

MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of Council

6.00pm Wednesday 22 January 2020

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

VENUE:

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

NEXT MEETING:

**Wednesday 19 February 2020
Bendigo Town Hall**

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can be obtained online at 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 22 JANUARY 2020

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CRAIG NIEMANN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

PRAYER

PRESENT

Cr Margaret O'Rourke
Cr Jennifer Alden
Cr Matt Emond
Cr George Flack
Cr Rod Fyffe
Cr Susie Hawke
Cr Andrea Metcalf
Cr Mal Pethybridge
Cr James Williams
Mr Craig Niemann (Chief Executive Officer)
Mr Bernie O'Sullivan (Director, Strategy and Growth)
Ms Vicky Mason (Director, Health and Wellbeing)
Ms Debbie Wood (Director, Presentation and Assets)
Mr Andrew Cooney (Director, Corporate Performance)
Mr Ryan Millard (Acting Manager Governance)

APOLOGIES

Nil

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

MOTION

Moved Cr Fyffe, seconded Cr Flack.

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

CARRIED

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION SECTION

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

That Standing Orders be resumed.

MOTION

Moved Cr Fyffe, seconded Cr Flack.

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

CR METCALF'S REPORT

Cr Metcalf reported on her attendance at the following meetings and events:

"I attended the Huntly CFA meeting on Tuesday 14/1 and I want to congratulate the CFA in organising the meeting so well. It was a full house at the Huntly Hall that night.

Thank you to John from the Huntly CFA who was the initial incident controller at the Huntly Fire on the Saturday. He explained the process when attending the fire. It very quickly escalated from a level 1 to a level 3 incident. There were 30 tankers, 2 strike teams comprising of 5 tankers each and 38 forest fire management trucks. A magnificent response from the teams across the area. It was a very difficult fire that had a good outcome. The FFM team are still patrolling the area where the fire was. Unfortunately the White Hills CFA meeting was cancelled due to the storms on the Wednesday night.

I want to thank all of the fire fighters that responded to this fire and the other fires that are happening across the State and the Country. It was also good to know the step up process that the CFA has in place to make sure that CFA stations have coverage when their trucks are out.

The Ward councillors held a listening post at Sebastian last Saturday. It was very well attended and there were lots of questions from the people who were there, not just in relation to their area but across the COGB.

This Friday night the Spirit play their last home game of the WNBL20 season. It will be an especially momentous game as it will also be the last home game of Gabe Richards' career and Kelly Wilson will break the all-time games played record for the WNBL. This is likely to be a rather emotional night and an opportune time to celebrate one of the great careers in the history of the WNBL along with the achievement of a milestone that isn't likely to be eclipsed anytime soon".

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 minutes; 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.

Cr Williams declared a conflict of interest (by close association) in the Petitions and Joint Letters report No. 1.1 (Response to Petition: Botanical Greenview Melbury Court Playspace) as immediate family members reside in close proximity to the playspace.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wednesday 11 December, 2019.

The following items were considered at the Ordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 11 December, 2019 at 6:00pm.

NO.	TITLE	RECOMMENDATION
1.1	Road Safety Petition for Crusoe Road, Kangaroo Flat	That Council, having considered the petition and investigation into the matters raised resolve that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The current 60km/h speed limit is appropriate for Crusoe Road between Mitchell Street and Furness Street. 2. This project remain on the list of candidate projects for consideration in future budgets. 3. Liaise with Victoria Police in regard to enforcement of the current speed limit. 4. Notify the author of the petition of Council's resolution.
2.1	50 Mill Street, Strathdale - Four Lot Subdivision, Development of Four Dwellings and Creation of an Easement	Pursuant to section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987), Council issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit for a four lot subdivision, development of four dwellings and creation of an easement at 50 Mill Street, STRATHDALE 3550 subject to the conditions at the end of this report:
3.1	Community Volunteering Strategy	That Council adopt the Community Volunteering Strategy 2019 - 2023.
3.2	Youth Strategy Progress Report	That Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledge the Progress Report for the City of Greater Bendigo Youth Strategy 2017-2021; and 2. appoint two Councillors to undertake interviews with staff and Youth Council representatives to select young people to fill casual vacancies on the Greater Bendigo Youth Council.
7.1	Quarterly Report to Council Quarter 1 2019-2020	That Council receive the Annual Plan Quarterly Summary Report and acknowledge progress on implementing initiatives for 2019/2020.
7.2	Fraud and Corruption Policy	That Council approve the attached Fraud and Corruption Policy.

7.3	Risk Management Policy	That Council approve the revised and updated Risk Management Policy.
7.4	Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member Reappointment	That Council re-appoint Mr Warren Pollock as an Independent Member of the Audit and Risk Committee for a further three years, concluding on 1 October 2022.
7.5	Audit and Risk Committee Annual Report 2019	That Council note the Audit and Risk Committee Chairperson's report 2018/2019 and acknowledge the work of Mr Pollock in his capacity as Chair during the year.
7.6	Record of Assemblies	That Council endorse the record of assemblies of Councillors as outlined in this report.
7.7	Contracts Awarded Under Delegation	That Council acknowledge the contracts awarded under delegation, as outlined in this report.

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 11 December, 2019, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Flack, seconded Cr Metcalf.

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

1. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

1.1 RESPONSE TO PETITION: BOTANICAL GREENVIEW MELBURY COURT PLAYSPACE

Document Information

Author Aaron Lindsay, Coordinator Public Space Design

Responsible Director Debbie Wood, Director Presentation and Assets

Purpose

This report responds to a petition received by Council on 20 November 2019 from 108 residents in the vicinity of Melbury Court Reserve who would like the play space located within the reserve retained.

"Greater Bendigo City Council (Coordinator of Public Space Design). In regards to the proposed closure of Melbury Court Play Space. We the following wish to keep the play space located at 6A Melbury Court, and disagree that it has reached *'the end of its useful life'.*"

Summary

The Public Space Plan (PSP) recommended removal of the Melbury Court play space due to the proximity of the play spaces at Botanical Drive and Greenview Circuit.

As part of the 2019/20 play space renewal program the City of Greater Bendigo (COGB) proposed to remove the play space at Melbury Court in conjunction with the renewal of the play space at Botanical Drive. Minor play space renewal works are also proposed at Greenview Circuit.

As a result of community engagement undertaken in regard to the proposed removal and renewals a petition signed by 108 residents has been received to retain the play space at Melbury Court.

Two options have been developed in response to the community feedback received:

Option 1 - continue to remove Melbury Court however undertake minor landscape remediation works including the installation of a set of fun goals, tree planting and the installation of a new picnic setting (refer attachment 3).

Include the provision of junior play equipment in the renewal scope of the Botanical Drive play space to ensure that residents of Melbury Court are still located within 500m (as the crow flies) of junior and intermediate play facilities.

Option 2 - Retain the play space at Melbury Court and continue to monitor and maintain until a complete renewal is required (approximately 3-5 years).

Continue with the proposed multi-practice court play space renewal at Botanical Drive as planned with no changes (refer attachment 2).

Option 1 will require additional expenditure and will need to be staged over two financial years. Option 2 will have a significantly higher total life cycle cost and may inhibit COGB's ability to implement the broader play space strategy contained within the PSP, which proposes a significant number of upgrades and new play spaces to improve both the quality and equability of the existing network whilst trying to balance the current play space asset base of approximately 130 play spaces.

The public consultation also identified community desire for an additional small junior play element to be installed at Greenview Circuit to improve the provision of junior equipment.

Cr Williams declared a conflict of interest (by close association) in the Petitions and Joint Letters report No. 1.1 (Response to Petition: Botanical Greenview Melbury Court Playspace) as immediate family members reside in close proximity to the playspace.

Cr Williams left the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That, having considered the petition regarding the retention of the play space at Melbury Court Reserve, Council:

1. Retain the play space at Melbury Court and continue to monitor and maintain until a complete renewal is required (approximately 3-5 years).
2. Continue with the proposed multi-practice court play space renewal at Botanical Drive as planned with no changes (refer attachment 2).
3. Install a small junior play element at Greenview Circuit.
4. Notify the submitters of the petition and inform them of the outcome.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Metcalf, Seconded Cr Pethybridge.

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

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**Cr Williams returned to the meeting.**

## Policy Context

### Community Plan Reference:

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

Goal 4: Presentation and managing growth

Actions: Ensure open spaces are accessible and fit for purpose

### Strategy Reference (include weblink as applicable):

Public Space Plan, Part 1-3 Section 3.6 and Part 4-5 page 49.

<https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/Services/Strategic-Planning/Strategic-Planning-Projects/Public-space-plan>

## Background Information

The Public Space Plan (PSP) provides a strategic framework for the development and management of public space within Greater Bendigo including play spaces.

The PSP aims to provide a more balanced and fairer distribution of play space opportunities across the municipality to ensure that all residents have reasonable access to play opportunities. This includes the removal of play spaces in cases of under-use, over-provision or poor site characteristics.

The area of Epsom between Howard Street (north), Buckland Street (south), Goynes Road (east) and Bowles Road (west) is currently serviced by 3 play spaces; Greenview Circuit, Botanical Drive and Melbury Court (refer attachment 1).

The Public Space Plan contains the following recommendation in relation to the play space at Melbury Court:

*Undertake an assessment process regarding the existing play space (removal recommended provisionally given site characteristics including poor visibility, surveillance and safety and the availability of an alternative play space within reasonable walking distance - see section 3.6) and to determine the future use and purpose of this site.*

The PSP recommends the retention of the play spaces at Botanical Drive and Greenview Circuit however to diversify the play experiences between these sites due to their proximity.

In line with this recommendation COGB proposed within the 2019/20 financial year to remove the play space at Melbury Court, construct a multi-sport (basketball, soccer and netball) practice pad at the Botanical Drive reserve and install a set of fun goals at the Greenview Circuit reserve (refer attachment 2).

Previous Council Decision(s) Date(s):

Adoption of Public Space Plan 18 July 2018.

Re-adoption of Public Space Plan 19 June 2019.

**Report**Consultation/Communication

A letter and consultation brochure (refer attachment 2) were sent to 768 residents on 21 October 2019 in regard to the proposed play space works. The brochure promoted a community listening post which was conducted at 6pm on 6 November 2019 at the Botanical Drive Reserve.

The listening post was attended by approximately 50 residents. COGB staff in attendance included Aaron Lindsay (Coordinator Public Space Design), Paul Gangell (Manager Parks and Open Space) and Debbie Wood (Director Presentation and Assets). Councillors in attendance included Malcom Pethybridge and Andrea Metcalf.

In addition to the petition the City received 31 written submissions. All the feedback from the engagement activities has been summarised into the following themes which are in order of precedence:

1. Don't want Melbury Court play space removed
2. Concern with future of Melbury Court reserve if play space is removed
3. Concern with the lack of junior play opportunities proposed at Botanical Drive and the distance to Greenview Circuit
4. Disagreement that equipment at Melbury Court has reached the end of its asset life
5. Concern with walking distance from Melbury Court to Botanical Drive
6. Concern with traffic at Botanical Drive
7. Concern with increased housing densification within Epsom and need for more play spaces
8. Request for more toddler (<3 year old) play opportunities at Greenview Circuit

Following is detailed analysis of the themes raised during the community consultation.

*1. Don't want Melbury Court play space removed*

108 residents from Melbury Court and the surrounding streets of Coppola Court, Buckland Street, Casina Drive, Tyack Court, Goynes Road and St Killian Street signed the petition to retain the play space at Melbury Court.

The decision to remove the play space at Melbury Court is due to over provision within this area of Epsom. The PSP recommends a distribution of 500m for local play spaces. There is considerable overlap between the serviceable areas of Botanical Drive and Melbury Court with the play space at Botanical Drive being able to effectively service most of the catchment of Melbury Court (refer attachment 1).

Melbury Court has a current catchment of approximately 175 households. As compared to Botanical Drive 260 households and Greenview Circuit 395 households which have larger and denser residential catchments and are well connected through an established footpath network. These reserves are larger than Melbury Court and contain more existing infrastructure including paths, furniture, shelters and shade sails.

## *2. Concern with future of Melbury Court reserve if play space is removed*

The consultation material that was sent to residents did not state what the future was for Melbury Court reserve if the play space was removed. At the listening post COGB did clarify that there is no intent to sell the reserve as it provides an important drainage function as an overland flow path and that minor landscape improvement works would be undertaken.

A plan has been produced to show what remediation works could be undertaken at Melbury Court Reserve if the play space was removed, refer attachment 3. This could include the installation of some fun goals which would ensure an element of play in the form of a kick about space is retained, as well as the inclusion of additional tree planting and a new picnic setting. These works are outlined further in Option 1 (below).

## *3. Concerns with the lack of junior play opportunities proposed at Botanical Drive and the distance to Greenview Circuit*

Residents expressed concern that the proposed multi-practice court at Botanical Drive did not cater for younger children (<5 years old) and in regard to the distance to access junior equipment at Greenview Circuit.

The walking distance time from Melbury Court Reserve to Botanical Drive is 8min (650m). The walking distance from Melbury Court Reserve to Greenview Circuit is 12min (950m).

It is acknowledged that it would be too far to travel for residents in Melbury Court and surrounding streets to access the junior play equipment located at Greenview Circuit. It was proposed at the community listening post that junior play equipment could be incorporated into the proposed plans for Botanical Drive to address these concerns. An Option to incorporate junior play elements into Botanical Drive is outlined in Option 1 (below).

## *4. Disagreement that equipment at Melbury Court has reached the end of its asset life.*

COGB apply a 20 year asset life for play equipment. Play equipment asset condition inspections are undertaken every 2 years with safety audits undertaken quarterly which inform an annual play space renewal program.

The play equipment at Melbury Court was installed in 2003 and is still serviceable. The decision to remove this play space was strategic and was instigated by the need to renew the play space at Botanical Drive which was at the end of its useful asset life.

The play unit at Melbury Court could be effectively maintained for an additional 3 plus years.

#### *5. Concern with walking distance from Melbury Court to Botanical Drive*

The PSP recommends a distribution of 500m (as the crow flies) for neighbourhood level play spaces. Actual walking distances will vary due to the configuration of the existing street and footpath networks.

The walking distance from Melbury Court to Botanical Drive is 8min (650m). The distance for residents living on Buckland Street to Botanical Drive would be approximately 12min (1km). This is a similar walking time and distance to residents living near Howard Street who's nearest play space is located at Greenview Circuit Reserve.

Attachment 4 shows average walking times to the reserve at Botanical Drive, these have been generated based on an average hourly walking pace of 5km.

#### *6. Concerns with traffic at Botanical Drive*

There was concern raised about the traffic volumes at Botanical Drive. No traffic counts have been undertaken for either Melbury Court or Botanical Drive however Botanical Drive would have a greater traffic volume as it services a larger road network with greater housing density.

The reserve at Botanical Drive is very open comprising of medium to large scale trees which are mainly clear trunked and provide good visibility for passing motorists.

The proposed play space is located to ensure an adequate buffer is provided to the surrounding roads.

If required advisory signage (W6-3 and W8-13) could be installed to further increase driver awareness of the presence of the play space.

#### *7. Concern with increased housing densification within Epsom and need for more play spaces*

Concern was raised at the community listening post about the amount of development which is proposed for Epsom and specifically within the vicinity of Melbury Court.

The land to the south of Buckland Street and west of Bowles Road is zoned Low Density Residential and Farming, accordingly infill will be very limited in these areas.

The majority of new development will occur on the east side of Goynes Road adjacent to the Bendigo Creek. Most of this development will be within the 500m catchment of the reserve at Botanical Drive.

A new proposed open space is also planned to be established at 74-94 Goynes Road to service the proposed residential growth area. It will provide a connection to the Bendigo Creek Linear Trail and will eventually facilitate an east/west bicycle corridor across the Bendigo Creek, refer attachment 5. It is not proposed to include a play space as the reserve at Botanical Drive will service this area.

#### *8. Request for more toddler (<3 year old) play opportunities at Greenview Circuit*

The combination play unit at Greenview Circuit was installed in 2005 and includes a slide and climbing net as well as an accompanying swing set. It provides limited play opportunities for children less than 3 years of age.

It is possible to install a rocker or similar small piece of junior equipment within the current play space foot print to help address the deficiency in toddler play opportunities until the play space is renewed in its entirety refer Option 1 and 2 (below).

