



MELTON CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the Meeting of the
Melton City Council will be held via a
videoconference on 22 November 2021 at 7:00pm.

**THIS AGENDA CONTAINS REPORTS TO BE DEALT
WITH AT A CLOSED MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Maurie Heaney
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	OPENING PRAYER AND RECONCILIATION STATEMENT	4
2.	APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE	4
3.	CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS	4
4.	DEPUTATIONS	4
5.	DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST, OTHER INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST OF ANY COUNCILLOR	4
6.	ADOPTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS	4
7.	SUMMARY OF INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS	5
7.1	SUMMARY OF INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 6, RULE 1 OF THE COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE RULES	5
8.	CORRESPONDENCE INWARD	11
8.1	PARLIAMENTARIAN AND DEPARTMENTAL LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE MAYOR	11
9.	PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS	15
10.	RESUMPTION OF DEBATE OR OTHER BUSINESS CARRIED OVER FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING	15
11.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	15
12.	PRESENTATION OF STAFF REPORTS	16
12.1	ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL - AGGREGATED MEETING MINUTES	16
	To present the aggregated minutes of Advisory Committee meetings yet to be considered by Council.	

12.2	LEADWEST COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES	52
	To present the unconfirmed minutes of the LeadWest Delegated Committee meeting held 22 September 2021.	
12.3	RESPONSE TO PETITION - MELTON CITY COUNCIL OCCASIONAL CARE SERVICES	60
	To respond to the petition tabled at the Ordinary meeting of Council dated Monday 25 October 2021, in relation to the phasing out of Occasional Care service.	
12.4	RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION 776 - PLANNING REFORM PROGRAM	66
	To report back to council on Notice of Motion 776 (Cr Deeming) relating to the State Government's Planning Reform Program.	
12.5	RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION 777 CR CARLI AND NOTICE OF MOTION 778 - CR. RAMSEY - AUSNET TRANSMISSION LINES	71
	To provide a response to Notices of Motion 777 (Cr Carli) and 778 (Cr Ramsey) updating Council on the Environmental Effects Statement for the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project and advising on actions Council can take to advocate for the best outcome for our community.	
12.6	RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION 786 (CR DEEMING)	163
	To respond to Notice of Motion 786 (Cr Deeming) to develop a Community Awareness Campaign in response to the Victorian Government's Sex Work Decriminalisation Bill.	
12.7	COUNCIL AND WELLBEING PLAN - ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 1ST QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT 2021/22	169
	To provide the first quarter update on the progressive achievement of the Council and Wellbeing Plan - Annual Action Plan 2021/22	
12.8	2022 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE	215
	To determine the 2022 Council Meeting Schedule	
12.9	COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION NOMINATIONS ON DELEGATED AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES 2021/2022	218
	To present Councillor representation nominations for Delegated and Advisory Committees of Council and other bodies for the approval of Council for the 2021/2022 year.	
13.	REPORTS FROM DELEGATES APPOINTED TO OTHER BODIES AND COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	234

14.	NOTICES OF MOTION	235
14.1	NOTICE OF MOTION 787 (CR ABBOUSHI)	235
14.2	NOTICE OF MOTION 788 (CR ABBOUSHI)	236
14.3	NOTICE OF MOTION 789 (CR SHANNON)	236
14.4	NOTICE OF MOTION 790 (CR VANDENBERG)	238
15.	COUNCILLOR'S QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	239
16.	URGENT BUSINESS	239
17.	CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS	240
17.1	COVID-19 FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MELTON WAVES LEISURE CENTRE PROVIDER	241
	To provide a report to Council outlining the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on the management and operation of the Melton Waves Leisure Centre and seek approval for Council to provide financial support and assistance to the management provider.	
17.2	2022 COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS ASSESSMENT PANEL MEETING OUTCOMES	251
	To present to Council the Minutes of the 2022 Community Achievement Awards Assessment Panel Meeting held on Monday 8 November 2021.	
17.3	MELTON CITY BUILDING BLOCKS PARTNERSHIP: KINDERGARTEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES PLAN 2022-2029	258
	To present to Council the Melton City Building Blocks Partnership Statement of Intent (attachment 1) and Project Schedule of Kindergarten Infrastructure 2022-2029 needed to deliver the Victorian Government's commitment of 15 hours of funded three-year-old kindergarten by 2029 in Melton City.	
17.4	CONTRACT 22-016 - SEALED ROAD RENEWAL PROGRAM (ASPHALT) 2021/2022	264
	To seek Council's approval for the award of Contract No. 22-016 for the construction of Sealed Road Renewal Program (Asphalt) 2021/2022 commencing 6 December 2022 to 30 June 2022 at Council's discretion.	
18.	CLOSE OF BUSINESS	271

1. OPENING PRAYER AND RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Chairperson will read the opening prayer and reconciliation statement.

Prayer

‘Almighty God we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessing upon this Council, direct and prosper its deliberations to the advancement of Thy glory and the welfare of the people whom we serve – Amen.’

Reconciliation Statement

Melton City Council acknowledges that the land it now occupies has a history that began with the Indigenous occupants, the Kulin Nation. Council pays its respects to the Kulin Nation people and their Elders and descendants past, present and emerging.

2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The Chairperson will call for any apologies received from any Councillors who are unable to attend this meeting.

3. CHANGES TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**4. DEPUTATIONS****5. DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST, OTHER INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST OF ANY COUNCILLOR**

Pursuant to Part 6, Division 2 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Council’s Governance Rules any Councillor must declare any General Conflict of Interest or Material Conflict of Interest.

6. ADOPTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 25 October 2021 and Meeting of Council held on 4 November 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

7. SUMMARY OF INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS**7.1 SUMMARY OF INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 6, RULE 1 OF THE COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE RULES**

- 25 October 2021 Summary of Informal Meetings of Councillors
- 3 November 2021 Summary of Informal Meetings of Councillors
- 4 November 2021 Summary of Informal Meetings of Councillors
- 8 November 2021 Summary of Informal Meetings of Councillors
- 15 November 2021 Summary of Informal Meetings of Councillors

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Summary of Informal Meetings of Councillors dated 25 October, 3, 4, 8 and 15 November 2021 attached to this Agenda be received and noted.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Summary of Informal Meeting of Councillors - dated 25 October 2021
2. Summary of Informal Meeting of Councillors - dated 3 November 2021
3. Summary of Informal Meeting of Councillors - dated 4 November 2021
4. Summary of Informal Meeting of Councillors - dated 8 November 2021
5. Summary of Informal Meeting of Councillors - dated 15 November 2021

8. CORRESPONDENCE INWARD**8.1 PARLIAMENTARIAN AND DEPARTMENTAL LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE MAYOR**

- Alan Fedda – Executive Director Metro North West – Interchange improvements at the Western Highway
- Richard Wynne MP – Minister for Planning and Minister for Housing – Planning Reform Program

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Parliamentarian and Departmental letters received by the Mayor be received and noted.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Letter from Alan Fedda – Executive Director Metro North West – Interchange improvements at the Western Highway - dated 19 October 2021
2. Letter from Richard Wynne MP – Minister for Planning and Minister for Housing – Planning Reform Program - dated 1 November 2021

9. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

The Acting Chief Executive will table any petitions and/or joint letters received prior to this meeting.

A petition has been received by Councillors and forwarded to the Acting Chief Executive Officer signed by 109 residents requesting Council to reconsider their decision and to continue to allow Brigitte's Dog School to use "The Willows" Historical park as a training ground.

10. RESUMPTION OF DEBATE OR OTHER BUSINESS CARRIED OVER FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil.

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

12. PRESENTATION OF STAFF REPORTS

12.1 ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL - AGGREGATED MEETING MINUTES

Author: Rebecca Bartlett - Governance Officer
Presenter: Maurie Heaney - Acting Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the aggregated minutes of Advisory Committee meetings yet to be considered by Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. adopt the minutes of the Advisory Committee meetings at **Appendix 1 – 3**
2. adopt recommendations arising within the Minutes.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

Whilst not mentioned in the Local Government Act 2020 (the 2020 Act), Council has the power to create Advisory Committees pursuant to its general power set out in section 10 of the 2020 Act.

The minutes of the Advisory Committees attached to this report form a written record of meeting including any matters considered and any conflicts of interest disclosed.

The minutes also serve as the advice/recommendations to Council for its consideration.

2. Background/Issues

An Advisory Committee is a committee established by Council to provide advice to it or its delegate. Whilst not mentioned in the 2020 Act, Council has the power to create Advisory Committees pursuant to its general power set out in section 10 of the 2020 Act.

All advisory Committees are subject to their individual Terms of Reference. The membership varies depending upon the committee's specific role. Committee membership will generally comprise a Councillor(s), council staff and community representatives and may include key stakeholders, subject matter experts and/or community service providers and organisations.

Councillor representation on Advisory Committees is generally for one year and is reviewed annually. Advisory Committees for the 2020/21 municipal year were considered by the Councillor Representation Nominations Advisory Committee (CRNAC) when it met on Monday 23 November 2020.

The minutes of the Advisory Committees attached to this report forms the written record of the committee detailing matters considered and any conflicts of interest disclosed.

The minutes also serve as the advice/recommendations to Council.

