MELTON CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the Meeting of the Melton City Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, 232 High Street, Melton on Monday 15 August 2022 at 7:00pm.

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

Roslyn Wai
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Visitors to the Gallery please note:

Proceedings at Council meetings are controlled by the Chairperson. The Chairperson is empowered to enforce the provision of Council's Governance Rules, which includes the following aspects:

- Members of the public do not have a right to address Council and may only do so with the consent of the Chair or by prior arrangement.
- Any member of the public addressing Council must extend due courtesy and respect to Council and the processes under which it operates and must take direction from the Chair whenever called on to do so.
- A member of the public present at a Council meeting must not disrupt the meeting.
- The Chair may order and cause the removal of any person, other than a Councillor, who disrupts any meeting or fails to comply with a direction given under sub-Rule 66.2.
- If the Chair is of the opinion that disorder at the Council table or in the gallery makes it desirable to adjourn the Council meeting, he or she may adjourn the meeting to a later time on the same day or to some later day as he or she thinks proper.
- The Chair may ask the Chief Executive Officer or a member of the Victoria Police to remove from the Chamber any person who acts in breach of the Governance Rules and whom the Chair has ordered to be removed from the gallery under Rule 67.
- Members of the public in the gallery must not operate **recording equipment** at a Council or Committee Meeting without the prior written consent of Council.
- **Question time** is available at every Scheduled Meeting to enable members of the public to address questions to Council. All questions must be received by the Chief Executive Officer or other person nominated for this purpose no later than 12pm on the day of the Scheduled Meeting by submitting questions into the receptacle designated for public questions at the Customer Service Desk, or via electronic medium as per Council website directions.

A person must not submit more than two (2) individual questions at a meeting, inclusive of all parts and variants as interpreted by the Chairperson or other person authorised for this purpose by the Chairperson.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. OPENING PRAYER AND RECONCILIATION STATEMENT 5

2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE 5

3. CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS 5

4. DEPUTATIONS 5

5. DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST, OTHER INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST OF ANY COUNCILLOR 5

6. ADOPTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS 5

7. SUMMARY OF INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS 6

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

8. CORRESPONDENCE INWARD 13

9. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS 13

10. RESUMPTION OF DEBATE OR OTHER BUSINESS CARRIED OVER FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING 13

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME 13

12. PRESENTATION OF STAFF REPORTS 14

12.1 LEADWEST JOINT DELEGATED COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 14

To present the minutes of the LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee.

12.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL - AGGREGATED MEETING MINUTES 20

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

12.3 AMENDMENT OF COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE RULES 51

To advise Council in relation to the amendment of Council's Governance Rules to adopt the Minister's Good Practice Guideline MGPG-3: Virtual Meetings, issued by the Minister for Local Government pursuant to section 87 of the *Local Government Act 2020.*

12.4 INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION AND PROCUREMENT THRESHOLDS - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 100

To update the Instrument of Delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer and seek Council's support for specific procurement value thresholds and procurement methodology for the role of the Chief Executive Officer.

12.5 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION 821 (CR ABBOUSHI) IMPACT OF BUY LOCAL SECTION OF COUNCIL'S PROCUREMENT POLICY 107

To respond to Notice of Motion 821, Impact of Buy Local section of Council's Procurement Policy.

12.6 TOOLERN DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN REVIEW 110

To consider the proposed changes to the Toolern Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan, and the associated Planning Scheme Amendment C232 to the Melton Planning Scheme.

12.7 MELTON CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION - VICGRID VICTORIAN TRANSMISSION INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK 239

To provide Council with an update on the proposed Victorian Transmission Network Investment Framework Preliminary Design and to consider and endorse a Council submission in response to the proposed Framework.

12.8 EXTENSION OF CONTRACT NO. 15/032 - PROVISION OF BANKING AND REVENUE COLLECTION SERVICES 328

To consider Council's arrangements for Provision of Banking and Revenue Collection Services contract.

12.9 SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN 331

To recommend participation in the Monash Council advocacy campaign to achieve improved Victorian Government funding for School Crossing Supervisors.

12.10 PROPOSED COUNCIL CHRISTMAS EVENT IN CAROLINE SPRINGS 349

To outline the recommended approach for providing an additional Council-delivered Christmas event in the eastern corridor.

13. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES APPOINTED TO OTHER BODIES AND COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 352

14. NOTICES OF MOTION 353

14.1 NOTICE OF MOTION 829 (CR DEEMING) 353

14.2 NOTICE OF MOTION 830 (CR DEEMING) 354

14.3 NOTICE OF MOTION 831 (CR SHANNON) 355

14.4 NOTICE OF MOTION 832 (CR ABBOUSHI) 356

14.5 NOTICE OF MOTION 833 (CR ABBOUSHI) 357

14.6 NOTICE OF MOTION 834 (CR RAMSEY) 358

14.7 NOTICE OF MOTION 835 (CR RAMSEY) 359

14.8 NOTICE OF MOTION 836 (CR RAMSEY) 360

14.9 NOTICE OF MOTION 837 (CR RAMSEY) 361

14.10 NOTICE OF MOTION 838 (CR SHANNON) 362

14.11 NOTICE OF MOTION 839 (CR ABBOUSHI) 363

14.12 NOTICE OF MOTION 840 (CR VANDENBERG) 364

14.13 NOTICE OF MOTION 841 (CR VANDENBERG) 365

14.14 NOTICE OF MOTION 842 (CR VANDENBERG) 366

14.15 NOTICE OF MOTION 843 (CR VANDENBERG) 367

15. COUNCILLOR'S QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE 368

16. URGENT BUSINESS 368

17. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS 369

17.1 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING - UNCONFIRMED MINUTES 3 AUGUST 2022 **370**

To present to Council the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3 August 2022.

17.2 PLUMPTON AQUATIC CENTRE **427**

To present options for progressing the land acquisition for the Plumpton Aquatic and Leisure Centre.

18. CLOSE OF BUSINESS **452**

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 and present.

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, Councillors must declare any General Conflict of Interest or Material Conflict of Interest they have in any of the matters being considered at this meeting.

6. ADOPTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 18 July 2022 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

- Monday 27 June 2022 Summary of Informal Meeting of Councillors
- Monday 27 June 2022 Summary of Informal Meeting of Councillors
- Monday 4 July 2022 Summary of Informal Meeting of Councillors
- Monday 11 July 2022 Summary of Informal Meeting of Councillors
- Thursday 14 July 2022 Summary of Informal Meeting of Councillors
- Monday 18 July 2022 Summary of Informal Meeting of Councillors

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Summaries of Informal Meetings of Councillors dated 27 June, 27 June, 4 July, 11 July, 14 July, and 18 July 2022, provided as **Appendices 1 - 6** respectively to this report, be received and noted.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Record of Informal Meeting of Councillors - 27 June 2022
2. Record of Informal Meeting of Councillors - 27 June 2022
3. Record of Informal Meeting of Councillors - 4 July 2022
4. Record of Informal Meeting of Councillors - 11 July 2022
5. Record of Informal Meeting of Councillors - 14 July 2022
6. Record of Informal Meeting of Councillors - 18 July 2022

INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS

Chapter 6, Rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MEETING DETAILS:			
Meeting Name:	Briefing of Councillors		
Meeting Date:	Monday 27 June 2022	**Time Opened:**	6.17 pm
		Time Closed:	6.58 pm
Councillors present:	Cr G Kesic (Mayor) Cr L Carli (Deputy Mayor) Cr S Abboushi (entered 6.21pm) Cr M Deeming Cr K Majdlik (entered 6.19pm) Cr S Ramsey Cr J Shannon Cr B Turner Cr A Vandenberg		
Officers present:	R Wai L Shannon S Romaszko S McManus B Dosser R Hodgson N Marino D Caligari	Chief Executive Officer Acting General Manager Corporate Services Acting General Manager Planning and Development Acting Executive Manager Corporate Strategy and Investment Manager Legal, Governance and Risk Governance Coordinator Acting Manager Finance Manager Capital Projects	
Guests	Nil		
Apologies	T Scoble	Acting General Manager Community Services	
Matters discussed:	1. Councillor Discussion (6.17pm – 6.36pm) a) Councillor attendance, absence and implications b) Council Meetings in Chamber in July c) Council Chambers Refurbishment 2. Council Meeting Agenda (6.36pm – 6.58pm)		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES:			
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No		
REPORT PRODUCED BY:			
Officer name:	Renee Hodgson	**Date:**	Monday 27 June 2022

INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS

Chapter 6, Rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MEETING DETAILS:			
Meeting Name:	Briefing of Councillors		
Meeting Date:	Monday 27 June 2022	**Time Opened:**	8.26 pm
		Time Closed:	8.36 pm
Councillors present:	Cr G Kesic (Mayor) Cr L Carli (Deputy Mayor) Cr S Abboushi Cr M Deeming Cr K Majdlik Cr S Ramsey (departed 8.28pm) Cr J Shannon Cr B Turner Cr A Vandenberg (departed 8.29pm)		
Officers present:	R Wai L Shannon S Romaszko S McManus B Dosser R Hodgson	Chief Executive Officer Acting General Manager Corporate Services Acting General Manager Planning and Development Acting Executive Manager Corporate Strategy & Investment Manager Legal, Governance & Risk Governance Coordinator	
Guests	Nil		
Apologies	T Scoble	Acting General Manager Community Services	
Matters discussed:	1. Mayor and Chief Executive Weekly Meeting (8.26pm – 8.36pm) a) Budget b) Mayor and CEO – travel to Canberra		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES:			
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No		
REPORT PRODUCED BY:			
Officer name:	Renee Hodgson	**Date:**	Monday 27 June 2022

INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS

Chapter 6, Rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MEETING DETAILS:			
Meeting Name:	Briefing of Councillors		
Meeting Date:	Monday 4 July 2022	**Time Opened:**	6.23 pm
		Time Closed:	9.53 pm
Councillors present:	Cr G Kesic (Mayor) Cr L Carli (Deputy Mayor) Cr S Abboushi Cr M Deeming Cr J Shannon Cr B Turner Cr A Vandenberg		
Officers present:	R Wai — Chief Executive Officer L Shannon — Acting General Manager Corporate Services (departed 9.01pm) S Romaszko — Acting General Manager Planning and Development (departed 9.01pm) T Scoble — Acting General Manager Community Services (departed 9.01pm) S McManus — Acting Executive Manager Corporate Strategy & Investment (departed 9.01pm) B Dosser — Manager Legal, Governance & Risk R Hodgson — Governance Coordinator L Smith — Strategy & Planning Lead (departed 7.58pm) K Barclay — Property & Investment Coordinator (departed 8.48pm) J Johnson — Senior Project Officer (departed 7.18pm)		
Guests	Nil		
Apologies	Cr K Majdlik Cr S Ramsey		
Matters discussed:	1. Councillor lounge refurbishment (6.23pm – 7.18pm) 2. Recovered and Resilient – a plan to address the impacts of COVID-19 (7.18pm – 7.56pm) 3. Plumpton Aquatic Facility (7.56pm – 8.48pm) 4. General Questions from Councillors (8.48pm – 9.01pm) a. Question from Cr Shannon b. Road closures 5. Governance (9.03pm – 9.23pm) a. Governance Rules Review (9.04pm – 9.11pm) b. Post Council Meeting Governance Debrief (9.11pm – 9.23pm) 6. General Questions from Councillors (9.23pm – 9.52pm) a. Caroline Springs RSL b. Related Party Disclosure Requirements c. Organisational Review		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES:			
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?			No
REPORT PRODUCED BY:			
Officer name:	Renee Hodgson	**Date:**	Monday 4 July 2022

INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS

Chapter 6, Rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MEETING DETAILS:			
Meeting Name:	Briefing of Councillors		
Meeting Date:	Monday 11 July 2022	**Time Opened:**	6.21 pm
		Time Closed:	7.47 pm
Councillors present:	Cr G Kesic (Mayor) Cr L Carli (Deputy Mayor) Cr S Abboushi Cr K Majdlik Cr S Ramsey Cr J Shannon Cr B Turner Cr A Vandenberg		
Officers present:	R Wai L Shannon S Romaszko T Scoble B Dosser R Hodgson R Baggio Darren Rudd	Chief Executive Officer Acting General Manager Corporate Services Acting General Manager Planning and Development Acting General Manager Community Services Manager Legal, Governance & Risk Governance Coordinator Manager, Planning Services Manager, City Design & Strategy	
Guests	Nil		
Apologies	Cr M Deeming S McManus	 Acting Executive Manager Corporate Strategy & Investment	
Matters discussed:	1. Council Meeting Agenda (6.21pm – 7.26pm) 2. Mayor and Chief Executive Weekly Meeting (7.26pm – 7.41pm) a) RSL request 3. Councillor Discussion (7.41pm – 7.47pm) a) Progress on Burnside Heights b) Darlingsford Blvd congestion c) Youth training d) Community Care Service site visits e) Disability Conference attendance f) Related Party Disclosures g) Cr Briefing - Tuesday		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES:			
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No		
REPORT PRODUCED BY:			
Officer name:	Renee Hodgson	**Date:**	Monday 11 July 2022

INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS

Chapter 6, Rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MEETING DETAILS:			
Meeting Name:	Briefing of Councillors		
Meeting Date:	Thursday 14 July 2022	**Time Opened:**	11.20 pm
		Time Closed:	12.29 pm
Councillors present:	Cr L Carli (Deputy Mayor) Cr K Majdlik Cr J Shannon		
Officers present:	B Dosser Manager Legal, Governance & Risk R Hodgson Governance Coordinator		
Guests	Nil		
Apologies	Cr M Deeming		
Matters discussed:	1. Representation on Advisory Committees of Council		

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES:	
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No

REPORT PRODUCED BY:			
Officer name:	Renee Hodgson	**Date:**	Thursday 14 July 2022

INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCILLORS

Chapter 6, Rule 1 of the Governance Rules 2020

MEETING DETAILS:			
Meeting Name:	Briefing of Councillors		
Meeting Date:	Monday 18 July 2022	**Time Opened:**	6.19 pm
		Time Closed:	6.51 pm
Councillors present:	Cr G Kesic (Mayor) Cr L Carli (Deputy Mayor) Cr S Abboushi Cr K Majdlik (entered 6.46pm) Cr S Ramsey (entered 6.28pm) Cr J Shannon Cr B Turner Cr A Vandenberg		
Officers present:	L Shannon — Acting General Manager Corporate Services S Romaszko — Acting General Manager Planning and Development B Dosser — Manager Legal, Governance & Risk B Baggio — Manager Planning Services E Haley — Manager Engagement and Advocacy R Hodgson — Governance Coordinator		
Guests	Nil		
Apologies	Cr M Deeming R Wai — Chief Executive Officer T Scoble — Acting General Manager Community Services S McManus — Acting Executive Manager Corporate Strategy & Investment		
Matters discussed:	1. Council Meeting Agenda (6.19pm – 6.42pm) 2. Councillor Discussion (6.42pm – 6.51pm) a) Governance Rules Review b) Briefing of Councillors summaries		
CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES:			
Were there any conflict of interest disclosures by Councillors?	No		
REPORT PRODUCED BY:			
Officer name:	Renee Hodgson	**Date:**	Monday 18 July 2022

8. CORRESPONDENCE INWARD

Nil.

9. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

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

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 LEADWEST JOINT DELEGATED COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the minutes of the LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the confirmed minutes of the LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee meeting held 30 March 2022, provided as **Appendix 1** to this report.

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 confirmed minutes of the LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee meeting held 30 March 2022.

