Pauline Reynolds – Friends of George Street Reserve, Friends of Highett Grass Woodlands
- Elizabeth Walsh – Friends of Native Wildlife
- This plan was an update to the 2018 BAP. Where possible, the information has been retained and updated. We acknowledge the efforts of the previous ecological consultants to prepare this information (Fiona Sutton and Lisa Jegathesan from Ecology Australia)



Star fish (Paranepanthia grandis) at Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary, John Eichler.

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Appendix 1. Proposed Biodiversity Monitoring species. This information is to be refined in a specific Action Plan which explicit instructions on the delivery.

Questions	Target species	Timing	Survey methodology overview	Outputs
	<p>Woodland Birds</p> <p>Superb Fairywren (<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>), Bronzewing Pigeon (<i>Phaps chalcoptera</i>)</p> <p>Brown Thornbill (<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>)</p> <p>Silvereye (<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>)</p>	Sep-Nov	<p>Targeted surveys within the priority management areas. These could include Long Hollow Heathland Reserve, Dendy Park, Ricketts Point Foreshore, Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve and Landcox Park.</p> <p>Surveys should be undertaken in an area with dense (or where proposed) vegetation occurs. Surveys should be undertaken at the same specific location each year.</p> <p>Survey methodology should consist of the Bird Life 2Ha 20-minute search with all birds recorded within a 200m x 100m. The surveys need to be led by an experience ornithologist that can identify birds from calls and sight. Surveys to be undertaken in partnership (or lead by) with key community groups or with the broader public.</p> <p>As an additional dataset to report on, members of the public could be encouraged to undertake the National Backyard Bird Count. The data from backyards and private property could be collected from this dataset. BirdLife Australia offers free use of this data for participating local governments.</p>	<p>All data should be added to the VBA.</p> <p>A short annual summary report would allow Council to evaluate the monitoring progress.</p>
Are our restoration attempts to restore connectivity in Bayside improving outcomes for wildlife?	<p>Microbats</p> <p>Gould's Wattle Bat (<i>Chalinolobus gouldii</i>)</p> <p>Lesser Long-eared Bat (<i>Nyctophilus geoffroyi</i>)</p> <p>Little Forest Bat (<i>Vespadelus vulturinus</i>)</p>	Oct - Dec	<p>Targeted surveys should utilise both existing nest box programs and newly installed nest boxes across reserves. Annual monitoring of all nest boxes should be undertaken to record occupancy. Collaboration with key stakeholders including Friends of Native Wildlife and Friends of Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve could be essential for collecting this data.</p>	
	<p>Invertebrates</p> <p>Blue-banded Bee (<i>Amegilla cingulata</i>)</p> <p>Jezebel Butterfly (<i>Delias</i> spp – both species)</p>	Oct-Feb	<p>Targeted surveys should focus on sites that both already contain suitable habitat (a diversity of flowering plants) and in areas where restoration through revegetation is expected to occur. Surveys could include the construction and monitoring of bee nest boxes.</p> <p>Bees can be surveyed by conducting a timed transect that can be repeated in the same area each year. Blue-banded Bees have a preference for blue and purple flowering plants but will visit the flowers of non-blue as well. It is recommended that surveys concentrate on areas that contain blue flowering plants such as Kangaroo Apple (<i>Solanum lacinialeum</i>), Dianella (<i>Dianella revoluta</i>), Blue Pincushion (<i>Brunonia australis</i>), Bluebell (<i>Wahlenbergia capillaris</i>), Cut-leaved Daisy (<i>Brachyscome multifida</i>), Chocolate Lily (<i>Arthropodium strictum</i>) and Purple Coral-pea (<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>). Where possible, photos should be taken of the Blue-banded Bees to confirm identification.</p> <p>The Jezebel Butterfly (<i>Delias</i> spp.) has a close affiliation with Mistletoe which they feed on and lay their eggs on. These butterflies are common in summer. Male butterflies will patrol the high elevated sections and tall trees to wait for females.</p>	
Are the changes in climate impacting local sensitive flora species?	<p>Flora</p> <p>Coast Banksia (<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>) and Silver Banksia (<i>Banksia marginata</i>)</p>	After summer (March - April)	<p>Targeted surveys should consist of visits to up to 10 populations of Banksia. A recording sheet should score the overall health, any signs of dieback, signs of recruitment and permanent photo points. Surveys must be undertaken at the same time each year.</p>	<p>A short report to be developed after 5 years of monitoring.</p>

Appendix 2.

This section provides a review of changes to policy at the international, national and a local level that may impact the management of biodiversity in Bayside.

International

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

At an international level, Australia is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. This convention was signed by over 150 governments worldwide at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit with the aim to conserve biological diversity and sustainable use of resources.

In 2022, a new agreement was established called the Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This included both short (2030) and long-term (2050) actions to conserve biodiversity. The actions can be broadly described as aiming to protect biodiversity through environmental planning, control of noxious pest species, ecological restoration and ensuring consultation and inclusion of Indigenous people in the management of the land. For the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16) in October 2024 all signed nations, must, for the first time, report on their actions to meet the agreement that they signed in 2022. This is putting all nations that signed the agreement under scrutiny to show improvements in biodiversity management.

National

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

This key Australian Government piece of environmental legislation aims to address environmental matters of national significance, provide a nationally coordinated approach to managing our environment and meet our international commitments. It establishes a national approach to a wide range of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation matters.

In 2020, an independent review of the EPBC Act recommended 38 changes be made which included enforceable national environmental standards and more recognition of Indigenous knowledge. However, these changes are yet to be finalised at the time of writing in early 2024.

In addition, the EPBC Act reform also sought to establish a nature repair market, faster environmental approval process and environmental law reforms.

Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030

The strategy sets a national framework for government, non-government and community action to strengthen Australia's response to biodiversity decline and care for nature in our many environments. It accommodates the different priorities and practices across the country and the diversity in our landscapes. It draws on current evidence and local, national and international approaches. This strategy contains a variety of actions which could be relevant to the BAP including connecting Australians with nature, protection of nature and sharing knowledge.

State

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act)

This is a key piece of Victorian legislation for the conservation of threatened species and ecological communities and for the management of potentially threatening processes. The FFG Act places importance on prevention of threats to species so they do not become threatened in the future. The Act emphasises the importance of cooperative approaches to biodiversity conservation and recognises that all government agencies and the community need to participate in the conservation effort. The Act's objectives aim to conserve all of Victoria's native plants and animals.

The FFG Act protects native vegetation and a permit from the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action DEECA is required to remove protected flora on public land, including land managed by Council, unless they have a public authority management agreement with DEECA.

The FFG Act requires Bayside City Council to consider potential biodiversity impacts in planning applications (e.g., to determine whether the area planned for development could affect habitat for listed species).

In 2019, the FFG Act was amended to include the following:

- introduce principles to guide the implementation of the FFG Act, including consideration of the rights and interests of Traditional Owners and the impacts of climate change
- consideration of biodiversity across government to ensure decisions and policies are made with proper consideration of the potential impacts on biodiversity
- clarification of existing powers to determine critical habitat and improves their protection by encouraging cooperative management
- effects to a consistent national approach to assessing and listing threatened species using the Common Assessment Method, which will reduce duplication of effort between jurisdictions and facilitate the monitoring and reporting of species' conservation status
- and FFG Act's enforcement framework including stronger penalties.

In addition to these changes, the previously used Victorian Advisory List of Threatened Flora and Fauna was removed to avoid duplication. The new Flora and Fauna species list includes some of the species that were previously listed under the old advisory list.

Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037

This Biodiversity Plan establishes priorities for action, and targets that will support the government to align its specific priorities and investments within a broader national context. It has a significant focus on the importance of volunteers and citizen science in the ecology sector which links well with many parts of the Bayside Biodiversity community initiatives. In addition, it also discusses the need for greater data collection to inform biodiversity mapping tools and greater opportunities for Traditional Owners in managing biodiversity.

Relevant actions:

- Promote opportunities for additional 'greening' in established urban areas through broadening standards for public open-space planning provisions, in the context of long-term change in population and community needs.
- Implement and promote programs to increase opportunities for people to connect with nature, including programs to get Traditional Owners out on Country.

Marine and Coastal Policy 2020

Based on the Marine and Coastal Act 2018, the Marine and Coastal Policy sets objectives and guiding principles for the planning and management of the state's marine and coastal environment. It establishes an integrated and coordinated whole-of-government approach to work with Traditional Owners, industry and the community to protect and manage our precious marine and coastal environment.

For Bayside, this document is relevant to the beaches and adjoining habitats that are managed by Council. This policy contains multiple actions aimed at conserving marine habitats and ensuring relevant stakeholders are consulted and included in decisions in this area. Some relevant actions include:

- Maintain, enhance and monitor a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of well-managed Marine and Coastal National Parks, sanctuaries, nature conservation reserves and coastal Crown land reserves
- Partner with Traditional Owners to integrate caring for Country knowledge and practices into strategy, planning and management.
- Support collaborative management of Country

Local

Living Melbourne: our metropolitan urban forest (2022)

This strategy was developed through a partnership between Resilience Melbourne, The Nature Conservancy and 32 metropolitan councils (including Bayside), state government agencies, non-government and community organisations, and other. The Living Melbourne establishes broad actions which include:

- Protect and restore species habitat, and improve connectivity
- Set targets and track progress
- Scale up greening in the private realm
- Collaborate across sectors and regions
- Build a toolkit of resources to underpin implementation
- Fund the protection and enhancement of the urban forest

Port Philip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy (2023)

This Regional Catchment Strategy's overarching aim is to foster collaboration towards its vision of a healthy and resilient environment and well-managed natural resources. The Strategy provides a range of targets for management of land, water and biodiversity management. The strategy is broken up into different regions with the Bayside municipality contained within the 'Urban Melbourne' section. This strategy has several key targets which align with many actions within the Bayside including:

- revegetation of a combined total of 830 hectares by 2050
- sustained pest animal and weed control programs
- major new biodiversity bio links along rivers and to act as stepping stones
- retention of diversity of native animals
- and threatened species management

Some actions within the strategy that are aligned with the BAP are listed below:

- At least 6,500 hectares of new suburban parks established in the region by 2027
- All threatened native vegetation species and ecological communities in the region are retained and are self-sustainable, secure, healthy and resilient
- Maintain the diversity of native animal species in the region from 2021 to 2050 and ensure the populations are sustainable, secure, healthy and resilient
- Wild populations of all threatened native animal species in the region are retained and their populations are self-sustainable, secure, healthy and resilient
- Community volunteering for natural resource management surpasses 1 million hours per year
- Traditional Owners are well represented in relevant organisational boards. All major natural resource management forums and planning processes in this region include Indigenous representation.

10.11 HIGHETT GRASSY WOODLAND MASTERPLAN 2024

Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure - Open Space and Recreation
File No: PSF/24/102 – Doc No: DOC/24/126679

Executive summary

Purpose and background

This report presents the Highett Grassy Woodland community engagement report and the final Highett Grassy Woodland Masterplan 2024 to Council for adoption.

The draft Highett Grassy Woodland Masterplan 2024 was developed from the recommendations contained within the Highett Grassy Woodland Conservation Management Plan March 2024 (CMP), prepared by an ecological and botanical specialist earlier in the year.

The final Highett Grassy Woodland Masterplan 2024 (the Masterplan) contains a high level and conceptual design for the future layout of Highett Grassy Woodland.

The Masterplan contains the high level and conceptual design for the site as site conditions may change over time pending the success or otherwise of intensive weed control and revegetation/restoration outcomes as specified in the CMP.

Key issues

Highett Grassy Woodland Masterplan

The Masterplan proposes a high-level layout of what the future site could look like.

The initial central pathway system and access points have been allocated based on the most appropriate location taking current ecological conditions and sensitivities into consideration. The central access will allow maintenance and emergency vehicles to access all areas of the site as required. It is intended that future pedestrian access will also be available to the Bay Road precinct via the rear of 337 Bay Road industrial complex (The Assembly), as a pedestrian pathway to Bay Road was built and landscaped during construction of the 337 Bay Road complex.

It is proposed that future additional path networks will be determined in response to developing site conditions as they emerge. It is likely that there will be a number of less formal 'bush trails' throughout HGW, leading out from the central access pathway. All paths will be fenced, not only to allow intensive weed control to occur across the site but also to protect any indigenous regeneration and new planting from trampling. The detailed locations will be confirmed as part of the detailed design process.

Fencing the majority of the site will allow the extensive whole-of-site weed control program (2-year minimum) to be undertaken without pedestrian disturbance, which has been identified as a high priority prior to undertaking any revegetation works.

Seating will be placed around the pathway network with small gathering areas to be determined pending the outcomes of revegetation. Sections of boardwalk and/or elevated pathways are also proposed over areas containing more sensitive vegetation or areas that are likely to be seasonally damp.

Other infrastructure may include an environmentally sensitively designed shelter to reflect the natural space and the development of interpretative signs will be key to both communicate and highlight the conservation priorities of HGW.

The Masterplan outlines that dogs will be prohibited from within all fenced-off areas within the reserve. This is consistent with other bushland and conservation reserves in Bayside, where dogs are prohibited from fenced-off areas within the reserve to protect sensitive indigenous remnant vegetation.

Opportunities for the wider community to become involved in the restoration process by joining the Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland will also be promoted throughout the implementation of the Masterplan.

Community Engagement Summary

The Friends of HGW have been heavily involved with Council advocating for recognition of the conservation significance of HGW and have been a key collaborative stakeholder in shaping the Masterplan.

During the Masterplan development and consultation period, Council officers also met onsite with representatives from the Highett Progress Association and Convenors from various Bayside 'Friends of' groups, who were all positive in relation to the vision for the site.

Consultation on the draft Masterplan was undertaken between 24 April and 19 May 2024.

A total of 104 contributions were received via the HGW 'Have your Say' project page during the consultation period with over 1084 visits to the web page and approximately 1,381 views.

The majority of feedback received during the consultation period was supportive of the Masterplan with 95% of respondents indicated that would be interested in visiting HGW.

Responses showed that the top two reasons for wanting to visit the HGW were walking trails and to appreciate the habitat provided for native species. There was also a general understanding of the conservation significance of the reserve reflected in the feedback received.

Only a small percentage (4 people) said they would not be interested in visiting the reserve due to lack of play space for children and wanting more opportunities to walk dogs.

Currently, access to the existing pathway to Bay Road is blocked via a newly constructed fence across the rear of 337 Bay Road. Council's approach to securing this connection in the long term will be confirmed following Council's decision to adopt the Masterplan.

A copy of the Highett Grassy Woodland Community Engagement Summary Report can be found at Attachment 1.

Summary of Key Issues raised during consultation

The following issues were raised through the consultation process and a summary of how these are addressed in the HGW Masterplan is outlined below.

Access and visitor management

There were requests to facilitate partial community access to the site if possible while restoration works are undertaken.

Masterplan response:

While members of the Friends of HGW will be able to access the site to undertake approved works as part of their agreed Action Plan to restore the site, it is unlikely that broader community access will be allowed while construction on the abutting residential development is taking place. Interested community members can register to join the Friends of HGW if they would like to become involved in the restoration of the site.

Safety

The issue of safety within the HGW was raised, as the site is enclosed on all sides with two proposed entry/exits points.

Masterplan response:

Wording has been clarified to ensure this will be given greater emphasis within the Masterplan. The final design of the Masterplan will ensure that Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles are followed wherever possible to mitigate this issue. Passive surveillance from surrounding properties will be a key component. Once the reserve is fully open to the public, whether HGW is locked overnight could be a consideration for Council to discuss in due course. Due to its significance as conservation reserve, no lighting is proposed as part of the Masterplan. This is consistent with all of Council's other bushland reserves and conservation spaces. Much of the detailed design will inform perceptions of safety so this will be considered further in due course.

Infrastructure

Overall, there was support for the proposed limited and environmentally sensitive and compatible infrastructure.

Masterplan response:

No changes to the proposed infrastructure suggestions contained within the HGW Masterplan.

Dogs

During consultation for the review of the *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2026*, figures showed that more than half of the community supported no off-leash dog access to bushland, heathland, conservation areas (65%).

Walking dogs off-leash was the least popular suggested activity (28%) and there were also some views that dogs should be prohibited to protect flora and fauna and on-leash restrictions enforced.

It is proposed to submit an amendment to the *Animal Management Council Order No.5 Domestic Animal Action Section 26* to include Highett Grassy Woodland Conservation Reserve under the Order. The proposed changes state that fenced areas within Highett Grassy Woodland will be dog prohibited. Dogs will be permitted on-leash only outside fenced areas at HGW.

A copy of the proposed amendment to Order No.5 is included at Attachment 2, with changes highlighted.

Masterplan response:

No changes to the dog controls proposed in the HGW Masterplan – dogs must be on-leash throughout HGW, and dogs prohibited from within all fenced areas.

A copy of the final *Highett Grassy Woodland Masterplan* is included at Attachment 3.

Next steps:

Budget has been provided in 2024–25 to commence implementation of the management plan and Masterplan for the site. Once Council adopts the Masterplan, its implementation will begin.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. notes the findings of the Highett Grassy Woodland Masterplan community engagement report
2. adopts the Highett Grassy Woodland Masterplan 2024
3. endorses the amendment to Order No.5 to Council to include HGW as a Conservation Reserve under the Order, specifying that dogs will be prohibited from within fenced areas at Highett Grassy Woodland as a prohibited area and publishes the amended order in a future edition of the Victoria Government Gazette
4. notifies interested parties who contributed to the development of the Highett Grassy Woodland Masterplan 2024.

Support Attachments

1. Community Engagement Summary Report May 2024
2. Proposed Amendment to Animal Management Council Order No 5 DAA Section 26 - 18 June 2024
3. Highett Grassy Woodland Masterplan 2024

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Social

Very few ecosystems around the world are as threatened as grasslands.

With more than 370 threatened animal species living in Australian cities and many under pressure from habitat loss, the successful revegetation of HGW will assist in protecting and conserving not only a vulnerable vegetation community, but also assist in providing habitat for local wildlife, and provide an opportunity for future generations to reconnect with nature.

Natural Environment

Grassy woodlands were once widespread across the plains of Victoria and were a vital resource for local Aboriginal communities. With European arrival, grasslands were seen as the easiest to clear for farming purposes. Grasslands are now under increasing pressure from urban expansion leaving less than one percent of original grasslands in Victoria today.

The former CSIRO site has long been known for supporting remnant indigenous vegetation, and its considerable conservation significance was first noted in 1939 by Thomas Hart in the *Victorian Naturalist* article titled '*The Yellow Box and a lost vegetation*'.

The remnant 3 hectares of Highett Grassy Woodland is classified as Ecological Vegetation Classification (EVC) 55 Plains Grassy Woodland, which has a Bio-regional Conservation Status of 'endangered' in the Gippsland Plain bioregion, of which Bayside is part. The occurrence of EVC 55 is now very rare in the south-east of Melbourne.

The revegetation of HGW aims to contribute towards restoring a portion of this vulnerable vegetation community within metropolitan Melbourne.

Climate Emergency

Once revegetated and restored, the 3 hectares of HGW Conservation Reserve will provide an additional area of cooler green space with the urban area of Highett. The scattered large remnant trees of the woodland will add to canopy and shade, and together with the restored grassland, and other woodland vegetation, HGW will provide vital habitat for native insects, microbats and birds.

Built Environment

Due to its status as a Conservation Reserve (and currently in the process of being rezoned to PCRZ), very little infrastructure is planned for the site. The HGW Masterplan proposes minimal structures, pathways and seating.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

The Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland (FoHGW) have been involved as key stakeholders throughout the development of the HGW Conservation Management Plan and HGW Masterplan. Council officers have been liaising with this group regularly throughout the CSIRO sale process and meeting on a monthly basis for over 18 months and since transfer of land to Council.

Council will work closely with the FoHGW to actively manage the site, including weeding, planting and other activities. This work will be undertaken via an agreed HGW Annual Action Plan which will be developed in conjunction with FoHGW.

Communicating the importance of the ecological reasons for the conservation focus of the HGW Masterplan was a key component of the engagement messaging for the broader community. Clear negotiables and non-negotiables were identified on the HYS page to assist with managing community expectations for HGW, including answers to FAQs to provide additional information to predicted questions. Community feedback was reviewed and where appropriate, incorporated into the final HGW Masterplan.

The consultation period for HGW Masterplan was open from 24 April until 19 May 2024. During that time, the draft Masterplan was available on Council's 'Have your Say' page and sent out to all residents who subscribe to 'This Week in Bayside' emails. Engagement communication consisted of the following:

- Existing 26 HGW HYS project subscribers were emailed.
- 3,800 postcards were letterboxed to residents within a 900-metre perimeter of HGW.
- Approximately 50-60 letters were hand delivered to adjacent residents in Middleton Street, Graham Road and to the commercial properties backing onto HGW from 377 Bay Road on 26 April 2024. This letter outlined the priority weed control works along boundary fences planned for end of May 2024 and also promoted the HGW Masterplan consultation period. Council officers also offered these residents an opportunity to meet with them to discuss how weed control works may impact their properties.
- A HGW news story was published on Council website, and social media posts throughout engagement period including sponsored advertising
- Site meetings were held with key stakeholder groups (Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland, representatives from Highett Progress Association, Convenors from various 'Friends of' Bayside groups)
- Email sent to all HYS members – (with 4 other projects)

While feedback was sought on the high-level proposals contained in the draft HGW Masterplan, feedback was not sought on the specialised ecological advice contained within the HGW CMP, although this document was available online as a background reference.

On 30 April 2024, Council officers met onsite with representatives from the Highett Progress Association (HPA) with the Friends of HGW. This provided the opportunity for the HPA to tour the site, discuss the draft Masterplan and provide feedback to inform the final HGW Masterplan. Feedback from this meeting was overwhelmingly positive with HPW posting a further information about the importance of supporting the HGW Masterplan on their own Facebook page and to their members.

On 9 May 2024, Council officers met onsite with convenors of Friends of Bayside groups. Convenors had the opportunity to discuss aspects of the draft Masterplan with Council officers. The HGW Masterplan was also included as a project for discussion on the agenda for the Environmental Forum held on 14 May 2024 where further feedback was received from the participants who attended.

Equity Impact

The implications of this report have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

In development of this HGW CMP and Masterplan, the requirement for Equity Impact pre-assessment has been completed. The pre-assessment concluded that this plan:b) does meet the requirement for a comprehensive Equity Impact Assessment (EIA).

The EIA is currently in progress and will continue to be developed in conjunction with finalisation of the HGW Masterplan.

Human Rights

The implications of the report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

There are no known legal implications associated with the contents of this report.

Finance

The proposed HGW CMP and Masterplan is a long-term restoration/revegetation project over a period of 10+ years. The Masterplan contains recommendations and cost estimates to undertaken management recommendations. Council has allocated the following funding to implement the HGW Masterplan over the next 3 years:

- 2024–25 - \$354,927
- 2025–26 - \$353,836
- 2026–27 - \$379,643.

It is anticipated that this funding should be sufficient to commence the extensive weed management and other site establishment recommendations contained within the proposed CMP for the first 2 to 3 years.

Further funding will be required to complete the HGW Masterplan from 2027 onwards.

It is unknown at this stage whether the Federal or State Government will fund any of the HGW Masterplan works, however advocacy to other levels of Government is continuing to occur to support delivery of the reserve.

Links to Council policy and strategy

Development of the HGW Conservation Management Plan and Masterplan is consistent with the Strategic Objectives of Goal 1 in the Council Plan 2021–25 – Our Planet, specifically Council Plan Strategy 1.2.1:

Protect and enhance the biodiversity and health of our natural space and foreshore.

Highett Grassy Woodland is identified for rezoning as a Public Conservation and Resource Zone in Bayside's Urban Forest Strategy 2022 to ensure the conservation of this site is embedded in the Planning Scheme. Rezoning will allow Highett Grassy Woodland to be protected accordingly for the purpose of conservation, and to improve biodiversity values while restoring the vulnerable Plains Grassy Woodland EVC.

The recommendation for Highett Grassy Woodland was also identified as a potential open space (conservation) in the Land Use Plan of the *Highett Structure Plan*, September 2018:

Key Objective 18: *Protect the biologically significant Highett Grassy Woodland* identified the rezoning of the site to PCRZ as a key strategy to acknowledging and protecting the conservation value of the site.

At the 19 March 2024 Council Meeting, it was resolved that Council:

2. *adopts Amendment C199bays Part 1 as it relates to the rezoning of Highett Grassy Woodland and submits to the Minister for Planning for approval in accordance with Section 31 of the Planning and Environment act 198.*



Hihett Grassy Woodland masterplan

Community engagement summary report
May 2024



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Overview

This document provides a summary of community and stakeholder feedback on the draft masterplan for the Highett Grassy Woodland.

The three-hectare Highett Grassy Woodland in the south of the former CSIRO site on Graham Road is an important site for conserving and regenerating habitat for rare or threatened flora and fauna species in Bayside.

Bayside City Council has worked closely with specialist ecological consultants and the Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland community group to develop the draft Masterplan to guide the works required to return the former CSIRO site into an area of grassy woodland.

Between 24 April and 19 May 2024, community members and project stakeholders were encouraged to provide their feedback on the draft masterplan for the consideration of Council.

There were 112 unique contributions via three methods: 101 online surveys and 3 written statements via the Have Your Say website, plus 8 emails received by project officers. Site visits were also conducted with the Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland, representatives from the Highett Progress Association, Convenors from various 'Friends of Bayside' groups and representative Members of Parliament.

Email submissions were received by key stakeholders to the site, including:

- Representatives of the Owners Corporation for 337 Bay Road, Sandringham
- Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland
- General Manager of Sunkin Property Group
- Resident of the Bert Newton Retirement Village

Key considerations

Community feedback on the masterplan was overwhelmingly positive, with 95% indicating this is a place they would like to visit.

Walking trails (79%) and habitat for watching natural species (75%) were the most popular activities among survey respondents, followed by education and information (53%) and areas to sit and reflect (52%).

Walking dog(s) on-leash was the least popular suggested activity (28%) and there were also some views that dogs should be prohibited to protect flora and fauna and on-leash restrictions enforced.

- **Conservation management**

Participants recognised the value of this site and its importance as a conservation reserve. The significance of the large remnant trees, restoration of indigenous flora and support for retaining and rehabilitating habitat for native fauna was a high priority for the majority of respondents.

- **Amenities, infrastructure and design**

There were some suggestions for public toilets near the entrance as well as waste bins. Others wanted infrastructure minimised to encourage short visits and prevent litter and waste. Accessible infrastructure (paths, benches) was desired to ensure inclusivity.

- **Safety and access**

Participants wanted to ensure that the site would be open to the community and not used privately, such as by Highett Common residents. The site should be fully open during

daylight hours, with some wanting it to be locked at night to prevent damage to vegetation and anti-social behaviour. Generally, lighting was not supported.

The owners corporation members of 337 Bay Road strongly objected to pedestrian access via Bay Road.

Next steps

Council will consider community feedback, including this community engagement report, before adopting a proposed Masterplan at its meeting on 18 June 2024.

Interested community members can request to be heard at this meeting.

1 Background

This document provides a summary of stakeholder and community feedback on the draft Highett Grassy Woodland masterplan.

The three-hectare Highett Grassy Woodland in the south of the former CSIRO site on Graham Road is an important site for conserving and regenerating habitat for rare or threatened flora and fauna species in Bayside.

The Highett Grassy Woodland contains indigenous species and natural habitats, including Yellow Box eucalypts (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) that are considered rare in the Bayside region.

The land was transferred into Council's ownership in April 2023 and will now be protected and enhanced as a conservation reserve. This transfer was the culmination of over two decades' advocacy by Council and a team of dedicated community members, including the Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland group.

Conserving the Highett Grassy Woodland reserve will ensure the future protection of an endangered community of trees, shrubs, grasses, and other plants.

We have worked closely with specialist ecological consultants and the Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland community group to develop a Masterplan to guide the works required to return the former CSIRO site into an area of grassy woodland.

The Highett Plains Grassy Woodland Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is a comprehensive and ecologically detailed document that outlines long-term management recommendations for the future restoration of the woodland environment.

The recommendations within the CMP have guided the layout of a draft Masterplan for Highett Grassy Woodland. The Masterplan contains the high level and conceptual design for the site as site conditions may change over time pending the success or otherwise.

2 Definitions and scope

The table below informed the scope and was published as part of the consultation.

Table 1: Scope of influence

Negotiables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locations of seats, tables and shelter - subject to Abzeco recommendations following vegetation assessments • Preferences for types of, seating and/or tables, possible picnic shelters- subject to Abzeco recommendations following vegetation assessments • New planting of indigenous vegetation (friends of Highett Grassy Woodland only) • Interpretative signs (friends of Highett Grassy Woodland only)
Non-negotiables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas fenced to mitigate areas of contamination • Areas fenced to protect remnant vegetation or revegetated areas • Weed control • Selection of species for revegetation planting • Adherence to endorsed Environmental Management Plan requirements • Retention of existing indigenous trees • Additional built infrastructure (no BBQ's, public toilets, bins) • As this is a conservation area, dogs will be prohibited from within all fenced areas. No gate access into HGW from abutting residential properties.

The table below lists the community members and stakeholders identified as having a connection to the Highett Grassy Woodland to be considered in the consultation.

Table 2: Community and stakeholder assessment

Stakeholder / community	Impact	Interest	Influence
Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland	High	High	Collaborate
Highett Progress Association	High	Medium	Involve
Surrounding Residents	High	High	Inform
Surrounding Businesses	High	High	Inform
Friends of Native Wildlife	High	High	Involve
Sunkin Property Developer – adjacent site	High	High	Involve
Local Environmental Groups	Low	High	Consult
General Bayside Residents	Low	Low	Inform

2.1 Glossary

Item	Definition
Abzeco	Applied Botany, Zoology and Ecological Consulting
HGW	Hihett Grassy Woodlan
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
Stakeholders	See above for stakeholder list.

2.2 Related Council documents and consultations

The Hihett Grassy Woodland Masterplan aligns with:

- [Bayside 2050 Community Vision](#)
- [Council Plan 2021 - 25](#)
- [Annual Action Plan \(2023-2024\)](#)
- [Bayside Open Space Strategy](#)
- [Biodiversity Action Plan 2018-27](#)

3 Consultation process

3.1 Consultation purpose

Community engagement on the masterplan was undertaken between 24 April and 19 May 2024 to understand if the proposed site layout has the right balance between protecting the natural environment of the area and enhancing visitor enjoyment of this conservation reserve.

3.2 Consultation methodology

Community engagement was designed to provide stakeholders and the broader community with opportunities to provide feedback on the draft Masterplan. The engagement process was open to all community members, however, targeted towards those with a close connection to the site, including the Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland, Highett Process Association and Highett residents. The consultation period was between 24 April and 19 May 2024.

Digital engagement tools (websites, online survey, written statement submission form, question and answer forum, and interactive map) were used to deliver the engagement program, along with site visits for groups and assessed as meeting the needs of interested community members and stakeholders.

Project information and engagement materials were available in print, as requested/required.

Communications via Council channels, postcards to 3,800 Highett residents, and targeted social media advertising were undertaken to ensure community members and project stakeholders were aware of the consultation and encouraged to participate.

Figure 1: Timeline and phases for engagement on the Draft Masterplan



Timeline

- ✔ **Flora and fauna assessments**
 2016
 Prior to demolition of the old CSIRO buildings, Council engaged consultants to undertake flora and fauna values assessments, and arboricultural assessments, and to prepare a management plan for the southern portion of the CSIRO site. An assessment of remaining trees was also undertaken.
- ✔ **Highett Grassy Woodland transferred to Council ownership**
 April 2023
 The handover was the culmination of two decades' advocacy by Council and a team of dedicated community members, the Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland group.
- ✔ **Proposed Planning Scheme zone change**
 From October 2023 (ongoing)
 Process commenced to rezone Highett Grassy Woodland from Residential Growth Zone, Schedule 3 (RGZ3) to Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ). This will help ensure the future protection of the site as a conservation area.
 Read the outcome of the [19 March 2024 Council Meeting](#) on the rezoning process.
- ★ **Key stakeholder consultation**
 Ongoing
 Monthly meetings with Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland community group to inform site management and conservation.
- ✔ **Drafting a Conservation Management Plan and Masterplan**
 From November 2023
 Specialist ecologists Abzeco (Applied Botany, Zoology and Ecological Consulting) have been appointed to help develop the long-term Conservation Management Plan and Masterplan. Site survey work commenced in late 2023.
- ★ **Community consultation**
 24 April - 19 May 2024
 Community engagement on the draft Masterplan.
 Find out [how we're engaging on the project](#).
- **Conservation Management Plan and Masterplan adopted**
 June 2024 (expected)
 Council will consider community feedback and adopt a Conservation Management Plan and Masterplan to ensure the future protection of this site.

3.2.1 Analysis phase

During the analysis phase, the following activities were undertaken:

15 September 2023	Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland	To meet with BCC staff onsite and discuss aspirations for Conservation Management Plan and Masterplan.
26 October 2023	Zoe Daniel MP Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland	Tour of Highett Grassy Woodland Advocacy
11 January 2024	Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland Abzeco Consulting	Discussion on development of Conservation Management Plan with Friends of HGW and consultants
1 March 2024	John Eichler	Invertebrate photo survey
4 March 2024	Kingston City Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC Mayor Jenna Davey-Burns • BCC Mayor Fiona Stitfold 	Tour of Highett Grassy Woodland
8 March 2024	Friends of Native Wildlife	Anabat Survey and Wildlife Camera set up
14 March 2024	Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland Abzeco Consulting	Development of Masterplan and discussion with Friends of HGW and consultants
15 March 2024	Friends of Native Wildlife	Anabat Survey and Wildlife Camera set up

3.2.2 Consultation phase

During the community engagement phase, the following activities were undertaken:

Table 1: Engagement methods

Details	Activity
24 April – 19 May 2024	Have You Say engagement website
Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey form (101 responses) • Written statement (3 submissions) • Q&A forum (0 submission) • Download of draft Masterplan (232)
104 contributions	
99 contributors	
20 project followers	
On-site	Site meetings
4 stakeholder meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland • Highett Progress Association • Convenors from various 'Friends of Bayside' groups • Zoe Daniel MP and Mark Dreyfus MP
Letterbox drop to directly abutting	Correspondence

residents in Middleton Street and Graham Road, and tenants in commercial development at 337 Bay Road, Sandringham (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 response to letter and request for weed removal. • 5 responses from Owners Corporation 337 Bay Road, Sandringham
Direct email correspondence received (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lloyd Collins, General Manager Sunkin Property Group • Highett Progress Association • Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland • Resident from Bert Newton Retirement Village
Phone calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 phone calls with representatives from Owners Corporation 337 Bay Road, Sandringham • Numerous phone calls with Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland.

Table 2: Communication methods

Details	Activity
Have You Say engagement website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,109 visits • 794 visitors
Postcards 3,800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,800 letterboxed to Highett residents • Displayed at Corporate Centre • Displayed at Bayside Community Nursery
Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjacent residents
Council website	<p>https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/news/presenting-plans-highett-grassy-woodland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 23 April 2024
Social Media (3 posts)	Posts on social channels on 27 April, 30 April (with budget) and 16 May
Direct email	<p>This Week in Bayside (12,000+ recipients)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 April, 2 May, 9 May, 16 May <p>Have Your Say members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All subscribers (6,818). Sent 24 April: opens 3,783 (55.5%), clicks 476 (7%) across all included projects.

4 Participant profile

Participant profile data was asked for survey respondents (104) only, with all demographic questions optional. To encourage participation there was no requirement to provide personal information or to register/sign-in to provide feedback.

Most survey respondents (51.5%) lived nearby the site. Many others were members of local community groups (29%).

Table 3: Survey participation profile

	Demographic	Bayside 2021 Census	Participants (%)
Gender	Male	47.8%	36% (36)
	Female	52.2%	60% (60)
	Unknown	-	3% (3)
	Non-binary	-	1% (1)
Age	18-24	7.8%	3% (3)
	25-34	7.8%	2% (2)
	35-49	19.4%	20% (20)
	50-59	15.7%	21% (21)
	60-69	12.1%	30% (30)
	70-84	12.2%	19% (19)
	85+	3.4%	2% (2)
	Undisclosed	-	3% (3)
Suburb	Beaumaris	12.8%	12% (8)
	Black Rock	6.2%	3% (2)
	Brighton	23.7%	3% (2)
	Brighton East	15.6%	3% (2)
	Cheltenham	3.9%	4.5% (3)
	Hampton	13.6%	13.5% (9)
	Hampton East	4.9%	0% (0)
	Highbett	7.6%	51% (34)
	Sandringham	11.8%	10.5% (7)
Outside Bayside	-		

5 Consultation findings

The following section summarised the feedback received on the draft Masterplan. Personal details have been redacted from this report.

In the interest of stakeholder and community privacy, individual quotes have not been included within this public document. Where there was more than one mention of a topic or item, the number of mentions has been specified in brackets.

5.1 Support for actions

Survey participants recognised the ecological value of this site and its importance as managing Highbett Grassy Woodland as a conservation reserve. There was general support for the proposed restoration of the original 'Grassy Woodland' vegetation community as proposed in the Masterplan. There was also general support for the proposed environmentally sensitive design of limited infrastructure such as paths

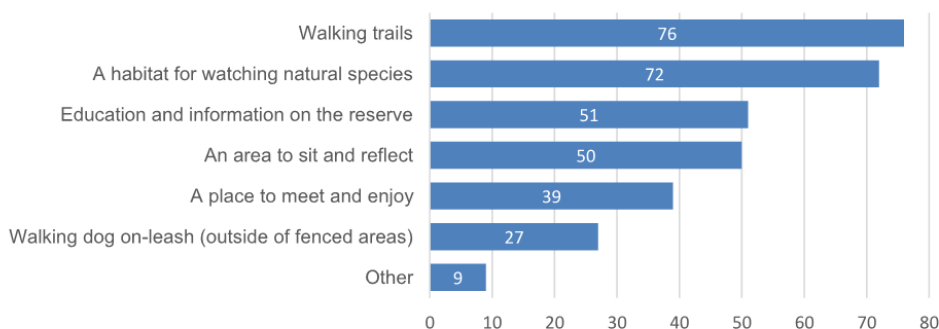
The significance of the large remnant trees, restoration of indigenous flora and support for retaining and rehabilitating habitat for native fauna was a high priority for the majority of respondents (75%). Respondents also wanted to see education and information on the ecological value of the reserve (53%).

5.2 Interest in visiting the Woodland

Survey participants were asked “Based on the proposed site layout, do you think this a place you’d be interested in visiting?”, with 95% (96) responding yes.

When asked which aspects of the draft plan they were most interested in, the majority of respondents selected walking trails (79%) and/or habitat for watching natural species (75%); followed by education and information on the ecological value of the reserve (53%) and an area to sit and reflect (52%). Places to meet and enjoy (39%) and walking dog on-leash (27%) were the least popular of suggested activities.

Figure 2: Aspects of the draft plan respondents were most interested in



Other suggestions included wanting to join the ‘Friends of’ group; general appreciation for the quiet green space (3); mixed views on dogs access (2) prohibited vs off-leash, and space to ‘kick a footy’.

A small number of survey respondents (5) indicated they would not be interested in visiting the reserve. Reasons provided included not understanding how the layout was informed by the conservation values; safety concerns; lack of play space; concerns dogs would be prohibited and not enough facilities BBQs/playgrounds.

5.2.1 Suggestion to include in the draft Masterplan

Participants were asked if they thought there was anything missing from the draft layout that will protect native vegetation or enhance enjoyment of this conservation area, with 54 (53.5%) providing a response.

Common themes are provided in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Summary on comments on what’s missing in draft Masterplan

Theme	Detail
Amenities (17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public toilets (5) Kids play area / playground (4) Nature/bird hide (2) Trail for park runs Areas of shelter from sun or rain Water features Bicycles permitted

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste bins • BBQs • Space to 'kick a footy' • Parking for visitors
Conservation management (9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary purpose should be conservation; area entirely fenced off for conservation (2) • Rail-height fencing to keep visitors to paths • Site should have 1.8m high fencing and be locked • Clearly separate areas for conservation • Gives good insight into original ecology • Plans may need adjustment over time • Walkways elevated to protect flora and fauna • Need information on how area will be maintained
Dogs (9)	<p>Mixed views on dog access into the Woodland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs should be prohibited entirely (6) • More area for dogs (2) off-leash dog area (1)
Flora and fauna (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ephemeral water collection pond for frogs/insects • Consideration for restoration of mistletoe • List target species of fauna • Management of Noisy Miners (2) • Bee-friendly area to encourage bees to pollinate the native flora • Consider pest management (foxes, corellas) • Water sources for wildlife
Safety (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of lighting for safety at night • Locking the area at night to prevent damage • Neighbours need to feel secure • Enforcement of dog restrictions
Access and use (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about the space being closed off from the public and used as a private amenity for Highett Commons • Needs additional entry/exit points • Fast-track this project
Naming and signage (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input from Boon Wurrung elders for naming the area is suggested. • Signage in different languages, including Boon Wurrung and braille.
Materials (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycled plastic preferred over timber for decking and platforms for longevity.
General support (9)	No suggested improvements

5.2.2 General feedback on the draft Masterplan

Participants were asked if they had any other comments about the Highett Grassy Woodland, with 58 (57.5%) providing a comment. Most (21) conveyed excitement and strong support for the masterplan and were keen for it to be properly funded and delivered quickly. Comments (generally concern) about balancing dogs and wildlife were raised again (14).

There were also concerns about preventing anti-social behaviour and ensuring the site design encourages safe visitation.

Common themes are provided in Table 5 below:

Table 5: General feedback on the Highett Grassy Woodland

Theme	Community feedback
Community excitement and support (21)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many are excited about the project and love the design • Appreciation for the thorough and detailed masterplan • Strong desire to preserve and expand green spaces in Highett • Needs to be funded properly and fast-tracked
Balancing dogs and wildlife (14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate over allowing dogs: some support (3), others oppose (9) • If allowed, manage dogs carefully to protect vegetation and wildlife. • Ensure wide pathways for nervous visitors. • Provide bins for dog and general waste.
Community use and safety (14)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong concern about preventing anti-social behaviour • Ensure public access and safety • Meeting place/shelter is not in safe location • Entrances locked for security at night: no lighting, no alcohol, no toilet block • Encourage respectful use of the reserve. • Prevent litter and ensure responsible behaviour. • Address concerns about access – higher, solid fences abutting reserve, no access from residential property • Prohibiting dogs prevents encounters with 'aggressive dog owners' • Site should be for short visits
Ecological restoration (10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement cool burns for natural regeneration. • Manage rare or threatened species – native oxalis • Conduct comprehensive fauna assessments, including fungi • Promote volunteering with Friends Group for weeding and revegetation. • Focus on ecological restoration and habitat creation. • Create safe spaces for ground-feeding birds like native parrots. • Consider a water feature for birds (automatic refill) • Make sure it is maintained properly • Educate community on its importance: educational plaques, information on geology, significance to Traditional Owners. • More open spaced upper canopy with no middle canopy – need space for smaller, tiny birds • Native flowering species for interest • No infrastructure just nature.
Infrastructure and design (9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive fencing for vegetation protection • Drinking water tap near entrance • No barbecues to avoid litter • Paths must be fully accessible for disabled access • Wooden seats with backs for older visitors • No picnic tables to reduce plastic waste • Focus on minimal impact while achieving the masterplan's goals

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal/no lighting • Walkway through centre only for first five years • Concern about building height of Highett Commons shadowing woodland. • Access to community must be available (so not private reserve of Highett Commons) • Public toilet close to entry (not in reserve) • No access for bikes/scooters • No synthetic turf, which harms wildlife and the environment. • Natural pathways preferred.
Conservation and protection (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish clear borders to protect all indigenous vegetation. • Secure the entire conservation area with a 1.8-meter fence. • Return locally indigenous understorey plants • Maintain existing access to sunlight for plant health during flowering and seeding seasons • Avoid built paths within the area to preserve its integrity • Minimise night lighting to protect nocturnal fauna

5.3 Site visits

Table 6: Site visits to Highett Grassy Woodland

Date	Group	Feedback
15 September 2023	Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland	To meet with BCC staff onsite and discuss aspirations for Conservation Management Plan and Masterplan.
26 October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoe Daniel MP • Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland 	Tour of Highett Grassy Woodland Advocacy
11 January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland • Abzeco Consulting 	Development of Conservation Management Plan
1 March 2024	John Eichler	Invertebrate photo survey
4 March 2024	Kingston City Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC Mayor Jenna Davey-Burns • BCC Mayor Fiona Stitfold 	Tour of Highett Grassy Woodland
8 March 2024	Friends of Native Wildlife	Anabat Survey and Wildlife Camera set up
14 March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland • Abzeco Consulting 	Development of Masterplan
15 March 2024	Friends of Native Wildlife	Anabat Survey and Wildlife Camera set up

<p>29 April 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highett Progress Association • Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland 	<p>Draft Masterplan consultation and opportunity for feedback and discussion with BCC Officers</p>
<p>7 May 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoe Daniel MP • Mark Dreyfus MP • BCC Mayor Fiona Stitfold • Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland 	<p>Advocacy and discussion of Masterplan aspirations.</p>
<p>9 May 2024</p>	<p>Friends of Bayside Conveners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highett Grassy Woodland • Long Hollow Heathland • Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary • Ricketts Point • Ricketts Point Landside • Black Rock & Sandringham Conservation Association 	<p>Draft Masterplan consultation and opportunity for feedback and discussion with BCC Officers</p>

5.4 Written statements

Four written statements were received during the consultation period.

5.4.1 Written statement: Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary

Response to Highett Plains Grassy Woodland Conservation Management and Masterplan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I have read both the Conservation Management Plan and Masterplan for Highett Plains Grassy Woodland (Version 1) and Highett Plains Grassy Woodland Masterplan (Version 2) that is available to the public online. I was also privileged to visit the site on 9 May. I agree with the plans overall and look forward to seeing them progress.

My comments on both documents suggest some additional considerations to enhance their usefulness:

1. The first document (Version 1) provides a thorough account of the site's remnant vegetation and soil condition and the restoration and management issues likely to be encountered, especially in relation to extinctions of biota and exotic species currently colonising the site. It also provides a partial description of fauna found on the site. The 14 vertebrate species listed in Crowfoot and Carr's fauna survey should be reproduced on page 26 of the Conservation Management Plan, particularly as the plan provides no indigenous bird list but lists every exotic organism. (The only indigenous birds mentioned by name are Noisy Miners and Rainbow Lorikeets, noted for their aggression on page 13).
2. Four 'habitat zones' are defined in both documents but there is no mention of how fauna are expected to use these zones as habitat. This would seem to be an omission, particularly when Bayside residents are being asked to replant their gardens for wildlife and Bayside Council has a Habitat Linkage Plan in place. If the goal is to create habitat rather than simply restore vegetation, future landscaping plans must also consider the best

methods of restoring faunal communities. Public appreciation of the reserve and its potential will be improved by more information about fauna and how their habitat can be enhanced through flora restoration.

3. The first document (Version 1) includes provision for continuous faunal monitoring (pp. 64-66) but this is defined as a citizen-scientist task while vegetation monitoring is a management task (p. 62). Perhaps this should be reviewed in another five years: Bayside Council may wish to also consider a financial provision for faunal restoration and monitoring?

4. The public Masterplan (V2) includes an excerpt from the Conservation Management Plan that only specifies monitoring for pest animals (see Timeline p.11). Unfortunately, the Conservation Management Plan was not accessible online today for the public to read the full list of actions. For this reason, it would be preferable to make the Masterplan a complete document in itself and spell out all the actions, including regular monitoring of all fauna whether by citizen-scientists, staff or contractors.

5. There is no provision for fungal monitoring and yet any restoration of beneficial fungi could be a huge boost to soil health. The discourse on p. 13 of Version 1 tends to assume that fungi are absent: 'Functions, which include... mycorrhizal relationships are assumed to be severely disrupted or no longer exist.' During the 9 May site visit, we witnessed the spore bodies of several species of fungi that have a recycling function. Please include fungi monitoring and health in the Masterplan. This is something that could be done by citizen-scientists at the macro level but soil tests at The University of Melbourne would also reveal DNA from micro fungi.

6. In Version 1 (pp. 54, 56) the authors' use of the term 'exotic' is confusing as many readers would expect it to mean non-Australian flora and fauna, but here it used to describe eucalypts that are not locally indigenous. Perhaps their use of this term should be defined in the plan?

7. In Version 1, (pp. 42-50 Table 5) the authors provide a list of more than 150 plants that could be used for a reconstructed flora but provide no planting plan or information about sources (column 5, which should detail sources is left blank – what is the point of this?). On its own, this list provides an unrealistic picture of what may be possible as many of these species are not grown locally in Bayside Community Nursery. It raises a lot of unanswered questions such as:

- Should plants be sourced from outside Bayside?
- Which species should be prioritised and who is responsible for the planting plan?
- How suitable are all the plants listed? (e.g. Dodder-laurel is a pest plant in most reserves)

8. The public Masterplan is sometimes short on explanation. For example, page 9 would be the ideal place to explain how dogs are likely to affect the ecological values of the reserve and why they should be prohibited within the fenced areas.

9. Is there evidence that Thelymitra species (see page 7 of the public Masterplan) can be restored to the Woodland? They are not currently cultivated at the Community Nursery.

10. The plan was written before publication of Southern Rail Loop's proposed building heights for activity centres. These now present a potential overshadowing threat to the reserve that is not addressed in the plan. Is there a way of signalling that this will receive attention? Under the proposal, buildings to the north of the reserve may be redeveloped to a height of 18 stories and to 10 stories on the southern border.

11. Similarly, the issue of climate change does not appear as a Masterplan consideration but is likely to need addressing in the near future.

Convenor, Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary

5.4.2 Written statement 2: Garry Allan, Beaumaris

Submission on Draft Management Plan for the Highett Grassy Woodland

To whom it may concern,

I write to endorse the Draft Management Plan for the Highett Grassy Woodland. To my mind the plan is a well-considered starting point for the on-going management of this precious conservation site in Bayside Municipality. I support the detail of the plan and the proposed Management Plan timeline with the delineated stages out to a 10-year timescale.

Given my familiarity with the history of the site, I would like to underpin the importance of the Management Plan, by providing the historical context of the Highett Grassy Woodlands site from a local community perspective.

My ancestors lived in Highett from 1848. The northern end of the CSIRO/Sunkin site was cleared from ~1880s and used for market gardening, ultimately owned by a Mr Williams. Upon his death, due to the fact that he had no decedents, the land from the 1930s became known as 'Highett Common' and was used for cattle grazing by Highett residents. Across this entire period the area of the Highett Grassy Woodland remained untouched. The locals knew of it as a 'forest' and did not act to remove the trees that predated European occupation. A creek ran across what is now the Sunkin site, from Graham Rd to Middleton St. This creek will have fed the water table sustaining the large gums. Pre-WW2 the site was proposed to be both a cemetery (subsequently this was located at the site of the New Cheltenham Cemetery), and 'Williams Aerodrome'. When WW2 broke out the northern end of the site was sequestered for a foundry, for aircraft parts, and a large aluminium store was built on the southern end of the site (the structure still remains). Between these two sites, the woodlands remained untouched. After the war, the CSIRO occupied the site. Despite facing pressure for new buildings, they recognised the age of the trees and built around the gums and largely left the southern end of the site intact. Remarkably, a 'forest' had survived for over a century, despite multiple uses of the surrounding land. The land is now under Council ownership, and dependent on Council decision making.

I encourage Bayside Council to endorse the structured approach outlined in the Draft Management Plan. Implementation of this plan is now required to ensure that the Highett Grassy Woodland can stand as an enduring and iconic natural site in Bayside.

Garry Allan, Beaumaris

5.4.3 Written statement 3: Anonymous

Highett Grassy Woodlands - Have Your Say 16 May 2024

I have read the Conservation Management Plan for Highett Grassy Woodlands dated March 2024 and have some comments.

My background for this is in having done volunteer plant identification, threatened plant monitoring, weed management, and revegetation work for DECCA and Parks Vic for 22 years, and volunteering with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Orchid Conservation Program for 10 years.

First a correction. On page 72, in columns headed Quadrat 7 and Quadrat 8, it says that an area of the site was scalped to 100 m. i.e. 100 metres. Other parts say 100 mm. i.e. 100 millimetres. I believe page 72 needs correcting.

Page 41 says that unwanted Yellow Box recruits should be thinned out. I disagree as letting the saplings naturally compete, with the survival of the fittest trees, will give the best long-term result. After trees die they can be lopped if desired and the debris will then form habitat

for small birds and insects. If not lopped then they will provide perches for falcons to feed, places where various insects, spiders, and beetles to live, etc.

Page 53 talks about establishing seed orchards. This is an excellent idea and the south-eastern corner, Zone 2, would be ideal for this. It is distant from the new road into the site and the new houses so is less likely to become a local playground, has plenty of sunlight which is ideal for growing Themeda and other grasses, and this area could also become a nursery site for other revegetation species. Prior to sowing seed here a patch, perhaps 3 x 3 metres, should be subjected to an ecological burn in the first half of March 2025 to find what if any natural regeneration occurs. Natural regeneration will give more genetic diversity than only propagating new plants from vegetation already growing on the site. Developing a seed orchard and nursery area in Zone 2 can occur in conjunction with establishing a Themeda grassland here (as proposed on Page 41).

Pages 57-58 say that "cultural burning is currently inappropriate," and that "if fuel loads are sufficient there are the important questions of fire, safety, and risk", but the document does not recommend any alternative method of fuel reduction. This is unfortunate as the plan of having grassland areas means that excessing fuel loads **will** develop and, unless the Plan contains suitable measures, local residents may protest to their State Government Member or take legal action, possibly resulting in inappropriate fuel reduction measures being force on Council.

Another issue to consider is weeds coming into the site from the adjacent properties. I am particularly thinking of spreading weeds such as Couch, Kikuyu, and Buffalo Grass. A gravel path perhaps 2m wide along the site boundary would simplify control by allowing this area to be dug if necessary, reduce the ingress of fertilisers and herbicides used in adjacent properties. It would also make a barrier to grass wildfire such as that at George Street Reserve in the 1980's, thought to have been caused by schoolchildren smoking and setting fire to dry leaves under the Coast Tea-tree.

5.4.4 Written statement 4: Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland

Have your Say: Highett Grassy Woodland masterplan – 19 May 2024

The Friends of the Highett Grassy Woodland enthusiastically welcome and support, in general, the draft masterplan.

In our view it is an appropriate response to the findings in the Conservation Management Plan, providing public access for quiet enjoyment of the magnificent trees, evolving vegetation, and wildlife, for the first ten years of restoring, as much as possible, the natural ecology of the site.

We have had the pleasure of accompanying MPs, Councillors, and some community members, in inspections of the site since it was passed to the Council. All have been impressed by the trees, some over 300 years old, the peaceful atmosphere, and the reappearance of native grasses and flowers.

But we also have lamented the disappearance of some flowering plants that have been overwhelmed by weeds, especially grasses. The rapid growth of new trees, many of unwelcome species, is another great concern because too many trees would shade out smaller plants, as well as deprive them of water.

Comments on the plan

So much is unknown about the potential revegetation of the woodland, so we endorse the evolutionary management that is proposed. It means that Bayside can respond to the reappearance of plants, misbehaviour by people, and learn by careful study of the effects of management actions.

Provision of water is essential for new plantings and trees stressed by climate change. Noting that trucking it in would involve undesirable compression of the soil, we welcome the commitment in the FAQs to providing access to water in the next year.

Actions like the provision of nest boxes, setting tasks for the Friends' bushcare group (including fauna studies as well as weeding, managing a nursery stock area and more), would, we think, just be part of the implementation of the masterplan.

Three final points:

- While we favour the site welcoming all people, we doubt that dogs should be permitted because, even on leash, they would detract from enjoyment – including by dog walkers - of the peaceful natural setting.
- Access to Bay Road via the south-east corner is an important option for management vehicles and pedestrians. We had believed that our long negotiations relating to the planning permit for 329-345 Bay Road had secured an easement, and hope this can be clarified soon
- The Council should resolve that there should be a review of the masterplan in 10 years' time. This would provide an opportunity for consideration of the community's wishes for facilities that have been suggested in the past such as areas for children to enjoy nature.

Michael Norris, Pauline Reynolds – Convenors Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland

5.4.5 Written statement 5: Chairperson Owners Corporation 337 Bay Road, Cheltenham

Re: Highett Grassy Woodlands Master Plan – 28th April 2024

This submission is lodged on behalf of the Owners Corporation PS 8011828B, 337 Bay Road Cheltenham 3192. (OC)

The inclusion of the path on the OC land shown in the photos and the reference on the Master Plan at Point 9, where the description refers to a link to Bay Road, is opposed by the OC.

This path is on private land, Council has no right of access. Reference is made to previous submissions on this matter which have been lodged on every occasion when input is sought as to proposals for the area. The submissions were lodged by [redacted], the Chairman of the OC at that time. There have been a number of responses from Council to those submissions, specifically an email from Tom Vercoe dated March 16th, 2022, is copied in part.

"Hi Greg

Apologies for the delay in coming back to you. I still am not in a position where I can provide clarity on the intended approach.

As you can appreciate, there is some complexities given the permit has been 'spent' as the development has been completed. So we are seeking legal advice around the available options to pursue reinstatement of the public access, which is expected to take time. Once we have a way forward, we will be in touch with representatives from the Owners Corporation committee to discuss the approach.

I can't provide any further update at this point as this is still being resolved. Please feel free to give me a call if you would like to discuss further.

Kind regards, Tom Vercoe – Strategic Planning Coordinator Urban Strategy"

The OC advises that there has not been any communication from Council. Inspection of the plan of subdivision shows that no carriageway easement nor reservation in favour of the Bayside Council was created on the plan when it was registered at the Land Registry.

The security of the businesses at 337 Bay Road is paramount. 24-hour unfettered access to the environs of those businesses, from the owners and particularly the occupiers perspective, is unsatisfactory. Questions arise not only as to security but also provision of public liability insurance, maintenance, litter, lighting, graffiti etc.

The OC opposes the public access to the path shown and seeks to have the proposed link removed from the Master Plan. The Colourbond fence erected on the OC land will not be removed.

Further communication on the matter of the submission can be directed to the undersigned.

[Name redacted] Chairperson.

5.4.6 Emails: Owners Corporation members (4) – 337 Bay Road, Sandringham

9 May 2024

RE: Objection to link the Highbett Grassy Woodlands to Bay Road via path on private land at 337 Bay Rd - Master Plan

[Names redacted] are owner occupiers of one of the factories at 337 Bay Rd, Cheltenham, and members of the Owners Corporation PS 8011828B.

This email is our official submission against the inclusion of the path on OC land shown in the photos and the reference on the Master Plan at Point 9, where the description refers to a link to Bay Road. We object to this as the path is on private land and Council has no right of access accordingly.

The OC have provided this feedback at every opportunity, but the path continues to be shown on the master plan, so we now take this opportunity to have our own personal objection noted.

Our main reasons for objecting relate to a) the security of the businesses at 337 Bay Road and 24-hour unfettered access due to the vast increase in foot traffic through the area if this does proceed, and b) concerns around public liability insurance, maintenance, litter, lighting, graffiti etc.

Our objective of this communication is to seek to have the proposed link removed from the Master Plan. The Colourbond fence erected on OC land should not be removed.

10 May 2024

I have recently purchased one of the properties/units @ 337 Bay Rd, Cheltenham. I have received a letter from the Managing Body Corporate in regards to a proposed public access pathway to be built on the property of 337 Bay Road.

I strongly oppose to these works being undertaken by the council for multiple reasons/issues. It will affect security of not only my own but all other occupiers stored goods/belongings, public liability insurance and maintenance of the property. It will introduce new issues such as litter, graffiti to the common areas, lighting and a general sense of discomfort knowing that the land is no longer private.

I'm completely dissatisfied at the proposal of the public access pathway through this private land especially considering that when the Land was registered at the Land registry, the Plan of subdivision shows that no carriageway easement nor reservation in favour of the council was created on the plan.

All these factors need to be strongly taken into account on behalf of the OC and all occupiers/owners of the properties @ 337 Bay Road.

[Name/business redacted]

18 May 2024

I am writing in support of the Owners Corporation (PS 8011828B 337 Bay Road Cheltenham 3192) submission to you dated 28th April 2024.

As owners of Unit 26 we would be very concerned by unfettered public access through our common property to the Woodlands Reserve.

As advised in the OC submission our concerns relate to security, graffiti, litter and the safety of occupants.

[Names redacted]

16 May 2024

Re: Proposal for Highett Grassy Woodland

I am writing as a concerned property owner of a factory at 337 Bay Road Cheltenham.

I note the proposal of the development of the Highett Grassy Woodland proposes a pathway through the park, through a solid metal fence on my common property and down a pathway also on my common property to obtain access to Bay Road

I strongly object to this proposal in the following grounds:

- 1 This is my and others private property
- 2 Our property is bounded with the Woodlands by a colourbond fence that will not be removed
- 3 We are concerned about foot traffic, scooters, trolleys and people accessing the Woodlands from Bay Road
- 4 We have many businesses requiring security and peace free from passing traffic that could impact on my and their property and personal safety.
- 5 There would be a safety/security issue for a large childcare facility at the property. It could be unsafe for children to have random people passing through the property
- 6 What about graffiti, lighting, public liability etc?
- 7 There is no provided easement for carriageway...on what basis do you think access could be achieved?

I note many letters, emails and objections have been lodged with council over the last couple of years and to date no response has been received other than to advise our communications "have been received" but no further information has been forthcoming. Still council continues to put the path on the maps.....Why?

I await your response with some genuine details and information please.

[Name and business redacted]

5.4.7 Email: Highett Progress Association

2 May 2024

I also posted a longer and more detailed piece (see below) on the Facebook group of our estate which all of our owners and residents belong too. I made a point of highlighting the fragility of the area, in addition to how special it is and how privileged we are to be next door. (A few people have sighted blue banded bees, by the way).

I have copied Amy into this email so that you know that our adjacent residents are aware of their responsibilities, and also that creepers like the Plumbago are not long for this world. I have spoken personally to the people currently with gates and made clear they should not even think about using them – let alone with their dogs - if they have any concern for protecting the woodland.

I think they got the message. Everyone got the letter from Council anyway.



Highett Progress Association · Follow

2 d · 🌐

Members of the Highett Progress Association visited the Highett Grassy Woodland yesterday to receive a briefing on plans for the site. It will be a remarkable asset for Highett, but perhaps not quite the kind of asset that Sunkin is currently marketing it as.

In fact, it is a precious and very fragile ecosystem that has survived years of development on every side and continues to be home to remnant vegetation that has all but gone from the rest of Highett. In a few years time, when the weeds and exotic shrubs and foxes have been eradicated, it will be a place of peaceful reflection in the middle of a busy and fast-growing suburb. Don't expect swings and slides and off-leash areas or barbecues. And don't expect it next week. There is a lot of work to do and it will take time.

It will be a unique and all too rare remnant of what Highett was like before the high rises, the traffic congestion and housing densification. You can see the master plan and comment on it at the City of Bayside's Have Your Say page here.

<https://yoursay.bayside.vic.gov.au/HighettGrassyWoodland>

5.4.8 Email: Resident at Bert Newton Retirement Village

1 May 2024

I am [Name redacted] a resident of Bert Newton Retirement Village opposite the Highett Grassy Woodland.

I saw the Masterplan on Facebook this morning and have responded to the survey.

There are 80 Independent Apartments at the Village with residents over 65 years of age. We gather weekly for drinks and to enjoy each other's company and share information. I would like to do a presentation to the residents at one of our get-togethers before the expiration of your plan survey in May.

Can you give me some printed material that I can distribute. Many of the residents won't be comfortable with online sites.

I am happy to come to the Council to collect. I will need about 30 copies - there are some married couples who can share.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

5.4.9 Email: Sunkin Property Group

29 April 2024

Looks really good well done.

Regards,

[Name redacted]

5.4.10 Email: Middleton Street Resident

3 May 2024

Thanks very much for your letter to residents dated 24 April 2024.

I am writing on behalf of my parents who live at [redacted] Middleton Street, Highett.

We first contacted Bayside City Council about our issue on 14 January 2024, so were pleased to receive your letter.

Located on council property along the fence line adjoining [redacted] Middleton Street, Highett is an oleander tree that overhangs into [redacted] Middleton St. As you know, oleander is a potential environmental weed that is poisonous to people and dogs. All parts of the plant is poisonous, especially the leaves and flowers, and can cause serious reactions such as convulsions, heart issues and respiratory distress. People with heart conditions are especially at risk.

My parents are elderly and both suffer from diagnosed heart conditions. They cannot attend to their garden, as the breeze sends oleander leaves and flowers into their garden. Even if they could reach the overhanging branches to cut them, it is dangerous for them to do this, as it would expose them to the poison. Further, cutting only overhanging branches won't prevent the breeze from bringing parts of the tree onto their property.

Could you please confirm that this oleander tree will be removed as part of Council's weed removal process commencing this month?

Thank you very much for your advice.

[Name redacted]

5.5 Error corrections

Community and stakeholder feedback identified potential errors in the Master Plan document which will be corrected.

Page	Correction
Online – Have Your Say	Image of girl on bike was used to illustrate a sign as was removed during the consultation period.
Conservation Management Plan and Masterplan	Friends of Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary picked up typos in both documents but the most important occur in the Conservation Management Plan and Masterplan (Version 1) e.g. p. 19: spitoides should be stipoides p. 25 From Wingless Grasshopper to Black Field Cricket, scientific names are not italicised and are listed after the common name (elsewhere they are listed before).

p. 57 'devise means to protect plants for possums' should be 'devise means to protect plants from possums'. The meaning of the sentence has shifted.

Masterplan

On page 72, in columns headed Quadrat 7 and Quadrat 8, it says that an area of the site was scalped to 100 m. i.e. 100 metres. Other parts say 100 mm. i.e. 100 millimetres.

6 Project evaluation

6.1.1 Engagement

It was proposed that the engagement activities would attract at least:

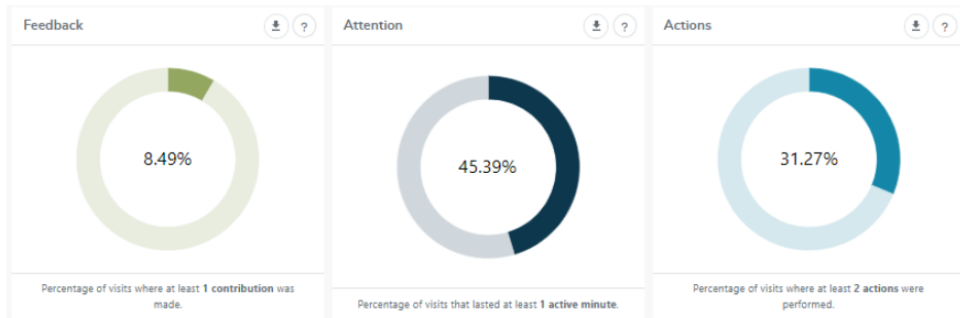
- 1,000 views of the Have Your Say project webpages (exceeded; 1,381 views)
- 100 contributions via the Have Your Say online survey or written statement form (exceeded; 104)

Performance Summary

1,381 Views	1,084 Visits	788 Visitors	104 Contributions	99 Contributors	20 Followers
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In terms of conversion, the goals for Have Your Say webpages were that:

- 7% of visits would have at least one contribution made (exceeded, 8.5%)
- 35% of visits would last at least one active minute (exceeded, 45%)
- 20% of visits would have at least two actions performed, such as moving around the project page or clicking on links (achieved, 31%)



Process Evaluation:

Commentary

Stakeholder reach - Did the engagement or research reach the stakeholders identified during the project planning stage?

Yes – 3,800+ Highett residents were letterboxed with a flyer about the consultation. Participants found the consultation webpages via a range of channels (directly 46%, website 18.5%, social media 17%, e-news campaigns 11%, search 7.5%) Site meetings were also held with stakeholder groups. Draft masterplan was downloaded 233 times.

Reliability of data - Was Council or the delegated decision maker confident in the reliability of data?

Yes – there were no duplicate submissions. All respondents demonstrated a connection to the site.

Age and gender diversity	Females were overrepresented in survey submissions (60%) There was participation from all age groups, noting older participants aged 50+ were over represented.
Stakeholder satisfaction - How satisfied were participants with the consultation process?	Participants indicated they had the information needed to participate with 93% stating it was very (60%) or mostly (33%) easy to find/understand. Three participations found it mostly hard to understand.

BAYSIDE CITY COUNCIL

On **XX June 2024**, Bayside City Council (Council) made an order (Order) under section 26(2) of the **Domestic Animals Act 1994**. This Order is effective from **XX July 2024**.

ORDER NO. 5 OF BAYSIDE CITY COUNCIL

Section 26(2)

Domestic Animals Act 1994

1. **Revocation of all previous orders**

All previous orders made by Council under section 26(2) of the **Domestic Animals Act 1994** are revoked.
2. **Prohibited Areas**

A dog must not enter or remain in any **Prohibited Area** regardless of whether the dog is on a chain, cord or leash or otherwise controlled or not controlled.
3. **Dogs must be on leashes**

Subject to clause 5, if a dog is in a reserve or a **Public Place**, the person in apparent control of the dog must keep the dog under effective control by means of a chain, cord or leash attached to the dog and:

 - (a) held by the person; or
 - (b) securely fastened to a post or other fixture and the dog remains under sight or voice control by the person,

unless the dog is in a **Designated Area**.
4. **Dogs in Designated Areas**
 - (1) Subject to clause 4(2) and clause 5, a dog may be exercised off a chain, cord or leash in a **Designated Area**, if the person in apparent control:
 - (a) carries a chain, cord or leash sufficient to bring the dog under effective control by placing the dog on a chain, cord or leash;
 - (b) remains in effective voice and/or hand control of the dog and within constant sight of the dog so as to be able to promptly bring the dog under control by placing the dog on a chain, cord or leash; and
 - (c) does not allow the dog to worry, rush at, bite, attack or otherwise threaten any person or animal.
 - (2) If a dog is off a chain, cord or leash in a **Designated Area**, the person in apparent control of the dog must bring the dog under effective control by means of a chain, cord or leash if the dog is within 20 metres of:
 - (a) an area where an organised sporting event or the practising of the sporting event is taking place;
 - (b) a children's play equipment area;
 - (c) an area where a public meeting is being held;
 - (d) a permanently designated barbeque or picnic area; or
 - (e) a lake, pond or other permanent water course area identified by signage as being an on-leash area.
5. **Restriction on number of dogs**

A person must not have more than four (4) dogs under the person's apparent control (whether on or off leash) in a reserve, **Public Place** or **Designated Area** at any one time.
6. **Non application of Order to dangerous dogs or greyhounds**

This Order does not apply to any dog which is a dangerous dog under the **Domestic Animals Act 1994** or a greyhound.

7. Meaning of Words

In this Order:

Designated Area	means an area described as such in the Schedule .
Prohibited Area	means an area (including an area on or between specified times and on or between specified dates) described as such in the Schedule.
Public Place	has the meaning given to it in the Summary Offences Act 1966 .
Schedule	means the Schedule to this Order.

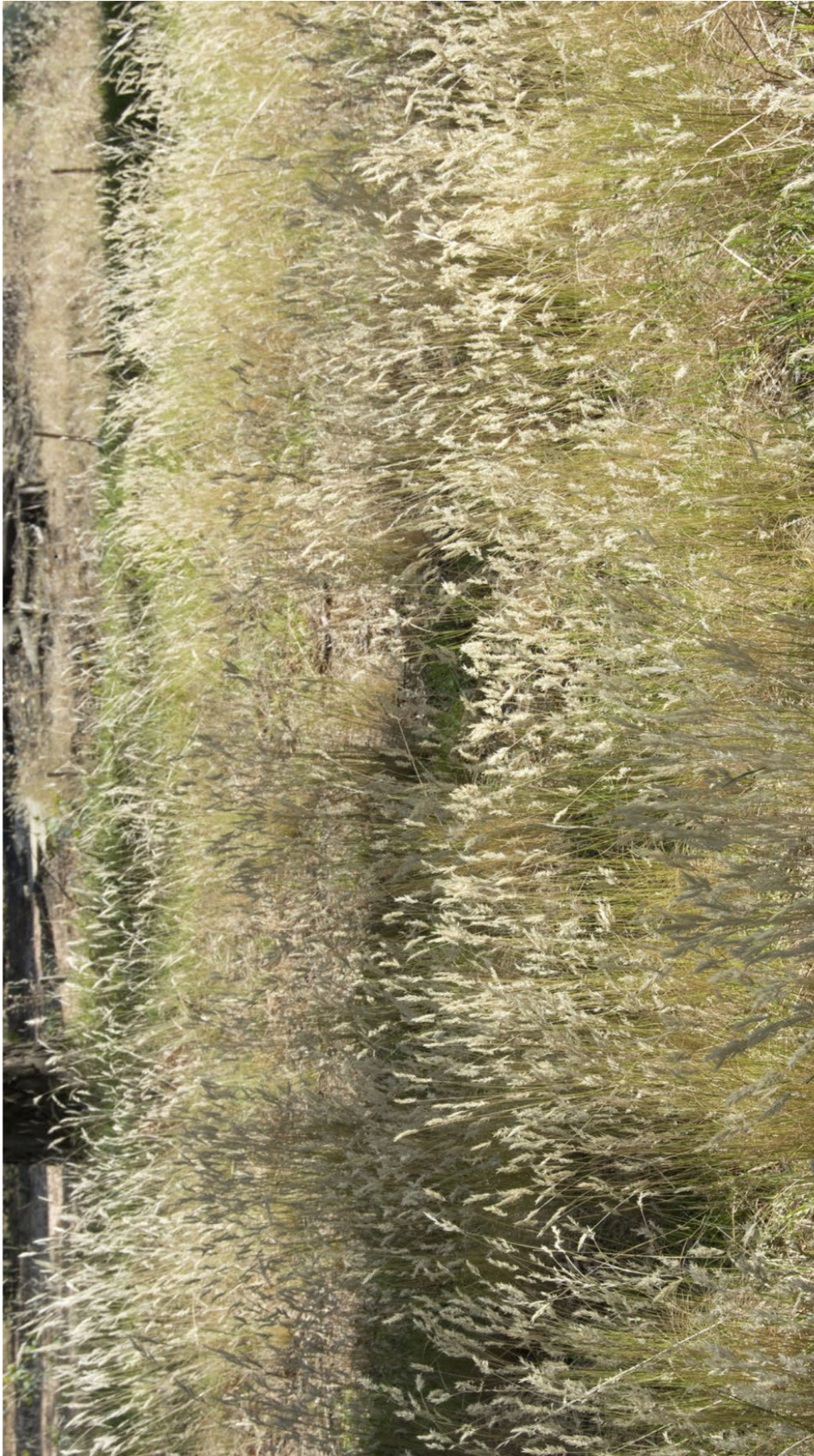
MICK CUMMINS
Chief Executive Officer

SCHEDULE

- All rock platforms within the Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary are a **Prohibited Area** at all times.
- Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary sand and rock foreshore area (excluding rock platforms) between Dalgetty Road and the Sea Scouts Boat Ramp is a **Prohibited Area** from 10.00 am to 7.30 pm (inclusive) between 1 November and the following 31 March (inclusive).
- Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary sand and rock foreshore area (excluding rock platforms) between the area south of the Beaumaris Life Saving Club and Dalgetty Road is:
 - a **Prohibited Area** from 10.00 am to 7.30 pm (inclusive) between 1 November and the following 31 March (inclusive); and
 - a **Designated Area** at all other times.
- Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary sand and rock foreshore area between the disabled ramp at the southern end of the Beaumaris Yacht Club car park and the Beaumaris Life Saving Club is a **Prohibited Area** from 10.00 am to 7.30 pm (inclusive) between 1 November and the following 31 March (inclusive).
- Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary sand and rock foreshore area (excluding rock platforms) between the McGregor Avenue ramp and the disabled ramp at the southern end of the Beaumaris Yacht Club car park (B17) is a **Designated Area**.
- Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary sand and rock foreshore area (excluding rock platforms) between Fourth Street and the McGregor Avenue ramp is a **Prohibited Area** from 10.00 am to 7.30 pm (inclusive) between 1 November and the following 31 March (inclusive).
- Black Rock Beach sand and rock foreshore areas between the southern side of Half Moon Bay car park (B14) and Fourth Street, Black Rock, is:
 - a **Prohibited Area** from 10.00 am to 7.30 pm (inclusive) between 1 November and the following 31 March (inclusive); and
 - a **Designated Area** at all other times.
- Half Moon Bay sand and rock foreshore areas between Red Bluff and the northern side of Half Moon Bay car park (B14) is:
 - between 1 November and the following 31 March (inclusive) a **Designated Area** between sunrise and 10.00 am and a **Prohibited Area** between 10.00 am and 7.30 pm (inclusive); and
 - between 1 April and 31 October (inclusive) a **Designated Area**.
- Edward Street Beach sand and rock foreshore areas between Royal Avenue and the Red Bluff, Sandringham, is:
 - a **Prohibited Area** from 10.00 am to 7.30 pm (inclusive) between 1 November and the following 31 March (inclusive); and
 - a **Designated Area** at all other times.

-
- Sandringham Beach sand and rock foreshore areas between Bay Road and Royal Avenue, Sandringham, is:
 - a **Prohibited Area** from 10.00 am to 7.30 pm (inclusive) between 1 November and the following 31 March (inclusive); and
 - a **Designated Area** at all other times.
 - Sandringham Life Saving Club Beach sand and rock foreshore areas between Jetty Road and Bay Road, Sandringham, is:
 - between 1 November and the following 31 March (inclusive) a **Designated Area** between sunrise and 10.00 am and a **Prohibited Area** between 10.00 am and 7.30 pm (inclusive); and
 - between 1 April and 31 October (inclusive) a **Designated Area**.
 - Sandringham Harbour sand and rock foreshore areas between Hampton Pier and the wooden groyne opposite the shelter and barbeque south of Small Street, Hampton, is a **Designated Area**.
 - Hampton Life Saving Club Beach sand and rock foreshore areas between the wooden groyne opposite the shelter and barbeque south of Small Street and the rock groyne opposite New Street is:
 - a **Prohibited Area** at all times between 1 November and the following 31 March (inclusive); and
 - a **Designated Area** at all other times.
 - Brighton Beach sand and rock foreshore areas between the rock groyne opposite New Street and Were Street, Brighton, is:
 - a **Prohibited Area** from 10.00 am to 7.30 pm (inclusive) between 1 November and the following 31 March (inclusive); and
 - a **Designated Area** at all other times.
 - Holloway Bend Beach sand and rock foreshore areas between Were Street and Gould Street, Brighton, is:
 - a **Prohibited Area** from 10.00 am to 7.30 pm (inclusive) between 1 November and the following 31 March (inclusive); and
 - a **Designated Area** at all other times.
 - Dendy Street Beach sand and rock foreshore areas between Keith Court and Gould Street, Brighton, is:
 - between 1 November and the following 31 March (inclusive) a **Designated Area** between sunrise and 10.00 am and a **Prohibited Area** between 10.00 am and 7.30 pm (inclusive); and
 - between 1 April and 31 October (inclusive) a **Designated Area**.
 - Middle Brighton Beach sand and rock foreshore areas between Normanby Street and Keith Court, Brighton, is:
 - a **Prohibited Area** from 10.00 am to 7.30 pm (inclusive) between 1 November and the following 31 March (inclusive); and
 - a **Designated Area** at all other times.
 - Sandown Street Beach sand and rock foreshore areas between Sandown Street and Bay Street, Brighton, is a **Designated Area**.
 - R J Sillitoe Reserve, Ludstone Street, Hampton, is a **Designated Area**.
 - Elsternwick Park, Brighton, bounded by Head Street, New Street and Bent Avenue, with the exception of the fenced area surrounding the northern playground and picnic area, is a **Designated Area**.

-
- The fenced lake area of Elsternwick Park, Brighton, is a **Prohibited Area**.
 - Chisholm Reserve, the playing field within R G Chisholm Reserve, is a **Designated Area**.
 - Each fenced area within:
 - Balcombe Park Bushland Reserve;
 - Long Hollow Heathland;
 - Bay Road Heathland Sanctuary;
 - **Highett Grassy Woodland Conservation Reserve;**
 - Gramatan Avenue Heathland Sanctuary; and
 - George Street Bushland Reserveis a **Prohibited Area**.
 - The unfenced area within George Street Reserve, George Street, Sandringham, is a **Designated Area**.
 - Donald MacDonald Reserve west of Page Street, Fourth Street, Black Rock (but excluding the flora and fauna reserve), is a **Designated Area**.
 - Cheltenham Park, Park Road, Cheltenham (bordered by Park Road, the Cheltenham Golf Club boundary, the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery and the western boundary of the flora and fauna reserve), is a **Designated Area**.
 - Merindah Reserve (being the entire area adjacent to properties in Balmoral Avenue and Regent Court) between Wangara Road and Spring Street, Sandringham, is a **Designated Area**.
 - Hurlingham Park, Nepean Highway, Brighton East, is a **Designated Area**.
 - William Street Reserve, corner William and Halifax Streets, Brighton, is a **Designated Area**.
 - Dendy Park (south of the main playground, athletic field and sport club rooms), Cummins Road, Brighton, is a **Designated Area**.
 - Wishart Reserve (fenced area between the playground and Bluff Road entrance of Wishart Reserve), Wishart Street, Hampton East, is a **Designated Area**.
 - W L Simpson Reserve, Raynes Park Road, Hampton, is a **Designated Area**.
 - Lyle Anderson Reserve, Highett Grove, Highett, is a **Designated Area**.
 - Royal Avenue Reserve (between Council's Corporate Centre and the playground), Royal Avenue, Sandringham, is a **Designated Area**.
 - Banksia Reserve, Tramway Parade, Beaumaris, is a **Designated Area**.
-



Highett Plains Grassy Woodland Masterplan

March 2024





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- ① Introduction & Background
- ② Identified Conservation Habitats
- ③ Management Zones
- ④ Weed management and removal
- ⑤ Revegetated Species
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- ⑦ Masterplan elements
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Acknowledgments

Bayside City Council proudly acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. Council acknowledges the Bunurong's continuing relationship to the land and waterways and respects that their connection and spiritual identity is maintained through ancient ceremonies, songlines, dance, art and living cultures.

Council pays tribute to the invaluable contributions of the Bunurong and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island elders who have guided and continue to guide the work we do.

Abzecco gratefully acknowledge the assistance and advice of the following people: Amy Weir, Damian Carr and Paul Gibbs (Bayside City Council); Cameron Ryder (Ryder Arboriculture and Environment); Jo Flurse and Julie Valentine (Citywide); Michael Norris and Pauline Reynolds (Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland); John Eichler (local naturalist); Louise Rodda, Richard Francis, David De Angelis and Michael Crane (Abzecco); and Dr Lisa Jagathesan (Paris Victoria).

Note: The endorsement of the Highett Plains Grassy Woodlands by Council does not constitute as decision to proceed with any identified opportunities. It provides a long term concept to guide decision making and will be subject to future decisions and funding considerations by Council.

Introduction & Background



Figure 1 - CSIRO 2010



Figure 2 - Highett Grassy Woodland site

Introduction

Abzeco was engaged by Bayside City Council to prepare a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) and Masterplan of a 3-hectare area of land at 37 Graham Road, Highett. The site was formerly owned by the Federal Government and occupied by CSIRO, which was sold and transferred to Bayside City Council on 20 April 2023 to manage for conservation and public use. This Masterplan has been developed in consultation with Council and Friends of Highett Grassy Woodland. It documents the ecological values of the site, outlines the management issues and prescribes management actions over a 10-year period. This document is supported by the Conservation Management Plan, to be read in conjunction with this Masterplan.

Site Background

The subject land was previously part of a 9.28 ha area of land occupied by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) where they operated a research and education facility from 1940-2012. The CSIRO site has long been known for supporting remnant indigenous vegetation and its considerable conservation significance. A number of more recent studies have been conducted documenting the flora and fauna. These studies have supported the assessment of high conservation values associated with the remnant indigenous grassy woodland vegetation, in particular the stands of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* River Red-gum and *Eucalyptus melliodora* Yellow Box. Bayside City Council acquired the CSIRO site (see Figure 1) in April 2023 as a conservation reserve. The land to the north of the reserve, formerly owned by CSIRO, a much larger area than the conservation reserve, has no indigenous vegetation, and is being developed as a residential estate.

Masterplan Objectives

- In conjunction with the CMP, Identify conservation areas for preservation and protection.
- Creation of management zones based on vegetation condition and unifying management requirements.
- Identification of the most appropriate methods to manage identified issues.
- Restoration of the Plains Grassy Woodland EVC as a protected and valuable community asset
- Create a management plan with a 10-year timeframe to guide the completion of specific restoration and management actions.
- Provide direction on the path networks and opportunities to develop the site through Council's capital works program.
- Align outcomes of the masterplan with other council strategic directives, such as the Urban Forest Strategy and the Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan.

Identified Conservation Habitats



Figure 1 - Identified conservation zones

Based on pre-European modelling and mapping of the Ecological Vegetation Classes by DEECA, indigenous vegetation would have consisted of Heathy Woodland and Sand Heathland Mosaic (EVC 892) over the majority of the site, with Grassy Woodland and Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland mosaic (EVC 716) in the north-east corner. However, based on the field assessment and floristics observed (particularly River Red-gum), the native vegetation in the study area is attributable to EVC 55 Plains Grassy Woodland, which has a Bioregional Conservation Status of 'endangered' (DEECA 2023) in the Gippsland Plain bioregion. The occurrence of Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55) is now very rare in the south-east of Melbourne.

Four patches (habitat zones 1-4) of Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC 55) and four scattered trees were mapped within the Reserve and results of the habitat hectare assessment are outlined in Table 2. The habitat zones range from 0.03 and 0.49 ha in size. They are characterised by a moderate cover of River Red-gum and/or Yellow Box in the canopy. Several trees were large and recruitment was observed in the vicinity of the mature trees.

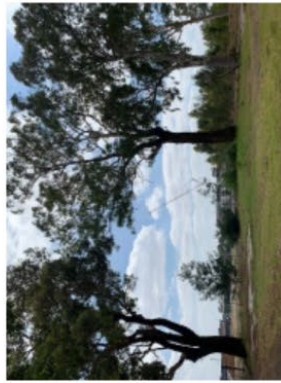


Figure 2 - Habitat Zone 1

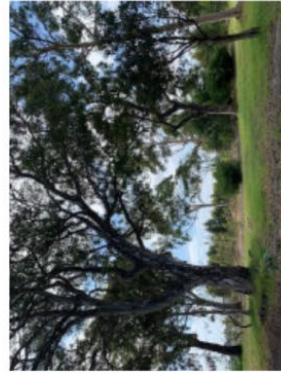


Figure 3 - Habitat Zone 2

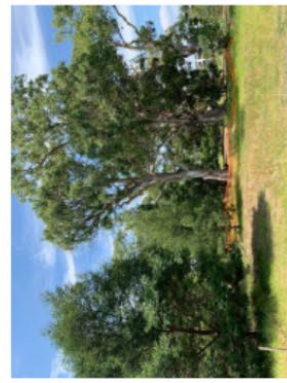


Figure 4 - Habitat Zone 3



Figure 5 - Habitat Zone 4

Management Zones



Figure 1 - Management and revegetation zoning

Three zones are recognised and mapped (Figure 3) for the Highett Plains Grassy Woodland site based on their current condition, vegetation and proposed revegetation treatments. These zones are further detailed within the CMP:

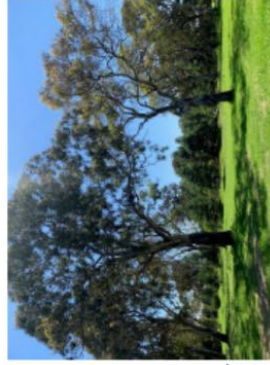
Management Zone 3

Massive recruitment of exotic and indigenous eucalypts and many other plants occurred on the newly bared mineral soil of the site. Much of the area has significantly eroded, but growth of vegetation and the deposition of litter by the eucalypts has arrested much erosion. The initial treatment proposed is to fell the unwanted eucalypts, Acacias etc, and use them to cover any bare soil to stabilise the site. When this occurs revegetation can commence.