#### Options/Alternatives:

Two alternative options have been developed which respond to the feedback received from the community consultation.

1. Include the provision of junior play equipment in the renewal scope of the Botanical Drive play space. This would require an extra \$20,000 budget allocation.

When removing the play space at Melbury Court undertake minor landscape works including the installation of a set of fun goals, tree planting and the installation of a new picnic setting (refer attachment 3). These remediation works would cost \$10,000. The majority of cost for these works could be facilitated through other existing operational budgets such as the furniture renewal budget and annual tree planting program.

Install a small junior play element such as a rocker at Greenview Circuit. This would cost approximately \$2500 and could be facilitated within the play space renewal budget.

2. Retain the play space at Melbury Court and continue to monitor and maintain until a complete renewal is required.

Continue with the proposed multi-practice court play space renewal at Botanical Drive as planned with no changes.

Install a small junior play element such as a rocker at Greenview Circuit. This would cost approximately \$2500 and could be facilitated within the play space renewal budget.

#### Resource Implications

This project has a 2019/20 renewal budget allocation of \$80,000.



Option 1 would cost a total of \$110,000 and would require an additional \$30,000. This additional expenditure could be accommodated within the 2020/21 play space renewal program and through other relevant operational budgets and completed as a second stage of works.

Option 2 could be undertaken within the current budget allocation however approximately \$80,000 would be required when the play space requires renewal in approximately 3 years' time.

An operational budget would still be required to undertake maintenance and compliance audits.

#### Timelines:

Both options could be undertaken within the current financial year however Option 1 would require an additional budget allocation.

#### Risk Analysis:

Option 1 – If the play space at Melbury Court is removed there is a potential reputational risk of not responding to the community's desire to retain the play space.

Option 2 - If the play space is retained at Melbury Court there is an economic risk of inhibiting COGB ability to implement new and upgrade existing play spaces.

The PSP proposes 30 new play spaces as well as the upgrade of 5 existing play spaces. The cost of these works is partially offset by balancing the current play space asset base. If all of the 30 play spaces proposed for removal are retained then an additional \$3M (approximately) will be required to implement the strategy.

The objective of having a more balanced and fairer distribution of play spaces is also at risk of not being realised with some areas such as Epsom having an oversupply.

If Melbury Court play space is retained there is a risk that it could be seen to create a precedent for the retention of play spaces in the face of public concern. In the 20/21 financial year an additional 3 play space removals are proposed. There is a risk that the process for removing these play spaces could be made more difficult if the play space at Melbury Court is retained.

#### **Attachments**

1. Existing Epsom play space distribution
2. Play space consultation brochure
3. Proposed remediation plan for Melbury Court reserve.
4. Epsom play space walking times
5. Epsom planning zones

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

### **2.1 41 GLADSTONE STREET, QUARRY HILL 3550 - TWO LOT SUBDIVISION, CONSTRUCTION OF A DWELLING, PARTIAL DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DWELLING AND EXTERNAL ALTERATIONS**

#### **Document Information**

**Author** Kahlia Reid, Senior Planner

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

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#### **Summary/Purpose**

**Application details:** Two lot subdivision, construction of a dwelling, partial demolition of existing dwelling and external alterations

**Application No:** DSD/361/2019

**Applicant:** P L Thorpe

**Land:** 41 Gladstone Street, QUARRY HILL 3550

**Zoning:** General Residential Zone

**Overlays:** Heritage Overlay 30

**No. of objections:** 2

**Consultation meeting:** 13 September 2019

**Key considerations:**

- Does the proposal meet the provisions of the Planning Policy Framework?
- Will the proposal have an adverse impact on the character of the area?
- Does the proposal comply with the City of Greater Bendigo's Heritage Policy and Design Guidelines?
- Does the proposal comply with the requirements of ResCode (Clause 55 and 56)?

**Conclusion:** It is considered the proposal represents an unacceptable planning outcome, taking into considerations the relevant requirements of the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Pursuant to section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act (1987), Council resolve to issue a Notice of Refusal to Grant a Permit for a two lot subdivision, construction of a dwelling, partial demolition of existing dwelling and external alterations at 41 Gladstone Street, Quarry Hill on the following grounds:

1. The bulk, form, separation / spacing and appearance of the development will have an adverse impact on heritage elements within the precinct.
2. The proposal represents an unacceptable design outcome in regards to integration with the street, safety and neighbourhood character.

**RESOLUTION**

Moved Cr Alden, Seconded Cr Emond.

That the recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

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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

This site has been subject to three previous planning applications for a two lot subdivision and the construction of a dwelling. The applications are summarised as:

- DSD/744/2013 – application lapsed when further information was not provided.
- DSD/964/2013 – application refused at the May 2014 Council meeting.
- DSD/692/2014 – application refused at the August 2016 Council meeting.

It should be noted that the current application is based on a new design.

Report

Subject Site and Surrounds

The site is an irregular shaped parcel of residential land located on the south eastern side of Gladstone Street, Quarry Hill. The site has a frontage of 15.96 metres to Gladstone Street, a maximum depth of 31.69 metres and a rear abuttal to Hoskins Street of 16.9 metres. The site has an area of 497 square metres.

The site is developed with a single storey dwelling which was constructed in 1967 and presents towards Gladstone Street. The dwelling is characterised by a pitched gable roof and brick veneer cladding with a carport incorporated under the roofline of the dwelling, on the south western side.

A small outbuilding is located at the rear of the dwelling. Access to the site is via a crossover on Gladstone Street, with rear access also available off Hoskins Street, although no formalised vehicle crossing has been constructed.

Gladstone Street contains two way traffic with car parking formalised within the road reserve on both sides of the street in front of the site. A footpath extends along the south eastern side of the street, along with overhead power lines.

Hoskins Street is characterised by a narrow road reserve with a footpath on one side and bluestone kerbing. The street provides rear access to a number of properties that front Gladstone and Olinda Streets, with only two other dwellings having their primary frontage to Hoskins Street.

Adjoining properties to the south west, south and north east all contain single storey dwellings. The two adjoining properties to the south west and south were constructed in 1900 and 1930 respectively according to the City's records, with both contributing to the heritage character of the area. The dwelling abutting the subject land to the north east (facing Gladstone Street), dates to 1974.

The dwelling opposite, to the south east (fronting Olinda Street), was constructed in 1885, with properties further east on Olinda Street also of heritage significance.

The wider precinct holds a noticeable heritage character which is reflective of Bendigo's early settlement. Land to the southern side is mostly residential in nature, except for the Quarry Hill Bowls Club, which is located 50 metres south of the subject land.

The Bendigo Railway Station is located on the northern side of Gladstone Street and this site contains rail yards and a range of railway infrastructure, sheds and sidings.



Figure 1: Location map showing subject site. Objectors' properties marked with a star.

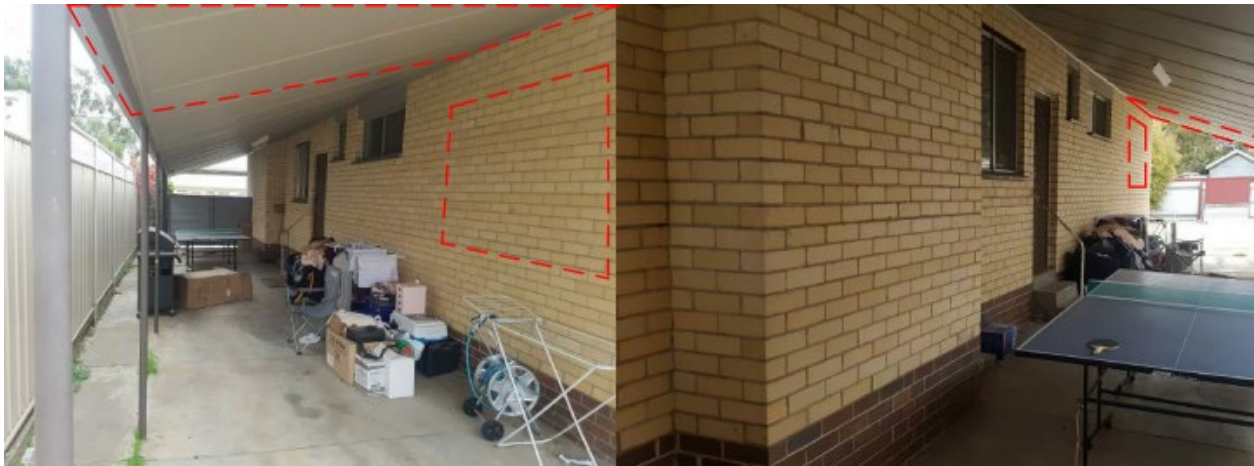
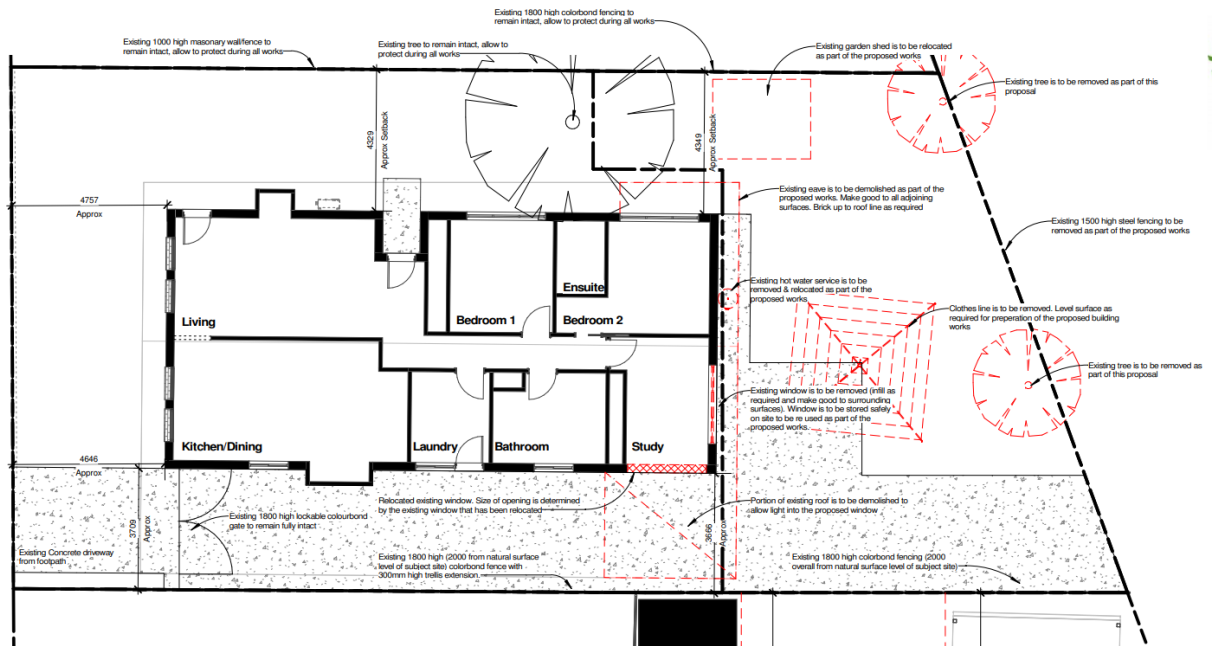
Proposal

The proposal seeks planning approval for a two lot subdivision, construction of a dwelling, partial demolition of existing dwelling and external alterations.

Demolition and Alterations to Existing Dwelling

The proposal seeks the demolition of an existing outbuilding, rear fence and gate, eaves on the south eastern side of existing dwelling, and southern corner of the existing roof structure.

As indicated in the images below, a window on the south eastern side of the existing dwelling is proposed to be relocated to the south western elevation and will be clear to the sky due to the proposed removal of the existing roof form in this area.



Development

The application seeks the development of a second dwelling on the site, presenting towards Hoskins Street.

The dwelling would be built to the street boundary, is proposed to be two storey and would contain the following layout:

Ground level:

- Open planned kitchen, dining and living
- Laundry
- Toilet
- Single car garage
- Storage

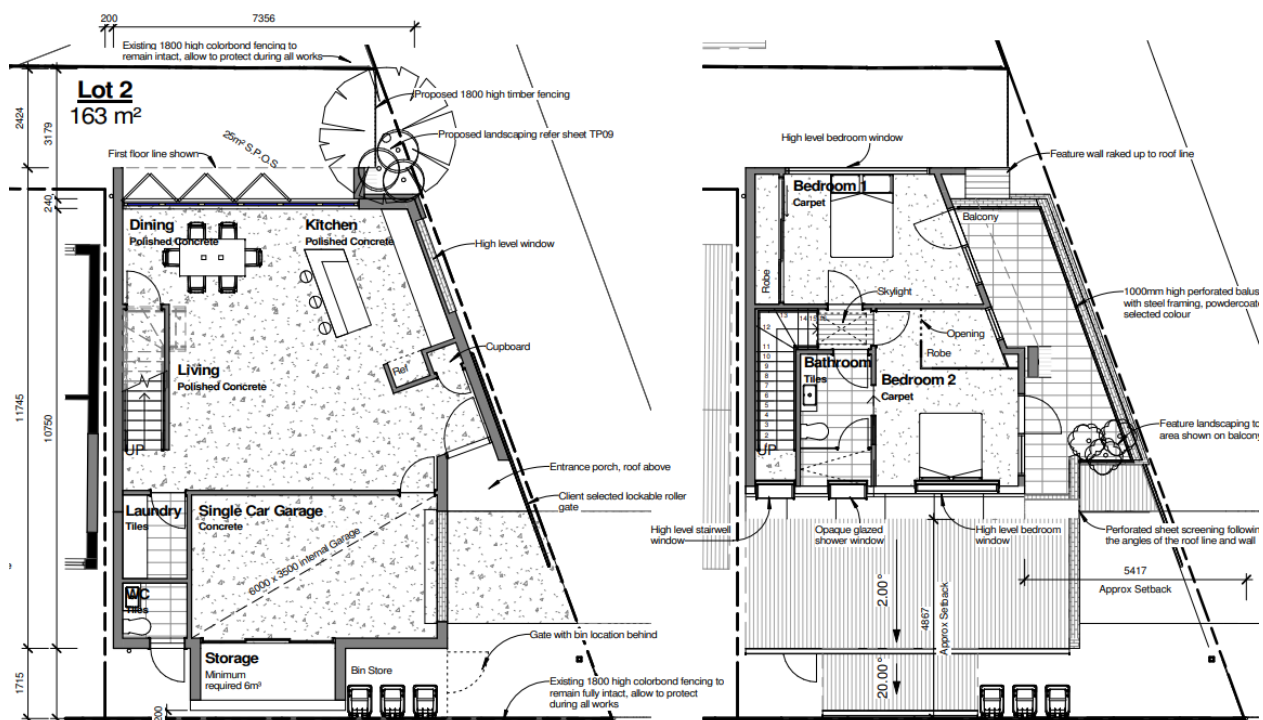
First level:

- Two bedrooms with built in robes
- Bathroom
- Balcony presenting to Hoskins Street

In total the dwelling will have an area of approximately 167 square metres.

The dwelling is proposed to be constructed of a mixture of materials including colourbond, weatherboard cladding, corten cladding and perforated screening and timber.

A new crossover will be created from Hoskins Street to provide access.