Meeting Date	Advisory Committee	Attached
14 September 2021	Youth Advisory Committee	Appendix 1
29 September 2021	Intercultural Advisory Committee	Appendix 2
13 October 2021	Melton Transport Community Reference Group	Appendix 3

3. Council and Wellbeing Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2021-2025 Council and Wellbeing Plan references:

6. A high performing organisation that demonstrates civic leadership and organisational excellence

6.3 An organisation that demonstrates excellence in civic leadership and governance.

4. Financial Considerations

Advisory Committees are not responsible for operational expenditure and cannot direct Council officers to act without the consent of Council. Operational expenses and administrative actions arising from an Advisory Committee meeting are accommodated within Council's recurrent budgets, unless otherwise requested within the minutes of the meeting and detailed in a recommendation to Council for consideration.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

Advisory Committees are one method of Council consulting and communicating with the community. Such a Committee may be established to provide strategic level input into a broad area of Council operations, such as community safety or arts and culture. An Advisory Committee may also be established for a specific time-limited project, such as a review of a Local Law.

6. Risk Analysis

With a mandatory responsibility to report to Council and restricted to making recommendations for Council consideration, risks attached to Advisory Committee actions are substantially mitigated.

It is prudent for Council to carefully consider any and all recommendations arising from Advisory Committee minutes, as Advisory Committees may canvass significant issues and significant expenditure in their deliberations.

7. Options

Advisory Committees are a Committee of Council, therefore Council has the discretion to accept, reject, amend or seek further information on any of the Committee minutes and/or recommendations.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Youth Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - dated 14 September 2021
2. Intercultural Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - Dated 29 September 2021
3. Melton Transport Community Reference Group Meeting Minutes - dated 13 October 2021

12.2 LEADWEST COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Author: Rebecca Bartlett - Governance Officer
Presenter: Maurie Heaney - Acting Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the unconfirmed minutes of the LeadWest Delegated Committee meeting held 22 September 2021.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Note the draft minutes of the LeadWest Delegated Committee meeting held 22 September 2021 (refer **Appendix 1**).

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

The purpose of the LeadWest Committee is to oversee the preparation and implementation of the LeadWest Strategic Plan and identified sub projects as adopted and agreed by member Councils.

The minutes attached to this report are the unconfirmed minutes of the LeadWest Delegated Committee held 22 September 2021.

The minutes serve as the advice/recommendations to Council for its consideration.

2. Background/Issues

The LeadWest Committee was established as a Joint Delegated Committee pursuant to s64 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act), with the Cities of Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melton and Wyndham, on and from 1 August 2021.

It has delegated powers and functions in an Instrument of Delegation and Schedule and has Terms of Reference that govern its operations, meeting and reporting arrangements. These were both approved and adopted by Council on 28 June 2021.

Attached to this report are the unconfirmed minutes of the LeadWest Delegated Committee held 22 September 2021.

3. Council and Wellbeing Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2017-2021 Council and Wellbeing Plan references:

6. A high performing organisation that demonstrates civic leadership and organisational excellence

6.3 An organisation that demonstrates excellence in civic leadership and governance.

4. Financial Considerations

The formation of the LeadWest Committee and adoption of a new Strategic Plan for LeadWest is designed to provide a cost-effective funding model for each member Council and more focused outcome driven approach which is aligned to agreed regional priorities.

Funds will be allocated by the Committee within Council's approved budget for the development of the new Strategic Plan.

The ongoing budget for the LeadWest Committee will include two components. Firstly, to deliver the projects in the four-year implementation plan, recommendations will be made to member Councils for consideration in each Council's annual budgeting process. Secondly, a payment of a base contribution to apply equally to all Councils.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

The LeadWest Committee will provide a mechanism for a regional approach to advocacy and the delivery of a ten-year Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will be underpinned by a rolling four-year implementation plan which will be delivered by teams from across the six Councils implementing specific projects. This Plan will be prepared following extensive consultation including a focus on engaging Councillors from the member Councils.

6. Risk Analysis

Nil.

7. Options

That Council note the minutes of the LeadWest Committee as per the recommendation to this report.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Unconfirmed Minutes of the LeadWest Delegated Committee Meeting - dated 22 September 2021

12.3 RESPONSE TO PETITION - MELTON CITY COUNCIL OCCASIONAL CARE SERVICES

Author: Matthew Welsh - Acting Early Childhood Coordinator
Presenter: Troy Scoble – Acting General Manager Community Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To respond to the petition tabled at the Ordinary meeting of Council dated Monday 25 October 2021, in relation to the phasing out of Occasional Care service.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the report.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

At the Ordinary meeting of Council dated 25 October 2021, a petition was tabled by Cr Abboushi signed by 22 residents requesting that Council reconsider the decision to phase out the Melton City Council Occasional Care Service (**Appendix 1**).

Key points of the petition:

- Disagreeing with low participation rates at the Burnside Occasional Care Program
- Care alternatives not meeting the uniqueness of Occasional Care
- Peruse recent survey results from families regarding the service

2. Background/Issues

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council Monday, 30 August 2021, Council resolved to phase out the provision of the City of Melton Occasional Care service by December 2021

The decision to phase out the provision of the Occasional Care service by December 2021 was made considering the below:

- The City of Melton Occasional Care service has been experiencing a decline in participation rates since 2019. Reducing from operating at seven (7) locations to five (5) in 2019. Then reducing again in 2021 from five (5) locations to three (3).
- Growth pressures in the 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten program, with participation rates in both 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten at this point for the 2022 year clearly indicating that the regulated spaces utilised for Occasional Care will be required for those kindergarten service provision in the future
- The availability of other early childhood education and care options to provide for those currently utilising the Occasional Care services.

Occasional Care Participation Rates

Current trends in Occasional Care participations rates across Council facilities include:

Botanica Springs (3 morning sessions per week): The average number of children attending decreased from 15 per session in 2019 to 6.79 per session in 2020 to currently 5.7 per session in 2021.

Springside (2 morning session per week): The average number of children attending decreased from 17 per session in 2019 to 6.98 per session in 2020 to currently 6.5 per session in 2021.

Burnside (4 morning sessions per week): The exception to the trend in declining participation in the Occasional Care service is the Burnside program. The average number of children attending has increased from 10 per session in 2019 to 13.47 per session in 2020 and 16.69 per session in 2021 there is currently 14 using the service.

The age profile of the children enrolled in Occasional Care in 2021 suggests that over 60% are aged between 3-5 years old suggesting many have the opportunity and may move to alternative care in 2022.

The Impact of Covid-19 on Occasional Care

It is acknowledged that the Covid-19 pandemic will have had an impact on occasional care participation rates, such as periods where only children of essential workers were permitted to attend childcare services.

Melton Council continued to provide occasional care support to the community throughout the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

The Impact of 3-Year-Old Kindergarten on Occasional Care

The State Government has introduced the 3-year-old funded kindergarten policy, which will commence an initial 5 hours of sessions in the City of Melton from the first term in 2022. The funded 3-year-old kindergarten policy has placed increasing demand for licensed spaces in Council's Early Years Centres.

More recently, the State Government announced free 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten in 2021 due to the COVID19 pandemic. This announcement has resulted in an increase in the participation rates in 3-year-old kindergarten across the City of Melton from 429 in 2020 to currently 665 for 2021.

Councils current kindergarten central enrolment process, it has identified that after the first round of applications for the 2022 calendar year there are 926 (as at 11/8/21) three-year-old applications received.

The enrolment process has also identified that after the first round of applications for the 2022 calendar year there are 1,699 (as at 11/8/21) four-year-old places requested for kindergarten access. It is anticipated that kindergarten registration numbers will further significantly increase by the end of 2021 for both 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten.

The participation rates in both 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten at this point for the 2022 year clearly illustrates that the regulated spaces utilised for Occasional Care will be required to support kindergarten provision in the future.

It is also anticipated that the flexibility to increase the number of funded 3-year-old kindergarten hours in 2023 and beyond will place further pressure on council provision of licensed spaces for kindergarten.

Other Care Alternatives for Occasional Care Families

Family Day Care may be a preferred alternative to occasional care for families into the future as the number of hours of care per day is greater than occasional care and it is more accessible given there are many Family Day Care Educators located in homes across the City of Melton. It should be noted that Family Day Care offers casual care and is also often more affordable for families. Family Day Care also offers mixed ages and families can book the hours they need.

Long Day Care is another alternative that may be a preference for many families who use the occasional care service, as many long day care centres in the City of Melton currently offer an integrated Government-funded 4-year-old kindergarten service as well as casual care. It is anticipated that these long day care services will also offer an integrated Government-funded 3-year-old kindergarten service from 2022.

Conversations with Government suggest a trend away from childcare towards sessional kindergarten. 75% of respondents in a recent Occasional Care survey stated that they plan on sending their children to 3-year old or 4-year old kinder in 2022 (See Consultation/Public Submissions section of this report).

Council Officers will provide information to support Occasional Care families transition to suitable care alternatives, including the Fraser Rise Occasional Care service, Long Day Care, Family Day Care and kindergarten.

3. Council and Wellbeing Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2021-2025 Council and Wellbeing Plan references:

1. A safe City that is socially and culturally connected

3.2.2 Plan and design Council facilities to accommodate health and community services.

4. Financial Considerations

Council considered the financial impacts of the ongoing operation of the Occasional Care Service in the August 30 Council meeting report. It was noted:

- The cost to Council to operate the Occasional Care service in 2019-20 was \$354,177.
- The cost to Council to operate the Occasional Care service in 2020-21 was \$282,490.

Financial performance of the service was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic in both years.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

As part of the decision to cease Occasional Care Services, Council considered that 110 Occasional Care families were surveyed in May 2021 with 36 responses to gather an understanding of who accesses the service and why. The survey results supported the decision made by Council.

