

Ordinary Meeting of Council Agenda

**to be held on Tuesday 6 February 2018 at 7.00pm
Richmond Town Hall**

Arrangements to ensure our meetings are accessible to the public

Council meetings are held at either the Richmond Town Hall or the Fitzroy Town Hall. The following arrangements are in place to ensure they are accessible to the public:

- Entrance ramps and lifts (off Moor Street at Fitzroy, entry foyer at Richmond).
- Interpreting assistance is available by arrangement (*tel. 9205 5110*).
- Auslan interpreting is available by arrangement (*tel. 9205 5110*).
- A hearing loop is available at Richmond only and the receiver accessory is available by arrangement (*tel. 9205 5110*).
- Proposed resolutions are displayed on large screen.
- An electronic sound system amplifies Councillors' debate.
- Disability accessible toilet facilities are available at each venue.

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Order of business

- 1. Statement of recognition of Wurundjeri Land**
- 2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence**
- 3. Declarations of conflict of interest (Councillors and staff)**
- 4. Confidential business reports**
- 5. Confirmation of minutes**
- 6. Petitions and joint letters**
- 7. Public question time**
- 8. General business**
- 9. Delegates' reports**
- 10. Questions without notice**
- 11. Council business reports**
- 12. Notices of motion**
- 13. Urgent business**

1. Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land

“Welcome to the City of Yarra.”

“Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Owners of this country, pays tribute to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Yarra and gives respect to the Elders past and present.”

2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence

Anticipated attendees:

Councillors

- Cr Daniel Nguyen (Mayor)
- Cr Misha Coleman (Deputy Mayor)
- Cr Danae Bosler
- Cr Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei
- Cr Jackie Fristacky
- Cr Stephen Jolly
- Cr Mike McEvoy
- Cr James Searle
- Cr Amanda Stone

Council officers

- Vijaya Vaidyanath (Chief Executive Officer)
- Andrew Day (Director - Corporate, Business and Finance)
- Ivan Gilbert (Group Manager - CEO's Office)
- Lucas Gosling (Acting Director - Community Wellbeing)
- Chris Leivers (Acting Director – City Works and Assets)
- Bruce Phillips (Director - Planning and Place Making)
- Jane Waldock (Assistant Director - Planning and Place making)
- Fred Warner (Group Manager – People, Culture and Community)
- Mel Nikou (Governance Officer)

3. Declarations of conflict of interest (Councillors and staff)

4. Confidential business reports

Item

- 4.1 Contractual matters
- 4.2 Matters relating to legal advice

Confidential business reports

The following items were deemed by the Chief Executive Officer to be suitable for consideration in closed session in accordance with section 89 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*. In accordance with that Act, Council may resolve to consider these issues in open or closed session.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the meeting be closed to members of the public, in accordance with section 89 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, to allow consideration of:
 - (a) Contractual matters; and
 - (b) Matters relating to legal advice.
2. That all information contained within the Confidential Business Reports section of this agenda and reproduced as Council Minutes be treated as being and remaining strictly confidential in accordance with the provisions of sections 77 and 89 of the *Local Government Act 1989* until Council resolves otherwise.

5. Confirmation of minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19 December 2017 be confirmed.

6. Petitions and joint letters

7. Public question time

Yarra City Council welcomes questions from members of the community.

Public question time procedure

Ideally, questions should be submitted to Council in writing by midday on the day of the meeting via the form available on our website. Submitting your question in advance helps us to provide a more comprehensive answer. Questions that have been submitted in advance will be answered first.

Public question time is an opportunity to ask questions about issues for which you have not been able to gain a satisfactory response on a matter. As such, public question time is not:

- a time to make statements or engage in debate with Councillors;
- a forum to be used in relation to planning application matters which are required to be submitted and considered as part of the formal planning submission;
- a forum for initially raising operational matters, which should be directed to the administration in the first instance.

If you wish to raise matters in relation to an item on this meeting agenda, Council will consider submissions on these items in conjunction with and prior to debate on that agenda item.

When you are invited by the meeting chairperson to ask your question, please come forward and take a seat at the microphone and:

- state your name clearly for the record;
- direct your questions to the chairperson;
- ask a maximum of two questions;
- speak for a maximum of five minutes;
- refrain from repeating questions that have been asked previously by yourself or others; and
- remain silent following your question unless called upon by the chairperson to make further comment or to clarify any aspects.

8. General business

9. Delegates' reports

10. Questions without notice

11. Council business reports

Item	Page	Rec. Page	Report Presenter
11.1 Station Street, North Carlton - Temporary Road Closure	8	16	Richard Young – Manager Traffic and Engineering
11.2 Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17 Summary Report	17	21	Michael Oke – Sustainability Unit Manager
11.3 Welcoming Cities Initiative in Yarra	22	27	Aldo Malavisi - Community Partnerships Unit Manager
11.4 Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Third Year Report	28	34	Aldo Malavisi - Community Partnerships Unit Manager
11.5 Aboriginal Partnership Plan 2015-18 Annual Report	35	41	Aldo Malavisi - Community Partnerships Unit Manager
11.6 Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Partnerships Strategy 2014 - 2017 Annual Progress Report	42	50	Aldo Malavisi - Community Partnerships Unit Manager
11.7 Family Violence Organisational Statement	51	54	Georgia McRae – Policy Advisor Gender Equity
11.8 Proposed Discontinuance of Road adjacent to 2 Harding Lane, Richmond	55	57	Bill Graham – Coordinator Valuations
11.9 Proposed discontinuance of the road abutting 14 Lambert Street, Richmond.	58	60	Bill Graham – Coordinator Valuations
11.10 Proposed Discontinuance of Road abutting the rear of 294-298 Swan Street, Richmond.	61	63	Bill Graham – Coordinator Valuations
11.11 Celebrating Richmond's AFL Premiership	64	67	Brooke Colbert - Manager Advocacy and Engagement
11.12 Residential Aged Care Facilities - proposed changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions - Council submission in response to consultation	68	75	David Walmsley – Manager City Strategy

Item	Page	Rec. Page	Report Presenter
11.13 Planning Permit Applications and the World Heritage Environs Area.	76	83	Bruce Phillips – Director Planning and Place Making Ivan Gilbert – Group Manager Chief Executive’s Office

The public submission period is an opportunity to provide information to Council, not to ask questions or engage in debate.

Public submissions procedure

When you are invited by the meeting chairperson to make your submission, please come forward and take a seat at the microphone and:

- state your name clearly for the record;
- direct your submission to the chairperson;
- speak for a maximum of five minutes;
- confine your remarks to the matter under consideration;
- refrain from repeating information already provided by previous submitters; and
- remain silent following your submission unless called upon by the chairperson to make further comment.

12. Notices of motion

Item	Page	Rec. Page	Report Presenter
12.1 Notice of Motion No.1 of 2018 - State Government Major Road Projects and Impact on the City of Yarra	84	84	Amanda Stone – Councillor

13. Urgent business

Nil

11.1 Station Street, North Carlton - Temporary Road Closure

Trim Record Number: D18/6313

Responsible Officer: Manager Traffic and Special Projects

Purpose

1. To present to Council the options regarding the proposal to close Station Street, North Carlton at the intersection with Princes Street, on a temporary basis for the purposes of undertaking a traffic diversion experiment.

Background

2. Since December 2015, and following advocacy from local residents, Council has pursued the process to close Station Street, North Carlton at the intersection with Princes Street, on a temporary basis for the purposes of undertaking a traffic diversion experiment.
3. Formal public consultation on the proposal to temporarily close Station Street at the intersection with Princes Street was undertaken in accordance with *Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989*, in October and November 2017.
4. The outcomes of the consultation and verbal presentations by submitters in support of their formal written submissions, was heard by Council at its meeting of 19 December 2017.
5. An extract of the Council report of 19 December 2017 setting out the detailed results of the public consultation is provided as **Attachment 1**.
6. Following consideration of the officer report and verbal submissions made by the public, Council noted and resolved:

“That Council:

- (a) *note the report;*
- (b) *note and acknowledge the formal submissions and petitions received and the verbal presentations made at this meeting in support thereof;*
- (c) *refer the matter of the proposal to close Station Street, Carlton North at the intersection with Princes Street, on a temporary basis for the purposes of undertaking a traffic diversion experiment, for formal consideration at the first cycle of Council meetings in 2018; and*
- (d) *request Officers provide a report in early 2018 that includes:*
 - (i) *possible options for Council consideration and in this regard, Officers write to VicRoads in accordance with Schedule 11, Section 10 of the Local Government Act 1989, and request a report to enable Council to consider the possible installation of a temporary barrier for a 6-month traffic diversion experiment on Station Street just South of its intersection with Curtain Street; and*
 - (ii) *the current status of the Carlton North LATM (No. 2)”*

Station Street temporary closure at Princes Street

7. As per **Attachment 1**, Council received 136 formal submissions on the proposal through the public consultation process.
8. Overall, the majority of respondents 105 (77%) *opposed* the proposed temporary road closure, whilst 31 (23%) of respondents *supported* the proposed temporary closure.
9. 36 (26%) respondents prefer a 6 month temporary closure length compared to 24 (18%) respondents who support a 12 month closure. It is noted that 56% of respondents did not provide an answer to the question relating to the preferred length of any closure.
10. Prior to the Council meeting of 19 December 2017, Council received 2 petitions submitted by North Carlton residents opposed to the trial closure.

11. One petition had 536 signatories who are City of Yarra residents, and the other petition had 279 signatories (signatories of this petition include a mix of local residents and property owners, frequent users of Canning Street cycle route and a small number of other respondents (approximately 8% of signatories) whose connection to North Carlton cannot be identified from the petition).
12. At the Council meeting of 19 December 2017, Council received the following additional submissions:
 - (a) A petition with 272 signatories who support the closure as a means of preventing rat running in North Carlton. (It is noted that the petition includes 12 signatories who signed both the petition for and against the proposal);
 - (b) A joint letter to the Mayor from parents of school children at North Carlton primary school. This letter had 40 signatories who oppose the proposal. It is noted that the petition includes 19 signatories that signed a previous petition opposing the proposal; and
 - (c) Three written submissions. One submission supported the proposal, one submission opposed the proposal and the other submission raised concerns regarding the proposal but did not oppose the proposal outright.
13. Respondents who support the proposal generally consider that the temporary closure will assist with addressing perceived traffic issues on Station Street and will reduce through-traffic, whilst some considered that there were no noticeable issues when the Melbourne Water temporary road closure was in place for 12 months.
14. Respondents who oppose the proposal generally consider there to be limited issues on Station Street and therefore consider the closure to be unnecessary as it would have limited wider benefit. These respondents are deeply concerned that the closure would impact negatively on access and safety given that traffic from Station Street will be transferred onto other streets. The safety and amenity of the key Canning Street cycling corridor is a key issue for these respondents.
15. Officer responses to the respondent feedback is provided in **Attachment 1**.
16. It is noted that in its report to Council, VicRoads has provided no objection to the proposal subject to the proposal being supported by the community.
17. VicRoads has been verbally advised by officers that the majority of respondents are opposed to the proposal.
18. VicRoads officers have verbally advised Council officers that it is up to Council to make a decision on whether the closure should proceed. VicRoads is satisfied that the proposal will have minimal impact on the arterial road network which is its key consideration.
19. The independent Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) undertaken to assess the proposal identified that there is no existing issue with the operation and use of Station Street. Station Street has low vehicle speeds, low traffic volumes, and no crash history, with the majority of motorists using Station Street being local residents.
20. The TIA identified that the temporary closure of Station Street is not considered to achieve any major benefits for the local road network and has the potential to result in more congestion on Canning Street.
21. Council officers observations confirm that the traffic conditions presented in the TIA are representative of typical traffic conditions on Station Street. Whilst some queuing does occur on Station Street, this queuing quickly dissipates and the extent of queuing is low for an inner area local street. Furthermore, any queuing that occurs on Station Street is likely to be transferred onto Canning Street if the temporary road closure on Station Street is adopted.
22. The road closure does not address the level of traffic travelling between Station Street and Rathdowne Street (via Lee Street or Davis Street, with these vehicles crossing the bicycle lanes on Canning Street). A road closure on Station Street at the intersection with Princes Street may limit future options in addressing this issue.

23. It is noted that southbound cyclists on Canning Street are separated from westbound vehicles turning left from Lee Street into Canning Street due to the alignment of the bicycle lane. As such there is likely to be limited conflict between the increased number of vehicles heading southbound on Canning Street with cyclists using the street.
24. However, Canning Street will be the most direct route for vehicles accessing Station Street and the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre from Princes Street from the west, with a closure of Station Street in place. Whilst the number of additional vehicles may be relatively low, it does increase the conflict between southbound cyclists on Canning Street and northbound vehicles turning right from Canning Street into Lee Street towards Station Street.
25. There is strong opposition to the proposal from Bicycle Network which considers that any increase of traffic using Station Street may possibly impact on the amenity of Canning Street as a cycle route and is unnecessary.
26. An independent Place Making Assessment undertaken by Co Design Studios has identified through two separate public consultation exercises (undertaken in April/May 2017 and June/July 2017) that there is minimal demand for place making or street activity on Station Street from the immediate residents (i.e. the 300 properties surveyed within 200 metres distance of the southern end of Station Street).
27. The road closure assessment process has identified that there is limited evidence to support a road closure on Station Street at the intersection of Princes Street.

Station Street temporary closure at Curtain Street

28. With reference to clause 1(d)(i) of the 19 December 2017 Council resolution, officers have contacted VicRoads regarding whether it is in a position to write a report on an alternative location for a temporary closure on Station Street to the south of the intersection with Curtain Street.
29. Officers have been advised that given the change in location a revised TIA would be required to identify the potential impacts resulting from vehicles displaced by the alternative temporary closure. Further consultation would also be required with key stakeholders such as emergency service and public transport operators.
30. Officers consider that the requirement for a revised assessment is a reasonable position taken by VicRoads officers.
31. The information and TIA provided by Council to VicRoads to date solely focuses on the proposed temporary closure at the Station Street intersection with Princes Street. It cannot be determined from the November 2016 TIA what the potential impacts of a temporary closure at Curtain Street would be without further analysis and potentially some additional surveys.
32. As with the November 2016 TIA, it is likely that the revised assessment would include modelling. As Council does not have the required computer software to perform the modelling work it will be a requirement to engage an independent traffic consultant. The consultant would also be required to undertake the wider analysis of traffic impacts as this would form the basis of any assumptions to be tested within the modelling.
33. It is estimated that an independent revised TIA could cost in the order of \$10,000-\$20,000 depending on the extent of analysis required. This is lower than the \$31,000 spent on the November 2016 TIA as it should be possible to reuse much of the data collected during the original assessment, on the basis of no temporary closure at Station Street / Princes Street.
34. Following the completion of the revised assessment and receipt of VicRoads report on the matter, it would be a requirement to undertake public consultation on the revised proposal with the North Carlton community in line with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.
35. There will also be a requirement for officer time associated with the tender process, project management, consultation with stakeholders, preparation of information to be provided to VicRoads and subsequent public consultation and reporting to Council.

36. There is currently no budget allocation for the required assessment and consultation. It is estimated \$10,000-\$20,000 would be required for this purpose.
37. Whilst officers strongly support undertaking trials and view road closures as an effective measure to reduce through-traffic, the preferred approach to considering local needs and ensuring community consultation/input in relation to traffic and options, is to address these is through the LAPM process.
38. Decision making in the LAPM process is determined on an evidence based approach with treatments identified and developed based on the input of the wider community. The strategic approach adopted in LAPMs ensures that any selected treatments seek to address the key traffic issues for the benefit of the wider LAPM precinct.
39. The collaborative approach of LAPM enables the community to work from first principles in the consideration of traffic treatments based on a range of options and an informed position. This approach limits some of the risks (i.e. financial, reputation and community support) associated with locking in or limiting the outcome or proposal before the impacts and potential trade-offs are identified and tested with the community.

Status of North Carlton Local Area Place Making study (LAPM 2)

40. With reference to clause 1(d)(ii) of the 19 December 2017 Council resolution, officers have completed the annual prioritisation ranking assessment, which, in line with Council's LAPM policy, is undertaken each year to identify which LAPM precincts are the highest priority for study (see **Attachment 2**).
41. Council is currently committed to a three year LAPM program, with LAPM studies and infrastructure delivery being undertaken in Princes Hill (LAPM 1), Scotchmer Precinct North Fitzroy (LAPM 3) Rose Precinct Fitzroy (LAPM 9), Gold Precinct Collingwood (LAPM 10), Abbotsford (LAPM 13) and Bendigo Precinct Richmond (LAPM 19).
42. The LAPM priority ranking assessment has identified that the North Carlton LAPM (which includes the Station Street area) is the highest priority precinct for study.
43. If the LAPM study is undertaken in 2018/19, it would be possible to reuse much of the data collected for the November 2016 TIA, on the basis of no temporary closure at Station Street / Princes Street.
44. Should Council wish to undertake an LAPM study in North Carlton next financial year, \$20,000 would need to be accommodated within the 2018/19 budget process to fund the LAPM study.
45. The \$20,000 study funding covers public consultation and marketing costs and the cost of an independent consultant to assist with the development of a Traffic Management / Place Making plan. A separate additional budget would be required for the purpose of implementing the preferred treatments emanating from the LAPM study.

External Consultation

46. The detailed results of the public consultation on the proposal to temporarily close Station Street at Princes Street is provided as **Attachment 1**.
47. Officers have contacted VicRoads regarding the proposed alternative location for a temporary closure on Station Street as set out in the 19 December 2017 Council resolution.
48. The outcomes of the consultation with VicRoads is presented earlier in this report.
49. No further external consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of this report.
50. Officers have informed those community members who have previously made a submission on the proposal, of the date in which this report will be heard at Council, 7 days in advance of the meeting. Over 1,000 letters were sent either via email or post on 24 January 2018.

Other Relevant Submissions (Proposed temporary Station Street closure at Princes Street)

51. Bicycle Network were consulted on the proposal and provided a written submission in June 2016. Bicycle Network opposed the proposal on the basis that they believe, an increase in traffic using Station Street will decrease the level of service (i.e. amenity) and safety for bicycle riders on Canning Street.
52. Whilst Bicycle Network has not provided a submission as part of the latest consultation, it is evident from its website (12 October 2017) that, following consideration of the assessments undertaken to date, that it still strongly opposes the proposed temporary road closure.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

Proposed temporary Station Street closure at Princes Street

53. Council's Strategic Transport officers have been consulted on this matter and consider that any increase in traffic on or across Canning Street would result in a poorer outcome for cyclist amenity on the regionally significant Canning Street cycling corridor.

Proposed temporary Station Street closure at Curtain Street

54. No internal consultation has been undertaken on this proposal in the preparation of this report.

Financial Implications

Option 1: Proposed temporary Station Street closure at Princes Street

55. Council allocated a budget of \$50,000 for this project. This budget has been spent on the Traffic Impact Assessment and Placemaking Assessment undertaken to inform decision making on the temporary road closure proposal.
56. Should Council proceed with the proposal to temporarily close Station Street at Princes Street, there would be future costs associated with installing and monitoring the temporary closure.
57. The lowest cost infrastructure option for a temporary closure would be the installation of signage and bollards. The cost of this option is estimated to be in the order of \$1,000 and would need to be allocated within existing budgets. There would be limited, if any, maintenance costs associated with this option.
58. As per the recommendations of the Place Making Assessment, the installation of temporary landscaping is estimated to cost between \$3,000 and \$6,000.
59. The annual cost to maintain the temporary plantings is estimated to cost in the order of \$9,000.
60. There would be a requirement for Council to undertake traffic data collection on a number of streets in North Carlton in order to monitor the impact of any temporary road closure. The cost of data collection is estimated to cost between \$5,000 and \$7,500.
61. The funds required to install landscaping and its maintenance and undertake monitoring of the temporary closure (which is estimated to be in the order of \$22,000) is currently not budgeted for.

Option 2: Proposed temporary Station Street closure at Curtain Street

62. Should Council decide to pursue the temporary closure of Station Street at Curtain Street, the revised TIA to be undertaken by an independent traffic consultant is estimated to cost in the order of \$10,000-\$20,000.
63. Statutory public consultation is estimated to cost in the order of \$5,000.
64. There will also be a requirement for officer time associated with the tender process, project management, consultation with stakeholders, preparation of information to be provided to VicRoads and subsequent public consultation and reporting to Council.
65. If Council then decided to proceed with a trial closure, similar costs to install landscaping and undertaken maintenance as estimated above (\$22,000) would likely be required.