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 confirmed minutes of the LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee meeting held 30 March 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

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 provides a mechanism for a regional approach to advocacy and the delivery of a ten-year Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan, underpinned by a rolling four-year implementation plan which will be delivered by teams from across the six Councils implementing specific projects. This Plan was 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 Joint Delegated Committee as per the recommendation to this report.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee meeting minutes, 30 March 2022

Minutes
LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee

LeadWest

Meeting Details

Title:	LeadWest Joint Delegated Committee		
Date:	30 March 2022	Time:	3:30pm – 5:20pm
Location:	https://brimbankcc.zoom.us/j/94461550227		
Chairperson:	Mayor – Cr Peter Maynard		
Invitees:	Brimbank City Council	Deputy Mayor, Cr Thuy Dang CEO, Fiona Blair	
	Hobsons Bay City Council	Cr Matt Tyler CEO, Aaron van Egmond	
	Maribyrnong City Council	Cr Bernadette Thomas CEO, Celia Haddock	
	Melton City Council	Cr Sophie Ramsey CEO, Roslyn Wai	
	Wyndham City Council	Mayor, Cr Peter Maynard CEO, Stephen Wall	
Conflict of interest:	No conflicts of interest declared.		
Guests:	Joanna Stevens Dina Jones Janine Buesnel Jack Herbert Aisha Nicolay	CEO, Premier Strategy Secretariat Lead and Senior Adviser, Premier Strategy Director of Operations, Premier Strategy Stakeholder and Government Relations Manager, Transurban Executive Director, West of Melbourne Economic Development Alliance	
Other Attendees:	Cr Diana Grima Andrew McLeod Mark Ward	Deputy Mayor, Hobsons Bay City Council Acting CEO, Hobsons Bay City Council Chief of Staff, Wyndham City Council	
Apologies:	Cr Matt Tyler Aaron van Egmond Stephen Wall Mark Ward Joanna Stevens	Councillor, Hobsons Bay City Council CEO, Hobsons Bay City Council CEO, Wyndham City Council Chief of Staff, Wyndham City Council CEO, Premier Strategy	
Minute Taker:	Marnie Giles	Administration Officer, LeadWest	

Meeting Items

No.	Topic	Key discussion points
1.	Appointment of the LeadWest Secretariat Model – Premier Strategy	The Committee had reached a quorum and the Chair directed members to agenda item 1 - Appointment of the LeadWest Secretariat Model – Premier Strategy. The quorum comprised of Cr Peter Maynard, Cr Bernadette Thomas, Cr Thuy Dang, Celia Haddock, Fiona Blair and Andrew McLeod. The following resolution was made: *That Premier Strategy be formally appointed as the secretariat model for LeadWest for a period of twelve months, commencing the 30th of March 2022.* *Moved: Celia Haddock* *Seconded: Cr Bernadette Thomas*
2.	Welcome and Apologies	Premier Strategy joined the Committee meeting following agenda item 1. The Chair welcomed all in attendance and opened the meeting at 3:42pm. The Chair provided a background update on the structure of LeadWest and recent governance changes.
3.	Conflicts of interest to be declared in accordance with the 'Local Government Act 2020'	No conflicts of interest declared.
4.	Minutes from the meeting held 8 December 2021	The minutes from the meeting held on 8 December 2021 were confirmed without amendment. *Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas* *Seconded: Celia Haddock*
5.	Matters Arising from the meeting held 8 December 2021	The Committee noted the matters arising for the meeting held on the 8th of December 2021. The Committee also noted the action to *"contact Natalie Walker to discuss the idea and need to conduct opinion polling for the Delegation to Government"* was not completed.
6.	Adoption of Finance Subcommittee minutes from meeting held 4 March 2022	The Finance Subcommittee (FSC) Chair, Cr Bernadette Thomas, provided the following update on the 2022/2023 project and operational budgets. • Due to the appointment of the LeadWest secretariat model, the operational and project budgets are tabled as draft. The FSC have scheduled an additional workshop for the 22 April 2022 to confirm the budget forecasts for the 2022/2023 financial year. • As previously noted at the Committee meeting on the 8 December 2021, the increase to annual membership for 2022/2023 will also be confirmed at the FSC workshop. The following recommendations were made: a) The Committee adopted the FSC minutes from the meeting held on 4 March 2022 without amendment. b) The Committee noted the potential increase to annual membership fees which will be reviewed at the FSC workshop. c) The Committee noted the finance reports as drafts which will be confirmed at the FSC workshop in consultation with Premier Strategy. *Moved: Cr Bernadette Thomas* *Seconded: Fiona Blair*

7.	Delegation to Government Update	The Chair provided an updated on the recent meeting held with the State Treasurer, Tim Pallas MP. The following discussions were held: • As a part of the Delegation to Government, Cr Peter Maynard and Stephen Wall attended a meeting to discuss the LeadWest priority projects. These discussions were focused around the North and West Melbourne City Deal (NWMCD), the Western Intermodal Freight Terminal (WIFT) and the East Werribee Employment Precinct. • The State Treasurer expressed concern around the scale and quantum of the NWMCD and advised the State and Federal Governments have been working closely to progress the WIFT. This meeting was held prior to the announcement of the 2022/2023 Federal Budget. • Cr Maynard and Stephen conveyed the importance of the LeadWest priority projects such as the East Werribee Employment Precinct and further outlined the job opportunities these projects would create. The Chair requested additional Committee members attend upcoming meetings where possible and provide a proxy when unavailable. The Committee noted the progress of the Delegation to Government project. *Moved: Cr Sophie Ramsey* *Seconded: Cr Bernadette Thomas*
8.	Transurban – Westgate Tunnel Project Update	Guest speaker, Jack Herbert, from Transurban attended the meeting to provide an update on the West Gate Tunnel project. The following discussion was held to outline key benefits: • It is projected that daily commuters will save up to 20mins of travel time once complete and a total of 14km's of walking and cycling paths will be established. • With 200,000 vehicle uses daily on the West Gate Freeway, the Freeway will be upgraded and rebuilt with four new lanes added on the inbound and outbound lanes. • The project will reduce congestion on the West Gate Bridge, Freeway and improve the flow of traffic at the bottle neck along the Williamstown Road exits. • An estimated 3,023 people are currently employed under the construction stage of the West Gate Tunnel project. • The revised completion date for the West Gate Tunnel project is now expected to be 2025. The delay of completion is a result of the contaminated soil dispute which has now been resolved. Following on from the West Gate Tunnel update, the following research report around mobility trends and travel post COVID-19 was presented: • Flexible work arrangements and changes to start and finish times are two key factors which are improving peak time congestion across public transport. • Approximately 41% of Melbournian's are significantly less likely to use public transport than they were pre pandemic. • The use of private vehicles is expected to rise by 11% for daily road users and 5% for regular road users, this is expected to increase once roadworks are completed and shorter travel times are in place.
9.	West of Melbourne Economic Development Alliance – Economic Impact Analysis and Business Case Update	Guest speaker, Aisha Nicolay, from West of Melbourne Economic Development Alliance (WoMEDA) attended the meeting. An update on outstanding performance milestones outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between LeadWest and WoMEDA were discussed: <u>Business Case - Mitchel Institute Centre for Jobs and Skills</u>

		• In its original form, the Mitchell Institute Centre for Jobs and Skills objective was to drive the creation of sustainable suburban and regional jobs and to help develop the skills pipeline to support those developments.
		• Due to a recent priority revision for Victoria University, WoMEDA have obtained the Jobs and Skills Centre under their own banner. As a result, the centre has been renamed to the WoMEDA Jobs, Skills and Economic Development Think-Tank.
		• The funding proposal for the Think-Tank is yet to be determined. LeadWest will obtain this information once figures have been confirmed.
		<u>Economic Impact Analysis – Development of Scienceworks</u>
		• The economic impact analysis for the development of Scienceworks will support the advocacy to expand the existing museum into a state-of-the-art multimedia technology and educational precinct with national significance.
		• At the WoMEDA board meeting in November, a number of considerations were raised regarding the location and the potential to expand the current model.
		• WoMEDA have been in discussions with Jonathan Shearer, General Manager at Scienceworks, to understand what has progressed internally and have been advised that Scienceworks preference is to maintain its current model and location but expand in size.
		• WoMEDA are seeking a meeting with Assistant Treasurer, Danny Pearson to share the contents of the report and confirm if there is anything detailed that would preclude the report from being launched.
		<u>Future Agenda</u>
		• WoMEDA are currently developing a future agenda to outline key industries and areas of concern to direct their focus and resources. These discussions will be held externally with key stakeholders to assist in structuring the future agenda.
		• Current considerations being explored are:
		  ○ Further pursuing existing reports – East Werribee Employment Precinct.
		  ○ Logistics – leveraging off of the opportunities and funding announcement of the WIFT.
		  ○ Tourism – leveraging off of the Sunshine Super Hub and the Melbourne Airport Rail Link, this could unlock tourism opportunities around Melbourne's west.
		  ○ Technology – As a fast evolving field, explore areas such as technological education.

10.	North & West Melbourne City Deal - Project Status Update	The Chair advised the Committee that at the Mayoral lunch on the 11 February 2022, it was resolved that Cr Peter Maynard be elected as the Mayoral representative for Melbourne's west on the NWMCD. Cr Peter Maynard will attend the monthly Steering group meetings along with executive representation across the North and West of Melbourne.
11.	Other Business	No other business discussed.
12.	Closure of meeting	The Chair thanked all in attendance and closed the meeting at 5:20pm.

Next meeting:	Wednesday, 15th June 2022 3.30pm – 5.30pm Council Chambers, Wyndham City Council

12.2 ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL - AGGREGATED MEETING MINUTES

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

PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive the minutes of the following Advisory Committee meetings, provided as **Appendices 1 - 5** to this report, and adopt the recommendations arising within the respective Minutes:

1) Community Learning Advisory Committee, 22 March 2022
2) Safe City Advisory Committee, 9 June 2022
3) Youth Advisory Committee, 21 June 2022
4) Preventing Family Violence Advisory Committee, 11 May 2022
5) Policy Review Panel, 14 July 2022

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. The composition of Advisory Committees for the 2021/22 municipal year was approved by Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 22 November 2021.

The minutes of the following Advisory Committees, attached to this report, form 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
22 March 2022	Community Learning Advisory Committee	Appendix 1
9 June 2022	Safe City Advisory Committee	Appendix 2
21 June 2022	Youth Advisory Committee	Appendix 3
11 May 2022	Preventing Family Violence Advisory Committee	Appendix 4
14 July 2022	Policy Review Panel Advisory Committee	Appendix 5

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 being 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. Community Learning Advisory Committee, 22 March 2022
2. Safe City Advisory Committee, 9 June 2022
3. Youth Advisory Committee, 21 June 2022
4. Preventing Family Violence Advisory Committee, 11 May 2022
5. Policy Review Panel Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, 14 July 2022

MINUTES

COMMUNITY LEARNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 22 March at 2.00pm meeting held online

Present:

Cr Sophie Ramsey	Councillor
Jane Sultana	Secretary, U3A
Deirdre Hardy	EO, Future Connect
Pam Madej	Melton South Community Centre
Trish Heffernan	CEO, Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services
Dr Michael Gruis	Copperfield College (Sydenham)
Emily Anderson	Program Coordinator, VU in the community
Stuart Telford	Principal, Deanside Primary School
Chiquita Toohey (Cheetah)	Community Engagement Officer, Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation
Kris White	Principal, Strathtulloch Primary School
Muhammed Edwars	Principal, Muhammadiyah Australia College
(Ex Officio) Elyse Rider	Manager Community Planning
(Ex Officio) Susie Prestney	Manager Library and Arts
(Ex Officio) Adam Josifovski	Coordinator Community Activation & Learning
(Ex Officio) Silvia Velez	Lifelong Learning Projects Officer (Minute Taker)

Quorum: *: The quorum for any ordinary meeting of the Community Learning Advisory Committee shall be not less than 50% of the current members*

Chairperson: Cr S Ramsey

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1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed all attendees to the meeting and proceeded with the Acknowledgment of Country. '*Melton City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations, and pays respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.'*

2. Apologies

(Ex Officio) Roslyn Wai	CEO, Melton City Council
Mark Corrie	CEO, Western BACE
Brad Miller	Manager, Mambourin Business Solutions

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Motion

Minutes of the last Community Learning Advisory Committee meeting were endorsed at the Ordinary Meeting of Council dated 30 May 2022

5. Business Arising

A Josifovski will organise Council Officers to present findings of Covid impacts at the September meeting as they were unavailable to attend June meeting.

6. General Business

6.1 Leaning Strategy Update – S Velez

S Velez provided an update on community engagement for the Learning Strategy development. Engagement commenced on 23 May, with an online survey, four engagement workshops and 10 pop up engagements.

6.2 Libraries Update – S Prestney

S Prestney provided on update on Council's Library Services including the introduction of fine free libraries, inclusive reading programs, an update on the short story competition and summary of engagement with schools.

6.3 Group discussion: Job Readiness – A Josifovski

Discussion topic introduced by A Josifovski: Insights and reflections on the current job market

- Cr Ramsey - discussed concerns over the lack of after-hours medical services in Melton City Council
- Cr Ramsey - proposed a workplace connector for the building industry and the casual workforce is in short supply.
- K White- shared the challenges from a significant shortage of educators, the need more staff, and difficulty filling permanent teaching roles
- E Anderson - shared that there is awareness of the gap between job applications and the suitability of applicants.
- M Gruis - in agreement with a shortage of teachers and highlighted the challenges of filling mental health roles – discussion relating to qualifications of support staff and registration procedures.
- D Hardy – comments on ACFE and youth workers registration, also shared feedback regarding young people not being fit (lack of stamina) for current jobs in landscaping and building. Young people not coping with current demands.
- T Heffernan - agrees that there is a mismatch between available jobs and the aspirations of job seekers. Women need child-care-friendly hours (9.30-2.30) and adult education has the current challenge of not finding tutors available after hours.
- S Prestney – Public Libraries Survey shows many people are looking for work.
- A Josifovski - shared the successes of programs like the White Card training.

Discussion topic introduced by A Josifovski: What should be a priority for Melton City Council for the next 6 months and why?

CITY OF MELTON

MINUTES

- Cr Ramsey - suggested system of shadowing people / mentorships for young people to gain job experience on the job.
- S Prestney - agreed this would be a good idea that can be suggested to P&C at Council.
- D Hardy - suggested tours of councils for young people.
- K White - mentioned that many parents have qualifications that are not recognized and support in the recognition process could be impactful.
- T Heffernan - suggests working more closely with the Job Vic Advocates.
- C Toohey - mentioned Aboriginal Jobs Victoria and the work they are currently doing.
- A Josifovski - proposed benchmarking with other LGAs, and shared the experience of City of Casey partnering with Dandenong to approach local Employment Networks and offer micro-credentialing courses. This could be a collaboration with EcoDev.
- E Anderson - will be visiting secondary schools and suggests workshops that are locally relevant.
- J Sultana - proposed scholarships to years 11&12 (ie for nursing), but Cr Ramsey clarified this is in the scope of State government.
- E Anderson - shared that Hume Council has a modest scholarship program in partnership with local education providers.

6.4 Rapid Fire Updates – Chair Cr Ramsey

All members shared their current programs, all re-starting face-to-face engagement while the capacity issues due to sickness are still challenging.

7. Other Business

Cr Ramsey- expressed concern for the issue of access to health care after hour Melton.

Action
A Josifovski and S Velez to communicate the issue to Council's Social Planning Team.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on 21 September 2022 commencing at 2.00pm – 4.00pm at Melton Learning Library Hub (in person)

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 3.24pm.

CITY OF MELTON

MINUTES

SAFE CITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 9 June 2022 at 1.00pm on Microsoft Teams

Present:

Cr Lara Carli	Councillor
Cr Sophie Ramsey	Councillor
Cr Julie Shannon	Councillor
Elyse Rider	Melton City Council
Jayde McBurnie	Melton City Council
Daisy Brundell	Melton City Council
Elizabeth Johnston	Melton City Council
Daniel Anskaitis	Melton City Council
Kristie Lawson	Melton City Council
Lisa Prentice-Evans	Victoria Police
Jo Mutsaerts	Victoria Police
Amanda Venda	Department of Transport
Alan Nguyen	Fit2Drive Foundation
Benjamin Taylor	Western Health
Debra Milvain	Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services

Guests:

Roslyn Wai	Melton City Council
Jade Addicott	Melton City Council
Kylie Paschalidis	Melton City Council
Adam Debono	Melton City Council
Kylie Snart	Victoria Police
Sebastian Zita	Department of Justice & Community Safety

Quorum: A quorum for the Committee will require attendance of one (1) Councillor, and at least four (4) persons from the community representatives and external stakeholder members.

Chairperson: Cr Lara Carli
Minute Taker: Elizabeth Johnston

1. Welcome

Chair Cr Carli opened the meeting at 10.04am with the Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed CEO Roslyn Wai.

2. Apologies

Cr Bob Turner	Councillor
Cr Steve Abboushi	Councillor

Cr Ashleigh Vandenberg	Councillor
Essan Dileri	Melton City Council
Peta Fualau	Centre for Multicultural Youth
Chris Stuhldreier	Victoria Police
Kim Leech	Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services
Golam Haque	Community Representative
Shanti Dicello	Community Representative
Jasleen Kaur	Community Representative

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Meeting notes of the last Safe City Advisory Committee meeting were adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 2 May 2022.

5. Business Arising

5.1 Underage vaping sales

K Paschalidis spoke about the role of Council's Environmental Health Unit. A Debono presented on the enforcement and education which is undertaken in the City of Melton pertaining to the *Tobacco Act 1987* in hospitality and retail premises. The Unit has an agreement with the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Department of Health as part of a state-wide initiative to reduce harm to visit venues to check compliance and undertake test purchasing with trained underage civilians (15-16 years old).

Cr Ramsey, Cr Shannon entered the meeting.

Environmental Health have noticed an increase in vaping, and there appears to be misinformation circulating that they are a healthier option than smoking. A Debono spoke about the current regulations related to the sale of e-cigarettes or tobacco products. Council is not authorised to enforce for matters relating to nicotine products, and these matters are referred directly to Victoria Police through established communication channels. Environmental Health are currently investigating the best approach for education in schools.

In response to a question from Cr Ramsey, A Debono advised that if anyone suspects a business of selling illicit substances, they should contact Victoria Police. Council also uses its intelligence and any advice received from the community to inform Victoria Police of suspected sites so they can undertake enforcement. In response to a follow up question, K Paschalidis indicated that there is no further legislation that could be introduced at a local level to assist in responding to this activity, and that it is managed at state and federal level. L Prentice-Evans added that Council and Victoria Police have good communication which will continue, and this will support law enforcement to prioritise their response.

K Paschalidis and A Debono left the meeting.

CITY OF MELTON

MINUTES

6. General Business

6.1 Hoon Community Reference Group – E Rider

E Rider presented on the Hoon Community Reference Group (HCRG), a state government initiative that brings together representatives that can provide feedback and recommendations for short, medium and long-term options to enhance and support deterrence of hooning to the Minister for Road and Roads Safety and the Minister for Police. Meetings of the HCRG will be held quarterly over a 12-month period, with two meetings now taken place.