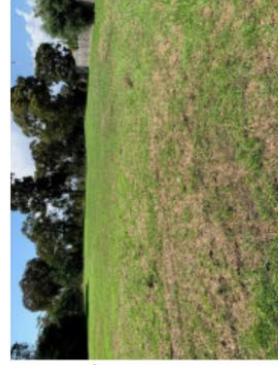
Management Zone 1

Western side of this zone carries most of the remnant indigenous eucalypts – *Eucalyptus camaldulensis subsp. camaldulensis* River Red-gum and *Eucalyptus melliodora* Yellow Box. Many of the eucalypts especially Yellow Box are fine old specimens. The eastern side of the zone only has a number of mature planted eucalypts, including *Corymbia citriodora subsp. citriodora* Lemon scented Gum and *Corymbia maculata* Spotted Gum. This area will be fully revegetated by conventional planting of tubestock, divisions and direct seeding.



Management Zone 2

Treeless (mostly) exotic grassland/dicot herbfields in the south-eastern corner of the site. This area is proposed for establishing grassland, including species such as *Themeda triandra* Kangaroo Grass. Direct seeding is most appropriate following thorough weed control.



Weed Management and Removal

Weed invasion is and will remain the most important and sometimes technically difficult management issue into the distant future. At no point in time will the recreated vegetation of the site become self-sustaining or resilient enough to resist weed invasion. At any time in the future weeds will again dominate the vegetation and destroy most indigenous plants that have been established if it is not managed to a high level.

The findings within the Conservation Management Plan demonstrated that exotic vegetation overwhelmingly predominates in the understorey (field layer) and comprises an estimated 95% of vegetation cover throughout the site. The most abundant herbaceous weed species in the understorey below the indigenous eucalypts, *Acacia implexa* Lightwood and *Acacia mearnsii* Black Wattle and the non-indigenous trees (mostly eucalypts) are listed below:

- *Aizoon pubescens* var. *pubescens* (Galenia)
- *Avena barbata* (Bearded Oat)
- *Bromus catharticus* var. *catharticus* (Prairie Grass)
- *Cenchrus clandestinus* (Kikuyu)
- *Cynodon dactylon* var. *dactylon* (Couch)
- *Dactylis glomerata* (Cocksfoot)
- *Ehrharta erecta* (Panic Veldt-grass)
- *Ehrharta longiflora* (Annual Veldt-grass)
- *Oxalis pes-caprae* (Soursob)
- *Paspalum dilatatum* (Paspalum)
- *Plantago lanceolata* (Ribwort)
- *Romulea rosea* var. *australis* (Common Onion-grass)
- *Setaria parviflora* (Slender Pigeon Grass)
- *Sonchus oleraceus* (Common Sow-thistle)
- *Tradescantia fluminensis* (Wandering Jew)
- *Vulpia* spp. (Fescue)



Figure 1 - Examples of dense vegetation copses that dominate the site.

Revegetation Species



Allocasuarina verticillata - Drooping Sheoak



Hibbertia sericea - Silky Guinea-flower



Leptospermum continentale - Prickly Tea-tree



Thelymitra pauciflora - Slender Sun Orchid



Banksia marginata - Silver Banksia



Platylobium obtusangulum - Common Flat Pea



Ryidosperma racemosum - Slender Wallaby-grass



Themeda triandra - Kangaroo Grass



Indigofera australis - Austral Indigo



Microlaena stipoides var. *stipoides* - Weeping Grass



Acacia mearnsii - Black Wattle



Tricoryne elatior - Yellow Rush-lily

Highbett Plains Grassy Woodlands Masterplan

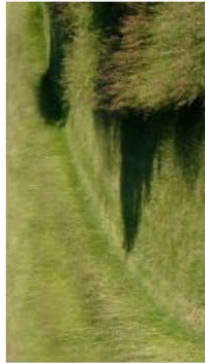


- ① Reserve Entry via Estate
- ② Boardwalk pathway
- ③ Lookout platform
- ④ Fencing around path network
- ⑤ Central meeting place and shelter
- ⑥ Bush trail
- ⑦ Gravel path
- ⑧ Grassland reflection space
- ⑨ Bay Rd Connection

Masterplan Elements - examples and precedents

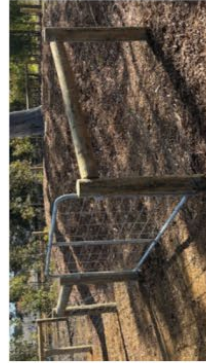
Path networks

Exploring paths through the reserve will allow the community an insight into the long term processes taking place to restore the Plains Grassy Woodland ecological vegetation class. These paths are designed, where possible, to be non-intrusive to the soil profile, limit any impact to the protected nature of the reserve and adapt to emerging conditions. The paths are also intended to link into larger connection corridors, such as the Bay Rd link shown with the bottom right image. Crime Prevention Through Design (CPTD) and user safety will also help develop the final path network.



Fencing

The CMP specifies that future management of Highett Grassy Woodland will need to be adaptive and respond appropriately to ecological changes and/or conditions. It is proposed that in order to protect revegetated areas, a significant amount of the site will require fencing. As these areas throughout the reserve become more established, it is possible that initial areas of fencing can be reviewed and relocated/removed over time. Fencing also presents an opportunity to include signage that provides information on the ecological value of the reserve.



Masterplan Elements - examples and precedents

Meeting Places and lookouts

Minimal infrastructure has been proposed within the Hightett Plains Grassy Woodland, however meeting place locations are critical to path-finding and community value of the reserve. These pieces can provide signage and information around the significance and value of the vegetation within the reserve and the need to respect the natural processes underway, while also providing amenity value. The location can also help provide a sense of safety, as park users can provide passive surveillance as they stop and move through the site. A central location looks to achieve this outcome.



Seating

The need for seating and amenity is expected to be highly required within the site, given the size and the significance of the natural environment at the Hightett Plains Grassy Woodlands. Seating that is complementary to the natural environment will provide moments of reflection and appreciation to the value of the reserves unique ecology.



Timeline

Management plan timeline - Excerpt from Conservation Management Plan

The realization of the masterplan to return the reserve to its original EVC is presented in the Conservation Management Plan in great detail. Below is a snapshot summary of the length of time and the management practices that will need to be undertaken to achieve a unique and highly valued conservation reserve. This management plan does not provide for final outcomes of a “completed” site, but is adaptive and responds to the changeable nature of land management practices, and that environmental conditions and ecological responses cannot be predicted.

Years 1-2	Years 3-4	Years 5-10
<p>Plan the procedures for revegetation, type of planting, materials required and ensure optimal conditions.</p> <p>Fence and protect areas of significant vegetation relevant to the EVC development.</p> <p>Removal of weed species and exotic flora.</p> <p>Monitoring of pest animals and invasive plant species, take action to ensure undesirable species do not be come dominant.</p> <p>Monitoring of tree health and maintenance to ensure healthy growth</p> <p>Commence capital works to deliver upon the masterplan</p>	<p>Begin monitoring of visitor impacts to the reserve</p> <p>Catalogue and identify protected and indigenous species, harvest seed specimens where viable.</p> <p>Continued removal of woody weed species and exotic flora.</p> <p>Continued monitoring of pest animals and invasive plant species, take action to ensure undesirable species do not be come dominant.</p> <p>Continued monitoring of tree health and maintenance to ensure healthy growth</p>	<p>Long term planning for indigenous plant species recruitment and establishment</p> <p>Continued monitoring of visitor impacts to the reserve and assessment of path network performance in relation to ecological protections</p> <p>Identify and record the location of additional indigenous plant species that occur onsite</p> <p>Implement exotic gastropod monitoring on an ongoing basis and control as appropriate</p> <p>Ensure site fencing and protection measures are in good condition, fit for purpose and limiting impacts from pest animals and other fauna frequenting the reserve.</p> <p>Implement documentation and monitoring in accordance with CMP recommendations and respond with adaptive management in response to reported outcomes</p>

Example Outcomes

The below images are an examples of the type of landscape that will be present once the management measures have begun to be implemented.



References and Credits

Conservation Management Plan and Masterplan for Highett Plains Grassy Woodland (March 2024)

Prepared and delivered by ABZECO Applied Botany, Zoology & Ecological Consulting

Image Credits - Pauline Reynolds, Neri Brewer, Kylie Payze, Jarrod Fleming, Amy Weir

10.12 LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure - Open Space and Recreation
File No: PSF/24/102 – Doc No: DOC/24/170716

Executive summary

Purpose and background

The purpose of this report is to present the Lake Management Plans, prepared for five of Bayside's ornamental lakes and one irrigation reservoir, to Council for consideration and adoption.

Council allocated budget in 2023–24 to develop Lake Management Plans for Elsternwick Park South Lake, Landcox Park Lane, Basterfield Lake, Tulip Street Pond, Pobblebonk Pond and the Cheltenham Golf Course Reservoir. This report provides an overview of the future management recommendations for each site with their associated actions and financial implications.

Key issues

Urban lakes are expected to deliver a suite of services to the community. Critical to the preparation of each management plan was the initial establishment of the values associated with individual sites. The following set of values were taken into consideration during development of each plan, with the primary value (or combination of values) established for each water body. These values then guided development of management objectives for each individual management plan.

- Ornamental – Social research has demonstrated that aesthetically pleasing water bodies commonly share several unifying features such as clear water, the presence of emergent aquatic plants around the water body, and absence of algal blooms.
- Ecological – The ecological value of a lake is the capacity to provide long-term habitat and breeding opportunities for native species of plants and animals, so their populations are sustainable.
- Social and community recreation – Lakes and their surrounds provide exceptional opportunities for passive recreational activities such as bird watching, picnicking, walking, and relaxation.
- Flood protection – Lakes can assist in managing urban stormwater flows and reduce peak flows and flood inundation for water courses downstream of the lake.
- Physical and mental health – Lakes provide exposure to components of the natural world within suburban environments, which has been shown repeatedly to have significant benefits in terms of community physical and mental health.
- Response to climate change – Melbourne's urban environment is projected to become more extreme, with increased number, severity, and duration of weather events such as storms and droughts and increased heat stress due to higher average air temperatures and more severe heat waves. As a result, water availability will also be affected, with extremes in water availability (e.g., drought versus flood) becoming more problematic for keeping urban lakes full and their surrounds well-watered. Urban lakes will become increasingly important in keeping water in the landscape, creating cooling microclimates, and offering residents cool, green spaces to connect with nature in a changing climate.

Council's appointed consultants identified a range of issues and at each site, including the presence of blue-green algae, noxious and introduced pest fauna species, heavy infestations of weed species, lack of water circulation and/or flow, turbidity, and litter. Bathymetry and sediment testing was also undertaken.

The following is summary of issues, proposed management recommendations and estimated costs for each site.

Landcox Park Lake

Landcox Park Lake in Brighton East falls within a 101-hectare urban catchment. It is not clear when the ornamental lake was constructed, but it is believed to have been excavated in the early 1900s on the adjacent Milroy Estate, as an ornamental feature to complement the existing gardens of the Tara House mansion. Since then, Landcox Park and its lake has become a focal point for recreation in Brighton and surrounding suburbs.

In 2000 the lake was drained, reshaped and cleared of European Carp. It was refilled and a lake management plan prepared in 2001. Amongst other actions, it recommended planting a variety of aquatic vegetation around the perimeter of the lake which was undertaken in 2002.

Since that time, the lake has suffered detrimental impacts due to lack of available stormwater during the millenium drought, resulting in water quality issues such as turbidity and algal outbreaks, and European Carp have returned.

The main threat to Landcox Park Lake is its highly urbanised surrounding catchment that generates low quality stormwater, leading to the presence of sediment, algal blooms, eutrophication and high nutrient concentrations, noxious introduced fish and spread of fringing macrophytes (aquatic plants).

A suitable management technique that could be achieved is prioritising ornamental appearance with a focus on improving the lakes levels of biodiversity.

The Landcox Park LMP recommends the undertaking the following priority management actions to address current water quality issues in the interim, while also improving biodiversity:

1. The removal of large European Carp.
2. Increase aquatic vegetation fringing the lake boundary.
3. Developing a community engagement campaign to address litter around the lake.

The Landcox LMP also provides a range of short, medium, and long-term management recommendations that should be incorporated into an establishment of a regular lake maintenance plan.

Some of these can be undertaken via existing management and maintenance requirements in Council's Open Space Service Contract. Other recommendations would require future capital funding.

Proposed management recommendations for Landcox Park Lake (separated into operational and capital projects) are outlined below:

Landcox Park Lake	Priority Works	Response
	Remove European Carp and Goldfish	Can be accommodated within existing operating within Open Space Service Contract provisions – at a small scale
	Increase aquatic vegetation fringing the lake boundary	Can be accommodated within existing operating within Open Space Service Contract provisions
Landcox Park Lake	Recommended Short term works	Response
	Implement an active maintenance regime to monitor water quality and reduce litter	Funded
	Develop signage to support new water literacy campaign	Funded
	Recommended Medium term works	Response
	Replant island vegetation with native species	Non – funded. Will require New Capital budget bid.
	Restock lake with native fish species	May be allocated within existing budget
	Install float system to allow for potable water top up to maintain water levels	Non – funded. Will require New Capital budget bid.
	Install solar powered fountain to increase aeration and improve aesthetics	Non – funded. Will require New Capital budget bid.
	Construct offline filtering raingarden/bioretenion system to improve water quality.	Non – funded. Will require New Capital budget bid.
	Install water pump to pump lake water through raingarden/bioretenion system to improve water quality.	Non – funded. Will require New Capital budget bid.
	Recommended Long term works	Response
	Implement a staged willow removal program and replace over time with appropriate indigenous species (i.e.: River Red-gums) to remove invasive species and increase the ecological value.	It is recommended that this takes place only upon tree failure or upon reaching senescence.
	Develop a long-term proactive carp control program	Uncosted at this stage.

A copy of the Landcox Park Lake Management Plan 2024 can be found at Attachment 1.

Elsternwick Park South Lake

Guiding Vision: *Retain its primary use of flood mitigation but where possible, improve biodiversity while maintaining the lake's recreational features.*

Management objectives

- Maintain primary function for stormwater retention.
- Increase plantings of native flora around the entire lake's edge (where feasible).
- Reduce the abundance of exotic faunal species, especially European Carp and Red-eared Slider Turtle.
- Maintain current high social and recreation value.

Elsternwick Park South Lake		
Recommended Short term Works	Response	
Monitoring of water quality and social uses around the lake.	Can be accommodated within existing operating budget	
Planting of a 10-metre buffer around the lake is a priority for this site to improve habitat and reduce erosion.	Non – funded. Will require New Capital budget bid.	
Upgrade educational signs to inform visitors about the flora and fauna around the lake.	Non – funded. Will require New Capital budget bid.	
Recommended Long term Works		
Monitoring – ongoing algal counts (health) and sediment accumulation (to ensure retarding basin capacity is not reduced.)	Can be accommodated within existing operating budget	
Stormwater harvesting for watering adjacent ovals.	Non – funded. Will require New Capital budget bid.	
Water quality improvements for turbidity.	Can be accommodated within existing operating budget.	
Works to improve habitat and erosion control – include provision of floating wetlands to remove nutrients, 'habitat bricks' to provide microhabitats for fauna, 'duck ramps' to provide access to the island for water birds.	Non – funded. Will require New Capital budget bid.	

It is recommended that Council does not undertake any significant works to the lake until further information is understood in relation to the Elwood drain diversion project and that opportunities for enhancements to the lake are considered as part of Council's ongoing engagement with Melbourne Water.

Basterfield Park Lake

Guiding vision: *Improve general appearance and aesthetics to enhance ornamental qualities in the short-term and improve biodiversity and ecological function in the long-term.*

Management objectives

- Increase aesthetic enjoyment of the lake by removing some areas of dense emergent aquatic vegetation and improving edge conditions and access.
- Reduce invasive species in the lake, particularly European Carp.

Basterfield Lake	Recommended Short term Works	Response
	Monitoring for water quality and sediment depth, including maintenance of the bore and associated minerals.	Can be accommodated within existing budget.
	Control of problematic aquatic vegetation around the lake perimeter.	Can be accommodated within existing budget
	Vegetation removal to improve lake aesthetics and restore areas of open water.	Can be accommodated within existing budget.
	Pruning overcrowded aquatic vegetation around the bore.	Can be accommodated within existing budget.
	Periodic removal of large Carp to assist in reducing water turbidity.	Can be accommodated within existing budget.
	Recommended Long term Works	Response
	New infrastructure to improve visitor experience – installing elevated platforms and viewing areas – similar to Landcox Park Lake.	Non – funded. Will require New Capital budget bid.
	Review of the bore water infill system and investigation into whether Bayside should transition to treated stormwater to fill the lake.	Non – funded. Will require New Capital budget bid.

Pobblebonk Pond

Guiding Vision: *Maintain high-quality wetland habitat for the 'Pobblebonk' Frog while improving the biodiversity and ecological function of the pond by removing exotic vegetation.*

Management objectives

- Minimise disturbance of current frog habitat
- Reduce the abundance of non-native, potentially invasive vegetation such as willow and poplars.
- Minimal removal of sediment accumulated within the first two metres of the headwall near Forrest Court to reduce blockages.
- No sediment disturbance or removal in other areas of the lake, especially near George Street, due to contamination with a range of heavy metals, most especially lead.

Council has undertaken some remediation of the pond in the past and the current management plan has indicated future actions may continue to be required to ensure any risk to the public is effectively managed. Council is undertaking some further testing to understand the extent of contaminants within the lake and the appropriate management actions.

Testing results are not yet available however, early indications indicate there is no significant risk to public health or safety.

Pobblebonk Pond	Recommended Short term Works	Response
	Management of existing vegetation, including pruning of the large willow.	Can be accommodated within existing budget.
	Removal of litter and sediment at the inflow pipe only to reduce blockages.	Can be accommodated within existing budget
	Restoration of existing interpretative signs currently covered by vegetation.	Can be accommodated within existing budget.
	Recommended Long term Works	Response
	Vegetation management to control exotic and invasive species, including staged removal of Poplars and replacement with more appropriate indigenous species (such as River Red-gums).	Can be accommodated within existing budget.

Note: the costs and actions above do not provide for any management of contaminated land actions.

Tulip Street Pond

Guiding Vision: *Maintain habitat for native frogs while maintaining and, where possible, improving the biodiversity and ecological function through better control of stormwater inputs.*

Management objectives

- Maintain seasonally inundated wetland with naturally varying water levels (it is essential that the wetland is not converted into a pond that is permanently inundated).
- Increase erosion protection and maintain biodiversity of the pond through increased control of stormwater inflows.
- Minimise disturbance of current frog habitat.
- Manage non-native and invasive ('out-of-balance') native vegetation and exotic species of fish.

Tulip Street Pond	Recommended Short term Works	Response
	New fence/barrier between the BMX track and pond to restrict access as the pond is used as an unauthorised trail extension when it dries out due to seasonal conditions.	Can be funded within existing operating budget.
	Erosion control – works to increase control of stormwater inflow and to stabilise the new bank formed during reshaping of the pond.	Non – funded. Will require New Capital budget bid.
	Revegetation of the new bank and pond perimeter to reduce erosion and increase habitat opportunities for frogs.	Can be accommodated within existing budget.
	Vegetation management – control of unwanted aquatic and fringing plants that are becoming overabundant (Cumbungi and River Red-gum saplings).	Can be accommodated within existing budget.
	Upgrade educational signs to inform visitors about the flora and fauna around the lake.	Can be accommodated within existing budget..
	Periodic removal of large Carp.	Can be accommodated within existing budget.
	Recommended Long term Works	Response
	Monitor vegetation for unwanted species/abundance and manage as required.	Can be accommodated within existing budget.
	Review of hydrological regime to ensure the volume of water is appropriate for ecological function and optimal biodiversity conditions.	Can be accommodated within existing budget.

A copy of the Bayside Ornamental Lake Management Plans 2024 can be found at Attachment 2.

Cheltenham Golf Course Reservoir

This reservoir is located within Cheltenham Golf Course, which is Crown Land and Council is the appointed Committee of Management. Both the reservoir and the golf course are leased by Cheltenham Golf Club. The primary function of the reservoir is as an irrigation source for the Cheltenham Golf Course.

The reservoir is steep sided and fully plastic lined to prevent water loss to groundwater. Water flows in and out of the reservoir via active pumping, with no natural flows and is used to irrigate the golf course. It is inaccessible to the public and is surrounded by a high chain mesh fence. The edges of the reservoir are surrounded by mown grass with no vegetation or tree cover to reduce evaporation.

While the reservoir is not currently intended to provide ornamental, ecological, flood protection, or physical and mental health benefits for the community, it could potentially provide some increased ecological function with some changes.

Guiding Vision: *Continue to provide water for golf course irrigation, while seeking opportunities to increase the environmental and social values of the lake.*

Management objectives

- Maintain primary function as water supply for golf course irrigation.
- Increase ecological function.

Should Council wish to pursue increasing ecological function at this site, there are several management options that would maintain existing values, while exploring future options for additional benefits that are consistent with the above objectives. These include the following:

1. Creation of a new, small chain of ponds downstream of the reservoir – \$25,000 to \$150,000.
2. Increasing size of storage to create more water storage and increase opportunity to create a more resilient water system through drought periods – \$50,000 to \$250,000.
3. Consideration of options to alter the type of fencing around the lake to increase amenity, while still preventing people and dogs from accessing the water body - \$25,000 to \$100,000. (Note the lakes position next to a golf tee box and fairway make it an unsuitable spot for passive recreation).
4. Consideration of supplementing the existing supply of water with stormwater from upstream catchments and Park Road drainage – \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

It should be noted that these costs are high level estimates only and would need to be properly scoped and investigated to confirm feasibility.

It should be noted that there is no current budget allocated to undertake any of these investigations or works. It is recommended that the existing conditions remain until such a time as funding is allocated to progress consideration of the options.

A copy of the *Cheltenham Golf Course Reservoir Management Plan 2024* can be found at Attachment 3.

Recommendations

It is recommended that many of the management actions can be incorporated within Council's Civil Infrastructure and Open Space contract to ensure that 'existing operating' tasks identified within the tables are being delivered, managed and audited.

Council will continue to monitor the lakes and take the required steps to rectify issues within their scope of works or recommend alternative approaches for Council consideration. The proposed measures to Elsternwick Park South will be deferred until the implications of the Elwood Diversion Drain project are better understood. The Cheltenham Golf Course options will be considered in future years of Council's capital program.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. notes the findings and recommendations of the various lake management plans and adopts the Landcox Park Lake Management Plan 2024 (Attachment 1), the Bayside Ornamental Lake Management Plans 2024 (Attachment 2) and the Cheltenham Golf Course Reservoir Plan 2024 (Attachment 3)
2. embeds the relevant management actions into Council's Civil Infrastructure and Open Space contract
3. refers new capital management recommendations and more significant capital works actions to future annual budget processes for consideration.

Support Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Landcox Lake Management Plan 2024
2. Attachment 2 - Bayside Ornamental Lake Management Plans 2024
3. Attachment 3 - Cheltenham Golf Course Reservoir Plan 2024

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Social

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity, and the importance of the natural environment was a key theme from the community during consultation for its 2050 vision for Bayside. The foreshore and natural areas are highly valued by residents and visitors and have been protected and cared for by local environmental volunteers for many decades. Lakes and other waterbodies in Bayside have a high amenity and social recreation and wellbeing value.

Natural Environment

The delivery of the actions contained within the both the respective lake management plans will go some way to preserving and improving urban biodiversity in Bayside at a local level.

Two of the sites – Pobblebonk Pond and Tulip Street Pond, are known habitats for various frog species and provide important ecological refuges for other native fauna.

Climate Emergency

Climate change has the potential to impact every element of life in Bayside. The impacts include increased maximum and minimum temperatures, more intense rainfall events/inundation, rising sea levels, more hot days and heat waves, less rainfall in winter and spring and harsher and longer fire seasons.

To maintain and improve essential biodiversity, actions must aim to provide for a diverse range of climate resilient habitats which will support native fauna to adapt to changing climates. The majority of lakes and water bodies in Bayside are filled via stormwater. As a result, changes in frequency and/or intensity of rainfall due to climate change will directly impact these systems.

Implementing actions within the lake management plans may assist in ensuring these waterbodies remain resilient and/or adaptive to climate change processes.

Built Environment

Several of the remediation recommendations contained within the lake management plans will require the consideration of new and/or upgraded infrastructure.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

Representatives from Friends of Native Wildlife (FONW) visited each site with Wave Consulting and Council officers and were able to share and discuss their local fauna knowledge for each site. Where available, FONW provided Wave with their frog, invertebrate and bird to assist with developing their recommendations for each site.

Council officers also regularly receive queries from residents regarding the water quality and/or vegetation/litter/European Carp issues at our lakes.

Implementing the recommendations contained within the lake management plans for the other sites will address the concerns raised by the community.

Equity Impact

The implications of this report have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

In development of this plan the requirement for Equity Impact pre-assessment has been completed. The pre-assessment concluded that this plan:

a) does not meet the requirement for a comprehensive Equity Impact Assessment (EIA) at this time and it has been approved by the EIA Lead not to progress with the assessment.

Human Rights

The implications of the report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

While there are no known legal implications associated with this report, Council officers are recommending further testing be undertaken at Pobblebonk Pond to determine the level of contaminated identified and whether any remediation works are required.

Finance

Many of the identified management actions (particularly those associated with ongoing maintenance and vegetation management) can be accommodated within existing operational contract agreements in the Open Space Service Contract. However, it should be noted that costs are estimated only and may not necessarily reflect Council's current contract structure and may be subject to discussions around variation.

Other recommended works will be subject to future budget processes as there is currently no funding allocated in the budget. The costs outlined in the report are preliminary estimates based on concept proposals and as such, would require more detailed design to inform future budget requirements.

Links to Council policy and strategy

The development of lake management plans is consistent with Council's Strategic Objectives under *Goal 1: Our Planet*, in particular:

Strategic Objective 1.2. Protect and enhance our natural and coastal environments, biodiversity and unique ecosystems; and

Strategy 1.2.1. Protect and enhance the biodiversity and health of our natural space and foreshore.



Landcox Park Lake Management Plan

May 2024



Traditional Owners

The authors wish to acknowledge, the Boonwurrung Peoples as the traditional custodians of Brighton East.

Document Management

Version	Date	ID	Authors
Revised	9 May 2024	2022-045-D4	Wave Consulting Australia and Dodo Environmental

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Cover image

Landcox Park Lake, Brighton East. Source: Wave Consulting Australia.

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Executive Summary

Landcox Park Lake is an urban lake located in Brighton East within a 101-hectare urban catchment and a focal point of recreation for the local community, as well as an ornamental feature of Bayside City Council.

Bayside is developing a management plan that includes actions to improve the quality and amenity of Landcox Park Lake, and this plan covers the current condition, values, the vision, actions, and costs and maintenance to improve the lake.

In 2000 the lake was drained and cleared of carp, then refilled and its aquatic vegetation replanted in 2002 following a management plan produced in 2001 by ID&A.

The guiding vision of this plan for Landcox Lake is for an ornamental lake that delivers significant social and recreational value to the community, while also improving water quality (e.g., reduced turbidity and the frequency and severity of algal blooms) and the maintenance of a mosaic of different habitat types that provide space for native water birds (e.g. open water), native fish and amphibians (e.g. submerged and fringing aquatic plants) and refuges for native water birds (e.g. terrestrial plants on the island).

To meet this vision, the management plan has the following objectives:

- New structures to increase the opportunity to engage with and view the lake
- Vegetation maintenance to create clearer views of the water body
- Improved water quality and clarity (i.e., lower turbidity)
- Reduced frequency and severity of algal blooms, including of green algae and of blue green algae
- Controlled spread of fringing emergent macrophytes.

These objectives are still consistent with the 2001 management plan [1], the Council Plan 2025 [2], and the Biodiversity Action Plan (2018) [3].

The main threat to the lake is the highly urbanised surrounding catchment, that generates low quality stormwater and leading to the presence of sediment, algal blooms, eutrophication and high nutrient concentrations, noxious introduced fish and spread of fringing macrophytes.

To improve these values, it is recommended that a series of priority works are conducted, as well as a regular maintenance plan established and followed. The priority works recommended are:

1. Remove large carp.
2. Modify aquatic vegetation fringing lake boundary, including maintaining, increasing, and monitoring vegetation to support habitat as well as clearing vegetation in key locations to increase visibility into the lake.
3. Increase signage to create a new water literacy campaign around the lake.

Indicative costs for all of the actions recommended are presented below. No design work has been undertaken to inform these costs, and they should be read as only very preliminary cost estimates.

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Table 1. Cost breakdown

Priority & budget source	Item	Objective	Approx cost	Expected contingency
Immediate operating existing	Remove carp and goldfish	Remove invasive species and increase lake’s ecological value.	\$10,000	+ 25%
Immediate operating existing	Increase aquatic vegetation densities fringing lake boundary.	Increase lake’s ecological value and improve aesthetic experience.	\$15,000	+ 25%
		Subtotal	\$25,000	+ 25%
Short term operating existing	Institute an active maintenance regime to monitor water quality and reduce litter.	Improve the health and appearance of the lake.	\$30,000	+ 25%
Short term operating existing	Increase signage to create a new water literacy campaign.	Increase community awareness and in long term improve the health of the lake and waterfowl.	\$10,000	+ 25%
		Subtotal	\$40,000	+ 25%
Medium term new capital new capital	Clear and then replant island vegetation with native species.	Increase lake’s ecological value.	\$50,000	+ 25%
Medium term operating existing	Restocking with native fish species	Increase lake’s ecological value.	\$5,000	+ 25%
Medium term new capital new capital	Float system installation to allow for potable water top up.	Help maintain water levels when needed.	\$5,000	+ 25%
Medium term new capital new capital	Install solar powered fountain in the middle of the lake	Improve lake’s aesthetic and increase aeration.	\$20,000	+ 50%
Medium term new capital new capital	Construct and install an offline filtering raingarden bioretention and filtering system.	Improve water quality and health of the lake.	\$100,000	+ 50%
Medium term new capital new capital	Water pump to allow lake water flow through raingarden system	Improve water quality and health of the lake.	\$20,000	+ 25%
		Subtotal	\$300,000	+ 50%
Long term new capital new capital	Long term program to remove carp	Remove invasive species and increase lake’s ecological value	Uncosted at this stage	
Long term new capital new capital	Implement a staged willow removal program. Willows are to be replaced over time with appropriate indigenous species.	Remove invasive species and increase lake’s ecological value	Uncosted at this stage	

Based on the vision, the current condition, and the threats and opportunities at this lake, the following recommendations are made:

1. Engage with the community to communicate the proposed vision and actions for the lake.
2. Commence a plan of action to immediately address and deliver on the 'priority works'.
3. Review the specific tasks and update the tasks and costs with additional analysis and design work.
4. Continue to undertake regular water quality monitoring
5. Establish a monitoring program to track the possible expansion of fringing aquatic plants into areas of the lake that are currently open-water.



Figure 1. Views that encompass fringe vegetation are beneficial and important in supporting the physical and mental health benefits.

1 Introduction & background

Bayside City Council is a local government area in the southeast of Melbourne, Victoria, with a population of 105,580 people [4], an area of 37.19 km² and 24 km of beach and coastline next to Port Phillip Bay.

Landcox Park Lake is one of several urban lakes in the municipality (Figure 2). The land that Landcox Park occupies was bought in 1840 and subdivided into a series of blocks, some along the foreshore of Port Phillip Bay and others for a planned inland village that was to service a number of 78-acre (33 ha) farms in the hinterland [5]. The Landcox estate was established in 1854 and parts were subject to a plan for further subdivision at auction in 1904. The auction was unsuccessful and following local public consultation the City of Brighton purchased three allotments to the south of the Landcox mansion, which by then included the ornamental lake, for use as a public park. The site of 10 acres was fenced and named Landcox Park in 1905. It is not clear when the ornamental lake was constructed, but it is believed to have been excavated in the early 1900s on the adjacent Milroy Estate, as an ornamental feature to complement the existing gardens of the Tara House mansion [6]. Since then, Landcox Park and its lake has become a focal point for recreation in Brighton, East Brighton and surrounding suburbs.



Figure 2. Images of Landcox Park Lake in March 2022 (Wave Consulting Australia)

1.1 Objectives of this plan

This plan presents an integrated view of the lake in terms of:

- current condition
- threats
- vision
- objectives
- actions
- costs
- maintenance implications.

It recognises that the current condition of Landcox Park Lake is strongly influenced by its location in a heavily urbanised area. Its water comes almost entirely from stormwater runoff, and this has resulted in the accumulation of sediments on the lakebed and the potential for toxic contaminants to be present in those sediments. Introduced and in some cases invasive species of plants and animals are present. There are also significant constraints in changing values, condition, and appearance of the lake due to its location within a heavily populated, urban residential area.

This management plan follows the drafting of a Bayside Lake Scoping Plan [7], drafted in 2022 for Bayside City Council and captures the main elements that are to be considered and included in this plan.

It should be noted that the first Landcox Park Lake Management Plan (2001) had similar objectives regarding managing water quality and as a secondary imperative, improving the aesthetic and visual appearance of the lake.

The current plan provides information and advice on the following topics:

1. description of the history, lake, and water quality
2. review of historical management objectives (obtained from prior management plans)
3. description of current values
4. description of current and emerging threats
5. vision of the lake today
6. revised set of management objectives
7. options to manage the lake and constraints to achieving the identified management objectives, with a preferred option noted
8. relevant costs and benefits
9. monitoring recommendations
10. reference to any consultation with stakeholders undertaken.

1.2 The study area

The lake in the context of Landcox Park and some of the upstream catchment is shown below in Figure 3.

The lake is a constructed waterbody situated in an urban environment, and therefore has been subject to stormwater runoff and pollution for over a century. The location within this built-up urban area is a key influence and constraint on the vision, condition, threats and ultimately the actions to manage the lake.

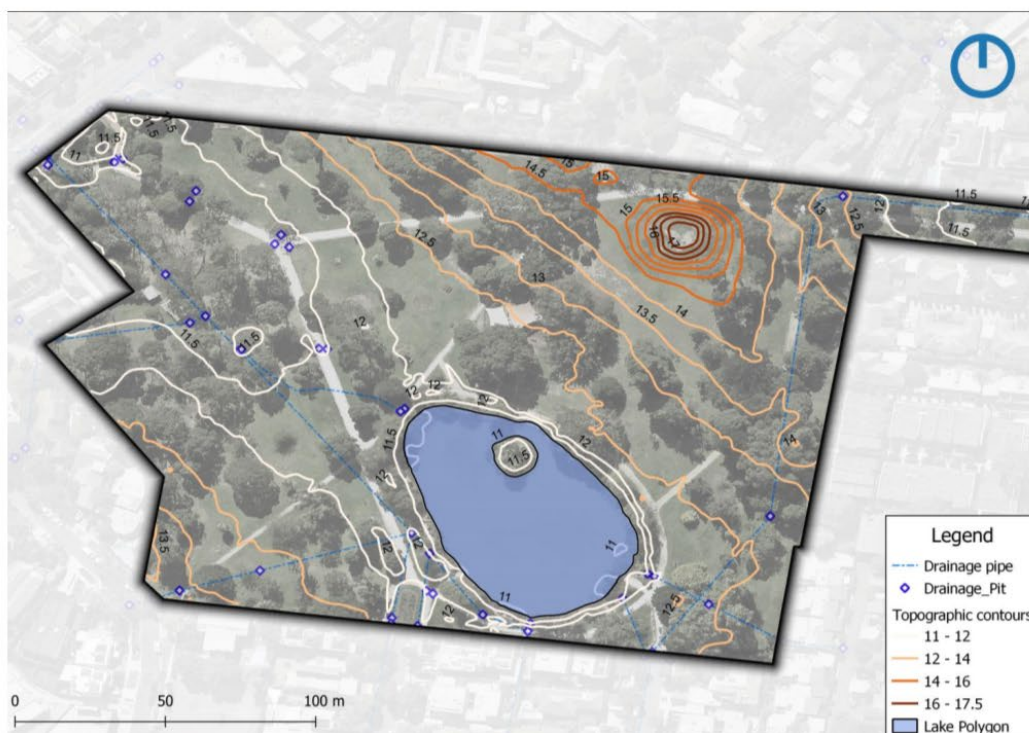


Figure 3. Landcox Park Lake (Wave Consulting Australia)

1.3 History of the lake and its catchment

As noted above in the Introduction, Landcox Park Lake was constructed as an ornamental lake in the Tara House private mansion, as part of the Milroy Estate and was purchased by the City of Brighton to create a public park in 1905. The lake, therefore, has been functioning as an ornamental and recreational asset for over 100 years in a catchment that is heavy urbanised and includes a number of major road thoroughfares (e.g., Nepean Highway) [5].

From a strategic perspective, the Council has drafted several plans and strategies and taken action to remediate the lake and water quality over the past ~20 years. The following plans have been in place since the public ownership of Landcox Park Lake:

- Landcox Park Lake Plan (2001) was developed by ID&A after the lake was drained in 2000. It outlined several desired long-term outcomes as well as providing management and maintenance options. Some of these interventions have been since completed, such as the planting of macrophytes in and around the lake, and water-quality monitoring [1].
- Ecological Condition Report (2001) by John McGuckin and Brett Lane summarised the measures implemented, and ecological conditions restored for fauna and flora after its drainage in 2000. Native fish were reintroduced. The report recommends a plan to establish aquatic flora and substitute willows for native eucalyptus, as well as monitor the water quality conditions periodically to ensure the species survival [8].
- Mosquito Management Plan (2018) was developed in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services Victoria to identify mosquito breeding sites and implement a long-term plan to control the impact and disease transfer of mosquitoes within the Council's reserves and foreshores [9].
- The Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan (2018) was developed to address the environmental issues priorities in the Community Plan 2025 and develop actions that meet the corresponding goals developed in the Environmental Sustainability Framework. This plan underlines priority actions that are likely to return the most effective and efficient gains to biodiversity till 2027 [3].
- Flood Management Strategy and Action Plan (2021) was developed by Melbourne Water for Port Phillip and Westernport to better understand flooding patterns and plan for future challenges and risks this flooding may pose [10].

Figure 4 and Figure 5 below capture the changes that the park itself, the lake, and the surrounding urban catchment have experienced over the past decades. It is evident from the 1947 image that even 75 years ago, the area surrounding the park was heavily urbanised. The density of housing, however, has increased since then and this has significant implications for water- and sediment-quality in the lake.



Figure 3a. 1947 aerial photograph of Landcox Park Lake and its surrounds [11]

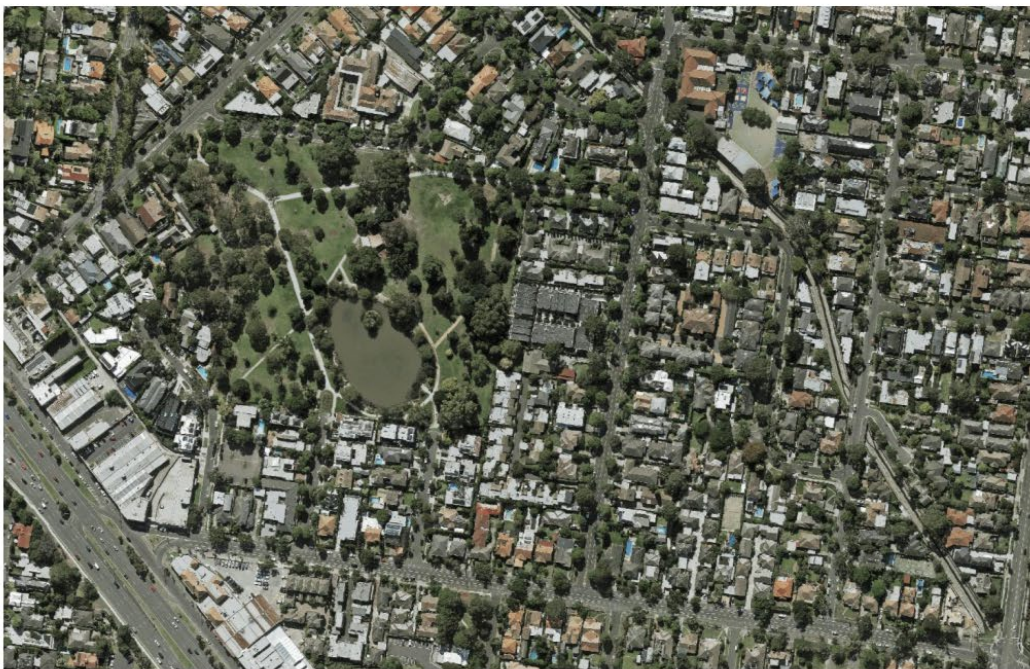


Figure 3b. 2022 satellite image of Landcox Park Lake and its surrounds [12].

Figure 4. Historical images of Landcox Park Lake (DEECA).



Figure 5. Comparison of density of fringing vegetation around Landcox Park Lake in ~1955 (left: Sarah Chinnery) and in 2023 (right: Dodo Environmental)

1.4 History of water quality monitoring

A significant problem confronting managers and users of Landcox Park Lake is water quality. Two facets of water quality have attracted most attention: (1) turbidity, or the cloudiness of the water, and (2) algal blooms, especially of potentially toxic blue-green algae. Both create high-profile problems that are not desirable from a community or a Council perspective, or indeed from an environmental perspective of the ecological health of the lake. This section summarises the available data on the abundance of various types of phytoplankton (algae that occur in the water column of a lake) in Landcox Park Lake.

Water quality monitoring has been conducted by Bayside City Council since late 2012 [13], with a specific focus on detecting blue-green algae over summer and the restriction of access to the lake (through the erection of warning signs) when public-health concerns warrant action (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Sign warning of blue-green algal bloom, Landcox Park August 2002 (Dodo Environmental).

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Table 2. Relative abundance of various divisions of phytoplankton in Landcox Park lake.

Date	Relative abundance of various phytoplankton divisions						
	Cyanophyta (Blue green algae)	Chlorophyta (Green algae)	Bacillariophyta (Diatoms)	Cryptophyta (Cryptomonads)	Dinophyta (Dinoflagellates)	Euglenophyta (Euglenoids)	Chrysophyta (Golden-brown algae)
Nov 2012							
Dec 2012	Yellow			Yellow		Yellow	Orange
Jan 2013	Yellow	Orange					
Mar 2013	Yellow						
Apr 2013	Yellow						Yellow
Nov 2013							
Dec 2013							
Jan 2014	Yellow	Orange		Yellow			
Mar 2014		Orange		Yellow			
Mar 2014	Yellow				Yellow		
Nov 2014							
Dec 2014	Yellow						
Feb 2015	Orange	Yellow					
Apr 2015	Orange		Yellow				
Nov 2015	Red	Yellow					
Jan 2016	Red	Yellow					
Jan 2016	Orange	Yellow					
Nov 2016	Orange						
Jan 2017	Orange	Yellow			Yellow		
Feb 2017	Orange	Yellow					
Mar 2017	Red	Orange		Yellow		Yellow	
May 2017		Yellow		Yellow			
Nov 2017					Yellow		
Dec 2017		Yellow					
Jan 2018						Yellow	
Nov 2019	Yellow		Yellow				
Dec 2019					Yellow		
Jan 2020		Orange		Yellow		Yellow	
Feb 2020		Orange				Yellow	
Mar 2020		Orange				Yellow	
Apr 2020	Yellow	Orange		Yellow			
Nov 2020				Yellow		Yellow	
Dec 2020		Red					
Jan 2021	Yellow	Red					
Feb 2021		Yellow					
Apr 2021			Yellow				
Dec 2021	Yellow						
Jan 2022	Orange	Yellow					
Feb 2022		Yellow	Yellow	Yellow			
Mar 2022	Orange		Yellow				
Nov 2022	Red				Yellow		
Dec 2022	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow				Yellow
Jan 2023		Orange				Orange	Orange

* Colour coding: Red = A = Abundant (> 50,000 cells mL⁻¹); Orange = C = Common (5,000–50,000 cells mL⁻¹); Yellow = F = Frequent (500–5,000 cells mL⁻¹); White = Occasional, Rare, Not Present or Not Recorded (<500 cells mL⁻¹)

Table 2 summarises monitoring data for the seven divisions of algae that were reported most frequently in the water column of the lake since monitoring began in 2012. Some algal divisions have been ignored because (i) they are almost entirely marine, with few freshwater examples – e.g., Phaeophyta (brown algae), Raphidophyta, Rhodophyta (red algae) and Tribophyta (yellow-green algae) – or (ii) they were not recorded in the monitoring data sheets with sufficient frequency or abundance to warrant inclusion in this overview. Brief descriptions of the different types of algae that occur in the lake are provided in Appendix A.

A number of conclusions can be drawn from the summary shown in Table 2:

- The most commonly reported algal group was the green algae (Division Chlorophyta).

- Blue-green algae (Cyanophyta) were also commonly reported, with high abundances in 2015–2017 and again in 2022. The period 2018–2021 was a period of relatively low abundances of blue-green algae.
- Cryptomonads (Cryptophyta) were also commonly reported but appear to have become less abundant since ~2014.
- Dinoflagellates (Dinophyta) were not abundant, nor were Diatoms (Bacillariophyta).

The nutrients fuelling algal blooms can come from a number of sources in urban lakes (see Appendix A) of which the most critical in many cases is the long-term supply of nutrients sequestered in the sediments. Prompted by concerns about algal blooms, Bayside City Council drained the lake in late 2000 to remove accumulated sediment and thus a potential source of nutrients that could support repeated algal blooms even in the absence of ongoing nutrient loading from the catchment (Figure 7). Many carp were also removed at this time (Figure 8). After the lake was refilled at the end of the year, it was repopulated with native fish, and the first Landcox Park Lake Management Plan [1] was drafted to produce a long-term sustainable management plan to maintain a healthy recreational waterbody.



Figure 7. Draining the lake and removing accumulated sediment in 2000 (BCC)



Figure 8. Removal of large adult carp from the lake after drainage in 2000 (BCC).

In 2002, Wetland Ecosystems was contracted to supply and plant aquatic macrophytes in and around the lake [14], in an aim to reduce and prevent algal blooms by assisting in water filtration, improved nutrient cycling and in particular the process of denitrification (the conversion of the plant nutrient nitrate to N₂ gas by bacteria in the sediments). These plants have now spread to extent along almost the entire shoreline of the lake and provide valuable animal habitat as well as aesthetic benefits (Figure 5). However, the data in Table 2 suggests that the vegetation planting has not prevented phytoplankton blooms from occurring over the period of monitoring from 2012 to 2022.

2 Current condition and values

In reviewing the current condition and values, this management plan has adopted the set of indicators that were proposed in the Scoping Plan for Ornamental Lakes in Bayside City Council (2022) [7]:

1. **Ornamental:** social research has demonstrated that aesthetically pleasing water bodies commonly share several unifying features such as clear water, surrounding macrophytes, and absence of algal blooms. These criteria were used to determine the current ratings of the lake and the desired ornamental outcomes from the management strategies.
2. **Ecological:** the ecological value of a lake is the capacity to provide long-term habitat for iconic and native species and breeding opportunities, so their populations are sustainable. This is a vital issue for Landcox Park Lake, originally a purely ornamental waterbody that now has a vision to become an ecologically valuable reserve.
3. **Social and community:** lakes provide exceptional social and community value as a location for bird watching, picnicking, fishing (when approved), walking relaxation, and swimming (when approved).
4. **Flood protection:** lakes can retard urban stormwater flows and reduce peak flows and flood inundation downstream of the lake.
5. **Physical and mental health:** the park and lake provide community access to the natural world within the suburban environment; this can have significant impacts on the physical and mental health of the population.
6. **Response to climate change:** climate in Melbourne's urban environments is projected to become more extreme, with increased storms, droughts, and heat stress due to higher average temperatures and increased number and severity of heat waves. Water availability will also be affected, with extremes in availability (e.g., drought versus flood) becoming more severe. Urban lakes will become more important in keeping water in the landscape, creating cooling microclimates around them, and offering residents green spaces to connect with nature in a changing climate.

Improving the environmental and social/recreational condition of the lake, as described above, can be translated into specific management objectives that allow definition of measurable and timely targets, which can then be monitored and adjusted according to progress. These objectives arose from discussion with the BCC staff (meeting 9th December), site visits, and the community vision of the lake.

The figure below is a qualitative assessment of the values for Landcox Park Lake, using input from three site visits, informal conversations with the community, and input from Council staff. How this balance among different lake values may change with future management interventions is shown in Figure 16.

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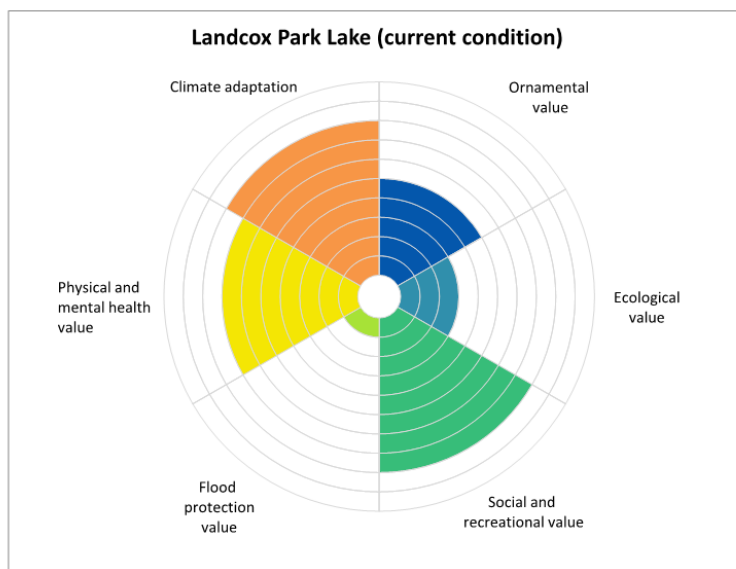


Figure 9. Landcox Park Lake initial ratings of current condition (Wave Consulting and Dodo Environmental).

This qualitative assessment is based on the following observations:

- The cloudiness of water in the lake is detracting from its ornamental, social/recreational and aesthetic values.
- Repeated and sometimes severe algal blooms of various types of algae also detract from its ornamental, social/recreational and aesthetic values, and pose a public-health risk at times.
- The lake has no stormwater-retarding function and hence scores very poorly for flood protection.
- The lake has a large population of exotic fish, some of which are highly invasive, such as carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and eastern gambusia (*Gambusia holbrooki*), and perhaps also other introduced species such as koi carp (*Cyprinus rubofuscus*), goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) and oriental weather loach (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*). Introduced plants include several large willows (*Salix* spp.) on the banks. While there are extensive beds of native aquatic plants around the shoreline, the overall ecological value is low.
- The lake and the area around it are well used and attract people for exercising and feeding waterfowl, especially ducks.
- People also relax, play with their children and picnic around the lake, thus rendering a high physical/mental health score for the reserve.
- The lake’s substantial size (and large terrestrial trees) provides microclimate cooling effects for visitors. The climate value of the lake could also be increased through harvesting water to irrigate the park itself during times of anticipated water shortage in the future.

2.1 Catchment analysis

Landcox Park Lake drains a 101-ha catchment in East Brighton. An analysis of the catchment found that 27% is roads (generally these areas are 90% impervious) and the remaining 73% is residential housing (which is commonly ~60% impervious).

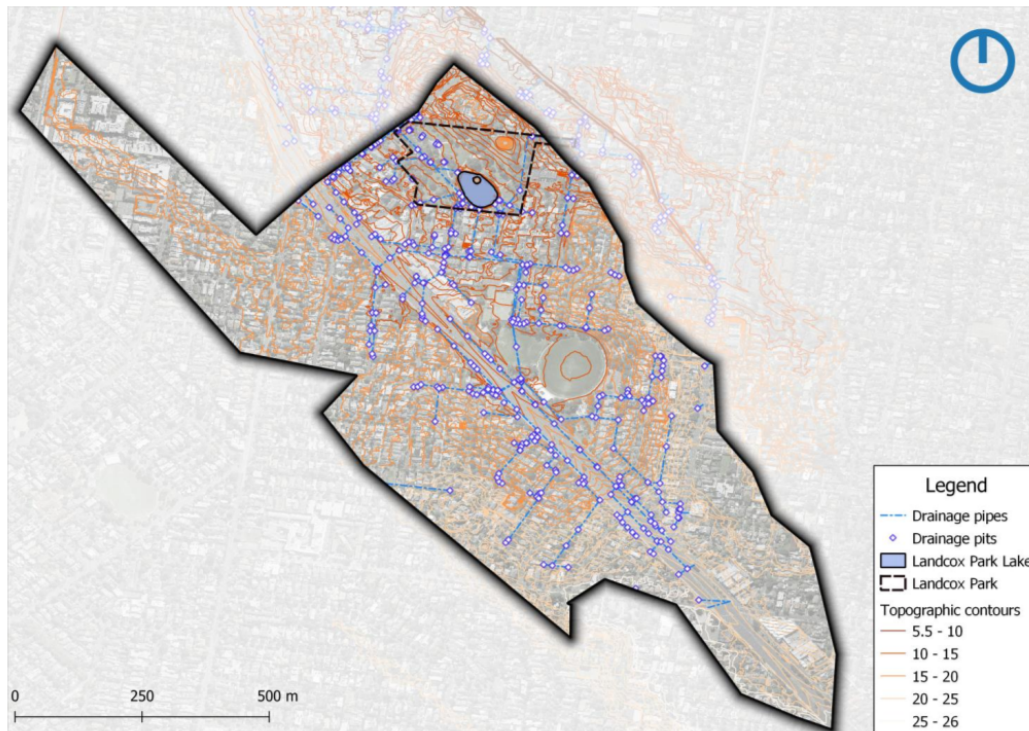


Figure 10. Catchments upstream of Landcox Park Lake, with council drainage infrastructure (Wave Consulting).

2.2 Flora

The lake and its surrounds are vegetated with a range of different plant types, native and introduced, as shown in Figure 11. In pre-European times, the area would probably have been covered by an unbroken expanse of EVC 719 Grassy Woodland/Damp Sands Herb-rich Woodland Mosaic and EVC 48 Heathy Woodland, with nearby waterways (e.g., Elster Creek) lined by dense thickets of EVC 53 Swamp Scrub [15].

The emergent aquatic flora of the lake currently includes dense beds of tall spike-rush (*Eleocharis sphacelata*), and the sedge Poong'ort (*Carex tereticaulis*), plus beds of a number of species of rush, likely yellow rush (*Juncus flavidus*) and broom rush (*Juncus sarophorus*). Hollow rush (*Juncus amabilis*) was planted in 2002 but seems now to be absent. It is very difficult to differentiate among various *Juncus* species unless reproductive and vegetative parts are available for identification, and this was not possible because of the high-water levels at the times of inspection. Other species of emergent rhizomatous plant may occur as well, but high-water levels again limited access to clumps in deeper water to confirm their identity. Species could include fine twig-sedge (*Baumea arthropphylla*), jointed twig-rush (*Baumea articulata*) and river club-sedge (*Schoenoplectus validus*). Some fringing plants along the waterline that have more terrestrial affinities but are liable to inundation when water levels are high include spiny-head mat-rush (*Lomandra longifolia*).

A wide range of submerged plant species was reported as having been planted in 2002 [14] such as the native water-lilies *Otella ovalifolia* (swamp lily) and *Villarsia reniformis* (running marsh-flower), the fully submerged eelgrass *Vallisneria spiralis* (probably *Vallisneria australis*), and the pond weeds *Potamogeton ochreatus* (blunt pondweed) and *Potamogeton tricarinatus* (floating pondweed). Some may persist, but none were evident on the days of inspection. Their loss is probably due to the presence of carp, which easily uproot more delicate species (e.g., the pondweeds) and perhaps low water clarity.

Riparian fringing vegetation includes a mix of indigenous and introduced species. Indigenous canopy trees including tea-trees such as woolly tea-tree (*Leptospermum lanigerum*) and black tea-tree (*Leptospermum scoparium*) and swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca ericifolia*) were reported as having been planted in 2002 [14], as well as two species of *Acacia* (blackwood, *Acacia melanoxylon* and hedge wattle, *Acacia paradoxa*), the exotic willows (*Salix* spp.), and Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*).



Figure 11. Current vegetation communities on the fringe of the lake and within the lake (Wave Consulting and Dodo Environmental).

2.3 Fauna

There have been no faunal surveys of Landcox Park (outside of basic assessments related to carp removal), so it is difficult to be prescriptive as to the types of animal present in and around the lake. Repeated visits to the lake over many years by one of the authors (PIB) have indicated the presence of large population of exotic fish, some of which are highly invasive, such as carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and eastern gambusia fish (*Gambusia holbrooki*). Given its urban location and the likelihood that aquarium fish have been dumped in the lake when they are no longer wanted, there may also be populations of other introduced fish species such as koi carp (*Cyprinus rubofuscus*), goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) and perhaps also oriental weatherloach (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*). It is not clear whether the lake supports populations of frogs, but the extent of dense aquatic vegetation around the edges suggests this may be the case. Observed water birds include species of native waterfowl such as Pacific black duck (*Anas superciliosa*) and purple swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*).

On the State Government’s geospatial data set, Landcox Park Lake and its surrounding vegetation is classified as a native flora and fauna site [15], but it is likely that this description is not up to date. The Victorian Biodiversity Atlas [16] indicates that two species of threatened fauna have been reported from the park: (i) eastern snake-necked turtle (*Chelodina longicollis*) and (ii) Murray River turtle (*Emydura macquarii*), but those observations were over a decade ago. No threatened flora has been reported from the site.

3 Vision and objectives for Landcox Park Lake

3.1 Prior management objectives and links with relevant policy

Landcox Park Lake was designed and built over 100 years ago as an ornamental lake [6]. This means that the lake was not originally intended to deliver any specific flood retarding or ecological objectives. However, over time, changing community values have caused a re-appraisal of these services the lake is expected to provide, and these now include the ecological health of the lake and its relationship with downstream receiving waters, especially Port Phillip Bay, as well as recreational, aesthetic and social benefits.

All water bodies are aesthetic to some degree; that is why they are attractive to almost every Australian and why they are favoured sites for tourism and recreation across Australia [17] [18]. However, water bodies can also serve a number of other functions, including ecological matters such as the maintenance of biodiversity and the creation of animal habitats. Different water bodies fulfil these various functions to different degrees, as is shown in the objectives and ratings for Landcox Park Lake.

Prior management plans have established a series of management objectives for the lake [1]:

- reduced frequency of algal blooms
- low capital cost to implement the activity
- improved native fauna populations in the lake
- low level of ongoing effort needed to maintain the lake
- low turbidity water
- limited numbers and types of exotic (non-native) fauna
- easy access for people to the water's edge
- well vegetated bed and margins (macrophyte establishment)
- minimised sediment load entering the lake.

These were developed from the broader environmental management objectives from Bayside City Council [3]:

- well established macrophytes at the lake perimeter for fauna habitat
- native fauna populations and an overall increase in the sustainability of these species reflected by increased numbers and biomass
- minimal litter and rubbishing of the lake and surrounds
- acceptable water quality standards in terms of dissolved oxygen, acidity, water temperatures, nitrogen, phosphorus, blue-green algae, and other indicators
- sufficient roosting/perching/nesting areas are retained around the lake perimeter for native birds.

The biodiversity goals of Bayside City Council are laid out in the Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan and include [3]:

- biodiversity conservation and protection
- integrating biodiversity and natural resource management
- managing threatening processes
- improving our knowledge
- community involvement.

The objectives governing the mosquito management plan are to [9]:

- identify breeding areas and potential breeding locations
- provide an easy access document to convey information to future staff

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- inform, guide and assist developers, consultants, landowners, residents, council staff and the general public of Councils mosquito management actions and guidelines
- work with other key stakeholders in the region to communicate mosquito management activities and facilitate complimentary activities
- strategically embed the financial cost/benefit analysis of mosquito management.

Flooding strategies include objectives to ensure [10]:

- The right information is available at the right time to the people who need it.
- Flood risks and opportunities are managed to reduce impacts and get the best social, economic, and environmental outcomes.
- Land, water, and emergency agencies work together to manage flooding effectively.

3.2 A guiding vision for the lake

A guiding vision of the lake is for improved water quality (e.g., reduced turbidity and the frequency and severity of algal blooms) and the maintenance of a mosaic of different habitat types that provide space for native water birds (e.g. open water), native fish and amphibians (e.g. submerged and fringing aquatic plants) and refuges for native water birds (e.g. terrestrial plants on the island).

To meet this vision, the management plan has the following objectives:

- clearer water (i.e., lower turbidity)
- reduced frequency and severity of algal blooms, including of green algae and of blue green algae
- improved provision of habitat for native fauna
- controlled spread of fringing emergent macrophytes.

These objectives are still consistent with the 2001 management plan [1], the Council Plan 2025 [2], and the Biodiversity Action Plan (2018) [3].

4 Current and emerging threats

There are several threats to the lake, and most of these are persistent and difficult to mitigate. This section outlines these threats.

The main driver and threat to the environmental health of the lake, and therefore the social and ornamental value of the lake, is the heavily urbanised catchment that surrounds it, and the corresponding runoff of stormwater into the lake from the impervious surfaces in the catchment.

The quality of stormwater is a problem for any urban lake as stormwater will transport the following pollutants into the lake:

- organic pollutants (e.g., leaf litter, grass clippings, dog faeces)
- pathogenic micro-organisms (e.g., faecal bacteria)
- plant nutrients (e.g., nitrogen, phosphorus)
- sediments (e.g., from soil erosion, leading to poor water clarity)
- microplastics (e.g., broken down plastics)
- gross pollutants and litter (e.g., plastic bottles).

With regard to the current investigation, stormwater inputs are significant in terms of two main threats:

- contaminants present in the sediments
- poor water clarity (i.e., high turbidity).

These two matters are addressed below, in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 of the report.

The input of nutrients, alongside the long residence time, high summer temperatures and exposure to full sunlight, creates a perfect environment for phytoplankton to grow in the lake. High algae biomasses are therefore a major threat to the amenity and ecology of the lake. These matters are addressed in Sections 4.3 and 4.4 of the report.

A second threat is the presence of noxious introduced fish species such as carp and mosquito fish (see Section 2.3 above), and the capacity of the former to mumble in the sediments and resuspend silt and sediments into the water column (thus increasing nutrient concentrations and water-column turbidity), and of the latter to prey on small native fish and macro-invertebrates. Site visits between late 2022 and early 2023 suggest that there are possibly hundreds of carp in the lake at the moment (refer to also Figure 8).

A third threat is human behaviour, in two main ways. First, people feed the ducks that live on the lake, thereby adding to the nutrient load. Second, erosion around the edge of the lake arising from human trampling may increase sediment loads and also degrading the fringe vegetation communities.

Sediment accumulation is a problem in that capacity of the lake (the total volume of water that can be stored in the lake) is slowly reduced over time and the toxicity potentially increases over time. It is common to manage that threat through periodic sediment removal projects.

Other threats that may have adverse impacts on the overall health and value of the lake include:

- large presence of weeds (e.g., garden escapes) on the island
- reliance on stormwater to provide water to the lake
- poor water circulation
- inactive (and now removed) pump recirculation and aeration system.

4.1 Sediment quality

Because of the potential for stormwater runoff to contribute a range of contaminants into the lake, two sediment samples were taken on the 13th of January 2023. They were analysed for contaminants by Eurofins Environmental and the results assessed and interpreted by Dodo Environmental and Wave Consulting. Full details are shown in Appendix A.

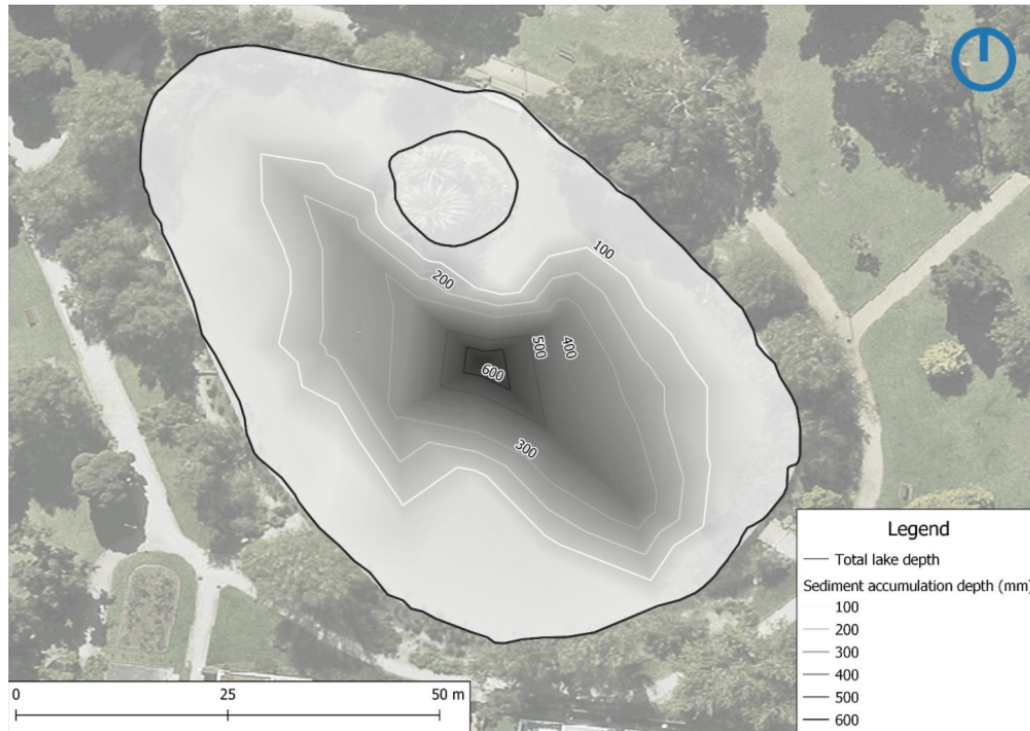


Figure 12. Sediment accumulation across Landcox Park Lake (Wave Consulting).

The average depth of sediment accumulating in the lake is between 100 and 200 mm, and an approximate the total volume of sediment currently accumulated in the lake is approximately 610 m³. The sediment has accumulated most in the middle of the lake rather than around the edges, as would be expected. The maximum sediment depth is 600 mm in the middle of the lake, and the minimum is almost zero around the lake edge. Until the sediment depth is averaging over 500 mm in depth, it is not recommended to be removed.

The sediment quality results were assessed using the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (2000) according to the relevant ‘Sediment Quality Guideline Value’ (SQGV) and then classified accordingly as a contaminant with negligible effect, a Contaminant of Potential Concern (COPC) or a Contaminant of Concern (COC). Chromium, mercury, zinc and polychlorinated biphenyls were identified as COPC as per their concentrations in Site 1, (see Figure 17) but no contaminant was classified as a COC (see Table 4).

Zinc concentrations of 350 mg/kg dry weight were reported for Site 1 in the lake (Table 4). Zinc is often present in water bodies in urban environments because it is a metal widely used metal in many processes in modern industrial society, including as a protective coating for iron and steel (i.e. galvanising), in alloys (e.g. brass), as zinc dust (as a pigment and a reducing agent), and as various complex zinc compounds (e.g. in rubber production, photocopy paper, chemical and paints, and as a flame retardant). In an urban setting

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such as Landcox Park, a likely historical source is the corrosion of galvanised metal (e.g., roofs, water tanks etc). Zinc contamination can also occur as a result of prior industrial use, but this is not relevant for Landcox Park, given its land use history outlined in Section 1. Zinc contamination can also arise from the wear of car tyres and the combustion of fuel in car and truck engines. The proximity of the park to busy road thoroughfares such as the Nepean Highway may be significant in this regard. However, zinc is used so ubiquitously in modern society that it is impossible to identify a single source for the high concentration observed at this specific site.

Concentrations of chromium, antimony and polychlorinated biphenyls were sometimes very close to the SQGV limit, but the overall conclusion reached is that sediments of Landcox Park Lake are currently not seriously contaminated with toxicants. It is important, however, to stress that some of the Limit of Reporting values markedly exceed the guideline limit values, and there are many other contaminants that have not been accounted for. Therefore, this data should only be taken as a preliminary assessment. The full sediment quality report and our interpretative notes are provided in Appendix A.

4.2 Water clarity

Water clarity is a measure of how far light can penetrate through the water column of a lake and has two components:

- adsorption of light by compounds dissolved in the water
- scattering of light by small particles suspended in the water column.

In the case of Landcox, both components play a role in generating the green/brown colour of the lake:

- Leaf litter derived from the fringing willows and other organic matter leaches gilvin (soluble humic colour) which stains the lake water brown.
- Turbidity caused by the scattering of light by small particles such as algal cells or clays. The latter may result from stormwater entering the lake being already turbid and containing eroded soil particles, and/or the sediment at the lakebed is disturbed by aquatic animals (especially carp, to a lesser extent waterfowl) or wind.

Further analysis of the potential causes for the lake's water quality have been collated in Appendix A.

4.3 Algal blooms

Seven algal divisions have been recorded for Landcox Park Lake since monitoring commenced in 2012 (Table 2). The period 2018–2021 was a period of relatively low abundances of blue-green algae. Since 2021, however, a wide variety of blue-green algae has been reported in the lake. Four of the most commonly reported species are classified as possibly toxic to human health due to toxin production (see Appendix A)

An algal bloom arises when algal cells in the water column (i.e., phytoplankton) have attained such a high biomass that they discolour the water, form surface scums, generate unpleasant tastes and odours, and reduce water quality, especially in terms of dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations. Environmental conditions that lead to generation of algal blooms include:

- high nutrient concentrations
- high water temperatures
- long sunny days
- absence of aquatic plants
- lack of water flow around the water body
- calm weather conditions that lead to stratification of the water column.
- low N:P ratio of available nutrients (in the case of blue-green algae).

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Blue-green algae can produce toxins that pose a health risk to humans and animals if exposure occurs (nerve, liver, kidney, vascular system cell damage and generic skin irritation). Exposure occurs from drinking, swimming or exposure to aerosols, and it may induce nausea, muscle weakness, neurological and cancerogenic damage. There are other present algae that may also release potentially harmful toxins. Algal blooms also degrade the ecological condition of the lake by consuming oxygen in the water column when the algal bloom ‘crashes’, a process that often leads to widespread and serious fish kills. When algal cells decay, the toxins may persist for months in both the water column and the sediments.

4.4 Eutrophication and nutrient concentrations

Landcox Park Lake is a shallow urban lake, which is exposed to nutrient loading via multiple pathways, from internal and external sources (Figure 13).

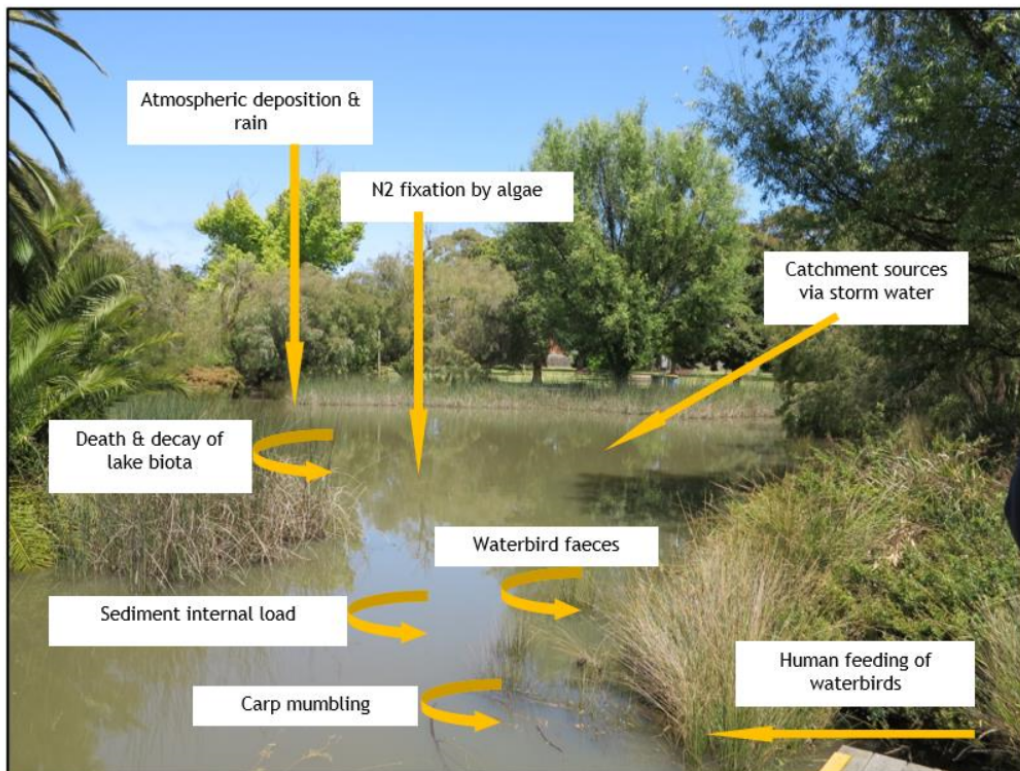


Figure 13. Pathways for nutrient loading and transformations in shallow urban lakes such as Landcox Park Lake (Dodo Environmental)

4.5 Noxious introduced fish

As summarised in Figure 14, the adverse effects of carp on freshwater systems are well known:

- Being bottom feeders, their mumbing in lake sediments resuspends material into the water column and increases lake-water turbidity.
- The resuspended sediment interferes with other biota (e.g., eggs of native fish).
- The excretion of waste products, especially nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, across carp gills and in their urine and faeces effectively mobilises nutrients formerly trapped in the sediments and increases nutrient concentrations in the water column.

- When they die, the decaying bodies of large carp further add to nutrient enrichment.
- They can cause the loss of submerged aquatic plants, through mechanisms such as increases in water-column turbidity (and so lessening underwater light fields), increased coatings of algae attached to submerged plant leaves (also interfering with light availability to submerged plants), the disturbance of plant roots and in some cases the direct consumption of the more delicate types of submerged plants.
- Carp can compete with native fish for habitat and space.
- Carp can initiate changes in the populations and abundance of aquatic macroinvertebrates, thus altering lake food webs.

The abundance of large carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) in the lake can be viewed in two ways. First, it can be seen as a problem in itself because carp are a noxious introduced fish species. Second, carp are instrumental in generating the turbid water conditions and in the initiation of algal blooms in the lake (Figure 5).

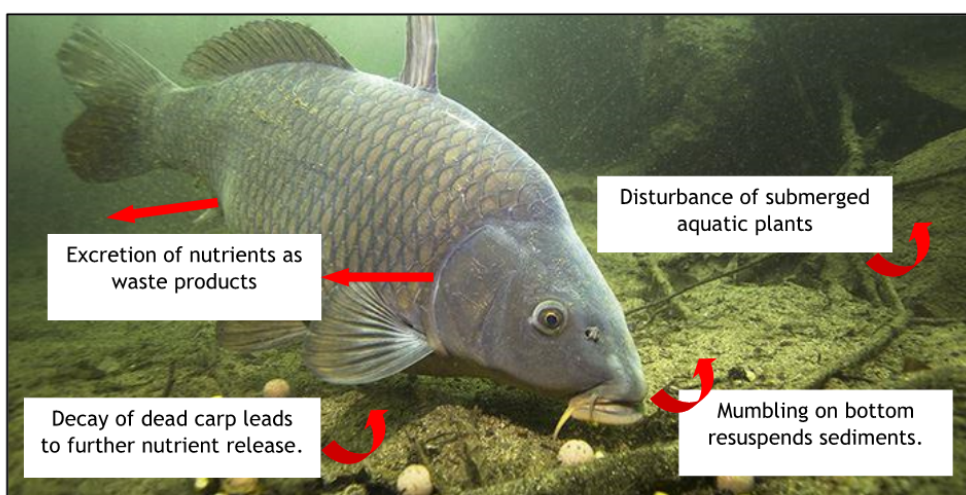


Figure 14. Mechanisms by which carp can contribute to poor water quality in shallow lakes.

4.6 Potential for spread of fringing emergent macrophytes

Currently the shallow fringes of the lake are lined by extensive beds of robust, rhizomatous emergent plants such as rushes and sedges (Figure 5 and Figure 11). These plants provide excellent habitat for a wide range of native animals and should be maintained on ecological and biodiversity grounds. The potential exists for the fringing aquatic plants to spread across larger areas of the lake, as has been reported for other lakes in the municipality (e.g. Basterfield Lake in Hampton East).

At the moment, however, there is an appropriate balance between open-water areas in the centre of the lake and heavily vegetated areas around the fringes. An inspection of historical imagery of the site (from Google Earth Pro) suggests that this balance has been maintained for at least the past decade. Because of this, at this stage we do not recommend any specific interventions to manage aquatic plants in the lake. However, the lake should be monitored for possible expansion of fringing aquatic plants. If an unacceptable expansion is observed, actions appropriate to the species and the extent of spread can be implemented..

5 Future actions to meet vision and objectives

To maximise and promote Landcox Park Lake as a ‘clean and attractive’ water body in a densely urban environment, prioritising water-quality improvements to reduce turbidity and algal blooms, the following future actions should be taken:

- remove large carp and restock with native fish
- replant aquatic vegetation fringing lake boundary, including clear vegetation in key locations in the north west of the lake to increase visibility into the lake
- clear and then replant island vegetation with native species
- increase the number and location of interpretative signs, including the problems created by hand-feeding waterfowl
- institute an active maintenance regime to monitor water quality and reduce litter.
- divert stormwater inflows to bypass lake
- add potable top up to lake (using float system to maintain water levels)
- install aesthetic solar powered fountain in the middle of the lake
- construct and install an offline filtering raingarden bioretention and filtering system, and
- water pump to allow lake water flow through raingarden system.

A graphic of the upgrades required to deliver on this vision is shown below (Figure 15). This could be delivered in the near term (i.e., less than three years) and would cost in the order of \$570,000 (further cost details are provided in Section 6; see Table 3 for a breakdown of costs).

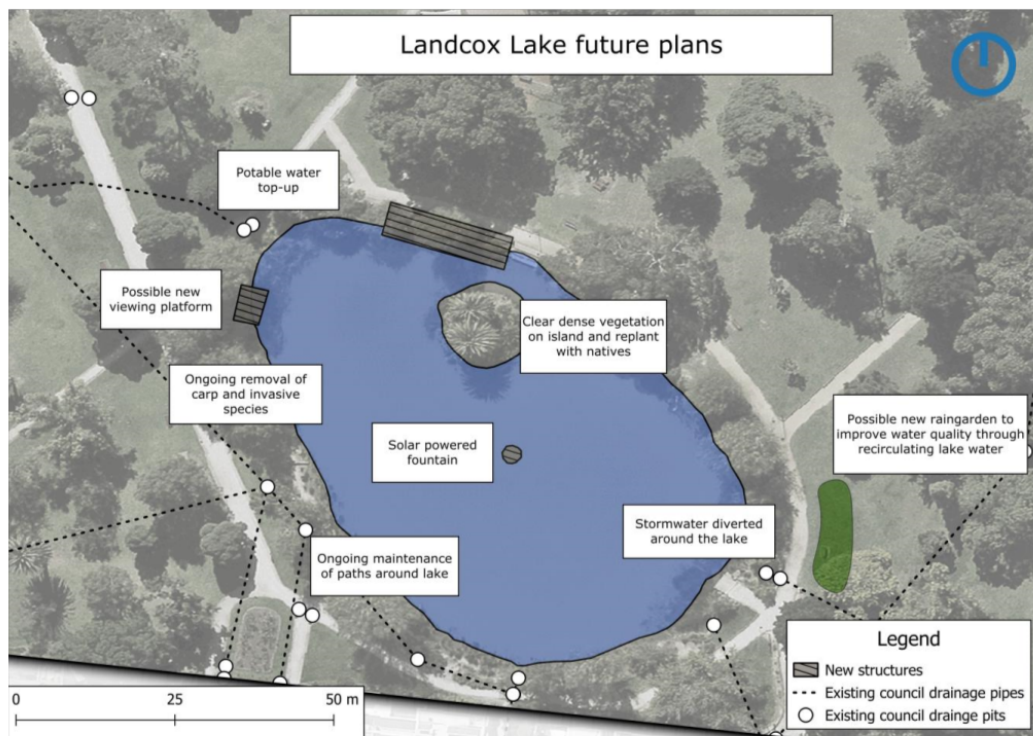


Figure 15. Conceptual diagram of recommended actions (Wave Consulting).

5.1 Priority works

The following tasks are a priority for improved management of the lake:

1. **Remove large carp and goldfish.** There is an ongoing and persistent problem with the presence of large carp in the lake (Figure 14). Carp are notorious for disturbing sediments, increasing turbidity, disturbing submerged plants, and releasing nutrients from sediments into the water column, where they can fuel algal blooms. As carp are removed, the lake will need to be restocked with native fish species in the medium-term. This could be completed on average every two to three years.
2. **Modify aquatic vegetation fringing lake boundary, including maintaining, increasing, and monitoring vegetation to support habitat as well as clearing vegetation in key locations to increase visibility into the lake.** Currently the shallow fringes of the lake are lined by beds of robust, rhizomatous emergent plants such as rushes and sedges (Figures 4 & 10). These plants provide excellent habitat for a wide range of native animals and should be maintained and increased appropriately, noting that fringing aquatic plants can spread quickly under suitable conditions and should be monitored for unwelcome expansion. Also, in select areas, such as on the north west area of the lake, the vegetation should be cleared to improve the aesthetic views into the lake.
3. **Increase signage to create a new water literacy campaign** around the lake, potentially as part of a larger campaign across Bayside that increases awareness regarding urban water issues, threats, actions and the dynamic nature and value of urban water bodies, with links to how individuals can help great more sustainable and healthier blue and green assets. The underlying causes of algal blooms and water cloudiness, and the need to refrain from feeding waterfowl, should be among the messages transmitted in this campaign. The feeding of waterfowl is near ubiquitous around the lake, and strong steps should be implemented to prevent or at least minimise this activity. Human feeding is not good for the health of the individual birds and has adverse water-quality and algal-bloom impacts in terms of the introduction of additional nutrients into the lake.

These tasks are important for the short- and long-term health of the lake.

5.2 Long-term maintenance issues

Three tasks have been identified as long-term maintenance needs:

1. **Long-term program to remove carp.** Whilst removing large carp is an important short-term action, there also needs to be a long-term program for the removal of exotic fish species such as Carp. The control of these fish in urban lakes is extremely difficult, and multiple interventions long into the future are likely required. The advice of a specialist in fish biology and management should be sought to advise on the methods most suitable.
2. **Implement a staged willow removal program.** There are approximately eight large willows surrounding the lake. In the long term, it is recommended that these are removed in staged manner as they senesce and fall over. As with the Canary Island date palms, community pressure may wish to see these plants retained. However, the adverse impacts of willows on aquatic systems are so well demonstrated that there are very strong ecological and biodiversity grounds for recommending their removal and replacement with appropriate native taxa of riparian trees [12]. As the willows fall over, it is recommended that they are replaced with more appropriate indigenous species, e.g., River Red gums.

5.3 Impact on values

The implementation of these actions will result in substantial changes to existing values of the lake, as represented conceptually in Figure 16. The assessment shown in Figure 17 is necessarily qualitative in

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nature and is used only to illustrate the different values that will be increased or decreased and are not based on any objective or analytical method.

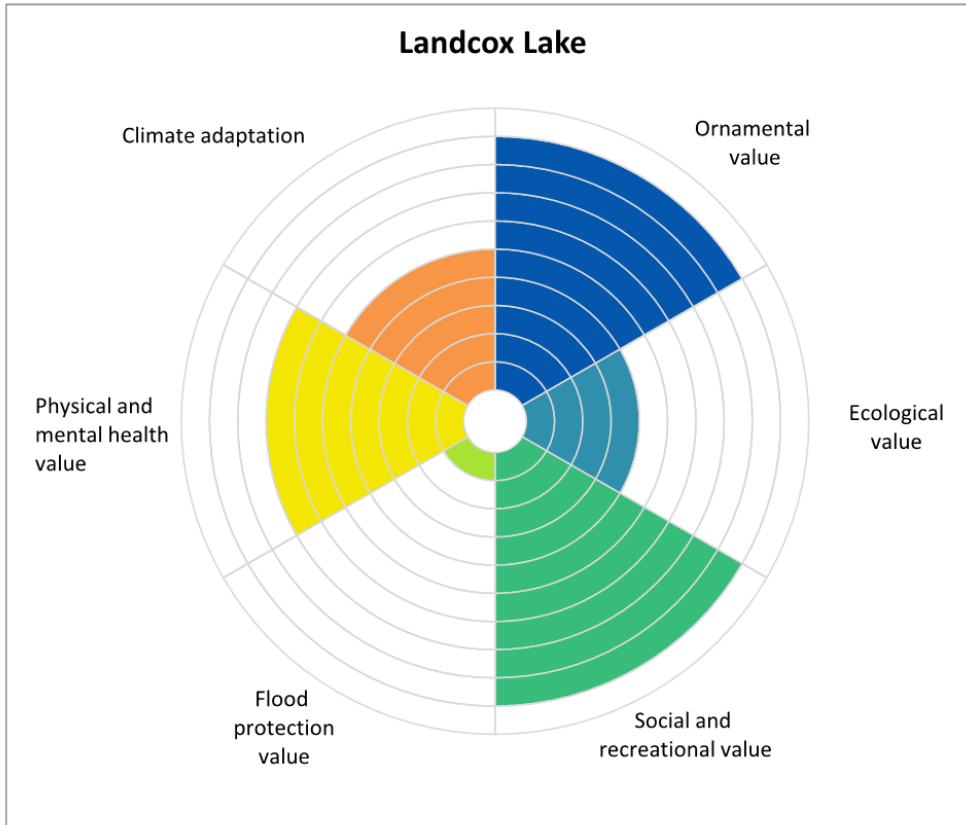


Figure 16. Conceptual representation of lake values (Wave Consulting and Dodo Environment).

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6 Costs

Indicative costs for the actions in this plan are presented below. No design work has been undertaken to inform these costs, and they should be read as only very preliminary cost estimates.