6. Risk Analysis

Failing to make the licensed spaces occupied by the Occasional Care service available for the delivery kindergarten services will place at risk Council's ability to deliver on the State Government funded 3-year old kindergarten reforms and the growth of 4-year-old provision.

Officers have commenced implementation of Council's resolution with Occasional Care staff already accepting redeployment opportunities resulting in the closure of Springside Occasional Care. As more staff accept these opportunities the remaining locations operations may be impacted.

7. Options

That Council note the report as presented.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Petition - Undated

12.4 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION 776 - PLANNING REFORM PROGRAM

Author: Bob Baggio - Manager Planning Services
Presenter: Bob Baggio - Manager Planning Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report back to council on Notice of Motion 776 (Cr Deeming) relating to the State Government's Planning Reform Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- Request that the MAV as the body representing local government, advocate more directly with the State Government on its concerns with the State Government's Planning Reform Program.
- Engage in further discussions with surrounding councils and its growth area council networks with a view to advocating further to State Government as a council grouping of its concerns in this matter.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

The State Government's Planning Reform Program seeks to streamline the planning process for proposals which are considered important for the State's recovery from the pandemic and economic growth more generally.

The concern from council's perspective is that the changes already introduced have had the effect of eroding local councils' planning powers and the community's ability to be consulted on significant planning applications.

This report outlines steps this council has taken to advocate against these changes and the current state of play.

2. Background/Issues

Council at its ordinary meeting on 30 August 2021, in relation to Notice of Motion 776 moved by Cr Deeming, resolved as follows:

"That Council

1. Notes that the Victorian government has made a number of changes to the planning system in the last 18 months and is currently considering further significant planning reform, and condemns the removal of all changes which removes or hinders the communities and Local Council's rights to have proper consultation about and to appeal or object to planning decisions.
2. Strongly voice its concern that:
 - a. consultation with community and with local government on any reform proposals must occur before reforms are considered or introduced.
 - b. the community's voice must remain central in planning decisions

- c. strong community consultation must be a core part of major planning decisions
- d. community voice is critical for ensuring a transparent planning system that strengthens local neighbourhoods and economies
3. Urgently calls on the Minister for Planning to include full consultation with local governments and community before any planning reform decisions are made.
4. Urgently writes to the Minister for Planning, the shadow Minister for Planning and all local Members of the Victorian Parliament to advocate Council's position.
5. Request the CEO or delegate coordinate with other local governments in regards to advocacy.
6. Call on the MAV and the VLGA to make representation on behalf of the Local Government Sector to defend local democracy in Victoria.
7. Requests a report to Council, within 3 months, with an update and advice on any action Council could take to advocate effectively on this matter."

Council subsequently wrote to all parties outlined in the resolution of its concerns, with letters of support received from several local MPs. Further, a letter of response has been received from the Minister for Planning (and on behalf of local member, Steve McGhie) (see appendix) which advises as follows:

Like you, I understand the critical importance of community voices in planning decisions and am committed to enabling the community's participation in the planning decisions that affect them.

The planning reform program was announced in November 2020 as part of the Victorian Government's 2020/21 budget (please refer to <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/planningq-revamp-boost-economic-recovery-and-jobs>), and consultation with local council planning departments and executive officers began in March 2021.

I understand your Chief Executive Officer recently participated in a local government workshop to discuss the proposed assessment model for state significant development proposals, and this year, Melton council officers have been involved in two statutory reform briefings. These briefings were in relation to signs statutory reform and post-permit processes. Information provided in both briefings by Melton and other councils has fed into the projects, which are still in progress. Melton officers also provided input into a recent survey of local government digital capability, which included sharing insights on the current planning data and technology landscape and identifying opportunities to uplift digital planning.

Further consultation on the program is either underway or about to commence, including:

- **Digital reform** - ongoing consultation through to 2024 with many councils expressing interest to work with DELWP to co-design solutions and provide feedback.
- **Better planning approvals** - a co-design process with ten local councils is underway to develop solutions for streamlining the planning permit assessment processes.
- **Assessment model for state significant development proposals** - targeted consultation on the criteria and assessment pathway is underway.
- **New code assessment model** - a discussion paper is to be released in late 2021 or early 2022 for consultation.

The planning reform program spans four years and opportunities for consultation with local government will be rolled out progressively...

Details on the government's planning reform program have yet to be fully outlined, however what appears evident from a number of recent changes to council planning schemes, is that some traditional planning powers are progressively being moved from local government to state government. This agenda is already apparent in recent planning scheme amendments

such as VC187, VC190, VC194 and VC198, which have streamlined decisions for Big Housing Build and State and Local government projects.

Council could engage in further discussions with the MAV as the body representing local government, requesting that it advocate more directly with the State Government on this matter. Further, council could engage in discussions with surrounding councils or its growth area council networks with a view to advocating further to state government as a council grouping.

3. Council and Wellbeing Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2017-2021 Council and Wellbeing Plan references:

6. A high performing organisation that demonstrates civic leadership and organisational excellence

6.1 An organisation that demonstrates excellence in customer and community service.

4. Financial Considerations

None

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

None

6. Risk Analysis

The risk to council and the community is that significant planning proposals are taken out of the hands of council and determined with little or no community consultation.

7. Options

Council could take no further action or could seek to advocate further on this issue.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Hon Richard Wynne Response Letter - dated 1 November 2021

12.5 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION 777 CR CARLI AND NOTICE OF MOTION 778 - CR. RAMSEY - AUSNET TRANSMISSION LINES

Author: Darren Rudd - Manager City Design & Strategy
Presenter: Darren Rudd - Manager City Design & Strategy

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide a response to Notices of Motion 777 (Cr Carli) and 778 (Cr Ramsey) updating Council on the Environmental Effects Statement for the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project and advising on actions Council can take to advocate for the best outcome for our community.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Note the report.
 2. As a matter of priority write to the Federal and State Ministers for Energy, Australian Energy Market Operator, the Minister for Planning and local parliamentarians to express Council's concerns about the shortcomings in the corridor selection process for the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project and request that they urgently require AusNet to undertake a full socio-economic and environmental assessment of option B3 as identified in *Western Victoria Renewable Integration, Project Assessment Conclusions Report, AEMO, (July 2019)*, prior to a preferred overhead transmission alignment being announced.
 3. That Council seek a meeting with local Members of Parliament to highlight Council's concerns about the inadequate triple bottom line assessment of other viable major power transmission corridor options and request support in ensuring the EES scope for the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project is clarified to require the consideration of corridor options beyond that being pursued by AEMO and AusNet.
 4. That Council confirm its support for the Melton community impacted by the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project and offer the support of its officers on strategic advocacy, technical advice where aligned and that officers regularly engage and share information that is able to be provided.
 5. That Council also confirm its willingness to support affected community groups with making Council venues available for community and public meetings in relation to the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project.
 6. That Council update its webpage to highlight its position on the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project, including measures Council is taking to support getting the best possible outcome for the community.
 7. That Council receive a further briefing report for the purpose of informing the 2022/23 budget discussions to allocate funding to support Councils advocacy, technical report review, submission and EES hearing representation in relation to the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project
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REPORT

1. Executive Summary

Council at its ordinary Council meeting 27 September 2021, passed the following Notices of Motion:

Notice 777 – Cr Carli.

“That Council Officers please provide a report outlining a campaign and costs to Stop AusNet towers in Melton”

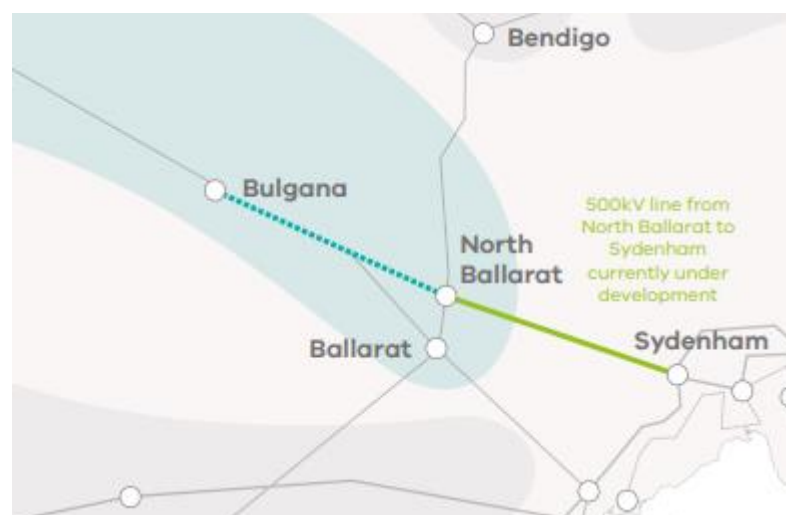
Notice 778 – Cr Ramsey.

“That Council

1. *Officers provide a report to on the status of the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project, in particular addressing:*
 - *The timing of the Environmental Effects Statement along with an overview of the types of technical reports that will support the EES.*
 - *The likely cost of Council undertaking an independent review of the critical technical reports and the options to fund the timely reviews.*
2. *Continue to network with the other 5 affected Council’s with a view to sharing knowledge and advocacy efforts to achieve the best outcome for our communities.”*

The Western Victoria Transmission Network Project (WVTNP) is a major infrastructure project that aims to connect renewable power generation sources in Western Victoria into the National Electricity Grid. The project is proposing to construct a new 190km section of high voltage transmission line starting at Bulgana, near Stawell in Victoria's west through to the Sydenham terminal station. Below is a map of the proposed corridor alignment.