There will be a community engagement process that runs alongside the HCRG, with sessions taking place across three regions (north, west, and south-east). The session closest to the City of Melton will be taking place in Brimbank, with further details to be circulated, and anyone interested is welcome to attend. Findings will be considered by the HCRG through a workshopping process that will inform the recommendation report. A Venda advised that the forum will be taking place on Wednesday 20 July.

6.2 CPTED Audits – J Mutsaerts & E Johnston

E Johnston advised that in response to some concerns from the community and internal departments, Council is working with Victoria Police to undertake four Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) audits at reserves and public spaces across the municipality. The audits were conducted at:

- Boronia Drive Reserve, Hillside.
- Marlo Drive Reserve, Melton West.
- Stretton Drive Reserve, Brookfield.
- Arnolds Creek Children's and Community Centre and the surrounding precinct.

J Mutsaerts briefly explained what CPTED is and how it is used in public spaces. The full audit reports have been provided to Council and have been disseminated to the relevant departments for action or consideration in future funding opportunities. Examples were provided for the Arnold's Creek precinct.

In response to a question from Cr Shannon, E Johnston advised that there is an upcoming meeting to discuss the recommendations about building design at Arnolds Creek, and lessons for future community buildings. J Mutsaerts emphasised that there needs to be a balance between good design and safety. In response to a question from Cr Carli, J Mutsaerts advised that a CPTED audit is going to be scheduled for Melton Botanic Garden, and other sites may be considered in the future on a needs-basis. Audit reports are time consuming to prepare so this needs to be considered when deciding future sites. In response to a follow up question, E Johnston advised that the reports are passed on to the relevant departments.

6.3 UTURN 193 Crime Prevention Project – K Lawson & J Addicott

K Lawson introduced J Addicott, who oversees the UTURN 193 Project. J Addicott presented on the Project, which has recently received a 12-month funding extension by the Department of Justice and Community Safety. The Project aims to intervene and divert young people (aged 10-24) away from the youth justice system by addressing the underlying causes of risk-taking behaviour. Cr Carli, Cr Ramsey and Cr Shannon commended the Young Communities team's work on the Project, acknowledging its achievements.

6.4 Member Updates

Community Crime Prevention Information Nights – J Mutsaerts

J Mutsaerts advised that there have been five Community Crime Prevention Information Nights scheduled by Victoria Police in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch Victoria and the City of

Melton. The two which have taken place so far (Arnolds Creek and Bridge Road Children's and Community Centres) were unfortunately poorly attended. Its acknowledged that the colder weather could be a deterrent but given no forums have taken place in the last two and a half years due to COVID-19, the need was identified. The information nights have been promoted on social media, through the Star Weekly and established networks. L Prentice-Evans indicated that all five sessions will proceed, and will be assessed at the end, but in the meantime other promotional methods will be used. E Rider acknowledged that COVID-19 has impacted the community's willingness to attend in person and indicated that an online option could be considered to help spread the information. J Mutsaerts, L Prentice-Evans and E Johnston will discuss online options for future sessions. Cr Ramsey indicated that some community concerns might have already been addressed but will continue to promote the sessions.

Action

J Mutsaerts, L Prentice-Evans and E Johnston to discuss the possibility of moving information sessions to an online format.

Update on Council road infrastructure projects – D Anskaitis

D Anskaitis spoke about the signalised pedestrian crossing near the Caroline Springs Library and Learning Hub, and a new speed zone along Caroline Springs Boulevard. There will be some outdoor dining, changes in the lane configuration to improve bicycle safety, and electronic speed signs.

There are several signalised intersections being installed along Taylors Road, including road duplication and an interim roundabout at the corner of Sinclairs Road and Neale Road. There will be some raised pedestrian crossings to improve adherence to speed limits, including Royal Crescent and Brooklyn Road.

Update on community safety projects – E Johnston

E Johnston advised that the Kurunjang Community Strengthening Project based at Little Blind Creek remains on hold while the Cultural Heritage Management Report is being completed. The Department of Justice and Community Safety have approved Council's application to extend the funding, contracts to be drawn up and works to commence early in 2023. The project will include a disc golf course, and the community will be engaged once works are complete to activate the site.

Endorsement was received in May for the second of two initiatives that form part of the Empowering Communities Project. Council is working with the lead organisations Whitelion and Edmund Rice Services to commence the implementation phase over the next few months. The Minister for Crime Prevention will be visiting the Melton Library and Learning Hub on Tuesday 5 July to meet the stakeholders for the Connecting our Communities Outdoors initiative. Councillors will receive an invite to this.

There has been further communication with the community regarding the CCTV trial project at Lake Caroline in Caroline Springs, with mostly positive feedback. In response to a question from A Venda, E Johnston advised that an online survey was circulated within the community at the beginning of this project, which attracted 615 responses. The survey indicated that just over 70 per cent of respondents looked favourably on the installation of the CCTV. There will be a follow up survey each 12 months after the installation.

Fit2Drive Foundation – A Nguyen

A Nguyen advised that Springside West Secondary College and Djerriwarrh Community College have received the year 11 and 12 programs between March and May 2022. Out of the 102 surveys completed, most were happy with the information they had learnt and found it useful. Fit2Drive Foundation are currently recruiting new facilitators, with the advertisement expected to go out in the next few weeks.

CITY OF MELTON

MINUTES

TAC L2P Program – D Milvain

D Milvain advised that Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services are looking to temporarily fill the program coordinator role. Impacts from vandalism of the Moorabool vehicle have affected delivery and promotion of the program more broadly (including the City of Melton). Nine mentor applications have been received in a short timeframe. Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services are in discussions about having an additional vehicle based at Caroline Springs. In response to a question from Cr Ramsey, D Milvain advised that the benefits of having a vehicle in Caroline Springs are improved access for learner drivers and saving travel time for mentors who are all volunteers. After the Bacchus Marsh program is back up and running, they will be seeking funding for an additional vehicle for Caroline Springs, and a location to park it safely.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for 10am on Thursday 8 September 2022, with the format and location to be confirmed.

Action

All members to advise E Johnston if there are any topics that they would like to hear about (or guest speakers) at the September meeting.

E Johnston to obtain and circulate a copy of the guest speaker presentations to Councillors.

8. Close of Business

Cr Carli thanked all members and closed the meeting at 2.28pm.

MINUTES

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 21 June 2022 at 5.30pm at Fraser Rise Community Centre

Present

Name	Title	Time arrived	Time finished
I Pathirana	YAC Member 2022	5.30pm	6.30pm
E D'Souza	YAC Member 2022	5.30pm	6.30pm
K D'Souza	YAC Member 2022	5.30pm	6.30pm
N Singh	YAC Member 2022	5.30pm	6.30pm
N Pathirana	YAC Member 2022	5.30pm	6.30pm
E Hautea	YAC Member 2022	5.30pm	6.30pm
L Pham	YAC Member 2022	5.30pm	6.30pm
S McMahon	YAC Member 2022	5.30pm	6.30pm
L Taylor	YAC Member 2022	5.30pm	6.30pm
A Tan	Council Officer Acting Manager Community Care	5.30pm	6.30pm
F Newah-Jarfoi	Council Officer Acting Team Leader, Engagement and Activation	5.30pm	6.30pm
L Getson-Ballan	Council Officer Engagement and Activation Administration Officer	5.30pm	6.30pm
S Velez	Council Officer Lifelong Learning Projects Officer	5.30pm	6.30pm
A Josifovski	Council Officer Coordinator Community Activation and Learning	5.30pm	6.30pm

Chairperson: Sean McMahon
Minute Taker: Leanne Getson-Ballan

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1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed all attendees to the meeting and proceeded with the Acknowledgment of Country. '*Melton City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations, and pays respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*

2. Apologies

Cr A Vandenberg Councillor
Cr K Majdlik Councillor

Cr S Abboushi	Councillor
Cr B Turner	Councillor
K Lawson	Coordinator Young Communities
B Pathirana	YAC Member 2022

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting dated 5 April 2022 was endorsed at Council meeting on 30 May 2022.

5. Actions arising from previous meeting

5.1 Circulation of Growing and Thriving: A Strategy for All Abilities and All Ages

The strategy was presented at Council meeting on 20th June 2022 for endorsement.

5.2 One-page document to be translated in main languages spoken

F Newah-Jarfoi mentioned the version in English will be presented to YAC when it is available.

Action

F Newah-Jarfoi will table the document at YAC when it is available.

5.3 Youth Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

A. Tan provided an update on the review of the current Terms of Reference and the opportunity to consider an external youth service provider to be part of YAC. This inclusion might be beneficial as the service provider could voice the views of YAC at other professional networks.

F Newah-Jarfoi asked the young people's view on having the proposed additional youth service provider and they unanimously agreed on the opportunity.

A Tan provided an overview of the internal Council processes involved with updating Terms of Reference.

Action

A Tan to provide YAC with an update regarding the progress with updating the Terms of Reference.

CITY OF MELTON

MINUTES

6. Business Arising

6.1 New Melton City Learning Strategy – Silvia Velez Lifelong Projects Officer

A Josifovski and S Velez presented to the YAC the Learning Strategy Development Community Consultation.

YAC provided feedback on the following questions.

- How can Council promote inclusive learning strategies in the education system (Formal & Informal)?
- How does Council encourage learning in families and communities?
- What opportunities are there for Council to facilitate learning in and for the workplace?
- What opportunities are there for Council to extend the use of modern technologies?
- How can Council enhance quality and excellence in local learning?
- What can Council do to create a vibrant culture of learning throughout life?
- What is in your bucket list of things that you want to learn that is not taught in school or uni?

A Josifovski and S Velez thanked the group for their feedback and asked the young people to fill out a survey.

Action

The data will be provided back to the group at the conclusion of the consultation.

7. General Business

F Newah-Jarfoi thanked the young people for their involvement at the Youth Forum.

The outcomes addressed on the day included the following:

- Proximity to opportunities for social connection (getting there!)
- Addressing social anxiety post Covid-19 (connecting the disconnected).
- Connecting young people through common interests (outside school).
- Building awareness of existing opportunities for social connection (communication and promotion).
- Creating a sense of safety and belonging for young people to improve social confidence.
- Smashing stereotypes and enabling the voice of all young people (enabling biases).

Action

F Newah-Jarfoi will provide YAC with an overview of the findings and actions following analysis of the information provided by the participants during the forum.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting to be held on 2 August 2022 commencing at 5.30pm at the Melton Youth Centre.

9. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

MINUTES

PREVENTING FAMILY VIOLENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

held on 11 May 2022 at 11.00am, online.

Present:

Cr Lara Carli	Councillor
Cr Sophie Ramsey	Councillor
Cr Julie Shannon	Councillor
Elyse Rider	Melton City Council
Jayde McBurnie	Melton City Council
Ruairi Cleary	Melton City Council
Adisa Muminovic	Melton City Council
Lisa Prentice-Evans	Victoria Police
Gehan Shehab	Department of Justice and Community Safety
Martin Ha	Brimbank Melton Community Legal Service
Michelle Galea	Department of Education and Training
Rachana Bangara	Brotherhood of St. Laurence
Genia Sawczyn	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
Rashmi Ghimire	MiCare
Elena Campbell (guest)	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

Quorum: *Quorum for the committee will require attendance of a minimum of one (1) Councillor, one (1) Council Officer, and comprising 30% of external agency committee members.*

Chairperson: **Cr Lara Carli, Councillor**

Minute Taker: **Ruairi Cleary, Health Promotion Officer**

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1. Welcome

Meeting began at 11:05am

The Chairperson Cr Carli welcomed all attendees to the meeting and proceeded with the Acknowledgment of Country. '*Melton City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations, and pays respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging*.'

Cr Carli acknowledged that Elena Campbell, Associate Director of Research, Advocacy and Policy at RMIT would be joining the committee at 11:15am to present on Adolescent Violence in the Home and the WRAP Around Project.

Cr Carli welcomed Rashmi Ghimire from MiCare who was attending on behalf of Sarah Chong.

2. Apologies

Cr Bob Turner	Councillor
Cr Ashleigh Vandenberg	Councillor
Christine Levy	Melton City Council
Bonnie Coogan	Melton City Council
Stephen Black	Victoria Police
Sarah Chong	MiCare
Sharon Horton	MacKillop Family Services
Gerard Cameron	MacKillop Family Services
Kalimna Andy	Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service
Melissa Suppupo	Djerriwarrh Health Services
Peter Webster	Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation
Evelyn Afotey	GenWest

3. Declaration of interests and/or conflict of interests

Nil.

4. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the Preventing Family Violence Advisory Committee meeting held on 9 February 2022 were circulated to the Committee for ratification on 8 April 2022. The minutes were adopted at the Ordinary Meeting of Council 2 May 2022.

5. Business Arising

5.1 Update on actions from previous meeting – Ruairi Cleary, Melton City Council

R Cleary provided an update on actions from the previous Preventing Family Violence Advisory Committee meeting. Noting M Ha had connected with J McBurnie in relation to Orange Door rollout. Expectation is for the hub to be established in September 2022. M Ha highlighted that due to high service demand, the Melton Family Violence Project is not being promoted extensively. However, M Ha is happy to receive referrals into the project from Melton City Council staff and Councillors.

Cr Ramsey asked if the legal service cannot take referrals until September or do not want the project widely advertised. M Ha added that referrals would still be taken and provided legal assistance, noting Brimbank-Melton Legal Centre will work in partnership with Orange Door to support the delivery of a multi-disciplinary model once the hub is in operation.

Elena Campbell arrived at 11:10am

6. General Business

6.1 Adolescent Violence in the Home and the WRAP Around Project – Elena Campbell, Associate Director of Research, Advocacy and Policy at RMIT

E Campbell provided a presentation on Adolescent Violence in the Home (AVITH). This included an overview of the research she has undertaken into AVITH in recent years, an overview of the legal and service response to AVITH, the complexity of needs associated with AVITH, and the importance of a whole-of-family, collaborative service response.

Cr Carli thanked E Campbell for the informative presentation.

CITY OF MELTON

MINUTES

Cr Shannon asked if we could get a copy of the slides. Noted the significant presence of shame and stigma for families experiencing AVITH and asked what we are doing to address this. Cr Shannon also asked what type of extra support diverse communities receive, and if there is a possibility of a mentor system for young people (when parents have limited capacity).

E Campbell highlighted the importance of encouraging conversation about shame and stigma and enabling parents with shared experiences to come together, recognising this is a potential trajectory of later family violence (FV). Kids and others need recovery support and dedicated intervention to intervene for trajectory of harm. It was noted that diverse communities are all very different in their experiences, but this is an issue that is less likely to be recognised in different migrant communities, for a variety of reasons such as cultural reasons re family structure, collective approach vs individual approach, or the perception of being over policed, perception of not wanting to contact authorities. E Campbell noted the need for community specific responses, including the potential value of mentoring program. E Campbell noted complications of care when an intervention order is imposed where the protected person is the only person responsible for supporting the young person to access services and meet conditions of order.

R Bangara highlighted how presentation resonated with her role as local area coordinator in NDIS and asked when identifying and responding to potential risks in planning meetings, what other resources are available beyond child protection.

E Campbell indicated there is a gap between disability focused responses and FV focused responses, where young people with disability are using harm or experiencing harm at home, can get caught between whether it is a disability of FV matter. Early interventions before the matter gets to Child Protection are important, such as earlier integrated family services like Child First. However, such services are already overwhelmed which creates a barrier to successful intervention.

Cr Ramsey noted presentation from L Prentice-Evans at recent Council meeting, and appreciated articulation of complexity of issue from E Campbell. Raised area of concern of Policy change required, and asked what governance side of Council can do to support policy framework i.e. police/legal/DHHS.

E Campbell highlighted importance of asking questions of Family Safety Victoria and Victoria Police to bring information about position and understanding, pushes them to articulate and acknowledge the complexity of what they are seeing. Noted recent leaps in resourcing, and work to recognise the gendered nature of FV and holding perpetrators to account, however noted the complexity of AVITH does not easily fit into that narrative. Establishing a forum at your local level to bring together local practitioners etc. Family Safety Victoria have recently issued a tender for a program response inviting agencies to deliver AVITH focused program. Encourage local agencies to think about what they are doing to respond to that tender.

Cr Ramsey asked if E Campbell had a model/framework that could be circulated to Advisory Committee. E Campbell responded that some existing principles from another region may be able to be shared.

Cr Shannon left the meeting at 11:55am

L Prentice-Evans noted recent policy changes, however police members still trying to understand and had been a learning curve for members, will take time to adjust.

E Campbell supported use of referral through Orange Door. Observing variation in how different Orange Door services are responding to AVITH. When Orange Door has referred young people/families on to programs it has worked well. WRAP Project recommended dedicated AVITH focused practitioner at each Orange Door.

L Prentice-Evans asked if there is any situation that E Campbell believes an IVO is appropriate.

E Campbell said it is important to leave the door open, there are times when family need respite, can provide a circuit breaker, however always a chance of criminalisation. Is there a

different mechanism that could be created to give families what they need without creating additional harm and pressure for families.

A Muminovic highlighted that sunshine court is transitioning to specialist family violence court, with dedicated support person, which is essential. Asked if there is any further information about whether courts will be having dedicated roles to work alongside applicants and respondent practitioners that can make appropriate follow-ups for adolescents and their families.