Table 3. Cost breakdown

Priority & budget source	Item	Objective	Approx cost	Expected contingency
Immediate operating existing	Remove carp and goldfish. Approximate cost every two years.	Remove invasive species and increase lake's ecological value.	\$10,000	+ 25%
Immediate operating existing	Increase aquatic vegetation densities fringing lake boundary.	Increase lake's ecological value and improve aesthetic experience.	\$15,000	+ 25%
		Subtotal	\$25,000	+ 25%
Short term operating existing	Institute an active maintenance regime to monitor water quality and reduce litter.	Improve the health and appearance of the lake.	\$30,000	+ 25%
Short term operating existing	Increase signage to create a new water literacy campaign.	Increase community awareness and in long term improve the health of the lake and waterfowl.	\$10,000	+ 25%
		Subtotal	\$40,000	+ 25%
Medium term new capital	Clear and then replant island vegetation with native species.	Increase lake's ecological value.	\$50,000	+ 25%
Medium term existing operating	Restocking with native fish species	Increase lake's ecological value.	\$5,000	+ 25%
Medium term new capital	Float system installation to allow for potable water top up.	Help maintain water levels when needed.	\$5,000	+ 25%
Medium term new capital	Install solar powered fountain in the middle of the lake	Improve lake's aesthetic and increase aeration.	\$20,000	+ 50%
Medium term new capital	Construct and install an offline filtering raingarden bioretention and filtering system.	Improve water quality and health of the lake.	\$100,000	+ 50%
Medium term new capital	Water pump to allow lake water flow through raingarden system	Improve water quality and health of the lake.	\$20,000	+ 25%
		Subtotal	\$300,000	+ 50%
Long term new capital	Long term program to remove carp	Remove invasive species and increase lake's ecological value	Uncosted at this stage	
Long term new capital	Implement a staged willow removal program. Willows are to be replaced over time with appropriate indigenous species.	Remove invasive species and increase lake's ecological value	Uncosted at this stage	

7 Maintenance

To ensure the ongoing water quality and conveyance function of Landcox Park lake, regular maintenance is required. The assets proposed within this Infrastructure Plan can be maintained in line with Melbourne Water's WSUD Maintenance Guidelines [19], assuming design and construction were completed according to guidelines and assets are fully functional.

7.1 Paths and platforms

The paths and platforms require ongoing monitoring and maintenance, to ensure that there is always good access and opportunities to view the lake.

Maintenance of these assets generally relate to a review of the asset condition, prevention and mitigation of erosion of paths, and ongoing reviews to ensure the assets are safe and pose no risk to visitors and the community.

7.2 Lake, inlets, outlets, and vegetation monitoring

To ensure the lake maintains its ecological value the following tasks should be undertaken on a roughly three-monthly cycle, with some more or less frequently as noted:

1. Inspect the outlet structure and ensure the weir or orifices are not blocked. Remove any accumulated debris in front of the holes, weir, or structure. Inspection should occur **monthly** or after major rain events.
2. If a gross pollutant trap is part of the treatment train, inspect after major rainfall events and arrange for cleaning when greater than 80% full of sediment or floating litter or every three months, whichever is more frequent.
3. Ensure inlets are free of debris and free flowing, remove any accumulated large debris. Note sediment accumulation and remove once it begins to impede the inflow.
4. Note water levels and investigate if water level drop seems excessive. Water levels will drop over longer periods of no rainfall due to evaporation and infiltration.
5. Remove weeds in the ephemeral and aquatic planting areas including Typha.
6. Observe sediment accumulation in the sediment basin or inlet zones.
7. Collect and remove floating litter.
8. Look out for unusual or potentially problematic occurrences such as infrastructure damage, algae, floating weeds, vermin, mosquitoes, odours, etc., take note and action as required.
9. Instigate a monitoring program to check for the expansion of fringing aquatic plants. As noted above in Section 5.2, this should consist at a minimum of the establishment of photo-points around the lake and the systematic collation of the imagery thus produced. If resources allow, measurement of the distance fringing aquatic plants extend from the shore at a number of points around the lake should also be undertaken.

If an unacceptable expansion of fringing aquatic plants is detected in this monitoring program, an appropriate course of action may have to be implemented. In principle there are a number of approaches to managing fringing aquatic vegetation, including interventions such as (i) altered water regimes, (ii) mechanical control (e.g. cutting and removing emergent material), (iii) mechanical control combined with water-level manipulations (e.g. lowering water levels temporarily, cutting plant material, then re-instating the original water levels so as to drown the cut plants), and (iv) chemical treatments with herbicides. Which option is most appropriate will depend on circumstances pertaining at the time (e.g. the species causing the problem and the spatial extent of the expansion) and some may be, in principle, considered inappropriate (e.g. using herbicides). The management of aquatic plants is not a simple or easy matter.

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Moreover, decisions such as these cannot be made in advance and will have to be tackled on an as-required basis if a specific problem emerges.

7.3 Vegetation management

Vegetation is traditionally maintained using the following methods. Bayside have a large open space and landscape management / operations team and should apply similar methods and resources to this asset. This includes:

- Preferred maintenance methods
 - Hand weeding and pruning
 - Machine pruning and moving / slashing
 - Mulching
- To be avoided
 - Herbicide application (to be avoided)
 - Pesticide application

The Melbourne Water WSUD Maintenance Guidelines (2013) notes the following vegetation related tasks [19] for WSUD assets:

- Inspecting plant health and cover (to achieve a 6 – 10 plants per square metre density)
- Pruning plants and replacing dead plants (where applicable)
- Removing weeds
- Watering plants (establishment phase).

7.4 Raingarden and pits

For these asset types it is important to keep the inlet clear and manage sediment loads as well as litter and weeds. Regular maintenance tasks include:

1. Inlet clean-out of accumulated sediment and leaf litter. This is the most critical task as even 5-10 mm of accumulated sediment and litter will prevent water from entering the system with stormwater bypassing without treatment.
2. Rubbish collection through the systems for aesthetic reasons. This can include leaf litter when it has accumulated to become 20-50 mm thick as this can prevent plant growth and cause blockage of the overflow pit. Leaf litter removal may be more of an issue in late autumn/early winter when deciduous trees are dropping their leaves or early to mid-summer when eucalypts tend to drop more leaves.
3. Infill planting when sections have failed to ensure good coverage for optimal treatment and keep the system looking good. In systems where plants are failing regularly it could be from lack of water and planting dry tolerant species should be considered.
4. Regular removal of sediment in the inlet or forebay zones will prevent it from spreading further into the system and maximise the treatment area. Areas with accumulated sediment will have a greatly reduced infiltration rate.
5. Hand removal of weeds to minimise herbicide impact on the plants that we want to retain. Removing them with roots also removes accumulated sediment and takes away nutrients from the system. This is a quarterly task expect in spring to early summer where there is generally more germination and it should be monthly.
6. Inspect and report infrastructure damage.
7. Monitor infiltration rates after rain events.
8. Repair any minor erosion damage by raking level the filter media surface. Report major erosion.
9. Arrange for infiltration testing every 2-3 years.

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These regular maintenance tasks should be carried out 1-3 monthly depending on the aesthetic requirements of the location (high profile areas should be visited more often) or the sediment/litter load of the catchment.

Melbourne Water has a couple of documents which go into further details on the maintenance of these system WUSD Maintenance – Inspection and Maintenance guidelines (12 pages) and WSUD Maintenance – Assets Manager guidelines (63 pages). These can be downloaded from the Melbourne Water Guidelines website under [WSUD Guidelines website](#) [19].

8 Recommendations and proposed actions

Landcox Park is a heavily used and widely appreciated open space within Brighton East and within Bayside City Council. The lake in the centre of the park is a vital component of the reserve. This management plan outlines the range of issues that must be considered in improving the lake, irrespective of whether the lake should be prioritised from aesthetic/recreational, ecological or stormwater harvesting perspectives.

The lake itself is an open water body, up to 2.2 metres deep, and currently populated with a dense population of large carp and other introduced fish species and little or no submerged aquatic vegetation.

Based on the vision outlined in Section 2, the current condition, and the threats and opportunities at this lake outlined in Sections 3–5, the following recommendations are made:

1. Commence a plan of action to immediately address and deliver on the 'priority works'.
2. Review the specific tasks and update the tasks and costs with additional analysis and design work.
3. Continue to undertake regular water quality monitoring
4. Develop communication and education strategies to inform the community of the proposed vision and actions for the lake.
5. Establish a monitoring program to track the possible expansion of fringing aquatic plants into areas of the lake that are currently open-water.

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10 Appendix A. Sediment and water quality analysis

This appendix provides a detailed review of different aspects that contribute to the current ecological condition of Landcox Park Lake.

10.1 Sediment quality

Sediments often concentrate chemical contaminants (NHMRC 2008). This phenomenon is particularly evident in the case of urban lakes and wetlands, which not only receive contaminants washed in from a highly developed catchment but are also often located in the lowest point in the landscape, with the result that contaminants, often associated with suspended particles, precipitate and accumulate in their sediments rather than being washed out to downstream receiving waters.

Guidelines for assessing sediment quality are provided in *Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality 2000* (ANZECC & ARMCANZ 2000, Volume 4, Section 3.5). This document introduced the idea of Default Guideline Values (DGVs) for toxicants in sediments via the establishment of two sets of 'Interim Sediment Quality Guideline' (ISQG) values: (i) 'ISQG-Low (Trigger value)' and (ii) 'ISQG-High'. The ISQG-Low (Trigger value) is the lower of the two and indicates the concentration of a particular contaminant in a sediment below which there is a low risk of adverse biological effects. The ISQG-High value is the higher concentration, one more likely associated with adverse biological effects but with the extent of those impacts not necessarily known. These values and guidelines were updated in 2013, and the ISQG – Low (Trigger Value) was substituted for a 'Sediment Quality Guideline Value' (SQGV). Also, guideline values for many contaminants of potential interest are not available, which reflects an ongoing deficiency of adequate data sets for those substances.

Interpreting measured concentrations of sediment contaminants against the revised guidelines has to be undertaken on a tiered, site-specific basis, using a multiple-lines-and-weights-of-evidence approach. The 2013 revision is adamant that "The SQGVs are not to be used on a pass/fail basis" (Simpson *et al.* 2013, p. v). Simpson *et al.* (2013, p. 10) provide the following warning as to their interpretation:

"... SQGVs cannot be used alone to predict the onset, or magnitude, of toxic effects. Consequently, use of the SQGVs as strict criteria will likely result in many sediments being classified as toxic when there are no effects evident (a false positive). Conversely, sediments may contain many other chemical contaminants for which SQGVs have not been developed. Consequently, assessing the risk posed by sediments based only on the published SQGVs may result in sediments being classifying as non-toxic when effects may be occurring due to chemical contaminants that have not been considered (a false negative)".

The results in Table 4 show selected contaminants in the sediment from both sampling sites. The data have been analysed using the SQGV guidelines provide in Simpson et al (2013).

If the total concentration of a given contaminant is less than the SQGV, it is assumed the biological effects will be **negligible**.

If the total concentration is greater than the SQGV but less than the SQG-High, biological effects are possible, and the contaminant should be considered a **Contaminant of Potential Concern** (COPC).

If the concentration exceeds the SQG-High, biological effects are to be expected and the contaminant should be considered a **Contaminant of Concern** (COC).

The highlighted cells in Table 4 indicate COPC. No COC were identified in this current data set. These results should only be used as a first-stage screening tool into sediment contamination for Landcox Park Lake, for which there is no prior data on sediment quality.

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Table 4. Sediment contaminants analysis assessed against 2013 SQGV and SQG-High guideline values.

Contaminant	Sediment quality guideline values (2013)		Total concentration in lake sediment	
	SQGV	SQG-High	Site 1	Site 2
Recoverable hydrocarbons				
Total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs) (mg/kg dry weight)	280	550	<50* <100**	<50* <100**
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)				
Total PAHs (mg/kg dry weight)	10	50	<0.5	<0.5
Organochlorine pesticides (ug/kg dry weight)				
Total DDT	1.2	5	<50	<50
Chlordane	4.5	9	<100	<100
Dieldrin	2.8	7	<50	<50
Endrin	2.7	60	<50	<50
Polychlorinated biphenyls				
Total PCBs (ug/kg dry weight)	34	280	<100	<100
Heavy metals (mg/kg dry weight)				
Antimony	2	25	<10	<10
Cadmium	1.5	10	<0.4	<0.4
Chromium	80	370	81	6.5
Copper	65	270	33	<5
Lead	50	220	36	<5
Mercury	0.15	1	<0.1	<0.1
Nickel	21	52	23	<5
Silver	1	4	<2	<2
Zinc	200	410	350	39
Metalloids (mg/kg dry weight)				
Arsenic	20	70	19	2.1

A number of points need to be made when interpreting the sediment quality data. First, this is a preliminary assessment only and is based on a simple comparison of the total concentrations in the lake sediments with the revised (2013) sediment quality criteria. It does not consider complications arising from variables such as particle size or organic-carbon content, or variations in bioavailability arising from pH or sediment redox potential. Second, only a small subset of the wider range of contaminants quantified by the Eurofins Environment Testing is assessed in terms of compliance with the 2013 guidelines. This is because not all possible contaminants are covered in Simpson *et al.* (2013). Third, the Limit of Reporting (LOR) concentration for some contaminants (e.g., organochlorine pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls and the heavy metals antimony and silver) is higher than the 2013 sediment quality guideline values. This difference precludes this type of screening assessment for these potential contaminants. Further studies with lower detection and reporting limits may be warranted. Fourth, interpretation of the measured concentrations is complicated by very high variability across the two sampling sites within the lake. Concentrations of, for example, chromium and zinc varied by an order of magnitude between Site 1 and Site 2. This result may reflect preferential flow paths and deposition of contaminant-carrying sediments in different parts of the lake.

As assessed under the Simpson *et al.* (2013) guideline values, Zinc is classified as a COPC in Landcox Park lake. Zinc is an essential trace element for all animals and plants. An excess of zinc in humans has been

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linked to an increased incidence of cancer, but the available studies are variously inadequate, inconclusive, or equivocal (US EPA 2005).

Concentrations of chromium and nickel at Site 1 marginally exceeded the SQGV and the concentration of arsenic at Site 1 was very close to the SQGV of 20 mg/kg dry weight. The Limit of Reporting (LOR) for organochlorine pesticides is much higher than the SQG-High values, and this makes it impossible to make inferences regarding possible contamination with this class of very toxic substances (Jayaraj *et al.* 2016). A similar situation holds for antimony and polychlorinated biphenyls. Concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons at the two sites were less than the SQGV, as were concentrations of total petroleum hydrocarbons. Although the LOR for polychlorinated biphenyls (100 µg/kg dry weight) is above the SQGV, the reported concentrations were less than the SQG-High value of 280 µg/kg dry weight, suggesting that sediments were not seriously contaminated with this class of pollutant.

10.2 Water clarity

Water clarity is a measure of how far light can penetrate through the water column of a lake. In inland water bodies it has two components:

- Adsorption of light by compounds dissolved in the water
- Scattering of light by small particles suspended in the water column (Kirk 1986).

Water draining *Sphagnum* bogs, peat swamps, or paperbark or eucalyptus wetlands with much dried leaf litter on the floodplain is often stained a brownish colour because of the gilvin (soluble humic colour) leached out of the dead plant material. The situation is analogous to that when making a pot of tea: soluble tannins are leached from the tea leaves and they give the tea its characteristic dark brown colour (and taste). These compounds adsorb light at particular wavelengths, giving rise to the characteristic brownish colour. The water is clear, but coloured.

The scattering of light by suspended particulate matter is a more complex process. If particles are small enough and sufficiently abundant, they will scatter light of all wavelengths and make the water appear cloudy as opposed to merely coloured as the case with dissolved compounds. This scattering of light gives rise to the property of water known as turbidity. Turbidity has two main causes:

- Scattering caused by very small suspended inorganic particles, primarily clays.
- Scattering caused by very small suspended organic particles, most often algal cells or phytoplankton.

Turbidity arising from suspended inorganic particles can have a number of causes:

- Water entering the lake is already turbid, carrying clays and other inorganic particles eroded from the catchment. This situation often arises with water draining from development sites or other areas where the soil has been disturbed by heavy machinery and, with little vegetation cover to provide protection from the rain, is openly exposed to the elements.
- Fine particles brought into suspension from the bottom sediments being disturbed by wind. This is often the case with shallow lakes because, as explained in the Scoping report produced in Phase 1 of this investigation, in shallow lakes the photic depth is less than the mixing depth, meaning sediments are easily disturbed by wind-driven turbulence.
- Fine particles brought into suspension from the bottom sediments being disturbed by animals, most commonly bottom-feeding fish such as carp or waterbirds such as duck. This is often the case with shallow urban lakes, as almost all are infested with carp.

10.3 Algal characteristics

The seven algal divisions recorded for Landcox Park lake and a brief description of each is as follows:

- Bacillariophyta (Diatoms): single cells, colonies or filaments, with the cell wall consisting of two overlapping silica shells or valves, called the frustule; usually yellow to light brown in colour; a few species may be toxic.
- Chlorophyta (Green algae, including desmids): single cells, colonies or filaments, sometimes more complexly structured; often have two or four flagella that provide mobility; often grass-green in colour; very diverse division, with many distinct genera.
- Chrysophyta (Golden-brown algae): single cells, colonies or filaments; may possess a pair of flagella; often yellow, golden-brown or, rarely, green in colour.
- Cryptophyta (Cryptomonads): single cells may be red, blue-green or olive-brown in colour; all possess a pair of flagella.
- Cyanophyta (blue-green algae): single cells, colonies, filaments or more complexly structured; blue-green, brownish, olive-green or, rarely, bright green in colour; never motile via flagella but may contain gas vesicles that allow control of buoyancy; if filamentous, may fix nitrogen in heterocysts; may possess resting stages known as akinetes; often contain a range of toxins, usually unpalatable to aquatic consumers.
- Dinophyta (Dinoflagellates): single cells, usually brown or brownish green in colour; if motile have an obvious transverse furrow with two flagella; may contain very potent toxins (hepatotoxins and neurotoxins such as saxitoxin and ciguatoxin) but mostly in the marine species.
- Euglenophyta (Euglenoids): single cells, green in colour with a red eyespot; mobile via two flagella.

Table 4 provides further information on the relative abundances in the lake of blue-green algae in particular. *Planktolyngbya* were frequently the dominant blue-green alga from 2012–2014; *Gomphosphaeria* were most common in the two years that followed, with *Microcystis* also reported but with lower abundance. As noted above in the commentary for Table 1, the period 2018–2021 was a period of relatively low abundances of blue-green algae. Since 2021, however, a wide variety of blue-green algae has been reported in the lake, including one case when *Dolichospermum* was abundant, two when members of the Aphanizomenonaceae and Synechococcales groups were common, and a number of other times when other genera, variously, *Gomphosphaeria*, *Planktolyngbya*, *Pseudoanabaena*, *Microcystis* and *Woronichinia naegeliana*, were recorded at lower abundances (but still sufficiently abundant to be scored in the monitoring data sheets as 'frequent'). Table 5 gives a brief summary of the characteristics of these more commonly encountered types of blue-green algae.

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Table 4: Types of blue-green algae most commonly reported in Landcox Park lake.

Date	Relative abundance of various types of blue-green algae*		
	Abundant	Common	Frequent
Nov 2012			
Dec 2012			<i>Planktolyngbya</i>
Jan 2013			<i>Planktolyngbya</i> <i>Synechocystis</i>
Mar 2013			<i>Planktolyngbya</i>
Apr 2013			<i>Planktolyngbya</i>
Nov 2013			
Dec 2013			
Jan 2014			<i>Planktolyngbya</i>
Mar 2014			<i>Planktolyngbya</i>
Nov 2014			
Dec 2014			<i>Anabaena</i> <i>Gomphosphaeria</i>
Feb 2015		<i>Microcystis</i>	<i>Gomphosphaeria</i>
Apr 2015		<i>Gomphosphaeria</i> <i>Microcystis</i>	
Nov 2015	<i>Gomphosphaeria</i>		
Jan 2016	<i>Gomphosphaeria</i> <i>Planktolyngbya</i>		
Jan 2016		<i>Gomphosphaeria</i>	<i>Microcystis</i>
Nov 2016		<i>Gomphosphaeria</i>	
Jan 2017		<i>Gomphosphaeria</i>	
Feb 2017		<i>Gomphosphaeria</i>	<i>Microcystis</i>
Mar 2017	<i>Gomphosphaeria</i>		<i>Microcystis</i>
May 2017			
Nov 2017			
Dec 2017			
Jan 2018			
Nov 2019			
Dec 2019			
Jan 2020			
Feb 2020			
Mar 2020			
Apr 2020			<i>Planktolyngbya</i>
Nov 2020			
Dec 2020			
Jan 2021			<i>Planktolyngbya</i>
Feb 2021			
Apr 2021			
Dec 2021			<i>Synechococcales</i>
Jan 2022		<i>Synechococcales</i>	
Feb 2022			<i>Pseudoanabaena</i> <i>Plantolyngbya</i>
Mar 2022		<i>Aphanizomenonaceae</i>	<i>Woronichinia naegeliana</i> <i>Microcystis</i>
Nov 2022	<i>Dolichospermum</i>		
Dec 2022			<i>Woronichinia naegeliana</i>
Jan 2023			

* Abundant (> 50,000 cells mL⁻¹); Common (5,000–50,000 cells mL⁻¹); Frequent (500–5,000 cells mL⁻¹). The vertical order of different genera within a cell indicates the relative order of abundance as far as can be determined from the monitoring data sheets.

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Table 5: Characteristics of the types of blue-green algae most commonly reported for Landcox Park lake. Sources: Entwistle et al. (1988) & Algae.NKU.edu 2021.

Blue-green alga	Characteristics				
	Morphology	Fix nitrogen	Possibly toxic	Akinetes	Buoyancy control via gas vesicles
Aphanizomenonaceae (e.g., <i>Aphanizomenon</i>)	Filamentous	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Synechococcales (e.g., <i>Synechococcus</i>)	Filamentous, colonial or single celled	No	None reported	No	No
<i>Anabaena</i>	Filamentous	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<i>Dolichospermum</i>	Filamentous	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Gomphosphaeria</i>	Spherical colonies of club-shaped cells	No			
<i>Microcystis</i>	Free-floating single cells	No	Yes	No	Yes
<i>Planktolyngbya</i>	Filamentous	No	None reported	No	Sometimes
<i>Pseudoanabaena</i>	Filamentous	No	None reported	No	Usually no
<i>Woronichinia naegeliana</i>	Colonial coccoid	No	None reported	No	Sometimes

10.4 Algal blooms

An algal bloom arises when algal cells in the water column (phytoplankton) have attained such a high biomass that they discolour the water, form surface scums, generate unpleasant tastes and odours, and reduce water quality, especially in terms of dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations, either because of the death and decay of the algal cells or because the respiring algae use all the available oxygen in the water column.

Algal blooms can be caused by a wide range of different types of algae, but in freshwater systems the two most problematic groups typically are:

- Chlorophyta, or green algae
- Cyanophyta, or blue-green algae.

Blue-green algae, despite their common name, are prokaryotic, meaning they are actually photosynthetic oxygenic bacteria, not eukaryotic as are the Chlorophyta. This fundamental evolutionary difference accounts for many of the properties of blue-green algae, including their production of a wide range of toxins and their ability to control their buoyancy via intracellular gas vesicles. Of the two most troublesome groups of phytoplankton, blue-green algae traditionally receive most attention from lake managers. This is because many strains of blue-green algae produce toxins, including hepatoxins (which damage liver cells), neurotoxins (which damage nerve cells), cylindrospermopsin (which damages the liver, kidneys, vascular system and the gastrointestinal tract) and the cell-wall lipopolysaccharides common to all bacteria, which

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result in generic skin irritation. Exposure to blue-green algal toxins can cause skin and eye irritations, nausea, vomiting, muscle weakness and cramps and, in the worst cases, liver and neurological damage. Some of the toxins are believed to be carcinogenic (e.g., anatoxin-a in *Anabaena*). Exposure can result from people drinking or swimming in affected; there is some evidence that even exposure to aerosols can give rise to poisoning. Not only humans are affected; cats, dogs and domestic stock are also susceptible, as are native fauna. Appendix A provides further information on the toxins produced by blue-green algae.

Although toxin-production is the most obvious public-health related aspect of concern about blue-green algae, algal blooms can be responsible for a wide range of other undesirable outcomes. When algae are growing so quickly that they form a dense bloom in a water body, their consumption of oxygen for respiration during the night can be so severe that they cause the water column to become anoxic or at least strongly depleted in DO. This can cause fish kills. When the bloom dies, the algal cells decay, and this can also be responsible for severe oxygen depletion as bacteria break down the dead algal cells. Again, fish kills can result, as well as the production of unpleasant odours. As the bloom collapses, the algal cells become moribund and 'leaky'. If the bloom contains algal strains that produce toxins, this leakiness results in the release of the toxins into the water column. Once released, toxins may persist for months before they are degraded by sunlight or breakdown by bacteria. Many types of blue-green algae are unpalatable to aquatic consumers such as zooplankton, being either filamentous (and so difficult to eat by filter-feeding animals) or having thick mucilaginous coatings that make them difficult to digest. This means that blue-green algae are often not the chosen food for herbivorous aquatic animals – in turn, this means they further accumulate in the water column because they are not being 'grazed down' as are the other, more edible algae, and that they contribute little to aquatic foods webs while still alive. Finally, many types of blue-green algae produce akinetes, dormant cells that can survive harsh environmental conditions and which allow blue-green algae to persist in lakes when other more sensitive algae could be extinguished.

A number of specific environmental conditions favour the development of algal blooms, although it still remains very difficult to predict closely when a bloom will evolve and when it will collapse, and what types of algae will be dominant. Like all plants, algae require warmth and sunlight for growth; this means that algal blooms tend to develop in the warmer months, when air temperatures (and thus water temperatures) are high, days are long and skies are sunny. They also require nutrients, and so algal blooms are facilitated by high concentrations of plant nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus. As noted below, however, some species of blue-green algae can fix atmospheric nitrogen, which relieves them from supplies of inorganic nitrogen dissolved in the water column and places them at a distinct advantage over the other types of algae that cannot fix nitrogen. Some species of blue-green algae also possess gas vesicles that allow them to regulate their buoyancy and thus their position in the water column: this allows them to sink to the bottom at night to take up nutrients from the sediments but then to rise to the surface during the day in order to remain in the photic zone of the lake. In contrast, cells that cannot do this (e.g., diatoms, with their heavy cell frustules) will tend to sink to the bottom unless the water column is kept well mixed or in constant motions.

In short, the environmental conditions that tend to lead to the generation of blue-green algal blooms in shallow lakes include:

- High nutrient concentrations, particularly of nitrogen and phosphorus, so nutrients are not the factor limiting algal growth
- High water temperatures, so rates of cellular metabolism are high, and temperature is not a limiting factor (i.e., spring through to autumn, but especially late summer, although blooms can occur in cooler weather too)
- Long sunny days (e.g., summer) so light is not a limiting factor
- Absence of floating or submerged vascular aquatic plants, which compete with algae for light and nutrients

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- Lack of water flow-through, which (i) prevents the 'wash out' of algal cells from the lake and (ii) prevents the formation of a thermally stratified water column, which preferentially advantages those species of blue-green algae that can control their buoyancy over other types of algae such as green algae or diatoms that cannot
- Calm weather conditions, leading to still water and a lack of mixing, which again preferentially advantages those species of blue-green algae that can control their buoyancy over other types of algae such as green algae or diatoms that cannot
- A low N:P ratio of available nutrients, which preferentially advantages those species of blue-green algae that can fix atmospheric nitrogen over all other sorts of phytoplankton.

10.5 Eutrophication and nutrient concentrations

There are many sources of nutrients to lakes (Figure 3). These various sources can be classified in various ways, either in terms of point sources versus diffuse sources, or as external sources versus internal sources. In the case of shallow lakes in urban setting, it makes sense to group nutrient sources into two prime categories:

- External sources
 - Inputs from the catchment via storm water (nitrogen and phosphorus)
 - Inputs via nitrogen-fixing algae (nitrogen only)
 - Inputs via dry deposition from the atmosphere or via rain (mainly nitrogen)
 - Inputs via human feeding of waterbirds (nitrogen and phosphorus)
- Internal sources
 - Diffusion of nutrients from the sediments (nitrogen and phosphorus)
 - Release of nutrients from the sediments via carp muddling (nitrogen and phosphorus)
 - Inputs via urine and faeces from waterbirds (nitrogen and phosphorus)
 - Inputs via the death and decay of aquatic plants and animals (nitrogen and phosphorus).

Landcox Park Lake is situated in a heavily urbanised setting. This means it is surrounded by houses and the other developments that characterise heavily populated areas (Figure 3b). It has been this way for at least half a century (Figure 3a), which means the lake has experienced decades of nutrient and toxicant inputs. Because of the density of people in the immediate vicinity and the substantial visitation these waterbodies experience, urban lakes such as Landcox Park lake may be a dumping grounds for unwanted pets, especially exotic fish such as goldfish, and sometimes of highly noxious aquatic animals such as axolotls (Mexican salamanders *Ambystoma* spp.) and introduced turtles (e.g., Red-eared Slider Turtle *Trachemys scripta*).

11 Appendix B. Sediment sampling and analysis

Two soil samples were taken at the locations shown in Figure 17, from the upper sediment layer of the lake. These were analysed for all parameters under R36A VIC EPA 1828.2 Table 2 Basic Suite (VIC EPA, 2021), which includes all heavy metal testing; and Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus.

The sediments were dark grey in colour, with an abundance of clay particle sizes and little to no sand particles.

There was no significant odour from the sediments when collected and deposited in the sample jars.

Laboratory testing was completed by Eurofins Environment Testing and the results were analysed by the consultant team.



Figure 17. Soil sample location in the Landcox Park Lake context (Wave Consulting).

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Table 5. Sediment samples analysis results (Eurofins Environment Testing)

Client Sample ID Sample Matrix Eurofins Sample No. Date Sampled Test/Reference	LOR	Unit	S1 Soil M23- Ja0012930 Jan 13, 2023	S2 Soil M23- Ja0012931 Jan 13, 2023
Total Recoverable Hydrocarbons				
TRH C6-C9	20	mg/kg	< 20	< 20
TRH C10-C14	20	mg/kg	< 20	< 20
TRH C15-C28	50	mg/kg	< 50	< 50
TRH C29-C36	50	mg/kg	< 50	< 50
TRH C10-C36 (Total)	50	mg/kg	< 50	< 50
TRH C6-C10	20	mg/kg	< 20	< 20
TRH C6-C10 less BTEX (F1) ^{NO4}	20	mg/kg	< 20	< 20
TRH >C10-C16	50	mg/kg	< 50	< 50
TRH >C10-C16 less Naphthalene (F2) ^{NO1}	50	mg/kg	< 50	< 50
TRH >C16-C34	100	mg/kg	< 100	< 100
TRH >C34-C40	100	mg/kg	< 100	< 100
TRH >C10-C40 (total)*	100	mg/kg	< 100	< 100
BTEX				
Benzene	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Toluene	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Ethylbenzene	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
m&p-Xylenes	0.2	mg/kg	< 0.2	< 0.2
o-Xylene	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Xylenes - Total*	0.3	mg/kg	< 0.3	< 0.3
4-Bromofluorobenzene (surr.)	1	%	55	120
Volatile Organics				
Total MAH (as per 1828.2)*	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
2-Butanone (MEK)	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Styrene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Halogenated Volatile Organics				
1.1-Dichloroethane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
1.1-Dichloroethene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
1.1.1-Trichloroethane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
1.1.1.2-Tetrachloroethane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
1.1.2-Trichloroethane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
1.1.2.2-Tetrachloroethane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
1.2-Dibromoethane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
1.2-Dichlorobenzene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
1.2-Dichloroethane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
1.2-Dichloropropane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
1.2.3-Trichloropropane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5

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Client Sample ID			S1	S2
Sample Matrix			Soil	Soil
Eurofins Sample No.			M23- Ja0012930	M23- Ja0012931
Date Sampled			Jan 13, 2023	Jan 13, 2023
Test/Reference	LOR	Unit		
Halogenated Volatile Organics				
1,3-Dichlorobenzene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
1,3-Dichloropropane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Bromodichloromethane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Bromoform	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Bromomethane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Carbon Tetrachloride	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Chlorobenzene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Chloroform	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Chloromethane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
cis-1,3-Dichloropropene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Dibromochloromethane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Dibromomethane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Iodomethane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Methylene Chloride	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Tetrachloroethene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
trans-1,2-Dichloroethene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
trans-1,3-Dichloropropene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Trichloroethene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Trichlorofluoromethane	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Vinyl chloride	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Vlc EPA IWRG 621 CHC (Total)*	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Vlc EPA IWRG 621 Other CHC (Total)*	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Toluene-d8 (surr.)	1	%	55	120
Total Recoverable Hydrocarbons - 2013 NEPM Fractions				
Naphthalene ^{NOT}	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons				
Benzo(a)pyrene TEQ (lower bound) *	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Benzo(a)pyrene TEQ (medium bound) *	0.5	mg/kg	0.6	0.6
Benzo(a)pyrene TEQ (upper bound) *	0.5	mg/kg	1.2	1.2
Acenaphthene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Acenaphthylene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Anthracene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Benz(a)anthracene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Benzo(a)pyrene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Benzo(b&l)fluoranthene ^{NOT}	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Benzo(q,h)perylene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Chrysene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Di(benz(a,h)anthracene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Fluoranthene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Fluorene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Naphthalene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Phenanthrene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Pyrene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Total PAH*	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
2-Fluorobiphenyl (surr.)	1	%	67	80
p-Terphenyl-d14 (surr.)	1	%	97	63

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Client Sample ID			S1	S2
Sample Matrix			Soil	Soil
Eurofins Sample No.			M23- Ja0012930	M23- Ja0012931
Date Sampled			Jan 13, 2023	Jan 13, 2023
Test/Reference	LOR	Unit		
Organochlorine Pesticides				
Chlordanes - Total	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Vic EPA 1828.2 OCP (Total)*	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Vic EPA 1828.2 Other OCP (Total)*	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
4,4'-DDD	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
4,4'-DDE	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
4,4'-DDT	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
a-HCH	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
Aldrin	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
b-HCH	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
d-HCH	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
Dieldrin	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
Endosulfan I	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
Endosulfan II	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
Endosulfan sulphate	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
Endrin	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
Endrin aldehyde	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
Endrin ketone	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
g-HCH (Lindane)	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
Heptachlor	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
Heptachlor epoxide	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
Hexachlorobenzene	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
Methoxychlor	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
Toxaphene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Aldrin and Dieldrin (Total)*	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
DDT + DDE + DDD (Total)*	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
Vic EPA IWRG 621 OCP (Total)*	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Vic EPA IWRG 621 Other OCP (Total)*	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Dibutylchlorodate (surr.)	1	%	127	73
Tetrachloro-m-xylene (surr.)	1	%	101	64
Chlorinated Hydrocarbons				
Hexachlorobutadiene	0.05	mg/kg	< 0.05	< 0.05
Trichlorobenzenes - Total	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Phthalate Esters				
Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Polychlorinated Biphenyls				
Aroclor-1016	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Aroclor-1221	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Aroclor-1232	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Aroclor-1242	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Aroclor-1248	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Aroclor-1254	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Aroclor-1260	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Total PCB*	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Dibutylchlorodate (surr.)	1	%	127	73
Tetrachloro-m-xylene (surr.)	1	%	101	64
Acid Herbicides				
2,4-D	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5

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Client Sample ID Sample Matrix Eurofins Sample No. Date Sampled Test/Reference	LOR	Unit	S1 Soil M23- Ja0012930 Jan 13, 2023	S2 Soil M23- Ja0012931 Jan 13, 2023
Phenols (Halogenated)				
2-Chlorophenol	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
2,4-Dichlorophenol	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
2,4,5-Trichlorophenol	1	mg/kg	< 1	< 1
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	1	mg/kg	< 1	< 1
2,6-Dichlorophenol	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
4-Chloro-3-methylphenol	1	mg/kg	< 1	< 1
Pentachlorophenol	1	mg/kg	< 1	< 1
Tetrachlorophenols - Total	10	mg/kg	< 10	< 10
Total Halogenated Phenol*	1	mg/kg	< 1	< 1
Phenols (non-Halogenated)				
2-Cyclohexyl-4,6-dinitrophenol	20	mg/kg	< 20	< 20
2-Methyl-4,6-dinitrophenol	5	mg/kg	< 5	< 5
2-Nitrophenol	1.0	mg/kg	< 1	< 1
2,4-Dimethylphenol	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
2,4-Dinitrophenol	5	mg/kg	< 5	< 5
2-Methylphenol (o-Cresol)	0.2	mg/kg	< 0.2	< 0.2
3&4-Methylphenol (m&p-Cresol)	0.4	mg/kg	< 0.4	< 0.4
Total cresols*	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
4-Nitrophenol	5	mg/kg	< 5	< 5
Dinoseb	20	mg/kg	< 20	< 20
Phenol	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Phenol-d6 (surr.)	1	%	64	56
Total Non-Halogenated Phenol*	20	mg/kg	< 20	< 20
Semivolatile Organics				
2,4-Dinitrotoluene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Nitrobenzene	0.5	mg/kg	< 0.5	< 0.5
Ammonia (as N)				
Ammonia (as N)	5	mg/kg	9.2	68
Chromium (hexavalent)	1	mg/kg	< 1	< 1
Cyanide (amenable)	5	mg/kg	< 5	< 5
Cyanide (total)	5	mg/kg	< 5	< 5
Fluoride	100	mg/kg	200	220
Formaldehyde in soil	1	mg/kg	2.2	< 1
Nitrate & Nitrite (as N)	5	mg/kg	< 5	< 5
Nitrate (as N)	5	mg/kg	< 5	< 5
Nitrite (as N)	5	mg/kg	< 5	< 5
Organic Nitrogen (as N)*	10	mg/kg	2190.8	932
pH (1:5 Aqueous extract at 25 °C as rec.)	0.1	pH Units	4.5	6.4
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (as N)	10	mg/kg	2200	1000
Total Nitrogen (as N)*	10	mg/kg	2200	1000
Phosphorus	5	mg/kg	520	110
% Moisture	1	%	81	15
Heavy Metals				
Antimony	10	mg/kg	< 10	< 10
Arsenic	2	mg/kg	19	2.1
Barium	10	mg/kg	61	< 10
Beryllium	2	mg/kg	< 2	< 2
Boron	10	mg/kg	< 10	< 20

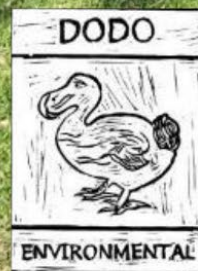
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Client Sample ID			S1	S2
Sample Matrix			Soil	Soil
Eurofins Sample No.			M23- Ja0012930	M23- Ja0012931
Date Sampled			Jan 13, 2023	Jan 13, 2023
Test/Reference	LOR	Unit		
Heavy Metals				
Cadmium	0.4	mg/kg	< 0.4	< 0.4
Chromium	5	mg/kg	81	6.5
Copper	5	mg/kg	33	< 5
Lead	5	mg/kg	36	< 5
Mercury	0.1	mg/kg	< 0.1	< 0.1
Molybdenum	5	mg/kg	< 5	< 5
Nickel	5	mg/kg	23	< 5
Selenium	2	mg/kg	< 2	< 2
Silver	2	mg/kg	< 2	< 2
Tin	10	mg/kg	< 10	< 10
Zinc	5	mg/kg	350	39



Bayside Ornamental Lake Management Plans

May 2024



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The authors wish to acknowledge, the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of Bayside Council.

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Cover image

Elsternwick Park South Lake. Source: Wave Consulting Australia.

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Executive Summary

Four water bodies within the Bayside City Council (BCC) local government area – Elsternwick Park South Lake, Basterfield Lake, Tulip Street Pond, and Pobblebonk Pond – are the subject of this lake management plan.

Bayside requested development of a management plan that included options to improve the quality and amenity of these lakes. To that end, this plan covers the current conditions, values, the vision, options, and costs and maintenance required to improve each lake (called 'lakes' for convenience, recognising that two are ponds).

The water bodies provide a range of very important recreational and aesthetic values for local residents, as well as various degrees of biodiversity value, including providing habitat for iconic species such as the Pobblebonk or Eastern Banjo Frog (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*).

Each lake possesses somewhat different values, but all share similar threats by virtue of being located in densely populated urban areas of the inner south-east suburbs of Melbourne with highly developed catchments, high levels of recreational use, and high levels of public expectation.

To support development of the recommended management options, the consultant team collected sediment samples for subsequent analysis of contaminants by an independent, NATA-registered laboratory, surveyed points of the depth of all four lakes, and analysed existing algal data collected over the past decade. Data related to the long-term observations on the presence of frogs at some of the lakes, collected by Friends of Native Wildlife Inc was incorporated into the plans.

The overall conclusion to be drawn from the algal monitoring (which extended back to 2012) is that the water bodies are distinctive in terms of the floristic composition and the size of their phytoplankton communities. Cyanobacteria (Blue-green Algae) were commonly detected in most lakes, but other algal types such as Chlorophyta (Green algae) and Bacillariophyta (Diatoms) were also often abundant in the water column.

Contaminants of Potential Concern were found in the sediments of every lake, but only Pobblebonk Pond had contaminants at such a high concentration to deem them Contaminants of Concern. The contaminants of concern in this lake were antimony, lead and zinc. Note also that copper and mercury were at elevated concentrations in Pobblebonk Pond sediments.

The guiding visions, management objectives, and short-term options for each lake are summarised in the table below. Longer-term options (6 to 20 years), costs for all objectives, and maintenance actions are also included in the plan.

Lake	Guiding Vision	Management Objectives	Short-term options
Elsternwick Park South Lake	Retain primary use of flood mitigation but where possible, to improve biodiversity while maintaining the lake's recreational features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain primary function for stormwater retention Increase plantings of native flora around the entire lake's edge (where feasible) Reduce the abundance of exotic faunal species, especially Carp and Red-eared Slider Turtle Maintain current high social and recreation value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting of lake batters and surrounds Ongoing maintenance of the retarding basin capacity and the conveyance of flood waters Ongoing monitoring of water quality and social uses around the lake Improve signage about flora and fauna
Basterfield Lake	Improve general appearance and aesthetics to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase aesthetic enjoyment of the lake by removing some areas of dense emergent aquatic vegetation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage and reduce the density of fringing aquatic vegetation

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Lake	Guiding Vision	Management Objectives	Short-term options
	enhance ornamental qualities in the short-term and improve biodiversity and ecological function in the long-term	and improving edge conditions and access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce invasive species in the lake, particularly Carp and Eastern Gambusia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the number of large Carp in the lake Maintenance of the bore and associated minerals Ongoing monitoring of water quality and sediment depth
Pobblebonk Pond	Maintain high-quality wetland habitat for the 'Pobblebonk' Frog while improving the biodiversity and ecological function of the pond by removing exotic vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise disturbance of current frog habitat Reduce the abundance of non-native, potentially invasive vegetation such as willow and poplars Minimal removal of sediment accumulated within the first two metres of the headwall near Forrest Court to reduce blockages NO sediment disturbance or removal in other areas of the lake, especially near George St, due to contamination with a range of heavy metals, most especially lead. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive pruning of the willow currently in the south-eastern end of the pond Removal of exotic shrubs and ground-layer vegetation around the pond Ensure frogs under the pruned willow continue to have suitable high-quality habitat provided by dense beds of tall emergent aquatic plants Restore the existing signs Management of litter Limited sediment clean out to reduce blocking of inflows
Tulip St Pond	Maintain habitat for native frogs while maintaining and, where possible, improving the biodiversity and ecological function through better control of stormwater inputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain seasonally inundated wetland with naturally varying water levels (it is essential that the wetland NOT be converted into a pond that is permanently inundated) Increase erosion protection and maintain biodiversity of the pond through increased control of stormwater inflows Minimise disturbance of current frog habitat Manage non-native and invasive ('out-of-balance') native vegetation and exotic species of fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control stormwater inputs to the pond from the adjacent sporting complexes Control unwanted species of aquatic and fringing plants Control exotic fish species such as Carp and eastern Gambusia Add a fence or other barrier between the BMX track and pond to restrict access

Based on the visions outlined, the current conditions, and the threats and opportunities at the lakes, the following recommendations are made:

- Commence a plan of action to immediately address and deliver on the 'priority works.'
- Review the specific tasks within the options and update the tasks and costs with additional consultation, analysis and design work.
- Commence detailed design and analysis for tasks within the preferred options.
- Develop communication and education strategies to inform the community of proposed visions and management actions for each lake.

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5. Continue to undertake regular water quality monitoring of algal abundances.
6. Review sediment depths in 2028 and beyond to track the accumulation of sediments.
7. Establish a monitoring program to track the possible expansion of fringing aquatic plants into areas of the lake that are currently open-water. In the case of Tulip Street Pond, install a water-level gauge to allow quantitative monitoring of water levels and hence of water regime.
8. Continue to support Friends of Native Wildlife with frog monitoring and data storage into the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) as per the recommendations contained with the *Biodiversity Action Plan 2024* (in development) to improve biodiversity and social outcomes.
9. As contaminants were detected at sufficiently high concentrations in Pobblebonk Pond to make them Contaminants of Concern, seek expert advice regarding the management of contamination in Pobblebonk Pond, and until then do not disturb these sediments.

1 Introduction & background

Bayside City Council (BCC) is a local government area in the south-east of Melbourne, Victoria, with a population of 105,580 [1], administering an area of 37.19 km² of mostly residential and some light industrial land uses and 24 km of coast alongside Port Phillip Bay.

Four water bodies within the Bayside local government area – Elsternwick Park South Lake, Basterfield Lake, Tulip Street Pond, and Pobblebonk Pond – are the subject of this lake management plan.

The water bodies are similar in some respects but dissimilar in many others. On the one hand, all are situated in heavily built-up areas of south-eastern Melbourne. All are shallow, less than two metres at their deepest part. All are to some degree or other, constructed water bodies. For example, Basterfield Lake was constructed as an ornamental feature in a recreational reserve in the mid-20th Century. Elsternwick Park South Lake is sited on the old floodplain of Elster Creek but was excavated in 1998 as part of flood mitigation works. On the other hand, two of the water bodies (Tulip Street Pond and Pobblebonk Pond) are small (< 1 ha) whereas the other two are much larger. Two are densely vegetated with aquatic plants, the others less so. They also differ considerably in age, varying from about 70 years (Basterfield Lake) to just over 20 years (Elsternwick Park South Lake).



Figure 1. Location of Bayside Lakes in Scope in context of LGA

The water bodies (hereafter also called 'lakes' for convenience, recognising that two are ponds) provide a range of very important recreational and aesthetic values for local residents, as well as various degrees of biodiversity value, including providing habitat for iconic species such as the Eastern Banjo or Pobblebonk Frog (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*).

The lakes share similar threats by virtue of being located in densely populated urban areas of the inner south-east suburbs of Melbourne with highly developed catchments, high levels of recreational use, and high levels of public expectation:

- eutrophication (nutrient enrichment) caused by local runoff from adjacent urban and light-industrial catchments
- periodic poor water quality, including high turbidity (water cloudiness) and algal blooms, sometimes of potentially toxic Blue-green algae
- possible problems with sediment accumulation and contamination, including with toxicants such as heavy metals and pesticides derived from local runoff
- presence of exotic fish species, most particularly Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and Eastern Gambusia (*Gambusia holbrooki*)
- potential problems with the excessive growth (real or perceived) of submerged and emergent aquatic plants in and along the fringes of the lakes
- potential problems related to the presence of weeds, both introduced (exotic) and 'out-of-balance' native species
- management complications related to the presence of large populations of native and introduced water bird species, which can contribute to eutrophication and poor water quality yet are a valued aspect of at least some of the lakes by many members of the community.

1.1 Objectives of this plan

This plan presents an integrated view of the four lakes in terms of:

- current conditions
- threats
- vision
- management objectives.

It then describes options for each lake to meet the vision and management objectives, with particular attention to priority works to act on in the short-term as well as longer-term actions. Costs and maintenance implications are also provided.

1.2 Values

Urban lakes are expected to deliver a suite of services to the community and, in many cases, the provision of those services and maximisation of values is at least problematic and sometimes, mutually exclusive. Critical to the preparation of the management plans, therefore, is the initial establishment of the suite of values associated with each lake. Based on these values, the specific services each is expected to deliver, and specific management objectives can be developed for each lake.

The management plans have adopted the set of values that were proposed in the Scoping Plan for Ornamental Lakes in Bayside City Council (2022) [2]:

1. **Ornamental:** social research has demonstrated that aesthetically pleasing water bodies commonly share several unifying features such as clear water, the presence of emergent aquatic plants around the water body, and absence of algal blooms.
2. **Ecological:** the ecological value of a lake is the capacity to provide long-term habitat and breeding opportunities for native species of plants and animals, so their populations are sustainable.
3. **Social and community recreation:** lakes provide exceptional social and community value as a recreational location for bird watching, picnicking, walking, and general relaxation.
4. **Flood protection:** lakes can retard urban stormwater flows and reduce peak flows and flood inundation water courses downstream of the water body.

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5. **Physical and mental health:** parks and their lakes provide community access to the natural world within the suburban environment; this access has been shown repeatedly to have significant benefits in terms of the physical and mental health of people.
6. **Response to climate change:** climate in Melbourne's urban environments is projected to become more extreme, with increased numbers, severity, and duration of extreme events such as storms and droughts and with increased heat stress due to higher average air temperatures and more severe heat waves [3]. Water availability will also be affected, with extremes in water availability (e.g., drought versus flood) becoming more problematic for keeping urban lakes full and their surrounds well-watered. Urban lakes will become more important in keeping water in the landscape, creating cooling microclimates around them, and offering residents cool, green spaces to connect with nature in a changing climate.

Each lake has different focus on these values, which is detailed further in the individual chapters devoted to each water body.

1.3 Approach & Method

The overall approach and specific methods used to draft the lake management plan encompass the following elements:

1. **Background research.** Relevant documents and prior studies were reviewed to understand in broad terms the environmental and social history of the lakes.
2. **Vision and Objectives.** The vision and objectives for each lake were determined through meetings with staff from BCC and consultation with members of Friends of Native Wildlife Inc, as well as multiple site visits.
3. **Site visits.** The four lakes were visited a number of times over the duration of the project to gain an understanding of their basic characteristics, such as location in the catchment and surrounding land use, aquatic and fringing vegetation, and water quality.
4. **Sediment toxicity and bathymetry.** The consultant team collected sediment samples for subsequent analysis of contaminants by an independent, NATA-registered laboratory and surveyed points of the depth of all four lakes.
5. **Analysis of existing algal data.** BCC has routinely sampled some of the lakes for algae over the past decade. These data were collated and analysed, up to the most recent sampling date of early December 2023 .
6. **Flora.** The description of vegetation in and around the various water bodies provided in this plan is based on a site inspection of October 2023, supplemented by observations made during the earlier site inspection of March 2022 as part of the original scoping-study component of this investigation [2]. A full botanical survey of native or exotic plant species was not undertaken, and the summaries are based on observations made during the site inspections, with additional information extracted from available reports and material found during online searches for relevant background information.

The report is structured such that general information common to all four lakes is discussed first (e.g., threats faced by urban lakes, results of sediment-quality analysis, analysis of algal-count data etc.). Subsequent chapters are then devoted to each lake individually. The sediment quality data, algal count data and other information (e.g., bathymetry) are shown in a series of appendices.

2 Current and emerging threats

2.1 Threats commonly faced by urban lakes

There are several threats to the four lakes, and most are persistent and difficult to mitigate. This section outlines these threats in broad terms. Subsequent chapters address in turn which threats are most relevant to each lake.

The main driver of the threats to the environmental health of the lakes, and therefore their social and ornamental value, is the heavily urbanised catchment that surrounds each water body. The lakes' location in densely urbanised areas generates two related problems: (i) episodically substantial volumes of stormwater runoff from the large areas of impervious surfaces in the catchment; and (ii) the large numbers of people who visit and use the lakes. In other words, the drivers of the principal threats to the health of urban lakes are both technical (e.g., stormwater) and social (i.e., human use and expectations).

2.1.1 Stormwater

Stormwater quality is a central problem for any urban lake, as stormwater transports a diverse suite of materials into the lake, including:

- organic pollutants (e.g., leaf litter, grass clippings, dog faeces)
- pathogenic micro-organisms (e.g., faecal bacteria)
- dissolved plant nutrients (e.g., nitrogen, phosphorus)
- toxic contaminants such as heavy metals and pesticides, many washed in as runoff from hard surfaces such as roads, paths and driveways
- suspended sediments (e.g., from soil erosion), leading to poor water clarity and often the major medium for bringing nutrients, especially phosphorus, and many types of toxicants into the lakes
- microplastics (e.g., broken down plastics)
- gross pollutants and litter (e.g., plastic bottles).

Stormwater inputs are significant mainly in terms of two threats to the four lakes:

- suspended sediments, which lead directly to poor water quality (chiefly visible as water cloudiness)
- contaminants, which can be introduced into the lake either in the dissolved form or associated with (i.e., adsorbed onto) suspended particles.

Cloudiness in the water column of urban lakes is often due to high loads of suspended solids brought in by stormwater carrying soil particles. Highly turbid water is frequently objected to on aesthetic grounds as being unattractive to people using the lake for recreation etc. Once in the quiet water of the lake, suspended solids tend to precipitate out and settle on the bottom and, over time, the lake can become increasingly shallow. Moreover, these accumulated sediments can be disturbed and brought back into the water column during windy periods, again resulting in high turbidity long after stormwater inputs have ceased.

Sediment accumulation is a problem in that capacity of the lakes (the total volume of water that can be stored in them) is progressively reduced over time. Toxicity also potentially increases over time as more and more sediments and their associated contaminants are deposited in the lake. It is common to manage these threats through periodic sediment removal activities, but the presence of high concentrations of contaminants in the sediments complicates any such management interventions.

Suspended sediments carried in stormwater are also crucial in bringing a wide range of contaminants into the lake. Some contaminants may kill or inhibit organisms and are then known as toxicants; conversely, some contaminants, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, can promote plant growth. Nitrogen tends to be brought in with stormwater in the dissolved form, whereas phosphorus is often brought in adsorbed to suspended

particles carried in with stormwater. In both cases, however, the contaminants often settle out from the water column and progressively accumulate in the sediments.

The input of plant nutrients into urban lakes is problematic on a number of grounds. First, the pathways for the entry of nutrients to urban lakes are many and complex (Figure 2). Large nutrient inputs combine with long residence times of water in the lakes, the shallowness of the water, high summer temperatures and exposure of much of the lake to full sunlight, to create conditions ideal for the rapid growth of algae in the water column. These algae are known as phytoplankton. Other types of algae can grow on submerged surfaces (e.g., rocks) and become unsightly. When an excessive growth of phytoplankton occurs, the lake is said to be undergoing an algal bloom. In some cases, the algae can pose serious public-health risks (e.g., with Blue-green algae, or Cyanophyta) whereas in other cases the algae are more benign (e.g. with Green algae, or Chlorophyta). Regardless of the type of algae involved, high algae biomasses are often a major and difficult-to-manage threat to the amenity and ecology of urban lakes.

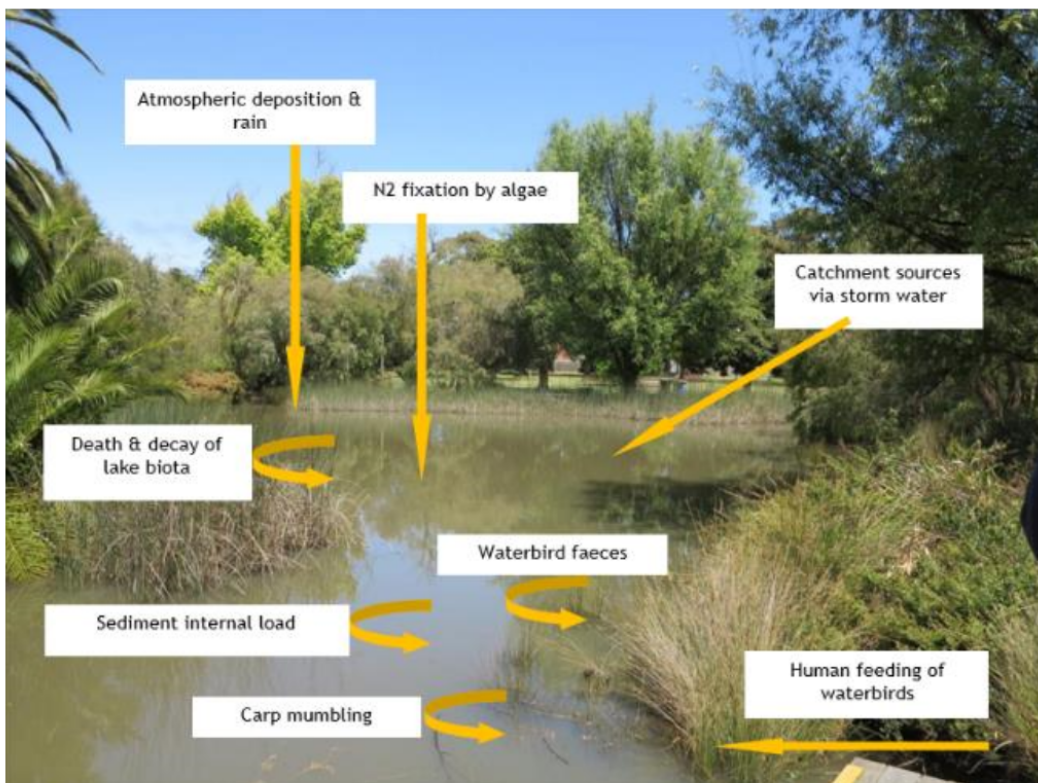


Figure 2. Pathways for nutrient inputs into urban lakes

Stormwater inputs are also important to urban lakes on hydraulic and hydrological grounds. Stormwater flows are almost always episodic and, because the catchment of urban lakes is often largely impervious, stormwater flows can be very rapid and very large immediately after storms. In urban waterways carrying stormwater, base flows are usually small, but there are rapid and short-lived peaks in discharge after rain, which then just as quickly fall away as water ceases to flow off the impervious surfaces of the catchment [4] [5]. This phenomenon has been called the 'urban stream syndrome' and is one of the factors driving the construction of stormwater-treatment lakes such as Elsternwick Park South Lake. It is especially important for Tulip Street Pond, in which the greatest threat is the possible change in water regime following inputs of large amounts of water from the adjacent sporting complexes.

2.1.2 Human factors

Human behaviour is important in many crucial ways for urban lakes. Fundamentally, the catchments are developed because of the need to support large and dense human populations. In such areas, people often feed the ducks and other waterbirds that live on urban lakes, thereby adding to the nutrient load (and causing a deterioration in the health of those waterbirds by their consuming such unnatural foods). Erosion around the edge of the lake arising from trampling by humans or dogs may increase sediment loads and degrade the fringing plant communities that stabilise the edges. Dogs can disturb breeding waterbirds, in some cases even kill them. This has occurred at Elsternwick Park South Lake; a pair of breeding swans was killed by a dog, which is why the lake is now fenced. Similar events have also been reported recently from Albert Park Lake, Edwardes Lake, and Newells Paddock in metropolitan Melbourne.

Humans are also responsible for the presence of unwanted, often exotic, species of animals, especially fish and to a lesser extent aquatic animals such as introduced turtles and axolotls. Introduced species of fish such as Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) and Eastern Gambusia (*Gambusia holbrooki*) are particularly problematic. The former tend to mumble in the sediments and thereby to resuspend silt and sediments into the water column (thus increasing nutrient concentrations and water-column turbidity). The latter are ferocious predators on small native fish, aquatic macro-invertebrates, and the tadpoles of breeding frogs. Site visits suggest that there are many large Carp and abundant Gambusia populations in several of the lakes at the moment. Humans are often also responsible for the introduction of unwanted plants into and around urban lakes, either as deliberate releases or as accidental garden escapes.

2.2 Water clarity

A Secchi disk was used to gather data on the water clarity and the degree of turbidity at all four lakes. A Secchi Disk test is defined below:

“The Secchi disk (or Secchi disc), as created in 1865 by Angelo Secchi, is a plain white, circular disk 30 cm (12 in) in diameter used to measure water transparency or turbidity in bodies of water. The disc is mounted on a pole or line and lowered slowly down in the water. The depth at which the disk is no longer visible is taken as a measure of the transparency of the water. This measure is known as the Secchi depth and is related to water turbidity. Since its invention, the disk has also been used in a modified, smaller 20 cm (8 in) diameter, black-and-white design to measure freshwater transparency”
[6]

At two of the four lakes, the test was not possible due to dense vegetation (Pobblebonk Pond) precluding access or a lack of water (Tulip St Pond).

At Elsternwick Park South Lake, the Secchi Disk result was 30 centimetres. At Basterfield Lake, the Secchi Disk result was 75 centimetres. On the day of sampling, water turbidity was clearly better at Basterfield, which is consistent with the fact that it is supplied with bore water and has less wind disturbance. An example of the test at Elsternwick Park South Lake is shown below. The disk is clearly visible when 10 cm into the water, but is of borderline visibility at 30 cm.

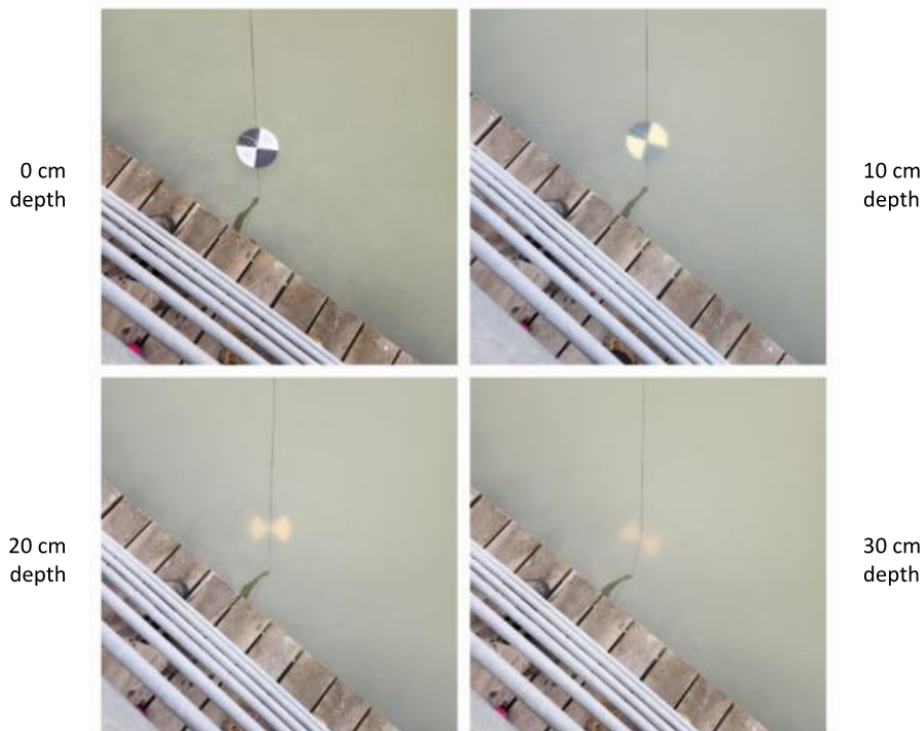


Figure 3. Example of the Secchi Disk test (Source: Wave Consulting Australia)

2.3 Sediment quality

Life in modern industrial society inevitably involves the use (and release into the environment) of a wide range of substances, many of which are toxic if present at sufficiently high concentrations and other environmental conditions (e.g., pH and oxygen availability, or redox) are appropriate. Because of the potential for stormwater runoff to contribute a wide range of contaminants into urban lakes, two sediment samples were taken in November 2023 at each lake. They were analysed for contaminants by Eurofins Environmental, and the results were assessed and interpreted by Dodo Environmental and Wave Consulting. Full details of the results are shown in Appendix A, along with general commentary on their management implications.

Sediment-quality results were assessed using the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (2000) [7] according to the relevant ‘Sediment Quality Guideline Value’ (SQGV) and then classified accordingly to concentration as (i) a contaminant at concentrations sufficiently low that it is unlikely to cause any adverse ecological impacts, (ii) a Contaminant of Potential Concern (COPC), one that is present at a high enough concentration that it may have adverse ecological impacts, or (iii) a Contaminant of Concern (COC), one at concentrations high enough that it is likely to have adverse ecological consequences. An overview of the main findings of this study into sediment contaminants is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Classification of contaminants for each lake

Lake	Contaminants with likely negligible effects	Contaminant of Potential Concern (COPC)	Contaminant of Concern (COC)
Basterfield Lake	Recoverable hydrocarbons, Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)	Antimony Lead Mercury Nickel Zinc	None
Elsternwick Park South Lake	Recoverable hydrocarbons, Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)	Chromium Nickel Zinc Arsenic	None
Tulip Street Pond	Recoverable hydrocarbons, Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)	Lead Mercury Zinc	None
Pobblebonk Pond	Recoverable hydrocarbons, Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)	Copper Mercury	Antimony Lead Zinc

Contaminants of Potential Concern were found in every lake, but only Pobblebonk Pond had contaminants at such a high concentration to deem them Contaminants of Concern. Here at least one of the two sampled sites returned concentrations of antimony, lead and zinc considerably above the SQGV-High value. The lead concentration recorded for Site 1 (2,200 mg/kg dry weight) in Pobblebonk Pond markedly exceeded the ecological ‘threshold effect level’ of 35 mg/kg dry weight noted by Burton (2002) [8]. It is very much higher than the ‘environmental quality standard’ for human health of 0.01 mg/kg dry weight [8]. The elevated concentration of antimony for Site 1 (100 mg/kg dry weight of the SQG-High value of 25 mg/kg dry weight) is also of concern. Note also that copper and mercury were at elevated concentrations in Pobblebonk Pond sediments.

At Pobblebonk Pond, one of the two sampled sites returned concentrations of antimony, lead and zinc, considerably above the SQV-High value. Exceedance of the SQV-High value indicates a situation where adverse biological effects are possible, perhaps likely, but with the extent of those impacts not necessarily known. The recording of such a high concentration of an important toxicant such as lead indicates that further investigations into sediment contamination at this site are warranted.

With regard to the concentrations of the plant nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus in the sediments (also summarised in Appendix A), the following points are noteworthy:

- Total nitrogen concentrations were much higher in sediments from Basterfield Lake, Pobblebonk Pond (5,800 and 6,600 mg/kg dry weight), and Tulip Street Pond than they were in Elsternwick Park Lake. A similar but less pronounced difference across the four water bodies occurred with Total phosphorus. The difference may reflect the fact that Elsternwick Lake is the youngest of the four waterbodies.
- Concentrations of Total nitrogen and of Total phosphorus in the sediments were, in many cases, high. Unlike the case with toxicants, there are no nation-wide criteria to assess whether Total nitrogen and Total phosphorus concentrations in sediments exceed a ‘safe’ level: see Appendix A.
- The ratio of sediment Total nitrogen to Total phosphorus varied markedly across the water bodies. The significance of these values is that the ratio of Total nitrogen to Total phosphorus (the ‘N:P ratio’) can indicate whether nitrogen or phosphorus is likely to limit plant growth if nutrients are

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the limiting factor. Basterfield Lake, Pobblebonk Pond and Tulip Street Pond have about the right ratio for the balanced growth of aquatic plants. In Elsternwick Park Lake, however, there was a very low N:P ratio, suggesting an oversupply of phosphorus relative to nitrogen.

- Sediment water content and pH were also examined. The only noteworthy aspect of these data is the very low pH (2.7) recorded for Site 2 of the Tulip Street Pond. If this value is accurate, it indicates very acid conditions at that site.

The full sediment quality report and our interpretative notes are provided in Appendix A.

2.4 Algal abundance and algal blooms

There are many different types of algae (known scientifically as 'Divisions') that can be present in the water column of lakes. The type most often sampled for is Blue-green algae, or Cyanophyta, because of their known human-health risks.

Seven algal divisions were enumerated in the regular sampling that has been undertaken for Basterfield Lake, Pobblebonk Pond, and Elsternwick Park Lake South since monitoring commenced in 2012. Samples seem not to have been taken from Tulip St Pond for algal enumeration. A full analysis of the algal-count data is provided in the chapters for each individual water body. The text below provides a brief overview of those data.

An algal bloom arises when algal cells in the water column (i.e., phytoplankton) have attained such a high biomass that they discolour the water, form surface scums, generate unpleasant tastes and odours, and reduce water quality, especially in terms of dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations. Environmental conditions that lead to generation of algal blooms include:

- high nutrient concentrations in the water or sediments
- high water temperatures
- long sunny days
- absence of submerged aquatic plants
- lack of water flow around the water body
- calm weather conditions that lead to thermal stratification of the water column (particularly important for Blue-green algae, because some species can alter their buoyancy and thus position in the water column)
- low N:P ratio of available nutrients (again, very important in the case of Blue-green algae, because some species can 'fix' atmospheric nitrogen).

Blue-green algae are of particular concern to lake managers because they can produce toxins that pose a health risk to humans and animals. Health effects include nerve, liver, kidney, and vascular system damage and generic skin irritation). Exposure occurs from drinking lake water, swimming or exposure to aerosols, and it may induce nausea, muscle weakness, neurological and carcinogenic damage. Other divisions of algae can also produce potentially harmful toxins, including dinoflagellates, but these are often rare in freshwaters. Algal blooms in general, regardless of the type of algae causing them, also degrade the ecological condition of the lake by consuming oxygen in the water column when the algal bloom 'crashes,' a process that often leads to widespread and serious fish kills. When algal cells decay, the toxins present in the dead cells may persist for months in both the water column and the sediments.

Data on algal abundances were provided in the original data sheets in terms of algal numbers in discrete abundance categories or 'bins' (e.g., Abundant, Common, Frequent, Occasional, Rare, Present) rather than fully quantitative data. Because the raw data were in this 'binned' format, subsequent analysis and interpretation was limited to semi-quantitative abundance categories rather than fully quantitative enumeration. The results of this collation and analysis are shown in the following chapters on a lake-by-lake basis.

Table 2 and Table 3 show a summary of these data on algal abundance in the lakes since 2012. Table 2 shows the frequency with which different algal groups were recorded at each of the four water bodies. The numbers in each cell indicate the frequency over the entire sampling period with which each algal group was recorded at an abundance of Frequent or above (i.e., Frequent, Common, or Abundant). Green-coloured cells indicate algal groups having abundances of 'Frequent' or above in >20% of the monitoring dates for a given water body. Table 3 shows a similar type of analysis, but with a higher level of algal abundance. For this table, the numbers in each cell indicate the frequency over the entire sampling period with which each algal group was recorded at an abundance of Common or above (i.e., Common or Abundant). Green-coloured cells again indicate algal groups having abundances of 'Frequent' or above in >20% of the monitoring dates for a given water body.

The lakes were broadly similar in that Chlorophyta (Green algae) was the most common algal group in each one when the analysis was undertaken at abundances of Frequent or above (Table 2). For example, Green algae were the most abundant algal group in Basterfield Lake (93% of observations scored Chlorophyta at an abundance of Frequent, Common or Abundant), Pobblebonk Pond (50%) and Elsternwick Park Lake (86%).

The lakes were also broadly similar in their supporting substantial populations of Cyanophyta (Blue-green algae) and Cryptophyta (Cryptomonads) on occasions. Blue-green algae were recorded at abundances of Frequent, Common or Abundant in 45% of observations for Basterfield Lake, 25% for Pobblebonk Pond, and 23% for Elsternwick Park Lake. Cryptomonads were detected at this abundance level in 32%, 39% and 23% of records in the three lakes, respectively (Table 2).

A third area of broad similarity across the lakes is that Dinophyta (Dinoflagellates), Euglenophyta (Euglenoids) and Chrysophyta (Golden-brown algae) were almost always the least abundant algal groups, with the Golden-brown algae consistently the least abundant of all. Note, however, that these three groups could account for a sizeable proportion of the phytoplankton present in Basterfield Lake. In Basterfield Lake, for example, these three algal groups accounted for 25%, 27% and 12% of observations, respectively, in the abundance categories of Frequent, Common or Abundant (Table 2).

Table 2. Overall frequency with which different algal groups were recorded in the four water bodies since algal monitoring commenced in 2012 at abundances of 'Frequent' or above

Lake	Percentage of observations for each algal group at the 'Frequent' level of abundance or above						
	Cyanophyta (Blue green algae)	Chlorophyta (Green algae)	Bacillariophyta (Diatoms)	Cryptophyta (Cryptomonads)	Dinophyta (Dinoflagellates)	Euglenophyta (Euglenoids)	Chrysophyta (Golden-brown algae)
Basterfield Lake (n=44)	45	93	84	32	25	27	12
Pobblebonk Pond (n=36)	25	50	16	39	0	0	3
Elsternwick Park Lake (n=43)	23	86	19	23	0	0	2

Green cells indicate algal groups having abundances of 'Frequent' or above in >20% of the monitoring dates for a given water body.

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Table 3. Overall frequency with which different algal groups were recorded in the four water bodies since algal monitoring commenced in 2012 at abundances of 'Common' or above.

Lake	Percentage of observations for each algal group at the 'Common' level of abundance or above						
	Cyanophyta (Blue-green algae)	Chlorophyta (Green algae)	Bacillariophyta (Diatoms)	Cryptophyta (Cryptomonads)	Dinophyta (Dinoflagellates)	Euglenophyta (Euglenoids)	Chrysophyta (Golden-brown algae)
Basterfield Lake (n=44)	22	52	19	0	7	0	0
Pobblebonk Pond (n=36)	0	3	0	6	0	0	3
Elsternwick Park Lake (n=43)	5	23	5	2	0	0	0

Green cells indicate algal groups having abundances of 'Common' or above in >20% of the monitoring dates for a given water body.

Despite these broad similarities, there were some notable differences between and among the lakes in terms of their algal communities. The most striking point is how different Pobblebonk Pond was from the other water bodies. In Pobblebonk Lake, Cryptophyta (Cryptomonads) were the second-most abundant group (39%) after the Green algae (50%) when the assessment criterion was abundances of Frequent or above (Table 2). Unlike Basterfield Lake, Dinophyta (Dinoflagellates), Euglenophyta (Euglenoids) and Chrysophyta (Golden-brown algae) were almost never present at high abundances in Pobblebonk Pond (<3% of all observations since 2012: Table 2).

Not only were the algal assemblages different in floristic terms, but Pobblebonk Pond often had among the lowest algal abundances recorded during the monitoring period. This is most obvious in Table 3, which shows that in only 3% of observations were Green algae detected as abundances of Common or above. In summary, Pobblebonk Pond supports a wide diversity of different types of algae, but always as small numbers of individuals. In only 3% of observations were algae at abundances of 'Common' or above.

The overall conclusion to be drawn from the algal monitoring undertaken since 2012 is that the water bodies are distinctive in terms of the floristic composition and the size of their phytoplankton communities. Their main area of similarity is the frequency with which Chlorophyta (Green algae), Cyanophyta (Blue-green algae) and Cryptophyta (Cryptomonads) have been recorded. An important limitation in extending these conclusions to the phytoplankton communities in the three water bodies more generally is that, for reasons of public-health monitoring of potentially toxic Blue-green algae, algal sampling was biased towards the warmer months and rarely undertaken during winter. It is unclear whether the patterns described above would hold if sampling had been taken more evenly across the year, in all seasons.

2.5 Exotic fish

Exotic fish are present in most of the lakes, particularly Basterfield Lake and Elsternwick Park Lake South. The two most obvious are Carp and Eastern Gambusia, but others (e.g. Oriental Weather Loach, *Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*) may be present but were not observed. A similar argument may hold for other introduced species of fish such as Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*). Carp, Eastern Gambusia and Oriental Weather Loach are declared noxious aquatic species under the *Victorian Fisheries Act 1995*.

As summarised in Figure 4, the adverse effects of Carp on freshwater systems are diverse but well known:

- Being bottom feeders, their mumbing in lake sediments resuspends material into the water column and increases lake-water turbidity.
- The resuspended sediment interferes with other biota (e.g., eggs of native fish).

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- The excretion of waste products, especially nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, across Carp gills and in their urine and faeces effectively mobilises nutrients formerly trapped in the sediments and increases nutrient concentrations in the water column.
- When they die, the decaying bodies of large Carp further add to nutrient enrichment.
- They can cause the loss of submerged aquatic plants, through mechanisms such as increases in water-column turbidity (and so lessening underwater light fields), increased coatings of algae attached to submerged plant leaves (also interfering with light availability to submerged plants), the disturbance of plant roots and in some cases the direct consumption of the more delicate types of submerged plants.
- Carp can compete with native fish for habitat and space.
- Carp can initiate changes in the populations and abundance of aquatic macroinvertebrates, thus altering lake food webs.

An abundance of large Carp in a lake can be viewed in two ways. First, it can be seen as a problem in itself because Carp are a noxious introduced fish species. Second, Carp are instrumental in generating the turbid water conditions and in the initiation of algal blooms in the lake and thus contributing to a range of other environmental problems.

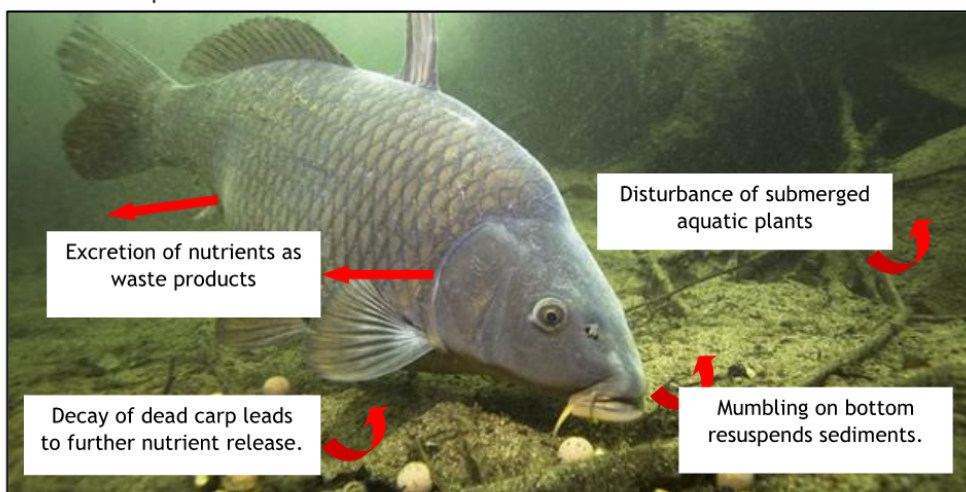


Figure 4. Mechanisms by which Carp can contribute to poor water quality in shallow lakes.

Eastern Gambusia similarly pose significant threat in many urban water bodies in the Melbourne area. The belated recognition of the serious adverse impacts of the species on native fauna has prompted *Gambusia holbrooki* to be listed as a noxious species in many Australian jurisdictions, including Victoria. The Australian Quarantine Inspection Service identifies *Gambusia holbrooki* as a high-risk species, highly likely to establish and spread more widely once introduced to new areas. In Victoria, Eastern Gambusia has been declared a noxious species under Section 75 of the *Fisheries Act 1995*. This means that, without a permit, it is illegal to take, hatch, keep, possess, sell or transport Eastern Gambusia (or Carp), put it into any container, or release it into protected waters. This prohibition includes using them as bait.

Eastern Gambusia pose a threat because of a wide range of factors, including:

- exceptionally rapid breeding, with females able to breed when only 4 weeks old if water temperatures are high enough
- having a very wide ecological niche, being tolerant of poor water quality and high levels of salinity

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- are carnivorous and highly predatory on smaller organisms. Eastern Gambusia will typically eat a wide range of foods, including zooplankton (especially when young fish), aquatic insects such as beetles, mayflies and caddis flies, and other aquatic invertebrates, the eggs of native fish and frogs, tadpoles, and the larval stages of native fish.

3 Elsternwick Park South Lake

3.1 General description of the lake

Elsternwick Park South Lake, located south of Bent Avenue and east of St Kilda Street in Brighton, is approximately 1.4 ha in area and has an island located within the lake, which provides habitat for local waterbirds.



Figure 5. Elsternwick Park South Lake

Elsternwick Park was, in pre-European times, mostly a swamp through which the Elster Creek (now Elwood Drain) ran. As with so many other wetlands in the Melbourne area [9], it was slowly 'reclaimed' and used for horses, grazing and later recreation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Elsternwick Golf Club moved from the area in 1925 to Kingston, but a public course was kept in the northern part and ovals formed in the remainder.

The lake was created in 1998 by Melbourne Water as part of flood mitigation works for the Elwood Canal/Elster Creek. Following construction, it was stocked with native fish species such as galaxias. Eels are present in the lake as well, but probably came in naturally from nearby water ways. The lake is fenced to prevent dog access to waterbirds, particularly Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*) which have been known to breed at this site. Carp and the exotic Red-eared Slider Turtle (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) have been periodically removed (by the BCC and DELWP, respectively) from the lake as declared noxious animal species. Semi-aquatic/aquatic vegetation has been difficult to establish at most locations around the perimeter of the lake, probably because of two factors: (i) erosion caused by the large fetch across the lake's water surface and (ii) the heavy clay soils that surround the lake.

3.2 Catchment analysis

Elsternwick Park South Lake drains a 3492-ha catchment. The catchment is assumed to be approximately 60% impervious (i.e. a typical urban catchment), but the lake only receives flow from the catchment in high flow events when the retarding basin is engaged.

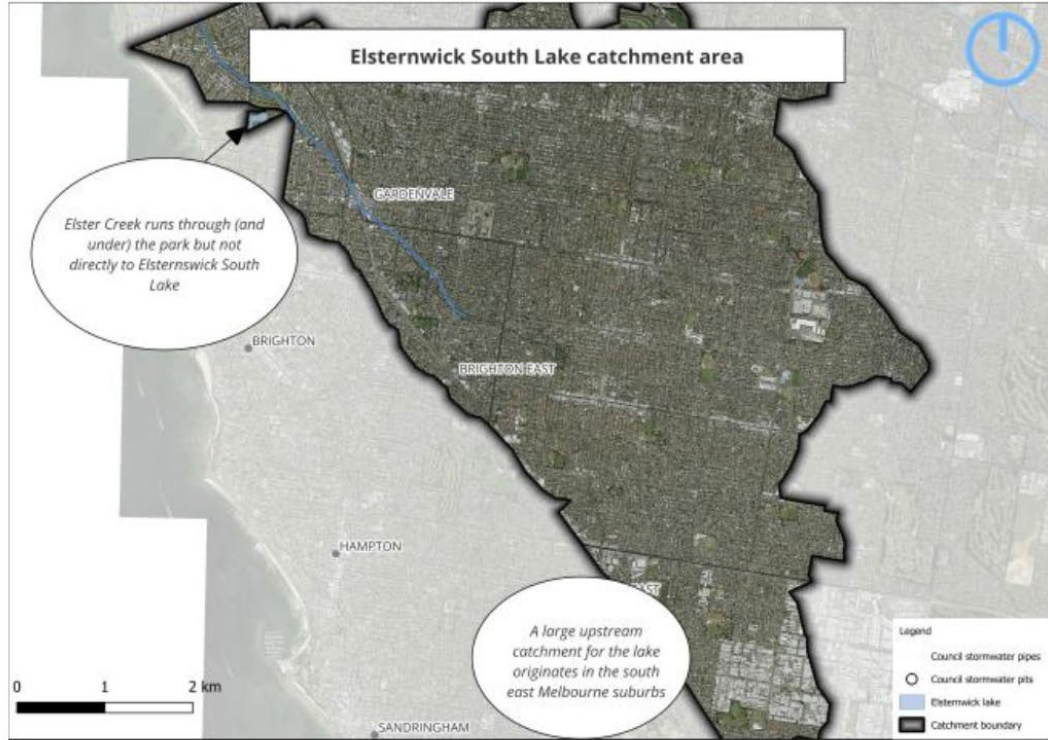


Figure 6. Catchments upstream of Elsternwick Lake, with council drainage infrastructure (Wave Consulting Australia).

3.3 Lake bathymetry and sediment accumulation

An assessment of the depth and sediment accumulation was undertaken in late 2023 and again in early 2024. The lake is relatively consistent in depth, and only has some small pockets of sediment accumulation. This would be expected when the lake is not continually fed by stormwater flows and the associated suspended solids that are contained in stormwater. See the results in the two figures below.

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Figure 7. Elsternwick Park South Lake bathymetry

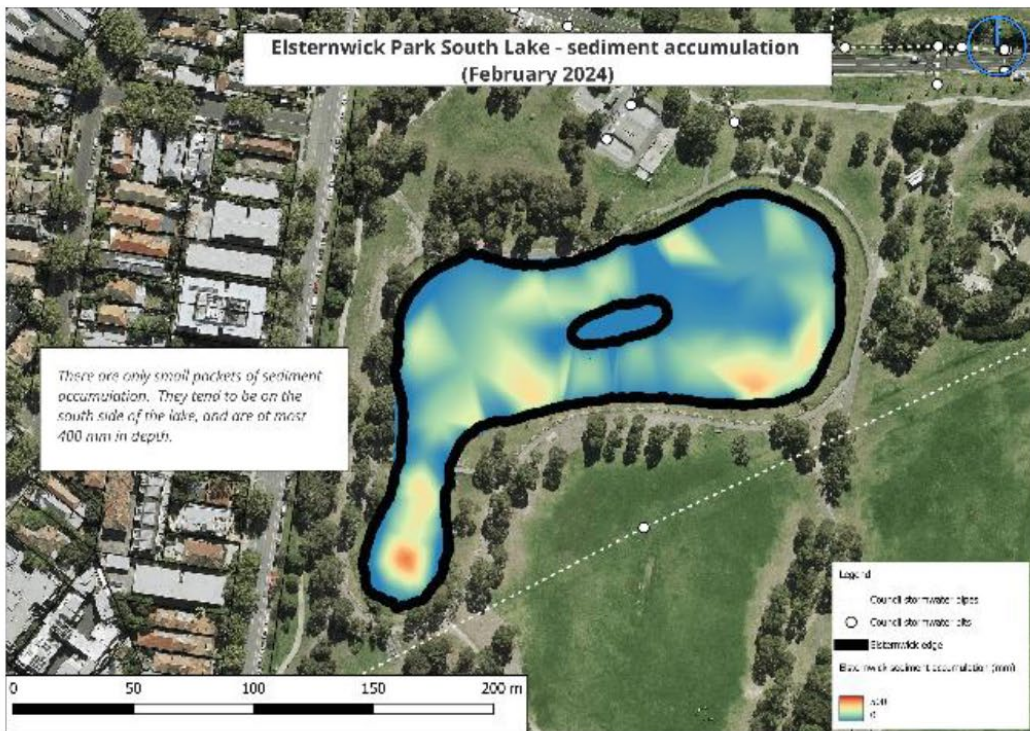


Figure 8. Elsternwick Park South Lake sediment accumulation

Water transparency or turbidity was less clear at Elsternwick Park South Lake (30 centimetres) than at Basterfield (75 centimetres). If the Secchi Disk is visible at depths less than a metre, it may indicate reduced water clarity.