66. There is currently no budget allocation for the required assessment and consultation.

Option 3: North Carlton Local Area Place Making Study (LAPM 2)

67. Should Council wish to undertake an LAPM study in North Carlton next financial year, \$20,000 would need to be accommodated within the 2018/19 budget process to fund the LAPM study.
68. The \$20,000 funding would cover public consultation and marketing costs and the cost of an independent consultant to assist with the development of a Traffic Management / Place Making plan. A separate additional budget would be required for the purpose of implementing the preferred treatments emanating from the LAPM study.

Economic Implications

69. There are no economic issues arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

Sustainability Implications

70. There are no sustainability issues arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

Social Implications

71. There are no social issues arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

Human Rights Implications

72. There are no human rights issues arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

73. A language advisory panel was included in correspondence with residents and owner non-occupiers. This included contact details and a reference number to access Council's interpreter services.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

74. The 2016/17 Council Annual Plan included as part of 3.09 Traffic Management Initiatives, an action for Council to investigate the feasibility of a permanent road closure in Station Street, North Carlton.

Legal Implications

75. There are no legal issues arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

Other Issues

76. Officers have been asked to consider the value of proceeding with the temporary road closure (at Station Street and Princes Street) and reviewing the outcome of the closure as part of the next LAPM study for the precinct, noting that LAPM 2 (North Carlton) is the next highest priority precinct for study, which could occur in 2018/19 subject to Council funding.
77. Officers consider that this approach would result in a number of issues that may impact on the ability to conduct the LAPM in a cost effective and structured manner. The fundamental principle of the LAPM's approach is to work with the local community to prioritise issues and consider a range of options and trade-offs, and to agree on solutions. There is likely to be a range of different options to help address key community concerns, and the preferred approach is to discuss and consider these prior to implementation of any particular treatment.
78. The inclusion of the temporary closure at Station Street / Princes Street as a baseline condition or existing treatment (albeit temporary) for review pre-empts that the closure of Station Street at Princes Street is the preferred solution as agreed by the community to address traffic related issues in North Carlton.
79. This approach also pre-empts that other priorities identified by the community can be addressed or accommodated with the closure of Station Street at Princes Street, thereby potentially limiting a range of alternative solutions (that may or may not include this closure) as a way of addressing key community concerns.

80. Officers consider that this approach may result in an undue focus on the possible retention or accommodation of the proposed closure of Station Street, rather than focusing on the source of issues important to the community and how best to resolve these issues. Officers consider that the inclusion of the closure, despite the majority opposition to the closure in recent community consultation, may erode confidence that Council is listening and involving the community in developing key traffic management initiatives, and thereby potentially impacting on community involvement and buy-in during the LAPM process.
81. The inclusion of the temporary closure as an existing treatment would mean that new traffic data would need to be collected across the entire LAPM 2 precinct, which would form the baseline data for the LAPM study. This would represent a higher cost for the LAPM as the data collected for the November 2016 TIA would then become redundant as baseline data.
82. It would not be possible to explore alternative options to the Station Street / Princes Street road closure as part of the LAPM study as all new data would include the closure as existing conditions.
83. In the likelihood that the community would want to explore a range of options (other than a temporary closure at Station Street) in line with the priorities identified by the community, there would be a requirement to obtain a dataset covering the entire precinct that does not include the temporary closure at Station Street / Princes Street as baseline data.
84. Having multiple baseline datasets would result in significant additional costs and time delays to the LAPM study.
85. Council has run a highly successful LAPM process over recent years based on the principle of developing solutions to priority issues side by side with the community. The LAPM process may result in a closure on Station Street, or closures elsewhere, or no closures at all, with the community ultimately working with officers to determine the preferred outcomes for its neighbourhood.

Options

Option 1: Undertake temporary road closure at Princes Street

86. Should Council proceed with the temporary road closure process, officers will inform all residents and property owners in North Carlton of the outcome.
87. Officers will place a variable message board on Station Street at Lee Street for 2 weeks prior to the road closure to advise motorists of the upcoming road closure.
88. Given the level of community concern regarding the cost of this project, officers will install the low cost option of signs at the intersection of Station Street / Lee Street and bollards at the intersection of Station Street / Princes Street.
89. This cost of this option is estimated to be in the order of \$1,000 and will be funded from within existing budgets.
90. Officers will undertake data collection for 6 months following the installation of the closure and will report back to Council on the outcomes of the temporary road closure for further determination.
91. The cost of data collection is estimated to cost between \$5,000 and \$7,500 and will need to be sourced from within existing budgets.

Option 2: Pursue the alternative Station Street closure option at Curtain Street

92. Should Council pursue this option, there would be a requirement to prepare a revised TIA and supporting information to allow VicRoads to prepare its report on the matter.
93. It is estimated that a revised TIA to be undertaken by an independent traffic consultant could cost in the order of \$10,000-\$20,000 depending on the extent of analysis required.
94. Statutory public consultation is estimated to cost in the order of \$5,000.
95. It is unclear at this stage whether there would be any safety impacts associated with redistributed traffic resulting from this proposal.

96. It is unclear at this stage whether there would be any community support for this proposal.

Option 3: Consider the matter via the LAPM process

97. The most effective approach to identifying the need and location of a road closure or other measures to discourage through traffic is through the LAPM process.
98. In line with Council's LAPM policy, all traffic and transport and amenity issues in North Carlton will be explored in detail during the next LAPM study for the precinct.
99. The 2017 priority ranking assessment has identified the North Carlton precinct (LAPM 2) as the highest priority precinct for study.
100. Decision making in the LAPM process is determined on an evidence based approach with treatments identified and developed based on the input of the wider community. The strategic approach adopted in LAPMs ensures that any selected treatments seek to address the key traffic issues for the benefit of the wider LAPM precinct rather than transfer traffic from one street to another.
101. Should Council wish to undertake a LAPM study in North Carlton next financial year, \$20,000 would need to be referred to the 2018/19 budget process for consideration to fund the LAPM study.

Option 4: Conclude the road closure process

102. Officers would inform residents of North Carlton that the proposal to temporarily close Station Street will not proceed.

Conclusion

103. This report presents the options regarding the proposal to close Station Street, North Carlton at the intersection with Princes Street, on a temporary basis for the purposes of undertaking a traffic diversion experiment.
104. Council has the required background information and community input from which to make a final determination on the proposal.
105. Officers recommend that Council does not continue with the formal process to temporarily close Station Street at Princes Street on the basis that:
- (a) the majority of North Carlton residents / property owners and other respondents oppose the proposal;
 - (b) evidence does not support a closure; and
 - (c) a precedent would be set by implementing a closure outside of the LAPM process.
106. Officers recommend that Council does not continue with the proposal to pursue an alternative temporary closure on Station Street at Curtain Street on the basis that:
- (a) it is unclear what the impacts of closing Station Street at Curtain Street would be without further detailed assessment;
 - (b) it is unclear whether a closure at this location is the best option to address concerns raised by the community relating to through traffic and other traffic relating issues; and
 - (c) the most effective approach to identifying the need and location of a road closure or other measures to discourage through traffic is through the LAPM process.
107. Officers recommend that the proposal to undertake a LAPM study in North Carlton next financial year at a cost of \$20,000 is referred to the 2018/19 budget process for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) resolves to conclude the process of a temporary closure of Station Street at the intersection with Princes Street on the basis that community support and other evidence does not exist to support the proposal; and
 - (b) refers the proposal to undertake a LAPM study in North Carlton (LAPM 2) next financial year at a cost of \$20,000 to the 2018/19 budget process for consideration.

CONTACT OFFICER: Danny Millican
TITLE: Senior Traffic Engineer
TEL: 9205 5762

Attachments

- 1 Results Public Consultation
- 2 Results of LAPM Priority Ranking Assessment 2017

11.2 Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17 Summary Report

Trim Record Number: D17/200812

Responsible Officer: Director Planning and Place Making

Purpose

1. To update Councillors on the outcomes and status of actions and targets from the *Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17*. This report also outlines the next steps for developing a new Yarra Environment Strategy.

Background

2. The four year *Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-2017* (YES) was adopted by Council in December 2013, following extensive internal and community consultation (refer to **Attachment 1**).
3. The YES provided the direction and actions required to integrate sustainable practices into Council's operations, as well as its community programs and services.
4. The Vision adopted in the Strategy was:

'Yarra is a resilient and sustainable city where current and future populations enjoy a high quality of life within our fair share of the earth's resources, whilst ensuring we co-exist harmoniously with the natural environment'.
5. Four specific pathways were established to achieve the vision, each with objectives that worked together and complemented each other to form one integrated plan:
 - (a) *Community Empowerment and Local Action* - Supporting an empowered community that acts locally to increase the sustainability of consumption and lifestyles to reduce its ecological footprint;
 - (b) *Urban Ecology and Natural Environment* - Supporting healthy and thriving ecosystems in Yarra;
 - (c) *Sustainable City Infrastructure and Lifestyles* - Developing a secure, affordable and liveable City infrastructure and lifestyles for the Yarra Community; and
 - (d) *Sustainable Council Operations* - Operating Council as a model of environmental sustainability.
6. 34 targets were included as a means for tracking, measuring and communicating the progress of each objective, including modified waste related targets following endorsement of the *Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy*.

7. The YES contained 66 actions.

2017 Summary Review

8. A review has been completed of progress against the set actions and targets across the life of the strategy, and provided as **Attachments 2 and 3**.
9. A summary of key achievements deriving from YES includes:
 - (a) Yarra's sustainability actions were independently benchmarked and rated against the ten One Planet Living principles, achieving the highest possible '*International Leadership*' status. On the strength of this, Yarra was announced as the first Australian local government to achieve National Certification against the One Planet Council standard in August 2015 (Action 4.1.1.1);
 - (b) Yarra won (and was finalist for) many state and national sustainability Awards, including most recently:
 - (i) *Keep Victoria Beautiful Awards* - Victorian Sustainable City of the Year (2016);

- (ii) *United Nations Association of Australia - World Environment Day Awards – Local Government Climate Action Award – Embedding Climate Adaptation in Local Government* (2016); and
- (iii) *Resilient Australia Government Award – Victoria*. For increasing awareness of heatwave risks and providing resources to reduce heatwave vulnerability among CALD communities living in public housing. (2017); and
- (c) Community satisfaction for Council’s environmental performance grew throughout the life of the strategy, and ranked highly in the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. Yarra’s rating of 7.59 in 2015/16 on the key indicator ‘*Council is meeting its responsibility towards the environment*’ have exceeded the 2017 and 2020 targets;
- (d) Yarra continued to provide leadership and share knowledge and lessons with others via many diverse means, including:
 - (i) the Mayor (Cr Vlahogiannis) spoke at the ICLEI World Congress in Seoul (South Korea) in 2015. Yarra also produced a booklet to allow others to understand and learn from our actions called “Our Sustainability Story” (Action 4.1.4.1);
 - (ii) the Mayor (Cr Stone) attended the Conference of Parties (COP) 23 in Bonn (Germany), and was a Panel member of the Discussion Panel for Women Leading Sustainable and Resilient Cities (Nov. 2017); and
 - (iii) officers have spoken at many conferences including as Keynote for ‘Government Sustainability’ in NSW 2016;
- (e) Yarra developed and rolled out the highly successful ‘*In Your Patch*’ project aimed at engaging Yarra residents to undertake community sustainability activities (Actions 1.1.2, 1.2.1 and 1.4.1). This was very successful in engaging the community (including ‘seldom heard from’ groups) to come together and develop high quality applications and run successful projects;
- (f) Yarra’s first Urban Agriculture Strategy was developed which supported new growing spaces and partnerships across Yarra. 160 planter boxes are now managed by residents in shared spaces (Action 1.2.2);
- (g) Yarra’s first Biodiversity Health Survey was completed in 2016, providing the foundation for Council’s first Biodiversity Strategy – being developed in 2017/18 (Action 2.2.2 & 2.2.3);
- (h) Significant change was initiated via the planning scheme including the WSUD Local Planning Policy (Amendment C117) (Action 2.3.3), Yarra River corridor planning controls (Action 2.3.3); and the endorsement of the Environmentally Efficient Design Local Policy (Amendment 133) with five other Councils (Action 3.3.1.2);
- (i) Yarra’s first Copenhagen bike lanes were opened in July 2015. Council has instigated the first Australian trial of 30km/hr on local roads in 2017 (Action 3.1.1.1);
- (j) Sustainability was incorporated as core element in the new Economic Development Strategy, endorsed in November 2014 (Actions 3.2.1.1 and 3.2.2.1);
- (k) Five new parks have been created. These provide more Yarra residents with access to open space and further cements Yarra’s reputation in leadership through developing innovative ‘Pocket Parks’ in the urban context (Action 3.3.3.1);
- (l) A new Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy was endorsed in November 2014 (Action 3.5.1.1). Yarra has received over \$1.5 million in external in grants from different sources over the life of the strategy to deliver key actions from the Waste Strategy (Actions 1.4.2, 2.4.2, 3.5.3.1 & 3.5.2.1);
- (m) In 2017 Council introduced a new trial kerbside collection service to Yarra residents to recover food waste. This a 3 year project seeks to engage 5000 households, part funded via a Sustainability Victoria grant (Action 3.5.3.1);

- (n) Council endorsed its first Urban Forest Strategy in 2017. Significant work was undertaken to obtain relevant data, consult internally and externally, and develop the strategy based on this evidence and direction (Action 3.7.1.1);
 - (o) Renewable energy installations across the Municipality continue to increase rapidly, with 6,871 kW of solar installed in Yarra by June 2015 – far exceeding the 2017 target of 2,400 kW. Actions such as the Council lead *In Your Patch* project, Yarra Energy Foundations' Commercial and Residential Solar programs, and Council's own solar installations have all contributed to this;
 - (p) Council supported the development of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) lead *Adaptation in the North* strategy - a climate change adaptation and vulnerability assessment of all NAGA Council's and action plan for the region completed in June 2015 (action 3.7.2.1);
 - (q) The ESD Buildings Policy set simple and strong sustainability targets for different works in different categories of Council buildings, and is often cited as a leading example of how strong policy can lead to improved outcomes (Action 4.1.2.3);
 - (r) Yarra has continued to be a carbon neutral organisation, and has completed building retrofits using the innovative Energy Performance Contract to further reduce organisational energy use;
 - (i) Council completed the implementation of its largest program to reduce emissions in its building assets via an Energy Performance Contract. This included over 80 individual actions across 18 buildings. Council has also undertaken the measurement and verification phase for years 1 and 2, showing financial savings of over \$200,000 per annum, and greenhouse gas reductions of around 2,000 tCO₂ per annum. (Action 4.2.1.1);
 - (ii) Council is leading the Local Government sector having reduced emissions by almost 40%. This should be understood in the context of continued increases in residents, businesses, and services (Action 4.2.1.1); and
 - (iii) Council also achieved its ambitious target to meet 25% of our energy consumption by local low carbon energy generation by June 2015 (Actions 4.2.1.1 and 4.2.1.2); and
 - (s) In October 2017 Council committed to source 100% Renewable electricity for 10 years via the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project. This will see a new wind farm built in western Victoria to service the needs of Yarra and the other 13 partners. (Action 4.2.1.1 & 4.2.2.1).
10. The above list of actions clearly shows that Yarra has continued to take significant steps as a sustainable city and organisation.
 11. The 2013-17 YES proved a very important document in setting a strong vision, unifying cross-Council action behind this direction, and detailing and specifying the methodology to achieve the vision.
 12. **Attachments 2 and 3** detail progress against each target and action. The vast majority of actions and targets have been met, with orange and red lights in the table highlighting where ambitious actions were not able to be delivered in full, or commenced. Actions and targets which were not fully achieved should be viewed in the context that these actions were often deliberately ambitious.
 13. Overall, the 2013-2017 YES has been successfully delivered.
- Development of a new Yarra Environment Strategy
14. Officers have reviewed options to develop a new Yarra Environment Strategy 2019-23 using existing resources. It is proposed that the new YES would be largely internally developed, with community consultation on the draft Strategy, followed by formal adoption in early 2019.

15. It is proposed that the draft 2019-23 strategy would draw on a critical review of the 2013-17 YES and comparison against other councils' best practice, as well as the detailed knowledge of Council officers.
16. The Yarra Environment Advisory Committee would act as the initial community consultation channel to advise officers during development of the draft strategy; it is not proposed to have other face-to-face consultation in development of the draft strategy.
17. Once developed and reviewed by Council, the draft 2019-23 strategy would be placed on public exhibition, seeking input from the community for a minimum of four weeks. This would give the broader community the opportunity to respond to the directions and proposed actions set out in the draft 2019-23 strategy.
18. Community consultation on the draft YES would include:
 - (a) Online Survey & Feedback forms and submissions;
 - (b) Sessions with selected advisory groups (e.g. Business, Youth, Urban Agriculture); and
 - (c) Further consultation with the Yarra Environment Advisory Committee.
19. The development of the Yarra Environment Strategy 2019-23 would occur throughout 2018. Beginning in February 2018, the new Strategy should be ready for final Council endorsement in early 2019.

External Consultation

20. The process for engaging the community in the development of a new Yarra Environment Strategy is outlined above.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

21. This YES review was undertaken through consultation with relevant staff across the different units involved in delivering the actions.

Financial Implications

22. There are no financial implications of this status update report.
23. The development of a new Yarra Environment Strategy 2019-23 would be undertaken in 2018, largely using existing resources.

Economic Implications

24. There are no economic implications.

Sustainability Implications

25. The review of the Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17 highlights the many great sustainability achievements over the life of the strategy. Yarra's reputation as a leading sustainable city and organisation continues to grow.
26. It is proposed that a new strategy would set the new direction and actions to ensure Council continues to enhance local sustainability. This report presents a way forward to develop a new strategy using existing resources.

Social Implications

27. There are no significant social implications of this report.

Human Rights Implications

28. There are no significant human rights implications of this report.

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

29. The initial high-level community engagement and consultation plan for development of a new Yarra Environment Strategy is detailed in this report.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

30. The 2017-21 Council Plan includes Objective 3 “*City of Yarra; A place where Council leads on sustainability and protects and enhances its natural environment*”. It states that the Environmental Strategy is to be reviewed.
31. The Council Plan lists 7 strategies to be completed within the life of the plan, including 15 initiatives. A revised Yarra Environment Strategy 2019-23 would provide greater detail on how those initiatives will be achieved.
32. This report puts forward a proposed methodology and timeline to review (update) the Environment Strategy.

Legal Implications

33. There are no legal implications directly associated with this report.

Other Issues

34. New members of the Yarra Environment Advisory Committee (YEAC) will be recruited in early 2018 with potential members brought to Council for consideration in early 2018.

Options

35. This report provides a way forward to develop a new Yarra Environment Strategy 2019-23, mainly using internal resources, including the Yarra Environment Advisory Committee, followed by wider community consultation.
36. Other options include the potential to replicate the deliberative style process used in the development of the 2013-17 strategy; however this could not be delivered in the current budget and would push out timelines by 6-12 months.

Conclusion

37. The Yarra Environment Strategy sets the sustainability agenda for the Yarra community and for the organisation. A review of sustainability actions and progress towards targets over the life of the Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17 highlights the significant sustainability gains made by Council over the last 4 years.
38. The methodology proposed for development of a new Yarra Environment Strategy 2019-23 is principally based on using internal resources and reduces the timeframe for Council. The proposal allows for community engagement, following the preparation of a draft strategy with the Yarra Environment Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) note the report of officers regarding the Council actions undertaken as part of the Yarra Environment Strategy 2013 – 2017;
 - (b) note the particular successes and outcomes from the Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17; and
 - (c) note the proposed process for the development of a new Yarra Environment Strategy 2019-23, commencing in February 2018.

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Attachments

- 1 Yarra Environment Strategy 2013-17
- 2 YES 2013-17 Summary Actions Review Dec 2017
- 3 YES 2013-17 Summary Targets Review Dec 2017

11.3 Welcoming Cities Initiative in Yarra

Executive Summary

Purpose

That Yarra City Council begin undertaking the process of becoming a Welcoming City.

Key Issues

Welcoming Cities is an initiative which seeks to create more inclusive communities by connecting local government leaders with frameworks, resources, on the ground activities and diverse organisations.

Yarra City Council has an opportunity to sign up to the initiative, joining this network of local government authorities and begin a process toward a standardised approach to creating and fostering inclusive and welcoming communities.

