

Requests to be Heard

18 June 2024

Council Meeting



Bayside
CITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting

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Requests to be Heard

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WRITTEN STATEMENTS

Item 10.3 Declaration of rates and charges	For (F) Against (A)
1. Mr George Reynolds	(A)
<p>George Reynolds 19 Agnes St., Beaumaris 3193. Phone 0417 030 900. Email. bra.reynolds088@gmail.com Council Meeting 18 June 2024.</p> <p>Submission to Agenda Item 10.3 – Declaration of Rates and Charges.</p> <p>I am against the proposed resolution.</p> <p>We have prepared a spreadsheet of the Consolidated Income Statement, based on data shown in the Comprehensive Income Statement in the Budget documents. It was prepared in the manner required by the Accounting Standard AASB 101.29 and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. (S.R.117)</p> <p>The spreadsheet is attached with the title Bayside City Council – Budget Accounting Statement 2024 -25.</p> <p>Points to Note.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Comprehensive Income Statement (Col 9) requires all capital items (Col.8) to be deducted to form the Consolidated Income Statement (Col.11) 2. The contributing statements in Cols. 1,2,3, and 6 are the four separate statements which consolidate to form the adjusted income statement (Col 11) called Adjusted Underlying Revenue in (S.R. 117) 3, The Total Expense row in Cols,1, 2 and 3 is marked NS (not stated) and <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) It means that the requirement of section 8(5)(c) of S.R. 117 has not been complied with, AND (b) It means that the requirement of section 8(5)h) of S.R. 117 has not been complied with, AND (c) It means that the requirement of section 8(5)(m) of S.R. 117 has not been complied with. <p>Councillors, The failure to provide the total expense required in columns 1, 2 and 3 prevents the correct declaration of rates and charges. The budget ought to be returned to staff for revision.</p> <p>The spreadsheet in Col. 4 indicates the sum of \$80,410 million is budgeted for the rates and charges expenditure. As the rates and charges to be collected is \$117.192 million, it must be reduced to \$80.410 million in the revised budget.</p>	

BAYSIDE CITY COUNCIL - BUDGET ACCOUNTING STATEMENT 2024-25

Schedule of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

(Shown in Col. 9)

Streamed by Function and Nature

D&A assigned to Own-source Revenue.

In \$'000	Col. 1	Col. 2	Col. 3	Col. 4	Col. 5	Col. 6	Col. 7	Col. 8	Col. 9	Col. 10	Col. 11
ENTRY/	General Rates	Municipal Charges	Waste Charge	Total R&C Revenue	Check	Own Source Ex. D&A	Inc. D&A	Capital Entries	C I S. (BCC)	Check	Adjusted Income
Rates and Charges	91,456	8,295	17,441	117,192	117,192				117,192		117,192
Fees and Fines	NS					9,471			9,471		9,471
Grants -Operating						24,316			24,316		24,316
Grants -Capital						5,493		5,493			
Contributions - Capital						4,000		4,000			
User Fees	NS	NS	NS			10,412			10,412		10,412
Contributions - non- Monetary						0		0			
Interest Income		NS				4,369			4,369		4,369
Other Income						1,421			1,421		1,421
Contributions Operating						104			104		104
Rental Income	NS	NS				4,178			4,178		4,178
TOTAL INCOME	91,456	8,295	17,441	117,192		63,764		9,493	180,956	171,463	171,463
CHECK TOTAL						180,956			180,956		
Expenditure/											
Source											
Employee Costs	s8(5c)E	s8(5)(h) E	s8(5m)E	(NS)		(NS)			62,390		62,390
Materials and Services	s8(5c) M	s8(5)(h)M	s8(5m)M	(NS)		(NS)			66,453		66,453
Depreciation								25,293	25,293		
Amortisation - Intangibles								700	700		
Amortisation - Right of Use Assets								1,637	1,637		
Impairment Losses									859		859
Lease Financing									50		50
Other Expenses and Loss on disposals									534		534
TOTAL EXPENSES	NS	NS	NS	80,410.503		49,875	77,505	27,630	157,916	130,286	130,286
Surplus Transferred to Trust a/c				36,781.497							
Earnings (EBITDA AND EBIT)						13,889	63,617				78,300.000
Adjusted Underlying Result						8.10%		Investment Cash Taken			