3.4 Water quality: algal counts

As discussed in Section 2.4, algal monitoring has been conducted by Bayside City Council since late 2012, with a specific focus on detecting Blue-green algae over summer and the restriction of access to the lake (through the erection of warning signs) when public-health concerns warrant action.

Table 44 collates all the algal-monitoring data for Elsternwick Park for the seven divisions of algae that were analysed for since monitoring began. Tables 2 and 3, presented previously, showed a summary of these data. The most abundant algal group was Chlorophyta followed by Cyanophyta and Cryptophyta and then Bacillariophyta. However, it had a lower incidence of Blue-green algae (Cyanophyta) than Basterfield Lake, the other open-water lake (23% versus 45%: see Table 2).

A second difference is the relative absence of Dinoflagellates, Euglenoids and Golden-brown algae in Elsternwick Lake, which were recorded at the abundance level of Frequent or above in <2% of the 43 records available for this water body. In comparison, these three less-common algal groups were recorded at frequencies of 25%, 27%, and 12% in Basterfield Lake (Table 2). When Elsternwick Park Lake does support substantial phytoplankton communities, the algae are frequently Green algae (Chlorophyta).

Table 4. Collation of available algal-monitoring data 2012–2023, showing relative abundance of various divisions of phytoplankton in Elsternwick Park South Lake

Date	Algal abundance						
	Cyanophyta (Blue green algae)	Chlorophyta (Green algae)	Bacillariophyta (Diatoms)	Cryptophyta (Cryptomonads)	Dinophyta (Dinoflagellates)	Euglenophyta (Euglenoids)	Chrysophyta (Golden- brown algae)
Nov 2012							
Jan 2013							
Mar 2013							
Apr 2013							
Nov 2013							
Dec 2013							
Jan 2014							
Mar 2014							
Mar 2014							
Nov 2014							
Dec 2014							
Feb 2015		*					
Apr 2015							
Sept 2015							
Nov 2015							
Jan 2016							
Jan 2016							
Nov 2016							
Dec 2016							
Feb 2017		*					
Mar 2017							
May 2017							
Nov 2017							
Dec 2017		*					
Jan 2018		*					
<i>From November 2019 algal-count data differentiate between Elsternwick Park North and Elsternwick Park South. Summaries below are for Elsternwick Park South.</i>							
Nov 2019							
Dec 2019							
Jan 2020							
Feb 2020							

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Mar 2020							
Apr 2020							
Nov 2020							
Dec 2020							
Jan 2021							
Feb 2021							
Mar 2021							
Apr 2021							
Dec 2021							
Jan 2022							
Feb 2022							
Mar 2022							
Oct 2023							
Dec 2023							

Colour coding: **Red** = A = Abundant (>50,000 cells mL⁻¹); **Orange** = C = Common (5,000–50,000 cells mL⁻¹); **Yellow** = F = Frequent (500–5,000 cells mL⁻¹); **White** = Occasional, Rare, Not Present or Not Recorded (<500 cells mL⁻¹)

* = upgraded to next abundance category because 3 or more taxa recorded a "" score per algal group

3.5 Summary of current condition and values

The primary function of Elsternwick Park South Lake is a stormwater detention zone to protect downstream areas (e.g., residential areas in Elwood) from extreme flood risk. Even so, the lake also has additional values, particularly social and recreational value: the area is frequently used by residents and visitors for its walking paths and is a popular place to exercise dogs. However, it is unique in its detention function and other lakes have no role in detaining or diverting flood waters and cannot easily be retrofitted to add this value. The figure below is a qualitative assessment of the values for Elsternwick Park South Lake in its current condition.

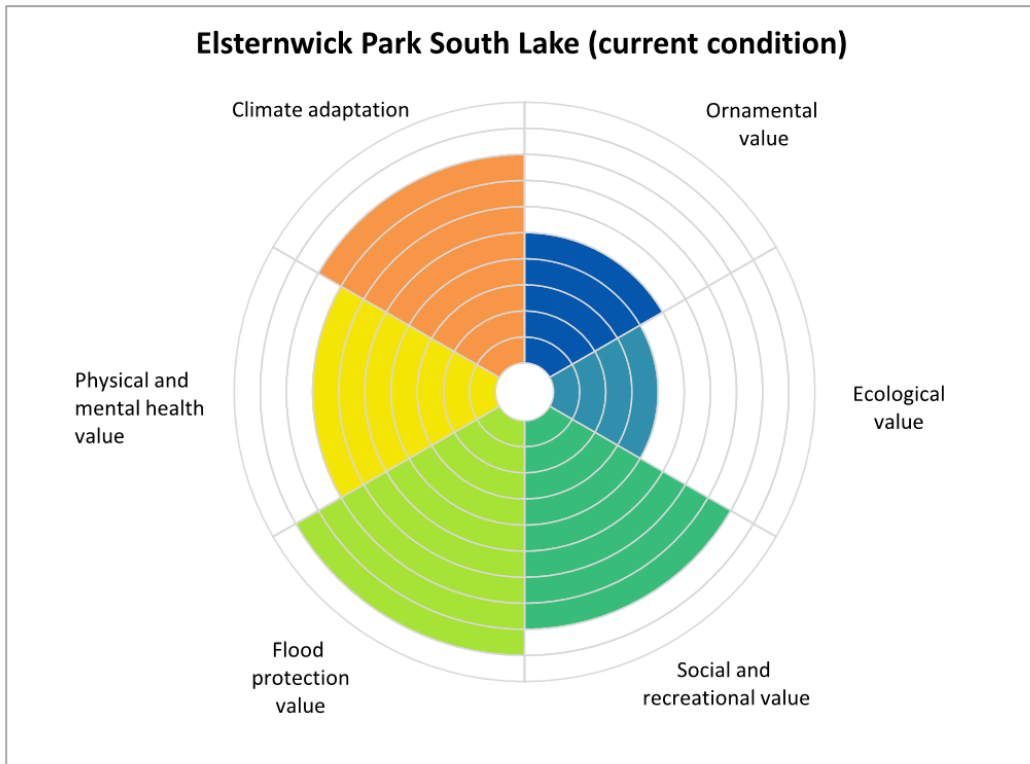


Figure 9. Elsternwick Park South Lake initial ratings of current condition (Wave Consulting and Dodo Environmental).

This assessment is based on the following observations:

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- The lake's primary purpose is flood protection and hence scores highly for this value.
- The lake has native fish species and water bird breeding areas but also contains exotic fish, some of which have been declared noxious and are highly invasive, most especially Carp.
- The lake and the area around it are well used by people for recreation and exercise.
- People also relax and play with their children and walk their dogs around the lake.
- The lake's size and terrestrial trees provide microclimate cooling effects for visitors.

3.6 Vision and management objectives

The lake was created in 1998 by Melbourne Water as part of flood mitigation works for the Elwood Canal/Elster Creek. This means that a levy bank now diverts flood water from a wetland in the park's north to Elsternwick Park South Lake, discharging into a major underground drain to Port Phillip Bay. The lake was and still is intended to deliver flood protection as its primary objective.

Flooding strategies include objectives to ensure [10]:

- The right information is available at the right time to the people who need it.
- Flood risks and opportunities are managed to reduce impacts and get the best social, economic, and environmental outcomes.
- Land, water, and emergency agencies work together to manage flooding effectively.

All water bodies are aesthetic to some degree; that is why they are attractive to almost every Australian and why they are favoured sites for tourism and recreation across Australia [11] [12]. Elsternwick Park South Lake is a popular destination for residents, with multiple trails for walking. Maintaining the social and recreation values is a secondary objective for this lake and relatively easily achieved through management of the surrounding landscape to the lake.

Water bodies can also serve a number of other functions, such as the maintenance of biodiversity and the creation of animal habitats. Different water bodies fulfil these various functions to different degrees, and while this is a lower ranked value for this lake, it is a value for Bayside City Council as laid out in the Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan [13]:

- biodiversity conservation and protection
- integrating biodiversity and natural resource management
- managing threatening processes
- improving our knowledge
- community involvement.

The guiding vision for Elsternwick Park South Lake is for the primary use to remain flood mitigation but, where possible, to improve biodiversity while maintaining the lake's recreational features.

To meet this vision, the management plan has the following objectives:

- maintain primary function for stormwater retention
- increase plantings of native flora around the entire lake's edge (where feasible)
- reduce the abundance of exotic faunal species, especially Carp and Red-eared Slider Turtle
- maintain current high social and recreation value.

3.7 Management options

In this section, options are proposed that reflect vision and objectives, noting that they are not mutually exclusive, and it is possible to consider how to combine some of options, while also acknowledging the trade-offs that will not doubt be required if multiple options are adopted.

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3.7.1 Short-term options

Planting of the lake batters and surrounds is a priority for this lake. Planting a 10-metre buffer around the lake (all inside the fence line so inaccessible to dogs and people) would result in a 5000 to 7000 m² new area of ground cover to be established as part of these works. However, it is important to note that establishing plants in some sections may be difficult; previous plantings around the lake's edge have been unsuccessful in some areas due to soil characteristics, water availability, and wind and wave action.

The images below illustrate the intended landscape and biodiversity outcome, by extending the planting palette used in other areas of the park to inside the fence line around this lake.

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Current grass verge around lake



Variety of native ground covers and shrubs planted nearby

Figure 10. Before and after vegetation proposal for Elsternwick Park South Lake

Ongoing maintenance of the retarding basin capacity and the conveyance of flood waters is critical and a joint responsibility of council and Melbourne Water.

Ongoing monitoring of water quality and social uses around the lake is a short-term priority.

Signage at the lake is adequate but could be improved in the short-term as the site visits identified a thirst for more information on the flora and fauna around the lake.

3.7.2 Long-term options

Other options that should be considered for the long term include:

- introduction of a 'habitat brick'¹ that would stabilise the bank and create micro habitats for fauna. These would link together and be embedded in the bank as partly submersible items. This is a substitute for the use of bluestone as a stabilising piece of infrastructure.
- introduction of a 'duck ramp' to improve waterbird access to the island
- ongoing monitoring to ensure sediment accumulation is not reducing the retarding basin capacity
- ongoing algal-count monitoring for health and safety
- explore options stormwater harvesting for watering of nearby ovals
- explore opportunity to connect this water body to the chain of ponds
- explore use of floating wetlands as nutrient removal and habitat features.

¹ This concept has been developed by Wave Consulting Australia for this specific environment.



Figure 11. Options (short and long term) at Elsternwick Park South Lake.

3.8 Impact on values

The values as represented in the 'values figure' above (see Figure 9) are not forecast to substantially change when the short- and long-term initiatives are implemented. However, there may be a subtle increase in the ecological value and recreational value of the water body (Figure 12).

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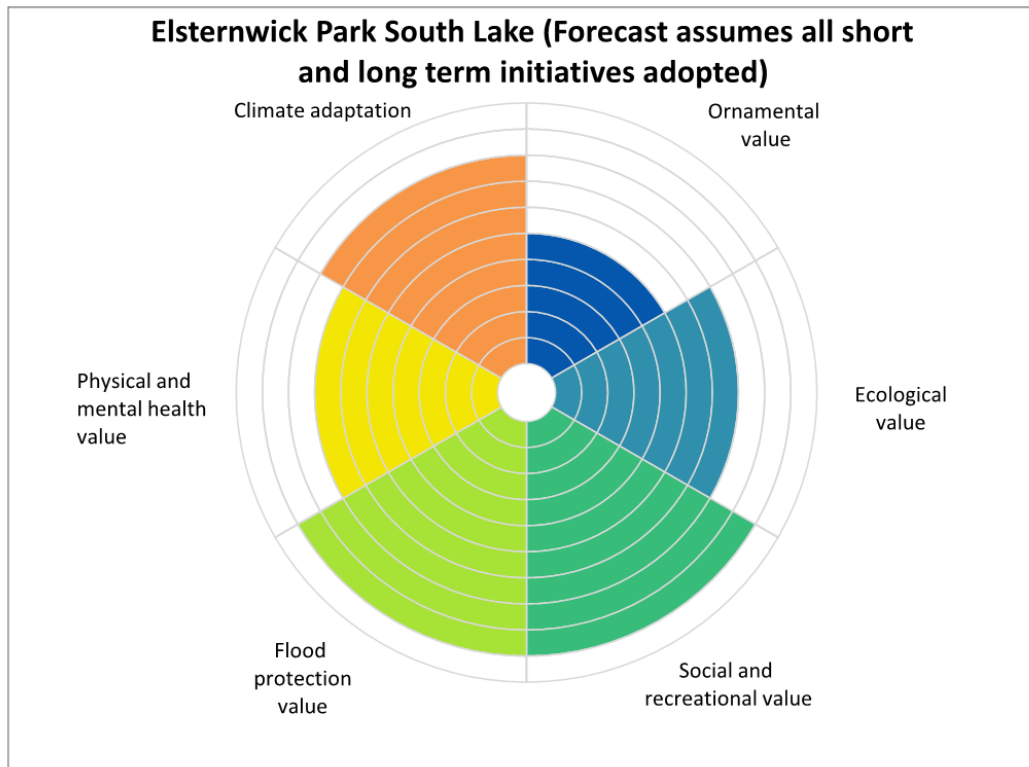


Figure 12. Forecast change to values at Elsternwick Park South Lake if short-and long-term initiatives are implemented.

4 Basterfield Lake

4.1 General description of the lake

Basterfield Park is situated next to Dane Rd in Moorabbin. The then Moorabbin City Council constructed the lake within the northern section of Basterfield Park in the 1950s as a recreational asset for use by the local community.



Figure 13. Basterfield Lake and surrounds

Basterfield Lake is shallow lake (maximum depth of ~1 m) and has a surface area of 5,594 m². It is an important recreational area with multiple uses, both passive and active (Figure 14). In the late 1990s the local community expressed concerns that increasingly frequent algal blooms were restricting the recreational uses of the lake and reducing its aesthetic value. Bayside City Council commissioned WATER ECOscience to develop management options for the lake in 2001. More recently, Friends of Native Wildlife Inc has expressed concern that the large resident populations of Eastern Gambusia are eating the tadpoles of Striped Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes peronii*) that, until 2017, were quite common in the north-eastern corner of the lake. The capacity of Eastern Gambusia to exterminate native frogs from Australian water ways have been reported on in the past [14] [15].



Figure 14. Surrounds of Basterfield Lake, showing the dominance of the parkland by exotic trees and shrubs (Dodo Environmental)

The main water supply to the lake is bore water (licenced by Southern Rural Water), but it also receives a small amount of local runoff from the surrounding catchment and, of course, direct inputs via rain falling on the lake surface. The lake is kept permanently filled with water, in large part for aesthetic reasons.



Figure 15. Vietnam Memorial cross in Basterfield Lake (Wave Consulting Australia)

There is no on-water recreation at this lake, but there is substantial passive and active recreation surrounding the lake including tennis courts, playgrounds, and walking trails. There is also a Vietnam Veterans Memorial (white cross) in the lake near the western edge, and lake is often a gathering place for ceremonies and events to commemorate those who served in the Vietnam War (Figure 15).

4.2 Catchment analysis

Basterfield Lake drains a 166-ha catchment in the suburbs of Highett and Cheltenham. The catchment is assumed to be approximately 60% impervious (i.e. a typical urban catchment).

Stormwater from this catchment does not flow directly into the lake but is piped around the lake. The lake is instead filled with bore water, for which the BCC has a licence from Southern Rural Water.

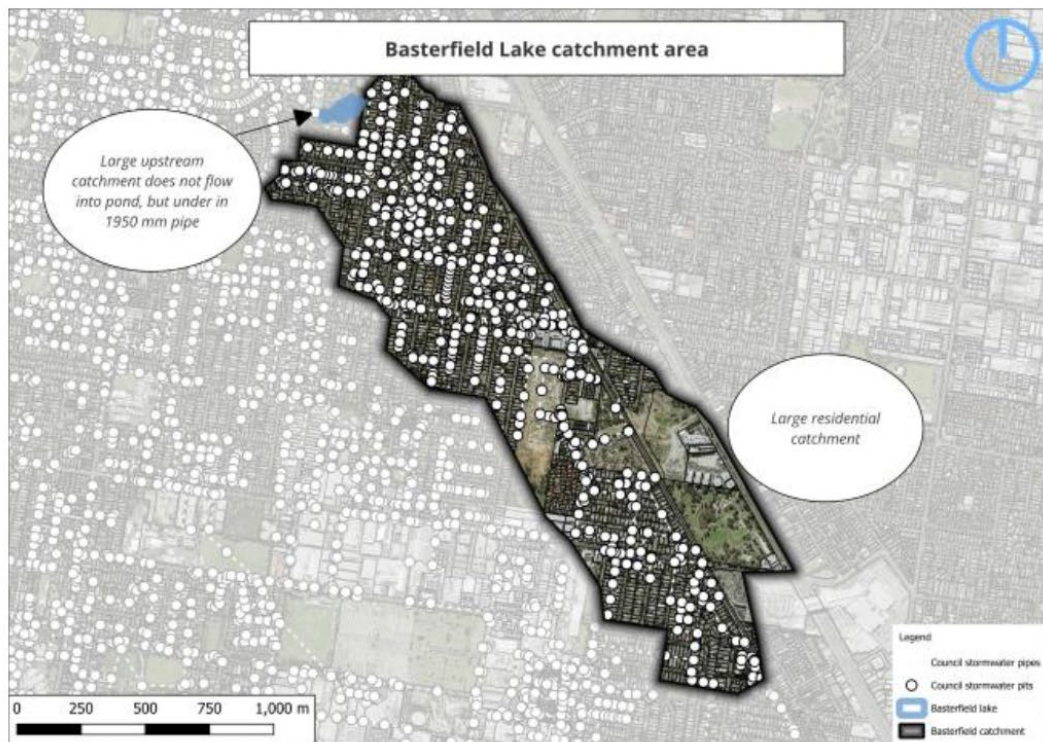


Figure 16. Catchments upstream of Basterfield Lake, with council drainage infrastructure (Wave Consulting).

4.3 Lake bathymetry and sediment accumulation

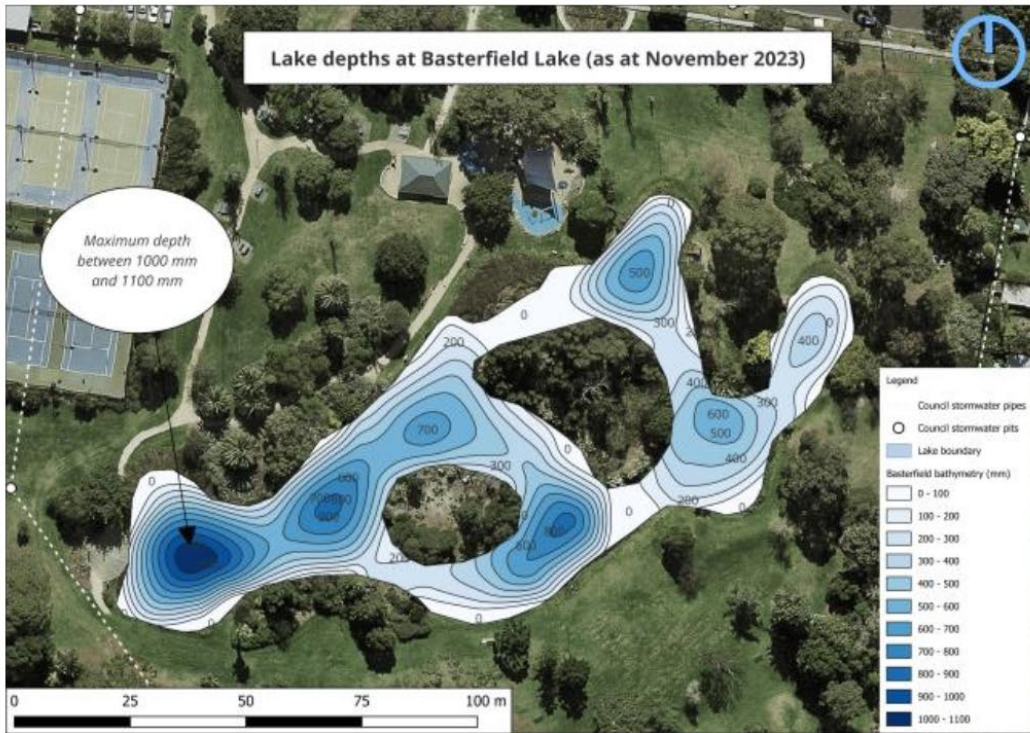


Figure 17. Basterfield lake bathymetry

As shown in Figure 17, the maximum depth of the lake was between 1000 and 1100 mm in the far west area near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (white cross). The western half of the lake was generally deeper than the eastern half of the lake, with maximum depth in the far east section was around 600 mm.

Figure 18 shows that maximum sediment accumulation occurred in the area of the greatest water depth, with maximum sediment accumulation (approximately 500 mm) in the western part of the lake. There was also significant sediment accumulation in the southeast section of the lake.

Based on the Secchi Disk results, water turbidity was clearly better at Basterfield than Elsternwick Park South Lake, which is consistent with the fact that it is supplied with bore water and has less wind disturbance.

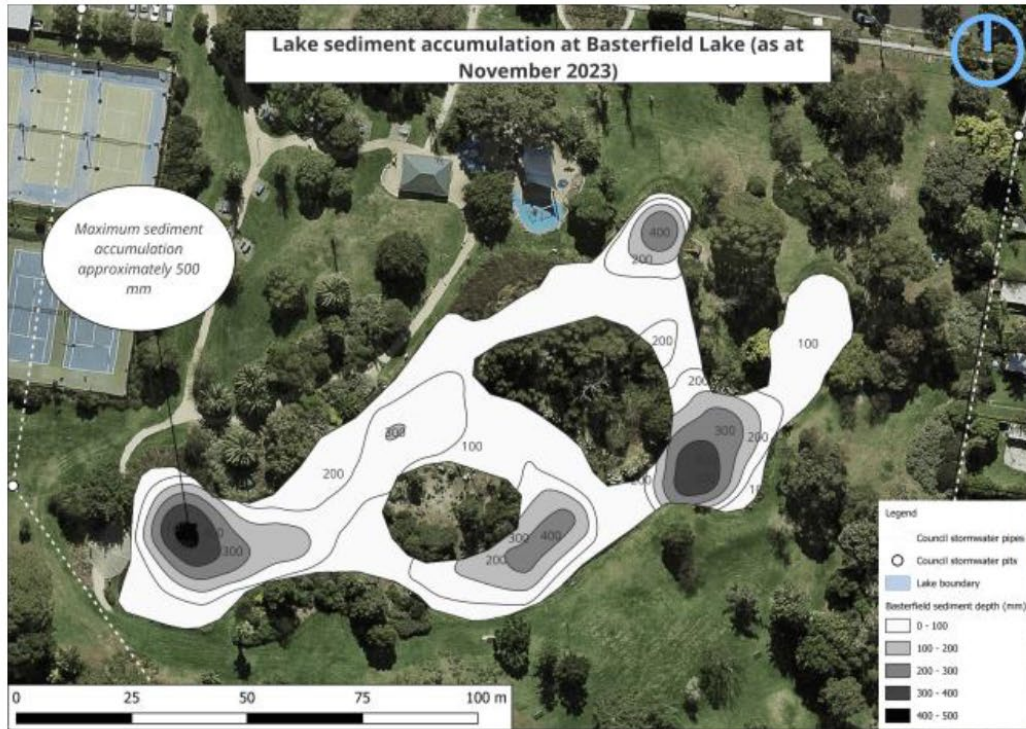


Figure 18. Basterfield lake sediment accumulation

4.4 Water quality: algal counts

Table 5 collates all the algal-monitoring data for Basterfield Lake for the seven divisions of algae that were analysed for since monitoring began in 2012. Tables 2 and 3, presented previously, showed a summary of these data. The most abundant algal group was Chlorophyta, similar to the other lakes (Table 2). However, one notable difference was that Bacillariophyta (Diatoms) were the second-most abundant algal group only in Basterfield Lake (Tables 2 and 3).

Table 5. Collation of available algal-monitoring data 2012–2023, showing relative abundance of various divisions of phytoplankton in Basterfield Lake

Date	Algal abundance						
	Cyanophyta (Blue green algae)	Chlorophyta (Green algae)	Bacillariophyta (Diatoms)	Cryptophyta (Cryptomonads)	Dinophyta (Dinoflagellates)	Euglenophyta (Euglenoids)	Chrysophyta (Golden-brown algae)
Nov 2012	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Dec 2012	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Jan 2013	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Mar 2013	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Apr 2013	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Nov 2013	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Dec 2013	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Jan 2014	Yellow*	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Mar 2014	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Mar 2014	Yellow	Yellow*	Yellow*	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Nov 2014	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Dec 2014	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Feb 2015	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Apr 2015	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Nov 2015	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow

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Jan 2016		*					
Jan 2016							
Nov 2016							
Feb 2017							
Mar 2017							
May 2017							
Nov 2017		*					
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Jan 2018		*					
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Jan 2023							
Oct 2023							
Dec 2023		*					

Colour coding: **Red** = A = Abundant (>50,000 cells mL⁻¹); **Orange** = C = Common (5,000–50,000 cells mL⁻¹); **Yellow** = F = Frequent (500–5,000 cells mL⁻¹); **White** = Occasional, Rare, Not Present or Not Recorded (<500 cells mL⁻¹) * = upgraded to next abundance category because 3 or more taxa recorded a 'F' score per algal group

In comparison with the other water bodies, there is also a greater diversity of algal groups that occur periodically at high abundances in Basterfield Lake. Unlike the other lakes, Basterfield Lake has phytoplankton communities that at various times could have high abundances of Green algae (93%), Blue-green algae (45%), Diatoms (84%) and, on occasions, of Cryptomonads (32%), Dinoflagellates (25%), Euglenoids (27%) or even of Golden-brown algae (12%): see Table 2.

4.5 Vegetation

Although earlier photographs of the lake (~2001) show large areas of open water devoid of aquatic or fringing vegetation, very large areas of Basterfield Lake, especially around the shallow edges, are now vegetated with a dense mosaic of sedges and/or club-rushes (probably Marsh Club-rush *Bolboschoenus caldwellii* and River Club-rush *Schoenoplectus validus/S.tabernaemontani*) as shown in Figure 19.



Figure 19. Dense sedges and/or club-rushes (Dodo Environmental)

Smaller areas of Water Ribbons (*Cyanogeton procerum*, formerly *Triglochin procerum*) are also present, and provide high-value bird habitat. The native water lily *Villarsia reniformis* is present along the shallow margins (Figure 20). The planting list provided for the 2002 rehabilitation of Basterfield Park Lake by Wetland Ecosystems includes submerged aquatic plants such as the Swamp Lily (*Ottelia ovalifolia*), two species of pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.) and Eel Grass (*Vallisneria spiralis*, now *Vallisneria australis*). It is not clear how many of these plantings have survived.



Figure 20. Native water lily, *Villarsia reniformis* (Dodo Environmental)

Native she-oaks (*Casuarina* or *Allocasuarina* spp.) generate a dense woodland along some of the shoreline of the island in the lake (Figure 21).



Figure 21. Native she-oaks, *Casuarina* or *Allocasuarina* spp. (Dodo Environmental)

The lake and surrounding parkland support a wide range of exotic plant species, some of which are recognised weeds. The semi-aquatic Yellow Flag-iris (*Iris pseudacarus*) forms extensive stands in the shallow-water margins of the lake (Figure 22). Yellow Flag-iris is listed in the *Advisory List of Environmental Weeds of Aquatic Habitats of Victoria* (Department of Sustainability and Environment 2009), but only as a 'low-risk' species.



Figure 22. Semi-aquatic Yellow Flag-iris, *Iris pseudacarus* (Dodo Environmental)

The introduced Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) forms visually obvious stands in near-shore areas (Figure 23). It is likely that this species is regarded highly by the community on aesthetic (and perhaps historical) grounds. However, Pampas Grass is listed in the *Advisory List of Environmental Weeds in Victoria* [16]. It is described as 'highly invasive', with a rapid rate of dispersal (by the production of copious amounts of wind-blown seed) and has a 'high' risk rating as an environmental weed.



Figure 23. Pampas Grass, *Cortaderia selloana* (Dodo Environmental)

The water lilies in the lake are probably also introduced taxa but again are likely to be judged an attractive feature of the lake by the community (Figure 24).

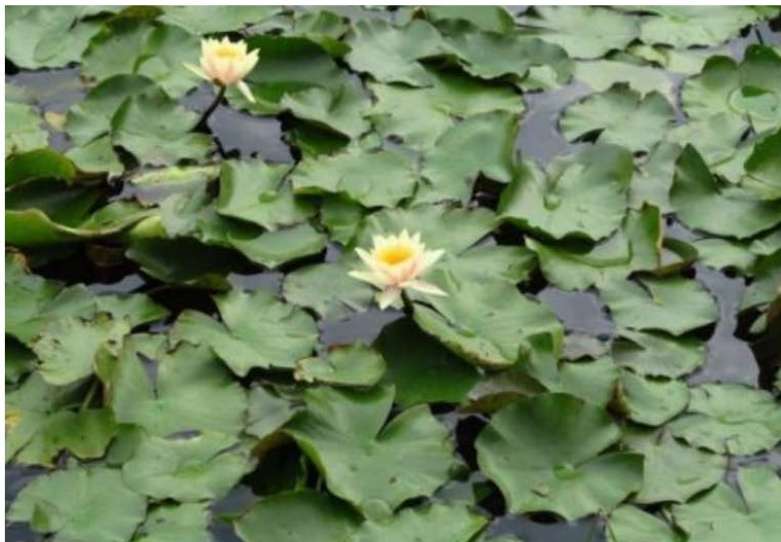


Figure 24. Water lilies (Dodo Environmental)

In terms of vegetation (vascular plants and algae), the main risks to the biodiversity of Basterfield Lake are as follows:

- weeds, both aquatic (e.g. Yellow Flag-iris) and terrestrial (e.g. Pampas Grass)
- dense growth of tall emergent aquatic plants along the shoreline (e.g. Marsh Club-rush and River Club-rush) that form an undesirable 'guiding image' for recreational users of the adjacent park
- public perception of poor water quality, due to either algal blooms or water cloudiness.

4.6 Summary of current condition and values

The figure below is a qualitative assessment of the values for Basterfield Park in its current condition (Figure 13).

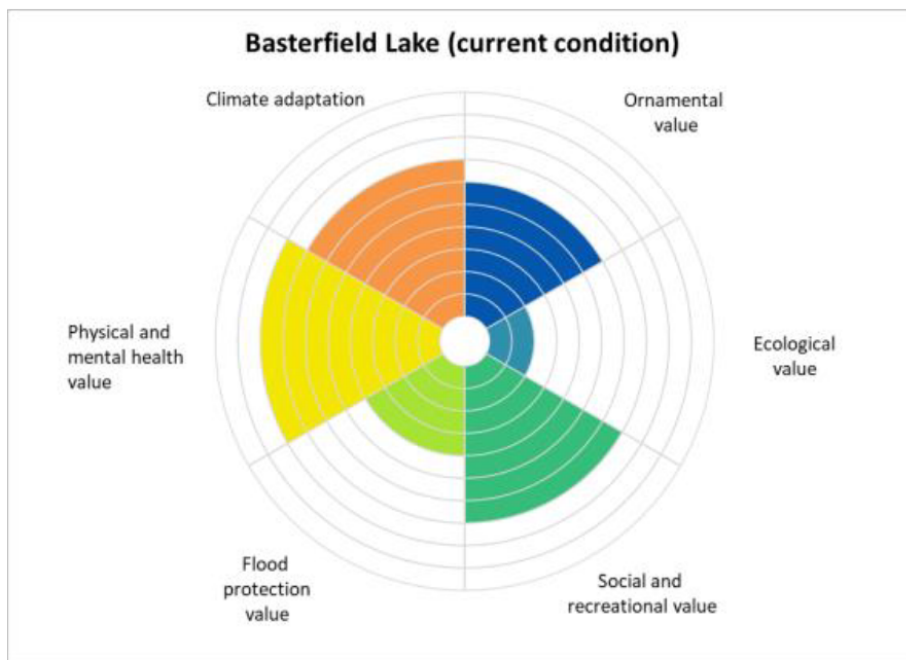


Figure 25. Basterfield Park initial ratings of current condition (Wave Consulting and Dodo Environmental).

This assessment is based on the following observations:

- The lake is prized for its ornamental value but is currently considered by many locals messy and unkept due to the extensive coverage of emergent aquatic along the edges of the lake.
- The lake has no stormwater-retarding function and hence scores very poorly for flood protection.
- The lake has exotic fish, some of which are highly invasive, such as Carp and Eastern Gambusia. There are many species of introduced plants, both aquatic (e.g., Yellow Flag-iris, exotic water lilies) and terrestrial (e.g., Pampas Grass).
- The lake and the area around it are well used and attract people for various types of passive recreation and active sports.
- People also relax, play with their children and picnic around the lake, and gather at the Vietnam memorial, thus rendering a high physical/mental health score for the reserve.
- The lake’s size (and large terrestrial trees) provides microclimate cooling effects for visitors.

4.7 Vision and management objectives

Central to all management plans is the establishment of an 'ecological yardstick' that provides a picture of what the end result of the intervention should look like [17]. Some people call this yardstick a 'goal', others a 'guiding image' [18] [19]. This 'guiding image' informs the question fundamental to all lake management plans: "What do we want the lake to look like?"

Some fringing vegetation forms a positive (desirable) guiding image for Basterfield Park Lake, as shown in Figure 26.



Figure 26. Desirable fringing vegetation: visually attractive plants that do not totally dominate the lake's edge (Dodo Environmental)

In contrast, other fringing vegetation around the lake provides a negative (undesirable) guiding image (i.e. an inaccessible shoreline dominated by dense swards of tall emergent aquatic vegetation), as shown in Figure 27.



Figure 27. Undesirable fringing vegetation: dense expanses of emergent aquatic plants (Dodo Environmental)

When setting the vision and related management objectives, it is crucial to remember that Basterfield Lake was designed and built in the 1950s for use by the local community as an ornamental lake.

The guiding vision for Basterfield Lake is to improve general appearance and aesthetics to enhance ornamental qualities in the short-term and improved biodiversity and ecological function in the long-term within the context of the primary function of the water body being an ornamental lake in a recreational reserve.

To meet this vision, the management plan has the following objectives:

- increase aesthetic enjoyment of the lake by removing some areas of dense emergent aquatic vegetation and improving edge conditions and access
- reduce invasive species in the lake, particularly Carp and Eastern Gambusia.

4.8 Management options

4.8.1 Short-term options

Priority works at Basterfield Lake are focused on managing and reducing the density of fringing aquatic vegetation.

Other works that will support the vision are:

- a reduction in the number of large Carp in the lake
- maintenance of the bore and associated minerals is important and a short-term priority. An option to relocate the bore to another site is being considered, with a new depth, which might decrease the current concentration of iron in the bore water.
- ongoing monitoring of water quality and sediment depth is important.

4.8.2 Methods to control fringing aquatic vegetation

In principle, there a number of options available for managing problematic aquatic vegetation. However, some options are better for some species than others and work better at some sites than others. Furthermore, control methods developed for terrestrial plants are often not suitable for aquatic plants.

Control approaches include:

- manual removal
- physical control
- reducing light levels by mulching or smothering to lessen photosynthesis and thus plant productivity
- chemical control using herbicides
- biological control, which can range from the introduction of pathogens , or small herbivores such as sap-sucking or leaf-eating insects, to the focussed application of grazing pressure with domestic stock
- reduction of nutrient availability or altered water regimes
- use of competitive planting to 'crowd out' the unwanted vegetation.

Table 4 summarises the range of approaches available to control problematic aquatic vegetation in urban lakes and identifies those methods likely to be best suited to Basterfield Park lake. The collation and subsequent assessment is couched in general terms and draws heavily upon existing reviews [20] [21] [22] [23] [24] [25]. Only the “cutting and drowning” method is likely to be suitable at Basterfield Park Lake.

It is recommended that a trial be undertaken of this approach to vegetation control in Basterfield Lake and if the results are positive, the method be applied to other areas of the lake where beds of emergent aquatic plants are deemed to be too dense and too wide. However, it is important to stress that the fringing areas of emergent plants provide highly valuable aquatic habitat (e.g., for frogs) and should not be eradicated completely from the lake.

Table 4. Collation of general approaches for controlling problematic aquatic vegetation in urban lakes, with an assessment of those best suited, in principle, to Basterfield Park Lake.

General approach	Specific activities required	Suitability to Basterfield Park Lake ¹	Explanatory notes and main reasons for unsuitability
Manual removal	Hand weeding		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tedious and very labour intensive

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General approach	Specific activities required	Suitability to Basterfield Park Lake ¹	Explanatory notes and main reasons for unsuitability
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally not suitable for robust rhizomatous plants Rapid regrowth from remaining rhizomes unless all below-ground biomass is removed
	Dredging of wetland sediments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serious disturbance to wetland (and adjacent parkland) environment Wide range of adverse impacts on non-target organisms Adverse impacts arising from sediment disturbance (e.g. liberation of toxicants)
	Disking or crushing below-ground material		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not suitable for aquatic vegetation covered with water
Physical control	Steaming		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tedious and very labour intensive Unsuitable for large infestations of weeds (i.e. mostly suitable for spot eradication) Generally not suitable for robust rhizomatous plants
Chemical control	Herbicides		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually non-selective (unless spot or hand application used) Potential broader impacts on stream environment (e.g. bacteria, algae, fish, frogs) Difficult to apply in areas with strong human visitation Potential operator/public hazards (e.g. exposure to toxic chemicals)
Fire	Control or spot burns		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult to implement unless water levels are very low Difficult to apply in densely built-up urban areas Potential operator/public hazards (e.g. smoke)
Biological control	Insect herbivores		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control agents not yet identified for Australian conditions
	Stock grazing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not suitable for densely built-up urban areas
	Riparian shading		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult to implement Reduces streamside access for recreation etc Provision of habitat for undesirable animal species (e.g. foxes)
Plant competition	Outcompete undesirable plants by encouraging other species		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low chances of success On-going weed management still required Species present in Basterfield lake are generally considered as 'desirable' already
Solarisation	Cover plants with opaque plastic sheeting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally not suitable for robust rhizomatous plants
Reduce nutrient availability	Improved catchment management		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult to apply in densely built-up urban areas

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General approach	Specific activities required	Suitability to Basterfield Park Lake ¹	Explanatory notes and main reasons for unsuitability
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrient interception the responsibility of other agencies (e.g. Melbourne Water)
Increase salinity	Exceed salinity tolerance of adult plants		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impossible to apply in densely built-up urban areas without good access to the ocean
Hydrological manipulations	Water-level manipulations resulting in either (i) extended or deepened flooding or (ii) prolonged drying period		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires substantial infrastructure to control water levels Potential adverse impacts on desirable fauna (e.g. frogs, fish, waterbirds) Prolonged desiccation unlikely to be successful unless severe Resident back-lash from odours and aesthetic values
Cutting and drowning	Two options: (i) cut aerial shoots below water line and maintain high water levels or (ii) temporarily lower water levels, cut aerial shoots above water line, then raise water levels to drown cut shoots		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires substantial infrastructure to control water levels Sometimes difficult to implement Large amounts of material require to be taken off-site if <i>in situ</i> decomposition is considered undesirable Possible adverse effects on soil properties and water quality (e.g. oxygen depletion) Length of time required to maintain high water levels and so drown cut plants is not well known

¹ Methods likely to be suitable are indicated with green cells; those likely to be unsuitable with red cells; and those of indeterminate suitability with orange cells.

4.8.3 Methods to control Carp and Eastern Gambusia

The control of Eastern Gambusia in urban lakes is extremely difficult [26] [27] and at present no control options seem suitable for Basterfield Lake.

On the other hand, there are a number of techniques for controlling Carp in affected waterways [28]. Interventions tend to focus on population control rather than on impact reduction, particularly for public water bodies with substantial populations of large adult fish. A number of population-control measures are possible, including the following:

- physical removal
 - active netting
 - passive trapping
 - electrofishing
 - angling (not catch and release!)
- water-regime manipulation
 - fully draining affected water bodies so adult fish desiccate and die
 - partially draining affected water bodies so large fish can be captured and removed
- poisoning with fish toxins, e.g., rotenone
- introduction of native piscivorous fish to prey on young Carp
- emerging biological control agents, such as Spring Viraemia Carp Virus, immunocontraception and the introduction of sterility-causing genes into an established population.

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As with methods for vegetation control, some of these possibilities are more viable than others and some are unrealistic at this stage (e.g., most methods of biological control) or have highly undesirable side-effects (e.g., whole-of-lake draining without the removal of the dead fish). The advice of a specialist in fish biology and management should be sought to advise on the methods most suitable for the control of Carp in Basterfield Lake.

Regardless of the control measure indicated, it is likely that the removal of large Carp from the lake will have considerable ecological (and wider environmental) benefits that last a number of years, until the remaining small individual have grown in size to again pose a significant ecological threat. Notwithstanding such interventions, stakeholders should not develop lofty ambitions that Carp (or Eastern Gambusia) can be controlled effectively in this lake: multiple interventions long into the future are likely required.

4.8.4 Long-term options

In the longer term, it would be useful to consider another platform at the eastern end of the lake to further enhance enjoyment of the lake by:

- providing an elevated vantage point, allowing people to enjoy panoramic views of the lake and its surroundings
- bringing visitors closer to the water, allowing them to feel more connected to the natural environment
- serving as a place for relaxation and recreation
- becoming a focal point for social gatherings, events, or community activities. People may be drawn to the area to enjoy picnics, small gatherings, or events by the water, fostering a sense of community and shared enjoyment
- improving accessibility to the lake,
- making it easier for people to enjoy the water without disturbing the natural habitat.

Pending more investigation into the vegetation health, diversity and sensitivity on the islands, it may be worth considering a dedicated bridge that provides good access to the island.

In the long-term it may be worth considering if BCC should transition off bore water, due to potential impurities, minerals, or contaminants that can affect water quality, to treated stormwater.



Figure 28. Options (short and long term) at Basterfield Lake.

4.9 Impact on values

If all short- and long-term options were implemented, there would be an increase in the ornamental value of the lake, as well as a small increases in the ecological value, and the social and recreational value, as shown below in Figure 29.

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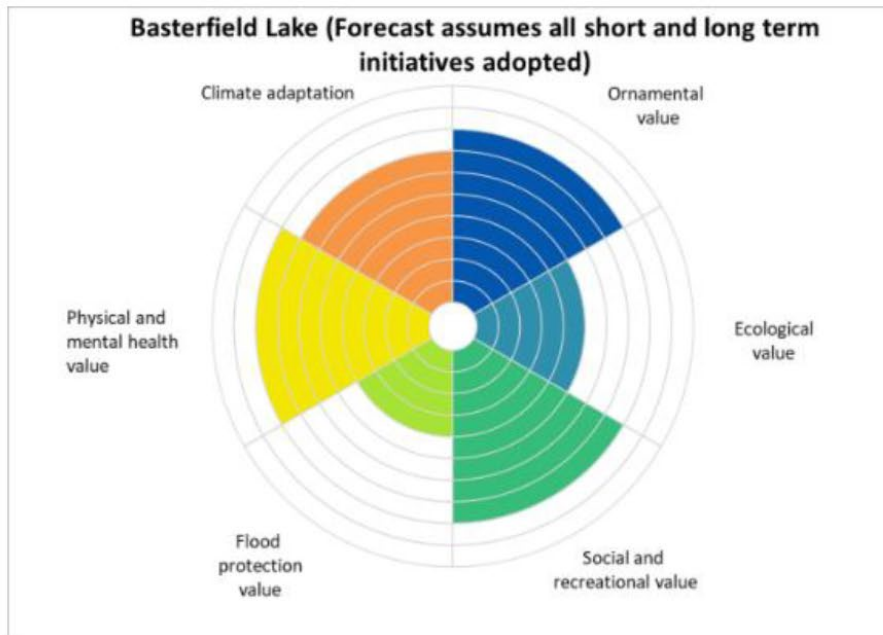


Figure 29. Forecast change to values at Basterfield Lake if short-and long-term initiatives are implemented.

5 Pobblebonk Pond

5.1 General description of the lake

Pobblebonk Pond is a small ornamental pond located in an area of open space adjacent to George Street, Sandringham. It is very close (< 10 m) to the adjacent and recent housing development. The pond is filled via stormwater from the nearby residential area. The area was believed to be a natural wetland swamp in pre-European times. Over the years, parts of the local area, such as Merindah Park has been used as a sand quarry and then a municipal tip site.

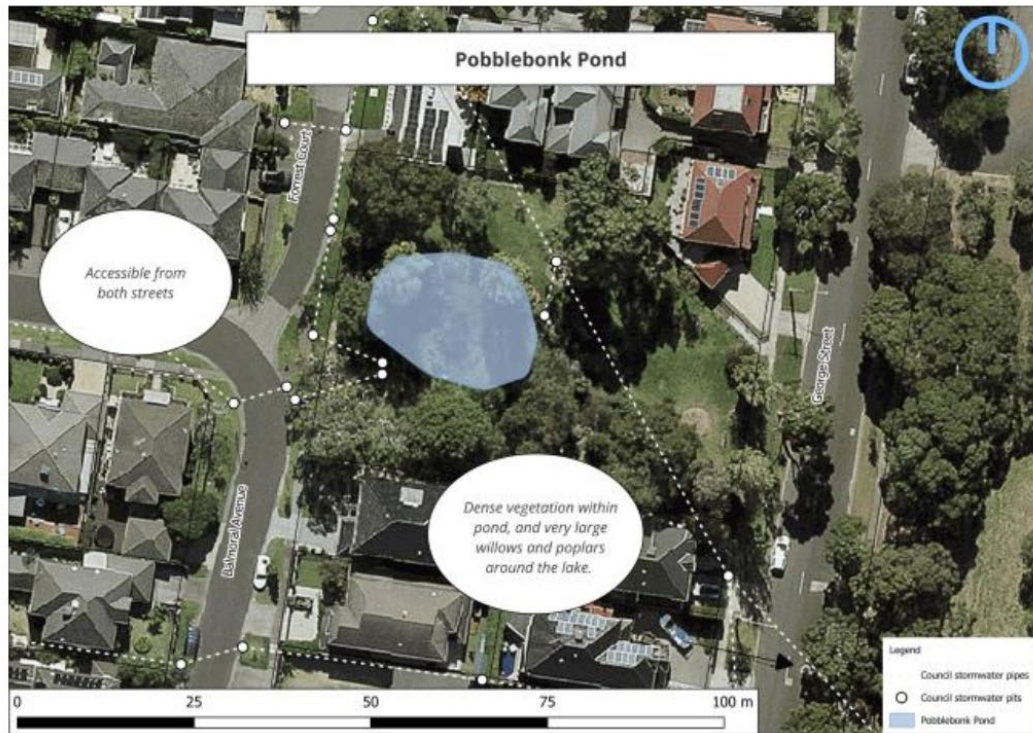


Figure 30. Pobblebonk Pond

Australia's largest lead-acid battery factory operated on the site from at least 1948 until 1989 (Figure 31). In the 1960s, a four-storey lead-recycling facility was constructed on the site, and this led to atmospheric contamination with the heavy metal lead. In 1989, the land was sold to a property developer and then developed into a housing estate [29].



Figure 31. Lead-acid battery factory on the site of the Pobblebonk Pond Wetland, 1970s (Source: <https://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/bayside/Sandringham/19914.html>)

Bayside City Council commissioned WATER ECOscience to develop management options for the pond in 2004. This report identified contaminants within the pond sediments and following a subsequent assessment and report by Noel Arnold and Associates in late 2004, the pond was drained, and a large quantity of contaminated 'sludge' was removed from the pond. The pond was later refilled and revegetated with indigenous aquatic and semiaquatic macrophytes.

More recently, Friends of Native Wildlife Inc has expressed concern that the poplars (*Populus* spp.) that surround areas of the pond on the edges of the reserve have been slated for removal but remain and are spreading via suckers. The willow (*Salix* spp.) that dominates the south-eastern end of the pond has also reported increased markedly in size over recent years, to the point where it now dominates (and shades out) that section of the water body.

5.2 Catchment analysis

Pobblebonk Pond drains a 0.9 ha catchment in Sandringham. An analysis of the catchment indicates that it includes nine houses. A larger catchment is located upstream of the pond, but the stormwater drains from this area bypass the pond and so do not contribute stormwater to it.

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Figure 32. Catchments upstream of Pobblebonk Pond, with council drainage infrastructure (Wave Consulting).

5.3 Lake bathymetry and sediment accumulation

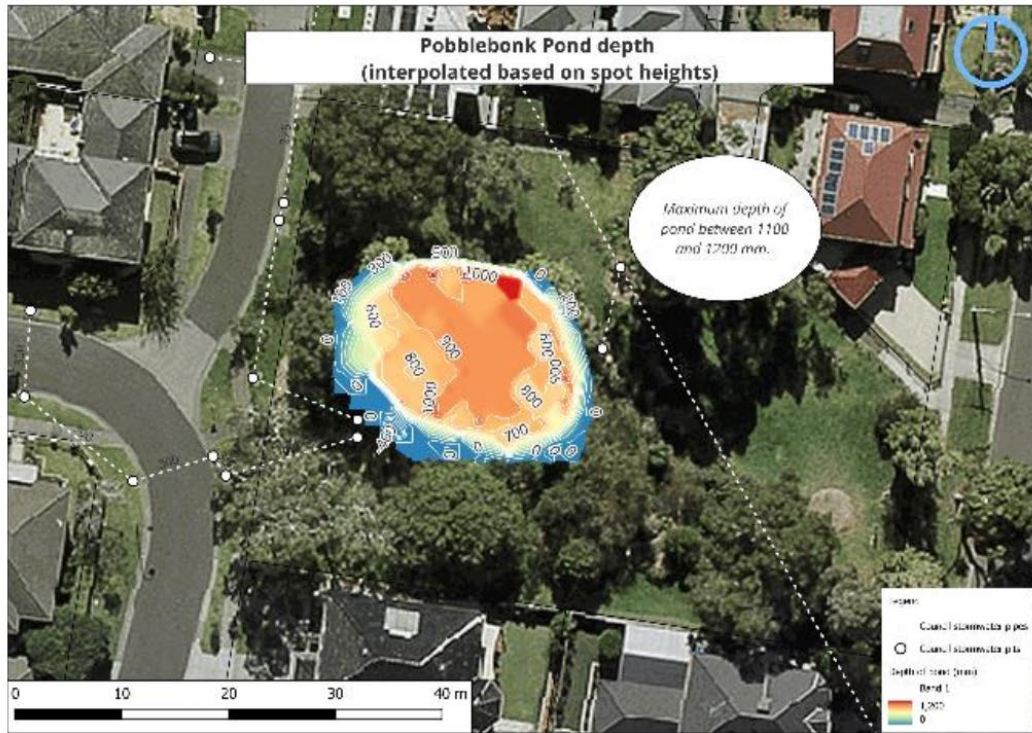


Figure 33. Pobblebonk lake bathymetry

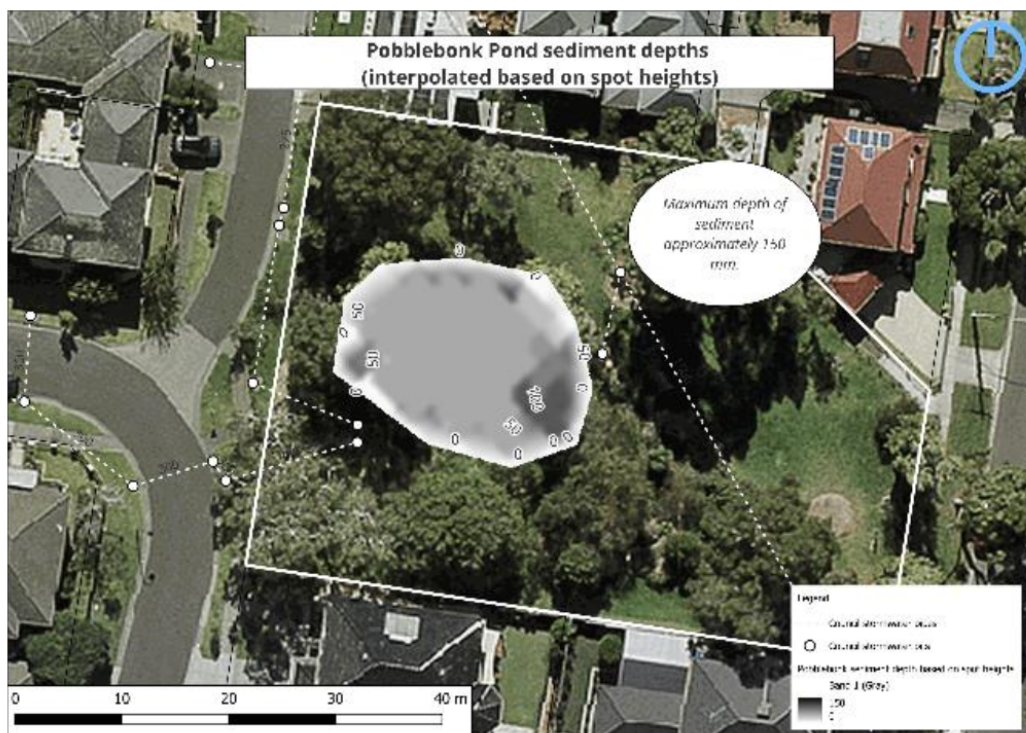


Figure 34. Pobblebonk lake sediment accumulation

As shown in Figure 34, there is a small amount of sediment accumulation in the eastern end of the pond.

5.4 Water quality: algal counts

Table 5 collates all the algal-monitoring data for Pobblebonk Pond for the seven divisions of algae that were analysed for since monitoring began in 2012. Tables 2 and 3, presented previously, showed a summary of these data. As noted earlier in Section 2.3, the most striking point is how different Pobblebonk Pond is from the other water bodies. In Pobblebonk Pond, Cryptophyta (Cryptomonads) were the second-most abundant group (39%), after the Green algae (50%) when the assessment criterion was abundances of Frequent or above (Table 2). Unlike the other water bodies, Dinophyta (Dinoflagellates), Euglenophyta (Euglenoids) and Chrysophyta (Golden-brown algae) were almost never present at high abundances in Pobblebonk Lake (<3% of all observations since 2012: Table 2).

Not only were the algal assemblages different in floristic terms, but Pobblebonk Pond often had among the lowest algal abundances recorded during the monitoring period. This is most obvious in Table 3, which shows that in only 3% of observations were Green algae detected as abundances of Common or above.

In summary, Pobblebonk Pond supports a wide diversity of different types of algae, but always as small numbers of individuals. It is almost certain that this idiosyncratic phytoplankton assemblage is a function of the very dense beds of tall rhizomatous aquatic plants that dominate the pond (see Section 5.5, below).

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Table 5. Collation of available algal-monitoring data 2012–2023, showing relative abundance of various divisions of phytoplankton in Pobblebonk Pond

Date	Algal abundance						
	Cyanophyta (Blue green algae)	Chlorophyta (Green algae)	Bacillariophyta (Diatoms)	Cryptophyta (Cryptomonads)	Dinophyta (Dinoflagellates)	Euglenophyta (Euglenoids)	Chrysophyta (Golden-brown algae)
Nov 2012 ¹							
Dec 2012	Yellow	Yellow		Yellow			Orange
Nov 2013		Yellow					
Dec 2013							
Jan 2014		Yellow					
Nov 2014	Yellow						
Dec 2014	Yellow	Yellow					
Feb 2015		Yellow					
Apr 2015		Yellow					
Dec 2016		Yellow		Yellow			
Jan 2017		Yellow		Yellow			
Feb 2017							
May 2017		Yellow		Yellow			
Nov 2017							
Dec 2017		Orange		Orange			
Jan 2018	Yellow			Red			
Nov 2019		Yellow					
Dec 2019		Yellow					
Jan 2020		Yellow		Yellow			
Feb 2020							
Mar 2020							
Apr 2020	Yellow	Yellow					
Nov 2020	Yellow	Yellow					
Dec 2020							
Jan 2021	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow			
Feb 2021			Yellow	Yellow			
Apr 2021			Yellow	Yellow			
Dec 2021		Yellow	Yellow	Yellow			
Jan 2022			Yellow	Yellow			
Feb 2022							
Mar 2022 ²							
Nov 2022 ³	Yellow			Yellow			
Dec 2022		Yellow	Yellow	Yellow			
Jan 2023	Yellow		Yellow	Yellow			
Oct 2023							
Dec 2023							

Colour coding: **Red** = A = Abundant (>50,000 cells mL⁻¹); **Orange** = C = Common (5,000–50,000 cells mL⁻¹); **Yellow** = F = Frequent (500–5,000 cells mL⁻¹); **White** = Occasional, Rare, Not Present or Not Recorded (<500 cells mL⁻¹)

* = upgraded to next abundance category because 3 or more taxa recorded a 'F' score per algal group

¹ Other flagellates: Frequent to Common

² Other small flagellates: Common

³ Other small flagellates: Occasional to Frequent

5.5 Flora and fauna

Pobblebonk Pond is one of the few known habitats of the Eastern Banjo or 'Pobblebonk' Frog (*Limnodynastes dumerili*) within the City of Bayside. As with Tulip Street Pond, this is almost certainly linked with the presence of large areas of dense aquatic vegetation, including very robust Tall Spike-rush (*Eleocharis sphacelata*) and knotweeds (*Persicaria* spp.) (Figure 35). Other taxa of tall, rhizomatous semi-aquatic plants occur around the fringe of the pond, including Water Ribbons (*Cycnogeton procerum*) and Tall Sedge (*Carex appressa*) (Figure

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36). One specimen of what is likely to be Tall Flat-sedge (*Cyperus exaltatus*) was observed during the site inspection of October 2023. In addition to Pobblebonk Frogs, other frog species have been reported on and off for this pond by Friends of Native Wildlife Inc, including Southern Brown Tree Frog (*Litoria ewingi*).



Figure 35. Tall Spike-rush (*Eleocharis sphacelata*) and knotweeds (*Persicaria spp.*) (Dodo Environmental)



Figure 36. Water Ribbons (*Cynogeton procerum*) and Tall Sedge (*Carex appressa*) (Dodo Environmental)

As well as these native plants, a wide range of exotic plants grow around the pond, including willow (Figure 37) and the White Arum-lily, *Zantedeschia aethiopica* (Figure 38). White Arum-lily is listed in the *Advisory List of Environmental Weeds in Victoria* [16]. It is described as 'highly invasive' and received a 'very high' risk rating as an environmental weed, with extensive potential for further spread. As such, it is a priority weed at this location, especially given the other high biodiversity values of the pond (e.g. for frogs).



Figure 37. Willow in the south-eastern section of the pond (Dodo Environmental)



Figure 38. White Arum-lily, *Zantedeschia aethiopica* (Dodo Environmental)

The main risks to the biodiversity of Pobblebonk Pond are as follows:

1. exotic plants, both semi-aquatic (e.g. White Arum-lily) and terrestrial (e.g. willows, poplars)
2. Dense growth into open-water areas by robust emergent aquatic plants such as Tall Spike-rush
3. contamination of sediments with a number of toxicants, probably as a legacy of prior industrial use as a battery factory (see Table 1)
4. possibility that small, isolated ponds become 'urban traps' for frogs [30]
5. the reliance on a single stormwater drain drawing water from a very small local catchment as the pond's only water supply, especially in a drying climate such as that projected for Melbourne over coming decades: spring rainfall, for example, is projected to decrease by 5% and 19% for 2030 and 2090, respectively [3].

5.6 Current conditions and values

The figure below (Figure 39) is a qualitative assessment of the values for Pobblebonk Pond in its current condition.

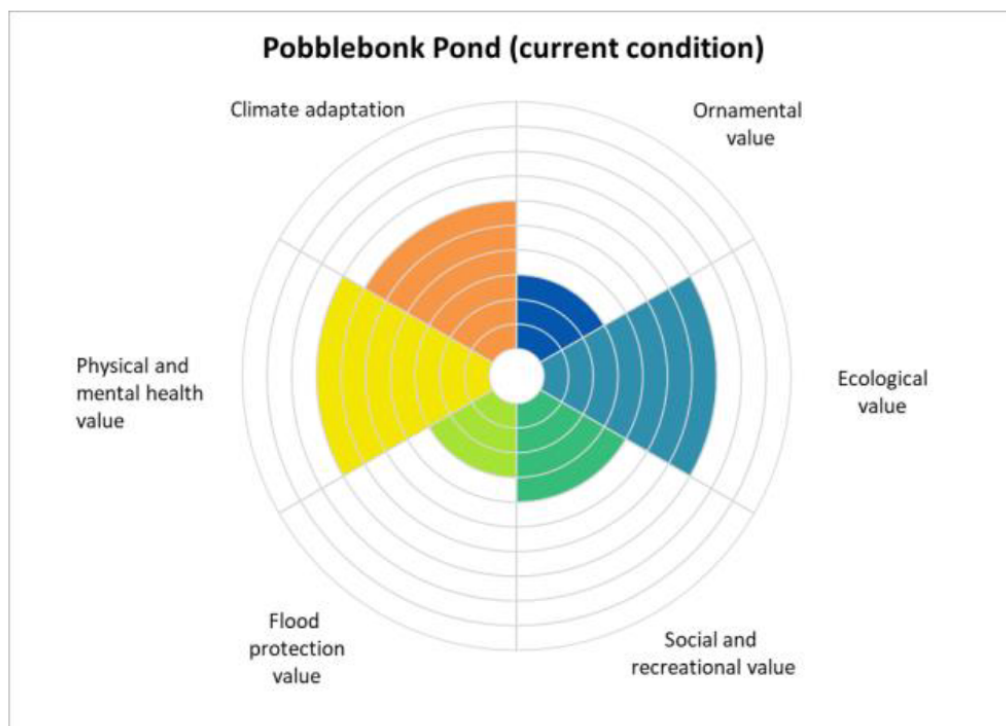


Figure 39. Pobblebonk Pond initial ratings of current condition (Wave Consulting and Dodo Environmental).

This assessment is based on the following observations:

- The lake is one of the few known habitats of the Banjo or 'Pobblebonk' Frog within the City of Bayside, but there are also several non-native and invasive plant species present.
- The sediments are contaminated with a range of heavy-metal toxicants, particularly lead (see Table 2).
- The lake has no stormwater-retarding function and hence scores very poorly for flood protection.
- The lake has limited places to gather and no recreation amenities.
- The sounds of the Pobblebonk frog add to the mental health score for the lake.

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- The large terrestrial trees, although mostly exotic (e.g., willows, poplars etc) at the site provide some microclimate cooling effects for visitors.

5.7 Vision and management objectives

As one of the few consistent habitats of the Eastern Banjo or 'Pobblebonk' Frog within the City of Bayside, combined with the dense growth of native aquatic plants, Pobblebonk Pond is highly valued for its biodiversity values. It is also unique among the four water bodies examined in this investigation in terms of its history as a massive industrial site (i.e., Australia's largest lead-acid battery factory) and in the persisting contamination (i.e., lead concentration in sediment, probably also antimony, zinc, and to a lesser extent, copper and mercury) that arises from this past use. There are also numerous exotic and invasive plant species within and surrounding the lake. This combination of features presents a unique management challenge as the BCC must consider the pros and cons of removing the contaminated sediment and exotic, often invasive, plants while also minimising impact on frog habitat.

As described earlier (Section 4.7), when setting the management vision and related objectives, it is essential to have first established a 'guiding vision' of what the water body should look like.

The guiding vision for Pobblebonk Pond is to maintain high-quality wetland habitat for the Eastern Banjo or 'Pobblebonk' Frog while improving the biodiversity and ecological function of the pond by removing, where possible, exotic vegetation, subject to the constraints of significant sediment contamination, especially with antimony, lead and zinc.

To meet this vision, the management plan has the following objectives:

- minimise disturbance of current frog habitat, on the dual ground of (i) this may entail removal of emergent aquatic vegetation and (ii) such actions will disturb contaminated sediments
- reduce the abundance of non-native, potentially invasive vegetation such as willow and poplars
- minimal removal of sediment accumulated within the first two metres of the headwall near Forrest Court (western side of lake) to reduce blockages
- NO sediment disturbance or removal in other areas of the lake, especially near George St, due to contamination with a range of heavy metals, most especially lead but also including antimony and zinc and to a lesser, extent, copper and mercury, pending further specialist advice on dealing with heavily contaminated sediments.

5.8 Management options

5.8.1 Short-term options

For Pobblebonk Pond, short-term works primarily focus on managing existing vegetation. Careful pruning of the large willow in the south-eastern end of the pond is a priority; pruning rather than complete removal is important in light of significant sediment contamination noted above and the likelihood that removal will disturb sediments and possibly liberate the accumulated toxicants. It will also be important to ensure frogs under the pruned willow continue to have suitable high-quality habitat provided by dense beds of tall emergent aquatic plants and to remove exotic shrubs and ground-layer vegetation around the pond.

Other short-term options include restoration of the existing signs that are currently buried deep in the wetland and surrounded (and made invisible) by the dense aquatic vegetation, as well as management of litter and limited sediment clean out to reduce blocking of inflows.

5.8.2 Long-term options

Long-term initiatives focus on continued vegetation management to control exotic and invasive species. Central to these actions is the removal, in the long-term, of the poplars that have grown up around the edges

of the reserve and are possibly spreading via root suckers. At this stage, it is NOT recommended that the adult Loquat trees (*Eriobotrya japonica*) be removed despite their being exotic on the grounds that their fruit provides good food for mega-bats such as Grey-headed Flying Fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*). Long-term options to manage the contaminated sediments will be conditional upon specialist advice on how best to deal with contaminated sites.

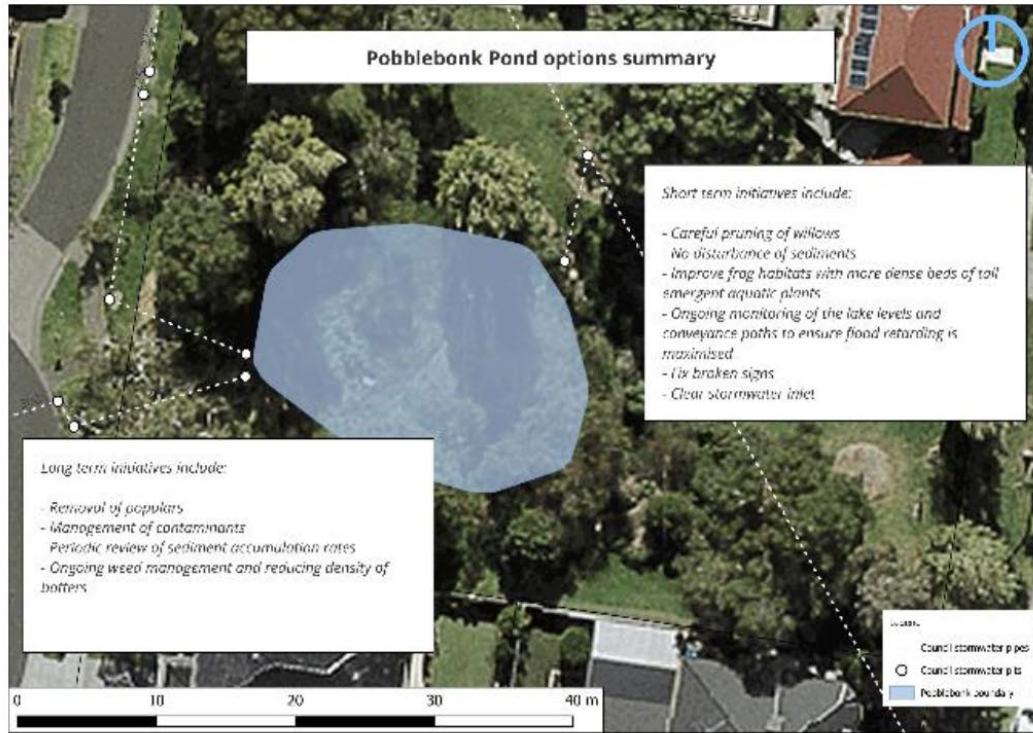


Figure 40. Options (short and long term) at Pobblebonk Pond.

5.9 Impact on values

If all short- and long-term options were implemented, there would be an increase in the ecological value of the pond, as well as a subtle increase in the ornamental value and the social and recreational value (Figure 41).

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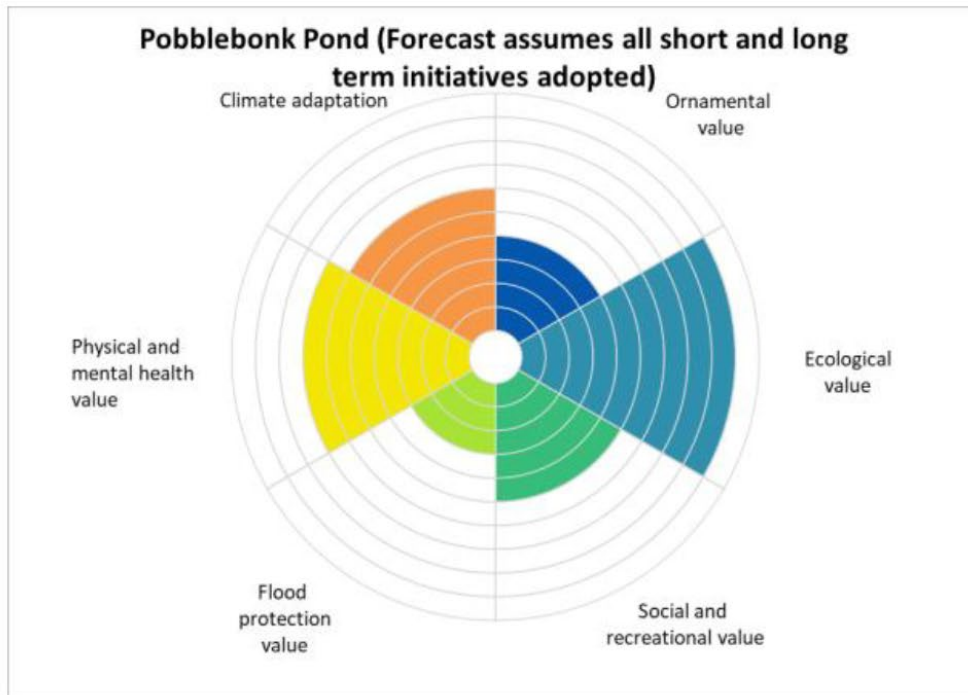


Figure 41. Forecast change to values at Pobblebonk Pond if short-and long-term initiatives are implemented.

6 Tulip St Pond

6.1 General description of lake

Tulip Street Pond is a small ephemeral wetland of about 540 m², surrounded by a small recreational park (approximately 12000 m² in size), at the intersection of Tulip Street and Reserve Road, Cheltenham. The wetland and park are bordered by the Sandringham Family Leisure Centre swimming-pool complex and the recently completed Sandringham Basketball Stadium (Figure 42).



Figure 42. Tulip St Pond

The wetland area was originally filled via stormwater from the nearby basketball building, but with the completion of the new adjacent sporting complex, the pond now also receives rainwater collected from the roofs of the additional new building (Figure 43).



Figure 43. Rainwater tanks (Dodo Environmental)

The pond is believed to be built in the 1990s and was refilled in December 2019 after a successful water refill project was trialled as part of a sustainable initiative from Council, where the swimming pool in the adjacent recreation centre required draining for maintenance.

6.2 Catchment analysis

Tulip St Pond is fed by a 1.9 ha catchment in Cheltenham (Figure 44). The catchment is mostly pervious, but for two large roof areas that drain into the pond. The catchment has significantly changed recently due to the construction of a new council facility.



Figure 44. Catchments upstream of Tulip St Pond, with council drainage infrastructure (Wave Consulting).

6.3 Lake bathymetry and sediment accumulation

Tulip Street Pond, as an ephemeral pond, changes in depth, but in November 2023, it was no more than 250 mm deep (Figure 45). On other occasions it has been completely dry, often during the summer-autumn period and during prolonged dry periods such as during the Millennial Drought.

Tulip St Pond had between 20 mm and 50 mm of sediment accumulation across the whole lake, and no surface analysis and contouring was completed due the consistency of this value and its low value.

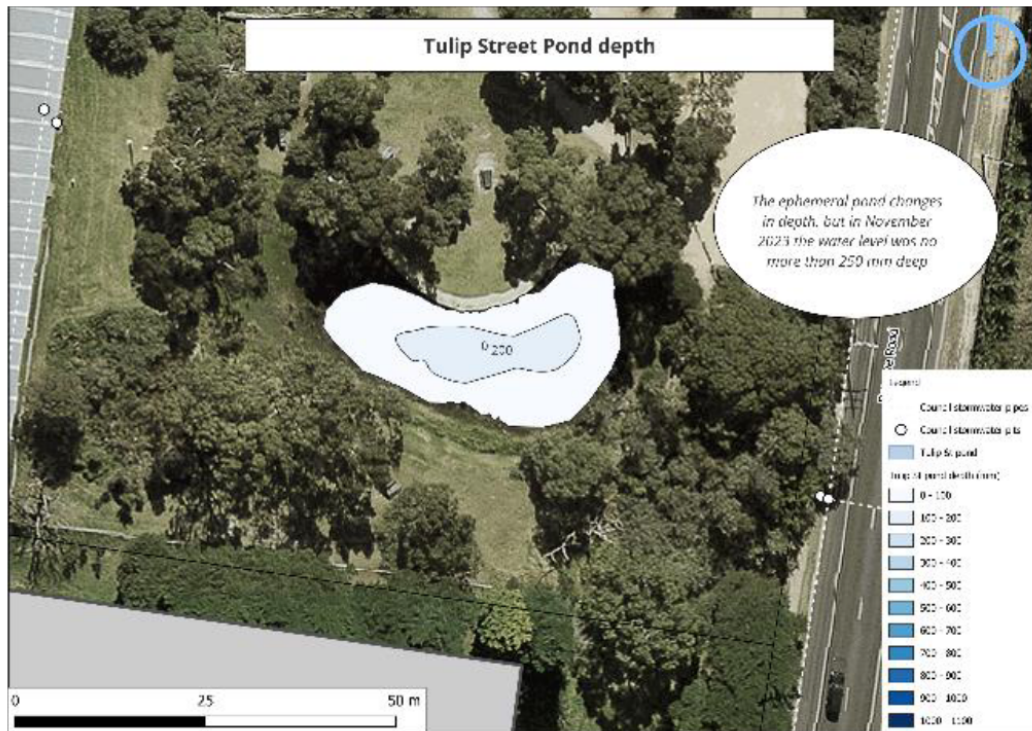


Figure 45. Tulip St Pond bathymetry

6.4 Water quality: algal counts

Algal-count data are not available for this water body.

6.5 Flora and fauna

Tulip Street Pond is one of the biodiversity hot-spots of the Bayside area. It has been the subject of repeated fauna and flora studies by the Friends of Native Wildlife Inc, who report that "this pond is traditionally the most important for frogs". Surveys over recent years have indicated the presence of Spotted March Frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) and tadpoles of the Eastern Banjo Frog. Observations by this community group over a number of years indicate also the periodic presence of the Eastern Banjo or Pobblebonk Frog (*Limnodynastes dumerillii*),

The number of publicly available documents have reported on the biodiversity values of the wetland. The March 2022 issue of *Let's Talk Bayside* (Bayside City Council 2022) reported that large Carp had been removed from the pond, and that the contractor removing the fish had observed a native catfish (believed to be the Eel-tailed Catfish, *Tandanus tandanus*) and numbers of Long-Necked Turtle (*Chelodina longicollis*), as well as "hundreds of Gambusia" (Eastern Gambusia, *Gambusia holbrooki*) and "more than 60 Redfin" (*Perca fluviatilis*, another exotic fish species) [31]. As noted earlier, Carp are listed as a 'noxious aquatic species' in Victoria under the *Fisheries Act 1995*, and Eastern Gambusia is a notorious problem in urban waterways across Australia.

Friends of Native Wildlife (2020) reported that Tulip Street Pond was one of the few places in Bayside where frogs regularly breed, particularly larger frogs such as the Eastern Banjo Frog [32]. Little Pied Cormorant (*Microcarbo melanoleucos*), Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) and Nankeen Night Heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*) were reported by Friends of Native Wildlife (2020) to have been observed at the site [32].

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The presence of these animal species is almost certainly linked to the shallow mudflat fringes of the wetland and the dense emergent vegetation within it. The deeper areas are densely vegetated with tall native rushes (probably Pale Rush, *Juncus pallidus*, possibly also Yellow Rush, *Juncus flavidis*) along with native sedges such as Tall Sedge (*Carex appressa*) and the shorter Tassel Sedge (*Carex fascicularis*), with some areas now starting to be colonised by the potentially invasive (but native) Cumbungi (*Typha* sp.) (Figure 46). The Knobbly Club-rush (*Ficinia nodosa*) is reported to have been planted in the wetland in 2018 [33].

Also important to the presence of breeding frog populations is the abundance of aquatic macro-invertebrates in the wetland, which provide food for adult frogs and other aquatic vertebrates. Observations by Friends of Native Wildlife Inc indicate the presence of a diverse suite of aquatic macro-invertebrates in Tulip Street Pond, including backswimmers, water boatmen, diving beetles, caddis fly and damsel fly larvae, freshwater shrimp, freshwater mussels, segmented aquatic worms, and aquatic snails.



Figure 46. Cumbungi (*Typha* sp.) (Dodo Environmental)

There is some evidence of terrestrialisation of the wetland fringes, with River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) saplings abundant across the bed of the lake/wetland (Figure 47).



Figure 47. River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) saplings (Dodo Environmental)

Terrestrial grasses have started to colonise the armoured channel to leads to/from the wetland (Figure 48).



Figure 48. Terrestrial grasses along the edges of the armoured outlet from Tulip Street Pond (Dodo Environmental)

Surrounding the wetland is a dense band of native terrestrial trees and shrubs (mostly planted), including the Coastal Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* subsp. *sophorae*), dense thickets of paperbarks (*Melaleuca ericifolia* and/or *Melaleuca squarrosa*) and Coastal Tea Tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) and at least one Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*), a tree species native to Queensland (Figure 49). Other species have been planted by the Bayside Friends of Native Wildlife [33], including shrubs such as Common Correa (*Correa reflexa*) and Prickly Tea Tree (*Leptospermum continentale*), as well as native groundcover such as Poison Lobelia (*Lobelia pratioides*), the

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saltbush *Einadia (Rhagodia) nutans*, and the native grass Common Tussock-grass (*Poa labillardieri* var. *labillardieri*).



Figure 49. Terrestrial trees and shrubs surrounding Tulip Street Pond (Dodo Environmental)

Surface water may or may not be permanently present in the wetland, depending largely on prevailing weather conditions and longer-term climatic patterns. Water levels will undoubtedly fluctuate with rainfall and with season, typically being lower in summer-autumn than in winter-spring. This seasonal pattern of high/low water levels is characteristic of the natural water regime of wetlands in south-eastern Australia and the substantial ecological and biodiversity benefits it confers are lost if that temporal variability is removed [34] [35] [36] [37] [38].

It is known that the wetland was dry during the autumn of 2020, no doubt as a consequence of the near-decade long Millennium Drought [39]. It was later filled with water from the adjacent swimming pool complex, which was undergoing maintenance at the time [39].

The main risks to the biodiversity of Tulip Street Lake are as follows:

1. introduction of inappropriate water regime (water levels too high, and lacking seasonal variability) following inputs of rainwater captured from adjacent roofs of adjacent sporting complexes
2. colonisation of wetland fringes by River Red Gum (linked to change in water regimes noted above)
3. expansion of Cumbungi into wetland (also linked to change in water regimes noted above)
4. colonisation of armoured outfall channel by terrestrial grasses
5. introduced fish species, especially Carp and Eastern Gambusia, although the intermittent and/or seasonal nature of the water regime is likely to be a powerful control agent of these highly undesirable fish species
6. possibility that small, isolated ponds become 'urban traps' for frogs [30].

6.6 Current condition and values

The figure below is a qualitative assessment of the values for Tulip St Pond in its current condition (Figure 50).

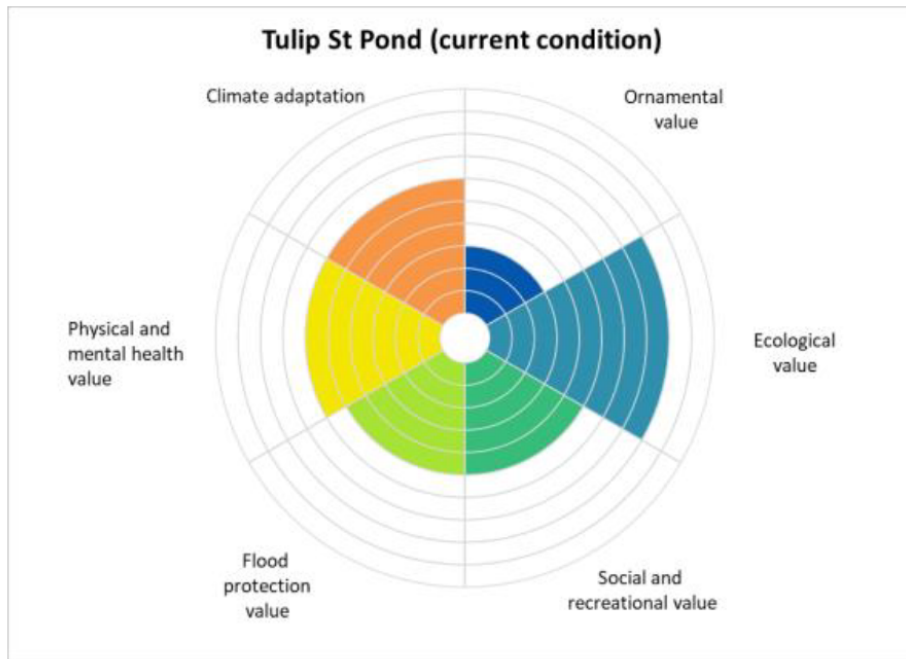


Figure 50. Tulip St Pond initial ratings of current condition (Wave Consulting and Dodo Environmental).

This assessment is based on the following observations:

- Tulip Street Pond is one of the few places in Bayside where frogs regularly breed, particularly larger frogs such as the Eastern Banjo or Pobblebonk Frog (*Limnodynastes dumerilii*). A range of fauna also frequent the pond, including birds (Bronzewing Pigeon, Little Pied Cormorant, Pacific Black Duck and Nankeen Night Heron), reptiles, possums, bats and insects. [32]
- The pond receives rainwater collected from the roofs of the two adjacent buildings and stormwater from the nearby housing developments, which may aid in flood protection during major storm events.
- There are nearby recreational amenities, including a BMX track.
- The pond is tranquil reserve for appreciation of the natural environment.
- Terrestrial trees and other vegetation at the site provide some microclimate cooling effects for visitors.

6.7 Vision and management objectives

Like Pobblebonk Pond, Tulip St Pond is one of the few habitats for the Eastern Banjo or 'Pobblebonk' Frog in the Bayside region and maintaining the habitat required for this and other species of frog, as well as maintaining and, where possible, improving the ecological condition of the pond, are the primary management objectives. Due to recent completion of the adjacent sporting complex, the volume of water received by the pond has changed, potentially altering the water regime and thus also the ecology of the site.

The guiding vision for Tulip Steet Pond is to maintain habitat for native frogs while maintaining and, where possible, improving the biodiversity and ecological function through better control of stormwater inputs.

To meet this vision, the management plan has the following objectives:

- maintain Tulip Street Pond as a seasonally inundated wetland with naturally varying water levels: higher water levels in winter and spring and lower water levels, possibly even more-or-less complete

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desiccation, over summer and autumn. Water levels should also be allowed to vary with year-to-year variations in climate and weather, within the constraints posed by the guiding vision of maintaining the pond as habitat for native frog species. It is essential that the wetland NOT be converted into a pond that is permanently inundated.

- increase erosion protection and maintain biodiversity of the pond through increased control of stormwater inflows
- minimise disturbance of current frog habitat
- manage non-native and invasive ('out-of-balance') native vegetation and exotic species of fish.

6.8 Management options

6.8.1 Short-term options

Short-term management options focus on the control of stormwater inputs to the pond from the adjacent sporting complexes and the management of unwanted vegetation changes that may accrue as a result of the altered hydrological regime.

Given this focus, a priority project for Tulip St Pond is the management of the volume of water coming from the overflow of the tanks linked to the adjacent and newly constructed sports complex and stadium. A priority therefore is to design and deliver a control pit that allows for baseflow to permeate into the banks of the lake but diverts high flows around the lake to the overflow pit on the eastern side of the new stadium.

The works would be designed to take approximately 5% of this impervious runoff from the building and no more. This will have the added benefit of stopping the erosion that is now occurring in the batter of the pond, between the new rainwater tanks and the pond. It is expected that no more than a 50mm diameter outlet pipe be used from this pit, directed into the subsurface, and all other flows directed in a 100 mm pipe around the pond.

Short-term vegetation-management options relate mostly to the control of unwanted species of aquatic and fringing plants that have started to colonise the wetland and its surrounds. Control of the Cumbungi that is starting to colonise the floor of the wetland and of River Red Gum saplings is essential and immediate. Control of terrestrial weeds is also required.

Control of exotic fish species such as Carp and Eastern Gambusia is likely to follow naturally if the recommended water regime is implemented, as the periodically dry phases will result in the death of these species of fish. Control will be much harder if the pond is allowed to regress into a permanently inundated site.

Finally, visitors of the neighbouring BMX track often use the pond as an unauthorised trail extension when the pond is dry. Another short-term option is to add a fence or other barrier between the BMX track and Tulip St Pond to restrict access.

6.8.2 Long-term options

Long-term, it will be a priority of BCC to continue to monitor and manage vegetation in and around the pond, as well as manage the hydrological regime to ensure the volume of water received by the pond suits biodiversity and ecological function of the pond's native flora and fauna.



Figure 51. Options (short and long term) at Tulip St Pond.

6.9 Impact on values

Implementing the short- and long-term options for Tulip St Pond would subtly increase the ecological value of the pond, as well as may have small impacts on the ornamental value and flood protection value (Figure 52).