Map 1 – Alignment Map from DELWP REZ – Development Plan Directions Paper



The corridor alignment shown in map 1 is one of two viable options proposed by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), with a second corridor identified along an existing major transmission corridor extending from Ballarat through to north of Geelong. This second corridor although being identified as a viable option was ruled out by AEMO due to offering less economic benefit to the National Electricity Grid. Notably this second corridor option has not been the subject of any socio economic and environmental assessment.

Matters such as social impacts and costing of vegetation off-sets have not been considered. This is considered a major flaw in the decision-making process when contrasting the social and environmental impacts of an entirely new corridor with an existing corridor already containing major electricity transmission infrastructure.

Council's advocacy approach should highlight this process flaw and request both State and Federal governments ensure both corridor options are given the same level of social, economic and environmental assessment before a final alignment is selected. Given the considerable impact this project will have on the Melton community, both Council and the community need assurance that all viable infrastructure corridor options have been the subject of a triple bottom line assessment.

This report outlines Council's advocacy approach and how it can best support our community to achieve a better decision making process and project outcome, recognising there is a legitimate need to connect green energy sources in western Victoria into metropolitan and national network.

2. Background/Issues

Project Description

The WVTNP proposes to connect renewable power generation sources in Western Victoria into the National Electricity Grid via 190km of high voltage transmission lines starting at Bulgana, near Stawell to the Sydenham terminal station. The project will have a considerable impact on our community and proposes structures up to 80 metres high at intervals of 500 metres across the northern section of the municipality. These impacts include visual intrusion, psychological impact, lower property values, loss of future income, restricted land use options, potential loss of vegetation etc.

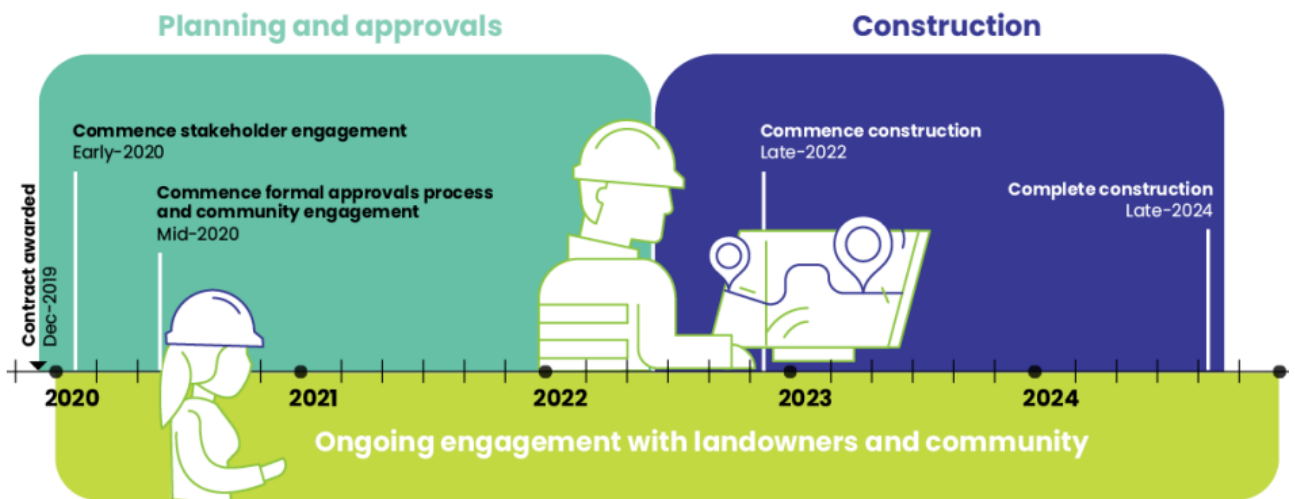
Below is a more detailed map of planned alignment through the City of Melton. The proposed investigation corridor for the 500kvh transmission lines is shown in purple and was announced on the 1 July 2021 as the preferred corridor alignment. The previous option is shown in yellow and appears as an orange underlay within the expanded (proposed) alignment.

Map 2 : The Preferred Overhead Transmission Corridor (WVTNP website)



Unlike other locations along the proposed corridor the investigation area through Melton has been significantly expanded and now moves closer to the urban growth boundary, impacting more houses, farms, a proposed school, major recreation assets and businesses. The widening of the corridor through Melton is understood to be in response to the need to avoid an alignment and tower structures in proximity to the Melton Airfield.

The project is expected to complete the planning approval process late in 2022, enabling construction to commence in 2023 and project completion by 2025.



The Environmental Effects Statement (Process)

On 4 August 2020 the Minister for Planning required AusNet Transmission Group Pty Ltd to prepare an Environment Effects Statement (EES) under the Environment Effects Act 1978 to assess the potential environmental effects of the project. The EES will also address any Commonwealth EPBC Act requirements for matters of national environmental significance under the bilateral agreement between the Australian and Victorian governments.

After considering public submissions on the draft scoping requirements, the Minister for Planning issued final scoping requirements for the EES in December 2020. The scoping requirements can be summarised as requiring consideration of:

- alternative corridors, alignments, site locations, designs or other options for the planning, construction or operation of the project;
- potential effects on biodiversity, including loss, degradation or fragmentation of habitat;
- effects on Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage values;
- impacts on visual and landscape values; and
- other effects on land uses and the community.

Not All Corridor Options are Being Investigated.

The current package of reports and investigations being undertaken by AusNet arguably do not comply with the Minister's scoping requirements for the EES by failing to consider other viable transmission options. This is considered a major governance and process flaw. This is recommended to be a central platform of Council's advocacy approach on the grounds that the conception of this project is majorly flawed having only considered taking a triple bottom line approach for a single corridor option when other viable alternatives exist.

In the lead up to the confirmation an EES was required in 2020, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) commissioned a series of reports and notably the *Western Victoria Renewable Integration, Project Assessment Conclusions Report, AEMO, (July 2019)*. This report identified a further viable option and arguably an alternative corridor that warrants the same triple bottom line

assessment being given to the single corridor option being currently investigated by AusNet. This proposed option known as B3 is summarised in comparison to the C2 (AusNet) option in Table 1 and shown in the Map 3 below. Notably both options provide a description of the inter-dependencies between a package of projects that aim to deliver system wide efficiencies to the National Electricity Grid.

The B3 option will meet the objective of connecting renewable power generation sources in Western Victoria into the National Electricity Grid while having limited impact on the Melton community, with an upgrade to the Sydenham Power station the only foreseeable work required. It can also be potentially delivered at a lower cost.

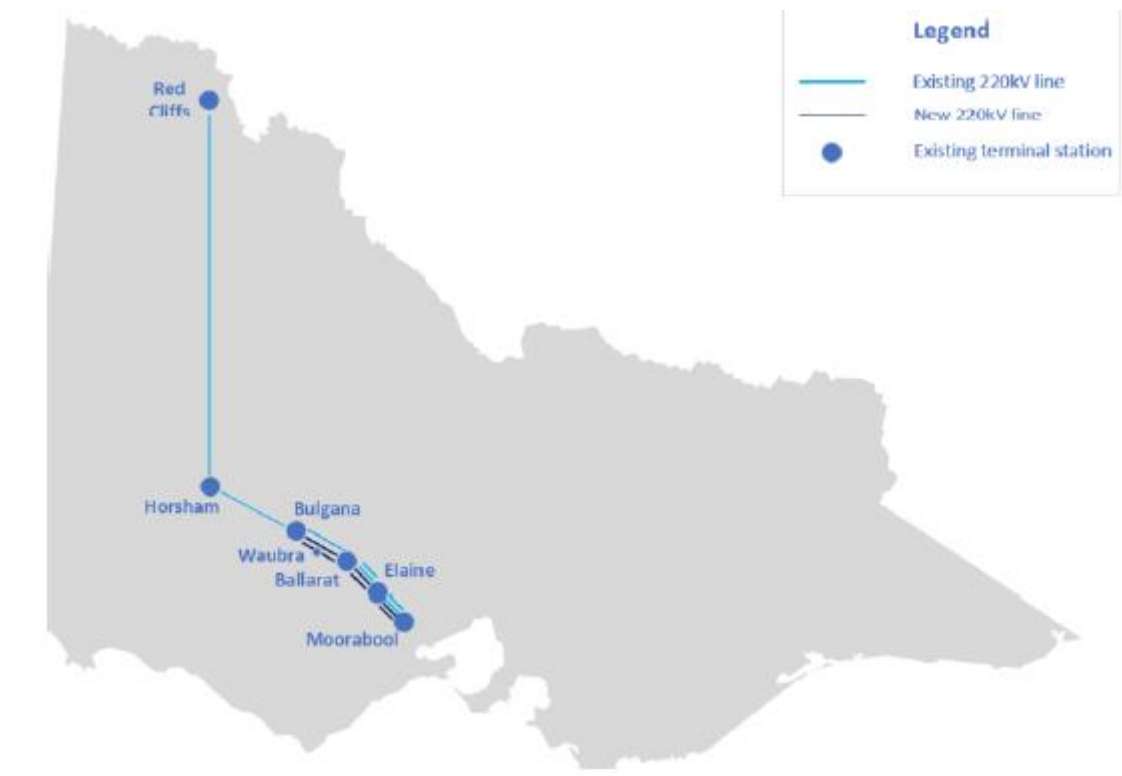
Table 1 Options further assessed in the PACR stage