Item 10.6 Response to Petition for Council to Review Heritage and Neighbourhood Character Studies	For (F) Against (A)
1. Dr Warwick Pattinson	(A)
<p>From Dr Warwick Pattinson of Bamfield St Sandringham</p> <p>I am a lifelong resident of Bayside and of Sandringham for fifty years. I accept the need for selective and intelligent redevelopment that builds on the unique character of areas in Bayside. The character of Bayside is, for me, embodied by the heritage houses and gardens which I enjoy when walking and bicycling.</p> <p>I object to the lack of commitment to decisive action in the Recommendations made by council officers in response to the petition. The petition asked Council to commence the process to give protection to houses and/or groups of houses that, by their character, vital to the heritage and neighbourhood character of Hampton and Sandringham.</p> <p>My concerns are that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The discussion of issues in the officer report seems to have lost sight of the fundamental reason for identification and protection of heritage buildings, which is that they are high value community assets. Although in private ownership, heritage properties enrich the communities in which they are located, and provide cultural, environmental and economic value. These properties, including the mid-century modern architecture and inter-war heritage buildings, have a high community value that is at risk of incremental loss. It appears that short term budget considerations have been given priority over the urgent need to identify and protect high value and irreplaceable buildings and gardens that are essential to the character of Sandringham and Hampton. 2. Sandringham and Hampton are under enormous and increasing pressure from block by block redevelopment. High heritage value housing and gardens in these areas need to be identified and protected as a matter of urgency by this Council, not left to the future Council. 3. The Reports Recommendation is objected to as it would see no effective action until well after March 2025. 4. By taking the decision now to set in train the process for expanded and effective heritage protection the current Council would be meeting their responsibilities, assist the future post November 2024 Council and do a service for all residents. 	

Beaumaris Modern are concerned about Councils plans to delay the 'Interwar' Heritage Study and the 'Gap' study.

As councillors are aware, Bayside has already lost many significant houses because heritage studies have either been cancelled or the recommendations from the studies not implemented.

We understand heritage studies are not always popular and are difficult to implement but that is no excuse not to undertake these important studies. These studies and their implementation are for the long-term future of Bayside, so significant buildings are retained and respected for future generations, they also offer character and history to the Bayside suburbs, balancing out new developments.

Sadly, Bayside Council has a poor reputation in Victoria in regards to implementing heritage studies. It is worth remembering that keeping heritage studies up to date is not optional.

The Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987 states that 'local councils are required to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historic interest, or otherwise of special cultural value'.

The recent demolition of Federation homes in Hampton that were identified as being significant in previous studies shows the urgent need for the 'Gap' study and the 'Inter-war' study.

As the development of apartments around rail ways stations in Brighton, Hampton and Sandringham increases, it is critical that these studies are not delayed any further.

Beaumaris Modern

Dear Council

I request the Council vote in favour of proceeding with the studies (Gap Study and Interwar Study) referred to as soon as possible to assist in protecting the community and amenity I enjoy about living in Bayside. Further delay will inevitably result in further unfortunate demolitions and less than ideal developments which could have been prevented.

The Bayside community amenity is significantly enhanced by the lovely architecture and streetscapes in Bayside. Unfortunately, both of these are being eroded by the current lack of protection given to these elements in the Bayside community.

The protection of the current Bayside amenity is not limited to protection of any one or two types of architectural buildings (whether residential, commercial or otherwise). It also involves the protection of overall streetscapes which is significantly influenced by the density of development. One of the major negative impacts on streetscape is large scale development as a result of the consolidation of adjoining land following demolition of buildings that might have been appropriate for reuse or smaller scale development as individual land lots.

The Planning and Environment Act Vic 1987 directs that 'local councils are required to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historic interest, or otherwise of special cultural value.' To delay the studies would be contrary to this direction from the Victorian Parliament.

Yours sincerely
Stephen Greenham

Our family has enjoyed living in Bayside for over a decade. We specifically chose this area because of the character it holds in respect to the many heritage homes in the area, as well as the general landscape of plentiful trees, parks and the bay.

We live in a heritage home and feel a great sense of responsibility to look after it for ourselves and the neighbourhood in general. It is imperative to plan for and fund a Gap Study and Interwar Study immediately in order to save the character of our neighbourhood before developers bulldoze these homes for personal profit, at great detriment to the area.