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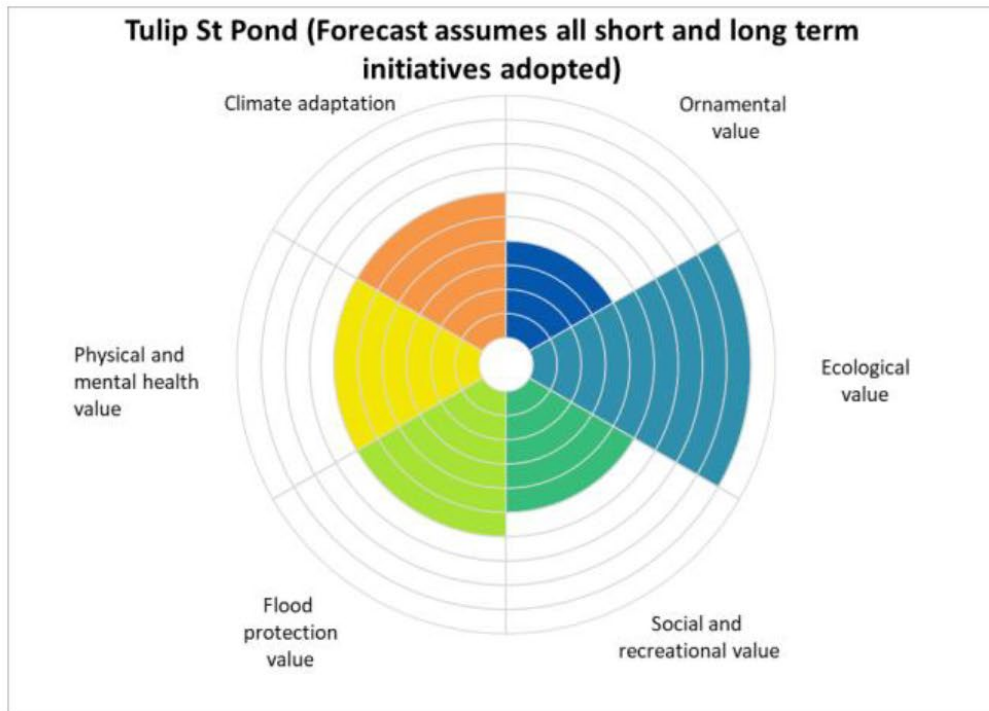


Figure 52. Forecast change to values at Tulip St Pond if short-and long-term initiatives are implemented

7 Costs

Indicative costs for the four lakes are presented below. No design work has been undertaken to inform these costs, and they should be read only as very preliminary cost estimates and do not include any contingencies.

Table 6. Cost estimates for short- and long-term initiatives

Elsternwick			
Park South Lake	Short term (0 to 5 years)	Task	Cost estimate
		Monitoring	\$ 32,000
		Revegetation	\$ 430,000
		Education	\$ 20,000
	Total		\$ 482,000
	Long term (6 to 20 years)		
		Monitoring	\$ 2,000
		Stormwater harvesting	\$ 50,000
		WQ turbidity	\$ 25,000
		Habitat and erosion	\$ 320,500
	Total		\$ 397,500
Basterfield Lake			
	Short term (0 to 5 years)	Task	Cost estimate
		Monitoring	\$ 32,000
		Vegetation control	\$ 12,500
		Vegetation removal	\$ 50,000
		Pruning around bore	\$ 15,000
	Total		\$ 109,500
	Long term (6 to 20 years)		
		New infrastructure	\$ 400,000
		Irrigation system upgrade	\$ 50,000
	Total		\$ 450,000
Pobblebonk Pond			
	Short term (0 to 5 years)	Task	Cost estimate
		Vegetation management	\$ 22,500
		Litter and sediment	\$ 12,500
	Total		\$ 35,000
	Long term (6 to 20 years)		
		Vegetation management	\$ 275,000
	Total		\$ 275,000
Tulip Street Pond			
	Short term (0 to 5 years)	Task	Cost estimate
		New fence / barrier between BMX and pond	\$25,000
		Erosion	\$ 35,000
		Revegetation	\$ 15,000

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	Vegetation management	\$ 2,500
	Education	\$ 20,000
	Total	\$ 97,500
Long term (6 to 20 years)		
	Monitoring	\$ 30,000
	Review of hydrological regime	\$ 25,000
	Total	\$ 85,000

8 Maintenance

To ensure the ongoing water quality and conveyance function of the lakes, regular maintenance is required. The lakes can be maintained in line with Melbourne Water's WSUD Maintenance Guidelines [40], assuming design and construction were completed according to guidelines and assets are fully functional.

8.1 Lake, inlets, outlets, and vegetation monitoring

To ensure the lake maintains its ecological value the following tasks should be undertaken on a roughly three-monthly cycle, with some more or less frequently as noted:

1. Inspect the outlet structure and ensure the weir or orifices are not blocked. Remove any accumulated debris in front of the holes, weir, or structure. Inspection should occur **monthly** or after major rain events.
2. If a GPT is part of the treatment train, inspect after major rainfall events and arrange for cleaning when greater than 80% full of sediment or floating litter or every three months, whichever is more frequent.
3. Ensure inlets are free of debris and free flowing, remove any accumulated large debris. Note sediment accumulation and remove once it begins to impede the inflow.
4. Note water levels and investigate if water level drop seems excessive. Water levels will drop over longer periods of no rainfall due to evaporation and infiltration.
5. Remove weeds in the ephemeral and aquatic planting areas including Typha.
6. Observe sediment accumulation in the sediment basin or inlet zones.
7. Collect and remove floating litter.
8. Look out for unusual or potentially problematic occurrences such as infrastructure damage, algae, floating weeds, vermin, mosquitoes, odours, etc., take note and action as required.
9. Instigate a monitoring program to check for the expansion of fringing aquatic plants. This should consist at a minimum of the establishment of photo-points around the lake and the systematic collation of the imagery thus produced. If resources allow, measurement of the distance fringing aquatic plants extend from the shore at a number of points around the lake should also be undertaken.

If an unacceptable expansion of fringing aquatic plants is detected in this monitoring program, an appropriate course of action may have to be implemented. In principle there are a number of approaches to managing fringing aquatic vegetation, including interventions such as (i) altered water regimes, (ii) mechanical control (e.g. cutting and removing emergent material), (iii) mechanical control combined with water-level manipulations (e.g. lowering water levels temporarily, cutting plant material, then re-instating the original water levels so as to drown the cut plants), and (iv) chemical treatments with herbicides. Which option is most appropriate will depend on circumstances pertaining at the time (e.g. the species causing the problem and the spatial extent of the expansion) and some may be, in principle, considered inappropriate (e.g. using herbicides). The management of aquatic plants is not a simple or easy matter. Moreover, decisions such as these cannot be made in advance and will have to be tackled on an as-required basis if a specific problem emerges.

8.2 Vegetation management

Vegetation is traditionally maintained using the following methods. Bayside City Council has a large open space and landscape management / operations team and should apply similar methods and resources to this asset. This includes:

- preferred maintenance methods
 - hand weeding and pruning

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- machine pruning and moving / slashing
- mulching
- to be avoided
 - herbicide application
 - pesticide application.

The Melbourne Water WSUD Maintenance Guidelines (2013) notes the following vegetation related tasks for WSUD assets [40]:

- inspecting plant health and cover (to achieve a 6–10 plants per square metre density)
- pruning plants and replacing dead plants (where applicable)
- removing weeds
- watering plants (establishment phase).

9 Recommendations for all lakes

This management plan outlines the range of issues that must be considered in improving the lakes, irrespective of whether the lakes should be prioritised from aesthetic/recreational, ecological or stormwater harvesting perspectives.

Based on the visions outlined, the current conditions, and the threats and opportunities at the lakes, the following recommendations are made:

1. Commence a plan of action to immediately address and deliver on the 'priority works.'
2. Review the specific tasks within the options and update the tasks and costs with additional consultation, analysis and design work.
3. Commence detailed design and analysis for tasks within the preferred options.
4. Develop communication and education strategies to inform the community of proposed visions and management actions for each lake.
5. Continue to undertake regular water quality monitoring of algal abundances.
6. Review sediment depths in 2028 and beyond to track the accumulation of sediments.
7. Establish a monitoring program to track the possible expansion of fringing aquatic plants into areas of the lake that are currently open-water. In the case of Tulip Street Pond, install a water-level gauge to allow quantitative monitoring of water levels and hence of water regime.
8. Continue to support Friends of Native Wildlife with frog monitoring and data storage into the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) as per the recommendations contained with the *Biodiversity Action Plan 2024* (in development) to improve biodiversity and social outcomes.
9. As contaminants were detected at sufficiently high concentrations in Pobblebonk Pond to make them Contaminants of Concern, seek expert advice regarding the management of contamination in Pobblebonk Pond, and until then do not disturb these sediments.

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11 Appendix A. Sediment contaminant analysis

This appendix provides a detailed review of different aspects that contribute to the current ecological condition of the four lakes.

Contaminants are often concentrated in the sediments of urban lakes and wetlands [41]. This is for two reasons. First, the highly developed catchments of urban environments often have a long history of urban or industrial development and so are ready sources of toxic substances such as pesticides, heavy metals and other contaminants (including nutrients). Second, lakes and wetlands are often located at the lowest point in the local landscape, with the result that contaminants, often associated with suspended particles, precipitate and accumulate in their sediments rather than being washed out to downstream receiving waters.

Guidelines for assessing sediment quality are provided in *Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality 2000* [7]. This document introduced the idea of Default Guideline Values (DGVs) for toxicants in sediments via the establishment of two sets of 'Interim Sediment Quality Guideline' (ISQG) values: (i) 'ISQG-Low (Trigger value)' and (ii) 'ISQG-High'. The ISQG-Low (Trigger value) is the lower of the two and indicates the concentration of a particular contaminant in a sediment below which there is a low risk of adverse biological effects. The ISQG-High value is the higher concentration, one more likely associated with adverse biological effects but with the extent of those impacts not necessarily known.

The 2000 guidelines – and, importantly, the framework under which they were to be interpreted – were revised in 2013: *Revision of the ANZECC/ARMCANZ Sediment Quality Guidelines* [42]. The original ISQG-Low value (the 'trigger value') is referred to the 2013 revision as the 'Sediment Quality Guideline Value' (SQGV) and the ISQG-High value as the 'SQG-High' value. As before, the lower value is the concentration at which unacceptable biological effects are unlikely and the higher value is a concentration at which there is a high probability of adverse biological effects. In some recent documents [43], the two sets of sediment quality guideline values referred to in Simpson *et al.* (2013) are termed the 'Default Guideline Value' (DGV) and the 'Guideline Value-High' (GV-High), respectively [42].

No specific guidelines for plant nutrients, such as nitrogen or phosphorus, are provided in the original guidelines or in the 2013 revision. Despite this omission, some commentary is provided below on the ecological significance of the reported concentrations for the four ornamental water bodies. Guideline values for many other contaminants of potential interest also are lacking, which reflects an ongoing deficiency of adequate data sets for those substances.

Interpreting measured concentrations of sediment contaminants against the revised guidelines has to be undertaken on a tiered, site-specific basis, using a multiple-lines-and-weights-of-evidence approach. The 2013 revision is adamant that "The SQGVs are not to be used on a pass/fail basis" ([42], p. v). Simpson *et al.* (2013, p. 10, [42]) provide the following warning as to their interpretation:

"... SQGVs cannot be used alone to predict the onset, or magnitude, of toxic effects. Consequently, use of the SQGVs as strict criteria will likely result in many sediments being classified as toxic when there are no effects evident (a false positive). Conversely, sediments may contain many other chemical contaminants for which SQGVs have not been developed. Consequently, assessing the risk posed by sediments based only on the published SQGVs may result in sediments being classifying as non-toxic when effects may be occurring due to chemical contaminants that have not been considered (a false negative)".

11.1 Results of the sediment contaminant analysis: interpretation and caveats

Table 7 shows the concentrations of selected contaminants in the sediments from two sites in each of the four water bodies. The contaminant concentrations are colour-coded according to whether they exceed the SQGV or the SQG-High criteria of Simpson *et al.* (2013). The guidance provided by Simpson *et al.* (2013) has

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been used to interpret the data: if the measured concentration of a given contaminant is less than the SQGV, it is assumed the biological effects will be negligible [42]. If the measured concentration is greater than the SQGV but less than the SQG-High, biological effects are possible and the contaminant should be considered a 'Contaminant of Potential Concern' (COPC). If the concentration exceeds the SQG-High, biological effects are to be expected and the contaminant should be considered a 'Contaminant of Concern' (COC). Note that the colour-coded interpretation does not take in account particle size or organic-matter content. It should be used only as a first-stage screening tool that throws light on possible contamination of sediments in the various water bodies, for which no prior data exist on sediment quality.

Table 8 shows the concentrations of the plant nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus in the sediments. There are currently no nation-wide guidelines for these substances in aquatic sediments, as so unlike the case with Table 7 the cells are not colour-coded according to compliance.

A number of points need to be made when interpreting the data summarised in Table 7. First, this is a preliminary assessment only and is based on a simple comparison of the total concentrations in the lake sediments with the revised (2013) sediment quality criteria. It does not consider complications arising from variable particle size or organic-carbon content, or variations in bioavailability arising from pH or sediment redox potential etc.

Second, only a small subset of the wider range of contaminants quantified by the Eurofins Environment Testing is assessed in terms of compliance with the 2013 guidelines. This is because not all possible contaminants are covered in Simpson *et al.* (2013) [42]. Burton (2002) provided a global review of assessment criteria for other important contaminants, but such an analysis is beyond the resources of this investigation [8].

Third, the Limit of Reporting (LOR) concentration for some contaminants, e.g. organochlorine pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and the heavy metals antimony and silver, is higher than the sediment quality guideline values. Cases where this occurred are highlighted in yellow in Table 7. The discrepancy between the LOR and the guideline value precludes this type of preliminary screening assessment for these contaminants. Further studies with lower detection and reporting limits may be warranted.

Finally, interpretation of the measured concentrations is complicated by variability across the two sampling sites within each water body. Concentrations of, for example, antimony in two sites in Pobblebonk Pond varied by at least an order of magnitude. Similarly, concentrations of copper in Basterfield lake, of lead in Basterfield lake and in Pobblebonk pond, and of zinc in Basterfield lake were highly variable. Within-lake variability is common in sediment analysis [41] and is a consequence of a wide range of processes, including preferential flow paths and differential deposition of contaminant-carrying sediments in different parts of the lake. On the other hand, concentrations of most other contaminants were largely consistent between the two sites sampled within each water body (e.g. chromium in Elsternwick Park South Lake: 55 and 85 mg/kg dry weight).

11.2 Management implications of the results

The four water bodies examined in this investigation showed a multitude of contaminants, and contamination profiles varied across the different lakes. In all cases, however, concentrations of recoverable hydrocarbons and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were lower than the SQGV. From this result it can be concluded that neither class of contaminant poses an ecological hazard in these water bodies.

In Basterfield lake, concentrations of the heavy metals antimony, lead, mercury, nickel and zinc all exceeded the lower sediment quality guideline value (SQGV) but were less than the higher SQG-High concentration value. According to the interpretation criteria provided above, this means that these elements should be considered as 'Contaminants of Potential Concern' (COPC).

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A slightly different profile was observed for Elsternwick Park South Lake, in which chromium, nickel, zinc and the metalloid arsenic were above the SQGV. Again none exceeded the more worrying SQV-High concentration, giving these contaminants the rank of COPC rather than of COC.

In Tulip Street Pond, the contaminants exceeding the SQGV were lead, mercury and zinc. Once more, concentrations of these contaminants were lower than the SQV-High value, and so they can be considered as COPC.

The most severe contamination occurred with Pobblebonk Pond, in which at least one of the two sampled sites returned concentrations of antimony, lead and zinc considerably above the SQV-High value. These cases are indicated by the red cells in Table 7: 100 mg/kg dry weight for antimony at Site 1; 2,200 mg/kg dry weight for lead at Site 1; and 550 mg/kg dry weight for zinc at Site 2. As noted above, exceedance of the SQV-High value indicates a situation where adverse biological effects are possible, perhaps likely, but with the extent of those impacts not necessarily known. These heavy metals should be considered as 'Contaminants of Concern' (COC). The lead concentration of 2,200 mg/kg dry weight recorded for Site 1 in Pobblebonk Pond markedly exceeds the ecological 'threshold effect level' of 35 mg/kg dry weight noted by Burton (2002). It is very, very much higher than the 'environmental quality standard' for human health of 0.01 mg/kg dry weight (Burton 2002). The elevated concentration of antimony for Site 1 (100 mg/kg dry weight *cf* the SQV-High value of 25 mg/kg dry weight) is also of concern. Note also the elevated concentrations of copper and mercury at this site.

With regard to the concentrations of the plant nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorus, summarised in

Table 8, the following points are noteworthy. First, Total nitrogen concentrations were much higher in Basterfield lake (1,600 and 3,200 mg/kg dry weight), Pobblebonk Pond (5,800 and 6,600 mg/kg dry weight) and Tulip Street lake (4,900 and 8,900 mg/kg dry weight) than they were in Elsternwick Park lake (370 and 480 mg/kg dry weight). A similar but less pronounced difference across the four water bodies occurred with Total phosphorus. The difference may reflect the greater age of the three water bodies with the higher nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations.

Second, the concentrations of Total nitrogen and of Total phosphorus in the sediments were, in many cases, high. As noted earlier, there are currently no guideline values against which these concentrations can be gauged for compliance. However, it is possible to compare the measured concentrations with concentrations reported for other freshwater lakes elsewhere in the world. Håkanson (1984), for example, reported that concentrations of Total nitrogen in the surficial layer of 71 Swedish lakes varied from 270 mg/kg dry weight to 3,480 mg/kg dry weight, with a strong positive relationship between the trophic status of the lake and the sediment Total nitrogen concentration [44]. The concentrations recorded for three of the four lakes in the Bayside region were at the higher end, and often exceeded, the range reported by Håkanson (1984) [44].

Third, the ratio of sediment Total nitrogen to Total phosphorus varied markedly across the water bodies. In three water bodies (Basterfield lake, Pobblebonk Pond and Tulip Street lake) it was between 11:1 and 18:1 by moles (

Table 8). In Elsternwick Park lake it was much lower, at 2.3:1 and 6.6:1 in Sites 1 and 2, respectively. The significance of these values is that the ratio of Total nitrogen to Total phosphorus (the 'N:P ratio') can indicate whether nitrogen or phosphorus is likely to limit plant growth if nutrients are the limiting factor. A nutrient supply is considered 'balanced' for plant growth if the ratio (by moles) of carbon-to-nitrogen-to-phosphorus is 106:16:1, the so-called Redfield Ratio. Nitrogen limitation is predicted when the N:P ratio below about 13:1 to 16:1; conversely, if the ratio is markedly above about 13:1 to 16:1, phosphorus limitation is predicted [45] [46]. Borchardt (1996) proposed that, for benthic algae, ambient N:P ratios of > 20:1 (by atoms) are considered to lead to P-limitation, and ratios of < 10:1 will lead to N-limitation [47]. This means that the relative ratios of sediment nitrogen and phosphorus in Basterfield lake, Pobblebonk Pond and Tulip Street

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lake are about right for the balanced growth of aquatic plants. In Elsternwick Park South Lake, however, the very low N:P ratio of 2.3–6.6:1 suggests an oversupply of phosphorus relative to nitrogen.

Table 8 also reports sediment water content and pH. The only noteworthy aspect of these data is the very low pH (2.7) recorded for Site 2 of the Tulip Street Pond. If this value is accurate, it indicates very acid conditions at that site.

Table 7. Concentrations of some contaminants from two sampling sites in the sediments of Basterfield Lake, Elsternwick Park Lake, Pobblebonk Pond and Tulip Street wetland

Contaminant	ANZECC/ARMCANZ guidelines		Concentration in lake sediments														
	Guideline value	SQG-High	Basterfield Lake		Elsternwick Park South Lake				Pobblebonk Pond		Tulip Street Pond						
			Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 1	Sample 2							
Recoverable hydrocarbons																	
Total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs) (mg/kg dry weight)	280	550	<50*	<100*	ND	ND	ND	ND	<50*	<100**	67*	130**	<50*	<100*	<50*	<100*	
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)																	
Total PAHs (mg/kg dry weight)	10	50	<0.5	<0.5	ND	ND	ND	ND	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	
Organochlorine pesticides (̑g/kg dry weight)																	
Total DDT + DDE + DDD	1.2	5.0	<50	<100	ND	ND	ND	ND	<50	<100	<50	<100	<50	<100	<50	<100	
Chlordanes (total)	4.5	9.0	<100	<100	ND	ND	ND	ND	<100	<100	<100	<100	<100	<100	<100	<100	
Dieldrin	2.8	7.0	<0.05	<0.05	ND	ND	ND	ND	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	
Endrin	2.7	6.0	<0.05	<0.05	ND	ND	ND	ND	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	
Polychlorinated biphenyls																	
Total PCBs (̑g/kg dry weight)	34	280	<100	<100	ND	ND	ND	ND	<100	<100	<100	<100	<100	<100	<100	<100	
Heavy metals (mg/kg dry weight)																	
Antimony	2.0	25	<10	15	<10	<10	<10	<10	100	100	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	
Cadmium	1.5	10	<0.4	0.5	<0.4	<0.4	<0.4	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	<0.4	<0.4	
Chromium	80	370	13	47	84	55	55	44	44	19	19	23	23	21	21	21	
Copper	65	270	8	59	20	15	15	98	98	44	44	56	56	37	37	37	
Lead	50	220	15	96	29	21	21	2200	2200	140	140	86	86	60	60	60	
Mercury	0.15	1.0	<0.1	0.2	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.3	0.3	<0.1	<0.1	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	
Nickel	21	52	6	29	29	19	19	14	14	13	13	15	15	11	11	11	
Silver	1.0	4.0	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2	
Zinc	200	410	37	200	200	170	170	160	160	550	550	280	280	240	240	240	
Metalloids (mg/kg dry weight)																	
Arsenic	20	70	3	11	43	34	34	11	11	9	9	6	6	5	5	5	

* C10-C36 Total, ** >C10-C40 Total

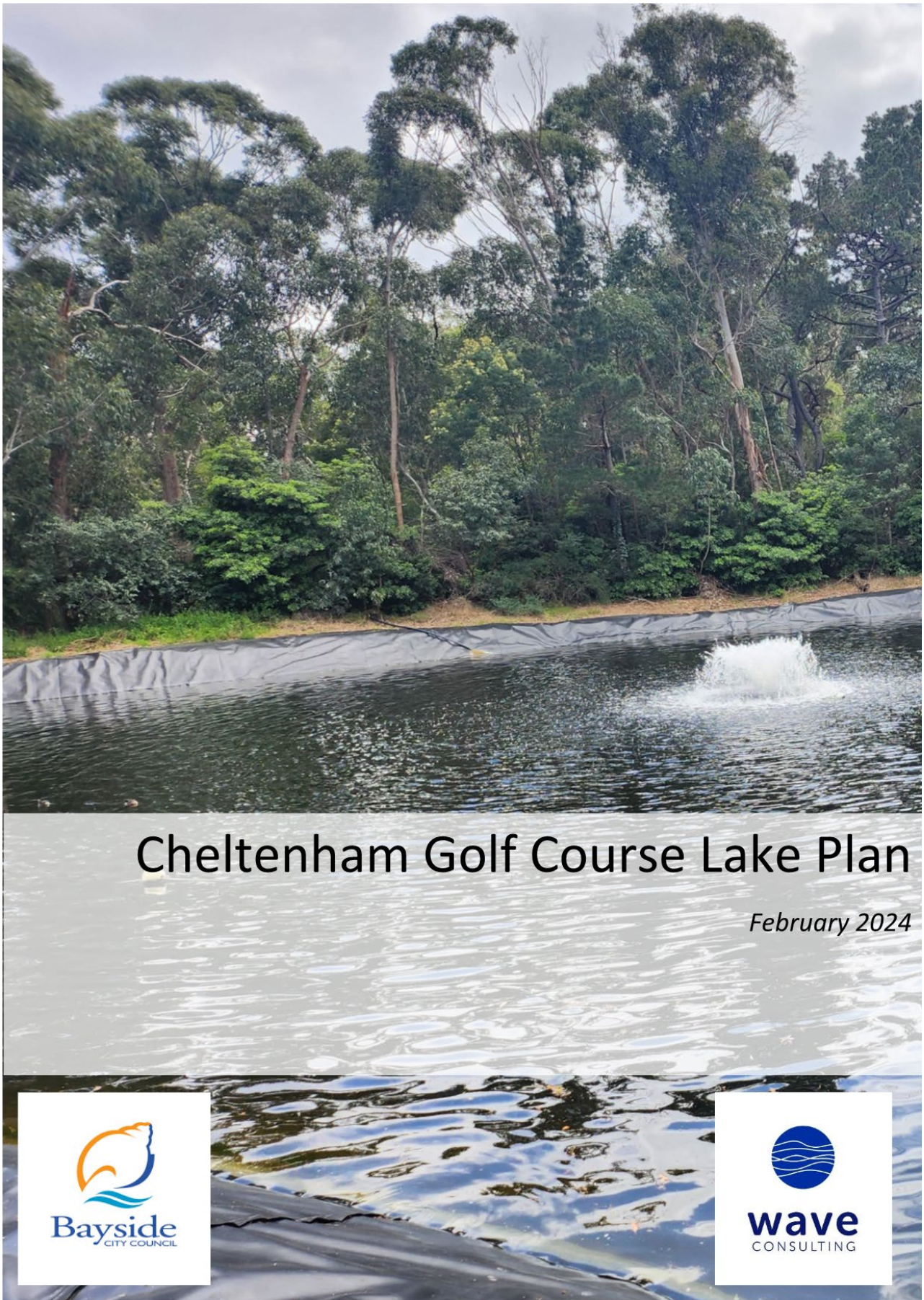
Cells highlighted in red indicate concentrations that equal or exceed the SQGV criteria of Simpson *et al.* (2013); those highlighted in orange equal or exceed the (lower) ANZECC/ARMCANZ guideline value. Cells highlighted in yellow have LOR concentrations exceeding the critical guideline values and so are impossible to interpret. Cells lacking a numerical value indicate analysis was not undertaken for that contaminant. ND = not determined.

Note that this assessment is based on a comparison of the total concentrations in the lake sediments and does not consider particle size or organic-carbon content. Also note the disparity between the LOR for organochlorine pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls and the heavy metals antimony and silver versus the relevant ANZECC/ARMCANZ guidelines, which precludes an assessment of these potential contaminants.

Table 8. Concentrations of plant nutrients and other sediment characteristics from two sampling sites in Basterfield Lake, Elsternwick Park Lake, Pobblebank Pond and Tulip Street wetland.

Nutrient	Concentration in lake sediments							
	Basterfield Lake		Elsternwick Park South Lake		Pobblebank Pond		Tulip Street Pond	
	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 1	Sample 2
Total nitrogen (mg/kg dry weight)	1600	3200	370	480	5800	6600	8900	4900
Ammonium (as N) (mg/kg dry weight)	56	160	17	26	160	79	70	21
Nitrate (as N) (mg/kg dry weight)	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Total phosphorus (mg/kg dry weight)	250	590	160	160	1200	790	1200	660
Ratio of TN:TP (molar basis)	14	12	2.3	6.6	11	18	16	16
Water content (%)	67	76	77	86	77	76	72	58
pH (1:5 aqueous extract)	7.8	7.7	ND	ND	7.0	6.3	5.0	2.7

ND = not determined.



Cheltenham Golf Course Lake Plan

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Traditional Owners

The authors wish to acknowledge, the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of Cheltenham Golf Course.

Document Management

Version	Date	ID	Authors
1 – Draft	5 February	2023-046-D2	R.Catchlove & L.Cacho
2 – Final	15 February 2024	2023-046-D4	R.Catchlove & L.Cacho

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Cover image

Northern lake at Cheltenham Golf Course. Source: Wave Consulting Australia.

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1 Introduction & background

1.1 Objectives

This plan presents a view of the Cheltenham Golf Course Lake in terms of:

- current conditions
- threats
- vision
- management objectives.

It then describes options for the lake to meet the vision and management objectives, with particular attention to priority works to act on in the short-term as well as longer-term actions. Costs and maintenance implications are also provided.

1.2 Background

Cheltenham Golf Course Lake (also often called a reservoir) is almost 1,400 square metres in size (including the liner). It is located on the northern side of the golf course, near the playground, and is used primarily by the golf course for irrigation.

1.3 The study area

Cheltenham Golf Course Lake is located in Cheltenham Golf Course, south of Park Road, in Cheltenham, Victoria. It is directly west of the Cheltenham Park’s Cricket Club Rooms and the Cheltenham Park Dog Off Leash Area.



Figure 1. Lake within Cheltenham Golf Course

1.4 Process of developing this plan

This plan was developed through a site visit in late 2023 and discussions with Council staff regarding the history, current use, and future uses and potential of the site.

2 Lake context

2.1 Site context

Cheltenham Golf Course Lake sits within Cheltenham Golf Course. The lake is fully lined with a pond liner, which prevents water loss to groundwater. There is currently no cover to the lake to reduce evaporation losses.

Water flows in and out of the lake with active pumping, with no natural inflows. Rainfall contributes to topping up the lake.



Figure 2. Images of the lake and signs around the fence of the lake. (Source: Wave Consulting Australia)

A chain link fence surrounds the site, restricting access by golfers, dogs (from the neighbouring dog park), and other park visitors.

Ducks and other water birds are frequent visitors to the lake. The presence of fish and other wildlife within the lake is unknown, with no survey data available.

2.2 Catchment analysis

There is a very small catchment area for this lake of approximately 10 hectares. More than half of the catchment (~60%) is within the golf course; the remainder is in the urban environment upstream.

2.3 Water quality

The water quality of the lake is unknown. No data was gathered on water or sediment quality, water clarity, or the level of turbidity.

2.4 Bathymetry

There is no data on the depth of the lake, and the presence of the liner makes it very difficult to access the water body and undertake any bathymetry surveys. Also, there is no data on the degree of sedimentation that is accumulating within the lake, but as there are no surface water flows into the water body, this should be minimal.

2.5 Current uses

The lake is used primarily by the golf course for irrigation.

3 Current and emerging threats

The main driver of the threats to the environmental health of urban lakes is usually the heavily urbanised catchment that surrounds them. When a lake is located in a densely urbanised areas, two related problems emerge: (i) episodically substantial volumes of stormwater runoff from the large areas of impervious surfaces in the catchment; and (ii) the large numbers of people who visit and use the lakes add to nutrient and sediment loads, increase erosion, and introduce unwanted and exotic species.

The current and emerging threats for Cheltenham Golf Course Lake are as follows:

- The lake does not receive any stormwater runoff. However, the water quality impacts of runoff from the surrounding golf course are a threat to be monitored. Also, as the water supply for the lake is bore water, water quality impacts are also possible due to naturally occurring minerals and E.coli from ducks and possibly dogs.
- While there are large numbers of visitors in the surrounding parkland, visitors do not use the lake. The steep edge of the lake, combined with the slippery nature of the pond lining and deep water, means that entering the lake could be dangerous for humans or dogs. Signs and fencing indicate this and warn people to stay away.
- The variability of supply will in the long term be subject to the impacts of climate change, but this is difficult to monitor.

4 Vision and values

Urban lakes are expected to deliver a suite of services to the community. Critical to the preparation of the management plans, therefore, is the initial establishment of the suite of values associated with the lake. Based on these values, the specific services each is expected to deliver and specific management objectives can be developed for each lake.

This management plan has adopted the set of values that were proposed in the Scoping Plan for Ornamental Lakes in Bayside City Council (2022):¹

1. **Ornamental:** social research has demonstrated that aesthetically pleasing water bodies commonly share several unifying features such as clear water, the presence of emergent aquatic plants around the water body, and absence of algal blooms.
2. **Ecological:** the ecological value of a lake is the capacity to provide long-term habitat and breeding opportunities for native species of plants and animals, so their populations are sustainable.
3. **Social and community recreation:** lakes provide exceptional social and community value as a recreational location for bird watching, picnicking, walking, and relaxation.
4. **Flood protection:** lakes can retard urban stormwater flows, reduce peak flows, and flood inundation water courses downstream of the lake.
5. **Physical and mental health:** parks and lakes provide community access to the natural world within the suburban environment; this access has been shown repeatedly to have significant benefits in terms of the physical and mental health of people.
6. **Response to climate change:** climate in Melbourne's urban environments is projected to become more extreme, with increased numbers, severity, and duration of extreme events such as storms and

¹ Wave Consulting Australia and Dodo Environmental, "Bayside Lakes Scoping Plan," City of Bayside, Bayside, 2022.

droughts and with increased heat stress due to higher average air temperatures and more severe heat waves.² Water availability will also be affected, with extremes in water availability (e.g., drought versus flood) becoming more problematic for keeping urban lakes full and their surrounds well-watered. Urban lakes will become more important in keeping water in the landscape, creating cooling microclimates around them, and offering residents cool, green spaces to connect with nature in a changing climate.

The guiding vision for Cheltenham Golf Course Lake is to continue to provide water for golf course irrigation, while seeking opportunities to increase the environmental and social values around the lake. Therefore, the main value this lake provides is to support social and community recreation activity (i.e., golfing) and to respond to climate change by sourcing non potable water.

This lake is not currently intended to provide ornamental, ecological, flood protection, or physical and mental health benefits for the community. However, the lake could provide increased ecological function with some changes. While this is a lower ranked value for this lake, biodiversity and the creation of animal habitats is a value for Bayside City Council as laid out in the Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan.³

To meet this vision and values, the management plan has the following objectives:

- maintain primary function as water supply for golf course irrigation
- increase ecological function while maintaining surrounding high social and recreation value.

Graphically these set of values are shown below, noting the ratings are subjective and would require a more thorough assessment and process to be used for future planning.

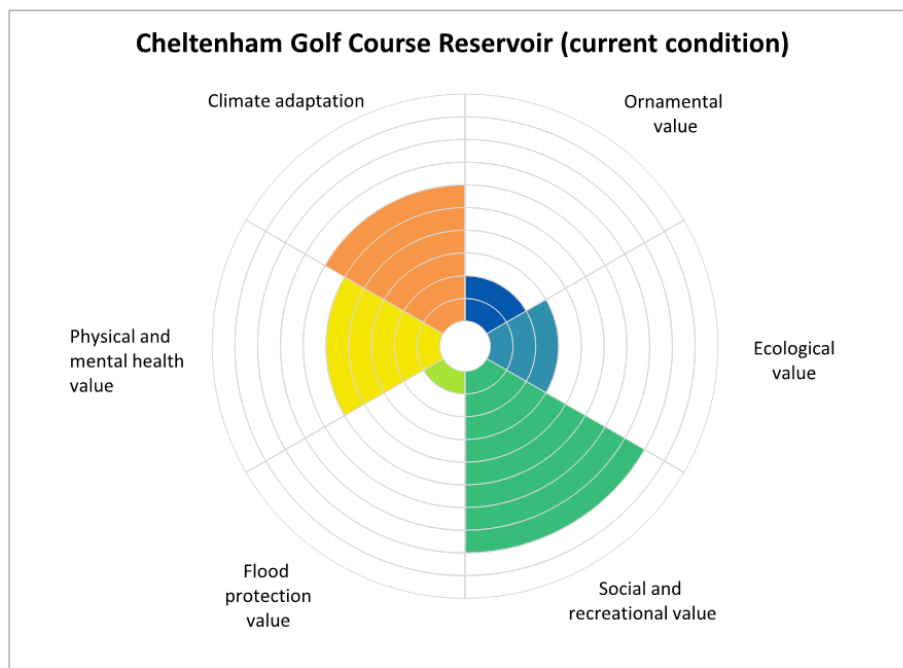


Figure 3. Current estimates of the range of values of the water body at Cheltenham Golf Course

² L. B. Webb and K. Hennessy, Projections for selected Australian cities, Australia: CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology, 2015.

³ City of Bayside, "Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan," City of Bayside, Bayside, 2018.

5 Management options

There are several management options to maintain existing values, while exploring future options for additional benefits that are consistent with the above objectives. These include:

1. Create a new, small chain of ponds downstream of lake and allow for a slow trickle of water from the lake into the new chain of ponds, to support a newly established frog habitat (which will not impact on golf course amenities) in the nearby area and located around existing trees.
2. Increase size of storage to create more water storage and increase opportunity to create a more resilient water system through drought periods. This may be achieved with increased depth, changing the offtake level, or increasing the height of the batters.
3. Consider options to alter the type of fencing around the lake to increase amenity, while still preventing people and dogs from accessing the water body. It will be important ensure the safety (particularly of dogs from the neighbouring off-leash dog park) when fences are modified.
4. Consider supplementing supply of water with stormwater from upstream catchment and Park Road, to reduce the stress on groundwater extraction, and reduce flooding.



Figure 4. Possible area for new small chain of ponds for frog habitat, downstream of existing lake.

6 Preferred option

To significantly increase the value of the water and the environment in this area while not compromising the current golf course operations, the preferred option is to look at pursuing two options in parallel: Option 1 (creating a new chain of ponds) and Option 2 (increasing the storage capacity). These are referred to as Option 1 and 2. Options 3 and 4 could be pursued as well as all of the options are not mutually exclusive.

Option 1 in particular is important as it is consistent with an 'integrated water management' approach that the Council adopted and is documented in the 'Water for Bayside' Integrated Water Management Plan 2019-2039⁴ plan approved in 2019.

In designing and building a chain of ponds, with water fed through a constant or variable trickle from the lake, it would be worth reflecting on and learning from the delivery of the chain of ponds at Yalukit Willam (formerly Elsternwick Park) Nature Reserve.

7 Forecast costs

Costs associated with proposed options are listed below, noting that no design or analysis work has been completed to support the design process and refine the scope of works and costs.

1. New chain of ponds – \$25,000 to \$150,000 (associated with earth works, drainage connections, and a float system to regulate flows into the chain of ponds. This is based on three ponds of approximately 10 to 20 square metres in size).
2. Increase storage capacity – \$50,000 to \$250,000 (associated with earth works).
3. Alterations to fencing and planting – approximately \$25,000 to \$100,000 (associate with removing existing fence and installing a new 150-metre fence around the perimeter and planting that increases the line of sight into the lake and adds a layer of dense ground cover and shrubs around the fence).
4. Look at stormwater harvesting – \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 (diverting near drainage, medium flows to avoid more contaminated low flows into a raingarden treatment system and then into the existing storage, to source up to 10 ML of filtered stormwater for irrigation purposes).

8 Conclusions and recommendations

Based on the vision outlined, the current conditions, and the threats and opportunities at the lake, the following recommendations are made:

1. Engage with the community and the Cheltenham Golf Course staff to assess the proposed vision and preferred options for the lakes.
2. Review the specific tasks within the options and update the tasks and costs with additional analysis and design work.
3. Commence detailed design and analysis for tasks within the preferred options.
4. Commence a program of community engagement regarding the threats, opportunities, and values of urban lakes around Bayside.
5. Undertake a water supply analysis to understand the water needs of the golf course now and into the future.
6. Undertake water quality monitoring to understand the water quality of the lake.
7. Establish a monitoring program to track the future health and water supply of the lake.

⁴ Bayside City Council, 2019. 'Water for Bayside' Integrated Water Management Plan 2019-2039' Accessed at https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-08/water_for_bayside_2019-2039_integrated_water_management_plan_0.pdf

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10.13 CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN - ANNUAL UPDATE

Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure - Climate, Waste and Integrated Transport
File No: PSF/24/85 – Doc No: DOC/24/173179

Purpose and background

This report provides Council with an update on the fourth year of implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020–25 and sets the deliverables for year five of the Plan.

At its Meeting on 19 September 2023, Council resolved *inter alia*:

That Council:

...

4. receives a report in 2023–24 detailing delivery of Year 4 of the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-25.

As per Section 10 of the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020–25, implementation is to be monitored and the progress of delivery of actions reported annually to Council. Actions have been reviewed and updated following the fourth year of implementation.

Key issues

Year 4 of the Climate Emergency Action Plan maintained a focus on cooling and greening, sustainable transport, the circular economy, enhancing biodiversity through the Urban Forest Strategy, water management through the review of the Integrated Water Management Plan 'Water for Bayside' and actions that reduce corporate and community emissions toward net zero. In addition, there was a focus on improving governance and risk management in relation to Council's response to the impacts of climate change.

Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) 2023–24 Year 4 Progress Update

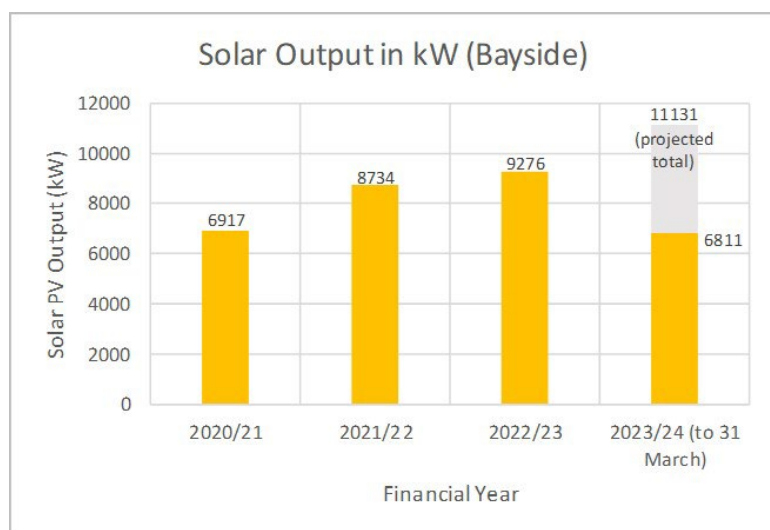
A Monitoring and Reporting Framework has been established for the measurement of each action and deliverable in the Action Plan. At the time of reporting, of the 83 committed deliverables in the Climate Emergency Action Plan for Year 4 (*Attachment 1*), 79 deliverables are delivered and assessed as 'on track' or 'completed', one action is deferred to the next financial year and three actions are not yet started or in progress and will be carried over into Year 5 actions.

Highlights of the delivery of the Climate Emergency Action Plan for Year Four included the following:

- Maintained 'Carbon Neutral' certification for Council operations for the fourth year in a row, to the 'Climate Active Carbon Neutral' Standard.
- Launched the Love Bayside, Electrify Everything campaign, assisting the community to transition to an all-electric home, including the distribution of over 300 Go Electric house plans, which assist residents to identify and plan for transitioning to an all-electric home. The program also provides access to energy efficient products (heat water hot pumps, reverse cycle air conditioners and induction cooktops) installed by an accredited and vetted installer. To date the program has had 217 registrations, 117 quotes sent out culminating in 43 installations. This is an excellent conversion rate of 36.8% with \$245,470 worth of community investment. Heat water hot pumps have been the most popular item with 37 installations to date, and nine reverse cycling air conditioners and nine induction cooktops installed.

- Promotion of rooftop solar saw the continual rise in installations and kW output annually across the municipality (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Bayside annual rooftop solar output



- Partnered in the SECCCA Enhancing Community Resilience program (funded by the Minderoo Foundation) by undertaking a co-design process with Bayside's older residents to develop tools aimed at increasing resilience and preparedness to extreme weather events.
- Prepared a report on Bayside's ability to measure, protect and improve capacity to absorb carbon.
- Supported the Port Phillip Eco Centre in holding the 19th School Sustainability Festival with hundreds of local school children attending.
- Partnered with Gardenvale Primary School and Bicycle Network to deliver the pilot programs Open Streets and Active Paths, encouraging students and parents to take active travel methods to school.
- Facilitated active transport programs including public cycling confidence workshops and promoted the BikeSpot and Yes to Better Buses surveys.
- The Bayside Local Planning ESD Policy was approved and gazetted on 17 November 2023 (Clause 15.01-2L-02 Environmentally Sustainable Development).
- Assessed the Sustainable Management Plans of 48 planning applications using the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard.
- Urban Forest Precinct Plans were adopted by Council in February 2024
- Two pilot Water for Wildlife stations installed across Bayside.
- Adoption of the Park Habitat Improvement and Linkage Plan.
- Process commenced to rezone Highett Grassy Woodland from Residential Growth Zone, Schedule 3 (RGZ3) to Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ). This will help ensure the future protection of the site as a conservation area.
- Reduced waste to landfill through the continued implementation of kerbside food and green waste service, with the residential waste diversion rate exceeding 71%.
- Delivered eight workshops as part of the Roving Repairs program with over 160 residents attending, repairing or upcycling over 150 items.
- Nine re-usable nappy workshops were held in partnership with other councils, both in person and on-line.

- Successfully secured a Sustainability Victoria Small Act Big Impact grant for \$84,000 to focus on reducing contamination within waste streams.
- Launched the Business Efficiency Hub, a one-stop online shop for businesses to access information on solar installations, energy efficient upgrades and electrification, rebates and access to a buying group for renewable energy.
- Update of the Integrated Water Management Plan will be completed by the end of the financial year.
- The 'Climate Change Steering Committee' (made up of Officer representatives) was endorsed and set up in 2023. The Committee is a formalised and centralised approach to the management of climate related risks, plans and strategies (including those related to adaptation) to help ensure climate related risks are appropriately supported, co-ordinated and monitored across the organisation.

New Actions and Year 5 Deliverables

There are a total of 76 deliverables for Year 5 of implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan which have been provided at Attachment 2.

The Plan builds on the successful delivery of climate emergency actions delivered to date and outlines Council's commitment to work in partnership with the community, government agencies, Traditional Owners, local organisations and businesses.

Year 5 of the Plan also includes provision to improve risk management in relation to Council's climate change efforts.

Community Batteries

As part of a Council Plan action, officers developed a business case to assess suitable battery locations across Bayside.

Batteries can either sit behind the meter or in front of the meter. Behind the meter refers to residential or commercial batteries which are installed by the resident for their private use. They provide power which is used onsite before passing through the electricity grid. Front of the meter batteries are connected to the local voltage electricity network and are used to supply the grid and distribute electricity to customers. They play an important role in helping to balance supply and demand, contribute to grid stabilisation and management and assist in ensuring reliability in energy supply.

Development of the business case consisted of three separate projects including a feasibility study into six Bayside locations by expert consultants Wave Consulting; a successful submission to the Neighbourhood Battery Initiative grant program led by the Yarra Energy Foundation, and review of a previous feasibility study into four Sandringham locations. Each of these projects are detailed below and a summary of the Business Case is at *Attachment 3*.

Bayside Community Battery Feasibility Study

Council engaged expert consultants Wave Consulting to undertake a feasibility at six sites across the Bayside municipality. Factors considered as part of the feasibility included proximity to low voltage transformer, access to pole, setback from residential properties, community profile, visual profile, open space to locate battery, no vegetation clearing required, no impact on traffic, negligible noise impact, access for maintenance, impact on amenity, the ability to support electric vehicle charging and excess solar capacity.

Although two sites rated good to very good on these factors alone, once a financial lens was applied, none of the six sites were considered a good financial investment with capital costs ranging from \$235,000 to \$711,500 depending on the size, installation and location of the

battery. It is considered that the capital expenditure and the operating expenditure needs to drop by approximately 50% before there is a clear financial investment case.

Victorian Government Neighbourhood Battery Initiative grant program

The Yarra Energy Foundation were successful in receiving grant funding of \$200,000 through the Victorian Government Neighbourhood Battery Initiative in August 2023 to assist 22 local governments (including Bayside) to develop a business case for a neighbourhood battery in each of their municipalities.

Council officers selected Peterson Reserve for Bayside's location and have been working closely with the Yarra Energy Foundation to develop a detailed business case for installation of a community battery at this site. Council is currently awaiting the draft business case submission. If Council chooses to proceed with installation of a battery at the Reserve, further discussions on the type of ownership model and implications of partnerships will still need to be agreed upon. This project is still underway.

Sandringham Feasibility Study

Council engaged the Yarra Energy Foundation to undertake a feasibility at four sites in Sandringham. Factors considered as part of the feasibility included proximity to LV transformer, concentration of rooftop solar, expected or demonstrated interest/support in a community battery, potential sites/land available and residential zoning.

Outcomes

Overall, the investigations to date have highlighted challenges related to installation of community batteries largely due to the high cost of batteries and logistics of connection to the network.

However, as both the Yarra Energy Foundation and Wave Consultants highlight, there can be other reasons for installing community batteries aside from the financial imperatives and it depends on Council's goals and objectives for battery installation. For example, Council goals or objectives for community batteries may include:

- provision of emergency centre back-up – providing auxiliary power to emergency support centres during extreme weather events
- network reliability – creating increased stability and reliability in the local distribution system and grid
- supporting community action on climate change – in hand with solar installations, utilising the battery as a vehicle for showcasing climate action
- electrical vehicle support – providing support for charging while managing peak electricity demand and grid constraints at night.

Council needs to determine its objective for installing a community battery in the future. If it chooses to install a community battery, then further investigations will need to be undertaken to determine the appropriate ownership model for the battery. Council will continue to monitor and maximise grant opportunities.

Based on the financial viability alone, Council officers do not recommend installing a community battery at this time.

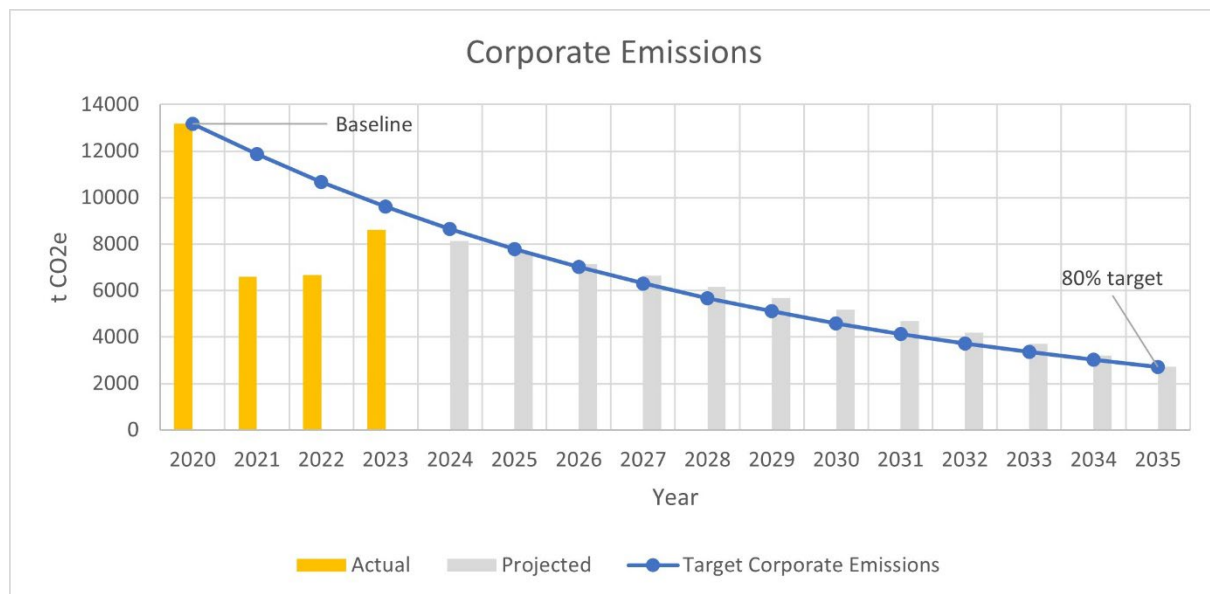
Progress against Council’s corporate emissions target

Council adopted a corporate greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 80% below 2020 levels by 2035 at the October 2023 Council meeting. As demonstrated in the below graph, Council are currently on track to achieve the target. The blue line illustrates the target emissions from baseline, the yellow shows the actual emissions to date, and the grey shows the minimum trajectory from our current emissions to achieve the target.

The Corporate emissions data includes Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, including fuel, gas, purchased electricity and refrigerants, paper, waste, water, travel, public lighting, contractor emissions, working from home emissions and leased buildings electricity and gas.

Council will continue to undertake activities which will reduce its emissions, including converting the fleet to electric vehicles, degasifying its buildings, implementing sustainable buildings and assets programs, improving recycling and waste outcomes and working with lessees to improve environmental performance of leased buildings.

Figure 2: Corporate emissions trajectory



Progress against the community emissions target

In 2021, Council adopted a community greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 75% below 2005 levels by 2030, and net zero by 2035 (or earlier). Figure 3 compares the target community emissions with the actual emissions calculated to date. The blue illustrates the target emissions from baseline, the yellow shows the actual emissions to date, and the grey bars illustrate the minimum trajectory from our current emissions that would be needed to catch up to the target and reach net zero by 2035. The data includes major sources of carbon emissions based on a combination of local (Tier 2) and state level (Tier 1) data sets, including stationary energy (electricity and gas), transport, waste, agriculture, land use change and industrial processes and product use.

This data is sourced from the Snapshot Climate website (Figure 4) which provides nationally consistent annual reports across Australia. It should be noted each year emission coefficients are updated to better reflect their carbon impact, which further refines the

dataset. As Figure 4 highlights, there is a lag on reporting which is due to the availability of data at the completion of any single year.

Figure 3: Community emissions trajectory

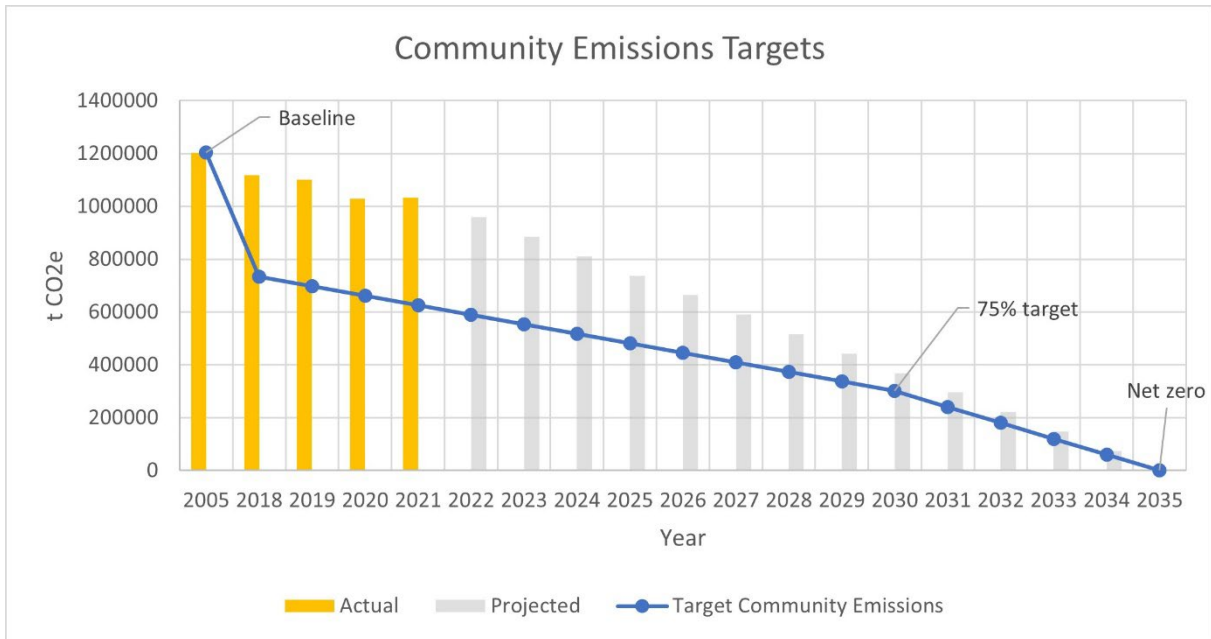
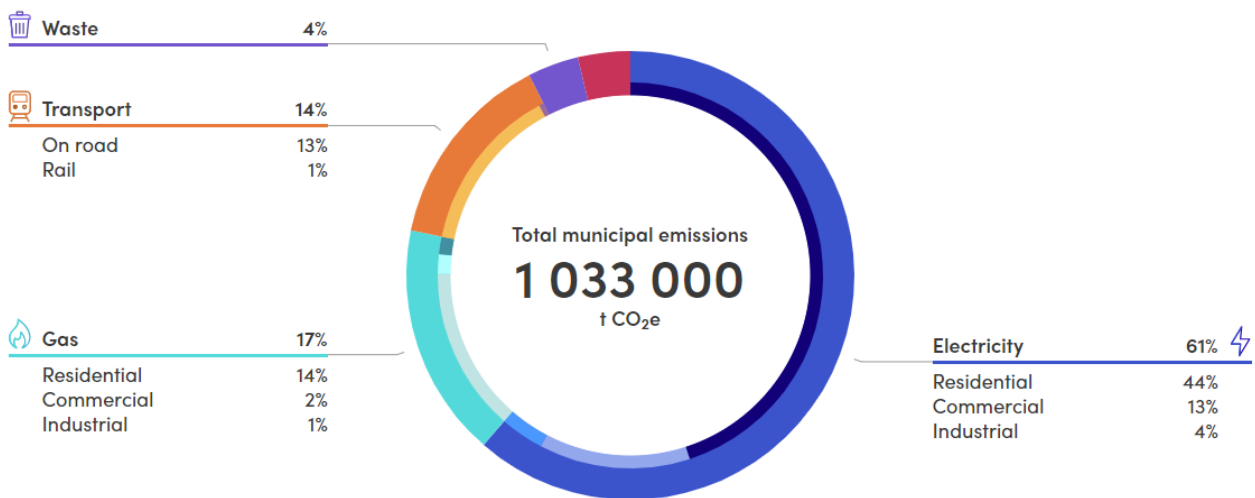
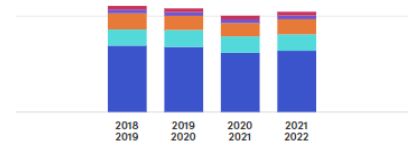


Figure 4: Municipal emissions snapshot

Bayside

2021 municipal emissions snapshot



The latest update of the Snapshot Climate data reflects the addition of a new emissions segment - Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU). This relates to the greenhouse gas emissions occurring from industrial processes and from the use of greenhouse gases in products. The latest update also includes updated emissions coefficients, addition of On Road Freight as a transport emission source and improved data sets for waste and wastewater.

Council will continue to undertake activities and implement programs which will enable, assist and educate the community to reduce its emissions in 2024–25. Activities planned include assistance and education programs under the Love Bayside program, including campaigns for promoting Electrify Everything, Go for Solar (Solar Savers), Travel Green and Don't Waste It.

In addition, infrastructure upgrades to improve active travel options such as improvements to bicycle and pedestrian paths and installation of public EV charging points are scheduled. The Integrated Water Management Plan (including connection to Dingley Recycled Water Scheme), Biodiversity Action Plan, Recycling and Waste Management Strategy, Urban Forest Strategy and Precinct Plans and the planned Coastal and Marine Management Plans will also contribute to reducing the community's carbon footprint in various ways.

Conclusion

Bayside City Council is on track to deliver 95% of deliverables as part of the Year 4 Climate Emergency Action Plan.

The 76 actions proposed in Year 5 of the Plan assist to respond to the community emissions target, zero emissions roadmap and includes reasonably expected actions to reduce emissions caused or otherwise influenced by Council. The Plan includes actions to both minimise greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and reduce vulnerability (adaptation) to the impacts of climate change.

Every action taken by Council and the community is important and will assist in reaching our goals for net zero emissions by 2035. It is important to ensure the Bayside community continues to implement on-ground actions to reduce emissions in a financially responsible manner and improve resilience to climate change impacts so we can protect what people love about living in Bayside.

Recommendation:

That Council

1. notes the actions undertaken in 2023–24 to implement the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020–25 (Attachment 1)
2. endorses the actions for Year 5 of implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan (Attachment 2).

Support Attachments

1. Climate Emergency Action Plan Year 4 Actions
2. Climate Emergency Action Plan Draft Year 5 Actions
3. Community Battery Business Case Summary

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Liveable community

Natural disasters, including heatwaves and other impacts caused by climate change, result in major social impacts including community wellbeing and resilience, which in turn result in non-linear increases in risk. Decisions made now will position our economy, society and local community for the disruption caused by climate change.

Climate change is already having significant adverse effects on human health. These include physical and psychological trauma associated with extreme weather events, warmer temperatures contributing to worsening air pollution, spread of infectious diseases, and risks to food and water security.

Council has a responsibility to ensure the resilience, health and wellbeing of the community. With vulnerable, ageing and young community members experiencing higher risks from climate change, this poses a serious threat to our community.

Natural Environment

The Climate Emergency requires a rapid escalation in efforts to protect, enhance, expand and integrate the natural environment into our cityscape. Actions from 'Theme 5: Protect and enhance our natural environment' of the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020–25 are included to protect and improve the quality of the natural environment and use natural resources more wisely.

Climate Emergency

The Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020–25 was developed in response to Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in December 2019.

Built Environment

Increasing extreme weather events resulting from climate change will result in increased likelihood of damage to public and private assets, both gradually and from extreme events.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

Extensive community engagement was undertaken to develop the Climate Emergency Action Plan and Climate Emergency Community Activation Campaign. Ongoing monitoring and reporting on the delivery of actions in the Climate Emergency Action Plan is undertaken to inform to the community on progress and further development of actions.

Human Rights

The implications of the report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

Whilst Council is not legally required to declare a 'Climate Emergency', not addressing climate change risks has legal implications for Councils, including:

- changes to the *Local Government Act 2020* which include mitigation and planning for climate change risks in the Overarching Principles
- emerging liability cases where municipal governments have not taken reasonable action to mitigate climate change risk.

The *Local Government Act 2020* Part 2, Division 1, 'Role and Powers of a council', includes an overarching governance principle to which a Council must give effect in the performance of its role. This new governance principle includes consideration of climate change, as follows: 'the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted'. Implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan meets this governance principle.

Finance

Council allocated a budget of \$445,000 from the 2023–24 budget to deliver actions from the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Links to Council policy and strategy

The Climate Emergency Action Plan links to the Council Plan 2021–25 through *Goal 1: Our Planet* and *Strategic Objective 1.1 – 'Lead and influence change to address the climate emergency and strive to reduce its impact on the health of our community, environment and the planet'*.

ACTION SUMMARY - Year 4		Total deliverables - 83		
Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020 -2025				
Theme 1 Build the Foundations				
Action	Deliverable	Progress Comment	Action Status (% complete)	End Date
1.1. Embed the Climate Emergency into all staff roles and responsibilities, and performance planning.	Part 1 Develop the Employee Value Proposition to include a response to the Climate Emergency.	The following actions have been implemented within Position Descriptions (PDs), Performance Development Plan Reviews (PDR), Code of Conduct and Bayside's Employee Value Proposition (EVP): - Sustainability performance outcome included in ET and SLT template performance plans. ET and SLT members have the ability to cascade these to any relevant staff. - Position template for Senior roles has been updated to clearly outline roles and responsibilities relating to sustainability. - Position Description template for all roles was updated in August 2022 to clearly outline roles and responsibilities relating to sustainability. Existing position descriptions are being updated to the new template when they are reviewed as part of the annual performance planning cycle. - The Staff Code of Conduct was updated in December 2021 to reflect actions to address the Climate Emergency. - Job advertisements include a statement reflecting Bayside's commitment to sustainability to ensure this is leveraged as part of our EVP.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
	Part 2 Continue to monitor the Climate Emergency Key Performance Indicator for the Executive Team: 'Deliver 80% of Climate Emergency actions within each directorate,' annually.	Progress against the Climate Emergency Action Plan is reported to the Executive Team on a quarterly basis, and annually to Council.	75% - on target to complete by end of financial year	31/07/2024
1.2 Develop and implement training for staff awareness and response to the Climate Emergency.	Part 1 Continue to deliver the staff induction module including Council's response to the Climate Emergency.	The Climate Emergency is discussed with new starters at the Corporate Induction session, which is presented by the Climate and Environmental Sustainability team.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
	Part 2 Continue to include targeted training and development opportunities in response to the Climate Emergency in the organisation-wide training and development plan.	The Climate Emergency 101 eLearning module has been developed and is allocated to all staff.	100%	30/06/2024

<p>1.4 Review the scope of the Investment Policy to ensure no direct investment in fossil fuel projects.</p>	<p>Continue to seek clarification from existing and prospective financial services to Bayside on their avoidance of direct investment in fossil fuel projects, as per the reviewed Investment Policy.</p>	<p>Bayside continues to avoid direct investment in fossil fuel projects, as per the Investment Policy.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p>
<p>1.5 Review and update the Procurement Policy and procedures to address climate change impacts from Council and contractor actions.</p>	<p>Part 1 Continue to include Environmental Sustainability as a standard weighting criterion for evaluation of tenders. Part 2 Continue to include specifications in contracts and tenders to address climate change impacts. Part 3 Increase the use of low emission and recycled products for buildings and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Bayside continues to include specifications in contracts and tenders to address climate change impacts. Bayside continues to include specifications in contracts and tenders to address climate change impacts. Bayside is continuing to strengthen contractor reporting requirements through the procurement process.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p>
<p>1.6 Each service area to review their existing Policies, Strategies, Action Plans and update in response to the Climate Emergency, prioritising resources for expertise as required.</p>	<p>Response to the Climate Emergency is integrated into the process for review of Policies, Strategies and Action Plans.</p>	<p>An update to the Policy or Strategy Scoping Paper now includes reference to the Local Government Act 2020 (and Gender Equality Act 2020 and Charter Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006). The Overarching Governance Principles in the Local Government Act 2020 include Principle 2c: "the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted". All Climate Emergency Actions are integrated as pre-populated actions for review in each department's Service Plan template. Consideration for climate emergency has been included in the Council policy (under Governance Principles point 'c') and strategy templates. Templates have been published on the intranet. Consideration for climate emergency has been included in the process mapping for creating/reviewing Council strategies.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p>
<p>1.7 Establish and communicate a science-based greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for the entire Bayside community, in line with the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>Continue to monitor the community greenhouse gas emissions reduction target annually, utilising tools consistent with the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventories.</p>	<p>Council continues to monitor progress against the community greenhouse gas emissions targets. An update on how the community is tracking will be presented as part of the Annual Update of the Climate Emergency Action Plan at the June Council meeting. The current annual community greenhouse gas emissions are tracking well below the target.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>1/07/2035</p>

<p>1.8 Review and update the Risk Management Framework to ensure climate risks are appropriately assessed and managed.</p>	<p>Part 1 Monitor effectiveness of Risk Assessment Procedure in assessing climate risk.</p>	<p>Council has reviewed the strategic and operational risk register to ensure that climate change risk is adequately considered through the risk management process. Council's strategic risk register has been updated to contain two climate change related risks, one associated with mitigation and one associated with adaptation.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p>
<p>Part 2 Continue to implement the Risk Management Framework, with assessment of Climate Risk.</p>	<p>Part 2 Continue to implement the Risk Management Framework, with assessment of Climate Risk.</p>	<p>Council is continuing to assess climate change risk through the risk management process and Climate Change Steering Committee.</p>	<p>50% - on target to complete by end of financial year</p>	<p>30/06/2024</p>
<p>Part 3 Develop a formal governance structure to guide and monitor the implementation of climate related plans and strategies.</p>	<p>Part 3 Develop a formal governance structure to guide and monitor the implementation of climate related plans and strategies.</p>	<p>A formal governance group with terms of reference was endorsed and set up in 2023. The Climate Change Steering Committee, is convened by the Director for Environment, Recreation and meets quarterly and as needed.</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>30/06/2024</p>
<p>1.9 Include consideration of the response to the 'Climate Emergency' in all reports to Council.</p>	<p>Annual Reporting</p>	<p>The Council Report template includes a titled section to ensure that information is included outlining how that item assists Council's response to the climate emergency.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p>
<p>1.10 Report on Council's response to the 'Climate Emergency' through Council's Quarterly Reporting to the community.</p>	<p>Annual Reporting</p>	<p>Council quarterly reports now contains a summary of progress on the Climate Emergency Action Plan. A section of the Annual report includes an update on the environmental sustainability framework and Council's response to the climate emergency.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p>
<p>1.11 Develop Council's advocacy priorities to address the Climate Emergency and facilitate community advocacy.</p>	<p>Implement Climate Emergency advocacy priorities through Council's Advocacy Strategy.</p>	<p>Climate Emergency advocacy priorities are included in the current Council advocacy priorities which raised with local Members of Parliaments through regular meetings and in sector groups as opportunities arise. Current advocacy policies to help transition to Council's net zero community emissions by 2035 include: - A sliding scale on emissions reduction and renewal energy rebates to remove/lift income/property value tax thresholds for rebates - A strategic approach and greater federal/state alignment in the investment, incentives and roll out of community emissions reduction technology - Support for active and sustainable transport initiatives including cycle paths and bus network enhancements - Funding for the transition to green power, including the delivery of community batteries - Support for community education and mitigation programs to help prepare for the impacts of climate changing including heat risk for vulnerable members of our community.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p>

<p>1.12 Maintain relationship with Traditional Owners to collaborate on Climate Emergency response.</p>	<p>Continue to respond to the Climate Emergency by supporting actions integrated into the Reconciliation Action Plan.</p>	<p>Council launched its Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan in July 2022. Action 6 in the Reconciliation Action Plan specifically relates to the Climate Emergency which says: Action 6 - 'Integrate Indigenous ways of knowing into land and water management' with the following deliverables -Partner to deliver the 'Repairing Memory and Place' ARC Linkage Project with Monash University, Traditional Owners, Melbourne Water, Museums Vic and neighbouring Local Government Areas -Consult regularly with the Traditional Owner Groups to Integrate Indigenous ways of knowing into the Elsterwick Park Nature Reserve Masterplan; by end of 2023'. Council continues to contribute to the Repairing Memory and Place project.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p>
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Theme 2 Mobilise with our community				
Action	Deliverable	Progress Comment	Action Status	
			End Date	
2.1 Establish a coordinated program of community awareness, engagement and behaviour change initiatives to build local support and action for a Climate Emergency response.	Part 1 Deliver targeted communications and education campaign to support community greenhouse gas emissions reduction in with greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 75% below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2035.	<p>Council is delivering a range of programs and initiatives, to support the community to meet its greenhouse gas emissions target of 75% below 2005 levels by 2030, and net zero by 2035 (or earlier). The Love Bayside, Electrify Everything campaign launched in August 2023 through several communication channels and enables the community to access information to electrify their homes. Eight community information sessions for Electrify Everything have been held with over 170 participants. As a result, over 70 households have either pledged to electrify their homes or downloaded the Go Electric house plan from Council's website. Over 210 residents have registered to replace old, inefficient or gas appliances with new electrical replacements as part of the installation component of the program. So far, over 35 contracts have been signed with a total community investment of \$213,000.</p> <p>Council has held five Solar Savers community information session with varied attendance. Council continues to promote both programs widely and is working with volunteer residents to develop case studies for promotion.</p> <p>The new online Business Efficiency Hub on Council's website provides a one-stop-shop for businesses seeking to increase their energy efficiency, move to electrification or switch to renewable energy. This includes information the Business Renewables Buying Group, Energy Savers program, Solar Savers, Electrify Everything and available rebates. These opportunities have been promoted to Bayside businesses through a variety of communication channels including through our Economic Development and Environmental Health newsletters, as well as business visits and phone calls. Promotion will continue through Quarter 4.</p>	Ongoing	1/07/2035
	Part 2: Continue to expand the 'GreenMoney' behaviour change program to the community.	<p>Council continues to promote GreenMoney to the community via Council newsletters including Environmental Health monthly newsletter, This Week in Bayside weekly newsletter, Sustainable Living in Bayside monthly newsletter and on social media. Council continues to contact local businesses inviting them to participate as rewards partners.</p>	100%	30/06/2024
2.2 Implement an innovative school-focused education and engagement program to build the next generation of climate and community leaders.	Continue to deliver a coordinated schools education program.	<p>Council, in partnership with the Port Phillip Eco Centre, provides a fully-funded schools program called 'Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability' where a qualified Educator works with a class of students for one term, supporting the development of leadership skills and environmental knowledge. The program culminates in a student-directed sustainability project. To date, three Bayside primary schools (68 children) have participated in the program this financial year.</p> <p>Council also supports the Eco Centre's annual School Sustainability Festival which is a full day event using a kids teaching kids model, with four Bayside primary schools attending the festival in Quarter 2. Council also offers schools Bin-wise incursions and facilitates its own Youth Sustainability Leaders program.</p>	Ongoing	1/07/2025

<p>2.3 Develop and deliver programs to support local business climate actions, through education and incentives.</p>	<p>Part 1 Continue to expand the GreenMoney behaviour change program to support local businesses.</p> <p>Part 2 Deliver ongoing programs, partnerships & events to support local business climate actions.</p> <p>Part 3 Promote Federal & State Government support programs for local businesses and industry.</p>	<p>Two new businesses have come on board as new reward partners to date with another five to join the program by the end of the financial year. Council continues to investigate ways to bring new businesses into the scheme.</p> <p>The online Business Efficiency Hub sits on Council's website with links into the page from the Economic Development and Sustainability main pages. The Hub is an one-stop-shop promoting programs such as Solar Savers, Business Energy Savers, Electrify Everything and the Business Renewables Buying Group as well as identifying opportunities for business grants.</p> <p>Events such as Business Renewables Buying Group Workshops and information sessions for Electrify and Solar Savers continue to be promoted through the Economic Development and Environmental Health newsletters.</p> <p>The online Business Efficiency Hub promotes programs for businesses as well as identifying opportunities for business grants from state and federal bodies.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>90% - on target to complete by end of financial year</p> <p>75% - on target to complete by end of financial year</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p> <p>30/06/2024</p> <p>30/06/2024</p>
<p>2.4 Provide in-kind support for action responding to the Climate Emergency led by community groups.</p>	<p>Maintain up to date details of Environment Groups in the Community Directory.</p>	<p>The Community Directory is kept up to date.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p>
<p>2.5 Explore and implement innovative funding models to support investment in climate action.</p>	<p>Part 1 Continue to facilitate Environmental Upgrade Finance for local businesses.</p> <p>Part 2 Explore and implement Environmental Upgrade Finance for residential properties.</p>	<p>Better Building Finance who provides Environmental Upgrade Financing has entered into receivership. Council will wait until a new provider comes onto the market to investigate further.</p> <p>Better Building Finance who provides Environmental Upgrade Financing has entered into receivership. Council will wait until a new provider comes onto the market to investigate further.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Deferred to 2024/25</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p> <p>30/06/2024</p>
<p>2.6 Deliver programs and services that build community resilience to the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Part 1 Identify and develop new opportunities that support vulnerable community members to prepare and respond to heatwaves and extreme weather events.</p>	<p>The Maternal and Child Health Enhanced team in conjunction with the Community Care team are working with the Sustainability team on a pilot Heat Resilience Program. The program aims to identify ways in which Council can act to increase resilience of community members identified as vulnerable due to age, maternal health and financial stress, against the impacts to extreme heat weather events. The pilot project objective is to build resilience to heat by subsidising the installation of an efficient reverse cycle air-conditioning unit in a single room in the residents' homes, also provided an efficient way of heating during winter.</p> <p>The Enhanced team identified 7 clients considered as most vulnerable within the community while the Community Care team have identified 12 clients. These clients have been invited to participate in the program. The pilot program will be completed at the end of the financial year with an evaluation to be undertaken on the effectiveness of the program.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p>

<p>2.7 Provide up-to-date information on climate change and practical advice for the community to stay informed, connected and take action to respond to the Climate Emergency.</p>	<p>Part 2 Engage with young people to identify and deliver at least one activity each year that builds resilience and responds to the Climate Emergency.</p> <p>Part 3 Establish and deliver an annual program to support older residents to access and use technology at home, connecting them with information and advice to build their resilience and preparedness in dealing with the Climate Emergency.</p>	<p>The Youth Sustainability Leaders (YSL) programs aims to upskill and empower young people to lead climate action and was completed in Quarter 2. Eight young people registered with an average participation of three to four young participants on a weekly basis.</p> <p>Led by the Youth Services team and supported by the Climate and Sustainability team, learning outcomes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of information to increase understanding on some of the current sustainability challenges. - Opportunities to contribute and encourage a more sustainable community. - Capacity development of young people through training opportunities and workshops. <p>Participant feedback indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -60% rating towards feeling empowered to lead climate action. -75% rating towards feeling an increase in knowledge on current sustainability challenges after completing the program. <p>This partnership continued with an external provider for the provision of a tablet and software solution designed for seniors and those with cognitive impairment and dementia. Older residents supported to use variety of apps to remain connected with family and friends as well monitoring weather and news updates.</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>30/06/2024</p>
	<p>Part 1 Continue to promote Council's Climate Emergency webpage across Council's communication channels.</p> <p>Part 2 Continue to promote Council and community action to address the Climate Emergency through events and engagement opportunities.</p>	<p>Council continues to promote the Climate Emergency webpage through a variety of channels including the weekly e-newsletter This Week in Bayside, monthly e-newsletters (Sustainable Living in Bayside, Economic Development, Seniors, Youth, Environmental Health), social media, hardcopy magazine Let's Talk Bayside, Bayside environmental groups networks as well at workshops, information sessions and other presentations.</p> <p>Bayside continues to promote Council and community action to address the Climate Emergency through events and engagement opportunities.</p> <p>As part of the Healthy Ageing Seniors Festival, a Solar Savers community information session was held with good attendance. Four more sessions were held in April and May 2024.</p> <p>October activities focused on transport including an internal Ride2Work day breakfast and opportunities for the community to participate in both bus and bike surveys. Council partnered with Bicycle Network to run the Active Paths and Open Streets program at Gardenvale Primary School with the focus to increase active travel methods to and from school. Three community Cycling Confidence workshops were held in April 2024.</p>	<p>75% - on target to complete by end of financial year</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>30/06/2024</p> <p>1/07/2025</p> <p>30/06/2025</p>

<p>2.8 Establish a Sustainable Community Grants program to support community initiatives that address climate change mitigation and/or adaptation.</p>	<p>Continue to deliver annual Bayside Climate Emergency Grants program to support community initiatives that address climate change.</p>	<p>Bayside continues to support community groups to take action on climate change via the Climate Emergency Grant fund. \$10,000 has been distributed through the program this financial year to date.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p>
<p>2.9 Investigate partnership initiatives which promote climate action within Council and across the community.</p>	<p>Engage with industry organisations that promote energy efficient and sustainable products and services to the community.</p>	<p>Bayside continues to engage with industry organisations that promote energy efficient and sustainable products and services to the community through its Electrify Everything campaign with the Yarra Energy Foundation and Solar Savers through the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p>

Theme 3 Move to zero carbon transport				
Action	Deliverable	Progress Comment	Action Status	End Date
3.1 Explore and implement opportunities to increase the uptake of 'Zero Carbon' Electric Vehicles in Bayside.	<p>Part 1 Install one public Electric Vehicle charging station annually, at suitable sites.</p> <p>Part 3 Promote EV charging infrastructure finance to local businesses through Environmental Upgrade Finance.</p> <p>Part 4 Engage with United Energy to investigate trialling Power pole mounted EV chargers.</p>	<p>Council is currently in the process of entering agreements with JOLT to provide ground mount EV charges and EVX to provide pole mount EV charges. Council undertook community engagement on a proposed network of 9 ground mount electric vehicles charges across the municipality. A consultation report is currently being drafted and findings will inform which EV sites can be delivered. Subject to the findings of the consultation, delivery of EV chargers will commence late in 2024.</p> <p>Better Building Finance who provides Environmental Upgrade Financing has entered into receivership. Council will wait until a new provider comes onto the market to investigate further.</p> <p>Council is working with EVX and United Energy to investigate trialling power pole mounted electric vehicle (EV) chargers.</p>	<p>80% - on track to complete by the end of 2025</p> <p>100%</p> <p>75% - on target to complete by end of financial year</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p> <p>30/06/2024</p> <p>30/06/2024</p>
3.2 Update the Fleet Policy to transition the Council fleet to net zero carbon.	<p>Add further electric vehicles to the Council fleet supported by installation of electric vehicle charging stations.</p>	<p>A review of the Fleet Policy to include EV provision was undertaken and completed in 30 June 2023. Three EV's were included in the fleet in 2023/24, bringing the total to 12 EV's.</p>	Ongoing	1/07/2025
3.3 Accelerate review of the Integrated Transport Strategy and implement to address climate change impacts.	<p>Part 1 Update and promote active transport maps to highlight shady routes and water fountains.</p> <p>Part 2 Review expansion of Share car network through council area with a focus on Electric Vehicle share cars.</p>	<p>Cycle networks maps are currently being reviewed and expected to be finalised in late 2024.</p> <p>Car share services are currently operating throughout Bayside. Council has engaged with GoGet and proposed three locations across the municipality where dedicated car share parking spaces could be installed. The focus has been on locating car share spaces in locations with greater need for these services, including apartment dwellings or activity centres. Locations are to be finalised in 2024 with implementation in next financial year.</p> <p>Council has engaged with GoGet on the opportunity for including EV cars as part of their service offering. Providing EVs as part of their car share service is not currently feasible.</p>	<p>50%</p> <p>75% - on target to complete by end of financial year</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p> <p>30/06/2024</p>
3.4 Implement a behaviour change program to encourage residents and visitors to switch to 'zero carbon' transport modes	<p>Part 1 Walking behaviour change program delivered.</p> <p>Part 2 Deliver active transport behaviour change programs annually.</p>	<p>Council partnered with Gardenvale Primary School and Bicycle Network to deliver pilot program that encouraged walking to schools, through local street closures, promoting active transport as an alternative to car travel alongside health benefits.</p> <p>Council promoted the Amy Gillet Foundation's National BikeSpot Survey (October to January), an online platform that closed in January 2024 that sought community feedback (positive and negative) on cycle routes that are suitable for cycling or routes that required greater attention to improve safety. Feedback received provides a detailed understanding of issues that limit cycle accessibility throughout the council alongside routes that are widely used.</p> <p>Council delivered a cycling with confidence, bike maintenance and path to road programs in 2024.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>100%</p>	<p>1/07/2025</p> <p>30/06/2024</p>

	Part 3 Engage with local schools and community groups to promote and run active transport initiatives.	Council partnered with Gardenvale Primary School and Bicycle Network to deliver pilot program that encouraged cycling to schools, through local street closures, promoting active transport as an alternative to car travel alongside health benefits. Public cycling confidence workshops were held at the end of Quarter 3 which were well attended, providing opportunity for community to refresh cycling skills and confidence as well as focussing on bike maintenance.	100%	30/06/2024
3.5 Advocacy relating to Zero Carbon Transport will be delivered under Action 1.1.1.				1/07/2025

Theme 4 Transform to a climate responsive built environment				
Action	Deliverable	Progress Comment	Action Status	End Date
	Part 1 A local Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Planning Policy is adopted in the Bayside Planning Scheme.	The Planning Scheme Amendment C187 implementing Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) controls in the Planning Scheme was gazetted 17 November 2023. Council continues to await the State Government's response and authorisation of planning scheme amendment C195 bays in request for State policy (joint amendment).	Ongoing	1/07/2025
4.1 Implement a local Environmentally Sustainable Development Planning Policy in line with the Climate Emergency	Part 2 Pursue opportunities to improve conditions for Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) in the Bayside Planning Scheme, through the Victorian Government ESD 'Roadmap' process.	The Local ESD policy was adopted and gazetted and forms part of the Bayside Planning Scheme.	100%	30/06/2024
	Part 3 Build evidence for inclusion of clauses in response to the Climate Emergency in the local ESD Planning Policy Framework.	The Local ESD policy was adopted and gazetted and forms part of the Bayside Planning Scheme.	100%	30/06/2024
4.2 Review Streetscape Masterplans to assess their resilience to climate change.	Develop criteria for review of Streetscape Masterplans to assess their resilience to climate change and add to existing review process.	Scoping to occur in the new financial year.	Not started - deliverable carried over into Year 5 actions	1/07/2025
4.3 Explore the climate resilience of built form in Bayside.	Deliver and utilise a research project on the current status of built form in Bayside and its resilience to climate change impacts, and required future state.	The SECCA Housing Adaptation Report has been prepared and reviewed by Council. The Strategic Planning team will work with the Climate and Sustainability team as to the next steps from here and how the Report will inform Council's ongoing work.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
4.4 Provide information and education regarding best practice Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) standards	Part 1 Continue to provide information regarding best practice Environmentally Sustainable Development standards Part 2 Education programs to improve existing homes to be developed and delivered annually, following design of Climate Emergency Community Activation Campaign.	Council, through CASBE, provides information and education regarding best practice Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) standards as well as provide a program.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
		The Love Bayside, Electrify Everything campaign launched in August 2023 enables the community to access information to electrify their homes while Solar Savers offers residents access to quality rooftop solar installed by an accredited and vetted installer.	75% - on target to complete by end of financial year	30/06/2024

	Part 3 Investigate opportunities with local Real Estate agents to promote energy efficient properties.	Up to date information on energy efficiency programs is regularly circulated via the Economic Development Traders' newsletter distributed to all Bayside businesses.	75% - on target to complete by end of financial year	30/06/2024
4.5 Continue to recognise excellence in Environmentally Sustainable Design through the Bayside Built Environment Awards.	Promote and award the Environmentally Sustainable Design category in the Bayside Built Environment Awards	The Built Environment Awards was held on 19 October 2023 with the Environmentally Sustainable Design category awarded. Preliminary planning has commenced for the 2024 Built Environment Awards. Several email blasts and social media posts have been undertaken to encourage nominations. Judges have been secured for the awards in early September.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
4.6 Review and update the Sustainable Infrastructure Policy to align with Climate Emergency principles.	Implement updated Sustainable Infrastructure Policy to ensure Council assets align with Climate Emergency principles, annually.	Council has updated and continues to implement its Sustainable Building & Infrastructure Policy to ensure Climate Emergency principles are embedded in Council's asset lifecycle. Training was provided to project managers to ensure that such principles are included in new building and infrastructure projects.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
4.7 Identify and monitor infrastructure assets at risk due to climate change and prioritise actions in response.	Include transparent weightings to climate-related risks as part of ongoing asset management processes, to inform capital and maintenance programs.	Council participated in the SECCA 'Asset Vulnerability Assessment' project which identified infrastructure assets at risk due to climate change. In response, Council officers have prioritised these actions through the capital works program.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
4.8 Include requirements to address environmental impact into leases of Council property.	Include specific requirements to reduce environmental impact in existing community and commercial leases when renewed.	Council is undertaking a stage two review of existing community and commercial leases. As per the Lease and Licence Policy adopted in March 2023, all new leases have requirements to reduce environmental impacts included in them.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
4.9 Investigate opportunities for a pilot 'zero carbon' development.	Part 1 Meet with developers to discuss opportunities and barriers to build example zero carbon apartment blocks and homes.	Council officers recently contacted local builders and architects inviting them to identify sustainable developments which they've worked on, so to showcase them at the 2024 Bayside Built Environment Awards. Council continues to promote sustainable building design principles, including adequate green space and recycled water through the Suburban Rail Loop engagement processes. Council will look to meet with developers to discuss opportunities and barriers in the next financial year.	Ongoing	1/07/2025

	Part 2 Promote Sustainable House Day and showcase zero carbon developments as examples for the Bayside community.	The Bayside Built Environment Awards was held in 2023 with a category that recognised outstanding sustainable development within Bayside. The winner in the Best Sustainability Building category was 7 Bleazby Avenue, Brighton (Austin Maynard Architects) and showcased a 7-star low emissions apartment block development.	100%	30/06/2024
4.10 Advocacy relating to the built environment will be delivered under Action 1.11.				1/07/2025

Theme 5 Protect and enhance our natural environment				
Action	Deliverable	Progress Comment	Action Status	End Date
	Part 1 Investigate opportunities for increasing trees and vegetation on public and private land.	The Park Habitat Improvement and Linkage Plan is used to guide upcoming nature strip tree planting programs. A campaign to encourage residents to nominate trees to the Significant Tree Register commenced in April and will run until the end of May.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
5.1 Finalise and implement the Urban Forest Strategy.	Part 2 Continue to implement the Urban Forest Strategy.	The Urban Forest Precinct Plans were adopted by Council at its February 2024 meeting. Amendment C186bays which implements the Urban Forest Strategy has been exhibited and was adopted by Council at its December 2023 Meeting. Council officers have submitted the Amendment to the Minister for Planning and are awaiting approval. Amendment C199bays which proposes to rezone the Hightett Grassy Woodland from Residential Growth Zone Schedule 1 to Public Conservation and Resource Zone was adopted by Council in March 2024. Council officers have submitted the Amendment to the Minister for Planning and are awaiting approval.	100%	30/06/2024
5.2 Implement the Biodiversity Action Plan	Continue to implement the Biodiversity Action Plan in response to the Climate Emergency.	The review of the existing Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been completed and is pending endorsement by Council at the June Council Meeting. The annual tree planting program has been delivered and is reported to Council through the annual update of the Urban Forest Strategy implementation.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
5.3 Accelerate review of the Integrated Water Management Plan and implement to address climate change impacts.	Build on 'Climate Emergency Action Plan Gaps and Opportunities Report' to review and update the Integrated Water Management Plan.	The review of the existing Integrated Water Management Strategy has been complete and is pending endorsement by Council at the June 2024 Council Meeting.	90% - on target to complete by end of financial year	31/12/2023
5.4 Update and implement the Coastal and Marine Management Plan and related plans considering outcomes from the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment	Part 1 The Coastal and Marine Management Plan is updated in response to outcomes from the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment.	Work has begun on developing Bayside's Coastal Marine Management Plan (CMMP). Council officers have met with representatives from the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLACA), internal stakeholders and will be reaching out to statutory stakeholders including the State Government before the end of the financial year. A background paper will be presented to Council at the June Council Meeting.	80% - deliverable will not be completed this financial year and will be carried over into Year 5 actions	30/06/2024

	Part 2 The Biodiversity Action Plan is updated in response to outcomes from the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment.	The review of the existing Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been completed and is pending endorsement by Council at the June Council Meeting.	90% - on target to complete by end of financial year	30/06/2024
5.5 Accelerate review and update the Open Space Strategy in response to the Climate Emergency	Build on 'Climate Emergency Action Plan Gaps and Opportunities Report' to review and update Open Space Strategy.	A consultant has been appointed to assist with the development of the renewed Bayside Open Space Strategy. The first round of internal stakeholder engagement has been undertaken. This project will continue into the new financial year.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
5.7 All planting and landscape renewal plans in Council open space consider hardiness and adaptability of species in the context of climate change risks.	More resilient landscapes	Council adopted the Park Habitat Improvement and Linkage Plan to guide plantings work across Bayside. The Plan aims to improve existing habitats, provide links between these habitats and encourage indigenous planting wherever possible. Additional indigenous garden beds have been created across Bayside at locations selected to link existing areas of open space in order to create and strengthen green corridors. The Park Habitat Improvement and Linkage Plan is also used to guide upcoming nature strip tree planting programs.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
5.8 Support local food production across the municipality.	Implement the Community Garden Policy and investigate urban agriculture opportunities.	Council endorsed the Community Garden Policy at its July 2023 Council Meeting. Local food production across the municipality is supported by five community gardens across Bayside. Council officers have and continue to investigate urban agriculture opportunities and have held events covering bush tucker and medicine, connecting to plants and place, introduction to fermentation and creating small bird friendly gardens.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
5.9 Advocacy relating to the natural environment will be delivered under Action 1.1.1.				