Option name	Description	Transmission line section	Thermal capacity of new transmission lines*	Cost Present Value (\$M)	Market benefit, Net Present Value (\$M)
B3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor augmentations for Red Cliffs to Wemen to Kerang to Bendigo, and Moorabool to Terang to Ballarat, 220 kV transmission lines. Construction of new 220 kV double circuit transmission line from Moorabool to Elaine to Ballarat to Bulgana. Retire Ballarat to Moorabool 220 kV circuit No. 1, and cut in Ballarat to Moorabool circuit No. 2 at Elaine. 	Minor augmentations	Approximately 10% increase to existing transmission line capacity	287	247
		Bulgana to Ballarat	2 x 750 MW		
		Ballarat to Elaine to Moorabool	2 x 750 MW		
C2 (Preferred Option)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor augmentations for Red Cliffs to Wemen to Kerang to Bendigo, and Moorabool to Terang to Ballarat, 220 kV transmission lines. Construction of new North Ballarat Terminal Station, with 2 x 1,000 MVA 500/220 kV transformers. Connect North Ballarat Terminal Station to existing Ballarat to Bendigo 220 kV single circuit transmission line. 	Minor augmentations	Approximately 10% increase to existing transmission line capacity	370	301
		Bulgana to North Ballarat	2 x 750 MW		

Option name	Description	Transmission line section	Thermal capacity of new transmission lines*	Cost Present Value (\$M)	Market benefit, Net Present Value (\$M)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of new 500 kV double circuit transmission line from Sydenham to North Ballarat, with 50 MVAR reactors on each end of each circuit. Construction of new 220 kV double circuit transmission line from North Ballarat to Bulgana. 	North Ballarat to Sydenham	2 x 2,700 MW		
		Ballarat to Elaine to Moorabool	470 MW connected to Elaine Terminal Station		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect one of the new 220 kV transmission circuits from North Ballarat to Bulgana to the existing Waubra Terminal Station. Disconnect existing Waubra Terminal Station from existing Ballarat to Waubra to Ararat 220 kV transmission line. Cut in Ballarat to Moorabool 220 kV circuit No. 2 at Elaine Terminal Station. 				

* Based on continuous thermal rating at 40°C ambient temperature.

Map 3 – Option B3 As Published in the AEMO Western Victoria Renewable Integration PACR



It is important to note that the AEMO PACR report did not assess a comparable 500kV option for the upgrade of transmission infrastructure between Ballarat and Moorabool, which would have provided a more direct (network) capacity comparison with the new corridor option (C2). AEMO's assessment criteria only considered capital costs and downstream economic benefits focused largely on the ability and efficiency to move power from generation sources both intra and interstate. These determinants appear to have driven the decision to impose a completely new major infrastructure corridor on our communities, without considering social or environmental impacts.

Further investigation of this shortcoming reveals a circular debate on who is responsible for ensuring a triple bottom line decision-making approach is applied to more than one major transmission corridor option. AEMO have stated they are not constitutionally able to make infrastructure decisions beyond efficiency benefits to the national electricity market. Contrary to the Minister's scope requirements, AusNet contend they are contractually obliged to consider the straight-line corridor from Bulgana to Sydenham and that option B3 is off the table, despite admissions in the AEMO report it is a viable option. This is considered a major flaw in their approach and a contradiction of a Ministerial direction and presents a viable advocacy position to pursue given the option will meet the objectives of connecting renewable power generation sources in Western Victoria into the National Electricity Grid arguably at a lower cost.

It also appears that AusNet are able to continue progressing the EES based on the rationale that multiple corridors and options (including underground) are and were being considered, however these are located within the broad single corridor. This is contended to be a weakness in the process and fails to rule out what are other documented viable corridor options for overhead transmission.

Underground Versus Aboveground Options

There is also a risk that the benefits related to underground options might be understated as it is not known whether the further reports being commissioned by AusNet will look at a side by side comparison of downstream costs of overhead versus underground transmission. Council officers are asking for this to occur. Factors such as greater power loss, regular operational maintenance

are known ongoing cost disadvantages with overhead transmission options, that overtime are considerable. The risk here is the underground assessment report limits considerations to exclusively upfront as opposed to lifecycle costs. Based on upfront costs alone, underground options are multiple times more expensive than overhead transmission options. It is expected that AusNet's experts will argue that the higher up-front costs of underground major transmission lines across the entire length of the corridor is not viable even when the reduced socio-economic impacts are weighted into the assessment.

There is clearly the need for further explanation from the Federal Energy Minister and his department on the ability of a project of this scale to progress this far when arguably the alternative option appears to have less social and environmental impact. A better process would have been for engagement in 2019 with both the Ballarat – Geelong corridor community and Ballarat – Melton corridor community on social and environmental issues and not just economic benefits to the national energy market. It is understood that many social, environmental and property impact issues were raised during this process and simply dismissed by AEMO for being beyond their remit of consideration.

EES Technical Report (Assessment)

Council is best served focusing any technical specialist support to review or prepare alternative reports on matters that have the greatest potential impact on the community. The need for further technical support should also be informed by the response Council receives on its advocacy approach to have all corridor options properly assessed. At this stage of the process, with the majority of reports focused on documenting existing conditions there is little benefit in Council commissioning its own technical reports.

Council should however consider retaining the services of technical experts in readiness for this comprehensive review and submission process that is expected to occur in 2022. Council has the option of doing this separately or selectively with other Councils who are also considering engaging external specialists on similar issues of interest.

Depending on the issues Council could expect to pay up \$150,000 to employ its own experts to review reports and present evidence to the EES hearings. Given the scale and complexity of this EES, the hearing process is expected to take up to four weeks. In addition to expert witness and report costs Council is likely to employ its own legal advocate which depending on appearance instructions could cost a further \$200,000. Council always has the option of reducing these costs through greater officer involvement in submissions and appearances.

The EES Technical Reference Group

In terms of the EES process, DELWP has convened an inter-agency Technical Reference Group (TRG) to advise the proponent and the Department, as appropriate, on scoping and adequacy of the EES studies during the preparation of the EES, as well as coordination with statutory approval processes. Council officers are active participants in the TRG.

- The organisations represented on the Technical Reference Group are:
- DELWP
- DJPR and Agriculture Victoria
- Department of Transport
- First Peoples - State Relations
- Heritage Victoria
- The relevant Registered Aboriginal Parties
- The relevant local Councils
- The relevant Catchment Management Authorities
- Parks Victoria
- Melbourne Water and Southern Rural Water
- CFA

- Victorian Planning Authority
- Energy Safe Victoria
- Environment Protection Authority

The TRG will advise DELWP and the proponent on:

- applicable policies, strategies and statutory provisions
- the scoping requirements for the EES
- the design and adequacy of technical studies for the EES
- the proponent's public information and stakeholder consultation program for the EES
- responses to issues arising from the EES investigations
- the technical adequacy of draft EES documentation; and
- coordination of statutory processes.

Currently, as part of the TRG group Council officers are reviewing draft reports provided by AusNet's consultants and providing feedback, relevant topic information or local knowledge input. Over the past 12 months the reports have focused on existing contextual information and observations based on current written information on existing conditions and land characteristics. This process has helped flag relevant issues for deeper analysis for when the EES process transitions to assessments of the corridors impacts on our community and the environment.

What Types of Reports Need to be Reviewed/

Types of impact assessment reports expected to be provided to the TRG group for review include:

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
- Agriculture
- Air Quality
- Aviation
- Biodiversity
- Blasting
- Contaminated land
- Corridor Assessment and Design Response
- Economic
- Environmental Management Framework
- Forestry
- Greenhouse Gas and Climate Change
- Groundwater
- Historic Heritage
- Landscape and Visual
- Land Use Planning
- Noise and Vibration
- Safety, Hazard and Risk
- Social
- Surface Water
- Traffic
- Underground Transmission (Option) Analysis

Preliminary investigation has commenced for a number of these reports, which are expected to be circulated to the TRG from later this year through to early 2022. Most of these preliminary report reviews would expect to have been completed by March to April 2022. Council should also note that further reports and topics may emerge, in response to feedback from the community and TRG parties and others.

It is expected that AusNet's consultants will make revised versions of such reports available to the public at some stage during 2022. It is important to note that DELWP will selectively require and oversee the peer review of key reports and particularly those of a higher technical nature or potential public interest. This is intended to overcome the perception of bias and may reduce the need for Council to seek its own specialist consultants.

The Western Victoria Transmission Network Project Consultation Plan outlines the following anticipated timeline of stages to the EES:

- Early 2021 to mid 2022: EES preparation and ongoing engagement
- Mid 2022: Public exhibition and EES Inquiry and PSA Advisory Committee (Inquiry)
- Late 2022: Minister's assessment

However, with some delays in consultation processes and communication due to lockdowns and other disruptions caused by Covid-19, it appears that these dates could be extended with the process potentially being delayed until 2023.

Advocacy Approach

Council's first priority is to ensure the process for the EES is right and that all the viable options receive a full social, environmental and economic assessment. Having another viable option to explore that is within scope of a Ministerial directive presents a legitimate advocacy position to pursue.

With this in mind Council's core role with this project is to be an active participant in the Technical Reference Group for the EES and to raise process issues, and community issues through to relevant government departments, members of parliament and government ministers. Council maintaining an active involvement in these processes and ongoing respectful yet assertive dialogue with relevant Ministers and Local Members is considered the most viable and meaningful advocacy approach to influence better community outcomes.

It is also recognised that Council has a role to support the community in its advocacy efforts. To ensure the best outcomes for our community, Council's advocacy approach is recommended to have two distinct streams:

- Government / Industry Relations
- Community Support

Government Relations

Council has a critical role in ensuring the decision-making processes as outlined above gives proper consideration to the viable corridor options, including a thorough assessment of underground transmission options.

