

# **AGENDA**

## **Ordinary Meeting of Council**

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6.00pm Wednesday 18 September 2019

\*\*\* Broadcast live on Phoenix FM 106.7 \*\*\*

### **VENUE:**

**Reception Room,  
Bendigo Town Hall,  
Hargreaves Street, Bendigo**

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Wednesday 16 October 2019  
Bendigo Town Hall**

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can be obtained online at [www.bendigo.vic.gov.au](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au)

This Council Meeting is conducted in accordance with Local Law No. 8. It is an offence for any person to engage in improper or disorderly conduct at the meeting.

## *Council Vision*

Greater Bendigo - creating the world's most liveable community.

## *Council Values*

Six values inform everything we as Council do in working together to be the best we can for all of our community.

Seeking to achieve the best value for our use of the community's public funds and resources, by:

- We Lead;
- We Learn;
- We Contribute;
- We Care;
- We Respond;
- We Respect.

## *Goals*

- Presentation and Managing Growth
- Wellbeing and Fairness
- Strengthening the Economy
- Environmental Sustainability
- Embracing our Culture and Heritage
- Lead and Govern for All

# ORDINARY MEETING

WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2019

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**CRAIG NIEMANN**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

## **PRAYER**

## **PRESENT**

## **APOLOGIES**

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Cr George Flack

## **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

That Standing Orders be suspended to allow the conduct of the Community Recognition Section and Public Question Time.

## **COMMUNITY RECOGNITION**

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

### **Public Question Time – Purpose**

Council has provided the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of broad interest to Council and the community. Matters relating to routine Council works should be taken up with Council's Customer Service Officers through its Customer Request System.

By the time planning matters have reached the council agenda, they have been through an extensive process as required by the Planning and Environment Act. In addition, in most instances mediation has been held between the parties involved. Throughout the process there are many opportunities for the people to ask questions. Therefore, no questions relating to planning matters on the Agenda will be accepted.

### **Public Question Time – Where, When And Who**

The public question time is held at every Ordinary Meeting of Greater Bendigo City Council. Meetings of Council commence at 6.00pm in the Reception Room, Bendigo Town Hall, Hargreaves Street, Bendigo.

The public question time is held at the start of the meeting as close as practical to 6:00pm. A maximum of 30 minutes has been provided for registered and unregistered questions.

Residents are encouraged to lodge questions in advance so that a more complete response can be provided.

Questions will be put to the Council by the individual posing the question; the question will be answered by the Mayor or CEO, or where appropriate, Councillors or Council Officers.

### **Acceptance of Questions**

Each person asking a question of Council is required to stand, state their name, and address the Mayor. Public Question Time is not an opportunity for making of statements or other comments. Council's Meeting Procedure Local Law does not allow for other questions or comments during the remainder of the meeting.

1. An individual may only ask one question per meeting, a follow-up question may be permitted at the discretion of the Mayor.
2. In the event that the same or similar question is raised by more than one person, an answer may be given as a combined response.
3. In the event that time does not permit all questions registered to be answered, questions will be answered in writing or referred to the next meeting if appropriate.
4. The Mayor and or CEO have the right to decline registration on basis of:
  - Legal proceedings;
  - More appropriately addressed by other means;
  - Vague or lacking in substance, irrelevant, frivolous, insulting offensive, improper, defamatory or demeaning;
  - Answer likely to compromise his / her position;
  - Confidential, commercial-in-confidence.
5. Each individual whose registration form has been accepted or declined will be advised by the Friday of the week prior to the scheduled meeting.
6. In the event of a registration form being declined the registration form will be circulated to the Mayor or Councillors for information.

### **RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS**

That Standing Orders be resumed.

### **CR ALDEN'S REPORT**

## DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Pursuant to Sections 77, 78 and 79 of the Local Government Act 1989 (as amended) direct and indirect conflict of interest must be declared prior to debate on specific items within the agenda; or in writing to the Chief Executive Officer before the meeting. Declaration of indirect interests must also include the classification of the interest (in circumstances where a Councillor has made a Declaration in writing, the classification of the interest must still be declared at the meeting), i.e.

- (a) direct financial interest
- (b) indirect interest by close association
- (c) indirect interest that is an indirect financial interest
- (d) indirect interest because of conflicting duties
- (e) indirect interest because of receipt of an applicable gift
- (f) indirect interest as a consequence of becoming an interested party
- (g) indirect interest as a result of impact on residential amenity
- (h) conflicting personal interest

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest, must leave the meeting and remain outside the room while the matter is being considered, or any vote is taken.

Councillors are also encouraged to declare circumstances where there may be a perceived conflict of interest.

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wednesday 21 August 2019.

The following items were considered at the Ordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 21 August 2019 at 6:00pm.

NO.	TITLE	RECOMMENDATION
1.1	Petition: Prevent High Street Heathcote Flooding	That the petition be received and a response be prepared within two (2) meetings
1.2	Petition: Flood Mitigation in Central Bendigo (around Bridge and Arnold Streets)	That the petition be received and a response be prepared within two (2) meetings
2.1	Adoption of the Huntly Development Contributions Plan, Consider Authorisation Request for Planning Scheme Amendment C222	That Council resolve to: 1. Adopt the <i>Huntly Development Contributions Plan</i> (July 2019) by MESH. 2. Request the Minister for Planning to authorise Council to prepare Amendment C222 to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme. 3. When Authorised by the Minister, exhibit Amendment C222 to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme, giving notification as required for the minimum statutory exhibition period of one month.
2.2	108 Lowndes Street, Kennington - Use of Land for Restricted Recreation Facility (Gymnasium) and Car Parking to the Satisfaction of the	Pursuant to section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987), Council resolve to issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit for

	Responsible Authority	Use of land for restricted recreation facility (gymnasium) and car parking to the satisfaction of the responsible authority at 108 Lowndes Street, KENNINGTON 3550 subject to the conditions at the end of this report:
2.3	2 Somerville Road, Strathfieldsaye - 2-Lot Subdivision	<p>Pursuant to section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987), Council resolve to issue a Notice of Decision to Refuse to Grant a Permit for a two lot subdivision at 2 Somerville Road, STRATHFIELDSAYE 3551 subject to the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proposal is not consistent with the design objectives of Clause 22.22 (Strathfieldsaye Township Residential Character Policy).</li> <li>2. The proposal fails to satisfy the objective and standard of Clause 56.03-5 as it does not respect the existing and preferred neighbourhood character.</li> <li>3. The proposal is inconsistent with the purposes of Clause 32.08 (General Residential Zone) which calls for new development to respect neighbourhood character.</li> <li>4. The proposal will result in an unacceptable planning outcome having regard to the decision guidelines at Clause 65.02.</li> </ol>
2.4	84 Rowan Street, Bendigo - Two Lot Subdivision, Construction of a Second Dwelling, Construction of a Carport and Vehicle Crossover and Demolition and Construction of a Fence	<p>Pursuant to section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987), Council resolve to refuse the application for the for two lot subdivision, construction of a second dwelling on a lot, construction of a carport and vehicle crossover, and demolition and construction of a fence at 84 Rowan Street, BENDIGO 3550 on the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proposal is not in keeping with the character of the area.</li> <li>2. The proposal will adversely affect the heritage significance of the place and precinct.</li> <li>3. The proposal represents an over development of the site.</li> </ol>
3.1	Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee Member Appointments	<p>That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appoint to the Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee for a three year term: John Williams, Erin Smith, Rod Flavell and Sheree Pickles.</li> <li>• Formally thank retiring members Heather McNeil, Elizabeth Durr and Mark McLoughlan.</li> </ul>
3.2	Recommendations for New Disability Inclusion Reference Committee Members	<p>That Council resolve to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appoint: John Cooper, Justin Marshall, Madelyn Blackwood, Sara McQueenie, Scott McLarty and Vinnie Mammoliti to the Disability Inclusion Reference Committee for a two year term.</li> <li>2. Formally thank retiring members Alison Musk, Andy Barratt, Teresa Iacono, Bridgett Scilini and Juanita Miller.</li> <li>3. Write to all applicants to thank them for their interest in joining the Disability Inclusion Reference Committee.</li> </ol>



3.2	Heritage Gap Analysis and Future Work Program	<p>That Council resolve to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopt the City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Gap Analysis, May 2019.</li> <li>2. Support a heritage community engagement program as part of the Heritage Strategy to identify community priorities.</li> <li>3. Commence a Stage 2 heritage study for Golden Square, a Stage 2 study for Miners' cottages and a Stage 1 study for Huntly.</li> </ol> <p><b>Further Motion:</b> That Council resolve to complete the Significant Tree Register and implement statutory protection as a priority.</p>
7.1	Local Law - Meeting Procedure	<p>That Council resolve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In accordance with Section 119 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, to give notice of its intention to resolve to adopt the Draft Greater Bendigo City Council Local Law – Process of Municipal Government (2020) in the Victorian Government Gazette and local newspapers in a public notice stating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the purpose and general purport of the proposed Greater Bendigo City Council Local Law – Process of Municipal Government (2020);</li> <li>(b) that a copy of the proposed Greater Bendigo City Council Local Law – Process of Municipal Government (2020) can be obtained from the Council offices; and</li> <li>(c) that any persons affected by the proposed Greater Bendigo City Council Local Law – Process of Municipal Government (2020) may make a submission relating to the proposed Greater Bendigo City Council Local Law – Process of Municipal Government (2020) under Section 223 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. To appoint a Committee of the whole of Council, to consider any submissions by persons that request to be heard in accordance with Section 223 of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to set the date, time and location of the meeting to hear submissions.</li> <li>3. Undertake a more comprehensive review for the long term of the Local Law regulating meeting procedure, the proceedings for electing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and use of the common seal once a new Local Government Act is gazetted and the guidelines for this aspect of municipal governance are clear.</li> </ol>
7.2	Customer Satisfaction Survey 2019 Results	That Council note the report and the results of the 2019 Community Satisfaction Survey and Councillors consider additional questions to be included in the survey for next year.
7.3	Record of Assemblies	That Council endorse the record of assemblies of Councillors as outlined in this report.
7.4	Contracts Awarded Under Delegation	That the contracts awarded under delegation,

		as outlined in this report, be acknowledged by Council.
9.1	Notice of Motion: Urgency for Action to Address Serious Future Environmental and Climate Breakdown	<p>That the Greater Bendigo City Council acknowledge:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The urgent need for action to address the environmental and climate breakdown that poses serious future risks to the health and wellbeing of the people of Greater Bendigo, especially those who are socially and economically the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community.</li> <li>2. That climate risks will impact public health, emergency management, community services and recreation facilities and carry financial and social implications for LGAs requiring a whole-of-Council approach.</li> <li>3. The current global consensus that cities should be responsive to climate, environmental and biodiversity breakdown, investing in restoration and conservation of biodiversity and ensuring a resilient city in current and planned actions to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>4. That an internal report on the Council's expenditures aligned to greenhouse gas emissions across Council's business will be prepared by December 31st 2019.</li> <li>5. The need for budget considerations for the 2020/21 year to incorporate Council-wide mechanisms and allocations to address the risks that climate change presents to the future health and wellbeing of the people of Greater Bendigo.</li> </ol>
13.1 13.2 13.3	Confidential Section 89 Reports in accordance with Section 89(2)(a) and (d) relating to a personnel and contractual matters	

The unconfirmed minutes have also been posted on the City of Greater Bendigo website pending confirmation at this meeting.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 21 August 2019, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed.

**1. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS**

Nil.

## **2. PRESENTATION AND MANAGING GROWTH**

### **2.1 DRAFT BENDIGO CITY CENTRE PLAN**

#### **Document Information**

**Author**                **Wonona Fuzzard, Coordinator Public Space and Place Making**  
**Philip DeAraugo, Senior Strategic Planner**

**Responsible**    **Bernie O'Sullivan, Director Strategy and Growth**  
**Director**

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#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Report is to seek Council endorsement to publically exhibit the Draft Bendigo City Centre Plan, which includes the Parking Futures Action Plan recommendations.

#### **Summary**

The Draft Bendigo City Centre Plan has been developed to provide the vision and clear direction to manage the growth of the City Centre as it continues to strengthen its role as an important regional mixed-use centre and tourist destination. A key aspect of how a city functions is not only the look and feel but the way we access and move around. To ensure the Draft Plan provides an holistic approach to managing growth, the Parking Futures Action Plan recommendations have also been included. The car parking requirements, location and management can have a significant influence on design solutions for buildings. Bringing the two components together provides a simplified integrated approach.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Endorse the Draft Bendigo City Centre Plan for public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days.
2. Receive a further report following public exhibition, outlining any submissions received and any changes required to the Draft Plan.

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#### **Policy Context**

##### **Community Plan:**

Goal 2                Wellbeing and fairness  
Objective 2.5       Create safe and resilient communities

|               |                                                                                         |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Goal 3        | Strengthening the economy                                                               |
| Objective 3.1 | Support our local businesses and industry to be strong, vibrant and to grow and develop |
| Goal 4        | Presentation and managing growth                                                        |
| Objective 4.4 | Keep Greater Bendigo attractive with good quality public facilities and places          |
| Goal 6        | Embracing our culture and heritage                                                      |
| Objective 6.1 | Celebrate our unique heritage                                                           |

#### Strategy Reference:

The Bendigo CBD Plan 2005 is the primary 'place based' strategy that provides the vision for the City Centre. The aim of the CBD Plan is 'to attract more people to the City Centre for longer'.

The Bendigo CBD Parking Strategy 2008 investigated the complex and emotive issue of parking supply and demand. The Parking Strategy is centred on the City's commitment to transitioning to a sustainable 'movement' network where people can move around easily by foot, bicycle, public transport or private vehicle.

Both the Bendigo CBD Plan and the Bendigo CBD Parking Strategy will be replaced by the new Bendigo City Centre Plan.

#### Regional Strategic Plan Reference:

The Loddon Campaspe Regional Growth Plan includes a number of actions that relate to promoting the growth of 'Bendigo - the regional city'. There is a particular emphasis on growing the Bendigo City Centre.

### **Background Information**

Greater Bendigo is showing strong growth across the local government area and is expected to grow to a population of 200,000 by 2050. To ensure this growth is managed well to deliver housing choice for everyone in our community, limit urban sprawl to ensure our natural assets are protected and deliver economic growth through employment, then growth should be considered in the context of intergenerational equity. The current new release areas are delivering on only one part of the housing market which is for those seeking large single dwellings, further from services, are generally low density but impact on tree loss and extend the cost burden on asset maintenance for infrastructure.

To ensure there is greater housing choice, areas such as the City Centre become very attractive for residential living, they offer – smaller, more cost efficient products which are within easy walking distance of existing facilities and services. This more compact type city also offers greater opportunity for social connections as we work and socialise in the area we live. Both housing styles are important as it does provide choice and can reflect the needs of the family's lifecycle – young families often require more space, single or couples may wish to enjoy a low maintenance smaller carbon foot print life style. The key here is ensuring there are options for our community to choose from. The opportunity with increasing density in one area such as the inner city can take the pressure off other areas such as outer suburbs or low density high value character areas. The refresh of the 2005 CBD Plan provides an opportunity to further promote greater housing choice, through supporting the benefits of inner city living through access to services, a safe walkable public realm and some mixed use residential commercial development.

The Bendigo City Centre is evolving and the City needs to be in a position to facilitate and attract new development while ensuring high quality urban design outcomes. The recent surge of activity with the proposed redevelopment of part of the Bendigo TAFE site, the government office building (GovHub) and new Law Courts are all large scale developments. Buildings of this scale will become more common and need to have high architectural quality to ensure they do not detract from the desired future character of a compact, high amenity, pedestrian friendly, mixed use city. It is therefore timely to review existing land use planning controls to ensure the community has a city that meets their needs now and into the future.

The Bendigo CBD Plan was adopted in 2005. This Plan established the vision and determined the scale and direction of development to meet the future needs of the community, investors, business operators and the City. The majority of actions identified in the document have now been completed, however the themes and directions adopted remain relevant. The new Draft Plan for the City Centre seeks to build on this work with the aim to facilitate high quality development through design principles and integrating car parking. As the City has the important role in managing the public realm rather than as a property investor, additional work has been included to provide direction to ensure high quality design outcomes. The existing public realm areas in the City Centre play a key role in setting the look and feel and will become increasingly more important as the City transitions to a greater mix of uses and the public realm provides for an accessible, safe, connected and enjoyable “backyard” for residents and visitor alike.

The Bendigo CBD Parking Strategy was adopted in 2008. Since this time Council has adopted the Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy 2015 (ITLUS) which established a framework and direction for integrating transport and land use planning which promotes active travel such as walking and cycling and reducing the reliance of cars for all trips. The overall direction set in the Parking Strategy remains current, such as better use of commercial land through the strategic positioning of multi-deck carparks across the city, however, the way we move around the city is changing. There is a slow but steady increase in the use of public transport and more flexible alternate car options are presenting themselves through increased use of e-bikes and ride and car share vehicles.

Infrastructure improvements have also been made with the introduction of zebra crossings at more roundabouts and a speed limit reduction to 40kph across much of the City Centre. To respond to these changes in options and the understanding that Bendigo needs to grow its inner city residential offer, a Parking Futures Action Plan has been developed. The objectives of this Action Plan have been integrated into the new Draft City Centre Plan to provide a clear and simplified approach for development, which is heavily influenced by parking provision.

## Report

The purpose of the Draft Bendigo City Centre Plan is to provide clear direction for the future growth of the City Centre. The Draft Plan will ensure that the Bendigo City Centre maintains its role as the highest order activity centre in the commercial hierarchy of the region for retail, commercial, professional services, hospitality, administration, tourism and entertainment services. The Draft Plan will facilitate development and promote a greater mix of uses, including higher density residential living to provide for more housing choice, and the clustering of both small and large scale office developments.

The Draft Plan applies to the primary commercial core of Bendigo and sets the vision and direction for how the city will meet the needs of the growing population and tourism offerings.

The Draft Plan maintains a similar structure to the existing CBD Plan 2005, has a vision and is grouped into four key themes. The Draft Plan maintains the intent of the extended wording for the vision from the CBD Plan 2005 and also provides a simplified, one line version to preface the explanation:

*"The Bendigo City Centre will be a vibrant regional mixed use destination for businesses, employment, recreation and a home for people."*

### Theme 1 – Reinforce the role of the City Centre

This theme provides a general summary of how our city functions in regard to the role it plays as a regional city, the cluster of commercial and retail activities, the growing attraction as tourism destination and the value of its rich heritage fabric. The theme also identifies the continued desire for the City Centre to be an important regional and local service centre for work, support services, tourism, leisure and entertainment.

### Theme 2 – A contemporary city with heritage foundations

The Bendigo City Centre has a rich heritage and culture which must be taken forward and embraced as the city evolves. It is a fine but pragmatic line that must be established as heritage and the need for growth come together. Bendigo as a city needs to grow to thrive. Urban consolidation is important for all cities, as it helps gain a critical mass in density to attract services and facilities that communities want and need; better utilises existing infrastructure reducing the amount of low use / high cost assets and reduces the waste of resources and impacts on our environment through urban sprawl.

The City Centre has many key, high value heritage buildings/areas which create the rich character for which Bendigo is valued. The heritage value of the City Centre should not be compromised or undermined by the retention of every building simply because they are old or nice. Existing buildings will need to be considered in the context of the quality and quantity of already protected examples. In some circumstances it will be much more important to facilitate a good redevelopment to ensure that the City Centre can continue to function well into the future, rather than lock up a site and put development pressure on more important properties. Economic considerations and the net community benefit of a development need to be carefully considered, just as heritage is. In saying this, we do need to take a conservative approach to heritage, as once it's gone it's gone.

This theme includes several design elements that will be implemented into the Planning Scheme such as height, bulk, scale, setbacks etc. Buildings in Bendigo's City Centre are generally built to the front and side property boundaries, creating a continuous series of facades along the street. Most buildings are fairly simple in their form and use articulation and detailing of the facade to create an attractive and 'human-scale' streetscape.

To ensure a good urban design interface with the public realm is achieved, design guidelines have been developed to demonstrate desired outcomes rather than purely prescriptive standards. An example of this is the recommended simplification of design controls and an increase in height in specific precincts. As is the current situation in most of the City Centre, building height will continue to be considered discretionary not mandatory, however, all buildings should be of a quality design with any request to increase the height being subject to superior performance assessment criteria that will be included in the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme.

The City Centre has a mix of heights including low rise buildings with parapets of varying scale, to 30 metre tall buildings such as the Bendigo Bank. Many of the very important heritage buildings are large and present a strong statement of grandeur such as the Law Courts, Town Hall and Shamrock Hotel. As each site has its own unique context, a design solution may see heights increase on some sites and decrease on others. However, this merit consideration related to the site context and function does not set a precedent as it is unlikely every aspect of one design can be duplicated, such as: midblock/corner location, proximity to important heritage buildings, accessibility for servicing and so on.

In the commercial, retail and mixed use focused precincts the recommended height is 20 metres, however, this one matter will be considered with all other design guidelines to ensure the future built form continues to enhance the heritage of the area. This approach does not encourage mimicking of the heritage buildings but instead ensuring new development complements and enhances the existing built form in anticipation that they will one day be our cherished heritage of the future.



### Theme 3 – Creating an Accessible Place

The City Centre is generally a pedestrian friendly city with many tree-lined streets, is relatively flat and has a fairly traditional street grid pattern. Ongoing improvements such as decreased vehicular speeds, upgrades to footpaths and additional pedestrian crossings all add to improving the pedestrian's experience. This theme continues to build on the Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy 2015 and the Walking and Cycling Strategy 2019. However, the other important component of accessibility is the need to provide the right amount of car parking to support the anticipated growth and demand but also continue to facilitate other modes such as walking, cycling, trains and buses.

Conveniently located and accessible car parking is important to the success of the City Centre and although the way we move around will change in the future, parking will continue to play a role for many people, particularly those with limited mobility or transport options.

The overall approach to car parking is to encourage people to park a little sooner and walk a little further. This approach is proven to contribute in a positive way to people's health and wellbeing. More people being active for at least part of their trip not only supports their own good health but provides opportunities for social interaction and for local businesses to attract pedestrians into their stores rather than simply driving by in a car.

To achieve this approach, parking has been integrated into the Draft Plan with the recommendations based on the supporting research and analysis of the Parking Futures Action Plan (Attachment 2).

The Action Plan has seven key objectives:

1. Car parking is managed at a precinct scale to support the continued growth and vitality of the Bendigo City Centre as a people-oriented urban environment.
2. Public subsidies for car parking are reduced and parking demand and supply are increasingly balanced by using market-based tools.
3. Car parking is well located, accessible and convenient, particularly meeting the needs of those that require parking most (such as those with limited mobility).
4. Car parking is managed using technology, pricing and time limits to achieve optimal utilisation and deliver broader transport policy goals including a shift towards sustainable transport and Mobility as a Service (MaaS).
5. Car parking is provided and managed to encourage people to get out of their cars sooner and walk a little further. Safe, interesting and enjoyable streetscapes are essential to this.
6. Car parking requirements for property development support a vibrant, growing city by unbundling out dated Planning Scheme requirements for on-site parking, land-use change, and flexibility of parking provision for developments on or offsite.
7. Car parking is consolidated over time and surface level / at-grade car parking is incrementally converted into more productive and higher-value uses that contribute to economic growth and success of the Bendigo City Centre.

To implement these objectives three key actions are proposed:

1. Complete investigations into the construction of a new Mixed-Use Multi-Deck Car Park in the Market Street precinct.
2. Commence an amendment to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme to remove Parking Minimums to help stimulate development and jobs growth.
3. Implement dynamic pricing and enhanced technology in paid areas to better balance demand with supply.

The Parking Futures Action Plan includes additional actions to those above, however these key three actions are the ones that will have the greatest impact on ensuring the Bendigo City Centre continues to evolve into a financially successful and vibrant city centre.

#### Theme 4 – Designing a High Quality Environment

The public realm of cities and towns, including their streets, squares, laneways and parks, are among their most important and defining features. The quality and experience of the public realm affects everyday life and can be a large factor in what attracts people to live, work, and visit.

The City Centre public realm is highly valued and recognised for the standard it has set. Major improvements over the last 25 years in particular have made a big impact. They have not only transformed the appearance of the City Centre but also have boosted its life and vitality by attracting business investment and encouraging more activity in our streets and other public spaces. The public realm area becomes even more important as the residential density of the city slowly increases as it is essentially the “backyard” for the residents.

The detail for this theme has been substantially added too as it is an area the City has significant influence over. Also the public realm area is a primary driver of creating the “vibe” or liveability of a city. Private elements that interface into the public areas also significantly affect the look and feel of an area. An example is the use of awnings or other forms of pedestrian cover when designing buildings as it assists in maintaining a pedestrian scale environment, while in a practical sense also provides weather protection.

This theme is supported with a series of design principles and perspectives to demonstrate the desired future outcomes.

The four themes are then supported by additional precinct specific information. There are a total of nine precincts that have been created to allow easy access to information when information is required with a particular site in mind. The precincts have been determined based on either a particular architectural character or function such as Residential, Core Retail, and Peripheral Retail / Commercial.

### Priority/Importance:

Progression of the Draft Bendigo City Centre Plan is a matter of high importance as it will facilitate development and ensure high quality urban design outcomes. It is important that new development complements the existing heritage buildings which are highly valued by the community and play an important role in promoting tourism.

### Options/Alternatives:

1. Endorse the Draft Bendigo City Centre Plan for public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days. This is the preferred option.
2. Take no further action.

### Timelines:

The Final Report is to be presented to Council for adoption in early 2020. Once adopted, work will commence on the development of a Planning Scheme Amendment to allow implementation. It is anticipated that this will be an 18 month process.

### Risk Analysis:

The City Centre must grow to continue to be economically viable and be able to fulfil its role as the regional centre. The current planning controls need to be clearer, less complex and more responsive to allow for a well-designed compact city to flourish. If changes to the planning controls are not progressed there is a high risk of not attracting investment, reducing economic growth potential and not delivering on the vision of being the world's most liveable regional community.

## **Consultation/Communication**

### Internal Consultation:

As the Draft Plan is a refresh of an adopted plan, internal consultation has focused on the areas of change. Statutory Planning provided advice on the issues limiting good design outcomes experienced in the current Planning Scheme. The development of the Planning Scheme Amendment will require further skilled support to ensure amendments deliver on the Draft Plan's vision. A working group was established specifically for the public realm theme as the current plan provides limited long-term direction. Internal workshops and the outcomes of the parking service level review provided direction for the development of the Parking Futures Action Plan.

Three Councillor briefings were held as well as two workshops specifically focused on car parking.

### External Consultation:

Discussions and a workshop were held with currently active developers to determine issues affecting the redevelopment in the City Centre. There were also two public forums held to discuss car parking.

### Exhibition Consultation

During the exhibition process a series of listening posts will be held to seek community feedback on the Draft Plan. There will also be targeted industry engagement as architects, developers, town planners etc. will be the primary audience for the document. Comments will also be sought from relevant Council advisory committees. The information will also be available on the website and utilise social media to promote broader engagement.

### **Resource Implications**

Existing staff resourcing and budget allocation has been used to develop the Draft Plan. No additional funding is requested for the finalisation of the Draft Plan, however, the Planning Scheme Amendment will require the use of staff resources and budget allocation.

### Budget Allocation in the Current Financial Year:

An allocation of \$90,000 was allocated for the refresh of the CBD Plan 2005 and the Parking Strategy 2008 review.

### **Attachments**

1. Draft Bendigo City Centre Plan (separate document)
2. Parking Futures Action Plan (separate document)

## 2.2 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C232 - STRATHFIELDSAYE URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS AND REFER TO PANEL

### Document Information

**Author** Emma Bryant, Amendments and Heritage Co-ordinator

**Responsible Director** Bernie O'Sullivan, Director Strategy and Growth

### Summary/Purpose

Amendment details: The Amendment implements the *Strathfieldsaye Urban Design Framework 2017* and further implements the *Strathfieldsaye Township Plan 2012* by:

- Rezoning land from Commercial 1 and Special Use Zone to Mixed Use;
- Rezoning land to General Residential from Public Use;
- Amending the MSS by including a local area plan;
- Deleting Clause 22.22 Strathfieldsaye Residential Character Policy;
- Applying a suite of Design and Development Overlays;
- Removing some Development Plan Overlay 26;
- Making corrections to the Urban Growth Boundary incorporated plan and public land zoning.