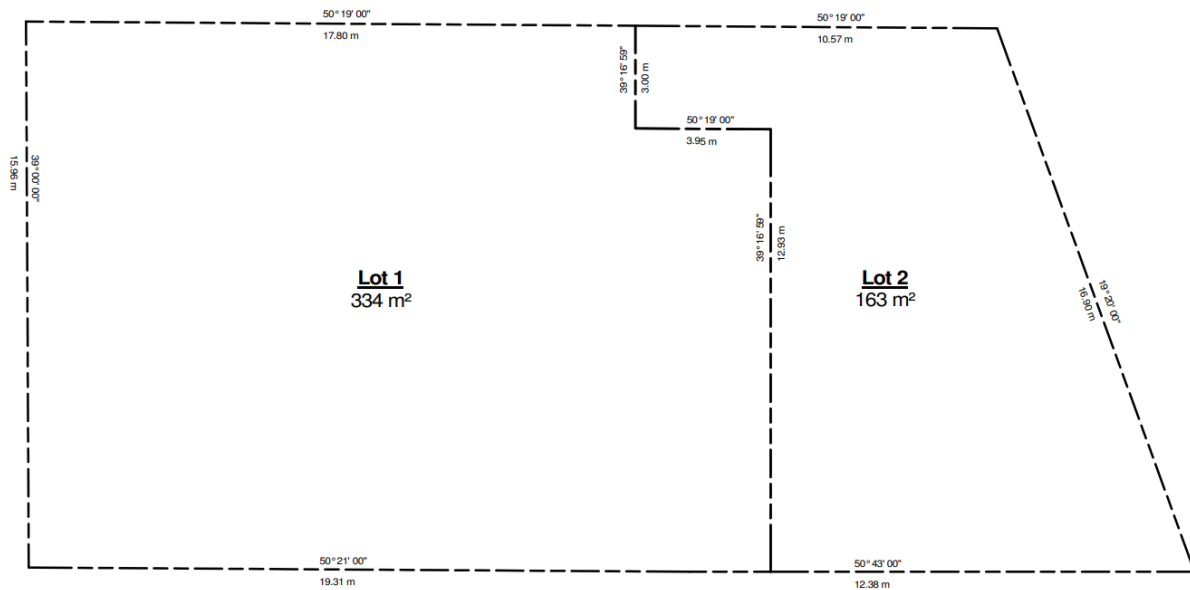


Subdivision

The application seeks to subdivide the site into two allotments.

Lot 1 will present towards Gladstone Street and have an area of 334 square metres and contain the existing dwelling.

Lot 2 will present towards Hoskins Street and have an area of 163 square metres, with the proposed dwelling located on this lot.



Planning Controls - Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme

The following clauses are relevant in the consideration of this proposal:

Planning Policy Framework

- 11.01-1R Settlement – Loddon Mallee South
- 5.01-1S Urban Design
- 15.01-2S Building Design
- 15.01-3S Subdivision Design
- 15.01-4S Healthy Neighbourhoods
- 15.01-5S Neighbourhood Character
- 15.03-1S Heritage Conservation
- 16.01-1S Integrated Housing
- 16.01-2S Location of Residential Development
- 16.01-3S Housing Diversity
- 16.01-4S Housing Affordability
- 18.02-4S Car Parking
- 19.03-3S Integrated Water Management
- 19.03-3R Integrated Water Management – Loddon Mallee South

Municipal Strategic Statement

- 21.04 Strategic Direction
- 21.05 Compact Greater Bendigo
- 21.08 Environment

Local Planning Policies

- 22.06 Heritage Policy
- 22.21 Quarry Hill Residential Character Policy

Other Provisions

- 32.08 General Residential Zone
- 43.01 Heritage Overlay 30
- 52.06 Car Parking
- 55 Two or More Dwellings on a Lot
- 56 Residential Subdivision

Consultation/Communication

Referrals

The following internal departments have been consulted on the proposal:

Referral	Comment
Traffic	No objection subject to conditions
Drainage	No objection subject to conditions

Referral	Comment
Heritage	Concern regarding the form and massing and its dominance on contributory buildings within the precinct. Visual bulk of the upper level does is not recessive and the lack of setback from the Hoskins Street boundary makes it appear as one more substantial building within the immediate streetscape, detracting from the heritage values of the place.

Public Notification

The application was advertised by way of notice on the site and letters to adjoining and nearby owners and occupiers.

As a result of advertising, two objections were received, with the grounds of objection being:

- Overshadowing
- Drainage
- Dwelling siting
- Overlooking
- Detrimental impact on neighbourhood character

The objections are discussed in the planning assessment below.

Planning Assessment

Does the proposal respond to the relevant provisions of the Planning Policy Framework and Municipal Strategic Statement?

The site at 41 Gladstone Street, Quarry Hill is identified as being within the urban growth boundary and in an integrated activity centre where additional residential development is encouraged due to access and proximity to services and infrastructure. Clause 21.05-4 also encourages development that provides greater choice in housing types and densities that respond to community needs.

There is no dispute that the site is appropriately located for higher density development on the edge of the city centre, in an area which contains reticulated services and is in close proximity to public transport, including the Bendigo Railway Station.

The ability to support additional / higher density development is not just limited to the above higher level principles but also the need to consider the site and surrounding context. In this instance the key aspects of particular consideration are the neighbourhood character and heritage value which are individually discussed later in this report.

Will there be an adverse impact on neighbourhood character as a result of this proposal?

The site is not identified as being within a Neighbourhood Character Overlay, however is included in Precinct 1 of the Quarry Hill Character Policy. The policy describes the area as:

The area forms an extension of the inner ring of suburbs that exemplify the distinctive character of early Bendigo. Some of it has an intimate 'cottage' character derived from the modest scale of the dwellings, the small garden setbacks, and the open front fences. Elsewhere, larger houses, particularly from the Edwardian, Inter war and later eras, produce a more 'middle' suburban character. Setbacks vary according to the size of lot and housing but are often consistent within a particular streetscape. Lots often extend from street to street. Some streets have mature trees, either exotic or native. Much of the area has heritage significance.

A response to the design objectives is provided below, however it is argued that a number of the objectives are not appropriately addressed by the proposed development and therefore an adverse impact will occur on the streetscape and broader context character as a result of the proposal.

Objectives	Response
To retain buildings that contribute to the valued character of the area.	Retain and restore wherever possible, intact Victorian, Edwardian, Federation and Interwar era dwellings. Alterations and extensions should be appropriate to the dwelling era.
<i>Comment: The proposal does not include the demolition, alteration or extension of any contributory buildings.</i>	
To maintain and strengthen the garden settings of the dwellings	Prepare a landscape plan to accompany all applications for new dwellings.
<i>Comment: Given the proposed site coverage, there is essentially no opportunity to provide a garden setting for the new or existing dwelling. Opportunities to provide for landscaping to soften the development within the streetscape are limited. A landscape plan has been submitted, however it further demonstrates the lack of landscaping availability on the lots.</i>	
To maintain the consistency, where present, of building front setbacks.	The front setback should be not less than the average setback of the adjoining two dwellings.
<i>Comment: The proposed dwelling is to front Hoskins Street, which is predominantly used as a rear laneway to gain access to lots which front Gladstone Street and Olinda Street. The adjoining dwelling to the south west at 10 Hoskins Street has a setback of approximately 1 metre to 3 metres. The proposed development will be built to the Hoskins Street property boundary. The dwelling on the adjoining lot to the north east fronts Gladstone Street. While there is no average setback that can be determined as a result of the street context, in this scenario the setback adopted at 10 Hoskins Street would be most appropriate to adopt given its frontage to the same street. The proposed dwelling will be built to the street boundary and will result in a</i>	

Objectives	Response
<i>high, solid presentation to the street. The reduced setback could be considered appropriate as there is no consistency in relation to front setbacks, however the high solid massing of the front presentation adds another dimension to the consideration of this objective and because of this the setback is not seen to be appropriate.</i>	
To maintain the rhythm of dwelling spacing.	Buildings should be off-set from one side boundary.
<i>Comment: The dwelling will have a setback of 2.4 metres from the north eastern boundary and will be built a minimum of 200 millimetres from the south western boundary. The proposal complies with the design objective.</i>	
To minimise the dominance of car storage facilities.	Locate garages and carports behind the line of the dwelling. Use rear access where possible.
<i>Comment: The proposed garage will be setback behind the line of the dwelling, however only has a minimum setback of approximately 2 metres from the street. Attached garages are not typically characteristic of dwellings in this precinct and the proposal takes away the opportunity for rear access to be provided to the existing dwelling.</i>	
To respect the identified heritage qualities of the streetscape or adjoining buildings.	Where the streetscape contains identified heritage buildings, reflect the dominant building forms in the street, including roof forms, in the new building design.
<i>Comment: The proposed dwelling does not reflect the dominant building forms in the street. The area is characterised predominantly by single storey development constructed of weatherboard or brick, with a high proportion of symmetrical and asymmetrical Victorian cottages. Dwellings typically have simple hipped or gabled roof forms with a pitch of 25-30 degrees, verandahs on front facades, and carports rather than garages, located at either the rear or side. The proposed dwelling will be two storeys with a low scale pitched and flat roof form built to the street boundary and an angled upper level presentation. The development is contemporary and while this can be supported in areas with heritage and character values in this instance the proposal does not seek to reflect elements of the heritage built form and will therefore become an obvious feature from a number of areas in the public realm.</i>	
To ensure that buildings and extensions do not dominate the streetscape.	Respect the predominant building height in the street and nearby properties. Where there is a predominance of single storey, the height of the dwelling at the front of the dwelling should match the typical single storey wall height.
<i>Comment: The predominant building height in the surrounding area is single storey. The proposed dwelling will be two storeys and while it does not sit significantly higher than the adjoining dwelling at 10 Hoskins Street, it appears to sit between approximately 1 metre to 3.5 metres higher than the existing dwelling on the site. Although the upper level is setback from the Hoskins Street frontage the corten balustrade extend forwards almost in line with the ground level wall, resulting in an</i>	

Objectives	Response
<i>enhanced sense of scale along the street. It is considered that the proposed height of the development will result in a dwelling that is not visually recessive and due to the multiple view lines is likely to dominate the streetscape.</i>	
To use building materials and finishes that complement the dominant pattern within the streetscape.	In streets dominated by weatherboard dwellings, use timber or other non-masonry cladding materials where possible, and render, bag or paint brick surfaces.
<i>Comment: The site is located within an area which contains a mixture of weatherboard and exposed brickwork. The application plans identify that the proposed dwelling will be constructed of brick, colorbond, weatherboard cladding and corten cladding. The materials are generally acceptable although the use of corten cladding does not appear to draw on any elements within the context of the streetscape.</i>	
To ensure front fences are appropriate to the era of the dwellings and maintain an openness to the streetscape.	Provide open style front fencing. Front fences should not exceed 1.2 metres other than in exceptional cases.
<i>Comment: In this instance the front fence will be predominantly formed by the ground level front wall, with a roller gate and matching small section of permanent fencing forming the balance of the frontage. At a minimum the fence will have a height of 1,800 millimetres and the only presentation at ground level is a high level window with a sill height of approximately 2,000 millimetres which will prevent any surveillance to the street from ground level. The streetscape does contain diversity in fencing due to its context, however the proposal fails to create a sense of openness to the streetscape.</i>	

Will there be an adverse impact on the heritage context of the area as a result of this proposal?

The site is identified as being with Heritage Overlay 30 (Quarry Hill Precinct). The precinct is significant for its high percentage of Edwardian and late Victoria-era housing. It has a strong period character and the sense of place is enhanced by picturesque views to and from its housing stock.

The dwelling on the application site was constructed outside the period of significance and is therefore considered a non-contributory building.

Clause 22.06 Heritage Policy sets out objectives and policy when it comes to considering demolition, subdivision and development and is supported by the Greater Bendigo Heritage Design Guidelines (referred to as design guidelines in this report), which is an incorporated document in the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme.

The new dwelling will be separated from the rear of the existing dwelling approximately 400 millimetres, is to be built to the Hoskins Street boundary and will be setback from the south western boundary a minimum of 200 millimetres.

Section 7 of the Design Guidelines identifies that subdivisions should maintain the setting and curtilage of the heritage place with the curtilage being in scale to the building. While each case will be assessed on its merits, taking into account the significance of the heritage place and size and siting of the existing dwelling, a curtilage of 3 metres to the rear is considered a minimum.

Although the existing dwelling is not identified as being a contributory property, providing a level of separation between built forms is still considered important. Not only is the proposed dwelling setback limited to approximately 400 millimetres, alterations are required to occur to the existing dwelling to facilitate the proposed dwelling, including the removal of eaves on the south western elevation, removal of part of the roof on the southern corner and relocation of a window.

The above suggests that not only is the separation provided inconsistent with the guidelines but it is also unreasonable due to the works required to even achieve this minimal separation.

In relation to the proposed development, consideration is required to be provided to setbacks, rhythm to the street, form and massing, height and scale, materials and finishes, architectural details, windows and door openings, fencing and car parking and landscaping.

The proposal is for a contemporary two storey dwelling which will present to Hoskins Street. The ground level will be denoted by a predominantly blank wall and high fence presentation while the upper level will provide a level of interactive presentation through the inclusion of a balcony.

While it is understood that the design of the dwelling has been drawn from the *service lane character of the street* (as described in the applicant's planning submission), it is not considered to appropriately respond to the Heritage Policy or Design Guidelines as:

- The development will sit forward of 10 Hoskins Street which presents the same way as the proposed development and contributes to the heritage context of the area.
- The area is characterised by development with gable and hipped roof forms. The proposed angled and flat roof form does not draw on any elements from within the streetscape or broader context.
- Dwelling heights in the area are predominantly single storey and while the development does not sit significantly higher than existing built form, the upper level results in an unacceptable level of massing and visual dominance which will not only be visible from Hoskins Street but surrounding streets including Kilwinning and Olinda Streets.
- The development does not appropriately take into account the size of the proposed allotment versus the extent of built form resulting in a proposal that appears to be squeezed on the site rather than creating an appropriately scaled infill development.

The current proposal represents an unacceptable outcome in respect to the heritage values of the area and the City of Greater Bendigo's Heritage Advisor does not support the proposal.

Does the proposal comply with ResCode (Clause 55 and 56)?

Clause 55 Two or More Dwellings on a Lot and Clause 56 Residential Subdivision apply to the application. A response to key relevant provisions has been provided below.

- *Clause 55.02-5 Integration with the Street*

The objective is to integrate the layout of development with the street.

The application seeks to develop a new dwelling at the rear of the site which will present to Hoskins Street. The existing dwelling will be retained on the site and continue to present towards Gladstone Street.

The development will result in essentially a solid high wall and fence at ground level which will not allow for passive surveillance or integration of the built form with the public realm.

While there will be visibility over the public realm from the upper level balcony, this area is accessed from bedrooms not the main living areas and therefore is likely to result in little engagement or surveillance.

The applicant has indicated that the high solid frontage at ground level *is a direct response to the laneway character of the rear of the site*, however it is contended that a more appropriate design response could have occurred to enhance the integration of this area of public realm.

- *Clause 55.03-1 Street Setback*

The objective is to ensure that the setbacks of buildings from a street respect the existing or preferred neighbourhood character and make efficient use of the site.

Where there is an existing building on an abutting allotment facing the same street and no existing building on the other abutting allotment facing the same street, and the site is not on a corner, the minimum setback from the street should be the same distance as the setback of the front wall of the existing building on the abutting allotment facing the street or 9 metres whichever is the lesser.

In this instance 10 Hoskins Street which adjoins the site to the south west fronts the same street as the proposed dwelling, although it is noted it does not sit parallel to the street. Due to this the established dwelling on this lot contains a setback between approximately 1 metre to 3 metres from the street, while the carport has a setback between approximately 0 metre to 3 metres.

The proposed dwelling will have a 0 metre setback from Hoskins Street which although matches the north eastern corner of the adjoining carport, does not align with the setback of the dwelling.

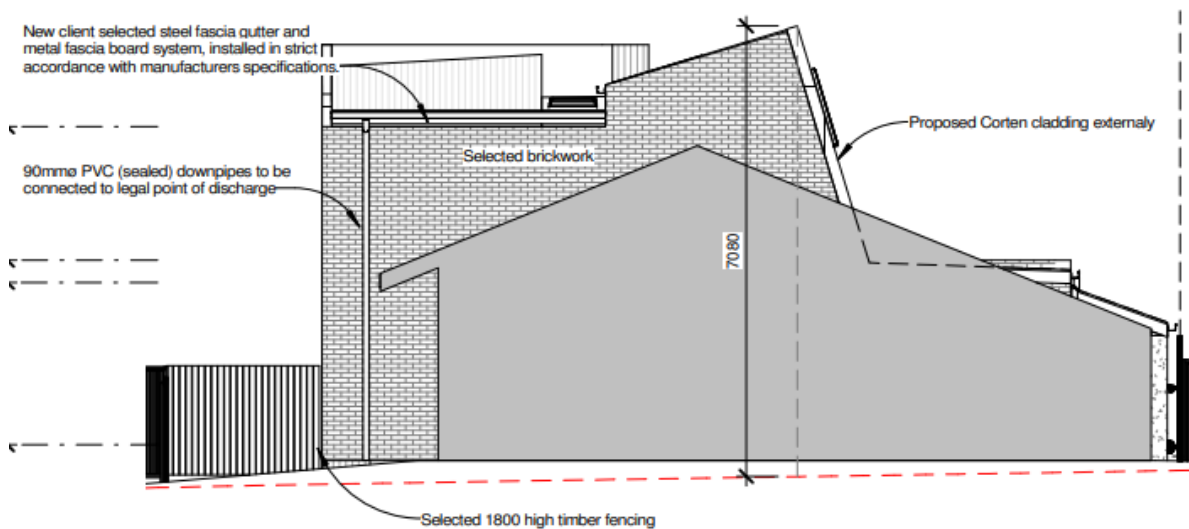
While it is acknowledged that there is some scope to vary the standard, providing a 0 metre setback allows little opportunity to improve the interaction between private and public space along the streetscape and does not represent the preferred character when redevelopment occurs.