The recommended advocacy is as follows:

- Maintain active involvement in the EES process with a focus to lobby Ausnet to explore the alternative Ballarat to Moorabool corridor. This extends beyond Council's adopted preference for an underground transmission option.
- Ensure the EES considers a proper examination of the underground option and the alternative option B3 identified by AEMO. Ideally the B3 option could be assessed with the inclusion of a more comparable 500kvh line and potentially terminal station enhancements to allow a more direct efficiency comparison with the preferred C2 option proposed by AEMO.
- Write to the Federal and State Ministers for Energy, Australian Energy Market Operator, the Minister for Planning and local parliamentarians requesting that Western Victoria Transmission Network Project include a full socio-economic and environmental

assessment of option B3 as identified in *Western Victoria Renewable Integration, Project Assessment Conclusions Report, AEMO, (July 2019)*.

- Seek a meeting with local Members of Parliament to highlight Council's concerns about the inadequate triple bottom line assessment of other viable major power transmission corridor options and request support in ensuring the EES scope for the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project is clarified to require the consideration of corridor options beyond that being pursued by AEMO and AusNet.
- Depending on the shorter term success of ensuring corridor option B3 receives a full assessment, Council is likely to require expert technical and legal support. Given the complexity of this EES process, if Council were to pursue full legal representation and technical support for the full submission and hearing process, the costs could be in the order of \$350,000. The hearing for this EES is expected to extend over four weeks. This is not allowed for in the current or future budgets.
- Council and the community would also benefit by Council and its officers, partnering with other Council's to share key information and potentially to pool resources for the review of technical reports. Council officers across the affected Council's do meet regularly and share information on key issues and insights.

Community Support

Council has an important role to support the community and groups such as the Stop AusNet Towers Melton Group, through regular engagement, communications advice and political advocacy support.

- A major success factor in any public facing campaign is a strong community voice at the forefront, more so than a Council led approach. There is established community activation on this issue, including a dedicated website 'Stop Ausnet's Towers.' It is recommended that Council maintain a strong government and industry relations focus as its primary advocacy approach while providing practical support to our community and aligned community groups to be successful in their campaigns. The recommended approach is as follows:
 - Maintain direct communication and engagement with our community as issues arise and the project progresses.
 - Update Council's position with regard to advocating for all viable options to receive a full social, environmental and economic assessment and communicate this to the community.
 - Ensure Council's advocacy position is clearly articulated on our website
 - Develop a communication plan that provides for regular media and social media updates on Council's advocacy position, political engagement and strategic reviews and inputs into the ESS process and other relevant reports. This would include local, metropolitan and regional media.
 - Support and make Council venues available free of charge to support organised community meetings or information sessions in relation to the project.
 - Provide ongoing strategic advocacy advice and support to aligned community groups. This would involve:
 - providing updates on council's review and input into key processes
 - sharing updates on Council's government relations
 - providing strategic advice on effective government relations, community activation, and media relations.
 - An option to provide a financial contribution to assist and empower the Stop AusNet Towers, Melton Group to better enact their advocacy effort. This could support a range of practical tactical elements including website development, advertising, social media marketing, marketing materials to support community call to action etc.
 - A direct contribution to support promotional information through the supply of corflute signs.
 - Sharing information that Council can make available that supports the community with any evidence-based analysis, such as generic valuation data and planning permit activity.

3. Council and Wellbeing Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2017-2021 Council and Wellbeing Plan references:

3. A well planned and built City: A City with a clear vision to manage growth in a sustainable and accessible way;
 - 3.1 A City that strategically plans for growth and development;

4. Financial Considerations

This is one of the largest and most complex EES processes undertaken to date and depending on the level of involvement Council and the external and legal services Council wants to engage, this could be major budget commitment for Council. External technical support, expert witness and legal Counsel for part and not the full EES hearing process will cost Council in order \$350,000.

Assuming Council wants to review 3 to 4 key technical reports for matters such as reviewing the visual/landscape impact, underground transmission and corridor assessment reports, ahead of the hearing processes, Council should allow a further \$20,000 per report, inclusive of rebuttal comments/submission.

Neither the current or 22/23 budget are programmed for any costs related to the WVTNP.

Similar to the Melton Hospital campaign, Council may want to give consideration to making a donation to support campaign activities for the Stop AusNet Towers, Melton Group.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

The report sets out options to engage with community interests groups directly and through the sharing of information, in addition to updating the broader community through media releases, social media posts and through Council's website. .

6. Risk Analysis

The WVTNP has been described as the largest and most complex EES undertaken in the State's history and its resource impacts and expectations from the community are considerable. This presents both financial and reputational risks.

The financial risks are linked to the community expectation that Council will properly resource a well-researched and argued position through its government relations and the formal EES process. This is a complex issue and as documented in the financial analysis Council could spend up to \$350,000, with no guarantee it gets the result the community wants.

Council can mitigate many of the risks by acting strategically in its advocacy approach and through its response to the EES process. As outlined in this report the advocacy approach can act to mitigate both the financial and reputational risks, through managing its community and government relationships and through potential success in having corridor options properly assessed.

7. Options

- 7.1 Council can act strategically in its government and community relations and participation in the EES process, as outlined and recommended in this report.

- 7.2 Council can act more passively to reduce its costs and resource impacts by not commissioning any external consultants to review technical reports and by minimising its engagement in the EES process.
- 7.3 Council could continue to advocate a preference for an underground only option and not request consideration of other options. This would focus resource efforts on an underground transmission option.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Western Victoria Renewable Integration - Project Assessment Conclusions Report - dated July 2019

12.6 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION 786 (CR DEEMING)

Author: Sean McManus - Manager Engagement & Advocacy
Presenter: Laura-Jo Mellan - Acting General Manager Corporate Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To respond to Notice of Motion 786 (Cr Deeming) to develop a Community Awareness Campaign in response to the Victorian Government's Sex Work Decriminalisation Bill.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Undertake a Community Awareness Campaign for period 29 November – 22 December 2021, to promote awareness of the Victorian Government's Sex Work Decriminalisation Bill 2021, with the campaign targeting:
 - a. General community
 - b. Parents and grandparents of minors
 - c. City of Melton businesses

 2. Ascertain community feedback on the Bill via a survey on Council's website, underpinned by the following scope:
 - a. level of community support for the Bill
 - b. views on the impact on child safety and welfare
 - c. views on impacts on community and neighbourhood safety
 - d. views on impacts on general neighbourhood atmosphere
 - e. views on impacts on retail and commercial precincts with regard to general amenity, safety and economic viability

 3. Have the survey remain open until 31 March 2022, a period of three months, following the conclusion of the awareness campaign.

 4. Prepare a report in May 2022, including survey results, along with Council correspondence on the issue and that the report be published on Council's website and sent to every Local State Member of Parliament and the responsible Minister and Shadow Minister.
-

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

At the Scheduled Meeting of Council held on 25 October 2021, the following Notice of Motion 786 (Cr Deeming) was resolved:

That Council:

1. *Officers draft options for a community awareness campaign with a special focus on residents who are parents or grandparents of minors, and/or business owners.*
2. *Note that the awareness campaign framework be underpinned by the following facts:*
 - a. *that sex work is currently legal, restricted to industrial zones and details about the safeguarding under the current Sex Work Act 1994.*
 - b. *that sex work will be allowed to operate on public streets and in homes.*
 - c. *That Council holds concerns about the potential impact on child safety (especially those children who live near or at a home where sex work is occurring), as well as community and neighbourhood safety and general neighbourhood atmosphere.*
 - d. *That Council holds concerns about the potential impacts on retail and commercial precincts including general amenity, safety and economic viability.*
 - e. *That Council holds concerns that these laws will not achieve the worthy goal of increased safety for sex workers, and is concerned about a lack of police, health and counselling resources currently available to sex workers, with relevant information detailing which safeguarding measures have been removed.*
 - f. *That Council holds concerns about the impost on Council and Council officers, with accompanying details.*
3. *Create a voluntary feedback web form be set up on Council's website, left open for the duration of the campaign and also for 3 months following it, so that if residents would like to provide feedback to the State Government through Council, they can do so.*
4. *Note that after the awareness campaign concludes and the 3 month period following it passes, the results, along with our Council letters on this issue, form the basis of a report to be published on our website, and sent to every Member of Parliament, especially the responsible Minister- with the aim of representing our community's views on this issue.*

This report outlines a proposed Community Awareness Campaign to inform the community about this draft legislation and ascertain community views in accordance with the above Notice of Motion.

2. Background/Issues

- The Victorian Government is seeking to decriminalise sex work to ensure that every worker in the industry has the same rights and access to the entitlements and protections under law, as they would in any other job. In Victoria, sex work is currently regulated under a legalised model, which means sex work is only legal if it takes place under certain conditions set out in the Sex Work Act 1994.

- Melton City Council was invited by the Department of Justice and Community Safety to make a submission on the Victorian Government's discussion paper on this issue.

In its submission, Council outlined its support for the positive aspects of the decriminalising of sex work as proposed however, raised concerns that some of the proposed changes could potentially compromise the community if the legislative framework is inadequate. Council noted that management of community dissatisfaction from matters such as compliance are proposed to be largely managed by Council.