Proponent: City of Greater Bendigo

No. of submissions: 26 (including 7 support, 19 requesting a change/object, 2 late)

Key issues:

- Encouraging increased densities in and near the town centre;
- Traffic;
- Applying controls to improve effluent disposal planning;
- Neighbourhood character;
- Restricting development;
- Provision of walking/cycling paths;
- Amount of commercial zoned land.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopt the recommendations detailed for each of the submissions in this report and request the Minister for Planning to appoint an Independent Panel to consider the outstanding submission/s.

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## Policy Context

City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017 – 2021

Goal 4: Presentation and managing growth

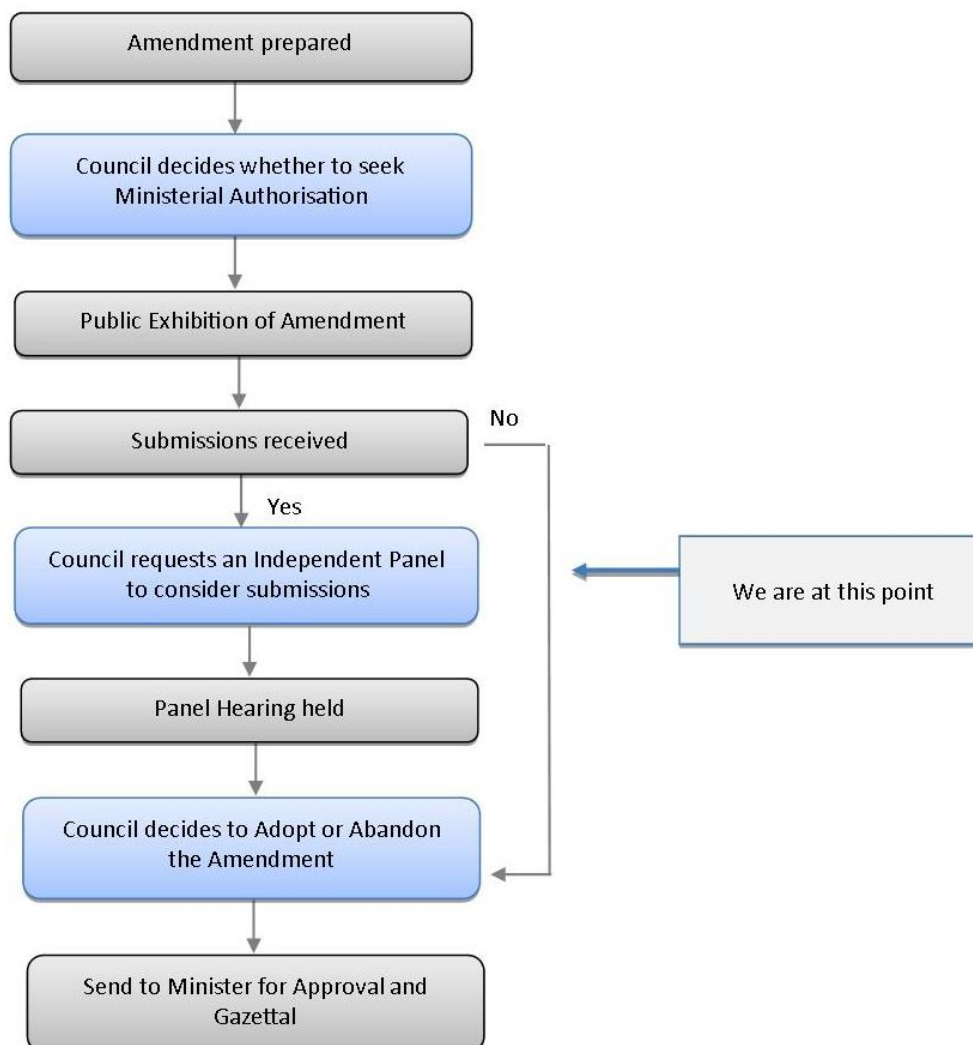
- Planning, developments and infrastructure that increase our liveability and pride in where we live.

Goal 5: Environmental Sustainability

- Protect and enhance our environment, conserve our resources and increase resilience to a changing climate.

## Background Information

The key steps in the Amendment process are summarised below:



## Previous Council Decisions

12 October 2016: Council decision to release the Draft Strathfieldsaye Town Centre UDF for public consultation.

15 February 2017: Council resolved to adopt UDF and commence the Planning Scheme Amendment to implement the strategic and policy direction of the UDF.

- 21 June 2018: That the Greater Bendigo City Council resolves to:
1. Request the Minister for Planning to authorise Council to prepare Amendment C232 to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme.
  2. When Authorised by the Minister, exhibit Amendment C232 to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme.

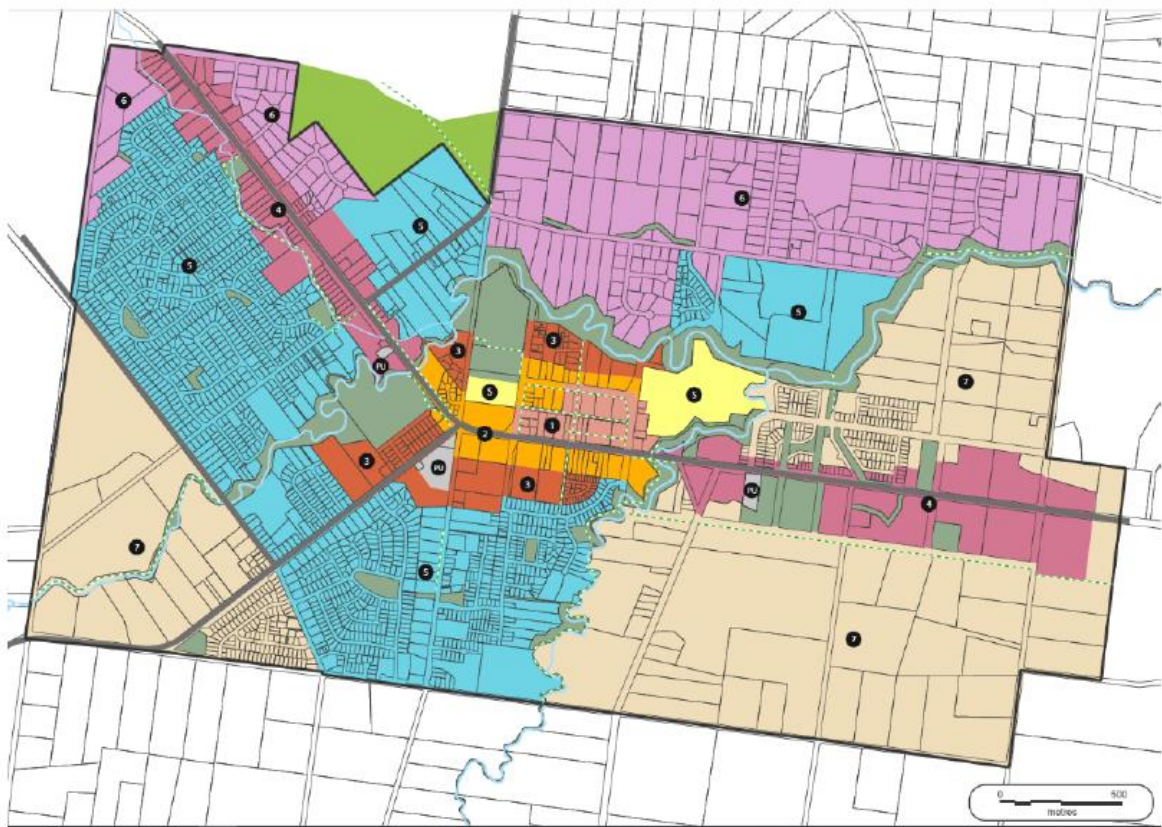
## Report

An Explanatory Report is attached and details the purpose and effect of the Amendment and provides the strategic justification for the Amendment as required. Key issues identified in the Explanatory Report are summarised below.

### Land affected by the Amendment

The land affected by the Amendment is all of the land in the township of Strathfieldsaye bounded by Somerset Park Road, Mannes Lane, Barkers Lane, Osborne Lane and Watson Drive, as the Amendment makes broad policy changes to the Municipal Strategic Statement, including introducing a Local Area Plan, as shown below in Figure 1.

The Amendment also individually affects approximately 38 properties through rezoning, 393 properties by adding an overlay and 202 by removing an overlay.



**Figure 1:** Area affected by proposed Local Area Plan for Strathfieldsaye.

## What the Amendment does

The Amendment implements the *Strathfieldsaye Urban Design Framework 2017* and further implements the *Strathfieldsaye Township Plan* (revised March 2012) by:

- Rezoning land from Commercial 1 and Special Use Zone to Mixed Use;
- Rezoning land to General Residential from Public Use (Coliban Water land);
- Amending the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) by including a Strathfieldsaye Local Area Plan (LAP);
- Applying a suite of Design and Development Overlays (DDOs), including those to guide design in the town centre, transitional town centre and town entrances (DDO27,28 and 29), one that is applied to unsewered land to provide more guidance for development (DDO24), and one to protect the urban forest interface (DDO6);
- Deleting Clause 22.22 Strathfieldsaye Residential Character Policy as it has been replaced by the LAP and DDOs;
- Removing some Development Plan Overlay 26 Strathfieldsaye New Development Areas as the land has been developed, and making some minor edits;
- Making corrections to the Urban Growth Boundary incorporated plan and some private land zoning errors;
- Rezoning Council managed park land to Public Park and Recreation Zone as identified in the *Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan* (2018).

## **Consultation/Communication**

### Exhibition Procedures

The Amendment was exhibited for one month from 30 May to 1 July 2019.

Notice was provided in the following manner:

- Individual notices to owners and occupiers of land affected by the Amendment.
- Notices to prescribed Ministers under Section 19(1)(c) of the *Planning and Environment Act*.
- Notices to all authorities materially affected under Section 19(1)(a) of the Act.
- Public notice of the Amendment in the *Bendigo Advertiser* on 29 May 2019 and 1 June 2019.
- Publication of the notice of the Amendment in the *Government Gazette* on 30 May 2019.
- Access on-line.
- Community information bulletin.
- Drop in information session attended by approximately 70 people.

### Submissions

Twenty-six submissions were received during the exhibition period (including 2 late submissions).



All submitters have received a written response to their concerns and an offer of an opportunity to meet to discuss their concerns further.

<b>Submitter 1: North Central Catchment Management Authority</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
Supports.	No action required.
<b>Submitter 2: EPA</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
Supports.	No action required.
<b>Submitter 3:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
Objects. DDO24 not appropriate for Thornton Court as lots are standard residential size and connected to sewerage.	Change Amendment as requested. Remove DDO24 from the properties at 4-8 Thornton Court because they are fully developed and connected to sewerage.

<b>Submitter 4:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
Objects. DDO24 not appropriate for Thornton Court as lots standard residential and connected to sewerage.	Change Amendment as requested. As above.
<b>Submitter 5:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
Objects.  Objects to application of DDO29 at 1 Woodlea Close as wants to be able to subdivide into 3 or 4 lots.  Objects to application of DDO29 as wants to erect a high colourbond fence to reduce noise from the road.  Objects to rezoning of land for 'caravan park' on Strathfieldsaye Road.	Refer to Panel.  Would still be able to apply to subdivide but will need to provide setbacks from Strathfieldsaye Road.  See the below section on Fences.  No rezoning is proposed for this parcel of land. DDO29 is proposed for the front of the lot to ensure appropriate setbacks and design responses on Strathfieldsaye Road. DDO6 is proposed for the rear to ensure appropriate setbacks from the

	forest. Planning permit application has been withdrawn.
<b>Submitter 6:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
Supports.  Supports application of DDO6 to properties adjoining the forest.  Supports application of Precinct 5 of LAP to adjoining properties.  Suggests exemption in DDO24 for small dwelling extensions and outbuildings that have no impact on wastewater.	Change Amendment as requested.  Noted.  Noted.  Exemption added.
<b>Submitter 7:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
Objects. Objects to footpath/cycleway shown on LAP along the creek and Council land which passes through their property.	Change Amendment as requested. The creek is not the most suitable location for a shared pathway and it will be located in the Strathfieldsaye Road reserve instead. LAP updated.
<b>Submitter 8:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
Objects. The use of the UDF to amend and remove Clause 22.22 from the north of Sheepwash Creek has not been justified and risks allowing 120-150 Sullivans Road to amend their permit and have Condition 1 removed, contrary to VCAT decision 1875/2017.	Refer to Panel. Strategy 3.3 of the LAP specifically mentions that lots at the larger end of 300-1,500sqm should front Sullivans Road to incorporate the VCAT findings.
<b>Submitter 9:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
Objects. DDO24 and Precinct 6 not appropriate for 5 Bamboo Court as sewer connected to the site and plans to subdivide into 3 lots.	Change Amendment as requested. Update maps to remove DDO24 and apply Precinct 5 due to existing sewer connection.
<b>Submitter 10:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>

<p>Objects.</p> <p>Objects to rezoning of 528 Tannery Lane to GRZ as no details of proposed road location available.</p> <p>Objects to the plan as a whole due to lack of details regarding capacity of roads to deal with increased traffic and lack of an impact study on native and remnant vegetation.</p>	<p>Refer to Panel.</p> <p>The preferred location is alongside the Telstra exchange. The City is investigating ways to ensure that any future subdivision will include the creation of a road reserve at this preferred location.</p> <p>See the below sections on Vegetation and Traffic.</p>
<b>Submitter 11:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
<p>Objects.</p> <p>Advised never received notification of the Amendment.</p> <p>Objects to footpath/cycleway along the creek as shown on the LAP, which passes through their property.</p>	<p>Change Amendment as requested.</p> <p>Notice sent to PO Box and home address and was not returned as undelivered.</p> <p>See above response to Submitter #7.</p>
<b>Submitter 12:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
<p>Objects.</p> <p>Objects to Mixed Use Zone (MUZ) due to increased traffic and cars parked on the street.</p>	<p>Refer to Panel.</p> <p>MUZ should not generate more traffic than the existing Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z). Dwellings closer to services will reduce reliance on motor vehicles.</p>
<b>Submitter 13:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
<p>Objects.</p> <p>No reason given, although several of the signatories have provided submissions relating to the footpath/cycleway on LAP.</p>	<p>Change Amendment as requested.</p> <p>See the above response to Submitter #7. Requested the submission contact person to pass on the response.</p>
<b>Submitter 14:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
<p>Objects.</p> <p>Objects to footpath/cycleway shown on LAP along the creek which passes behind their property at 41 Athena Way.</p>	<p>Change Amendment as requested.</p> <p>See above response to Submitter #7.</p>

<b>Submitter 15:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
<p>Objects.</p> <p>Too many lots below 600sqm.</p> <p>Not enough room in the shopping precinct to support population growth.</p> <p>No provisions for future schools.</p> <p>Not enough done to retain vegetation. Can controls protect vegetation on rezoned Coliban Water land?</p> <p>The Amendment will have an impact on the transport system.</p> <p>Vegetation should be used to screen colourbond fences along town entrances.</p> <p>Pedestrian crossing required across Strathfieldsaye Road near the BP service station. Requests that new developments have footpaths that connect externally.</p> <p>Can the footpath committed to by the developer of 11-21 Taylors Lane be added to the area plan?</p> <p>Rezoning of large blocks is unfair as it increases residents' rates and will force people off their land.</p>	<p>Refer to Panel.</p> <p>See below section on Small lots.</p> <p>See below section on Commercial Land available for future growth.</p> <p>The provision of schools is the responsibility of the Department of Education.</p> <p>See the below section on Vegetation.</p> <p>See the below section Traffic.</p> <p>DDO29 will discourage front fences along Strathfieldsaye Road. Suggestion forwarded to Engineering and Public Space.</p> <p>See the below section on Footpaths.</p> <p>The proposed paths shown are those identified through strategic work, rather than an agreement with a land developer as is the case of 11-21 Taylors Lane.</p> <p>This Amendment includes rezoning from C1Z to MUZ, correcting some anomalies along Sheepwash Creek and rezoning of Coliban land to GRZ.</p>
<b>Submitter 16:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
<p>Supports.</p> <p>Is keen to engage with the City regarding the future expansion of the Strathfieldsaye urban growth boundary.</p>	<p>No action required.</p> <p>No requirement at this stage to undertake an expansion to the urban growth boundary.</p>
<b>Submitter 17:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
<p>Objects.</p>	<p>Refer to Panel.</p>

<p>Opposed to GRZ for 120-150 Sullivans Road. Would like lots facing Sullivans Road to be shown as Precinct 6 (larger lots) instead of Precinct 5 (general residential).</p>	<p>This land is already zoned GRZ. The permit for this land, as determined by VCAT, will result in residential sized lots with sewerage, (making Precinct 5 appropriate), with larger lots of around 1,500sqm on Sullivans Road (the LAP requires larger lots along Sullivans Road).</p>
<p>Smaller lots of land do not enhance the township character.</p>	<p>See the below section on Small Lots.</p>
<p>Roads not equipped to cope with increased population.</p>	<p>See the below section on Traffic.</p>
<p>Walkability does not reduce vehicle ownership.</p>	<p>We don't expect people will surrender their vehicles, we will provide opportunities for them to be used less.</p>
<p>Footpaths in new estates need external connections.</p>	<p>See the below section on Footpaths.</p>
<p>Pedestrian crossing required across Strathfieldsaye Road near the BP service station.</p>	<p>See the below section on Footpaths.</p>
<p>No provision for future schools, with existing ones at capacity.</p>	<p>The provision of schools is the responsibility of the Department of Education.</p>
<p>Does not support the proposed retirement village.</p>	<p>See above response to Submitter #5.</p>
<p>Rezoning of commercial land to mixed use contradicts previous documentation which said additional commercial land is required.</p>	<p>See the below section on Commercial Land available for future growth.</p>
<p>Not enough is being done to retain existing vegetation.</p>	<p>See the below section on Vegetation.</p>
<p>Land clearing on Junortoun Road should not have been undertaken by Council.</p>	<p>This land has been in private ownership since 2005.</p>
<p>No plan for water supply for the Bendigo region.</p>	<p>See the below section on Water Supply.</p>
<p>The Amendment will have an impact on the transport system due to population increase.</p>	<p>See the below section on Traffic.</p>
<p>Increased traffic will increase bushfire risk and too many developments without planning for services and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Advice was obtained from experts including the City's Engineers, the Department of Transport and CFA and their views have been incorporated into</p>

	our decision making.
<b>Submitter 18:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
<p>Objects.</p> <p>Too many subdivisions with small lot sizes allowed.</p> <p>Transitional town centre should encourage innovation on smaller lots.</p> <p>Discourage the retirement style village proposed for Ryalls Lane.</p> <p>Not enough is being done to retain existing vegetation. Can controls be added to limit loss of vegetation resulting from rezoning of Coliban Water land?</p> <p>Forward planning with regard to provision of water to a growing population for the Bendigo region.</p>	<p>Refer to Panel.</p> <p>See the below section on Small Lots.</p> <p>Agreed.</p> <p>See above response to Submitter #5.</p> <p>See the below section on Vegetation.</p> <p>See the below section on Water supply.</p>
<p>Not enough consideration/consultation with regard to transport.</p> <p>Vegetation should be used to screen Colourbond fences along town entrances.</p> <p>Can setback requirements be increased on corner blocks on busy intersections, with low gardens?</p> <p>Pedestrian crossing required across Strathfieldsaye Road near the BP service station. Footpaths in new estates need external connections.</p> <p>Can the footpath from the CFA to the bottom of the Taylors Lane hill, committed to by the developer of 11-21 Taylors Lane, be added to the area plan?</p>	<p>See the below section on Traffic.</p> <p>See the above response to Submitter #15.</p> <p>DDO29 seeks a 9 metre setback which should assist in ensuring visibility at major intersections in the town centre.</p> <p>See the below section on Footpaths.</p> <p>See the above response to Submitter #15.</p>
<b>Submitter 19: Coliban Water</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
<p>Supports.</p> <p>Will require specific project works to be completed at 528 Tannery Lane before any future development of the area can be considered in detail.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>

<b>Submitter 20:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
<p>Objects.</p> <p>Footpaths need improving, particularly in town centre where informal path over private land no longer possible.</p> <p>The Town Square should be shown on maps and rezoned to Public Park and Recreation Zone.</p> <p>All reference to industrial use in the town centre and transitional town centre needs to be removed.</p>	<p>Make some changes as requested and refer to Panel.</p> <p>See the below section on Footpaths.</p> <p>The site is a road reserve so is not able to be rezoned to PPRZ. LAP updated to include Town Square site.</p> <p>Some light industrial uses, like warehouses, are allowed by the MUZ with a planning permit.</p>
<p>Traffic movements within the town centre need improvements.</p> <p>Strategy 4.4 should read "Minimise vehicle access <u>POINTS</u> from Wellington Street".</p> <p>There should be separate DDOs for the transitional town centre (residential vs mixed use) as too confusing.</p> <p>DDO28 - 2.0 regarding "front setbacks for existing dwellings not being altered" should be removed as unfair.</p> <p>General Design issues: Point 1 - should read '...materials, textures and / or colours'.</p> <p>Point 3 (rooftop plant) - is relevant for commercial properties only.</p> <p>Point 10 (side and rear fencing) - not practical for residential properties for privacy and seeing into back yards.</p> <p>Point 11 – should refer only to existing, native mature trees.</p> <p>Active Frontages and Weather Protection: Point 3 – relevant to commercial properties only.</p> <p>Parking and Access: Points 2 &amp; 3 (design of car parks) – relevant to commercial</p>	<p>See the below section on Traffic.</p> <p>The wording comes directly from the UDF and reflects the desire to reduce vehicle movements in the town centre.</p> <p>These areas are in the one DDO as recommended by the UDF and to minimise the number of DDOs.</p> <p>Extensions over 100sqm or which extend into the setback can still be permitted, but a planning permit will be required.</p> <p>Change supported to provide further flexibility.</p> <p>Relevant to all developments regardless of the intended use of the building.</p> <p>Change as requested to provide for more private side and rear fences.</p> <p>Whilst the focus of new tree plantings will be on native species, it is important to retain all existing mature trees.</p> <p>Change as requested to specify that item applies to Commercial only.</p> <p>Applies to all uses. We do not want car parking visually dominating by being</p>

properties only.	located in the front setbacks.
Point 4 – (car parking behind dwelling) - not practical at all for residential dwellings.	Change as requested to “For single dwellings, car parking should be provided at least 1 metre behind the front façade of the dwelling.”
Point 5 – include reference to the town centre also.	Change as requested.
Open style fencing is not appropriate for side and rear boundaries	Change as requested.
<b>Submitter 21:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
Objects.	Refer to Panel.
More footpaths required (at least one side in every street).	See the below section on Footpaths.
Shared walking/cycling paths should be 2.4 metres wide.	Designated shared paths have a width of at least 2.5 metres.
Blind corner on footpath near Old Shire Hall needs fixing.	City Engineers will investigate this blind corner.
Additional car parking required for the Tannery Lane Sporting Complex – suggests near Old Shire Hall so it can be used by visitors to both facilities.	Feedback and suggestion provided to Engineering.
Strathfieldsaye Bowls Club needs upgrading.	The City is preparing a design for a new bowls club facility and developing a site master plan to guide infrastructure development over 10 years.
Two storey dwellings should be outlawed or restricted to specific locations.	The GRZ applies to most of the residential areas and two storey dwellings are appropriate in the GRZ. The Planning Scheme has Statewide regulations to manage overlooking and overshadowing.
Request submission be passed on to all relevant departments.	Submission circulated.
<b>Submitter 22:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
Objects.	Refer to Panel.



Objects to the requirement for larger lots facing Sullivans Road.	The Township Plan identified that the land can be subdivided into lots between 300-1,200sqm but the recent VCAT decision, 1975/2017, determined that larger lots should front Sullivans Road to meet character objectives from the Neighbourhood Character Policy. This outcome and the character objectives have been included in the LAP.
Objects to references to lot density as it is not consistent with the purpose of the GRZ to provide a diversity of housing types.	The LAP includes the objectives of the neighbourhood character policy of Clause 22.22 as strategies, resulting in essentially the same controls, and lot densities from the Township Plan.
Objects to Clause 21.10-1 Strategy 2.4	Strategies 2.1, 2.4 and 3.3 have come from the character objectives of Clause 22.22 SF4. There is no strategic justification to remove these character objectives from the Planning Scheme.
<b>Submitter 23:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
Supports.	Refer to Panel.
An Integrated Transport Plan (ITP) should be prepared.	The outcomes of an ITP are already captured in existing strategic work.
A Developer Contribution Plan should be considered.	A DCP will be considered but is unlikely to be formally undertaken.
<b>Submitter 24:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
Objects.	Refer to Panel.
Suggestions for Town Centre design.	Provided to Parks and Open Space team who will be responsible for the design of this space.
Pedestrian crossing required on Blucher Street and across Wellington Street.	See the below section on Footpaths.
Walking and cycling tracks need to connect up, particularly Bendigo side of Ryalls Lane and from the roundabout at Apsley Lane and Blucher Street.	See the below section on Footpaths.
<b>Submitter 25:</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>

<p><b>Objects.</b></p> <p>Disagrees with rezoning south of Wellington Street as does not think there is an oversupply of Commercial Land.</p> <p>Need more flexibility on car parking for Wellington Street as blocks are too narrow for laneways to car parking at rear.</p> <p>Existing car parking in the town centre is at capacity and not all users have the option to walk/cycle due to large catchment area.</p> <p>Traffic in Aspley Lane, particularly deliveries to the supermarket, conflicts with the proposed Town Square.</p>	<p><b>Refer to Panel.</b></p> <p>See the below section on Commercial Land available for future growth.</p> <p>DDO28 will ensure car parking is considered prior to a planning permit being granted. Lots on the south side of Wellington Street have a width of 20 metres which is sufficient to allow rear access on individual lots.</p> <p>Improving walking and cycling paths increases the likelihood that those who live close enough will opt for active transport, which will free up spaces for those who need to use their cars.</p> <p>See the below section on Traffic. As the design of the Town Square is undertaken, the City will consider the impacts on traffic flow along Aspley Lane.</p>
<b>Submitter 26: CFA (Late)</b>	
<b>Supports/Objects</b>	<b>Officer Response &amp; Recommendation</b>
<p><b>Supports.</b></p> <p>CFA supports the Amendment in its current form, as per comments provided prior to exhibition.</p>	<p>No action required.</p> <p>Previous comments have been addressed in the Explanatory Report.</p>

### Vegetation

Many of the exemptions in the Planning Scheme regarding the removal of vegetation are set at a State level, which limits the City's ability to prevent removal occurring. The proposed Amendment strengthens local policy around the retention of established and native vegetation, as the City is aware that extensive vegetation is one of the things that makes Strathfieldsaye such an attractive place to live. The City is also developing a strategy to increase tree cover across Greater Bendigo's urban areas and townships. The *Greening Greater Bendigo* strategy will identify priority areas for tree planting and greening projects as well as protecting the trees and green spaces the community values.

## Traffic

The comments in the Explanatory Report that refer to the Amendment not having a significant impact on the transport system are based on analysis undertaken in accordance with *Advisory Note 34: Addressing the Transport Integration Act 2010* in a Planning Scheme Amendment. The significance of an Amendment's transport system impacts needs to be considered, including taking into account the likely use and development outcomes of the Amendment. The limited rezoning of land proposed as a part of this Amendment is unlikely to generate significant amounts of additional traffic in the area.

The City understands that there are existing traffic issues in Strathfieldsaye. The City commissioned the *Strathfieldsaye Township Traffic Management Plan 2015* (STTMP), the findings of which are being progressively implemented over time. The traffic lights installed at Tannery Lane in 2018 were a recommendation of the STTMP. In addition to this, Regional Roads Victoria is currently undertaking an investigation of Strathfieldsaye Road, exploring ways to improve traffic flow, safety and active transport from Reservoir Road, Strathdale to Longlea Lane, Strathfieldsaye. Upon confirmation of improvements to be undertaken by Regional Roads Victoria, the City will be in a better position to consider further changes to local streets.