- **Clause 55.03-2 Building Height**

The objective is to ensure that the height of buildings respects the existing or preferred neighbourhood character.

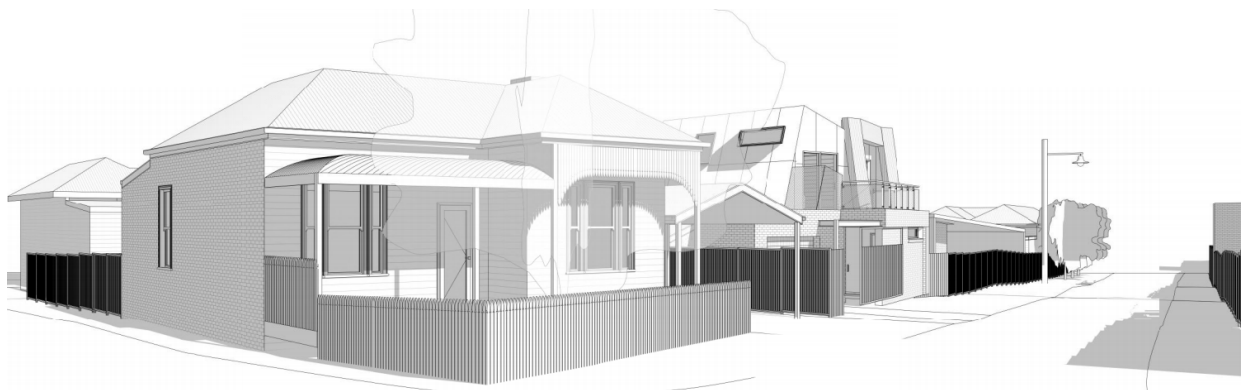
The proposal will result in the development of a new dwelling which will present to Hoskins Street and have a maximum height of approximately 7 metres which is less than the 9 metres allowable under this provision.

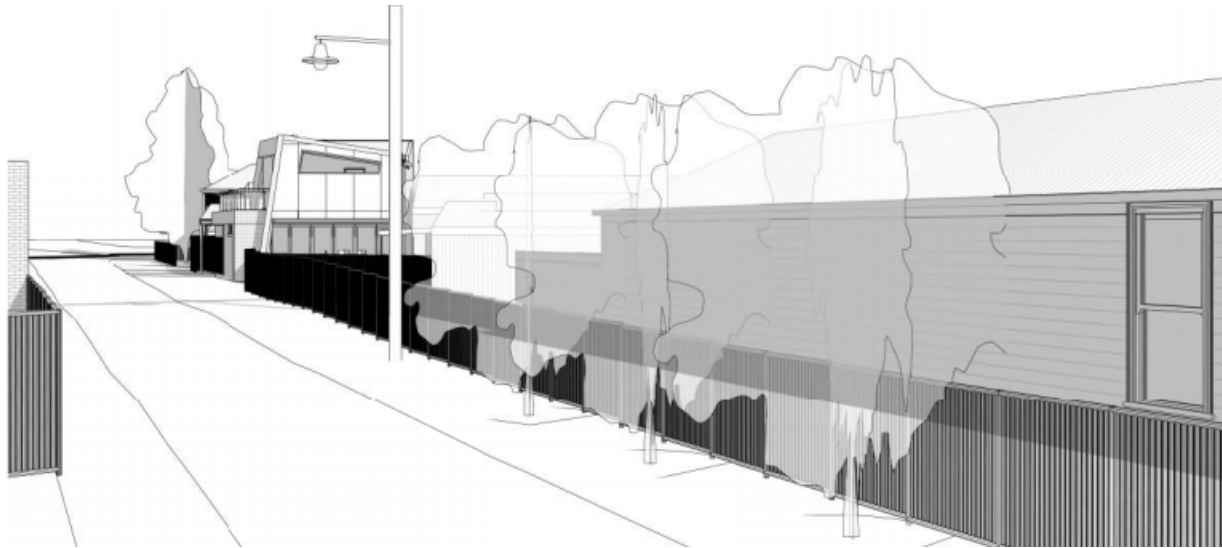
While the development does not exceed the maximum height, there is a variation in height between the existing dwelling on the site and adjoining development at 39 Gladstone Street which would result in the proposed dwelling becoming a somewhat dominate feature of the area due to its upper level design.



Proposed North West Elevations

Scale 1 : 100





There is concern that the upper level of this proposal will have an adverse impact on the neighbourhood character.

- *Clause 55.03-5 Energy Efficiency*

The objective is to achieve and protect energy efficient dwellings and residential buildings and to ensure the orientation and layout of development reduces fossil fuel energy use and makes appropriate use of daylight and solar energy.

The proposed dwelling has generally appropriately utilised the orientation of the site to maximise solar access and improve energy efficiency by including the open planned living, kitchen and dining and secluded private open space on the north eastern side of the lot.

- *Clause 55.03-7 Safety*

The objective is to ensure the layout of development provides for the safety and security of residents and property.

The proposed development will essentially result in a solid brick wall and high fence / gate along the Hoskins Street frontage at ground level with the dwelling entrance screened from the public realm.

This not only results in the potential creation of unsafe spaces within the frontage of the dwelling but reduces any form of passive surveillance at ground level from the development to the public realm.

While the proposed development will provide for the security of the property, a better design response could have also allowed for a level surveillance from the street for residents' safety.

- *Clause 55.04-1 Side and Rear Setbacks*

The objective is to ensure that the height and setback of a building from a boundary respects the existing or preferred neighbourhood character and limits the impact on the amenity of existing dwellings.

The setback of the side boundaries of the proposed dwelling comply with the requirements of this standard.

As the proposal is being assessed under Clause 55 (two or more dwellings on a lot), the common boundary between the existing and proposed dwellings does not count as a rear boundary and therefore cannot be assessed under this provision.

It is unfortunate that this assessment cannot take into account the height of the rear wall as it would not comply with the standard set out by this control in relation to height or respecting the neighbourhood character.

- *Clause 55.04-3 Daylight to Existing Windows*

The objective is to allow adequate daylight into existing habitable room windows.

The proposal complies with this provision due to the window at the rear of the existing dwelling being relocated to the south western elevation.

The fact that structural changes are required to the existing dwelling, including relocation of a window and removal of part of the roof to maintain appropriate daylight demonstrates the overdevelopment this proposal represents on the site.

The proposal will still allow for adequate daylight to habitable windows on adjoining properties.

- *Clause 55.04-5 Overshadowing Open Space*

The objective is to ensure buildings do not significantly overshadow existing secluded private open space.

Amended plans were submitted through the course of the application to ensure that overshadowing on adjoining properties as a result of this proposal complies with this standard.

The upper level was shifted towards the north eastern boundary which has resulted in the development having a negligible impact in regards to overshadowing for the property at 10 Hoskins Street.

- *Clause 55.04-6 Overlooking*

The objective is to limit views into existing secluded private open space and habitable room windows.

Overlooking at ground level will be prevented by the existing fences on the site. The upper level windows will have a sill height above 1,700 millimetres and the balcony has been designed to look over the public realm versus secluded private open space and habitable room windows to ensure there are no impacts from overlooking.

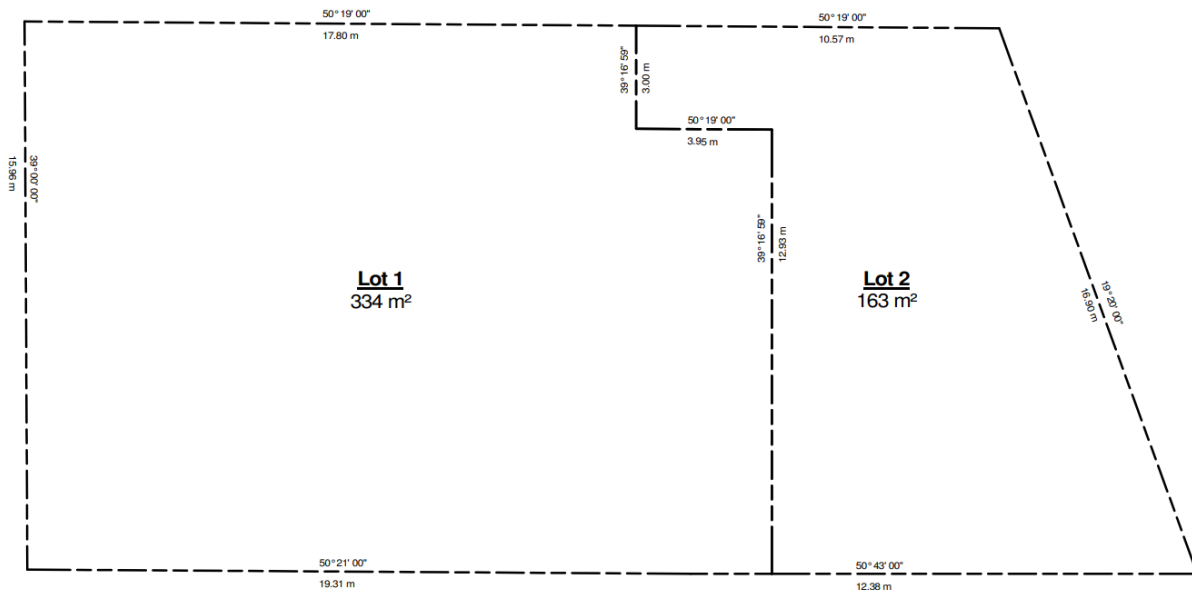
- *Clause 56.04-2 Lot Area and Building Envelopes*

The objective is to provide lots with areas and dimensions that enable the appropriate siting and construction of a dwelling, solar access, private open space, vehicle access and parking, water management, easements and the retention of significant vegetation and site features.

The proposal seeks to subdivide the site into two allotments. Lot 1 will present towards Gladstone Street and have an area of 334 square metres and contain the existing dwelling.

Lot 2 will present towards Hoskins Street and would have an area of 163 square metres. The proposed dwelling would be located on this lot. As shown in the plan below, the lot is an irregular shape with a maximum width of 12.38 metres.

Development plans have been prepared to accompany this application and while it is acknowledged that they demonstrate that the matters set out in this objective can generally be provided for on the proposed allotment, it is contended that the development does not constitute appropriate siting due to the minimal separation from the existing dwelling and built form to the street boundary.



There are a number of matters that the proposal does comply with under ResCode. The assessment demonstrates that the subdivision and development do not appropriately take into consideration matters around integration with the street, safety, street setback and creation of a lot to facilitate appropriate development.

Conclusion

While the application site is located within a serviced area in close proximity to the Bendigo City Centre and public transport, the proposal represents an unacceptable design outcome and would result in unreasonable impacts on the character and heritage value of the area.

Options

Council, acting as the responsible authority for administering the Planning Scheme, may resolve to: grant a permit, grant a permit with conditions, or refuse to grant a permit.

Attachments

- Objections

3. WELLBEING AND FAIRNESS

3.1 DRAFT GREATER BENDIGO'S FOOD SYSTEM STRATEGY

Document Information

Author Rebecca Huddy, Food Systems Officer

Responsible Director Vicky Mason, Director Health and Wellbeing

Purpose

This report seeks Council endorsement to release the draft of Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy for public exhibition. The draft Strategy will guide the actions of the City, partner organisations and groups working to strengthen and support Greater Bendigo's food system over the next 10 years.

Summary

A draft of Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy 2020-2030 (the draft Strategy) has been prepared and is ready to be released for public exhibition. The Strategy will guide the actions of organisations and groups working to strengthen and support Greater Bendigo's food system over the next 10 years.

The draft Strategy has been developed with the support from an internal working group and external reference group who provided impartial local food system advice and expertise. The external reference group is made up of key local food system stakeholders.

Community engagement activities took place across a three month period (March – June 2019). Over 1000 people were engaged with through a combination of methods including an online survey, stakeholder workshop, face-to-face meetings, telephone interviews, listening posts, engagement stalls, focus groups and community sessions. Following the engagement process, Greater Bendigo's Food System Issues and Opportunities Report 2019 was created to help inform the development of the Strategy. Both the internal working group and external reference group have endorsed the draft Strategy.

The draft Strategy incorporates the One Planet Living Principles and identifies a shared vision, guiding principles and key actions for the City, partner organisations and groups over the next 10 years. Strategy actions are guided by the following four strategic objectives:

- 1) Enable communities to access safe, affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and drinks
- 2) Strengthen and support a sustainable local food economy that enables the growth, production and sale of healthy food locally

- 3) Support local food growing and producing, sourcing, cooking and sharing knowledge, skills and culture
- 4) Reduce and divert food waste from landfill

Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy 2020-2030 is a multi-stakeholder initiative, with actions being led and supported by a range of organisations and community groups, along with City of Greater Bendigo.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council agree to:

1. Release the draft Greater Bendigo Food System Strategy for a period of four weeks (month of February) for community review and feedback; and
2. Receive a further report, informed by the community feedback, with a final Greater Bendigo Food System Strategy for consideration.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Alden, Seconded Cr Metcalf.

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

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### **Policy Context**

Local Governments have been shown to be a key partner in many municipalities across Australia to support and provide leadership in food systems advocacy through strategy, policy, projects and programs. There is increasing awareness of how local government can demonstrate leadership and support to provide environments where food systems are strengthened and supported to improve community health and wellbeing.

The City's work and role in this area is also determined by relevant Victorian policy. The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 highlights Council's role in planning for the health and wellbeing of the municipality. The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023 priority areas 'tackling climate change and its impact on health', 'improving mental wellbeing' and 'increasing healthy eating' directly support the development of Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy.

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

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

|                |                                                                 |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Goal #2        | <u>Wellbeing and fairness</u>                                   |
| Objective #2.1 | Create a much healthier Greater Bendigo                         |
| Objective #2.2 | Promote positive wellbeing across the Greater Bendigo community |
| Objective #2.3 | Promote community connection                                    |

- Objective #2.4 Support participation and development for residents of all ages and abilities
- Objective #2.5 Create safe and resilient communities
- Goal #5 Environmental Sustainability
- Objective #5.1 Drawing on the one planet living framework to connect the health of the natural environment to the health and prosperity of our community

*Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 ([link](#))*

- Goal #1 Healthy and Well
- Objective Promote Healthy lifestyles (healthy eating)  
Promote positive mental wellbeing
- Goal #2 Able to participate
- Objective #3 Reduce socio-economic disadvantage by increasing access to and affordability of nutritious food
- Goal #5 Liveable
- Objective Promote environmental sustainability and resilience to a changing climate
- Objective Facilitate supportive built and natural environments

Strategy Reference:

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

Action Area Local and sustainable food

Action #5.1 Support quality commercial scale agriculture and horticulture

Action #5.2 Support local urban food production and food sharing

Sub-action 5.2.1 Explore opportunities to develop a food policy and regional food strategy that coordinates a broad range of themes, including healthy eating and the Greater Bendigo Food Hub

Action #5.3 Support and promote Traditional Owner food harvesting

Objective #5.4 Raise awareness of the benefits of home gardening and local fresh food

Regional Strategic Plan Reference:

*Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2015-2018 ([link](#))*

- Strategic Direction #1 Foster our comparative advantages in agriculture, food processing and other regionally significant industries
- Strategic Direction #3 Enhance the wellbeing and economic participation of our people
- Strategic Direction #4 Protect and enhance the liveability and appeal of our region

## Background Information

The food system includes all of the steps it takes to get food (and drink) on our plate. This includes how food and drinks are grown and produced, processed, packaged and distributed, marketed, sold, consumed and then disposed of. A local food system aims to create a more direct link between producers and consumers, through the food system stages. A strong local food system not only has health and environmental benefits, but also benefits local economies through job creation, greater investment in local businesses and increased farm viability.