Financial Implications

Most of the actions outlined in the Welcoming Cities stages are already undertaken by Council and would not require additional budget. It will mean the officer identified as the key contact will include Welcoming Cities in their existing work program, which aligns with actions already in the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018. Welcoming Cities is working closely with councils to identify which stage of the assessment schedule they are at and what resources they need to progress.

PROPOSAL

That Council:

- (a) agrees to become a member of the Network of Welcoming Cities and will begin the process of becoming a Welcoming City;
- (b) nominates the Mayor, Cr Daniel Nguyen to sign the Commitment Form; and
- (a) nominates the Community Partnerships Team Leader, Cristina Del Frate as the contact officer who will liaise with the Welcoming Cities Team.

11.3 Welcoming Cities Initiative in Yarra

Trim Record Number: D17/191768

Responsible Officer: Community Partnerships Unit Manager

Purpose

1. That Yarra City Council begin undertaking the process of becoming a Welcoming City.

Background

2. Welcoming Cities is an initiative of the Scanlon Foundation and Welcome to Australia in partnership with Welcoming America. The initiative seeks to create more inclusive communities by connecting local government leaders with frameworks, resources, on the ground activities and diverse organisations.
3. Welcoming Cities facilitates a national network of inclusive, vibrant communities internationally recognised for their ability to foster a sense of belonging and participation.
4. The Welcoming Cities network assists in supporting local councils and community leaders to leverage the ideas and innovation that come from being welcoming and inclusive. It is based on the following four elements:
 - (a) Knowledge Sharing;
 - (b) Partnership Development;
 - (c) Standard and Accreditation; and
 - (d) Celebrating Success.
5. It seeks to address and embrace the challenges and opportunities of migration. It aims to create more welcoming and inclusive communities by supporting local government leaders and communities to be more effectively resourced, networked and supported.
6. Local Councils can join as members of the network, while businesses and community organisations join as supporters. See **Attachment 1** for an overview of the Welcoming Cities initiative.
7. The stages in becoming a Welcoming City are:
 - (a) Commit to Welcome;
 - (b) Communicate Welcome;
 - (c) Plan for Welcome;
 - (d) Build Welcome; and
 - (e) Sustain Welcome.
8. A brief description of the process on how Council will move through the stages on its journey as a Welcoming City is provided below. Many of the requirements outlined at each stage are already being undertaken by most Councils.

Stage 1 - Commit to Welcome

9. Local councils commit to participating in the broader welcoming city network and consulting on the development of The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities.
10. Local councils commit to develop strategies that create opportunities for all members of their communities to participate in and contribute to social, economic and civic life.

Stage 2 - Communicate Welcome

11. Messages of unity, shared values and belonging permeate the community through the media, the voices of leaders, and among residents.
12. Diverse voices are valued, listened to, communicated and celebrated.

Stage 3 - Plan for Welcome

13. Local councils facilitate a multi-sector approach, working together to create a welcoming community that values social, economic and civic participation for all people.
14. Local councils establish policies and practices that embed welcoming and inclusion across all policy areas.
15. Local councils develop strategies that focus on receiving communities and migrant / new & emerging communities.

Stage 4 - Build Welcome

16. Local councils consider and benchmark their policies and practices against The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities. See **Attachment 2** for a draft of The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities.
17. Newcomers and long-time residents increasingly find common ground and leadership is representative of the diversity of communities.

Stage 5 - Sustain Welcome

18. Local councils audit and accredit their policies and practices against The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities.
19. Social cohesion and socioeconomic indicators improve over time.

Further background information

20. To date, 11 Councils in Australia (seven in Victoria) have joined the network. They are: Moreland City Council, Hume City Council, City of Darebin, City of Melton, City of Warrnambool, City of Ararat, City of Greater Bendigo, City of Canning (WA), City of Stirling (WA), City of Port Adelaide Enfield (SA) and Glenorchy City Council (TAS).
21. Joining this initiative means that Council will be recognised as an active participant of the Welcome to Australia program, and acts as a statement that Yarra welcomes new arrivals to its community.
22. Over time, Councils will choose to work towards the Australian Standard for Accreditation (there is work currently underway towards international accreditation) at different stages and in line with Council resources and capacity. For example, City of Darebin is establishing a Welcoming Cities Reference Group to look at strategies to implement the Standard. Welcoming Cities is working closely with each of the above councils to identify which stage of the assessment schedule they are at and what resources they need to progress. Hume, Moreland and Bendigo Councils have all been recipients of the Welcoming Cities Community Investment Fund which is open to Victorian members on the network.
23. Welcoming Cities has staff to assist Council in progressing through the stages listed above.
24. Most of the actions outlined in the stages above are already being undertaken by Council (e.g. Council's existing Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-18).
25. To participate in the Welcoming Cities network as a member, a signature from either the CEO or a Councillor is required for the Commitment Form (see **Attachment 3**). It is proposed that the Mayor of Yarra City Council sign the Commitment Form.
26. Another requirement to join this initiative is that a Council officer be appointed to liaise with Welcoming Cities staff to ensure progress through the stages. It is proposed that the Community Partnerships Team Leader, Cristina Del Frate be nominated as the contact officer.

External Consultation

27. Discussions have been held with members of the Yarra Settlement Forum, about the Welcoming Cities initiative, with positive interest. Stakeholders are interested in learning more about the program and what it will mean in practical terms for our communities.
28. Discussions were held at the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group (31 October) with positive feedback given in support of the Welcoming Cities initiative.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

29. Informal discussions have been undertaken with staff within Community Partnerships, which have all been positive in favour of involvement. However due to the initiative requiring Council approval prior to embarking on the process, the impact will be minimal on other Council staff at this stage of the process. Once approval is granted, Council staff will be able to provide information towards Council progressing through the stages.

Financial Implications

30. Most of the actions outlined in the stages above are already being undertaken by Council and would not require additional budget. It will mean the officer identified as the contact will include Welcoming Cities in their work program, which aligns with actions already in the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-18.

Economic Implications

31. Council recognises a range of ongoing advantages of migration to Victoria and in particular to Yarra's economy. Multiculturalism boosts our economic advantage by providing the municipality with a competitive edge through a diverse, innovative, highly skilled and internationally connected workforce, in areas such as tourism, small business, industry, research and development, employment and education.
32. Initiatives which promote an inclusive and welcoming municipality will all contribute to positive economic contributions for Yarra.

Sustainability Implications

33. An engaged and included multicultural community that feels welcome will more likely participate in sustainability projects such as community education and awareness, community gardens and peer mentoring, which in turn delivers positive sustainability outcomes for the municipality.

Social Implications

34. The Welcoming Cities initiative plays a key role in the development of an inclusive community through Council committing to progress through the stages. The stages involve aspects including (but not exclusive to): planning inclusive strategies; making statements of inclusion and welcome publicly; and ensuring diverse voices are valued as a few examples.
35. Building an inclusive community has overwhelming positive social implications, contributing to a community which feels cohesive, leading to greater feelings of well-being.
36. The principles of multiculturalism are directed to social inclusion by respecting difference and promoting unity. In other words, cultural differences are something we all have in common. By respecting our shared diversity and the rule of law, we can realise our shared aspiration to build a cohesive and welcoming society.

Human Rights Implications

37. The Welcoming Cities initiative aligns with a human rights perspective due to its principles of welcoming and inclusion.
38. The Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-18 (MPP), and its annual Action Plans are aligned with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, and other pieces of international, national and state human rights legislation, declarations and conventions. The MPP derives from (and affirms) a human rights framework. In fact the human rights framework is used as a descriptor of multiculturalism. Therefore, all actions associated with the Welcoming Cities initiative are in alignment with the MPP as well.
39. The Charter protects important rights endemic to multiculturalism. In particular, freedom from discrimination, freedom of expression, the right to participate in public life and freedom of religion and cultural rights. It provides protection to people who may be marginalised or disadvantaged because of their cultural, religious or language background, and assists with these groups' sense of belonging.

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

40. It is envisaged that the Welcoming Cities initiative has the greatest impact on culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and as a result, any promotion of the initiative will naturally include translated materials where appropriate.
41. Effective cross cultural communication and access to language services is imperative to feelings of inclusion by the non-English speaking community, therefore the Welcoming Cities initiative is aligned with ongoing engagement with these groups. It is vital to tailor communication methods to the diversity of language and information needs in the community, which all contributes to social inclusion.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

42. Welcoming Cities aligns with several of the Council Plan's objectives, namely:
 - (a) Objective 1: A healthy Yarra. A place where community health, safety and well-being are a focus in everything we do;
 - (b) Objective 2: An Inclusive Yarra. A place where inclusion, diversity and uniqueness are welcomed, respected and celebrated; and
 - (c) Objective 7: A Leading Yarra. A place where transparency, performance and community participation drive the way we operate.

Legal Implications

43. There are a number of international, national and state pieces of legislation that underpin Yarra's Multicultural Partnerships Plan. These include:
 - (a) Commonwealth policy context:
 - (i) *Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986*;
 - (ii) *The Racial Discrimination Act 1975*; and
 - (iii) The People of Australia statement by Australian Multicultural Advisory Council; and
 - (b) State Policy context:
 - (i) *Equal Opportunity Act 1995*;
 - (ii) *Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001*;
 - (iii) *Multicultural Victoria Act 2004*;
 - (iv) *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*; and
 - (v) *Local Government Act 1989*.
44. The context of these pieces of legislation ensures Council has a legal responsibility to protect the rights of individuals, which is reflected in Council's multicultural and many other policies.
45. The Welcoming Cities initiative aligns with the principles set out in the above legislation, promoting inclusion and cohesion.

Other Issues

46. There are no other issues.

Options

47. The only option is to not participate in the Welcoming Cities initiative, which would mean Yarra Council will not be part of a network of local government authorities focussed on creating inclusive, vibrant communities internationally recognised for their ability to foster a sense of belonging and participation. This is not being recommended as it would be contrary to Council's stated commitment of an inclusive Yarra.

Conclusion

48. Welcoming Cities is an initiative connecting local government leaders with frameworks, resources, on the ground activities and diverse organisations, in an effort to create more inclusive communities.
49. Yarra City Council has an opportunity to sign up to the initiative, joining this network of local government authorities and begin a process toward a standardised approach to creating and fostering inclusive and welcoming communities.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) agrees to become a member of the Network of Welcoming Cities and will begin the process of becoming a Welcoming City;
 - (b) nominates the Mayor, Cr Daniel Nguyen to sign the Commitment Form; and
 - (c) nominates the Community Partnerships Team Leader, Cristina Del Frate as the Yarra contact officer who will liaise with the Welcoming Cities Team.

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Attachments

- 1 Welcoming Cities An Overview
- 2 The Australian Standard for Welcoming Cities Public Draft
- 3 Welcoming Cities Commitment Form

11.4 Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Third Year Report

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a report on the third year actions of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 and endorse the proposed actions for the fourth year of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018, which includes the commencement of the development of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.

Key Issues

Council endorsed the Yarra City Council Multicultural Partnerships Plan (MPP) 2015-2018 in February 2015, after its development throughout 2014 via extensive community consultations.

This report outlines the progress on the implementation of the actions from Year Three, as well as proposed actions for Year Four of the MPP, taking place in 2018.

A review of the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group has also been included, as well as recommendations for the year ahead.

Lastly, endorsement is sought for the commencement of planning the new MPP for the period 2019-2022.

Financial Implications

All actions for Year Four are being resourced through the existing budget, and have been chosen according to what is achievable with that budget.

PROPOSAL

That Council notes the progress report detailing the third year implementation of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018, endorses the actions proposed for the fourth year of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 taking place in 2018, which includes the development of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2022 and endorses the recommendations put forward by the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group.

11.4 Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Third Year Report

Trim Record Number: D17/203665

Responsible Officer: Community Partnerships Unit Manager

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - (a) provide Council with a progress report on the third year actions of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018;
 - (b) provide Council with a review and recommendations of the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group (YMAG); and
 - (c) seek endorsement for the fourth year action plan of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan, which includes the development of the new Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.

Background

2. Council endorsed the Yarra City Council Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 (MPP) in February 2015, after its development throughout 2014 which included extensive community consultations.
3. The MPP contains four priority areas:
 - (a) Relationships;
 - (b) Access and Inclusion;
 - (c) Opportunities; and
 - (d) Anti-Racism.
4. The priority areas were expanded to eight broad strategies, which were further expanded into an action plan for its first, second, and third year of implementation. An action plan is developed each year in order to remain responsive and agile to emerging issues. Information is collected throughout implementation of the current action plan, including consulting with stakeholders from the Yarra Settlement Forum, the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group, and council staff. This information is fed into the development of the next year's action plan, ensuring any new initiatives are aligned with the priority areas and strategies which underpin the MPP and remain true to the original consultation undertaken in the development of the current plan.
5. Actions for each year are developed at the end of each preceding year, based on the above principles.
6. This report outlines the progress on the implementation of the third year action plan in **Attachment One**.
7. Some highlights of the third year actions include:
 - (a) the continued operation of the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group, meeting four times in 2017 including a review which recommends the advisory group to continue in 2018;
 - (b) successful execution of events including Cultural Diversity Week, Taste of Harmony, Refugee Week, and various forums and workshops relating to the work of the Yarra Settlement Forum;
 - (c) continued promotion of Council Information Pack in languages other than English to Yarra 's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups and individuals;
 - (d) cultural competence training provided to Yarra Leisure staff, along with continued involvement in Council's induction training re cultural diversity and inclusion to new employees throughout 2017;

- (e) continued growth of the Yarra Interfaith Network, including broadening connections with libraries staff regarding a Yarra historical project, and organising a public event on Progressive Approaches to Faith in May 2017;
 - (f) Yarra City Council having a representative appointed to the Victorian Multicultural Commission's Regional Advisory Group (North West Metro 1);
 - (g) continued progress of the Yarra Settlement Forum as a network for service providers working in the area of migrant and refugee settlement, providing stakeholder strengthening opportunities as well as a resource for Council on emerging community issues;
 - (h) beginning process of Yarra joining the Welcoming Cities initiative, which aims to create more inclusive communities by connecting local government authorities and begin a process toward a standardised approach to creating inclusive and welcoming communities;
 - (i) joining the Council's internal LGBTIQ working group, highlighting the intersection between CALD and LGBTIQ issues; and
 - (j) successful completion of a year-long project on developing a resource to combat racial and religious vilification called "Stand Together".
8. This report also outlines the proposed actions for the fourth year of the MPP (**Attachment Two**), which have been developed from ongoing commitments from year one, two and three, and the priority areas and strategies of the MPP. The fourth year actions remain consistent to the original consultation to develop the MPP and are within the context of ongoing engagement and consultation.
9. This report also includes a review of the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group (YMAG) for 2017, including recommendations to continue in 2018 (**Attachment Three**).

External Consultation

10. The Yarra Settlement Forum is a network of service providers working with migrants and refugees, which meets monthly and is supported by Council. Ongoing discussions with the network have provided an understanding of the emerging issues in the community and effective ways Council can respond. This understanding provided a sound basis for the formation of year four actions.
11. The formation of the YMAG has been useful in providing a ready source for consultation with community. Ongoing relationship building provides a more effective way of hearing about the issues that are important to community rather than one-off consultations. Having a membership which is open and diverse also ensures a diversity of voices is heard.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

12. The role of Community Planner is one which requires partnership building across the organisation. This aspect ensures ongoing informal discussions with staff which provides information on issues occurring in the community, along with Council initiatives targeting these issues. This ensures duplication of services is avoided when developing Actions.
13. The formation of the Accessible Communications and Engagement working group has been a useful way of connecting staff across Council working in diverse areas (including Advocacy and Engagement, Access, Arts and Culture, Family and Children, Disability, and Community Partnerships), to explore the area of communicating with diverse communities. It is hoped this working group continues across Council to ensure a collaborative and unified approach across Council.
14. The YMAG meetings have also included staff from across the organisation providing updates on services and programs. This has led to partnerships developing spontaneously between YMAG and other areas of Council (e.g. allowing for collaborative opportunities between libraries and community partnerships), providing opportunities for relationship building, and opportunities for working together.

15. It is envisaged in year four of the action plan (**Attachment Two**) that an internal CALD issues Council working group will be investigated and formed. The aim is to provide an opportunity for relationship building between Council staff on the topic of cultural, linguistic and religious diversity. This could potentially be another avenue for highlighting CALD issues across Council and better serving the community with a One Yarra approach.

Financial Implications

16. All actions for year four are being resourced through the existing budget and have been formulated according to what is achievable within that budget.

Economic Implications

17. Council recognises that multiculturalism boosts Yarra's economic advantage by providing the municipality with a competitive edge through a diverse, innovative, highly skilled and internationally connected workforce. Strategies in the MPP which focus on opportunities, capacity building and employment diversity all contribute to positive economic contributions for Yarra, both in the municipality and within Council. For example, programs which help to develop leadership and organisational skills have led to culturally, linguistically and diverse residents finding employment or starting businesses. Sisterworks is a social enterprise with a shop front in Yarra which helps build the capacity of women from migrant and refugee backgrounds, to sell the craft items they make and much more.
18. New research commissioned by insurance company, CGU Australia, challenges perceptions that migrants can be a drain on the national economy by demonstrating the economic contribution that migrants make to the country. In the 'Migrant Small Business Report' it suggests that migrants run one third of all small businesses in Australia and most had no entrepreneurial experience before setting up successful enterprises in Australia.
19. Some of the key findings from the CGU Migrant Small Business Report, based on EY Sweeney research involving more than 900 business owners are:
 - (a) 51% have a bachelor degree or higher, compared to 38% of non-migrant owners;
 - (b) 83% did not own a business before coming to Australia;
 - (c) 52% said they went into business to become more independent; and
 - (d) Annual revenue for migrant-owned businesses is 53% higher than non-migrants.

Sustainability Implications

20. An engaged and informed multicultural community that participates in sustainability projects such as community education and awareness, community gardens and urban agriculture, (e.g. Community garden at Collingwood Housing Estate developed in conjunction with Urban Agriculture staff at Council) delivers positive sustainability outcomes for the municipality. Opportunities for linking in staff from Sustainability and Urban Agriculture with multicultural communities will be increased via the continuation of the YMAG.

Social Implications

21. The MPP plays a key role in the development of the multicultural community through: building relationships; developing skills; increasing awareness; and building resilience within the community.
22. The MPP has been designed to continue to build on the work undertaken in strengthening partnerships and service delivery to Yarra's multicultural residents, groups, organisations and ethno-specific agencies.
23. The principles (and many actions) behind the MPP are directed to social inclusion by respecting diversity and promoting access and inclusion.

Human Rights Implications

24. The MPP is driven by a human rights perspective and sits within a context of policies and legislation protecting human rights.

25. The MPP is aligned with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, and other pieces of international, national and state human rights legislation, declarations and conventions. The MPP derives from (and affirms) a human rights framework.
26. The Charter protects important rights endemic to multiculturalism. In particular, freedom from discrimination, freedom of expression, the right to participate in public life and freedom of religion and cultural rights. It provides protection to people who may be marginalised or disadvantaged because of their cultural, religious or language background, and assists with these groups' sense of belonging. The MPP is a practical way of actively promoting and protecting people's human rights.

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

27. The whole process of developing the MPP in 2014 has maintained as a central tenet, communicating with culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and more importantly, the most efficient and accessible ways of doing so. It is vital to tailor communication methods to the diversity of language and information needs in the community. Therefore, interpreters and translation services were used widely throughout any interaction with CALD communities, e.g. interpreters at YMAG meetings, written translated surveys, etc.
28. Effective cross cultural communication and use of language services is important, however, the focus in this MPP on nurturing ongoing relationships with communities is a far more effective tool when communicating, than use of language services in sporadic consultations.
29. The implementation of several actions in year one of the MPP, in 2015, centred on accessible communications for diverse groups, including the development of the Accessible Communications Framework, formation of a working group across Council focusing on Accessible Communications, and development of the Language Policy and Guidelines. Throughout year two (2016) and three (2017), further work in these areas has consolidated the importance of accessible communications, and ensures ongoing communicating with CALD communities is a priority for Council into the future.
30. The fourth year Action Plan will include consultation with CALD communities and the development of a revised Multicultural Partnerships Plan to span 2019-2022. Again, communications with CALD communities will be a central focus of gathering information, and will be targeted and accessible.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

31. The MPP relates directly to three of the strategic objectives of the Council Plan 2017-2021, namely;
 - (a) A healthy Yarra: Community health, safety and wellbeing are a focus in everything we do;
 - (b) An inclusive Yarra: Inclusion, diversity and uniqueness are welcomed, respected and celebrated; and
 - (c) A leading Yarra: Transparency, performance and community participation drive the way we operate.
32. The four priority areas of the MPP (Relationships, Access and Inclusion, Opportunities and Anti-Racism) all reflect strategies and actions which align with the Council Plan 2017-2021.
33. The fourth year actions ensure that these objectives continue to be addressed.

