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AGENDA OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

To be held on Monday 25 July 2022 at 6.00pm

**This Council Meeting will be held at Preston Town Hall,
284 Gower Street, Preston.**

**This meeting will also be livestreamed and may be
accessed from Councils website www.darebin.vic.gov.au.**

Persons wishing to submit a 'Public Question' may do so
online by 12.00 noon on the day of the meeting via the
Question and Submissions form.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN DAREBIN

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land we now call Darebin and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council pays respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diverse culture, resilience and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We acknowledge the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the right to self-determination in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.



English

These are the Minutes for the Council Meeting. For assistance with any of the items in the minutes, please telephone 8470 8888.

Arabic

هذه هي محاضر اجتماع المجلس. للحصول على المساعدة في أي من البنود في المحاضر، يرجى الاتصال بالهاتف 8470 8888.

Chinese

这些是市议会会议纪要。如需协助了解任何纪要项目，请致电8470 8888。

Greek

Αυτά είναι τα Πρακτικά της συνεδρίασης του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου. Για βοήθεια με οποιαδήποτε θέματα στα πρακτικά, παρακαλείστε να καλέσετε το 8470 8888.

Hindi

ये काउंसिल की बैठक का सारांश है। सारांश के किसी भी आइटम में सहायता के लिए, कृपया 8470 8888 पर टेलीफोन करें।

Italian

Questo è il verbale della riunione del Comune. Per assistenza con qualsiasi punto del verbale, si prega di chiamare il numero 8470 8888.

Macedonian

Ова е Записникот од состанокот на Општинскиот одбор. За помош во врска со која и да било точка од записникот, ве молиме телефонирајте на 8470 8888.

Nepali

यी परिषद्को बैठकका माइन्युटहरू हुन्। माइन्युटका कुनै पनि वस्तुसम्बन्धी सहायताका लागि कृपया 8470 8888 मा कल गर्नुहोस्।

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਵੈੱਸਲ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਹੈ। ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਵਿਚਲੀਆਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਆਈਟਮਾਂ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਵਾਸਤੇ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 8470 8888 ਨੂੰ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Somali

Kuwaani waa qodobadii lagaga wada hadlay Fadhiga Golaha. Caawimada mid kasta oo ka mid ah qodobada laga wada hadlay, fadlan la xiriiir 8470 8888.

Spanish

Estas son las Actas de la Reunión del Concejo. Para recibir ayuda acerca de algún tema de las actas, llame al teléfono 8470 8888.

Urdu

یہ کاؤنسل کی میٹنگ کا ایجنڈا ہے۔ ایجنڈے کے کسی بھی حصے کے بارے میں مدد کے لیے براہ مہربانی 8470 8888 پر فون کریں۔

Vietnamese

Đây là những Biên bản Họp Hội đồng Thành phố. Muốn có người trợ giúp mình về bất kỳ mục nào trong biên bản họp, xin quý vị gọi điện thoại số 8470 8888.

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Agenda

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Cr. Lina Messina (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Trent McCarthy (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Tom Hannan

Cr. Tim Laurence

Cr. Susanne Newton

Cr. Susan Rennie

Cr. Julie Williams

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

3. APOLOGIES

4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 27 June 2022 and the Special Meeting of Council held on 18 July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

6. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

Members of the public can lodge questions for Council to answer or make a Comment or Submission prior to a specific item listed on the Agenda of an Ordinary Council meeting.

Due to the current COVID-19 health crisis and associated requirements residents and interested persons are encouraged to view this Council meeting online. Any persons attending this meeting will be required to observe appropriate social distancing and adhere to the directions of Council Officers in relation to public question time and the making of submissions on items on the agenda.

QUESTIONS

Members of the public can ask up to three (3) questions at an Ordinary Council meeting.

Questions submitted online will be responded to in the first instance. If you are not present at the meeting, the Chairperson will read the question and provide a response. The Chairperson may then take questions from members in the gallery.

Questions from the gallery must be submitted in writing to the Council Officer in attendance in the gallery prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Any question not answered at the meeting will be taken on notice and a written response will be provided to the person asking the question.

In accordance with the Council Governance Rules 2020, the Chairperson may disallow a question if it:

- a) relates to a matter outside the duties, functions or powers of Council;
- b) is defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or substance;
- c) may lead to a breach of Council's statutory obligations;
- d) relates to a Notice of Motion, Petition or item of urgent business;
- e) deals with a subject matter already answered;
- f) is aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or an Officer; or
- g) deals with a matter that should be, or has been, considered as a confidential matter or relates to any matter in respect of which Council may close the Meeting to the public under section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

No questions directed at an individual Councillor or Officer will be allowed

SUBMISSIONS OR COMMENTS

Members of the public may make a comment or 2 minute submission on a report listed on the Agenda (unless not permitted pursuant to the Councils Governance Rules) prior to the item being debated.

A person who is unable to stay at the meeting until the Agenda item is heard, may make their comment or submission during Question Time. If a person or their representative is not present in the gallery when the agenda item is considered, their submission will not be read out.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION OR MAKE A COMMENT OR SUBMISSION

Members of the public who wish to ask a question, or make a comment or submission to an agenda item, at an Ordinary Council Meeting may register their question or submission before 12.00 noon on the day of the meeting in one of the following ways:

- (a) online at darebin.vic.gov.au/questionsandsubmissions; or
- (b) by mail to PO Box 91, Preston 3072.

Council meetings can be viewed at the Watch Council and Planning Committee meetings page.

Agenda's will be available for viewing on Council's website at the 'Meeting Agendas and Minutes' page by 5pm, up to 6 days prior to the date of the meeting.

7. PETITIONS

8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

8.1 NORTHCOTE GOLF COURSE – OPERATING MODEL OPTIONS

Author: Acting Manager Recreation & Libraries

Reviewed By: Acting General Manager Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following an extensive community consultation, Council resolved at its meeting on 23 May 2022 to implement spatial sharing at the Northcote Public Golf Course site. This resulted in an additional 5.72 hectares of open space for the community, while maintaining a 9-hole golf course (on a smaller site) for golf users.

Council's resolution requested further investigation into temporal sharing opportunities through the management contract for the operation of the Northcote Public Golf Course.

This report outlines three main options for the management model of the Golf course for Council consideration:

- Option A – golf focused
- Option B – golf with community use after 3pm
- Option C – golf with community use one day a week

On balance Option A (golf focused) is recommended ahead of Option C (golf with one day a week community use), and Option B is not recommended. The main reason for this is that the benefit of community access is not thought to outweigh the greater financial cost of temporal sharing. A key consideration underpinning this recommendation is that in this location there is community access to large open spaces nearby, including Mayer Park and the 5.72Ha area which Council has decided to release back to open space. The community uses that could be provided on the golf course itself can also be provided on other nearby open spaces and there is not a particular benefit to providing them specifically on the golf course. Option C has been assessed as the best 'temporal sharing' model and is generally regarded as viable (subject to findings from any upcoming tender, and noting that this is an untested model in Australia).

Should Council endorse the recommendation to proceed with a golf-focused Tender, Tenderers would be asked to implement creative options to further activate the course for those looking to participate in golf-adjacent and non-golf pastimes. Council would identify the best option through the Tender evaluation process. At the conclusion of the Tender process officers would negotiate the specific of creative activations and confirm them in the contract.

Should Council wish to understand temporal shared-use options (option B or C or both) further, officers recommend using an Expression of Interest process prior to a formal public tender process. If Council decided to do this, a new management contract is estimated to start on 1 July 2023.

Officer Recommendation**That Council:**

- (1) Endorses the commencement of a public tender for a golf-focused operating model at Northcote Public Golf Course, noting that tenderers would be asked to implement creative options to further activate the course for those looking to participate in golf-adjacent and non-golf pastimes.
- (2) Endorses the inclusion of the following principles into the management contract and operating model to implement creative options to further activate the course for those looking to participate in golf-adjacent and non-golf pastimes:
 - a) Access and inclusion
 - b) Health and wellbeing
 - c) Increased participation by target groups (older adults, people with a disability, women and girls, children and youth, LGBTQI+, people from a CALD or Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background, people experiencing financial hardship)
 - d) Community connection and social outcomes
 - e) Sustainable and environmental initiatives

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

Early in its term, Council resolved to seek to understand how Northcote Public Golf Course might be made available for broader community use. Council also resolved to seek the views of a broad range of stakeholders via community engagement which has been completed. The Engagement Report was presented to Council at its meeting on 23 May 2022. Community consultation identified there was significant public interest in the future use of the site, and responses were varied and from a wide-reaching audience.

At its May 2022 meeting, Council resolved to implement spatial sharing at the site. This provided an additional 5.72 hectares of open space for the community, while maintaining a 9-hole golf course (on a smaller site).

Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy identifies that the City of Darebin has an undersupply of open space in the municipality. Currently, Northcote West is not identified as a high priority area in Darebin for increasing open space. It does not have any lots with no access to open space within 500 metres, and in 2018, had 19.1 hectares of open space per capita, much higher than Preston West (8 ha/pc), Reservoir South (1.9 ha/pc) and Thornbury East (5.6 ha/pc).

The golf course management contract would be put in place for a reasonably short term and would allow Council to progress discussions with the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Heritage Aboriginal Corporation about land hand back and management across Darebin, and to keep any future options at this site open.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 27 June 2022, Council resolved:

'That Council:

Resolves to receive a report at its Ordinary Council meeting in July 2022 to consider the operating model for the Northcote Golf course, which includes options that might activate the course for golf prior to 3pm with non-golf options after 3pm.

At its meeting held on 23 May 2022, Council resolved:

'That Council:

- 1) *Endorses 'Option A' for shared use of the Northcote Golf Course site including decommissioning the southern most hole, retaining a 9-hole golf course, developing a new northern park, delivering a new eastern boundary path and unlocking approximately 5.72 hectares of park land for broader community shared use (Appendix B).*
- 2) *Seeks briefings from officers on: a. terms and conditions of a new golf course management contract for the course including options that might activate the course for golf prior to 3pm with non golf options after 3pm.*
- 3) *Commissions a report to examine a. the condition of the buildings on the site and how these buildings could be used to activate the space and encourage further shared use; and, b. Opportunities for private investment or a public/private partnership to develop a commercial and/or social enterprise venture for the site including hospitality and events;*
- 4) *Calls for a review of fencing of the site to determine how access and security can best be managed for shared use.*
- 5) *Writes to The Hon. Ros Spence MP to thank the State Government for its contribution towards this project, continues negotiation on grant terms and conditions and seeks a further State Government funding contribution to the capital development of the site as endorsed by Council.*
- 6) *Incorporates necessary funding into the proposed 2022-23 budget (\$100,000 for the buildings' business case plus costs associated with option A) which will be considered by Council at a meeting in June 2022.*
- 7) *Commences work related to the recommended option including the reconfiguration of one fairway, changes to tees and greens and other capital improvements for delivery of shared use of the space in the 2022/2023 financial year.*
- 8) *Thanks the community for their valuable and considered input made during the community engagement and publishes the Northcote Golf Course Community Engagement Report (Appendix A) on the Your Say page.'*

ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Strategic Direction 1: Vibrant, Respectful and Connected

ALIGNMENT TO 2021-25 COUNCIL PLAN

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

2.1 We will deliver equitable and accessible infrastructure to provide opportunities for our community to live well

2-4 Undertake community consultation about the future shared use of the Northcote Golf Course land

DISCUSSION

No examples of temporal shared-use golf courses in Australia operating with non-golf activity after a specific time have been identified through investigation with industry providers and associated bodies. The closest examples are golf courses open to the public as follows:

- Albert Park Golf Course is open to the public after the last tee time (dusk) with a walking track through the course for public access.
- Some private residential courses have walking paths through the course, supporting both public walking access and golf simultaneously. Access is generally for residents and there is little evidence to support other community members accessing these courses.
- Golf is played at the Old Course at St Andrews (Scotland) six days per week throughout the summer months.