Waiting another 10 to 15 years will be too late, as suggested in the 2020 Bayside Heritage Action Plan. The Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987 states that 'local councils are required to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historic interest, or otherwise of special cultural value'. In order to adhere to the above Act, swift action must be taken.

Whilst I understand that some densification is inevitable or this area, it does not have to be at the cost of the heritage homes. Both can co-exist with considerate planning.

There is a lot of embodied energy in these homes; adaptive reuse and space for trees helps in our fight against climate change. Please consider this matter now instead of leaving it so long that many heritage homes are vulnerable to demolition. Thank you.

I have lived in Bayside (Brighton, Black Rock & Sandringham) my entire life (currently 50 years of Age), and choose to continue living in Bayside because of it's unique historic beachside village feel and streetscapes, mature trees, homes with gardens and space suited to young growing families, safe environment, good schools and the great community it offers.

I am not opposed to progress, regentrification and the need for denser housing to accommodate a growing population and provide more affordable housing. I do believe this needs to be done in the right areas, BUT with care to preserve the history and uniqueness of some properties in Sandringham and Hampton. Particularly those with Heritage overlay.

Over the last 12 years I have seen important heritage housing ruthlessly demolished (like that on Service Street) while the community looks on appalled. And unattractive, vastly overpriced, apartment builds put in their place. We're starting to see more and more of the area concreted over, more trees removed, less grassy space, creating greater heat, water run off and environmental impact.

This is also shifting the demographics of the area. Many apartments are sold as 'luxury' and unaffordable for young professional couples or young families starting out. Apartments are too small for growing families. In time, if this keeps happening, young families will be pushed out of the area in the effort to find housing that offers enough space.

I'm asking the Council to include funding in the 2024-25 budget for the Gap Study of all areas so that our important Edwardian heritage buildings can be assessed and given protection as well as the Interwar Study (homes built later 1918 - 1939). Without bringing the Gap study forward many of the homes we value in Hampton and Sandringham will be left vulnerable to demolition, although some have been identified as being worthy of assessment for heritage protection by heritage consultants our rates have already paid for.

The historic nature of Sandringham and Hampton must be preserved where possible. Once these properties have gone, they can never be replaced.

I write to request that you and your fellow councillors support the In 2023, *The Australian* published a story written by me titled 'This Vacant Life'. The opening paragraphs read:

'Much sought after neighbourhood,' the real estate agent proclaims. Its virtues could be endlessly extolled – close to the beach, schools, busy shopping strip, medical facilities, public transport ..., the list goes on. A veritable Nirvana for the home buyer awaits.

For over century, this little neighborhood had thrived, unwittingly fulfilling the real estate promise. Families were created and functioned, as families do. Kids played on the streets, neighbourly relationships flourished, friendships were made; the cycle of life continued.'

As a resident of Hampton, I enjoyed this lifestyle until one day, *Ronaldsay*, the 1908 Edwardian style house at no 10 Ocean Street was demolished to make way for a new apartment development.

As a neighbour, I was aware of the outpouring of distress and often anger voiced by residents of Hampton at the loss of a little more of their built history and the effect of removal of a beautifully maintained historic home and garden. Such distress and anger is detrimental to the general health and sense of well being and has created a level of anxiety within the community as residents wonder which next historic building will be demolished. On many occasions, disappointment was also expressed that Bayside Council was powerless to prevent the demolition.

It is the built and natural environment which Bayside, such an attractive place to call home. Demolition of fine examples of our built history is detrimental to the ambience which makes Bayside such a desired address.

Given the verified (by postcode) response of almost 1000 signatures to the petition asking Council to commence a heritage study, which was conducted over a relatively short period of time and mainly aimed at residents of Hampton and Sandringham residents. This result was indicative of the concerns of residents. It is worth noting that the majority of signatures were via the online Change petition, which meant that residents who were not au fait with this means of lodging their protest, did not take part.

I am not opposed to the demolition of properties with no specific heritage to provide much needed accommodation for our growing population, but not at the expense of the dwindling supply of magnificent examples of the craftsmanship of our past history.

Regards,

Helen Graham

PS.For the information of the readers of this letter, I have attached a copy of the story I wrote, which pertains to the fate of the Service Street development.

THIS (VACANT) LIFE

HELEN GRAHAM

"Much sought-after neighbourhood," the real estate agent's advertisement proclaims. Its virtues could be endlessly extolled: close to the beach, schools, busy shopping strip, medical facilities, public transport ... the list goes on. A veritable Nirvana for the homebuyer awaited.