## Small lots

The strategic work that has been undertaken for Strathfieldsaye seeks to plan for the future of the town, including outlining ways to provide for a mix of lot sizes and housing types across the Strathfieldsaye area. This mix will be provided by encouraging increased density and smaller lot sizes in the town centre and transitional town centre, a mix of conventional residential lot sizes in the general residential area and large, semi-rural lots in the large lot residential/low density residential area. Putting controls in place limiting the mix of lot sizes would not allow for flexibility in providing what the market might want.

## Commercial land available for future growth

The *Commercial Land and Activity Centre Strategy 2015* states additional commercial development is required for Strathfieldsaye. This development can easily be accommodated within the existing town area. An analysis of the current and future provision of commercial land in Strathfieldsaye is available in Appendix A of the UDF. It found that there is a surplus of commercial land available for the projected growth of the area and recommended the rezoning of some of this surplus to Mixed Use Zone, which, whilst discouraging retail, still allows for offices and other commercial uses.

## Footpaths

Provision of footpaths within new development areas can be required of developers at the time of creation of new lots, but the retrofitting of existing areas needs to be gradually rolled out at the City's expense. The City currently has funding for design for an underpass at Emu Creek to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists; for construction of a zebra crossing in Blucher Street and construction of a shared walking and cycle path in the southern Strathfieldsaye Road reserve between Ryalls Lane and Saxby Drive.

Improved pedestrian access has been identified as a priority for Strathfieldsaye in recent strategic work including the *Strathfieldsaye Urban Design Framework* (2017) and the *Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan* (2018) and the City will continue to progressively fund these projects.

### Water supply

Coliban Water is the responsible water authority. Coliban works with the Victorian Government's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to develop programs and strategies that take a long-term view of water resource planning. Coliban has undertaken forward planning for Strathfieldsaye and is preparing to build a new water filtration plant.

The proposed Amendment considers water supply, sewerage and drainage by ensuring that land proposed for further development can be serviced by the Coliban network for water supply and where there is no access to sewerage, that lots are of a sufficient size to safely treat wastewater within the property boundaries.

### Fences

The City understands that open style fencing is not always appropriate for side and rear boundaries and have updated DDO28 to remove reference to this and the requirement to obtain a planning permit to construct a side fence. Strategy 2.4 of the LAP says that in Precinct 5 General Residential Zone, farm style side fences should be used "where possible" and Strategy 2.5 advises that in Precinct 6 - Large Lot Residential/Low Density Residential Precinct, "there should be no front fencing and farm style side and rear fences." The words come from the existing neighbourhood character policy at Clause 22.22. DDO29 would mean that construction of a high, non-permeable front fence along Strathfieldsaye Road is unlikely to be supported due to the visual dominance and resulting lack of passive surveillance of the street.

## **Conclusion**

It is recommended that Council support the officer recommendations for the submissions received and request the Minister for Planning to appoint an Independent Panel to hear outstanding submissions.

## **Options**

Section 23(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act* 1987 requires that in consideration of submissions received in relation to an Amendment, the Council must either:

- Change the Amendment in the manner requested by the submitters and adopt the Amendment with changes; or
- Refer the submission(s) to an Independent Panel appointed by the Minister; or
- Abandon the Amendment, or part of the Amendment.

Section 22(2) of the *Planning and Environment Act* 1987 advises that Council has the option of accepting late submissions, but must do so if requested by the Minister for Planning.

It is recommended that the late submissions be accepted and a Panel requested to hear submissions that are outstanding.

**Resource Implications**

The City is responsible for payment of statutory fees and costs incurred in the processing of this Amendment. This will include estimated costs of \$15,000 in Panel fees. These costs have been budgeted for.

Officer time will also be required to prepare for and present at the panel hearing.

**Attachments**

- Submissions
- Explanatory Report
- Community Information Bulletin

## **2.3 COMBINED PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C226 AND PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATION DSD/561/2017 - 1A RAILWAY STREET AND 239-249 HIGH STREET, KANGAROO FLAT - ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT FOLLOWING PANEL**

### **Document Information**

**Author** Frank Casimir, Amendments Planner

**Responsible Director** Bernie O'Sullivan, Director Strategy and Growth

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### **Summary/Purpose**

**Amendment details:** This is a Planning Scheme Amendment combined with a planning permit application:

The Amendment proposes to:

- Rezone 1A Railway Street, Kangaroo Flat from General Residential Zone to Industrial 3 Zone;
- Delete the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 17 (Former Rocklea Mill Site, 239-249 High Street, Kangaroo Flat) from 1A Railway Street and from 239-249 High Street, Kangaroo Flat.

The planning permit application is for:

- Subdivision of the land into 46 industrial lots; creation of common property; use and development of the land for service industry and warehouse purposes; reduction of car parking requirements; and removal of native vegetation.

**Proponent:** Phileo Australia Ltd

**No. of submissions:** 5 including 1 opposing which was referred to Panel.

**Key issues:**

- Suitability of the site for the proposed use and development;
- Retention of mature trees to form part of the landscaping;
- The reliability of the supporting documents to the Amendment and permit application

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Adopt combined Amendment C226 to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme and planning permit application DSD/561/2017, with the change to the landscaping plan as recommended by the Panel; and
2. Forward the adopted Amendment and draft planning permit to the Minister for Planning for approval, together with the prescribed information pursuant to Section 31(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act, 1987*.

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## **Policy Context**

### City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017 – 2021

Goal 4: Presentation and managing growth

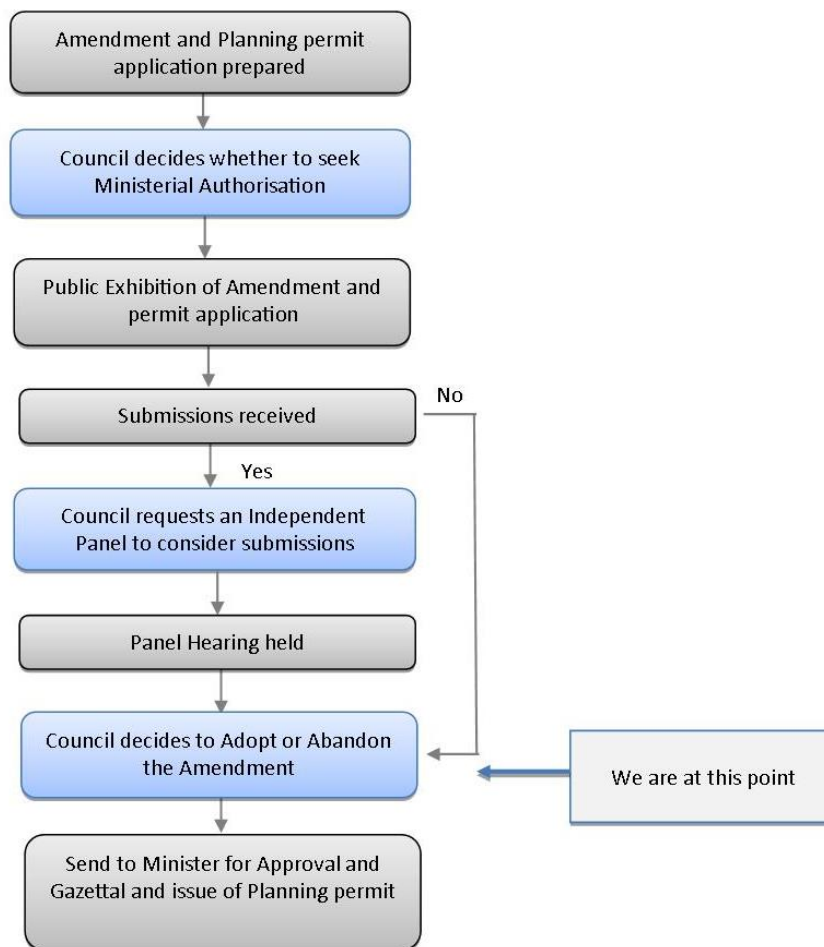
- Planning, developments and infrastructure that increase our liveability and pride in where we live.

Goal 6: Embracing our culture and heritage

- Recognise and celebrate our unique history and diverse cultures.

## **Background Information**

The key steps in the Amendment process are summarised below:



**Figure 1:** The Planning Scheme Amendment process.

### Previous Council Decisions

On 16 May 2018 Council resolved to:

- Request the Minister for Planning to authorise Council to prepare amendment C226 to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme.
- Agree to the request to consider the application for the planning permit concurrently with the amendment.
- When authorised by the Minister, exhibit amendment C226 to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme and the draft planning permit.

On 20 March 2019 Council resolved to:

- Request the Minister for Planning to appoint an Independent Panel to consider the unresolved opposing submission.

### **Report**

The attached Explanatory Report details the purpose and effect of the Amendment and provides the strategic justification for the Amendment. Key issues identified in the Explanatory Report are discussed below.



### Land affected by the Amendment

The land affected by the Amendment is 1A Railway Street, Kangaroo Flat, being Lot 2 PS621066 and 239-249 High Street, Kangaroo Flat, being Lot 1 PS621066. The planning permit affects only the land at 1A Railway Street, Kangaroo Flat. The two lots are commonly known as the “Former Rocklea Spinning Mills” site.

The land at 1A Railway Street is zoned General Residential Zone and is affected by the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 17 (Former Rocklea Mill Site, 239-249 High Street, Kangaroo Flat), the Bushfire Management Overlay and the Environmental Audit Overlay. The land measures approximately 1.9 hectares.

The land at 239-249 High Street is zoned Commercial 2 Zone and is affected by the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 17 (Former Rocklea Mill Site, 239-249 High Street, Kangaroo Flat) and partly by the Bushfire Management Overlay. This land is approximately 5.4 hectares in area.



**Figure 2:** The current zoning of the land and of its surrounds.



**Figure 3:** An aerial photo of the subject land also showing the two mature trees that the submitter requested to be retained.

### What the Amendment does

The Amendment proposes to:

- Rezone 1A Railway Street, Kangaroo Flat from General Residential Zone to Industrial 3 Zone;
- Delete the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 17 (Former Rocklea Mill Site, 239-249 High Street, Kangaroo Flat) from 1A Railway Street and from 239- 249 High Street, Kangaroo Flat.

### What the planning permit application allows

Subdivision of the land into 46 industrial lots; creation of common property; use and development of the land for service industry and warehouse purposes; reduction of car parking requirements; and removal of native vegetation.

## **Consultation/Communication**

### Exhibition Procedures

The Amendment was exhibited for one month from 25 October to 26 November 2018.

Notice was provided in the following manner:

- Individual notices to owners and occupiers of land affected by the Amendment.
- Notices to prescribed Ministers under Section 19(1)(c) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
- Notices to all authorities materially affected under Section 19(1)(a) of the Act.

- Public notice of the Amendment and of the planning permit application in the Bendigo Advertiser on 24 and 27 October 2018.
- Publication of the notice of the Amendment and of the planning permit application in the Government Gazette on 25 October 2018.
- Access on-line at the City's and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's websites.

Following the meeting where Council resolved to request the Minister to appoint an Independent Panel to consider the opposing submission, the proponent and City planning officers again met with the submitter to negotiate, with the objective to resolve their concerns. This negotiation was unsuccessful as at the end of the meeting the submitter decided to maintain their submission.

Their outstanding concerns were mainly about the additional traffic that the proposed development will generate along Railway Street and the vegetation proposed to be removed.

### Submissions

Five submissions (including 2 late) were received during the exhibition period. Only one submission, which was also a late submission, opposed the Amendment and was referred to the Independent Panel. The key issues raised by the submitter included:

- Traffic;
- Landscaping and retention of two mature trees;
- Amenity (noise, visual effects dust and contamination);
- Environmental values of the site including native vegetation and wildlife;
- Bushfire risks.

The remaining four submissions were from referral authorities and all supported the Amendment and planning permit application subject to conditions to be included on the draft planning permit.

### The Panel Hearing

The Minister for Planning appointed an Independent Panel to consider the Amendment. A Directions Hearing was held in Bendigo on 23 April 2019 to discuss a number of preliminary matters, including whether a Hearing should be held.

Initially, the Panel was of the view that a Hearing was not required but on 6 June 2019, the Panel directed that the Hearing be held via telephone conference. This is because the submitter had requested to be heard.

The Hearing was held via telephone conference on 7 June 2019 and was attended by the Panel (Melbourne), the proponent's representative (Melbourne, different location), City planning officers and the submitter (together in Bendigo).

### The Panel Report and Recommendations

The Panel report was received on 8 July 2019 and recommended that the Amendment be adopted with one minor change to the draft planning permit. In accordance with Section 26 of the *Planning and Environment Act* 1987, the Panel report was automatically released to the public on 8 August 2019, 28 days following its receipt by the City's Statutory Planning Unit. The report is now available on the City's website for viewing and a copy of it has been sent to the opposing submitter.

A summary of the submitter's concerns and of the officer's and Panel's comments is provided in the table below.

| Issues raised in the Submission                                                                                                                                   | Officer Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Panel Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| There will be an increase in the volume of traffic on Railway Street resulting from the development. The traffic report submitted by the proponent is unreliable. | The City's Traffic and Infrastructure Engineer did a new traffic count to verify the proponent's traffic counts and there was no significant difference between the two counts.                                                                                                                        | The Panel accepts the advice of the City's Engineer and the OneMileGrid report (13 October 2017), that the local road network is suitable to accommodate both existing traffic and any increase caused by the proposed development at 1A Railway Street.                                                    |
| Landscaping and retention of two mature trees to form part of the landscaping plan                                                                                | A 15-metre wide landscaping buffer is being provided along the northern lot boundary.<br><br>As the City's Landscape Architect and Arborist concur with the proponent's arborist's report (28 May 2019), that the two mature trees will not survive into the future, the trees should not be retained. | The Panel acknowledges that the provision of a 15-metre landscaped buffer and the removal of an unnecessary footpath is appropriate.<br><br>The Panel accepts the advice of the City's and the proponent's arborists that these two trees will not survive into the future and therefore should be removed. |
| Amenity                                                                                                                                                           | The proposed development is for service industry and warehousing, which are considered suitable uses to adjoin residences with the appropriate amenity controls.<br><br>The buildings have also been designed to minimise                                                                              | The Panel considers that the general amenity condition on the planning permit (condition 10) which provides that future uses must not adversely affect the amenity of the locality is an acceptable approach to manage the issue and                                                                        |

| Issues raised in the Submission                                                               | Officer Comments                                                                                             | Panel Comments                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                               | their visual impacts in the area and appropriately sited to avoid obstructing the views from the residences. | support this permit condition.<br><br>The Panel agrees that the wider landscaped setback to the residential properties to the north will also assist in mitigating amenity issues. |
| The close proximity of the proposed industrial building to their residence.                   | The proposal includes a 15-metre landscaped buffer with the existing residences to the north.                | The buildings have also been designed to minimise their visual impacts in the area and appropriately sited to avoid obstructing the views from their residence.                    |
| The Bushfire Management Overlay should not be deleted from the site because of bushfire risks | There is no proposal to delete the Bushfire Management Overlay from the site.                                | The Panel took note of the permit condition related to bushfire (condition 26).                                                                                                    |

All submitters will be notified of Council's decision resulting from this report.

In summary, the Panel recommends that the Amendment be adopted as exhibited. The only change that the Panel recommends is to the landscaping plan, which forms part of the exhibited planning permit application documentation. The recommended change is to delete the proposed footpath which runs east-west along the north lot boundary before the planning application and plans are sent to the Minister for approval.

The recommendation made by the Panel to delete this footpath from the plan is acceptable and is also to the satisfaction of the City's Engineering Unit. A footpath is not required along the northern lot boundary of the affected land because the affected land will now be used for industrial purposes. As a result, this section of Railway Street will not attract additional pedestrian traffic to warrant a footpath at this location.

## Conclusion

The Amendment and planning permit application have been assessed against the relevant provisions of the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme and found to be in accordance with the provisions and this is consistent with the findings of the Independent Panel.

It is recommended that Council adopt the Amendment in its current form and the draft planning permit with the proposed change and send them to the Minister for Planning to approve. This will complete the Amendment process.



## Options

Council has the option of:

- Adopting the Amendment in accordance with the Panel's recommendations and sending to the Minister for Planning for Approval.
- Adopting the Amendment in part.
- Abandoning the Amendment under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. There is no right of review of a council's decision not to support an Amendment.

It is recommended that Council adopt the Amendment and planning permit conditions in accordance with the Panel's recommendations and send them to the Minister for Planning for approval.

## Resource Implications

Officer time will be required to prepare the Amendment documentation for approval and liaise with the Minister for Planning.

The proponent has agreed to pay for the statutory fees and extra costs incurred by the City for holding the panel as per the policy for private Planning Scheme Amendments adopted by Council.

## Attachments

- Opposing Submission
- Explanatory Report
- Panel Report
- Amendment documentation
- Revised draft planning permit

## 2.4 PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C250 - BENDIGO SIGNALLING UPGRADE TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY RAIL PROJECTS VICTORIA

### Document Information

**Author** Rebecca Fisher, Amendments Planner

**Responsible Director** Bernie O'Sullivan, Director Strategy and Growth

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### Summary/Purpose

Rail Projects Victoria seeks support from Council to undertake an Amendment to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme with the Minister for Planning as the Responsible Authority.

The Amendment will allow for signalling upgrade works to be undertaken in accordance with the Incorporated Document, exempting the works from needing to obtain planning permits. These signalling upgrades are required if more services are to run between Epsom, Eaglehawk, Kangaroo Flat and Bendigo to provide passengers with a metro-style train service.

The land affected is the VicTrack rail reserve railway corridor between Bendigo and Epsom and Bendigo and Eaglehawk.

Amendment details: The Amendment proposes to:

- Apply the Specific Controls Overlay (SCO) to the corridor to exempt the project from planning permits.
- Include the Incorporated Document into the Scheme.

Proponent: Rail Projects Victoria

Key issues:

- Upgrade signalling to improve railway services;
- Vegetation removal;
- Heritage impacts.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council support the Amendment proposal and provides a letter of support to Rail Projects Victoria.

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### Policy Context

City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017 – 2021

Goal 4: Presentation and managing growth

- Planning, developments and infrastructure that increase our liveability and pride in where we live.

#### Goal 5: Environmental sustainability

- Protect and enhance our environment, conserve our resources and increase resilience to a changing climate

#### Goal 6: Embracing our culture and heritage

- Recognise and celebrate our unique history and diverse cultures.

### Background Information

The Bendigo Signalling Upgrade is part of the \$1.75 billion Regional Rail Revival program, a joint initiative of the Australian and Victorian governments. Rail Projects Victoria is responsible for the planning and implementation of the Regional Rail Revival program on behalf of the State.

The Bendigo Signalling Upgrade includes construction of a combined service route (CSR) for signalling and communications infrastructure which will include location boxes as required.

The proposed Planning Scheme Amendment will allow for the use and development of land to facilitate the delivery of signalling upgrades as part of the Bendigo and Echuca Line Upgrade without requiring planning permits to be obtained. The signalling upgrades from Bendigo to Epsom and Eaglehawk will enable more frequent services.

Rail Projects Victoria intends to request the Minister for Planning to consider preparing, approving and adopting a Planning Scheme Amendment to facilitate the project under section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

### Report

The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* allows for a Planning Scheme Amendment to be prepared, approved and adopted by the Minister for Planning under section 20(4).

When requesting the Minister for Planning to prepare an Amendment, an Explanatory Report must be submitted that discusses the purpose, effects and strategic justification for the Amendment. Key issues identified in the Explanatory Report are summarised below.

#### What the Amendment does

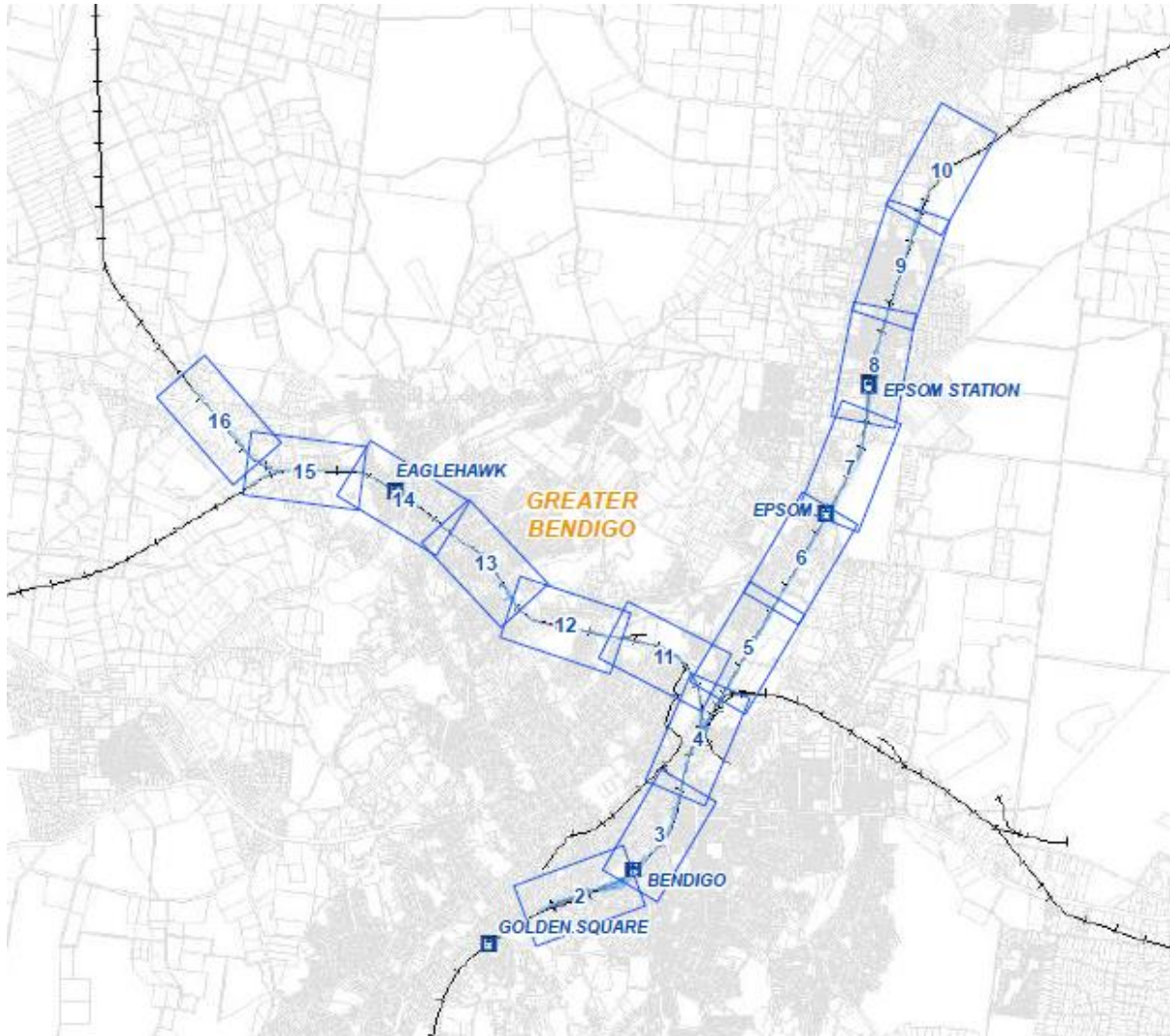
The Amendment proposes to:

- Apply the Specific Controls Overlay (SCO) by inserting Clause 45.12 and an associated Schedule to allow the use and development of land for the purpose of the project in accordance with the *Bendigo Signalling Upgrade Project Incorporated Document, June 2019*.
- Amend the Schedule to Clause 72.03 (What does this Planning Scheme Consist of?) to insert the Specific Controls Overlay map.



- Amend the Schedule to Clause 72.04 (Documents Incorporated in this Planning Scheme) to insert an incorporated document titled *Bendigo Signalling Upgrade Project Incorporated Document, June 2019*.

#### Land affected by the Amendment



**Figure 1.** The VicTrack rail reserve railway corridor between Bendigo and Epsom and Bendigo and Eaglehawk.

#### Social, Economic and Environmental Impacts

One of the key drivers in the operation of the Planning Policy Framework is the need for integrated decision making. Clause 71.02-3 states that, “*Planning and responsible authorities should endeavour to integrate the range of planning policies relevant to the issues to be determined and balance conflicting objectives in favour of net community benefit and sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations*”.

On balance, the Amendment results in a net community benefit and adequately addresses any environmental, social and economic effects. The particular effects of the project that is being facilitated by the Amendment are discussed below.

- *Environmental*

The Amendment will facilitate improvements to the Bendigo and Echuca lines that will enable operations with greater frequency across passenger and freight services. These improvements will enhance the sustainability of the region through reduced fossil fuel usage.

The environmental values of the project area will be maintained by locating most of the development primarily within the existing rail reserve or other developed rail land. Existing native vegetation will be avoided as much as possible and there will be minimal impacts to natural processes and ecological systems.

A survey of native vegetation was undertaken in the project area. The reference design for the project has undertaken measures to minimise impacts to this vegetation:

- Design refinement – designing the works area around native vegetation, taking into account patch boundaries and tree protection zones;
- Limiting disturbance to the rail formation through exploration of construction techniques;
- The creation of fenced-off No-Go Zones.

Following implementation of measures above, approximately 7.98ha of native vegetation and 25 scattered trees are estimated to be removed to facilitate the proposed works, based on the reference design which is subject to further refinement through the detailed design phase of the project. It is proposed that approval for the removal of native vegetation and associated offsetting will be managed in accordance with conditions of the Bendigo Signalling Upgrade Incorporated Document.

The potential environmental effects of the project have been considered through specialist assessments for terrestrial and aquatic ecology, historic and Aboriginal cultural heritage and acoustics. The specialist assessments informed the project design and preparation of the Amendment.

Environmental management for the project will be addressed through conditions included in an Environmental Management Framework or similar.

It has been determined that a referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is not required to be submitted to the Federal Minister for the Environment as the project does not impact matters of national environmental significance.

The project will have insignificant effect on sites with significant historic values. Any heritage places that are located within the project area will be conserved and new buildings and works will respect the identified heritage values.

- *Social*

The Amendment will facilitate improvements to the Bendigo and Echuca lines that will enable operations with greater frequency, reliability and safety across passenger services, as supported by the State Government's *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* and the Department of Transport's *Regional Network Development Plan*. These improvements will have a positive impact on public transport movement and usage. As a result, residents and visitors to Bendigo and the Loddon Mallee South region will have greater accessibility to jobs and services and to social opportunities, including to metropolitan Melbourne.

Increased movements along the existing corridor may have amenity impacts, particularly relating to noise, on adjoining dwellings. There is scope for noise protection measures to be implemented at individual properties, if required.

- *Economic*

As a result of the project, the Bendigo and Echuca lines will be able to operate with greater frequency across passenger and freight services. This will allow greater access to jobs and more efficient movement of goods, improving economic opportunities for the local population and helping to grow local economies.

- *Strategic Justification – Planning Context*

The Amendment supports the objectives of planning in Victoria as set out in Section 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The following objectives are particularly relevant to the Amendment:

- To provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use and development of land;
- To secure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria;
- To conserve and enhance those buildings, areas or other places which are of scientific, aesthetic, architectural or historic interest, or otherwise special cultural values;
- To protect utilities and other assets and enable the orderly provision and co-origination of public utilities and other facilities for the benefit of the community; and
- To balance the present and future interests of all Victorians.

The Amendment facilitates the delivery of a project that will increase the capacity, reliability and efficiency of Victoria's regional transport network and provide a critical foundation for future expansions to the network in response to regional population growth.

The Amendment ensures that any environmental, social and economic effects of the project are appropriately managed and mitigated in accordance with a planning and environmental management framework prepared to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning.

## State Planning Policy Framework

The Amendment is supported by the following clauses in the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme:

### *Planning Policy Framework*

- Clause 11.01-1S Settlement – the objective is to promote the sustainable growth and development of Victoria and deliver choice and opportunity for all Victorians through a network of settlements.