It is widely accepted that passive community access, while not encouraged, occurs on public golf courses where they are accessible. This access contributes to the risk of community members playing golf for free if there is unrestricted access to the course – there is a safety risk to other users that arises from this if golf is occurring at times when it should not be.

Options for consideration:**Option A: Golf Course Management and Services (golf focused) – recommended**

In this option, Golf would be played 7 days, although it would be open to operators to run open days or other community participation activities in order to meet the requirements of the Tender to increase participation levels with key target groups.

Tenderers would also be encouraged to consider creative options to further activate the course for those looking to participate in golf-adjacent and non-golf pastimes and this would be considered as part of the evaluation of the Tender. For example, Northcote Public Golf Course currently offers Footgolf daily from 12pm as a non-stick golf option to encourage greater activation and participation.

Tenderers would be required to demonstrate how they will actively increase participation levels for key target community groups as well as support improved social outcomes identified in Council's Strategic Plans including opportunities for community connection and improving community health outcomes. This option would be aligned with Council's aims and objectives focused on inclusion, access, equity, health and wellbeing.

A new Northcote Public Golf Course management contract would offer an initial contract period up to 30 June 2026 (3.5 years) with a further two-year extension period.

Financial

While the financial benefit cannot be confirmed until the market responds, current management contract fees cost Council approximately \$150K per annum (net cost). Given

recent increases in rounds played, the Tender will aim for more favourable financial outcomes for Council and financial outcomes would be one key evaluation criteria.

This option is estimated to be better financially for Council than temporal shared use options. The main reasons for this are:

- Longer hours for golf use which enables revenue collection
- No 'change over' costs between golf use and other uses such as cleaning or maintenance.

Despite the limitations of the 9-hole Northcote Public Golf Course where the infrastructure requires upgrading, an operator may, through the Tender response, show interest in investment, increasing the opportunity for participation, activation and revenue.

In 2021-22, 25,775 rounds of golf were played at Northcote Public Golf Course. This is higher than the 24,494 rounds of golf played in 2020-21 and the average of 18,900 rounds played per year between 2015-16 to 2019-20. Socially distanced sports and exercise have grown in popularity as a result of the pandemic.

Other Considerations and Risks

Unauthorised access by community members may continue, with the potential for additional expenses as experienced during COVID lockdowns; however, as the COVID lockdown circumstances were unusual, it is difficult to determine the extent of any potential damage. The fencing review would need to consider how best to support the golf-focused approach.

While timing is tight, this option is expected to be able to start on 1 January 2023. The tender process is straightforward with market clarity around expectations.

Tenderers would be asked to implement creative options to further activate the course for those looking to participate in golf-adjacent and non-golf pastimes. Evaluating the tender proposals would include considering this specifically and in this way the Tender process would identify the best option for Council. At the conclusion of the Tender process officers would negotiate the specifics of creative activations. As a guide, the types of golf and non-golf activities that Tenders could propose include:

- beginner clinics for juniors, women, adult
- school holiday programs
- schools
- social events & programs for corporate groups or local businesses
- open days
- movies in the park
- laser tag
- augmented reality
- inclusion and celebration activities for example (but not limited to) IDAHOBIT or NAIDOC week.
- Fun runs & walks
- This Girl Can
- Childrens' Week activations
- Get Active Victoria
- DarebinMOVES

- Outdoor pilates
- Wildflower exhibitions

Option A is recommended.

Option B: Golf with community use after 3pm – not recommended

Under Option B, the Northcote Public Golf Course golf management contract would be as per Option A with the additional requirement of a tenderer implementing a 3pm temporal (timed) shared use approach to the golf course, releasing the course for active or passive shared use after 3pm each day.

A tenderer may choose to partner with other organisations to activate the course for non-golf use after 3pm. This could include social enterprises or organisations seeking to maximise the opportunity of the community use component.

Should Council wish to pursue a Temporal shared use model, this model is not the model recommended. Option C has been assessed as having greater benefit and lower cost. Note that there are limits to the information available as this is an untested operating model.

Should Council wish to test the market to understand this option further, Officers recommend an Expression of Interest process prior to a formal public tender process. To enable this, a new management contract would start 1 July 2023.

Financial

Generally, with fewer golf hours, a shared use model would be expected to generate less golf-related revenue than if all hours are available for golf, however it is not clear to what extent other uses during the non-golf hours would be commercially attractive.

With temporal shared use of the course, it is likely additional resourcing would be required to ensure the course is fit-for-purpose following shared-use periods/days; therefore, a reduction in golf operating hours could result in increased operational maintenance costs as well as reduced revenue generated from golf rounds played. Based on activity during COVID lockdowns, community access to Northcote Public Golf Course resulted in additional expenses for Council (through the operator) for additional resourcing to clean up the course:

- Alcohol and food consumption on and around the course, resulting in litter.
- Damage to greens and debris on the course and close to facilities.
- Bunkers were damaged through play and pets using the sand as a litter box.
- Additional course maintenance required up to 30% additional fertilizers and chemicals in response to increased foot traffic across greens and fairways.

The final tee-off time would need to be set 2 hours before changeover as it generally takes 2 hours to play 9 holes, eg 1pm for a 3pm changeover. Using 3pm as the changeover time, analysis of Northcote Public Golf Course participation from 1 May 2021–1 May 2022 indicates 40% of participants attend the course after 1pm.

The financial effectiveness of the model is difficult to test, as this has not been implemented elsewhere for comparison or benchmarking. Council would encourage tenderers to consider establishing partnerships so that tenderers bring both 'golf operations' capability and non-golf activation capability.

Other Considerations and Risks

A temporal shared-use operating model with reduced golf operational hours may limit the number and quality of tender responses received. The outcome of a shared contract model is unknown and would be heavily reliant on the underlying principles set for evaluation to consider the effectiveness and value of the model.

The golf operator's capacity to achieve Council's participation, access and equity aims and objectives in relation to golf may be diminished by the reduced golf operational hours, however, this may be offset by activation partnerships.

The reduced golf operating hours may be less attractive to an experienced golf operator, as there may be reduced additional revenue opportunities such as food, beverage and merchandise sales, equipment hire and golf lessons.

Due to the current facility configuration and security concerns, there may be no public toilet access when the golf operator is not onsite.

With the course remaining open and accessible, golfers may continue to access the course for golf during community access hours, thereby creating a public liability risk.

Option B is not recommended.

Option C: Golf with community use one day a week (Sunday)

Under Option C, the Northcote Public Golf Course golf management contract would be as per Option A with the additional requirement of a tenderer implementing a Sunday temporal (timed) shared use approach to the golf course, releasing the course for active or passive shared use each Sunday. A tenderer may choose to partner with other organisations to activate the course for non-golf use on Sundays.

Should Council wish to pursue a Temporal shared use model, this model has been assessed as preferred over option B, although there is not an example of this in Australia and there remains a risk that it may not be attractive to operators. Should Council wish to test the market to understand this option further, Officers recommend an Expression of Interest process prior to a formal public tender process. To enable this, a new management contract would start 1 July 2023.

Financial

Generally, with fewer golf hours, a shared use model would be expected to generate less golf-related revenue than if all hours are available for golf, however it is not clear to what extent other uses during the non-golf hours would be commercially attractive.

With temporal shared use of the course, it is likely additional resourcing would be required to ensure the course is fit-for-purpose following shared-use Sundays; this may increase operational costs. It is also reasonable to expect a reduction in revenue as a result of golf only being played on six rather than seven days each week.

As per Option B, based on activity during COVID lockdowns, community access to Northcote Public Golf Course resulted in additional expenses for Council (through the operator) for additional resourcing to clean up the course.

Analysis of Northcote Public Golf Course participation from 1 May 2021–1 May 2022 indicates 17% of participants attend the course on Sundays. Sunday is the most popular day

for casual usage. The Northcote Golf Club currently plays competitions each Saturday morning.

Other Considerations and Risks

A temporal shared-use operating model with reduced golf operational hours may limit the number and quality of tender responses received. The outcome of a shared contract model is unknown and would be heavily reliant on the underlying principles set for evaluation to consider the effectiveness and value of the model.

The financial effectiveness of the model is difficult to test, as this has not been implemented elsewhere for comparison or benchmarking. Council would encourage tenderers to consider establishing partnerships so that tenderers bring both 'golf operations' capability and non-golf activation capability.

Generally, with fewer golf hours, a shared use model would be expected to generate less golf-related revenue than if all hours are available for golf.

While it is not clear to what extent other uses during the non-golf hours would be commercially attractive, there are also not generally commercial uses where the golf course provides a 'better' opportunity than nearby parkland such as the 5.72Ha that Council has recently decided to open up. In many ways, other parkland is more flexible for non-golf uses than the golf course itself.

Due to the current facility configuration and security concerns, providing public toilet access when the golf operator is not onsite could be difficult or come at a cost.

With the course remaining open and accessible, golfers may continue to access the course for golf during community access hours, thereby creating a public liability risk.

While Option C has been assessed as the best 'temporal sharing' model and is generally regarded as viable (subject to findings from any upcoming tender), on balance officers recommend Option A ahead of Option C. The reason for this is that the benefit of community access is not thought to outweigh the greater financial commitment required, and in this location there is community access to large open spaces nearby, so the benefit of community access to this specific space doesn't enable new types of open space uses – in short, the types of community uses that could occur on the golf course, could also occur on nearby open spaces.

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

Financial Management

Financial considerations have been detailed for each option above. A summary is provided below:

Options	Financial Impact
Option A: Golf Course Management and Services (golf only)	No significant change expected to current Northcote Public Golf Course financial position for management of operations.
Option B: 3pm Temporal (Timed) Shared Use Golf Course Management and Services and Activation	Possible 40% impact to Council based on 3pm usage analysis. Potential 30% increased course clean-up expenses.

Options	Financial Impact
Option C: Sunday Temporal (Timed) Shared Use Golf Course Management and Services and Activation	Possible 17% impact to Council based on Sunday usage analysis. Potential increased course clean-up expenses.

Community Engagement

Extensive community consultation has been undertaken to date with details and analysis reported in previous Council papers. This remains relevant to this decision and full details can be found in the report to Council at the 23 May 2022 Council Meeting which is available on Council's website as part of the Agenda for this 23 May 2022 Meeting. No further community engagement has been undertaken since then.

Any temporal shared-use options would have a significant impact on the golf clubs located at Northcote Public Golf Course and current license agreements for access to buildings; therefore, further key stakeholder consultation should be considered at the appropriate time.