Theme 6 Transition to a Circular Economy to avoid waste				
Action	Deliverable	Progress Comment	Action Status	
			End Date	
6.1 Review and update Bayside's Recycling and Waste Management Strategy to reflect the transition to the 'circular economy'.	Comply with the new obligations and reporting requirements under the Circular Economy Act 2021.	Council is currently complying with all mandated requirements of the Circular Economy Act 2021. Council will review and update the Recycling and Waste Management Strategy 2025 to ensure that it reflects the transition to the 'circular economy' and includes all mandated service changes as detailed in the Circular Economy Act 2021. This will include the requirement to implement a glass only service by 2027.	Ongoing	31/12/2030
6.2 Develop and deliver a campaign in partnership with local businesses and community groups to reduce waste to landfill, recognising leaders in the community.	Part 1 A project to reduce single-use plastics with local organisations, businesses and community groups is delivered to build on the campaign developed by Victorian Government's Single Use Plastic (SUP) ban scheduled for 2023. Part 2 A project to support organics recycling with local organisations, businesses and community groups is delivered, annually. Part 3 Investigate the opportunity to create a 'Leading waste management' category as part of the Bayside Business Excellence awards.	The Roving Repairs program has engaged with local businesses and community groups to focus on repairing items and skills and knowledge sharing. Several events are planned for Quarter 4 that will focus on waste avoidance and include the avoidance of single use plastics. Council continues to provide a kerbside food organics service to business where suitable. Council is part of a submission with other councils for a Circular Economy Business Grant with Sustainability Victoria. This grant looks to assist businesses reducing their waste footprint. The Bayside Business Excellence Awards are no longer being facilitated.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
6.3 Engage and support the community with practical strategies and actions to avoid waste, through education and incentives.	Part 1 Continue to deliver a community education program on actions to avoid waste. Part 2 Continue to use the 'GreenMoney' community behaviour change program to provide education and incentives for actions to avoid waste.	The Roving Repairs Program involved 8 events, all focused on a different area of repair. The program aimed to educate the community on the lost art of repair, in favour of buying something new and disposing of it. Nine re-usable nappy workshops concluded in February 2024. This program was run in partnership with several councils. The aim of these programs was to increase the uptake of re-usable nappies over disposal nappies. A single-use plastic reduction program is underway to assist Council leased facilities to manage their waste more effectively, with a focus on minimising single use plastics. Single-use plastic avoidance is also addressed in regular school incursions hosted by Council. Council continues to promote waste initiatives via GreenMoney to the community via Council newsletters including Environmental Health monthly newsletter, This Week in Bayside weekly newsletter, Sustainable Living in Bayside monthly newsletter and on social media.	100%	30/06/2024
			Ongoing	1/07/2025
			100%	30/06/2024

6.4. Advocacy relating to the Circular Economy will be delivered under Action 1.1.1.		

Theme 7 Switch to zero carbon energy				
Action	Deliverable	Progress Comment	Action Status	
			End Date	
7.1 Maintain 'Carbon Neutral' certification for council operations, to the 'Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard'	Part 1 Promote details of certification each Financial Year. Part 2 Establish a science-based greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for Council's operations	Council submitted an emissions inventory and Product Disclosure Statement to Climate Active for the 2022/23 financial year. Data has been provided and reviewed by a third party and Council has completed a Public Disclosure Statement endorsed by Climate Active. Bayside is officially carbon neutral as certified by Climate Active for a fourth year in a row. This is promoted through several channels, including Council's website, as well as at community workshops and presentations. Council adopted a corporate greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 80% below 2020 levels by 2035 at the October 2023 Council meeting and will report against it on a quarterly basis to the Executive Team and annually to Council.	100%	31/12/2023
7.2 Purchase all electricity used by Council from renewable sources.	All electricity is from renewable sources.	Council's electricity purchase is from 100% renewable energy.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
7.3 Transition Council operations to all-electric (i.e. gas/fossil fuel free) by June 2030.	Develop a plan to transition Council operations to all-electric.	Council endorsed an All-Electric Plan for Council assets at the 2023 September Council Meeting. Council is developing a pipeline of works with the intention to electrify its assets by 2030.	100%	31/12/2023
7.4 Continue to upgrade public lighting with energy efficient LED lamps.	Explore opportunities to fund upgrade of all remaining street lighting to LED lamps	Bayside is upgrading streetlights to LED (energy efficient) in eight Brighton streets throughout June and August 2024.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
7.5 Continue to implement a capital works program to increase energy efficiency, renewable energy, and batteries, in Council buildings and assets.	Part 1 Develop a business case to implement battery systems in Council buildings and assets, as opportunities present.	Council has allocated \$200,000 for sustainable building works (including energy efficiency, solar and battery). Council has undertaken feasibility studies at several sites for battery installation. The studies demonstrated that battery installation was not financially viable nor added value to the asset. Council also undertook feasibility studies at several sites for solar rooftop installation which proved solar was a viable option. Council is preparing a pipeline of works for these sites but needs to undertake structural assessments of each asset's roof prior to installation. Council has determined that the solar opportunities are a better investment and are planned to be installed.	Ongoing	1/07/2025

	Part 2 Develop a repository of information to capture the current status of equipment and appliances regarding energy efficiency, water efficiency, and use of renewable energy, in Council buildings and assets.	Council has allocated \$200,000 for sustainable buildings works (including energy efficiency, solar and battery) as well as degasification and energy efficiency projects. 75% of the budget is expended to date with the remainder to be spent before the end of the financial year. Repository of information for assets including solar and electrification has been developed and currently being managed and updated.	75% - on target to complete by end of financial year	20/06/2024
	Part 1 Offer subsidised home energy assessments for vulnerable community members.	Council is taking the learnings from other councils who have implemented similar projects and plans to develop its own in the next financial year 2024/25.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
7.6 Support vulnerable members of the community to ensure they are not left behind in the switch to 'zero carbon' energy	Part 2 Support vulnerable community members to access affordable energy efficiency upgrade.	The Maternal and Child Health Enhanced team in conjunction with the Community Care team are working with the Climate and Sustainability team on a pilot Heat Resilience Program. The program aims to identify ways in which Council can act to increase resilience of community members identified as vulnerable due to age, maternal health and financial stress, against the impacts to extreme heat weather events. The project objective is to build resilience to heat by subsidising the installation of an efficient reverse cycle air-conditioning unit in a single room in the residents' homes, also provided an efficient way of heating during winter. The Enhanced team have identified seven clients considered as most vulnerable within the community while the Community Care team have identified 12 clients. These clients have been invited to participate in the pilot program. The program will be completed at the end of the financial year.	75% - on target to complete by end of financial year	20/06/2024
7.7 Work with partners to explore feasibility and pilot innovative solutions to support the community to rapidly and equitably switch to zero carbon energy.	Part 1 Develop business case for suitable neighbourhood battery locations. Part 2 Identify and support local businesses that would benefit from a renewable energy Power Purchase Agreement.	Council has developed a business case for suitable battery locations across Bayside. Development of the business case consisted of three separate projects including a feasibility study into six Bayside locations by expert consultants Wave Consulting; a successful submission to the Neighbourhood Battery Initiative grant program led by the Yarra Energy Foundation; and an unsuccessful solo bid to the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) for a community battery installation. Bayside is part of the Business Renewables Buying Group (BRBG) program. The BRBG program provides large energy using businesses access to a facilitated process to join a renewable energy Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Council officers have developed a list of possible large scale energy users within Bayside have started to contact them about the BRBG program. This will continue in the next financial year.	Ongoing	1/07/2025
7.8 Advocacy relating to zero carbon energy will be delivered under Action 1.11.	Part 3 Meet with Developers and Body Corporate managers to incentivise GreenPower options for sites.	Bayside is part of the Business Renewables Buying Group (BRBG) program. The BRBG program provides large energy using businesses access to a facilitated process to join a renewable energy Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Council officers have developed a list of possible large scale energy users within Bayside have started to contact them about the BRBG program. This can include developers and body corporate managers. This will continue in the next financial year.	100%	20/06/2024
			75% - on target to complete by end of financial year	20/06/2024

ACTION SUMMARY - Year 5		Total deliverables - 76	
Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2025			
Theme 1 Build the Foundations			
Action	Deliverable	Outcome	Action Status
1.1. Embed the Climate Emergency into all staff roles and responsibilities, and performance planning.	Continue to monitor the Climate Emergency Key Performance Indicator for the Executive Team: 'Deliver 80% of Climate Emergency actions within each directorate,' annually.	All staff are aware of their responsibility to be part of the organisational response to the Climate Emergency in their role at Bayside City Council.	Ongoing
1.2 Develop and implement training for staff awareness and response to the Climate Emergency.	Part 1 Continue to deliver the staff induction module including Council's response to the Climate Emergency. Part 2 Ensure staff have access to and are supported to undertake the internal Climate Emergency e-module as part of the organisation-wide training and development plan.	All staff are aware of the organisational response to the Climate Emergency and applying knowledge in their role	Ongoing
1.5 Review and update the Procurement Policy and procedures to address climate change impacts from Council and contractor actions.	Part 1 Continue to include Environmental Sustainability as a standard weighting criterion for evaluation of tenders. Part 2 Continue to include specifications in contracts and tenders to address climate change impacts.	Procurement Policy and relevant documents are updated to address climate change impacts.	Ongoing
1.6 Each service area to review their existing Policies, Strategies, Action Plans and Service Plans and update in response to the Climate Emergency, prioritising resources for expertise as required.	Respond to the Climate Emergency is integrated into the process for review of Policies, Strategies and Action Plans.	All Policies, Strategies, Action Plans and Service Plans when due for renewal include provision to respond to the Climate Emergency by 2024/25.	Ongoing
1.7 Establish and communicate a science-based greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for the entire Bayside community, in line with the Paris Agreement.	Part 1 Continue to monitor the community greenhouse gas emissions reduction target annually, utilising tools consistent with the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventories. Part 2 Commence the development of a new climate action plan to supersede the current CEAP 2020-2025	Community greenhouse gas emissions are monitored and the community is supported to reduce emissions in alignment with the target.	Ongoing
1.8 Review and update the Risk Management Framework to ensure climate risks are appropriately assessed and managed.	Part 1 Continue to identify climate risks as part of the risk management process and monitor the effectiveness of the controls. Part 2 Continue to utilise the Climate Change Steering Committee to guide and monitor the implementation of climate related plans and strategies.	Council has actively reduced its exposure to Climate Risk through an updated Risk Management Framework and Climate related risks are appropriately controlled, co-ordinated and monitored across the organisation.	Ongoing
1.10 Report on Council's response to the 'Climate Emergency' through Council's Quarterly Reporting to the community.	Part 1 Facilitate Quarterly and Annual Reporting	Reporting on progress to deliver the Climate Emergency Action Plan is regular, consistent and transparent.	Ongoing

<p>1.11 Develop Council's advocacy priorities to address the Climate Emergency and facilitate community advocacy.</p>	<p>Part 2 Develop indicators to measure and report on progress against Council's corporate emissions target and the community emissions target</p>	<p>New Action</p>
<p>1.12 Maintain relationship with Traditional Owners to collaborate on Climate Emergency response.</p>	<p>Implement Climate Emergency advocacy priorities through Council's Advocacy Strategy.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p></p>	<p>Part 1 Continue to respond to the Climate Emergency by supporting actions integrated into the Reconciliation Action Plan. Part 2 Continue to contribute and support the Repairing Memory and Place ARC Monash University project.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p></p>	<p>Climate Emergency advocacy priorities are clear, specific and supported by key messages to influence other stakeholders.</p>	<p>New Action</p>
<p></p>	<p>Council incorporates Traditional Owners' knowledge in addressing the Climate Emergency</p>	<p>New Action</p>

Theme 2 Mobilise with our community			
Action	Deliverable	Outcome	Action Status
2.1 Establish a coordinated program of community awareness, education, engagement and behaviour change initiatives to build local support and action for a Climate Emergency response.	Part 1 Deliver targeted communications and education campaign to support community greenhouse gas emissions reduction in with greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 75% below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2035.	The community is engaged and taking action on climate change.	Ongoing
	Part 2 Continue to expand the 'GreenMoney' behaviour change program to the community.		Ongoing
2.2 Implement an innovative school-focused education and engagement program to build the next generation of climate and community leaders.	Continue to deliver a coordinated schools education program.	Schools are engaged and taking action on climate change.	Ongoing
	Part 1 Continue to expand the GreenMoney behaviour change program to support the community and local businesses.		Ongoing
2.3 Develop and deliver programs to support local business climate actions, through education and incentives.	Part 2 Deliver ongoing programs, partnerships & events to support local business climate actions.	Local businesses are engaged and taking action on climate change	Ongoing
	Part 3 Promote Federal & State Government support programs for local businesses and industry.		Ongoing
	Part 1 Maintain up to date details of Environment Groups in the Community Directory.		Ongoing
2.4 Provide in-kind support for action responding to the Climate Emergency led by community groups.	Part 2 Provide opportunities for community groups to promote their activities through Council channels	Community groups are engaged and taking action on climate change	Ongoing
	Part 1 Investigate opportunities for local businesses to access environmental upgrade financing options.		New Action
2.5 Explore and implement innovative funding models to support investment in climate action.	Part 2 Investigate opportunities for residents to access environmental upgrade financing options.	Implementation of innovative funding models to support investment in climate action.	Ongoing
	Part 1 Identify and develop new opportunities that support vulnerable community members to prepare and respond to heatwaves and extreme weather events.		Ongoing
2.6 Deliver programs and services that build community resilience to the impacts of climate change.	Part 2 Engage with young people to identify and deliver activities that builds resilience and responds to the climate change.	The community is prepared and resilient to the impacts of climate change.	Ongoing
	Part 1 Continue to promote Council's Climate Emergency webpage across Council's communication channels.		Ongoing
2.7 Provide up-to-date information on climate change and practical advice for the community to stay informed, connected and take action to respond to the Climate Emergency.	Part 2 Continue to promote Council and community action to address the Climate Emergency through events and engagement opportunities.	The community are knowledgeable about climate impacts and taking action.	Ongoing
	Continue to deliver annual Bayside Climate Emergency Grants program to support community initiatives that address climate change.		Ongoing
2.8 Establish a Sustainable Community Grants program to support community initiatives that address climate change mitigation and/or adaptation.	Engage with industry organisations that promote energy efficient and sustainable products and services to the community.	The community are knowledgeable about climate impacts and taking action.	Ongoing
			Ongoing

Theme 3 Move to zero carbon transport			
Action	Deliverable	Outcome	Action Status
3.1 Explore and implement opportunities to increase the uptake of 'Zero Carbon' Electric Vehicles in Bayside.	Part 1 Install public Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure at suitable sites.	The Bayside community are supported to adopt electric vehicles.	Ongoing
	Part 2 Engage with United Energy to investigate trialling Power pole mounted EV chargers.		Ongoing
3.3 Accelerate review of the Integrated Transport Strategy and implement to address climate change impacts.	Part 1 Complete review of Integrated Transport Strategy to ensure it considers the response to the Climate Emergency	Climate change impacts are addressed by the Integrated Transport Strategy.	Ongoing
	Part 2 Review expansion of Share car network through council area with opportunities for Electric Vehicles.		Ongoing
3.4 Implement a behaviour change program to encourage residents and visitors to switch to 'zero carbon' transport modes	Part 1 Deliver active transport behaviour change programs annually.	Residents and visitors are making the switch to 'zero carbon' transport modes.	Ongoing
	Part 2 Update and promote active transport maps.		Ongoing
	Part 3 Engage with local schools and community groups to promote and run active transport initiatives.		Ongoing
3.5 Advocacy relating to Zero Carbon Transport will be delivered under Action 1.11.			

Theme 4 Transform to a climate responsive built environment			
Action	Deliverable	Outcome	Action Status
4.1 Implement a local Environmentally Sustainable Development Planning Policy in line with the Climate Emergency	Part 1 Continue to improve conditions for Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) in the Bayside Planning Scheme.	New development in Bayside is environmentally sustainable and climate resilient.	Ongoing
	Part 2 Implement the Local ESD Policy in the Bayside Planning Scheme through the planning application referral and assessment process.		Ongoing
4.2 Review Streetscape Masterplans to assess their resilience to climate change.	Develop criteria for review of Streetscape Masterplans to assess their resilience to climate change and add to existing review process.	Bayside's streetscapes are resilient to climate change.	Ongoing
4.3 Explore the climate resilience of built form in Bayside.	Contribute to the SECCCA research project on the current status of built form in Bayside and its resilience to climate change impacts, and required future state.	Bayside's existing buildings are safer, more efficient to operate, more comfortable and more resilient to the effects of climate change.	Ongoing
	Part 1 Continue to provide information regarding best practice Environmentally Sustainable Development standards.		Ongoing
4.4 Provide information and education regarding best practice Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) standards	Part 2 Develop and deliver education programs to improve existing homes to the effects of climate change.	The community is well informed and understands the value of environmentally sustainable design.	Ongoing
	Part 3 Investigate opportunities with local Real Estate agents to promote energy efficient properties.		Ongoing
4.5 Continue to recognise excellence in Environmentally Sustainable Design through the Bayside Built Environment Awards.	Promote and award the Environmentally Sustainable Design category in the Bayside Built Environment Awards	Excellence in Environmentally Sustainable Design is recognised and promoted.	Ongoing
	Part 1 Implement updated Sustainable Infrastructure Policy to ensure Council assets align with Climate Emergency principles.		Ongoing
4.6 Review and update the Sustainable Infrastructure Policy to align with Climate Emergency principles.	Part 2 Ensure the Sustainable Buildings and Infrastructure Policy is embedded within the project planning phase.	Council buildings and infrastructure are increasingly climate resilient and low carbon	New Action
	Consider climate-related risks as part of ongoing asset management processes, to inform capital and maintenance programs.		Ongoing
4.7 Identify and monitor infrastructure assets at risk due to climate change and prioritise actions in response.	Include specific requirements to reduce environmental impact in existing community and commercial leases when renewed.	Council buildings and infrastructure are increasingly climate resilient and low carbon.	Ongoing
	Part 1 Investigate opportunities and barriers to engage with developers to build example zero carbon apartment blocks and homes.		Ongoing
4.8 Include requirements to address environmental impact into leases of Council property.	Part 2 Promote Sustainable House Day and showcase zero carbon developments as examples for the Bayside community.	Environmental impact is reduced in the operation of council owned buildings.	Ongoing
			Ongoing
4.9 Investigate opportunities for a pilot 'zero carbon' development.		Council is actively seeking opportunities to pilot a 'zero carbon' development.	Ongoing
			Ongoing
4.10 Advocacy relating to the built environment will be delivered under Action 1.11.			Ongoing

Theme 5 Protect and enhance our natural environment			
Action	Deliverable	Outcome	Action Status
5.1 Finalise and implement the Urban Forest Strategy.	Part 2 Continue to implement the Urban Forest Strategy.	The Urban Forest Strategy is implemented, responding to Climate Emergency by: reducing Urban Heat Island impact; increasing tree canopy cover; and strengthening biodiversity and habitat.	Ongoing
5.2 Implement the Biodiversity Action Plan	Continue to implement the Biodiversity Action Plan.	The Biodiversity Action Plan is implemented, responding to the Climate Emergency by: reducing Urban Heat Island impact; increasing tree canopy cover; and strengthening biodiversity and habitat.	Ongoing
5.3 Accelerate review of the Integrated Water Management Plan and implement to address climate change impacts.	Continue to implement the Integrated Water Management Plan.	The Integrated Water Management Plan is implemented, responding to the Climate Emergency by addressing: supporting biodiversity and habitat through healthier waterways and reduced pollutants in the bay; managing water resources more efficiently; using water in the landscape to improve climate resilience.	New action
5.4 Update and implement the Coastal and Marine Management Plan and related plans considering outcomes from the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment	Part 1 The Coastal and Marine Management Plan is updated in response to outcomes from the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment.	Capital projects in future foreshore masterplan developments are guided by the Coastal and Marine Management Plan.	Ongoing
	Part 2 The Biodiversity Action Plan is updated in response to outcomes from the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment.		Ongoing
5.5 Accelerate review and update the Open Space Strategy in response to the Climate Emergency	Review and update Open Space Strategy to ensure it considers the response to the Climate Emergency.	Open space in Bayside is more resilient to the impacts of climate change.	Ongoing
5.7 All planting and landscape renewal plans in Council open space consider hardiness and adaptability of species in the context of climate change risks.	Develop landscapes resilient to climate change.	Open space in Bayside is more resilient to the impacts of climate change.	Ongoing
5.8 Support local food production across the municipality.	Part 1 Promote local food production, urban agriculture and the Community Gardens Policy to the Bayside community.	Increased capacity for local food production	New action
	Part 2 Encourage community engagement in developing new community gardens across Bayside.		New action
5.9 Advocacy relating to the natural environment will be delivered under Action 1.11.			

Theme 6 Transition to a Circular Economy to avoid waste				
Action	Deliverable	Outcome	Action Status	
6.1 Review and update Bayside's Recycling and Waste Management Strategy to reflect the transition to the 'circular economy'.	Comply with the new obligations and reporting requirements under the Circular Economy Act 2021.	Bayside's Recycling and Waste Management Strategy reflects the transition to the 'circular economy'.	Ongoing	
6.2 Develop and deliver a campaign in partnership with local businesses and community groups to reduce waste to landfill, recognising leaders in the community.	Part 1 Deliver programs to reduce single-use plastics with local organisations, businesses and community groups. Part 2 Deliver programs to support organics recycling with local organisations, businesses and community groups.	Local businesses and community groups are reducing waste being sent to landfill.	Ongoing	
6.3 Engage and support the community with practical strategies and actions to avoid waste, through education and incentives.	Part 1 Continue to deliver education programs and services to assist the community to avoid waste and improve recycling outcomes.	The Bayside community are knowledgeable about waste avoidance, what they can do to reduce consumption, increase reuse, and increase recycling	Ongoing	
6.4 Advocacy relating to the Circular Economy will be delivered under Action 1.11.				

Theme 7 Switch to zero carbon energy			
Action	Deliverable	Outcome	Action Status
7.1 Maintain 'Carbon Neutral' certification for council operations, to the 'Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard'	Part 1 Promote details of carbon neutral certification for Council operations. Part 2 Continue to work towards Council's emissions reduction target for Council's operations.	Certified 'Carbon Neutral' status is maintained and a corporate greenhouse gas emissions are reduced annually in line with the corporate emissions reduction target.	Ongoing
7.2 Purchase all electricity used by Council from renewable sources.	Continue to purchase electricity from renewable sources.	100% of Council purchased electricity is from renewable sources.	Ongoing
7.3 Transition Council operations to all-electric (i.e. gas/fossil fuel free) by June 2030.	Continue to transition Council's buildings away from gas.	Council operations are 100% gas free by 2030.	Ongoing
7.4 Continue to upgrade public lighting with energy efficient LED lamps.	Continue to explore opportunities to fund upgrades of street lighting to LED lamps.	All public lighting including street lighting uses energy efficient LED lamps.	Ongoing
7.5 Continue to implement a capital works program to increase energy efficiency, renewable energy, and batteries, in Council buildings and assets.	Part 1 Investigate the feasibility of a community battery at Peterson Reserve. Part 2 Develop a repository of information to capture the current status of equipment and appliances regarding energy efficiency, water efficiency, and use of renewable energy, in Council buildings and assets.	Council buildings and assets require minimal energy input and are energy-efficient	Ongoing
7.6 Support vulnerable members of the community to ensure they are not left behind in the switch to 'zero carbon' energy	Part 1 Offer subsidised home energy assessments for vulnerable community members. Part 2 Support vulnerable community members to access affordable energy efficiency upgrades.	Vulnerable residents are included in the switch to 'zero carbon' energy.	Ongoing
7.7 Work with partners to explore feasibility and pilot innovative solutions to support the community to rapidly and equitably switch to zero carbon energy.	Part 1 Identify and support local businesses that would benefit from a renewable energy Power Purchase Agreement. Part 2 Engage with the business sector to promote the use of GreenPower for sites.	Innovative solutions to switch to 'zero carbon' energy are explored and trialled.	Ongoing
7.8 Advocacy relating to zero carbon energy will be delivered under Action 1.11.			Ongoing



Attachment 3 - Climate Emergency Action Plan – Annual Update Community Battery Business Case – project summary

Project	Proposed Battery Location	Battery Size	Financial Cost	Financial Viability (modelled annual total revenue)	Site Suitability	Recommendation
Sandringham Feasibility Study	Ralph-Highett Network Site 1) 13 Brighton St, Sandringham Site 2) Unit 1/19 Minnie St, Sandringham	150kW/ 375kWh	\$425,000 + ongoing OPEX	\$2,829.91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most attractive network from YEF study sites due to higher solar generation and high evening consumption profile. Predominantly residential network. 	Potential, based on having positive network benefits (noting limited financial viability).
Sandringham Feasibility Study	Codrington-Abbott Network Site 1) 14A Codrington St, Sandringham Site 2) 7 Codrington St, Sandringham	150kW/ 375kWh	\$425,000 + ongoing OPEX	\$2,829.91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has high solar generation and evening consumption but to a lesser extent than Ralph-Highett network. Predominantly residential network. 	Potential, based on having positive network benefits but more likely to proceed with Ralph-Highett if given the option (noting limited financial viability).
Sandringham Feasibility Study	Essex-Bamfield Network Site 1) 92 Beach Rd, Sandringham Site 2) 29 Arthur St, Sandringham VIC 3191	150kW/ 375kWh	\$425,000 + ongoing OPEX	\$2,829.91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has high solar generation and evening consumption but to a lesser extent than Ralph-Highett network. Mostly residential network. High visibility presents a “showcase” opportunity. 	Potential, based on having positive network benefits but more likely to proceed with Ralph-Highett if given the option (noting limited financial viability).
Sandringham Feasibility Study	Chalmers-Waltham Network Site 1) Sandringham Library, Chalmers Ave Site 2) 31 Abbott St, Sandringham	150kW/ 375kWh	\$425,000 + ongoing OPEX	\$2,829.91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Hybrid” demographic with commercial and residential properties. Consumption profile of low solar generation and expected high daytime consumption. “Showcase” opportunity. Near coast, needs to be appropriately shielded from intrusion of salt and moisture. 	Potential, based on having positive network benefits but more likely to proceed with Ralph-Highett if given the option (noting limited financial viability).
Neighbourhood Battery	Peterson St Reserve Site 1) Peterson St Reserve, Hightett (west side of the reserve)	50kW/ 150kWh	TBC	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant solar nearby. Hotspot for energy consumption based on United Energy map hotspot areas. Minimal land clearing. 	Business case development still in progress.

Initiative grant program	Site 2) Peterson St Reserve, Highett (east side of the reserve)	100kW 300kWh				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible for maintenance. 	
Bayside Community Battery Feasibility Study	Beaumaris 1 72A Reserve Rd, Beaumaris	100kW/ 200kWh	\$235,000 + ongoing OPEX	\$6,690	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible locations on site. • Close location of transformer allowing for minimal infrastructure changes. • Vegetation protection overlays to be considered. • Potential excess solar location, more opportunity to absorb excess energy. 	Potential, based on having positive network benefits (noting limited financial viability).	
Bayside Community Battery Feasibility Study	Corporate Centre 2a Bayside City Council Corner state route 19	350kW/ 750kWh	\$709,500 + ongoing OPEX	\$23,968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-profile site next to Indigenous Resource Garden. • Energy infrastructure located on other side of street, adding to cost and complexity for connection. • Heritage overlays to be considered. 	Not recommended due connection challenges and financial viability.	
Bayside Community Battery Feasibility Study	Corporate Centre 2b Harold St dog park	100kW/ 200kWh	\$242,000 + ongoing OPEX	\$6,690	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-profile site as opposite to dog park and residential. • Ample space and maintenance access. • Energy infrastructure located on other side of street, adding to cost and complexity for connection. 	Potential, based on having positive network benefits (noting limited financial viability).	
Bayside Community Battery Feasibility Study	Hampton 3 Unit 2/552 Bluff Rd, Hampton VIC 3188	350kW/ 750kWh	\$711,500 + ongoing OPEX	\$23,968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On a main road, directly outside residential. • Plenty of space for battery. • Location may impact traffic and maintenance. • Potential excess solar location, more opportunity to absorb excess energy. 	Not recommended due to potential impact on traffic and maintenance access difficulties and financial viability.	
Bayside Community Battery Feasibility Study	Brighton 4 25 Burrows St, Brighton VIC 3186	100kW/ 200kWh	\$235,000 + ongoing OPEX	\$6,690	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small slope next to playground requiring excavation works. • Energy infrastructure located on other side of street, adding to cost and complexity for connection. • Heritage overlays to be considered. 	Not recommended due to excavation requirements, connection challenges and financial viability.	
Bayside	Brighton East 5	100kW/	\$235,000 +	\$6,690	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located on intersection and border of 	Not recommended due to	

Community Battery Feasibility Study	600 Hawthorn Rd, Brighton East VIC 3187	200kWh	ongoing OPEX		<p>Bayside and Glen Eira. Not able to guarantee benefits to Bayside. Possible opportunity to collaborate with Glen Eira.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excavation required to remove tree stump at battery location. High-profile site but less engagement due to intersection. Potential excess solar location, more opportunity to absorb excess energy. 	excavation requirements, outcomes not guaranteed to benefit Bayside residents direction, and financial viability.
Bayside Community Battery Feasibility Study	Brighton North 6 140 State Route 18, Brighton VIC 3186	100kW/ 200kWh	\$235,000 + ongoing OPEX	\$6,690	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plenty of space for battery. Directly outside residential. Close proximity to electrical infrastructure. High-profile site but less engagement due to speed limits. Maintenance access may be difficult. 	Not recommended due to high-speed road, maintenance access difficulties and financial viability.

10.14 INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024–27

Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure - Climate, Waste and Integrated Transport
File No: PSF/24/85 – Doc No: DOC/24/173079

Executive summary

Purpose and background

This report presents the revised Integrated Water Management Plan 2024–27 to Council for endorsement.

In 2019, the Integrated Water Management Plan 2019-2039 '*Water for Bayside*' was developed to provide a clear direction to deliver high priority Integrated Water Management (IWM), Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) activities and to manage water as a precious resource.

At the time it was considered appropriate to develop a 20-year plan however, it is now proposed to bring the closure date forward to 2027. This enables an earlier holistic review of integrated water management and provides Council with the flexibility to develop a longer-term water management strategy based on the latest flood modelling data, updated risk analysis, community engagement and contemporary climate evidence.

The reviewed three-year Plan provides the strategic framework for the delivery of water related activities with consideration of climate change, cultural heritage, water management processes, and community demand. It also supports the delivery of the Bayside 2050 Community Vision. The Community Vision, in part, highlights that Council leads the way in acting on the climate emergency. It also aligns with the Dandenong Catchment IWM Forum Strategic Direction Statement adopted by Council in July 2018.

A period of community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken in the development of the original Integrated Water Management Plan 2019-2039, and internal stakeholder engagement was undertaken for this 'light touch' review.

The review has now been completed and the Integrated Water Management Plan - Water for Bayside 2024–27 is shown in Attachment 1.

Key issues

As the challenges of climate change, population growth and urban development increase, the need for an integrated approach to water management is imperative. Urbanisation sees an increase in impervious surfaces, which causes significant alterations to natural water flow and to habitat. Increasing extreme weather events can cause flash floods and, alongside polluted stormwater runoff, places our important ecosystems at risk and has considerable impacts on our community and Port Phillip Bay.

The key premise of this Plan is that effective Integrated Water Management can assist in mitigating these challenges, while enhancing Bayside's liveability.

Council's vision for water management is one which is integrated within Council, and externally. Strengthening relationships with other councils, state and federal government, water authorities, businesses, Traditional Owners and our community is key to managing our water.

Council's vision is to:

- reduce the reliance on potable water, while identifying ways to access and increase use of recycled water
- integrate traditional knowledge with mainstream water management into urban design

- identify water sensitive urban design opportunities in capital projects
- reduce pollution to Port Phillip Bay.

The Goals and Objectives of Water for Bayside have been reviewed and updated to reflect Council vision and current thinking, while identifying gaps and opportunities to increase the effectiveness of water management (Table 1).

Forty-one actions accompany the Goals and Objectives, each with a nominated timeframe (year 1, 2 or 3), deliverable, lead department/key partners and estimated costs (which will be subject to the annual Council budget process).

Table 1 – Revised Goals and Objectives for Water for Bayside 2024–27

Goal	Objective
Goal 1 Water will be managed to enhance Bayside’s liveability, improve habitat and address the climate emergency.	Objective 1 Council will manage water to minimise the impact of flooding and deliver IWM initiatives to respond to the climate emergency, recognising the value water plays in habitat and biodiversity.
Goal 2 Improve the health of Port Phillip Bay and waterways.	Objective 2 Planning mechanisms are in place to manage stormwater run-off from new and re-developments. Enhanced infrastructure improves the quality of stormwater entering our waterways and the Bay.
Goal 3 Preserve potable water supplies and increase the use of recycled and stormwater.	Objective 3 Council will reduce potable water use and substitute potable water with alternative sources, including stormwater harvesting for passive tree irrigation and recycled water for open space irrigation.
Goal 4 Improve the community’s connection with and understanding of the water cycle.	Objective 4 Council will continue to engage the community to increase their awareness of the water cycle.
Goal 5 Increase collaboration and partnerships across industry, government, Traditional Owners and the community.	Objective 5 Develop partnerships with neighbouring councils and other key stakeholders, and advocate to state government agencies to strengthen opportunities for progressive planning and mitigation policies and funding for climate adaptation measures to address key IWM issues.

Key issues addressed through Water for Bayside

The following key issues in relation to IWM have been identified and addressed through the development of Water for Bayside:

- IWM opportunities must be considered and implemented across all relevant capital projects.
- IWM needs to be a key focus in Council’s response to the climate emergency.

- Council must continue to implement new techniques to reduce demand on potable water particularly around the establishment and maintenance of green spaces and sportsgrounds.
- Council must continue to implement a long-term capital works program to implement IWM initiatives that is resourced and funded.
- Council needs to advocate, collaborate, and influence for better management of stormwater and improved health of Port Phillip Bay.
- Stormwater assets require long-term asset management to be effective.
- IWM must be embedded as a core service.
- Information on water and flooding changes must be updated to maintain relevance.
- Planning mechanisms are in place to manage stormwater quantity and quality from new development and re-development.
- Council must educate and support the community to manage water as a precious resource.
- Council must investigate how to better support vulnerable communities and determine barriers to water saving.
- Council must integrate Traditional Knowledge and mainstream water management into urban water design.
- Council must develop partnerships with neighbouring councils and together advocate to state government agencies to strengthen opportunities for progressive planning and mitigation policies and funding for climate adaptation measures to address key IWM issues.

Updates to the 2024–27 Plan

Major updates in the 2024–27 Plan include:

- reference and discussion of the Climate Emergency and Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020–25
- reference to Traditional Owners and discussion of land use
- an Equity Impact Assessment
- amended goals, objectives and actions including amalgamating goals 3 and 4, and the addition of two new goals focusing on community engagement and education and collaboration with external stakeholders
- recognition of the importance of water to habitat and biodiversity
- updated water balance and pollution balance models
- new design in line with Council branding
- reduce the duration from 15 years to 3 years.

Recommendation:

That Council adopts the Integrated Water Management Plan 2024–27 – Water for Bayside (Attachment 1).

Support Attachments

1. Integrated Water Management Plan 2024-27 Water for Bayside

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Social

One of the primary objectives of Water for Bayside is to make Bayside a more liveable place through greater retention and use of water in the landscape. More efficient use of water supports vegetation, promotes cooling of the urban environment, addresses the impacts of climate change, and promotes community health and wellbeing through better recreational facilities. Effective IWM also helps to improve water quality due to sound urban planning and drainage management.

Bayside's recreational areas are actively used and enjoyed and the availability of appropriate water supplies for their irrigation affects their usability and attractiveness. Bayside also has 17 kilometres of foreshore. Preserving the amenity of the Bay's environments is strongly influenced by the extent to which stormwater quality is effectively managed.

Natural Environment

Water for Bayside has been developed to improve Port Phillip Bay and waterways through a reduction in peak stormwater volumes and pollutant loads, through specific projects in each drainage catchment.

Actions within the Plan are designed to improve the natural environment through more effective water management.

Climate Emergency

Water plays an integral part in the Climate Emergency and as such the Plan has been updated to reflect this importance of it.

Built Environment

Land use across Bayside is distributed between residential (80%), commercial and industrial (6%) and open space (14%). A breakdown of surface types indicates that roofs make up 24%, followed by roads (15%). The remaining 61% of surface types is made up of other ground level surfaces such as paving, gardens and footpaths.

Water for Bayside focuses on stormwater management in drainage catchments over which Council has direct control and will continue to focus on flood management in consultation with water authorities.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

Internal engagement was undertaken with relevant service areas and the Climate Change Steering Committee to ensure the strategic direction of the Plan was suitable and the actions ensured delivery of the goals. The water balance and pollution balance models were updated by expert consultants.

The original draft Water for Bayside 2019–39 was distributed to external agencies, organisations, partners and the general public for feedback. Their input has been used to inform the finalisation of the initial Plan. The original draft document was independently reviewed by an expert consultant to form the 20-year Plan.

Several community engagement activities have been undertaken to form other Strategies (including the Climate Emergency Action Plan) which have then fed into this review of Water for Bayside.

Equity Impact

The implications of this report have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020.

In development of this plan, the requirement for Equity Impact pre-assessment has been completed. The pre-assessment concluded that this plan: b) does meet the requirement for a comprehensive Equity Impact Assessment (EIA).

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

The Local Government Act 2020 Part 2, Division 1, 'Role and Powers of a council', includes an overarching governance principle to which a Council must give effect in the performance of its role. This new governance principle includes consideration of climate change, as follows: 'the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted'. Implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan meets this governance principle.

Pursuant to section 198 of the Local Government Act 1989, public sewers and drains within the municipal district are under the management and control of Council. This section does not apply to any sewers and drains vested in another Council or a Minister, the Crown or any public body.

Finance

Project implementation is subject to annual budget considerations.

Council has allocated \$412,000 within the 2024–25 capital budget for the delivery of IWMP initiatives.

Links to Council policy and strategy

The Integrated Water Management Plan links to the Council Plan 2021–25 through *Goal 1: Our Planet* and *Strategic Objective 1.1 – 'Lead and influence change to address the climate emergency and strive to reduce its impact on the health of our community, environment and the planet'*.

Council has an action within the current Council Plan to undertake a review of the Integrated Water Management Plan 2019-2039 and implement to address climate change impacts. This action is also included in the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020–25.



Water for Bayside
**Integrated Water
Management Plan**
2024—2027





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Acknowledgement of Country

Bayside City Council acknowledges the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways in the area now known as Bayside, and pays respect to their elders past and present, as well as to all First Nations' communities who significantly contribute to the life of the area.

Photo (cover image and previous page):
Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve



Executive Summary

In December 2019, Bayside City Council unanimously declared a climate emergency recognising the need for urgent and meaningful action on human-induced climate change. Council subsequently developed the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020–2025 which details actions Council will take to respond to the climate emergency, as well as support for the community to take action on climate change. Water, in all forms, is a key consideration within the climate emergency, and in the Action Plan.

Council developed its Integrated Water Management Plan 2019–2039 'Water for Bayside', to provide clear direction for managing water as a precious resource. At the time it was considered appropriate to develop a twenty year plan, however Council has since recognised the developments in both climate change and the water sector and acknowledges the impact this will have on strategic decisions in future planning and service delivery. In response, Council has reviewed and adjusted the Water for Bayside timeline to a three year Plan. This reviewed Water for Bayside provides the strategic framework for the delivery of water related activities with consideration of climate change, cultural heritage, water management processes, and community demand. It also supports the delivery of the Bayside 2050 Community Vision. The Community Vision, in part, highlights that Council leads the way in acting on the climate emergency.

The current three year Water for Bayside allows for an earlier holistic review of integrated water management in 2027, providing Council with the flexibility to develop a longer term strategy based on updated risk analysis, community engagement and the latest scientific evidence.

As an urban municipality with a highly utilised coastal border, and under pressure from population growth, Bayside faces social, environmental, economic, and cultural management challenges. We must adapt to climate change and changing water patterns as we continue to experience flash flooding, extreme rainfall events, heatwaves, and droughts.

Urbanisation sees an increase in impervious surfaces, such as pavements, roofing and building coverage which increases the risk of flooding from surface runoff in urban areas. Flash flooding alongside polluted stormwater runoff places our ecosystems at risk and has considerable impacts on our community and Port Phillip Bay.

In response to the changing climate and increasing urbanisation, Council has implemented innovative projects and developed strategies to respond to the pressures on our water cycle.

Photo (above): Aerial Image of Sandringham Harbour



We are committed to transforming the Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve into an environmental park that delivers significant environmental and social benefits for the community. Yalukit Willam means ‘people of the river’ and refers to the people who lived in this area before European settlement. This unique opportunity ensures a natural system is created that maximises water treatment, flood mitigation, stormwater harvesting, re-use and diversion, while acknowledging the people and land prior to settlement.

Council developed the Urban Forest Strategy 2022–2040, and subsequent Precinct Plans, setting the strategic direction to ensure the continued expansion, diversification, health, and retention of a resilient urban forest. We need to restore ecosystem functions in our municipality to provide increased habitat, reduce the impacts of urban heat effect and stormwater and pollutant runoff and mitigate increased carbon dioxide through sequestration.

“ In response to the changing climate and increasing urbanisation, Council has implemented innovative projects and developed strategies to respond to the pressures on our water cycle.”

Council’s three year Integrated Water Management (IWM) action plan continues to address initiatives for flood storage, stormwater harvesting and stormwater treatment projects.

The development of Water for Bayside allows Council to focus on improving drainage and reducing local flooding, managing our green spaces, improving habitat for biodiversity, decreasing pollution entering the Bay, protecting the ecological function of water and reinforcing the key message of water being a precious resource. It also presents Council with opportunities to develop and support water management education and advocacy while linking traditional knowledge and mainstream water management into urban water design solutions.



1. Integrated Water Management

What is it and why is it important

Integrated Water Management (IWM) is a holistic and collaborative approach to water planning and management bringing together all aspects of the water cycle. It provides greater value to communities by identifying and leveraging opportunities to optimise water-related outcomes including management of waterways, wastewater, surface and groundwater, rainwater collection, stormwater drainage and the supply of drinking water.

Prior to European settlement, the city of Bayside was inhabited by the Bunurong people. During this time, Elster Creek as well as other small creeks provided drinking points for the Bunurong as well as habitat for the local flora and fauna. Sand dunes and cliffs stabilised with coastal vegetation were prominent features.

By acknowledging the Bunurong people as the Traditional Owners of the area, it reminds us that our First Nations people are the traditional custodians of the land and waters of Australia. It tells of their deep connection to Country, and to their cultural identity.

As custodians of the land, our First Nations people continue to care for Australia's, and Bayside's water resources. Water plays an important role in storytelling and learning, helping to continue the spiritual relationship with, to and on Country.

European settlement brought, and continues to this day, extensive development resulting in a myriad of challenges. Increasing human population and land use changes continue to greatly affect how water moves across the landscape which affects the water and pollutant balance.

Figure 1 models the flow of water which travels through Bayside's municipality. It models the water entering Bayside, shows what happens to the water within our municipality, and the amount which flows into Port Phillip Bay. Although it should be noted that there are limitations within the build of the Water Balance Model, it does provide an insight as to how water travels through the municipality. The model demonstrates a great opportunity for installation of water sensitive urban design (WSUD) on private property.

Photo (above): Tulip Street Pond 2019



Figure 1: Bayside's municipality Water Balance Model

Bayside – Today's average water balance (annual average*)

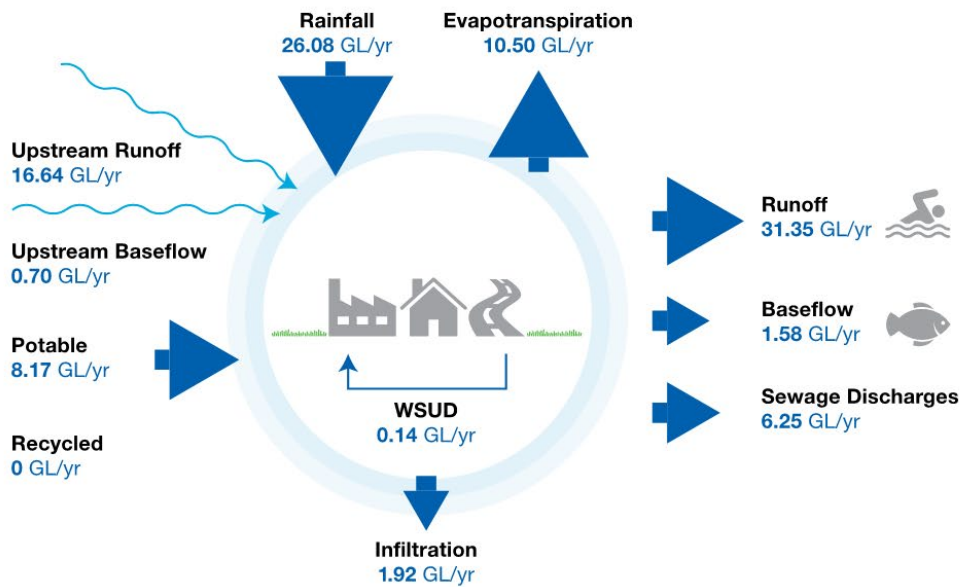


Figure 2: Bayside’s municipality Pollution Balance Model

Bayside — Today’s average pollutant balance (annual average*)

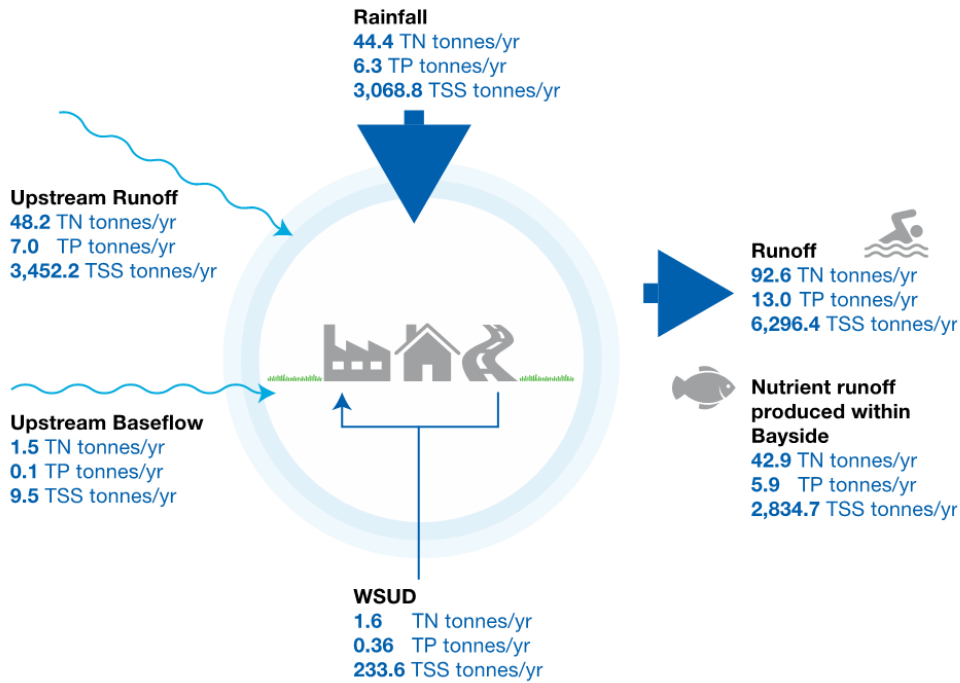


Figure 2 models the flow of pollutants (total nitrogen, total phosphorus and total suspended solids) coming into Bayside, what’s generated within our boundary, and then what exits into the Bay.

As with Figure 1, it should be noted that there are limitations within the build of the Pollution Balance Model, however it does provide an insight as to how pollution travels through Bayside. The model demonstrates the impact high levels of development (and associated lack of pervious surfaces) has on stormwater leaving Bayside and entering the Bay.

As the challenges of climate change, population growth and urban development increase, the need for an integrated approach to water management is imperative. Urbanisation sees an increase in impervious surfaces, which causes significant alterations to natural water flow. Increasing extreme weather events can cause flash floods and, alongside polluted stormwater runoff, can place our important ecosystems at risk and have considerable impacts on our community.

Although Council’s potable water consumption accounts for 2% of the water consumed across Bayside, Council understands the vital role we play in supporting our community through implementation of education campaigns and infrastructural assistance and guidance as well as the key advocacy role to both the state government and our water authorities.

Integrated water management must be considered alongside other elements of Council planning. It requires delivery across public and private land, working with a multitude of stakeholders from all levels of government as well as other organisations.

The IWM Plan will address those challenges and guide the direction of water management until 2027.



Council's vision for water management

As a community, we need to continue to adapt to climate change and changing water patterns as we continue to experience flash flooding, extreme rainfall events, heatwaves, and droughts.

The development of Water for Bayside allows Council to focus on improving drainage and reducing local flooding, as well as better managing our green spaces, improving habitat for biodiversity, decreasing pollution, protecting the ecological function of water and reinforcing the key message of water being a precious resource.

Council's vision for water management is one which is integrated within Council, and externally. Strengthening relationships with other councils, state and federal government, water authorities, businesses, Traditional Owners and our community is key to managing our water.

Council's vision is to:

- reduce the reliance on potable water, while identifying ways to access and increase use of recycled water
- integrate traditional knowledge with mainstream water management into urban design
- identify water sensitive urban design opportunities in capital projects, and
- reduce pollution to Port Phillip Bay.

Photo (above): Tulip Street Pond refill 2019

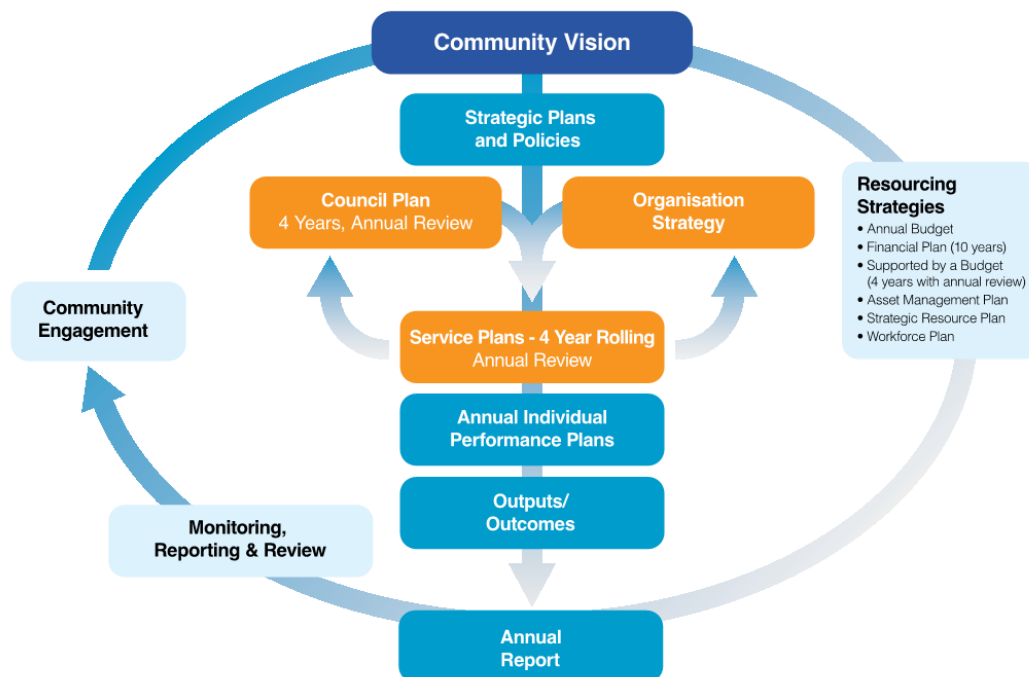


2. Strategic Context

Council Plan 2021–2025

The Council Plan 2021–2025 is a key element of our medium and long-term planning and delivery of services to our community, represented in our Integrated Strategic Planning Framework. The Council Plan is informed by the Community Vision Bayside 2050 which articulates the community's values, priorities and aspirations in the future.

Water for Bayside is delivered within the Council Plan under Goal 1: Our Planet. Goal 1: Our Planet focuses on leading and influencing change to address the climate emergency, reducing its impact on the health of our community, our environment, and our planet.



Environmental Sustainability Framework 2016–2025

Water for Bayside is aligned to Bayside's Environmental Sustainability Framework 2016-2025 (ESF). The ESF sets consistent direction and guidance for environmental planning and decision-making within Bayside City Council. It aligns with Council's vision of Bayside leading the way demonstrably as a diverse, healthy and liveable place in 2050.

The ESF consists of ten key themes which outline how the Plan's four goals will be achieved. Sustainable Water is one of the themes and includes actions focused on transitioning from potable water to using recycled or stormwater for Council operations, facilities and community consumption, as well as managing and improving stormwater entering the Bay.

Photo (previous page): Brighton Beach.
Titus Aparici for Unsplash.

Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2025

In December 2019, Bayside City Council declared a climate emergency recognising the need for urgent and meaningful action on human-induced climate change. In response, Council developed the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020–2025 which details actions Council will take to respond to the climate emergency, as well as support for the community to take action on climate change. Water, in all forms, is a key consideration within the climate emergency, and in the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

The Action Plan outlines seven key themes which reflect the aspirations of the Bayside community and the multi-faceted response required to address the climate emergency. Theme 5: Protect and enhance our natural environment ensures focus on IWM opportunities by supporting biodiversity and habitat through healthier waterways and reduced pollutants to the Bay, managing water resources more efficiently, and using water in the landscape to improve climate resilience.

Roles and responsibilities for water management

The responsibility for integrated water management is not confined to municipal boundaries and IWM requires collaboration through effective partnerships with industry, community, government and Traditional Owners for successful outcomes.

Table 1 lists the roles and responsibilities of the integrated water managers across Victoria.

Table 1. IWM Roles and Responsibilities

Organisation	Roles and Responsibilities
Local Government	<p>Local government plays a significant role in improving the environmental management of urban stormwater. This includes obligations under the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop stormwater management plans • implement effective management practices, particularly for new developments and drainage systems • prevent wastewater discharges to stormwater drains • monitor and report to the community and relevant stakeholders on the impact of stormwater drains on surface waters • ensure new and retrofit developments include effective design measures and practices to manage stormwater run-off volumes and minimise pollutant run-off in stormwater • provide educational material on stormwater management and pollution avoidance.
Melbourne Water	<p>Melbourne Water is responsible for the management of water supply catchments, treatment and distribution of drinking and recycled water, sewage treatment and removal, and the oversight of catchments, waterways and major drainage systems in the Port Phillip and Westernport regions.</p>
South East Water	<p>South East Water's role is to ensure the delivery of a healthy, reliable supply of water and sewerage services.</p>

Organisation	Roles and Responsibilities
Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria	EPA administers the Environment Protection Act 2017, issuing work approvals and licenses for wastewater discharges. EPA provides support and guidance to help councils meet their obligations under the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria).
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)	DEECA is responsible for implementing the government’s long-term water plan, Water for Victoria. This sets the strategic direction for the state’s water management for decades to come.
Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	The Bunurong Land Council is the Traditional Owner organisation representing the Bunurong people of the South-Eastern Kulin Nation. The Land Council aims to preserve and protect the sacred lands and waterways of their ancestors, traditional cultural practices and stories.
Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council	The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council appoints Registered Aboriginal Parties to manage and protect Cultural Heritage on their specified country.
Community	Our community has a role to play in IWM. This includes reducing potable water consumption through demand management, using alternatives water sources where appropriate (including rainwater capture in water tanks), ensuring stormwater run-off from their properties isn’t contaminated, reducing litter, and contributing to policy and program formation by providing feedback to local and state governments and water authorities.

Table 2 lists the relevant water policy and strategy frameworks guiding integrated water management, both within and external to Council.

Table 2. Water Related Policy and Plan Directions

Bayside City Council Policies & Plans	State Government Plans and Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Action Plan 2018–2027 • Urban Forest Strategy 2022–2040 • Open Space Strategy 2012 • Coastal Management Plan 2014 • Asset Plan 2023–2032 • Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021–2025 • Bayside Planning Policy Clause 15.01-2L-02 (Environmentally Sustainable Development) • Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve Masterplan 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water for Victoria — Water Plan • Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria, 2017 • Integrated Water Management Forums (specifically Metro IWM Forum and the sub-group Dandenong Catchment Integrated Water Management Plan) • Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 • Victoria’s Resilient Coast- Adapting for 2100+ (section 41 of the Marine and Coastal Act 2018) • Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017–2027 • Urban Stormwater Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines, Victoria Stormwater Committee 1999 • Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018–28 • State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria)



3. Our Approach

Developing Water for Bayside

Water is a valuable natural asset and Council has a responsibility to ensure we develop a coordinated approach to water management in an equitable manner, now and for future generations. We must consider current water uses and deliver best practice solutions for water efficiency improvements, conservation activities, and water-reduction goals.

In developing Water for Bayside we considered the following:

- The need to clearly define the relationship between water and liveability and improve understanding of this relationship within Council's Strategic Planning Framework.
- Actions required to mitigate from and address climate change impacts.
- Council's current water practices and their adherence to local and State policies.
- New IWM opportunities to inform a comprehensive program of capital works.
- How to embed IWM into core business, by setting clear strategic directions.

Council developed its Integrated Water Management Plan 2019-2039 'Water for Bayside', to provide clear direction for managing water as a precious resource. At the time it was considered appropriate to develop a 20-year plan, however Council has since recognised the developments in both climate change and the water sector and acknowledges the impact this will

have on strategic decisions in future planning and service delivery. In response, Council has reviewed and adjusted the Water for Bayside timeline to a three year Plan. This reviewed Water for Bayside provides the strategic framework for the delivery of water related activities with consideration of climate change, cultural heritage, water management processes, and community demand. It also supports the delivery of the Bayside 2050 Community Vision. The Community Vision, in part, highlights that Council leads the way in acting on the climate emergency.

The current three year Water for Bayside allows for an earlier holistic review of integrated water management in 2027, providing Council with the flexibility to develop a longer term strategy based on updated risk analysis, community engagement and the latest scientific evidence.

Community Engagement

During the development of the original Water for Bayside, Council undertook community engagement which informed the plan (see Appendix A for engagement outcomes). Comprehensive community engagement will be undertaken when the Climate Emergency Action Plan is reviewed in 2025 and when Water for Bayside is due for renewal.



Key issues

The premise of Water for Bayside is that effective IWM can enhance Bayside’s liveability and address the climate emergency, but there are issues which must be addressed in order to achieve this.

The following issues were firstly identified and then addressed through the development of Water for Bayside:

- IWM opportunities must be considered and implemented across all relevant capital projects.
- IWM needs to be a key focus in Council’s response to the climate emergency.
- Council must continue to implement new techniques to reduce demand on potable water particularly around the establishment and maintenance of green spaces and sportsgrounds.
- Council must continue to implement a long-term capital works program to implement IWM initiatives that is resourced and funded.
- Council needs to advocate, collaborate and influence for better management of stormwater and improved health of Port Phillip Bay.
- Stormwater assets require long-term asset management to be effective.
- IWM must be embedded as a core service.
- Information on water and flooding changes must be updated to maintain relevance.
- Planning mechanisms are in place to manage stormwater quantity and quality from new development and re-development.
- Council must educate and support the community to manage water as a precious resource.
- Council must investigate how to better support vulnerable communities and determine barriers to water saving.
- Council must integrate Traditional Knowledge with mainstream water management into urban water design.
- Council must develop partnerships with neighbouring councils and together advocate to state government agencies to strengthen opportunities for progressive planning and mitigation policies and funding for climate adaptation measures to address key IWM issues.

Photo (above): Community Coastal Clean Up



4. Collaboration and partnership

Council is an active member in several water-related forums and programs collaborating with stakeholders including water authorities, state government departments, universities and Traditional Owners.

Metropolitan Integrated Water Management Forum

The Victorian Government's strategic water plan, Water for Victoria 2016, sets clear objectives on the role water plays for the creation of liveable cities and towns across the state. Actions 5.7 and 5.8 specifically relate to representing community values and local opportunities in planning and putting IWM into practice across Victoria.

To deliver actions 5.7 and 5.8, the Victorian Government developed the Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria in 2017 which saw the establishment of regional and metro IWM Forums. The IWM Forums identify, coordinate, and prioritise opportunities and areas that would most benefit from collaborative water cycle planning and management.

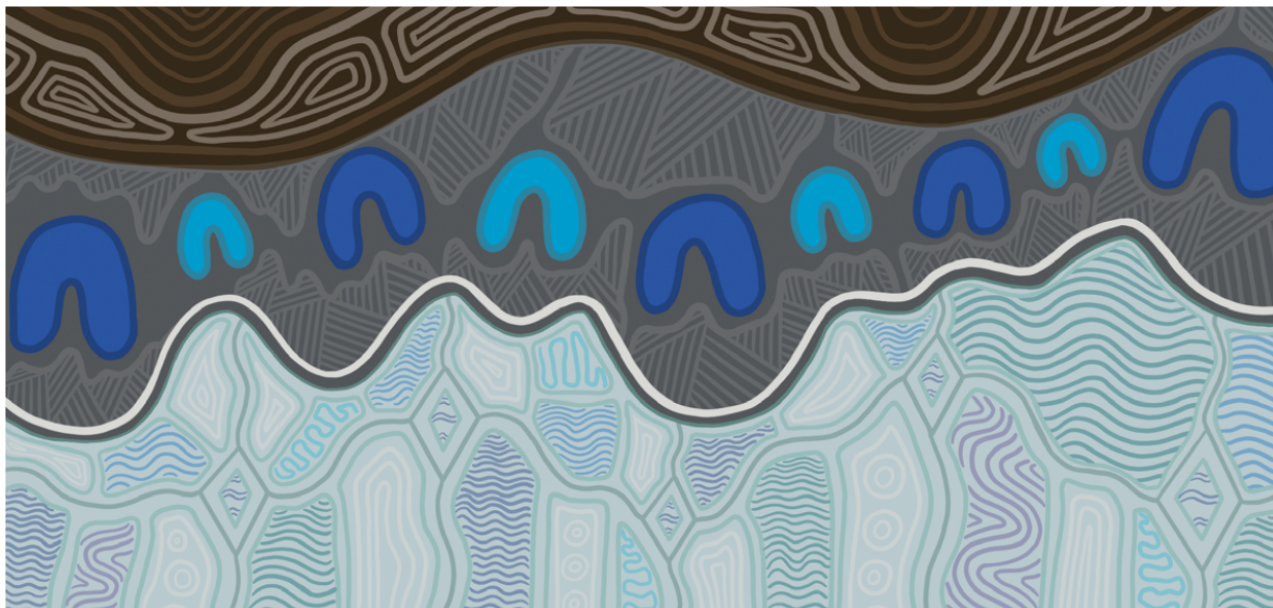
Bayside City Council is a member to the Metro IWMP Forum and Working Group which is responsible for setting guidelines for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) well as reporting against sub forum action plans. The Metro IWMP consists of five sub forums within its catchment, including the Dandenong Catchment forum which Bayside is a partner to.

Dandenong Catchment Integrated Water Management Forum

Council's participation in the Dandenong Catchment Forum provides an opportunity to collaboratively work with and strengthen existing relationships with water corporations, the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) and Traditional Owners to ensure the water cycle efficiently contributes to the liveability of our region. The Forum also provides a mechanism to send key strategic water issues and recommended policy reforms to the State Government.

The Dandenong Catchment IWM Forum Strategic Directions Statement (SDS) (2018) includes a shared vision for the planning and management of water in the specified catchment as well as a suite of strategic outcomes. Further, each SDS includes a portfolio of priority IWM projects and strategies (IWM opportunities) for which the IWM Forum's collaborative partners are committed to progress. Development of a Catchment Scale IWM Plan was identified in the priority portfolio of opportunities in the IWM Forum SDS.

Photo (above): Brian Martin,
The Agency of Bunggabi (trees), 2021



The Catchment Scale IWM Plan will support Water for Bayside by providing the scientific basis to measure water improvements across the municipality. As improvement in the catchment cannot be influenced or determined by a single municipality, the Catchment Scale IWM Plan will provide a better assessment of IWM needs on a regional or catchment scale when completed. This will align with the broader objectives of implementing Water for Bayside.

Council's involvement and representation in the Dandenong Catchment IWM Forum from late 2017 has enabled the input and collaboration with other councils in the catchment on IWM issues.

Involvement in the broader Dandenong Catchment IWM Forum continues to benefit Council through a coordinated approach to IWM projects, learning from other Councils, and the potential for Victorian Government funding. For example, Council will participate in Melbourne Water's proposed collaborative partnership with councils in the Elster Creek catchment on a whole-of-catchment analysis and action plan for litter, which will cover opportunities to improve education, enforcement, maintenance and infrastructure.

Repairing Memory & Place – An Indigenous-led approach to urban water design

The Repairing Memory & Place – An Indigenous-led project to urban water design is a pioneering research project aimed at integrating Indigenous knowledge and mainstream water management into urban water design. Funded by the Australian Research Council and coordinated by the Monash Art, Design and Architecture department, the Repairing Memory & Place project brings together the Traditional Owners, Monash University and state and local government.

“ The project aims to develop new tools for urban water management which includes an engagement framework for Indigenous water-management expertise.”

This funding will help to generate to generate new knowledge in urban water management by using On Country learning and design-led approaches to combine the often contrasting knowledge.

The project aims to develop new tools for urban water management which includes an engagement framework for Indigenous water-management expertise.

Council is an active participant in this project which is in line with Goal 5 of its Council Plan which states:

Council and the Bayside community will be environmental stewards, taking action to protect and enhance the natural environment, while balancing appreciation and use with the need to protect natural assets for future generations.

The project is also in line with its Reconciliation Action Plan and the Climate Emergency Action Plan including commitments of:

- Building internal and external relationships.
- Providing accurate cultural information on the Indigenous heritage of Bayside and links to further resources for Indigenous people.
- Maintaining relationship with Traditional Owners to collaborate on climate emergency response.



5. Goals, Objectives & Action Plan

Goals

Water for Bayside consists of five goals which reflect the aspirations of the community, address climate change impacts and contribute to Council's vision for integrated water management.

Addressing these goals, along with greater capacity to consider water within the design of Council projects, will enable Bayside to more fully realise IWM opportunities.

IWM can help to re-frame services delivered by Council, with significant benefits in further improving Bayside's liveability.

Objectives

To achieve our IWM goals, objectives have been developed, each with a suite of actions. These objectives will assist in prioritising and resourcing our integrated water management journey ensuring it is embedded as business as usual within the organisation.

The objectives, and the actions, will ensure we respond to contemporary challenges such as the climate emergency, population growth, urbanisation, budget pressures, social equity as well as focus efforts to engage and collaborate with the community and relevant stakeholders on water management.

Photo (above): Choose Tap installation at Green Point

The Goals and Objectives are as follows:

GOALS	OBJECTIVES
 <p>Goal 1: Water will be managed to enhance Bayside’s liveability, improve habitat and address the climate emergency.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Council will manage water to minimise the impact of flooding and deliver IWM initiatives to the climate emergency, recognising the value water plays in habitat and biodiversity.</p>
 <p>Goal 2: Improve the health of Port Phillip Bay and waterways.</p>	<p>Objective 2: Planning mechanisms are in place to manage stormwater run-off from new and re-developments. Enhanced infrastructure improves the quality of stormwater entering our waterways and the Bay.</p>
 <p>Goal 3: Preserve potable water supplies and increase the use of recycled and stormwater.</p>	<p>Objective 3: Council will reduce potable water use and substitute potable water with alternative sources, including stormwater harvesting for passive tree irrigation and recycled water for open space irrigation.</p>
 <p>Goal 4: Improve the community’s connection with and understanding of the water cycle.</p>	<p>Objective 4: Council will continue to engage the community to increase their awareness of the water cycle.</p>
 <p>Goal 5: Increase collaboration and partnerships across industry, government, Traditional Owners and the community.</p>	<p>Objective 5: Develop partnerships with neighbouring councils and other key stakeholders, and advocate to state government agencies to strengthen opportunities for progressive planning and mitigation policies and funding for climate adaptation measures to address key IWM issues.</p>

Action Plan

Each goal and objective has a suite of actions which identify how the objective will be met. These actions are outlined in the below action table. The actions outline priority initiatives that will assist to deliver on the Water for Bayside vision.

The actions have been developed to recognise and enhance existing work, what work will need to start and what can be embedded into current priorities. The actions have a nominated timeframe, deliverable, and an estimated cost which will be subject to the annual Council budget process.

The estimated costs are categorised as follows:

Business as Usual (BAU) (can be accommodated in operational budget)

Low	<\$50,000
Medium	\$50,00 – \$500,000
High	>\$500,000

The estimated costs in the Action Table below outline which actions are currently funded in either the 4-year capital program, operational budgets or currently unfunded.



Goal 1: Water will be managed to enhance Bayside’s liveability, improve habitat and address the climate emergency.

Objective 1: Council will manage water to minimise the impact of flooding and deliver IWM initiatives to the climate emergency, recognising the value water plays in habitat and biodiversity.

	Actions	Timeframe	Estimated Costs	Lead/Key Partners	Outcomes
1.1	Ensure IWM is a priority focus in the development of a new <i>Climate Emergency Action Plan</i> .	Year 2	Low (Unfunded)	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport	IWM is considered in the new CEAP.
1.2	Finalise the flood modelling.	Year 1	Medium (Funded)	City Assets & Presentation	Flood Mapping is completed.
1.3	Ensure updated flood mapping is included in the development of local <i>Special Building Overlays in the Bayside Planning Scheme</i> .	Year 2	Low (Part funded)	City Assets & Presentation Urban Strategy	Relevant documentation developed to support the planning amendment action.
1.4	Create a central database for potable and recycled water consumption for all Council assets and open spaces to ensure understanding of consumption and trends.	Year 1	Medium (Funded)	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport	Potable and recycled water is tracked for Council assets including setting a baseline year.
1.5	Develop a suite of indicators and associated targets to monitor progress and measure the success of Water for Bayside.	Year 1	BAU	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport	Meaningful measures to track progress against the targets are developed.
1.6	Implement water related actions from the Biodiversity Action Plan.	Ongoing	Low (Funded)	Open Space & Recreation	Biodiversity and habitat is enhanced, consistent with the objectives of the Biodiversity Action Plan.
1.7	Implement Council’s Lake Management Plans.	Ongoing	High (Part funded)	Open Space & Recreation	Enhancements to each lake are realised, consistent with the objectives of the Lake Management Plans.

Goal 2: Improve the health of Port Phillip Bay and waterways.



Objective 2: Planning mechanisms are in place to manage stormwater run-off from new and re-developments. Enhanced infrastructure improves the quality of stormwater entering our waterways and the Bay.

	Actions	Timeframe	Estimated Costs	Lead/Key Partners	Outcomes
2.1	<p>Apply Clause 15.01-2L-02 from the Bayside planning scheme to achieve best practice in environmentally sustainable development from the design stage through to construction and operation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce total operating potable water use through appropriate design measures such as water efficient fixtures, appliances, equipment, irrigation and landscaping. Encourage the appropriate use of alternative water sources (including greywater, rainwater and stormwater). Incorporate best practice water sensitive urban design to improve the quality of stormwater runoff and reduce impacts on water systems and water bodies. 	Ongoing	BAU	Development Services Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport	Clause and Tools applied to new and re-developments.

	Actions	Timeframe	Estimated Costs	Lead/Key Partners	Outcomes
2.2	<p>Apply Clause 15.01-2S Building Design from Bayside planning scheme to include the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage water efficiency and the use of rainwater, stormwater and recycled water. Minimise stormwater discharge through site layout and landscaping measures that support on-site infiltration and stormwater reuse. 	Ongoing	BAU	Development Services Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport	Clause applied to new and re-developments.
2.3	<p>Continue to review development plans using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian Planning Provisions Clause 53.18 (Stormwater) Standard W2 & W3, Victorian Planning Provisions Clause 55.07-5 (Water Sensitive Urban Design) Standard B39 and Victorian Planning Provisions Clause 58.03-8 (Water Sensitive Urban Design) Standard D13. 	Ongoing	BAU	Development Services Urban Strategy Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport	Planning provisions applied to new and re-developments.
2.4	<p>Incorporate a raingarden program for improved biofiltration and infiltration of stormwater within streetscape and drainage projects where feasible.</p>	Year 2	High (Part funded)	City Assets & Presentation Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport	Raingarden works incorporated within streetscape and drainage projects as per the Sustainable Building and Infrastructure Policy 2022.
2.5	<p>Undertake a review of current locations of Gross Pollutant Traps and assess the need for additional to be installed.</p>	Year 3	Low (Unfunded)	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport City Assets & Presentation	Clear understanding of whether additional GPTs are required.

	Actions	Timeframe	Estimated Costs	Lead/Key Partners	Outcomes
2.6	Review the operation of current Gross Pollutant Traps and upgrade or replace as required.	Ongoing	High (Funded)	City Assets & Presentation	GPT audit is undertaken, and renewal program is implemented to ensure current GPT's are operating effectively.
2.7	Continue to audit and review the performance of Litter Baskets and upgrade and install additional sites where appropriate.	Ongoing	High (Funded)	City Assets & Presentation	Regular Audits completed.
2.8	Continue to trial innovative solutions to reduce the amount of road surfaces that are directly connected to the stormwater system.	Ongoing	Medium (Part funded)	City Assets & Presentation	Trials are undertaken.
2.9	Update the Drainage Strategy to improve the performance of the drainage network (including developer contributions for targeted drainage asset upgrades).	Year 2	Low (Part funded)	City Assets & Presentation	The drainage network operates effectively.
2.10	Investigate the opportunity to monitor and document the construction of WSUD assets on private developments through the planning and building processes.	Year 1	BAU	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport Development Services	Clear understanding of WSUD assets across the private realm.
2.11	Continue to implement the Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2021 to improve the quality of stormwater run-off from private property and building sites.	Ongoing	BAU	Amenity Protection	Building sites are managed to minimise the risks of stormwater pollution, through the run-off of chemicals, sediments, animal wastes or gross pollutants.



Goal 3: Preserve potable water supplies and increase the use of recycled and stormwater.

Objective 3: Council will reduce potable water use and substitute potable water with alternative sources, including stormwater harvesting for passive tree irrigation and recycled water for open space irrigation.

	Actions	Timeframe	Estimated Costs	Lead/Key Partners	Outcomes
3.1	Ensure the 15-year program for the implementation of stormwater harvesting systems is considered in the capital works program.	Ongoing	High (Part funded)	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport City Assets & Presentation Open Space & Recreation	Harvested stormwater is used for street tree irrigation.
3.2	Ensure the Sportsground Reconstruction Program includes the installation of more efficient irrigation systems and laying of drought tolerant summer grasses such as Couch and Kikuyu.	Ongoing	High (Funded)	Open Space & Recreation	Reduced potable water use for sportsground irrigation.
3.3	Maximise opportunities to link Council's open spaces to South East Water's <i>Dingley Recycled Water Scheme</i> .	Year 1	High (Funded)	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport Open Space & Recreation	Green spaces linked to the scheme where feasible.
3.4	Review irrigation practices with a focus on the potential use of moisture sensors for automated application of irrigation.	Year 2	Low (Part funded)	Open Space & Recreation	Irrigation practices reviewed and optimised.
3.5	Continue to monitor performance of all stormwater harvesting, retention and treatment assets so they operate at an optimal level throughout their life cycle.	Year 2	Low (Unfunded)	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport City Assets & Presentation	The performance monitoring for stormwater management assets is improved.



	Actions	Timeframe	Estimated Costs	Lead/Key Partners	Outcomes
3.6	Consider Water Sensitive Urban Design assets in the update of the <i>Drainage Service Driven Asset Management Plan</i> .	Ongoing	BAU	City Assets & Presentation	Process in place to capture data and information on WSUD performance.
3.7	Ensure incorporation of IWM and WSUD elements into capital works projects on a business-as-usual basis where feasible.	Year 1	Medium (Part funded)	All Departments	IWM and WSUD are considered and implemented where feasible in all relevant capital works projects.
3.8	Investigate options to utilise pervious surfaces on footpath and road upgrades to improve water infiltration.	Year 1	BAU	City Assets & Presentation	Impervious surfaces are minimised to ensure greater water infiltration.
3.9	Deliver the wetland at the Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve.	Year 2	High (Funded)	Open Space & Recreation	The Yalukit Willam wetlands are operational.

Photo (above): Stormwater flowing into a drain

Goal 4: Improve the community's connection with and understanding of the water cycle.



Objective 4: Council will continue to engage the community to increase their awareness of the water cycle.

	Actions	Timeframe	Estimated Costs	Lead/Key Partners	Outcomes
4.1	Promote existing water behaviour/use awareness campaigns such as the Yalukit Willam Nature Association and Waterwatch Citizen Science programs.	Ongoing	Low (Funded)	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport Open Space & Recreation	Water behaviour/ use awareness campaigns are deployed/supported.
4.2	Promote existing and develop new coastal litter and foreshore pollution reduction programs.	Ongoing	Low (Funded)	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport Open Space & Recreation	Litter and foreshore pollution campaigns are delivered.
4.3	Establish a coordinated program of community awareness under the Love Bayside banner, to build local support and action for a climate emergency response.	Year 1	Medium (Funded)	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport	Love Bayside Campaigns are deployed.
4.4	Use Council's communication channels to promote Victorian Government and water authority programs.	Ongoing	Low (Funded)	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport	The community and industry are provided with access to education and incentive programs.



Goal 5: Increase collaboration and partnerships across industry, government, Traditional Owners and the community.

Objective 5: Develop partnerships with neighbouring councils and other key stakeholders, and advocate to state government agencies to strengthen opportunities for progressive planning and mitigation policies and funding for climate adaptation measures to address key IWM issues.

	Actions	Timeframe	Estimated Costs	Lead/Key Partners	Outcomes
5.1	Continue to facilitate internal collaboration on water issues, stormwater management projects, and advice on capital works projects which improve liveability.	Ongoing	BAU	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport	IWM issues and opportunities are considered and addressed.
5.2	Continue to participate in the <i>Repairing Memory & Place - An Indigenous-led approach to urban water design project.</i>	Year 2	Low (Funded)	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport Family, Youth & Wellbeing	Integrated Traditional knowledge and mainstream water management tools are used in Council decision making.
5.3	Continue to contribute to the Metro IWM Forum and Working Group and the Dandenong IWM Forum Strategic Directions Statement and Working Group.	Ongoing	BAU	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport	Participation in IWM Forums.
5.4	Contribute to the proposed Melbourne Water <i>Elster Creek Litter Collaboration</i> project.	Ongoing	BAU	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport Open Space & Recreation	Proposed <i>Elster Creek Litter Collaboration</i> project is undertaken.
5.5	Support the EPA to deploy their guidelines to eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to human health and the environment through improved environmental practices.	Ongoing	BAU	Amenity Protection Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport	EPA Civil Construction, Building and Demolition Guide deployed.
5.6	Develop and deliver an advocacy program to address the Climate Emergency and improve IWM outcomes.	Ongoing	BAU	Climate, Waste & Integrated Transport Communication, Engagement & Customer Experience	IWM advocacy priorities are clear, specific and supported by key messages to influence other stakeholders.



6. Implementation and reporting

It is essential to maintain a meaningful set of indicators to monitor progress and measure the success of Water for Bayside. As there are many stakeholders involved in progressing improvements to the integrated water management within Bayside, clear indicators will be developed to measure effectiveness of the Plan.

A Water for Bayside Implementation Progress Report will be presented to Council annually outlining progress against the goals, objectives and actions.

Photo (above): Sandringham Beach.
Cherry T for Unsplash.

Appendix A — 2019–2039 IWM Plan research, engagement and development context

In 2015, Bayside City Council successfully sought funding from Melbourne Water's Living Rivers Program to develop an Integrated Water Management (IWM) Plan. Council engaged an expert consultant to develop the Plan in 2016. As part of a review of the scope of that work, an Opportunities Assessment was completed in 2017 to determine additional opportunities from those previously identified. A comprehensive Technical Background Paper entitled 'Water For Bayside' was also completed in 2017.

Water for Bayside replaced the Stormwater Quality Management Plan (2001) and the Sustainable Water Management Strategy (2011).

Existing documents and strategies that informed the development of Water for Bayside 2019 included:

- Community Plan 2025: Building a Better Bayside
- Council Plan 2017–2021
- Wellbeing for All Ages and Abilities Strategy, 2013 and 2017
- Environmental Sustainability Framework (ESF) 2016–2025
- Municipal Strategic Statement
- Bayside Planning Scheme – Clause 22.08 Water Sensitive Urban Design
- Flood Management Plan (2011)
- Drainage Service-Driven Asset Management Plan [D-AMP] (2015)
- Climate Change Strategy (2012)
- Open Space Strategy (2012)
- Bayside Coastal Management Plan (CMP), 2014
- Street Tree Strategy, 2008
- Street and Park Tree Selection Guide, 2016
- Street and Park Tree Policy
- Stormwater Quality Management Plan (2001) and the,
- Sustainable Water Management Strategy (2011)
- Draft Integrated Water Management Plan (DesignFlow, 2016)

Community engagement was conducted in July and August 2019.

Water for Bayside Consultation

The engagement process was open to all residents in the Bayside area with the purpose to feedback on four key questions:

1. Have all the right projects been included?
2. Are there any opportunities we missed?
3. Do you agree with the timeframes?
4. Is there anything you think we should do sooner?

The consultation methodology activities included:

- Project information and questions for response were hosted on the on-line engagement platform Have Your Say.
- Emails to direct Environmental Group convenors to respond to the Plan via Have Your Say or direct reply email were sent.
- Promotion of the draft IWM Plan using Council communication channels, including media release and social media.

Half of the respondents via Have Your Say and email (11 of 22) expressed support for the IWM Plan and the long-term approach. While some respondents expressed disappointment that some expected information or projects were not included in the Plan, none of the comments were described as opposed to the Plan.

Many respondents suggested direct actions to be included in the Plan, however it was determined they can largely be incorporated within the broad scope of existing actions in the Action Plan.



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10.15 MOORABBIN ACTIVITY CENTRE PROGRAM - SUBMISSION TO STATE GOVERNMENT

City Planning and Amenity - Urban Strategy
File No: PSF/24/105 – Doc No: DOC/24/129813

Executive summary

Purpose and background

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement on a submission that Council officers have prepared to the State Government. The submission is in response to the Activity Centre Program (The Program) Phase 1 Engagement that was undertaken from 28 March to 29 April 2024.

The Program forms part of the Victorian Government's Housing Statement which sets a target to build 800,000 homes in Victoria over the next decade. The Program is being led by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) in collaboration with the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA).

The Program will review existing planning controls in place across the Moorabbin Activity Centre (which crosses Bayside, Kingston and Glen Eira) including the current building height controls and Activity Centre boundary. The State Government has proposed that new planning controls would be implemented by December 2024. However, Council has not been informed as to what planning pathway will be utilised, only informing officers that this is 'awaiting decision by the Minister for Planning.'

At the May 2024 Council Meeting, Council officers presented an approach on how to move forward with our advocacy to the State Government regarding the Suburban Rail Loop project (SRL) and Activity Centre Program. This Report extends on from this work that officers have already committed to undertaking.

Key issues

Community engagement undertaken by Council

In addition to the State Government's Phase 1 Engagement, Council undertook its own engagement from 3 April to 29 April 2024 which:

- generated 167 survey contributions and 1,976 views of Council's Have Your Say webpage
- resulted in the majority of respondents (78%) opposing building height increases, a small proportion of respondents (17%) support building height increases, and a small proportion of respondents (5%) were not sure
- resulted in a significant proportion of respondents (75%) opposing the expansion of the existing Activity Centre boundary and raised concerns that it will impact liveability and change the character of the area
- confirmed community concerns that there will not be enough adequate community infrastructure to support the growing population. Respondents also raised concerns regarding amenity impacts, increased traffic, inadequate parking, and loss of vegetation
- indicated respondents that support an increase in building heights stated that Bayside needs more housing and increased density in areas surrounding public transport and amenities.