Levels of food insecurity have increased over the past two decades, contributing to an increased prevalence of diet-related disease and placing a severe burden on our health system. Dietary risk factors (such as eating too many foods high in fat and sugar and not enough fruit and vegetables), combined with being overweight or obese is now the major contributor to the disease burden in Australia (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2019). Within Greater Bendigo, the rates of food insecurity (6.96%) and residents classed as either overweight or obese (60.3%) are higher than the Victorian state average (6.22% and 50.8% respectively). Within Greater Bendigo, the rate of overweight and obese adults has increased significantly (7%) since the 2014 Victorian Population Health Survey.

Our current globalised food system creates multiple challenges for society. This includes year-round access to seasonal foods which are transported long distances; purchasing from a small number of large retailers and buying more processed foods with less nutritional value. This system creates a disconnect between the community and local producers and makes it easier for people to consume foods without developing food growing and preparation skills for themselves.

Current food system processes are responsible for a major share of greenhouse gas emissions. Looking at our entire food system provides an opportunity to prepare for a changing climate. The latest 'State of the Climate' report from the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO (2018) confirms that we are experiencing hotter temperatures, fewer frosts, lower rainfall and extreme fire weather and floods due to human induced climate change. This will affect local food production, including which foods can be grown locally. Reducing emissions associated with food production, processing, storage and transportation has the potential to slow climate change.

A key action in the Greater Bendigo Environment Strategy Action Plan 2017-2021 is to 'explore opportunities to develop a food policy and regional food strategy that coordinates a broad range of themes, including healthy eating and the Greater Bendigo Food Hub'. The Greater Bendigo Environment Strategy also identifies the importance of choosing locally grown, unprocessed, seasonal food as the most effective way to reduce our environmental footprint, eat healthily and support the local economy; key objectives of Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy.

Although the City has been involved in food systems work for many years such as Healthy Together Bendigo's Food Security Report, undertaking a Greater Bendigo Food Hub Feasibility Study; participating in the State of Greater Bendigo's Local Food Economy pilot study by Sustain: The Australian Food Network; leading by auspicing the first Australian Community Food Hubs conference and recently embedding food policy into the City's Environment Strategy, the Community and the Health and Wellbeing Plans; currently there is no strategic framework guiding the City's (and partner organisations and groups) work to strengthen and support Greater Bendigo's food system.

Previous Council Decision(s) Date(s):

Council adopted the Greater Bendigo Environment Strategy on 31 August 2016.

Council released the draft Community Gardens Policy for public exhibition for a period of four weeks on 16 October 2019.

## **Report**

The draft strategy provides a strategic framework and actions that will strengthen and support Greater Bendigo's Food System (and community health and wellbeing) over the next 10 years.

The draft Strategy was developed by:

- Establishing an internal working group and external reference group
- Reviewing key recommendations of previous food system reports and Strategies (i.e. Healthy Together Bendigo Food Security Report 2014, The State of Greater Bendigo's local food economy: a pilot study 2017; Greater Bendigo's Environment Strategy 2017-2021)
- Food systems research i.e. current issues and opportunities, current food system initiatives occurring nationally and internationally
- Engaging with key stakeholders across the community (over 1000) to understand their ideas, issues and concerns related to Greater Bendigo's food system via stakeholder workshops, listening posts, face to face interactions, presentations and discussions at committee meetings, telephone interviews and an online survey
- Developing Greater Bendigo's Food System Issues and Opportunities Report
- Developing a draft of Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy 2020-2030

Details on key findings from the engagement process are detailed in the consultation/communication section of this report. The internal working group and external reference groups contributed to developing a shared vision and objectives for the Strategy during working and reference group meetings.



The draft Strategy takes a systems approach to the issues with the Greater Bendigo food system, acknowledging that the City cannot deliver solutions on its own, but rather needs to work with our partners and leverage them to influence the food system at differing points in the system where it is not the City's domain to intervene. This is reflected in the action plan, with 31 partners committed to either leading or supporting action/s in response to the broader issues within the local food system.

The draft vision is:

*Greater Bendigo's food system is healthy, equitable and sustainable and supports the local economy, culture and health and wellbeing of our communities.*

The draft strategy is guided by the following principles:

- Healthy - a healthy food system that promotes the health of people and enhances the natural environment
- Equitable - an equitable food system that makes nutritious and culturally appropriate food accessible and affordable to everyone across our communities
- Sustainable - a sustainable food system that strengthens our local economy and builds the capacity and resilience of our communities

The draft Strategy works across four strategic objectives:

- 1) Enable communities to access safe, affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and drinks
- 2) Strengthen and support a sustainable local food economy that enables the growth, production and sale of healthy food locally
- 3) Support local food growing and producing, sourcing, cooking and sharing knowledge, skills and culture
- 4) Reduce and divert food waste from landfill

For a list of key actions, please see Appendix 1 (Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy 2020-2030)

#### Priority/Importance:

Continuing the City's work towards a better local food system is an essential component of the delivery of the City's role as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. The Greater Bendigo and region's core gastronomy themes are:

- A 40,000 year old sustainable food system through the Dja Dja Wurrung people and the need to heal the landscape following colonisation and gold mining
- The creativity and innovation of the community and of our food producers
- Health and nutrition and the role of food in inclusion and community wellbeing
- The importance of developing a sustainable food system in an era of climate change.

### Options/Alternatives:

Council has the option to release the draft Food System Strategy for community review and feedback or alternatively seek amendments or further information from officers prior to releasing it on public exhibition.

### Timelines:

Food System Strategy Project Proposal: October 2018  
Food System Strategy Project Brief: November 2018  
Community Engagement Plan: January 2019  
Councillor Briefing (Information): March 2019  
Community Consultation: March – June 2019  
Greater Bendigo's Issues and Opportunities Report: July 2019  
Councillors Briefing (Issues and Opportunities Report): August 2019  
Draft Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy: October 2019  
Councillor Briefing: December 2019  
Ordinary Meeting: January 2020  
Public Exhibition: February 2020

### Risk Analysis:

The City has engaged extensively with the community and key food system stakeholders. A Food System Strategy Reference Group has also been established. There has been a strong contribution to the process by this group and an appreciation of the need for a regional strategy to guide the City and key partners work to strengthen and support Greater Bendigo's food system. Releasing the draft Strategy for public exhibition provides an opportunity for the community to provide further comment before the Strategy is refined and finalised for Council to adopt. It also provides an opportunity for those who didn't participate in the first round of engagement to have their say.

There is a risk that the community's focus has not been accurately reflected in the draft Strategy and by releasing the draft Strategy for community review and feedback this risk should be mitigated.

By not releasing the draft strategy for comment, development of the Strategy will be delayed, leaving the City and partner organisations without any current strategic directions for food system investment and a reduced ability to seek funding from external sources.

## **Consultation/Communication**

### Internal Consultation:

An internal Project Working Group has provided oversight and expertise throughout the development of the draft strategy. Representation on the Project Working Group includes representations from the following business units:

- Active and Healthy Lifestyles
- Regional Sustainable Development
- Community Wellbeing

- Community Partnerships
- Parks and Open Space
- Safe and Healthy Environments
- Resource Recovery and Education
- Tourism and Major Events
- Healthy Heart of Victoria
- Healthy GREATER Bendigo

#### External Consultation:

A three month community engagement process was undertaken from March – June 2019. Engagement activities and participation included:

- Six schools including engagement with teachers, parents and students in both low and high SES areas
- Over 700 people through community listening posts, engagements stalls and community activities
- Almost 300 responses to the online survey
- 60 people attended the stakeholder workshop, with each element of the food system represented at the event
- Eight presentations and discussions at relevant committee meetings
- 11 farmers / producers via a telephone interview, online surveys and workshops
- 73 representatives from organisations and businesses via the online survey
- 20 community groups via the online survey and face-to-face meetings
- 23 representatives from Hospitals and Health Services
- Seven food distributors / emergency food relief agencies
- 20 food service providers / food retailers
- Representatives from six sporting facilities and clubs
- 60 City staff at a project 'drop in session'
- Four multicultural and Indigenous groups at group sessions and meetings

Key data obtained from the general community included the following questions and answers:

#### **Question: What would make it easier for people to grow/produce food in Greater Bendigo?**

The most common responses included:

- Education: basic food growing workshops; what to plant and when in our hot dry climate
- Increasing access to materials that will assist people to grow food (i.e. subsidies for compost, raised garden beds, cheaper water)
- Funding support for schools to set up kitchen garden programs
- Protecting agricultural land
- Projects (i.e. seed library, urban agriculture)

**Question: What would help residents eat more healthy fresh food?**

The most common responses included:

- Increasing healthy snack and takeaway options and limiting unhealthy options (making healthy choices the easy choice)
- Education: teaching people how to cook with fresh produce (in ELC's, schools and community settings), teaching kids about 'paddock-plate-paddock' food system cycle
- Growing your own food
- More food events celebrating fresh, local produce and our diverse food culture
- Making healthy food cheaper than unhealthy food
- Changing attitudes and behaviours of residents

**Question: What food system issue matters to you the most?**

The most common responses included:

- Food waste
- Lack of healthy fast food / healthy snacks available
- Use of chemicals in food production
- Not enough access to locally produced food
- Food in unrecyclable packaging
- Seasonal eating
- Not knowing how to cook with fresh food

**Question: What are some changes you would like to see in our local food system?**

The most common responses included:

- More food grown locally – food grown in schools, community gardens, orchards
- More local produce utilised locally – sold at Farmers Markets and local supermarkets, used in cafes and restaurants, cooked with in school kitchen garden programs
- Strengthen connections and relationships between farmers / producers, schools and the general community
- Less unhealthy fast food, more healthy options available
- More information and education on how to cook with fresh produce

The Food System Strategy Reference Group has been established with diverse representation from across Greater Bendigo's food system. The Reference Group is made up of representatives from the following businesses and organisations:

- City of Greater Bendigo
- Healthy GREATER Bendigo
- Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnership
- Bendigo Community Health Services
- Bendigo Health
- Coliban Water
- Bendigo Foodshare
- Bendigo Regional Food Alliance Inc.

- Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services
- Be.Bendigo
- Jenny's Early Learning Centre
- Bendigo Kangan TAFE (Food and Fibre Centre of Excellence)
- Bridgeward Grove
- Barfold Estate

The Reference Group has provided input into the draft vision, guiding principles, objectives and actions. Additional food system stakeholders were engaged with following the development of Greater Bendigo's Food System Issues and Opportunities Report to directly inform the draft Strategy, including:

| <b>Stakeholder</b>                                     | <b>Outcome/s</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bendigo Manufacturing Group (food manufacturers)       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invited to provide comment to the Issues and Opportunities report multiple times</li> <li>• Provide further opportunities for feedback through public exhibition phase</li> </ul> |
| Bendigo Agricultural Show Society Inc.                 | Leading three strategy actions                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to key strategy actions</li> <li>• May be able to include the UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy logo on final strategy</li> </ul>                                   |
| Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership                   | Leading a key strategy action                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Healthy Eating Advisory Service (Nutrition Australia)  | Supporting a key strategy action                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation          | Supporting a key strategy action                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| La Trobe University Bendigo (Public Health Department) | Positive feedback received and recommendation to contact the Bendigo Student Association Inc. regarding opportunities                                                                                                      |
| Bendigo Student Association Inc.                       | Leading a key strategy action                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Central Victorian Agribusiness Forum                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to provide feedback to Issues and Opportunities Report</li> <li>• Addition of work in Appendix 3</li> </ul>                                                           |
| Agriculture Victoria                                   | Addition of several projects in Appendix 3                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Heathcote Community Capacity Builders Group            | Briefing to group, group to review the draft strategy during public exhibition phase                                                                                                                                       |

## Resource Implications

### Budget Allocation in the Current Financial Year:

Food System Officer (fixed-term position until 30 June 2020)

**Previous Council Support:**

The development and design of the Strategy has been led by the Food Systems Officer, who was appointed for 18/19 and 19/20 to deliver this (and other) work following a successful budget bid.

**Projected costs for future financial years:**

It is anticipated that the final strategy will have financial and resource implications. The Strategy will provide the guidance to officers to assist in identifying and prioritising future food system projects, which will need to be assessed as part of the annual budget process if funding is required.

A budget bid has been submitted as part of the 20/21 budget process for the recruitment of an ongoing Food Systems Officer to coordinate the implementation and evaluation of Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy.

**Attachments**

1. Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy 2020-2030
2. Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy Strategic Summary

### 3.2 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LOANS SCHEME

#### Document Information

**Author** Aaron Lindsay/Karoline Klein/ Ryan Kienhuis

**Responsible** Debbie Wood

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#### Purpose

To seek Council endorsement of an application for the State Government's Community Infrastructure Loan Scheme (CILS) to fund open space development works in Rosalind Park.

#### Summary

The Victorian State Government has announced a \$100M Community Infrastructure Loans Scheme (CILS) to support local governments in funding community infrastructure. The scheme provides low interest rate loans of between \$0.5M and \$10M.

The City of Greater Bendigo has submitted an application for the design and construction of the Municipal Baths project in Rosalind Park.

If successful construction works would be able to undertaken within the 2021-22 financial year.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council apply to the 2019 Community Infrastructure Loans Scheme to fund the construction of the Municipal Baths development Project.

#### **RESOLUTION**

Moved Cr Metcalf, Seconded Cr Pethybridge.

That the recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

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Policy Context

Community Plan Reference:

City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021:

Goal 2 Wellbeing and fairness: Inclusive policies, advocacy, partnerships and projects that improve participation and opportunities for equity and health. Increasing access and building better connections and quality of life for all”.

Objectives “- Create a much healthier Greater Bendigo
 - Promote positive wellbeing across the Greater Bendigo community
 - Promote community connection
 - Support participation and development for residents of all ages and abilities
 - Create safe and resilient communities”

Annual Action
 Plan 19/20 “Complete the design for the Old Municipal Baths in Rosalind
 Action 61 Park”.

Strategy Reference:

Rosalind Park Recreation Reserve Precinct Master Plan

<https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/About/Document-Library/rosalind-park-master-plan>

Under Chapter 7.6, p.98, Aquatic Centre & Former Municipal Baths, Proposal 1: *Creation of parkland water body feature:*

“Opening the Former Municipal Baths site to public access, including the provision of boardwalks, barbecue shelters, pathways, trees and lawn.”

Greater Bendigo Public Space Plan – Part 4 – Precinct Plans

<https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/About/Document-Library/greater-bendigo-public-space-plan-parts-4-5>

p. 15 + 18, Bendigo Precinct Plan, item 3, Rosalind Park

“Continue to implement the Rosalind Park Recreation Reserve Precinct Masterplan 2014”

Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017 – 2020

<https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/Services/Strategic-Planning/Strategic-Planning-Projects/Public-Health-and-Wellbeing-Plan-2017-2021>

Under its Goal 5 – “Liveable” - the plan states the importance of access to the natural environments, promoting an active lifestyle and increasing resilience to climate change as important contributing factors to improved public health outcomes.

Background Information

The former Municipal Baths site is located in upper Rosalind Park adjacent to the Faith Leech Aquatic Centre. The site features a wetland which is surrounded by dense vegetation/ The site is currently not accessible to the public, with tall fencing surrounding the area.

The Rosalind Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan (2014) recommended the redevelopment of the former Municipal Baths to a high quality publically accessible park land.

The completion of design and documentation has been included as a priority project for Council in 2019-20. The detailed design for the project is underway.

The Community Infrastructure Loan Scheme (CILS) provides an opportunity to offset the final design stage and to fund the construction phase of the project.

Report

A condition of the CILS program is that Council provides a resolution approving the application. If the application to the CILS program is successful, Council will include the project and associated loan funding for inclusion in the 2020-21 budget.

Priority/Importance:

High – loan agreement will not be progressed without Council resolution. To meet the funding application timelines a Council resolution is required by the end of January.