E Campbell highlighted that there is a dedicated practitioner in Melbourne children's court, works with adolescent and parents, produced good outcomes to transition into longer term care. Would like to see at all courts, to promote more consistent understanding of AVITH and greater clarity re referral.

M Ha asked how desirable and feasible, to look at AVITH incidents from health and social lens rather than a criminal lens.

E Campbell said it was essential. Health and social lens links to earlier intervention and understands that there is usually a long history and underlying needs. If we can get to that need and associated risks earlier there is so much difference and positive change that can be made. Legal system should ideally be the last response, not the first.

Cr Carli thanked Elena Campbell for her presentation to the committee.

Elena Campbell left the meeting at 12:14pm

Cr Carli thanked Council officers for organising the presentation and noted how informative the presentation was.

Action
R Cleary to circulate slides from Elena Campbell's presentation.
R Cleary to speak to Elena Campbell about circulating AVITH response-model principles from another region.

6.2 Member updates – All

No member updates

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee it is to be held on Wednesday 17 August, commencing at 11.00am, held online via Microsoft Teams.

8. Close of Business

The meeting closed at 12.15pm.

MELTON CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Policy Review Panel Meeting of the Melton City Council

14 July 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. WELCOME 2

2. APOLOGIES 2

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST 2

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 2

5. OTHER BUSINESS CARRIED OVER FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING 2

6. PRESENTATION OF STAFF REPORTS 3

6.1 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM POLICY 3

7. GENERAL BUSINESS 12

8. NEXT MEETING 12

9. CLOSE OF BUSINESS 12

MELTON CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE POLICY REVIEW PANEL MEETING OF THE MELTON CITY COUNCIL HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE ON 14 JULY 2022 AT 10.30AM

Present:	Cr K Majdlik (Chair) Cr L Carli Cr J Shannon	
In Attendance:	Bradley Dosser, Justin Horne, Renee Hodgson,	Manager Legal, Governance and Risk Manager Environment and Waste Governance Coordinator

1. WELCOME

The Chair, Cr Majdlik, opened the meeting at 10.34am and welcomed the Panel Members.

2. APOLOGIES

Cr M Deeming

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND / OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the Policy Review Panel held on 16 June 2022, listed on the agenda to be adopted by Council at the Council Meeting scheduled for Monday 18 July 2022, be noted.

Motion

Crs Shannon/Carli.

That the Minutes of the Policy Review Panel held on 16 June 2022, listed on the agenda to be adopted by Council at the Council Meeting scheduled for Monday 18 July 2022, be noted.

CARRIED

5. OTHER BUSINESS CARRIED OVER FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil.

At 10.35 am, Justin Horne entered the meeting and confirmed he has no General Conflict or Material Conflict in respect of any of the matters he is presenting to the Panel today.

6. PRESENTATION OF STAFF REPORTS

6.1 ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM POLICY

Responsible Officer:	**Sam Romaszko - Acting General Manager Planning & Development**
Document Author:	**Justin Horne - Manager Environment & Waste**
Date Prepared:	**30 June 2022**

Recommendation:

To approve the amended Environmental Enhancement Program Policy.

Motion

Crs Shannon/Majdlik.

To approve the amended Environmental Enhancement Program Policy, provided as **Appendix 1** to this report, with changes made by the Policy Review Panel highlighted in yellow.

CARRIED

1. Background

1.1 The Policy

The Environmental Enhancement Program Policy was previously endorsed by the Policy Review Panel on 16 July 2014 and authorised by Council on 26 August 2014. This policy provides a basis upon which Council will implement the Environmental Enhancement Program.

In the policy review process, the following items below were identified as opportunities to improve the policy:

- provide greater clarity of internal roles and responsibilities relating to the implementation of the Environmental Enhancement Program, including handling of reviews
- update to referenced legislation and State Government agencies

The Policy has been revised to:

- include all roles responsible for the provision of professional advice to public, employees and authorised delegates
- Include provision in the appeals process for administrative errors

It is noted that the Environmental Enhancement Program is scheduled for review, with anticipated completion by December 2022.

1.2 Sources/benchmarking

The policy has been updated with consideration to the existing Environmental Enhancement Policy (2014).

No benchmarking of the policy was undertaken as Melton City Council is the only Council that provides an Environmental Enhancement Program via a rate rebate.

1.3 Consultation

Internal consultation was undertaken during the review of the policy with Governance to ensure that compliance with the *Local Government Act 1989* and *Local Government Act 2020*.

1.4 Communication and Implementation

While the proposed changes to the policy are primarily an update the language and application to relevant State and Federal Legislation, a review will be undertaken to ensure that the currently published website information and guidelines that we have available to residents comply with the changes.

Internal departments across Council will be briefed on the revised policy.

1.5 Compliance

This document is compliant with Council's policy review process.

This document was determined by Community Planning as not requiring a gender impact assessment as per the Gender Equality Act 2020.

1.6 Measures of Success

The policy will be reviewed prior to its expiry in May 2026 to identify further opportunities for improvement.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Environmental Enhancement Program Policy July 2022 v3.0

CITY OF MELTON	**Environmental Enhancement Program Policy**
Version No.	V 3.0 15 June 2022
Endorsement	Executive 28 June 2022 Policy Review Panel <date> 14 July 2022
Authorisation	Council <date>
Review date:	May 2026
Responsible officer:	Manager, Planning & Environment
Policy owner	Coordinator, Environment & Sustainability

1. Purpose

To ensure the effective implementation of the rate rebate that is provided to eligible properties in the Environmental Enhancement Program (EEP). This program assists rural landowners undertake specified land management works that will improve the overall environmental condition of agricultural land within the municipality.

2. Scope

This policy outlines Council's implementation of the Environmental Enhancement Program and applies to rural landholders within the City of Melton.

The agency responsible for the enforcement of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, is Agriculture Victoria, within the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

For advice about weed and pest animal control, including enforcement, residents should contact Agriculture Victoria on 13 61 86 or www.agriculture.vic.gov.au

3. Definitions

Word/Term	Definition
Environmental Weed(s)	Plants that are growing outside of their normal area and therefore lack their natural environmental controls but are not listed under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act* (1994).
Noxious Weed(s)	Invasive plants that are listed under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
Pest Animal(s)	Animals listed under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* pest schedules.
Remnant Native Vegetation	Patches of native trees, shrubs, grasses and herbs still left after broader areas of the landscape have been cleared.

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Rural Land	The simplest definition is that rural land is all land that is not urban. Wide open land, farmland, natural areas, forests, national parks, mountains, rivers, lakes, urban fringe and rural residential areas all make up the rural landscape.

4. Policy

The Environmental Enhancement Program has been designed to encourage rural landholders, to engage in an ongoing commitment to reducing land degradation across the municipality through provision of a financial incentive via a rate rebate.

The program targets the management of noxious and environmental weeds, pest animals and soil erosion. Sustainable land management, the retention of remnant vegetation and encouragement of actions to improve biodiversity such as the fencing of environmentally significant areas and protection of remnant native vegetation is also supported through the program.

~~The program seeks to discourage unsustainable land management practices such as unlawful landfill, inappropriate application of herbicide, overgrazing of pasture and the unlawful removal of native vegetation.~~

Melton City Council acknowledges that high environmental and amenity standards are essential to ensure a high standard of living for all residents of the municipality as well as act as a means to attract new residents and businesses to this fast-growing region.

The agency responsible for the enforcement of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, is Agriculture Victoria, within the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions.

3.1 Eligibility

Pursuant to Section 169 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council established a Rural Rate Rebate that applies to properties greater than 2 hectares within the following planning zones:

- Farming Zone (FZ)
- Green Wedge Zone (GWZ)
- Green Wedge Zone A (GWZA)
- Mixed Use Zone (MUZ)
- Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ)
- Special Use Zone 5 (SUZ5)
- Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ)
- Urban Growth Zone (UGZ)*

*Land within the Urban Growth Zone (UGZ) that has an approved Planning Permit for Subdivision becomes ineligible and the Rural Rate Rebate no longer applies.

3.2 Application of the Rate Rebate

All eligible landowners will have the Environmental Enhancement Program rebate applied to their first Annual Rates Notice.

The total amount of the rate rebate is calculated based on the zoning of the land, according to the following rating categories:

- Rural Living Zone – 25%
- Rural Zone – 50%
- Urban Growth Zone with no Precinct Structure Plan – 25%
- Urban Growth Zone with an approved Precinct Structure Plan – 25%

Landholders will retain their rate rebate by;

- Submitting a completed Proposed Works Form by **31 March** for approval by Council officers; and
- Successfully completing approved environmental improvement works as per the Proposed Works Form by **30 September**; and
- Providing consent to Council's staff to enter the property to assess compliance of works programs.

3.3 Non Compliance

Council's Land Management Officer(s) will assess and confirm the appropriateness of the Proposed Works Form, undertake property assessments and, following inspections, provide landholders with written advice as to whether they have satisfied the terms on which the rate rebate is granted and whether they are entitled to retain the rate rebate.

In the first week of February, Landowners will be notified in writing of the outcome of the assessment of works as per the approved Works Program Form.

Council will withdraw the Rate Rebate and issue a Supplementary Rates Notice where a landholder fails to;

- Submit a Proposed Works Form by **31 March** each year; or
- Carry out works in accordance with the approved Works Program Form and by 30 September ; or

Landholders who wish to appeal must do so in writing within 28 days of receipt of notice of failure. A panel consisting of Council staff will review appeals against non compliance with this policy.

Following the review, a recommendation from the panel will be presented to the General Manager, Planning and Development for approval.

Landowners will be notified of the outcome of the review no later than 30 April.

3.3 Work to be completed by landholders

The Environmental Enhancement Program requires landholders to undertake works to target land degradation problems especially the control of noxious and environmental weeds, pest animals and soil erosion.

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Residents are encouraged to contact Agriculture Victoria on 13 61 86 or at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au for guidance on weed and pest animal control, including enforcement.

Council's Land Management Officers are available to answer questions relating to the EEP and to provide land management advice that is consistent with State Government legislation and ~~during the periods when landholder are:~~

- ~~preparing their proposed work plans~~
- ~~conducting the work~~

Staff may be contacted via:

- Phone: 9747 7200
- Email: eep@melton.vic.gov.au

Or other approved means.

3.3.1 Control weeds and prevent seed set

The most serious weeds that occur in the City of Melton and those that landholders must control and not allow to set seed are;

Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Serrated Tussock*	*Nassella trichotoma*	Artichoke Thistle*	*Cynara cardunculus*
Patterson's Curse*	*Echium plantagineum*	African Boxthorn*	*Lycium fercoissimum*
Prairie Ground Cherry*	*Physalis viscosa*	Chilean Needle Grass*	*Nassella neesiana*

*Denotes declared noxious weed species declared under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

Other weeds which are of secondary priority for control are:

Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Spiny Rush*	*Juncus acutus*	Hoary Cress*	*Cardaria draba*
Gorse*	*Ulex europaeus*	Bathurst Burr*	*Xanthium spinosum*
Sweet Briar*	*Rosa rubiginosa*	Blackberry*	*Rubus fruticosus*
Horehound*	*Marrubium vulgare*	Galenia	*Galenia pubescens*
Prickly pear*	*Opuntia stricta*	African Thistle	*Berkheya rigida*
Spear Thistle*	*Cirsium vulgare*	Wild Mignonette*	*Reseda luteola*

*Denotes declared noxious weed species, declared under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

The fundamental management principles for noxious and environmental weed control are:

- Contain the spread of weeds by stopping flowering and seed set
- Reduce levels of infestation
- Prevent reinfestation

A weed management program must address the type and scale of the weed problem. This may include one or a combination of control methods including manual removal, herbicide application and cultivation. In all cases, initial weed removal actions will need to be followed up with a longer-term program to ensure the eradication of weeds and to prevent reinfestation.

The agency responsible for the enforcement of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, is Agriculture Victoria, within the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

For advice about weed control and enforcement, residents should contact Agriculture Victoria on 13 61 86 or www.agriculture.vic.gov.au

3.3.2 Control pest animals and remove harbour

The European Rabbit is the major pest animal in the City of Melton. Rabbits feed on desirable pasture and native vegetation, often to the extent that soil is exposed to erosion, so that weeds gain a foothold and there is insufficient feed for stock or native animals.

The management principles for pest animals are:

- Destroy burrows
- Remove harbour
- Reduce numbers.

A rabbit control program could involve an integrated combination of methods including the ~~laying of poisoned baits~~, baiting, fumigation, ripping of burrows, the destruction of harbour, and fencing ~~and possibly shooting~~.

For advice about pest animal management and enforcements, residents should contact Agriculture Victoria on 13 61 86 or www.agriculture.vic.gov.au

3.3.3 Control soil erosion

Soil erosion problems generally occur along drainage lines and slopes. The commonly encountered forms of soil erosion in the City of Melton include stream bank erosion, gully erosion, tunnel erosion, sheet erosion and landslips.

The management principles for the management of soil erosion are:

- Prevent existing erosion from expanding by stabilising soil
- Rehabilitate eroded sites with native vegetation
- Maintain vegetative cover on vulnerable sites to prevent future erosion.

Works which are appropriate to control soil erosion include a reduction in grazing pressure, fencing and revegetation, pasture improvement and bank stabilisation.

For advice about erosion control, contact Agriculture Victoria on 13 61 86 or www.agriculture.vic.gov.au

For advice on streamside management including bank stabilization, revegetation and weed control contact Melbourne Water on 9235 7100 or www.melbournewater.com.au.

3.3.4 Other key land management issues

Landowners and land managers

- Are required to adhere to all codes and guidelines in the control of weeds and pest animals.
- Seeking to undertake activities such as dumping of landfill and/or the removal of native vegetation, must contact Council seeking planning permission prior to commencing works. In addition, landholders may need to obtain permission from the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water (DCCEEW) if the planned activities trigger the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. For further advice visit www.environment.gov.au.

3.4 Summary

The ~~simple~~ process for a landholder to retain the rate rebate, is by following these steps:

1. Read ~~this policy~~ the guidelines which sets out the terms on which the rebate has been granted.
2. Complete and return a proposed works form by **31 March** each year.
3. Undertake the approved work program and complete all environmental works by **30 September** each year.
4. The property will be inspected by Council staff to confirm that the proposed works were successfully completed. The landowner will be advised as to whether they are considered to have satisfied the terms upon which the rebate was granted, and will, if successful, retain the rebate.

5. Responsibility /Accountability

4.1	**Coordinator Environment & Sustainability** • Responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy, including failure review process
4.2	**Senior Land Management Officer** • Responsible for undertaking property assessments and liaison with landholders
4.3	**Land Management Officer** • Responsible for undertaking property assessments and liaison with landholders
4.4	**Business Support Officer** • Responsible for preparing letters, collating proposed works forms, landholder enquiries and overall program administration

6. References and links to legislation and other documents

Name	Location
Local Government Act 1989	http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/
Local Government Act 2020	http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/
Planning and Environment Act 1987	http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/
Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994	http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/
Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014	http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/
Advisory list of environmental weeds in Victoria	https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/125919/ARI-Technical-Report-287-Advisory-list-of-environmental-weeds-in-Victoria.pdf
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)	http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/
Agriculture Victoria, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	https://agriculture.vic.gov.au /
Melbourne Water	https://www.melbournewater.com.au/
Australian Government Department of Climate, Change, Environment, Energy and Water	awe.gov.au/environment/epbc
City of Melton differential rating categories	https://www.melton.vic.gov.au/Regulations/Rates-and-payments/Differential-rating-categories
Melton City Council: Council & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025	www.melton.vic.gov.au
Melton City Council: Environmental Enhancement Rate Rebate	https://www.melton.vic.gov.au/Services/Environment-and-sustainability/Taking-care-of-the-land/Environmental-enhancement-rate-rebate

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At 11.12am, Justin Horne departed the meeting.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

8. NEXT MEETING

It was determined by the Panel members that the next meeting scheduled for 11 August at 12.00pm, be amended to 16 August at 12.00pm.

9. CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The meeting closed at 11.20am.

Confirmed

Dated this

.....CHAIRPERSON

12.3 AMENDMENT OF COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE RULES

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

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Council in relation to the amendment of Council's Governance Rules to adopt the Minister's Good Practice Guideline MGPG-3: Virtual Meetings, issued by the Minister for Local Government pursuant to section 87 of the *Local Government Act 2020.*

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the amended Governance Rules, provided as **Appendix 2** to this report to enable it to continue to hold virtual meetings from 2 September 2022.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

Council's Governance Rules require amendments in accordance with the Minister's Good Practice Guideline MGPG-3: Virtual Meetings, provided as **Appendix 1** to this report, issued pursuant to section 87 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Act), to enable electronic attendance and participation in council meetings and delegated committee meetings to continue on a permanent basis.

2. Background/Issues

The *Local Government Act 2020*, did not initially provide for electronic attendance and participation in council meetings, however, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, it was essential that local government decision making processes continue.

To enable this, temporary measures were introduced by the *COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) Act 2020* and were relied upon to allow attendance and participation at council meetings by electronic means.

Pursuant to the *Regulatory Legislation Amendment (Reform) Act 2022* these temporary measures were extended until 1 September 2022, at which point, if Council wishes to maintain the ability to conduct council and delegated committee meetings virtually, amendments are required to be made to its Governance Rules.