The feedback gathered through this engagement has been used to inform Council's submission to State Government (Attachment 2). The full findings from the engagement undertaken by Council are included in Attachment 1.

Concern regarding State Government led projects in Bayside.

There are significant concerns regarding the impacts of such substantial population and development growth within our municipality, specifically the immediate interface. In addition, there are concerns with the manner these projects are being undertaken, and the lack of genuine engagement with the affected councils and its community.

Council has raised concerns with the State Government regarding the process, governance, and Council's role in the Program. At present, Council has had minimal opportunity to be able to provide input into the State Government's technical assessments. As outlined in the submission, Council is seeking clarification on its responsibilities and involvement in the Program. This is of particular concern given the Minister for Planning, The Hon. Sonya Kilkenny MP, indication to Council that this work was being undertaken on behalf of Bayside City Council (along with Kingston and Glen Eira City Councils) who were seen as the State Governments clients. Opportunity as the client to this project to shape and develop the planning approach has been absent to date.

As indicated in this report, the State Government has informed Council that the review and implementation of new controls would be finalised by December 2024. There has been no clear direction as to what planning pathway will be used to implement these new controls, only that this is 'awaiting decision by the Minister for Planning'. From what has been shared with officers, there appears to be little to no time available to undertake any formal public exhibition, or for an independent panel hearing to take place.

Council officers are concerned by the State Government's continued desire to 'fast track' decisions, and particularly this Program. This restricts Council's and the communities' ability to provide meaningful input into this Program.

Lack of public information being shared

To date, the State Government have not shared or made publicly available a clear scope for the Program, any strategic justification or a business case outlining the need for the Program.

Council officers are aware that there will be housing targets for the Activity Centre; however, it is unclear how these will be set, nor has this been clearly communicated with the affected community. It is also unclear how the housing targets will be utilised to determine the infrastructure need in the area. There is significant concern with how the Program is being run and the lack of information being shared with key stakeholders including Council and the community.

Development contributions

There has been no clear communication from the State Government as to how they will assess the infrastructure need, given the proposed increase in density, and how they will then seek to fund this infrastructure. A commitment should be fulfilled by State Government, that this infrastructure will be delivered in a cost-neutral manner to Council. This will ensure there is no cost or resourcing liability on Council for the delivery of the infrastructure needs triggered by this Program.

Housing targets

Victoria's Housing Statement has outlined the delivery of housing targets for local government areas, in addition to major projects such as the Program and the SRL. The objectives of the targets and projects is to increase the delivery of housing in Victoria to

achieve housing affordability. A key premise for the State Government intervention in local planning outcomes is its narrative that local government is limiting the delivery of housing through overly restrictive planning controls. Housing targets and major projects are considered to overcome these challenges.

However, what has been overlooked by State Government is the impact of the current economic climate on the development industry, with margins in the development industry at a historic low. State Government tax initiatives such as the windfall gains tax and vacant land tax further exacerbate the issue, having a direct impact on the ability to provide affordable housing.

Given this, we question whether these State Government projects can be delivered, and whether the impact on amenity and liveability of our established areas is a fair trade.

The *Hampton East (Moorabbin) Structure Plan* (Structure Plan) already in place for the Hampton East Activity Centre clearly defines those areas for increased and consolidated development. The Structure Plan also outlines areas where more sensitively designed medium density housing should occur. Council will continue to advocate to the State Government for the new planning controls to reflect what is currently set in the Structure Plan.

Advocacy and next steps

This report outlines some of the key questions and concerns that have arisen from both our engagement with the community and Council officer involvement in the Program.

It is recommended that Council officers submit the findings from the community engagement alongside the submission to the State Government and request immediate responses from the Minister for Planning regarding:

- the chosen planning pathway going forward, and that this information be shared on public platforms so that all stakeholders can be informed.
- a request that the delivery of the Activity Centre Program be delayed until 2025 at the earliest, to allow for a formal public exhibition period and Panel Hearing or Standing Advisory Committee to be appointed. This will ensure that affected Councils and community members can understand the relevant strategic justifications and assumption made by the State Government, along with having the opportunity to make submissions to a transparent process, which is currently lacking.

Council officers will also continue to work with other Councils affected by State Government led projects as per the recommendations from the May Council Meeting.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. notes the Community Engagement Summary Report (Attachment 1)
2. endorses the submission to the State Government Moorabbin Activity Centre Program (Attachment 2)
3. continues to engage with councils affected by the Activity Centre Program to develop a common advocacy position

Support Attachments

1. Moorabbin Activity Centre Program - Community Engagement Summary Report
2. Submission to State Government Moorabbin Activity Centre Program

Considerations and implications of the recommendation

Social

The Program seeks to review existing planning controls in place for the Hampton East Activity Centre, which will result in higher density outcomes for the area. With increased housing and population growth comes the need for increased social and community infrastructure. As the Program progresses, Council will need to ensure the social needs and values of our community are addressed and allow for high quality and amenity outcomes in the area.

Natural Environment

The Program seeks to increase housing density in the Hampton East Activity Centre. Council officers will advocate for stronger landscaping requirements for the area, specifically as part of multi-dwelling developments. The protection and creation of public open spaces is pivotal to the local community and Council officers will continue to advocate for these outcomes.

Climate Emergency

The Climate Emergency requires an urgent shift to 'zero carbon' transport, including: electric vehicles, buses and public transport powered by renewable energy; alongside increased public transport use, cycling, walking and other forms of active transport. Through its Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020–25, Council is committed to supporting this transition, improving active transport infrastructure, advocating for more convenient and 'zero carbon' public transport, and working in partnership for better transport outcomes where possible.

Built Environment

The Program seeks to review existing planning controls in place for the Hampton East Activity Centre, which will result in higher density outcomes for the area. It will be important that any increase in building height controls and changes to built form should provide for high quality urban design outcomes and minimise amenity impacts to our community. Council will advocate for these outcomes through our involvement in the Program.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

In addition to the State Government's Phase 1 Engagement that went from the 28 March to 29 April 2024, Council undertook its own engagement from 3 April to 29 April 2024. The digital communication tools utilised for this engagement included:

- Digital communication regarding the consultation period being advertised on the Bayside City Council website.
- Have Your Say webpage where participants could complete the online survey.
- Inside Word article to inform Councillors about the consultation process.
- Social media posts.

Equity Impact

The implications of this report have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020.

Human Rights

The implications of the report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

There are no legal implications arising from the preparation of this Report.

Finance

Budget has been allocated in the 2023–24 operational budget to support Council's involvement in the Activity Centres program.

Links to Council policy and strategy

Community Vision 2050

The following priorities are listed within the Community Vision 2050 which Council will seek to uphold through our involvement in the Program.

Priority 3.2

Continually improve sustainability, cost effectiveness and efficiency of transport services and infrastructure.

Priority 3.3

Equal access to transport for everyone.

Priority 3.4

Increase the emphasis on the development of safer and more inclusive walking and cycling infrastructure.

Council Plan 2021–25

The following strategy is provided in the Council Plan which Council seeks to uphold through our involvement in the Program.

- 3.3.2 Encourage the planning of well-designed new development that is appropriately located and consistent with the preferred neighbourhood character and residential amenity

Bayside Housing Strategy 2019

As part of the Implementation Plan of the Bayside Housing Strategy, priority is placed on the following action, which states:

- Retain the existing residential zoning in Bayside. This clearly implements the Housing Strategy's vision and spatial approach to managing housing growth in Bayside.

Whilst there is clear intention from DTP and VPA that the Program will result in changes to existing planning controls, Council officers will seek to advocate for the retention of existing planning controls as much as possible.

Hampton East (Moorabbin) Activity Centre Structure Plan

The Structure Plan was adopted by Council in February 2016. The Structure Plan establishes a vision, principles and strategies that have been formulated through an extensive community engagement process.

The Structure Plan Area is divided into four precincts:

- The Residential Precinct – An area of residential regeneration and consolidation including a mixture of apartments, townhouses and units with landscaped front setbacks and sensitive interaction to the existing residential area outside the Structure Plan boundary.
- The Mixed-Use Precinct – A central public outdoor square surrounded by high-quality consolidated mixed-use development with active frontages and inviting pedestrian-friendly laneways.
- The Retail Precinct – A vibrant shopping strip with cafes, restaurants, and a range of daily and specialist retailers. Housing will be conveniently located above shops for ease of access to shops, cafes, and Moorabbin Station.
- The Commercial Precinct – A high-quality commercial hub which provides the community with a range of office, housing, and medical services, all with good vehicle access from South Road and laneway access to parking.

The Structure Plan has been in operation as part of the Bayside Planning Scheme since August 2019 through Amendment C151bays. The Structure Plan introduced new planning controls and has provided considerable strategic direction for proposed new development in the area. Council will seek to support the continuation of these controls as much as possible through our involvement in the Program.



Moorabbin Activity Centre Program

Community Engagement Summary Report
June 2024



1 Background

This document provides a summary of stakeholder and community feedback on the Moorabbin (Hampton East) Activity Centre Program.

In September 2023, the State Government released its *Victoria's Housing Statement; The decade ahead 2024-2034*, setting a target to build 800,000 homes in Victoria over the next decade.

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) are working in collaboration with the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) to deliver the Activity Centre Program, which is a part of the new Housing Statement. The program seeks to review existing policy in place for 10 initial activity centres around Melbourne to encourage the development of 60,000 new homes. Moorabbin (Hampton East) Activity Centre is one of these 10 activity centres, along with Broadmeadows, Camberwell Junction, Chadstone, Epping, Frankston, Niddrie (Keilor Road), North Essendon, Preston (High Street) and Ringwood.

The program will allow the State Government to deliver more homes in the right locations to improve housing affordability and increase housing choice. This will be achieved through a review of building heights and design requirements, and changes to existing rules to support appropriate development.

Bayside City Council (Council) is providing strong input to the State Government to advocate on behalf of the Bayside community. We want to minimise impacts from the increases in development and ensure the liveability of Bayside is protected for current and future residents.

In addition to the State Government's community engagement (concluding 29 April 2024), Council undertook engagement from 3 April 2024 to 29 April 2024 to inform its response.

Council received 167 responses to its online survey. Community feedback provided directly to Council is summarised in this report and will inform Council's advocacy and submission to the State Government.

2 Consultation process

2.1 Consultation purpose

The consultation process was designed to provide the community with the opportunity to provide feedback on the State Government's Activity Centre Program. The purpose of the consultation was for Council to better understand community sentiments so that Council can advocate on behalf of the community. The feedback gathered has been used to inform Council's submission to the State Government.

Council wants to raise awareness of the significant changes that will be occurring in the Hampton East Activity Centre. The extent of the changes that will be taking place in the area are still unknown. Council will work to influence the future of the precinct and achieve the best outcomes for current and future residents.

2.2 Consultation methodology

Details	Engagement Activity
<p>3 April 2024 to 29 April 2024</p> <p>Online only</p> <p>167 contributions</p> <p>1,976 views of Council's Have Your Say webpage</p>	<p>Have Your Say webpage survey</p> <p>Council online survey and promotion of the State Government's consultation materials.</p> <p>A series of social media posts were used to raise awareness of the survey on the Have Your Say page.</p> <p>No written submissions were received outside of the survey responses.</p>

Details	Communication Activity
<p>Social media</p> <p>4 posts</p>	<p>4 social media posts, including sponsored advertising to raise awareness of the consultation and the State Government project.</p>
<p>Website news</p> <p>2 articles</p>	<p>Two news stories published on Council's website regarding the consultation period and encouraging participation.</p>
<p>Direct email</p> <p>3 April</p> <p>53 project subscribers</p>	<p>Invitation to participate in consultation sent to 53 project subscribers.</p>
<p>Project webpage</p> <p>1,976 views</p> <p>1,162 visitors</p>	<p>Have Your Say webpages where respondents could complete the online survey.</p> <p>Project webpages included links to the State Government's consultation and raise awareness of the Activity Centre Program timeline.</p>

3 Participant profile

A total of 161 respondents took part in Council's engagement. The table below shows a comparison between survey participant demographics and the demographic profile of the whole Bayside community.

Most respondents were aged over 45 and resided in either Hampton East, Hampton, or Highett. Respondents from these suburbs were over-represented compared to the Bayside census population profile. The data shows that the engagement program received strong participation from the 45-59 (35% of all respondents) age group. Age group 60-74 (22.9% of all respondents) were the next largest sample size. This is reflective of the current population that lives in the Hampton East Activity Centre; were 35% of the population is within the 35-59 age category.

Respondents were not asked for gender data as this was not deemed relevant to the engagement.

	Demographic	Bayside 2021 Census	Participants (%)
Age	<18		0.6%
	18-34	-	6%
	35-44	-	18.1%
	45-59	-	35%
	60-74	-	22.9%
	75+	-	8.4%
	Undisclosed	-	9%
Suburb	Beaumaris	12.8%	4.9%
	Black Rock	6.2%	2.5%
	Brighton	23.7%	4.3%
	Brighton East	15.6%	10.4%
	Cheltenham	3.9%	1.2%
	Hampton	13.6%	16.6%
	Hampton East	4.9%	30.1%
	Highett	7.6%	13.5%
	Sandringham	11.8%	10.4%
	Outside Bayside	-	6.1%

4 Consultation findings

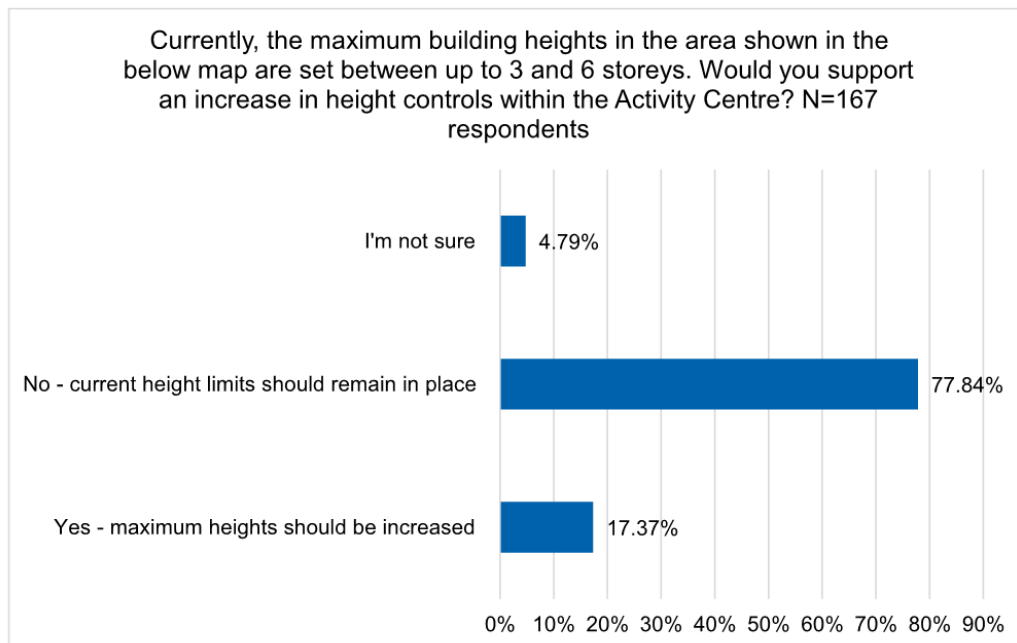
The engagement was undertaken to help inform Council's submission and represent the views of the community to the State Government. The community was asked to provide their feedback on buildings heights, expansion of the activity centre and what they wanted Council to advocate for. The following section summarises the key issues that were raised by the community. In the interest of stakeholder and community privacy, individual quotes have not been included within this public document. Where there was more than one mention of a topic or item, the number of mentions has been specified in brackets.

4.1 Overview of Feedback

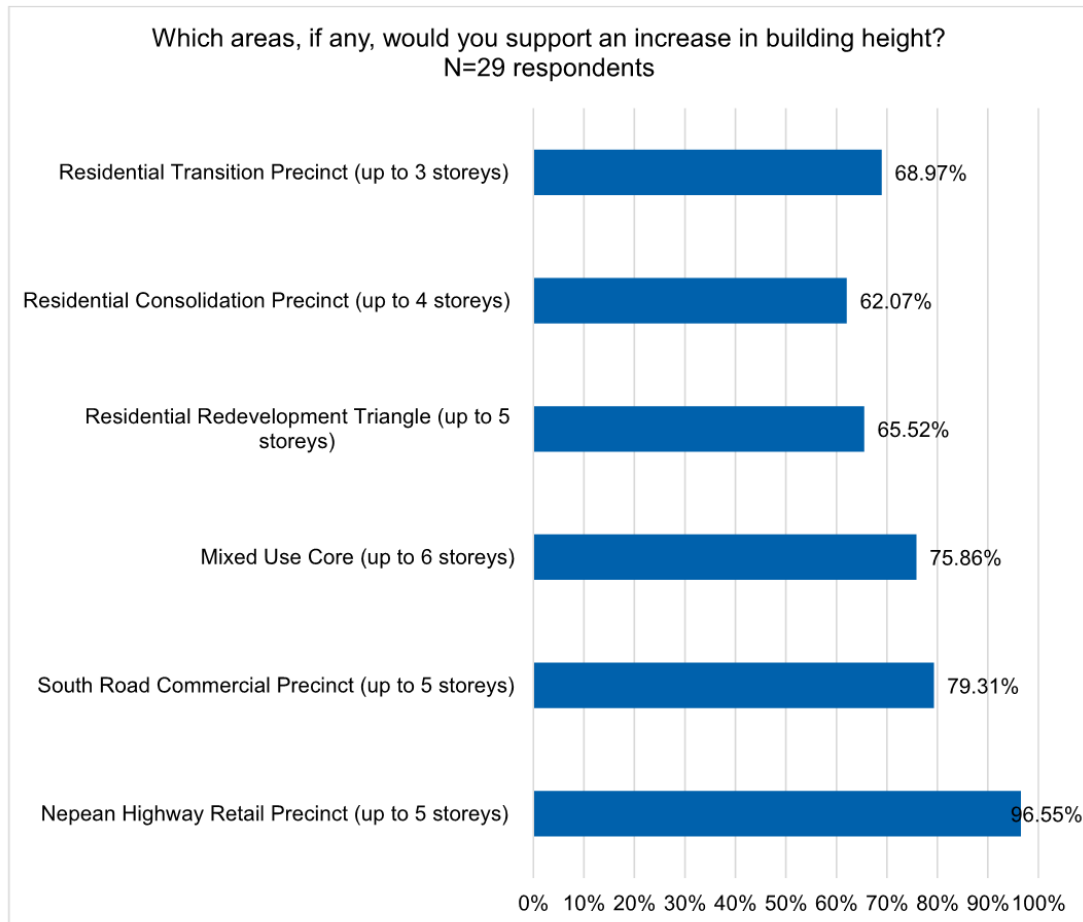
Respondents opposed the proposed increased density of built form that has been proposed as apart of the Activity Centre Program. Respondents were particularly concerned that there will not be enough adequate public infrastructure to meet the increase in population. Respondents also raised concerns regarding amenity impacts, increased traffic, inadequate parking, and loss of vegetation.

4.1.1 Maximum Building Heights

It is expected that through the State Government's review of existing planning controls that maximum building heights will be increased. Survey respondents were asked whether they support an increase in height controls within the activity centre. A majority of respondents (78%) did not support an increase in height controls and wanted to ensure that current limits remain in place. Several respondents (17%) think that maximum heights should be increased, and a small proportion of respondents (5%) were not sure.



Survey respondents that want to see an increase in building heights were asked in what precinct would they support higher built form. The graph below shows for each precinct what percentage of respondents would support an increase in building heights. It should be noted that only 29 respondents provided a response to this question and not every respondent provided a response for each of the precincts. A significant proportion of respondents (97% of 29 respondents) would support an increase in building heights in the Nepean Highway Retail Precinct.

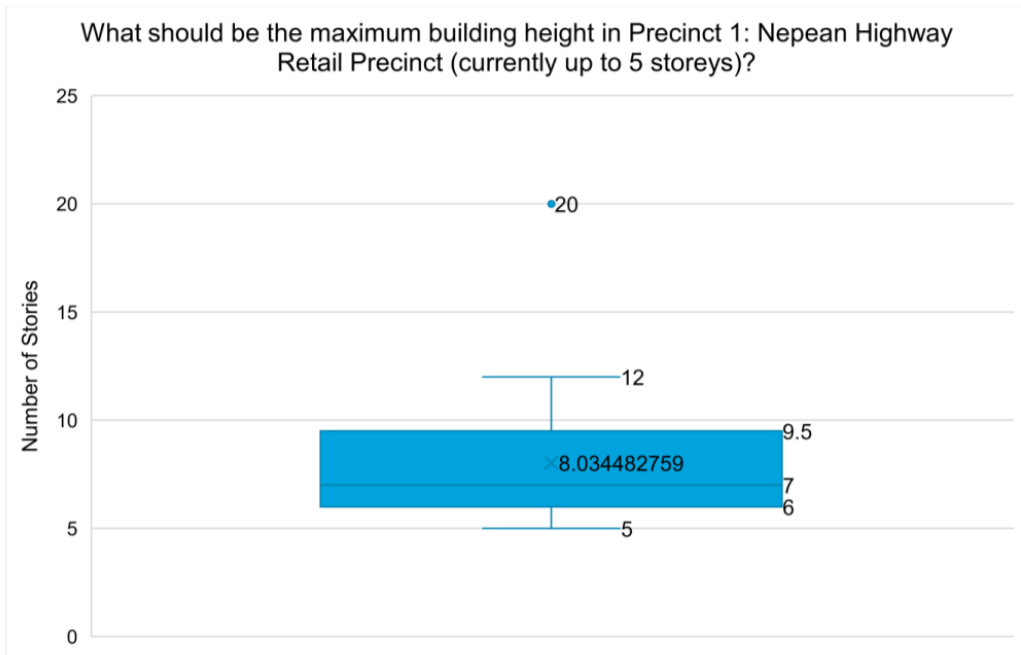
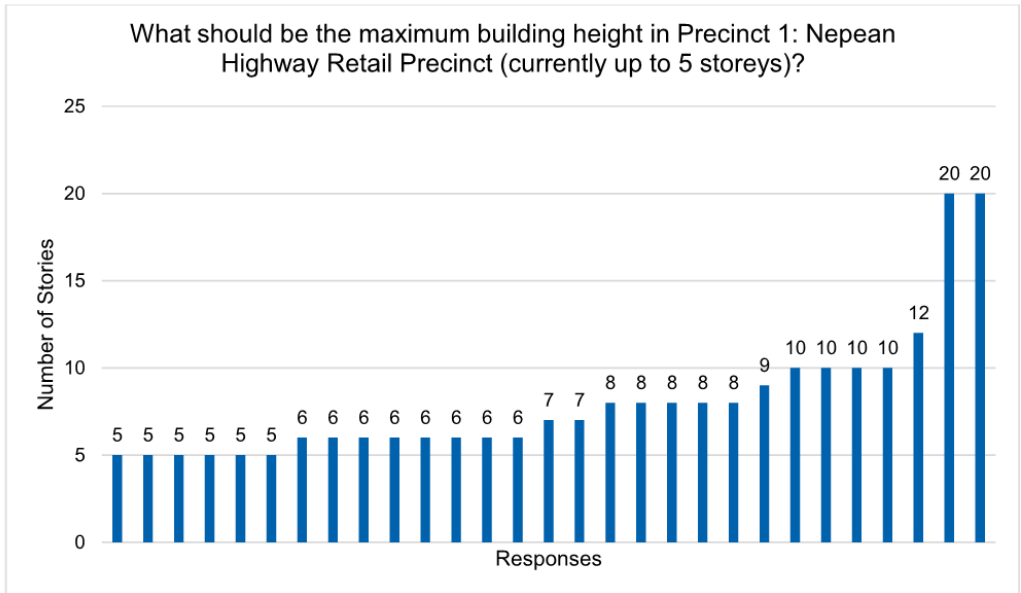


Respondents were able to specify how many stories that think the new maximum should be for each of the precincts in the Structure Plan area. It should be noted that for each precinct only a limited number of respondents provided a response to the question.

The data provided by respondents is presented in both a bar and box and whisker chart. The box and whisker chart shows the interquartile range which is also known as the midspread or the middle 50% of the data. Within the interquartile range there is the lower quartile, median and upper quartile. The minimum, maximum and outliers are also shown on the chart.

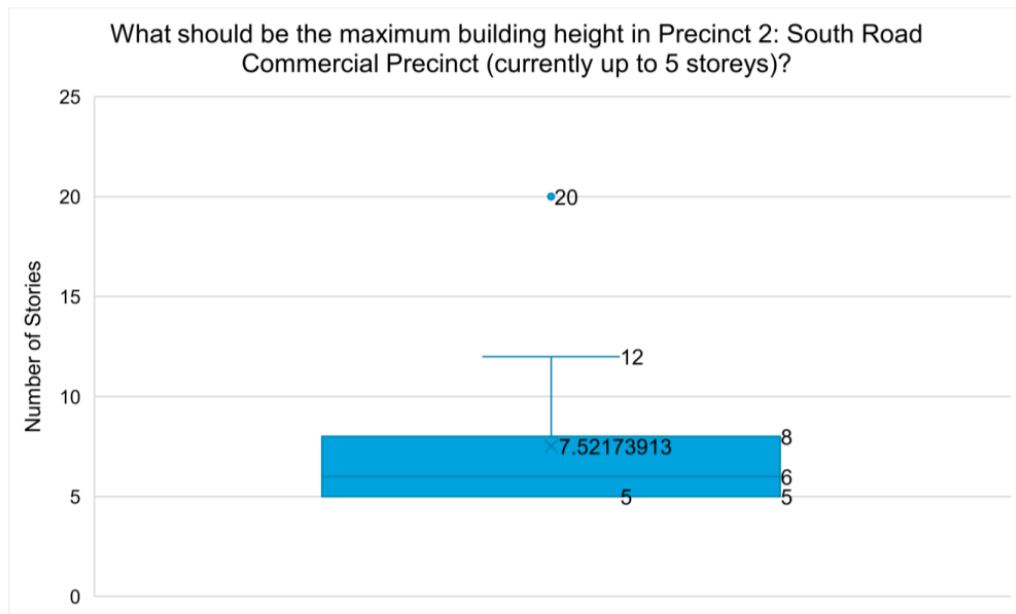
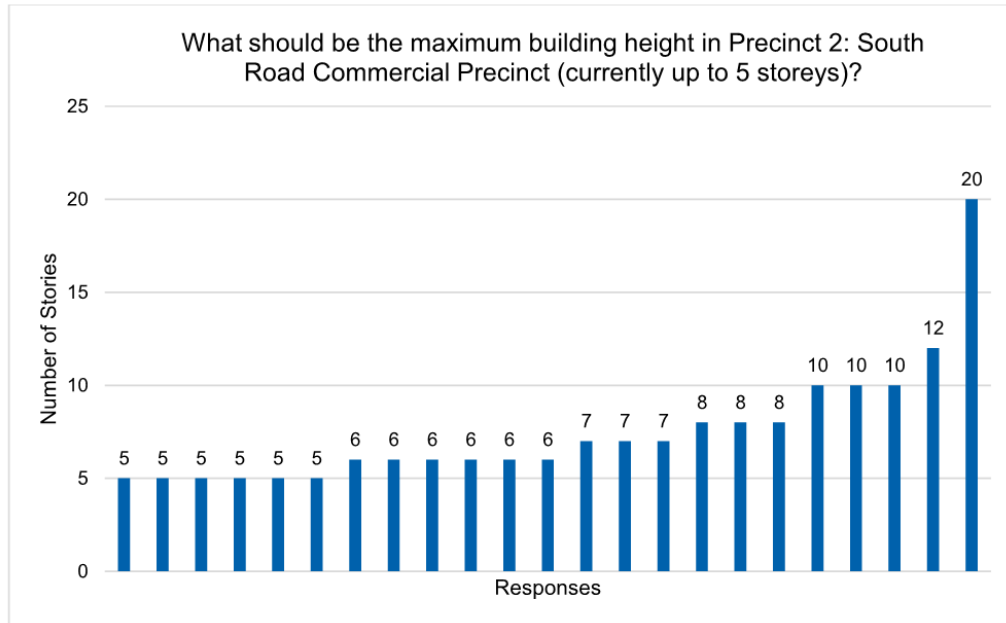
Precinct 1: Nepean Highway Retail Precinct

For Precinct 1, there were 29 responses to the maximum building height question, these results are outlined in the graphs below. The average maximum building height for Precinct 1 based on the survey responses is 8 storeys. The current maximum building height for this area is 5 storeys.



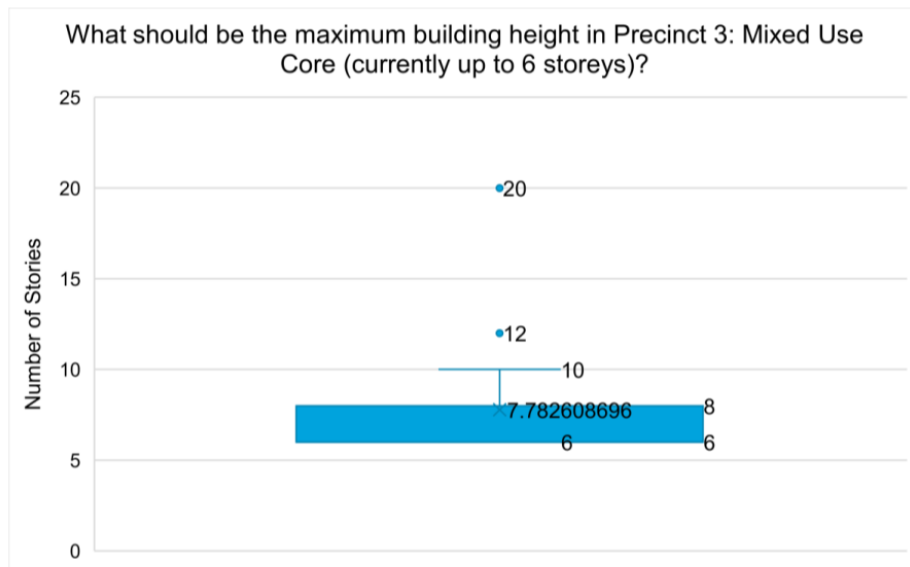
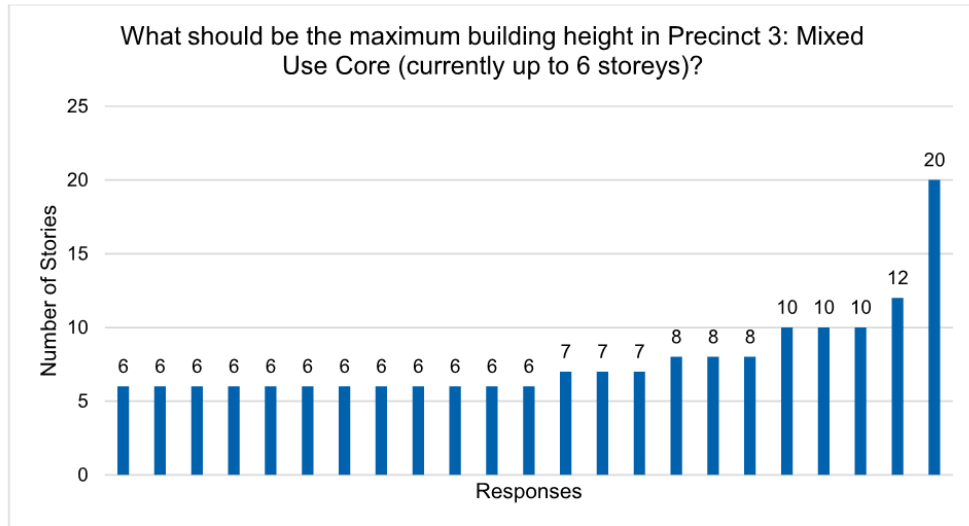
Precinct 2: South Road Commercial Precinct

For Precinct 2, there were 23 responses to the maximum building height question, these results are outlined in the graphs below. The average maximum building height for Precinct 2 based on the survey responses is 8 storeys. The current maximum building height for this area is 5 storeys.



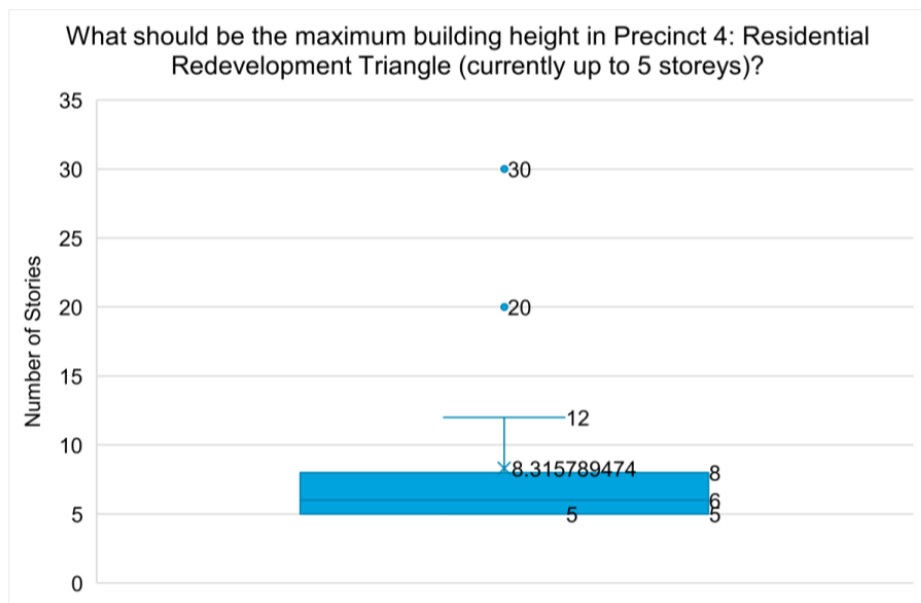
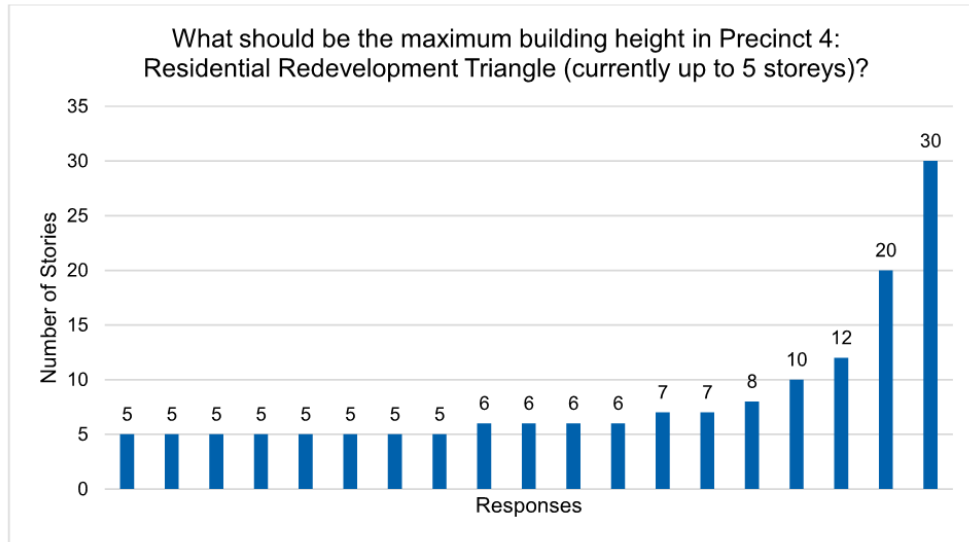
Precinct 3: Mixed Use Core

For Precinct 3, there were 23 responses to the maximum building height question, these results are outlined in the graphs below. The average maximum building height for Precinct 3 based on the survey responses is 8 storeys. The current maximum building height for this area is 6 storeys.



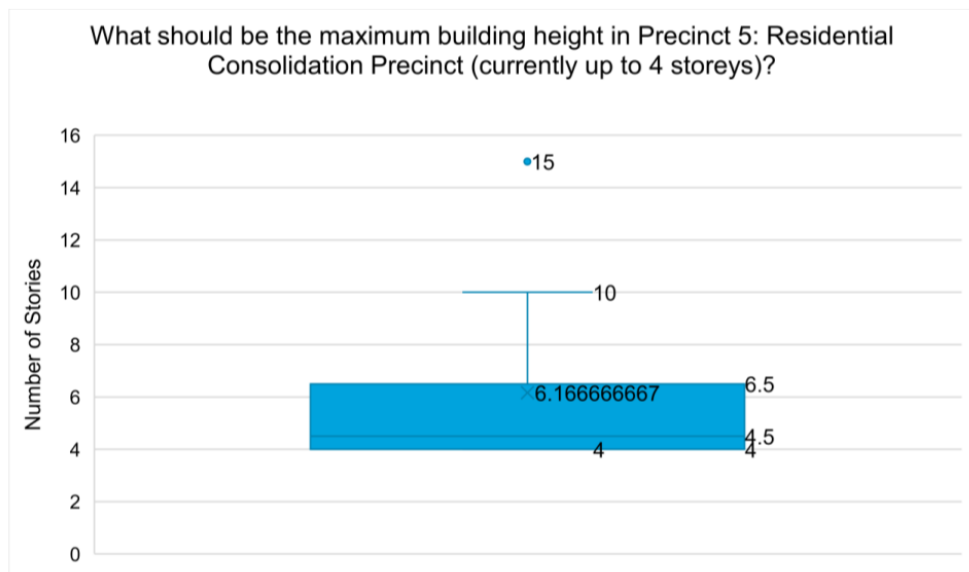
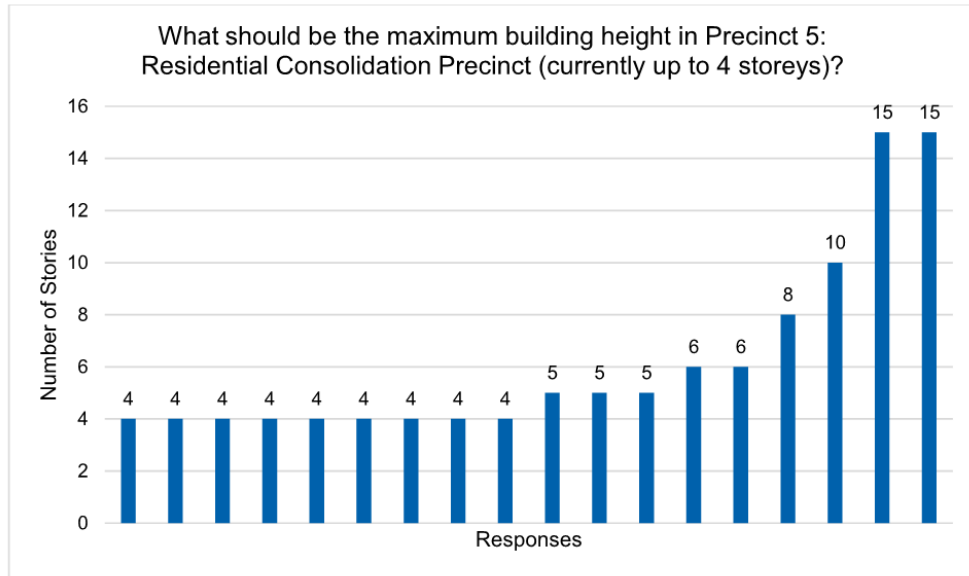
Precinct 4: Residential Redevelopment Triangle

For Precinct 4, there were 19 responses to the maximum building height question, these results are outlined in the graphs below. The average maximum building height for Precinct 4 based on the survey responses is 8 storeys. The current maximum building height for this area is 5 storeys.



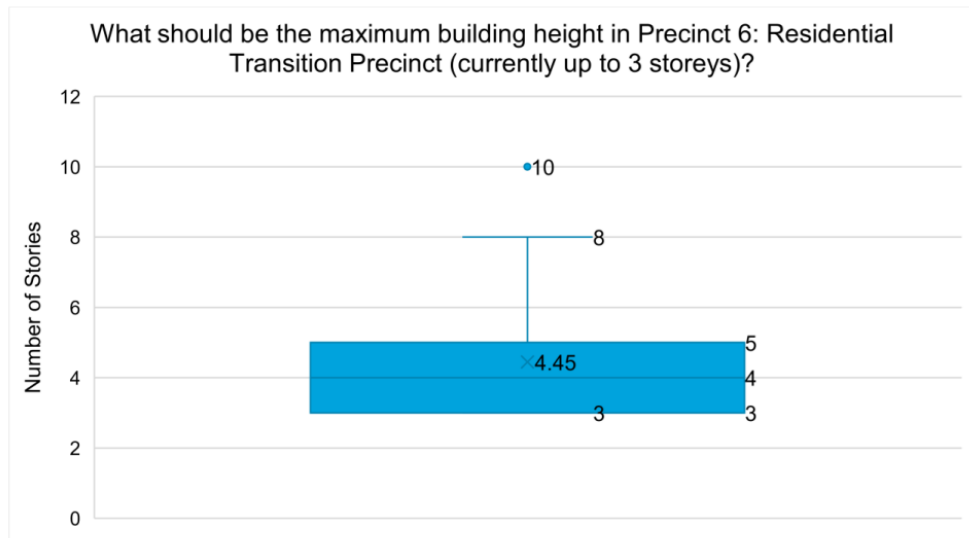
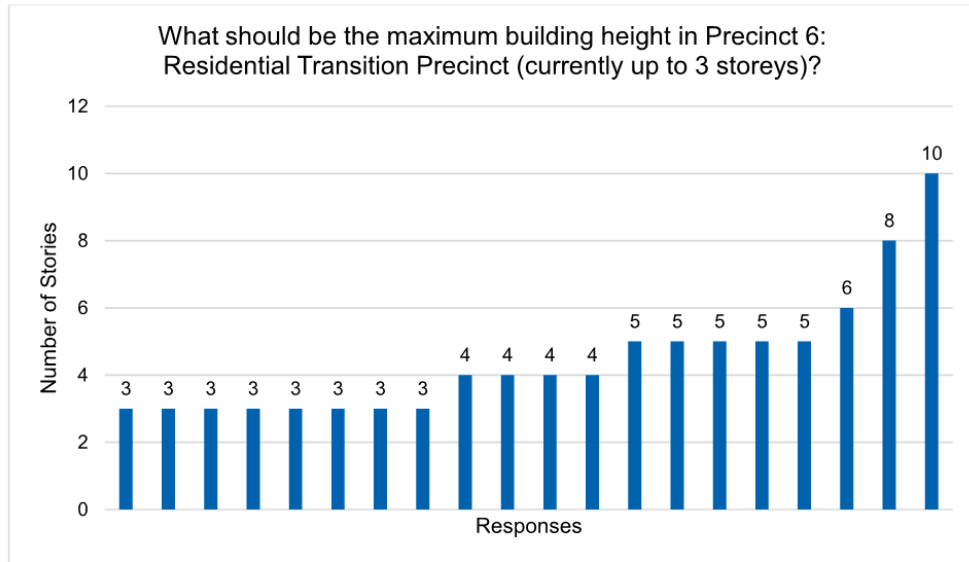
Precinct 5: Residential Consolidation Precinct

For Precinct 5, there were 18 responses to the maximum building height question, these results are outlined in the graphs below. The average maximum building height for Precinct 5 based on the survey responses is 6 storeys. The current maximum building height for this area is 4 storeys.



Precinct 6: Residential Transition Precinct

For Precinct 6, there were 20 responses to the maximum building height question, these results are outlined in the graphs below. The average maximum building height for Precinct 6 based on the survey responses is 4 storeys. The current maximum building height for this area is 3 storeys.



Respondents were asked why they support an increase in building heights in the Moorabbin Activity Centre. The need for a greater supply of housing was the main reason for supporting an increase in building heights (12 mentions). Respondents also want to see increased density around public transport and amenities (9 mentions) and have stated that an increase in housing will be good for economic activity (6 mentions).

Topic	Number of mentions
Need more housing	12 mentions
Increased density around public transport and amenities	9 mentions
Good for the economy and commercial activity	6 mentions
Improve and increase open space alongside new development	5 mentions
Maximise current space for housing	4 mentions
Need additional infrastructure	3 mentions
Maintain canopy cover	3 mentions
Need to improve traffic flow	2 mentions
Retain residential transition zone	2 mentions

Respondents were asked why they oppose an increase in building heights within the Moorabbin Activity Centre. There were several comments made by respondents that there is not enough adequate infrastructure to support the increasing population (43 mentions). A significant proportion of respondents reiterated that they opposed increased building heights and overdevelopment of the Hampton East area (38 mentions). Respondents have stated that an increase in height will change the character of the area (33 mentions) and negatively impact residents through the loss of amenity (26 mentions).

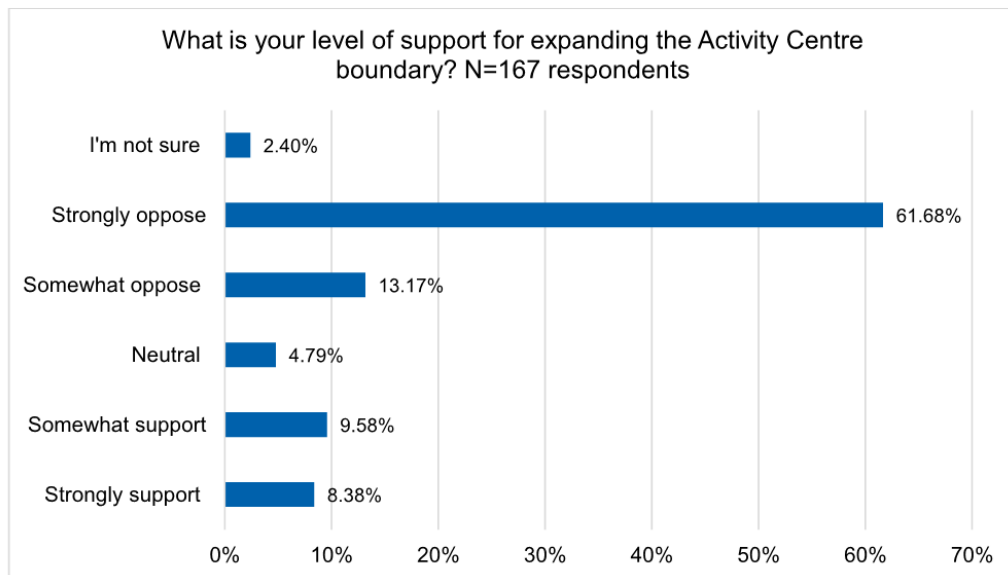
Topic	Number of mentions
Increased population is not supported by adequate public infrastructure	43 mentions
Oppose increased height and overdevelopment	38 mentions
Increased heights will change the character of the area and result in overcrowding	33 mentions
Negative impact on residents and loss of amenity	26 mentions
Not enough parking	26 mentions
Increase in traffic	25 mentions
Loss of natural light/overshadowing	18 mentions
Loss of open space/vegetation cover	18 mentions
Impact to public safety	5 mentions

4.1.2 Activity Centre Boundary Expansion

The State Government has stated that the surrounding area outside of the Activity Centre boundary can also accommodate change. This 'activity centre catchment' covers land 800m from the activity centre, this is depicted in the graph below.



Respondents were asked whether they would support the expansion of the current activity centre boundary. A significant proportion of respondents (62%) strongly opposed or somewhat opposed (13%) the expansion of the existing boundary. There was a small proportion of respondents that somewhat support (10%) or strongly support (8%) the expansion of the activity centre boundary.



Respondents were asked what the reason was for them supporting or opposing the expansion of the activity centre boundary. A significant proportion of respondents opposed the expansion of the activity centre boundary (105 mentions), as it will impact liveability and the character of the area (51 mentions). A number of respondents did not want to see any change to the boundary (44 mentions) and a small proportion supported the expansion (20 mentions). Those that supported the expansion of the boundary stated that Victoria needs more housing (11 mentions) in areas near public transport and services (10 mentions).

Topic	Number of mentions
Oppose the expansion of the activity centre boundary	105 mentions
Oppose – high density will impact the liveability and character of the area	51 mentions
No change to the boundary	44 mentions
Oppose – increase in traffic congestion	43 mentions
Oppose increase to building heights	22 mentions
Support the expansion of the activity centre boundary	20 mentions
Lack of community infrastructure to support increased population	20 mentions
Protect open space and vegetation cover	20 mentions
Need to improve public transport services and connections	14 mentions
Support – need more housing	11 mentions
Activity centre should be concentrated near public transport and services	10 mentions
Unsure about the expansion of the boundary	8 mentions
Increased building height will create overshadowing	7 mentions
Will reduce property prices	5 mentions
Reduce the current activity centre boundary	4 mentions

4.1.3 Advocacy Efforts

Respondents were asked what they would like Council to focus its advocacy on in response to the Activity Centre Program. A significant proportion of respondents want to ensure that the Hampton East area is not overdeveloped (32 mentions). There was a strong focus on the need for more community infrastructure (25 mentions), open space (20 mentions) and high-quality housing (19 mentions). There were a large number of respondents that oppose higher density housing and the purpose of the program to provide housing at higher densities (22 mentions).

Topic	Number of mentions
Do not overdevelop the Hampton East area	32 mentions
Need more community public infrastructure	25 mentions
Oppose high rise development/purpose of the program	22 mentions
Need more public open/green space	20 mentions
Need to consider traffic impacts and how to manage an increase in traffic	20 mentions
Need high quality and affordable housing	19 mentions
Balance between population/development growth and the amenity/existing character	18 mentions
Promote active transport options	15 mentions
Preserve current vegetation cover	11 mentions
Oppose extension of the activity centre boundary	9 mentions
Need more parking	9 mentions
Public safety	9 mentions
Improve high streets/commercial precincts	9 mentions
Improve public realm/amenities	5 mentions
Greater clarity around the program and ensure proper planning	5 mentions
Extend the activity centre boundary	4 mentions
Improve the safety of Nepean Highway	3 mentions
Connection with the SRL station/project	1 mention

4.2 Project Evaluation

The purpose of the engagement was to raise awareness among the community of the Activity Centre Program and highlight the start of the State Government's phase 1 engagement.

Feedback was sought to help inform Council's submissions to the State Government and advocate for the community on their concerns about the project.

The engagement program took place for 3 and a half weeks from 3 April to 29 April 2024. This timeline was chosen to align with the State Government's engagement that was occurring in the same period. Despite the limited time spent on engagement, there was a strong response with 167 contributions. There was a total of 11.4% of visits to the project page that resulted in a contribution being made. The strong response validates the success of the digital communications program.

Community engagement has also been undertaken by the State Government through the Engage Victoria website as well as hosting community reference groups.



Bayside City Council

Submission to State Government Moorabbin Activity Centre Program

June 2024

1. Acknowledgement of Country

Bayside City Council proudly acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council acknowledges the Bunurong's continuing relationship to the land and waterways and respects that their connection and spiritual identity is maintained through ancient ceremonies, songlines, dance, art and living culture.

Council pays tribute to the invaluable contributions of the Bunurong and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island elders who have guided and continue to guide the work we do.

2. Introduction

Bayside City Council (Council) appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission to the State Government for the Moorabbin Activity Centre Program (the Program).

The State Government's Activity Centre Program, that forms part of Victoria's Housing Statement, will see significant changes to the Hampton East area. The objective of this Program and the overall agenda of the current State Government is to increase the delivery of housing in Victoria to achieve housing affordability. Over the past year, it has become apparent that a key premise for the State Government intervention in local planning outcomes is that narrative that local government is limiting the delivery of housing through overly restrictive planning controls. Housing targets and major projects are considered will overcome these challenges.

Overall, Council supports an increase in dwellings in the Hampton East Activity Centre area as reflected in our current planning controls. However, Council is concerned that the impact of setting aside considered Structure Plans prepared with community input, to introduce increased housing targets will be at the expense of the liveability of this established area.

Housing affordability and diversity is a prominent issue facing Bayside and Victorian residents. An increase in the supply of affordable housing is paramount to addressing this issue. However, this must be done through proper planning and not through fast tracked programs which fail to consider impacts on the current and future community and Council.

Council currently has an adopted position as to how the Hampton East area should be developed. The *Hampton East Structure Plan* (Structure Plan) was adopted in 2016 and came into effect in 2019 through Amendment C151bays. The Structure Plan outlines the strategic vision for the activity centre and introduced new planning controls to facilitate greater development.

The information provided by State Government regarding the Program is still very high level. State Government has not provided Council with the details that outline how more housing will be delivered appropriately.

At the time of writing this submission, Council has not been informed by the State Government as to how they will implement the new planning controls by December

2024. There has been no clear direction as to what planning pathway will be utilised, only that this is 'awaiting decision by the Minister for Planning'. From what has been shared with officers, there appears to be little to no time available to undertake any formal public exhibition period, or for an independent panel hearing to take place.

In moving forward, Council request immediate responses from the Minister for Planning regarding:

- The chosen planning pathway going forward, and that this information be shared on public platforms so that all stakeholders can be informed.
- Councils be provided with technical assessments that are undertaken, to allow for the assumptions and outcomes of these to be tested before they are relied upon to determine planning outcomes.
- That the delivery of the Activity Centre Program be delayed until 2025 at the earliest, to allow for a formal public exhibition period and Panel Hearing or Standing Advisory Committee to be appointed. This will ensure that affected Councils' and community members can have their views heard.

There are other key concerns and matters outlined in this submission that Council requests the State Government address as a formal response in due course.

3. Hampton East Profile

There are 104,272 residents that live in Bayside with 1,409 living within the Hampton East Activity Centre. The average household size in Hampton East has decreased from 2.58 in 2016 to 2.39 people per household in 2021. The most common household composition in Hampton East is couples with children followed by lone person households. This is combined with an ageing population, as is occurring across Bayside. Housing prices, income levels and education levels within the area are all increasing, which could indicate the early stages of gentrification.

A total of 108 new dwellings were built in the Hampton East Major Activity Centre from 2017 to 2023. The new dwellings built consisted mostly of separate houses (49.80%) with a small proportion of high density (12.5%). Significant redevelopment and renewal of the existing housing stock is occurring. This is dominated by the replacement or renovation of existing single dwellings with larger buildings or medium density infill development, and additional second dwellings.

Whilst planning controls are in place to allow for increased development within the area, there appears to be no incentive to 'build big' at this time. It is assumed this is a reflection of the current economic climate on the development industry, mixed with the locality that is Hampton East which is predominantly detached dwellings. The activity centre is still going through early stages of transition to provide more consolidated, medium density housing typologies.

4. Council's Position

The Program will impact a significant proportion of Bayside's population and requires continued engagement with Council and the Bayside community.

Council has previously undergone extensive consultation through the development of the *Hampton East (Moorabbin) Structure Plan 2016*. The Structure Plan outlines Council's adopted position and strategic direction for the Hampton East area.

Council's position has also been informed by community consultation that was undertaken from the 3 April to 29 April 2024. A summary of Council's community engagement can be found in Appendix 2 of this submission.

Hampton East (Moorabbin) Structure Plan 2016

The Hampton East Activity Centre was identified as a key location for residential growth in the *Bayside Housing Strategy 2012*.

Through Amendment C151bays, a new Activity Centre Zone (ACZ) was implemented throughout the entire activity centre. The ACZ allows Council to tailor specific planning controls for the different precincts within the Major Activity Centre. This ensures that there is a clear framework in place that guides the expected future character for each area.

The ACZ provides for greater transition from the core of the centre to the established residential areas outside the Structure Plan boundary. The Structure Plan area is surrounded by conventional residential dwellings that fall within the Neighbourhood Residential Zone.

The impact of the rezoning has not yet been realised in this area as housing density remains low. In 2023, the average number of dwellings per lot in the Hampton East Activity Centre was 1.3 dwellings. This is lower in comparison to the other Major Activity Centres where the average number of dwellings per lot ranges from 1.65 dwellings in Church Street to 2.74 dwellings in Bay Street. This data is displayed in the table below and has been sourced from Council's internal building permit data.

Major Activity Centre	Average number of dwellings per lot (on lots 99 square metres or more)
Bay Street MAC	2.74
Church Street MAC	1.65
Hampton East MAC	1.30
Hampton MAC	2.06
Sandringham MAC	2.66

Despite the new planning controls allowing for greater density, there is still a lack of appetite to construct new dwellings in this area.

Activity Centre Boundary

The boundary of the Structure Plan area has been established to include areas of high walkability where the activity centre core and public transport are easily accessible. All land that was previously in the General Residential Zone (GRZ) has been included within the boundary to provide guidance on future development.

The key elements that informed the boundary include:

- All commercially zoned land located on the South Road and Nepean Highway frontages.
- Residential land located within convenient walking distance (400 metres, or a 5-minute walk) of both the Moorabbin Railway Station and the Nepean Highway retail strip.
- Land where the built form character is already in transition, indicating that change can be more readily accommodated and there is demonstrated market demand for the increases in development.

5. Opportunities

The new planning controls should have a strong focus on environmentally sustainable design (ESD). This will ensure new developments achieve best practice from design through to construction and operation. This will align with Bayside's local ESD policy and minimise the impact of an increased population on the environment.

Connections

The function of the wider activity centre is significantly impacted by the physical fragmentation of land by Nepean Highway, South Road and the Frankston Railway line, which create barriers to vehicular and pedestrian movement. This has resulted in the creation of distinct land use 'precincts' within the centre which operate semi-autonomously from each other.

The complexity of the road network has also resulted in illegal and dangerous movements that have made it an unsafe place for pedestrians and cyclists. Creating a safe pedestrian crossing over Nepean Highway and South Road will enhance walkability and improve connection to the broader activity centre. The Structure Plan identifies a number of strategies to improve connection throughout the area, these strategies include:

- New pedestrian footpaths along Reynolds Street
- Improve laneway network between South Road and King Street and between Nepean Highway and Katoomba Street
- Improve existing pedestrian links within the commercial areas along South Road and Nepean Highway
- Create new pedestrian links/arcades in the Nepean Highway commercial area

Public transport and traffic

Nepean Highway is a barrier for Bayside residents that want to use Moorabbin station. Infrequent buses and poor connections deter residents from using public transport and has placed heavy reliance on private cars. There is currently not an extensive cover of parking restrictions, new restrictions will need to be implemented to deter excessive parking on the street. This will still allow for current residents to access parking outside their residence.

There is an opportunity to consolidate separate on-street carparking facilities into larger basement facilities to improve amenity and traffic movement at street level. State Government needs to invest in promoting public transport and making it more accessible and user-friendly for current and future residents.

Open space upgrades to existing and new locations

There is currently a lack of easily accessible public open space, with most existing spaces located on the outskirts of the Structure Plan area and being large regional sports grounds. There is also an absence of open space to act as a central meeting place for the community.

The State Government should invest in creating a central public open space protected from Nepean Highway. The Structure Plan identifies the need to transform the underutilised carpark into an active community space to provide a central meeting point for residents and promote connectivity throughout the site.

There is limited canopy street tree planting within residential streets and there is an opportunity to increase planting on public and private land. Bayside's Urban Forest Strategy aims to achieve 30% canopy cover by 2040. A review of the current planning controls must ensure that existing vegetation is maintained and ultimately increased in line with our urban forest target.

Social and affordable housing

There are 2,981 households in Bayside in housing stress, equating to 7.6% of all Bayside households. This is further exacerbated by the lack of affordable rental and sale prices within Bayside.

There is a clear need for affordable housing within Bayside, and more widely across Victoria. However, there is still a lack of guidance and leadership from the State Government which has created an entirely voluntary regime to delivering affordable housing.

In the absence of a state-wide provision, onus has been placed on the housing industry to 'do better.' The lack of leadership in mandating affordable housing as either as a contribution or inclusion as part of development means that it will only continue to be an add on to development costs that cannot be appropriately factored in and therefore an unfair burden to the industry.

Council is concerned that the state government has overlooked the impacts of the current economic climate on the development industry, and the State Government taxation regime will have on the ability to achieve affordable housing. Margins in the development industry are at a historic low – with tax initiatives such as the windfall gains tax and vacant land tax further exacerbating the issue.

Built form and supporting increased density in strategic areas

There is a lack of strong built form definition at the major intersection of Nepean Highway and South Road. This creates a poor sense of place, given the substantial width of Nepean Highway.

The Nepean Highway and South Road commercial precincts are within close proximity to the station and the existing higher density developments in the wider Moorabbin Activity Centre; and can therefore support higher built form. The area including Precincts 1,2,3 and 4 of the Structure Plan should accommodate most of the increased density to meet the State Government's housing targets. These areas are also where affordable housing should be encouraged.

There is currently a lack of daily convenience retail in the centre, with minimal offerings upon Nepean Highway. This should be improved to better cater for the needs of the local residents. The commercial parts of the centre have limited trading hours which creates a 'dead' atmosphere at night.

The creation of a new public plaza and implementing placemaking initiatives will create a vibrant commercial precinct and better connect it with the residential hinterland.

Residential precinct

There is an opportunity to increase the residential presence through redevelopment of underutilised lots and appropriately increasing the height of existing development. Through greater development visually interesting facades should be created along major road interfaces to provide active frontages.

In the central core, there is an opportunity for consolidation of smaller lots to allow for consolidated mixed-use redevelopment that remains active at street level. The established low-scale residential hinterland requires a sensitive interface from any higher density development.

6. Issues

There are several issues and opportunities that need to be explored by the State Government through the review of current planning controls.

Activity Centre boundary

The State Government has stated that the review of planning controls will most likely extend beyond the current activity centre boundary, to cover land 800m from the boundary.

The current Structure Plan includes controls to transition development from higher density at the core to lower density in the residential periphery. The conventional residential area surrounding the core (but still within the ACZ) can currently include dwellings up to 3 storeys. The land abutting this is currently zoned, Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ) which has a maximum height of 2 storeys.

Given the ACZ already includes the residential transition area within the Activity Centre boundary, Council consider it would be inappropriate to include increased densification throughout a future 800m catchment. The area within the Activity Centre boundary has been included to allow this residential transition area to be managed within the existing boundary. Council does not consider there are any benefits from extending this area.

Housing targets

There has been no public information released to support the justification for the increase in dwelling density within the Activity Centre. Whilst the State Government has a clear agenda to push for increased housing developments within metropolitan Melbourne, it is not clear as to what extent.

It is also unclear how the housing targets will be utilised to determine the infrastructure need in the area. There is significant concern with how the Program is being run and the lack of information being shared with Council and the community.

Development contributions

An increase in housing will see an increased need for essential infrastructure including community services and facilities and open space.

There has been no clear communication from the State Government as to how they will assess the infrastructure need for the area, given the proposed increase in density, and how they will then seek to fund this infrastructure. Council requests the State Government make a commitment to delivering this infrastructure in a cost-neutral manner to Council. This will ensure there is no cost liability on Council for the delivery of the infrastructure needs triggered by this Program.

Council must have the ability to interrogate the proposed costings for infrastructure before they are imposed. Due to the high costs of construction and rising inflation, Council cannot afford to bear the costs of undervalued infrastructure.

Council is operating in a rate capped environment and cannot carry the costs associated with the increases in population. There is real concern that without proper planning the Program will negatively impact the liveability of our current and future residents.

Fast tracking of development

The continued fast tracking of major developments led by the State Government will only continue to jeopardise relationships with Councils and local communities.

Council officers are concerned by the State Government's continued desire to 'fast track' decisions, this restricts Councils and local communities' from being able to provide meaningful input. The lack of clear or consistent timeline has prevented Council from being able to appropriately resource participation in the process.

Cost shifting

Council is concerned that the State Government has disregarded the impact of the Program on Councils in the long term, particularly when considered in conjunction with other State Government initiatives such as housing targets, the Suburban Rail Loop and the wider regime of planning reforms.

Following the implementation of planning scheme changes from these initiatives, significant strategic work will need to be undertaken by Councils to reflect these in the Municipal Planning Strategy and Housing and Neighbourhood Character

Strategies. Council requests that resources and funding is provided to assist Council in this work.

Furthermore, Council is not currently resourced to administer a large-scale Development Contributions Scheme. Council will, at a minimum, need to employ staff to oversee a new contributions regime. In the current rate capped environment this is something that Bayside simply cannot afford. A cost recovery model should be included in the development contributions regime that allows Council to recoup costs associated with its implementation.

7. Consultation with Council

Council seeks to understand the processes and the mechanisms that will be utilised to deliver the Program. At present, Council has been mostly kept informed of the decisions being made rather than being able to provide input into the program.

There has been no clear direction as to what planning pathway will be used to implement the new planning controls. This includes whether there will be a formal public exhibition period, an independent panel hearing or what the proposed controls will be. Without a formal consultation period, Council and local communities will not be able to provide a submission to respond to the State Government's work. As previously mentioned in this submission, Council requests immediate clarification and decision making by the Minister for Planning on these matters.

Council is concerned that State Government is 'fast tracking' the Program which will restrict the Councils and communities' ability to provide meaningful input into this Program. Major changes to planning controls require proper planning, this takes time, resources and input at the local scale from both local government and the community.

No clear or consistent timeline has been provided to Council which has prevented Council from being able to appropriately resource participation in the planning process. The lack of clarity has reduced Council's ability to meaningfully participate in the planning process and ensure the best outcomes for the community.

No transparency has been provided as to the funding mechanisms that will be used to deliver the required new and upgraded transport, community infrastructure, open space and other services to accommodate the proposed development growth.

Council has had limited opportunity to contribute to the technical analysis being undertaken by the State Government. It is imperative that Council is included as we understand the on-site conditions and hold the background data that ensures the studies, and the recommendations are reflective of local conditions.

Council seeks a collaborative approach with the State Government moving forward. Prior to further planning being undertaken agreement between State Government and Council should be reached to outline:

- What boundary of the activity centre is being used?
 - How will density be transitioned from the core to the surrounding residential hinterland which consists of 2 storey dwellings?

- What are the proposed planning controls to be used?
- What mechanism for the collection of development contributions will be used to fund infrastructure triggered by the program?
- What built form outcomes, specifically height controls, are you aiming to achieve?
- Who will be managing the planning process going into the future?
- How will State Government address the different local conditions of each municipality?
 - How will the difference of each Council area be incorporated to achieve a cohesive precinct?
- How will the Suburban Rail Loop project impact the Program?
 - A proportion of the Moorabbin catchment falls within the catchment of the new Cheltenham Station.
- How will the community and Council be meaningfully engaged in the process?
- A detailed timeline is provided and engaged on with Council and the community; so that clear expectations and understanding of the delivery of the Program can be set.

8. Engagement undertaken by Council

In addition to the State Government's Phase 1 Engagement that went from the 28 March to 29 April 2024, Council undertook its own engagement from 3 April to 29 April 2024. The feedback gathered through this engagement has been used to inform Council's submission and future advocacy.

Council received 167 responses to its online survey. The full engagement summary is attached as Appendix 2 to this submission. In summary, the data shows that a majority of respondents (78%) oppose building height increases, several respondents (17%) support building height increases, and a small proportion of respondents (5%) were not sure.

The community raised concerns that there will not be enough adequate community infrastructure to support the growing population. Respondents also raised concerns regarding amenity impacts, increased traffic, inadequate parking, and loss of vegetation. Respondents that support an increase in building heights stated that Bayside needs more housing and increased density in areas surrounding public transport and amenities.

Respondents were asked what the new maximum building heights should be for each Structure Plan precinct; the average number of storeys is shown in the table below.

Average Number of Storeys for each Structure Plan Precinct

Structure Plan Precinct	Average Number of Storeys and Number of Respondents
Precinct 1: Nepean Highway Retail Precinct	8 storeys (29 respondents)
Precinct 2: South Road Commercial Precinct	8 storeys (23 respondents)
Precinct 3: Mixed Use Core	8 storeys (23 respondents)

Precinct 4: Residential Redevelopment Triangle	8 storeys (19 respondents)
Precinct 5: Residential Consolidation Precinct	6 storeys (18 respondents)
Precinct 6: Residential Transition Precinct	4 storeys (20 respondents)

The State Government has stated that the surrounding area outside of the Activity Centre boundary can also accommodate change. This 'activity centre catchment' covers land 800m from the activity centre. Respondents were asked whether they would support the expansion of the current activity centre boundary. A significant proportion of respondents (62%) strongly opposed or somewhat opposed (13%) the expansion of the existing boundary. The community raised concerns that the expansion of the boundary will impact liveability and change the character of the area.

Through Council's advocacy efforts, the community wants to ensure that the Hampton East area is not overdeveloped and that there is a strong focus on providing more community infrastructure, open space and high-quality housing.

10.16 FAIR ACCESS POLICY AND FAIR ACCESS ACTION PLAN

Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure - Open Space and Recreation
File No: FOL/23/3410 – Doc No: DOC/24/134019

Executive summary

Purpose and background

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the Bayside Fair Access Policy 2024 and Fair Access Action Plan 2024–28 for consideration and adoption.

The Victoria Government, led by the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, requires all Victorian councils to have a gender equitable aligned Policy in place by 1 July 2024 to adhere to State legislation.

Council will deliver on the Policy and Action Plan to continue its role in helping to address barriers experienced by women and girls in community sport. The sport and active recreation sector provides opportunities for enriching our communities through the promotion of respect and fair mindedness for all people, while also supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of all.

Across Australia research shows ongoing barriers for women and girls to engage in physical activity, play and sport. Research indicates that 1 in 3 women aged 25 years and older believes sporting clubs are not welcoming to people like them, and 1 in 5 females do no physical activity in a typical week.

We strive to enhance access for gender equity, resulting in improved outcomes for women and girls. The positive outcomes for women and girls for enhanced social inclusion, leadership, education, facilities, and activities that will increase the communities mental/physical health and wellbeing, willingness to contribute and feel represented in society, feel a sense of purpose and connection that will benefit society in many ways.

Bayside is already doing some great work in this space, but we can do more. We are continually advocating, supporting and providing opportunities for women and girls in a number of ways such as providing female friendly pavilions, sportsground lighting and other infrastructure that supports enhanced utilisation and safer inclusive spaces. Council also advocates for women and girls to have prioritised access to facilities such as pavilions and sports grounds. It is evident that equitable opportunities in sport can play a significant role within the community.

Key issues

There are 6 Guiding Principles developed by the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, Sport and Recreation Victoria and VicHealth, in consultation with representatives from local government and the state sport and recreation sector.

Council is committed to all six Principles of inclusivity for full participation, equal representation, encouraging and supporting user groups, and prioritising user groups committed to gender equity.

Council's Fair Access Policy and Action Plan helps address the known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sports infrastructure, whilst also supporting inclusive opportunities for the sports and active recreation community.

The primary focus of the Policy is to promote women and girls' opportunities in the sports and active recreation community. The goal is to remove the known gender barriers around accessing and using community sports infrastructure.

Community consultation on the draft Policy and Action Plan occurred between 13 March and 21 April 2024. The consultation included:

- Have Your Say – Website project page
- This Week in Bayside weekly e-newsletter
- Council's website and social media platforms
- direct e-mails to Bayside sports clubs, State Sporting Organisations, Have Your Say members, community members/groups that have an interest in sport and recreation
- face-to-face meetings with key stakeholders - sports clubs, sports governing bodies
- regular contact with the Office of Women in Sport and Recreation
- overall feedback obtained was 22 online responses and 21 face-to-face recipients.

The feedback from the engagement was overall positive, with strong community support for Council delivering the Policy and Action Plan, and community sentiment to support and attract more girls and women to community sports in the Bayside area.

The consultation feedback aligned to some key themes as outlined below:

- Recreation Participation Pathways and Programs – there is currently limited pathway options or programs for many women and girls to get involved at sport and active recreation clubs.
- Infrastructure/Facilities – There is an ongoing need for community infrastructure upgrades to support the increase in female participation and create welcoming and safe environments. There has been acknowledgement about Council's significant investment in recreational and community sports facilities, and there is a need to continue to focus on organised sport facilities plus informal recreation infrastructure such as ½ court or ¼ court basketball/netball, outside fitness equipment, skate and BMX facilities.
- Education – Feedback outlined what the club and community education could look like post the endorsement of the Policy and Action Plan. Many clubs are doing great things already, and some clubs need more education to support them to be more welcoming, safe, and inclusive.
- Document Changes – Some feedback indicated that the draft document was too busy and needs to be more simplified and needed to have simplified language, whilst focusing on the compliance and reporting requirements.

Engagement with Bayside sports clubs and sports governing bodies confirmed that clubs were in general supportive of the Policy and Council Actions. Some clubs expressed a desire to have specific and tailored Actions based off their own self-assessments, as not all clubs are at the same stage in their gender equity journey or have the same resources to deliver.

As a result of the valuable feedback received during community consultation, some adjustments have been made to the Fair Access Policy and Action Plan including:

a. Policy changes:

- The inclusion of more simple language and structures to make it easier to read
- Further clarity about the commitment and accountability of Council
- Improved language around Council support of gender equity within Bayside.

b. Action Plan changes:

- Council Actions have improved language for clarity and to be more inclusive.
- Club Actions have been removed. The focus will be for sports clubs to undertake individual self-assessments and club health checks, which will result in them having their own unique Action Plans that align to their club and sporting code. The Actions will enable greater flexibility for delivery based on their individual resourcing and capacity.

Next steps

Adopting the Fair Access Policy and Action Plan by 30 June 2024 will ensure that Council can meet its legislative obligations under the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Council can begin implementing the Policy and delivering on the Action Plan. Information will be provided to those involved in the community consultation. At the Bayside Council Community Sports Club Development Forum in July 2024, further details will be provided to all clubs. Further training and support will be delivered to sports clubs from August 2024, with ongoing support and guidance.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Fair Access Policy (Attachment 1) and Action Plan (Attachment 2).

Support Attachments

1. Fair Access Policy 2024
2. Fair Access Action Plan 2024-28

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Social

Social implications with the Policy have been considered. We will support the sport and recreation community and disengaged community to have equitable opportunities to be active.

Natural Environment

Although there are no specific implications on the natural environment, we have aligned the Policy with Council Strategic documents. Future sport and active recreation infrastructure and open space implications resulting from creating all gendered, safe environments will be aligned to existing environmental documentation.

Climate Emergency

We have aligned the policy with Council Strategic documents and looked at how we can be resourceful and provide education to our community utilising sport, activity and play as a tool. One of the challenges associated with increased access is maintaining our sports grounds with both increased use and more extreme weather conditions.

Built Environment

Council has already undertaken major refurbishments to most of its sports pavilions to make them all-gendered.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

We will continue to understand issues and challenges facing our sports clubs across Bayside. We will continue to support the sport and recreation community and key stakeholders to advocate and provide equitable opportunities for women and girls on and off the field.

Equity Impact

The implications of this report have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

In development of this policy, requirement for Equity Impact pre-assessment has been completed. The pre-assessment concluded that this policy does meet the requirement for a comprehensive Equity Impact Assessment. The EIA is complete, with ongoing amendments in alignment to the policy approval.

Human Rights

The implications of the report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*. Bayside will advocate and provide opportunities for women and girls to focus on their physical and mental health and wellbeing by being active.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Finance

Any cost in delivering the actions arising from the Policy such as improved / increased assets and infrastructure, plus resources in delivering actions will be considered as part of Council's annual budget process. Most of the initial actions will be able to be accommodated in the existing operating budget.

Links to Council policy and strategy

The Policy is aligned to Council strategies, plans and policies to ensure Bayside has a diverse, equitable and inclusive sport and active recreation community.

The Policy will consider all links to relevant legislation and Council strategic documents.

Relevant legislation:

- Gender Equality Act 2020.
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010.

Council documents

- Community Vision 2050.
- Council Plan 2021–25.
- Recreation Strategy 2013-22
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021–25.
- Disability Action Plan 2021–25.

Council Policy

Fair Access Policy

Council policy title:	Fair Access Policy
Council policy sponsor:	Jill Colson Director Environment, Recreation, and Infrastructure
Adopted by:	Bayside City Council
Date adopted:	18 June 2024
Scheduled review:	1 July 2027
Document reference:	DOC/24/146666

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1. Policy Purpose

Bayside City Council's (Council) Fair Access Policy ('the Policy') is addressing known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sports infrastructure and supports inclusive opportunities for the community. The Policy and Action Plan will enable Council to take steps towards a level playing field so that women and girls can participate at their full potential on and off the field.

The Policy and associated Action Plan align with the Victorian Government's framework via the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation. Council and community partnerships will progressively build both the capacity and capability to identify and eliminate systemic causes of gender inequities in community sports and active recreation.

The Policy is a key driver for practical and cultural change to ensure everyone has access to the full health and wellbeing benefits that sport and active recreation can provide. The Policy supports Council's commitment to think critically about how our future policies, strategies, plans, infrastructure and services meet the diverse needs of women and girls in sport and active recreation.

2. Policy Intent

The intent of this Policy is to focus future planning, policy, service delivery and practice regarding community sports and active recreation, and for Council to:

- a. collaborate with the community, local community clubs, Sporting Associations, and the broader sector to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion. Council will take necessary and proportionate steps towards achieving gender equity in the access and usage of community sports and recreation infrastructure.
- b. consider and prioritise equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of women and girls, and to recognise that an equitable lens must be considered for all.
- c. recognise the compounding effects that people experiencing gender inequities face when it interacts with other forms of disadvantage or discrimination that a person may experience. Council recognises that people have different needs, and these differences should be identified and addressed in a manner that rectifies any imbalances.

3. Scope

The Policy enables effective and efficient integration of the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* and other legislative frameworks.

The Policy will apply to all recreation and sporting facilities users (Facility Users) that conduct their activity on or within our facilities (see Facilities below) on Council owned or managed land:

Facilities	
1	Sport Pavilions
2	Sportsground Reserves
3	Recreation and Leisure Centres
4	Informal Recreation and Open Spaces

4. Background

The Victorian Government, led by the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, requires all Victorian Councils to have a Fair Access Policy and Action Plan by 1 July 2024.

Councils Fair Access Policy and Action Plan addresses known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sport and recreation infrastructure, whilst also supporting inclusive opportunities for the sports and active recreation community. Council supports and advocates for the sport and active recreation sector to provide opportunities for enriching our community through the promotion of respect and fair mindedness for all people, while also supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of all.

Council owns and manages a large range of sport and recreation facilities, covering a lot of sports including netball, football, cricket, tennis, lawn bowls, golf, swimming, soccer, and athletics. As such, Council is well positioned to make a positive contribution through an integrated Action Plan that will progress gender equality in community sport and recreation.

5. State Government Framework

Incorporated into Council's Policy are the 6 guiding principles that have been developed by the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, in collaboration with Sport and Recreation Victoria, VicHealth, and in consultation with representatives from some Local Councils and the sporting and recreation sector.

This Policy and associated Action Plan support these 6 principles of inclusivity, full participation, equal representation, encouraging and supporting and prioritising user groups that are committed to gender equality. The 6 Principles are:

1. Community sports infrastructure and environments are genuinely welcoming, safe, and inclusive.
2. Women and girls can fully participate in all aspects of community sport and active recreation including as a player, coach, administrator, official, volunteer and spectator.
3. Women and girls will have equitable access to and use of community sport infrastructure:
 - a. of the best available and most convenient
 - b. at the best and most popular competition and training times and locations
 - c. to support existing and new participation opportunities, and a variety of sport.
4. Women and girls should be equitably represented in leadership and governance roles.
5. Encourage and support all user groups who access and use community sport and recreation infrastructure to understand, adopt and implement gender equitable access and use practices.
6. Prioritise access, use and support to all user groups who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to gender equitable access and use of allocated community sport infrastructure.

6. Policy Statement

The Policy complies with the requirements set by the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, and adheres to the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Council acknowledges:

1. the disadvantaged position some individuals have had in the sport and active recreation sector because of their gender; and
2. that achieving gender equity will require diverse approaches to achieve the similar outcomes for people of all genders in the community.

Council will:

1. engage fairly and equitably with all internal and external stakeholders, governance working groups, local and state sporting associations, and members of our community, in a positive, respectful, and constructive manner.
2. engage with an equitable lens for the community with any new plans and actions, and specifically including strategies, policies, services, and programs.

7. Compliance, Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Council recognises that the requirement to have a Fair Access Policy and a measurable Action Plan in place, and the ability to report and demonstrate progress against the Actions will form part of the legislation compliance and eligibility criteria for Victorian Government funding programs.

Council will gather relevant data from State, National and local sport and recreation bodies in order to lead on-going monitoring and review of the Policy and Actions and report on the positive changes made. The expectation for 'Fair Access' is not only for Council but for the sport and recreation industry including clubs, leagues, associations, and other levels of government.

All actions in the Action Plan will be entered into Council's reporting platform and progress indicators will apply, which will be regularly reviewed and reported.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

Council is responsible for implementing the Fair Access Policy and Action Plan. Key personnel have shared responsibility to support the Policy, and collaboration with external stakeholders across the sector is required.

Role	Responsibility
CEO and Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and advocate the awareness of gender equity in Bayside’s community and championing equitable opportunities for women and girls. • Promote, encourage, and facilitate the achievement of gender equality and growth of women and girls in leadership, participation, coaching and volunteering in sport and active recreation.
Recreation and Events Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for oversight of the Fair Access Policy and Action Plan (implementation and review) • Lead the review of all sport and active recreation policies and processes. • Develop and implement equitable processes to facility allocations, grants, fees & charges • Communicate the Policy updates and updated internal processes to all staff and relative stakeholders. (Sporting clubs, State Sporting Association, National Sporting Organisations, Active Recreation groups.) • Promote, encourage, and support the successes of gender equity and the importance of intersectionality. • Support the undertaking of Equity Impact Assessment and submission of progress reports as per the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> obligations.
Recreation Planner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the review of sport and active recreation funding opportunities, guidelines, policies, and processes. • Support the revision of new or revised gender equitable additions to strategies, policies or processes. • Monitor compliance and issues toward women and girls’ access. • Undertake and review Equity Impact Assessment and submission of progress reports as per the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> obligations. • Plan, report, and advise on emerging recreation issues, opportunities and trends for equitable access and use. • Assess and prepare reports regarding changes to State and Federal Government recreation policy and associated legislation. • Contribute to the development and implementation of recreation and events related strategies, plans, studies, guidelines, policies, and education events that achieve Council’s objectives in accordance with legislation focusing on women and girls.



<p>Recreation and Events Officers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide clear communication and education opportunities to sport and active recreation facility user groups/clubs about the objectives of the Policy. • Support sport and active recreation user groups/clubs to increase their capabilities to create welcoming and inclusive environments for women and girls. • Ensure accountability of sport and active recreation user groups/clubs facility upgrades, maintenance, access, and use of infrastructure • Ensure all communication and community engagement, is fair, equitable and of high quality engaging with all user groups and clubs focused on women and girls.
<p>All staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adhere to and communicate the Policy when required. • Attend training and awareness programs to understand the Policy and the aspired outcomes. • Include all relevant staff, user groups and clubs on programs and services for inclusive engagement. • All staff to acknowledge the focus on women and girls so grants and funding towards organisations will need to adhere to the Policy.
<p>Facility Users</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the undertaking of a Self-Assessment and have an action plan for change in place. • Promote and advocate the awareness of gender equity in Bayside's sport and active recreation community, championing equitable opportunities for women and girls. • Develop and implement equitable processes to allocations, training schedules, events, communications, and social media. • Communicate the Policy and Action Plan updates to members and update any further internal processes for gender equity. • Provide clear communication for committee members or participants to attend education opportunities around the objectives required by the Policy. • Support the capabilities to create fair, welcoming, inclusive and safe environment for women and girls. • Advocate for minor works upgrades and maintenance that supports fair access and use of facilities.
<p>Office for Women in Sport and Recreation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and review the Roadmap of Fair Access and outline the successes. • Lead on-going monitoring and reporting of Fair Access • Provide education opportunities for Local Governments and State Sporting Associations. • Liaise with key stakeholders to ensure accountability.

10. Related & Aligned Documents

Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> • <i>Local Government Act 2020</i> • <i>Equal Opportunity Act 2010</i> • <i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008</i> • <i>Disability Act 2006</i>
Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Safeguarding Children and Young People - Policy 2021</i>
Strategies/Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bayside's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021—2025</i> • <i>Disability Action Plan 2021 – 2025</i> • <i>Bayside sportsground pavilion improvement plan</i> • <i>Recreation and open space asset management plan</i> • <i>Bayside open space strategy</i> • <i>Bayside tennis strategy 2019–28</i> • <i>Active by the bay recreation strategy 2013- 2022</i>
Procedures/Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sports Facility User Guide</i> • <i>Sportsgrounds training and game schedules/bookings</i> • <i>Bayside Community Funding</i> • <i>Asset Service Levels MASTER</i>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Our Equal State – Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2027</i> • <i>Inquiry into women and girls in Sport and Active Recreation</i>

Please note: This policy is current as at the date of approval. Refer to Council's website (<https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/council/plans-strategies-and-policies>) to ensure this is the latest version.

10.1 Compliance Considerations

Human Rights Charter

This Policy has been assessed against the principles of the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (the Charter) and is considered to be compatible with the Charter. In assessing the proposed changes, consideration has also been given to the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*.

Equity Impact Statement

The implications of this policy have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

In the development of this Policy, the requirement for Equity Impact pre-assessment and Equity Impact Assessment has been completed.