Other Principles for consideration

Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

- (d) the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;

Public Transparency Principles

- (c) Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community;

Strategic Planning Principles

- (b) strategic planning must address the Community Vision;

Service Performance Principles

- (a) services should be provided in an equitable manner and be responsive to the diverse needs of the municipal community;

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)

There are no direct consequences on environmental sustainability considerations of this report. However, any subsequent Council decision can directly contribute to mitigating the climate emergency through, for example, rewilding, tree planting, joint waterway management (with Melbourne Water), weed management and cultural Caring for Country with Traditional Owners.

Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:

The service principles to be included in the specification for golf have a strong connection and alignment to Council policies, plans and strategies and include specific KPIs for monitoring and adherence. The inclusion of these service principles ensure social outcomes

such as: employment, participation, access, equity, inclusion, environmental sustainability and healthy eating goals are achieved, with analysis on performance reported on a regular basis. KPIs focussing on participation, sustainable facilities, access and inclusion and health and wellbeing outcomes will be outlined throughout the specification and in the tender return schedules.

Council made a broader resolution on 26 April 2022 relating to land across Darebin, which seeks to explore handing back land and responsibility for land management using a respectful partnership engagement approach. At this time, formal feedback about the Northcote Public Golf Course site hasn't been provided to Council. The recommendation in this report would not prevent future consideration based on specific feedback about this site.

Economic Development and Cultural Considerations

Economic development opportunities will be explored through the public Tender or EOI which will enable Council to test the market for the best golf adjacent and non-golf activation at the Northcote Public Golf Course.

Operational Impacts

Any change in the shared-use of the area is likely to have impacts on operations and maintenance. The tender will enable Council to secure best value for management of the site including to ensure it is managed and maintained.

Legal and Risk Implications

Officers have explored whether to tender for multiple options, however to minimise risk this is not a recommended process.

To minimise probity risks officers have recommended either selection of one clear option to public Tender, or use of an expression of interest process to pursue

If one option is endorsed for public Tender the market and community would have certainty and it would enable a robust and transparent procurement process to be undertaken.

A temporal shared-use activation may result in increased risk to Council through the potential for additional public liability incidents. Although insurance costs are unlikely to be impacted, the increased access to the area may result in additional claims to Council in the event of an incident.

Other risks have been detailed for each option above.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Based on recommended Option A:

Time	Action
August-September 2022	Public Tender advertised Tender briefing for registered interested parties
September 2022	Public Tender closes and evaluated
October 2022	Council Briefing on tender process and outcomes
November 2022	Council Meeting to endorse new management contract
December 2022	Transition planning
1 January 2023	New operator/s commences Course and parkland reconfiguration works completed 5.72 hectares of parkland available for community use

Should an alternative option be endorsed, timelines would be extended with a likely new operator commencing 1 July 2023.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Item 8.2 (page 125) of the Council meeting Agenda 23 May 2022: [Agenda of Council Meeting - Monday, 23 May 2022 \(darebin.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/Agenda-of-Council-Meeting-Monday-23-May-2022)

Attachments

Nil

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

8.2 ADVOCACY PLATFORM 2022**Author:** Interim Chief Executive Officer**Reviewed By:** Interim Chief Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report proposes advocacy priorities for 2022 in the draft 2022 Advocacy Platform. Advocacy is a key way that Council supports its community. It advocates on behalf of its community to ensure other levels of government understand local community needs, opportunities and challenges, and to secure support for policy change and local investment. Council draws on extensive community engagement and relationships to inform its advocacy work.

The period spanned by the 2022 Advocacy Platform is the lead up to the 2022 Victorian State Government Election (to be held on Saturday 26 November 2022). The proposed 2022 Advocacy Platform is therefore primarily focused on matters within the Victorian Government's remit.

Priority policy matters proposed in the 2022 Advocacy Platform include: social housing, homelessness, mental health and reducing harm from gambling. There is need for much greater action and investment than is currently underway by the State Government.

Priority advocacy for investment in local community infrastructure includes transport safety matters to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers, sports infrastructure including to increase gender inclusive facilities, and investment to stimulate the local economy, including as a renewable and circular economy.

Once adopted, the 2022 Advocacy Platform will be implemented through direct representation from the Mayor and senior staff to decision makers and candidates, a local community campaign, and by working with regional alliances and partners.

Council's four-year Advocacy Strategy remains Council's long term and comprehensive guide in relation to Advocacy.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Endorse the 2022 Advocacy Platform as attached to this report.
 - (2) Notes that the Chief Executive Officer (and delegates) will implement Council's 2022 Advocacy Platform in line with this report.
-

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

To deliver on the *Darebin Council Plan (2021-2025)*, Council endorsed a new four-year *Darebin Advocacy Strategy (2022-2026)* in April 2022. This Strategy set out Council's advocacy goals and objectives comprehensively and provides the basis for broad advocacy by council on a wide range of its strategic goals and priorities over time. The purpose of the Strategy and its implementation is for Council to influence and secure Federal and State Government investment and policy commitments to benefit the local community.

In April 2022, Council noted that a 12-month 2022 Advocacy Platform would be developed for consideration at a future Council Meeting. The intent is that each year, aligned with each Mayoral term, Council will establish its annual Advocacy Platform: it's priorities for the year ahead. The 12 month Advocacy Platform allows Council to focus its effort to be most effective and adjust priorities each year to take account of the context.

By selecting 12 month priorities, Council is not prevented from advocating from any matter in the Advocacy Strategy – Council can always respond to opportunities or issues that arise during a 12 month period.

State Election in 2022

The 2022 Advocacy Platform will set out Council's priorities during the period that leads up to the 2022 Victorian State Government Election on 26 November 2022. This creates an opportunity to ensure all candidates understand the priorities and needs Council has identified through its work with the local community.

The proposed 2022 Advocacy Platform is therefore primarily focused on matters relating to the Victorian Government's remit rather than the Federal Government's remit, although there is some overlap. The recommended priorities for the 2022 Advocacy Platform have been selected to meet the following objectives:

- Secure funding for near term projects and secure commitment to major long-term projects that leads to funding in future years.
- Advocate on critical strategic policy goals have a significant impact on the Darebin community and which are not being sufficiently dealt with by the Victorian Government to meet local needs - for example social housing.
- Foster key relationships that will enable policy advocacy to succeed in the longer term.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 26 April 2022, Council resolved:

'That Council endorse the Theme 1 Area of - Environment, Climate Change and Renewable Energy in the Advocacy Report - Darebin Advocacy Strategy 2022 -2026.

And

That Council:

- 1) *Endorse the 4-year Darebin Advocacy Strategy (2022-2026) contained in Appendix A (noting the exclusion of Theme 1 Area of Environment, Climate Change and Renewable Energy which has been separately adopted) subject to the following addition*

Advocate to the Victorian State Government for the introduction of Cultural Diversity Equity Act modelled on the Gender Equality Act (2020) that will require the Victorian public sector, local councils and universities to take positive action towards achieving workplace cultural diversity equity, promote equity in their policies, programs and services and establish a Public Sector Cultural Diversity Equity Commissioner to provide education, support implementation and enforce compliance.

- 2) *Note that the advocacy priority relating to the recognition of, and for, Aboriginal People, contained in the Darebin Advocacy Strategy (2022-2026) is proposed to be further refined and finalised through ongoing consultation, input and guidance from the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.*
- 3) *Note that all relevant advocacy priorities contained in the Darebin Advocacy Strategy (2022-2026) will be further refined through ongoing engagement with Darebin's respective Community Advisory Committees.*
- 4) *Note that Darebin will develop a 12-month 2022 Advocacy Platform, and which will be considered at a future Council Meeting.*
- 5) *Writes to the Level Crossing Removal Program and the Department of Transport advising them of Council's intention to seek their approval for the closure of the western entries to Showers, Esther, Adeline and Gertrude Streets in Preston, should the State Government proceed with locating the Bell Station car park on the eastern side of the railway line, as per Council's previous resolutions.*
- 6) *Incorporates into the Advocacy Strategy a call on the State Government to:*
 - a) *establish an appropriate enquiry into how it manages graffiti and dumped rubbish on state government land; and,*
 - b) *significantly increase funding for graffiti removal and removal of dumped rubbish on land owned by the state government.*
- 7) *Endorse the 4 year Darebin Advocacy Strategy (2022-2026) contained in Appendix A, with the following changes*

Add the following 'ask' to page 55 of the Advocacy Strategy: "Advocate for it to be easier for co-ownership and intergenerational living arrangements to occur, including addressing planning barriers and financial barriers."

ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Strategic Direction 1: Vibrant, Respectful and Connected

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

Strategic Direction 3: Climate, Green and Sustainable

ALIGNMENT TO 2021-25 COUNCIL PLAN

Strategic Direction 4 Responsible, Transparent and Responsive

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Many of Council's strategic objectives require either policy change or investment at Victorian Government level in order to be fully achieved.

Council has established a number of Actions in the Council Plan Action Plan that specifically outline Advocacy.

DISCUSSION

The draft 2022 Advocacy Platform has been developed and recommended to Council with a focus on the opportunity to advocate on State Government matters to candidates in the lead up to the Victorian election.

The priorities for strategic policy matters recommended include social housing, homelessness, mental health and reducing harm from gambling. For all these there is need for much greater action and investment than is currently in progress by the State Government.

The Platform proposes priorities for seeking investment in community infrastructure improvements including on transport safety matters to improve safety for all, sports infrastructure including to increase gender inclusive facilities, and to stimulate and support the local economy, including as a renewable and circular economy. These priorities have been recommended considering Council's 10 year Capital Works plan, its Advocacy Strategy and relevant community infrastructure plans and strategies.

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

Financial Management

Advocacy for investment in local community infrastructure, whether delivered by Council or the State Government, can benefit the Darebin Community. Any funding support will help Council deliver additional community infrastructure or services.

Cost of implementation of this advocacy program is provided for within the 2022-23 operating budget.

Community Engagement

The Advocacy Platform has not been specifically put out for community consultation. Community engagement has been undertaken extensively in regards to the Council Plan, which the Advocacy strategy and this platform is designed to implement, and many of the specific projects identified have been subject to consultation, either via development of a strategy, infrastructure plan or project specific consultation, or as part of the budget consultation.

Other Principles for consideration

Effective advocacy helps other levels of government understand local priorities and gives voice to local needs in policy and investment decisions.

Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

- (b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- (f) collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;
- (h) regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;

Public Transparency Principles

- (c) Council information must be understandable and accessible to members of the municipal community;

Strategic Planning Principles

- (c) Strategic planning must take into account the resources needed for effective implementation;

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)**

It is proposed that Council prioritise advocacy for a renewable energy and circular economy precinct in Darebin which would demonstrate practical transition to a climate zero economy.

Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:

A specific Equity Impact Assessment (EIA) and Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has not been undertaken in establishing the Platform. Proposed priorities include social housing and homelessness, health, mental health and wellbeing, which, if successful will improve wellbeing, inclusion, equity and support people of all genders. Many of the programs and projects that are proposed as priorities for advocacy have had EIAs and GIAs completed.

Economic Development and Cultural Considerations

Proposed priorities include improvements for the Reservoir and Preston precincts. Improving these local places is expected to support the local economies.

