

# **AGENDA**

## **Ordinary Meeting of Council**

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6.00pm Wednesday 19 February 2020

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

### **VENUE:**

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

### **NEXT MEETING:**

**Wednesday 18 March 2020  
Bendigo Town Hall**

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This Council Meeting is conducted in accordance with Local Law Process of Municipal Government 2020. 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 19 FEBRUARY 2020

## ORDER OF BUSINESS:

ITEM	PRECIS	PAGE
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	5
	PRAYER	5
	PRESENT	5
	APOLOGIES	5
	SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS	5
	COMMUNITY RECOGNITION SECTION	5
	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	5
	RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS	6
	CR PETHYBRIDGE'S REPORT	6
	DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST	7
	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	8
1.	PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS	11
2.	<i>PRESENTATION AND MANAGING GROWTH</i>	12
2.1	PROPOSED MID BLOCK ROAD CLOSURE FOR SYMONDS STREET, MAIDEN GULLY	12
3.	<i>WELLBEING AND FAIRNESS</i>	17
3.1	COMMERCIAL FITNESS OPERATOR POLICY	17
4.	<i>STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY</i>	23
4.1	CREATIVE CITY OF GASTRONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCGAC) APPOINTMENTS	23
5.	<i>ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</i>	34
5.1	GREENING GREATER BENDIGO STRATEGY	34
6.	<i>EMBRACING OUR CULTURE AND HERITAGE</i>	39
7.	<i>LEAD AND GOVERN FOR ALL</i>	40

7.1	RECORD OF ASSEMBLIES	40
7.2	YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBER SELECTION	42
7.3	FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT Q2- 31 DECEMBER 2019	47
8.	URGENT BUSINESS	55
9.	NOTICES OF MOTION	55
10.	COUNCILLORS' REPORTS	55
11.	MAYOR'S REPORT	55
12.	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT	55
13.	CONFIDENTIAL (SECTION 89) REPORTS	55

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

## **PRAYER**

## **PRESENT**

## **APOLOGIES**

## **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

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

## **COMMUNITY RECOGNITION SECTION**

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Acceptance of Questions**

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

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

### **RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS**

That Standing Orders be resumed.

### **CR PETHYBRIDGE'S REPORT**

## **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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

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

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

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

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wednesday 22 January 2020.

The following items were considered at the Ordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 22 January 2020 at 6:00pm.

NO.	TITLE	RECOMMENDATION
1.1	Response to Petition: Botanical Greenview Melbury Court Playspace	<p>That, having considered the petition regarding the retention of the play space at Melbury Court Reserve, Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retain the play space at Melbury Court and continue to monitor and maintain until a complete renewal is required (approximately 3-5 years).</li> <li>2. Continue with the proposed multi-practice court play space renewal at Botanical Drive as planned with no changes (refer attachment 2).</li> <li>3. Install a small junior play element at Greenview Circuit.</li> <li>4. Notify the submitters of the petition and inform them of the outcome.</li> </ol>
2.1	41 Gladstone Street, Quarry Hill – Two Lot Subdivision, Construction of a Dwelling, Partial Demolition of Existing Dwelling and External Alterations	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The bulk, form, separation / spacing and appearance of the development will have an adverse impact on heritage elements within the precinct.</li> <li>2. The proposal represents an unacceptable design outcome in regards to integration with the street, safety and neighbourhood character.</li> </ol>
3.1	Draft Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy	<p>That Council agree to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Release the draft Greater Bendigo Food System Strategy for a period of four weeks (month of February)</li> </ol>



		<p>for community review and feedback; and</p> <p>2. Receive a further report, informed by the community feedback, with a final Greater Bendigo Food System Strategy for consideration.</p>
3.2	Community Infrastructure Loans Scheme	That Council apply to the 2019 Community Infrastructure Loans Scheme to fund the construction of the Municipal Baths development Project.
3.3	Wolstencroft Reserve Master Plan Adoption	<p>That Council having considered the submissions received in regard to the draft Master Plan resolve to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopt the Wolstencroft Reserve Master Plan;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>3. Authorise public notice of Council's intention to close the road to traffic in accordance with section 223;</li> <li>4. Appoint a committee of three Councillors, to consider any submissions made and report to the whole Council and;</li> <li>5. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to carry out any administrative procedures necessary to ensure that Council complies with its obligations under section 223.</li> </ol>
5.1	Reimagining Bendigo Creek – Draft Plan for Community Comment	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Endorse the Draft Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan for public display for a minimum period of 28 days.</li> <li>2. Are provided with a further report outlining the public display process, summarising any submissions received and any changes required to the draft Plan.</li> </ol>

6.1	Arts and Creative Industries Advisory Committee (ACIAC) Appointments	That Council: 1. Appoint the recommended candidates to the committee for a 3-year term. 2. Adopt the Committee's terms of reference.
7.1	Record of Assemblies	That Council endorse the record of assemblies of Councillors as outlined in this report.
13.1	Confidential Section 89 Report	Contractual Matter

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 22 January 2020, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed.

**1. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS**

Nil.

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

### **2.1 PROPOSED MID BLOCK ROAD CLOSURE FOR SYMONDS STREET, MAIDEN GULLY**

#### **Document Information**

**Author** Dumir Wewala, Transportation Engineer

**Responsible Director** Debbie Wood, Director Presentation & Assets

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#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to brief Council regarding the proposal to close off Symonds Street, Maiden Gully to through traffic. The proposed Closure will require the placing of a barrier across the unsealed, mid-block section of Symonds Street (Between 132 Symonds Street property access and Olympic Parade Intersection – Attachment 1).

The section of road reserve proposed as part of the road closure is considered not suitable for sustained through traffic and surplus to Council's road network requirements, therefore Council approval is sought, in accordance with Schedule 11, Clause 9 of the Local Government Act 1989, for a permanent traffic closure.

#### **Summary**

Symonds Street, Maiden Gully is a road under the care and control of the City of Greater Bendigo (CoGB).

The sealed section between Mackenzie Street West and 130 Symonds St, property access, is located through a densely populated area which collects traffic from the minor local street network.

CoGB has received a formal request to investigate the road safety and dust related concerns caused by motorists using the unsealed section of Symonds Street as a short cut to and from Olympic Parade.

The subjected section of Symonds Road is located within bushland which provides access to:

- 132 Symonds Street - approx. 200m West of Preston Place
- 294 Olympic Parade - approx. 75m East of Olympic Parade
- 150 Symonds Street - Currently no formal access to this parcel of land.

CoGB has recently undertaken a community consultation process and having considered the situation and submissions, CoGB Traffic Engineers have formed the view that the road is no longer reasonably required to provide through access and that a mid-block closure would resolve a number of the issues that have been raised prior to and during the formal submission period.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council having considered the submissions received in regard to the proposed mid-block closure of Symonds Street:

1. Approve the midblock traffic closure of Symonds Street, Maiden Gully, between 132 Symonds Street property access and the Olympic Parade Intersection through the installation of fencing and a gate.
2. Inform adjoining residents and other submitters of Council's decision

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### **Background Information**

The tenant of 130 Symonds Street has made an application to CoGB to formally close the unsealed section of Symonds Street to through traffic. The section of road reserve is currently unsealed and routinely maintained by CoGB. The resident has raised concerns regarding increase in dust and road safety concerns caused by the motorists using Symonds Street as a shortcut through to Olympic Parade and has requested CoGB place a permanent barrier across the road. The road is also attracts speeding, dangerous driving, dumping of rubbish and reports of vehicles meeting in the secluded location.

The most recent traffic volume was recorded in 2015 and was 53 vehicles per day.

CoGB Traffic Engineers have consulted with the applicant regarding the formal traffic closure process and undertaken preliminary investigations to determine the suitability for permanent road closure of part of the road reserve.

Apart from two property owners on the unsealed section, adjoining landowners indicated that the road is no longer required for any public purpose.

A search of the Road Reserve status has also been conducted to confirm the dedication as a Council public road reserve. The road was also established over a Coliban Water parcel running perpendicular to Symonds Street between No.130 and 132 properties (water race).

**Options/Alternatives:**

The options available to Council are:

1. Approve the closure of part of Symonds Street to through traffic and advise all property owners of the outcome.
2. Consider sealing part of Symonds Street in the vicinity of No.130 to eliminate the dust problem.

| Potential Treatment                                | Cost     | Current Rating in Council's Dust Suppression Program |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Sealing of 130 metre segment with recycled asphalt | \$15,000 | 24 out of 77 projects                                |

3. Council could consider not approving the road closure and leaving the road and access in the existing condition.

**Timelines:**

CoGB will notify the residents/land owners the final outcome of the proposal within two weeks and organise the traffic closure within 8 weeks of formal Council approval.

**Risk Analysis:**

The permanent traffic closure will maintain access for pedestrians, cyclists and emergency vehicles. It will reduce traffic volumes in Symonds Street, thereby significantly reducing dust issues, improving road safety and amenity for residents and adjoining land owners. Given that currently the subject section of Symonds Street acts as a short cut connecting Olympic Parade with Golden Square, any diverted traffic resulting from the traffic closure is expected to have some minor impacts on the daily road users.