Legal Implications

34. There are a number of international, national and state pieces of legislation that underpin Yarra's Multicultural Partnerships Plan. These include:
 - (a) Commonwealth policy context:
 - (i) Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986;
 - (ii) The Racial Discrimination Act 1975; and

(iii) The People of Australia statement by Australian Multicultural Advisory Council 2017; and

(b) State Policy context:

(i) Equal Opportunity Act 1995;

(ii) Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001;

(iii) Multicultural Victoria Act 2004;

(iv) Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006; and

(v) Local Government Act 1989.

35. The context of these pieces of legislation ensures Council has a legal responsibility to protect the rights of individuals, which is reflected in Council's Multicultural and many other Policies.

Other Issues

36. Actions proposed for year four of the MPP align with previous years', and build on these themes, responding to emerging issues.

37. The development of the YMAG was a direct action from the MPP, and it has proven to be highly valued by attendees. It has achieved its goals of creating opportunities for relationship building and increasing communication between Council and multicultural communities. A review of the YMAG annually was another required action which was completed at the end of 2017. The review of the YMAG confirms the value of continuing to support the YMAG to meet, and foster relationships between Council and community members.

38. Year four actions of the MPP have also included a significant piece of work in the development of the new Multicultural Partnerships Plan for the period 2019-2022. It will involve a year-long consultation and development phase.

Options

39. There are no other options regarding the proposed fourth year actions of the MPP.

Conclusion

40. Yarra's Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 was endorsed in February 2015, after its development throughout 2014 via extensive community consultations. The MPP is a key commitment which reminds Council of its responsibilities to multicultural communities in Yarra.

41. This report provides a progress report on the third year's actions as well as proposed actions for Year Four in 2017, and recommendations for the continuation of the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group.

42. A significant piece of work for 2018 will include the development of the new Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.

43. The achievements of 2017 highlight the Plan's relevance to the community it serves, the Council Plan 2017-21, and proves that policies can result in actions benefiting communities.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) notes the progress report detailing the third year implementation of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018;
 - (b) endorses the actions proposed for the fourth year of the Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 taking place in 2018, including the development of the new Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2019-2022; and
 - (c) notes the review and endorses the recommendations of the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group.

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Attachments

- 1 Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 3 Action Plan Report
- 2 Multicultural Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year 4 Action Plan
- 3 Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group Review & Recommendations

11.5 Aboriginal Partnership Plan 2015-18 Annual Report

Executive Summary

Purpose

To provide Council with a report on the third year actions of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 and seek Council's endorsement for the fourth year action plan which includes the development of the new Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.

Key Issues

There have been many highlights and some challenges during the implementation of the third year action plan.

Highlights are numerous, and include engagement with vulnerable Aboriginal community members through the Stolen Generations Marker working group and project, the Smith Street working group and Billabong BBQ program, the growing public profile of Smith Street Dreaming Festival 2017 – now in its fifth year.

The 'BlakWiz' events (both internal and external) held as part of National Reconciliation Week, Reconciliation Comedy Gala, the Celebrating Dreaming Mural, and Council's January 26 resolution are also of note.

The renewal and revitalisation of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan working group has seen improved cultural awareness across the organisation and improved coordination of Council's engagement with the local Aboriginal community.

Challenges in implementing the third year action plan have included finding an appropriate partner organisation for the next stage of development of 'Connecting with the Aboriginal History of Yarra: A Teachers Resource', and meeting Aboriginal employment targets through Murrup Ballerrt (Walk Strong) – Council's employment partnership with the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

Additionally, maintaining the Stolen Generations Marker project timelines when members of the project working group are sometimes unable to attend meetings due to work and family commitments or health issues has been difficult.

Financial Implications

The financial implications of implementing the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan are minimal with all actions being completed within existing budgets.

PROPOSAL

That Council notes the report on the implementation of the actions contained within year three of the Aboriginal Partnership Plan 2015-2018 and endorses the fourth year action plan which includes the development of the new Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.

11.5 Aboriginal Partnership Plan 2015-18 Annual Report

Trim Record Number: D17/188685

Responsible Officer: Community Advocacy Team Leader

Purpose

1. To provide Council with a report on the third year actions of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 and seek Council's endorsement for the fourth year action plan which includes the development of the new Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.

Background

2. Council endorsed the third year action plan of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 (the Plan) in February 2017.
3. The development of the Plan reflects the continuous significant growth across the organisation. The awareness and passion of Council staff from across the whole organisation continues to grow each year, with staff champions and the Reconciliation Action Group members leading the way through their direct involvement in implementing the actions contained within the Plan under the guidance of the Aboriginal Advisory Group.
4. The Plan has a strong focus on key partnerships, including Traditional Owners - the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Cultural Heritage Council Inc, Melbourne Aboriginal Sport & Recreation (MAYSAR), Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS), Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA), Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS), Aboriginal Community Elders Service (ACES), Connecting Home, Aboriginal Victoria, the community that calls themselves the Parkies, Victoria Police, cohealth, Launch Housing, Neami National, Council's Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG), Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group (RAP), Yarra's Aboriginal Support Network (YASN), Federal and State Government Departments, Statutory Bodies, and many other Aboriginal and mainstream service providers and community groups.
5. In order to deliver on Council's commitments as outlined in Yarra's Aboriginal Recognition Statement 2015, the Plan includes five key priorities areas:
 - (a) Community Connection;
 - (b) Culture;
 - (c) Employment;
 - (d) Events; and
 - (e) Advocacy & Responsiveness.
6. Highlights from the third year implementation of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 are as follows:
 - (a) The Reconciliation Comedy Gala, which featured some of Australia's best comedians, raised \$15,000 for the Stolen Generations Marker Project held on 26 January 2017;
 - (b) The opening of the new North Fitzroy Library named Bargoonga Nganjin, which in Woiwurrung (the Traditional language of the Wurundjeri people) means "Come gather everyone";
 - (c) Council hosted an internal and external cultural awareness event called BlakWiz during Reconciliation Week. Both events were well attended, with about 80 Yarra staff attending the internal event, and about the same number attending the external event;
 - (d) The Smith St Dreaming Festival - as part of the Leaps & Bounds Festival - was held for the fifth consecutive year, and it was said to be the best Smith St Dreaming of all years. It was well attended by the wider Yarra community with approximately 600-800 people attending. A number of the internal RAP group volunteered on the day;

- (e) A screening of the Lionel Rose 1969 boxing world title bantam weight fight was screened at MAYSAR as a part of the Gertrude St Projection Festival and was well attended by the Yarra community;
 - (f) Celebrating Dreaming - a mural by Aboriginal artist Robert Young, was commissioned on the side wall of Charcoal Lane;
 - (g) The leadership shown by Yarra City Council in unanimously passing the resolution on the January 26 report. This saw an enormous media response, attracting local, national and international media coverage, including two New York Times articles. Over one million people either heard, read or saw a media article reporting on the City of Yarra's decision around January 26;
 - (h) Aged & Disability Services were part of the Balit Narrum working group which successfully advocated for two dedicated Aboriginal positions to help bring the Aboriginal community up to speed on the National Disability Insurance Scheme;
 - (i) The Stolen Generations Marker working group has been working on this project for almost two years. Council advocated to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and was successful in securing Atherton Gardens as the site for the marker. The working group also commissioned a high profile Victorian Aboriginal artist Reko Rennie to complete the public art piece;
 - (j) The Stolen Generations Marker working group partnered with the Croxton Hotel, who donated their space to host a fundraising gig on 2 December 2017. A number of high profile Aboriginal music artists donated their time to perform at this gig, with the headline act being Dan Sultan. This was only possible through the relationship of Council and Aunty Ros Sultan, who has been a huge supporter and member of Council's AAG, YASN and the Stolen Generations Marker working group. This gig raised \$20,000 for the Stolen Generations Marker Project;
 - (k) The advocacy to the State Government and Aboriginal Victoria to successfully secure funding of \$50,000 towards the Stolen Generations Marker project. Additional funding of \$10,000 from the Myer foundation, \$2,500 from the Wurundjeri Council, and the many other donors that have contributed. The total of \$? Has been raised through the crowdfunding page;
 - (l) The successful hosting of a number of Aboriginal art exhibitions by Council's Arts, Culture and Venues branch; and
 - (m) Yarra libraries hosted a number of Aboriginal events in 2017 including:
 - (i) Bruce Pascoe's Dark Emu event at the Fitzroy Town Hall;
 - (ii) Aboriginal astronomy event held at the Richmond Library;
 - (iii) "Reconciliation on the Rooftop" an event held at Bargoonga Nganjin - a collaboration between Council, Aboriginal Housing Victoria, and the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) which was well attended; and
 - (iv) "One Million Stars" project with Council and Aboriginal Housing Victoria.
7. There have also been some challenges along the way. Over the last three Aboriginal Partnership Plans, Council has set high standards and expectations, both externally and internally. Although Council has been continuously delivering on its commitments, with many positive outcomes, it has created an internal pressure within the team to continue to deliver at a high standard. This can be increasingly difficult when resources are limited, and Aboriginal community expectations are high. Council still has a long way to go to achieve equality and a level playing field for Aboriginal people and there are so many issues to address to achieve the desired outcomes required.

8. The January 26 project also presented challenges for Council and Council officers. The internal pressure applied by the enormous media response was at times extremely difficult. Despite this, the organisation didn't falter and delivered a consistent and clear message around the decision made and why. Acknowledgement should be given to those who bore the brunt of the backlash.
9. Aboriginal employment continues to be challenging, and the search for a suitable employment partner to replace BSL continues. Attracting Aboriginal employment candidates with the confidence and capacity to successfully fill administration positions is difficult.
10. The report on the implementation of the third year actions from the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 is provided as **Attachment One**.
11. The development and strengths of the fourth year action plan draws on the many years of experience and previous learnings of working and collaborating with the local Aboriginal community. This continued positive engagement between Council, local Aboriginal community members and the many Aboriginal and mainstream organisations within the municipality has paved the way for many positive relationships and outcomes.

External Consultation

12. The Plan was developed through extensive consultation with the Aboriginal community of Yarra and ongoing engagement continues with the Traditional Owners – the Wurundjeri, the AAG, the wider Aboriginal community of Yarra including Elders, Parkies, and community members, Aboriginal and mainstream service providers and their representatives, MAYSAR, VAHS, Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Limited (VACSAL), Charcoal Lane, the Neighbourhood Justice Centre (NJC), Launch Housing, cohealth, North Richmond Community Health (NRCH), Government Departments and Statutory Bodies which included representatives from the Department of Justice (DoJ), Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Aboriginal Victoria (AV), Victoria Police, Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB), Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), Department Health and Human Services, Environment Victoria, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), Fitzroy Legal Service, AFL Sports Ready, St Vincent's Hospital, White Lion, Office of Housing (OoH), Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL), Indigenous Workstar, 3KND Radio, Aboriginal Community Elders Service (ACES), Talking on Tuesdays Reconciliation Group, Cooke St Kinder and the Parkies Women's group.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

13. In the original development of the Plan internal consultations were conducted at each of the Yarra Town Halls, with members of the following branches of Council represented: Aged and Disability Services, Arts, Culture and Venues, Economic Development, Environmental Management, Family, Youth and Children's Services, Recreation and Open Space, Strategic Planning, Urban Design, Yarra Leisure, Yarra Libraries, Local Laws, Sustainability, Strategic Transport, and City Works.
14. The ongoing engagement and consultation across Council continues throughout the implementation of the Plan and is driven by the Reconciliation Action Plan working group which meets monthly to review the progress of actions in the Plan. This group has always taken a whole of Council approach and its success is evident in the breadth and depth of commitment across Council to the Plan.
15. The internal Reconciliation Action Plan working group has been highly engaged in the development of the fourth year action plan. This group meets on a monthly basis, with members reporting on the status of their individual actions. Members were also responsible for developing their individual actions for the fourth year action plan, and have the responsibility to deliver the outcomes on these actions.

Financial Implications

16. The financial implications of implementing the Plan are minimal with all actions being completed within the existing budgets.

Economic Implications

17. Council understands and recognises the barriers and disadvantages facing Aboriginal community members seeking economic equality. Council also recognises the advantages in providing opportunities for self-determination for Aboriginal people. This Plan not only provides Aboriginal community members with opportunities to build capacity and access gainful employment, it also provides opportunities for self-determination, social interaction and community engagement. This ultimately provides opportunities for community engagement, better lifestyle and economic outcomes for local Aboriginal people.
18. The continued commitment from Council to identify and promote Aboriginal employment opportunities to local businesses and encourage them to employ local Aboriginal people only improves the economic outcomes for the local Aboriginal community.

Sustainability Implications

19. Aboriginal people have managed their traditional lands and waterways using traditional practices for tens of thousands of years. Sustainability was crucial to the survival of Aboriginal people and their culture. The Plan contributes to the preservation of Aboriginal people and culture, and protects culturally significant sites of importance to the Wurundjeri community.

Social Implications

20. This Plan is a framework for action, with its primary strength being partnerships. These partnerships have been nurtured and built over a number of years and strengthen the local Aboriginal community's participation as active members of the Yarra's community. The local Aboriginal community has direct involvement in Council's AAG, YASN, the Stolen Generations Marker steering group, the Smith Street Dreaming working group, and the Billabong BBQ. These are all opportunities for the local Aboriginal community to have their aspirations heard and be involved in the planning of projects, events and policies. This provides social harmony, inclusion and self-determination.
21. The Plan also maintains Yarra's rich Aboriginal history and culture through internally and externally promoting and educating Yarra staff and the wider Yarra community on this rich culture and history that lays within the municipality. The Plan promotes Council's acknowledgment and recognition of the Wurundjeri community as the Traditional Owners of Yarra and promotes Council's stance on self-determination as best practice within the Aboriginal community.

Human Rights Implications

22. The Plan provides a strategic document to ensure Council meets its commitments and responsibilities in the *Charter of Human Rights & Responsibilities Act 2006* in the area of Aboriginal affairs by stating its commitment to respecting and promoting the rights of Aboriginal people.
23. One of the founding principles of the Charter is: Human rights have a special importance for Aboriginal people of Victoria, as descendants of Australia's first people with diverse social, cultural, and economic relationship with their traditional lands and waters.
24. One of the substantive rights listed in the Charter under cultural rights is that Aboriginal people must not be denied the right, with other members of their community to:
 - (a) enjoy their identity and culture;
 - (b) maintain and use their language;
 - (c) maintain their kinship ties; and
 - (d) maintain their distinctive spiritual, material, and economic relationship with the land and water and other resources with which they have a connection under traditional lore's and customs.
25. These rights are respected and promoted throughout the Plan and underpin the way Council engages with the Wurundjeri Council and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

26. A welcome booklet acknowledging the Wurundjeri community as the Traditional Owners of Yarra has been translated into nine different languages to raise awareness of the Wurundjeri people, and their rich history and culture.
27. An opportunity has presented itself to engage the Atherton Gardens residents from diverse cultural backgrounds through the Stolen Generations Marker project.
28. A January 26 information page has been developed in key community languages in partnership with the Yarra Settlement Forum and the Yarra Multicultural Advisory Group.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

29. The Council Plan 2017-2021 gives direction to the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan through the following strategic directions:
 - (a) Objective 1- A healthy Yarra, a place where community, health, safety, and wellbeing are a focus on everything we do;
 - (b) Objective 2- An inclusive Yarra, a place where inclusion, diversity, and uniqueness are welcomed, respected and celebrated;
 - (c) Objective 3 - A sustainable Yarra, council leads on sustainability and protect and enhances its natural environment; and
 - (d) Objective 4 – A liveable Yarra, development and growth are managed to maintain and enhance the character and heritage of the city.

Legal Implications

30. Some of the legislation related to this area of Council's works include:
 - (a) Local Government Act 1989 (Vic);
 - (b) Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic);
 - (c) Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and 2016 amendment (Vic);
 - (d) Racial Discrimination Act 1975; and
 - (e) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007.

Other Issues

31. The AAG will continue to oversee the development and implementation of the Plan, with Council's RAP Group tracking the monthly progress of all actions. All new actions are cognisant of priorities identified in community consultation.
32. In developing the fourth year action plan, Council has continued to listen to the aspirations and needs of the local Aboriginal community. The fourth year action plan includes 56 actions, comprised of new and ongoing actions (see **Attachment Two**).

Options

33. There are no options.

Conclusion

34. The Aboriginal Partnership Plan 2015-2018 continues to provide positive outcomes in the local Aboriginal community.
35. Each year Council builds on the work of the previous plans, encouraging more staff to become involved and aware. The Plan highlights and reflects the value of a coordinated, collaborative and organisational approach.
36. There have been many highlights and some challenges during the implementation of the third year action plan.

37. The renewal and revitalisation of Council's RAP Group has seen improved cultural awareness across the organisation and improved coordination of Council's engagement with the local Aboriginal community. This has seen relationships between Aboriginal community members and a good number of Council staff blossom, allowing the opportunity for positive outcomes to be achieved.
38. The Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 is Council's unmistakable commitment to the Aboriginal community and provides it with an amazing vehicle to achieve great outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) notes the third year report on the implementation of the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018; and
 - (b) endorses the fourth year action plan for the Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 which includes the development of the new Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2019-2022.

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Attachments

- 1 Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Three Actions Report
- 2 Aboriginal Partnerships Plan 2015-2018 Year Four Action Plan

11.6 Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Partnerships Strategy 2014 - 2017 Annual Progress Report

Executive Summary

Purpose

- (a) To provide the annual progress report for 2017 for the Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014 – 2017;
- (b) To seek the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding 2018 – 2021; and
- (c) To seek the adoption of the Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 between Yarra City Council and the Yarra Neighbourhood Houses.

Key Issues

The Memorandum of Understanding and Partnerships Strategy define a shared vision for Council and the Houses, where collaboration, trust and flexibility can achieve resilient and empowered communities in a rapidly changing environment. The original Memorandum of Understanding was developed following an extensive consultation process in 2007 with all Houses and various Council Units and endorsed by Council in 2008. The Memorandum of Understanding and Partnerships Strategy is reviewed every four years in line with the Council Plan. The review process of the Memorandum of Understanding and Partnerships Strategy commenced in June 2017.

All houses continue to consolidate their strengths to address the changing political, financial and demographic impacts and developing new strategies and seeking new opportunities and partnerships to respond to the changes in positive and creative ways.

In moving forward the Yarra Neighbourhood House Network continues to seek collaborative projects, develop a core message to promote neighbourhood houses, their purpose, value and community benefit to a new demographic and engage more actively in resource sharing.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications from the review of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Partnerships Strategy 2018 – 2021 or from the annual progress report of the Action Plan for 2017. In 2017/18 Council allocated \$675,939.13 to Yarra's nine Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres through the Neighbourhood House Funding Program. The funding is based on the model that was adopted by Council in February 2012 and reviewed in October 2015.

PROPOSAL

That Council:

- (a) note the progress report for 2017 of the Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014 – 2017;
- (b) adopt the Memorandum of Understanding 2018 – 2021; and
- (c) adopt the Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 between Yarra City Council and the Yarra Neighbourhood Houses.

11.6 Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Partnerships Strategy 2014 - 2017 Annual Progress Report

Trim Record Number: D17/192598

Responsible Officer: Community Partnerships Unit Manager

Purpose

1. The purpose of the report is to:
 - (a) provide the annual progress report for 2017 for the Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014 – 2017;
 - (b) seek the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding 2018 – 2021; and
 - (c) seek the adoption of the Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 between Yarra City Council and the Yarra Neighbourhood Houses.