The investment Council is seeking to establish a renewable energy and circular economy precinct in its industrial areas is expected to support economic development of the local economy as well as to assist the Australian economy in transitioning to efficient technologies, and to drive innovation.

Operational Impacts

Implementation of the advocacy campaign will be undertaken within the operating budget that has been established for 2022-23.

Legal and Risk Implications

There are not particular legal risks with the proposed 2022 Advocacy Platform.

There are public relations risks – particularly for high community interest topics where there is not support from key stakeholders. Of the proposed priorities, the potentially contested topics are:

- Protect Preston Market – there is a high level of community interest in protecting the market, generally aligned with Council’s advocacy. The developer and owner are key stakeholders in this matter and have expressed different views to Council.
- Bell Station Car Park access point – there is high level of local community interest in moving the access point to prevent vehicle access via quiet local roads, which is generally aligned with Council’s advocacy. However, so far the State Government has replied with a strong ‘no’ in regards to Council’s request to move the access point to the West.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Once Council has confirmed its 2022 Advocacy Platform, implementation will proceed in four main streams of work from July to November 2022.

- Direct advocacy to decision makers and potential decision makers (candidates), delivered through a series of meetings with the Mayor (or delegated councillor), supported by senior staff.
- Work with regional partnerships and allies to elevate Darebin’s voice and effectiveness, including via the M9 group of Councils and the Northern Councils Alliance.
- Advocacy where applicable from Council officers to relevant State Government agencies and/or specialist support staff for Ministers and MPs.
- Running local community campaigns in the lead up to the election to build local support for key local improvements. This campaign will be designed to have community members raise local priorities with their local candidates. This would be targeted locally (ie, the Reservoir community would be asked to support key Reservoir projects etc). May include:
 - Support materials local community could use to get in touch with local candidates directly.
 - Promotion via local community networks (schools, neighbourhood houses, sporting groups, cultural groups).
 - Instagram/facebook campaigns.
 - Corflute signage or other visible campaign materials.
 - Invitations to candidates to tour the local area or to meet and discuss.

Short promotional materials be will be produced to support this work including to support meetings with allies and decision makers, and to support community communications.

These will include:

- Fact sheets by location (Reservoir, Preston, Bundoora, Fairfield & Northcote).
- Fact sheets by key theme (Road safety, Social housing and homelessness, Mental health, health, education and wellbeing).
- Materials developed in partnership with regional alliances including the M9 group of Councils and the Northern Councils Alliance.

Community campaign

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Council Alliances

- M9 group of Councils: [M9](#)
- Northern Councils Alliance [Home | NCA \(northerncouncils.org.au\)](http://northerncouncils.org.au)
- Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action [NAGA - Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action](#)

Attachments

- Advocacy Platform Draft 2022 (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

2022 Advocacy Platform – Draft

Theme	Priorities
Rezza revitalisation	<p>Extend and expand the work of the Reservoir Revitalisation Board to support local economic and community development and local job, skills and training opportunities.</p> <p>RLC and Wellbeing Hub</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Centre will address inequality and key local socio-economic challenges. Council is seeking funding towards concept design and commitment to partner in redevelopment funding. • Council is seeking an investment of between \$30 million and up to \$60 million from Federal and State governments towards a major redevelopment of the RLC as a future Health and Wellbeing Hub. <p>Local recreation, parks and environment priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Hall Pavilion - \$3m • \$500k for the construction of the Edwardes Lake Playspace • Donath East Pavilion - \$3m • KP Hardiman Pavilion - \$3m • Blake Reserve Pavilion - \$3m • \$1m to construct the Ruthven Wetland • Rewild Cheddar Rd with 500,000 plants, shrubs and grasses • CH Sullivan playspace renewal (\$80K) • GE Robinson Park – fitness equipment upgrade \$50K <p>Local transport improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fix the safety issues at the Boldrewood Parade and Broadway intersection in Reservoir. • Introduce an electric orbital bus route along the proposed SRL corridor, connecting Reservoir to Sunshine, Melbourne Airport, Fawkner, La Trobe University and National Employment and Innovation Cluster (NEIC). • Chandler Bus Highway: a new bus route and express bus lane to connect La Trobe University to Burnley Station via the Chandler Highway. • Route 86: upgrade the 14 tram stops on tram route 86 to accessible tram stops. • The number 11 tram route should be extended to and along Edwardes Street, Reservoir, to Reservoir Station, we're asking the Victorian government to fund a feasibility study and to establish an electric bus route in the meantime. • More buses more often - especially East-West routes.

Theme	Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in cycling network improvements including in the Streets for People corridors, the Strategic cycling corridors and the Regional trails network which connects Darebin with the wider region.
Preston	<p>Protect Preston Market.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preston Market is the heart of our community, but its unique features are under threat of unnecessary demolition. We are fighting to protect the historical, cultural and social value of the market itself, and to ensure that any developments in the precinct are designed with consideration for the site’s heritage as well as its potential. <p>Establish a new Preston Revitalisation Board building on the success of the Board in Reservoir. The new Preston Board would support local economic and community development and local job, skill and training opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinvigorate High Street through a program of streetscape improvements – footpath upgrade, tree planting kerb extensions, public realm improvements etc. Activate High Street through the redevelopment of the Council-owned building at 421 High Street, Preston <p>Intercultural centre funding</p> <p>Global learning hub funding</p> <p>Local recreation, parks and environment improvements projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$10m to redevelop the pavilion and lighting at Preston City Oval TW Blake Park upgrade \$500K HP Zwar playspace renewal \$100K AG Davis playspace renewal \$150K <p>Transport improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bell Station car park access from the west. The Level Crossing Removal Authority should change the design so that the car park entrance is from the West and avoids traffic on local streets. \$4m to fund the renewal of the bridge Kendal-Harding Bridge Route 86: upgrade the 14 tram stops on tram route 86 to accessible tram stops. Preston to CBD Safe Cycling Corridor: comprehensive and inclusive community engagement to improve safety and accessibility along St Georges Road for cyclists, pedestrians, public transport users, motorists, local residents and traders (indicative cost \$4 million). Miller Street/High Street/Plenty Street/Dundas Street traffic signal phasing changes in response to fatality and ongoing safety concerns (indicative costs \$150,000).

Theme	Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifications to Miller Street and Gilbert Road tram roundabout to improve safety (indicative cost \$1 million). • Improvements to Bus Services: improve routes and increase the frequency of train, tram • Elizabeth Street, Bell Street, and Nicholson Street intersection – improvements to pedestrian and bike riding safety. The intersection has narrow footpaths and is not conducive to a safe walking or cycling environment (indicative costs between \$ million and \$5 million).
Social Housing and Homelessness	<p>Work with the new federal government to reform the social housing system to ensure there is sustainable funding to meet demand and to operate housing effective.</p> <p>Continue investing in social housing and introduce mandatory inclusionary zones so that developments in areas close to services, jobs and transport are required to provide social housing.</p> <p>Invest in targeted homelessness prevention programs and support services for groups at heightened risk of homelessness, notably young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people living with a disability and women over 55.</p> <p>Invest in specialist assertive outreach and case management services to assist people who have experienced homelessness to move away from homelessness and into social and affordable housing.</p> <p>Continue and expand the High-Risk Accommodation Program (HRAR) to ensure that experiencing homelessness are no longer subject to the risk of harm when residing in high risk accommodation.</p> <p>Advocate for it to be easier for co-ownership and intergenerational living arrangements to occur, including addressing planning barriers and financial barriers.</p>
Renewable and Circular economy	<p>Create an Urban Renewable Energy and Circular Economy Precinct.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darebin is calling for an Urban Renewable Energy and Circular Economy precinct to be established in the North East of Melbourne, where it would help power the La Trobe National Employment and Innovation Cluster. This ensure the NEIC can access competitive and secure renewable energy close to where it is needed. • The La Trobe NEIC is expected to create 20,000 jobs. The Federal and State Government has an opportunity to partner with local government, La Trobe Uni and industry leaders to pilot and scale-up the place-based renewable and circular solutions we will need in cities to ensure our local economies survive, thrive and grow.

Theme	Priorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We would work with other levels of government to pilot practical and policy solutions, such as special use zones, to introduce renewable energy and a circular economy. Technology could include: an urban solar farm, a network of community batteries, and advanced IT systems that connects roof top solar, batteries and EVs, turning them into a 'Virtual Power Plant.' <p>Invest \$2 million to develop a regional circular economy hub in Darebin, including through a business case to consider opportunities through the Darebin Resource and Recovery Centre.</p>
Sports Infrastructure and wellbeing	<p><i>All the Preston and Reservoir sports improvements above, as well as the following:</i></p> <p>Expand support for Gender inclusive sports infrastructure to accelerate efforts.</p> <p>Invest in Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre - \$10m.</p> <p>Support to help Council create shared use at Northcote Golf course between community and golfers.</p>
Transport priorities	<p><i>All the Preston and Reservoir transport improvements above, as well as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fairfield Safety Improvements - fund and install safety improvements in Fairfield, including a new pedestrian crossing on Station Street at Wingrove Street. Construct a new Alphington Rail Spur shared use path, and provide open space, a direct pedestrian and cycling connection between Fairfield Activity Centre, Fairfield Railway Station and the Alphington Paper mill precinct, and provide an economic boost to Fairfield Village. Miller Street/High Street/Plenty Street/Dundas Street traffic signal phasing changes in response to fatality and ongoing safety concerns (indicative costs \$150,000). Modifications to Miller Street and Gilbert Road tram roundabout to improve safety (indicative cost \$1 million). Lower default speed limits around schools and in residential streets including through the introduction of traffic calming and other measures. State Government support to implement actions and outcomes from Your Street Your Say program, specifically in relation to improved freight operations (\$500,000). Address hooning – greater Police effort and presence.
<i>Health, mental health, education and community wellbeing</i>	<p>Funding for local Early Childhood Education infrastructure to meet the demand of future expansion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment of capital investment for integrated childcare centres in the north of Darebin to provide childcare, kindergarten, Pre-Prep and other services for children, families and communities. There is a need for new

Theme	Priorities
	<p>intergenerational hubs in Reservoir West, Preston West and Preston East.</p> <p>Mental health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding early intervention and prevention services and programs to promote positive mental wellbeing for children in the middle years in Darebin. • Local Adult Mental Health service expansion to serve communities in the Darebin area. <p>Reduce harm from gambling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease and restrict opening hours for EGM operations in Victoria, to 14 hours a day maximum, with all poker machines being off between midnight and 10am. • Commit to extending any new harm minimisation measures recommended and implemented via the Royal Commission into the Casino Operator Licence at Crown Casino, throughout all suburban EGM venues throughout Darebin and Greater Melbourne. • Partner with Darebin Council around targeted local initiatives, services and programs that can respond to, address and prevent harm associated with alcohol and gambling across the municipality.
Graffiti, dumped rubbish management and amenity	<p>Establish an appropriate enquiry into how the State Government manages graffiti and dumped rubbish on state government land; and,</p> <p>Significantly increase funding for graffiti removal and removal of dumped rubbish on land owned by the state government, including rail corridors.</p>

8.3 LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL PROJECT (LXRP) - GRANGE ROAD ASSET OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Author: Strategic Planner

Reviewed By: Acting General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Grange Road Level Crossing was removed in 2018 and the train line was lowered under Grange Road. As it was one of the first level crossings in Victoria to be removed, the process for asset allocation and maintenance was not well established, and consequentially the handover of new community assets from Grange Road was never finalised.

The Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) have requested that Council take on ownership and associated maintenance of a small number of new assets which include drainage, a shared user path, planting and benches.

The assets delivered were a result of Council and the communities' successful advocacy campaign to improve the local area around Grange Road. LXRA improved the connectivity and amenity of the local area through the construction of pedestrian and cyclist paths and increased planting of trees and landscaping throughout the project area.

While it is acknowledged that taking on these new assets will have an ongoing impact on budgets and operational matters, it is a small ongoing commitment and overall recommended because the benefit to our local community of properly maintaining these assets outweighs the cost.

It is therefore recommended that the CEO be authorised to finalise and execute the handover documentation to take ownership and maintenance responsibility for non-rail infrastructure assets delivered through the Victorian Government led Grange Road level crossing removal project.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to execute the handover documentation for the Grange Road Level Crossing Removal Project, which will confirm Council's ownership and maintenance commitments of the non-rail infrastructure assets, generally as outlined within this report.
 - (2) Writes to VicTrack requesting a review of municipal wide maintenance responsibilities for VicTrack owned, Council maintained land.
-

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

In 2017, the Victorian Government Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) (now known as LXRP), commenced work to remove the Grange Road level crossing. Community consultation was undertaken in March 2017 to identify urban design issues and opportunities for the site. The major issues identified by Council and the community was the disconnect and usability of the shared user path for pedestrians and cyclists around Grange Road, and

the poor amenity adjacent to train line. Officers and the community advocated for improvements to the paths and landscaping. The LXRA engaged directly with the Darebin Bicycle User Group (DBUG) to develop preferred cycling routes. The resulting design improved cyclist facilities/paths, repositioned overpass bridges to meet Council and DBUG route requests, improved streetscape planting, pedestrian connectivity and general amenity of the surrounding area. The project and surrounding areas were constructed and complete by the end of 2018.

In December 2018 Council signed an In-Principle Agreement that detailed the Asset Ownership and Maintenance plans for Grange Road. This In-Principle Agreement outlined that Council would take ownership and maintenance of new areas of landscaping, drainage, bench seating and shared user paths, across Council and VicTrack land.

When the project was delivered there was a two-year defect liability period, during which the LXRA managed and maintained the landscaping assets. In November 2020 Council officers completed a walk through with the LXRA to inspect and identify any issues with the assets that required resolution, and any outstanding issues were rectified.

Since then officers have been working with the LXRA to finalise a draft license agreement, deed transfer of assets and allocation plans to complete this handover process.

Table 1 below provides a summary of the key activities to date in relation to Asset Ownership, Management and Maintenance for the Grange Rd level crossing removal project:

Table 1 – Key activities – Grange Road LXRA	
2017	Commencement of works for removal of the Grange Rd level crossing.
December 2018	Construction of the lowered rail line complete and operational.
December 2018	In Principle Agreement on assets ownership and maintenance signed.
November 2020	Project teams inspect and rectify any asset issue.
Current	Finalisation of handover documentation

Previous Council Resolution

On 20 June 2016, Council resolved;

That Council:

- (1) *Note the contents of this Council Report and the consultations undertaken to prepare the three Urban Design Principle Reports attached as Appendix A to this report.*
- (2) *Endorse these Principles (Appendix A) to guide Council's negotiations with the Level Crossing Removal Authority and State Government agencies so as to achieve the most beneficial outcomes for the community; and*
- (3) *Note that Officers will continue to engage proactively with the Level Crossing Removal Authority throughout their consultation and planning around these three sites in order to maximise community benefits.'*

ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

ALIGNMENT TO 2021-25 COUNCIL PLAN

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

2.5 We will invest in services and the built environment to improve access for our residents and visitors

DISCUSSION

Throughout the design phase of the Level Crossing Removal Project for Grange Road, Council and the community advocated to the Victorian Government for improved pedestrian and cyclist environments and landscaping. The project was completed in 2018 and has delivered assets which are considered to have met Councils desired urban design outcomes.

As an organisation, LXRA were setup to deliver the removal of level crossings but were not established to be an ongoing asset manager, nor provided with the required budget to support ongoing asset maintenance. The new assets delivered as part of the Grange Road project need to be maintained, and LXRA have requested Council formally take on ownership and maintenance of them. The non-rail assets include a section of drainage pipes, shared user path, bench seating and landscaping (including trees).

Asset allocation

Due to the method of construction, lowering the rail line did not release much more land for community use. This means that the assets being transferred to Council, and the associated ongoing cost of maintenance is relatively low.

The assets proposed to be transferred to Council are within the area shown on the map at **Appendix A**. These include a small section of drainage pipes, shared user path, landscaping (including trees) and benches as outlined in Table 2 below:

Table 2 – Overview of assets to be maintained by Council (Grange Road)		
Asset	~Total before	Total after
Drainage	0	47 m
Shared user path	990 sqm	3549 sqm
Landscaping - planting, grass etc.	2689 sqm	1455 sqm
Trees	41	110
Bench seats	0	7

Council are being asked to own and maintain these new assets. The estimated cost for the ongoing maintenance of these new assets is outlined in Table 3:

Table 3 – Estimated cost of Council asset maintenance (Grange Road) per annum		
Asset	Maintenance before	New maintenance
Drainage; landscaping, shared user path, benches, line marking.	\$6,050	\$16,000

Benefits of taking over assets

The new assets have provided our community with an improved public realm outcome, constructed and delivered to Council at no cost. As the asset owner, Council would be able to ensure the quality management and standard of maintenance for these assets. It would also give Council control over things like approach to biodiversity management and species selection. Ownership provides more flexibility to adjust the spaces over time and to look after assets to a standard that the community expects.

Risk for taking on assets

Owning and maintaining assets comes with risks. Asset damage and unexpected maintenance costs can impact budgeting and operational management. However, Council has the necessary liability insurance and indemnity to cover these risks.

Risk of not taking over assets

If Council does not agree to take on the non-rail assets, it is reasonable to expect that State Government agencies would maintain them at a minimal level, or not at all. It would be reasonable to expect infrequent weeding, mowing and other maintenance to be done. This may result in the creation of an 'orphan' asset, with no authority taking responsibility for maintenance standards. Such creation of orphan assets brings to Council unavoidable costs.

There are other orphan assets that exist across the municipality. It is therefore recommended that Council write to VicTrack to request a wholesale review of VicTrack owned, and Council maintained assets across the municipality to help clarify land maintenance responsibilities.

On balance it is considered that the benefits presented for Council owning and maintaining non-rail infrastructure assets at Grange Road outweigh the costs. It is therefore recommended that Council agree to the asset ownership and maintenance of the non-rail assets at Grange Road.

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES

Financial Management

The assets that Council will accept ownership, management, and maintenance responsibility for and the financial implications of this decision are discussed within the body of this report.

Community Engagement

There will be no discernible change or impact to our community as a result of this decision. In fact, making this decision will make it easier for Council to understand who is responsible for assets should a community member call about an issue or problem on the Grange Road interface. No community engagement is required as this is an operational matter only.

Other Principles for consideration

Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles

- (b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;

Public Transparency Principles

- (a) Council decision making processes must be transparent except when the Council is dealing with information that is confidential by virtue of this Act or any other Act;

Strategic Planning Principles

- (a) an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting is to be adopted;

Service Performance Principles

- (d) a Council should seek to continuously improve service delivery to the municipal community in response to performance monitoring;

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)**

NA

Economic Development and Cultural Considerations

NA

Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations

Council maintenance will ensure these assets are maintained at a level expected by our community, ensuring they remain accessible for all.

Operational Impacts

The ongoing operational matters are considered within the discussion section of the report. There will be strategic and ongoing operational issues associated with maintenance of the new non-rail assets.

Legal and Risk Implications

Any legal and risk issues with the handover of new assets will be addressed within the associated handover documents such as licence agreement.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Should Council endorse the recommendation, the Chief Executive Officer will:

- Execute the handover documentation for the Grange Road Level Crossing Removal Project, confirming Council's ownership and maintenance commitments of the non-rail infrastructure assets, generally as outlined within this report.
- Write to VicTrack requesting a review of municipal wide maintenance responsibilities for VicTrack owned, Council maintained land.

Attachments

- LXR P Grange Road Location of Assets (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- LXR P Grange Road, Alphington - Asset Allocation Map (**Appendix B**) [↓](#)


DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

Appendix A – Grange Road – Level Crossing Removal - Asset Allocation Map




 Approximate area to be maintained by Council



Appendix A – Grange Road – Level Crossing Removal - Asset Allocation Map



 Approximate area to be maintained by Council



8.4 GOVERNANCE REPORT - JULY 2022

Author: Senior Council Business Officer

Reviewed By: General Manager, Governance and Engagement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The matters covered under the Governance Report for the month of July 2022 are:

- Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefing and other informal meetings of Councillors.
- Reports by Mayor and Councillors.
- Responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the Council Meeting held on 27 June 2022.
- Summary Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 29 June 2022.
- Appointment of additional members to the Darebin Nature Trust.
- Appointment of members to the Darebin Domestic Animal Reference Group.
- Appointments to the CEO Employment Matters Committee.

Officer Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the Governance Report – July 2022.
- (2) Notes the Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefings and other Informal Meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
- (3) Notes that reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
- (4) Notes the responses to questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the Council meeting held on 27 June 2022, at **Appendix B** to this report.
- (5) Notes the Summary Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 29 June 2022 at **Appendix C** to this report.
- (6) Appoints _____ and _____ to the Darebin Nature Trust for a term to align with the current appointees.
- (7) Appoints following 7 members to the Darebin Domestic Animal Reference Group for a term of 2 years:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

- (8) Note that Councillor Susanne Newton has reconsidered their interest in being part of the CEO Employment Matters Committee as provided for in the resolution of Council at its meeting on 26 April 2022.
- (9) Appoints Councillor Susanne Newton to the CEO Employment Matters Committee for the duration of the recruitment of the CEO up to confirmation of appointment, taking the Committee membership to 9 Councillors
- (10) Make an administrative change to the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter to reflect this appointment, in the 'composition' section that the Committee will be constituted by an independent chairperson and nine Councillors, and in both the 'composition' and 'meetings' sections reflect a quorum of six members will be necessary to transact business of the Committee.
- (11) Note that the appointment of an independent conduct and probity advisor for the CEO Employment Matters Committee and CEO recruitment was not made, following the appointment of the Municipal Monitor – Mr John Watson and confirmation that Mr Watson would be in attendance at CEO Employment Matters Committee meetings throughout the recruitment process.

BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules 2020, the agenda for each Ordinary Meeting is required to list certain governance / administrative matters in addition to other specified items. These include Reports of Standing Committees i.e. Hearing of Submissions Committee, Summary of Meetings i.e. Briefings, Advisory Committee, responses to Public Questions taken on notice and reports by Mayor and Councillors.

In accordance with best practice, good governance principles, transparent and account reporting, officers deem it appropriate to consolidate governance / administrative type nature reports into one standing report to provide a single reporting mechanism for a range of statutory compliance, transparency and governance matters. This also ensure compliance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* ('the Act'), Council's Governance Rules and related regulations.