The submission also outlined Council concerns about the level of consultation with local government authorities and the broader community, undertaken by the Victorian Government regarding these draft legislation changes. In its submission, Council outlined concerns with the proposed legislative changes including:

- It is proposed to decriminalise sex work without a proper planning and public health regulatory framework being in place.
- The proposal introduces new land uses which are likely to have conflicts between the community and industry (namely street work, home based services and the removal of separation buffers).
- The ramifications on council's compliance process do not appear to have been thoroughly considered.
- The existing planning legislation is ill-equipped to manage the new land uses and is impractical particularly for compliance and enforcement matters.
- The proposal presents a significant shift in what is permitted in residential and commercial areas for the community. It introduces a land use that is at odds with the existing perception of those environments.
- Given the scale of the proposal, extensive community consultation should be undertaken. Community consultation will ensure all members of the community and their views are considered.
- The potential impacts in commercial areas, particularly shopping centres which are typically frequented by families and children.
- Within residential zones, particularly under the current home business provision of the planning scheme, Council submits that sex work is simply not compatible with residential areas and should not be categorised as a home business.
- Council has a real concern that were sex workers to operate from a dwelling, it would be difficult to control whether minors or children were also on the premises, and who would be responsible for monitoring this and taking appropriate compliance action.

The *Sex Work Decriminalisation Bill 2021* is currently before the Victorian Parliament. Council fundamentally believes that the current regulatory framework for sex work is adequate within the City of Melton.

Community Awareness Campaign

In response to the Notice of Motion, the proposed Community Awareness Campaign aims to create awareness of the Victorian Government's Sex Work Decriminalisation Bill and seek community feedback.

The campaign will focus on ascertaining community views with regard to:

- impact on child safety
- impact on community and neighbourhood safety
- impact on general neighbourhood atmosphere
- impacts on retail and commercial precincts with regard to general amenity, safety and economic viability.

Community Awareness Campaign Proposed Action Plan

Date		Action	Activity
Week commencing 22/11/21		Council Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media release announcing campaign • Write to State Parliamentarians to advise of campaign objectives and timeline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local State Members ○ Minister Consumer Affairs ○ Shadow Minister Consumer Affairs
Week commencing 29/11/21		Engagement commences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey goes live on City of Melton Conversations page • Advertising in <i>Star Weekly</i> • Social media: posts and targeted advertising to target audience
29/11 – 22/12		Campaign period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly social media posts and advertising • December City of Melton e-news • Business e-news • Venture Melton e-news and socials
29/11/21 – 31/3/22		Survey open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey remains open • Periodic reminders
May 2022		Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report outcomes to Council • Report outcomes to Local State Members and relevant Minister and Shadow Minister • Supported by media and social media

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report available on Council's website |
|--|--|--|---|

3. Council and Wellbeing Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2021-2025 Council and Wellbeing Plan references:

Theme 5. A community that is actively engaged in the City

5.1 Deliberative engagement and communication with the community informs planning and decision making.

5.1.3 Provide the community with balanced, transparent, and objective information

4. Financial Considerations

The Community Awareness Campaign will predominantly be conducted through online channels. A campaign budget of approximately \$2000 for advertising and promotion will be allocated.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

The Community Awareness Campaign will provide members of the community and businesses with the opportunity to provide feedback on the Victorian Government's Sex Work Decriminalisation Bill. It is accepted that the Bill will likely be passed by Parliament during this consultation period, however results of the community feedback will be provided to Local Members and the relevant State Minister.

6. Risk Analysis

By undertaking a Community Awareness Campaign regarding the decriminalisation of sex work, Council faces some risk that residents and other members of the community could gain the false impression that Council has influence, authority or decision-making powers in relation to this issue, particularly when draft legislation is so close to it being passed by the Victorian Government. This may have a negative impact on Council if the legislation passes unchanged.

This risk will be mitigated by establishing clear messaging, that stipulates that this is a State Government responsibility and that Council is purely seeking feedback on the legislation which will be forwarded to the Victorian Government for consideration as part of any potential future amendments.

7. Options

The following options have been provided for consideration.

1. Council conducted the Community Awareness Campaign as outlined above.
2. That Council resolve not to conduct a Community Awareness Campaign.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Nil

12.7 COUNCIL AND WELLBEING PLAN - ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 1ST QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT 2021/22

Author: Bob Baker - Corporate Planning and Performance Coordinator
Presenter: Laura-Jo Mellan - Acting General Manager Corporate Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the first quarter update on the progressive achievement of the Council and Wellbeing Plan - Annual Action Plan 2021/22

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive and note the Council and Wellbeing Plan - Annual Action Plan First Quarter Progress Report (1 July – 30 September 2021) as presented at **Appendix 1**.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

The 2021-2025 Melton City Council and Wellbeing Plan is prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis to adapt to the evolving needs of our growing community.

Each year, Council produces an Annual Action Plan identifying the activities and initiatives that Council will work towards achieving, which respond to the strategic outcomes and strategies identified in the Council and Wellbeing Plan. This is aligned with the Council's annual budget development process.

The progressive achievement of the Annual Action Plan is reported at the conclusion of each quarter of the financial year, with a final summary provided at the conclusion of each financial year, through the production of Council's Annual Report.

Appendix 1 provides detail on activity for the first quarter (1 July - 30 September 2020), in the progressive achievement of the Council and Wellbeing Plan - Annual Action Plan 2021/22.

2. Background/Issues

The Council and Wellbeing Plan is Council's primary vision and strategic planning document that establishes the direction Council has committed to for its term of office (4 years). The Council and Wellbeing Plan contains objectives, strategies and performance indicators.

Each year Council provides a range of services, activities and initiatives for the community. These key strategic activities and new initiatives are included in the development of an Annual Action Plan.

The Council and Wellbeing Plan - Annual Action Plan 2021/22 provides 185 actions that Council has committed to deliver. Council provides the community with quarterly progress reports that support Council's commitment in providing transparency, through public access to relevant information, decision making and strategic documents.

Appendix 1 provides a detailed summary on the status of each action in the Council and Wellbeing Plan - Annual Action Plan 2021/22, inclusive of the period from 1 July - 30 September 2021. The areas with a stronger link to health and wellbeing are displayed with a heart icon ♥

The following table provides summary of progress against actions.

Status	Description	Number of actions
Achieved	The Action is completed.	1
On track	The action is on track and expected to be completed by the current timeline	184
Not on Track	The Action has been delayed impacting on the current timeline. An explanation and any remedial action and revised due date, where appropriate, is provided in the 'progress comments' column	0
Postponed	The Action has been deferred for the financial year. An explanation is provided in the 'progress comments' column	0
Total		185

One action has been completed to the end of the first quarter:

- Implement the Shopping Trolley Management Program

Upon Council receipt of this update, the Progress Report will be published on Council's website.

3. Council and Wellbeing Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2021-2025 Council and Wellbeing Plan references:

6. A high performing organisation that demonstrates civic leadership and organisational excellence

6.3 An organisation that demonstrates excellence in civic leadership and governance.

4. Financial Considerations

Initiatives and activities delivered from the Action Plan are contained within the Council approved 2021/22 Budget.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

The Council and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 planning process was developed in response to the deliberative engagement requirements of the Local Government Act 2020. The process involved extensive consultation with stakeholders including the community, Council staff, government agencies, community organisations and private industry.

Council also initiated a Community Panel to support the development of the Plan. This process resulted in the publication of the Melton City Council and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025. The Council and Wellbeing Plan - Annual Action Plan 2021/22 is prepared from internal consultation of Council staff and management.

6. Risk Analysis

Nil

7. Options

Nil

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Council and Wellbeing Plan - Annual Action Plan 1st Quarter Progress Report
2021/22

12.8 2022 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Author: Bradley Dosser - Manager Legal, Governance & Risk
Presenter: Bradley Dosser - Manager Legal, Governance & Risk

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To determine the 2022 Council Meeting Schedule

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the following Council Meeting Schedule dates and locations for 2022 with all meetings to commence at 7.00pm:

Date	Location
Monday, 7 February 2022	Online
Monday, 7 March 2022	Online
Monday, 4 April 2022	Online
Monday, 2 May 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 30 May 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 20 June 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 18 July 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 15 August 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 12 September 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 10 October 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Thursday, 3 November 2022 (Special Meeting for the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and setting of the 2023 meeting schedule)	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 14 November 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 12 December 2022	Melton Civic Centre

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

At its Unscheduled Meeting of Council held 3 November 2021 the Council resolved as follows:

That Council defer consideration of the Council Meeting Schedule 2022 to the Meeting of Council to be held 22 November 2021.

2. Background/Issues

As required by Section 9 of Division 1 of Part C of Council's *Governance Rules* the Council considered its meeting schedule for the next 12 months at its Special Meeting held 4 November 2021. At that meeting it resolved to defer adopting a 2022 meeting schedule until the 22 November 2021 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

A proposed Council Meeting Schedule with dates and locations for 2022 has been prepared for Council's consideration. All meetings are proposed to commence at 7.00pm. The proposed schedule is set out below:

Date	Location
Monday, 7 February 2022	Online
Monday, 7 March 2022	Online
Monday, 4 April 2022	Online
Monday, 2 May 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 30 May 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 20 June 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 18 July 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 15 August 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 12 September 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 10 October 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Thursday, 3 November 2022 (Special Meeting for the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and setting of the 2023 meeting schedule)	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 14 November 2022	Melton Civic Centre
Monday, 12 December 2022	Melton Civic Centre

This proposal has been prepared with the following factors in mind:

- Pursuant to sections 394 and 396 of Part 12 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) Council meetings (among other meeting types specified in section 394) may be conducted by electronic means of communication until 27 April 2022.
- After 27 April 2022, following the repeal of *Part 12* of the *Local Government Act 2022* containing COVID-19 temporary measures (including the ability to conduct Council Meetings by electronic means of communication) the location of Council meetings shall be the Melton Civic Centre.
- All meetings dates are outside of school holidays.
- The Statutory Meeting of Council for the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, setting of the 2023 meeting schedule etc. has been proposed for 3 November 2022.