Background

2. Neighbourhood Houses play a vital role in building vibrant local communities. They are important places of inclusion and provide valuable social, recreational, educational and training opportunities that enable people to achieve their potential. They connect people in local communities through the vast volunteering opportunities they provide and the wide range of activities on offer.
3. The Victoria government provides recurrent funding to Neighbourhood Houses in accordance with Victorian Government priorities through the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP) “to support the coordination of a service that provides community development activities consistent with the aims of the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program”. (*Neighbourhood House Coordination Program Guidelines 2016–2019 and sector information*). Other sources of income include the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Local Government, the Federal Government, Philanthropic Organisations and funds generated by Neighbourhood Houses themselves.
4. Neighbourhood Houses are funded through the Department of Health and Human Services to support the provision of community development programs and activities that lead to community strengthening outcomes by:
 - (a) supporting diversity and promoting community participation and inclusion;
 - (b) facilitating community development and capacity building in support of individuals and groups within communities;
 - (c) supporting lifelong learning opportunities for people to improve their access to training and employment pathways; and
 - (d) undertake community development processes to address locally identified priorities and needs.
5. Community development practice is based on the premise that communities have strengths and assets.
6. Additionally Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres in Yarra are governed by independent and volunteer Governance Committees and run by paid, staff and volunteers.
7. In June 2013 Council formally adopted the Memorandum of Understanding 2013 – 2017 (MOU). Council also adopted the Partnerships Strategy 2014 – 2017 (the Strategy) with Yarra’s nine Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres (the Houses) in March 2014. The Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan sets out three key areas with actions that support and strengthen the collaborative partnership between Council and the Houses. The nine Houses that are signatories to the MOU and the Partnerships Strategy are:
 - (a) Alphington Community Centre;
 - (b) Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House;

- (c) Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre;
 - (d) Collingwood Neighbourhood House;
 - (e) Finbar Neighbourhood House;
 - (f) Fitzroy Learning Network;
 - (g) Holden Street Neighbourhood House;
 - (h) North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House; and
 - (i) Richmond Community Learning Centre.
8. *The Strategy and Action Plan confirms and clarifies roles, relationships, partnering opportunities and mutual benefits of a more coordinated, collaborative approach between the Houses and Council. It reflects the strong working relationships of the Houses with several of Council's branches e.g., Library Services, Sustainability and Strategic Transport, Waste Minimisation, Building and Property Management, Communications, Emergency and Risk Management, Leisure Services, Open Space Management, Social Policy & Research, Aged and Disability Services and Family, Youth and Children's Services.*
9. The Strategy and Action Plan is an active document that provides a collaborative environment for the Houses to work in partnership with the various units/branches across Council to deliver appropriate and responsive programs and activities to Yarra residents. The Action Plan is reviewed annually to maintain flexibility.

Achievements of the Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan for 2017

10. All Houses delivered on the three key areas from the Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan for 2017. **(Attachment 1)**. The following are some of the highlights for 2017:
- (a) *Strategy 1: Undertake a change management process:*
 - (i) Richmond Community Learning Centre (RCLC) engaged with Council to explore the possibility of solely managing the Studio1 Community Hub on Bendigo Street in addition to Burnley Backyard on Tudor Street and Richmond Community Learning Centre on Lord Street. RCLC will continue to identify opportunities and develop strategies to respond to the changing demographic environment across the three sites;
 - (ii) Belgium Avenue continues to partner with Melbourne University Marketing and Entrepreneurial students to explore internships for the development of marketing strategies for the Neighbourhood Houses in Yarra;
 - (iii) Collingwood, Belgium Ave, Holden Street and RCLC are trialling activities and programs outside business hours: including craft markets, music performances and family events such as rollerblading in the Collingwood underground carpark;
 - (iv) Belgium Avenue continues to maintain a strong partnership with Ford Australia as part of their "good corporate citizens" program. This involves Ford staff as part of their community service program supporting the house with various projects and maintenance activities e.g. assisting with the Belgium Ave community garden; and
 - (v) Alphington Community Centre (ACC) and North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House (Railway House) are strengthening partnerships with local schools to engage families, children and young people in a range of skills based and peer support activities;
 - (vi) Following several years of planning and negotiations with Council, ACC established a Men's Shed to help men maintain connections to community, for skills development and to promote health and wellbeing;

- (vii) Fitzroy Learning Network (FLN) engaged with local women to develop a “Women in Leadership” training program to provide skill development and pathways for employment participation and as an outcome established the FLN Catering Group;
- (viii) All Houses participated in a presentation by Council’s Social Policy Unit on 2016 census data specific to the Houses to identify changing population trends in each of the neighbourhood areas. Each House was provided with data specific to their community to assist in the future planning and marketing of services, programs and activities.

(b) *Strategy 2: Marketing, Branding and Communication:*

- (i) “Music and Art from the Heart” - a special musical and art event was presented for the fourth year by Yarra’s Neighbourhood House Network (the Network) to celebrate Neighbourhood House Week 2017. With over 200 residents attending this was a collaborative event with all Houses and Council to deliver a community event showcasing choirs, folk singers, bands and arts and crafts. This has become an annual event that promotes the community development work of the Houses to the Yarra residents, Council staff, and local agencies;
- (ii) The Network in partnership with Council’s Communications Unit has developed a new brochure highlighting the diversity of projects, activities and services delivered by the nine Houses that support Council’s key strategic goals;
- (iii) The Network continues to upload information to Facebook to promote the work of the Houses in Yarra to a broader demographic and strengthen its online presence. All Houses continue to upgrade their websites and maintain an active social media presence to market their programs and activities to a broader more diverse Yarra community. Collingwood and Belgium Ave are developing short documentaries on special events and uploading to social media. FLN initiated a crowd funding platform to raise funds online for programs and activities. The process and learnings were shared with all Houses;
- (iv) All Houses continue to work with Yarra Libraries to cross promote projects, services and events to broaden community knowledge of the Houses, improve the capacity of Houses and to market programs to a changing demographic e.g., “Movies in the Park” held at the park adjacent to Holden St, Children’s Storytime at Alphington, English language conversation classes and Broadband for Seniors at Carlton Learning Centre. In addition RCLC, Belgium Ave and Carlton partnered with Yarra Libraries to deliver “Community Connections Day” to promote activities and services provided by the Libraries and the Houses. The Library Coordinator, Community Learning and Partnerships continues to meet with the Network and individual Houses to promote specific House projects via the Library newsletter;
- (v) FLN in collaboration with Yarra Libraries and Fitzroy Legal Service delivered the “Bridges to Harmony” Festival to promote diversity, celebrate multiculturalism and bring the disparate communities of Fitzroy together. This was a great success and the event is now planned to be delivered annually; and
- (vi) the “Link” newsletter produced by the Richmond, Collingwood and Fitzroy high-rise estates, continues to be utilised as a promotional tool for all Houses to profile and highlight specific programs, activities and events to Yarra residents.

(c) *Strategy 3: Resource Sharing and Collaboration:*

- (i) The Network continues to explore models for resource sharing and collaboration as well as joint funding opportunities to expand the capacity of Houses across the Yarra;
- (ii) All Houses continue to use the Dropbox to share resources such as policies and procedures;

- (iii) The Network has had various speakers on the new National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to explore how the Neighbourhood House sector can most effectively position itself in the new NDIS landscape;
 - (iv) Houses continue to identify particular skill sets to share and promote their strengths in specific areas. E.g., grant writing, catering, art and music etc. The Network continues to maintain strong relationships with various Council units, e.g., Library Services, Sustainability and Strategic Transport, Waste Management, Open Space Management, Family and Children's Services and the Community Partnerships Branch to update Houses on Council strategies and project opportunities; and
 - (v) All Houses maintain strong links with each other and share resources with their key local agencies and networks to share information, refer clients, cross promote services and respond to emerging issues for their local communities.
11. Yarra's Neighbourhood Houses are unique in creating opportunities for people to connect, learn and contribute in their local community through social, educational, recreational and support activities that enable people to achieve their potential, using a unique community development approach.
 12. All the nine Houses respond to locally identified needs and priorities and each is as diverse as the community it reflects. According to the neighbourhood houses survey in 2015 by the peak body Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, approximately 2,800 people visited a Yarra Neighbourhood House in a week. This included students, volunteers, children in child care, people from other organisations for training/meetings and "drop-ins". Approximately 75% of the participants were involved in programed activities.
 13. All nine Houses provide a range of activities that meet the needs of the local community such as accredited vocational education & training, art and craft, children's activities and child care, community choirs, community events and lunches, digital literacy, English language classes, sustainability projects, health and wellbeing classes, men's shed, seniors and youth groups as well as programs for refugee and recently arrived communities.

External Consultation

14. The MOU and the Strategy is an ongoing agreement subject to review and evaluation every four years, in line with the Council Plan. The MOU was reviewed during 2017 over a 6 month period involving all House Managers, Committees of Governance, staff and users of the Houses. There were some minor adjustments to some sections of the document. The key changes were:
 - (a) under the title *Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding*: To foster and support a working relationship between NH&LCs and Council has been changed to - *To foster and support a respectful and trusting working relationship between Neighbourhood Houses and Council*;
 - (b) under the title *Benefits of the Memorandum of Understanding*: in Section 1.11, the historical context and grass-roots nature of each NH&LC has been changed to - *That Neighbourhood Houses have a long history of grass roots engagement and are uniquely placed to respond to the evolving needs of the communities of Yarra*; and
 - (c) under the title *Benefits of the Memorandum of Understanding*: in Section 2.12, ensuring that all Council staff are made aware of NH&LC and their capacity to contribute to overall Council Plan has been changed to - *Creating opportunities to promote to all council staff on what Neighbourhood Houses do*.
15. All feedback was incorporated to produce the Memorandum of Understanding 2018 – 2021 between Yarra City Council and the Yarra Neighbourhood Houses. The final document has been endorsed by all the Houses and Committees of Governance (**Attachment 2**).
16. The Strategy was also reviewed at the same time as the MOU and has also been endorsed by all Houses and Committees of Governance. Four of the objectives from the Council Plan 2018 – 2021 were chosen as the focus for the Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021. (**Attachment 3**). These objectives are:

- (a) Community Health, Safety and well-being are a focus in everything we do;
 - (b) Inclusion Diversity and Uniqueness are welcomed respected and celebrated;
 - (c) Council leads on sustainability and protects and enhances its natural environment; and
 - (d) Local businesses prosper and creative and knowledge industries thrive.
17. The review process for both documents was facilitated by the Manager of the North East neighbourhood House Network (NENHN) and involved all House Managers, staff and representatives from their respective Governance Committees.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

18. Internal consultation for the review of the MOU and the Strategy was undertaken with Council Officers from various Branches including: Community Partnerships, Library Services, Leisure Services, Waste Management, Aged and Disability Services, Open Space Management, Property Services, Sustainability and Urban Agriculture and Family, Youth and Children's Services. The review process was coordinated by Officers from the Community Partnerships Unit who have the major responsibility for managing the relationship with the nine Houses.
19. The Action Plan is reviewed annually at a planning day facilitated by the Manager of NENHN and attended by the House Managers, staff, Governance Members and Council staff. The implementation of the annual Action Plan is monitored by the Yarra Neighbourhood House Network and Council's Community Partnerships Unit.

Financial Implications

20. There are no financial implications from the annual progress report of the Action Plan for 2017 or from the review of the MOU and the Strategy 2018 – 2021.
21. In 2017/18 Council allocated \$675,939.13 to Yarra's nine Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres through the Neighbourhood House Funding Program. The funding is based on the model that was adopted by Council in February 2012 and reviewed in October 2015.
22. Further to the Neighbourhood House Funding Program, Council has a capital responsibility as it is the landlord to four of the Houses: Holden Street Neighbourhood House, North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House, Richmond Community Learning Centre, Burnley Backyard and landlord to the land adjacent to Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House on which a portable is located and used to provide a range of activities. These financial responsibilities of Council as landlord will not change.
23. In addition, Council and RCLC have been engaged in discussions around the possibility of RCLC having sole management of Studio1 Community Hub on Bendigo Street in addition to Burnley Backyard on Tudor Street and Richmond Community Learning Centre on Lord Street. Studio 1 Community Hub is currently being leased to RCLC in a unique partnership arrangement between Council and the Learning Centre. RCLC have requested Council to see if other options for management of Studio 1 Community Hub could be explored.

Economic Implications

24. The direct and indirect economic implications that Yarra's Houses have on the Yarra community and businesses are primarily around the adult education that occurs within the Houses. This provides opportunities for adults to learn new skills and creates pathways for transition into the workforce, education or further training. This includes the English classes, programs and activities that assist and support newly arrived communities to participate fully in their local community and develop a better understanding of life in Australia.
25. In addition, the Houses provide a variety of full and part time employment for teachers, childcare workers, administration, project workers, community development workers, arts practitioners, financial and IT staff that are important sources of local employment.
26. Yarra's Houses have a high volunteer participation rate. This contribution to Yarra's economy is significant in terms of economic and social capital.

Sustainability Implications

27. The MOU and the Strategy have an important role in continuing to strengthening the relationship between the Houses and Council's Sustainability, Waste Minimisation and Open Space Units in educating and supporting Houses in their sustainability initiatives.
28. Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre's (CNLC) multicultural food garden, workshops on the living classroom and Open Table Feasts encourage knowledge on growing food, composting, minimising landfill and provide a gathering place for sharing and learning skills for sustainable living.
29. Finbar continues to develop its Community Garden Project in collaboration with Council's Sustainability Unit. The project provides opportunities to share excess produce with the local community as well as with not for profit organisations such as Fare Share and Second Bite. It also offers organic seeds to encourage and inspire the local community to start their own gardens. The House has strong connections with local businesses to encourage compost donations used to nourish the garden and help to reduce landfill. In addition, Finbar delivered an annual "Urban Field Day" event promoting a range of sustainability activities to encourage the local community to grow their own gardens, composting, and waste minimisation and recycling.
30. Environmental and Sustainability activities continue to be an integral part of Holden Street in being a role model to the local community in reuse, recycling and limiting energy consumption. The House continues to be part of the Sustainable Living Festival with its many environmental features, such as solar panels, lights, water tanks, permaculture and rainwater gardens as well as herb gardens and worm farms. In addition the House provides gardening and preserving workshops and has a produce swap program.
31. RCLC in partnership with Council's Sustainability Unit has launched the pilot project "Burnley Fruit Squad" to harvest excess fruit from local residents, minimise food waste, promote sustainable food initiatives, share fresh fruit with the community and help improve food security for vulnerable groups in Yarra.
32. ACC continues to strengthen its composting and gardening initiatives with support from local groups to establish a new market garden and an urban orchard in addition to providing sustainability workshops, food preserving and participating in the Darebin Backyard Harvest Festival.
33. Railway House in partnership with Council's Waste Minimisation Unit has become a collection point for battery, mobile phones, camera recycling and soft plastics. The House is actively promoting recycling practices within the House and with the local community to improve knowledge on the correct disposal of rubbish and recyclable items. In addition a local group of residents have established "The Carbon Cutters" to inform the local community on ways to reduce environmental impact, and sustainable gardening. The House also provides workshops with a local artist for children using recyclable items for art activities.

Social Implications

34. The Houses play a key role in community development through: building knowledge, developing skills, increasing levels of resilience, mutuality and trust within the community. The Houses have a track record in:
 - (a) community building and strengthening through cultural events and festivals celebrating and showcasing Yarra's culturally and linguistically diverse communities (CALD);
 - (b) providing appropriate and responsive community services: for children, young people, the elderly, people with disabilities, CALD, refugee and newly arrived and disadvantaged communities;
 - (c) providing opportunities to improve community health and well-being and social connectedness, through a range of exercise programs and community gym memberships; and

- (d) Offering accessible and affordable education, skills development, life-long learning and training opportunities and employment pathways.

Human Rights Implications

- 35. The MOU and the Strategy recognises and respects the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* by actively supporting the Charter's substantive rights through the programs and activities offered by the Houses.

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

- 36. All Houses deliver a range of programs, services and activities to CALD communities across Yarra. There are no implications for the way the Houses communicate, engage with or deliver services to their CALD communities.
- 37. As part of their core business, all Houses, engage with CALD, refugee and newly arrived communities through educational programs, social activities such as community lunches and cultural celebrations such as Lunar New Year.
- 38. Some Houses also have individuals from CALD backgrounds on Committees of Governance, acting as facilitators for specific groups such as playgroups, and leading specific community development projects such as supporting African Women's Groups. Houses also support a wide variety of ethno-specific groups by auspicing their activities.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

- 39. The Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 relates to the new Council Plan 2017 – 2021 via the following strategic objectives:
 - (a) A healthy Yarra: Community Health, Safety and well-being are a focus in everything we do;
 - (b) An inclusive Yarra: Inclusion Diversity and Uniqueness are welcomed respected and celebrated; and
 - (c) A sustainable Yarra: Council leads on sustainability and protects and enhances its natural environment;
 - (d) A prosperous Yarra: Local businesses prosper and creative and knowledge industries thrive; and
 - (e) A leading Yarra: Transparency, performance and community participation drive the way we operate.

Legal Implications

- 40. The MOU and the Strategy is not legally binding on either or both parties.

Other Issues

- 41. Council continues to provide publicity and marketing support to Houses via the development of a new brochure highlighting the diversity of projects and services delivered by the Houses that support Council's Strategic goals, by including articles in Yarra News, Yarra website and social media to improve knowledge and access to more diverse groups.

Conclusion

- 42. The MOU and the Strategy acknowledges the valuable relationship between Council and the Houses and provides a framework of trust and collaboration to deliver programs and activities that enable people to achieve their potential and benefit the Yarra community. The MOU and Strategy defines a shared vision for Council and the Houses, where collaboration, trust and flexibility can achieve healthy, creative, connected and resilient communities in a rapidly changing environment.
- 43. All Houses continue to build on their strengths to address the changing political, financial and demographic impacts by developing new strategies and seeking new opportunities and partnerships to respond to the changes in positive and creative ways.

44. In moving forward the Network continues to explore collaborative projects, develop a core message to promote neighbourhood houses, their purpose, value and community benefit to a new demographic and engage more actively in resource sharing.
45. The Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 is based on the strategic objectives of the Council Plan which demonstrates the level of commitment by the Houses and Learning Centres to work in partnership with Council.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) note the annual progress report for 2017 of the Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014 – 2017;
 - (b) adopt the Memorandum of Understanding 2018 – 2021; and
 - (c) adopt the Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021 between Yarra City Council and Yarra Neighbourhood Houses.

CONTACT OFFICER: Katherine Vrettas
TITLE: Community Planner
TEL: 9205 5174

Attachments

- 1 Yarra Neighbourhood Houses and Yarra City Council Partnerships Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2017
- 2 Memorandum of Understanding 2018-2021
- 3 Yarra City Council and Neighbourhood Houses Partnership Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2021

11.7 Family Violence Organisational Statement

Trim Record Number: D17/198176

Responsible Officer: Acting Coordinator Engagement & Inclusion

Purpose

1. To endorse the City of Yarra Family Violence Organisational Statement actions that align with Council’s Gender Equity Strategy 2016 – 2021.

Background

2. The Family Violence Organisational statement is a commitment of Yarra’s continued leadership around addressing family violence in our community. It is a pledge to continue work on effective prevention and response activities to family violence.
3. The statement articulates the City of Yarra’s position on family violence, and allows a framework for describing the actions we are working on to address this issue.
4. The key, related policy documents are outlined below:

Strategy	Description	Who
Gender Equity Strategy 2016 – 2021	Council’s latest Strategy which outlines actions that will lead to a gender inclusive culture for all staff.	Council
<i>Building a Respectful Community Strategy 2017 - 2021</i>	The latest northern regional preventing violence against women strategy developed by NMR PVAW Committee.	NMR PVAW Committee
<i>Ending Family Violence: Victoria’s Plan for Change Nov 2016</i>	Victorian Government’s 10 year plan to achieve a violence free community, by implementing all of the 227 recommendations from the Royal Commission into Family Violence.	State Government
<i>Free From Violence: The Primary Prevention Strategy (May 2017)</i>	Victoria’s strategy to prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women.	State Government
<i>Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy (Dec 2016)</i>	Victoria’s first gender equality Strategy which sets out a framework for addressing gender inequality across six setting, to provide enduring and sustained action over time	State Government
<i>Change the Story (2015)</i>	A national framework for the primary prevention of violence against women and their children.	Our Watch

External Consultation

5. This statement was informed by the work of leading local family violence organisations including Women’s Health in the North, Berry Street services, and Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

6. The Family Violence Statement was developed by an internal cross-organisational working group involving staff from many areas of Council. Included in the consultations were Family, Youth and Children’s Services, Social Policy and Research, City Works and Assets, People Culture and Community, and Corporate Business and Finance.

7. Social Policy and Research are also undertaking a project looking at the current intersection points between Council and community members experiencing, or concerned about, family violence. The Organisational Statement will be used as context for this work and also help position Council as a local leader in responding to this issue.

Financial Implications

8. There are no financial implications of the Family Violence Organisational Statement. The actions articulated are aligned to existing strategies across multiple branches.

Economic Implications

9. There are significant economic implications if we do not take a lead around preventing and responding to family violence in our community. Family violence is estimated to cost the Australian economy \$13.6 billion each year and this figure is increasing (Our Watch, 2015). From an individual perspective, family violence has significant economic implications in terms of the impact on a person's capacity to work, to earn money and access secure and ongoing employment.