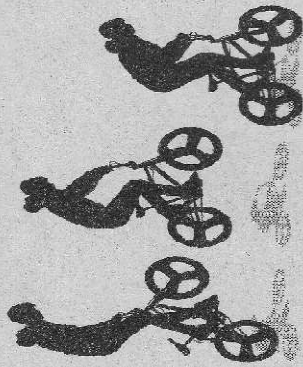
For more than a century, this little neighbourhood had thrived, unwittingly fulfilling the real estate promise. Families were created and functioned, as families do. Kids played on the streets, neighbourly relationships flourished, friendships were made; the cycle of life continued.

Until one fateful day.

Yellow signs suddenly appeared on the fences of four adjoining houses. Secret deals had been made. Official letters arrived in the other residents' mailboxes.

A neighbourhood discombobulated.

A multi-storey apartment complex had been proposed for the land where the four homes



stood. The building's height would overshadow other homes and the population increase would create traffic problems.

Angst and outrage followed. Meetings were held. Relationships fractured. Council was contacted. Lawyers were consulted. Community activism emerged.

Hopes were raised and then dashed. The houses were demolished and their gardens were destroyed. There suddenly appeared an empty tract of land, save for a few mature trees.

"What a shame it couldn't be made into a park," my friend commented as we wandered by.

"No way," I said. "The council couldn't afford to buy the land."

Time passed, Covid lockdowns ceased, activities recommenced. Late one night, driving past, I saw in the moonlight mysterious shapes, resembling termite mounds. I later returned for a daylight investigation. Turning the corner, I heard sounds that I hadn't heard for a very long time. I smiled as the streetscape came into view. That unkempt and unloved tract of land was filled with joyful young boys on their bikes. Pedalling, swerving, braking, falling off, shouting with glee as they rode their bikes up, over and around the mounds of earth that had magically appeared.

Had the dreaded developer, with their plans temporarily stymied, brought in a bulldozer to appease the neighbourhood's children? Maybe some dads had made a late night foray to create the course?

It was the ever resourceful boys, children who had previously viewed shovels as prehistoric remnants of a past age. Garden implements had

been borrowed from sheds and garages. Hard rubbish piles were ransacked, old BMX bikes restored, garbage bins repurposed as course markers. Jumps, ramps and berms arose out of the desolation. Old timber and pipes marked the track. Spectators' needs were addressed with viewing areas, replete with old chairs and side tables. Truly a design and construction marvel.

No more sitting on the couch mesmerised by a screen. There was fun to be had. The boys had seized the day.

Sadly, the earth mover eventually came and a security fence was erected around the site. Nirvana was destroyed once more and those joyful innovative boys returned home, likely to play computer games.

Review considers original submissions for *This Life* of 450-500 words. Work may be edited for clarity. Email: thislifethereview@theaustralian.com.au

REVIEW April 1-2, 2023

WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

03

To Bayside City Council,

Re: The Gap Study and Interwar Study

Bayside is a unique area with beautiful old homes of heritage character worthy of protection, along with their established gardens and older trees.

Please plan and include funding for the Gap Study and Interwar Study to be done concurrently and without further delay.

The delay indicated on the 2020 Bayside Heritage Action Plan is not okay. Houses of heritage importance are being demolished with little or no regard for their value to the local community. For example, 10 Ocean St, Hampton, which was restored and in excellent condition only to be demolished and the beautiful feature palm tree removed.

The Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987 states that 'local councils are required to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historic interest, or otherwise of special cultural value'.

Whilst I appreciate the need for densification in our suburbs, this can occur in and around our heritage buildings, which need preservation for our future generations to appreciate.

Not only homes but trees and vegetation require protection, or our suburb will lose its beautiful birds and natural habitat for native species.

Thank you for your urgent attention to fund and complete heritage studies and protect our important heritage buildings.

Regards, Bernice Greenham

Hampton, being the suburb in which we reside, boasts a rich architectural heritage, prominently featuring houses built from the early 1900s onwards, including the distinctive Federation-style homes. These houses are not just structures; they are historical landmarks that encapsulate the essence of our community's history and cultural identity. It is imperative that we recognise and protect these architectural gems from demolition in the name of progress.