The Amendment will provide for improved transport infrastructure in Bendigo. Bendigo is a major regional city and place of State significance, where investment and growth is to be focussed.

- Clause 11.01-1R Settlement Loddon Mallee South - the strategies include to support Bendigo as the regional city and the major population and economic growth hub for the Loddon Mallee South region as well as support the sustainable growth and expansion of smaller centres in proximity to Bendigo.

Convenient access to jobs, services, infrastructure and community facilities will be improved for existing and future communities, within Bendigo and between smaller centres along the Bendigo and Echuca lines, as well as to Melbourne.

- Clause 12.01-2S Native vegetation management – the objective is to ensure that there is no net loss to biodiversity as a result of the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation.

The Amendment will help to protect the health of ecological systems and the biodiversity they support and conserve areas with identified environmental and landscape values by locating the majority of development primarily within the existing rail reserve or other developed rail land. Existing native vegetation will be avoided as much as possible. Where impacts on native vegetation are unavoidable, these will be minimised and offsets will be provided in accordance with the *Guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2017).

- Clause 13 Environmental Risks and Amenity – Planning should avoid or minimise environmental hazards, environmental degradation and amenity conflicts.

This will be achieved by not detrimentally interfering with important natural processes and through relevant conditions in the incorporated document. The project will also be undertaken in accordance with environmental management conditions included in an Environmental Management Framework or similar.

- Clause 14.02-2S Water quality – the objective is to protect water quality.

To ensure minimum impact on downstream water quality or flow volumes where development will occur in areas subject to flooding, severe soil degradation, ground water salinity or geotechnical hazards, relevant conditions have been included in the incorporated document.

- Clause 15.03-1S Heritage conservation – the objective is to ensure the conservation of any places of heritage significance.

This will be achieved by retaining any elements that contribute to the importance of the heritage place and by ensuring that new buildings and works respect places with identified heritage values through relevant conditions in the incorporated document. Approval will be obtained from Heritage Victoria, if needed, for any development within the site on the Victoria Heritage Register.

- Clause 15.03-2S Aboriginal cultural heritage – the objective is to ensure the protection and conservation of places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.

Places of potential Aboriginal cultural heritage significance have been identified as part of the cultural heritage assessment undertaken in the preparation of this Amendment. The Amendment does not negate the requirement to prepare a Cultural Heritage Management Plan under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

- Clause 16.01-1S Integrated housing – the objective is to promote a housing market that meets community needs.

This will assist new housing developments in Bendigo and other towns along the Bendigo and Echuca rail corridors to be integrated with infrastructure and services.

- Clause 17 Economic Development - Planning is to contribute to the economic wellbeing of the State and foster economic growth by providing land, facilitating decisions and resolving land use conflicts, so that each region may build on its strengths and achieve its economic potential.

The project will contribute to the economic wellbeing of the Bendigo and the Loddon Mallee South region and foster economic growth by facilitating decisions, so that the region may build on its strengths and achieve its economic potential.

- Clause 18 Transport - Planning should ensure an integrated and sustainable transport system that provides access to social and economic opportunities, facilitates economic prosperity, contributes to environmental sustainability, coordinates reliable movements of people and goods, and is safe.

The project will improve connections of people to jobs, services and goods to market and will strengthen the connections of Bendigo and the Loddon Mallee South region to Melbourne. The improved rail infrastructure will facilitate greater use of public transport and promote increased development close to high-quality public transport routes.

- Clause 19 Infrastructure - Planning for development of social and physical infrastructure should enable it to be provided in a way that is efficient, equitable, accessible and timely. Planning should facilitate efficient use of existing infrastructure.

The project will enable the provision of this rail infrastructure to be efficient, equitable, accessible and timely. The project will assist in the efficient planning of the growth and redevelopment of Bendigo and the Loddon Mallee South region.

## Local Planning Policy Framework

The Amendment will facilitate the delivery of a project of significance to regional Victoria. In that context, the project will also support local planning policy, both through the delivery of improved public transport services and infrastructure at the completion of the project, and in the manner of its construction.

The Amendment is supported by the following local clauses in the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme:

- Clause 21.02-1 Key issues and influences

The Amendment recognises that the integration of land use and transport planning is a critical issue for Greater Bendigo.

- Clause 21.02-4 Infrastructure

The project provides enhancements to the Bendigo line as part of the Regional Fast Rail Project that will improve user safety and increase the accessibility of the Melbourne employment market for residents and have flow-on impacts for other parts of the economy such as tourism, industry and recreation.

- Clause 21.08-1 Natural resource management

The project will avoid existing native vegetation as much as possible. Where impacts on native vegetation are unavoidable, design refinement processes have been undertaken to minimise impacts on these values. It will avoid or minimise disturbance in areas susceptible to erosion. Works will be undertaken to minimise impacts on water quality.

- Clause 21.09-3 Public transport

The project is the result of Council's continued advocacy for improvements in public transport, including more frequent services, new stations and improved connections, enabling more people to easily access and use public transport. It will result in improved provision, accessibility and frequency of rail services and will continue to implement the expansion of Bendigo Metro Rail, to improve services within Greater Bendigo.

- Clause 21.08-4 Heritage

The project will prevent impacts on any contributory heritage buildings and places. Any buildings and works in heritage areas will be sympathetic to the character and heritage values. Any identified Aboriginal cultural heritage values will be protected.

- Clause 21.08-5 Flooding

The project will preserve the natural function of floodplains and minimise disruption to flood water flows and the flood storage capacity of waterways.

## **Consultation/Communication**

The proposed Planning Scheme Amendment documents have been publicly exhibited for a minimum of a month, as required under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. Rail Projects Victoria gave notice of the Amendment to all owners and occupiers who may be materially affected by an Amendment. The Amendment was also exhibited via the Regional Rail Revival website. There were no submissions received.

Rail Projects Victoria has consulted with the City through meetings to discuss the project and the provision of draft Amendment documents, along with background documents for comment.

Planning Scheme Amendments approved by section 20(4) are exempt from the notice and exhibition requirements of sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Act, meaning there would be no further opportunity to make a submission or be heard by an Independent Panel.

## **Conclusion**

It is recommended that Council supports the Amendment proposal and provides a letter of support to Rail Projects Victoria.

## **Options**

Council has the option of:

- Supporting the Amendment proposal and providing a letter of support to Rail Projects Victoria.
- Refusing to support the Amendment proposal and providing a letter advising of the refusal to Rail Projects Victoria.
- Take no action.

## **Resource Implications**

There is no impact on officer time as the Minister for Planning will be responsible for the preparing, approving and adopting of the Planning Scheme Amendment to facilitate the project under section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

## **Attachments**

- Explanatory Report

## 2.5 **PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT - LA TROBE UNIVERSITY SEEKING TO REZONE 2 OSBORNE STREET, FLORA HILL THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT LAND PLANNING SERVICE**

### **Document Information**

**Author** Rebecca Fisher, Planner - Amendments

**Responsible Director** Bernie O'Sullivan, Director Strategy and Growth

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### **Summary/Purpose**

Urbis, on behalf of La Trobe University, seeks support from Council to undertake an amendment to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme through the Government Land Planning Service.

The land affected adjoins the Bendigo Athletics Track.

Amendment details: The Amendment proposes to:

- Rezone 2 Osborne Street, Flora Hill from Public Use Zone 2 Education (PUZ2) to Residential Growth Zone (RGZ).
- Apply the Development Plan Overlay to the site.
- Apply the Heritage Overlay to part of the site.

Proponent: La Trobe University

Key issues:

- Key Residential Development Site.
- Urban Design Outcomes.
- Community Consultation.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council provide a conditional letter of support for the Planning Scheme Amendment to be undertaken by the Government Land Planning Service.

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### **Policy Context**

City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017 – 2021

Goal 4: Presentation and managing growth

- Planning, developments and infrastructure that increase our liveability and pride in where we live.



## Goal 6: Embracing our culture and heritage

- Recognise and celebrate our unique history and diverse cultures.

### Background Information

The subject land at 2 Osborne Street, Flora Hill has been identified by La Trobe University as surplus to education requirements and needs to be rezoned from the redundant Public Use Zone 2 - Education, in order to be sold to a non-government purchaser. The land has been identified as a Key Residential Development Site in the *Greater Bendigo Residential Strategy* (2014) and the *Greater Bendigo Housing Strategy* (2016).

On 10 June 2016 a request was received from Urbis, acting on behalf of La Trobe University, to amend the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme. The Amendment proposed to rezone the land at 2 Osborne Street and 40 Retreat Road, Flora Hill, to the Residential Growth Zone and apply the Development Plan Overlay to the site.

On 30 August 2016 a letter was provided to the applicant requesting further information before a report could be put to Council requesting authorisation to proceed with the Amendment. Amongst other items, this included that the rezoning of the athletics track be removed from the Amendment.

In early 2019 an agreement was reached and the land was subdivided and the City purchased the athletics track portion of the land. The Amendment has now been revised to exclude the athletics track land and now only apply to the newly created 7.37ha Lot 1 PS712432A and adjoining 9,430sqm road reserve. The proposed Amendment still includes a Development Plan Overlay and a Heritage Overlay is to be applied to the existing heritage dwelling (Eumana). Further comments have also been provided by the City on the detail of the Amendment.

On 1 July 2019 the applicant advised the City that they intend to progress the Amendment through the Government Land Planning Service (GLPS) process. The GLPS is available to the University, who has determined that this would be the most efficient process to facilitate the disposal of the surplus land at Osborne Street, with the process taking 6-8 months. The applicant has requested a letter of acknowledgement and support for the Amendment being undertaken through this channel and for the proposed zone.



**Figure 1:** The Government Land Planning Service Amendment process.

It is proposed that the Athletics Track will be rezoned by the City in our next correction Planning Scheme Amendment.

### Previous Council Decisions

|                  |                                                                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 22 October 2014  | Council resolved to adopt the Greater Bendigo Residential Strategy.           |
| 31 August 2016   | Council resolved to adopt the Greater Bendigo Housing Strategy.               |
| 14 December 2016 | Council resolved to purchase the Latrobe University Bendigo Athletics Centre. |

### **Report**

The Government Land Planning Service (GLPS), formerly known as the Fast Track Government Land Service, supports the Minister for Planning in assessing proposals to:

- Change planning provisions relating to Victorian Government land;
- Reserve land proposed to be owned by the Victorian Government in the future, or
- Facilitate the delivery of priority projects on Victorian Government land.

This includes ensuring that appropriate planning provisions are in place on government land, correcting anomalies and updating planning provisions to accurately reflect planning use and development.

The proposed Planning Scheme Amendment will likely be considered under Planning Stream B of the GLPS. Sites considered under stream B require an Amendment to be considered by the Government Land Standing Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). The Advisory Committee provides independent advice on the planning proposal to the Minister for Planning. The Minister for Planning decides if the site is to be referred to the Advisory Committee for advice.

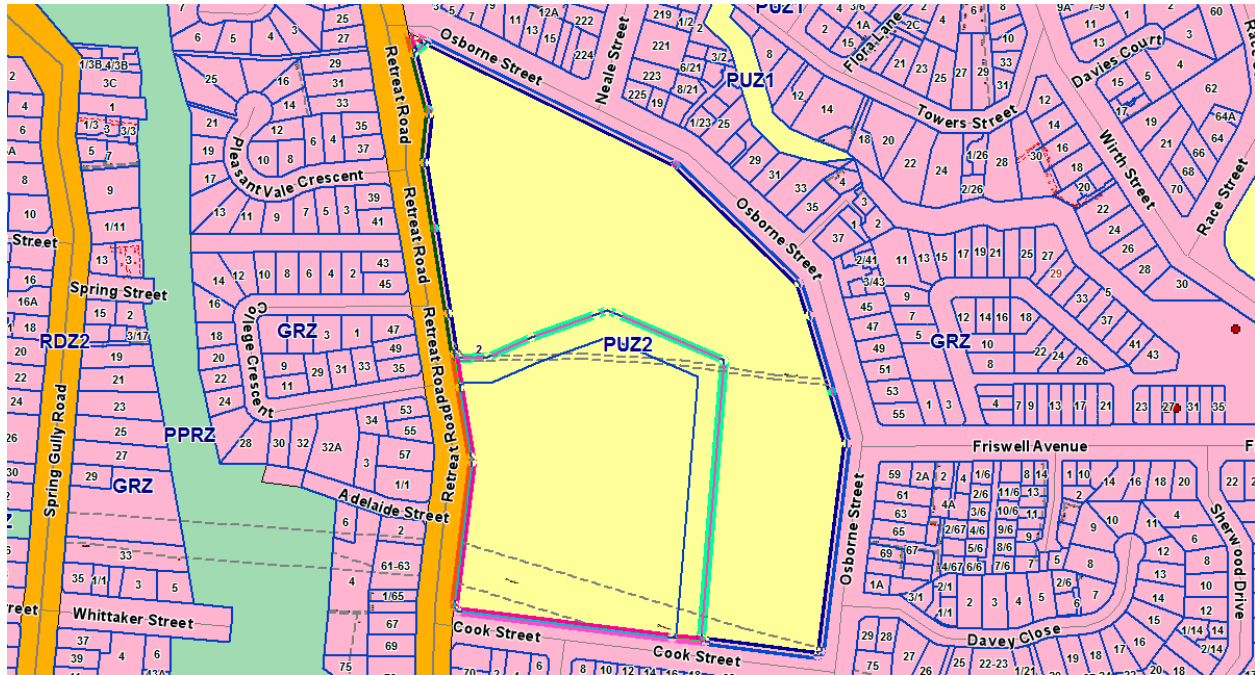
### Land affected by the Amendment

The subject site is a 7.37ha lot known as Lot 1 PS712432A, 2 Osborne Street, FLORA HILL 3550. The rezoning will also apply to the adjoining Council owned, unnamed road reserve which separates the subject site from the athletics track to the south-west. The road is required to be constructed by the developer as a part of the future development of the site.

Located at the corner of Osborne Street and Retreat Road, the site was the location of the former Bendigo Teachers' College and the residence known as Eumana. Eumana has been retained and a Heritage Overlay is proposed to be applied as a part of this Amendment. All other buildings on the site have already been removed.

The site is within the established residential area of Flora Hill. Adjoining properties are zoned General Residential Zone and contain predominantly single storey, detached dwellings with low or no front fences and landscaped front gardens. There has been a small amount of densification in the area by way of unit developments along the eastern side of Osborne Street.

There are no existing overlays on the subject site. Part of property is an 'area of cultural heritage sensitivity' (see Figure 4 below). Part of the property is in a designated bushfire prone area (see Figure 5 below).

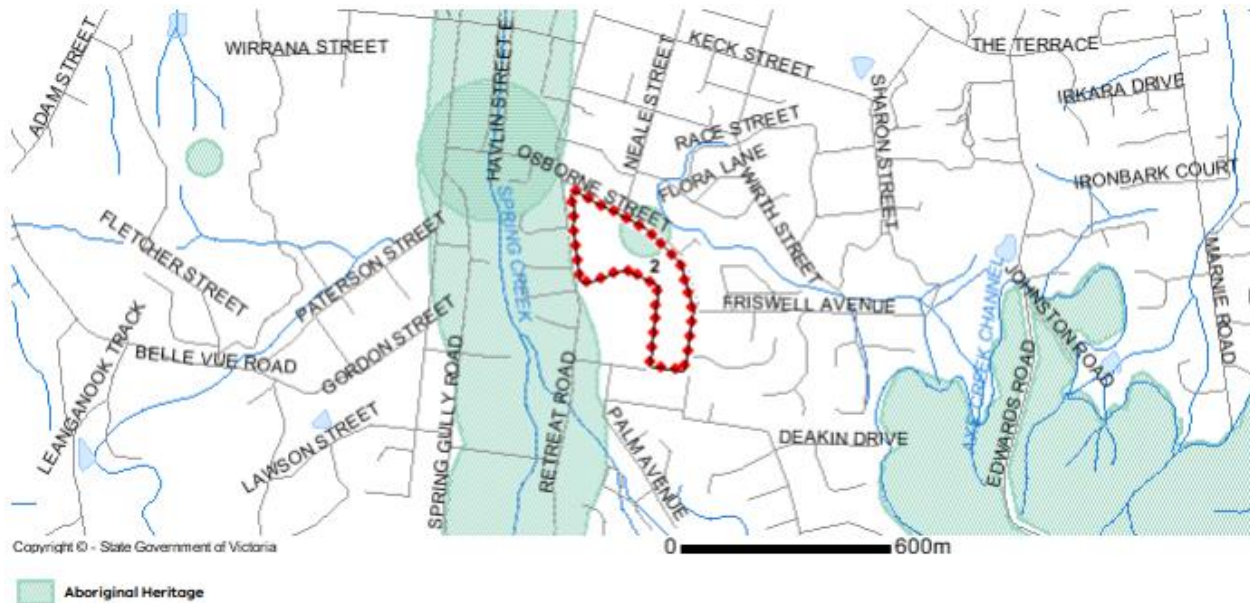


**Figure 2:** The subject site at 2 Osborne Street (shown in yellow) is currently zoned for Education (PUZ2).

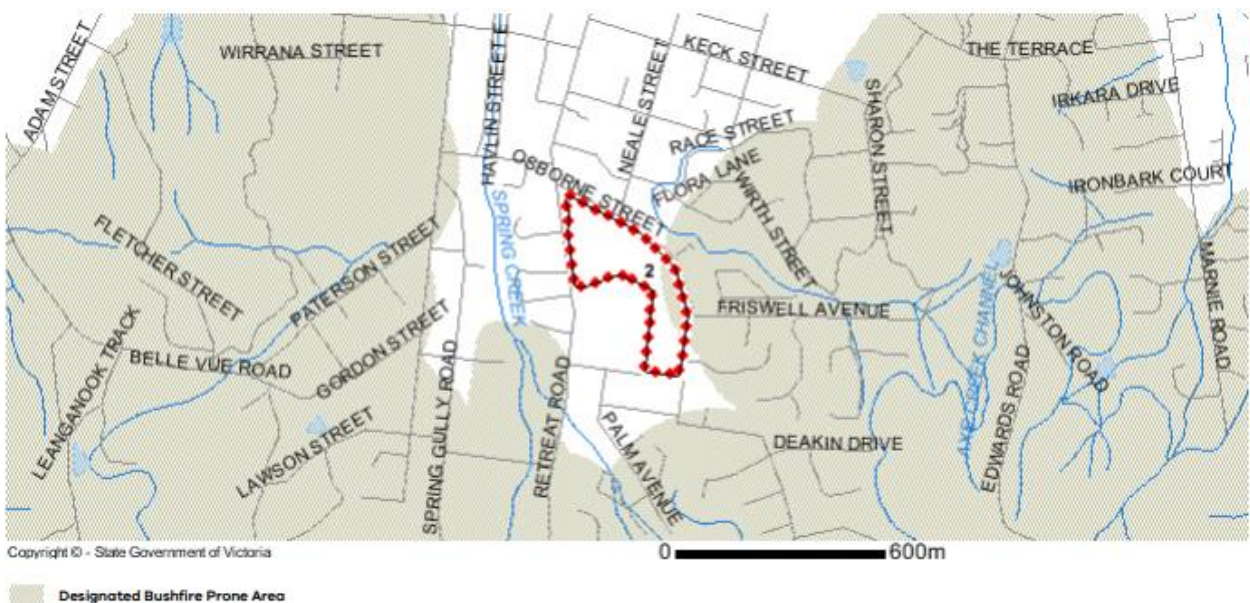


**Figure 3:** The subdivision to separate the athletics track from the balance of the lot has been completed.





**Figure 4:** Part of the property is an 'area of cultural heritage sensitivity'.



**Figure 5:** Part of the property is in a designated bushfire prone area.

### What the Amendment does

The Amendment proposes to:

- Rezone 2 Osborne Street, Flora Hill from Public Use Zone 2 Education (PUZ2) to Residential Growth Zone (RGZ);
- Apply the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 30 to the site;
- Apply the Heritage Overlay to part of the site.

Consultation between Urbis and the City regarding the content of the proposed Amendment has been ongoing throughout the process to date. The City has provided feedback on the proposed planning tools, although the final documents have not yet been provided for review. The City is concerned that not enough guidance has been included in the Planning Scheme tools to ensure that the desired higher density infill, as recommended by the *Greater Bendigo Residential Strategy* and the *Greater Bendigo Housing Strategy*, will be provided.

The City supports the application of either the General Residential Zone or the Residential Growth Zone to the subject site, although this support is conditional on further detail being included in the proposed amendment and supporting documents to ensure a high quality outcome that includes a range of housing types including medium density development. This information would include, at a minimum, a Development Plan Overlay or Design and Development Overlay.

The City has discussed the proposed Amendment with our representative from the DELWP Regional Office. We recommend the provision of a strategic framework, as described in *Planning Practice Note 23: Applying the Incorporated Plan and Development Plan Overlays*, to support the proposed application of the Development Plan Overlay schedule. The strategic framework should include a report and an indicative layout plan of the site, which would show, among other details, precincts of different heights and densities including how the scale of buildings would interface with surrounding residential development and the on-site heritage building and provide higher density in the centre of the site around the athletics track. The plan could also show the drainage corridor and possible open space. The strategic framework would inform the key principles of the schedule, with the framework becoming a background document to the Amendment and the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme. This framework would also assist in identifying whether any changes to the schedule to the Residential Growth Zone would be required.

Given that there would be no review rights for an application to subdivide the land, in accordance with an approved development plan, or to construct a single dwelling on a lot, if the Residential Growth Zone and Development Plan Overlay are applied to this site, it is important that the community are given every opportunity to understand the proposed future development of the site at the Planning Scheme Amendment stage. Without the provision of plans indicating how the site is intended to be developed, it may be difficult for potentially impacted neighbours to provide considered feedback on the proposal.

### Social, Economic and Environmental impacts

#### *Social Impacts*

The Amendment will help facilitate the availability of medium density housing for the community. The site is accessible to a range of commercial and community facilities including educational uses and public transport.

*Economic Impacts*

The Amendment will have a positive impact on the economy of the area by promoting additional residential development in a serviced urban context. The advance of residential development in the area will provide additional growth opportunities and benefits for retail and other services.

*Environmental Impacts*

The site will likely be improved through remediation works which will need to be undertaken to decontaminate the land prior to a sensitive use occurring on the site.

Strategic Justification – Planning Context

The Amendment is supported by the following clauses in the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme.

*Planning Policy Framework*

- Clause 11.01-1S Settlement – the objective is to promote the sustainable growth and development of Victoria and deliver choice and opportunity for all Victorians through a network of settlements.

The Amendment will provide for medium density housing, close to education, recreation and commercial services as well as public transport.

- Clause 11.01-1R Settlement Loddon Mallee South - the strategies include to facilitate increased commercial and residential densities, mixed use development and revitalisation projects for underutilised sites and land in Bendigo.

The Amendment will facilitate increased urban density at an underutilised site in Bendigo. Bendigo has been identified as a major regional city to which urban growth should be directed. The Amendment will facilitate urban growth by providing for additional dwellings on a ready to be developed site.

- Clause 11.02-1S Supply of Urban Land – the objective is to ensure a sufficient supply of land is available for residential, commercial, retail, industrial, recreational, institutional and other community uses.

The Amendment will provide an opportunity for intensification of an existing urban area.

- Clause 11.03-6S Regional and local places – the objective is to facilitate integrated place-based planning.

The Amendment will allow for the planning of the entire site collectively which is of a large enough site to develop its own character.

- Clause 13.04-1S Use of Contaminated and Potentially Contaminated Land – the objective is to ensure that potentially contaminated land is suitable for its intended use and development, and that contaminated land is used safely.

The proponent seeks to put controls in place to ensure that on-site contamination will be dealt with prior to a sensitive use occurring.

- Clause 15.01-3S Subdivision Design – the objective is to ensure the design of subdivisions achieves attractive, safe, accessible, diverse and sustainable neighbourhoods.

The Schedule to the Development Plan Overlay should encourage the design of development to be in a manner that achieves the above objective.

- Clause 15.03-1S Heritage Conservation – the objective is to ensure the conservation of places of heritage significance.

A Heritage assessment of Eumana has been undertaken and a Heritage Overlay is proposed to be included in the Amendment.

- Clause 15.03-2S Aboriginal Cultural Heritage – the objective is to ensure the protection and conservation of places of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.

Future development of the site will be required to ensure that any high impact activities in the area of cultural heritage sensitivity are suitably managed.

- Clause 16.01-1S Integrated Housing – the objective is to promote a housing market that meets community needs.

The Amendment will facilitate the development of the site for a residential purpose which supports community needs.

- Clause 16.01-2S Location of Residential Development – the objective is to locate new housing in designated locations that offer good access to jobs, services and transport.

The Amendment will facilitate additional residential development in an appropriately serviced area with good access to services and transport.

- Clause 16.01-3S Housing Diversity – the objective is to provide for a range of housing types to meet diverse needs.

The Amendment will provide the opportunity for greater housing diversity to be provided.

- Clause 16.01-4S Housing Affordability – the objective is to deliver more affordable housing closer to jobs, transport and services.

The Amendment will facilitate housing within close proximity to the Bendigo CBD and Railway Station and close to a bus route. The mix of housing which could be accommodated will provide for affordable housing.

- Clause 18.01-1S Land Use and Transport Planning – the objective is to create a safe and sustainable transport system by integrating land-use and transport.

The Amendment supports this objective as it will facilitate higher density development to support existing public transport services including buses and trains.

#### *Municipal Strategic Statement and Local Planning Policy Framework*

- Clause 21.02 Key Issues and Influences

The proposed Amendment will contribute to facilitating the future housing needs of the community. The site provides scope for a high quality residential design / development to occur close to services and facilities.

The site is of a size and location to effectively establish its own character without adversely impacting on adjoining land uses and development.

- **Clause 21.05 Compact Greater Bendigo**

The Amendment will further facilitate residential development within the urban growth boundary, channelling development into designated growth areas on a Key Residential Development Site.

- **Clause 21.09 Integrated Transport and Infrastructure**

The proposed Amendment will allow for higher density residential development close to the Bendigo City Centre and public transport facilities. The future development of the site can also provide integration with existing infrastructure (i.e. walking and cycling paths).

### *Strategic Documents*

- Greater Bendigo Residential Strategy (2014)
- Greater Bendigo Housing Strategy (2016)

### **Consultation/Communication**

The proponent has undertaken discussions with the EPA regarding acceptable mechanisms for incorporating environmental audit requirements into the planning provisions. The proponent has undertaken discussions with the CFA who have recommended the preparation of a Bushfire Management Statement. The City had undertaken early discussions with DEDJTR, VicRoads, Coliban Water and with internal departments of the City of Greater Bendigo based on the original documentation lodged in 2016. Further consultation would be required regarding the updated Amendment.

If the Amendment is undertaken by the GLPS, the proposed Amendment will be placed on exhibition by the GLPS Advisory Committee, including the relevant documentation and background reports. Submissions can be made during this period. During exhibition, the Advisory Committee holds a Public Information Session to enable the general public to ask questions about the proposal and process. It is at this point that Council can make a formal submission regarding the content of the proposed Amendment.

Once the Committee has received all the submissions, a Public Hearing is held to provide submitters with an opportunity to be heard. This occurs roughly 20 business days after the close of exhibition. The Committee submits its report to the Minister for Planning within 20 business days from the last day of the hearing.



If the Residential Growth Zone and Development Plan Overlay are applied to this site there would be no review rights for an application to subdivide the land, in accordance with an approved development plan, or to construct a single dwelling on a lot. It is important that the community are given every opportunity to understand the proposed future development of the site at the Amendment stage. Without the provision of plans indicating how the site is intended to be developed, it may be difficult for potentially impacted neighbours to provide considered feedback on the proposal.

## **Conclusion**

It is recommended that Council provide a conditional letter of support for the Planning Scheme Amendment to be undertaken by the Government Land Planning Service.

## **Options**

Council has the option of:

- Supporting the Planning Scheme Amendment to be undertaken by the Government Land Planning Service.
- Refusing to support the Planning Scheme Amendment to be undertaken by the Government Land Planning Service.

## **Resource Implications**

Officer time will be required to review the Amendment documentation and prepare a submission to the Government Land Planning Service Advisory Committee.