Division 1 of Part 12 of the *Regulatory Legislation Amendment (Reform) Act 2022* enables permanent changes to be made to the Governance Rules of Council, facilitating online meetings going forward. These provisions become effective from 2 September 2022.

Council's current Governance Rules were adopted by Council on 31 August 2020 in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and only contain a general rule in relation to conducting meetings electronically.

The recommended amendments to Council's Governance Rules have been made in accordance with the good practice guideline issued by the Minister pursuant to section 87 of the Act and are included at **Appendix 2.**

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

Pursuant to section 60(5) of the Act, no public consultation is required as the changes are made pursuant to a good practice guideline issued in accordance with section 87 of the Act.

6. Risk Analysis

If Council does not adopt the amended Governance Rules, it will no longer be able to hold Council Meetings virtually from 2 September 2022.

7. Options

1) Adopt the amended Governance Rules in accordance with the officer's recommendation.
2) Do not adopt the amended Governance Rules.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Minister's Good Practice Guideline MGPG-3: Virtual Meetings
2. Melton City Council Governance Rules - Amended

The Hon Shaun Leane MP

Minister for Local Government
Minister for Suburban Development
Minister for Veterans

121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia
Telephone: +61 3 8392 2240
DX 210074

Minister's Good Practice Guideline MGPG-3: Virtual Meetings

This is a guideline issued by the Minister for Local Government pursuant to section 87 of the Local Government Act 2020.

Purpose

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for, and usefulness of, a more flexible and modern approach to conducting certain required local government meetings.

The Victorian Government's *Regulatory Legislation Amendment (Reform) Act 2022* (Reform Act) introduces into the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) provisions relating to electronic attendance and participation in council meetings and delegated committees on a permanent basis. The new provisions take effect on 2 September 2022.

Electronic meetings, commonly referred to as 'virtual meetings', could include meetings where all participants attend electronically, some participants attend in person and some attend electronically i.e., 'hybrid', or where attendees across several meeting locations join electronically i.e., 'parallel'.

This Good Practice Guideline is designed to assist councils to amend their Governance Rules in consultation with their communities to comply with the new provisions in the Act relating to virtual meetings.

The Guideline takes effect from **2 September 2022** to align with the commencement of the new amendments.

Legislative requirements

Part 3 Division 2 of the Act provides for the procedure and proceedings for Council decision making, including the holding of meetings (being council meetings, joint meetings of councils, delegated committee, and joint delegated committee meetings).

The Reform Act introduces provisions into Part 3 Division 2 of the Act (section 60) that require a council to develop, adopt and keep in force Governance Rules relating to:

- the conduct of council (and delegated committee) meetings held by electronic means; and
- requesting and approving attendance by electronic means.

In developing or amending its Governance Rules, councils must ensure that a process of community engagement is followed in accordance with section 60(4) of the Act.

The new provisions further provide that Councillors, and members of delegated committees, may attend and be present by electronic means of communication provided they comply with the Governance Rules (section 61(6A)).

Ref: BMIN-2-22-21061

Under section 66 of the Act, a council or delegated committee must keep a meeting "open to the public" except in specified circumstances. New provisions insert a definition of "Open to the public" to mean, in the case of a council or joint meeting of councils, or a delegated or joint delegated committee:

- either, attendance in person by a member of the public, or a meeting that is broadcasted live on the council internet site; or
- a recorded meeting that is published on the council internet site as soon as practicable after the meeting (in the case of a delegated or joint delegated committee only); or
- any other prescribed means of meeting.

Responsibilities of Councillors and council staff

Irrespective of how council meetings are held, Councillors and council staff are required to continue to act in accordance with the prescribed Standards of Conduct, Councillor (or staff) Code of Conduct, the *Local Government Act 2020*, Governance Rules and other Acts, local laws and policies as applicable.

Disclosure of conflicts of interest as required under the Act and rules relating to conflicts of interest continue to apply.

Matters for a council to consider when developing Governance Rules for virtual meetings

Conduct of meetings

Governance Rules must provide for the conduct of Council and delegated meetings, whether held in-person or electronically.

Where these meetings are to be held virtually in accordance with the new provisions, Governance Rules could provide for how the format of a meeting is to be determined, including options for hybrid or parallel meetings where some members may attend in person and others by electronic means.

For example, the Governance Rules could set out how the Chair should manage a situation if a member attending electronically cannot hear proceedings, or cannot be seen or heard, but a quorum is present.

Requesting and approval of 'electronic' attendance (discrimination and reasonable adjustments)

The new provisions, in section 60(1) of the Act, provide that Governance Rules must provide for requesting and approving attendance at a council or delegated committee meeting by electronic means.

To comply with this requirement, councils should consider including in the Governance Rules:

a. the format and criteria for requesting and approving attendance by electronic means
b. whether the requests must be on a meeting-by-meeting basis or may be valid for a set period
c. if there should be a 'deadline' for requests to ensure that facilities are available to accommodate the requested style of meeting and that appropriate notice can be provided to the public.

In developing and applying its rules in respect to requesting and approving requests to attend via electronic means, councils should have regard to other relevant Acts, such as the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* (EO Act).

Under the EO Act:

- Direct discrimination occurs where a person treats, or proposes to treat, a person or group with a protected attribute, such as a disability, unfavourably because of the attribute.
- Indirect discrimination occurs if a person imposes or proposes to impose a requirement, condition or practice that is the same for everyone but disadvantages a person, or is likely to disadvantage a person, because they have one or more of the protected attributes, such as a disability, and the requirement, condition or practice is not reasonable.

Further, the *Gender Equality Act 2020* requires Councils to promote gender equality in their policies, programs and services.

Councils should consider providing flexibility with respect to participation at council meetings to enhance access for people with health issues and/or caring responsibilities, or who are unable to travel long distances.

Opening meetings to the public

Section 66 of the Act requires that council meetings and joint meetings of councils must be "open to the public" except in specified circumstances.

Councils should consider including rules regarding meetings if there is no option by which the public can attend the meeting in person, or if the council experiences technical difficulties in broadcasting the meeting to the public. The rules should set out how the council will address such matters to maintain an "open to the public" meeting.

Confidential council meetings or confidential/closed sections of council meetings are not required to be streamed live or electronically recorded.

Representation at council meetings by members of the public

Councils are encouraged to make arrangements to allow members of the public who wish to appear before council to do so through virtual or other means. The rules could consider how to ensure community engagement is maintained through virtual meetings including:

a. the provision and uploading of written and/or oral statements
b. reading out questions on notice at the virtual meetings
c. electronically posting questions prior to the meeting.

Confidentiality

The provisions (in the Act) regarding confidential information continue to apply to electronic meetings. Confidential information must not be intentionally or recklessly disclosed. Councillors should be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Chair that their location is secure to ensure the deliberations are confidential.

I have issued this guideline pursuant to section 87 of the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic).

The Hon Shaun Leane MP
Minister for Local Government

MELTON CITY COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE RULES

Table of Contents

Introduction 5
1. Nature of Rules 5
2. Date of Commencement 5
3. Contents 5
4. Definitions 5
Chapter 1 – Governance Framework 76
1. Context 76
2. Decision Making 76
Chapter 2 – Meeting Procedure for Council Meetings 87
Part A – Introduction 87
1. Title 87
2. Purpose of this Chapter 87
3. Definitions and Notes 87
Part B – Election of Mayor 108
4. Election of the *Mayor* 108
5. Method of Voting 108
6. Determining the election of the *Mayor* 108
7. Election of Deputy Mayor and Chairs of Delegated Committees 119
8. Appointment of Acting Mayor 119
Part C – Meetings Procedure 1210
Division 1 – Notices of Meetings and Delivery of Agendas 1210
9. Dates and Times of Meetings Fixed by *Council* 1210
10. *Council* May Alter Meeting Dates 1210
11. Meetings Not Fixed by *Council* 1210
12. Notice Of Meeting 1210
Division 2 – Quorums 1311
13. Inability To Obtain A Quorum 1311
14. Inability To Maintain A Quorum 1411
15. Adjourned Meetings 1411
16. Time limits for Meetings 1511
17. Cancellation or Postponement of a Meeting 1512

Division 3 – Business of Meetings ..... 15~~12~~
18. Agenda and the Order Of Business ..... 15~~12~~
19. Change To Order Of Business ..... 15~~12~~
20. Urgent Business ..... 15~~12~~
Division 4 – Motions and Debate ..... 15~~12~~
21. Councillors May Propose *Notices Of Motion* ..... 15~~12~~
22. Notice Of Motion ..... 16~~12~~
23. Chair's Duty ..... 16~~13~~
24. Introducing a Report ..... 17~~14~~
25. Introducing A Motion or an Amendment ..... 17~~14~~
26. Right Of Reply ..... 18~~14~~
27. Moving An Amendment ..... 18~~15~~
28. Who May Propose An Amendment ..... 18~~15~~
29. How Many Amendments May Be Proposed ..... 18~~15~~
30. An Amendment Once Carried ..... 18~~15~~
31. Foreshadowing Motions ..... 18~~15~~
32. Withdrawal Of Motions ..... 19~~16~~
33. Separation Of Motions ..... 19~~16~~
34. *Chair* May Separate Motions ..... 19~~16~~
35. Priority of address ..... 19~~16~~
36. Motions In Writing ..... 19~~16~~
37. Repeating Motion and/or Amendment ..... 19~~16~~
38. Debate Must Be Relevant To The Motion ..... 19~~16~~
39. Speaking Times ..... 20~~16~~
40. Addressing the Meeting ..... 20~~17~~
41. Right to Ask Questions ..... 20~~17~~
Division 5 – Procedural Motions ..... 20~~17~~
42. Procedural Motions ..... 20~~17~~
Division 6 – Rescission Motions ..... 24~~20~~
43. Notice of Rescission ..... 24~~20~~
44. If Lost ..... 25~~21~~
45. If Not Moved ..... 25~~21~~
46. May Be Moved By Any Councillor ..... 25~~21~~
47. When Not Required ..... 25~~21~~
Division 7 – Points of Order ..... 25~~21~~
48. *Chair* To Decide ..... 25~~21~~
49. *Chair* May Adjourn To Consider ..... 26~~22~~

50. Dissent From *Chair's* Ruling 2622
51. Procedure For Point Of Order 2622
52. Valid Points Of Order 2622
Division 8 – Public Question Time 2723
53. Question Time 2723
Division 9 – Petitions and Joint Letters 2925
54. Petitions and Joint Letters 2925
Division 10 – Voting 3025
55. How Motion Determined 3025
56. Silence 3025
57. Recount 3026
58. Casting Vote 3026
59. By Show Of Hands 3026
60. Procedure For A Division 3026
61. No Discussion Once Declared 3026
Division 11 – Minutes 3127
62. Confirmation of Minutes 3127
63. No Debate on Confirmation Of Minutes 3228
64. Deferral Of Confirmation Of Minutes 3328
65. Form and Availability of Minutes 3328
Division 12 – Behaviour 3429
66. Public Addressing The Meeting 3429
67. *Chair* May Remove 3430
68. *Chair* may adjourn disorderly meeting 3430
69. Removal from Chamber 3430
Division 13 – Additional Duties of *Chair* 3430
70. The *Chair's* Duties And Discretions 3430
Division 14 – Suspension of Standing Orders 3530
71. Suspension of Standing Orders 3530
Division 15 – Miscellaneous 3531
72. Meetings Conducted Remotely 3531
73. Procedure not provided in this Chapter 3531
74. Criticism of members of Council staff 3631
Chapter 3 – Meeting Procedure for Delegated Committees 3732
1. Meeting Procedure Generally 3732
2. Meeting Procedure Can Be Varied 3732
Chapter 4 – Meeting Procedure for Community Asset Committees 3833

1. Introduction ..... 38~~33~~
2. Meeting Procedure ..... 38~~33~~
Chapter 5 – Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest ..... 39~~34~~
1. Introduction ..... 39~~34~~
2. Definition ..... 39~~34~~
3. Disclosure of a Conflict of Interest at a Council Meeting ..... 39~~34~~
4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest at a Delegated Committee Meeting ..... 40~~35~~
5. Disclosure of a Conflict of Interest at a Community Asset Committee Meeting ..... 40~~35~~
6. Disclosure at a Meeting Conducted Under the Auspices of Council ..... 41~~36~~
7. Disclosure by Members of Council Staff Preparing Reports for Meetings ..... 41~~36~~
8. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest by Members of Council Staff in the Exercise of Delegated Power ..... 42~~37~~
9. Disclosure by a Member of Council Staff in the Exercise of a Statutory Function ..... 42~~37~~
10. Retention of Written Notices ..... 42~~37~~
Chapter 6 – Miscellaneous ..... 43~~38~~
1. Informal Meetings of Councillors ..... 43~~38~~
2. Confidential Information ..... 43~~38~~
Chapter 7 – Election Period Policy ..... 44~~39~~
1. Introduction and Definitions ..... 44~~39~~
2. Policy included in Governance Rules ..... 44~~39~~
3. Review at least 12 months prior to an election ..... 44~~39~~

Introduction

1. Nature of Rules

These are the Governance Rules of Melton City Council, made in accordance with section 60 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

2. Date of Commencement

These Governance Rules commence on 1 September 2020.

3. Contents

These Governance Rules are divided into the following Chapters:

Chapter	Name
Chapter 1	Governance Framework
Chapter 2	Meeting Procedure for Council Meetings
Chapter 3	Meeting Procedure for Delegated Committees
Chapter 4	Meeting Procedure for Community Asset Committees
Chapter 5	Disclosure of Conflicts Of Interest
Chapter 6	Miscellaneous
Chapter 7	Election Period Policy

4. Definitions

In these Governance Rules, unless the context suggests otherwise the following words and phrases mean:

Act means the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Chief Executive Officer includes an Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Community Asset Committee means a Community Asset Committee established under section 65 of the Act.

Council means Melton City Council.

Council meeting ~~has the same meaning as in the *Act*.~~ means a meeting of the *Council* convened in accordance with these Governance Rules and includes a scheduled meeting and unscheduled meeting, whether held as face-to-face (in-person) attendance in a set location or via electronic means (virtual) or in a 'hybrid' or 'parallel' format that mixes in-person and electronic attendance.

Delegated Committee means a Delegated Committee established under section 63 of the Act.

Delegated Committee Meeting means a meeting of a *Delegated Committee* convened in accordance with these Governance Rules and includes a scheduled or unscheduled meeting, whether held as face-to-face (in-person) attendance in a set location or via electronic means (virtual) or in a 'hybrid' or 'parallel' format that mixes in-person and electronic attendance.

Mayor means the Mayor of *Council*.

these Rules means these Governance Rules.

Chapter 1 – Governance Framework

1. Context

These Rules should be read in the context of and in conjunction with:

(a) the overarching governance principles specified in section 9(2) of the *Act*.

2. Decision Making

(a) In any matter in which a decision must be made by *Council* (including persons acting with the delegated authority of *Council*), *Council* must consider the matter and make a decision:

(i) fairly, by giving consideration and making a decision which is balanced, ethical and impartial; and

(ii) on the merits, free from favouritism or self-interest and without regard to irrelevant or unauthorised considerations

(b) *Council* must, when making any decision to which the principles of natural justice apply, adhere to the principles of natural justice (including, without limitation, ensuring that any person whose rights will be directly affected by a decision of *Council* is entitled to communicate their views and have their interests considered).

(c) Without limiting anything in paragraph (b) of this sub-Rule:

(i) before making a decision that will directly affect the rights of a person, *Council* (including any person acting with the delegated authority of *Council*) must identify the person or persons whose rights will be directly affected, give notice of the decision which *Council* must make and ensure that such person or persons have an opportunity to communicate their views and have their interests considered before the decision is made;

(ii) if a report to be considered at a *Council meeting* concerns subject-matter which will directly affect the rights of a person or persons, the Report must record whether the person has or persons have been provided with an opportunity to communicate their views and have their interests considered;

(iii) if a report to be considered at a *Delegated Committee* meeting concerns subject-matter which will directly affect the rights of a person or persons, the Report must record whether the person has or persons have been provided with an opportunity to communicate their views and have their interests considered; and

(iv) if a member of Council staff proposes to make a decision under delegation and that decision will directly affect the rights of a person or persons, the member of Council staff must, when making that decision, complete a Delegate Report that records that notice of the decision to be made was given to the person or persons and such person or persons were provided with an opportunity to communicate their views and their interests considered.

Chapter 2 – Meeting Procedure for Council Meetings

Part A – Introduction

1. Title

This Chapter will be known as the "Meeting Procedure Chapter".

2. Purpose of this Chapter

The purpose of this Chapter is to:

2.1 provide for the election of the *Mayor* and any Deputy Mayor;

2.2 provide for the appointment of any Acting Mayor; and

2.3 provide for the procedures governing the conduct of *Council meetings*.

3. Definitions and Notes

3.1 In this Chapter:

"*agenda*" means the notice of a meeting setting out the business to be transacted at the meeting;

"*Chair*" means the Chairperson of a meeting and includes a Councillor who is appointed by resolution to chair a meeting under section 61(3) of the *Act*;

"hybrid" means a meeting format where some participants attend via electronic means and some participants attend in person.