I am requesting the Council to, as soon as possible, identify all significant houses that might have been missed in heritage studies already done. This includes as I understand, the study proposed as the Gap Study. Interwar houses of significance should also be identified. I was concerned to learn that a decision was made to defer the commencement of the Gap Study for the next 10 to 15 years, as indicated in the Bayside Heritage Action Plan. Given the pace of demolition and redevelopment in Hampton, this is far too long a delay.

Federation-style houses, so named as they were built around the time of Federation, are readily characterised by their intricate and aesthetically pleasing designs. These homes feature complex, multi-faceted roofs with steep pitches, adorned with decorative finials and elaborate chimneys. The extensive verandahs, often embellished with intricate timber or cast iron lacework, reflect the craftsmanship of that era. The use of face brickwork combined with stucco or timber, along with decorative gable detailing and leadlight windows, add to their unique charm. The interiors boast high ceilings, spacious rooms, decorative plasterwork, and polished timber floors, creating a timeless appeal.

In addition to the Federation style, our suburb also includes Edwardian houses, California Bungalows, and various interwar styles, each contributing to the architectural diversity and historical narrative of our area. The Edwardian homes, with their simpler yet elegant designs, and the California Bungalows, known for their low-pitched roofs and horizontal lines, further enhance the suburb's architectural tapestry.

Preserving these houses is crucial for maintaining the historical and cultural fabric of our community. These buildings are not merely old structures but are integral to our suburb's identity and charm. They offer a tangible connection to our past, serving as a testament to the architectural and social history of early 20th-century Australia.

I strongly support Council to review and complete Heritage and Neighbourhood Character Studies in Hampton and Sandringham. My husband and I bought a lovely Edwardian home in Thomas Street, Hampton about eight years ago. We had been looking for over 12 months before we purchased our home. Our selection criteria was simple - a period home in Hampton or Sandringham, close to shops / the beach. The challenge was that many others seemingly had similar criteria and we were consistently an under bidder. The point is that Hampton and Sandringham attract and appeal to those looking for a character filled home in the heart of bayside. Since buying our home, we have been devastated to see many of our 'dream homes' (traditional show-stopper homes) torn down and forever lost (43 Crisp St and 10 Ocean Street, Hampton to name a few). It is unforgivable now and for future generations to let this continue. Accordingly, I urge Council to plan and include funding for the Gap and Interwar Study to be completed concurrently and without delay.

While I acknowledge the objective to accommodate greater density in the bayside area, this can be achieved in parallel with the protection of heritage homes and neighbourhoods. These objectives are not mutually exclusive

The Victorian Planning and Environment Act 1987 states that 'local councils are required to conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historic interest, or otherwise of special cultural value'. Please listen to our community and act now, without delay

There are many examples where retention of heritage buildings / facades/ landmarks could easily and cost effectively be incorporated into new developments which typically results in better outcomes. At the moment, other than Reunion Place in Linacre Road, the obvious thing for developers to do is to completely demolish and clear the site. The historic electrical substation in Deakin St is one recent example.

Due to the way Melbourne was developed along the train lines, the most unique heritage streetscapes, icons and buildings are all located in the GRZ zones. As anyone who has travelled through Europe knows, the blending of heritage and modern developments maintains a sense of place, community connection and appeal.

At the moment the outcomes being realised in the bayside GRZ zone are unaffordable concrete apartments being marketed to downsizers who typically only occupy the apartment ~50% of the year (lock and leave).

Families that could afford an unrenovated heritage property are now unable to get access to these properties. For example, a liveable and good condition 4 bedroom Edwardian family home at 28 Thomas Street is purchased for \$2m and replaced with a handful of apartments, with 3 bedroom ones being sold at \$3.4m.

Aside from the carbon generated through demolition and reconstruction, there is every chance that the occupancy of the site will only be 5-6 people when you take into account the low occupancy of apartments.

In conclusion, the consideration of heritage street scapes and neighbourhood character needs to be included in planning guidelines to level the playing field and creates better long term outcomes for our high density developments.

Item 10.7**Bayside Affordable Housing Contributions****For (F)
Against (A)****1. Mr Gavin Jackman (on behalf of Homes for Homes)****(F)**

14 June 2024

Bayside City Council
 Council Chambers
 Civic Centre
 Boxshall Street, Brighton

Submission on Bayside Affordable Housing Contributions

Homes for Homes is pleased to make a submission to the Bayside City Council on the Bayside Affordable Housing Contributions seeking to commence a planning scheme amendment to facilitate the delivery of an affordable housing contribution for applicable development across the City of Bayside.