Sustainability Implications

10. There are no sustainability implications.

Social Implications

11. An organisational statement on family violence send a clear message to our community that we understanding the serious and enduring impact of family violence, and are committed to building a society free from violence.
12. The importance of preventing violence before it occurs and to clearly addressing the drivers of family violence, is critical to ensuring that women and children can live free of fear and harm in our community.

Human Rights Implications

13. Council acknowledges that family violence breaches a wide range of human rights and that the impact on our community is significant. Human rights impeded include:
 - (a) freedom from violence, including sexual, mental, emotional, physical or financial;
 - (b) right to life for all members of the community;
 - (c) to reside safely and without fear of persecution or threats of violence;
 - (d) to move freely within the community;
 - (e) optimum physical and mental health of an individual;
 - (f) right to decent work;
 - (g) freedom of expression and the right to hold opinions without interference;
 - (h) a child or young person's right to leisure and play; and
 - (i) right to education.

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

14. We will continue to partner with agencies such the Neighbourhood Justice Centre (NJC) who are working closely with our local CALD communities on the issue of family violence. We are also guided by local networks such as Yarra's Family Violence Network on how best to communicate our statement, and associated actions, with CALD communities.
15. Publishing the statement on the City of Yarra website, along with information and referral services available our community, may allow the statement to be accessible in several languages other than English.

Council Plan, Strategy & Policy Implications

16. The Family Violence Organisational Statement is aligned with the Council Plan 2017 – 2021 specifically action number 1.6 Promote a gender equitable, safe and respectful community.

Legal Implications

17. Recommendation 94 of the Family Violence Royal Commission Report requires all Councils to 'report on the measures that they propose to take to reduce family violence and respond to the needs of victims' when preparing their health and wellbeing plan.
18. This is now been incorporated as part of recent amendments to the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act (2008)*. According to the state government's *Guidance Fact Sheet (May 2017)*, 'The measures referred to may include strategies and/or actions councils propose to take.' This new requirement is aimed at increasing the focus on family violence prevention and response at a local level and applies to 2017 – 2021 MPHWP's.
19. The organisational statement is a key element demonstrating our commitment to working in this space.

Other Issues

20. The proposed Family Violence Organisational statement is as follows:

Family Violence Organisational Statement

1. *The City of Yarra pledges its commitment to a future where all members of the community are protected from family violence. We understand that family violence is a significant health and human rights issue and results in major health, social and economic consequences.*
2. *The City of Yarra acknowledges that family violence can affect anyone, regardless of a person's gender, sexual orientation, age, occupation, cultural background or economic status. It can occur in all kinds of families and family-like relationships. We recognise the wide ranging and damaging impact that it has on the lives of individuals, families, and the community as a whole.*
3. *The City of Yarra is committed to addressing family violence through a whole of community approach. We are working towards a community where relationships between all members of the community are respectful, and promote the right to live free from family violence. This includes:*
 - (a) *advocating for a strong, coordinated response for those affected by family violence;*
 - (b) *increasing awareness of family violence as a key social and health issue;*
 - (c) *working in partnership with key networks and organisations involved in building respectful communities and reducing family violence;*
 - (d) *promoting an understanding of the link between gender inequity and family violence;*
 - (e) *upholding principles of gender equity in mainstream council operations, strategies, policies and service delivery;*
 - (f) *recognising the link between family violence and homelessness and advocating for sustainable housing solutions for those affected by family violence; and*
 - (g) *ensuring that all members of the community have the opportunity to participate equally in all areas of public and private life without fear or discrimination.*
4. *The City of Yarra is committed to building a culture where violence against any person is unacceptable, and where all relationships are gender equitable, respectful and non-discriminatory.*

Conclusion

21. Councils have a key role to play in committing to address the issue of family violence in the community.
22. The organisational statement is an important public declaration of this ongoing commitment.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That:

- (a) Council endorses the proposed Family Violence Organisational Statement.

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Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

11.8 Proposed Discontinuance of Road adjacent to 2 Harding Lane, Richmond

Trim Record Number: D17/205025

Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Purpose

1. For Council to consider whether the road adjacent to the property known as 2 Harding Lane, Richmond shown as lot 1 on the title plan attached as Attachment 1 to this report, being part of the land contained in Memorial Book 186 Number 16 (**Road**), should be discontinued pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)* and sold to the adjoining owners at 2 Harding Lane, Richmond (**Owners**).

Background

2. At its meeting on 15 August 2017, Council:
 - (a) resolved to commence the required statutory procedures to discontinue the Road; and
 - (b) directed that a public notice of the proposed discontinuance of the Road be given in *The Age*, *The Weekly Review Melbourne Times Newspapers* and Council's social media, pursuant to sections 207A and 223 of the Act.

Discussion

Road

3. The Road is known to title as a 'road'.
4. The Road is therefore a 'road' for the purposes of the Act which Council has the power to consider discontinuing. If the Road is discontinued, the Road will vest in Council.
5. The Road is not listed as a road on Council's Register of Public Roads.

Public Notice

6. The public notice was published in accordance with Council's resolution dated 15 August 2017 in accordance with section 223 of the Act.
7. Council **has not** received any submissions regarding the proposed discontinuance of the Road.

Valuation

8. The Owners have agreed to acquire the Road for its market value (plus GST) as determined by the Act.
9. Council has prepared a valuation for the Road and determined that the market value is Forty Two Thousand Dollars (**\$42,000**).
10. In addition to the market value (plus GST), the Owners have agreed to pay Council's costs and disbursements associated with the Proposal.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

11. Nil

Financial Implications

12. Nil

Economic Implications

13. Nil

Sustainability Implications

14. Nil

Social Implications

15. Nil

Human Rights Implications

16. Nil

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

17. All notices and correspondence issued with respect of this report will contain referral information to Yarralink Interpreter Service.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

18. Nil

Legal Implications

19. If the Road is discontinued and sold to the Owners, Council will require the Owners to:
- (a) create a sewerage easement in favour of City West Water along the length of the Road, (this can be effected as part of the transfer of land);
 - (b) agree to observe the conditions imposed by City West Water in respect of the Road; and
 - (c) consolidate the title to the former Road with the title to the Owners' Property with 6 months of the date of transfer of the Road to the Owners, at the Owner's expense.

Other Issues

20. Nil

Options

21. Nil

Conclusion

22. It is proposed that Council should discontinue the Road pursuant to clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Act and sell the Road to the Owners as it is not reasonably required for public use.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council acting under clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)*:
 - (a) resolves that, having followed all the required statutory procedures pursuant to sections 207A and 233 of the Act pursuant to its power under clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Act, and being of the opinion that the Road is not reasonably required for public use, it discontinues the Road;
 - (b) directs that a notice pursuant to the provisions of clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 of the Act is to be published in the *Victoria Government Gazette*;
 - (c) directs that once discontinued, the Road be transferred to the adjoining owners of 2 Harding Lane, Richmond (**Owners**), for no less than the market value (plus GST) being the amount of \$42,000 (plus GST);
 - (d) directs that the CEO sign any transfer or transfers of the Road and any other documents required to be signed in connection with the discontinuance of the Road and its subsequent transfer to the Owners;
 - (e) any easements, rights or interests required to be created or saved over the Road by any authority be done so and not affected by the discontinuance and sale of the Road; and
 - (f) directs that the Owners be required to consolidate the title to the Road with the title to 2 Harding Lane, Richmond, being the Land contained in certificate of title volume 10782 folio 865, by no later than 6 months after the date of transfer of the discontinued Road.

CONTACT OFFICER: Bill Graham
TITLE: Coordinator Valuations
TEL: 9205 5270

Attachments

- 1 Title Plan of Road

11.9 Proposed discontinuance of the road abutting 14 Lambert Street, Richmond.

Trim Record Number: D17/205452
 Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Purpose

1. For Council to consider whether the road abutting the rear of 14 Lambert Street, Richmond, shown as lots 1 and 2 on the title plan attached as Attachment 1 to this report, being part of the land contained in Memorial Book Z No. 815 (**Road**), should be discontinued pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)* and sold to the Owners of 14 Lambert Street, Richmond (**Owners**).

Background

2. At its meeting on 15 August 2017, Council:
 - (a) resolved to commence the statutory procedures required to discontinue the Road; and
 - (b) directed that a public notice of the proposed discontinuance of the Road be given in *The Age*, *The Weekly Review Melbourne Times Newspapers* and Council’s social media, pursuant to sections 207A and 223 of the Act.

Discussion

Road

3. The Road is shown on title as a ‘road’ and historically has been used as a right of way.
4. The Road is therefore a ‘road’ for the purposes of the Act which Council has the power to consider discontinuing. If the Road is discontinued, the Road will vest in Council.
5. The Road is listed on Council’s Register of Public Roads. It is considered that the Road is no longer reasonably required for general public use pursuant to section 17(4) of the *Road Management Act 2004* as:
 - (a) the Road is fenced into the Owner’s property, being the property known as 14 Lambert Street, Richmond (**Owners’ Property**); and
 - (b) no properties other than the Owner’s property has access to the Road.

Public Notice

6. The public notice was published in accordance with Council’s resolution dated 15 August 2017 in accordance with section 223 of the Act.
7. Council has not received any submissions regarding the proposed discontinuance of the Road.

Valuation

8. The Owner has agreed to acquire the Road for its market value (plus GST) as determined by the Act.
9. Council has prepared a valuation for the Road and determined that the market value is thirteen thousand two hundred dollars (**\$13,200**).
10. In addition to the market value of the Road (plus GST), the Owners have agreed to pay Council’s costs and disbursements associated with the proposed discontinuance of the Road.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

11. Nil

Financial Implications

12. Nil

Economic Implications

13. Nil

Sustainability Implications

14. Nil

Social Implications

15. Nil

Human Rights Implications

16. Nil

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

17. All notices and correspondence issued with respect of this report will contain referral information to Yarralink Interpreter Service.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

18. Nil

Legal Implications

19. If the Road is discontinued and sold to the Owners, Council will require the Owners to consolidate the title to the former Road with the title to the Owners' Property within 6 months of the date of the transfer of the Road to the Owners, at the Owners' expense.

Other Issues

20. Nil

Options

21. Nil

Conclusion

22. It is proposed that Council should discontinue the Road pursuant to clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Act and sell the Road to the Owners as the Road is no longer reasonably required for public use.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council, acting under section 17(4) of the *Road Management Act 2004*, resolves that the road at the rear of 14 Lambert Street, Richmond which is shown as lots 1 and 2 on the plan contained in Attachment 1 to this Report, being part of the land contained in Memorial Book Z No. 815 (**Road**), be removed from Council's Register of Public Roads on the basis that the Road is no longer reasonably required for general public use for the following reasons:
 - (a) the Road is fenced into the adjoining owners' property, being the property known as 14 Lambert Street, Richmond (**Owners' Property**); and
 - (b) no properties other than the Owners' Property has access to the Road.
2. That Council, acting under clause 3 of schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)*:
 - (a) resolves that, having followed all the required statutory procedures pursuant to sections 207A and 233 of the Act pursuant to its power under clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Act, and being of the opinion that the Road is not reasonable required for public use, it discontinues the Road;
 - (b) directs that a notice pursuant to the provisions of clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 of the Act is to be published in the *Victoria Government Gazette*;
 - (c) directs that, once discontinued, the Road be transferred to the adjoining owners at 14 Lambert Street, Richmond (**Owners**), for no less than the market value (plus GST), being the amount of \$13,200 (plus GST);
 - (d) directs that the CEO sign any transfer or transfers of the Road and any other documents required to be signed in connection with the discontinuance of the Road and its subsequent transfer to the Owners; and
 - (e) directs that the Owners be required to consolidate the title to the Road with the title to 14 Lambert Street, Richmond being the land contained in certificate of title volume 6608 folio 553, by no later than 6 months after the date of transfer of the discontinued Road.

CONTACT OFFICER: Bill Graham
TITLE: Coordinator Valuations
TEL: 9205 5270

Attachments

- 1 Title Plan of Road

11.10 Proposed Discontinuance of Road abutting the rear of 294-298 Swan Street, Richmond.

Trim Record Number: D17/205622
Responsible Officer: Chief Financial Officer

Purpose

1. For Council to consider whether the road abutting the rear of the property known as 294-298 Swan Street, Richmond shown as lot 1 on the title plan attached as Attachment 1 to this report, being part of the land contained in Deed of Conveyance Book 433 Number 564 (**Road**), should be discontinued pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)* and sold to the owner of 294 Swan Street, Richmond (**Owner**).

Background

2. At its meeting on 15 August 2017, Council:
 - (a) resolved to commence the required statutory procedures to discontinue the Road; and
 - (b) directed that a public notice of the proposed discontinuance of the Road be given in the Age, The Weekly Review Melbourne Times newspapers, Council's social media and a sign to be placed on the Road, pursuant to sections 207A and 223 of the Act.

Discussion

Road

3. The Road is known to title as a 'road'.
4. The Road is therefore a 'road' for the purposes of the Act which Council has the power to consider discontinuing. If the Road is discontinued, the Road will vest in Council.
5. The Road is listed on Council's Register of Public Roads. It is considered that the Road is no longer reasonably required for general public use pursuant to section 17(4) of the *Road Management Act 2004* as the Road is currently used as a pedestrian and vehicular access way between Harvey Street and Mary Street, however alternative access paths are available for pedestrians and vehicles between Harvey Street and Mary Street.

Public Notice

6. The public notice was published in accordance with Council's resolution dated 15 August 2017 in accordance with Council's resolution dated 15 August 2017 and in accordance with section 223 of the Act.
7. Council has not received any submissions regarding the proposed discontinuance of the Road.

Valuation

8. The Owner has agreed to acquire the Road for its market value plus (GST).
9. Council has prepared a valuation for the Road and determined that the market value is Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (**\$850,000**).
10. In addition to the market value of the Road (plus GST), the Owner has agreed to pay Council's costs and disbursements associated with the Proposal.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

11. Nil

Financial Implications

12. Nil

Economic Implications

13. Nil

Sustainability Implications

14. Nil

Social Implications

15. Nil

Human Rights Implications

16. Nil

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

17. All notices and correspondence issued with respect of this report will contain referral information to Yarralink Interpreter Service.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

18. Nil

Legal Implications

19. If the Road is discontinued and sold to the Owner, Council will require the Owner to;
- (a) create a sewerage easement in favour of City West Water and Yarra City Council along the length of the Road (this can be effected as part of the transfer of land);
 - (b) agree to observe the conditions imposed by City West Water in respect of the Road; and
 - (c) consolidate the title to the former Road with the title to the Owner's Property within 6 months of the date of transfer of the Road to the Owner, at the Owners expense.

Other Issues

20. Nil

Options

21. Nil

Conclusion

22. It is proposed that Council should discontinue the Road pursuant to clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Act and sell the Road to the Owner, as the Road is no longer reasonably required for public use.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council, acting under section 17(4) of the *Road Management Act 2004*, resolves that the road abutting the rear of 294-298 Swan Street, Richmond, which is shown as lot 1 on the plan contained in Attachment 1 to this Report, being part of the land contained in Deed of Conveyance Book Number 564 (**Road**), be removed from Council's Register of Public Roads on the basis that the Road is currently used as a pedestrian and vehicular access way between Harvey Street and Mary Street, however alternative access paths are available for pedestrians and vehicles between Harvey Street and Mary Street.
2. That Council, acting under clause 3 of schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)*:
 - (a) resolves that, having followed all the required statutory procedures pursuant to sections 207A and 233 of the Act pursuant to its power under clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Act, and being of the opinion that the Road is not reasonably required for public use, it discontinues the Road;
 - (b) directs that a notice pursuant to provisions of clause 3(a) of Schedule 10 of the Act is to be published in the *Victoria Government Gazette*;
 - (c) directs that, once discontinued the Road be transferred to the Owner for no less than the market value (plus GST), being the amount of \$850,000 (plus GST);
 - (d) directs that the CEO sign any transfer or transfers of the Road and any other documents required to be signed in connection with the discontinuance of the Road and its subsequent transfer to the Owner;
 - (e) any easements, rights or interests required to be created or saved over the Road by any authority be done so and not be affected by the discontinuance and sale of the Road; and
 - (f) directs that the Owner be required to consolidate the title to the Road with the title to 294 Swan Street, Richmond, being the land contained in certificate of title volume 11012 folio 961, by no later than 6 months after the date of transfer of the discontinued Road.

CONTACT OFFICER: Bill Graham
TITLE: Coordinator Valuations
TEL: 9205 5270

Attachments

- 1 Title Plan of Road

11.11 Celebrating Richmond's AFL Premiership

Trim Record Number: D18/4713

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

Purpose

1. To consider options for commemorating the Richmond Football Club's 2017 premiership win.

Background

2. Richmond Football Club won the AFL Grand Final in 2017 after 37 years since their last premiership. During the lead-up to the Grand Final, the Yarra community demonstrated great enthusiasm for the Richmond Football Club which was harnessed and further encouraged through the activities of Yarra Council.
3. Following the Grand Final win on 17 October 2017, Council passed a resolution that Yarra City Council:
"request Officers to report back to Council, including any other options for commemorating the achievement."
4. This report proposes four commemorative options for Council consideration.

External Consultation

5. External consultation on the options has occurred with:
 - (a) Richmond Football Club;
 - (b) Banner companies;
 - (c) VicTrack;
 - (d) Metro Trains;
 - (e) Artist, Nick Howson; and
 - (f) The Wurdundjeri Council.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

6. Council officers from a range of business units have been consulted in the development of these options and they include:
 - (a) Statutory Planning;
 - (b) Heritage Advisor;
 - (c) Building Surveyor;
 - (d) City Works and Assets;
 - (e) Construction Management;
 - (f) Arts and Culture; and
 - (g) Urban Design.

Financial Implications

7. The proposed banner system Flagtrax will cost approximately \$9,747 and budget will need to be identified and allocated. The on-going cost of reprinting banners is \$250 and can be covered from the Advocacy and Engagement operational budget.
8. The mural on Swan Street will cost \$4000 (\$1500 for materials and \$2500 in labour costs). This can be covered by the Advocacy and Engagement operational budget.

Economic Implications

9. There are no economic implications of the matters considered in this report.

Sustainability Implications

10. The materials used for the prints of the banners and the mural will be sourced in accordance with Council's ethical procurement policy.

Social Implications

11. There are no social implications of the matters considered in this report.

Human Rights Implications

12. There are no human rights implications of the matters considered in this report.

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

13. There are no CALD implications of the matters considered in this report.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

14. The options outlined in this report align with the Council Plan objective to 'promote a community that is inclusive, resilient and connected'. Recognition of a local AFL team - Richmond winning a premiership could contribute to residents feeling more connected to the community.

Legal Implications

15. Richmond Football Club have given permission for Yarra Council to use its logo on the proposed banner system (if required).
16. VicTrack and Metro Trains have provided information regarding any permit requirements for the mural.

Other Issues

17. Following an assessment of the Richmond Town Hall banner system, the banners were some months ago, permanently removed due to occupational health and safety issues, caused by high winds. It should be noted that on a number of occasions, the banners needed to be temporarily removed with a cherry picker due to public safety risks. The banners at the Town Hall were made of a dense vinyl, attached to chains that would create a sail like effect in high winds.
18. Since the banners were removed, officers have sought advice from a number of banner companies about different banner hanging systems, materials and banner style options.
19. Criteria for a new banner system was measured against the following:
 - (a) Safety;
 - (b) Cost of installation;
 - (c) Cost of additional banners; and
 - (d) Visibility of banners once installed.

About the proposed new banner system 'Flagtrax'

20. After extensive research and consultation, the recommended option for reinstating the banner system is using the Flagtrax system.
21. The Flagtrax banner system clearly met all the criteria (**Refer to Attachment 1**).
22. This option is the most cost effective out of the available options.
23. The total cost of installation and printing of the initial four banners is approximately \$9,747.10.

24. The ongoing cost to replace each banner costs \$250, and importantly, \$0 installation costs. A Council officer is able to easily swap over these banner flags without any special equipment or training. This differs from the previous system which required the expensive hiring of specialist equipment to remove for cleaning, re-hanging, etc.
25. The Flagtrax system also avoids any occupational health and safety issues as the wind will pass by the banners as opposed to catching in the large banners as it did previously.
26. The Flagtrax system would provide Council with the option to install banners on an angle so that flags were not parallel to the building. This would mean passing traffic will readily be able to see the flags when approaching from each direction along Bridge Road, giving significantly greater visibility of our messages.
27. This system will be installed using wire hoops that clamp to the circumference of the column. This ensures that the installation will not damage the structure of the pillar and does not require any drilled holes into the pillars (this method is specifically approved by each of Council's Heritage Advisor and Construction Management Unit).
28. The supplier is able to also paint the wire hoops to blend into the pillars.