Additionally, this report incorporates matters including but not limited to reporting of advisory committees, items relating to the delegation of Council powers, policy and strategy reporting, and the reporting on Councillors' expenses.

Matters covered in this report for the month of July 2022 are:

Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefing and other informal meetings of Councillors

Council's Governance Rules 2020 require any meeting of an Advisory Committee established by Council and attended by at least one Councillor, or a scheduled or planned meeting to discuss the business of Council, including briefing Councillors, and which is attended by at least half of the Councillors and one member of Council staff (excluding Council, Delegated Committee or Community Asset Committee meetings), the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the meeting is:

- a) Tabled at the next convenient Council meeting; and
- b) Recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting

The summary of the meeting should include:

- a) Time, date and location of the meeting;
- b) Councillors in attendance;
- c) Topics discussed;
- d) Positions of council officers in attendance;
- e) The organisation that any attendees external to council are representing; and
- f) Conflicts of interest declared, including the reason

The following Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefings or other Informal Meetings of Councillors are summarised at **Appendix A**:

- Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake Task Force Meeting – 5 June 2022
- Darebin Nature Trust – 7 June 2022
- Audit and Risk Committee – 29 June 2022
- CEO Employment Matters Committee – 4 July 2022
- CEO Employment Matters Committee – 11 July 2022
- Councillor Briefing Session – 11 July 2022

Reports by Mayor and Councillors

By 4.00pm on the day of each Ordinary Council Meeting, the Mayor and Councillors submit a report detailing their attendance at various functions and activities since the last Council Meeting. These reports will be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

Responses to Public Questions taken On Notice – Council meeting 27 June 2022

Councils Governance Rules require responses to question from the public taken on notice to be recorded in the minutes of the next Ordinary Council meeting.

Questions taken on notice at the Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 June 2022, and subsequently responded to are provided at **Appendix B**.

Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Summary Minutes

The summary minutes for the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 29 June 2022 are provided at **Appendix C** to this report for transparency to both Council and the Darebin community.

Appointment of additional members to the Darebin Nature Trust

Brief Overview of the Darebin Nature Trust and Summary of Recruitment Process

The Darebin Nature Trust (DNT) is an Advisory Committee of Council that considers and provides advice on:

- Matters affecting biodiversity and the natural environment in Darebin's open space;

- Identifying opportunities to improve biodiversity, open space and urban liveability for Darebin;
- increasing the profile of Darebin's green spaces and local biodiversity to the broader community;
- Raising awareness, educating and building community custodianship of our natural spaces so that Darebin's biodiversity is valued; and
- Advocacy and action to secure, protect and enhance green space for current and future generations.

The Committee has regard to and acts in accordance with Council's strategic objectives and priorities, specifically:

- The Council Vision
- Council Plan
- Towards Equality Framework
- Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
- Breathing Space: the Darebin Open Space Strategy

Key issues DNT will consider over the next 12 -24 months include:

- Darebin Nature Plan
- Rewilding Darebin
- Improving Edwardes Lake and Edgars Creek
- Community Planting Guide and Universal Planting Standards
- Gardens for Wildlife, Citizen Science and other community programs and initiatives

Darebin Nature Trust currently has five community members from various professional backgrounds but has limited representation from Darebin's diverse social and cultural community.

In April 2022, Council undertook a targeted Expression of Interest (EOI) seeking submissions from the community to fill the remaining positions on the committee. Advice was sort from Darebin's Community Development; Communication and Engagement; and Equity and Access Teams to develop a strategic approach to specifically seek out applications representative of Darebin's diverse communities including:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background
- Culturally and linguistically diverse community members
- A person with a disability
- A student or early career person (18-25)
- LGBTQI identity

Despite intensive advertising and outreach to community groups within Darebin, only two applications were received as part of the EOI. Both applications were assessed against key selection criteria followed by an online interview with Council officers. The selection process included consideration of the extent to which the applicant had skills complementary to council's in-house expertise and would represent the broader demographic diversity within

the Darebin community. Both applicants met the criteria and are recommended to be appointed to the Darebin Nature Trust for a term that aligns with the current appointees.

A summary of the recommended applicants is provided as a confidential attachment at **Appendix D**.

Appointment of members to the Darebin Domestic Animal Management Reference Group

Brief overview of Darebin Domestic Animal Management Reference Group (DAMRG) and Summary of Recruitment Process

The purpose of DAMRG is to provide strategic advice and recommendations to Council in relation to implementing the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025 including:

- Effective cat and dog management
- Domestic animal issues within the community
- Increasing registration and identification of dogs and cats
- Reducing the number of dogs and cats impounded to the shelter
- Identifying opportunities to work collaboratively to improve animal outcomes
- Advise and inform activities for the implementation of the domestic animal management plan 2022 -2025
- Advise council on issues and barriers that affect pet owners, non-pet owners, open space users and threats to local flora and fauna
- Make recommendations to council (where appropriate) regarding matters affecting the interests of pet owners, non-pet owners, open space users, domestic animal businesses and organisations.

Recruitment for DAMRG occurred throughout May and June. A total of 9 EOI applications were received.

DAMRG needs to reflect the diversity of Darebin's animal community, representing pet owners, animal businesses and organisations, VET nurses, open space users and local flora and fauna. This was a key consideration in the selection and recruitment of members. The recruitment process also identified the broader contribution applicants have made to animal management.

Recruitment was conducted in the form of EOI where applicants expressed their interest and answered a series of questions. Interviews were also conducted before final applicants were selected to be put forward for Council's consideration and appointment. Consideration was also given to applicants that have made a positive and collaborative contribution to the previous DAMRG

It is recommended to appoint 7 applicants based on the initial EOI, overall interview interaction, the contribution applicants can make to the group, previous and current involvement and experience with animals within Darebin and the overall commitment for a positive outcome for Council's service delivery.

Committee members are recommended to be appointed for an initial 2-year term. Three meetings of the Committee will be held each year.

A summary of the recommended applicants is provided as a confidential attachment at **Appendix E**.

Appointment to the CEO Employment Matters Committee

At its meeting on 26 April 2022, Council considered the composition of the CEO Employment Matters Committee. At this time Council appointed Councillors Dimitriadis, Greco, Laurence, McCarthy, Hannan, Rennie, Williams and Messina for the duration of the recruitment of the CEO up to confirmation of appointment, acknowledging that Cr Newton indicated at the March Council meeting they she not wish to be a member of the Committee.

Council resolved that Council provide the opportunity for Councillor Newton to reconsider their interest in being part of the CEO Employment Matters Committee at any point throughout the process.

Councillor Newton advised Councillors and the Committee Secretariat on 18 July 2022 that she had reconsidered her interest and requested the opportunity to be appointed to the CEO Employment Matters Committee. The recommendation to appoint Councillor Newton is in response to this interest and is consistent with the Council resolution on 26 April 2022.

Any change in composition of this Committee impacts the CEO Employment Matters Committee Charter. The current Charter requires five of the nine members to be present for quorum, with one of these required to be the Independent Chair. The appointment of Councillor Newton would increase the Committee to ten members and consequently it is proposed that the quorum increase to six members (the independent chair and five Councillors) through an administrative change to the Committee Charter.

A secondary component on appointment relating to the Committee relates to the appointment of an independent conduct and probity advisor for the CEO Employment Matters Committee and CEO recruitment, resolved by Council at its meeting on 26 April 2022. This appointment was intended to demonstrate best practice sector leadership to attend and observe each meeting associated with the appointment of the interim and permanent CEO and report to Council.

The Municipal Monitor, Mr John Watson, commenced on 26 April 2022. In early May there was discussion with Councillors and Mr Watson regarding the approach to recruitment of the interim and permanent CEO and the intended appointment of the independent conduct and probity advisor. This followed discussion between Mr Watson and Mary Crooks, independent chair of the CEO Employment Matters Committee. Mr Watson confirmed his intention to attend all CEO Employment Matters Committee meetings throughout the recruitment process, this forming part of the terms of reference of his appointment by the Minister for Local Government. There was broad agreement that in light of this information, the appointment of an independent probity and conduct advisor would not be necessary. This matter is reported to Council in the interests of completeness and transparency.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO 2041 DAREBIN COMMUNITY VISION

Strategic Direction 1: Vibrant, Respectful and Connected

Strategic Direction 2: Prosperous, Liveable and Flourishing

Strategic Direction 3: Climate, Green and Sustainable

ALIGNMENT TO 2021-25 COUNCIL PLAN

Strategic Direction 4 Responsible, Transparent and Responsive

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (2020) PRINCIPLES**Financial Management****Overarching Governance Principles and Supporting Principles**

- (i) the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**Environmental Sustainability Considerations (including Climate Emergency)**

Nil

Equity, Inclusion, Wellbeing and Human Rights Considerations:

Nil

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

NA

Related Documents

Nil

Attachments

- Summary of Meetings - Council Meeting 25 July 2022 (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- Responses to the Questions taken on notice - 27 June 2022 (**Appendix B**) [↓](#)
- Minutes Summary - Audit and Risk Committee Meeting - 29 June 2022 (**Appendix C**) [↓](#)
- Summary of Darebin Nature Trust Recommended Applicants (**Appendix D**) Enclosed under separate cover Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Summary of Darebin Domestic Animal Reference Group Recommended Applicants (**Appendix E**) Enclosed under separate cover Confidential - enclosed under separate cover

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any conflicts of interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.



SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake Task Force Meeting
	Date:	Tuesday 5 June 2022
	Location:	Online via Microsoft Teams
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Gaetano Greco (Chair) Cr. Susanne Newton (Proxy)
	Council Staff:	Lee McKenzie Ben Smith Raine Reddy Millie Wells
	Other:	Record non-Council people (not names) in attendance: A representative from each of the agencies were present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melbourne Water • Environmental Protection Agency • Yarra Valley Water • Friends of Edwardes Lake • Friends of Merri Creek • Reservoir Frogs Water Watch • Moreland City Council
APOLOGIES:		Merri Creek Management Committee

The Meeting commenced at 4pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Welcome and acknowledgment of Country	No disclosures were made
2	Confirmation of previous minutes	No disclosures were made.
3	Recreational fishing at the Lake	No disclosures were made.

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS – PUBLIC RECORD (CONT)

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4	Speed Updates - Round table discussion of activities being undertaken within the catchment	No disclosures were made.
5	Water Monitoring Framework for Edwardes Lake	No disclosures were made.
6	Taskforce Priorities as determined in Collaboration Agreement (monitoring and the event)	No disclosures were made.
7	Conservation plan for Edwardes Lake and Edgars Creek	No disclosures were made.
8	Review of action Items	No disclosures were made.
9	Meeting dates for the year	No disclosures were made.

The Meeting concluded at 5.45pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Millie Wells
	Officer Title:	Principal – Environmental Strategist

This form is to be completed by the nominated Council Officer and returned to the Council Business Team within 3 working days for inclusion the agenda of the next Council meeting and in the register available for public inspection.



SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Darebin Nature Trust
	Date:	Tuesday 7 June 2022
	Location:	Online via Microsoft Teams
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Lina Messina Cr. Tom Hannan (Chair)
	Council Staff:	Lee McKenzie Millie Wells
	Other:	Community members (5)
APOLOGIES:		Cr. Trent McCarthy

The Meeting commenced at 5:00pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Project updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edwardes Lake Taskforce • Rewilding Darebin • City Nature Challenge 2022 • Street Tree Planting 	No disclosures were made.
2	Biodiversity Management Plan	No disclosures were made.
3	Renaming Ruthven	No disclosures were made.
4	Community Planting Guidelines	No disclosures were made.
5	DNT recruitment	No disclosures were made.
6	Biodiversity Officer Role	No disclosures were made.
7	Other business – Mynas	No disclosures were made.

The Meeting concluded at 7:04pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Millie Wells
	Officer Title:	Principal Environmental Strategist

This form is to be completed by the nominated Council Officer and returned to the Council Business Team within 3 working days for inclusion the agenda of the next Council meeting and in the register available for public inspection.



SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
	Date:	29 June 2022
	Location:	Council Chambers, Darebin Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Committee Members:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Tripodi (Independent External Member) (Chairperson) • Dr. Marco Bini (Independent External Member) • Mr. Jonathan Kyvelidis (Independent External Member) • Cr. Lina Messina (Mayor and Committee Member) (arrived at 9.50 am) • Cr. Tom Hannan (Committee Member)
	Council Staff:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Rachel Ollivier – Interim Chief Executive Officer # • Ms Jodie Watson – General Manager Governance and Engagement • Ms Anita Craven – Acting Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy # • Ms Bobbie-Lea Bright - Coordinator Risk and Improvement (Item 8.1) • Ms Vanessa Petrie – Acting General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy (attended for Item 9.3 only) • Mr Brett Grambau – Acting General Manager Operations and Capital (attended for Item 9.3 only) • Mr Shadi Hanna – Acting General Manager Community (attended for Item 9.3 only) • Mr Peter Strods – Acting Manager Information Services (attended for Item 6.3 only) • Mr Lalitha Koya – Manager Information Services (attended for Item 6.3 only) • Mr Matt Harman – Coordinator Safety and Wellbeing (attended for Item 8.2 only) # • Ms Michelle Van Gerrevink – Acting Manager Climate Emergency & Sustainability Transport (Item attended for Item 8.3 only) • Mr Srinivasan – Acting Manager Finance (Item for items 7.1 and 7.2 only) • Mr Michael O’Riordan – Coordinator Financial Accountant (attended for Item 7.1 and 7.2 only) • Ms Kathryn Pound – Manager City Development (Item 8.1)
		Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Ilker Destan – Audit and Compliance Officer
		# attending virtually

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS – PUBLIC RECORD (CONT)

	Other:	<p>Internal Auditor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kapil Kukreja (Director – Risk, Assurance & Advisory HLB Mann Judd) • Mr. Mark Hollway – Partner, Audit & Assurance, HLB Mann Judd) # <p>External Auditor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil Delahunty – Partner, RSD Audit <p>#attended virtually</p>
APOLOGIES:		Sarah Noel – Chief People and Culture Officer

The Meeting commenced at 9.05am

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country	
2	Apologies	
3	Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest	None declared
4	Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Audit Committee Meeting	Action 1
5	CEO Quarterly Update	Action 2, Action 3, Action, Action 5
6	Standing Reports	6.1 – Actions Arising From Previous Meeting 6.2 - Committee Work Plan Report 6.3 – Information Services Report Action 6, Action 7, Action 8
Item 7	Financial Reports	7.1 – Quarterly Financial Report Action 9 7.2 – VAGO Interim Management Letter for the year ended 30 June 2022 Action 10
Item 8	Risk Management	8.1 – Quarterly Risk management Report Action 11, Action 12 8.2 – Quarterly Safety Report Action 13 8.3 – Strategic Risk – Contamination Management Report Action 14

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS – PUBLIC RECORD (CONT)

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
Item 9	Internal Audit	9.1 – Internal Audit Program and Audit Scope Approval Action 15 9.2 – Completed Internal Audits Action 16 9.3 – Outstanding Audit Actions Report Action 17 , Action 18 9.4 – Recent Report and Publications
Item 10	Governance	10.1 – Committee Management Report 10.2 – LGPRF 2021/22 Mid Year Report

The Meeting concluded at 12.40pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name: Officer Title:	Bobbie Bright Coordinator Risk and Improvement
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This form is to be completed by the nominated Council Officer and returned to the Council Business Team within 3 working days for inclusion the agenda of the next Council meeting and in the register available for public inspection.



SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	CEO Employment Matters Committee
	Date:	4 July 2022
	Location:	Conference Centre, Melbourne Polytechnic, Preston
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Lina Messina (Mayor), Cr. Emily Dimitriadis, Cr. Gaetano Greco, Cr. Julie Williams, Cr. Susanne Newton, Cr. Susan Rennie Cr. Emily Dimitriadis departed at 11.55am and re-joined at 1.10pm Cr. Tim Laurence and Cr. Trent McCarthy joined the session virtually on MS Teams at 5.26pm
	Council Staff:	Jodie Watson, GM Governance & Engagement (Item 4.3) Joined the session at 5.25pm
	Other:	John Watson, Municipal Monitor (Item 4.1 & 4.3) Departed at 9.30am. Returned at 5.00pm
APOLOGIES:		Cr. Tom Hannan

The briefing commenced at 9.15am

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.1	Pre-Interview Discussion	No disclosures were made
4.2	Interviews for the CEO position	No disclosures were made
4.3	Post Interview Discussion	No disclosures were made

The session concluded at 5.51pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Jodie Watson
	Officer Title:	General Manager Governance & Engagement

This form is to be completed by the nominated Council Officer and returned to the Council Business Team within 3 working days for inclusion the agenda of the next Council meeting and in the register available for public inspection.



SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	CEO Employment Matters Committee
	Date:	11 July 2022
	Location:	Conference Centre, Melbourne Polytechnic, Preston
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Lina Messina (Mayor), Cr. Trent McCarthy (Deputy Mayor), Cr. Emily Dimitriadis, Cr. Gaetano Greco, Cr. Tom Hannan, Cr. Susanne Newton, Cr. Susan Rennie Cr Dimitriadis joined the session at 11.14am Cr McCarthy left the session at 3.30pm
	Council Staff:	Jodie Watson, GM Governance & Engagement (Item 4.1 & 4.3) Departed at 11.20am. Returned at 3.30pm
	Other:	John Watson, Municipal Monitor (Item 4.1 & 4.3) Departed at 11.20am. Returned at 3.10pm
APOLOGIES:		Cr Tim Laurence

The briefing commenced at 11.05am

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.1	Pre-Interview Discussion	No disclosures were made
4.2	Interviews for the CEO position	No disclosures were made
4.3	Post Interview Discussion	No disclosures were made

The session concluded at 4.23pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Jodie Watson
	Officer Title:	General Manager Governance & Engagement

This form is to be completed by the nominated Council Officer and returned to the Council Business Team within 3 working days for inclusion the agenda of the next Council meeting and in the register available for public inspection.



SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

MEETING DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing Session
	Date:	11 July 2022
	Location:	Council Chambers
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Lina Messina (Mayor), Cr. Trent McCarthy (Deputy Mayor), Cr. Emily Dimitriadis*, Cr. Gaetano Greco, Cr. Tom Hannan, Cr. Susanne Newton, Cr. Susan Rennie Cr. Tim Laurence joined the briefing at 5.12pm Cr. Lina Messina left the briefing at 5.30pm.
	Council Staff:	Rachel Ollivier, Interim CEO (Item 4.2) Jodie Watson, GM Governance & Engagement Sam Hewett, GM Operations and Capital Vanessa Petrie, Acting GM City Sustainability and Strategy Shadi Hanna, Acting GM Community (Item 4.1) Melanie McCarten, Acting Manager Recreation and Libraries (Item 4.1) Josie MacCartney, Leisure Major Projects Officer (Item 4.1) Daniela Davies, Leisure Contracts Coordinator (Item 4.1) Kathryn Pound, Manager City Development (Item 4.3) Alex McKenna-Cocks, Principal Planner (Item 4.3) Matt Cullen, Coordinator Statutory Planning (Item 4.3)
	Other:	John Watson, Municipal Monitor (4.51pm - 5.32pm)
APOLOGIES:		

The briefing commenced at 4.51pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.1	Northcote Golf Course - Operating Model Options	None

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS – PUBLIC RECORD (CONT)

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4.2	Advocacy Priorities 2022	Cr Hannan advised that he had a potential conflict in relation to his role with a State Government Department. Cr McCarthy noted that the Kendall Street Bridge was referenced in the document and noted that he lives in the vicinity. No conflict was declared.
4.3	Update on Development proposal at 30-32 St Georges Road, 47-49 Showers Street and 32-42 Oakover Road, Preston	None
4.4	CEO Update – Verbal - Special Council Meeting and appointment of an external Councillor Conduct Officer	None
4.5	General Business - Community Grants matter	None

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- 5.1 **Governance Report - Appointment of Darebin Domestic Animal Reference Group (DDAMRG)**
- 5.2 **Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) - Grange Road Asset Ownership and Maintenance Agreement**

The briefing concluded at 7.15pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Jodie Watson
	Officer Title:	General Manager Governance & Engagement

This form is to be completed by the nominated Council Officer and returned to the Council Business Team within 3 working days for inclusion the agenda of the next Council meeting and in the register available for public inspection.

Question and Submission Time

Council Meeting – 27 June 2022

**Question and Submission Time –
Questions taken on notice**

Pursuant to the Councils Governance Rules the response to a question from the public taken on notice must be recorded in the minutes of the next Ordinary Council meeting.

At the Council meeting held on 27 June 2022, the following questions were taken on notice by the Chairperson, Mayor Messina

1. Name: Jessica Sullivan of Reservoir

The Pensioner Rebate for General Rates hasn't increased since the 2013/14 budget, despite cost of living spiralling out of control in the last eight years, this rebate is only available to aged pensioners, disability pensioners and Dept of Veteran Affairs card holders. The new waste charges outside of the rates only offer concessions if a property is valued below \$500,000, but does not take into account the income of the ratepayer to provide relief to those experiencing financial hardship. A high income person in a \$499,000 apartment gets the concession, but a low income person in a \$501,000 unit will be charged up to \$100 year more.

Why doesn't Darebin City Council offer any rate relief for those experiencing financial hardship who are not also a pensioner? Why won't Council extend the pensioner rebate to include those on Low Income Cards? Why has Council introduced the waste charge without any relief available to financially vulnerable people, such as pensioners and low-income earners? And why isn't the pensioner rebate increasing with the costs of inflation?

Response from Jodie Watson, General Manager Governance and Engagement

Holders of a Centrelink Pension Concession Card or a Veteran Affairs Gold card that stipulates TPI or War Widow may claim a \$150 rebate on their principal place of residence. Upon initial application, ongoing eligibility is maintained, unless rejected by Centrelink or the Department of Veteran Affairs during the annual verification procedure.

Upon confirmation of eligible pensioner concession status, the pensioner rebate is deducted from the rates account. If you are already a registered pensioner with Council this rebate will be automatically applied.

For new pensioners the rebate is applied automatically upon successful application for the State Government Pension concession rebate. This application can be made at any time via our website (link to form)

A Safety Net Concession has been established for 2022/23 to ensure any ratepayer experiencing hardship as a result of the introduction of the Kerbside Waste Collection Charge has access to support.