Homes for Homes commends the Bayside City Council for recognising the enormity of one of Australia's biggest social issues – homelessness.

The main pressure point for homelessness in Victoria is access to safe and secure housing that is affordable. Tackling the shortage of social and affordable housing is a first order priority and needs a whole of community approach. Increasing affordability of housing requires a mix of leadership, strategy, partnerships and most importantly a new source of sustainable funding.

Bayside's proposed amended to the planning scheme to facilitate the delivery of an affordable housing contribution is a valuable opportunity to achieve global best practice in affordable housing to respond to the shortfall of affordable housing in the Local Government Area, with an estimated 11,000 households in need of affordable housing in Bayside by 2041 if no action is taken. We commend the Bayside City Council on recognising the need to deliver affordable housing in the municipality to support vulnerable cohorts in the community.

Using an independent third party to collect and distribute the funds such as Homes for Homes would ensure funds are used to support a diverse range of social and affordable housing projects within the community that facilitate better opportunities for very low to moderate income earners, offering diversity of choice.

The Homes for Homes grant funding governance framework includes an independent Housing Advisory Group, an Investment Advisory Group, and the Homes for Homes Board.

Our Housing Advisory Group Members, who contribute an enormous amount of time reviewing expressions of interest, applications, reports, and acquittals throughout the course of the year. The composition of our Housing Advisory Groups is unique and includes members from social services, academia, government, the private sector, and not-for-profits. Each member has a different background and set of skills that help provide a multi-lens approach in our reviews and support, changing the lives of individuals and families who are

able the access safe and secure housing. Importantly, money raised in the municipality will be invested in the City of Bayside to increase the supply of social and affordable housing.

Established by The Big Issue, Australia's largest and most successful social enterprise, Homes for Homes is a simple, proven model that works by raising funds from voluntary tax-deductible donations as part of existing property transaction processes, then leverages funds raised to increase the supply of social and affordable housing.

Homes for Homes is well supported by the legal, financial and property industry. It is a solution that includes industry as well as individual homeowners and has already granted over \$1.8 million dollars which has housed over 350 people.

Homes for Homes - an ongoing source of new funding

Incorporating Homes for Homes into residential development projects creates a unique opportunity for a new sustainable funding stream to be realised in the social and affordable housing sector. This can be achieved at no risk and no cost to the Bayside City Council. Registering properties with Homes for Homes is done at no cost to individuals or developers.

When donations are made to Homes for Homes the funds are pooled along with other contributions in Bayside and when sufficient funds have been raised, housing providers are invited to apply for the funds via an open grant process.



1. Homes registered



2. Properties sold



3. Funds donated



4. Money distributed



5. Homes built

Importantly, once a home or development is registered, it continues participating in Homes for Homes (unless the homeowner elects to withdraw) encouraging all future homeowners to donate when they sell in the future.

We thank the Bayside City Council for the opportunity to make a formal submission on the Bayside Affordable Housing Contributions proposal.

Yours sincerely



Steven Persson, CEO Homes for Homes

Item 10.10		For (F) Against (A)
Bayside Biodiversity Action Plan 2024–29		
1.	Ms Anne Jessel (on behalf of Friends of Native Wildlife)	(F)
<p>Friends of Native Wildlife are happy to endorse the proposed Biodiversity Action Plan, and encourage Council to adopt it.</p> <p>Tulip Street Pond is not recognised as a key location for fauna. We believe that Tulip Street Pond is a significant biodiversity asset. It should be formally recognised as a conservation area by the Biodiversity Action Plan - this will help ensure its sustainable future.</p> <p>We also suggest Council amends the Plan to reflect the updated National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife, which may be found at</p> <p>https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/national-light-pollution-guidelines-wildlife.pdf</p>		

Item 10.11		For (F) Against (A)
Hihett Grassy Woodland Masterplan 2024		
1.	Ms Anne Jessel (on behalf of Friends of Native Wildlife)	(F)
<p>Friends of Native Wildlife agree with the proposed plan for Hihett Grassy Woodland, and look forward to its adoption and implementation.</p>		