"*minute book*" means the collective record of proceedings of *Council*;

"*municipal district*" means the municipal district of *Council*;

"*notice of motion*" means a notice setting out the text of a motion, which it is proposed to move at the next relevant meeting;

"*notice of rescission*" means a *notice of motion* to rescind a resolution made by *Council*; ~~and~~

"open to the public" means a *Council meeting*:

- Held in person at which members of the public have the opportunity to attend;
- Held in person where members of the public do not have the opportunity to attend, but which is livestreamed on Council's Internet site; or
- livestreamed on Council's Internet site irrespective of method of attendance;

"Parallel" means a meeting format where attendees across several meeting locations join via electronic means.

"*written*" includes duplicated, lithographed, photocopied, printed and typed, and extends to both hard copy and soft copy form, and *writing* has a corresponding meaning.

3.2 Introductions to Parts, headings and notes are explanatory notes and do not form part of this Chapter. They are provided to assist understanding.

Part B – Election of Mayor

Introduction: This Part is concerned with the annual election of the *Mayor*. It describes how the *Mayor* is to be elected.

4. Election of the *Mayor*

The *Chief Executive Officer* must facilitate the election of the *Mayor* in accordance with the provisions of the *Act*.

5. Method of Voting

The election of the *Mayor* must be carried out by a show of hands.

6. Determining the election of the *Mayor*

6.1 The Chief Executive Officer must open the meeting at which the *Mayor* is to be elected, and invite nominations for the office of *Mayor*.

6.2 Any nominations for the office of *Mayor* must be:

6.2.1 In writing and in a form prescribed by the *Chief Executive Officer*; and

6.2.2 seconded by another Councillor.

6.3 Once nominations for the office of *Mayor* have been received, the following provisions will govern the election of the *Mayor*:

6.3.1 if there is only one nomination, the candidate nominated must be declared to be duly elected;

6.3.2 if there is more than one nomination, the Councillors present at the meeting must vote for one of the candidates;

6.3.3 in the event of a candidate receiving an absolute majority of the votes, that candidate is declared to have been elected;

6.3.4 in the event that no candidate receives an absolute majority of the votes, and it is not resolved to conduct a new election at a later date and time, the candidate with the fewest number of votes must be declared to be a defeated candidate. The Councillors present at the meeting must then vote for one of the remaining candidates;

6.3.5 if one of the remaining candidates receives an absolute majority of the votes, he or she is duly elected. If none of the remaining candidates receives an absolute majority of the votes, the process of declaring the candidates with the fewest number of votes a defeated candidate and voting for the remaining candidates must be repeated until one of the candidates receives an absolute majority of the votes. That candidate must then be declared to have been duly elected;

6.3.6 in the event of two or more candidates having an equality of votes and one of them having to be declared:

(a) a defeated candidate; and

(b) duly elected

the declaration will be determined by lot.

6.3.7 if a lot is conducted, the *Chief Executive Officer* will have the conduct of the lot and the following provisions will apply:

(a) each candidate will draw one lot;

(b) the order of drawing lots will be determined by the alphabetical order of the surnames of the Councillors who received an equal number of votes except that if two or more such Councillors' surnames are identical, the order will be determined by the alphabetical order of the Councillors' first names; and

(c) as many identical pieces of paper as there are Councillors who received an equal number of votes must be placed in a receptacle. If the lot is being conducted to determine who is a defeated candidate, the word "Defeated" shall be written on one of the pieces of paper, and the Councillor who draws the paper with the word "Defeated" written on it must be declared the defeated candidate (in which event a further vote must be taken on the remaining candidates unless there is only one candidate remaining, in which case that candidate will be declared to have been duly elected).

7. Election of Deputy Mayor and Chairs of Delegated Committees

Any election for:

7.1 any office of Deputy Mayor; or

7.2 Chair of a *Delegated Committee*

will be regulated by Rules 4-6 (inclusive) of this Chapter, as if the reference to the:

7.3 *Chief Executive Officer* is a reference to the *Mayor*; and

7.4 *Mayor* is a reference to the Deputy Mayor or the Chair of the *Delegated Committee* (as the case may be).

8. Appointment of Acting Mayor

If *Council* has not established an office of Deputy Mayor and it becomes required to appoint an Acting Mayor, it can do so by:

8.1 resolving that a specified Councillor be so appointed; or

8.2 following the procedure set out in Rules 5 and 6 (inclusive) of this Chapter,

at its discretion.

Part C – Meetings Procedure

Introduction: This Part is divided into a number of Divisions. Each Division addresses a distinct aspect of the holding of a meeting. Collectively, the Divisions describe how and when a meeting is convened, when and how business may be transacted at a meeting.

Division 1 – Notices of Meetings and Delivery of Agendas

9. ~~Dates and Times of~~ Meetings Fixed by *Council*

Subject to Rule 11, *Council* must from time to time fix the date, time, ~~and~~ place, and format (in person or electronic – including *hybrid* or *parallel*) of all *Council meetings*, noting the criteria and process required for a Councillor who wishes to request approval to attend via electronic means.~~of all *Council meetings*.~~

Council must ensure that all meetings are *open to the public* except where the specified circumstances under section 66 of the *Act* apply.

10. *Council* May Alter Meeting Dates

Council by resolution, or the *Chief Executive Officer* in consultation with the *Mayor*, may change the date, time, ~~and~~ place and/or format of any *Council meeting* which has been fixed ~~by it~~ and must provide reasonable notice of the change to the public.

11. Meetings Not Fixed by *Council*

11.1 The *Mayor* or at least 3 Councillors may by a *written* notice call a *Council meeting*.

11.2 The notice must specify the date, ~~and~~ time, place, and format of the *Council meeting* and the business to be transacted.

11.3 The *Chief Executive Officer* must convene the *Council meeting* as specified in the notice.

11.4 Unless all Councillors are present and unanimously agree to deal with any other matter, only the business specified in the *written* notice can be transacted at the *Council meeting*.

12. Notice Of Meeting

12.1 A notice of meeting, incorporating or accompanied by an *agenda* of the business to be dealt with, must be delivered or sent electronically to every Councillor for all *Council meetings* at least 48 hours before the meeting.

12.2 Notwithstanding sub-Rule 12.1, a notice of meeting need not be delivered or sent electronically to any Councillor who has been granted leave of absence unless the Councillor has requested the *Chief Executive Officer* in *writing* to continue to give notice of any meeting during the period of his or her absence.

12.3 Reasonable notice of each *Council meeting* must be provided to the public. *Council* may do this:

12.3.1 for *meetings* which it has fixed by preparing a schedule of meetings annually, twice yearly or from time to time, and arranging publication of such schedule in a newspaper generally circulating in the *municipal district* either at various times throughout the year, or prior to each such *Council meeting*; and

12.3.2 for any meeting by giving notice on its website and:

(a) in each of its Customer Service Centres; and/or

(b) in at least one newspaper generally circulating in the *municipal district*.

Division 2 – Attendance and Quorums

13. Attendance Via Electronic Means

13.1 In relation to any meeting that is scheduled to be conducted in person, Councillors who wish to attend that meeting via electronic means must submit a *written* request to the *Chief Executive Officer* at least two hours prior to the commencement of the meeting stating their reasons for their request.

13.2 The *Chief Executive Officer* must grant any reasonable request from a Councillor to attend a meeting by electronic means and provide a response to the request by no later than 1 hour prior to the commencement of the meeting.

13.3 At the commencement of each meeting, the *Chair* will advise the meeting of any Councillors who have been granted approval to attend the meeting by electronic means.

13.4 Any Councillor granted approval to attend via electronic means will be responsible to ensure they have the required access and environment suitable for electronic communications, including the ability to see and hear proceedings and be seen and heard by other attendees, and will need to demonstrate to the *Chair* that they are in a private and secure location for the consideration of confidential information.

~~13.~~14. Inability To Obtain A Quorum

14.1 Under section 61(6A) of the *Act*, a Councillor attending a Council meeting via electronic means, that has been approved by the *Chief Executive Officer* to do so, is deemed present for the purposes of a quorum.

14.2 In relation to any meeting that is scheduled to be conducted online, the attendance of any Councillor at the meeting via electronic means that complies with these Rules shall be deemed present for the purposes of a quorum without the need for that Councillor to seek the approval of the Chief Executive Officer to do so in advance.

14.3 Any Councillor attending the Council meeting via electronic means must be able to see and hear proceedings and must be able to be seen and heard. If at any point that Councillor loses the ability to see or hear proceedings or

be seen or heard, they shall be deemed to be absent from that point in time until such time as either:

14.3.1 The issue is resolved;

14.3.2 The meeting ends; or

14.3.3 The meeting is deemed to have lapsed due to the lack of a quorum, in accordance with Rules 14 or 15.

14.4 Any Councillor present via electronic means that hasn't been granted approval to do so by the *Chief Executive Officer*, will be marked as absent and may not participate in the procedures of the meeting.

14.5 If after 30 minutes from the scheduled starting time of any *Council meeting*, a quorum cannot be obtained, including where participants have been granted approval to attend a *Council meeting* via electronic means and technical difficulties result in the inability to obtain a quorum:

14.5.1 the meeting will be deemed to have lapsed;

14.5.2 the *Mayor* must convene another *Council meeting*, the *agenda* for which will be identical to the *agenda* for the lapsed meeting; and

14.5.3 the *Chief Executive Officer* must give all Councillors *written* notice of the meeting convened by the *Mayor.*

~~14.~~15. Inability To Maintain A Quorum

~~14.1~~15.1 If during any *Council meeting*, a quorum cannot be maintained, including where participants have been granted approval to attend a *Council meeting* via electronic means and technical difficulties result in the inability to maintain a quorum, then Rule ~~13~~ 14 will apply as if the reference to the meeting is a reference to so much of the meeting as remains.

~~14.2~~15.2 Sub-Rule ~~14.1~~15.1 does not apply if the inability to maintain a quorum is because of the number of Councillors who have a conflict of interest in the matter to be considered.

~~15.~~16. Adjourned Meetings

~~15.1~~16.1 *Council* may adjourn any meeting to another date or time but cannot in the absence of disorder or a threat to the safety of any Councillor or member of Council staff adjourn a meeting in session to another place.

~~15.2~~16.2 The *Chief Executive Officer* must give *written* notice to each Councillor of the date, time and place to which the meeting stands adjourned and of the business remaining to be considered.

~~15.3~~16.3 If it is impracticable for the notice given under sub-Rule 16.2~~15.2~~ to be in *writing*, the *Chief Executive Officer* must give notice to each Councillor by telephone or in person.

~~16.~~17. Time limits for Meetings

~~16.1~~17.1 A *Council meeting* must not continue after 10.30pm unless a majority of Councillors present vote in favour of it continuing.

~~16.2~~17.2 A meeting cannot be continued for more than 30 minutes (or a further 30 minutes, if a majority of Councillors has already voted to continue it for 30 minutes).

~~16.3~~17.3 In the absence of such continuance, the meeting must stand adjourned to a time, date and place announced by the *Chair* immediately prior to the meeting standing adjourned. In that event, the provisions of sub-Rules ~~15.2~~16.2 and ~~15.3~~16.3 apply.

~~17.~~18. Cancellation or Postponement of a Meeting

~~17.1~~18.1 The *Chief Executive Officer* may, in the case of an emergency necessitating the cancellation or postponement of a *Council meeting*, cancel or postpone a *Council meeting*.

~~17.2~~18.2 The *Chief Executive Officer* must present to the immediately following *Council meeting* a *written* report on any exercise of the power conferred by sub-Rule ~~17.1~~18.1.

Division 3 – Business of Meetings

~~18.~~19. Agenda and the Order Of Business

The *agenda* for and the order of business for a *Council meeting* is to be determined by the *Chief Executive Officer* in consultation with the *Mayor* so as to facilitate and maintain open, efficient and effective processes of government.

~~19.~~20. Change To Order Of Business

Once an *agenda* has been sent to Councillors, the order of business for that *Council meeting* may be altered with the consent of *Council*.

~~20.~~21. Urgent Business

If the *agenda* for an *Council meeting* makes provision for urgent business, business cannot be admitted as urgent business other than by resolution of *Council* and only then if it:

~~20.1~~21.1 relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the *agenda;* and

~~20.2~~21.2 cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next *Council meeting.*

Division 4 – Motions and Debate

~~21.~~22. Councillors May Propose *Notices Of Motion*

Councillors may ensure that an issue is listed on an *agenda* by lodging a *Notice of Motion*.

~~22.~~23. Notice Of Motion

~~22.1~~23.1 A *notice of motion* must be in *writing* signed by a Councillor, and be lodged with or sent to the *Chief Executive Officer* by 12noon 6 days prior to the *Council meeting* to allow sufficient time for him or her to include the *notice of motion* in agenda papers for a *Council meeting* and to give each Councillor at least 48 hours notice of such *notice of motion*. For example, if the *Council meeting* is held at 7.00pm on a Monday, a *notice of motion* must be lodged with or sent to the *Chief Executive Officer* by 12noon on the Tuesday prior to the meeting.

~~22.2~~23.2 The *Chief Executive Officer* may reject any *notice of motion* which:

~~22.2.1~~23.2.1 is vague or unclear in intention

~~22.2.2~~23.2.2 it is beyond *Council's* power to pass; or

~~22.2.3~~23.2.3 if passed would result in *Council* otherwise acting invalidly

but must:

~~22.2.4~~23.2.4 give the Councillor who lodged it an opportunity to amend it prior to rejection, if it is practicable to do so; and

~~22.2.5~~23.2.5 notify in *writing* the Councillor who lodged it of the rejection and reasons for the rejection.

~~22.3~~23.3 The full text of any *notice of motion* accepted by the *Chief Executive Officer* must be included in the *agenda*.

~~22.4~~23.4 The *Chief Executive Officer* must cause all notices of motion to be numbered, dated and entered in the notice of motion register in the order in which they were received.

~~22.5~~23.5 Except by leave of *Council*, each *notice of motion* before any meeting must be considered in the order in which they were entered in the notice of motion register.

~~22.6~~23.6 If a Councillor who has given a *notice of motion* is absent from the meeting or fails to move the motion when called upon by the *Chair*, any other Councillor may move the motion.

~~22.7~~23.7 If a *notice of motion* is not moved at the *Council meeting* at which it is listed, it lapses.

~~23.~~24. Chair's Duty

Any motion which is determined by the *Chair* to be:

~~23.1~~24.1 defamatory;

~~23.2~~24.2 objectionable in language or nature;

~~23.3~~24.3 vague or unclear in intention;

~~23.4~~24.4 outside the powers of *Council*; or

~~23.5~~24.5 irrelevant to the item of business on the *agenda* and has not been admitted as urgent, or purports to be an amendment but is not,

must not be accepted by the *Chair*.

~~24.~~25. Introducing a Report

~~24.1~~25.1 Before a *written* report is considered by *Council* and any motion moved in relation to such report, a member of Council staff may introduce the report by indicating in not more than 2 minutes: its background; or

24.1.1 its background; or

24.2.2 the reasons for any recommendation which appears.

~~24.2~~25.2 Unless *Council* resolves otherwise, a member of Council staff need not read any written report to *Council* in full.

~~25.~~26. Introducing A Motion or an Amendment

The procedure for moving any motion or amendment is:

~~25.1~~26.1 the mover must state the motion without speaking to it;

~~25.2~~26.2 the motion must be seconded and the seconder must be a Councillor other than the mover. If a motion is not seconded, the motion lapses for want of a seconder;

~~25.3~~26.3 if a motion or an amendment is moved and seconded the *Chair* must ask:

"Is the motion or amendment opposed? Does any Councillor wish to speak to the motion or amendment?"

~~25.4~~26.4 if no Councillor indicates opposition or a desire to speak to it, the *Chair* may declare the motion or amendment carried without discussion;

~~25.5~~26.5 if a Councillor indicates opposition or a desire to speak to it, then the *Chair* must call on the mover to address the meeting;

~~25.6~~26.6 after the mover has addressed the meeting, the seconder may address the meeting;

~~25.7~~26.7 after the seconder has addressed the meeting (or after the mover has addressed the meeting if the seconder does not address the meeting,) the *Chair* must invite debate by calling on any Councillor who wishes to speak to the motion, providing an opportunity to alternate between those wishing to speak against the motion and those wishing to speak for the motion; and

~~25.8~~26.8 if, after the mover has addressed the meeting, the *Chair* has invited debate and no Councillor speaks to the motion, then the *Chair* must put the motion to the vote.

~~26.~~27. Right Of Reply

~~26.1~~27.1 The mover of a motion, including an amendment, has a right of reply to matters raised during debate.

~~26.2~~27.2 After the right of reply has been taken but subject to any Councillor exercising his or her right to ask any question concerning or arising out of the motion, the motion must immediately be put to the vote without any further discussion or debate.

~~27.~~28. Moving An Amendment

~~27.1~~28.1 Subject to sub-Rule ~~27.2~~28.2 a motion which has been moved and seconded may be amended by leaving out or adding words. Any added words must be relevant to the subject of the motion.

~~27.2~~28.2 A motion to confirm a previous resolution of *Council* cannot be amended.

~~27.3~~28.3 An amendment must not be directly opposite to the motion.

~~28.~~29. Who May Propose An Amendment

~~28.1~~29.1 An amendment may be proposed or seconded by any Councillor, except the mover or seconder of the original motion.

~~28.2~~29.2 Any one Councillor cannot move more than two amendments in succession.

~~29.~~30. How Many Amendments May Be Proposed

~~29.1~~30.1 Any number of amendments may be proposed to a motion but only one amendment may be accepted by the *Chair* at any one time.