### **3. WELLBEING AND FAIRNESS**

#### **3.1 WALK, CYCLE GREATER BENDIGO STRATEGY**

##### **Document Information**

**Author** Robert Kretschmer, Healthy Lifestyles Officer  
Lincoln Fitzgerald, Manager Active & Healthy Lifestyles

**Responsible Director** Wonona Fuzzard, Acting Director Health and Wellbeing

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##### **Purpose**

To report on outcomes of the draft Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo Strategy community review period and changes to draft Strategy.

To seek Council endorsement of the Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo Strategy.

##### **Summary**

The draft Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo Strategy was presented to Council at the 17 April 2019 Council meeting. Council endorsed the release of the draft Strategy for a four week community review and comment period.

The review period concluded on 17 May 2019. A total of 43 submissions were received from individuals, community organisations, State Government agencies and education institutions. Submissions identified support for the strategic direction set and infrastructure, activation and communications actions. Submissions received sought clarification or amendments for areas including:

- additional recognition of community and club contributions;
- adjustments to infrastructure proposals, priority crossings and the proposed network hierarchy, additional focus on schools;
- integration with public transport;
- specific actions for small towns; and
- discussion of bicycle recycling initiatives.

The draft Strategy has been amended to reflect this community feedback.

##### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council resolve to adopt the Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo Strategy.

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## Policy Context

### Community Plan Reference:

City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021 ([link](#)):

- Goal 2, Wellbeing and Fairness
  - Objective 2, Prioritise efforts to promote physical and mental wellbeing
  - Action, Complete the updated Walking and Cycling Strategy and commence implementation

### Strategy Reference:

Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017–21 ([link](#))

- Goal 1: Healthy and Well  
The Greater Bendigo community has good physical and mental health supported by healthy lifestyles
- Goal 4: Connected to culture and community
- The Greater Bendigo community is socially engaged and inclusive and is a place where people can safely identify and connect with their culture and identity
- Goal 5: Liveable  
The Greater Bendigo community is adaptable and resilient and has access to sustainable natural, built, social and economic environments that support and enhance health and wellbeing.

Greater Bendigo Environment Strategy (2016-2021) ([link](#))

- Action Area 3 – Sustainable Transport
  - 3.1 Support the transition of Greater Bendigo to an integrated transport and mobility network
  - 3.2 Work towards Greater Bendigo having the required infrastructure to transition to efficient, effective and accessible shared low carbon transport options
  - 3.3 Support low carbon modes of transport

## Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy, Connecting Greater Bendigo 2015 (ITLUS) ([link](#))

- Objective 2 – Healthy Greater Bendigo
  - 2.1 Enable more people to live healthier lives by making walking and cycling to daily destinations safer and easier.
    - 2.1.1 Plan and implement complete 10 Minute Neighbourhoods where people can walk or cycle to meet their daily needs.
    - 2.1.2 Complete a safe, convenient and connected network of footpaths and walking paths to serve the City's needs.
    - 2.1.3 Complete a network of safe off road, on road and designated on road bicycle infrastructure for all capabilities and experience levels.

## Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan (2019) ([link](#))

- Section 2.4 – City-wide network of public space corridors
  - Progress the public space corridor network including its structure and the conceptual design of individual sections of the network through a process of field investigations, community consultation and internal review as part of the Walking and Cycling Strategy.

## Background Information

Complete a new Walking and Cycling Strategy and commencing implementation is an action of the Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017–21.

A comprehensive, eight week walking and cycling strategy community engagement process was undertaken from June to August 2018. This process involved listening posts, project bulletins, social media, school visits, surveys and an interactive online map. This process informed the development of the draft Strategy.

The draft Strategy is underpinned by the guiding principles of:

- Equity – ensuring equitable provision across places and communities to support people to walk and cycle more often
- All Ages, All Abilities – making walking and cycling possible in more places from childhood to later life
- Partnerships – ongoing engagement and working in partnership with communities, government and stakeholders
- Evaluation – monitoring our progress, evaluation and ongoing improvement

### Draft Strategy Areas for Action include

- Action Area 1: Comfort, convenience and connections – Walking and cycling is a viable, safe and enjoyable experience
- Action Area 2: Activating community, culture and capacity – More people are connected to walking and cycling communities, discovering infrastructure, programs and events
- Action Area 3: Information and awareness – Improve ease of wayfinding, information and access for walking and cycling

### Previous Council Decision(s) Date(s):

At the 17 April 2019 Council meeting it was resolved to:

1. Release the draft Walking and Cycling Strategy for a period of four weeks for community review and feedback; and
2. Receive a further report, informed by the community feedback, with a final Walking and Cycling Strategy for consideration.

### **Report**

A range of engagement activities and opportunities were provided throughout the community review and feedback period and are detailed in the consultation section of this report.

A total of 43 submissions were received across the review period. All submitters were acknowledged, thanked for their contributions and queries responded to as needed. Of the submissions received, 34 are categorised as supporting the content of the draft Strategy and identified actions. The remaining nine did not express a position specifically addressing strategy content, of these three were negative but not specifically in relation to the draft Strategy content.

Submissions were received from:

- Local walking and cycling organisations and clubs
- State Government Transport Agencies (Department of Transport, Regional Roads Victoria, Public Transport Victoria)
- Educational institutions
- Community organisations
- Community Reference Group
- Environmental sustainability and Landcare organisations
- Individuals (28)

Submissions received are broadly supportive of the strategic direction set by the draft Strategy, specific content and actions. Key support related to:

- The draft Strategy's guiding principles
- Developing comfortable walking and cycling networks, linking existing infrastructure with improved crossings and protected cycleways

- Key infrastructure (Comfort, convenience and connections ) actions including
  - Priority crossings
  - Township plans and linking towns to Bendigo
  - Continued development of footpath networks
  - Development and improvement of walking circuits
  - Regional City Trail
  - Bendigo Creek 'Low-line'
  - Ewing Park activation hub
  - City centre protected cycleways
  - Way finding, directional information and cultural story-telling
  - Increased availability of safe and secure bike parking in the city centre and city end of trip facilities including GovHub
- Activation actions including
  - Activating infrastructure as it is developed
  - Support for Walking groups
  - Support development of local walking and cycling organisations
- Communications including
  - Maps
  - Online calendar and resources
  - Trail and road user etiquette
- Planning, ensuring walking and cycling are factored into new developments
- Integration with the Public Space and Greening Greater Bendigo Strategies
- Data collection and monitoring initiatives

Feedback also emphasised the importance of funding, resourcing and prioritising implementation of the Strategy.

Support was received from the regional offices of State Government transport agencies, in particular:

- The strong level of detail in the strategy, such as the mapped preferred networks and crossing points will be helpful to inform the Transport Portfolio.
- Opportunities to collaborate within the region on the infrastructure design manual (action 1.2).

A number of amendments were sought from submissions including the following:

- Seeking further recognition of community organisations and their contributions
- Seeking further recognition of particular disciplines eg. road cycling and mountain biking
- Seeking further recognition of the role of off-road trails
- Greater focus on schools and travel to school initiatives
- Addition of infrastructure links including
  - Links to stations
  - Alignment and inclusion of specific connections
- Adjustments to walking and cycling network hierarchy eg. defining the full extent of the proposed Regional City Trail as primary significance

Where appropriate, the draft Strategy has been amended to reflect this community feedback, however a number of requested amendments to the Strategy have not been included in the final Strategy. A proportion of these are specific requests regarding currently active projects. These have been forwarded to the appropriate internal project managers. A number of requests for additional priority crossing locations have been included in the amended Strategy, however, a small proportion have not been included as they do not contribute significantly to the overall strategic focus of this action to create comfortable, connected and safe walking and cycling networks across the city.

Requests to strengthen the emphasis on developing township walking and cycling plans have been incorporated by elevating this to its own sub-action in Action Area 1, Comfort, convenience and connections.

The proposed hierarchy for walking and cycling has been broadly supported. A single request to remove the regional category has not been incorporated as this category defines distinct opportunities and roles for planning and pursuing of regional infrastructure proposals.

#### Priority/Importance:

The previous Cycling Strategy (2006) is out of date and a new strategy is required to set priorities and directions that reflect the current needs of the community.

#### Options/Alternatives:

##### Do nothing

The City will be left without any current strategic directions for walking and cycling investment and a reduced ability to seek funding from external sources.

##### Request changes/further engagement

This will delay formalising strategic directions for walking and cycling investment and delay the ability to seek funding from external sources.

##### Adopt the Strategy

Council adoption of the Strategy will allow implementation and seeking of funding from external sources to proceed.

#### Timelines:

Development of the draft Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo Strategy began in 2017/18. Community engagement activities were implemented during July and August 2018. Council resolved to release the Draft Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo Strategy for community review and feedback at the Ordinary Council meeting on 17 April 2019. The intended lifespan of the Strategy is ten years.

### Risk Analysis:

There is a significant interest in new or improved walking and cycling within Greater Bendigo and Council is in the difficult position of prioritising resources. To assist Council prioritise for the greatest impact within the community, a draft Strategy has been developed in consultation with the community, organisations and a reference group.

### **Consultation/Communication**

#### External Consultation

A comprehensive, eight week community engagement process was undertaken from June to August 2018. This eight week process involved listening posts, project bulletins, social media, school visits, surveys and an interactive online map. This process informed the development of the draft Strategy.

The draft Strategy was released, following Council endorsement at the April 2019 meeting, for a period of four weeks. Communications and engagement activities during this period included:

- Media release, published by local newspapers, television news;
- Eight social media posts, shared by individuals, local and national walking and cycling organisations;
- Email distribution to 225 participants of first round of community engagement participants;
- Display on library screens;
- Inclusion on Council's website;
- Copies available at customer service locations;
- Meetings with stakeholders;
- Meetings with State government agencies;
- Two meetings of Walking and Cycling Community Reference Group;

The Walking and Cycling Community Reference Group met twice during the review period. The Group expressed support for the strategic directions and considered the draft Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo as being consistent with the guiding principles.

#### Internal Consultation:

An internal Project Control Group has provided oversight and governance throughout the development of the draft Strategy. Representation on the Project Control Group includes representations from the following business units:

- Active and Healthy Lifestyles (project lead)
- Engineering
- Regional Sustainable Development
- Community Wellbeing
- Parks and Open Space

The Project Control Group has met regarding the outcomes of the community review period submissions and amendments to finalise the draft Strategy document to be adopted.



An independent consultant undertook an internal review of processes, roles and prioritisation frameworks across the organisation. This has informed the development of the prioritisation framework. Additional units involved in this process included Tourism, Works and the Project Management Office.

Further internal engagement and feedback has been sought from units including Regional Sustainable Development, Parks and Open Space and Engineering. City staff were provided opportunities to provide feedback at an all-staff drop-in session.

Internal feedback has contributed to amendments to the draft Strategy including

- Additional references to ongoing footpath construction
- Additional references and distinction between trails and paths
- Refining maps to align with Public Space Plan public space corridors and the Greening Greater Bendigo project
- Inclusion of a local infrastructure example for a protected walking and cycling roundabout along the planned University to City Centre Walking and Cycling Route
- Inclusion of a specific sub-action within action 1.6 regarding the development of walking and cycling plans for major development precincts within the city centre
- Inclusion of a variety of walking and cycling case studies within the document.

## **Resource Implications**

### Previous Council Support:

A \$20,000 budget was allocated in the 2017/18 Council Budget to complete this strategy.

### External Funding Sources:

VicRoads contributed \$10,000 in 2017/18 from the Building Our Regions funding program to support community engagement activities including the Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo interactive map.

### Any ongoing recurrent expenditure required:

The final Strategy will have financial and resource implications. The Strategy will provide the guidance to officers to assist in identifying and to prioritise future walking and cycling projects, which will still be subject to future Council budget processes. This will provide an up to date prioritisation framework for walking and cycling projects and improve the City's ability to seek funds from State Government and other sources.

## **Attachments**

1. Draft Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo Strategy (separate document)
2. Draft Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo Strategy - Strategic Summary
3. Draft Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo Strategy - Submissions



# WALK, CYCLE GREATER BENDIGO

Walking and Cycling Strategy 2019

## STRATEGIC SUMMARY



*Greater Bendigo  
making everyday  
walking and cycling  
easier for all ages  
and abilities*







#### Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Greater Bendigo acknowledges we are on Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Country.

We would like to acknowledge and extend our appreciation for the Dja Dja Wurrung People and the Taungurung People, the Traditional Owners of the land that we walking and cycle on today.

We pay our respects to leaders and Elder's past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of all Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples and Taungurung Peoples.

We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land, our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing and our hope that we may walk forward together in harmony and in the spirit of healing.





## Introduction

Walking and cycling can be many things to many people. It is our most simple and affordable way to travel to places and activities for people of all ages and all abilities. When we walk and cycle we contribute to creating better places and environments, healthier people, better connected communities and more viable businesses. By making everyday walking and cycling easier and more comfortable, these benefits can be shared more equitably by more people across Greater Bendigo.

The Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan (2017–21) clearly identifies that the quality of our health is a product of our everyday lives.

In 2018 the City of Greater Bendigo hosted two national walking and cycling conferences and became Australia's first internationally-accredited Bicycle Friendly Community. This recognises the involvement and commitment of the community and the City in developing a leading place to walk and cycle.



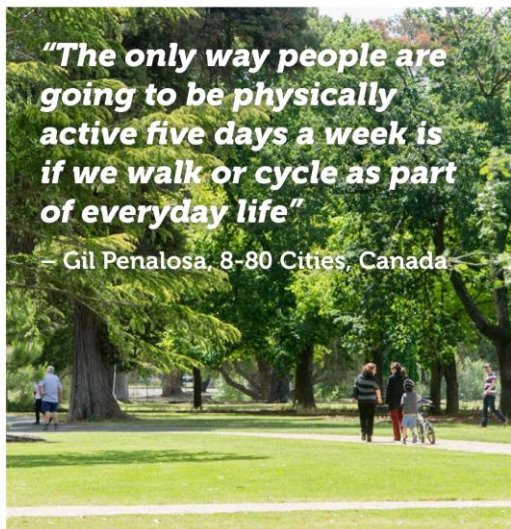
**Walking** is a person's most basic form of independent mobility and includes the use of aids such as frames, wheelchairs and motorised scooters.

**Cycling** includes all types of pushbikes used for everyday cycling, commuting, recreation and sport, this includes electric bicycles, tricycles, recumbent cycles and cargo bikes which are all becoming more common.



***"The only way people are going to be physically active five days a week is if we walk or cycle as part of everyday life"***

— Gil Penalosa, 8-80 Cities, Canada



## How the plan was developed

The City is responsible for the planning, development, management and activation of footpaths, shared paths, cycle ways and bike lanes. This strategy builds on the City's Cycling Strategy (2006), the Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy (2014) and related strategies. It outlines a strategic framework to provide the conditions and support to enable more people to walk and cycle more often.

The Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo Strategy (the Strategy) was developed by:

- Reviewing progress made since the last Walking and Cycling Strategy
- Investigating walking and cycling participation trends, current planning approaches and research
- Engaging with key stakeholders across the community to understand issues and concerns, opportunities, aspirations and priorities for walking and cycling, including:
  - 700 face-to-face interactions with residents
  - 1,800 interactions with the online Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo spot map
  - Five school visits
  - 500 surveys
- Identifying priorities for community participation, infrastructure activation and behaviour-change initiatives
- Developing decision making principles and a prioritisation framework for walking and cycling infrastructure and projects
- Establishing a Walking and Cycling Community Reference Group
- Developing an evaluation framework to monitor implementation.

A draft Strategy was released, following Council endorsement at the April 2019 meeting, for a period of four weeks.

A total of 43 submissions were received across the review period. All submitters were acknowledged, thanked for their contributions and queries responded to as needed

Submissions were received from

- Local walking and cycling organisations and clubs
- State Government Transport Agencies (Department of Transport, Regional Roads Victoria, Public Transport Victoria)
- Educational institutions
- Community organisations
- Community Reference Group
- Environmental sustainability and Landcare organisations
- Individuals (28)

## Benefits of walking and cycling

The benefits of participating in physical activities such as walking and cycling are well documented. Not only do individuals benefit from a health and wellbeing perspective, but the whole community benefits from a greater sense of community, social interaction, economic opportunities, improvement to the environment and urban congestion, air and noise pollution, reduction in crime and a healthier society. Walking and cycling are activities that can be integrated into everyday life as daily transport and recreation making it easier to meet recommended physical activity targets.

International research shows that people who walk and cycle regularly are more likely to be happy and have a lower risk of depression.

## Participation

The City's Active Living Census report (ALC 2014) identified walking (32.2%), cycling (11.9%) and bushwalking (8.8%) as three of the most participated in year-round physical activities undertaken by residents in Greater Bendigo.

The City collects walking and cycling data through automated counters and regular visual counts. This data shows areas of significant growth where safe comfortable walking and cycling options are available. Rates of female cycling commuting participation (19%) are slightly lower than Victorian and national averages.

Research undertaken as part of engagement processes shows that almost three quarters of survey respondents would like to walk more often. Barriers to walking identified include: time; lack of infrastructure; paths and crossings; wayfinding; information and maps; and sense of safety.

## Our Vision

Hundreds of residents and community organisations and the Walking and Cycling Community Reference Group have contributed to developing a shared vision for walking and cycling through community engagement activities. Residents expressed a desire for connected networks of footpaths, shared paths, off-road trails and paths and protected cycleways across the city. Ultimately, residents want to feel that walking and cycling are safe, comfortable and viable choices for travel and recreation and that the City of Greater Bendigo is a leading walking and cycling regional city and municipality.

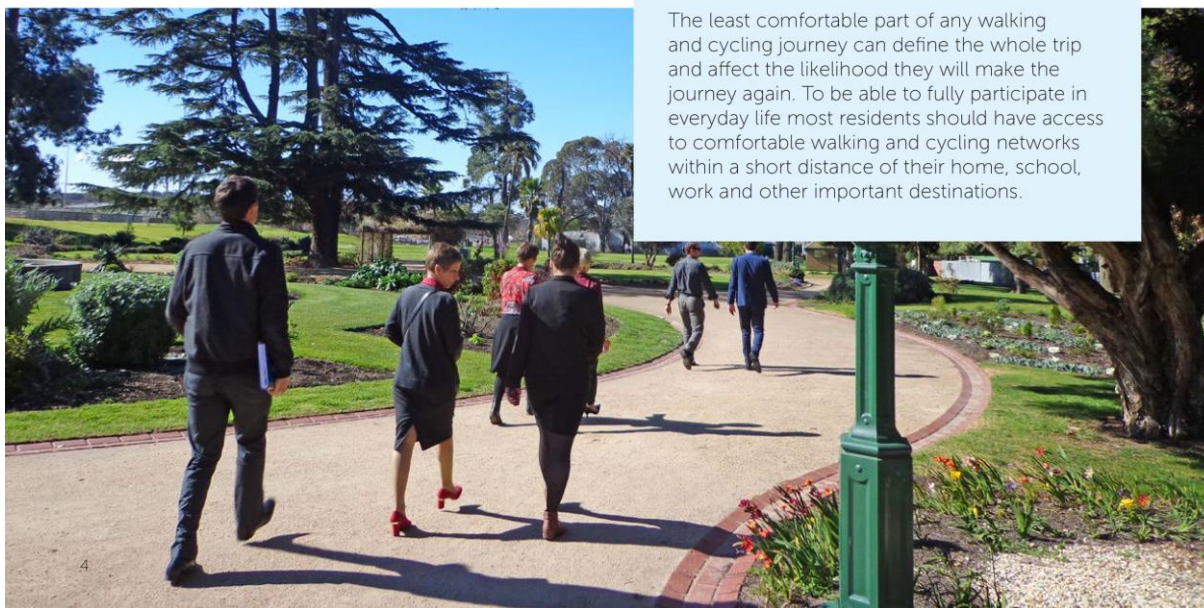
**Vision: Greater Bendigo, Australia's regional walking and cycling capital – making everyday walking and cycling easier for all ages and abilities.**

## What is walking and cycling comfort and why does it matter?

Comfort is the combination of factors that contribute to a person's ability or choice to walk or cycle. Every person will experience these factors differently at different times across their life. These factors include:

- **Ability** – accessibility, confidence and skill
- **Safety** – including protection from traffic and passive surveillance to prevent isolation
- **Physical** – slope, surface material
- **Legibility** – knowing where you are and where you are going
- **Environment** – protection from elements, shade, places to rest and recover
- **Culture and belonging** – vibrancy, a sense of community ownership and pride

The least comfortable part of any walking and cycling journey can define the whole trip and affect the likelihood they will make the journey again. To be able to fully participate in everyday life most residents should have access to comfortable walking and cycling networks within a short distance of their home, school, work and other important destinations.





## What the community told us



74% of survey respondents want to walk more often



Time, infrastructure and weather were the most common barriers to walking

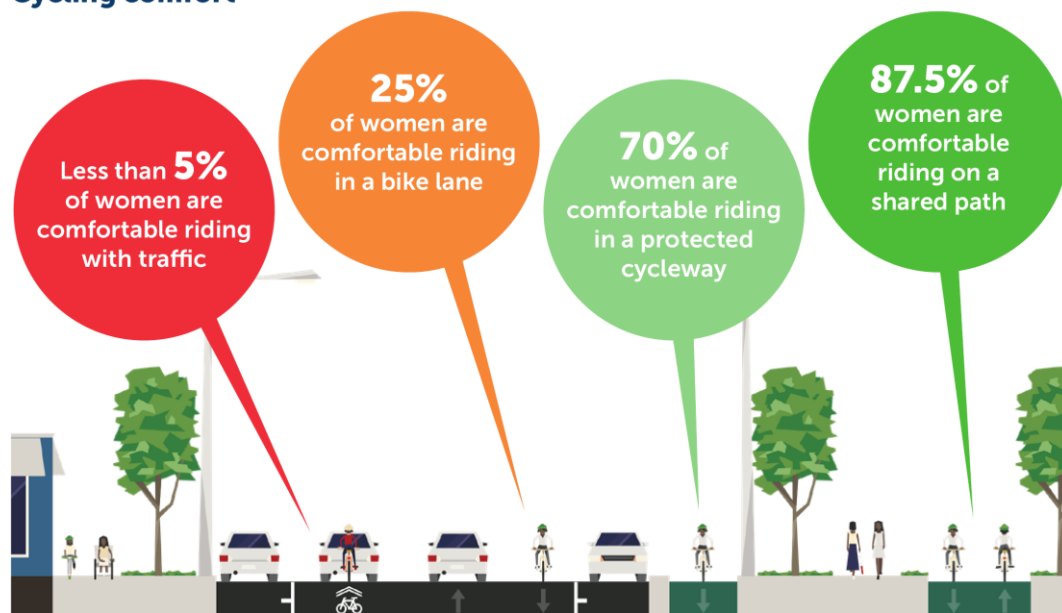


Women are twice as likely (40%) to abandon a walking or cycling journey than men when part of the journey feels unsafe

### Residents want

- To be separated from cars when riding a bicycle
- More support for more organised walking groups
- More places and opportunities to learn to ride and develop riding skills for all ages
- Bendigo's trail networks to be connected and activated
- More maps, information resources and directional information on walking and cycling routes
- Safe and comfortable road crossings on trails

## Cycling comfort



## Walking and Cycling in Greater Bendigo

Greater Bendigo has:

**700km**  
of footpaths

**165km** of trails

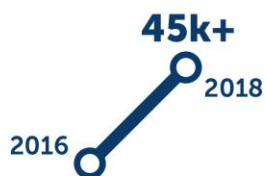
**12** road underpasses



Walking and Cycling are the most popular ways residents get physical activity in Greater Bendigo (Active Living Census)



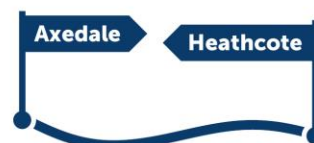
Rates of walking and cycling are growing more quickly in some parts of the community than others



45,000+ people cycled over the Back Creek trail counter in 2018, (doubling since 2016)



All Ages and Abilities  
Walking and cycling infrastructure creates more options for independent travel for children and people who have a disability



O'Keefe Rail Trail extended from Axedale to Heathcote







New underpasses like McIvor Road make walking and cycling possible for more people



Less than one in five (19%) bicycle commuters are female (Bicycle Network Super Tuesday counts)



Bendigo is Australia's first accredited Bicycle Friendly Community



The O'Keefe Rail Trail produced a \$0.67M benefit to the region in 2016



People who walk and cycle regularly are more likely to be happy and have a lower risk of depression



Bicycle parking in the city centre is unevenly distributed





## Action areas

### Action Area 1: Comfort, convenience and connections – Walking and cycling is a viable, safe and enjoyable experience

#### Key Health and Wellbeing Plan progress measures

- Healthy and well – Proportion of adults, adolescents and children who are sufficiently physically active
- Safe and secure – Proportion of adults feeling safe walking in their street at night / in their home at night
- Liveability – Distance of footpaths, off-road paths, on-road bike lanes and on-road protected bike lanes (cycleways)  
– Greater Bendigo Liveability Indicators

#### Key One Planet Living progress measures

- Travel and Transport – Most people actively engaged in using shared and/or low carbon modes of transport  
– Municipal infrastructure that supports new transport technologies
- Land and nature – Increase in canopy cover in urban areas
- Materials and products – All buildings and infrastructure are constructed in environmentally sustainable ways, require fewer inputs, are healthier and more comfortable to inhabit
- Zero carbon – People actively using low carbon modes of transport

#### Key Connecting Greater Bendigo, Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy measures

- Healthy Greater Bendigo – Increase the percentage of school children who regularly travel to school by an active transport mode
- Engaging Greater Bendigo – Increase the percentage of the workforce who commute to work by walking and cycling from 3.5% to 10% by 2026  
– Increase the percentage of population that walks or cycles 5 times a week for at least 30 minutes from 56% to 65% by 2021