Options

Option 1 - Recommended

29. Update a new banner system on Richmond Town Hall with Richmond Football Club Premiership 2017 winner artwork.
30. Install the Flagtrax system on Richmond Town Hall as detailed above and allocate one of the four banners to display the Richmond Football Club colours and logo with the text '2017 Premiership'.

Option 2 – Recommended

31. Update the existing mural on Swan Street near Richmond Station. Cost \$4,000 (labour costs, forklift, permits and materials).
32. Commission artist, Nick Howson to update the mural on Swan Street near Richmond Station to reflect the Richmond AFL win.
33. Howson is supportive of the idea and could complete the work in March 2018 (**Refer to Attachment for the concept**)
34. Council has in principle support from VicTrack and Metro Trains and agreed to licence Council to update this mural, pending Council seeking permits.

Option 3 – Not recommended

35. Install printed decal artwork on footpaths around Richmond at high traffic points. Cost: \$2000 for 8 decals.
36. This option is not as visible to traffic and people passing by. The decals also fade away over time so would not be as visually striking in the long-term.

Option 4 – Not recommended

37. Decorate the City of Yarra entry point signs to Richmond. Cost: \$4200.
38. Officers undertook further consultation with the Wurundjeri Council and Yarra's Urban Design Branch.
39. The Wurundjeri Council felt that decorating the signs were not favourable as it would detract away from the respect given to the Aboriginal community in Yarra.

Conclusion

40. This report recommends Council proceeds with the installation of the Flagtrax system due to its multi-purpose features and low ongoing operational costs. The Flagtrax system can be used to commemorate the Richmond Football Club's 2017 Premiership win and will present long term advocacy benefits and options for Council.

41. This report also recommends that Council proceeds with commissioning artist Nick Howson to update and extend the existing Swan Street mural to acknowledge the 2017 AFL Richmond premiership. It is envisaged the mural on Swan Street will help enliven the Swan Street precinct and attract people to the area.
42. As noted in the report concerning the costs of:
 - (a) printing of re-printing banners (\$250). This can be met from the Unit's operational budget; and
 - (b) the mural (\$4,000), This can be met from the Unit's operational budget.
43. The cost of the banner system (\$9,747) could be met from savings in the Capital works budget.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report be noted.
2. That Council approves:
 - (a) the purchase and installation of the Flagtrax banner system for Richmond Town Hall to help celebrate the 2017 AFL Richmond premiership and assist with Council's future communications needs; and
 - (b) commissioning artist Nick Howson to update the mural on Swan Street (near Richmond Station) to acknowledge the 2017 AFL Richmond premiership.

CONTACT OFFICER: Frances Nolan
TITLE: Coordinator Communications and Engagement
TEL: 9205 5177

Attachments

- 1 Celebrating Richmond's Premiership

11.12 Residential Aged Care Facilities - proposed changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions - Council submission in response to consultation

Executive Summary

Purpose

The State Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) is seeking feedback on proposed reforms to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) to facilitate the development of residential aged care facilities (RACF). The reforms propose RACF specific particular provisions that reduce restrictions on the height and form of RACF.

This report outlines the proposed changes to all Planning Scheme provisions for RACF and seeks endorsement for a draft submission to DELWP on the proposed controls.

Key Issues

General support for the proposed changes sought to be made to the Victorian Planning Provisions. The main scope and implications in the City of Yarra involves changes to the way the General Residential Zone (GRZ), Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ) and Mixed Use Zone (MUZ) provisions control RACF.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications from this report.

PROPOSAL

This report recommends Council make a submission in response to the RACF proposals suggesting changes to improve the provisions and reduce potential local impacts.

11.12 Residential Aged Care Facilities - proposed changes to the Victoria Planning Provisions - Council submission in response to consultation

Trim Record Number: D18/20409

Responsible Officer: Director Planning and Place Making

Purpose

1. The State Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) is seeking feedback on proposed reforms to the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) to facilitate the development of residential aged care facilities (RACF). The reforms propose RACF specific particular provisions that reduce restrictions on the height and form of RACF.
2. This report outlines the proposed changes to Planning Scheme provisions for RACF and seeks endorsement for a draft submission to DELWP on the proposed controls.
3. The main scope and implications in the City of Yarra involves changes to the way the General Residential Zone (GRZ), Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ) and Mixed Use Zone (MUZ) provisions control RACF.

Background

State Government Review

4. The current RACF proposals arise from the introduction of new residential zones across Victoria in 2013 to 2015. The new zones introduced mandatory height controls, which also applied to RACF.
5. In July 2016, the Managing Residential Development Advisory Committee – Residential Zones Review identified the need for residential zones to provide greater support and flexibility for RACF. The Committee concluded that:
 - (a) There is strong planning policy support at a State level to facilitate RACF development and to enable 'ageing in place';
 - (b) The maximum building height controls in the current suite of residential zones do not support State planning policy support for facilitating RACF development; and
 - (c) RACFs should be excluded from mandatory maximum building height requirements and some Res-Code requirements.
6. In March 2017, the Victorian Government released the housing strategy, *Homes for Victorians* about planning and housing supply and to coordinate cross-government issues to achieve housing affordability, access and choice. *Homes for Victorians* complements *Plan Melbourne 2017 – 2050* which indicated the need to improve approvals processes for specific housing types including RACF development so future community needs are met.
7. The Minister for Planning referred the Advisory Committee issues of the RACF to a DELWP working group. The working group, with representatives from industry, peak bodies, councils and state government, was established by DELWP to provide comments and feedback in developing new RACF planning controls. Yarra City Council has a representative on the working group (Senior Strategic Planner) and provided earlier feedback on the proposals. These proposals have been prepared by DELWP staff after working group comment.
8. A major trend for RACF in the inner city, is to develop as apartment buildings, (including recently approved proposals up to ten storeys), to accommodate the operating models of RACF in the private and not-for profit sectors.
9. **Attachment 1** is the DELWP explanation supporting the proposals *Facilitating Residential Aged Care Development, Proposed reforms to the Victoria Planning Provisions, December 2017*. **Attachment 2** is the draft new Particular Provisions Proposed Clause 52.XX which would become part of all Planning Schemes if the changes are approved and gazetted.

RACF in Yarra

10. The supply and demand for RACF in the City of Yarra can be measured in terms of projected population and Commonwealth Government funding support for RACF.
11. The percentage of people aged 70 years or over is used to allocate residential care places and community care packages under the Aged Care Act 1997 (for reporting purposes is combined with the population of Indigenous Australians aged 50–69 years). It is forecast that by 2035, 7.6% of the Yarra population will be aged 70+ years. In 2017 the proportion was around 6.7%.
12. Based on national target ratios to be met by 2021–22 (80 beds for residential care places per 1,000 people aged 70+ years) the City of Yarra should have approximately 500 beds. The supply in Yarra, however, is about 170-200 beds below that ratio, although recently approved RACF projects would add about 200 beds. Two further RACF projects are still under initial consideration.
13. 'Ageing in place' is also a significant issue and trend influencing the demand, supply and location of RACF. This has influenced demand for new forms of RACF and related accommodation including independent living in apartment type buildings.
14. Local community advocacy and recent research indicates that more attention should be paid in Planning Scheme provisions to the internal, shared space and open space design of RACF. This can improve the mental well-being and quality of life for residents.

Proposed Planning Control – Changes to the VPP

15. This section of the report outlines the proposed changes, provides a response and where appropriate recommends changes to the provisions. The proposed changes by the State are:
 - (a) height controls not mandatory because RACF definition and land use meaning is changed;
 - (b) new Particular Provisions which guide the form and height of RACF; and
 - (c) an exemption from notice and review if the 'requirements' in the Particular Provisions are met.

See below for commentary and officer analysis.

Mandatory heights do not apply in NRZ and GRZ - land use meaning for RACF changed

16. The proposed changes remove RACF from the land use definition of 'residential building' in clause 74 and introduces a new Particular Provisions in Clause 52, specific to RACF.
17. The main implication of the proposed change relates to the provision of application of mandatory height limits in the General Residential Zone (GRZ) and Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ). Mandatory height controls apply to 'dwelling' and 'residential building' as defined in the Planning Scheme. The mandatory height limits currently apply to RACF because the Planning Scheme includes RACF under the definition of 'residential building'.

Response

18. The proposed change to the definition and meaning of RACF means that the mandatory height controls in the NRZ and GRZ would not apply. This is, in broad terms, considered an acceptable change to facilitate RACF in local communities due to the community need for these facilities. It is noted that this is consistent with the findings of the Managing Residential Development Advisory Committee. The proposed new Particular Provisions must, however, be sufficient to minimise adverse local impacts.

Proposed new Particular Provisions

19. The new RACF Particular Provisions would set out a range of 'requirements' which 'must be met' (as indicated in draft VPP provisions – Attachment 2) including:
 - (a) A front fence within 3 metres of a street must not exceed 1.5 metres in height;
 - (b) The building height must not exceed 13.5 metres;

- (c) Car parking must be provided at the rate of 0.3 car spaces to each lodging room;
 - (d) The site coverage, including a driveway, pedestrian path, and an area set aside for car parking, must not exceed 80 per cent of the site area;
 - (e) The following standards found at Clause 55 of this scheme:
 - (i) B6 'Street setbacks' (does not include a porte cochere);
 - (ii) B17 'Side and rear setbacks';
 - (iii) B18 'Walls on a boundary';
 - (iv) B19 'Daylight to existing windows';
 - (v) B20 'North facing windows';
 - (vi) B21 'Overshadowing open space';
 - (vii) B22 'Overlooking';
 - (viii) B24 'Noise impacts';
 - (ix) B27 'Daylight to new windows';
 - (f) The main entry to a building (including a porte cochere) must be designed to:
 - (i) Have direct vehicle and pedestrian access from a street;
 - (ii) Be sheltered from the weather; and
 - (iii) Have convenient pedestrian and vehicle access from on-site car parking; and
 - (g) Access-ways are designed to the satisfaction of the relevant road authority.
20. The next part of the proposed provisions says 'A permit may be granted to vary any of the requirements' in the previous clause. In effect this means that the requirements are discretionary.
21. These proposed new provisions apply to RACF development in:
- (a) Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ);
 - (b) General Residential Zone (GRZ);
 - (c) Residential Growth Zone (RGZ) (does not apply in the City of Yarra);
 - (d) Mixed Use Zone (MUZ); and
 - (e) Township Zone (TZ) (does not apply in the City of Yarra).
22. The proposed provisions explain how they relate to other provisions:
- If a zone, overlay or schedule specifies a different requirement from any requirement in this clause, the requirements in this clause apply except where a Heritage Overlay, Floodway Overlay, Land Subject to Inundation Overlay, Special Building Overlay or a Bushfire Management Overlay applies.*
23. Other provisions such as the Municipal Strategic Statement and local policy such the Environmentally Sustainable Design provisions would apply to the RACF.

Response

24. The proposals set requirements which do not vary by zone and seem to ignore variations in the setting for RACF. The proposal would allow a 13.5m (four storey) RACF in the NRZ and GRZ and MUZ. The residential zones, however, have a clear hierarchy of densities and building heights with the default 9m limit in the NRZ, an 11m default limit in the GRZ and no default limit in the MUZ. The proposed scale and form of new development should better relate to the setting, context and zone.
25. Although the provisions make no reference to environmentally sustainable development requirements Clause 22.17 Environmentally Sustainable Development would still apply.

26. The proposed Particular Provisions would not over-ride the Heritage Overlay and a range of other specified overlays dealing with flooding and other matters. This is considered appropriate.

Submission Recommendation

27. Consider ways the provisions could be improved to take account of the purpose of the relevant zone, the residential development densities in each zone and the potential amenity and other impacts on adjoining land.

Exemption from notice and review

28. The proposed new provisions would exempt applications from notice and review, if the 'requirements' set out above are met. This means that, for example, applications up to four storeys (13.5m) would not be advertised provided all the requirements are met.

Response

29. The current GRZ, NRZ and MUZ do not include many exemptions from notice and review. Subdivision and some small scale development under the Vic-Smart provisions are exempt. This would include, for example a ground floor extension to a dwelling or an outbuilding. The proposed exemption for RACF is a significant departure from these limited exemptions. There may be local impacts which arise from the height and scale of the RACF, despite the proposed provision requirements addressing height and amenity. In particular, the proposed provisions would allow development at a scale which exceeds the typical building heights and default mandatory building heights in the GRZ (11m) and the NRZ (9m). This could allow for development that is a significant departure from the established character of an area.
30. The proposed exemption from notice and review might also have the unintended effect of encouraging building forms which just meet the requirements, in circumstances where not meeting the requirements might result in a better development.

Submission recommendation

31. Remove the proposed exemption from notice and review. The exemption from notice and review would deny local communities from participation in processes which could have significant interface, amenity and character impacts. The exemptions are not justified and are inconsistent with the very limited exemptions in the relevant residential zones.

Omissions from the proposals - Better internal design

32. The proposed Particular Provisions do not address internal design and amenity or well-being issues for residents of RACF.
33. The recently approved provisions for apartment development include provisions dealing with On-site Amenity and Facilities (Clause 58.05) which deal with internal access, adaptable facilities, entry and sense of identity, access to daylight and natural ventilation, the nature of private and common space and access to open space. Recent research suggests that the quality of life and mental well-being of RACF residents can be improved if the design addresses the following:
- (a) Connect facilities with the outdoors: views, and rooms that open up to decks/gardens;
 - (b) Use good levels of natural light and where possible natural ventilation;
 - (c) Include spaces that support social interaction such as sitting areas which open onto corridors and allow for unplanned interactions with passers-by;
 - (d) Consider locations to view activities throughout the passage of a day;
 - (e) Avoid double-loaded corridors lined with bedroom doors to ensure circulation through the facility is enjoyable;
 - (f) Provide different types of spaces, like themed sitting areas with an individualised character and feel;
 - (g) Personalise bedrooms space and fixtures;

- (h) Provide residents with richness of experience such as access and choices offered at a café, cinema or library; and
- (i) Support community spaces that can enable all residents to gather for an event.
(Refer “Architects, aged care providers & Mental health” by Cath Muhlebach)

Submission recommendation

- 34. The proposed provisions should be modified to include provisions which are similar in scope to those in the apartment design provisions at Clause 58.05 but varied to address the needs of RACF residents and support staff. This should address internal amenity and facilities and should include:
 - (a) Views and access to outdoor space;
 - (b) Natural light and ventilation;
 - (c) Spaces to promote social interaction; and
 - (d) Shared facilities and spaces.

External Consultation

- 35. DELWP has undertaken limited notification of stakeholders, primarily local government and the RACF providers to seek comment on the proposals. Yarra City Council has not undertaken any additional consultation. Previous consultation with Council’s Active Ageing Advisory Committee has highlighted the importance of focussing on good design in terms of supporting resident’s mental health and well-being. This is reflected in the points made under the heading ‘Better internal design’ (above) regarding amenity, internal design and the relationship of the building to the local community.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

- 36. Strategic Planning has sought advice from Council’s statutory planning team and Aged and Disability Services Branch.

Financial Implications

- 37. There are no financial implications from this report.

Economic Implications

- 38. RACF are a local employer and contribute to the local economy. In a broader sense they are part of the housing and health services which support the local economy.

Sustainability Implications

- 39. Local RACF can help reduce travel costs by providing local services connected to the community. The design of RACF should meet the policy provisions in the Yarra Planning Scheme about ESD.

Social Implications

- 40. Local RACF can help people ‘age in place’ and remain connected to local communities and networks. Reducing the regulatory restrictions may help to increase the range and diversity of services and RACF building types.

Human Rights Implications

- 41. Diverse housing stock in municipalities is desirable to cater for all household formations and the ability to also ‘age in place’. There are no known human rights implications.

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

- 42. There is no Council initiated communication proposed in this report, other than the proposed comments to DELWP.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

43. Clause 21.04 in the Yarra Planning Scheme Municipal Strategic Statement includes an Objective and two relevant Strategies addressing residential aged care:

Objective 2 To retain a diverse population and household structure.

Strategy 2.2 Encourage residential development which allows people to age in their existing homes and communities by supporting a range of housing types.

Strategy 2.3 Support the development of new residential care facilities.

44. The proposals relate to the health and well-being of people in the local community and aged and disability services. This involves Commonwealth, State and Local Government funding and services. Provision of RACF is part of the wider system of support for people who are aged or disabled. Council research indicates there is a need for additional facilities, including subsidised not-for-profit facilities and specialised care for people on low incomes and with other health issues.
45. The proposals may impact on the liveability of local areas in different ways. Additional RACF may also promote ageing in place. Larger RACF may adversely impact local neighbourhood character, particularly if they are poorly designed or located.

Legal Implications

46. There are no specific legal implications for Council.

Other Issues

47. N/A

Options

48. The two main options for Council are whether to make a submission or not. There are significant issues arising from the proposals which could impact on local communities. This report proposes making a submission to recommend changes to the current proposal.

Conclusion

49. The State proposal that current mandatory height limits should not apply to RACF and new provisions are required to facilitate additional RACF in Melbourne is broadly supported. These new provisions should, however, provide an appropriate balance of flexibility and requirements which will minimise local impacts and improve the design of RACF.
50. The proposed RACF provisions are designed to facilitate additional development to meet projected demand. This is done by removing the mandatory height restrictions in the GRZ and NRZ and replacing them with discretionary requirements which would be the same for the NRZ, GRZ and MUZ. The proposals are likely to have impacts in the local NRZ and GRZ with new buildings in the range of 13.5m (four storeys) or higher with no set limit to the maximum height. Particular Design Guidelines should apply to manage draft proposals in order to best fit into the surrounding context.
51. This report addresses a number of issues the proposals may have in the City of Yarra:
- (a) The proposed provisions make no distinction between the scale or density of development allowed in different zones. There is no recognition of the typical densities allowed in the NRZ, GRZ and MUZ;
 - (b) The proposals also would exempt RACF development from notice and review including public notification, objection and appeal to VCAT, if the requirements in the provisions are all met. This is a significant departure from the current exemptions in these zones; and
 - (c) The draft provisions also make no reference to internal amenity and facilities for RACF residents.
52. Attachment 3 is a draft submission which recommends changes to the provisions.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council note the officer report relating to proposed reforms by the State Government to the Victoria Planning Provisions to facilitate the development of residential aged care facilities (RACF).
2. That Council note the officer comments in this report regarding the proposal by the State Government and suggested modifications as expressed in Attachment 3.
3. That Council authorise a submission be forwarded to the Department of Environment, Water, land and Planning in accordance with the comments in this report and in Attachment 3.
4. That the CEO be authorised to settle the submission by the due date.

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TEL: 9205 5023

Attachments

- 1 Facilitating Residential Aged Care Development - Proposed Planning Reforms to the Victoria Planning Provisions - December 2017 - DELWP
- 2 Draft Particular Provisions - Proposed Clause 52.XX - DELWP
- 3 Draft submission in response to the proposals - Yarra City Council - February 2018

11.13 Planning Permit Applications and the World Heritage Environs Area

Trim Record Number: D18/14460

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

Purpose

1. At the Council meeting of 19 December 2017, a report was requested by Council from officers considering:
 - (a) *That applications for development:*
 - (i) *Within the shaded area shown in clause 22.14 (Development Guidelines for Heritage Places in the World Heritage Environs Area [WHEA]) of the Yarra Planning Scheme (City of Yarra Properties only); OR*
 - (ii) *Within the area designated as the "Buffer Zone" in Map 8 of the World Heritage Environs Area (City of Yarra properties only);*

be determined by Council's Internal Development Approvals Committee (IDAC) where they are taller than the highest point of the existing building.
2. This report outlines the implications of this and outlines options and recommendations.