**Consultation/Communication**

In November 2019 CoGB consulted with local residents via letters inviting them to make a submission in regard to the proposed traffic closure. CoGB also contacted the Service Authorities, including Regional Road Victoria, Country Fire Authority, Victoria Police and Ambulance Victoria to formally comment on the proposal.

A public notice was placed in the Bendigo Advertiser on 23 November 2019 requesting written submissions in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989. Submissions were to be made within 28 days from publication, being 21 December 2019.

Five of the submissions were in support of the proposal (from residents and the Forest Fire Operations Division Loddon Mallee, DELWP).

Two submissions opposing the proposal were received:

The owner of 150 Symonds Street noted, *'this road has been in use for over 100 years by the public and closure of the road to traffic will not stop dust or vehicles ie. Motor bikes and Trail bikes also traffic using the dirt road behind the houses on Banyula Court. It will not stop hoons from entering the road via Olympic Parade and still do burn outs on a quiet road in the dust.'* Furthermore the property owner concerns about the possible decrease in property value due to lack of access from Symonds Street East'.

Alternatively the owner is recommending Council to consider a location to install a physical barrier which would not restrict access to her property via Eastern side of Symonds Street similar to No.132 Symonds Street property access. The existing access to No.150 property is situated 150 metres west of the proposed barrier location. Hence the proposed midblock road closure prevents access to the property via the eastern side of Symonds Street. However additional access points may be constructed to gain access via the eastern side of Symonds Street (subject to CoGB approval). Furthermore this property requires a very limited vehicular access as currently there are no residential dwellings and/or permanent residents situated within the parcel.

The owner of 294 Olympic Parade stated that the proposed traffic closure would force them to use the Olympic Parade access which increases the travel time to the Bendigo CBD and expresses concerns about the Olympic Parade intersection being substandard.

CoGB Traffic Engineers calculate that the proposed closure would increase the travel time by up to 90 seconds which is deemed reasonable for the benefits gained in the road closure. The Olympic Parade intersection also has more than adequate sightlines and CoGB does not consider the intersection substandard. There are currently some potholes in the unsealed section that have been reported for CoGB Maintenance works.

CoGB received one previous community request concerning road safety and dust issues in 2015.

## **Resource Implications**

### Budget Allocation in the Current Financial Year:

All costs associated with the midblock traffic closure will be borne by the City.

## **Attachments**

- 1.Location Map





### Map : Symonds St. Maiden Gully - Proposed Mid-block Closure



Map Width is 862.6 m

Map Scale : 1:3,270

Created by Engineering on Thursday, 31 October 2019

#### About this Document

This map has been created for the purpose of showing basic locality information over Greater Bendigo City Council. Property boundary line network data is supplied by State Government. Any error should be reported to the GIC Section, Greater Bendigo City Council.

#### Disclaimer

This map is a representation of the information currently held by Greater Bendigo City Council. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the product, Council accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions.



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

#### **3.1 COMMERCIAL FITNESS OPERATOR POLICY**

##### **Document Information**

**Author**            **Amy Johnston, Coordinator Facilities**

**Responsible Director**   **Vicky Mason, Director Health and Wellbeing**

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##### **Purpose**

To seek endorsement of the Commercial Fitness Operator Policy for a further period of five years.

##### **Summary**

The objective of the Commercial Fitness Operator Policy (the Policy) is to support appropriate commercial fitness activities in public spaces, whilst balancing the rights of all community members to access public open space in safety and comfort.

The Policy also included the introduction of fees and charges for commercial fitness operator permit holders and inclusion of the policy into the Community Local Law.

The Policy was adopted, in August 2017, for a two year period and has been reviewed through a number of methods:

- Analysis of customer requests and feedback to fitness operators within City parks, garden and reserves;
- A survey distributed to all current and previous permit holders about the policy and the principles of the policy;
- Random surveying of members of the public utilising the City's parks, gardens and reserves based on their knowledge and feedback to the policy.

Evaluation of the Policy has shown:

- A significant level of physical activity opportunities being offered by commercial fitness operators;
- A decrease in the number of complaints received about commercial fitness operators; and
- A general satisfaction that the community are happy with the policy and how it manages the sharing of public space between operators and the general public.

For these reasons no changes are being recommended to the Policy.

In response to the findings of the consultation period and information collated over the two year policy period, further communications will be distributed to not for profit clubs and groups utilising the City's parks, gardens and reserves providing conditions of use and promotion of specific purpose sporting facilities. Ongoing monitoring and management of the blocking of footpaths and common spaces will be undertaken by officers, including the installation of signage and further communication of expectations.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopt the Commercial Fitness Operators Policy for a further period of five years.

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## **Policy Context**

### Community Plan Reference:

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

Goal 2:        Wellbeing and fairness

Inclusive policies, partnerships and projects that increase access, improve health and learning opportunities, by building better connections and quality of life.

Objective 2.1 Create a much healthier Greater Bendigo

Objective 2.2 Promote positive wellbeing across the Greater Bendigo community.

Goal 4:        Presentation and managing growth

Planning, development and infrastructure that increase our liveability and pride where we live.

Objective 4.4    Keep Greater Bendigo attractive with good quality public facilities and places.

### Strategy Reference:

Greater Bendigo Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021

The Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 has an identified domain of: Healthy and Well with focus on: Proportion of adults, adolescents and children who are sufficiently physically active

### Council Policy Reference:

[Commercial Fitness Operator Policy 2017](#)

## Background Information

The Commercial Fitness Operator Policy was developed in 2016 following an increase in commercial fitness operators and feedback from the community that there was a need to formally manage operators conducting commercial fitness activities in the City's parks, gardens and sporting reserves.

The objective of the Commercial Fitness Operator Policy is to support appropriate commercial fitness activities in public spaces, whilst balancing the rights of all community members to access public open space in safety and comfort. To help achieve this objective several principles were developed for the policy to enable Council to manage access to public land and assess the suitability of the proposed commercial activities. These principles are as follows:

- Equity: to ensure equity for all members of the public in the access of public land
- Protection: to balance commercial fitness operation activities with the access rights of all community members. To protect built and natural physical assets from damage or misuse.
- Respect: to ensure activities are carried out in a safe, ethical and respectful manner.
- Consistency: to ensure there is a consistent approach to the management of commercial fitness operators.

The 2016 Commercial Fitness Operator Policy was adopted as a 6 month trial with no fees for permit holders.

Following the trial period, the 2017 Commercial Fitness Operator Policy was adopted with fees and charges commencing in the 2018/19 financial year and enforcement as part of the community local law in 2018.

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

29 June 2016 – Commercial Fitness Operator Policy Trial

16 August 2017 – Commercial Fitness Operator Policy Review

24 January 2018 – Local Law Review

## Report

Ongoing consultation and progressive changes to the implementation of the Commercial Fitness Operator Policy has resulted in the following outcomes for commercial fitness use at the City's parks, gardens and reserves:

- Reduced customer complaints regarding fitness operators;
- Sustainable fees and charges for permit holders;
- Consistent conditions of use for fitness activities;

- Reliability and availability of space being programmed for both fitness activities and community events/general use;
- Ability to monitor usage and process permits in a timely manner;
- Enforcement for non-registered users and/or inappropriate behaviour;
- Continued improvement of parks, gardens and reserves for fitness activities and;
- Ongoing support for businesses providing health and wellbeing activities for the Greater Bendigo community.

One of the key objectives of the Policy is supporting appropriate commercial fitness activities and in 2018/2019, 2756 hours of exercise classes were provided by commercial fitness operators in public spaces which were available to a potential 55,120 participants (max 20 per class). It is anticipated that in 2019/2020 there will be 2,652 hours of exercise classes provided, resulting in opportunities for 53,040 attendees. These figures highlight the value commercial fitness operators contribute in providing opportunities to the community to be active.

The number of complaints about fitness operators in the 12 months prior to the Policy being endorsed was twenty-two. In the 29 months since the Policy was adopted there have only been nine complaints. This significant decrease in the number of complaints since the policy's inception indicates that the policy is working in its aim to balance commercial fitness operation activities with the access rights of all community members.

Satisfaction surveys undertaken as part of the review of the Policy showed that most people are happy with the policy and the sharing of the park between fitness operators and the general park users. One standout issue however is the number of people that said the fitness operators and participants were taking over footpaths and other common areas, which may present a risk to the general public at the parks. Officers intend on installing signage outlining approved areas within high use parks and gardens, as well as monitoring this issue and providing further communications as required.

Permit holders also expressed concern over not for profit operators utilising public land without an understanding of the conditions of use. Whilst the policy excludes not for profit organisations, it is important that consistent conditions of use are communicated to these groups as the same user risks are evident even though the group is not receiving a commercial benefit.