~~29.2~~30.2 No second or subsequent amendment, whether to the motion or an amendment of it, may be taken into consideration until the previous amendment has been dealt with.

~~30.~~31. An Amendment Once Carried

~~30.1~~31.1 If the amendment is carried, the motion as amended then becomes the motion before the meeting, and the amended motion must then be put.

~~30.2~~31.2 The mover of the original motion retains the right of reply to that motion.

~~31.~~32. Foreshadowing Motions

~~31.1~~32.1 At any time during debate a Councillor may foreshadow a motion so as to inform *Council* of his or her intention to move a motion at a later stage in the meeting, but this does not extend any special right to the foreshadowed motion.

~~31.2~~32.2 A motion foreshadowed may be prefaced with a statement that in the event of a particular motion before the *Chair* being resolved in a certain way, a Councillor intends to move an alternative or additional motion.

~~31.3~~32.3 The *Chief Executive Officer* or person taking the minutes of the meeting is not expected to record foreshadowed motions in the minutes until the foreshadowed motion is formally moved.

~~31.4~~32.4 The *Chair* is not obliged to accept foreshadowed motions.

~~32.~~33. Withdrawal Of Motions

~~32.1~~33.1 Before any motion is put to the vote, it may be withdrawn by the mover and seconder with the leave of *Council*.

~~32.2~~33.2 If the majority of Councillors objects to the withdrawal of the motion, it may not be withdrawn.

~~33.~~34. Separation Of Motions

Where a motion contains more than one part, a Councillor may request the *Chair* to put the motion to the vote in separate parts.

~~34.~~35. *Chair* May Separate Motions

The *Chair* may decide to put any motion to the vote in several parts.

~~35.~~36. Priority of address

In the case of competition for the right of speak, the *Chair* must decide the order in which the Councillors concerned will be heard.

~~36.~~37. Motions In Writing

~~36.1~~37.1 The *Chair* may require that a complex or detailed motion be in writing.

~~36.2~~37.2 *Council* may adjourn the meeting while the motion is being *written* or *Council* may defer the matter until the motion has been *written*, allowing the meeting to proceed uninterrupted.

~~37.~~38. Repeating Motion and/or Amendment

The *Chair* may request the person taking the minutes of the *Council meeting* to read the motion or amendment to the meeting before the vote is taken.

~~38.~~39. Debate Must Be Relevant To The Motion

~~38.1~~39.1 Debate must always be relevant to the motion before the Chair, and, if not, the *Chair* must request the speaker to confine debate to the motion.

~~38.2~~39.2 If after being requested to confine debate to the motion before the Chair, the speaker continues to debate irrelevant matters, the *Chair* may direct the speaker to be seated and not speak further in respect of the motion then before the Chair.

~~38.3~~39.3 A speaker to whom a direction has been given under sub-Rule 39.2~~38.2~~ must comply with that direction.

~~39.~~40. Speaking Times

A Councillor must not speak longer than the time set out below, unless granted an extension by the *Chair*:

~~39.1~~40.1 the mover of a motion or an amendment which has been opposed: 5 minutes;

~~39.2~~40.2 any other Councillor: 3 minutes; and

~~39.3~~40.3 the mover of a motion exercising a right of reply: 2 minutes.

~~40.~~41. Addressing the Meeting

If the *Chair* so determines:

~~40.1~~41.1 any person addressing the *Chair* must refer to the *Chair* as:

40.1.1 Madam Mayor; or

40.1.2 Mr Mayor; or

40.1.3 Madam Chair; or

40.1.4 Mr Chair

as the case may be;

~~40.2~~41.2 all Councillors, other than the *Mayor*, must be addressed as

Cr .....(name).

~~40.3~~41.3 all members of Council staff, must be addressed as Mr or Ms

.....(name) as appropriate or by their official title.

~~41.~~42. Right to Ask Questions

~~41.1~~42.1 A Councillor may, when no other Councillor is speaking, ask any question concerning or arising out of the motion or amendment before the Chair.

~~41.2~~42.2 The *Chair* has the right to limit questions and direct that debate be commenced or resumed.

Division 5 – Procedural Motions

~~42.~~43. Procedural Motions

~~42.1~~43.1 Unless otherwise prohibited, a procedural motion may be moved at any time and must be dealt with immediately by the *Chair*.

~~42.2~~43.2 Procedural motions require a seconder.

~~42.3~~43.3 Notwithstanding any other provision in this Chapter, procedural motions must be dealt with in accordance with the following table:

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS TABLE

Procedural Motion	Form	Mover & Seconder	When Motion Prohibited	Effect if Carried	Effect if Lost	Debate Permitted on Motion
1. Adjournment of debate to later hour and/or date	That this matter be adjourned to *am/pm and/or *date	Any Councillor who has not moved or seconded the original motion or otherwise spoken to the original motion	(a) During the election of a *Chair*; (b) When another Councillor is speaking	Motion and amendment is postponed to the stated time and/or date	Debate continues unaffected	Yes
2. Adjournment of debate indefinitely	That this matter be adjourned until further notice	Any Councillor who has not moved or seconded the original motion or otherwise spoken to the original motion	(a) During the election of a *Chair*; (b) When another Councillor is speaking; or (c) When the motion would have the effect of causing *Council* to be in breach of a legislative requirement	Motion and any amendment postponed but may be resumed at any later meeting if on the agenda	Debate continues unaffected	Yes

Procedural Motion	Form	Mover & Seconder	When Motion Prohibited	Effect if Carried	Effect if Lost	Debate Permitted on Motion
3. The closure	That the motion be now put	Any Councillor who has not moved or seconded the original motion or otherwise spoken to the original motion	During nominations for *Chair*	Motion or amendment in respect of which the closure is carried is put to the vote immediately without debate of this motion, subject to any Councillor exercising his or her right to ask any question concerning or arising out of the motion	Debate continues unaffected	No

Division 6 – Rescission Motions

~~43.~~44. Notice of Rescission

~~43.1~~44.1 A Councillor may propose a *notice of rescission* provided:

4~~3~~.1.1 it has been signed and dated by at least three Councillors;

4~~3~~.1.2 the resolution proposed to be rescinded has not been acted on; and

4~~3~~.1.3 the *notice of rescission* is delivered to the *Chief Executive Officer* within 24 hours of the resolution having been made setting out -

(a) the resolution to be rescinded; and

(b) the meeting and date when the resolution was carried.

It should be remembered that a notice of rescission is a form of notice of motion.

Accordingly, all provisions in this Chapter regulating notices of motion equally apply to notices of rescission.

~~43.2~~44.2 A resolution will be deemed to have been acted on if:

4~~3~~.2.1 its contents have or substance has been communicated in writing to a person whose interests are materially affected by it; or

4~~3~~.2.2 a statutory process has been commenced

so as to vest enforceable rights in or obligations on *Council* or any other person.

~~43.3~~44.3 The *Chief Executive Officer* or an appropriate member of Council staff must defer implementing a resolution which:

4~~3~~.3.1 has not been acted on; and

4~~3~~.3.2 is the subject of a *notice of rescission* which has been delivered to the *Chief Executive Officer* in accordance with sub-Rule 4~~3~~.1.3,

unless deferring implementation of the resolution would have the effect of depriving the resolution of efficacy.

By way of example, assume that, on a Monday evening, Council resolves to have legal representation at a planning appeal to be heard on the following Monday. Assume also that, immediately after that resolution is made, a Councillor lodges

a notice of motion to rescind that resolution. Finally, assume that the notice of rescission would not be dealt with until the next Monday evening (being the evening of the day on which the planning appeal is to be heard).

In these circumstances, deferring implementation of the resolution would have the effect of depriving the resolution of efficacy. This is because the notice of rescission would not be debated until after the very thing contemplated by the resolution had come and gone. In other words, by the time the notice of rescission was dealt with the opportunity for legal representation at the planning appeal would have been lost.

Sub-Rule 44.3~~43.3~~ would, in such circumstances, justify the Chief Executive Officer or an appropriate member of Council staff actioning the resolution rather than deferring implementation of it.

~~44.~~45. If Lost

If a motion for rescission is lost, a similar motion may not be put before *Council* for at least three months from the date it was last lost, unless *Council* resolves that the *notice of motion* be re-listed at a future meeting.

~~45.~~46. If Not Moved

If a motion for rescission is not moved at the meeting at which it is listed, it lapses.

~~46.~~47. May Be Moved By Any Councillor

A motion for rescission listed on an *agenda* may be moved by any Councillor present but may not be amended.

~~47.~~48. When Not Required

~~47.1~~48.1 Unless sub-Rule 48.2~~47.2~~ applies, a motion for rescission is not required where *Council* wishes to change policy.

~~47.2~~48.2 The following standards apply if *Council* wishes to change policy:

4~~8~~7.2.1 if the policy has been in force in its original or amended form for less than 12 months, a *notice of rescission* must be presented to *Council*; and

4~~8~~7.2.2 any intention to change a *Council* policy, which may result in a significant impact on any person, should be communicated to those affected and this may include publication and consultation, either formally or informally.

Division 7 – Points of Order

~~48.~~49. *Chair* To Decide

The *Chair* must decide all points of order by stating the provision, rule, practice or precedent which he or she considers applicable to the point raised without entering into any discussion or comment.

~~49.~~50. *Chair* May Adjourn To Consider

~~49.1~~50.1 The *Chair* may adjourn the meeting to consider a point of order but otherwise must rule on it as soon as it is raised.

~~49.2~~50.2 All other questions before the meeting are suspended until the point of order is decided.

~~50.~~51. Dissent From *Chair's* Ruling

~~50.1~~51.1 A Councillor may move that the meeting disagree with the *Chair's* ruling on a point of order, by moving:

"That the *Chair's* ruling [setting out that ruling or part of that ruling] be dissented from".

~~50.2~~51.2 When a motion in accordance with this Rule is moved and seconded, the *Chair* must leave the Chair and the Deputy Mayor (or, if there is no Deputy Mayor or the Deputy Mayor is not present, temporary *Chair* elected by the meeting) must take his or her place.

~~50.3~~51.3 The Deputy Mayor or temporary *Chair* must invite the mover to state the reasons for his or her dissent and the *Chair* may then reply.

~~50.4~~51.4 The Deputy Mayor or temporary *Chair* must put the motion in the following form:

"That the *Chair's* ruling be dissented from."

~~50.5~~51.5 If the vote is in the negative, the *Chair* resumes the Chair and the meeting proceeds.

~~50.6~~51.6 If the vote is in the affirmative, the *Chair* must then resume the Chair, reverse or vary (as the case may be) his or her previous ruling and proceed.

~~50.7~~51.7 The defeat of the *Chair's* ruling is in no way a motion of censure or non-confidence in the *Chair*, and should not be so regarded by the meeting.

~~51.~~52. Procedure For Point Of Order

A Councillor raising a point of order must:

~~51.1~~52.1 state the point of order; and

~~51.2~~52.2 state any section, Rule, paragraph or provision relevant to the point of order

before resuming his or her seat.

~~52.~~53. Valid Points Of Order

A point of order may be raised in relation to:

~~52.1~~53.1 a motion, which, under Rule ~~23~~24, or a question which, under Rule ~~53~~54, should not be accepted by the *Chair*;

~~52.2~~53.2 a question of procedure; or

~~52.3~~53.3 any act of disorder.

Rising to express a difference of opinion or to contradict a speaker is not a point of order.

Division 8 – Public Question Time

~~53.~~54. Question Time

~~53.1~~54.1 There must be a public question time at every *Council meeting* fixed under Rule 9 to enable members of the public to submit questions to *Council*.

~~53.2~~54.2 Sub-Rule 54.1~~53.1~~ does not apply during any period when a meeting is closed to members of the public in accordance with section 66(2) of the *Act*.

~~53.3~~54.3 Public question time will not exceed 15 minutes in duration unless extended by further blocks of 15 minutes duration by resolution, up to a maximum of 2 further blocks.

~~53.4~~54.4 Questions submitted to *Council* must be:

5~~4~~3.4.1 in *writing*, state the name and address of the person submitting the question and generally be in a form approved or permitted by *Council;* and

5~~4~~3.4.2 placed in the receptacle designated for the purpose at the place of the meeting prior to 12noon on the day of the *Council meeting*, or be lodged electronically at the prescribed email address prior to 12noon on the day of the *Council meeting*.

~~53.5~~54.5 No person may submit more than two questions at any one meeting.

~~53.6~~54.6 If a person has submitted two questions to a meeting, the second question:

5~~4~~3.6.1 may, at the discretion of the *Chair*, be deferred until all other persons who have asked a question have had their questions asked and answered; or

5~~4~~3.6.2 may not be asked if the time allotted for public question time has expired.

~~53.7~~54.7 The *Chair* or a member of Council staff nominated by the *Chair* may read to those present at the meeting a question which has been submitted in accordance with this Rule.

54.8 Notwithstanding sub-Rule ~~54.6~~53.6, when Council meetings are conducted in person, the *Chair* may refrain from reading a question or having a question read if the person who submitted the question is not present in the

gallery at the time when the question is due to be read where the person has either:

54.8.1 not sought an exemption from the Chief Executive Officer from attending on the basis of health issues and/or caring responsibilities, or their inability to travel long distances; or

53.7.154.8.2 had their application for exemption from attending pursuant to 54.8 rejected.

53.854.9 A question may be disallowed by the *Chair* if the *Chair* determines that it:

543.9.1 relates to a matter outside the duties, functions and powers of *Council;*

543.9.2 is defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or substance;

543.9.3 deals with a subject matter already answered;

543.9.4 is aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or a member of Council staff;

543.9.5 relates to personnel matters;

543.9.6 relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;

543.9.7 relates to industrial matters;

543.9.8 relates to contractual matters;

543.9.9 relates to proposed developments;

543.9.10 relates to legal advice;

543.9.11 relates to matters affecting the security of *Council property*; or

543.9.12 relates to any other matter which *Council* considers would prejudice *Council* or any person.

53.954.10 Any question which has been disallowed by the *Chair* must be made available to any other Councillor upon request.

53.1054.11 All questions and answers must be as brief as possible, and no discussion may be allowed other than by *Councillors* for the purposes of clarification.

53.1154.12 Like questions may be grouped together and a single answer provided.

53.1254.13 The *Chair* may nominate a Councillor or the *Chief Executive* Officer to respond to a question.

~~53.13~~54.14 A Councillor or the *Chief Executive Officer* may require a question to be put on notice. If a question is put on notice, a *written* copy of the answer will be sent to the person who asked the question.

~~53.14~~54.15 A Councillor or *the Chief Executive Officer* may advise *Council* that it is his or her opinion that the reply to a question should be given in a meeting closed to members of the public. The Councillor or *Chief Executive Officer* (as the case may be) must state briefly the reason why the reply should be so given and, unless *Council* resolves to the contrary, the reply to such question must be so given.

Division 9 – Petitions and Joint Letters

~~54.~~55. Petitions and Joint Letters

~~54.1~~55.1 Unless *Council* determines to consider it as an item of urgent business, or together with an item already listed on the agenda for the meeting at which it is presented, no motion (other than a motion to receive the same) may be made on any petition, joint letter, memorial or other like application until the next *Council meeting* after that at which it has been presented.

~~54.2~~55.2 It is incumbent on every Councillor presenting a petition or joint letter to acquaint himself or herself with the contents of that petition or joint letter, and to ascertain that it does not contain language disrespectful to *Council*.

~~54.3~~55.3 Every Councillor presenting a petition or joint letter to *Council* must:

5~~5~~4.3.1 write or otherwise record his or her name at the beginning of the petition or joint letter; and

5~~5~~4.3.2 confine himself or herself to a statement of the persons from whom it comes, the number of signatories to it, the material matters expressed in it and the text of the prayer or request.

~~54.4~~55.4 Every petition or joint letter presented to *Council* must be in *writing* (other than pencil), typing or printing, contain the request of the petitioners or signatories and be signed by at least 12 people.

~~54.5~~55.5 Every petition or joint letter must be signed by the persons whose names are appended to it by their names or marks, and, except in cases of incapacity or sickness, by no one else and the address of every petitioner or signatory must be clearly stated.

~~54.6~~55.6 Any signature appearing on a page which does not bear the text of the whole of the petition or request may not be considered by *Council*.

~~54.7~~55.7 Every page of a petition or joint letter must be a single page of paper and not be posted, stapled, pinned or otherwise affixed or attached to any piece of paper other than another page of the petition or joint letter.

~~54.8~~55.8 If a petition, joint letter, memorial or other like application relates to an operational matter, *Council* must refer it to the *Chief Executive Officer* for consideration.

Division 10 – Voting

~~55.~~56. How Motion Determined

To determine a motion before a meeting, the *Chair* must first call for those in favour of the motion and then those opposed to the motion, and must then declare the result to the meeting.

~~56.~~57. Silence

Voting must take place in silence.

~~57.~~58. Recount

The *Chair* may direct that a vote be recounted to satisfy himself or herself of the result.

~~58.~~59. Casting Vote

In the event of a tied vote, the *Chair* must exercise a casting vote.

~~59.~~60. By Show Of Hands

Voting on any matter is by show of hands.

~~60.~~61. Procedure For A Division

~~60.1~~61.1 Immediately after any question is put to a meeting and before the next item of business has commenced, a Councillor may call for a division.