Governance Principles

In the development of this Policy, the requirements of the Governance Principles as per the *Local Government Act 2020* have been considered and are summarised below:

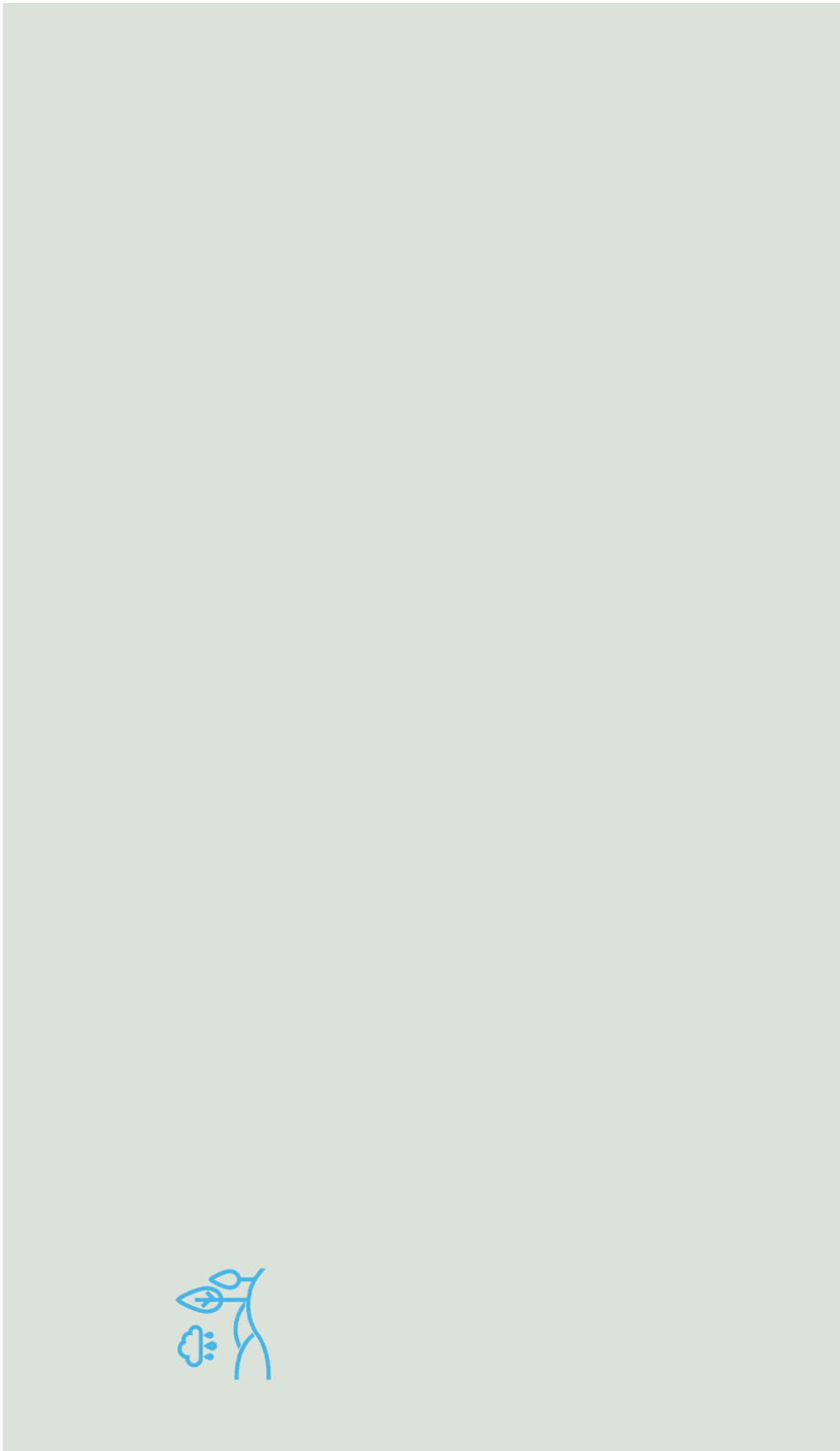
LGA S	Governance Principle	Consideration
a)	Compliance with the law	No legal implications relative to the Policy.
b)	Achieve best outcomes for the community	With the guiding principles in place, we will be taking a collaborative approach across the organisation and in the community to provide equitable opportunities to achieve the best outcomes.

c)	Promote the sustainability of the municipality	Although there are no specific implications currently explored, we will align the policy with council plans and look at how we can be resourceful and provide education to our community utilising sport, activity and play as a tool.
d)	Engage the community in strategic planning and decision making	We have considered and communicated to our community, collaboratively with the community engagement team to create an equitable plan executed into the community. Our approach is equitable, considered and engaging for our residents, sports clubs, and broader community.
e)	Strive for innovation and continuous improvement	Although there are no specific obligations for innovation, the Policy aligns to continuous improvement of programs, processes, services, and future impact we can make in the community by providing equitable opportunities.
f)	Collaborate with all other levels of government and government agencies	We have considered our approach to collaborate with other Local Governments, State Sporting Associations, National Sporting Organisations, community sport and active recreation clubs and user groups aligning with other government agencies. Our approach is equitable, considered and engaging for our residents.
g)	Secure the ongoing financial viability of Council	Internally the Policy is developed and any cost in delivering the action plan arising from the Policy such as improved, upgraded, increased assets and sport and recreation infrastructure, plus resources in delivering actions will be considered as part of the Recreation Strategy financial viability or budget neutral in creating cultural change.
h)	Strategic planning and decision making must take into account plans and policies in operation at all levels.	<p>The Policy considers all linked Council strategies, plans, and mandatory legislation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Equality Act 2020 • Local Government Act 2020 • Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 • Equal Opportunity Act 2010 • Disability Act 2006 • Bayside City Council Gender Equality Action Plan 2021 – 2025 • Bayside’s Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021—2025 • Disability Action Plan 2021 – 2025 • Bayside sportsground pavilion improvement plan • Recreation and open space asset management plan • Bayside open space strategy • Bayside tennis strategy 2019–28 • Recreation Strategy 2013-2022 • Asset Service Levels MASTER
i)	Council decisions, actions and information must be transparent.	Bayside staff and Councillors involved in the preparation of the Policy have no conflict of interest or disclose for transparency.

10.2 Glossary - Definitions and Abbreviations

Term	Meaning
Facility Users	Recreation and sporting users (club/group) that conduct their activity or take place on Council owned or managed land.
Office for Women in Sport and Recreation	The Office for Women in Sport and Recreation was created by the Victorian Government in response to the Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Recreation. It is the first Office of its kind in Australia and is supported by the biggest investment by any state government into facilities, participation, leadership opportunities, and professional and grassroots sport and active recreation for girls and women. Their intention is to level the playing field for women and girls across all roles in sport and active recreation.
Community Sports and Active Recreation Infrastructure	Publicly owned local, rural, regional, or state level sport and recreation infrastructure operated and maintained primarily for the purpose of facilitating community sport activities, including sporting grounds, surfaces, facilities, and pavilions.
State Sporting Association or SSA, National Sporting Organisation or NSO	Are sporting organisations that develop, deliver, and facilitate sport from a national or state perspective. They work closely with Council for sports and active recreation infrastructure facilities and education for their community sports clubs.
Gender	How you understand who you are and how you interact with other people. Many people understand their gender as being a man or woman. Some people understand their gender as a mix of these or neither. A person's gender and their expression of their gender can be shown in different ways, such as through behaviour or physical appearance.
Gender diverse	An umbrella term for a range of genders expressed in different ways. Gender diverse people use many terms to describe themselves. Language in this area is dynamic, particularly among young people, who are more likely to describe themselves as non-binary.
Gender equality	The equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women, men and trans and gender-diverse people. Equality does not mean that women, men and trans and gender diverse people will become the same but that their rights, responsibilities, and opportunities will not depend on their gender.
Gender equity	The provision of fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and responsibilities based on gender. The concept recognises that people may have different needs and power related to their gender and these differences should be identified and addressed in a manner that rectifies gender related imbalances.
Equality	Equality is recognising that, as human beings, we all have the same value. This means, we all have the same rights, we should all receive the same level of respect, and have the same access to opportunities. This isn't just a nice idea - there are actual laws supporting this. ("Let's talk about equality and equity - Australian Human Rights Commission")
Equity	Equity is about everyone achieving equal outcomes. We all have the same value and deserve a good life, but we all start from a different place. We are also all wonderfully different and experience the world in our own unique way. It's because of these differences that we sometimes need to be treated differently for us all to live safely, healthily, happily...and equally! This means that we need to look at what individual people and communities need in order to achieve equity. ("Let's talk about equality and equity - Australian Human Rights Commission")
Equity Impact Assessment, or EIA	A requirement under the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> to be carried out on policies, programs and services which have a direct and significant impact

	on the public. The assessment must evaluate the effects that a policy, program or service may have on people of different genders.
Public land management groups	For the purposes of this document, are the Committees of Management appointed under the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i> and responsible for the management of recreation reserves where community sport training and games are held.



Bayside City Council proudly acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Context

Vision: Women & girls can participate at their full potential on & off the field!

Background

This Action Plan outlines how Bayside City Council will deliver on the Fair Access Policy ('the Policy'), which addresses known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sport and recreation infrastructure, whilst also supporting inclusive opportunities for the sports and active recreation community. The sport and active recreation sector provide opportunities for enriching our communities through the promotion of respect and fair mindedness for all people, while also supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of all.

Sport and active recreation are a highly visible and valued feature of Bayside City Councils culture and identity. The primary focus of the Policy is to promote women and girls' opportunities in the sports and active recreation community. Bayside is advocating, supporting and providing opportunities for women and girls in a number of ways such as providing female friendly pavilions, sportsground lighting and other infrastructure that supports enhanced utilisation and safer inclusive spaces. Council also advocates for women and girls to have prioritised access to facilities such as pavilions and sports grounds.

Purpose

The Policy and Action Plan will enable Council to take steps towards a level playing field for women and girls in sport and active recreation. We do this so women and girls can fully participate in and enjoy all the benefits of what community sport right through to senior leadership roles has to offer. The purpose of the Fair Access Action Plan is to illustrate Councils responsibilities to 'Change The Game' in the community. Council will aim to work collaboratively alongside community sport and active recreation clubs, governing bodies, sports leagues and associations, and the broader community. Council is well positioned to implement the Action Plan that progresses gender equity.



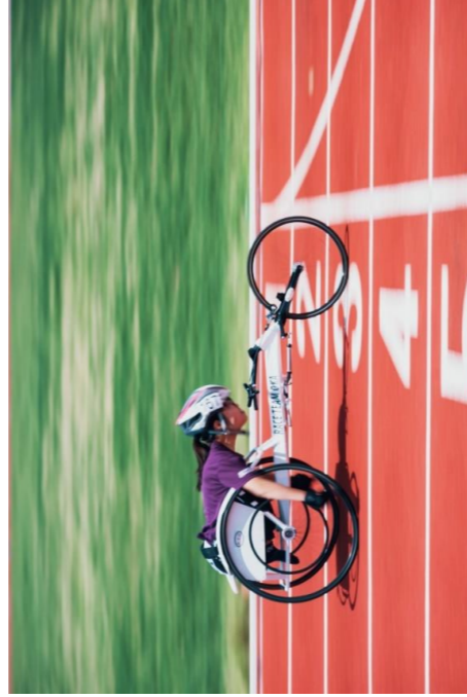
Guiding Principles

The Office for Women in Sport and Recreation at the Victorian Government has developed 6 Guiding Principles in collaboration with representatives from local government and the state sport and recreation sector. Bayside City Council is committed to all 6 Principles that represent the inclusivity for full participation and equal representation. Our Council Actions align to these Principles, with Council having a more active role to play in relation to Principles 1, 5 and 6, with more of a collaboration and advocacy role for Principles 2, 3, and 4, although all principles coincide with the impact they will have on the community.

1. Community sports infrastructure and environments are genuinely welcoming, safe, and inclusive.
2. Women and girls can fully participate in all aspects of community sport and active recreation including as a player, coach, administrator, official, volunteer and spectator.
3. Women and girls will have equitable access to and use of community sport infrastructure:
 - a. of the best available and most convenient
 - b. at the best and most popular competition and training times and locations
 - c. to support existing and new participation opportunities, and a variety of sport.
4. Women and girls should be equitably represented in leadership and governance roles.
5. Encourage and support all user groups who access and use community sport infrastructure to understand, adopt and implement gender equitable access and use practices.
6. Prioritise access, use and support to all user groups who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to gender equitable access and use of allocated community sport infrastructure.

Key Objectives

- To promote and build the capacity and capabilities of Council in the identification and elimination of systemic causes of gender inequality in policy, programs, communications, and delivery of services to women and girls in community sport and recreation.
- To ensure best-practice position for gender equitable use, access and upgrades of community sports and active recreation infrastructure.
- To educate and build the knowledge, support and understanding of community sport and active recreation clubs to advocate for women and girls to reach their potential on and off the field.
- The commitment to prioritise and call out inequalities regards to fair access.



Measuring Success

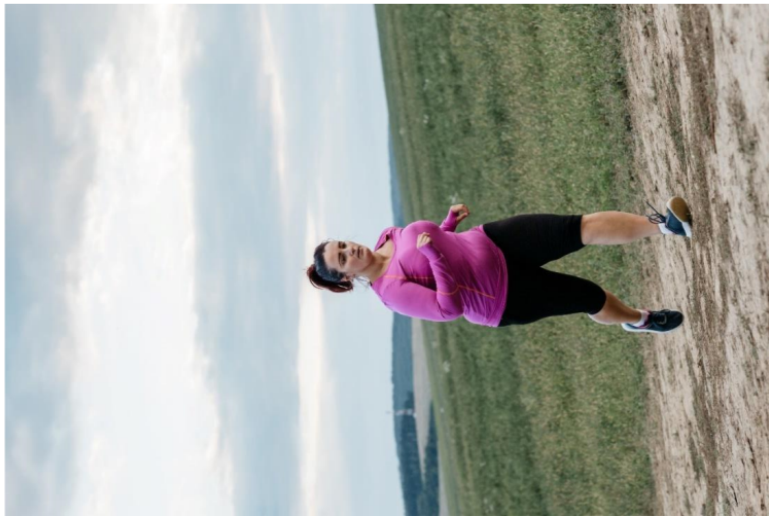
Council is committed to reporting to the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation and local sport and active recreation clubs on the Action Plan. All actions in the Action Plan will be entered into Council's reporting platform and progress indicators will apply, which will be regularly reviewed and reported.

Data will be obtained from a state and national perspective to benchmark with data collected at Bayside. A strong indicator of success with the Action Plan is seeing increased participation programs, pathways, and leadership opportunities for women and girls. Council will look to promote and celebrate success and improvements in this important area.

Legislation and Policy

Bayside's 2050 Vision is to lead the way as a diverse, healthy, and liveable place. Fair Access for women and girls is a non-negotiable at Bayside and everyone in our community should have fair, reasonable and equitable access to the spaces and facilities they desire.

The Victorian Government, led by the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, requires all Victorian Councils to have a Fair Access Policy and Action Plan by 1 July 2024 to help work towards a future where there is a level playing field for women and girls in sport and active recreation. The Policy enables effective and efficient integration of the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, and other legislative frameworks.



Council Actions

Principle 1 - Community sports infrastructure and environments are genuinely welcoming, safe, and inclusive			
Actions	Outcomes	Responsibility	Timeframe
1.1 Council will provide safe, welcoming and inclusive infrastructure and environments for sport and active recreation. (Eg. Sports Pavilions, Sportsgrounds, Recreation infrastructure, sports Lighting, Playgrounds).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver capital works and infrastructure projects that support women and girls' safety and inclusion. • Deliver Masterplans, strategic plans and feasibility studies that support welcoming, safe and inclusive environments. • Consider opportunities to provide more welcoming and inclusive environments, such as cleaning of assets, use of sanitary bins, etc. • Undertake asset condition inspections of community recreation infrastructure to assess the suitability for women and girls both informal and formal recreation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council 	On-going
Principle 2 - Women and girls can fully participate in all aspects of community sport and active recreation including as a player, coach, administrator, official, volunteer and spectator.			
Actions	Outcome	Responsibility	Timeframe
2.1 Council will support, partner, and promote sports and active recreation groups or initiatives that are endeavouring to support women and girls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share, promote, and partner with stakeholders for participation opportunities of women and girls across the community. • Partner, support, and assist community programs and events for women and girls to get active and report successes. (e.g. Sports Club 'Come n Try' programs, 'This Girls Can' campaign, Get Active Victoria, 'Step-tember', 16 days of activism, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council • Partner with key providers and stakeholders • Partner with Sport and Recreation Clubs/Associations/Leagues 	Medium
2.2 Council to promote different aspects of women and girls in sport and active recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance signage, promotional material and collateral for facilities and communication channels to support and promote positive gender lens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council 	On-going

Principle 3 - Women and girls will have equitable access to and use of community sport infrastructure. <i>A: of the best available and most convenient B: at the best and most popular competition and training times and locations C: to support existing and new participation opportunities, and a variety of sport.</i>			
Actions	Outcome	Responsibility	Timeframe
3.1 Council will collaborate with key stakeholders to provide ways of showcasing that they are leveling the playing field.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect data on clubs when they are allocating events, training, and games to monitor and measure change. Support and guide consultation with players, coaches and parent/guardians to understand the needs of their women and girls on the equitable access and use of infrastructure. Collaborate and engage with Clubs and Associations about their equitable access arrangements. (Eg. fixtures, uniforms, changerooms etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Partner with Sport and Recreation Clubs/Associations/Leagues 	Medium
Principle 4 - Women and girls should be equitably represented in leadership and governance roles.			
Actions	Outcome	Responsibility	Timeframe
4.1 Council will lead and support women and girls 'champions' of change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to create a platform for a 'Women and Girls Champion' advocacy network within Bayside. Liaise with key stakeholders and partners to support women and girl's pathway opportunities, education opportunities and participation growth. Investigate opportunities for mentorship and leadership programs for club members and participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Partner with key stakeholders Partner with Sport and Recreation Clubs/Associations/Leagues 	High

<p>4.2 Council will support and provide resources and opportunities for empowering leaders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with key providers to deliver opportunities for networking, officiating, or upskilling to empower women and girls in sport and recreation (player, coaching, officiating, administrator, volunteer). Investigate opportunities for resources and training that are accessible and inclusive for all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Partner with key providers and stakeholders 	<p>Medium</p>
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<p>Principle 5 - Encourage and support all user groups who access and use community sport infrastructure to understand, adopt and implement gender equitable access and use practices.</p>			
<p>Actions</p>	<p>Outcome</p>	<p>Responsibility</p>	<p>Timeframe</p>
<p>5.1 Council will support programs and seek resources that provide equal access for diverse users.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek funding and grant opportunities to engage and support women and girls. Plan opportunities to support women and girls to access and use facilities. Partner or provide key stakeholders opportunities to deliver awareness, programs or services to facilitate equitable use of facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Partner with key stakeholders, Sport and Recreation Clubs/Associations/Leagues 	<p>On-going</p>
<p>5.2 Council will guide and support clubs to outline their aspired goals to create equitable access and use practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support clubs with self-assessment tools in order to gather relevant data and undertake reporting. Provide offer to assist clubs in developing their Action Plans that aligns to their State Sporting Associations, local league and their own priorities to support women and girls' participation, create welcoming and safe environments, and leadership and governance opportunities aligning to the 6 Principles. Provide clubs useful and practical resources and tools to adopt equitable practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Partner with State Sporting Associations, National Sporting Organisations and Australian Sports Commission Partner with Sport and Recreation Clubs/Associations/Leagues 	<p>On-going</p>

Principle 6 - Prioritise access, use and support to all user groups who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to gender equitable access and use of allocated community sport infrastructure.			
Actions	Outcome	Responsibility	Timeframe
6.1 Council will review and update internal communication, processes and documentation to support women and girls access and use in sport and recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update aligned documentation to advocate for women and girls. Provide and support grant and funding opportunities for sport and active recreation clubs. Advocate for local community events that have inclusive practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council 	High
6.2 Council Recreation Officers will attend upskilling opportunities related to Gender Equity and Fair Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Officers to have a strong understanding of the impacts that gender equity will have in the sport and recreation community. Investigate opportunities to educate community groups about the importance of gender equity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council 	Medium
6.3 Council will review and update as required the <i>Sports Facility User Guidelines</i> and <i>Facility User Agreements</i> to include relevant Fair Access information and Actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs Hire Agreements to be reviewed with a gender lens Sports Facility User Guidelines reviewed and updates communicated Prioritise the 'hierarchy of allocations' for facility users' applications to access facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Partner with State Sporting Associations, National Sporting Organisations and Australian Sports Commission 	High

10.17 DRAFT GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT POLICY 2024–28

Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure - City Assets and Presentation
File No: PSF/24/80 – Doc No: DOC/24/153205

Executive summary

Purpose and background

This report outlines the review of the current Graffiti Management Plan 2019 (the Plan) and proposes that it is replaced with the Graffiti Management Policy 2024–28.

It is intended that Council change the Plan into a Policy as the definition of a Policy fits the document more appropriately and it is proposed to be used by Council officers and various stakeholders as a guide for addressing graffiti within the municipality.

Key issues

- Effective management can require the coordination of a wide range of stakeholders. For example, youth diversion programs could involve Community Services, the Department of Justice and Regulation, Victoria Police, the Department of Education and Training and individual schools.
- Effective management is critical for successful graffiti eradication. There are however many organisations accountable for graffiti removal across different assets. These organisations have different regulatory frameworks and performance obligations, making an integrated approach nearly impossible.
- Graffiti management is just one of the many service areas provided by Council and while there are residents that are passionate about a stronger program, it is a relatively low priority for most residents.

These challenges have been addressed in the draft Policy (Attachment 1), along with the following additional points:

- Clarity and conciseness: The revised Policy is clearer, less wordy, and more direct.
- Reflecting on learnings: The review incorporates insights and learnings accumulated since the Plan's previous development, ensuring that the revised Policy reflects updated knowledge and experiences.
- Accessibility: The Policy has been made more accessible to the community, ensuring that it is approachable and user-friendly.
- Compliance and alignment: The review ensures that the Policy aligns with current legislative and regulatory requirements, as well as any updated council policies and strategies.

Community engagement

Between 24 April and 19 May 2024, community members and project stakeholders were encouraged to provide their feedback on key elements of the Policy for the consideration of Council.

There were 63 contributions on Have Your Say:

- A quick poll survey tool where participants were asked to respond to questions about timing for removal of offensive and non-offensive graffiti. (43 contributions).
- A question about locations for street art and murals (10 contributions).
- A social pinpoint where participants could highlight on a map the area that they believed were graffiti hot spots (6 contributions).
- Written submission (3 submissions)
- Q & A forum (1 submission)
- Download of draft Policy (57 downloads)

Social media was also a key tool for promoting engagement and gathering feedback. A Facebook and Instagram poll was run over the consultation period that made 2,320 impressions and received 132 votes. The campaign utilised Instagram and Facebook to promote engagement for Have Your Say that reached 33,490 people and received 23 clicks to Have Your Say.

Council officers also met with community groups such as the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, Graffiti Busters, and Bayside's Youth Ambassadors to discuss and gather feedback. More information can be found in Community engagement summary report May 2024 (Attachment 2).

Key feedback

1. Timing for removal of offensive graffiti.

The current target time frame for removing offensive graffiti is 2 hours. Community feedback indicated that 24 hours for removing offensive graffiti was considered a reasonable timeframe, receiving 63.64% of the votes via Have Your Say and 56% of the vote via social media.

2. Timing for removal of non-offensive graffiti.

The current target time frame for removing non-offensive graffiti is 2 business days. Feedback gathered through a quick poll indicated that 5 business days is a reasonable timeframe (47.62%) followed by 2 business days (28.57%).

3. Graffiti hot spots in Bayside.

Feedback was obtained via a social pinpoint map that demonstrated areas that should be prioritised for graffiti removal. Participants were asked to provide a location of a space where they think is problematic in relation to perceptions of safety, offensive messaging, antisocial behaviour, or whether more policing is required. Public toilets (2 votes) and areas within Brighton East shopping village (2 votes) were among the areas marked for consideration.

4. Removal of graffiti on areas relied on by people with a disability.

Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DAIAC) feedback highlighted key aspects of removal that should be prioritised by Council when it comes to graffiti removal for including wayfinding signage relied upon by people with a disability and Changing Places facilities.

5. Removal of graffiti on private assets

One submission was received that indicated more needs to be done for strategies targeted at removing graffiti on private property space.

6. Data collection for graffiti removal

A written submission was provided that suggested that we use a more specialised mobile application as opposed to using Council's website when it comes to reporting graffiti.

Considerations

- Overall community feedback regarding removing graffiti times indicates that we are exceeding their expectations in this area.
- Consideration was given to removing graffiti from wayfinding signage relied upon by people with a disability and Changing Places facilities quicker than 2 business days. While a decision was made not to change it at this time, Council will look at internal processes and aim to complete this faster if the sign is made unreadable by the graffiti.
- While 'Responsibility of removal from private property', was excluded from what the community can influence through consultation due to budget complexities and privacy issues, alternatives including offering graffiti removal kits are available as well as and Department of Justice resources for known locations.

Given the above, no material changes were made to the Policy.

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Graffiti Management Policy 2024–28 (Attachment 1).

Support Attachments

1. Draft Graffiti Management Policy 2024-28
2. Community Engagement Report

Considerations and implications of recommendation

Social

Research shows that the proportion of individuals who engage in graffiti drawing in public places peak in mid-adolescence (at the ages of 15 to 16 years) before declining. Unlike most other forms of antisocial behaviour, graffiti drawing is more common among adolescents who do not continue to engage in offending behaviour beyond their mid-teens (Smart et al 2004).

As graffiti can impact on the communities' sense of safety there are many groups and organisations that willingly take on volunteer or elective roles that directly contribute to and improve the sense of safety and security across the community. Groups and organisations such as sporting clubs, youth groups, schools, charity and service groups, Neighbourhood Watch and Trader Associations play an important role in maintaining connections, building resilience and creating an awareness of crime prevention activities.

Natural Environment

There are no Natural Environment considerations or implications.

Climate Emergency

There are no Climate Emergency considerations or implications.

Built Environment

The Graffiti Management Policy identifies opportunities to educate and apply processes to ensure that mural projects and other alternatives will align with the neighbourhood character of business districts.

Customer Service and Community Engagement

The draft Policy was released for community consultation and comment, and key community groups (such as disability support groups and youth ambassadors) were included in this process.

Equity Impact

The implications of this report have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

In development of this Policy review, the requirement for Equity Impact pre-assessment has been completed. The pre-assessment concluded that this Policy: b) does meet the requirement for a comprehensive Equity Impact Assessment (EIA).

The EIA is currently being finalised.

Human Rights

The implications of the report have been assessed and are not considered likely to breach or infringe upon, the human rights contained in the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Governance

Officers involved in the preparation of this report have no conflict of interest.

Legal

The *Graffiti Prevention Act 2007* is a key aspect of the State Government's graffiti management approach. This Act is a key piece of legislation that graffiti related local government local laws and policies must be consistent with.

Council's Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2021 delivers its regulatory function with regard to graffiti management under s.13 'Graffiti' which includes:

1. *Each owner and occupier of private property must not allow any graffiti to remain on any building, wall, fence, post or other structure forming part of the private property.*
2. *An occupier of Council Land must not allow any graffiti to remain on any building, wall, fence, post or other structure forming part of the Council Land.*
3. *No offence will be committed under sub-clause (1) or sub-clause (2) unless a notice to comply has been issued and the owner or occupier (as the case may be) has failed to comply with the notice to comply.*

Finance

There are no financial considerations or implications associated with this report.

Links to Council policy and strategy

Graffiti Management Policy.



Graffiti Management Policy 2024-28 (DRAFT)

Bayside City Council proudly acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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1. Introduction

Bayside City Council is committed to providing safe, clean and welcoming public spaces. Our approach towards graffiti management is to remove illegal graffiti proactively and promptly. We work with the community to ensure our public spaces can be enjoyed by all who live, work and visit our city.

The aim of the Graffiti Management Policy 2024-28 is to deliver best practice graffiti management across Bayside City Council's municipality, taking into consideration Bayside's unique beach side environment and rich history with a public art and placemaking culture. The Graffiti Management Policy 2024-28 replaces the Graffiti Management Plan 2019.



2. Definitions

Graffiti is the writing or application of any inscription, figure or mark on a wall or other surface. Such a mark may be painted, sprayed, etched, drawn, pasted, scratched or otherwise affixed.

Graffiti can include images, writing, posters, stickers and stencils, but is often word based and can span complex or abstract letter based designs that can be categorised as a tag, throwie or bomb.

Street art is a two-dimensional, visual art form presented on surfaces in public space. It can include murals, stencil painting, paste ups or sticker art, video projection, sculpture or material surface treatments.

If graffiti or street art is placed on a wall or other surface without the permission of the owner, it is classified as illegal graffiti or street art. If graffiti or street art is placed on a wall or other surface with the permission of the owner, and complies with planning and heritage regulations, it is classified as legal graffiti or street art.

Council supports the creation and commissioning of both Graffiti and Street Art, as a way to assist in the mitigation and education of illegal graffiti.

Council will only remove illegal graffiti or street art on Council owned property or assets and where funding has been provided for privately owned assets on a case by case basis.



3. Responsibilities

Council will support the following graffiti removal services in our City:

- Remove graffiti on all Council assets including walls or fences abutting parks, reserves and carparks
- Act on graffiti removal requests within 2 business days
- Act on removal of any graffiti deemed offensive and / or obscene within 2 hours
- Offer alternatives to the graffiti removal services, including graffiti removal kits

Council will not support the following:

- Remove graffiti on outside of private commercial and residential property (walls and fences abutting parks, reserves and carparks are Council's responsibility)
- The removal of graffiti from locations with limited passive surveillance, such as vacant property or property under construction
- The removal of graffiti above three metres from the ground, or where such removal risks damage to the property or the environment, or the safety of the removal contractor
- The removal of graffiti where the contractor requires access into the private property
- The removal of graffiti on fencing or walls on council owned laneways, streets and roads

The Graffiti Management Policy focuses on the following four areas:

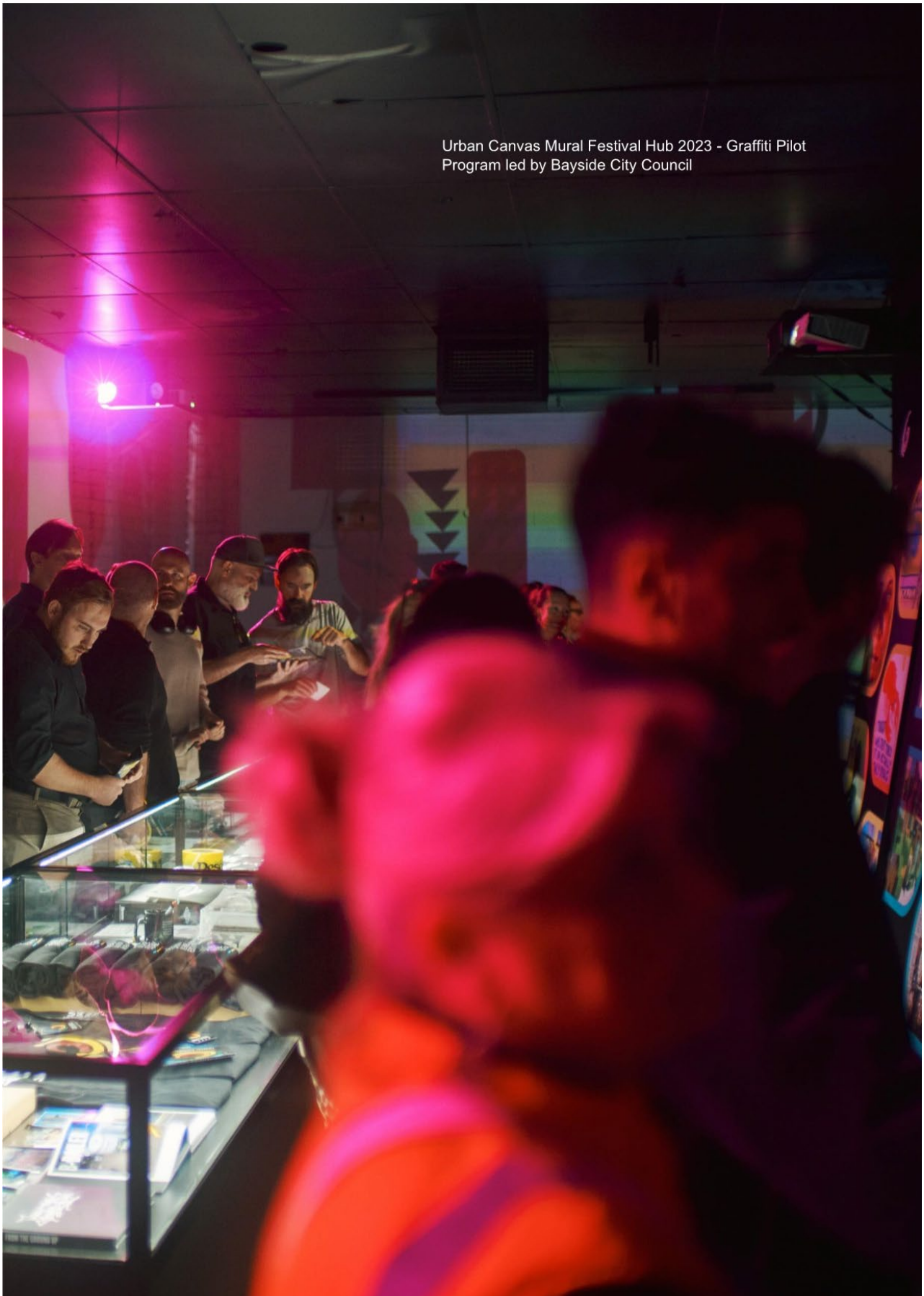
Mitigation: Increasing the focus on 'at risk' community members and implementing initiatives to minimise graffiti offending, as well as implementing alternative treatments to minimise graffiti offences;

Removal: Driving more timely and efficient removal of graffiti across the organisation. Individuals who have responsibilities for graffiti removal, take a more proactive approach to graffiti removal, coupled with increased support for private property owners and an enhanced graffiti reporting tool;

Enforcement: Improved capturing and reporting of graffiti incidence, coupled with building stronger relationships to support enforcement activities by the relevant organisations; and

Working Together: Increasing the centralised coordination of graffiti management within Council, stronger advocacy activities to ensure relevant stakeholders deliver their graffiti responsibilities, as well as increased Council communication / engagement with the local community.





4. Graffiti Management

Bayside City Council is an energetically creative place, welcoming and alive with activity. We will harness this spirit and ensure that our community benefits from improvements in liveability achieved not only through graffiti removal, but also as a result of a wide range of successful graffiti mitigation techniques.

4.1 Mitigation

- 4.1.1 The installation of street art and graffiti murals at highly hit locations such as the several projects initiated in the Working for Victoria Program and the continuation of the Urban Canvas graffiti pilot program
- 4.1.2 Greening programs to obscure walls and enhance the local environment including landscaping, vegetation, planter boxes, green walls and decorative screens
- 4.1.3 Adapting design and surface choices on infrastructure to deter tagging activity
- 4.1.4 Improvements in lighting, including the use of motion activated sensor lighting
- 4.1.5 Programs to increase community engagement with, and ownership of, a space such as a laneway or community hub or space
- 4.1.6 Community education and mentoring programs are employed to educate all demographics in our community about graffiti and street art. Opportunities are also provided to the community to participate in and engage in legal graffiti and street art. Examples include the Warner Education Graffiti Program and the 90 Degrees Youth Mural Program
- 4.1.7 Support Youth Services commitment towards embracing legal graffiti and street art by using a strength based approach to addressing illegal graffiti
- 4.1.8 Consult with Youth Services and young people who are identified by the justice system on having conducted illegal graffiti and involve them into future Graffiti Education programs
- 4.1.9 Support placemaking initiatives in activity centres by providing advice on best graffiti management practices and protocol
- 4.1.10 Proactive priority daily surveillance in municipality activity centres and graffiti hotspots



4.2 Removal

4.2.1 Council asset graffiti removal

Continue to remove graffiti on Council assets within 2 business days, or within 24 hours for offensive graffiti

4.2.2 Council asset graffiti removal – leases

Strengthen graffiti removal in Council property lease agreements (tenant responsible for graffiti removal within appropriate timeframes)

4.2.3 Public utility graffiti removal

If funding secured, the continuation of the Inner City South Municipal Mayors Forum (ISMFM) Graffiti Pilot Program involving the removal of graffiti from targeted third party assets

4.2.4 Private property graffiti removal

Continue to provide and promote graffiti removal kits

4.2.5 Department of Justice Clean up

Continue to utilise Department of Justice clean-up programs to support graffiti removal in targeted areas including fences in laneways

4.2.6 Private property of those most vulnerable in the community graffiti removal

Continue to provide graffiti removal kits and if required, support those most vulnerable through Bayside Care and Support services

4.2.7 Private property activity centres graffiti removal

Work alongside Business and Trader associations to incorporate proactive patrols to identify graffiti and immediately initiate enforcement of private property removal

4.2.8 Graffiti reporting

Implement improved tools to support increased community and Council staff reporting of graffiti, through three reporting avenues:

- On the Council website under 'Report Problem' 'Graffiti Removal'
- Calling our Customer Service team on (03) 9599 4444



4.3 Enforcement

The management of graffiti offences is primarily the responsibility of Victoria Police and the Department of Justice and Regulation (with the exception of Council's Local Law enforcement of graffiti removal from private property, as described in Council's Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2021).

The Victorian Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 defines illegal graffiti as a criminal offence. The Act stipulates that 'a person must not mark graffiti on property if the graffiti is visible from a public place unless the person has first obtained the express consent of the owner, or an agent of the owner, of the property to do so'.

4.3.1 Victoria Police enforce The Graffiti Prevention Act 2007, and can serve an infringement notice on a person who the police officer has reason to believe has committed an offence.

4.3.2 Bayside City Council's Local Laws under Part 2, Division One - Section 13 in the Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2021 enforce the following;

(1) Each owner and occupier of private property must not allow any graffiti to remain on any building, wall, fence, post or other structure forming part of the private property.

(2) An occupier of Council Land must not allow any graffiti to remain on any building, wall, fence, post or other structure forming part of the Council Land.

(3) No offence will be committed under sub-clause (1) or sub-clause (2) unless a notice to comply has been issued and the owner or occupier (as the case may be) has failed to comply with the notice to comply.



4.4 Working Together

The Role of Council

Council has a critical role in ensuring safety, peace and order in its municipality through many functions, services and activities. We are responsible for initiating effective mitigation of and removal of graffiti on Council assets which include street signs, park signs, footpaths, street furniture, artworks, parks and gardens infrastructure as well as administrative buildings.

The Role of the Community

Everyone in the Bayside community has an important role to play in contributing to the personal and neighbourhood quality of life of the community. There are many groups and organisations that willingly take on volunteer or elective roles that directly contribute to and improve the sense of safety and security across the community. Groups and organisations such as Graffiti Busters, sporting clubs, youth groups, schools, charity and service groups, Neighbourhood Watch and Trader Associations play an important role in maintaining connections, building resilience and creating an awareness of crime prevention activities.

The removal of graffiti on private property is the responsibility of the property owner. Private property owners may be requested by Council to remove reported graffiti on their assets within a specified time frame. A key issue in enforcing clean up on private property is that property owners are also the victims of the graffiti and are then required to spend time and money to address the issue. As such Council offer alternatives to the graffiti removal services, including graffiti removal kits where appropriate.



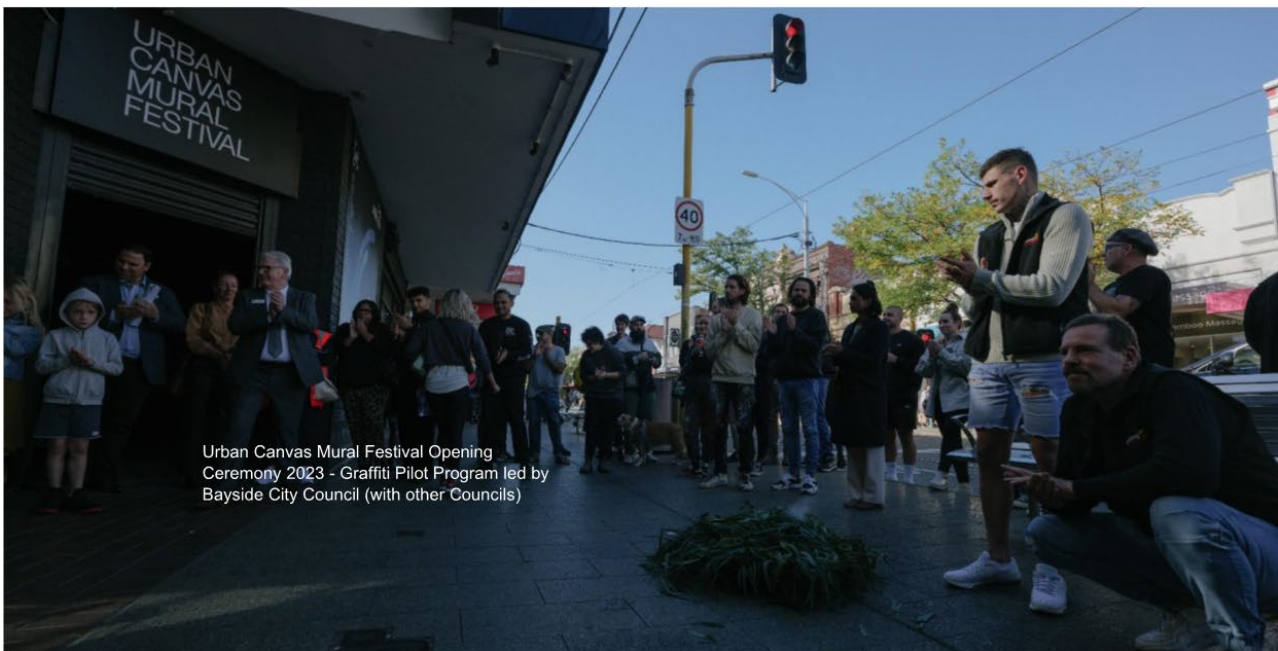
The Role of Partners

Community safety is a whole of community issue and partnerships are key to achieving outcomes in graffiti management. Other key agencies and stakeholders that work towards community safety and/or with mandated responsibilities include:

- Victoria Police is the key agency for law enforcement, however, also has a strong focus on preventative programs and on engagement with the community.
- The Department of Education plays an important role in maintaining connections to school and providing support services for young people who may be at risk.
- The Department of Justice and Regulation provides crime prevention programs, eradication programs and grants through the Community Crime Prevention Unit.

The responsibility for graffiti removal on public utilities is managed as follows:

- Australia Post for red post boxes or green delivery boxes;
- United Energy for power poles and electricity supply units;
- South East Water for pump-stations and sewer vents;
- VicRoads for grey traffic boxes, signal poles and traffic lights;
- Telstra for telephone boxes; Adshel for glass bus shelters; and
- Metro Trains for railway corridors and station precincts.



5. Compliance Considerations

Human Rights Charter

This Policy has been assessed against the principles of the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (the Charter) and is considered to be compatible with the Charter. In assessing the proposed changes, consideration has also been given to the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*.

Equity Impact Statement

The implications of this policy have been assessed and are compliant with the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Governance Principles

In the development of this Policy, the requirements of the Governance Principles as per the Local Government Act 2020 have been considered and are summarised below:

LGA S 9.1	Governance Principle	Consideration
a)	Compliance with the law	<p>The Policy aligns with the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007, a key piece of legislation that graffiti-related local government laws and policies must be consistent with. The Policy outlines the offences under the Act, including "marking graffiti" without the property owner's consent and possessing graffiti implements on transport company property or in trespassing situations. It also highlights the penalties associated with these offences, such as fines and imprisonment.</p> <p>The Policy also adheres to the Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2021 No:2, which specifies penalties for allowing graffiti to remain on private property and Council-owned assets. It ensures that graffiti is minimized on Council-owned and/or managed assets and sites, in accordance with the current Graffiti Management Policy and third-party agreements</p>
b)	Achieve best outcomes for the community	<p>Clarity and simplicity of messaging.</p> <p>Clear distinction of responsibilities of various stakeholders in the community.</p> <p>Promotion of reporting mechanisms that would help Council address graffiti effectively and efficiently</p>
c)	Promote the sustainability of the municipality	This principle is not applicable to this policy



LGA S 9.1	Governance Principle	Consideration
d)	Engage the community in strategic planning and decision making	The community will be engaged regarding matters such as it's perception of safety, how responsive Council is, and whether there are any hotspots it might be aware of.
e)	Strive for innovation and continuous improvement	This is addressed by making the previous Graffiti Management Plan clearer for the community especially in relation to Council's responsibilities and graffiti on private property.
f)	Collaborate with all other levels of government and government agencies	Graffiti management plans and policies of other Councils have been studied and taken into consideration when conducting this review.
g)	Secure the ongoing financial viability of Council	Graffiti removal is a core service that Council provides.
h)	Strategic planning and decision making must take into account plans and policies in operation at all levels.	<p>The Policy recognizes the role of partners such as Victoria Police, the Department of Education, the Department of Justice and Regulation, Vic Roads, public transport providers, and utilities companies in contributing to community safety and graffiti management.</p> <p>It advocates for greater accountability and integration of stakeholder activities to address graffiti management issues at a regional or metropolitan level, rather than through a siloed focus on the Bayside municipality, thus considering plans and policies at broader levels. Additionally, the Policy actively participates in forums such as the Inner South Metropolitan Mayors Forum (ISMMF) Graffiti Management Working Group and the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Graffiti Management Working Group to efficiently implement government-funded trials and drive broader advocacy focus areas, demonstrating alignment with plans and policies at different operational levels</p>
i)	Council decisions, actions and information must be transparent.	<p>The reduction of graffiti and the increase in the number of graffiti reports as a result of this review will provide a clear basis of assessing the plan's effectiveness and progress.</p> <p>The Policy outlines the responsibilities of various stakeholders, ensuring that all relevant obligations and activities are clearly outlined to the community.</p>



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Graffiti Management Policy 2024-2028

Community engagement summary report
May 2024



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1 Overview

The consultation program sought feedback on the Graffiti Management Policy 2024-28 specifically regarding removal timeframes, hotspots, and general comments on the graffiti itself.

Between 24 April and 19 May 2024, community members and project stakeholders were encouraged to provide their feedback on key elements of the Policy for the consideration of Council.

There were 63 contributions on Have Your Say:

- A quick poll survey tool where participants were asked to respond to questions about timing for removal of offensive and non-offensive graffiti. (43 contributions)
- A question about locations for street art and murals (10 contributions)
- A social pinpoint where participants could highlight on a map the area that they believed were graffiti hot spots (6 contributions).
- Written submission (3 submissions)
- Q & A forum (1 submission)
- Download of draft Policy (57 downloads)

Social media was also a key tool for promoting engagement and gathering feedback. A Facebook and Instagram poll was run over the consultation period that made 2,320 impressions and received 132 votes. The campaign utilised Instagram and Facebook to promote engagement for Have Your Say that reached 33,490 people and received 23 clicks to Have Your Say.

Council Officers also met with community groups such as Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, Graffiti Busters, and Bayside's Youth Ambassadors to discuss and gather feedback.

1.1 Key feedback

1. Timing for removal of offensive graffiti.

The current target time frame for removing offensive graffiti is 2 hours. Community feedback indicated that 24 hours for removing offensive graffiti was considered a reasonable timeframe, receiving 63.64% of the votes via Have Your Say and 56% of the vote via social media.

2. Timing for removal of non-offensive graffiti.

The current target time frame for removing offensive graffiti is 2 business days. Feedback gathered through a quick poll indicated that 5 business days is a reasonable timeframe (47.62%) followed by 2 business days for removing non-offensive graffiti (28.57%).

3. Graffiti hot spots in Bayside.

Feedback was obtained via a social pinpoint map that demonstrated areas that should be prioritised for graffiti removal. Participants were asked to provide a location of a space where they think is problematic in relation to perceptions of safety, offensive messaging, antisocial behaviour, or whether more policing is required. Public toilets (2 votes) and areas within Brighton East shopping village (2 votes) were among the areas marked for consideration.

4. Removal of graffiti on areas relied on by people with a disability.

Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DAIAC) feedback highlighted key aspects of removal that should be prioritised by Council when it comes to graffiti

removal for including wayfinding signage relied upon by people with a disability and Changing Places facilities.

5. Removal of graffiti on private assets

A submission was received that indicated more needs to be done for strategies targeted at removing graffiti on private property space.

6. Data collection for graffiti removal

A written submission was provided that suggested that we use a more specialised mobile application as opposed to using Council's website when it comes to reporting graffiti.

1.2 Next steps

Council will consider community feedback, including this community engagement report, before adopting the Policy at its meeting on 18 June 2024.

Interested community members can request to be heard at this meeting.

2 Background

This document provides a summary of stakeholder and community feedback on the draft Graffiti Management Policy 2024-208.

Bayside City Council is reviewing its Graffiti Management Plan 2019. The purpose of the new Policy (which replaces Council's Graffiti Management Plan 2019) is to develop a whole of Council approach to reduce the impact of graffiti on the local community to make Bayside a better place.

We know that graffiti vandalism not only affects the visual appearance of neighbourhoods it can influence the communities sense of safety and have an impact on our local economy.

It is also costly for communities and property owners to remove and prevent. Other problems associated with graffiti include antisocial behaviour and loitering.

Our aim is to build on our existing Graffiti Management Plan 2019 and take a collaborative approach with community to reduce the impact of graffiti and provide safe, clean and welcoming public spaces.

Community feedback helps ensure the Graffiti Management Policy continues to align with our community's aspirations, as articulated in the previous plan.

Through this process we hoped to increase community understanding of graffiti management, cultivate greater community support for action, and enhance personal commitment to addressing graffiti issues.

This involved addressing the relatively low priority and low awareness of graffiti management among the community, as well as leveraging the support of highly engaged community stakeholders. Additionally, the initiative sought to raise awareness of the roles and responsibilities for graffiti removal, increase the reporting of graffiti, and foster a community environment that actively supports improvement activities.

In the development of this Policy, Council undertook the following key steps:

- Equity Impact Assessment (EIA) – a research task to assess how various groups may be impacted by the review of this Policy.
- A review of existing Plan document.
- Draft Policy– a draft Policy was prepared based upon a review of the previous Policy and the EIA .
- Engagement – this report shall seek to summarise the engagement with both key stakeholders and the broader community.

3 Definitions and scope

3.1 Scope

The four-week community engagement period was used to gather ideas and feedback on areas that need to be prioritised for graffiti removal. It will also help Council understand community preference in approach to graffiti removal.

What can the community influence?

- The timeframe to remove graffiti from the time its reported (2 days for graffiti, and 2 hours for offensive graffiti)
- Safety perception in certain parts of the municipality and how graffiti affects that.
- Reporting Methodology

What can't the community influence?

Responsibility of removal from private property, this is due to budget constraints, complexities of delivery and privacy issues.

3.2 Stakeholders and community

Within this document, reference is made to stakeholders. These stakeholders are:

- Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DAIAC)
- Graffiti Busters
- Bayside community including residents and businesses.
- People from outside Bayside including visitors, tourists, and customers

This stakeholder assessment is a generalised understanding of sections of the community that have a connection to the Graffiti Management Policy. This information is used to understand the types of tools and techniques that will achieve the strongest and most effective outcomes for engagement and communication.

Stakeholder/ community	Interest	Impact	Influence
Graffiti Busters	H	M	Consult
Church St Traders	H	L	Consult
Hampton/Sandy Traders	H	L	Consult
Police	M	L	Inform
Neighbourhood Watch	M	M	Consult
Department of Justice	L	L	Inform
United Energy	L	M	Inform
PTV	L	L	Inform
Citywide	H	M	Involve
General Traders	M	M	Consult
General Bayside Community	L	M	Consult
Schools	M	M	Consult

Artists	M	L	Consult
Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DAIAC)	M	L	Consult

3.3 Glossary

The following terminology is used throughout this engagement:

Item	Definition
Graffiti	the writing or application of any inscription, figure or mark on a wall or other surface. Such a mark may be painted, sprayed, etched, drawn, pasted, scratched or otherwise affixed. Graffiti can include images, writing, posters, stickers and stencils, but is often word based and can span complex or abstract letter based designs that can be categorised as a tag, throwie or bomb.
GMP	Graffiti Management Policy
DOJ	Department of Justice
DAIAC	Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee
BayCISS	Bayside Community Information & Support Service
Stakeholders	See above for stakeholder list.
HYS	Have Your Say – online engagement portal

3.4 Related Council documents and consultations

- Draft Graffiti Management Policy (subject to engagement)
- Graffiti Management Plan 2019 (previous)

4 Consultation process

4.1 Consultation purpose

The purpose of the consultation was to provide an opportunity for the community to comment and provide feedback on the draft Graffiti Management Policy, including current service levels and indications of how Council can improve the service.

4.2 Consultation methodology

Online community engagement was open between 24 April 2024 to 19 May 2024 to all members of the Bayside community, including individuals or groups who live, work, play, study, visit, invest in or pass through the municipality.

Digital engagement tools included quick poll survey questions via social media and Have Your Say, written statement submission form, question and answer forum, and a social pin point map to highlight areas for Council to prioritise for graffiti removal.

Face to face opportunities included a site visit to Sandringham Library with Bayside’s Youth Ambassadors as well as consultation with DAIAC and local interest group Graffiti Busters. Bayside traders including Traders Associations were invited to participate in the consultation to ensure that the Policy addresses areas of concern for monitoring and responding to graffiti in local activity centres.

Project information and engagement materials were available in print, as requested/required. Communications via Council channels, brochures (displayed at Bayside libraries, Council's Corporate Centre and Bayside Gallery) and targeted social media advertising were undertaken to ensure community members and project stakeholders were aware of the consultation and encouraged to participate.

Figure 1: Timeline and phases for engagement on the Policy



The previous iteration of the Policy and its outcomes were reviewed, and learnings were implemented. While the removal of graffiti across Bayside has been a great success over the past few years when compared to pre 2018 times, it is intended for Council to keep the same level of service and improve where required.

Table 1 Engagement and communication activities

Details	Activity
<p>Equity Impact Assessment</p> <p>January – May 2024</p>	<p>Equity Impact Assessment</p> <p>A new requirement in the development of Council policies, plans, strategies, and projects is the completion of an EIA. This requires new documentation to consider how it may impact a people from a diverse range of background and experience including (but not limited to) disability, gender, and age.</p>
<p>Face to Face consultation</p> <p>29 April 2024</p> <p>Corporate Centre</p> <p>10 members</p>	<p>Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee (DAIAC)</p> <p>Presentation and discussion of the draft Policy, which was provided to the Committee ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>A quorum of the regular Committee was in attendance. A Council Officer presented the draft criteria and took questions.</p>
<p>Face to Face consultation</p> <p>30 April 2024</p> <p>Sandringham Library</p> <p>10 committee members</p>	<p>Bayside Youth Ambassadors</p> <p>Council officers presented to the committee and sought feedback on the Policy.</p>
<p>Face to Face consultation</p> <p>13 May 2024</p> <p>Corporate Centre</p>	<p>Graffiti Busters</p> <p>Council officers had a face-to-face meeting with Geoff to discuss the proposed policy and received feedback from him as a representative and president of the group.</p>
<p>Direct email</p>	<p>Invited relevant community stakeholders/groups (see below) to participate in the HYS page.</p>

9 May 2024

- DOJ
- Community Housing Ltd
- Cultivating Community Organisation
- Connect Health
- Sandy Beach Centre
- BayCISS
- Bayside Community Centres (Highett and Hampton)
- Family Life

Direct email 14 May 2024	Invited traders to participate in the HYS page or contact Council Officers directly via email. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1,350+ businesses - Trader Associations - Rotary/Lions Clubs
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HYS Survey 24 April to 19 May 2024 348 views 63 submissions by 30 contributors 3 project followers	Have Your Say engagement tools The online project page included information about the Policy, definitions of graffiti and facts about Bayside City Council's graffiti removal and maintenance operations. The primary means of collecting information was through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a quick poll survey tool where participants were asked to respond to questions about timing for removal of offensive and non-offensive graffiti. (43 contributions) • a question about locations for street art and murals (10 contributions) • a social pinpoint where participants could highlight on a map the area that they believed were graffiti hot spots (6 contributions). • Written submission (3 submissions) • Q & A forum (1 submission) • Download of draft Policy (57 downloads)
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Social media Organic social posts 2319 people reached 36 engagements Paid Facebook ad Reach: 33,486 link click 23	<u>Facebook and Instagram poll to gather feedback that received 132 votes</u> 4 posts 2 comments and 30 reactions to the poll \$100 spent on advertising for a video post promoting engagement for Have Your Say
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Direct email 45,359 emails sent Total digital views 45,529	Have Your Say project subscribers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All subscribers (6,818). Sent 24 April: opens 3,801 (55.7%), clicks 480 (7%) across all included projects. This Week in Bayside e-newsletter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 April: 12,204 recipients, 6,627 opens 55% open rate
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<12,203 recipients

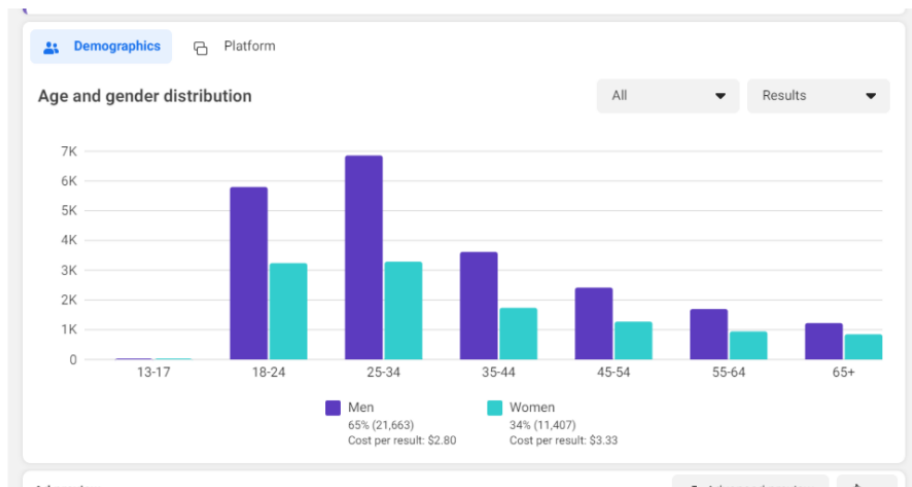
News article viewed 97 times

5 Participant profile

As the engagement tools selected for Have Your Say were designed as quick polls participant demographics were not collected.

The following figure represents the age and gender distribution collected for the social media advertising.

Figure 2. Age and gender distribution for social media advertising



6 Consultation findings

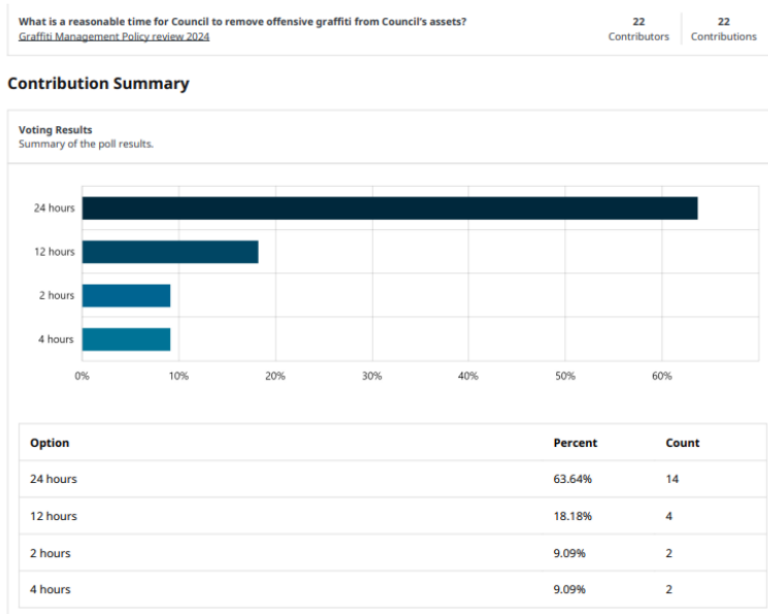
The following section summarises the key themes which arose in community feedback on Graffiti Management Policy 2024-28. In the interest of stakeholder and community privacy, individual quotes have not been included within this public document. Where there was more than one mention of a topic or item, the number of mentions has been specified in brackets and italics.

6.1 Have Your Say

Council sought feedback about reasonable times to remove offensive and non-offensive graffiti. We also asked the community about where they think there are hotspots across the municipality.

6.1.1 Offensive Graffiti

The current target time frame for removing offensive graffiti is 2 hours. Out of the 22 participants to this question, 14 indicated that 24 hours is a reasonable timeframe (63.64%), 12 indicated that 12 hours is reasonable (18.18%), 2 indicated that 4 hours is reasonable (9.09%), and 2 indicated that 2 hours is reasonable (9.09%).



6.2 Social media

Social media organic (video) and paid posts were used to collect feedback and promote engagement via Bayside City Council's Instagram and Facebook.

A quick poll was posted asking people to respond to a question about their feedback on what a reasonable time is for Council to remove offensive graffiti on public property, replicating the question posted to Have Your Say. All quick poll participants could select from the following four options, 2 hours (20 votes), 4 hours (17 votes), 12 hours (21 votes) and 24 hours (74 votes).

Figure 3. results of quick poll posted to Council's social media.

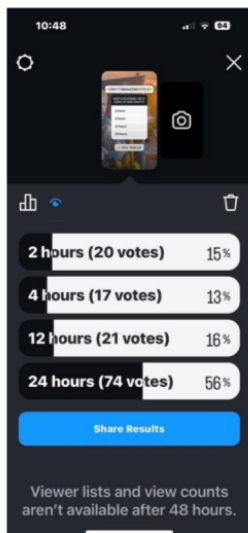
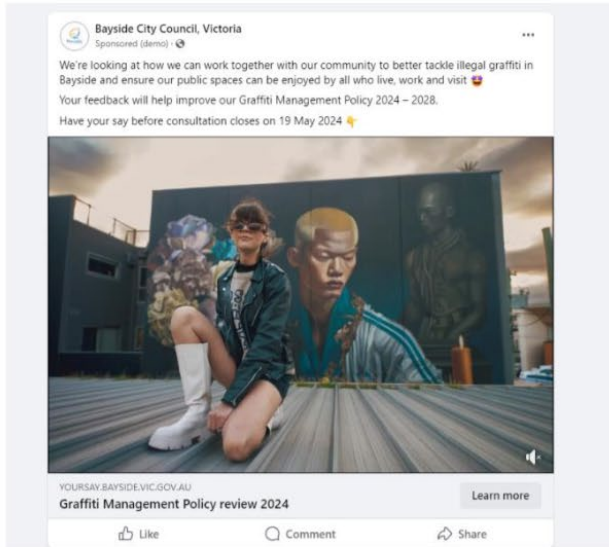
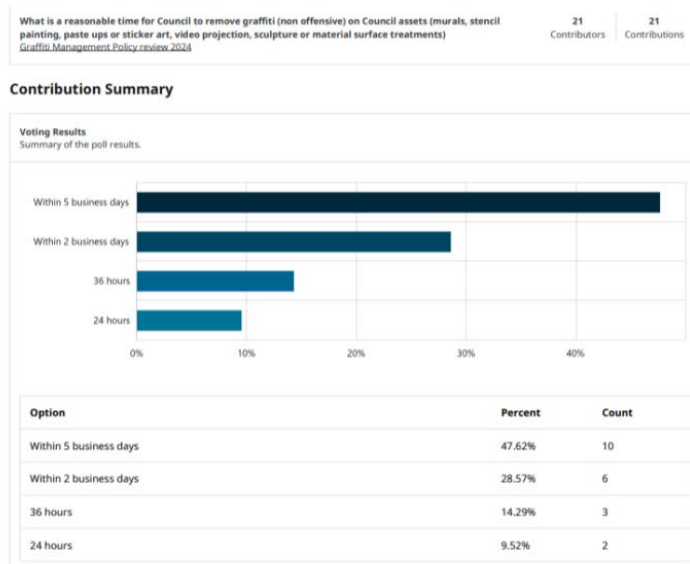


Figure 4: Image of video that was used for social media advertising, that reached 2319 people and received 36 engagements.



6.2.1 Non-offensive Graffiti

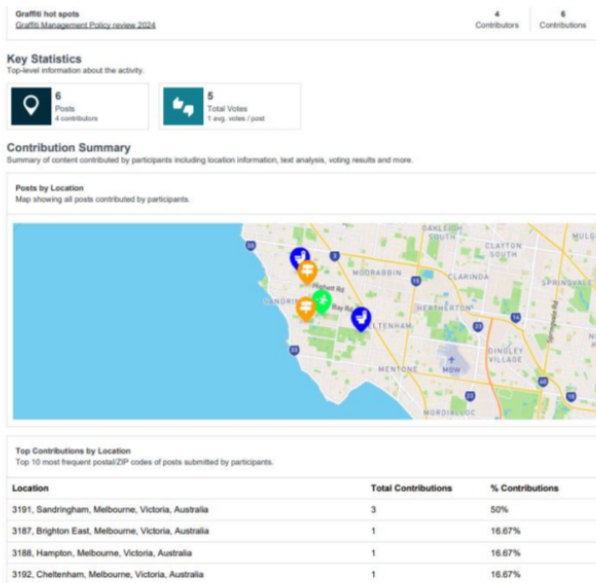
The current target time frame for removing non-offensive graffiti is 2 business days. Out of the 21 participants to this question, 10 indicated that 5 business days is a reasonable timeframe (47.62), 6 indicated that 2 business days is reasonable (28.57%), 3 indicated that 36 hours is reasonable (14.29%), and 2 indicated that 24 hours is reasonable (9.52%).



6.2.2 Graffiti hotspots

Participants were asked to provide a location of a space where they think is problematic in relation to perceptions of safety, offensive messaging, antisocial behaviour, or whether more policing is required. A total of 6 submissions were received including:

- A sign in Sandringham that affects a sense of safety.
- A public toilet in Brighton East that has graffiti and concerns of antisocial behaviour.
- A public toilet in Cheltenham that impacts perceptions of safety.
- The tram terminus at the Hawthorn Road/Nepean Hwy entrance that affects antisocial behaviour.
- A sign in Brighton East Shopping Village that impacts perceptions of safety.



6.2.3 Mural locations

Response to summary to the survey question: Are there any areas where you would like to see street art increased?

Table 2: Mural feedback

Topic	Community feedback
Location to be considered for murals	Opportunity for aboriginal art to be displayed by Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation (1) Street art along fence lines (1) More street art in Hampton (2) and Sandringham (1) Railway Bridge over the Well Street (1) More murals in local shopping centres (2) and laneways (1) I don't like graffiti style street art, I like nice painted murals of cool patterns and scapes (1)

6.2.4 Written statements

Council received 3 written statements from 3 different participants.

Participant 1 brought to Council's attention the incorporation of and strategic planning of creeper or climber plants like Boston Ivy on building facades. The participant highlighted the idea by mentioning few benefits of this initiative if implemented.

Statement: I hope this letter finds you well. I recently came across the consultation on the draft Graffiti Management Policy 2024-2028, and I commend your efforts to engage the community in tackling illegal graffiti and enhancing public spaces in Bayside.

As you seek input on the strategy, I would like to propose an additional approach that could complement your efforts and further contribute to the beautification and preservation of our urban environment: the strategic planting of creeper or climber plants like Boston Ivy on building facades.

Introducing these green elements to our cityscape not only adds aesthetic richness to Brighton but also offers several practical benefits in the realm of graffiti management and beyond. Here are some key points to consider:

Graffiti Deterrent: Creeper and climber plants form a natural barrier on building surfaces, making them less accessible to vandals and graffiti artists. The dense foliage creates a challenging canvas for graffiti, discouraging illegal activity and helping to maintain the cleanliness and integrity of our public spaces.

Environmental Enhancement: By integrating greenery into urban infrastructure, we enhance biodiversity, promote air quality, and mitigate the urban heat island effect. Creeper and climber plants contribute to these environmental benefits by absorbing carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen, and providing habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

Community Engagement: The cultivation and maintenance of greenery in public spaces offer opportunities for community involvement and pride. Involving residents in the selection, planting, and care of these plants fosters a sense of ownership and connection to the local environment, promoting a shared responsibility for graffiti prevention and overall urban beautification.

Long-Term Sustainability: Once established, creeper and climber plants require minimal maintenance compared to traditional anti-graffiti measures. They offer a cost-effective and sustainable solution for graffiti management, reducing the need for frequent cleaning and maintenance of building surfaces whilst using chemicals.

By incorporating the strategic planting of creeper and climber plants into the Graffiti Management Policy, we can leverage nature's defences to protect our built environment while simultaneously enhancing its visual appeal and ecological resilience.

I encourage you to consider this proposal as part of your comprehensive strategy to combat graffiti and create safe, clean, and welcoming public spaces in Bayside. I look forward to seeing how our community can work together to bring this vision to life.

Thank you for your dedication to improving our urban environment, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss this idea further.

Participant 2 suggested that we use a more specialised mobile application as opposed to using Council's website when it comes to reporting graffiti. The participant indicated that a more specialised mobile application could be of great benefit to both Council and the user as it would show what was reported and is more automated amongst other benefits.

Statement: I think Bayside Council would benefit greatly from the use of a platform for the reporting and tracking of incidents and issues, including graffiti, that residents and members of the public wish to report to the council. There are various platforms available that include mobile phone apps which allow the public to:

- See if the issue has already been reported and when.
- Easily including a picture and GPS data in a new report.
- Complete the report with as little typing as possible by using forms that help direct the reports to the correct department of the council or direct the member of the public where to direct the report to.
- Provide feedback to the member of the public on the progress and completion of their report to council.

I have found using the council website is an awkward way of trying to make detailed reports to council when using a mobile device. I am sure many other members of the public have found this to be the case. As a result there are many reports that could have been made, but aren't. I'm sure the quality of the information being reported to the council could be improved significantly such that it is clearer what is being reported and where. In addition I have no idea if the council has already receive many reports about the same issue already and therefore don't need to be reported again.

Of particular note the City of the Gold Coast did use such a system some years ago with reasonably good apps for the members of the public and obviously some connection into the city's internal systems. I am sure there many options available. It would be great if Bayside Council could work with some of the surrounding councils to use the same platform, whatever is selected, to make it easier to make reports without the need of the member of the public to know which council they need to make the report to. This is one advantage that the City of the Gold Coast had in that they covered a much larger area, so the borders were better known.

Participant 3 highlighted that Council is doing a great job in removing and addressing graffiti within the municipality but indicated that more needs to be done in the graffiti on private property space.

Our view on Council's performance There has been a significant improvement in recent years by Council to remove graffiti from Council assets and you are to be congratulated. Your performance shows up other Councils for their apathy and lack of commitment and results in removing this scourge from both Council and private assets.. We presume most Councils have "graffiti strategies" but feel this is more platitudes than action. We feel those Councils should encourage the formation of Volunteer Graffiti Buster Groups yet we have not received one single phone call or email. Perhaps Bayside could be proactive in promoting this approach. We at graffiti Busters are retired but willing but not able to promote this ourselves beyond Bayside but passionately believe this is the most cost effective and proven approach to graffiti elimination. What more can Council do. The problem is not Council assets but private assets. Council expects individuals to remove their graffiti which of course often doesn't happen. 1) Alter Local rules We proposed to Council some years ago that your Local Rules should be modified. Currently, technically Council can fine a resident for NOT removing graffiti yet of course this probably never happens. Our suggestion was that Council should alter the rules such that Council can either fine or arrange removal of the

graffiti. This was not followed up by Council and we were told it was “too hard”. We fail to see why Council cannot make this change which would help enormously in eliminating graffiti on private property. Graffiti Busters could participate and assist residents where there are special needs. 2) More effort to make residents remove graffiti We wonder just how much effort is made by Council to make residents remove their graffiti. We suspect it is minimal. More pressure by Council might help. In conclusion, Council broadly is successful in graffiti removal from Council assets but the real problem to tackle is PRIVATE ASSETS.

6.3 Consultation with DAIAC

Council officers attended the April monthly DAIAC meeting 30 April 2024 and presented to the committee members. A summary of the minutes below:

“The Contract Manager Infrastructure Civil and ISMMF Graffiti Program Officer gave a presentation in relation to the Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan and sought feedback from the Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

Ms Fantasia stated that graffiti is mainly a problem for people with a disability when it is on wayfinding signage the people with a disability may rely on.

The ISMMF Graffiti Program Officer noted that there is a graffiti removal triage model in place where the target for removal of graffiti that is deemed offensive in nature is within 2 hours – and the target for removal of graffiti is otherwise within 2 business days.

Ms Fantasia indicated that Changing Places are often graffitied and that it is important to keep these facilities free of graffiti so that users can feel safe – and that there should be consideration of a triage model that deals more promptly with graffiti on any wayfinding signage that may be relied upon by people with a disability.

Officers noted that the website is the most effective method for reporting graffiti.

Ms Costello proposed that the Graffiti Management Plan deal with consideration for legal graffiti art that may be commissioned in certain locations and encouraged the inclusion of artists living with disabilities for such works.

Mr Glascodine noted that there is the Victorian Art Centre for people with disabilities (Art Access) which undertake murals and the like in this field.

Officers encouraged further feedback directly (to officers) or Council’s Have Your Say page.”

6.4 Consultation with Bayside Youth Ambassadors

Council officers presented to the group about graffiti, who removes graffiti, what is graffiti usually associated with and the usual demographic of the graffiti taggers.

The group members had a few questions to Council Officers, and they suggested an interesting idea which is: “Council should consider creating a space (a wall) for kids/teenagers to tag freely and legally”.

The group also expressed their thoughts about graffiti, enquired about why graffiti is illegal, and indicated that they themselves know some taggers.

Council Officers then took the group to have a look at a mural installed on a wall that is located close to Sandringham Library.

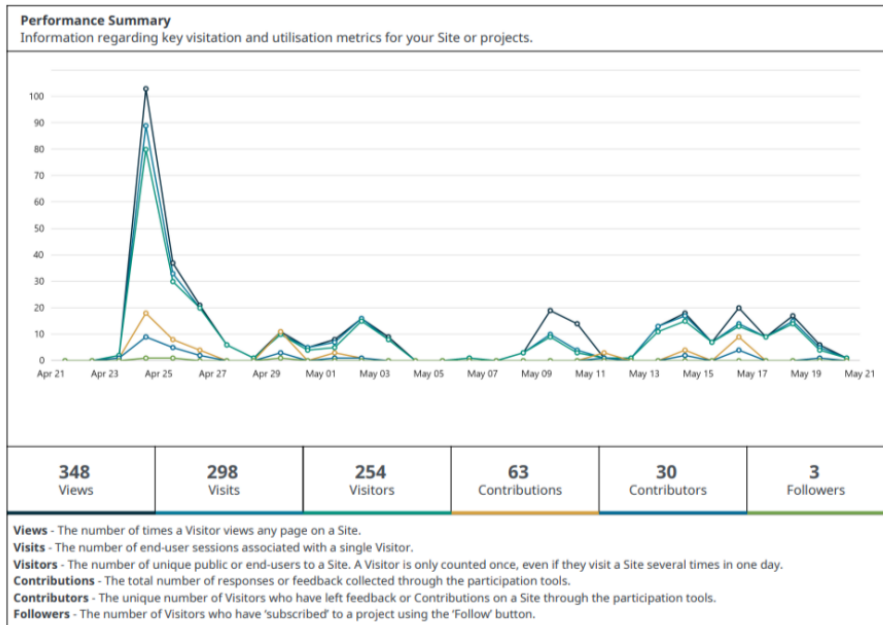
7 Project evaluation

7.1.1 Engagement

It was proposed that the engagement activities would attract at least:

- 200 views of the Have Your Say project webpages (exceeded; 348 views)
- 50 contributions via the Have Your Say online survey or written statement form (exceeded; 63)

Have Your Say - Bayside City Council
 Report Type: Project
 Project Name: Graffiti Management Policy review 2024
 Date Range: 21-04-2024 - 20-05-2024
 Exported: 20-05-2024 10:42:28

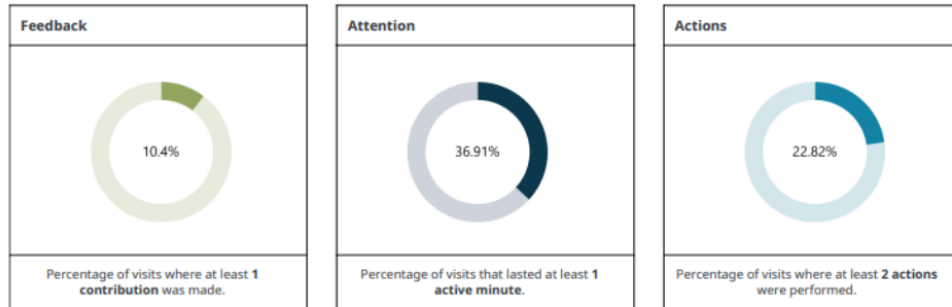


The following figure demonstrates the conversation rates for Have Your Say, the goals set out for the project were.

- 7% of visits would have at least one contribution made (exceeded, 10.4%)
- 30% of visits would last at least one active minute (achieved, 36.9%)
- 20% of visits would have at least two actions performed, such as moving around the project page or clicking on links (achieved, 22.8%)

Conversions

Information regarding how well your engagement websites converted Visitors to perform defined key actions.



Process Evaluation:

Commentary

Stakeholder reach - Did the engagement or research reach the stakeholders identified during the project planning stage?

The involvement of DAIAC, Bayside's Youth Ambassadors, Graffiti Busters, and other groups was done exactly as planned. 30 contributors out of 254 visitors (11%) is a relatively high rate when compared to other engagements.

Reliability of data - Was Council or the delegated decision maker confident in the reliability of data?

Respondents were generally clear in their response and sufficient feedback has been collected to proceed with the draft Policy.

Stakeholder satisfaction - How satisfied were participants with the consultation process?

The groups engaged face to face were generally satisfied with being asked to participate in the consultation process.

Impact Evaluation:

Commentary

What have been the short-term impacts of this engagement process? Were these the desired impacts?

We predicted an increase of graffiti removal requests or questions, but that hasn't happened.

10.18 COUNCIL ACTION AWAITING REPORT

Corporate Services - Governance
File No: PSF/24/100 – Doc No: DOC/24/173260

Executive summary

Purpose and background

This report presents to Council a schedule of actions pending for the period to 18 June 2024.

Key issues

This report contains resolutions of Council that require a further report to Council.

Recommendation

That Council notes the Council Action Awaiting Report.

Support Attachments

1. Council Action Awaiting Report - June 2024

Council Action Awaiting Report

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	COUNCIL RESOLUTION	DIVISION	COMMENTS/STATUS
24/05/16	10.7	<p><u>Children's Sensory Garden Investigation</u> That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> notes the typical elements of a suburban sensory garden; proposes the CSIRO site is the preferred location for the establishment of a sensory garden in Bayside; seeks community feedback regarding the concept of establishing a sensory garden in Bayside to inform future decisions on this matter; and receives a further report detailing the financial implications associated with the establishment of a sensory garden. 	ERI	<p>A report will be provided to a future Council meeting detailing the implications of including a sensory garden in the planning of the one hectare passive open space in the CSIRO site.</p> <p>The timeline of this report will be subject to the transfer of land (one hectare passive open space) is confirmed and planning can commence.</p>
18/08/20	10.22	<p><u>CONTRACT CON/20/82 Moorabbin West, Hampton East and Sandringham Oval Reconstruction</u> That Council:</p> <p>...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> receives a report at a future meeting detailing the outcomes of a review of the Sportsground Reconstruction Program. 	ERI	<p>A report will be submitted to a future meeting.</p>
20/9/22	10.12	<p><u>Update on the Inquiry into the Protections within the Victorian Planning Framework</u> That Council:</p> <p>...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> receives a further report once the committee's substantive findings and the Government response to the Committee's recommendations and proposed actions are publicly available. 	CPA	<p>A report will be submitted to a future Council Meeting.</p>

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	COUNCIL RESOLUTION	DIVISION	COMMENTS/STATUS
22/11/22	10.9	<p><u>CONTRACT CON/22/74 Thomas Street, Hampton Reconstruction (Foam Street - Bluff Road)</u> That Council: ... 2. defers consideration of this matter to a future Council Meeting</p>	ERI	A report will be submitted to a future Council Meeting.
20/12/22	10.1	<p><u>Inter War Heritage Study - Next Steps</u> That Council: ... 2. defers the commencement of the Inter-War Heritage Study and the allocation of the relevant funding to the newly elected Council in November 2024 for further consideration at the March 2025 Council Meeting</p>	CPA	A report will be submitted to the March 2025 Council Meeting.
20/12/22	10.8	<p><u>Dendy Street Beach erosion mitigation - Update</u> That Council: 1. undertakes further investigation into the long-term option presented by The Nature Conservancy to address erosion at Dendy Street Beach 2. engages a third-party independent consultant to review and compare all options recommended, including beach amenity and habitat for marine life, and report back to Council at a future meeting.</p>	ERI	A report is included in this Agenda

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	COUNCIL RESOLUTION	DIVISION	COMMENTS/STATUS
15/8/23	10.5	<p><u>Investigation into alternatives to glyphosate products for weed and invasive plant control in Bayside</u></p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>...</p> <p>5. receives an annual report to Council on the use of chemicals used in managing public open space</p>	ERI	A report will be submitted to a future Council Meeting.
15/8/23	10.8	<p><u>Integrated Transport Strategy - Implementation Progress During 2022-23</u></p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>...</p> <p>2. receives a report on the delivery of the Bayside Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) during 2023-2024 and the updated Action Plan at the August 2024 Council Meeting.</p>	ERI	A report will be submitted at the August 2024 Council Meeting.
15/8/23	13.1	<p><u>Notice of Motion - 329 - Stray Golf Balls - Brighton Golf Course</u></p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>...</p> <p>2. receives a report at the June 2024 Council meeting on the impacts of the mitigation strategies implemented.</p>	CORP	A report is included in this Agenda

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	COUNCIL RESOLUTION	DIVISION	COMMENTS/STATUS
19/9/23	10.1	<p><u>Climate Emergency Action Plan - Annual Update</u></p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>...</p> <p>3. receives a report in 2023–24 detailing delivery of Year 4 of the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020–25</p>	ERI	<p>A report is included in this Agenda</p>
19/3/24	10.4	<p><u>Dendy Beach Visitor Management Plan</u></p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>...</p> <p>2. receives the final VMP for adoption at its 18 June 2024 meeting.</p>	CPA	<p>A report is included in this Agenda</p>
19/3/24	10.6	<p><u>Proposal for Council to rejoin the Municipal Association of Victoria</u></p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>...</p> <p>6. receives a further report within the next 12 months (in advance of 1 July 2025) reviewing the level of effectiveness of Council's renewal of its membership to the MAV, including a review of the outcomes sought by Council that have changed and those that have not</p>	CORP	<p>A report will be submitted at or before the March 2025 Council Meeting.</p>

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	COUNCIL RESOLUTION	DIVISION	COMMENTS/STATUS
23/4/24	10.2	<p><u>Hampton Hub - Funding and Timing</u></p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>...</p> <p>3. explores the opportunities to use the land at 6a Willis Street, Hampton for passive open space and receives a report by no later than the July 2024 Council Meeting</p>	CPA	A report will be submitted at or before the July 2024 Council Meeting.
23/4/24	10.3	<p><u>Draft Economic Development Tourism and Placemaking Strategy 2024-29</u></p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>...</p> <p>4. receives a report at the 18 June 2024 Council Meeting to consider outcomes of the community engagement; any subsequent changes to the strategy; and the adoption of the Economic Development Tourism, and Placemaking Strategy (2024–29).</p>	CPA	A report is included in this Agenda
23/4/24	10.5	<p><u>Wangara Road Masterplan Update</u></p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>...</p> <p>4. receives a report at the July 2024 Council Meeting with engagement feedback and the final Wangara Road Masterplan.</p>	ERI	A report will be submitted to the July 2024 Council Meeting.

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	COUNCIL RESOLUTION	DIVISION	COMMENTS/STATUS
23/4/24	10.5	<p><u>Draft Graffiti Management Policy 2024-28</u></p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>...</p> <p>2. receives a further report at the 18 June 2024 Council meeting detailing the outcomes of the community consultation and presenting the final Graffiti Management Policy 2024-28 for adoption.</p>	ERI	<p>A report is included in this Agenda</p>
21/5/24	10.2	<p><u>State Government-led projects - future impacts on Bayside community</u></p> <p>That Council:</p> <p>1) receives a report to the July 2024 Council meeting on the proposed response/submission to the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) Key Emerging Directions, including the following key concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) height and density b) Bay Road narrowing c) developer contributions d) open space network e) the need to ensure quality construction of new buildings which respond to Environmentally Sustainable Development principles f) lack of genuine consultation with councils and the community g) the impacts of future growth and development on the road network efficiency and traffic h) the ability to deliver Cycle and PMD (Personal Mobility Device) pathways along the rail corridor and throughout the precinct... 	CPA	<p>A report will be submitted to the July 2024 Council Meeting.</p>

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	COUNCIL RESOLUTION	DIVISION	COMMENTS/STATUS
21/5/24	10.7	<p><u>Proposed Sale of Land adjoining 8 First Street, Black Rock</u> That Council: ... 5. following the consideration of any submissions, receives a further report at a future Council Meeting.</p>	CORP	A report will be submitted to a future Council Meeting.
21/5/24	10.8	<p><u>Proposed Grant of a new Lease for an existing Telecommunication Site to Vodafone</u> That Council: ... 4. following the consideration of any submissions, receives a further report at a future Council meeting.</p>	CORP	A report will be submitted to a future Council Meeting.
21/5/24	10.9	<p><u>Proposed Discontinuance and Sale of Road adjoining 328 South Road, Hampton East</u> That Council: ... 5. following the consideration of any submissions, receives a further report at a future Council Meeting.</p>	CORP	A report will be submitted to a future Council Meeting.

11. Reports by Delegates

1. **Association of Bayside Municipalities** – The Mayor, Cr Fiona Stitfold
2. **Metropolitan Transport Forum** – The Director Environment, Recreation and Infrastructure
3. **Inner South Metropolitan Mayors' Forum** – The Mayor, Cr Fiona Stitfold
4. **South East Councils Climate Change Alliance** – Crs Clarke Martin and The Mayor, Cr Fiona Stitfold

12. Urgent Business

13. Notices of Motion

13.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - 334 - STATE GOVERNMENT PROJECTS

City Planning and Amenity - Urban Strategy
File No: PSF/24/105 – Doc No: DOC/24/177253

I, Cr Laurence Evans, hereby give notice that I intend to move at the Council Meeting to be held on 18 June 2024 at 6.30pm at the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Boxshall Street, Brighton the following Notice of Motion:

Motion

That Council undertakes the following advocacy in relation to the detrimental impact on the character of greater Bayside that is proposed by the Suburban Rail Loop and Activity Centres Programs led by the State Government:

1. undertakes an extensive communications campaign to ensure Bayside residents are informed of Suburban Rail Loop and Activity Centres Program, are aware of their potential impacts and know how to make submissions to the program
2. invites the Mayors of Glen Eira and Kingston councils to meet to discuss the common grounds of concern with the Suburban Rail Loop and Activity Centres program
3. writes to all councils affected by the Activity Centres Program and the Suburban Rail Loop to seek partnership advocacy approach. This program is to be addressed to the State Government and in particular the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Transport and Suburban Rail Loop
4. writes to Bayside's State and Federal elected members and relevant advocacy groups to seek meetings to discuss Council's concerns and opportunities within the Suburban Rail Loop and Activity Centres Programs
5. advocates for the following key issues in the response to the Suburban Rail Loop:
 - a. the need to address interface issues with existing suburbs such as Pennydale
 - b. overall height and density concerns
 - c. Bay Road Narrowing
 - d. the need to ensure the inclusion of the Bay Road Rail Bridge in the project scope to allow for a widening of the road under the bridge
 - e. developer contributions
 - f. Open Space Network
 - g. the need to ensure quality construction of new buildings which respond to Environmentally Sustainable Development principles

- h. lack of genuine consultation with councils and the community
- i. impacts of future growth on the road network efficiency and traffic
- j. the ability to deliver cycling and personal mobility device pathways along the rail corridor and throughout the precinct.

Cr Laurence Evans**Rationale**

The Suburban Rail Loop and the Activity Centres program are two high profile State Government projects which are being undertaken within Bayside. These projects will remove the planning of these areas from Council's hands and make decisions that will impact on the character of our community at a State Government level. Council officers have commenced a communications and advocacy campaign to ensure appropriate outcomes for the Bayside community. This campaign needs to continue to be undertaken in conjunction with other councils affected by the program and at a high level to ensure maximum impact from the advocacy.

Support Attachments

Nil