#### Priority/Importance:

The policy will ensure that commercial fitness operators have confidence and reliability to operate their business and that public space is appropriately managed for the community without increased operational maintenance costs or detrimental amenity outcomes.

#### Options/Alternatives:

Council has a range of different options available in managing commercial fitness operators in public spaces. These include allowing the activity to continue without restricting the activity, group sizes or areas of operation, Council may also desire to continue without fees being applied.

Annual and six month summer commercial fitness operator permits are currently offered, commencing 1 October each year. For administrative efficiency this could be changed to only annual agreements, however this could have a financial impact to commercial fitness operators businesses based on the current fees and charges structure of six month and annual permits.

Council may wish to increase resourcing should increased enforcement of the Policy be a priority, this would require staffing budget bids into the future in consultation with Safe and Healthy Environments.

#### Timelines:

Annual and six month summer commercial fitness permits commenced 1 October 2019 with adopted 2019/2020 fees and charges therefore any changes would need to consider the timeline of new permits from 1 October 2020.

#### Risk Analysis:

There remain a number of operators who are not registered with the City but are utilising public land for their commercial benefit. It is unknown if these operators have insurance, appropriate training or risk management plans for their activities. This places a level of risk upon the Council should an incident occur. Through the local law and permit process, authorised officers have the ability to check permits and if necessary, apply penalties to operators who do not have permission to operate within the municipality. This risk is addressed by spot checks undertaken by the Safe and Healthy Environments Unit under the Community Local Law.

### **Consultation/Communication**

#### Internal Consultation:

Officers with direct involvement in management of the policy are regularly in contact due to the ongoing activities of all permit holders.

Ongoing support and input has been provided by Active and Healthy Lifestyles, Safe and Healthy Environments and Parks and Open Space.

#### External Consultation:

There has been a total of 15 commercial fitness operators hold permits since the Policy was adopted and they were all provided with an opportunity to complete an online survey and/or attend a drop in session. Operators completed 3 surveys out of a possible 15, with no operators attending the drop in session organised by Safe and Healthy Environments and Active and Healthy Lifestyles officers on 4 November 2019.

Active and Healthy Lifestyles officers also completed surveys at Lake Weeroona on 25 November 2019 and 4 December 2019 and Rosalind Park on 13 January 2020 with 33 surveys completed with the key messages and feedback being:

- A third of the respondents were aware that the City has a policy for commercial fitness operators using public spaces.
- Respondents gave a combined score of 79 out of 100 for equity between park users and commercial fitness operators being met.
- Respondents gave a combined score of 91 out of 100 for a balance of access plus protection of the environment and assets from damage and misuse between fitness operators and community members.
- Respondents gave a combined score of 81 out of 100 for fitness operators carrying out their activities respectfully.
- Additional general comments included:
  - Eleven respondents said that the fitness operators were not a problem in public spaces.
  - Seven respondents said that it was great to see people were being encouraged to exercise in parks.
  - Three respondents mentioned that fitness operators and their participants sometimes blocked walking paths for other park users.
  - Three respondents said that the number of fitness operators operating is currently at capacity and no more permits should be issued.

Nine complaints containing 11 issues regarding commercial fitness operators have been received by City since the Policy was adopted in August 2017. More than half of the issues complained about were about commercial fitness operators blocking access to paths and other public areas.

### **Resource Implications**

Administration duties such as processing booking applications and permits will continue to be managed within existing staffing resources within the Active and Healthy Lifestyles Unit. The City will also be implementing an enhanced booking system that will allow commercial fitness operators to self-manage bookings with real time availability.

Active and Healthy Lifestyles, Parks and Open Space and Safe and Healthy Environments work in conjunction to assist with monitoring of this policy and enforcement through the Community Local Law as necessary.

Given the limited resources available before 8am and after 6pm when commercial fitness operators are conducting most of their classes; a process for both operators and the general public is in place to log customer requests and depending on the feedback this is referred to Active and Healthy Lifestyles or Safe and Healthy Environments for follow up.

Safe and Healthy Environments are completing spot checks and have included this policy enforcement as part of the regulation of the Community Local Law.

### **Attachments**

1. Commercial Fitness Operator Policy 2020
2. Commercial Fitness Operator Policy Evaluation 2019-2020

## **4. STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY**

### **4.1 CREATIVE CITY OF GASTRONOMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCGAC) APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Document Information**

**Author** Anna Knight, Creative Cities Officer

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

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#### **Summary/Purpose**

The report recommends the appointment of members to the new Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee (CCGAC) and adoption of the Committee's terms of reference.

The City of Greater Bendigo was designated a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy in October 2019. A commitment was made in the City's application that a formal Committee to Council would be formed to help guide and support work relating to the Creative Cities designation, bringing together community experts and City of Greater Bendigo staff. An Expression of Interest (EOI) process was undertaken to recruit Committee members, with a selection panel recommending the appointment of 13 external candidates.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Appoint the recommended candidates, as listed in this report, to the Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee for a 4-year term.
2. Adopt the Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee's terms of reference.

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#### **Policy Context**

The City of Greater Bendigo's application to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) in the category of gastronomy was developed through extensive community consultation, with both an external and an internal steering committee overseeing its development. It was agreed that, should Bendigo and the region be designated by UNESCO, a formal Committee to Council should be established to provide advice on matters strategically relevant to the City of Gastronomy designation and the mission of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).

## Background Information

The City of Greater Bendigo was designated a UNESCO Creative City in October 2019, in the category of Gastronomy. The City's application embraced everything that is happening across the city and region in terms of food and beverages and proposed ambitious projects to further the mission of UNESCO and the Creative Cities Network.

The application was developed with four pillars at its heart:

- Recognition and elevation of our Indigenous heritage and living culture
- Creativity, innovation and diversity
- Health and Wellbeing
- Sustainability

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to foster international cooperation with and between cities that have recognised culture and creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. The Network recognises seven areas of creativity, one of which is Gastronomy. There are currently 246 cities in the UCCN, with 36 recognised in the category of Gastronomy – including Tucson (USA), Parma (Italy), Östersund (Sweden), Bergen (Norway) and Chengdu (China).

The network works together, foregrounding creativity and culture in development at both a local and international level. The member cities come from diverse regions and work towards a common mission: placing creativity and cultural industries at the core of their development plans to make their cities and regions safe, resilient, inclusive and sustainable.

The UNESCO Creative Cities brand is globally recognised and can significantly raise the national and international profile of the city and region. Of all the creative categories, Gastronomy offers the most potential to benefit the community and economy – through developing and promoting our already thriving food and beverage industries.

The establishment of a Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee, combining various specialist skills from within the City of Greater Bendigo and across the region with the expertise, knowledge and interest of technical experts and community-based participants, will assist Council in developing strategic directions to best capitalise on its new status as a UNESCO Creative City.

## Report

Following Bendigo's designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019, a call out for Expressions of Interest to join the Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee was advertised from 14 December 2019 and was open until 17 January 2020. The opportunity was advertised in print media (Bendigo Advertiser and Mclvor Times), as well as through a media release and call-out on the City's Facebook page and website. Emails were also sent to a mailing list comprising everyone who had been involved in the City of Gastronomy work to date. A total of 21 EOIs were received during this time.



These responses were compiled and shared with a selection panel, comprised of Mayor Cr Margaret O'Rourke, Cr Jennifer Alden, Cr Andrea Metcalf, Trevor Budge and Anna Knight. All EOIs were discussed, with a very strong field of candidates to consider. It was decided that based on written responses it was possible to make a selection without undertaking an interview process. It was also agreed that several of the candidates who were not selected as members of the Committee could be appointed as co-opted members at various times to provide expert advice on various matters. It is also intended that the Youth Council nominate one of their members to join the Advisory Committee.

Members of the selection panel:

Mayor Cr Margaret O'Rourke (Chair)  
Cr Jennifer Alden (Deputy Chair)  
Cr Andrea Metcalf  
Trevor Budge (Manager Regional Sustainable Development)  
Anna Knight (Creative Cities Officer)

Recommended Committee Members (external):

|    |                |
|----|----------------|
| 1  | Sonia Anthony  |
| 2  | Rose Vincent   |
| 3  | Wes Vine       |
| 4  | Bryley Savage  |
| 5  | George Biron   |
| 6  | Laura Maywood  |
| 7  | Carly Noble    |
| 8  | Hayley Tibbett |
| 9  | Neil Clark     |
| 10 | Jemily Sweet   |
| 11 | Abbie Place    |
| 12 | Amelia Byrne   |
| 13 | Bernard Glaude |

Recommended Committee Members (internal)

Two (2) City of Greater Bendigo representatives at a Director or Manager level with one (1) from the Health and Wellbeing Directorate and one (1) from the Strategy and Growth Directorate.

An officer from the Regional Sustainable Development Unit to provide Committee support.

Two (2) City of Greater Bendigo representatives at any level, one (1) representing tourism and one (1) representing health.