This concession is available for residential properties that are the primary residence only and valued above \$500,000 (as determined by the Valuer General), where there will be a financial impact experienced as a result of the above changes, and will be capped at \$100 where a green waste collection service is in place or \$157.00 where a green waste

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Question and Submission Time

Council Meeting – 27 June 2022

collection service is not in place. The concession will have the effect of removing the financial impact of the introduction of the Kerbside Waste Collection Service Charge. The Safety Net Concession will be applied directly by Council for all pensioners registered for the Pensioner Rebate and no application will be necessary.

Like all local governments across Victoria, Darebin City Council levies rates and charges to enable us to deliver valued services and programs to the community. However Council also recognises there are people in the community who face financial hardship. Our Rates Financial Hardship Policy is aimed to support Darebin ratepayers facing genuine financial hardship.

Assistance can only be granted to individuals experiencing financial hardship for payment of rates on their principal place of residence.

2. Name: John Nugent of Epping

Question 1.

My question is about the Special Council Meeting on 24 November 2021 to elect a Mayor for the 2021/2022 Council Year. It was closed to the public. A small number of family members were able to attend and adhere to the requirements of the pandemic order (of the time).

How many Council Staff were present including Hall Keepers and catering staff?

How many family members were invited and attended?

Could Council post a copy of the pandemic order which allow family members to attend?

Response from Corporate Governance

Question 1.

Thank you for your question, at the Special Council Meeting held in the Preston City Hall on 24 November 2021, State Government directives at that time were followed, and minimal staff were in attendance. While we are unable to provide you with exact numbers, there were approximately 11 Council staff in attendance and Councillors were limited to invite only a small number of family members. Council used its discretion to limit the number of people to ensure the health and wellbeing of those in attendance as the density limits were eased just prior to the meeting. As a result, the amount of people in attendance on the night was well within the density limits. Any specific pandemic orders issued by the Premier around that period can be accessed via the Victorian Government website.

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3. Name: Keith Coffey of Reservoir

I represent the Men's shed in Reservoir and the men are getting worried. For the last two years, with the virus and the construction. The plans have been submitted to Council. We all want to know how long it is going to take to get the plans through. Council have looked after the Shed and the Community Centre for years. Two years, nothing has been done and the community has missed out on the asset of the Men's shed.

Three months ago, at the last meeting I attended the staff came to my rescue when I needed help and it was very touching. I wanted to make sure I said this in public, the staff here are wonderful. That is all, thank you.

Response from Vanessa Petrie, Acting General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy

The Acting GM spoke with Mr Coffey after the Council meeting, and followed up the permit status. A Planner and Acting GM have updated Mr Coffey, advising that the permit is expected to be considered at the end of July. The Acting GM also advised she will keep Mr Coffey updated.

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the place
to live

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Monday 29 June 2022
at Darebin Civic Centre, 350 High Street Preston 9.00
a.m.



WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2022 - 9:04 AM

Attendees

Members

- Ms Lisa Tripodi (Independent External Member) (Chairperson)
- Dr. Marco Bini (Independent External Member)
- Mr. Jonathan Kyvelidis (Independent External Member)
- Cr. Lina Messina (Mayor and Committee Member)
- Cr. Tom Hannan (Committee Member)

Internal Auditor

- Mr. Mark Holloway – Partner, Audit and Assurance, HLB Mann Judd #
- Mr. Kapil Kukreja – Director, Risk, Assurance and Advisory, HLB Mann Judd

External Auditor

- Mr. Phil Delahunty – Partner, RSD Audit

Council Officers

- Ms Rachel Ollivier – Interim Chief Executive Officer #
- Ms Jodie Watson – General Manager Governance and Engagement
- Ms Anita Craven – Acting Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy #
- Ms Bobbie-Lea Bright - Coordinator Risk and Improvement (Item 8.1)

- Ms Vanessa Petrie – Acting General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy (Item 9.3 only)
- Mr Brett Grambau – Acting General Manager Operations and Capital (Item 9.3 only)
- Mr Shadi Hanna – Acting General Manager Community (Item 9.3 only)
- Mr Peter Strods – Acting Manager Information Services (Item 6.3 only)
- Mr Lalitha Koya – Manager Information Services (Item 6.3 only)
- Mr Matt Harman – Coordinator Safety and Wellbeing (Item 8.2 only) #
- Ms Michelle Van Gerrevink – Acting Manager Climate Emergency & Sustainability Transport (Item 8.3 only)
- Mr Srinivasan – Acting Manager Finance (Item 7.1 and 7.2 only)
- Mr Michael O’Riordan – Coordinator Financial Accountant (Item 7.1 and 7.2 only)
- Ms Kathryn Pound – Manager City Development (Item 8.1 only)

Minutes

- Mr Ilker Destan – Audit and Compliance Officer

These participants attended virtually

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

29 JUNE 2022

IN CAMERA DISCUSSION (IF REQUIRED)

No in camera discussion required

1. WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Chair presented the Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed the Committee members and all attendees present at the meeting.

The Chair acknowledged the following new appointments:

- Jonathan Kyvelidis – External independent Committee member
- Rachel Ollivier – Interim Chief Executive Officer
- Anita Craven – Acting Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy
- Bobbie-Lea Bright – Coordinator Risk and Improvement
- Ilker Destan – Audit and Compliance Officer.

2. APOLOGIES

- It was noted that Mayor Cr Lina Messina was running late and arrived at a 09:50 am.
- Sarah Noel – Chief People and Culture Officer

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared

Although not a conflict, Marco Bini mentioned his recent appointment to the Audit and Risk Committee of Whittlesea City Council.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee approved the minutes as a true and correct record of the previous meeting held in March 2022, noting that Craig Geddes's name be removed as the only change.

5. CEO QUARTERLY UPDATE (VERBAL)

The Committee noted the verbal update provided by the Interim Chief Executive Officer.

6. STANDING REPORTS**6.1 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Committee noted the status of the action items from the previous meeting.

KEY FINDING

Management have progressed all business actions arising from previous meetings.

6.2 COMMITTEE WORK PLAN REPORT

The Committee noted the Committee Work Plan Report.

KEY FINDINGS

- With the staffing structure in the risk department now addressed, focus can be directed to

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**29 JUNE 2022**

improving frameworks and organisational accountability surrounding internal controls, business continuity and compliance with legislation and regulations.

- Management are progressing work to ensure that the Policy Framework is current.
- Council is fully compliant with all requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and has assessed and considered the implications of the Local Government Legislation Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Bill 2022.

6.3 INFORMATION SERVICES REPORT

The Committee noted the Information Services Report.

KEY FINDINGS

- Management have taken appropriate action to mitigate the high risks in IT.
- 2021/22 Information Services projects are addressing key risks including Cyber Security, IT Disaster Recovery and Data Governance.

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS**7.1 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Committee received and noted:

- The Quarterly Financial Report
- The Financial report for the (9) months ended 31 March 2022
- Review of matters under the Australian Auditing Standards update
- Review of Financial Reporting Framework and Accounting Standards update.

KEY FINDINGS

- Council is monitoring and managing its financial position and key controls and addressing procurement capability and compliance.
- The Australian Accounting Standards have been assessed and there are no changes to note.

7.2 VAGO INTERIM MANAGEMENT LETTER FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

The Committee noted the update provided on the status of the Interim Management Letter for the year ended 30 June 2022.

KEY FINDINGS

- Management are working with the external auditor to progress the delivery of the interim management letter for the year ending 30 June 2022.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT**8.1 QUARTERLY RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Committee noted the Quarterly Risk Management report.

KEY FINDINGS

- Actions taken to manage Council's risks are adequate and strengthened by the representation of several key reportable findings, and the presentation of Council's strategic and operational risks.

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**29 JUNE 2022****8.2 QUARTERLY SAFETY REPORT**

The Committee noted the Quarterly Safety Report and recommended the draft OHS Policy to the CEO.

FINDINGS

- Management has adequate measures in place to support and monitor health, safety and wellbeing across the workforce.

8.3 STRATEGIC RISK – CONTAMINATION MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Committee noted the Contamination Management Report.

KEY FINDING

- Management has taken action to establish dedicated resourcing and a framework to ensure effective management of contamination risks.

9. INTERNAL AUDIT**9.1 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRAM STATUS & AUDIT SCOPES FOR APPROVAL**

The Committee noted and received the Internal Audit Status Report.

- The Audit and Risk Committee endorsed
 - The Draft Internal Audit Plan for the Review of Asset Protection
 - The Draft Internal Audit Plan for the Review of Payroll
 - The Draft Internal Audit Plan for the Review of Compliance with VicRoads Information Protection Agreement

KEY FINDING

- The key focus is to ensure delivery and completion of 2021/22 internal audit program and commence delivery of the 2022/23 program by the 12 September 2022 meeting.

9.2 COMPLETED INTERNAL AUDITS

The Committee noted:

- the Completed Internal Audit Report;
- the Review of Compliance Strategy and Sustainability
- the Review of Cyber Security (Essential 8)

KEY FINDING

- The delivery of the 2021/22 Internal Audit Program is underway and will be completed by September 2022. The 2022/23 Internal Audit Program will commence in July 2022.

9.3 OUTSTANDING AUDIT ACTIONS STATUS REPORT

The Committee noted the Outstanding Audit Actions Status Report.

KEY FINDING

- Management are progressing the completion of outstanding audit actions, with some delays experienced in achieving completion as expected.

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**29 JUNE 2022****9.4 RECENT REPORT AND PUBLICATIONS**

The Committee noted the Recent Report and Publications Report and Management comments.

KEY FINDING

- Management have reviewed recent reports and publications related to issues of management controls, integrity and continuous improvement that impact the local government sector and initiated actions to mitigate Council's risk in response.

10. GOVERNANCE**10.1 COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Committee:

- Noted the Committee Management Report
- Noted the Bi-Annual Report to Council
- Noted the Audit and Risk Committee Self-Assessment June 2022
- Endorsed the Draft 2021/22 Annual Audit and Risk Committee Performance Report
- Noted the Proposed Committee Meeting Schedule for 2023
- Endorsed the Draft 2022/23 Annual Work Plan
- Noted the vacant Independent Member position was considered by Council at its meeting on 27 June 2022 and the new member appointment endorsed.

KEY FINDING

- Management have fulfilled their responsibilities and support of the Committee by completing an annual assessment of the performance of the Committee and planning the Committee activities for the year ahead. Management also ensured the Committee that they have adequate resourcing in place to support the work of the Committee as well as the internal audit function.

10.2 LGPRF 2021/22 MID YEAR REPORT

The Committee noted the LGPRF 2021/22 Mid-Year Results.

KEY FINDINGS

- The report revealed that 56% of the indicators are tracking either "better than average" or "around average" and all service areas have at least one indicator where they are performing "around average" or "better than average" at mid-year.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Audit Committee is scheduled for 9:00am on 12 September 2022 (in person) at the Darebin Civic Centre, 350 High Street Preston 3072. The timing will be reviewed pending later confirmation.

13. CLOSE OF MEETING

As there was no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 12.40 pm

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10. URGENT BUSINESS

11. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL


12. CLOSE OF MEETING

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