Options/Alternatives:

If the funding application is rejected (by Council or DEWLP) the Municipal Baths parkland refurbishment works will be returned for consideration in the to the ordinary budget process/Capital Expenditure funding pipeline.

Alternative external funding can be sought with future grants opportunities.

For both of the above two alternative funding options it is expected that the refurbishing works will be postponed for several financial years

Timelines:

a) CILS funding application

The funding prospectus states the following timelines

Loans Scheme applications closed: 2pm, 29 November 2019

Assessment and decision making: December 2019 – January 2020

Announcements: February 2020

Loan Agreements executed: From February 2020

The scheme requires projects to commence within 18 months, and be delivered within 36 months from execution of the project delivery agreement.

b) Municipal Bath Design and Construction Timelines
Concept Design Phase

- Project inception – late Jan. 2020
- Approved draft concept design – mid April 2020
- Community consultation – mid April to early May
- Finalised concept – June 2020

Detailed Design Phase:

- Design development – Jul-Aug 2020
- Contract documentation – Sept-Dec 2020

Construction (subject to funding)

- Public construction tender/construction contract awarded by June 2021
- Construction phase July 2021 – June 2022.

Risk Analysis:

Economic

- Successful application of this loan may preclude Council from significant investment elsewhere.
- Successful application of this loan will have some impact on Council's debt sustainability ratios; however, this is not expected to move the ratios above the current rating of low risk.

Consultation/Communication

Internal Consultation:

The funding application has been discussed at the EMT meeting on 19 November 2019.

External Consultation:

N/A

Resource Implications

Budget Allocation in the Current Financial Year:

The 2019/20 financial year includes a \$67,000 carry forward of the 2018/19 budget allocation of \$100,000.

Any known or anticipated variance to budget:

In case the CILS funding is not received, there is a design fee shortfall of approx. \$60,000 for the 2019/20 financial year (concept design phase). A further \$120,000 in design fees will be required in 2020/21 to complete detailed documentation.

Projected costs for future financial years:

Project costs for future financial years would consist of the loan interest repayments. While considerably less than the interest that would be incurred with a typical bank loan outside the CILS program.

Any ongoing recurrent expenditure required:

Ongoing recurrent expenditure for this project would consist of repairs and maintenance to the project infrastructure, parks and gardens crew wages, utilities such as electricity, gas and water, and depreciation of assets. These recurrent costs are yet to be estimated.

Attachments to the Business Paper only

1. Rosalind Park Master Plan Excerpt
2. Municipal Baths OPC (Internal Costing Document)
3. Municipal Baths Project Budget
4. Community Infrastructure Loans Scheme (funding guidelines)
5. CILS application submitted

3.3 WOLSTENCROFT RESERVE MASTER PLAN ADOPTION

Document Information

Author Aaron Lindsay, Coordinator Public Space Design

Responsible Director Debbie Wood, Director Presentation and Assets

PURPOSE

To present the Wolstencroft Reserve Master Plan to Council for adoption including a summary of the community engagement process and submissions.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council having considered the submissions received in regard to the draft Master Plan resolve to:

1. Adopt the Wolstencroft Reserve Master Plan;
2. Propose the closure to traffic on Havlin Street East between Rodney Street and 65 Havlin Street East in accordance with Schedule 11 Clause 9 of the Local Government Act 1989, subject to a satisfactory outcome from a public consultation process conducted in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989;
3. Authorise public notice of Council's intention to close the road to traffic in accordance with section 223;
4. Appoint a committee of three Councillors, to consider any submissions made and report to the whole Council and;
5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to carry out any administrative procedures necessary to ensure that Council complies with its obligations under section 223.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Hawke, Seconded Cr Alden.

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

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## SUMMARY OF REPORT

The development of the Master Plan for Wolstencroft Reserve has concluded and is now ready to be adopted by Council. After the four week community engagement period 185 submissions were received with most in strong support of the plan.

### Key Themes

- There was overwhelming support for the draft master plan by submitters with many keen to get construction work started as soon as possible.
- The options to close Havlin Street East or install traffic calming measures in the road generated the most comments with:
  - 114 submissions agreeing with the closure
  - 37 preferring the traffic calming option
  - 34 making no comment.
- There was interest for the inclusion of toilet facilities and public barbecues.

## RELEVANT POLICY OR STRATEGY

The Wolstencroft Reserve Master Plan responds to:

- Community Plan 2017-2021, Goal 4. “Presentation and managing growth” Actions: “Ensure open spaces are accessible and fit for purpose”
- Public Space Plan 2018, Part 4 Precinct Plans, recommends “Update the Wolstencroft Reserve Master Plan 2008 to include findings from an environmental assessment and seek to implement the redevelopment”

## DRAFT MASTER PLAN ENGAGEMENT

The draft master plan was released to the public on Monday 16 September for four weeks and closed on Friday 11 October. The draft plan was presented in a bulletin format and circulated to the community by the following methods:

- A bulletin with a reply paid feedback form sent to 3000 households within an approximately 800m radius of the reserve.
- A webpage on Councils website with online feedback form
- A media release to local media resulting in an interview with local ABC
- A series of social media posts

Three drop in sessions were held at the reserve on Monday 23 September, Saturday 5 October and Tuesday 8 October.

### Community Reference Group

The development of a new master plan commenced in April 2019 with input from a Community Reference Group (the Group). The Group was chaired by former Cr Wrigglesworth with six community representatives and Council staff from Public Space Design, Community Engagement, Engineering and the Director of Presentation and Assets. The Group has met four times and has provided input into the preparation of the project brief, engagement plan and draft master plan.

The CRG unanimously agreed with the draft master plan's vision for the reserve but were divided on the road options of closure or traffic calming and asked for both of these options to be included in the community engagement process.

A final meeting with the Community Reference Group was undertaken on Thursday 14 November to present the summary of the public submissions received during the draft master plan community engagement and discuss the proposed changes to the master plan. The meeting was chaired by Mayor O'Rourke with two committee members not in attendance.

Whilst all CRG participants were happy with the plans for the reserve the recommendation to close Havlin Street East was not agreed to unanimously.

### Internal Consultation

A Project Control Group with representatives from Parks and Open Space, Active and Healthy Lifestyles, Property Services, Engineering and Community Partnerships met four times during the development of the master plan to ensure it addresses each unit's respective requirements.

## **REPORT**

The engagement process was extensive with a total of 185 submissions as a result of the exhibition period and promotional activities. The submissions showed substantial support for the draft master plan and reflects a very successful process.

Responses regarding the options for the closure of Havlin Street East or the traffic calming option were divided with the following numbers:

- 114 submissions agreeing with the closure
- 37 preferring the traffic calming option
- 36 making no comment.

Reasons submitters supported the road closure were to naturalise the creek and provide safer access for pedestrians and cyclists and to remove conflicts with vehicles for users of the reserve. The main reason submitters wanted the traffic calming option was concern over vehicles being diverted to busier roads especially the five ways roundabout at the end of Williamson Street.

The most liked items by submitters were:

- 41 for tree planting for shelter/shade and naturalisation of Back Creek
- 41 for the expanded play space with adventure and sensory theme
- 41 for the road closure
- 24 for paths and seating
- 16 for the open lawn areas
- 12 for the gathering spaces
- 10 for the pump track
- 5 for the traffic calming
- 

A number of other general issues were raised, further analyse is provided below:

- 25 requesting toilets
- 9 requesting BBQ's
- 8 requesting hard court area for basketball/netball
- 4 requesting irrigation to all open lawn areas

Wolstencroft Reserve is classified by the Public Space Plan (2018) as a Suburban/Township level open space and accordingly may contain public toilets. The need for public toilets is also informed by the Public Toilet Strategy (2017). The Strategy includes an Implementation Plan which does not currently include Wolstencroft Reserve. The Strategy does include an Assessment Framework to guide decision making around the need for new public toilet facilities. This includes the following key considerations:

- Is there an existing public or planned toilet nearby?
- Is there a high movement of pedestrian, cycling or other active transport modes and the proposed location in an area with a growing catchment?
- Will the new toilet enhance community safety, health and wellbeing?

Based on these criteria a 'basic' (as defined by the Strategy) toilet facility would be justified at Wolstencroft Reserve. To develop a basic toilet facility would be in the vicinity of \$100,000.

The public also indicated a desire for barbecues which would further support the need for public toilets. If public toilets are not developed it is not recommended to install barbecues as they encourage longer stays which in turn create demand for toilets.

In regard to the development of a basketball/netball practice area one is already proposed at Ewing Park located within 750m of Wolstencroft Reserve and therefore it is not recommended to duplicate this facility at Wolstencroft Reserve.

The draft master plan did propose irrigating the smaller lawn area near the main gathering area and play space using a new connection to the recycled water mainline within the Back Creek. This connection can be sized to allow for expansion of the irrigation system in the future if required.

## CONCLUSION

The master plan had a very effective consultation process with extensive community involvement. The draft master plan has been updated to reflect the communities desire to close Havlin Street East. The process for the closure of Havlin Street East could be undertaken following the completion of the first stage of works.

There was also a strong community desire for the development of public toilets and barbecues. These facilities could be incorporated into the reserve in the future with relative ease. It is proposed to review the need for these facilities following the development of the play space and main gathering area.

## BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

In the 2018/19 financial year Council allocated \$50,000 to engage consultants to prepare the master plan and to undertake the community engagement process. Another \$40,000 has been allocated within the 2019/20 financial year to commence implementation of the master plan.

The initial cost estimate for all works shown on the draft master plan is \$2,000,000. Following feedback from Council the implementation plan has been revised to a two stage plan which better responds to the communities desire to develop the play space by including this in the first stage of works. Upon full implementation of the master plan it is estimated to cost \$20,000 per annum to maintain.

A budget bid for Stage 1 works has been submitted for the 2020/21 budget process and will be amended to include the new staging scope of:

- Earthworks and additional fill material to create an observation point, primary path through the reserve, play space, some of the secondary path network and seating and tree planting.

Remediation works on the cap design are scheduled to commence within the current financial year. The 2019/20 Wolstencroft Reserve capital works allocation is proposed to be used in conjunction with the remediation capping works to undertake bulk earthworks for construction of the observation mound.



#### **4. STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY**

Nil.

## **5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

### **5.1 REIMAGINING BENDIGO CREEK - DRAFT PLAN FOR COMMUNITY COMMENT**

#### **Document Information**

**Author** Mark Stubbs, Senior Strategic Planner

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

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#### **Purpose**

To seek Council endorsement to publicly display the Draft Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan.

#### **Summary**

The Draft Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan is the product of an 18-month process to collaboratively develop a vision and high level strategic plan to guide our future management of Bendigo Creek with the aim to create a healthier, more inclusive, more connected and more beautiful Creek that we all respect and value.

The current stage of the project involves endorsement of a Draft Plan for public display early in 2020 to provide the opportunity for wider community input, with a view to returning a revised final Plan to Council for adoption.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Endorse the Draft Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan for public display for a minimum period of 28 days.
2. Are provided with a further report outlining the public display process, summarising any submissions received and any changes required to the draft Plan.

#### **RESOLUTION**

Moved Cr Williams, Seconded Cr Pethybridge.

That the recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

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Policy Context

Council Plan Reference:

Goal 5: Environmental Sustainability – Further plan and develop the Bendigo Creek project

- Continue to implement the Environment Strategy action for 2019/20 including adopting the Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan

Strategy Reference:

The Greater Bendigo Environment Strategy 2016-2021 identifies the preparation of a plan for the Bendigo Creek as one of four flagship projects.

Background Information

The Bendigo Creek is the city's most significant urban waterway. Prior to European occupation and the settlement of Bendigo, the Creek evolved and flourished as part of a wider natural ecology and landscape that was managed by the Dja Dja Wurrung to support their needs. The gold rush era devastated the landscape and transformed the Creek. Ever since then, this impact has shaped our perceptions and management of the Creek.

Recent decades have seen many examples of initiatives and investment to revitalise Bendigo Creek and its tributaries, though there has not been an overall strategic plan to guide our efforts.

The Reimagining Bendigo Creek project is being driven by a combination of factors, including an increasing awareness of water management issues and of the need for strategic planning for our water resources. There has also been a growing understanding of the tremendous city- and community-shaping potential of the Creek.

The project aims to create a shared vision and strategic plan for the Bendigo Creek, focussing on the 20 kilometre stretch through the urban area which forms the top of the Creek's catchment. A range of aspects connected with the Bendigo Creek environs are being addressed and integrated by this work. They include the wider context of urban stormwater management, flooding and water quality; the Creek's ecology and environmental management; the design and relationship of the built environment around the Creek, the role of the Creek as a community place and in improving health and wellbeing; community perceptions and custodianship, as well as the coordination of partnership-based governance and management.

The process to develop the Plan is as important as the Plan itself and a collaborative approach is being used to achieve this. The City of Greater Bendigo (the City) is working jointly with several project partners and representatives of the Greater Bendigo community. The following organisations are partnering in the development of the Plan: the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DDWACC), the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), the North Central Catchment Management Authority (North Central CMA), Coliban Water, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) and Parks Victoria.

Joint funding is being provided in principal by DELWP under the Integrated Water Management Plan, and supported with funding by the North Central CMA, the City and Coliban Water. The delivery of the project is being managed by a small team led from within the City of Greater Bendigo and including a staff representative of both the DDWACC and North Central CMA.

Previous Council Decision Dates:

3 September 2018 – Councillor appointment to the Steering Group as part of project governance.

12 August 2019 – Councillor Briefing to provide a progress update, including presentation of the Issues and Opportunities Report and the Vision and Concept.

Report

The Reimagining Bendigo Creek project is a turning point. It marks the beginning of a process of renewal, understanding and connection over many generations. The draft Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan has been created to guide that process with a compelling, attainable vision and high-level strategic plan to create a healthier, more inclusive, more connected and more beautiful Creek that we all respect and value.

The focus of the Plan is the 20 kilometre stretch through the urban area, from the top of its catchment at the Big Hill range to Huntly. The urban catchment of the Creek and its various tributaries are integral to the Creek in many ways – from water flows and quality to shared path networks – and so are also addressed contextually by the Plan.

The Plan is organised in four main parts as follows and which are described in summary below:

- Vision and Principles
- Creek-wide Strategies
- Precincts
- Implementation

Vision and Principles

The vision and principles together describe the essence of the Plan and are the primary guide for how future decisions are made.

An elegantly-worded vision – Bendigo Creek Reimagined – was crafted by the Dja Dja Wurrung to paint an evocative picture of the Creek’s future from a Traditional Owner perspective and which reflects broader community aspirations for the Creek.

The principles together provide the simplest, most tangible expression of the Plan’s aims. They reflect One Planet Living, the internationally-recognised sustainability framework adopted by the City of Greater Bendigo as a guide to attain our vision of becoming the world’s most liveable community.

Creek-wide Strategies

The overall strategic planning framework for Bendigo Creek, with reference to its urban catchment and various tributaries, is provided here. The framework is organised according to three primary themes. A summary of the focus and strategies of each of the themes follows.

Catchment

The strategies of this theme aim to progressively shift our approach to how water falling in the urban catchment is managed to improve Creek water flows and quality. They also address the restoration of the Creek’s natural environment and ecology, as well as the physical relationship between the City and Creek landscapes.

Strategies	
<i>Use Water Sensitive Urban Design to mitigate the impacts of climate change, flooding and poor water quality</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a Water Sensitive City • Manage flood risk and build community capacity to respond • Prioritise works in the upstream catchment and tributaries to maximise downstream benefits
<i>Restore the aquatic habitat and ecosystem functions of the Creek and tributaries</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and diversify natural areas and habitat • Naturalise constructed channels and drains • Integrated water quality monitoring program • Manage groundwater inflows to the Creek
<i>Use the planning system, local policy and incentives to improve how our city landscape relates to the Creek and tributaries</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open and active Creek interfaces

Connections

The strategies of this theme aim to strengthen the function of the Creek and its tributaries in connecting the urban Bendigo community, to create a more integrated and engaging Creek environment, and to improve amenities and safety.