**Priority/Importance:**

Formation of the Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee is a high priority to ensure the opportunities generated from Bendigo's designation as a Creative City of Gastronomy are fully realised.

**Options/Alternatives:**

The options are to appoint the recommended members of the Committee or to reject the recommendations of the selection 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 March 2020.

**Consultation/Communication****External Consultation:**

Advertisements with a call out for committee members appeared in the Bendigo Advertiser and Mclvor Times, with Expressions of Interest accepted for a 5-week period. 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 on the Bendigo Gastronomy website, and all individuals involved in the City's UCCN application were invited to apply to join the Committee.

**Internal Consultation:**

An internal Gastronomy Application Management Team oversaw the development of the UNESCO Creative Cities Application and supported the commitment to form an Advisory Committee should our application be successful.

**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. Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee Draft Terms of Reference



## **Creative City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee**

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# **TERMS OF REFERENCE and associated matters**

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### **1. Introduction**

The City of Greater Bendigo was designated a UNESCO Creative City in October 2019, in the category of Gastronomy. The City's application embraced everything that is happening across the city and region in terms of food and beverages, and proposed ambitious projects to further the mission of UNESCO and the Creative Cities Network. The application was developed with four pillars at its heart:

- Recognition and elevation of our Indigenous heritage and living culture
- Creativity, innovation and diversity
- Health and Wellbeing
- Sustainability

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) was created in 2004 to foster international cooperation with and between cities that have recognised culture and creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development. The Network recognises seven areas of creativity, one of which is Gastronomy. There are currently 246 cities in the UCCN Network, with 36 recognised in the category of Gastronomy – including Tucson (USA), Parma (Italy), Östersund (Sweden), Bergen (Norway) and Chengdu (China).

The network works together, foregrounding creativity and culture in development at both a local and international level. The member cities come from diverse regions and work towards a common mission: placing creativity and cultural industries at the core of their development plans to make their cities and regions safe, resilient, inclusive and sustainable.

The UNESCO Creative Cities brand is globally recognised and can significantly raise the national and international profile of the city and region. Of all the creative categories, Gastronomy offers the most potential to benefit the community and economy – through developing and promoting our already thriving food and beverage industries.

## **2. Terminology**

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network – ‘the Network’ – provides overarching direction for all City of Gastronomy activities. The Mission of the Network must be considered when developing plans, projects and initiatives under the City of Gastronomy banner.

Bendigo's designation as a City of Gastronomy is not about one restaurant, one café, one grower or producer; this is about the sum of our region's parts and our collective plans for the future. The designation first and foremost recognises that Bendigo is a creative city, and the title is not simply about food and beverages but about all forms of culture and creativity that thrive in our city and region.

The application took a collaborative regional approach and highlighted the development of healthy food systems to benefit everyone. Importantly, being a UNESCO City of Gastronomy is about the region as a whole – from the Murray to the Macedon Ranges – and all the initiatives that are bringing healthy, fresh and creative food into the spotlight.

While the term ‘gastronomy’ might suggest elite fine foods and restaurants, it means a lot more. Gastronomy is about growing and processing food, about the art of good food and drink, and the concept fits with many important aspects of Bendigo and the region's culture and economy, such as:

- First Nations history, culture and relationship with Country – life in our region was for thousands of years based on a local and sustainable food system
- Innovation and creativity in agriculture, manufacturing and food production
- Health issues being addressed through a focus on nutrition and healthy lifestyles
- Increasing interest in local food systems that reduce waste, increase access to fresh food and reduce inequality
- The linking of food production to local employment and sustainable use of resources in the context of climate change
- Food share, food banks and social enterprises addressing social disadvantage through food and training initiatives
- Growing importance of ‘kitchen gardens’, urban agriculture in Bendigo and the region

From sustainable food systems to the damage and disruption brought by European settlement, from globalisation and mass production changing our relationship to food to an increasing emphasis on local, healthy, nutritious food, Bendigo's story is one that will resonate with cities around the world.

## **3. Purpose**

The City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee (the Committee) is a high level strategically focused advisory group. The purpose of the Committee is to provide the best high level advice, guidance and strategic representation to Council with respect to matters concerning UNESCO Creative City and City of Gastronomy status and activities.

The Committee will support Council and CoGB in the development of relevant strategy, policy and action plans and assist with community engagement and discussion around these issues.

The Terms of Reference are provided to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Committee. Key roles of the Committee include:

- a. Providing advice to Council on current and emerging issues for food systems, gastronomic tourism, land management practices, Indigenous food systems and strategies to heal the Country, including issues related to, but not limited to, social, educational, economic, cultural and environmental aspects.
- b. Providing advice on matters strategically relevant to City of Gastronomy designation and the mission of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as required by Council, including input on food systems strategies and projects, health and wellbeing initiatives, planning considerations, project priorities and funding which may be considered to have an impact on our commitment to the Network and to the Gastronomy cities globally.
- c. Participating in consultative forums initiated by the CoGB for the purpose of informing and seeking feedback from the community.
- d. Assisting in the development of partnerships and communication networks to ensure effective dissemination of information, coordinated advice and feedback to Council.
- e. Harnessing the opportunities that CoGB's community engagement meetings afford to profile issues relevant to Gastronomy, the Network and global cooperation initiatives.
- f. Providing recommendations for research or investigations into strategic issues impacting on gastronomy, food systems, land management innovation, hospitality and tourism.
- g. Providing clear recommendations based on skills, knowledge and experience of the members.
- h. Identify relevant funding opportunities.

Council will take the advice of the City of Gastronomy Advisory Committee into consideration as part of its deliberations, with the City of Greater Bendigo's appointed officer generally the primary liaison between the Committee and Council.

#### 4. Membership

To ensure a balanced and comprehensive base for advice, the Committee should collectively have a diversity of relevant expertise and experience. Ideally there should be a balanced representation of genders and culturally diverse representation. The Committee should also reflect a regional approach, including representatives from other municipalities.

Membership to the Committee shall comprise:

- 4.1 Three (3) Greater Bendigo City Councillors, with one Councillor to be the Chair and another the Deputy Chair.
- 4.2 One Greater Bendigo Youth Councillor
- 4.3 Up to 13 members drawn from Bendigo and surrounding municipalities who represent a broad range of technical skills and community experience.

Members should represent the diversity of creativity and gastronomy, with good understanding of the different aspects of gastronomy (e.g. education, sustainability, health, innovation, creativity, production, hospitality, tourism etc.)

Representatives should demonstrate a general interest in gastronomy, rather than one aspect, with the capacity to consider the views of the wider community and to consider issues strategically and impartially. Community representatives will be chosen by an expression of interest process.

- 4.4 Two (2) City of Greater Bendigo representatives at a Director or Manager level with one (1) from the Health and Wellbeing Directorate and one (1) from the Strategy and Growth Directorate. An officer from the Regional Sustainable Development Unit shall be appointed as the Executive Officer to the Committee.

Two (2) City of Greater Bendigo representatives at any level, one (1) representing tourism and one (1) representing health.

- 4.5 As required by the Committee, members can be co-opted to the Committee to provide specific technical expertise or participate in particular projects.
- 4.6 If a Committee member misses more than two meetings in succession without informing the Committee Chair or Vice Chair, that person will be contacted, and their membership of the Committee may be revoked.
- 4.7 The roles and responsibilities of the Committee members are:
  - a. To be familiar with the relevant council strategies (e.g. Food Systems Strategy, Environment Strategy), the City's Application to UNESCO as well as the UNESCO Creative Cities Mission and the work of other Creative Cities (especially, but not limited to, Cities of Gastronomy). The Committee should be familiar with the UN's Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (which provide overarching direction for all projects and initiatives in the Network).
  - b. to be fully prepared for meetings
  - c. to agree to participate in a collaborative meeting format

- d. to bring expertise, local knowledge and broad community experience to the table
- e. to consider and raise issues, proposals and ideas; and
- f. to provide informed advice and guidance.

**5. Expressions of Interest**

- 5.1 Expressions of Interest for Committee membership will be sought through a public call seeking a diversity of skill sets and experience.
- 5.2 Expressions of Interest for Committee membership must include responses to a set of Key Selection Criteria/Questions. All Expressions of Interest received for Committee membership will be considered by a Selection Panel.
- 5.3 The role of the Selection Panel shall be to assess all Expressions of Interest received, develop a shortlist for interview if required and, following interview, make recommendations to Council as to the preferred Committee membership.
- 5.4 The new Committee will be formally appointed by Council and members will serve in a voluntary capacity.
- 5.5 Any City of Greater Bendigo Officers other than the five nominated officers who attend Committee meetings shall do so in an ex-officio capacity.

**6. Term of Appointment**

- 6.1 Delegates (section 4.3) shall remain on the Committee for their term so long as they represent the authority referred to or until such time as Council or the relevant government authority chooses to replace them.
- 6.2 Community representatives on the Committee are to be appointed for 4 years. Councillor appointments shall be for a 12 month term.
- 6.3 Retiring Committee members may apply for further terms of office up to a maximum of 3 terms.
- 6.4 The Committee shall make recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate to fill any vacancy on the Committee and the term of office of the newly appointed Committee member shall expire at the same time as the Committee member being replaced.