Item 10.12 Lake Management Plans	For (F) Against (A)
1. Ms Heather Stewart	(F)
<p>I read with interest the Lake Management Plans in the June 18 Council Agenda.</p> <p>Could I please submit the following feedback?</p> <p>It is wonderful that Council is reviewing the waterbodies and committing to regular water quality monitoring. Waterbodies are a crucial habitat resource and it's great to see they are being highly valued by council.</p> <p>Given the "lakes" habitat values can you please rename them to wetlands or waterbodies as per industry standards. The term lake is an ornamental term that doesn't properly reflect their habitat and storm water filtering benefits.</p> <p>Have the waterbodies been surveyed for Gambusia? Urban waterbodies should be regularly surveyed for Gambusia and if present a regular drying or draining cycle should be introduced to remove Gambusia. It is unrealistic to permanently remove Gambusia as they will re establish but they can be regularly removed to enable aquatic fauna to survive and thrive.</p> <p>I recommend the following actions for all Lakes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. rename "lakes" to wetland, waterbodies or a more contemporary name that reflects the waterbodies habitat and storm water functions 2. an action to treat storm water from surrounding streets prior to entry into the each lake to improve the water quality and habitat values 3. Regular surveys of lakes for invasive fish species 4. Regular drying or draining of the lakes to replicate natural drying cycle and reduce levels of invasive fauna such as Gambusia 5. Training for staff on identification and removal or treatment of invasive aquatic fauna species <p>Given Bayside Councils proactive support for aquatic waterbodies could I please recommend a future action that council complete a landscape study of waterbodies and other aquatic habitat by a suitably qualified aquatic ecologist with a view to increasing the amount of aquatic habitat to benefit local fauna. This should include reintroducing water to historically wetter natural habitats such as Long Hollow Heathland and Balcombe Park heathlands if appropriate.</p> <p>I planned, designed and implemented waterbodies for the Growling Grass Frog and dual storm water treatment purposes at Cardinia Shire for 12 years and am familiar with their habitat requirements. I am more than happy to meet with Council at any of the "lakes" to discuss these habitat principles.</p> <p>Best wishes Heather Stewart</p>	

2.	Ms Anne Jessel (on behalf of Friends of Native Wildlife)	(F)
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We commend Council on preparing plans to manage our lakes and ponds. However after providing some input Friends of Native Wildlife are disappointed we were not given greater opportunity to review the proposed Lakes Management Plans, which have only become available as part of the agenda for this meeting.

We have some concerns and comments on the plans as follows:

Pobblebonk Park:

We have recorded a decline in frog numbers in this pond. Part of the cause of this, we believe, is the expansion of reeds and consequent reduction in open water. Given that the plan's Vision for this pond is to maintain the Pobblebonks, we'd like to see a recommendation for exploration of methods for a reduction in the density of the reed coverage, primarily in the deeper water, to assist the movement of the large Pobblebonk frogs. We understand contamination concerns may limit the ability to remove reeds by the roots however some other type of regular trimming may be possible.

Tulip Street:

While we support some of the advice and recommendations for Tulip Street, we have a number of concerns about this plan.

1. We agree the storm water input from the basketball courts into the pond needs to be carefully managed in terms of erosion risk, quality and quantity, and pointed this out early in the planning process. We are not convinced the single option to address these issues suggested in the proposed plan is the best one, and believe other options should be investigated. In particular, we would like to see input from a frog habitat specialist. We would like to liaise with Council on this.
2. We believe that without any knowledge of how much water is being captured by the tanks and is being released into the pond, and without any monitoring of water levels in the pond, environmental management will be severely hampered. For example, we question the assumption in the plan that the water regime has changed so much since connection of the basketball tanks that it has caused vegetation changes.
3. During the basketball court planning, Council promised an Environmental Management Plan for the pond and surrounds which would include guidelines for when and how the water tank water would be used. This EMP does not yet exist, and the proposed plan does not provide appropriate guidance.
4. The plan ignores the erosion being caused by drainage from the path adjoining the BMX track.

Cheltenham Golf Course Reservoir:

The option of a chain of downstream ponds is particularly appealing. This would increase the range of water levels, which could be expected to increase biodiversity.

Signage:

Several recommendations involve improvements to signage. Council may be aware that Friends of Native Wildlife have advocated for this many times over the years. We would like to be involved in the development of educational and interpretive signage around the lakes.