Strategies	
<i>Complete missing links to achieve a network of accessible public corridors</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous public land along the Creek • Bendigo Creek Trail extension • Low Line Trail • Creek-tributary links • Public transport integration
<i>Improve Creek corridor access</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority walking and cycling access along the Creek • Cross-Creek links • Maintenance access
<i>Increase Creek-based interaction and recreation opportunities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected public spaces • Diverse recreation amenities • Waterway interaction
<i>Create a safe Creek environment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe, priority access for pedestrians and cyclists • Better safety infrastructure • More eyes on the Creek

Culture

The strategies of this theme are focussed on our cultural and community connections to the Creek. They aim to restore a strong identity and presence of the Dja Dja Wurrung, change our perceptions of the Creek and encourage community involvement and stewardship. The diversity of the Creek's environment and the experiences that it offers is also addressed.

Strategies	
<i>Empower the Dja Dja Wurrung to practice their cultural traditions and restore their cultural and spiritual connections to the Creek</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A restored Aboriginal identity • Revival of cultural presence and practice
<i>Foster positive perceptions of the Creek</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More public information about the Creek • A better Creek environment
<i>Foster community caring for the Creek</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A shared sense of responsibility • Learning from Traditional Owners • Hands-on participation opportunities
<i>Strengthen the diversity of experiences along the Creek</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression of all cultures • Layers of history • Contrasts in character

Precincts

The precincts show the application of the Creek-wide strategies at a local level. Four precincts were identified and agreed in the scoping stage of the project, as follows:

1	Kangaroo Flat:	Big Hill Range to Bay Street, Golden Square
2	Golden Square – Bendigo:	Bay Street, Golden Square to Weeroona Avenue, North Bendigo
3	White Hills:	Weeroona Avenue, North Bendigo to Howard Street, Epsom
4	Epsom – Huntly:	Howard Street, Epsom to Bendigo-Tennyson Road, Huntly

For each precinct, outcomes are described for a range of sites to provide a guide for implementing the Plan in a targeted way and to make the benefits of the overall Plan more tangible and relevant to community interests.

Illustrative renderings are included to provide a conceptual representation of the range of possibilities that we might consider in our reimagining of the Creek: small and large, simpler and more complex, and most importantly, multi-faceted and integrated by their nature.

Implementation

Governance to support the implementation of the Plan is crucial and an immediate priority. Three options for potential governance structures are outlined in the Draft Plan and summarised below, each reflecting a quite different model of and approach to implementation. These options are indicative and not exhaustive. It should also be expected that governance will evolve in response to implementation needs, available resources and experience that is gained in the relative effectiveness of delivery.

Option 1	Build upon the Joint Partnership Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand membership and redefine roles and responsibilities Refine the cross-agency governance structure by adding a steering group and a coordination position Develop a renewed maintenance program and seek opportunistic funding
Option 2	Expand upon the Water Sensitive Bendigo Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a sub-committee to progress the Plan Create a three-year position to coordinate actions Develop and implement a catchment-wide works program Develop a fast approvals process Seek base funding from partner organisations
Option 3	Establish an incorporated body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a board of stakeholder representatives Establish a company to manage the delivery of the plan and coordinate maintenance of Creek Company has a small delivery team

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a joint funding submission for the State Government's Environmental Contributions program
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At this early stage there is strong support from project partners to establish governance that is along the lines of option two. The advantage of this option is that it builds on an established partnership for Water Sensitive Bendigo; at once providing an umbrella for *Reimagining Bendigo Creek* and an implementation focus for Water Sensitive Bendigo itself. Within this arrangement there will be the need to set up a special working group for the delivery of Reimagining Bendigo Creek to ensure that the multi-dimensional aspects of the project are addressed.

The creation of a position to provide dedicated resourcing to lead the implementation of the Plan is also crucial. It is considered preferable that the position is jointly-resourced by project partners.

Priority/Importance:

High – the development of the Plan is a commitment of the 2017 - 2021 Community Plan.

Options/Alternatives:

In relation to progressing the draft Plan, the following options are available:

1. Endorse the Draft Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan for public display for a minimum period of 28 days. This is the preferred option and will ensure the City meets its obligations according to the funding agreement.
2. Take no further action.

Timelines and Progress:

The original completion date associated with the funding agreement with DELWP is 30 December 2019. Considerable progress has been made so far toward meeting this target, including the endorsement of a draft Plan by project partners for public display. A majority of the overall funding amount will have been expended by this completion date also.

However additional time will be needed due to several factors:

- Approvals time and process required by agencies to endorse the draft Plan for public display and to approve the final Plan;
- Continued collaboration with the Dja Dja Wurrung; and
- The running of the community consultation period outside of the Christmas/New Year holidays to maximise public awareness and participation.

Taking into account these requirements, the overall timeline for completion of the project, whereby a final plan will have been jointly endorsed by project partners and adopted by Council, is May 2020.

Risk Analysis:

A risk assessment was completed and is included in the project brief. At this stage, risks identified as having major consequences have not eventuated.

Consultation/Communication**Overview**

The development of the draft Plan is the product of an ongoing consultative approach, building on inputs and direction gained by successive stages of the project and related documents; most notably the Issues and Opportunities Report and the Vision and Concept. The Steering Group and Working Groups, which together include representatives of project partners organisations, City of Greater Bendigo staff and the Greater Bendigo community, have formed the focus of engagement, supported by parallel consultation activities, including with the general community. A summary of engagement activities to date is provided below.

Summary of engagement activities

Timing	Stage	Participants
Aug - Oct 2018	Stage 1 – Mobilisation and coordination	
	Preliminary meetings with project partner organisations	Representatives of project partners
	Preliminary meetings with CoGB managers	CoGB managers
	Information capture sessions	CoGB staff
	Project scoping workshop	Project partners
	Steering Group meeting 1 (inception)	Steering Group members
	Expression of Interest for Working Groups	Greater Bendigo community
	Working Groups bus tour	Working Group members
Oct 2018 - Feb 2019	Stage 2 – Research, analysis and preliminary engagement	
	Combined Working Groups meeting	Working Group members
	Social Pinpoint online interactive map	Greater Bendigo community
	Listening Posts (x5)	Greater Bendigo community
	Project bulletin	Greater Bendigo community
	Media release / social media	Greater Bendigo community
Feb - May 2019	Stage 3 – Issues and Opportunities	
	Combined Working Groups meetings (Issues and Opportunities)	Working Groups members

	Bendigo Creek Group workshop	Representatives of Dja Dja Wurrung
	Project bulletin	Greater Bendigo community
	Media release / social media	Greater Bendigo community
	Working Groups meetings (x2) (Issues and Opportunities report review)	Working Group members
	Steering Group meeting (Issues and Opportunities report review)	Steering Group members
May - Aug 2019	Stage 4 – Vision and concept	
	Office of Victorian Government (OVGA) Architect Bus Tour	Victorian Design Review Panel members and OVGA Staff
	Vision and concept workshop	Steering Group and Working Groups members
	Vision and concept workshop follow-up session (review of Vision and concept package)	Steering Group and Working Groups members
Aug 2019 - current	Stage 5 – Draft Plan and public display (in progress)	
	Combined Working Groups meeting (review of preliminary draft Plan)	Working Group members
	Steering Group meeting (review of preliminary draft Plan)	Steering Group members

Steering Group and Working Groups Guidance

The draft Plan itself was reviewed as a preliminary working draft by the Working Group and Steering Group. Some of the major points of feedback to the preliminary draft were:

- Provide more context/story (e.g. water initiatives, strategic links, community benefits)
- Ensure flexibility (directions not too specific, highlight changes will be incremental and to different degrees, highlight also incremental cumulative impact)
- Demonstrate the scalability of interventions and less focus on cosmetic solutions
- Address management of flooding impact
- Strengthen recognition of the impact of climate change
- Address the community role in caring for the Creek
- Governance (clear rationale/purpose, potential link to exiting Water Sensitive Bendigo governance or sub-committee to ensure focus and priority, recognise likelihood of evolution in the governance structure, community representation).

Office of the Victorian Government Architect Advice

The Office of the Victorian Government Architect (OVGA) has appointed a four-member Victorian Design Review Panel (VDRP) for this project. A design review for the Draft Plan was held in Melbourne on 20 November 2019. The formal advice of the VDRP provided a strong level of support (see attachment 2), together with several recommendations to further improve community understanding and interpretation of the document.

Upcoming Community Consultation

A further and major opportunity to contribute directly to the shaping of the draft Plan will be provided during a public display and community engagement period in February 2020. This timing is intended to make the most of community availability after the Christmas and New Year holiday period. A one-month engagement period is recommended to concentrate communications and engagement activities, as well as to reduce overlap with consultation on other projects.

The public display process, including the design and promotion of community engagement opportunities, is being coordinated by representatives of the communications team of project partners and the project team. The participation of Working Group members to support the community engagement process, both through direct involvement and through their own professional and personal networks.

Resource Implications

The determination of resource implications is not within the scope of the Plan given its high-level and conceptual nature.

Budget Allocation in the Current Financial Year: In kind

Previous Council Support: \$35,000 (2018/19)

External Funding Sources: \$140,000 (DELWP and North Central CMA)

Attachments

1. Reimagining Bendigo Creek – Draft Plan for Community Comment, November 2019
2. Victorian Design Review Panel (Office of Victorian Government Architect):
Reimagining Bendigo Creek, December 2019

6. EMBRACING OUR CULTURE AND HERITAGE

6.1 ARTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACIAC) APPOINTMENTS

Document Information

Author Anna Knight, Creative Cities Officer

Responsible Director Bernie O'Sullivan, Strategy and Growth

Purpose

The report recommends the appointment of members to the new Arts and Creative Industries Advisory Committee (ACIAC) and adoption of the Committee's terms of reference.

Summary

This report has been prepared as part of a formal process to appoint members of the Arts and Creative Industries Advisory Committee. Council's adopted Arts and Creative Industries Strategy – Greater *CREATIVE* Bendigo – identified establishing an advisory group to support implementation of the strategy as a priority. Following an Expression of Interest (EOI) process, shortlisting of candidates and interviews were undertaken and a list of recommended committee members was agreed upon by the panel.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Appoint the recommended candidates to the committee for a 3-year term.
2. Adopt the Committee's terms of reference.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Emond, Seconded Cr Metcalf.

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

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## Policy Context

Council's adopted Arts and Creative Industries Strategy – Greater *CREATIVE* Bendigo – was developed through extensive community consultation and the action to 'establish a cultural and creative industries advisory group' was supported by both internal and external advisory groups during the strategy's development. The action is listed as a short-term priority, with a one-year timeframe to establish the group. November 2019 marks one year since the adoption of the strategy, meaning establishment of this group is a priority if we are to meet Council's commitment as laid out in the implementation plan.

## Background Information

The first action listed in Greater *CREATIVE* Bendigo's implementation plan is "establish a cultural and creative industries advisory group", described as a group that would "meet regularly, advocate for the creative industries, and provide advice to and partner with City of Greater Bendigo to develop our creative industries". There is broad community support for a creative industries group who can help drive implementation of the strategy and strengthen collaboration and opportunities across our city and region by advising Council.

The establishment of an Arts and Creative Industries Advisory Committee combining various specialist skills from within the City of Greater Bendigo and with the expertise, knowledge and interest of technical experts and community-based participants, will assist Council in developing strategic directions to deliver the vision and actions of Greater *CREATIVE* Bendigo.

## Report

Following Council's commitment to establishing an Arts and Creative Industries Advisory Committee, a call out for Expressions of Interest to join the committee was advertised from 3 October 2019 for a two week period in print media (Bendigo Advertiser and Mclvor Times), as well as a media release and call-out on the City's Facebook page and website. Emails were also sent to the Creative Industries mailing list (300 individuals) and to targeted individuals and businesses (11 in total). EOIs were open until 25 October 2019, with two late EOIs accepted after the closing date.

In total, 43 EOIs were received to join the Committee. These responses were compiled and shared with a shortlisting panel, comprised of Cr Matt Emond and staff members from across the organisation. Through a process of voting, the shortlisting panel chose 18 candidates to progress to interview.

### Members of the shortlisting panel:

Cr Matt Emond (Chair)  
Trevor Budge (Manager Regional Sustainable Development)  
David Lloyd (Manager Bendigo Venues and Events)  
Jessica Bridgfoot (Director Bendigo Art Gallery)  
Terry Karamaloudis (Manager Tourism and Major Events)  
Paul Gangell (Manager Parks and Open Space)  
Anna Knight (Regional Sustainable Development)  
Maree Tonkin (Bendigo Venues and Events)

The interview panel was agreed upon during the shortlisting session, with Emma Busowsky Cox nominated to represent Bendigo Art Gallery.

Members of the interview panel:

Cr Matt Emond (Chair)  
Maree Tonkin (Bendigo Venues and Events)  
Emma Busowsky Cox (Bendigo Art Gallery)  
Anna Knight (Regional Sustainable Development)

Interviews were held on 10 and 12 December 2019. Following the interview process it was discussed that rather than 6 technical experts and 5 community members, the Terms of Reference should be amended to 6 technical experts and 6 community members (see attachment 1 – CIAC terms of reference for adoption).

Deputy Youth Mayor Annika Richie was unable to attend an interview as she was overseas for two months during the recruitment period. It was agreed by the Committee Chair that the Youth Councillor could be directly appointed following her Expression of Interest – as the draft terms of reference state a Youth Councillor should sit on the Committee.

A total of 17 people were interviewed. The interview panel discussed all interviewees and agreed upon the following recommendations:

Committee Membership:

Chair - Cr Matt Emond  
Deputy Chair - Cr Rod Fyffe

Recommended technical experts:

1. Dave Hughes
2. Forest Keegel
3. Rod Thompson
4. Janet Bromley
5. Patrick Thwaites
6. Sharon Custers

Recommended community members:

1. Margot Spalding
2. Kerry Brown
3. Tamara Reinisch
4. David Hague
5. Kristine Von Hilderbrandt
6. Caleb Maxwell

Priority/Importance:

Formation of the Arts and Creative Industries Advisory Committee is a high priority to ensure the implementation of Council's Arts and Creative Industries Strategy, Greater *CREATIVE* Bendigo.

### Options/Alternatives:

The options are to appoint the recommended members of the ACIAC, or to reject the recommendations of the interview panel and propose a new process of recruitment.

### Timelines:

Committee members will be formally notified following Council's decision, with an initial meeting of the group planned for February 2020. The Committee will then meet bi-monthly.

## **Consultation/Communication**

### External Consultation:

Advertisements with a call out for committee members were run over a two-week period in the Bendigo Advertiser and Mclvor Times. A media release and Facebook post also advertised the opportunity. Information regarding the committee and the EOI process was available on the City's website and invitations to apply were sent to individuals as well as to the Creative Industries mailing list.

### Internal Consultation:

Staff members from Regional Sustainable Development, Bendigo Venues and Events, Parks and Open Space and Bendigo Art Gallery were involved in the process of shortlisting candidates for the Committee and three staff members from across the City were on the interview panel.

## **Resource Implications**

The committee is supported by the Regional Sustainable Development Unit. There are no resource implications associated with the ongoing operation of this committee other than administration and ongoing committee support.

## **Attachments**

1. ACIAC Terms of Reference

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

### **7.1 RECORD OF ASSEMBLIES**

#### **Document Information**

**Author**            **Jessica Clarke-Hong, 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.

#### **RESOLUTION**

Moved Cr Fyffe, Seconded Cr Williams.

That the recommendation be adopted.