Background

3. It is understood that the request for applications within the WHEA or the broader buffer area to be determined at IDAC stems from concern raised by some community members regarding the approval of a development at 34 – 36 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).
4. The application was for part demolition and construction of a 10 storey building. Council officers refused the original application on grounds relating to the extent of demolition, excessive height and visual intrusiveness. The applicant substituted amended plans for the hearing which reduced the extent of demolition, deleted 2 levels and increased setbacks. Council officers then supported the amended plans with further design detail changes and relied on a heritage expert to give evidence at the hearing.
5. Objector parties to the hearing did not support the amended plans and relied on a heritage expert to give evidence at the hearing. The Applicant also relied on a heritage expert and photomontages in support of their amended proposal.
6. The Tribunal found the proposal to be high quality contemporary architecture using high quality but respectful and recessive materials which respond to the nineteenth century context. The Tribunal was satisfied the proposed demolition in the amended plans was limited to heavily modified parts of the heritage building (*Salisbury Place*) or original fabric not visible to the public realm.
7. In regard to the new building, the Tribunal commented that there is no mandatory or preferred height control in the World Heritage Environment Area Overlay above the Nicholson Street, street wall. The Tribunal found the generous front setbacks would ensure no material visual impact on the World Heritage Environs Area Precinct and was assisted by two heritage experts in this regard. The Tribunal found the proposal complies with the local heritage guidelines for siting upper storey additions and the level of concealment behind the retained *Osborne House* is significant.

Planning Controls

8. The World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA) is illustrated below and incorporates predominantly residential areas (with some commercial) in Carlton and Fitzroy; together with properties at the north end of Melbourne's Central Business District in the area generally immediately south of Victoria Street. It encompasses properties in both City of Melbourne and City of Yarra.

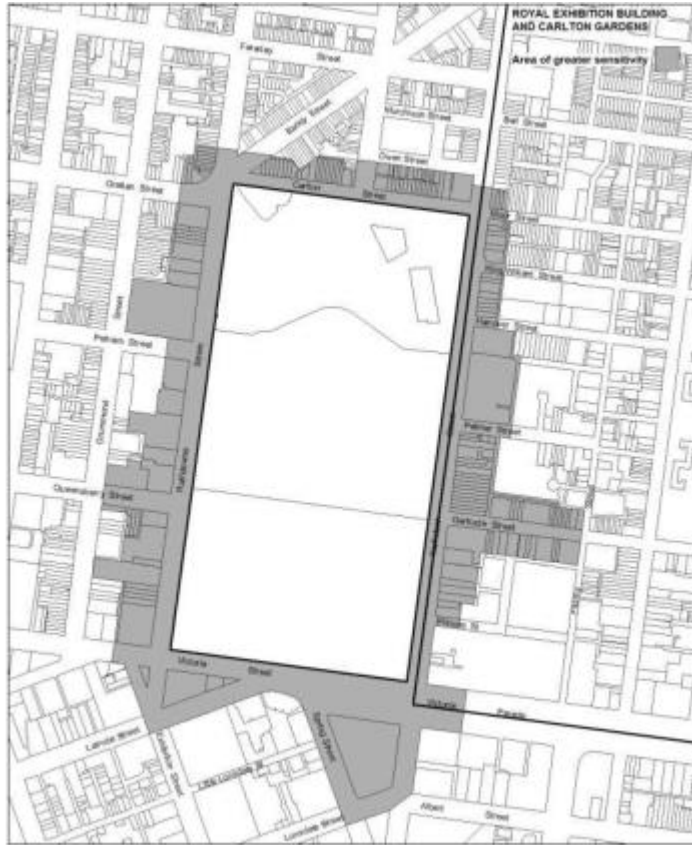


Figure 1: World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA)

9. There is a “buffer zone”, and an “area of greater sensitivity”. The area of greater sensitivity (areas shown in grey and pink) has been captured under Clauses 22.14 (Development Guidelines for Heritage Places in the World Heritage Environs Area) and Clause 22.02 (Heritage Overlay Schedule 361) of the Yarra Planning Scheme.

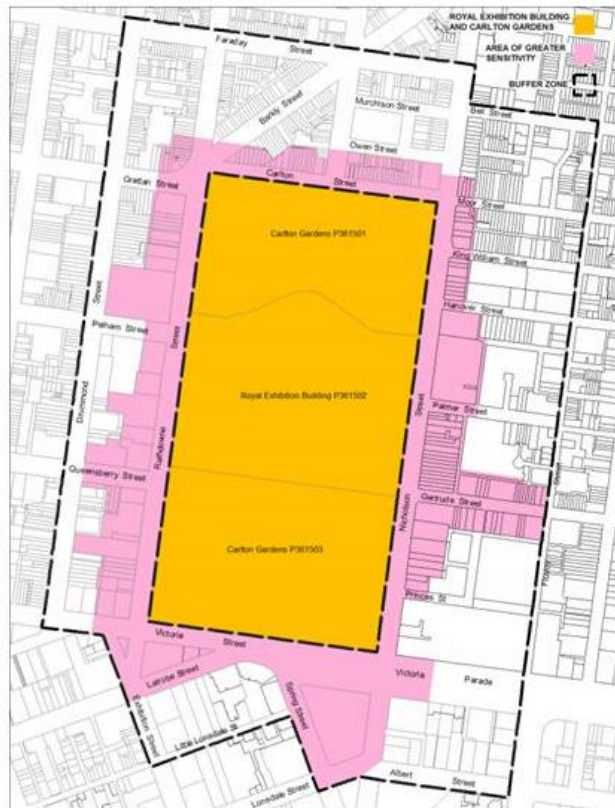


Figure 2: World Heritage Environs Area shown in pink, dotted line showing buffer zone

10. The buffer zone contains approximately **190** properties in the City of Yarra; while the “area of greater sensitivity” (AGS) covers an additional approximately **84** properties which includes 19 individually listed heritage properties included on the Victorian Heritage Register (Heritage Victoria). Being a total of approximately 270 affected properties in the City of Yarra.

Zoning

11. Considering only land included within the City of Yarra, as shown in the zoning map below, land is generally included in one of 4 zones:
 - (a) Neighbourhood Residential Zone – Schedule 1;
 - (b) General Residential Zone;
 - (i) Schedule 1;
 - (ii) Schedule 2; and
 - (iii) Schedule 3;
 - (c) Commercial 1 Zone; and
 - (d) Public Use Zone 3 – Health and Community.
12. Two other parcels of land are included in this area; one being a Public Parks and Recreation Zone and the other Public Use Zone Transport.

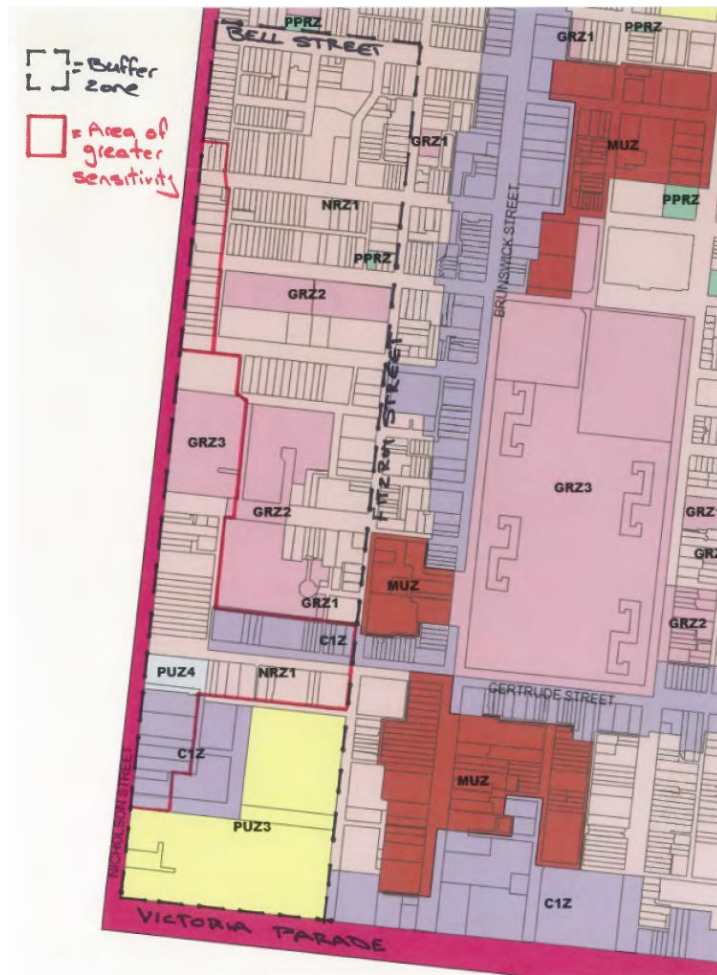


Figure 3: Zoning Map showing World Heritage Environs Area of greater sensitivity in red and, dotted line showing buffer zone.

Existing height controls

13. As shown above, the majority of land is included within residentially zoned land.
14. Importantly much of this land now includes height controls, the specifics of which are outlined below:

Zone	Height Control
Neighbourhood Residential Zone	9m and the building must contain no more than 2 Storeys
General Residential Zone – 1 (Warehouse sites)	10.5m (or with a slope 11.5m)
General Residential Zone – 2 (Residential areas)	9m
General Residential Zone – 3 (Office of Housing site over 2500sqm & selected main roads)	11m and the building must contain no more than 3 Storeys

15. There are some exceptions to these heights, but in general most of the residentially zoned land is capped at heights ranging between 9 – 11.5m
16. There are no height controls applying to the remainder of the sites which are included within the Commercial 1 Zone, Public Use Zone 3 & 4 and the Public Park and Recreation zone.

Overlays - relevant

17. Multiple heritage overlays apply to the sites including:
 - (a) HO361 – World Heritage Environs Area Precinct; and
 - (b) HO334 – South Fitzroy Precinct.
18. Sites included on the State Heritage Register:
 - (a) HO149 – 40 – 48 Bell Street, Fitzroy - Former National School;
 - (b) HO171 – 35 – 39 Hanover Street, Fitzroy – Edward Wills House (residence);
 - (c) HO356 – 185 – 193 Fitzroy Street and 12 Cowell Street, Fitzroy – Christian Israelite Sanctuary;
 - (d) HO184 – 88 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy – Convent of Mercy and Academy of Mary Immaculate;
 - (e) HO185 – 98 Nicholson Street and 14 Hanover Street, Fitzroy – Cairo Apartments;
 - (f) HO186 – 122 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy - Residence;
 - (g) HO183 – 50 – 68 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy – Royal Terrace;
 - (h) HO181 – 46 – 48 Nicholson Street, Corner Gertrude Street Fitzroy – Former Cable Tram Engine House; and
 - (i) HO182 – 40 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy – Osborne House.

Assessment

19. As outlined at the beginning of this report, the purpose is to provide advice on:
 - (a) *That applications for development:*
 - (i) *Within the shaded area shown in clause 22.14 (Development Guidelines for Heritage Places in the World Heritage Environs Area [WHEA]) of the Yarra Planning Scheme (City of Yarra Properties only); OR*
 - (ii) *Within the area designated as the “Buffer Zone” in Map 8 of the World Heritage Environs Area (City of Yarra properties only);*

be determined by Council’s Internal Development Approvals Committee (IDAC) where they are taller than the highest point of the existing building.

20. Currently, officers have delegation to determine all applications with less than 6 objections following the assessment against the Yarra Planning Scheme provisions. Note: this delegation also allows any Councillor to 'call up' any application for consideration and determination at the IDAC Committee notwithstanding how many objections, or none at all.
21. Under the existing Deed of Delegation the IDAC committee determine all applications which have 6 or more objections and where officers are supportive of the application.
22. Under the change being considered by Council, any application within either the Area of Greater Sensitivity or the Buffer Area which is taller than the highest point of the building irrespective of number of objections would be required to be determined by IDAC.

Land included within the Area of Greater Sensitivity

23. Within this area, 84 properties are included, 19 of which are included on the State Heritage Register, and therefore, Council cannot consider the heritage impacts of these properties.
24. As currently worded, planning applications for all 84 properties could also encompass such things (exempting building additions/development) as: car parking reductions, liquor licenses, signage, and change of use. Such applications do not impact the WHEA but would be required under this proposed change to be determined at IDAC.
25. Given that the majority of land within this area is zoned residential and already affected by height controls limiting developments to no more than 2 – 3 storey and between 9 – 11m in height it is suggested that there is considered to be little benefit from lengthening the planning process and adding to the workload of staff and IDAC if the concern is to protect the WHEA.
26. Land which is, however, not zoned residential is limited to 22 properties, 3 of which are included on the State Heritage Register, the remaining 19 are included in the Commercial 1 Zone and are encumbered by the heritage overlay area. It is suggested that these sites offer greater development potential as they are unencumbered by height controls.
27. While a new provision could be added to the Deed of Delegation to require all applications within this sensitive area to be determined by IDAC, Councillors already have the ability to 'call up' any planning application. Councillors are provided a list of all applications received monthly and can choose to exercise this discretion.
28. Requiring officers to prepare an IDAC report for all these 84 properties would also add to already extremely high workloads, and further impact turnaround times. This would also potentially lead to an increase in "failure to determine" appeals. The increased applications would also add to IDAC agendas.
29. Irrespective of what process is selected, applications deemed to be VicSmart applications would need to be exempt from any process as these must be determined within 10 days.

Land included within the Buffer area

30. If the IDAC process was attributed to the broader buffer area, this would affect another approximately 190 properties.
31. Again relevantly, the majority of land within this area is zoned residential and already affected by height controls limiting developments to generally no more than 2 – 3 storey and between 9 – 11.5m in height.
32. It is suggested that there is little benefit of lengthening the planning process and adding to the workload of staff and IDAC and potential for "failure to determine" appeals if the concern is to protect the WHEA.
33. Land which is, however, not zoned residential is limited to 6 properties, one is a park (excluded from the remainder of the assessment), and the other five are two sites in the Commercial 1 zone and three parcels of land associated with the St Vincent's Public Hospital site. All of these are encumbered by the South Fitzroy Heritage Precinct.

34. These five sites along with the 19 other commercially zoned sites offer the greater development potential as they are unencumbered by height controls regarding the Yarra Planning Scheme overlay provisions.
35. As outlined above, requiring officers to prepare IDAC report for all these 190 properties would also add to excessively high workloads, and further impact turnaround times. This would also potentially lead to an increase in “failure to determine” appeals. The increased applications would also add to IDAC agendas.
36. Also, irrespective of what process is selected, applications deemed to be VicSmart application would need to be exempt from any process as these must be determined within 10 days.

External Consultation

37. None.

Internal Consultation (One Yarra)

38. Each of, the Manager Statutory Planning and the Senior Advisor, City Heritage.

Financial Implications

39. It is anticipated that increased workloads would lead to longer delays in turnaround times and could impact on budget with the potential for an increase in the number of failure to determine appeals amongst other types of appeals. (this is, representation at VCAT, costs for advocacy and witnesses).

Economic Implications

40. None

Sustainability Implications

41. None

Social Implications

42. None

Human Rights Implications

43. None

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

44. None

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

45. Heritage is an important consideration to planning applications and is one which is balanced amongst all other planning provision relevant to an application.

Legal Implications

46. As outlined above, the risk will potentially be an increase in the number of appeals and associated legal costs.

Options

47. There are 3 options:

Option 1

48. As outlined in the original motion:

(a) *That applications for development:*

- (i) *Within the shaded area shown in clause 22.14 (Development Guidelines for Heritage Places in the World Heritage Environs Area [WHEA]) of the Yarra Planning Scheme (City of Yarra Properties only); OR*
- (ii) *Within the area designated as the “Buffer Zone” in Map 8 of the World Heritage Environs Area (City of Yarra properties only);*

be determined by Council's Internal Development Approvals Committee (IDAC) where they are taller than the highest point of the existing building.

49. This would capture all applications. If this option was to be selected, additional words must be added after *the highest point of the existing building*, *"excluding all applications which qualify as a VicSmart application"*.
50. If the concern is limited to the impact of additional height to buildings, additional words need to be included to clarify that this clause only applies to additions to a building and to applications for changes of use, signage and the like.

Option 2

51. This option recognises that there are a total of 24 sites which are not zoned residential which may offer greater development potential:

(a) *That applications for development only which are zoned either Commercial 1 or Public Use Zone 3 (Health and Community):*

(i) *Within the shaded area shown in clause 22.14 (Development Guidelines for Heritage Places in the World Heritage Environs Area [WHEA]) of the Yarra Planning Scheme (City of Yarra Properties only); OR*

(ii) *Within the area designated as the "Buffer Zone" in Map 8 of the World Heritage Environs Area (City of Yarra properties only);*

be determined by Council's Internal Development Approvals Committee (IDAC) only where they are taller than the highest point of the existing building, excluding all applications which qualify as a VicSmart application.

Option 3

52. Make no change to the Deed of Delegation as the discretion for any Councillor to call up a matter to IDAC is already built into the delegation.

Conclusion

53. That having regard to the points outlined in the report and in particular:

(a) the extent of existing controls on significant numbers of properties in the subject area, including:

(i) height controls on designated properties;

(ii) properties included on the State Heritage Register, and which Council cannot consider the heritage impacts of such properties;

(b) the potential impact to the operations of the Statutory Planning Unit and Council, including timeframes, potential additional appeals at VCAT and legal costs of the suggested changes;

(c) that Councillors are able to call up any planning applications to IDAC;

that Council, consider a procedure whereby those properties which are not currently impacted by existing height controls or State Heritage controls, are referred to IDAC and accordingly resolve that the Deed of Delegation be amended as follows:

(i) *That applications for development only which are zoned either Commercial 1 or Public Use Zones 3 (Health and Community)::*

- *Within the shaded area shown in clause 22.14 (Development Guidelines for Heritage Places in the World Heritage Environs Area [WHEA]) of the Yarra Planning Scheme (City of Yarra Properties only); OR*

- *Within the area designated as the "Buffer Zone" in Map 8 of the World Heritage Environs Area (City of Yarra properties only);*

be determined by Council's Internal Development Approvals Committee (IDAC) only where they are taller than the highest point of the existing building, excluding all applications which qualify as a VicSmart application.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:

- (a) note the officer report in relation to planning permit applications and the World Heritage Environs Area, including the analysis and the options as outlined therein;
- (b) now resolve, that applications for development only which are zoned either Commercial 1 or Public Use Zone 3 (Health and Community);
 - (i) *Within the shaded area shown in clause 22.14 (Development Guidelines for Heritage Places in the World Heritage Environs Area [WHEA]) of the Yarra Planning Scheme (City of Yarra Properties only); OR*
 - (ii) *Within the area designated as the "Buffer Zone" in Map 8 of the World Heritage Environs Area (City of Yarra properties only);*

be determined by Council's Internal Development Approvals Committee (IDAC) only where they are taller than the highest point of the existing building, excluding all applications which qualify as a VicSmart application.

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TITLE: Group Manager Chief Executive's Office
TEL: 9205 5110

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

12.1 Notice of Motion No.1 of 2018 - State Government Major Road Projects and Impact on the City of Yarra

Trim Record Number: D18/20944

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

I, Councillor Amanda Stone, hereby give notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 6 February 2018:

“That:

- (a) Council note the Council resolution of 31 October 2017 authorising the Mayor to write to the Minister for Roads and Public Transport asking what the State Government plans are for increasing mass transit along the eastern corridor to Doncaster; and
- (b) the Mayor write to the Premier:
 - (i) Reiterating the previous request and requesting a commitment to Doncaster Rail as the most efficient form of mass transit along the eastern corridor;
 - (ii) Asking how the State Government plans to address any increase in congestion, delays to road-based public transport, traffic on local roads via ‘rat running’ and reduction in amenity as a result of these 3 major road projects combined; and
 - (iii) Asking the State Government for any plans for major public transport enhancements which will reduce the need for vehicle traffic through the City of Yarra.”

Background

The State Governments approval late in 2017 of two major projects – North East Link and Westgate Tunnel – along with the current construction of the Streamlining Hoddle Street project are all projected to induce increased volumes of vehicle traffic into and through the City of Yarra.

There has been no assessment of the direct impact these projects combined will have on congestion, traffic on local roads, delays on road based public transport and general amenity in the City of Yarra.

Both road projects have been used as a rationale by the opposition to commit to constructing East West Link, a project resoundingly rejected by the Yarra community as well as the current State Government.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That:

- (a) Council note the Council resolution of 31 October 2017 authorising the Mayor to write to the Minister for Roads and Public Transport asking what the State Government plans are for increasing mass transit along the eastern corridor to Doncaster; and
- (b) That the Mayor write to the Premier:
 - (i) Reiterating the previous request and requesting a commitment to Doncaster Rail as the most efficient form of mass transit along the eastern corridor;
 - (ii) Asking how the State Government plans to address any increase in congestion, delays to road-based public transport, traffic on local roads via ‘rat running’ and reduction in amenity as a result of these 3 major road projects combined; and
 - (iii) Asking the State Government for any plans for major public transport enhancements which will reduce the need for vehicle traffic through the City of Yarra.