Actions	
<b>1.1 Develop and implement a ten-year walking and cycling infrastructure plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise infrastructure by applying the walking and cycling key principles, decision-making framework priority areas and criteria</li> </ul> <p><b>Principles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equity – ensuring equitable provision across places and communities to support people to walk and cycle more often</li> <li>- All Ages, All abilities – making walking and cycling possible in more places from childhood to later life</li> <li>- Partnerships – ongoing engagement and working in partnership with communities, government and stakeholders</li> <li>- Evaluation – monitoring our progress, evaluation and ongoing improvement</li> </ul> <p><b>Priority areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safe routes to schools</li> <li>- Equity (Health, socioeconomic, gender and geographic)</li> <li>- All ages, all abilities</li> <li>- Participation impact</li> <li>- Everyday travel</li> </ul> <p><b>Criteria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strategic benefit</li> <li>- Safety</li> <li>- Participation impact</li> <li>- Equity of provision</li> <li>- Comfort, convenience and connections</li> <li>- Everyday travel outcomes</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply the Standard Walking and Cycling infrastructure design manual</li> <li>• Integrate with the Walking and Cycling Activation Plan</li> <li>• Develop project costings</li> <li>• Review plan every three years</li> <li>• Seek State and Federal Government funding support</li> <li>• Work with State and Federal Governments to identify new and innovate approaches to share resources, explore and develop new funding streams</li> </ul>
<b>1.2 Develop standard walking and cycling infrastructure design manual</b>	<p>Develop standard design treatments for walking and cycling infrastructure linked to the Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Hierarchy.</p> <p>Incorporate design approaches for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incremental development approaches across and within walking and cycling hierarchy levels</li> <li>• Walking and cycling infrastructure crossings/intersections at roads in order of priority by             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eliminating interaction through separation (e.g. underpasses)</li> <li>2. Controlling the intersection (e.g. traffic signals)</li> <li>3. Prioritising path users with raised or 'wombat' crossings with path, cycleway or trail priority</li> <li>4. Neighbourhood, park integrated streets and traffic calming as applicable</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Wayfinding</li> <li>• Learn-to-ride and activation facilities</li> <li>• Supporting infrastructure provision including             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seating</li> <li>- Lighting</li> <li>- Drinking fountains</li> <li>- Electric scooter and bicycle recharge points</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Actions	
<b>1.2 Develop standard walking and cycling infrastructure design manual</b> <i>continued</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection</li> <li>• Integration with Public Space, Greening and Recreation Facilities planning and design processes</li> <li>• Preventing and limit the likelihood of trail/path user conflict</li> <li>• Environmental sustainable design</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities to collaborate with other levels of government</li> </ul>
<b>1.3 Progress and/or prioritise planning and implementation of key walking and cycling infrastructure projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue implementation of               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- University to City Centre walking and cycling route (stage 1)</li> <li>- Ewing Park Learn-to- Ride Park and Walking and Cycling Activation Hub</li> <li>- Ironbark Gully Trail</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Undertake master planning, engagement and design processes               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional City Trail</li> <li>- University to City Centre walking and cycling route</li> <li>- Eaglehawk to city centre</li> <li>- City centre protected cycleway grid</li> <li>- Bendigo Creek, Low-line</li> <li>- Walking circuits (integrate with public space master plan processes)</li> <li>- Assess the need for learn to ride facilities across Greater Bendigo</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Develop appropriate walking and cycling plans for townships across Greater Bendigo including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved walking and cycling opportunities along primary public space corridors</li> <li>- Safe and comfortable footpath and trail connections to schools, activity centre, parks, recreation facilities and public transport</li> <li>- Local walking and cycling loops or circuits or trail connections to a regional trail</li> <li>- Connections to off-road trails, the Bendigo urban trail network for larger towns; for example Huntly to Epsom and Maiden Gully to Bendigo</li> <li>- Local wayfinding information consistent with the broader Greater Bendigo networks.</li> <li>- Integrate the township plans with the Public Space Plan and Greening Greater Bendigo Strategy for the townships: Axedale; Elmore; Goornong; Heathcote; Junortoun; Lockwood South; Marong; Mia Mia and Redesdale; Neilborough, Raywood and Sebastian; Strathfieldsaye</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Prioritise               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identified road crossings for walking and cycling comfort</li> <li>- Walking and cycling trail crossings for upgrade</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Work with State and Local Government partners in consultation with the Walking and Cycling Community Reference Group and community stakeholders to               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop sustainable plans for existing regional trails</li> <li>- Prioritise regional trail proposals</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>1.4 Monitor and maintain walking and cycling infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regularly inspect and sweep trails, paths, cycleways and bike lanes</li> <li>• Prevent intrusion of car parking onto footpaths, trails, paths, protected cycleways and bicycle lanes</li> <li>• Manage vegetation on trails and paths</li> </ul>
<b>1.5 Increase availability of bicycle parking in the city centre, at city managed facilities and in activity centres</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double the availability of on-street bicycle parking facilities in the city centre within 5 years</li> <li>• Pilot bicycle corrals in the city centre</li> </ul>
<b>1.6 Ensure major development projects include appropriate walking and cycling facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise convenient, visible and accessible active travel facilities with sufficient room for ongoing growth</li> <li>• Provide a high standard of pedestrian amenity, low traffic stress streets and protected cycleway connections to Greater Bendigo walking and cycling networks</li> <li>• Implement behaviour change programs and policy to support walking and cycling to and from the workplace and for work related short trips</li> <li>• Bulk e-bike purchasing and/or leasing arrangements for staff riding to and for work purposes</li> <li>• Develop an integrated walking and cycling plan for the GovHub, TAFE and Courthouse major development precinct within the city centre</li> </ul>
<b>1.7 Link new residential developments to the walking and cycling network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure new residential developments are linked to the walking and cycling network and provide appropriate walking and cycling infrastructure within developments</li> <li>• Ensure design of infrastructure reflects the Walking and Cycling Hierarchy and Standard Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Design Manual</li> <li>• Develop a Healthy by Design checklist for new developments</li> </ul>
<b>1.8 Support workplaces to create walking and cycling end of trip facilities in new and existing facilities and secure bicycle parking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage/support workplaces to create secure bike parking and end of trip facilities</li> <li>• Support the development of bicycle fleets</li> <li>• Implement recommendations of the Bendigo Bike Share Business Case</li> <li>• Support the provision of bike share and/or multi-organisation bicycle fleet(s)</li> </ul>
<b>1.9 Maintain and improve Bicycle Friendly Community Accreditation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to maintain and improve upon Bicycle Friendly Community Accreditation from Silver (2018)</li> </ul>

## Action Area 2: Activating community, culture and capacity – more people are connected to walking and cycling communities, discovering infrastructure, programs and events

### Key Health and Wellbeing Plan progress measures

- **Healthy and well** – Proportion of adults, adolescents and children who are sufficiently physically active
- **Liveability** – Distance of footpaths, off-road paths, on-road bike lanes and on-road protected bike lanes (cycleways)  
– Greater Bendigo Liveability Indicators
- **Connected to culture and community** – Rate of use of local recreation facilities among people with a disability  
– Proportion of adults who feel part of the community
- **Able to Participate** – Suitable measures for health, financial and digital literacy (for investigation)  
– Suitable measures for positive ageing (for investigation)

### Key One Planet Living progress measures

- **Travel and Transport** – Most people actively engaged in using shared and/or low carbon modes of transport
- **Zero carbon** – People actively using low carbon modes of transport

### Key Connecting Greater Bendigo, Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy measures

- **Healthy Greater Bendigo** – Increase the percentage of school children who regularly travel to school by an active transport mode
- **Engaging Greater Bendigo** – Increase the percentage of the workforce who commute to work by walking and cycling from 3.5% to 10% by 2026  
– Increase the percentage of population that walks or cycles 5 times a week for at least 30 minutes from 56% to 65% by 2021

Actions	
<b>2.1 Implement ongoing engagement and partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish an ongoing Walking and Cycling Community Reference Group ensuring equitable representation for social, health, gender, geography and cultural diversity</li> <li>• Establish a women and girls walking and cycling focus group               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Audit and evaluate existing and proposed walking and cycling infrastructure to better understand and improve safety for women and girls</li> <li>- Integrate recommendations from audit processes into the Walking and Cycling Standard Infrastructure Design Manual</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provide support to strengthen walking and cycling community organisations</li> </ul>
<b>2.2 Develop and implement a ten-year walking and cycling activation plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress planning, integration and implementation and establish partnerships for key walking and cycling activation projects</li> <li>• Deliver targeted behaviour change activation programs guided by the strategy's guiding principles and priority areas</li> <li>• Implement the Walking and Cycling Activation Plan               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apply the Standard walking and cycling activation approaches and design manual</li> <li>- Integrate with the Walking and Cycling Infrastructure</li> <li>- Review plan every three years</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Work with State and Federal Governments to identify new and innovate approaches to share resources, explore and develop new funding streams</li> <li>• Activate new infrastructure as developed               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrate with Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Continue focused activation and behaviour change initiatives in priority areas including               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Healthy Heart of Victoria</li> <li>- Walk to School</li> <li>- Ride to School</li> <li>- Join the Ride</li> <li>- Ride2Work Day</li> <li>- Let's Walk (Victoria Walks)</li> <li>- Infrastructure trials</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Support the establishment and promote more regular walking groups               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a walking groups mentor/toolkit program</li> <li>- Develop a community walks calendar</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provide more opportunities for cycling graduated learning               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fund, support and promote cycling education and skill development programs for all ages, all abilities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Support community to develop walking and cycling experiences across mobility and ability               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support community initiatives that enable older residents and people living with a disability or limited mobility to enjoy the experience of a bicycle ride</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Support community-led events, festivals arts and creative projects along walking and cycling corridors               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build on the Back Creek Trail activation successes and replicate in other locations</li> <li>- Launch new infrastructure in partnership with community organisations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Support the development and ongoing sustainability of community bicycle recycling programs</li> <li>• Continue to support and develop behaviour change programs</li> <li>• Build on the Back Creek Trail Activation success and replicate in other locations</li> <li>• Facilitate and support arts and creative projects along walking and cycling corridors building on the success of projects on the Back Creek Corridor</li> </ul>

Actions	
<b>2.3 Develop a Standard walking and cycling activation approaches and design manual</b>	Identify and document approaches for defining target audiences and design of behaviour change and activation initiatives
<b>2.4 Collect data and monitor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop, implement and evaluate a pilot program of observational walking and cycling counts directly in collaboration with local community organisations</li> <li>• Develop approaches to share walking and cycling data with project partners and the broader community</li> <li>• Upgrade counters to collect walking data and allow remote data upload</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities to integrate with VicRoads state-wide sensor network</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities to develop a wireless, low-cost walking and cycling sensor trial with La Trobe University; explore other opportunities as they arise</li> </ul>

### Action Area 3: Information and awareness – Improve ease of wayfinding and access for walking and cycling

#### Key Health and Wellbeing Plan progress measures

- **Liveability**
  - Distance of footpaths, off-road paths, on-road bike lanes and on-road protected bike lanes (cycleways)
  - Greater Bendigo Liveability Indicators
- **Connected to culture and community**
  - Rate of use of local recreation facilities among people with a disability
  - Proportion of adults who feel part of the community
- **Able to Participate**
  - Suitable measures for health, financial and digital literacy (for investigation)
  - Suitable measures for positive ageing (for investigation)

#### Key One Planet Living progress measures

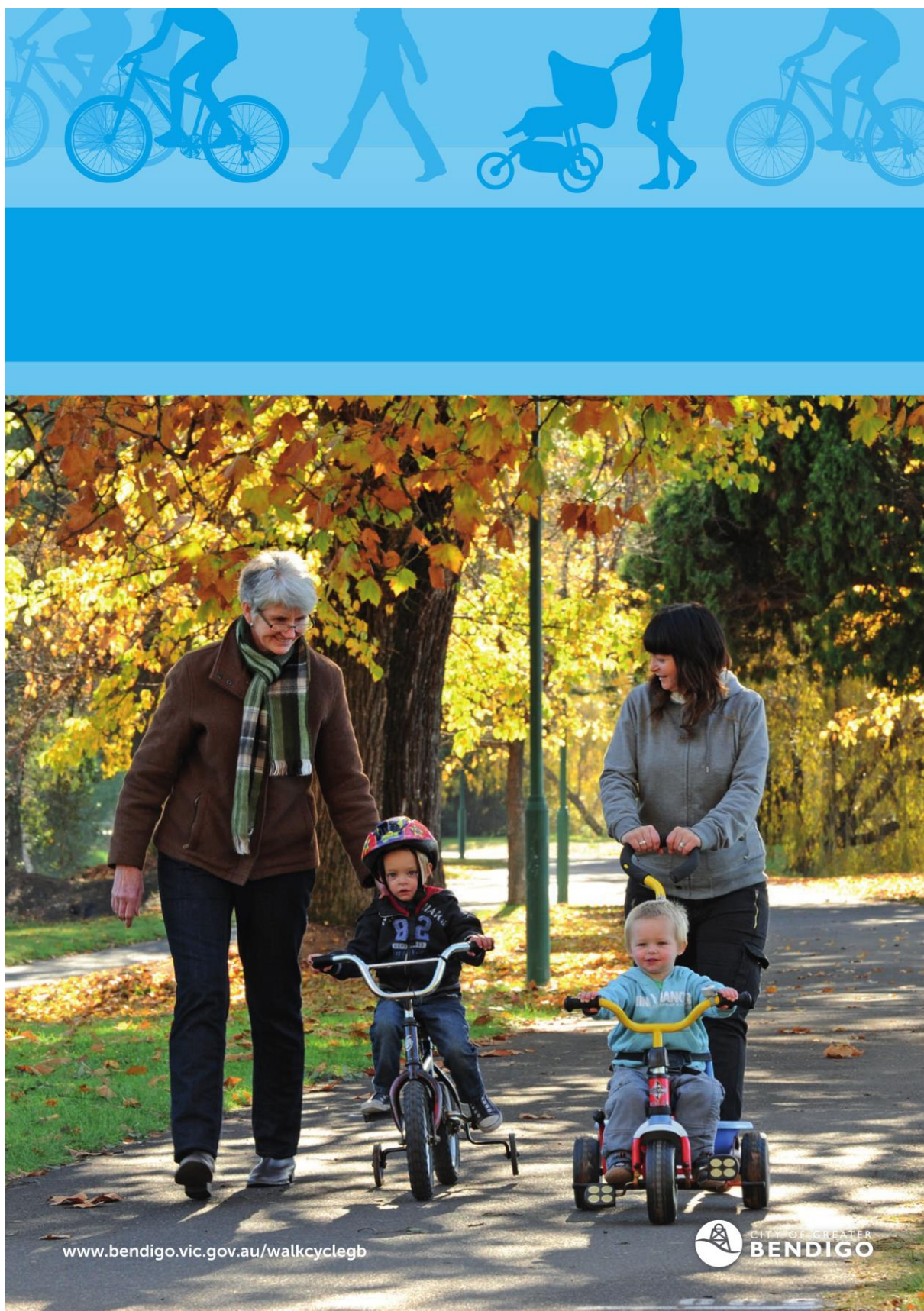
- **Travel and Transport**
  - Most people actively engaged in using shared and/or low carbon modes of transport
- **Zero carbon**
  - People actively using low carbon modes of transport

#### Key Connecting Greater Bendigo, Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy measure

- **Healthy Greater Bendigo**
  - Increase the percentage of school children who regularly travel to school by an active transport mode
- **Engaging Greater Bendigo**
  - Increase the percentage of the workforce who commute to work by walking and cycling from 3.5% to 10% by 2026
  - Increase the percentage of population that walks or cycles 5 times a week for at least 30 minutes from 56% to 65% by 2021

Actions	
<b>3.1 Develop and implement a walking and cycling communications plan</b>	Provide a central walking and cycling information resource promoting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits</li> <li>• Engagement opportunities</li> <li>• Infrastructure developments (works updates, introduce and explain how to use new infrastructure)</li> <li>• Journey Planning</li> <li>• Maps</li> <li>• Access to courses</li> <li>• Information Resources</li> <li>• Events and festivals</li> <li>• Community walk/walking groups calendar</li> <li>• The City's focus on all ages, all abilities and gender equity</li> <li>• User etiquette on trails and paths (in consultation with Community Reference Group)</li> </ul>





### Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo – Draft Strategy feedback Summary

Category	Organisation	Summary	Strategy Outcome
<b>Community Reference Group</b>	Community Reference Group	<p>The Community Reference Group expressed support for the strategic directions and considered the draft Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fairness and equity driven</li> <li>• evidence based, supported by community engagement activities, research and working collaboratively with stakeholders</li> <li>• a foundation for redesigning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a multimodal transport network for Bendigo</li> <li>○ safe comfortable and comprehensive networks for all ages and abilities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Integrated and consistent with strategic documents including the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Greater Bendigo Community Plan</li> <li>○ Health and Wellbeing Plan</li> <li>○ Public Space Plan</li> <li>○ Greening Greater Bendigo (processes to date)</li> <li>○ All Ages, All Abilities Strategy (processes to date)</li> <li>○ Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy</li> <li>○ Other strategic documents.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The group emphasised the need to implement quality walking and cycling projects, provide resources for and to commence implementation quickly and a desire to see implementation plans with prioritisation, timelines, monitoring and evaluation.</p>	
Community Organisation	University of the Third Age (U3A)	Support for the Strategy and its directions, in particular support for walking groups and access to walking	A case study on the growing number and diversity of U3A walking groups has been included.

Category	Organisation	Summary	Strategy Outcome
		information (signage, maps, online and other resources).	
<b>Community Organisation</b>	Bendigo Mountain Bike Club	Seeks greater recognition of the role of Mountain Biking as a contributor to cycling opportunities and participation across Greater Bendigo.	Additional references to the role of mountain biking, clubs, facilities and events have been included.
		Seeks direction for the development of off-road infrastructure such as environmentally sustainable trails in the bushland.	Additional references to off-road trails have been included in discussion, hierarchy and actions.
<b>Community Organisation</b>	Junortoun Community Action Group	Support for the Strategy and its directions. Requests for specific routes to be reviewed and additions considered. Request additional consideration of priority crossings	Proposed connections reviewed and included with some areas identified as requiring further investigation.
<b>Community Organisation</b>	Spring Gully Recreation Reserve Advisory Committee	Seeking walking and cycling counter for Spring Gully Recreation reserve	Addressed in action 2.4 Collect data and monitor
<b>Community Organisation</b>	Friends of the Bendigo Kilmore Rail Trail	Support for the Strategy and its key directions. Greater discussion of bicycles on transport services sought.	Discussion added about City's role in bikes on buses trial and to continue advocacy to better integrate cycling with local and regional public transport services
		Inclusion of Regional Trail proposals sought on Heathcote map	Proposals included on Heathcote map
		Seeking change of timing in discussion regarding Bendigo Bushland Trail from medium to long-term to short to medium-term	Medium to long-term is consistent with Public Space Plan, other strategies and overall priorities, has not been changed.
		More inclusion of the role of community organisations sought	Additional references to community organisations in section 7.5 Community capacity and behaviour

Category	Organisation	Summary	Strategy Outcome
		Addition of priority crossing on the O'Keefe Rail Trail at Napier Street	change Crossing reviewed and added to priority crossings on map
		Removal of Regional category within hierarchy sought	This category defines distinct opportunities and roles for the City in planning and pursuing of regional infrastructure proposals, no change made.
<b>Community Organisation</b>	Plan B, La Trobe University Student Planners Association	Support for the Strategy and its key directions.	University student included as a case study



Category	Organisation	Summary	Strategy Outcome
Community Organisation	Bike Bendigo	Support for the Strategy and its key directions.	
		Support for development of walking and cycling networks and identified protected cycleways.	
		Additional targets sought for provision of cycling infrastructure.	Strategy targets and measures are linked to the Health and Wellbeing Plan, One Planet Living and Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy.
		Additional discussion and focus on schools sought.	Additional discussion regarding schools in areas including crossings, activation and infrastructure discussion. Case study of a family who travels predominantly by bicycle included.
		Seeks change of hierarchy to primary for extent of Regional City Trail.	Change is consistent with feedback from State Government agencies and, amended. Proposal reviewed and elements incorporated.
		Alternative infrastructure routes suggested including East Bendigo and connections to rail stations.	Strategy identifies action (2.1) to Provide support to strengthen walking and cycling community organisations. Funding is available through community grant and procurement processes.
		Request for ongoing financial support for community organisations.	
		Support for activation proposals and desire to participate in implementation of initiatives.	
		Strong support for ongoing funding investment for implementation	
		Support for city-centre bicycle parking proposals	

Category	Organisation	Summary	Strategy Outcome
		<p>Support for development of the Infrastructure Design Manual</p> <p>Support for integration of bicycle infrastructure protected cycleways and crossings and end-of trip facilities in the GovHub developments.</p> <p>Support for the Ewing Park Activation Hub</p>	
<b>Community Organisation</b>	Bendigo Sustainability Group, Trevor Smith	Submission endorses Bike Bendigo submission	
<b>Community organisation</b>	Ironbark Gully Friends	<p>Support for the Strategy and its key directions, principles, in particular equity, proposed network connections and activation initiatives.</p> <p>Emphasis on integrating infrastructure with neighbourhoods, cultural opportunities, providing appropriate local infrastructure including seating, shade and passive surveillance.</p>	
<b>Community organisation</b>	Bicycles for Humanity	<p>Support for the Strategy and its key directions. Seeks discussion around used and discarded bicycles, and programs to bring about responsible recycling and to support community bicycle recycling programs.</p>	<p>Discussion on bicycle recycling added to section 9 Activation</p> <p>Sub-action added to Action 2.2 Activation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development and ongoing sustainability of community bicycle recycling programs</li> </ul>

Category	Organisation	Summary	Strategy Outcome
<b>Community Organisation</b>	Elmore Progress Association	Support for the Strategy and its key directions. Seeks greater emphasis on towns and clarification on action to develop walking and cycling plans for towns.	References to towns and development of Walking and Cycling Plans for towns strengthened and aligned with Public Space Plan Action for towns elevated to own sub-action within 1.3 Progress and/or prioritise planning and implementation of key walking and cycling infrastructure projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop appropriate walking and cycling plans for townships across Greater Bendigo including</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	La Trobe University	Support for the Strategy and its key directions. Expresses support for the development of the University to City Centre and Hospital Precinct walking and cycling route and its continuation to Kennington Reservoir as part of the Regional City Trail. Emphasis on opportunity for electric bikes to grow participation and current electric bicycle trial in partnership with RACV.	Electric bike trial discussion added and trial initiative included as a case study.
<b>Government (state)</b>	The Transport Portfolio – Department of Transport, Regional Roads Victoria, Public Transport Victoria,	Support for the Strategy and its key directions.  Acknowledges leadership shown by the City in recent years in supporting walking and cycling  Invitation to join Loddon Campaspe Regional Walking and Cycling Working Group/Community of Practice  Opportunity to develop a collaborative Standard Infrastructure Design Manual for multiple shires  "The strong level of detail in the strategy, such as the mapped preferred networks and crossing points will be helpful to inform the Transport Portfolio, to work with you	Invitation to establish/join Loddon Campaspe Regional Walking and Cycling Working Group/Community of Practice accepted.      Sub-action added to Action 1.2 Develop standard walking and cycling infrastructure design manual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate opportunities to collaborate with other levels of government</li> </ul>

Category	Organisation	Summary	Strategy Outcome
		through detailed investigation stages needed to confirm the alignments, detailed design, management and maintenance for arterial road and rail crossings."	Change of hierarchy to primary for extent of Regional City Trail incorporated.
<b>Government (state)</b>	Regional Roads Victoria, Northern Region	<p>Regional Roads Victoria Northern Region (RRV NR) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Draft Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo Strategy.</p> <p>The strategy has been designed in a collaborative way and includes both strategic goals and outputs of RRV NR.</p> <p>More specifically, the strategic directions are integrated and framed at a holistic planning level around Bendigo.</p> <p>For the cycling component of the strategy a comprehensive cycling network has been outlined.</p> <p>This includes functional links that will provide a clear walking and cycling hierarchy with a full-scale coverage of safe active transport infrastructures in Bendigo.</p> <p>At a tactical level RRV NR supports the principle of the addition of clever rail crossings where existing underpasses or drains exist and upgraded priority crossings and intersections can be investigated.</p> <p>RRV NR will be looking forward to working in collaboration on the Standard Infrastructure Design Manual (action 1.2 of the strategy) as well as a coordinated implementation plan.</p> <p>Outlining the walking grid and integrating the walking and cycling strategy with a multi-modal and mixed land use</p>	<p>Sub-action added to Action 1.2 Develop standard walking and cycling infrastructure design manual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate opportunities to collaborate with other levels of government</li> </ul>

Category	Organisation	Summary	Strategy Outcome
		focus (e.g. parking, density targets, road access, place making and economic targets) will be critical in the articulation of the implementation phases of the strategy	
<b>Individual</b>	Individuals (28)	<p>Support for the Strategy and its key directions.</p> <p>Further information sought on accessibility and inclusiveness of all ages and abilities.</p> <p>Emphasis on planning walking and cycling links for small towns.</p> <p>Support for the Ewing Park Activation Hub and facilities.</p> <p>Support for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>protected cycleways</li> <li>walking circuits and path developments</li> <li>identified priority crossings</li> <li>support for specific town links including Marong to Maiden Gully and Huntly to Bendigo</li> </ul>	<p>Inclusive definitions of walking and cycling reintroduced at start of document.</p> <p>Action for towns elevated to own sub-action within 1.3 Progress and/or prioritise planning and implementation of key walking and cycling infrastructure projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop appropriate walking and cycling plans for townships across Greater Bendigo including</li> </ul>

Category	Organisation	Summary	Strategy Outcome
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>communication and information proposals</li> <li>trail and road user etiquette communication activities</li> </ul>	
		<p>Proposal to underground transmission lines to provide public space corridors and address other issues.</p> <p>Inclusion of specific existing trails in the hierarchy, eg. Grassy Flat Creek trail</p>	<p>Proposal is beyond scope of this strategy, information forwarded to appropriate business units within the City.</p> <p>Trail and crossing proposals reviewed on a case by case basis and added where consistent with Hierarchy and Public Space plan</p>
		Inclusion of specific crossings in priority crossing list	Proposals considered on a case by case basis on relative significance of broader connectivity, safety and comfort
		Increased emphasis sought on walking and cycling school activation initiatives	Additional discussion regarding schools in areas including crossings, activation and infrastructure discussion. Case study of a family who travels predominantly by bicycle included.
		Specific infrastructure/path requests	Proposals considered on a case by case basis on relative significance of broader connectivity, safety and comfort
		Calls to allocate dedicated resources and accelerate implementation of actions on an ongoing basis	

**4. STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY**

Nil.

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Nil.

**6. EMBRACING OUR CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

Nil.

## **7. LEAD AND GOVERN FOR ALL**

### **7.1 PROCUREMENT POLICY 2019**

#### **Document Information**

**Author**            **Greg Painter, Coordinator Procurement**

**Responsible Director**   **Andrew Cooney, Director Corporate Performance**

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#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval by Council of the revised Procurement Policy.

#### **Summary**

- The Procurement Policy has been reviewed and amended in accordance with Section 186 of the Local Government Act.
- A number of changes have been proposed to the current policy which will:
  - Provide greater opportunities to Traditional Owner and other Aboriginal businesses
  - Enhance the support for local suppliers and contractors
  - Strengthen the requirement to include recycled products into construction projects

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the revised Procurement Policy.

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#### **Policy Context**

Section 186A of the Local Government Act requires Council to prepare, approve and publish a procurement policy. At least once each financial year, Council must review the current procurement policy and may, in accordance with this section, amend the policy.

#### **Community Plan Reference:**

*City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021:*



Goal 1                      Lead and Govern for All

1.4                        Be accountable and efficient in its use of the community's money.

- Develop our staff and systems to deliver the best outcomes for our community

Goal 3                      Strengthening the economy

3.1                        Support our local businesses and industry to be strong, vibrant and to grow and develop.

- Supporting local business, including through purchasing programs

## **Report**

The policy has been reviewed and the major items to note are:

- New Schedule 3, Sustainable Procurement, to cover the City's commitment in ensuring our procurement activities support our diverse communities
- Inclusion of commitments to reducing waste, maximising sustainable procurement and seek to use recycled products, particularly in construction activities
- Addition of four tendering and quotation schedules to be used in the evaluation phase, namely:
  - Economic Sustainability
  - Social Sustainability
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
  - Environmental Sustainability
- Mandatory tender evaluation weighting increased from 10% to 15% for local content
- To improve efficiency, the removal of the need to complete a Quote Summary Form for purchases where only one quote is required or if VendorPanel has been used to source quotes
- In Schedule 2 the *Day Works* limit has been increased from \$15,000 to \$22,000 per item to be consistent with the current procurement authorisation limit for Project Managers
- Definition of local content revised to include Macedon Ranges and Central Goldfields and to remove Strathbogie and Mitchell
- Added an exemption to the policy for obtaining quotes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses up to the value of \$25,000
- Added direct engagement with Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung for advisory activities to the sole supplier exemption (6.8.3)

### Risk Analysis:

If the Policy is not reviewed and approved each year, Council will be in breach of the requirements under Section 186A of the Local Government Act.

## **Consultation/Communication**

### External Consultation:

Dja Dja Wurrung was engaged extensively throughout the development of the feasibility study into improving Aboriginal Procurement in Local Government and in the development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Schedule.

Feedback was received from local businesses and Be.Bendigo through the GROW program on the importance of maximising opportunities for local business and actively engaging with local markets on awareness of opportunities.

### Internal Consultation:

All staff were consulted through correspondence to their Managers and Coordinators seeking feedback and suggestions for the policy review.

The draft policy, which included the feedback from external stakeholders was presented to the City's Executive Management Team and Councillors for further review and refinement.

In addition, the Notice of Motion that was approved by Council at the June Council meeting required the inclusion of recycled materials into construction activities. This has been incorporated into the policy, along with an environmental sustainability schedule.

## **Resource Implications**

Council is required to ensure it provides best value for the community through all operations and services, including procurement. The changes proposed are intended to provide greater opportunities for suppliers, including local suppliers, which may increase competition.