3. Council and Wellbeing Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2021 - 2025 Council and Wellbeing Plan references:

6. A high performing organisation that demonstrates civic leadership and organisational excellence

6.3 An organisation that demonstrates excellence in civic leadership and governance.

4. Financial Considerations

Nil

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

Nil

6. Risk Analysis

Nil

7. Options

Council may either:

- adopt the officer's recommendation as set out in this Report; or
- adopt an alternative 2022 Council Meeting Schedule.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Nil

12.9 COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION NOMINATIONS ON DELEGATED AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES 2021/2022

Author: Bradley Dosser - Manager Legal, Governance & Risk
Presenter: Bradley Dosser - Manager Legal, Governance & Risk

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present Councillor representation nominations for Delegated and Advisory Committees of Council and other bodies for the approval of Council for the 2021/2022 year.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council accept and endorse the nominations of Councillors for representation on Delegated and Advisory Committees of Council and other bodies as set out in **Attachment 1**.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

The appointment of Councillors as representatives on external bodies, delegated committees and advisory committees plays an integral part in Councillors exercising their representation and advocacy responsibilities on behalf of the community.

It is an established practice to annually review the Councillor representation on delegated committees, advisory committees and external organisations. This process allows Councillors the opportunity to consider the committees and groups on which they are able to represent Council for the forthcoming year.

Attachment 1 contains the list of Councillors who nominated to represent Council on Committees and other external bodies at the Pre-Council Briefing meeting held on 15 November 2021.

2. Background/Issues

Representation on Council committees and on external organisations plays an essential role in policy development, advocacy, planning and provision of a wide range of services directly relevant to the community and provides a framework for Council to receive community feedback and external advice.

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the 2020 Act) provides for Delegated Committees (which include joint delegated committees). *Delegated Committees* of Council have delegated power from the Council as set out in an Instrument of Delegation. The Instrument outlines the extent and limitations of the Delegated Committee's powers and functions with these to be exercised in accordance with the guidelines or policies adopted by the Council.

Advisory Committees were previously defined in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the 1989 Act). *Advisory Committees* are not defined in the 2020 Act however Council has the power to create such Committees pursuant to its general power set out in section 10 of the 2020 Act.

An *Advisory Committee* is a Committee established by Council to provide advice to it or its delegate. It considers issues and makes recommendations to the full Council. *Advisory*

Committees have no delegated power and so their recommendations need to be adopted or endorsed by the full Council at a Council meeting before they can be implemented.

The role, composition and operating arrangements for both Delegated and Advisory Committees are set out in their respective Terms of Reference.

The Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee and the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee are formed under the *Emergency Management Act 1986*.

The Audit and Risk Committee is required by and established pursuant to section 53 of the 2020 Act. The Audit and Risk Committee is not a delegated committee. It provides advice to Council in accordance with sections 53 and 54 of the 2020 Act and the Audit and Risk Committee Charter adopted by Council on 31 August 2020.

Finally, there are organisations external to Council that also include representation of Council by Councillors or Council officers. Councillors and Council officers appointed to these groups/committees have a responsibility to report to Council. These reports can be in writing in the form of minutes of the meetings. Where there are no Council Officers present or minutes taken, items of significance from those meetings can be read into the minutes of the Council meeting via a short verbal report.

3. Council and Wellbeing Plan Reference and Policy Reference

The Melton City Council 2017-2021 Council and Wellbeing Plan references:

6. A high performing organisation that demonstrates civic leadership and organisational excellence

6.3 An organisation that demonstrates excellence in civic leadership and governance.

4. Financial Considerations

Costs associated with Councillor representation on committees and external bodies are borne through normal budget estimates each financial year.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

No public consultation is required.

6. Risk Analysis

7. Options

Council may adopt and endorse the list of Councillors whom nominated to represent Council on Committees and other external bodies for the 2021 /2022 year or it vary the representation of Councillors on Committees and external bodies.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Councillor Nominations For Representation on Committees for the 2021/2022 year

13. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES APPOINTED TO OTHER BODIES AND COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Reports on external Committees and external Representative Bodies for which Councillors have been appointed by Council.

Address from Councillors in relation to matters of civic leadership and community representation, including acknowledgement of community groups and individuals, information arising from internal Committees, advocacy on behalf of constituents and other topics of significance.

14. NOTICES OF MOTION**14.1 NOTICE OF MOTION 787 (CR ABBOUSHI)****Councillor: Steven Abboushi - Councillor**

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Meeting of Council to be held on 22 November 2021

MOTION:

That Council officers inspect the tree reserve along Rockbank Middle Road to identify any trees with poor form or structure that require removal in accordance with Councils Tree Policy.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council Officers will perform a visual inspection of the tree reserves abutting residential properties of Rockbank Middle Road in Caroline Springs.

The inspection will focus on the density of vegetation and instances where competition is having an adverse impact on tree health in its current semi mature form.

Councils Tree Removal Policy will be referenced to determine any pruning or removal works necessary to achieve a healthy streetscape and meet the requirements of the Policy.

14.2 NOTICE OF MOTION 788 (CR ABBOUSHI)**Councillor: Steven Abboushi - Councillor**

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Meeting of Council to be held on 22 November 2021

MOTION:

That Council purchase only sustainable and renewable Australian sourced and manufactured paper to support local industry and jobs.

Sourcing Australian Made Paper: Why is it important?

- Allows Council to champion our Australian Makers
- Supports local industries who are leaders in sustainable, renewable and recyclable practices
- Locally made creates local jobs

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council sources the majority of its paper from Australian Paper Mills in Victoria, this is a carbon neutral paper mill. Council's preferred paper option is to purchase Australian made paper by Australian Paper Mills in Victoria and this has been the case under the current contract with Council's stationary supplier Winc Australia Pty Limited.

Last financial year Council sourced 5,000 kg of paper at a cost of \$8,200 of which 99% was Australian made, 99% was carbon neutral certified and 25% was recycled. Council officers are and will continue to work with supplier to try and increase the percentage of recycled paper use. Costs in lifting the percentage of recycled use is not considered material.

14.3 NOTICE OF MOTION 789 (CR SHANNON)**Councillor: Julie Shannon - Councillor**

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Meeting of Council to be held on 22 November 2021

MOTION:

That Council officers prepare a report proposing an initiative for a “beautiful nature strip competition” that could be implemented across the municipality. The report is to include details of what this would entail including reward and recognition for the winners under categories as well as nature strip guidelines.

OFFICER’S COMMENTS:

Any nature strip beautification, whether undertaken as part of a competition will need to be undertaken in accordance with Council’s Naturestrip Guidelines Booklet and an application should be made through Council’s website. Communication would need to mitigate the risk that any interested participant upgrades their naturestrip in a way that does not comply with these guidelines, without this process limiting the incentive for residents to participate.

The Naturestrip guidelines are administered by Operations Parks team, with City Design responsible for the development of the guidelines, which are currently due for review.

Any competition can be delivered through the following:

- Hosting photographs for the competition through Melton Conversations
- Supporting assessment for at least one category to include collaboration between neighbours to support neighbourhood cohesion and activation
- Distribution of opportunity through community networks and at Community Centres
- The competition could be promoted through Council’s communications channels, including social media.

14.4 NOTICE OF MOTION 790 (CR VANDENBERG)**Councillor: Ashleigh Vandenberg - Councillor**

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Meeting of Council to be held on 22 November 2021

MOTION:

That Council write to Hon. Lisa Neville Minister for Water, and Steve McGhie Member for Melton, seeking them to engage with Southern Rural Water to provide additional boating access to the Melton Weir that would allow general public access for cultural and recreational practices, outside the requirement of membership to the Melton Runabout and Speedboat Club.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Currently recreational boating access to the Melton Weir is provided via a boat ramp located at the Melton Runabout and Speedboat Club. The Club have been assigned responsibility by Southern Rural Water for the control of boating access to the water. This requires recreational and general users to either have a membership or to make access arrangements through the Speed Boat Club. This is a private arrangement between the Authority and the Speed Boat Club. It provides for a controlled and limited access to the water for recreation.

Please note we have also received a similar request from Fishing Victoria requesting the same and this correspondence has been referred to the Melton Weir Development Committee for discussion and direction. Council making a decision on essentially the same request would mean the matter would no longer need to be considered by the Melton Weir Development Committee.

15. COUNCILLOR'S QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

16. URGENT BUSINESS

17. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Recommended Procedural Motion

That pursuant to section 66(1) and (2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 2020* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the following reports that are considered to contain **confidential information** on the grounds provided in section 3(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* as indicated:

- 17.1 COVID-19 Financial Support to Melton Waves Leisure Centre provider**
(a) as it relates to Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.
- 17.2 2022 Community Achievement Awards Assessment Panel Meeting outcomes**
(f) as it relates to personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs.
- 17.3 Melton City Building Blocks Partnership: Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan 2022-2029**
(a) as it relates to Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released.
- 17.4 Contract 22-016 - Sealed Road Renewal Program (Asphalt) 2021/2022**
(g) private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that—
(i) relates to trade secrets: or
(ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage

Recommended Procedural Motion

That the meeting be opened to the public.

18. CLOSE OF BUSINESS