**7. Chairperson**

A Councillor is to be appointed by Council to chair the meetings. If the Chair is absent, one of the other Councillors or Council delegate present is to chair by agreement.

**8. Conduct of Meetings**

Committee meetings will be conducted as follows:

- a. Committee meetings are to be held on a regular cycle bi-monthly for the first 12 months with a review of frequency at the end of this time. Additional meetings may be required from time to time. Timing will be confirmed.

- b. Meetings will generally be held at City of Greater Bendigo offices, in Bendigo City Centre.
- c. A quorum will consist of more than half of the Committee members who are eligible to vote.
- d. The Committee will endeavour to reach decisions by consensus. Where this is not achievable, voting rights extend to community members. Voting rights do not extend to Councillors or City of Greater Bendigo officers.
- e. There is no provision for proxy attendees or proxy voting. In the event that a committee member is unable to attend but wishes to cast a vote of an agenda item, the committee member must submit their vote in writing by midday on the day of the meeting.
- f. The Committee, by resolution or through the Chair, may invite any CoGB staff member, individual, interest group, or agency representative to attend a meeting as a delegation or to submit or present information that will assist the Committee in carrying out its functions.
- g. Minutes of each Committee meeting will be recorded and distributed to all Committee members. The minutes shall also be made available to all Councillors and the City's Executive Management Team.

#### **9. Conflict of Interest**

Committee members should declare a conflict of interest if they are to discuss an item that, if supported by Council, could result in a direct or indirect benefit or loss to them as opposed to a large sector of the greater Bendigo community. The provisions of the Local Government Act 1989 apply to Councillor Members.

#### **10. Dismissal of Members**

Council and the Chief Executive Officer retain the right to revoke the membership of any person found to be acting outside the interests of the City of Greater Bendigo and the communities / sectors that the Committee is charged with representing.

#### **11. Insurance**

- 11.1 Public Liability Insurance: Members of any Committee established by the Council under the Local Government Act or any other enabling legislation or, whilst acting in that capacity within the scope of their duties for and on behalf of the Council, are provided with cover under the LMI Broadform Public and Products Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance, subject to the LMI policy terms, conditions, endorsements, exclusions and deductible and the like.
- 11.2 Council appointed Committee members, whilst acting in that capacity within the scope of their duties for and on behalf of Council, are covered within the terms and conditions of the Council's LMI Public and Products Liability Insurance Policy for third party personal injury or damage to property (as defined) caused by an occurrence, and where applicable for breach of professional duty, in connection with the Business of the Council.



- 11.3 The City of Greater Bendigo's insurance policies provide indemnity for personal injury, property loss, products liability and claims for breach of professional duty, subject at all times to the Policy "Conditions and Exclusions".

## **12. Dissolution**

- 12.1 The Committee may, at any meeting, agree to disband.
- 12.2 The Council may - for any reason - resolve to disband the Committee and, upon written notice to that effect being given to Committee members, the Committee shall be disbanded.

## **13. Implementation and Review**

Sections of these Terms of Reference (Sections 5 - 16) are standard for Advisory Committees to Council and are only subject to review by Council or the City of Greater Bendigo. The Committee will undertake a review of the other sections of the Terms of Reference every three (3) years prior to the conclusion of its term.

## **14. Resources provided by City of Greater Bendigo**

- 14.1 Provide administrative and technical support for the Committee's meetings.
- 14.2 Provide a suitable venue for the Committee's meetings, generally of 1-2 hours duration.

## **15. Communication**

Minutes of each meeting will be recorded and distributed to the Committee and Council.

- 15.1 The Chairperson will report to Council regularly.
- 15.2 A delegation from the Committee will present annually to Council Briefings on the Committee's activities and initiatives in the previous year.
- 15.3 Responding to media requests or making public comment on behalf of the Committee is the responsibility of the Chairperson, Chief Executive Officer or an authorised City of Greater Bendigo officer. In some circumstances it may be appropriate for a Committee member to speak publically about the work of the Committee. In these instances, Chairperson approval must be sought.

## **16. Confidentiality**

- 16.1 The Committee will, from time to time, deal with matters subject to confidentiality. Items of confidentiality will be specifically identified and Committee members are expected to observe this provision for the period that the provision applies.

## 5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

### 5.1 GREENING GREATER BENDIGO STRATEGY

#### Document Information

**Author** Tania MacLeod, Urban Forester

**Responsible Director** Debbie Wood, Director Presentation and Assets

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#### Purpose

For Council to endorse the draft Greening Greater Bendigo strategy and associated action plan and gain support for its release for public display.

#### Summary

Greening Greater Bendigo is a 50-year strategic vision for how urban trees and green infrastructure are planned and prioritised across Greater Bendigo. A draft strategy and accompanying 10-year action plan have been prepared for Council endorsement.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council release the draft Greening Greater Bendigo for public display.

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#### Policy Context

The development of an Urban Forest Strategy is an action of Council's Community Plan 2017-2021.

Goal 4: Presentation and managing growth.

*4.4.3. Increase urban shade and provide protection for significant and heritage trees through the development of a Greater Bendigo Tree Strategy.*

The development of an Urban Forest Strategy for Greater Bendigo was first identified as flagship project 2 in Council's Environment Strategy endorsed in 2016.

*Flagship Project 2: 'City in the forest, forest in the city' aims to strategically increase vegetation cover across all urban areas of Greater Bendigo to reduce the urban heat island affect, improve community health and wellbeing and to enhance the overall attractiveness of the City.*

## Report

Greening Greater Bendigo is the first urban forest strategy for Greater Bendigo. It is a 50-year strategic vision for increasing tree cover and health across urban areas and townships of Greater Bendigo and provides a strategic response to the complex challenges facing human and natural systems over the coming decades.

The document itself outlines the strategic context and the case for such a strategy. It comprises a vision and rationale on which targets have been set and the action plan has been aligned. It also contains an implementation framework outlining resource considerations and ongoing monitoring, reporting and review.

## Targets

1. Increase tree cover across urban areas and townships of Greater Bendigo from 16% at present to:
  - a. 25% tree cover across urban Bendigo by 2030
  - b. 35% tree cover across urban Bendigo by 2050
2. Improve the health of Bendigo's urban forest. By 2030 we will achieve:
  - a. An establishment rate for all newly planted trees of at least 95%At any one time there will be:
  - b. No more than the 10% of the total tree population with a useful life expectancy of less than ten years; and
  - c. No more than 10% of the total tree population with a health and condition rating of average or poor
3. The community will have a greater understanding of the importance of the urban forest and engage in its stewardship

These targets will be refined as more accurate baselines are established over the coming months with the completion of the tree inventory.

## Action Plan

The strategy is accompanied by a ten-year action plan which outlines the City's most immediate priorities and commitments to achieve the vision over the short-term. It aims to reverse the trend of tree loss from urban areas and align the City's resources and procedures accordingly.

The numerous actions have been grouped into five key strategic themes and assigned priorities and timeframes for action. Of all the actions, there are three that have been listed as priority actions based on their importance to the successful delivery of this strategy.

### Priority actions

1. Develop and deliver a ten-year tree planting program to increase tree cover and replace projected tree losses (Action 1.1)
2. Develop precinct plans for each urban precinct and township to guide local tree planting and green infrastructure investment (Action 4.1)
3. Undertake a review of the mechanisms available to protect significant trees and landscapes (Action 4.2)

### Vision

The vision for Greening Greater Bendigo was written by Greater Bendigo's Youth Council in November 2019 with careful consideration of the community's aspiration identified throughout the extensive community engagement period.

The vision reads:

*"Greater Bendigo: where the community values mindful development that enhances and conserves our environment, provides well-designed green spaces that promote community wellbeing and is conscious of our future climate."*

### Strategy Scope

The primary focus of Greening Greater Bendigo is on Council owned and managed land within urban areas and townships of Greater Bendigo. This includes; park and street trees; road reserves; parks and gardens; active and passive recreational reserves; urban vegetation; natural reserves within urban areas; waterways under City of Greater Bendigo management and; where planning controls can be implemented such as in new developments, overlays and subdivisions.

Under this strategy Council will also advocate for urban forestry on the interface of National and State Parks with urban areas, private properties and reserves and easements within urban areas managed by other agencies - particularly with Vic Roads around township entrances.

### **Consultation/Communication**

The development of Greening Greater Bendigo has involved extensive consultation with the community, internal work areas and affected stakeholders.

A period of community engagement took place in late-2018, the outcomes of which have previously been reported on.

Dja Dja Wurrung have provided feedback and guidance in aligning Greening Greater Bendigo to the aspirations of their Country Plan, Dhelkunya Dja 2014-2034, and will provide the forward for the final document. Youth Council has also provided valuable insights as well as penning the vision for the document.