## **Attachments**

1. Revised Procurement Policy

**PROCUREMENT POLICY**

|                                        |                                        |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Approval Level:</b>                 | Council                                |
| <b>Policy Type:</b>                    | Council                                |
| <b>Approval Date:</b>                  | 18/09/2019                             |
| <b>Review cycle:</b>                   | Annually                               |
| <b>Review Date:</b>                    | 30/06/2019                             |
| <b>Responsible Officer:</b>            | Manager Governance                     |
| <b>Owner:</b>                          | Governance                             |
| <b>Responsible Director:</b>           | Corporate Performance                  |
| <b>Relevant Legislation/Authority:</b> | <i>Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)</i> |
| <b>DOCSETID:</b>                       | 2004330                                |

**1. BACKGROUND**

Greater Bendigo City Council (the **City**) recognises that developing a procurement strategy and adopting appropriate best practice contracting and procurement principles, policies, procedures and processes for all goods, services and works by the City, will assist the City to achieve its procurement objectives. These objectives include sustainable and socially responsible procurement, bottom-line cost savings, supporting the regional economy, achieving innovation and the provision of better services for the community.

**2. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to:

- provide a framework to guide the efficient, effective, socially and ecologically responsible procurement of goods, services and works for the City;
- provide guidance to the City to allow consistency and control over procurement activities;
- demonstrate accountability to ratepayers;
- provide guidance to the City employee's regarding ethical behaviour in public sector purchasing;
- demonstrate the application of elements of best practice in purchasing; and
- align the City's procurement practices with the Guidelines.

### 3. SCOPE

This policy is made under Section 186A of the Act.

This section of the Act requires the City to prepare, approve and comply with a procurement policy encompassing the principles, processes and procedures applied to all purchases of goods, services and works by the City.

This policy must be considered in all aspects of the procurement of goods, services and works by the City.

This policy applies to all procurement activities at the City and is binding upon Councillors, City employees and all contractors, agents and consultants engaged by the City from time to time.

All monetary values stated in this policy include GST, unless stated otherwise.

### 4. DEFINITIONS

In this policy:

**Act** means the *Local Government Act 1989* (Vic).

**commercial in confidence** means information that, if released publically or to a third party, may prejudice the business dealings of a party, including but not limited to prices, discounts, rebates, profits, methodologies and process information.

**contract management** means the process of ensuring both parties to a contract meet their respective obligations as efficiently and effectively as possible, in order to deliver the business and operational objectives required from the contract and in particular, to provide value for money.

**City employee** means all full-time, part-time and temporary City employees and contractors and consultants while engaged by the City from time to time.

**GST** means GST within the meaning of *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* (Cth).

**guidelines** means the Victorian Local Government Best Practice Procurement Guidelines 2013.

**local content** means suppliers based within the Greater Bendigo City municipality and its neighbouring municipalities of Loddon, Mount Alexander, Campaspe, Macedon Ranges and Central Goldfields.

**probity** means qualities demonstrating strong moral principles and good process, achieved through clear processes consistent with the City's policies and legislation, which consider the legitimate interests and ensure the equitable treatment of all suppliers.

**procurement** means the process of acquiring external goods, services or works from initial concept through to disposal of an asset at the end of its useful life or completion of the contract.

**quotation** means a formal statement of promise, submitted usually in response to a request for quotation, by a potential supplier to supply the goods, services or works required by a buyer at specified prices and within a specified period.

**social procurement** means a strategic approach to meeting social and economic objectives throughout procurement using procurement processes and purchasing power to generate positive social and economic outcomes in addition to the delivery of efficient goods, services and works.

**sustainability** means meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, including social procurement, local content and environmental considerations.

**value for money** means selecting the supply of goods, services and works taking into account both cost and non-cost factors including:

- (a) contribution to the advancement of the City's priorities;
- (b) local content;
- (c) non-cost factors such as fitness for purpose, quality, service and support; and
- (d) cost related factors including whole-of-life costs and transaction costs associated with acquiring, using, holding, maintaining and disposing of the goods, services or works,

in conjunction with the best value principles contained in Section 208B of the Act and the Guidelines.

**VendorPanel** is the system used by employees to request quotes from suppliers.

## 5. PRINCIPLES

The City's procurement activities must be performed with integrity and in a manner able to withstand close scrutiny. The following fundamental best practice principles must be applied to all procurement, irrespective of the value and complexity of the procurement:

- value for money;
- open and fair competition;
- accountability;
- risk management; and
- probity and transparency.

The City's procurement strategy must align to the aims and objectives set out in its Community Plan, including but not limited to those related to sustainability, protection of the environment, corporate social responsibility and meeting the needs of the local community such as:

- supporting the local community;
- feeling safe;
- living in a clean and pleasant environment, and
- delivering good quality and well managed City services that are considered to be value for money.

The City must seek to use aggregated arrangements with other Councils, MAV Procurement, Procurement Australia and State Government Purchase Contracts wherever appropriate.

## **6. POLICY**

### ***6.1 Ethics and Probity***

Councillors and City employees must always conduct themselves ethically and with integrity and must:

- treat potential and existing suppliers with equality and fairness;
- not seek or receive personal gain;
- maintain confidentiality of commercial in confidence information such as contract prices and other sensitive information;
- present the highest standards of professionalism and probity;
- deal with suppliers in an honest and impartial manner that does not allow conflicts of interest;
- provide all suppliers and tenderers with the same information and equal opportunity; and
- be able to account for all decisions and provide feedback on them.

The City employees who are responsible for managing or supervising contracts are prohibited from performing any works under the contract they are supervising.

Councillors and City employees must not participate in any action or matter associated with the arrangement of a contract (i.e. specification development, tender submission, evaluation, negotiation, recommendation, or approval), where that person or any member of their immediate family has a significant interest, or holds a position of influence or power in a business undertaking tendering for the work.

In relation to conflict of interest, Councillors must comply with Division 1A of the Act. The City employee expectations are outlined in the internal manual titled 'Conflict of Interest – A Guide for City of Greater Bendigo Employees' and the City's Code of Conduct.

Confidentiality of information provided by existing and prospective suppliers must be maintained at all times, particularly commercially sensitive material such as, but not limited to prices, discounts, rebates, profit, manufacturing and product information.

### ***6.2 Risk Management***

#### ***6.2.1 General***

Risk management must be appropriately applied at all stages of procurement activities which will be properly planned and carried out in a manner that will protect and enhance the City's capability to prevent, withstand and recover from interruption to the supply of goods, services and works.

#### ***6.2.2 Supply by contract***

The provision of goods, services and works by contract potentially exposes the City to risk.

The City will minimise its risk exposure through measures such as:

- standardising contracts to include current, relevant clauses;
- requiring security deposits or bank guarantees where appropriate;
- referring specifications to relevant experts;
- requiring contractual agreement before allowing the commencement of work;
- use of, or reference to, relevant Australian Standards (or equivalent); and
- effectively managing the contract including monitoring and enforcing performance.

#### *6.2.3 OH&S and other mandatory requirements*

The City undertakes due diligence activities on all prospective suppliers to ensure compliance with legislative and business requirements. The City will require all contractors, service providers and volunteers to comply with all OH&S legislative requirements. These requirements are mandatory and non-compliance will disqualify prospective suppliers.

Suppliers must provide evidence of insurances in providing goods, services or works.

#### *6.2.4 Contract terms*

Contractual relationships must be documented in writing based on standard terms and conditions. In circumstances where this is not possible, approval must be sought from the appropriate City employee (based on the value and nature of the contract) and supported by procurement and legal advice as reasonably required.

Contract terms and conditions must be settled prior to any commitment being made to a supplier. Any exceptions to this process must be pre-authorised by the appropriate City employee.

All City contracts will incorporate dispute management and alternative dispute resolution provisions to minimise the potential for litigation.

#### *6.2.5 Contract management*

The purpose of contract management is to ensure that the City and its clients receive the goods, services or works to the required standards of quality and quantity required by the contract by:

- establishing a system which monitors and reinforces the performance of all parties' responsibilities and obligations under the contract;
- ensuring adherence with any risk management framework established by the City and compliance with any applicable legislation including, but not limited to, relevant occupational health and safety procedures; and
- providing a means for the early recognition of issues and performance problems and the identification of solutions.

Contracts must be proactively managed by the City employee responsible for the delivery of the contracted goods, services or works to ensure the City receives value for money.

### **6.3 Performance Measure and Continuous Improvement**

Appropriate performance measures must be established and reporting systems must be used to monitor performance and compliance with this policy and the City's procurement procedures and controls.

Procurement procedures, practices and costs must be benchmarked externally. Internal service standards must be agreed within the City and performance against these targets must be measured and reviewed regularly to support continuous improvement.

The performance measurements developed will be used to:

- Highlight trends and exceptions where necessary to enhance performance;
- Improve the internal efficiency of the procurement process and where relevant the performance of suppliers;
- Facilitate programmes to drive improvement in procurement to eliminate waste and inefficiencies across key spend categories;
- Continuous improvement is also achieved by providing feedback to employees on findings from internal policy compliance reviews. Employees are informed of findings to improve practices in the future.

### **6.4 Environmental Sustainability**

The City recognises that procurement decisions have an impact on the environment and that through considered purchasing decisions the City has the opportunity to contribute to positive environmental outcomes, maximising long-term benefits for the community.

The City is committed to achieving long term environmental sustainability through the procurement process and is committed to reducing resources, consumption and minimising waste during the procurement life cycle.

Within the tender process, the City must require applicable tender applications to consider the environment to ensure that all purchases have a positive or minimised impact on the environment.

The City is committed to reducing the amount of waste it sends to landfill, maximising recycling opportunities and maximising sustainable procurement within the organisation. This includes purchasing items made from recycled materials and including recycled products in construction projects where possible, which support a healthy market for recycling at the kerbside and commercially.

### **6.5 Diversity**

Promoting social equality through procurement can improve competition, value for money, the quality of public services, satisfaction among users and community relations. Every procurement project should reflect a corporate commitment to diversity and equal opportunities wherever possible.



## 6.6 Support of the Regional Economy

The City is committed to buying from local business where such purchases may be justified on value for money grounds.

All other factors being equal, the City must give preference to regional economic benefit when sourcing products. Included in all tender evaluation criteria is a mandatory 15% weighting for local content.

These benefits may take the form of:

- increased local employment;
- local youth initiatives;
- increased activity and spend in the local economy with identifiable benefits; or
- the level of local content in the goods, services and works.

The application of regional content must have consideration of the best value principles set out in the Act and the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth).

## 6.7 Sustainable Procurement

The City requires the consideration of sustainability in all its procurement activities. Opportunities will be taken to generate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Economic, Social and Environmental benefits whenever it is practicable and achieve value for money. The sustainable procurement schedules of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Economic, Social & Environmental contained within the City's documentation help guides the City's procurement in line with these objectives.

## 6.8 Procurement Thresholds

The City will, from time to time, determine and publish minimum spend competition thresholds. These will be decided by the City by analysing the historical size and complexity of the procurement activity and of proposed procurement activities. The City considers aggregated spend based on a five year contract.

### 6.8.1 Quotations

VendorPanel is the system employees should use to source quotes. Purchase of goods or services valued up to \$150,000 and works valued up to \$200,000 may be undertaken using the procurement by quotation method as described in the table below:

| Value Threshold  | Number of written quotations required        | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| \$Nil to \$1,000 | Minimum of 1 quotation required, if possible | As a matter of good practice, it is desirable to obtain a minimum of one written quotation and ensure the details are recorded before placing an order. However, it is recognised that this is not always practical for reasons of administrative efficiency. |

|                                             |                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                             |                                  | If it is not possible to obtain a written quotation, every effort must be made to ensure the process followed in the circumstances is responsible, transparent and accountable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| \$1,001 to \$5,000                          | Minimum of 1 quotation required  | All original quotations must be maintained in the City's document management system.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| \$5,001 to \$25,000                         | Minimum of 2 quotations required | Details of the suppliers contacted and their quotations must be recorded on the Quote Summary Template (available on the Intranet). All original quotations must be maintained in the City's document management system. If VendorPanel has been used to source quotations then it is not necessary to complete the Quote Summary form.                                                                                               |
| Goods and services<br>\$25,001 to \$149,999 | Minimum of 3 quotations required | Public advertising is not required; however a detailed specification must be supplied.<br><br>Details of the suppliers contacted and their quotations must be recorded on the Quote Summary Template (available on the Intranet). All original quotations must be maintained in the City's document management system. If VendorPanel has been used to source quotations then it is not necessary to complete the Quote Summary Form. |
| Works<br>\$25,001 to \$199,999              | Minimum of 3 quotations required | Public advertising is not required; however a detailed specification must be supplied.<br><br>Details of the suppliers contacted and their quotations must be recorded on the Quote Summary Template (available on the Intranet). All original quotations must be maintained in the City's document management system. If VendorPanel has been used to source quotations then it is not necessary to complete the Quote Summary Form. |

The situation may arise where insufficient quotations are received to satisfy the above requirements.

This may occasionally occur where there are few suppliers of the goods, services or works being sought, the work is highly specialised or the supplier(s) contacted have declined to quote. In this case, the details of the contacted suppliers must be recorded on the Quote Summary Form (available on the Intranet) or recommendation and an appropriate comment recorded, for transparency. There must be a genuine attempt to achieve best value.

### 6.8.2 Tendering

Purchase of all external goods and services for which the estimated expenditure reaches \$150,000 and works for which the estimated expenditure reaches \$200,000 must be undertaken by public tender in accordance with the thresholds contained in the Act.

All tender processes must be conducted in accordance with the requirements of this policy and any associated procedures, relevant Legislation, relevant Australian Standards, the Guidelines and the Act.

Requests for quotes under the tender thresholds may be advertised as a public tender at the Service Unit Manager's discretion. Examples of when this may occur include when a field of potential tenderers has not been established, when an innovative approach is required or when the project has broad appeal that may attract keen prices.

### 6.8.3 Exemptions to the Policy for Obtaining Quotes:

All areas of expenditure identified below are exempt from the requirements of clause 6.8.1 of this policy. However, transactions must still comply with clause 6.8.2 if it fits within the tendering threshold.

- Ministerial Approval - The requirements of Section 186 of The Act do not apply if a contract is entered into by the City in accordance with arrangements approved by the Minister.
- Shop Supplies - Units of the City that operate a retail outlet within its Unit that are required to purchase stock for resale to the public. Goods purchased for the purpose of resale are exempt from obtaining quotes. This is due to the nature of the goods that are offered for resale, which may be of a unique nature.
- Performers - Units of the City that engage performers as part of their performance program are exempt from the conditions of this policy. Performers are engaged for resale to the public and based on potential earnings the City can raise.
- Artworks, Statues and Monuments - The City is in a unique position of operating an Art Gallery. It is not practical to obtain quotes for artworks, statues and monuments as each piece of work is unique. These Items are to be purchased with annual budget restraints in mind. Please note that if an artwork is commissioned to be created then this exemption does not apply and quotations must be sought.
- Sole Supplier (Core Service) - The City deals with a number of core service sole suppliers. There is no market to test and obtain multiple quotations. Examples of core service sole suppliers are:
  - (a) Library Service - North Central Goldfields Regional Library;
  - (b) Direct engagement with Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung for Advisory activities
  - (c) Water - Coliban Water;
  - (d) Water Catchment Authority - North Central Catchment Authority;
  - (e) Telstra, Powercor
  - (f) Professional membership payments (must relate to position held at the City);

- (g) Where the supplier is the sole source of specific intellectual property; Facebook, Google and the like and
- (h) Advertising (newspapers, magazines, TV and radio).
- Plant & Equipment Servicing & Spare Parts - plant and equipment purchased by the City require servicing at regular intervals. To maintain a valid warranty, works need to be carried out by recognised suppliers using genuine parts. To achieve this, the City utilises servicing by the manufacturers from whom the plant and equipment was originally purchased. Spare parts from specific manufacturers can also be purchased to complete works on plant and equipment in the City's workshop.
- Legal Services - Legal services are exempt from the requirements of Section 186 of the Act. While there is no requirement under this policy for employees to obtain three quotes from a legal firm, employees must consult with the City's Legal Officer before engaging external legal providers. This internal consultation will ensure the most appropriate firm is engaged, that advice received is relevant without unnecessary replication and that the City receives value for money.
- The Legal Officer is the initial point of contact for all legal matters, except specialist planning advice, prosecutions and conveyancing where the City is either the purchaser or the vendor. In these limited circumstances it is accepted practice for business units to directly engage specialist legal providers.
- The direct referral to specialist legal providers is subject to review every three years.
- Direct purchasing from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses where the estimated value of the procurement is up to \$25,000. The identified business must be at least 50% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander owned. The procuring officer must first determine whether an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business could deliver the required good, work or service on a value for money basis, before following ordinary procurement processes.
- Emergency Situations – If the CEO or delegated key emergency management employees have determined that an emergency exists, purchases can be made without the need to initially follow policy. Emergency situations may arise due to unforeseen events or occurrences relating to, but not limited to life threatening situations, genuine concerns for public safety, security, loss of essential services and, invoking an emergency response plan. An Exemption to Complying with Minimum Number of Quotes form must be completed for these purchases.
- Specialist Knowledge and Skill Exemption – if the City requires advice from a supplier who offers specialist knowledge. An Exemption to Complying with Minimum Number of Quotes form must be completed for these purchases.

## **6.9 Delegation of Procurement Authority**

### **6.9.1 Procurement Requirements**

Delegations and authorisations define the limitations within which the City employees are permitted to operate. Delegation or authorisation of procurement authority allows specified employees to approve certain purchases, quotations, tender and contractual processes without prior referral to the City. This enables the City to conduct procurement activities in an efficient and timely manner while maintaining transparency and integrity.

Procurement delegations and authorisations ensure accountability and provide confidence to the City and the public that purchasing activities are dealt with at the appropriate level.

Accordingly, the City has delegated or authorised responsibilities as detailed in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 of this policy, relating to the expenditure of funds for the purchase of goods, services and works, the acceptance of quotes and tenders and for contract management activities.

Delegation and authorisations can be altered at the CEO's discretion.

#### *6.9.2 Purchasing Decisions Reserved for the City*

Commitments and processes which exceed the CEO's delegation must be approved by the Council.

### **6.10 Internal Controls**

The City must install and maintain a framework of internal controls over procurement processes that will ensure:

- more than one person is involved in and responsible for a transaction end to end;
- transparency in the procurement process;
- a clearly documented audit trail exists for procurement activities;
- appropriate authorisations are obtained and documented; and
- systems are in place for appropriate monitoring and performance measurement.

### **6.11 Standards**

The City's procurement activities must be carried out to the professional standards required by best practice and in compliance with:

- the Act;
- the City's policies and procedures;
- any other relevant legislative and policy requirements; and
- the related documents set out in Clause 7.

## **7. RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Readers are encouraged to access the following relevant documents and resources:

- the Guidelines [http://www.mav.asn.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/4499/Victorian-Local-Government-Best-Practice-Procurement-Guidelines-2013.pdf](http://www.mav.asn.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/4499/Victorian-Local-Government-Best-Practice-Procurement-Guidelines-2013.pdf)
  - the City's Procurement Procedures Manual;
  - the City's Corporate Purchasing Card Policy; and
  - the City's Staff Code of Conduct. Employee Code of Conduct | City of Greater Bendigo
- Requests for further information or advice on this policy should be directed to Governance.

## 8. HUMAN RIGHTS COMPATIBILITY

The implications of this policy have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

## 9. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a City unit, a change to the name of a Federal or State Government department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be made through consultation with the staff Consultative Committee and with the approval of EMT or where required, resolution of the Council.

### 1. DOCUMENT HISTORY

| Date Approved | Responsible Officer | Unit        | Change Type          | Version | Next Review Date |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------|------------------|
| June 2018     | GR                  | Procurement | Review (Significant) | 1       | June 2019        |
| Sept 2019     | GR                  | Procurement | Review               | 2       | June 2020        |

## Schedule 1 - Employee Procurement Authorisation

The City must maintain a documented scheme of procurement authorisations, identifying appropriate City employees authorised to make such procurement commitments in respect of goods, services and works on behalf of the City and their respective delegations contained in the Instrument of Delegation.

The procurement authority structure (where delegated) is as follows:

| Management Level                   | Authorisation Limit |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| CEO                                | \$1,650,000         |
| Directors (EMT)                    | \$550,000           |
| Managers (Senior Officers)         | \$110,000           |
| Coordinators that supervise a team | \$11,000            |

The abovementioned delegation for coordinators is not automatically applied. Managers must request a delegation for individual roles via the Request for Financial Delegation Form.

As part of the Annual Budget process, the City adopts a Capital Works Programme. A Project Manager, Client Manager and responsible Director are assigned to each project. As part of this process, each Project and Client Manager is assigned an authorisation limit as detailed below to be used solely for the nominated project. Any authority already assigned under the Managers', Directors' and CEO's limits will over-ride that detailed below unless it is of a lesser amount.

| Project Management Level                                | Authorisation Limit |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Senior Works Coordinator – Works                        | \$110,000           |
| Coordinator Civil Infrastructure Delivery – Engineering | \$55,000            |
| Coordinator Civil Design – Engineering                  | \$55,000            |
| Coordinator Public Space Design – Parks & Open Space    | \$55,000            |
| Coordinator Infrastructure Development – Engineering    | \$55,000            |
| Project Manager                                         | \$22,000            |
| Client Manager                                          | \$22,000            |

|                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Purchasing Card Purchases</b><br>Director Corporate Performance | Authority to authorise and issue employees a City purchasing card. Employees are authorised to purchase goods and services within the limits stated in the Purchasing Card Policy. Usage must also be in accordance with all other conditions of the City's Purchasing Card Policy. |
| <b>Fuel Card Purchases</b><br>Director Corporate Performance       | All employees are authorised to utilise fuel cards up to the value of \$200.00 per transaction. Fuel cards can only be used to purchase fuel or oil.                                                                                                                                |

**Schedule 2 – Contract value delegation thresholds**

| <b>Position</b>      | <b>Value Limit</b> | <b>Contract Form</b> | <b>Works</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Council              | Above \$1.65M      | Contract             | Awarding contracts over \$1,650,000 or for any contract that the CEO or Directors consider requires a Council Resolution for approval.                                                                                                                                              |
|                      |                    | Variations           | Contract variations exceeding 30% of the original contract sum in the aggregate, or over \$495,000 individually.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| CEO                  | Up to \$1.65M      | Contract             | Awarding contracts up to \$1,650,000.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                      |                    | Variations           | Contract variations not to exceed 30% of the original contract sum in the aggregate, or \$495,000 individually, whichever is the lesser, subject to remaining within budget or offset savings being identified.                                                                     |
| Director             | Up to \$550,000    | Contract             | Awarding contracts up to \$550,000.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                      |                    | Variations           | Contract variations not to exceed 30% in the aggregate of the original contract sum, or \$165,000 individually, whichever is the lesser, and contract total not to exceed \$550,000, subject to remaining within budget or offset savings being identified from within the program. |
| Service Unit Manager | Up to \$110,000    | Contract             | Service Unit Manager - awarding of contracts within budget for amounts up to \$110,000.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                      |                    | Variations           | Not Applicable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Project Managers     | Up to \$22,000     | Day Works            | Total of all Day Works to be within the specified Day Works Provisional Sum included in the contract Maximum of \$22,000 per item                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Position</b>      | <b>Value Limit</b> | <b>Contract Form</b> | <b>Service/Goods - Fixed Deliverables (fixed \$ commitment)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Council              | Above \$1.65M      | Contract             | Awarding contracts over \$1,650,000 or for any contract that the CEO or Directors consider requires a Council Resolution for approval.                                                                                                                                              |
|                      |                    | Variations           | Contract variations exceeding 30% of the original contract sum in the aggregate, or over \$495,000 individually.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| CEO                  | Up to \$1.65M      | Contract             | Awarding contracts up to \$1,650,000.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                      |                    | Variations           | Contract variations not to exceed 30% of the original contract sum in the aggregate, or \$495,000 individually, whichever is the lesser, subject to remaining within budget or offset savings being identified from within the program.                                             |
| Director             | Up to \$550,000    | Contract             | Awarding contracts up to \$550,000.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |



|                      |                 | Variations    | Contract variations not to exceed 30% in the aggregate of the original contract sum, or \$165,000 individually, whichever is the lesser, and contract total not to exceed \$550,000, subject to remaining within budget or offset savings being identified from within the program.                     |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Service Unit Manager | Up to \$110,000 | Contract      | Service Unit Manager - awarding of contracts within budget for amounts up to \$110,000.                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                      |                 | Variations    | Not Applicable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Project Managers     | Up to \$22,000  | Day Works     | Not Applicable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Position             | Value           | Contract Form | Service/Goods - Schedule of Rates                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Council              | Above \$1.65M   | Contract      | Awarding multi-year, schedule of rates based contracts over \$1,650,000 per annum or for any contract that the CEO or Directors consider requires a Council Resolution for approval.                                                                                                                    |
|                      |                 | Variations    | Contract variations exceeding 30% of the original contract sum in the aggregate per annum, or \$495,000.                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| CEO                  | Up to \$1.65M   | Contract      | Awarding multi-year, schedule of rates based contracts up to \$1,650,000 per annum based on the first year of the contract.                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                      |                 | Variations    | Contract variations not to exceed 30% of the original contract sum in the aggregate per annum, or \$495,000, whichever is the lesser, subject to remaining within budget or offset savings being identified.                                                                                            |
| Director             | Up to \$550,000 | Contract      | Awarding multi-year, schedule of rates based contracts up to \$550,000 per annum based on the first year of the contract.                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                      |                 | Variations    | Contract variations not to exceed 30% in the aggregate per annum of the original contract sum, or \$165,000 individually, whichever is the lesser, and contract total not to exceed \$550,000 per annum, subject to remaining within budget or offset savings being identified from within the program. |
| Service Unit Manager | Up to \$110,000 | Contract      | Not Applicable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                      |                 | Variations    | Not Applicable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Project Managers     | Up to \$15,000  | Day Works     | Not Applicable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## **SCHEDULE 3 SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT**

### **One Planet Living**

Greater Bendigo City Council (the City) is committed to the One Planet Living as a framework for creating the world's most liveable community. One Planet Living is about making it easy, attractive and affordable for people to live healthy and happy lives within the limits of our one planet.

The City's Procurement Policy is an important mechanism to help achieve this vision.

One Planet Living includes supporting local businesses, creating safe and equitable places to live, empowering communities, reducing consumption, using materials from sustainable sources, and creating a zero waste and zero carbon economy.

For more information on One Planet Living see the City's website: [www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/OnePlanetLiving](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/OnePlanetLiving)

The Sustainable Procurement schedules (**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Economic, Social & Environmental**) contained within the City's Procurement documentation help guide the City's procurement in line with these objectives.

### **Sustainable Procurement**

The City requires the consideration of sustainability in all its procurement activities.

Opportunities will be taken to generate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Economic, Social, and Environmental benefits whenever it is practicable and achieve value for money.

The City will provide opportunities for businesses in participating in our procurement activities and to be suppliers of our works, goods and services.

#### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander**

The City recognises the importance of increasing the economic growth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and is committed to ensuring it is an integral part of our procurement process.

#### **Economic Sustainability**

The City is committed to procurement that supports local businesses and economic diversity in the municipality.

#### **Social Sustainability**

Social procurement often takes the form of a local, state or federal department strategically using an appropriate procurement opportunity to generate targeted employment for a specific population group. This includes people with a disability, the long-term unemployed, culturally and linguistically diverse groups, youth, social housing tenants, or a regional, rural or disadvantaged metropolitan area. The City is committed to social procurement, in particular facilitating employment opportunities in disadvantaged communities within the City municipal area.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

The City is committed to environmental sustainability outcomes. This includes the efficient use of resources (energy, water, and materials), protecting ecological systems and achieving zero net greenhouse gas emissions and zero waste to landfill. To help promote environmental sustainability the City will give preference to quotations and tender submissions that deliver environmentally preferable and “Value for Money” outcomes.

The City will reduce waste going to landfill by applying principles of the waste hierarchy. This includes avoiding, reducing, reusing, recycling and finally disposal to landfill, of products used by the City.