**CARRIED**

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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	18 November 2019
Matters discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Final Agenda Review 2. Council Budget Briefing 3. Bendigo Operations Centre Update 4. Marong Township Structure Plan and DCP Update 5. City of Gastronomy Update 6. Industrial Land Update 7. Loddon Mallee Waste Resource and Recovery Group 8. Australian Centre for Moving Image 9. Bendigo Showgrounds 10. Community Volunteering Strategy 11. Healthy Heart Victoria 12. Affordable Housing 13. Quarterly Organisation Health Check 14. Risk Management Policy Framework
Attendees/Apologies	
Councillors	Cr Margaret O'Rourke Cr Jennifer Alden Cr Susie Hawke Cr Andrea Metcalf Cr Mal Pethybridge Cr James Williams Apologies: Cr George Flack Cr Rod Fyffe Cr Matt Emond
Staff/Community Representatives	Mr Craig Niemann Mr Andrew Cooney Ms Debbie Wood Ms Vicky Mason Mr Bernie O'Sullivan Ms Miki Wilson

Conflict of Interest disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/officer making disclosure	Councillor/officer left meeting
	Nil	

Meeting Information		
Meeting Name/Type	Community Presentation Session	
Meeting Date	22 November 2019	
Matters discussed	1. Blues and Roots Festival 2. Bendigo Madison 3. Bendigo Car Club	
Attendees/Apologies		
Councillors	Cr Margaret O'Rourke Cr Matt Emond Cr Malcolm Pethybridge Cr James Williams Apologies: Cr Jennifer Alden Cr George Flack Cr Rod Fyffe Cr Susie Hawke Cr Andrea Metcalf	
Staff/ Community Representatives	Mr Craig Niemann Mr Andrew Cooney Mr Bernie O'Sullivan Ms Jacqueline Murphy Apologies: Ms Vicky Mason Ms Debbie Wood	
Conflict of Interest disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/officer making disclosure	Councillor/officer left meeting
	Nil	

Meeting Information	
Meeting Name/Type	Councillors' Briefing
Meeting Date	2 December 2019
Matters discussed	1. Forward Agenda and Semi-Final Ordinary Agenda Review 2. Review of Councillor Priorities 3. Reducing Harm from Gambling 4. Wolstencroft Reserve Master Plan 5. Planning matters 6. Reimagining Bendigo Creek 7. Audit Committee Chairperson Annual Report

		8. Long-term Financial Plan
<i>Attendees/Apologies</i>		
Councillors	Cr Margaret O'Rourke Cr Jennifer Alden Cr George Flack Cr Susie Hawke Cr Mal Pethybridge Cr James Williams Apologies: Cr Matt Emond Cr Rod Fyffe Cr Andrea Metcalf	
Staff/ Community Representatives	Mr Craig Niemann Mr Andrew Cooney Ms Debbie Wood Ms Vicky Mason Mr Bernie O'Sullivan Mr Ryan Millard	
<i>Conflict of Interest disclosures</i>		
Matter No.	Councillor/officer making disclosure	Councillor/officer left meeting
	Nil	

Meeting Information	
Meeting Name/Type	Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee
Meeting Date	3 December 2019
Matters discussed	1. Climate Change Notice of Motion 2. Bendigo Botanic Gardens 3. CoGB Electric Vehicle Feasibility Study 4. CoGB Draft Energy Plan 5. One Planet Report 6. Food Systems Strategy 7. Reimagining Bendigo Creek 8. Greening Greater Bendigo
Attendees/Apologies	
Councillors	Cr Jennifer Alden Cr Margaret O'Rourke Apology: Cr Andrea Metcalf
Staff/ Community Representatives	Mr Trevor Budge Mr Anthony Sheean Mr Keith Reynard Mr Luke Shaw Mr Geoff Fallon/

Mr James Shaddick Mr Colin Smith Mr Mal Brown Ms Lillian Maher Ms Karin Harding Mr Alistair Stewart Ms Lisa Gormley Apologies: Mr Bernie O'Sullivan Mr Glenn Pomeroy/ Mr Peter Foster Mr Trevor Smith Mr Geoff Caine Ms Alyssa Lai		
Conflict of Interest disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/officer making disclosure	Councillor/officer left meeting
	Nil	

Meeting Information	
Meeting Name/Type	Councillors' Briefing
Meeting Date	9 December 2019
Matters discussed	1. Forward Agenda and Final Ordinary Agenda Review 2. GovHub 3. Playground Renewal Programs update 4. Plan Greater Bendigo Mark II 5. Library Annual Update 6. City Centre Plan 7. Hargreaves Mall 8. DELWP Regional Director Update 9. Bendigo Botanic Gardens Central Hub
Attendees/Apologies	
Councillors	Cr Margaret O'Rourke Cr Jennifer Alden Cr George Flack Cr Susie Hawke Cr Andrea Metcalf Cr Mal Pethybridge Cr James Williams Apologies: Cr Rod Fyffe Cr Matt Emond
Staff/Community Representatives	Mr Craig Niemann Mr Andrew Cooney Ms Debbie Wood Ms Vicky Mason Mr Bernie O'Sullivan Mr Ryan Millard

Conflict of Interest disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/officer making disclosure	Councillor/officer left meeting
	Nil	

Meeting Information	
Meeting Name/Type	Councillors' Briefing
Meeting Date	16 December 2019
Matters discussed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forward Agenda Review 2. Capital Projects Portfolio update 3. Healthy Facilities Policy 4. Follow-up to Climate Change Notice of Motion 5. Draft Food System Strategy 6. Councillor Priorities Session 2 7. Proposed City Centre Hotel Development 8. Smart Cities Update 9. Airport Fees and Charges Consultation 10. Eaglehawk Community House 11. Aquatic Facilities

Attendees/Apologies	
Councillors	Cr Margaret O'Rourke Cr Jennifer Alden Cr George Flack Cr Susie Hawke Cr Andrea Metcalf Cr Mal Pethybridge Cr James Williams Apologies: Cr Matt Emond Cr Rod Fyffe
Staff/Community Representatives	Mr Craig Niemann Mr Andrew Cooney Ms Debbie Wood Ms Vicky Mason Mr Bernie O'Sullivan Mr Ryan Millard

Conflict of Interest disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/officer making disclosure	Councillor/officer left meeting
	Nil	

Meeting Information	
Meeting	Climate Change and Biodiversity workshop

Name/Type		
Meeting Date		17 December 2019
Matters discussed		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Climate and Biodiversity Breakdown Resolution.• Context setting, overview of the State Policy on energy• Climate risk reflection from Sarah Barkers presentation• Climate Context, overview of the councils past and current climate action• Scoping the Council’s high-level direction for climate action, where does the council sit on the leadership spectrum and where do they want to be• Governance and corporate arrangements, what can be improved across the organisation to address climate change• Scoping future climate actions, what can we fund through the 2020/21 budget• Agreement on next steps
Attendees/Apologies		
Councillors	Margaret O’Rourke Jennifer Alden Rod Fyffe Andrea Metcalf James Williams	
Staff/ Community Representatives	Craig Niemann Bernie O’Sullivan Vicky Mason Debbie Wood Andrew Cooney Trevor Budge Glenn Pomeroy Liam Sibly Simon Francis Ashley Fletcher Frances Ford Anthea Harris Geoff Caine Marg Allan Claire Flannagan-Smith	
Conflict of Interest disclosures		
Matter No.	Councillor/officer making disclosure	Councillor/officer left meeting
	Nil	

8. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

10. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cr Alden reported as follows:

"It was an honour to attend the Governor's Australia Day event at Government House last evening with the mayor and CEO. Our invite came on the back of the city's success in becoming a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy and shows the high regard the designation is held in far and wide. In the absence of many of the usual activities over the Christmas and New Year break the activity I want to again mention the nation's biodiversity and climate crises.

The massive fire responses that are continuing have seen contributions from volunteer and other responders and have also drawn in staff from over 50 councils around the state, including the City of Greater Bendigo. There have been many tragic losses and still much to be done for devastated communities. Thanks go out to all of the efforts to date.

As Australia burns and as we struggle to breathe in the toxic smoke with its long term health impacts, we need to admit that while this time last week our state's capital city had the worst air quality in the world, that our vision for this city of being the world's most liveable community will clearly need revision in future. Latest national analysis placed us twelfth most liveable regional city in the country.

The Public Health Association of Australia and the Climate and Health Alliance are vocal in advocating for better public health measures around climate change such as regular air quality monitoring. The EPA does not have regular air quality monitoring in Bendigo, so how can we address any potential health impacts in a meaningful way if we are not measuring it?

In March last year a scathing VAGO report reflected some long-held concerns about how the EPA monitored and managed air pollution in Victoria. It found that the EPA, Victoria's pollution watchdog, has failed to properly monitor air quality across the state, with many highly-populated centres going unchecked.

It found the EPA was unable to show that its data collection truly reflected the air quality experienced in most Victorian communities. The authority is required to maintain at least one monitoring station in each urban centre with a population of at least 25,000 people. It found that only limited air quality testing had been carried out in well-populated areas including Bendigo. There is a difference between having the ability to measure air quality for a specific incident as opposed to ongoing baseline data.

While governments prevaricate and both the federal government and opposition have once more pledged their support for coal mining and export, while new coal mines and gas exploration are being approved, we have an opportunity to push via local government to lead on environment and climate action. However, even around this Council table there have been varying responses to the urgency needed to address our biodiversity and climate crises.

The bushfires are estimated to have caused losses of biodiversity and environmental impacts of the largest scale since the ice age. Recently a prominent business commentator has suggested that Australia has now had its Port Arthur moment on climate change.

It means we need to have some very important conversations with our community about how we set our priorities for climate action, both within Council and its scope of activities and also the broader Greater Bendigo community".

Cr Fyffe reported on his attendance at the following meetings and events:

- *Attendance at the 410 Squadron Australian Airforce Cadets Parade and presented the City with a Certificate of Appreciation for Continued Support during 2019*
- *Community Christmas Lunch with Cr Flack which was very well attended*
- *Tour of Discovery Centre - a terrific resource*
- *Spoke at the Women Motorbikers World Relay Reunion*
- *Presented medals at the Victorian Darts Championships*
- *Attended the high class tennis matches at the Bendigo Tennis Centre - Canberra Nationals and Bendigo's ATP - thank you to the officials to enable these matches to be conducted at Bendigo*
- *Looking forward to this weekend with the Chinese Lunar New Festival and the Australia Day celebrations on Sunday*

Cr Williams reported on his attendance at the following meetings and events:

"It's quite amazing how quickly the Christmas and New Year's break has been and gone and now we're already one month into the New Year and our final year of this council.

The fires in up and down the East Coast of Australia have been disastrous and I hope the much welcome rains that have eventuated over the last week put paid to them for the meantime.

Earlier this week we met with Regional Roads Victoria for an update on local issues and it was pleasing to hear the Elmore Raywood Road will see some works happening on the bends along the narrow seal. With Tanloden industries now operating at Raywood, we are seeing increasing trucks transporting hay to its facility. It was also noted the additional waste trucks in the vicinity carting to Patho tip. They are said to be travelling from as far afield as Melbourne so this will put extra pressure on the roads in our region. The western and northern bypass or heavy vehicle route for Bendigo was raised by council and our strong desire to see this planned out for future implementation. It is important that we do the strategic work now to accommodate our growth plans and business parks of the future. A strategic road to the north from Huntly to Marong can also facilitate a strategic fire break to the north and west of Bendigo with this area already having many homes located in a bushland setting.

I sat down with the executive of the Calder Highway Improvement Committee and worked through the long list of priorities for the Calder as provided by both the members and their associated council. A grant of \$100m is on the table and we require the State Government to match this funding. It can potentially provide some much needed overtaking lanes along the Calder Alternative along with some intersection improvement. The list that could be achieved by the funding is extensive and the sooner the State match this, the sooner the upgrade can proceed.

Hoping everyone had a happy Christmas and wishing everyone a fruitful and happy New Year".

Cr Hawke reported on her attendance at the following meetings and events:

"Since our last Council Meeting in December, I have attended:

- My first Disability Inclusion Reference Committee meeting*
- Two Eppalock Ward Listening Posts - one at the Heathcote Night Market in December and one at Strathfieldsaye last weekend*
- Updates on the Heathcote Dog Park and the Heathcote Integrated Civic Precinct - Community Engagement Plan*
- Two Wolstencroft Master Plan consultation meetings*
- A Knowsley-Barnadown Road planning consultation meeting; and*
- A tour of the all the heritage attractions, including the tramways, gasworks, Central Deborah Gold Mine and Joss House. This was with recently departed CEO, Peter Abbott and I also attended his farewell last week. Peter moves to Adelaide now and will be sorely missed by all at Bendigo Heritage Attractions*

The Listening Posts have been a great experience for me, getting out and about and hearing Eppalock Ward residents' concerns, issues and questions. Not all negative though, as pleasingly we often hear about the things residents are happy with. Always good to hear positive feedback regarding the work the CoGB does.

Again, I will say I have learnt a whole lot of new things about Bendigo this month that I had no idea about before becoming a Councillor, particularly when I went on my tour of the heritage attractions. You may get sick of me saying this, but I do appreciate the opportunity I have been given in this role to learn more about Bendigo and experience everything it has to offer.

I look forward to 2020 now as I feel I have a better grasp on council processes and procedures, but I also continue to look forward to learning and experiencing new things this year in the lead-up to the end of this council's four year term".

Cr Flack reported on his attendance at the Community Christmas Lunch with Cr Fyffe, which hosted 250 attendees.

Cr Emond reported on his attendance at the Karen New Year Festival celebrations and highlighted the wonderful contribution the Karen community have made to Bendigo and the fundraiser for the bushfire appeal.

Cr Emond also reported on utilising the wonderful service of the City, with the Maternal and Child Health team following the arrival of his baby daughter; the support of the City's first class hospital followed by the continued support of the Maternal and Child Health team is to be commended. Bendigo is a beautiful and vibrant multicultural community.

Cr Pethybridge reported on his attendance at the following meetings and events:

- Attended the Elmore Primary School with Cr Metcalf to present the students with their prize for 'Walking to School'*
- Whipstick Ward Listening Post at Sebastian*
- Hoped everyone had a wonderful Christmas and touched on the bushfires situation and advised that his son who is based at Hotham, has been involved in fighting fires in the area.*

11. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor, Cr Margaret O'Rourke, tabled a report on her attendance at the following meetings and events:

- Attended various community Events:
 - o Eppalock Ward Listening Post
 - o Attended the Bendigo & Melbourne Symphony Orchestras
 - o Spoke to Advance Heathcote
 - o Spoke at the Men's ATP Bendigo International Challenger event
 - o Eppalock Ward Listening Post
 - o Attended the Australia Day Reception at Government House
- Participated in various Christmas Events:
 - o Bendigo Queer Christmas Lunch
 - o Carols by Candlelight - Rotary Club of Bendigo
- Participated in numerous workshops and forums, Including:
 - o Participated on the Judging Panel for Citizen & Young Citizen of the year and greeted the successful candidates
 - o Gender Equality Workshop
 - o Climate Change Workshop
 - o Participated in the Youth Council Interviews
 - o Participated in the shortlisting of Eol's for the Gastronomy Committee
- Participated in numerous radio, newspaper, television media interviews and photo opportunities
 - o Regular Interviews with ABC Radio, GOLD FM and Vision Australia
 - o ICC Women's T20 World Cup Trophy tournament Media Event
- Met with many residents, businesses and community groups regarding a wide range of issues.
 - o Met with the Wolstencroft (3) petitioner representatives and Wolstencroft Action Group (3) representatives
 - o Greater Bendigo Farming Advisory Committee meeting
 - o Attended the Bendigo Manufacturing group December meeting
 - o Met with Jacinta Allan and the NBL regarding Bendigo Spirit

Thank you to the Deputy Mayor and those Councillors who represented me at events I was unable to attend.

12. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Craig Niemann, tabled a report on his attendance at the following meetings and events:

- Participated in the judging process for the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year
- Met with Regional Director of Department of Education and Training
- Participated in a number of RCV Executive Management Group teleconferences
- With Councillors and Executive Management Team members, participated in a Climate Change Workshop
- Participated in a staff corporate induction session
- Met with Chief Executive Officer of Lifeline - Central Victoria and Mallee
- Met with Head of La Trobe Bendigo Campus
- Met with Chief Executive Officer of Bendigo Health
- Met with Managing Director of Coliban Water
- Where possible, provided assistance to municipalities affected by Victorian fires
- Attended farewell event for Peter Abbott, who has resigned from his role of Chief Executive Officer of Bendigo Heritage Attractions
- Met with Managing Director of Central Victorian Group Training
- Attended the reception at Government House to celebrate Australia Day
- Met with Minister Jacinta Allan to discuss transport infrastructure for Regional Victoria

13. CONFIDENTIAL (SECTION 89) REPORTS

13.1 Confidential Report in accordance with Section 89(2)(d) of the Local Government Act relating to a contractual matter

RECOMMENDATION

That Council close the meeting to members of the public pursuant to Section 89(2)(d) of the **Local Government Act 1989** to consider reports relating to a contractual matter.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Fyffe, seconded Cr Flack.

That the recommendation be adopted.

CARRIED

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:00pm.

Confirmed:

19 February 2020

Chair