Updates have been given to key stakeholders during the development of strategy including the Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee on multiple occasions and regular updates sent to those registered on the mailing list.

### Public display period

A period of public display is scheduled for feedback on the Greening Greater Bendigo draft following the February Council meeting and will run from February 20 to March 27, 2020.

The public display period for Greening Greater Bendigo coincides with that of Reimagining Bendigo Creek and the Greater Bendigo Food Systems Strategy. A communications and media plan will combine all three projects and comprise a radio campaign and multiple pop-ups at Summer in the Parks events encouraging the community to provide feedback via Council's website.

### **INTERNAL CONSULTATION**

The action plan has been developed in collaboration with multiple internal work areas over several months including dialogue at unit meetings, one-on-one meetings with relevant staff members and a drop-in style workshop in October which was attended by approximately 35 staff members. The table below lists the meetings with internal stakeholders and work areas that have taken place during the development of the action plan. In addition, 18 individual officers and work areas have provided written feedback on the draft strategy and action plan.

<b>Work area</b>	<b>Date</b>
Engineering	17/06/2019
Healthy Greater Bendigo	21/08/2019
Arboriculture and Environmental Management	27/08/2019; 13/12/2019
Community Partnerships	11/09/2019
Active and Healthy Lifestyles	12/09/2020; 25/09/2019
Walk, Cycle Greater Bendigo	20/09/2019
Statutory Planning - Planning Scheme Review	23/09/2019
Parks and Open Space	25/09/2019
Regional Sustainable Development	1/10/2019
Innovation and Transformation	4/10/2019
All staff workshop (40 staff members)	9/10/2019
Public Space and Place Making	10/10/2019
Statutory Planning	31/10/2019
Statutory Planning	28/11/2019
Communications and media	29/11/2019
ESD - Innovation and Transformation	4/12/2019
Food System Strategy	9/12/2019
Financial strategy	20/12/2019
Statutory Planning	20/12/2019
EMT	14/01/2020

**UPCOMING DATES**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>
Public display period	20 February– 27 March 2020
EMT briefing (Final document)	12 May 2020
Council briefing	1 June 2020
Ordinary Council Meeting (Final strategy endorsement)	17 June 2020

**Resource Implications**

Realising the vision for Greening Greater Bendigo requires long-term commitment from Council, City staff and the wider Greater Bendigo community. The Action Plan outlines the estimated resource demand for each action. The delivery of the action plan will require significant investment over the next decade and beyond and, in a period of rate-capping and slow economic growth, there will no doubt be challenges in securing sufficient resources. It will therefore be essential that Greening Greater Bendigo principles are integrated into the way that the City plans for and manages its assets and the public realm if the targets are to be met.

**Attachments**

1. Draft Greening Greater Bendigo 2020-2070
2. Draft Greening Greater Bendigo Action Plan 2020-2030
3. Community Engagement Plan

## **6. EMBRACING OUR CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

Nil.

## **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 note the record of assemblies of Councillors as outlined in this report.

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#### **Policy Context**

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

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

#### **Background Information**

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

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

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



**Report**

| Meeting Information                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                 |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Meeting Name/Type                      | Councillors' Briefing                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                 |
| Meeting Date                           | 13 January 2020                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                 |
| Matters discussed                      | 1. Review of Forward Agenda and Semi-Final Ordinary Agenda Review<br>2. Planning matters<br>3. Response to Petition - Melbury Court Playspace<br>4. Presentation by Make a Change<br>5. Review Council Priorities<br>6. Council Elections 2020<br>7. Industrial Land Development Strategy |                                 |
|                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                 |
| Attendees/Apologies                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                 |
| Councillors                            | Cr Margaret O'Rourke<br>Cr Jennifer Alden<br>Cr Matt Emond<br>Cr Rod Fyffe<br>Cr Susie Hawke<br>Cr Andrea Metcalf<br>Cr James Williams<br><b>Apology:</b><br>Cr George Flack                                                                                                              |                                 |
| Staff/<br>Community<br>Representatives | Mr Craig Niemann<br>Ms Debbie Wood<br>Mr Nathan Morsillo<br>Mr Steven Abbott<br>Mr Trevor Budge<br>Mr Peter Hargreaves<br><b>Apologies:</b><br>Mr Andrew Cooney<br>Ms Vicky Mason<br>Mr Bernie O'Sullivan                                                                                 |                                 |
|                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                 |
| Conflict of Interest disclosures       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                 |
| Matter No.                             | Councillor/officer making disclosure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Councillor/officer left meeting |
|                                        | Nil                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                 |

## 7.2 YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBER SELECTION

### Document Information

**Author** Rory White, Inclusive Communities Officer

**Responsible Director** Vicky Mason, Director Health and Wellbeing

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### Purpose

To thank outgoing Youth Councillors and endorse nine new Youth Councillors to join the Greater Bendigo Youth Council for 2020.

### Summary

The City of Greater Bendigo's Youth Council commenced in February 2019 with 18 Youth Councillors.

At the October 22, 2019 Youth Council meeting, eight Youth Councillors advised they would be resigning from the Youth Council to pursue studies or take up employment opportunities.

To fill these vacancies, the City undertook a publicly advertised Expression of Interest process during November. Short-listed applicants were interviewed in December 2019.

Due to the high quality of applicants, the Interview Panel resolved to offer nine young people a Youth Councillor role, meaning there are now 19 Youth Councillors.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council acknowledge the valuable contribution of retiring Youth Councillors and endorse the nine new Youth Councillors, listed in this report, who will join the City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council.

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### Policy Context

#### 1. Community Plan Reference:

City of Greater Bendigo Community Plan 2017-2021:

Goal 1 Lead and govern for all

Objective 1.1: Engage with all communities.

Goal 2 Wellbeing and fairness

Objective 2.4: Support participation and development for residents of all ages and abilities.

2019/20 Community Plan Action: Advance the voices of young people, including supporting the Greater Bendigo Youth Council and implementing the Youth Strategy.

City of Greater Bendigo Youth Strategy: Explore, Engage, Empower - Young People in Greater Bendigo (2017- 2021):

Goal 1 We provide opportunities for young people to have their say.

Action 1 Strengthen the Youth Action Group to become a Youth Council and increase connections between Councillors, young people and the community to advocate on priority areas.

### **Background Information**

The City of Greater Bendigo's Youth Council commenced at the beginning of 2019 with 18 Youth Councillors.

The Youth Council represents the voice of young people aged 14 to 24 years who live, work and study in the municipality. The Youth Council acts as an advisory and advocacy body to Council concerning the priority issues faced by local young people.

At the October 22, 2019 Youth Council meeting, eight Youth Councillors advised they would be resigning from the Youth Council to pursue their studies or take up employment opportunities.

To fill these vacancies, the City undertook a publicly advertised Expression of Interest process during November. Short-listed applicants were interviewed in December 2019.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) to join the Youth Council were publicly sought via advertisements and articles in local newspapers and community newsletters, City of Greater Bendigo and YO Bendigo websites and social media platforms, as well as local youth agency networks.

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

December 13, 2017 - Council adopted the Greater Bendigo Youth Strategy: Explore, Engage, Empower - Young People in Greater Bendigo (2017- 2021).

January 23, 2019: Council introduce and acknowledge the 18 young people selected to participate in the inaugural City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council.

## Report

At the October 22, 2019 Youth Council meeting eight Youth Councillors indicated their intention to resign to concentrate on their studies or employment opportunities.

The Youth Councillors who resigned were:

Alyssa Lai	(Scholarship to study in China)
Annalise Varker	(Concentrating on her new traineeship with DELWP)
Ella Edwards	(Concentrate on her VCE)
Eva Tuyet Jan	(Concentrating on her tertiary studies)
Jack Tayba	(Moving to Sydney to undertake an internship with Mercedes)
Natasha Romas	(Moved to Melbourne for employment with a legal firm)
Pan Pah Thei	(Concentrating on her tertiary studies)
Khayshie Tilak Ramesh	(Concentrate on her work and her role as Multicultural Youth Commissioner)

To fill these vacancies the City undertook a publicly advertised EOI process during November 2019. Fifteen EOI were received from young people for the eight vacant positions on the Youth Council.

The EOI process required applicants to respond to four questions concerning relevant knowledge and skills and experience in community leadership. Young people's EOIs were assessed and shortlisted by City staff based on the following criteria:

- a) Motivation to nominate.
- b) Understanding of young people's needs in the community.
- c) Understanding of the Youth Councillor role.
- d) Experience in community leadership.

Thirteen applicants were shortlisted for interviews which were held in December 2019 and involved the: Mayor, Cr Margaret O'Rourke, Cr Malcolm Pethybridge, former Youth Councillor Alyssa Lai and Rory White (Inclusive Communities Officer).