- Avoiding waste by not purchasing items that are not needed, or are obsolete, not sustainably produced, or are not of a quality which will last. This may require a review of current purchasing practices by each department.
- Reusing items instead of disposing to landfill. This may include reusing items such as office supplies, stationery, furniture, machinery and paper within the workplace or finding an alternative opportunity for reuse.
- Reducing waste by selecting materials with less packaging, returning packaging, or reducing printing or hard copies. This includes selecting materials made from recycled content, thereby closing the loop and creating a market for recycled materials. This should include choosing suppliers who exercise Extended Producer Responsibility.
- Recycling materials such as paper and cardboard, plastic containers, glass jars and bottles, steel cans, and aluminium cans, printer and toner cartridges, park vegetation, construction/demolition materials and E-waste. Preference should be made for items that are recycled throughout existing recycling processes and systems.
- Disposal of waste to landfill is the least preferred option identified in the waste hierarchy. Taking the steps outlined above will minimise the volume of waste we send to landfill.

### **Tender and Quotation Evaluation Weightings**

To help promote sustainable procurement, the City will apply where applicable, evaluation weightings to quotations and tenders.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander - 10% weighting as a minimum
- Economic Sustainability - 15% weighting as a minimum
- Social Sustainability - 5% weighting as a minimum
- Environmental Sustainability - 5% weighting as a minimum

## 7.2 ELECTION PERIOD POLICY

### Document Information

**Author** Peter Hargreaves, Coordinator Civic and Governance Support

**Responsible Director** Andrew Cooney, Director Corporate Performance

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### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend Council adopt the attached, updated draft Election Period Policy.

### Summary

Section 93B(1) of the Local Government Act 1989 ("Act") requires Council to prepare, adopt and maintain an election period policy to outline the procedures to be applied by Council during the election period ahead of a general election.

The election period is commonly referred to as the caretaker period which covers the 32 days leading up to election day.

The Act requires the policy be reviewed no later than 12 months before the next election period which will be in effect from 22 September to 24 October 2020.

A review of the policy, first adopted in 2016 for the elections of that year, has concluded the provisions are still current and no material changes are recommended. The only changes are to update the dates.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopt the Election Period Policy in accordance with section 93B(1) of the **Local Government Act 1989**.

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### Policy Context

#### Community Plan Reference:

*City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021:*

*Goal 1 – Lead and govern for all*

## Background Information

Councils must comply with special arrangements during the election period in the lead-up to a general election. Although not referred to in the Act, this period is commonly known as the “caretaker period” and is observed by all three tiers of government, although in relation to local government the caretaker conventions were codified in 2008.

The provisions in the Act are intended to ensure that Councils do not interfere with the integrity or probity of the election process and that Councils do not take action that will bind an incoming Council during the election period.

Section 93B(1) of the Act requires the Council to prepare, adopt and maintain an election period policy in relation to procedures to be applied by Council during the election period for a general election.

The policy must be reviewed no later than 12 months before the next election period which begins on 22 September 2020.

## Report

The attached policy accords with section 93B(1), (2) and (3) of the Act which requires a council to prepare, adopt and maintain an election period policy in relation to procedures to be applied by a council during the election period for a general election. This includes reviewing and amending the policy, if required, not later than 12 months before the commencement of each general election period.

The “election period” in relation to a general election means the period that starts on the last day on which nominations for that election can be received and ends at 6p.m. on election day.

The Election Period Policy applies to the Council, a special committee established by the Council, and the Chief Executive Officer.

The Act, as reflected in the attached policy, regulates council activity in two ways: first, it prohibits the Council from making certain types of decisions; and second, it requires that materials produced by the Council must not contain matter that will affect voting at the election.

The draft policy, therefore, includes the following-

- (a) procedures intended to prevent the Council from making inappropriate decisions or using resources inappropriately during the election period before a general election;
- (b) limits on public consultation and the scheduling of Council events; and
- (c) procedures to ensure that access to information held by Council is made equally available and accessible to candidates during the election

as required by the Act.

A copy of the Election Period Policy must be available for inspection by the public at the Council office and any district office after it is adopted and also be published on the Council's website.

Priority/Importance:

It is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1989 that Council have in place an Election Period Policy and that this be reviewed no later than 12 months before the next election period which begins 22 September 2020.

**Consultation/Communication**

This report was prepared in consultation with the City's Legal Team.

**Resource Implications**

There are no resource implications in Council adopting the draft Election Period Policy.

**Attachments**

1. Draft Election Period Policy

**ELECTION PERIOD POLICY**

<b>Approval Level:</b>	Council
<b>Policy Type:</b>	Council
<b>Approval Date:</b>	18/09/2019
<b>Review cycle:</b>	Not later than 12 months before the commencement of each subsequent general election period
<b>Review Date:</b>	1/08/2023
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>Owner:</b>	Governance
<b>Responsible Director:</b>	Corporate Performance
<b>Relevant Legislation/Authority:</b>	Local Government Act 1989
<b>DOCSETID:</b>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>

**2. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to specify procedures intended to prevent the Council from making inappropriate decisions or using resources inappropriately during the Election Period before a general election, the limits on public consultation and the scheduling of Council events and procedures to ensure that access to information held by the Council is made equally available to candidates during the election as required by section 93B(3) of the Act.

**3. BACKGROUND**

This policy has been prepared in accordance with section 93B of the Act which requires a council to prepare, adopt and maintain an election period policy in relation to procedures to be applied by a council during the Election Period for a general election and, if required, amending the policy not later than 12 months before the commencement of each subsequent general election period.

Councils must comply with special arrangements during the Election Period in the lead-up to a general election. Although not referred to in the Act, this period is commonly known as the 'caretaker period' and is observed by all three tiers of government, although in relation to local government the conventions were codified in 2008.

The provisions in the Act are intended to ensure that councils do not interfere with the integrity or probity of the election process and also ensure that the authority of an incoming council is not fettered by decisions made in respect of which it may find itself unreasonably bound and unable to change. The latter can especially be an issue in relation to significant contractual matters.

The Act, therefore, regulates council activity in two ways. First, it prohibits councils from making certain types of decisions. Second, it requires that materials produced by councils must not contain matter that will affect voting at the election.

The Election Period commences 32 days before an election. The business of the Council continues throughout this period. This policy seeks to ensure that the Council does not take action that will bind a future council.

#### 4. SCOPE

This Election Period Policy applies to the Council, a special committee established by the Council, the CEO and any City employees with delegated authority to make financial commitments on behalf of the Council.

#### 5. DEFINITIONS

The following key words are used in this policy-

**Act** means the *Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)*.

**CEO** means the Chief Executive Officer of the Council from time to time, including any person acting in that role.

**City** means the Greater Bendigo City Council.

**Council** means the Councillors collectively.

**Councillor** means a person holding the office of Councillor of the City from time to time.

**Election Period** means, in relation to a general election, the period that starts on the last day on which nominations for that election can be received and ends at 6pm on the day of the election.

**Electoral Matter** means Material which is intended or likely to affect voting in an election by containing an express or implicit reference to, or comment on:

- (a) the election;
- (b) a candidate in the election; or
- (c) an issue submitted to or otherwise before voters in connection with the election.

**Major Policy Decision** means any decision:

- (d) relating to the employment or remuneration of the CEO under section 94 of the Act, other than a decision to appoint an acting CEO;
- (e) to terminate the appointment of the CEO under section 94 of the Act;
- (f) to enter into a contract the total value of which exceeds whichever is the greater of:



- (i) \$100,000 or such higher amount as may be fixed by Order in Council under section 186(1) of the Act; or
- (ii) 1% of the City's revenue from rates and charges levied under section 158 in the preceding financial year; or
- (g) to exercise any power under section 193 of the Act if the sum assessed under section 193(5A) of the Act in respect of the proposal exceeds whichever is greater of \$100,000 or 1% of the Council's revenue from rates and charges levied under section 158 in the preceding financial year.

**Material** means any document, matter or thing produced for the primary purpose of communicating with people in the community including without limitation advertisements, handbill pamphlets, notices, newsletters including e-newsletters, the City's website, media releases, leaflets, brochures, mail-outs to multiple addresses and social media postings.

**Inappropriate Decisions** means decisions made by the Council during an election period relating to the following:

- (a) decisions that would affect voting in an election; or
- (b) decisions that could reasonably be made after the election.

## 6. POLICY

### **COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

The Council, a special committee of the Council, the CEO or a City employee acting under delegation given by the Council, must not make a Major Policy Decision during the Election Period for a general election.

A Major Policy Decision made during the Election Period in contravention of this statutory prohibition is invalid.

If the Council considers that there are extraordinary circumstances which require the making of a Major Policy Decision during the Election Period, the Council may apply in writing to the Minister for Local Government for an exemption from the application of this prohibition to the Major Policy Decision specified in the application.

During the Election Period, reports for the consideration of Council will be referred to the CEO for approval before inclusion on the meeting agenda.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

During the Election Period before a general election, the City must not print, publish or distribute any Material unless it has been certified, in writing, by the CEO.

The certification from the CEO cannot be delegated to another position.

The CEO must not intentionally or recklessly certify Electoral Matter during the election period unless such information is confined to the electoral process itself.

During the Election Period, a Councillor or employee of the City must not intentionally or recklessly print, publish or distribute or cause, permit or authorise to be printed, published or distributed any Electoral Matter on behalf of, or in the name of, the City or on behalf of, or in the name of, a Councillor using City resources if the Electoral Matter has not been certified by the CEO.

The City must not at any time print, publish or distribute any Electoral Matter unless the name and address of the person who authorised it appears at its end.

Material is considered Electoral Matter if, for example, it:

- Publicises the strengths or weaknesses of a candidate;
- Advocates the policies of the Council or a candidate;
- Responds to claims made by a candidate; or
- Publicises the achievement of the Council.

The City website may retain Material placed on the website before the commencement of the Election Period.

At the commencement of the Election Period, the Council should review the material published or distributed on bulletin boards, the internet and email systems to ensure that it could not be seen as promoting candidate-related content or singularise the achievement or views of an individual Councillor standing for re-election.

This policy affirms the application of the Councillor Code of Conduct and the Councillor Media Policy in relation to the use of media, including social media, during the Election Period.

## **10. RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Councillor Media Policy  
Councillor Code of Conduct

## **7. HUMAN RIGHTS COMPATIBILITY**

The implications of this policy have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

## **11. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Business Unit, a change to the name of a Federal or State Government department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be made through consultation with the staff Consultative Committee and with the approval of EMT or where required, resolution of Council.

### **DOCUMENT HISTORY**

<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Change Type</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Next Review Date</b>
18/09/2019	Manager Governance	Governance	Review (significant)	1	August 2023

### 7.3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

#### Document Information

**Author** Nathan Morsillo, Manager Financial Strategy

**Responsible Director** Andrew Cooney, Director Corporate Performance

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*[note this paper and attachments are draft and may be updated pending VAGO Audit and the City's Audit and Risk Committee meeting which will occur on the 12 September]*

#### Summary/Purpose

The purpose of this report is to approve, in principle, the Financial Statements, and Performance Statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2019 and to recommend Council approve the statements in principle.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council:

- a. approve "in principle" the draft Financial Statements and the draft Performance Statement as presented;
- b. authorise the Mayor, Cr O'Rourke and Cr Alden or Cr Flack to certify the Financial Statements and the Performance Statement in their final form on behalf of Council;
- c. authorise the Principal Accounting Officer to make any non-material changes to the Financial Statements and the Performance Statement that may arise as a result of the audit;
- d. notify the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee of any material changes proposed to be made to any of the Statements so that it may be decided whether the Audit and Risk Committee needs to meet further to consider such proposed changes prior to two Councillors signing off the Statements; and
- e. forward a copy of the Statements in their final form to the members of the Audit and Risk Committee.

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## Policy Context

### Community Plan Reference:

*City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021:*

|                |                                                        |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Goal 1</u>  | <u>Lead and Govern for All</u>                         |
| Objective 1.3  | Be innovative and financially responsible              |
| Strategy 1.3.2 | Ensure value for investment on behalf of the community |

## Background Information

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires the following:

A Council must, in respect of each financial year, prepare an annual report containing:

- (a) a report of its operations during the financial year;
- (b) audited Financial Statements for the financial year;
- (c) a copy of the Performance Statement; and
- (d) a copy of the report on the Performance Statement;
- (e) any other matter required by the regulations.

Council must pass a resolution giving its approval in principle to the Financial Statements and Performance Statement before submitting them to the auditor or the Minister.

The Council must authorise two (2) Councillors to certify the Financial Statements and Performance Statement in their final form after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the auditor have been made.

## Report

The City of Greater Bendigo has prepared its annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the financial year ending 30 June 2019. These statements have been presented to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee reviewed the statements and recommends that Council approve the statements in principle.

The Council authorises two (2) Councillors to certify the statements, being the Mayor Cr O'Rourke, Cr Alden or Cr Flack (or their delegates) as members of both Council's Finance and Audit Committees. The statements are in the process of being reviewed by the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) and are considered to be in their final form. When the statements have been finalised, they can be signed as soon as two (2) Councillors have been authorised.

### Headline results in the financial statements

The statements, including comprehensive income, balance sheet, cash flows, equity and capital works summarise the financial position as at 30 June 2019. The following section highlights items of note in the Financial Statements.

The year end result reported a \$62.2M operating surplus. The budgeted operating surplus was \$10.8M, resulting in a favourable variance of \$51.4M to budget. This result is influenced significantly by asset movements and grants received during the year. This result is in line with applicable Accounting Standards.

- Total income of \$248.6M for the financial year.
- Total operating expenses, including non-cash items of \$186.5M.
- The City delivered of \$50.4M of Capital Works during 2018/2019 (\$70M in 2017/2018). Capital Works projects requiring carried forward funding totalled \$13.4M (\$15.8M in 2017/2018).

Cash balances at 30 June 2019 are \$75.9M, an increase of \$5M from prior year. A large percentage of the 30 June cash balance has some form of restriction or intended allocation for future needs. These include:

- Reserves \$23.1M
- Trust funds \$3.3M
- Grant funds held for future projects & programs \$10.3M
- Carry Forward capital projects \$13.4M

An important sustainability ratio reported by Councils is the Working Capital Ratio, which demonstrates the level of current assets to current liabilities. The City's Working Capital Ratio is 2.44:1 (2017/2018 was 2.02:1). This is categorised by VAGO's financial sustainability assessment criteria as low risk.

The Performance Statement also includes information on Council's performance against elements of the community plan adopted in the 2018/2019 Budget.

#### Variances between actual and the 2018/2019 budget

Note 1 of the Financial Statements details actual results to budget and includes explanation of significant variances. This includes variance analysis for Income and Expenditure, at Note 1.1 and the Capital Works statements, at Note 1.2 of the Financial Statements.

#### Performance Statement

The Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) requires Councils to report against prescribed indicators and measures as part of their Annual Report.

During the fourth quarter reporting period, data and information has been collected and finalised to fulfil the requirements of the LGPRF. This data and information is used in both the Report of Operations and the Performance Statement in the Annual Report. Only the data and information that goes into the Performance Statement is required to be audited.

Feedback can then be reviewed and the data and information uploaded to LGV by 21 September 2018. Final approval date by our CEO is 21 September 2019. Final sign off by Council is required by 30 September 2019 and is scheduled for the Council meeting on 18 September 2019.

### Risk Analysis

To the best of the Officer's knowledge, these statements are true and correct.

### **Consultation/Communication**

#### External Consultation:

These statements were examined by the Audit Committee at its meeting of 12 September 2019.

### **Resource Implications**

The annual audit of the Council's Financial Statements costs approximately \$50,000 and Performance Statements costs approximately \$5,000 which is provided for in the budget.

|                                                         |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <u>Budget Allocation in the Current Financial Year:</u> | Yes      |
| <u>Current Estimate or Tender Price:</u>                | \$55,000 |
| <u>Projected costs for future financial years:</u>      | CPI Plus |

### **Attachments**

1. Draft Financial Statements and draft Performance Statement as at 30 June 2019.

## 7.4 RECORD OF ASSEMBLIES

### Document Information

**Author** Miki Wilson, Manager Governance

**Responsible Director** Andrew Cooney, Director Corporate Performance

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### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the record of any assembly of Councillors, which has been held since the last Council Meeting, so that it can be recorded in the Minutes of the formal Council Meeting.

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the record of assemblies of Councillors as outlined in this report.

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### Policy Context

*City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021:*

Goal 1 Effective community engagement will guide well informed, responsive decision-making and financially responsible resource allocations, which are transparent and accountable.

### Background Information

A meeting will be an assembly of Councillors if it considers matters that are likely to be the subject of a Council decision, or, the exercise of a Council delegation and the meeting is:

1. A planned or scheduled meeting that includes at least half the Councillors (5) and a member of Council staff; or
2. An advisory committee of the Council where one or more Councillors are present.

The requirement for reporting provides increased transparency and the opportunity for Councillors to check the record, particularly the declarations of conflict of interest.

**Report**

Meeting Information		
Meeting Name/Type	Councillors' Briefing	
Meeting Date	5 August 2019	
Matters discussed	1. Review of Forward and Draft Ordinary Agenda 2. Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee Member Appointments 3. Bendigo Law Courts 4. Meeting Procedure Local Law No. 8 5. Food System Strategy 6. DCP update 7. Heritage Gap Analysis	
Attendees/Apologies		
Councillors	Cr Margaret O'Rourke Cr Jennifer Alden Cr Matt Emond Cr George Flack Cr Rod Fyffe Cr Andrea Metcalf Cr Mal Pethybridge Cr Yvonne Wrigglesworth <b>Apologies:</b> Cr James Williams	
Staff/ Community Representatives	Mr Bernie O'Sullivan Ms Vicky Mason Mr Andrew Cooney Ms Debbie Wood Mrs Wonona Fuzzard Ms Miki Wilson <b>Apology:</b> Mr Craig Niemann	
Conflict of Interest disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/officer making disclosure	Councillor/officer left meeting
	Nil	

<b>Meeting Information</b>	
<b>Meeting Name/Type</b>	Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee
<b>Meeting Date</b>	6 August 2019
<b>Matters discussed</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Biolinks Alliance</li> <li>2. Indian Myna Action Group</li> <li>3. Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme Review</li> <li>4. Reimagining Bendigo Creek</li> <li>5. Greening Greater Bendigo</li> <li>6. Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy</li> <li>7. Economic Development Strategy</li> </ol>



	8. Invasive Plants and Animal Policy 9. Electric Vehicle Feasibility Study 10. Legislative Assembly Environment Planning Committee's Inquiry into Tackling Climate Change in Victorian Communities 11. Shifting Victoria to a Circular Economy (discussion paper)	
Attendees/Apologies		
Councillors	Cr Jennifer Alden Cr Andrea Metcalf Cr Margaret O'Rourke	
Staff/ Community Representatives	Mr Trevor Budge Mr Glenn Pomeroy Mr Anthony Sheehan/ Mr Geoff Caine Mr James Shaddick Mr Colin Smith Mr Mal Brown Ms Lillian Maher Mr Trevor Smith Ms Alyssa Lai Ms Karin Harding Mr Alistair Stewart Ms Lisa Gormley <b>Apologies:</b> Mr Bernie O'Sullivan Ms Vicky Mason/ Mr Peter Foster	
Conflict of Interest disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/officer making disclosure	Councillor/officer left meeting
	Nil	

<b>Meeting Information</b>	
<b>Meeting Name/Type</b>	Councillors' Briefing
<b>Meeting Date</b>	12 August 2019
<b>Matters discussed</b>	1. Review of Forward and Semi Final Agenda 2. Elmore/Goornong Township Plan 3. Planning matters 4. Reimagining Bendigo Creek Vision and Concept update 5. Water Sensitive Cities 6. City Centre Plan 7. Heathcote Flood Study 8. Early Learning Centres 9. Bendigo Botanic Gardens 10. Bendigo Stadium

Attendees/Apologies		
Councillors	Cr Rod Fyffe Cr Jennifer Alden Cr Matt Emond Cr George Flack Cr Andrea Metcalf Cr Mal Pethybridge Cr Yvonne Wrigglesworth <b>Apologies:</b> Cr Margaret O'Rourke Cr James Williams	
Staff/ Community Representatives	Mr Bernie O'Sullivan Mr Andrew Cooney Ms Trevor Budge Mrs Wonona Fuzzard Mr Adrian Gasperoni Ms Miki Wilson <b>Apologies:</b> Mr Craig Niemann Ms Vicky Mason Ms Debbie Wood	
Conflict of Interest disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/officer making disclosure	Councillor/officer left meeting
	Nil	

<b>Meeting Information</b>	
<b>Meeting Name/Type</b>	Combined Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting (City of Greater Bendigo and City of Ballarat)
<b>Meeting Date</b>	20 June 2019
<b>Matters discussed</b>	1. World Heritage Listing Panel 2. Walking tour of Ballarat
<b>Attendees/Apologies</b>	
<b>Councillors</b>	Cr Margaret O'Rourke Cr Matt Emond
<b>Staff/ Community Representatives</b>	Mr Andrew Cockerall Ms Kylie Howe Ms Anna Night Ms Trudy Rickard Dr Dannielle Orr/ Mr Peter Abbott Bishop Andrew Curnow Ms Angela Gladman Ms Jenny Trewartha <b>Apologies:</b> Ms Emma Bryant

	Mr Trevor Budge Mrs Wonona Fuzzard/ Mr Laurie Brown Mr Matthew Dwyer Mr Jon Marshallsay Mr Bruce McClure Ms Jess Milroy Dr Di Smith Mr Calum Walker	
<b><i>Conflict of Interest disclosures</i></b>		
<b>Matter No.</b>	<b>Councillor/officer making disclosure</b>	<b>Councillor/officer left meeting</b>
	Nil	

<b>Meeting Information</b>	
<b>Meeting Name/Type</b>	Heritage Advisory Committee
<b>Meeting Date</b>	15 August 2019
<b>Matters discussed</b>	1. Amendment and Heritage Coordinator Introduction 2. Heritage Studies Gap Analysis 3. Greater Bendigo Economic Development Strategy 4. World Heritage Listing 5. Heritage Council of Victoria 6. Objects Storage Repository 7. Strategic Artefacts Report update 8. Bendigo Gasworks 9. Open House Bendigo 10. Land Management Agreement for Crusoe and No. 7 Reservoirs
<b>Attendees/Apologies</b>	
<b>Councillors</b>	Cr Matt Emond
<b>Staff/ Community Representatives</b>	Ms Emma Bryant Dr Dannielle Orr Ms Kylie Ovenden/ Mr Peter Abbott Mr Laurie Brown Bishop Andrew Curnow Mr Matthew Dwyer Mr Bruce McClure Mr Jon Marshallsay Ms Jess Milroy Ms Jenny Trewartha Mr Darren Wright <b>Apologies:</b> Mr Trevor Budge Mrs Wonona Fuzzard Ms Kylie Howe Mr Bernie O'Sullivan Ms Trudy Rickard/

	Ms Angela Gladman Dr Di Smith Mr Calum Walker	
<b><i>Conflict of Interest disclosures</i></b>		
<b>Matter No.</b>	<b>Councillor/officer making disclosure</b>	<b>Councillor/officer left meeting</b>
	Nil	

<i>Meeting Information</i>		
Meeting Name/Type	Consultation meeting	
Meeting Date	16 August 2019	
Matters discussed	Planning application DS/418/2019 653 Midland Highway, HUNTLY 3551 Two lot subdivision	
<i>Attendees/Apologies</i>		
Councillors	Cr Malcolm Pethybridge Cr Andrea Metcalf	
Staff/ Community Representatives	Liz Commadeur Applicant Objectors	
<i>Conflict of Interest disclosures</i>		
Matter No.	Councillor/officer making disclosure	Councillor/officer left meeting
	Nil	

## 7.5 CONTRACTS AWARDED UNDER DELEGATION

### Document Information

**Author** Lee Taig, Contract Support Administrator, Governance Unit

**Responsible Director** Andrew Cooney, Director Corporate Performance

### Purpose/Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide information on contracts recently awarded under delegation.

### RECOMMENDATION

That the contracts awarded under delegation, as outlined in this report, be acknowledged by Council.

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### Policy Context

Delivery of programs, projects and services that respond to community needs.

#### Community Plan Reference:

City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021

Goal 1: Lead and govern for all

Objective: 1.2 Be innovative and financially responsible

### Report

| Contract No              | Project                                         | Successful Contractor                         | Delegated Officer | Date Signed  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Capital Contracts</b> |                                                 |                                               |                   |              |
| CT000474                 | Supply & Delivery of one (1) Footpath Sweeper   | Macdonald Johnston Engineering Company        | Debbie Wood       | 10 July 2019 |
|                          | <b>Price:</b> \$180,142.00                      | <b>Practical Completion:</b> 30 November 2019 |                   |              |
| CT000473                 | Supply & Delivery of one (1) 130KW Motor Grader | Komatsu                                       | Debbie Wood       | 10 July 2019 |
|                          | <b>Price:</b> \$325,200.00                      | <b>Practical Completion:</b> 30 November 2019 |                   |              |

|          |                                                                    |                                                |               |              |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| CT000463 | Supply & Delivery of one (1) Light Tipper Truck & Crane Attachment | Poyser Motor                                   | Debbie Wood   | 17 July 2019 |
|          | <b>Price:</b> \$119,697.81                                         | <b>Practical Completion:</b> 30 September 2019 |               |              |
| CT000471 | Supply & Delivery of two (2) Side Loading Garbage Compactors       | Poyser Motor                                   | Craig Niemann | 16 July 2019 |
|          | <b>Price:</b> \$808,997.82                                         | <b>Practical Completion:</b> 28 January 2020   |               |              |

### Service Contracts

| Contract Number | Project:                                                                                                   | Successful Contractor:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Delegated Officer:       | Date Signed   |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| CT000470        | Provision of Employee Assistance Program (EAP)                                                             | Converge International Pty Ltd                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Andrew Cooney            | 24 July 2019  |
|                 | Price: Schedule of Rates                                                                                   | Initial Term: 3 Years                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Extension Options: 1 + 1 |               |
|                 | Current annual Council Budget for the goods/services contracted via this schedule of rates in \$30,000.00  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                          |               |
| CT000475        | Extraction & Processing of Hardwood Forestry Thinning's                                                    | Wood4Good Pty Ltd                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Debbie Wood              | 1 August 2019 |
|                 | Price: Schedule of Rates                                                                                   | Initial Term: 5 Years                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Extension Options: 1 + 1 |               |
|                 | Current annual Council Budget for the goods/services contracted via this schedule of rates in \$150,000.00 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                          |               |
| CT000456        | Internal Audit Services - Retender                                                                         | AFS & Associates                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Andrew Cooney            | 4 July 2019   |
|                 | Price: Schedule of Rates                                                                                   | Initial Term: 3 Years                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Extension Options: 1 + 1 |               |
|                 | Current annual Council Budget for the goods/services contracted via this schedule of rates in \$38,610.00  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                          |               |
| CT000455        | Provision of Organisation Development Services                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Davidson HR Consulting Pty Ltd</li><li>• Collective Possibilities</li><li>• Catherine Twiss Consulting</li><li>• BDO Industrial &amp; Organisational Psychology Pty Ltd</li><li>• Australia Institute of Management</li><li>• Atwork Consulting</li><li>• Alchimie Pty Ltd</li><li>• Leadership Success</li><li>• DK Sonin &amp; Associates</li><li>• PD Training</li><li>• Positive Intelligence</li><li>• Performance Architects (Vic) Pty Ltd</li><li>• Time2Talk Leadership &amp; Communications</li><li>• Grant Thornton Australia Ltd</li><li>• Graduate Business School</li></ul> | Andrew Cooney            | 17 July 2019  |

|  |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                 |  |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
|  |                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Global Leadership Foundation Pty Ltd</li><li>• Doing Business Better</li><li>• Kangan Institute</li></ul> Human Condition Management Consulting Group |                                 |  |
|  | <b>Price:</b> Schedule of Rates                                                                            | <b>Initial Term:</b> 3 Years                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Extension Options:</b> 1 + 1 |  |
|  | Current annual Council Budget for the goods/services contracted via this schedule of rates in \$150,000.00 |                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                 |  |

**8. URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil.

**9. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil.

**10. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**11. MAYOR'S REPORT**

**12. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

**13. CONFIDENTIAL (SECTION 89) REPORTS**

Nil.