Nine new Youth Councillors were selected:

Amy Manderson	18 years and lives in Strathfieldsaye. Amy recently completed her VCE at Bendigo Senior Secondary College (BSSC) and will begin a Diploma of Education at La Trobe Bendigo in 2020.
Grace McIntosh	17 years and lives in Junortoun. Grace attends NetSchool and is an active member of Hip Hopopportunities based in Eaglehawk.
Jack Smith	19 years and is moving to Bendigo from Mildura to complete a Bachelor of Applied Science/ Master of Occupational Therapy. Jack brings experience in the YMCA Victorian Youth Parliament.
Liloma Qurbani	18 years and was born in Afghanistan and lived in Pakistan and India before settling in Australia in 2017. Liloma is completing her VCE at BSSC.

Lucy McNaughton – Perry	19 years and lives in Eaglehawk. Lucy is studying a Bachelor of Business at La Trobe University Bendigo.
Mariah Tayba	18 years. Moved to Bendigo from Lebanon in 2015 and has a strong passion for volunteering. Will complete her VCE at BSSC in 2020.
Remus Brasier	15 years and lives in Quarry Hill. Remus is currently completing Year 10 at Girton Grammar in 2020.
Shay Murphy	21 years and lives in Maiden Gully. Completing a double degree in Business & Law at La Trobe Bendigo.
Xavier Rodgers	14 years and lives in Eaglehawk. Currently attends Victory Christian College.

With the addition of nine new Youth Councillors, the Youth Council now comprises 13 young women and 6 young men.

Youth Council induction has occurred in January 2020 and the first Youth Council Briefing meeting will be held on February 11, 2020. The next quarterly Youth Council Briefing to Council is scheduled for March 2, 2020.

### **Consultation/Communication**

The opportunity to submit an EOI to join the Youth Council was publicly advertised through a range of mediums including newspapers, City websites and social media. City staff also presented on the Youth Council and its membership opportunities to schools and service providers. Additionally, staff responded to numerous enquiries from interested community members and service providers during the EOI period.

### **Resource Implications**

Young people participate in the Youth Council on a voluntary basis.

The Community Partnerships Unit coordinates, supports and promotes the Youth Council within existing budgetary resources.

### **Conclusion**

The establishment of the City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council was recommended as part of the City's Youth Strategy: Explore, Engage, Empower - Young People in Greater Bendigo (2017- 2021).

Following an EOI process at the end of 2018, 18 young people were selected to comprise the inaugural Youth Council which commenced at the beginning of 2019 for a two-year term.

At the October 22, 2019 Youth Council meeting eight Youth Councillors indicated their intention to resign to pursue their studies or take up employment opportunities.

The EOI process seeking new Youth Councillors commenced in November and interviews were conducted in December 2019.

Fifteen EOIs were received and 13 young people were shortlisted for interviews. Of these, nine young people are recommended to be endorsed by Council as new Youth Councillors on the City of Greater Bendigo Youth Council for the remainder of the initial two-year term.

### 7.3 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT Q2- 31 DECEMBER 2019

#### Document Information

**Author** Nathan Morsillo, Manager Financial Strategy

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

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#### Summary/Purpose

To provide Council with a report on the financial performance and financial position of the City of Greater Bendigo (CoGB) to 31 December for 2019/20.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receive the Finance Report comparing Budgeted and Actual Revenues and Expenses to 31 December 2019, in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

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#### Background Information

In accordance with Section 138 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:

“At least every 3 months, the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a statement comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with the actual revenue and expenditure to date is presented to the Council at a Council meeting which is open to the public.”

A review of the financials for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019 was undertaken by the City's Finance Committee on 10 February 2020.

#### Policy Context

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

|               |                                                                  |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Goal 1</u> | <u>Lead and govern for all</u>                                   |
| Objective 1.3 | Be innovative and financially responsible                        |
| Objective 1.4 | Be accountable and efficient in its use of the community's money |

#### Report

This report provides an update on the financial performance in comparison to the budget for the 2019/2020 financial year for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019.

## 1. YTD Financial Performance

### Operating Result - YTD Actual vs YTD Budget

Operating result is a measure for accounting for an organisation's profit or loss for a given period. An Operating Result recognises all revenue and operating expenditure; it includes non-cash expenditure such as depreciation and non-cash revenue of donated assets.

The City's operating result as at 31 December 2019 is a variance of \$2.6M (4%) from the position budgeted for this point in the year. There are a number of factors contributing to this variance which are outlined in further detail later in the report.

| <b>YTD Budget<br/>31/12/2019<br/>Surplus/(Deficit)</b> | <b>YTD Actual<br/>31/12/2019<br/>Surplus/(Deficit)</b> | <b>Variance</b>     |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| \$62.6M                                                | \$60M                                                  | \$2.6M Unfavourable |

The Income Statement for the period 01 July 2019 – 31 December 2019 is included below:



## Income Statement – COGB

|                         | YEAR TO DATE   |                |                |            | FORECAST       |                    |                   |           |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|
|                         | YTD Budget     | YTD Actual     | YTD Variance   |            | Annual Budget  | Full Year Forecast | Forecast Variance |           |
|                         | \$'000         | \$'000         | \$'000         | %          | \$'000         | \$'000             | \$'000            | %         |
| <b>REVENUE</b>          |                |                |                |            |                |                    |                   |           |
| Rates & Charges         | 121,607        | 121,308        | (299)          | 0%         | 121,851        | 121,707            | (144)             | 0%        |
| Stat Fees & Fines       | 3,096          | 3,077          | (19)           | -1%        | 5,581          | 5,311              | (270)             | -5%       |
| User Fees               | 13,297         | 14,583         | 1,286          | 10%        | 26,897         | 28,306             | 1,409             | 5%        |
| Operating Grants        | 8,340          | 9,398          | 1,058          | 13%        | 24,746         | 26,713             | 1,967             | 8%        |
| Capital Grants          | 4,337          | 3,378          | (959)          | -22%       | 8,674          | 9,124              | 450               | 5%        |
| Contributions - Cash    | 2,233          | 1,981          | (252)          | -11%       | 4,116          | 4,213              | 97                | 2%        |
| Contributions - Asset   | 6,154          | 0              | (6,154)        | -100%      | 12,307         | 12,307             | -                 | 0%        |
| Interest & Other        | 712            | 656            | (56)           | -8%        | 1,424          | 1,320              | (104)             | -7%       |
| Internal Revenue        | 14,103         | 13,158         | (945)          | -7%        | 28,207         | 25,826             | (2,381)           | -8%       |
| Share of NCGRLC         | 46             | 0              | (46)           | -100%      | 92             | 92                 | -                 | 0%        |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>    | <b>173,925</b> | <b>167,539</b> | <b>(6,386)</b> | <b>-4%</b> | <b>233,895</b> | <b>234,920</b>     | <b>1,025</b>      | <b>0%</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>         |                |                |                |            |                |                    |                   |           |
| Employee Benefits       | 34,798         | 34,142         | 657            | 2%         | 70,525         | 70,560             | 35                | 0%        |
| Materials & Services    | 39,040         | 36,367         | 2,673          | 7%         | 74,953         | 74,529             | (425)             | -1%       |
| Equipment Expenses      | 3,638          | 2,934          | 704            | 19%        | 6,941          | 7,008              | 67                | 1%        |
| Depreciation            | 19,621         | 20,100         | (479)          | -2%        | 39,240         | 40,266             | 1,026             | 3%        |
| Borrowing Costs         | 1,060          | 1,023          | 37             | 3%         | 2,120          | 2,120              | -                 | 0%        |
| Loss on PPEI            | -355           | 65             | (419)          | 118%       | 4,326          | 4,441              | 115               | 3%        |
| Bad Debts               | 112            | -1             | 113            | 101%       | 226            | 226                | -                 | 0%        |
| Internal Expenses       | 13,389         | 12,871         | 518            | 4%         | 26,657         | 26,208             | (449)             | -2%       |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>   | <b>111,304</b> | <b>107,501</b> | <b>3,803</b>   | <b>3%</b>  | <b>224,988</b> | <b>225,358</b>     | <b>370</b>        | <b>0%</b> |
| <b>Operating Result</b> | <b>62,621</b>  | <b>60,038</b>  | <b>-2,583</b>  | <b>-4%</b> | <b>8,907</b>   | <b>9,562</b>       | <b>654</b>        | <b>7%</b> |

Major variances that contribute to the result include:

| Area                          | Fav / Unfav  | Main Contributing Factors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Variance |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Contributions – Asset         | Unfavourable | This income relates to infrastructure Council takes ownership of when developments are completed. The process to value these assets and record them in Councils systems has not yet occurred this financial year. This is a timing issue and not likely to result in a permanent variance | \$6.2M   |
| Government Grants – Operating | Favourable   | The favourable result is due to additional grants including Community Partnerships (inclusive communities and champions for change programs); and various Regional Sustainability and Development grants. This income will be matched by expenditure in 19/20 and 20/21.                  | \$1M     |

| Area                        | Fav / Unfav  | Main Contributing Factors                                                                                                                                                                           | Variance |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| User Fees                   | Favourable   | Higher quantities of commercial waste have been received than budgeted. Additionally, there has been increased activity at the Bendigo Livestock Exchange.                                          | \$1.2M   |
| Equipment Expenses          | Favourable   | Timing of expenditure for plant and equipment expenses associated with unsealed road maintenance has changed due to dry conditions. This includes expenditure on crushed rock and plant operations. | \$0.7M   |
| Government Grants – Capital | Unfavourable | Capital grants are unfavourable to the adopted budget due to the timing of invoicing for grants related to sealed road projects. Grant funds are expected to be received within the coming months.  | \$1M     |

## 2. Forecast Performance

The City regularly updates its forecasts, which estimates the financial year position as at 30 June 2020. The operating forecast result is currently favourable to budget, representing various minor additional forecast income and expenditure reductions in the current financial year.

### Operating Result - Forecast v Annual Budget

| Annual Budget<br>30/06/2020<br>Operational Surplus | Forecast<br>30/06/2020<br>Operational Surplus | Variance          |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| \$8.9M                                             | \$9.5M                                        | \$0.7M Favourable |

Major variances that contribute to the forecast favourable operating result include the following:

| Area             | Fav / Unfav | Main Contributing Factors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Variance |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Operating Grants | Favourable  | The City has been successful in gaining a number of operating grants that were not included in the adopted budget. These programs are mainly across Active & Healthy Lifestyles, Regional Sustainable Development and Community Partnerships. These will have corresponding expenditure in the current and subsequent year. | \$2M     |

| Area      | Fav / Unfav | Main Contributing Factors                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Variance |
|-----------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| User Fees | Favourable  | Additional levels of revenue are forecast due to increased levels of commercial waste being processed. In addition, it is forecasted that the City will receive higher than budgeted revenue from fees associated with parking, building appointments and new pool barrier regulations (with some associated additional expenditure due to increased workload) | \$1.4M   |

### 2019/2020 Cash Result

The cash result is managed on an ongoing basis rather than annually, as the impact of previous year's results will affect the following year's budget.

|                                                        | Annual Budget<br>Surplus/(Deficit) |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Accumulated Surplus Carried Forward 30/06/19           | \$20,273,707                       |
| Carried Forward Capital Work Projects from 2018/2019   | (\$13,863,306)                     |
| Grants received in 2018/2019 not spent at 30 June 2019 | (\$761,871)                        |
| Budgeted accumulated cash surplus as at 30/06/20       | (\$472,033)                        |

|                                                                              | Forecast Result<br>Surplus/(Deficit) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2019/20 financial year cash result (including above carry-forwards & grants) | \$4,380,732                          |
| Capital Projects identified at 30/09/2019 as requiring Carry Forward         | N/A*                                 |
| Forecast of grants in 2019/2020 relating to 2020/2021                        | N/A*                                 |
| 2019/2020 forecast accumulated surplus/(deficit)                             | \$10,029,262                         |

\* - these are forecast in the third quarter report

### 3. Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet for 31 December 2019 is included below:

## Balance Sheet – COGB

|                                             | Annual<br>Budget<br>2020<br>\$'000 | YTD<br>Previous<br>Actual<br>2019<br>\$'000 | YTD<br>Actual<br>2020<br>\$'000 | Year on Year<br>Variance<br>\$'000 % |            |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Current Assets</b>                       |                                    |                                             |                                 |                                      |            |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents                   | 45,832                             | 64,353                                      | 64,658                          | 305                                  | 0%         |
| Trade and Other Receivables                 | 12,270                             | 77,492                                      | 78,145                          | 654                                  | 1%         |
| Inventory                                   | -                                  | 424                                         | 698                             | 274                                  | 65%        |
| Other Assets/Prepayments                    | 1,520                              | 1,718                                       | 1,588                           | (130)                                | -8%        |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>                 | <b>59,622</b>                      | <b>143,987</b>                              | <b>145,089</b>                  | <b>1,102</b>                         | <b>58%</b> |
| <b>Non-Current Assets</b>                   |                                    |                                             |                                 |                                      |            |
| Investments in Associates                   | 3,949                              | 3,222                                       | 3,272                           | 51                                   | 2%         |
| Trade and Other Receivables                 | 80                                 | 101                                         | 59                              | (42)                                 | -41%       |
| Forestry Plantations                        | 0                                  | 83                                          | 83                              | -                                    | 0%         |
| Intangible Assets                           | 0                                  | 216                                         | 216                             | -                                    | 0%         |
| Plant, Equipment and Infrastructure         | 1,538,802                          | 1,486,152                                   | 1,599,783                       | 113,631                              | 8%         |
| <b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>             | <b>1,542,831</b>                   | <b>1,489,772</b>                            | <b>1,603,412</b>                | <b>113,640</b>                       | <b>8%</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                         | <b>1,602,453</b>                   | <b>1,633,759</b>                            | <b>1,748,501</b>                | <b>114,742</b>                       | <b>7%</b>  |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>                  |                                    |                                             |                                 |                                      |            |
| Trade and Other Payables                    | 15,828                             | 13,724                                      | 10,910                          | 2,814                                | 21%        |
| Provisions                                  | 16,675                             | 18,380                                      | 16,521                          | 1,859                                | 10%        |
| Interest Bearing Liabilities and Borrowings | 5,397                              | 2,107                                       | 1,998                           | 109                                  | 5%         |
| Trust Funds                                 | 3,025                              | 2,672                                       | 2,560                           | 112                                  | 4%         |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>            | <b>40,925</b>                      | <b>36,883</b>                               | <b>31,989</b>                   | <b>4,894</b>                         | <b>13%</b> |
| <b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>              |                                    |                                             |                                 |                                      |            |
| Provisions                                  | 9,875                              | 10,251                                      | 10,804                          | (552)                                | -5%        |
| Interest Bearing Liabilities and Borrowings | 40,643                             | 45,684                                      | 41,725                          | 3,960                                | 9%         |
| <b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>        | <b>50,518</b>                      | <b>55,936</b>                               | <b>52,529</b>                   | <b>3,407</b>                         | <b>6%</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                    | <b>91,443</b>                      | <b>92,818</b>                               | <b>84,518</b>                   | <b>8,301</b>                         | <b>9%</b>  |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                           | <b>1,511,010</b>                   | <b>1,540,941</b>                            | <b>1,663,984</b>                | <b>123,044</b>                       | <b>8%</b>  |
| <b>Equity</b>                               |                                    |                                             |                                 |                                      |            |
| Accumulated Surplus                         | 616,862                            | 764,739                                     | 821,407                         | 56,668                               | 7%         |
| Reserves                                    | 871,565                            | 752,124                                     | 817,156                         | 65,031                               | 9%         |
| Other Reserves                              | 22,583                             | 24,077                                      | 25,421                          | 1,344                                | 6%         |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>                         | <b>1,511,010</b>                   | <b>1,540,941</b>                            | <b>1,663,984</b>                | <b>123,044</b>                       | <b>8%</b>  |

#### **4. Proposed Mid-Year budget consideration**

It is usual that during a budget cycle, additional and unplanned issues arise that need to be addressed and can impact a budget. These could be expenditure or revenue.

During the first six months of 19/20, a number of items have been identified and are included for Council's consideration. These are included at **Attachment 1**.

The total impact of these adjustments is \$1.4M, and for the purposes of effective forecasting, these have been factored into the forecasts noted in Section 3. Should Council not approve the inclusion of all of some of the proposed variances, the forecast can be adjusted.

#### **Conclusion**

The Finance Committee has reviewed the statement comparing Budgeted and Actual Revenues and Expenses to 31 December 2019, and the financial forecast for 2019/2020.

**Attachment 1 - Mid-Year Budget Items**

| <b>Project/Service Area</b>            | <b>Details</b>                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Amount</b>      |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Gurri Wanyarra Energy Efficiency Audit | Budget submission has been prepared requesting a budget allocation to undertake a comprehensive audit and energy efficiency review at the Gurri Wanyarra site.       | \$50,000           |
| Gurri Wanyarra Utility Costs           | Following a full year of operation there is now a clearer picture of the utility costs associated with Gurri Wanyarra.                                               | \$245,000          |
| Purchase of Property in Maiden Gully   | Council has elected to purchase properties in Maiden Gully & Huntly which have strategic significance for future DCP planning.                                       | \$200,000          |
| Supporting the City of Gastronomy      | To support the UNESCO recognition, a budget submission has been prepared and approved which covers various costs (including salary) associated with the designation. | \$102,422          |
| Municipal Baths / Rosalind Park        | External design costs to support faster progression of this projects as a Councillor priority for 2020                                                               | \$233,000          |
| Kangaroo Flat Library Relocation       | Increase in budget allocation required to recognise the works brought forward into the current year that was previously intended to be staged over numerous years.   | \$586,818          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                           |                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>\$1,417,240</b> |

**8. URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil.

**9. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Nil.

**10. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**11. MAYOR'S REPORT**

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

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

Nil.