~~60.2~~61.2 When a division is called for, the vote already taken must be treated as set aside and the division shall decide the question, motion or amendment.

~~60.3~~61.3 When a division is called for, the *Chair* must:

61~~0~~.3.1 first ask each Councillor wishing to vote in the affirmative to raise a hand and, upon such request being made, each Councillor wishing to vote in the affirmative must raise one of his or her hands. The Chair must then state, and the *Chief Executive Officer* or any *authorised officer* must record, the names of those Councillors voting in the affirmative; and

61~~0~~.3.2 then ask each Councillor wishing to vote in the negative to raise a hand and, upon such request being made, each Councillor wishing to vote in the negative must raise one of his or her hands. The Chair must then state, and the *Chief Executive Officer* or any *authorised officer* must record, the names of those Councillors voting in the negative.

~~61.~~62. No Discussion Once Declared

Once a vote on a question has been taken, no further discussion relating to the question is allowed unless the discussion involves:

~~61.1~~62.1 a Councillor requesting, before the next item of business is considered, that his or her opposition to a resolution be recorded in the minutes or a register maintained for that purpose; or

~~61.2~~62.2 foreshadowing a *notice of rescission* where a resolution has just been made, or a positive motion where a resolution has just been rescinded.

> *For example, Rule ~~61~~ 62 would allow some discussion if, immediately after a resolution was made, a Councillor foreshadowed lodging a notice of rescission to rescind that resolution.*
>
> *Equally, Rule ~~61~~ 62 would permit discussion about a matter which would otherwise be left in limbo because a notice of rescission had been successful. For instance, assume that Council resolved to refuse a planning permit application. Assume further that this resolution was rescinded.*
>
> *Without a positive resolution – to the effect that a planning permit now be granted – the planning permit application will be left in limbo. Hence the reference, in sub-Rule 62.2~~61.2~~, to discussion about a positive motion were a resolution has just been rescinded.*

Division 11 – Minutes

~~62.~~63. Confirmation of Minutes

~~62.1~~63.1 At every *Council meeting* the minutes of the preceding meeting(s) must be dealt with as follows:

6~~3~~2.1.1 a copy of the minutes must be delivered to each Councillor no later than 48 hours before the meeting;

6~~3~~2.1.2 if no Councillor indicates opposition, the minutes must be declared to be confirmed;

6~~3~~2.1.3 if a Councillor indicates opposition to the minutes:

(a) he or she must specify the item(s) to which he or she objects;

(b) the objected item(s) must be considered separately and in the order in which they appear in the minutes;

(c) the Councillor objecting must move accordingly without speaking to the motion;

(d) the motion must be seconded;

(e) the *Chair* must ask:

"Is the motion opposed?"

(f) if no Councillor indicates opposition, then the *Chair* must declare the motion carried without discussion and then ask the second of the questions described in sub-Rule 632.1.3(k);

(g) if a Councillor indicates opposition, then the *Chair* must call on the mover to address the meeting;

(h) after the mover has addressed the meeting, the seconder may address the meeting;

(i) after the seconder has addressed the meeting (or after the mover has addressed the meeting if the seconder does not address the meeting), the *Chair* must invite debate by calling on any Councillor who wishes to speak to the motion, providing an opportunity to alternate between those wishing to speak against the motion and those wishing to speak for the motion;

(j) if, after the mover has addressed the meeting, the *Chair* invites debate and no Councillor speaks to the motion, the *Chair* must put the motion; and

(k) the *Chair* must, after all objections have been dealt with, ultimately ask:

"The question is that the minutes be confirmed" or

"The question is that the minutes, as amended, be confirmed",

and he or she must put the question to the vote accordingly;

632.1.4 a resolution of *Council* must confirm the minutes and the minutes must, if practicable, be signed by the *Chair* of the meeting at which they have been confirmed;

632.1.5 the minutes must be entered in the *minute book* and each item in the *minute book* must be entered consecutively; and

632.1.6 unless otherwise resolved or required by law, minutes of a *Delegated Committee* requiring confirmation by *Council* must not be available to the public until confirmed by *Council.*

~~63.~~64. No Debate on Confirmation Of Minutes

No discussion or debate on the confirmation of minutes is permitted except where their accuracy as a record of the proceedings of the meeting to which they relate is questioned.

~~64.~~65. Deferral Of Confirmation Of Minutes

Council may defer the confirmation of minutes until later in the *Council meeting* or until the next meeting if considered appropriate.

~~65.~~66. Form and Availability of Minutes

~~65.1~~66.1 The *Chief Executive Officer* (or other person authorised by the *Chief Executive Officer* to attend the meeting and to take the minutes of such meeting) must keep minutes of each *Council meeting*, and those minutes must record:

6~~5~~5.1.1 the date, place, time and nature of the meeting;

6~~5~~5.1.2 the names of the Councillors present and the names of any Councillors who apologised in advance for their non-attendance;

6~~5~~5.1.3 the names of the members of Council staff present;

6~~5~~5.1.4 any disclosure of a conflict of interest made by a Councillor, including the explanation given by the Councillor under Chapter 5;

6~~5~~5.1.5 arrivals and departures (including temporary departures) of Councillors during the course of the meeting;

6~~5~~5.1.6 each motion and amendment moved (including motions and amendments that lapse for the want of a seconder);

6~~5~~5.1.7 the vote cast by each Councillor upon a division;

6~~5~~5.1.8 the vote cast by any Councillor who has requested that his or her vote be recorded in the minutes;

6~~5~~5.1.9 questions upon notice;

6~~5~~5.1.10 the failure of a quorum;

6~~5~~5.1.11 any adjournment of the meeting and the reasons for that adjournment; and

6~~5~~5.1.12 the time at which standing orders were suspended and resumed.

~~65.2~~66.2 The *Chief Executive Officer* must ensure that the minutes of any *Council meeting* are:

6~~5~~5.2.1 published on *Council's* website; and

6~~5~~5.2.2 available for inspection at *Council's* office during normal business hours.

~~65.3~~66.3 Nothing in sub-Rule 66.2~~65.2~~ requires *Council* or the *Chief Executive Officer* to make public any minutes relating to a *Council meeting* or part of a *Council meeting* closed to members of the public in accordance with section 66 of the *Act*.

Division 12 – Behaviour

~~66.~~67. Public Addressing The Meeting

~~66.1~~67.1 Members of the public do not have a right to address *Council* and may only do so with the consent of the *Chair* or by prior arrangement.

~~66.2~~67.2 Any member of the public addressing *Council* must extend due courtesy and respect to *Council* and the processes under which it operates and must take direction from the *Chair* whenever called on to do so.

~~66.3~~67.3 A member of the public present at a *Council meeting* must not disrupt the meeting.

~~67.~~68. *Chair* May Remove

The *Chair* may order and cause the removal of any person, other than a Councillor, who disrupts any meeting or fails to comply with a direction given under sub-Rule 67.2~~66.2~~.

> *It is intended that this power be exercisable by the Chair, without the need for any Council resolution. The Chair may choose to order the removal of a person whose actions immediately threaten the stability of the meeting or wrongly threatens his or her authority in chairing the meeting.*

~~68.~~69. *Chair* may adjourn disorderly meeting

If the *Chair* is of the opinion that disorder at the *Council* table or in the gallery makes it desirable to adjourn the *Council meeting*, he or she may adjourn the meeting to a later time on the same day or to some later day as he or she thinks proper. In that event, the provisions of sub-Rules 16.2~~15.2~~ and 16.3~~15.3~~ apply.

~~69.~~70. Removal from Chamber

The *Chair*, or *Council* in the case of a suspension, may ask the *Chief Executive Officer* or a member of the Victoria Police to remove from the Chamber any person who acts in breach of this Chapter and whom the *Chair* has ordered to be removed from the gallery under Rule ~~67~~8.

Division 13 – Additional Duties of *Chair*

~~70.~~71. The *Chair's* Duties And Discretions

In addition to the duties and discretions provided in this Chapter, the *Chair*:

~~70.1~~71.1 must not accept any motion, question or statement which is derogatory, or defamatory of any Councillor, member of Council staff, or member of the community; and

~~70.2~~71.2 must call to order any person who is disruptive or unruly during any meeting.

Division 14 – Suspension of Standing Orders

~~71.~~72. Suspension of Standing Orders

~~71.1~~72.1 To expedite the business of a meeting, *Council* may suspend standing orders.

> *The suspension of standing orders should be used to enable full discussion of any issue without the constraints of formal meeting procedure.*
>
> *Its purpose is to enable the formalities of meeting procedure to be temporarily disposed of while an issue is discussed.*

~~71.2~~72.2 The suspension of standing orders should not be used purely to dispense with the processes and protocol of the government of *Council*. An appropriate motion would be:

"That standing order be suspended to enable discussion on……"

~~71.3~~72.3 No motion can be accepted by the *Chair* or lawfully be dealt with during any suspension of standing orders.

~~71.4~~72.4 Once the discussion has taken place and before any motions can be put, the resumption of standing orders will be necessary. An appropriate motion would be:

"That standing orders be resumed."

Division 15 – Miscellaneous

~~**72. Meetings Conducted Remotely**~~

~~If:~~

~~72.1 by law a meeting may be conducted electronically; and~~

~~72.2 *Council* decides that a meeting is to be conducted electronically,~~

~~the *Chair* may, with the consent of the meeting, modify the application of any of the Rules in this Chapter to facilitate the more efficient and effective transaction of the business of the meeting.~~

73. Procedure not provided in this Chapter

In all cases not specifically provided for by this Chapter, resort must be had to the Standing Orders and Rules of Practice of the Upper House of the Victorian Parliament (so far as the same are capable of being applied to *Council* proceedings).

74. Criticism of members of Council staff

74.1 The *Chief Executive Officer* may make a brief statement at a *Council meeting* in respect of any statement by a Councillor made at the *Council meeting* criticising him or her or any member of Council staff.

74.2 A statement under sub-Rule 74.1 must be made by the *Chief Executive Officer*, through the *Chair*, as soon as it practicable after the Councillor who made the statement has resumed his or her seat.

Chapter 3 – Meeting Procedure for Delegated Committees

1. Meeting Procedure Generally

If *Council* establishes a *Delegated Committee*:

1.1 all of the provisions of Chapter 2 apply to meetings of the *Delegated Committee*; and

1.2 any reference in Chapter 2 to:

1.2.1 a *Council meeting* is to be read as a reference to a *Delegated Committee* meeting;

1.2.2 a Councillor is to be read as a reference to a member of the *Delegated Committee*; and

1.2.3 the *Mayor* is to be read as a reference to the Chair of the *Delegated Committee*.

2. Meeting Procedure Can Be Varied

Notwithstanding Rule 1, if *Council* establishes a *Delegated Committee* that is not composed solely of Councillors:

2.1 *Council* may; or

2.2 the *Delegated Committee* may, with the approval of *Council*

resolve that any or all of the provisions of Chapter 2 are not to apply to a meeting of the *Delegated Committee*, in which case the provision or those provisions will not apply until *Council* resolves, or the *Delegated Committee* with the approval of *Council* resolves, otherwise.

Chapter 4 – Meeting Procedure for Community Asset Committees

1. Introduction

In this Chapter, "Instrument of Delegation" means an instrument of delegation made by the *Chief Executive Officer* under section 47(1)(b) of the *Act*.

2. Meeting Procedure

Unless anything in the instrument of delegation provides otherwise, the conduct of a meeting of a *Community Asset Committee* is in the discretion of the *Community Asset Committee*.

Chapter 5 – Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

1. Introduction

The following Rules in this Chapter apply only upon Division 1A of Part 4 of the *Local Government Act 1989* being repealed.*

2. Definition

In this Chapter:

2.1 "meeting conducted under the auspices of *Council*" means a meeting of the kind described in section 131(1) of the Act, and includes a meeting referred to in Rule 1 of Chapter 6 (whether such a meeting is known as a 'Councillor Briefing' or by some other name); and

2.2 a member of a *Delegated Committee* includes a Councillor.

3. Disclosure of a Conflict of Interest at a Council Meeting

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at a *Council meeting* at which he or she:

3.1 is present must disclose that conflict of interest by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present at the *Council meeting* immediately before the matter is considered; or

3.2 intends to be present must disclose that conflict of interest by providing to the *Chief Executive Officer* before the *Council meeting* commences a written notice:

3.2.1 advising of the conflict of interest;

3.2.2 explaining the nature of the conflict of interest; and

3.2.3 detailing, if the nature of the conflict of interest involves a Councillor's relationship with or a gift from another person, the:

(a) name of the other person;

(b) nature of the relationship with that other person or the date of receipt, value and type of gift received from the other person; and

(c) nature of that other person's interest in the matter,

and then immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting announcing to those present that he or she has a conflict of interest and that a written notice has been given to the *Chief Executive Officer* under this sub-Rule.

* At the time of making these Rules the date on which Division 1A of Part 4 of the *Local Government Act 1989* is expected to be repealed is 24 October 2020.

The Councillor must, in either event, leave the *Council meeting* immediately after giving the explanation or making the announcement (as the case may be) and not return to the meeting until after the matter has been disposed of.

4. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest at a Delegated Committee Meeting

A member of a *Delegated Committee* who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at a *Delegated Committee* meeting at which he or she:

4.1 is present must disclose that conflict of interest by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present at the *Delegated Committee* meeting immediately before the matter is considered; or

4.2 intends to present must disclose that conflict of interest by providing to the *Chief Executive Officer* before the Delegated Committee meeting commences a written notice:

4.2.1 advising of the conflict of interest;

4.2.2 explaining the nature of the conflict of interest; and

4.2.3 detailing, if the nature of the conflict of interest involves a member of a *Delegated Committee's* relationship with or a gift from another person the:

(a) name of the other person;

(b) nature of the relationship with that other person or the date of receipt, value and type of gift received from the other person; and

(c) nature of that other person's interest in the matter,

and then immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting announcing to those present that he or she has a conflict of interest and that a written notice has been given to the *Chief Executive Officer* under this sub-Rule.

The member of a *Delegated Committee* must, in either event, leave the *Delegated Committee* meeting immediately after giving the explanation or making the announcement (as the case may be) and not return to the meeting until after the matter has been disposed of.

5. Disclosure of a Conflict of Interest at a Community Asset Committee Meeting

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at a *Community Asset Committee* meeting at which he or she:

5.1 is present must disclose that conflict of interest by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present at the *Community Asset Committee* meeting immediately before the matter is considered; or

5.2 intends to present must disclose that conflict of interest by providing to the *Chief Executive Officer* before the *Community Asset Committee* meeting commences a written notice:

5.2.1 advising of the conflict of interest;

5.2.2 explaining the nature of the conflict of interest; and

5.2.3 detailing, if the nature of the conflict of interest involves a member of a Councillor's relationship with or a gift from another person the:

(a) name of the other person;

(b) nature of the relationship with that other person or the date of receipt, value and type of gift received from the other person; and

(c) nature of that other person's interest in the matter,

and then immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting announcing to those present that he or she has a conflict of interest and that a written notice has been given to the *Chief Executive Officer* under this sub-Rule.

The Councillor must, in either event, leave the *Committee Asset Committee* meeting immediately after giving the explanation or making the announcement (as the case may be) and not return to the meeting until after the matter has been disposed of.

6. Disclosure at a Meeting Conducted Under the Auspices of Council

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered by a meeting held under the auspices of *Council* at which he or she is present must:

6.1 disclose that conflict of interest by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present at the meeting immediately before the matter is considered;

6.2 absent himself or herself from any discussion of the matter; and

6.3 as soon as practicable after the meeting concludes provide to the *Chief Executive Officer* a written notice recording that the disclosure was made and accurately summarising the explanation given to those present at the meeting.

7. Disclosure by Members of Council Staff Preparing Reports for Meetings

7.1 A member of Council staff who, in his or her capacity as a member of Council staff, has a conflict of interest in a matter in respect of which he or she is preparing or contributing to the preparation of a Report for the consideration of a:

7.1.1 *Council meeting*;

7.1.2 *Delegated Committee* meeting;

7.1.3 *Community Asset Committee* meeting

must, immediately upon becoming aware of the conflict of interest, provide a written notice to the *Chief Executive Officer* disclosing the conflict of interest and explaining the nature of the conflict of interest.

7.2 The *Chief Executive Officer* must ensure that the Report referred to in sub-Rule 7.1 records the fact that a member of Council staff disclosed a conflict of interest in the subject-matter of the Report.

7.3 If the member of Council staff referred to in sub-Rule 7.1 is the *Chief Executive Officer*:

7.3.1 the written notice referred to in sub-Rule 7.1 must be given to the *Mayor*; and

7.3.2 the obligation imposed by sub-Rule 7.2 may be discharged by any other member of Council staff responsible for the preparation of the Report.

8. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest by Members of Council Staff in the Exercise of Delegated Power

8.1 A member of Council staff who has a conflict of interest in a matter requiring a decision to be made by the member of Council staff as delegate must, immediately upon becoming aware of the conflict of interest, provide a written notice to the *Chief Executive Officer* explaining the nature of the conflict of interest.

8.2 If the member of Council staff referred to in sub-Rule 8.1 is the *Chief Executive Officer* the written notice must be given to the *Mayor*.

9. Disclosure by a Member of Council Staff in the Exercise of a Statutory Function

9.1 A member of Council staff who has a conflict of interest in a matter requiring a statutory function to be performed under an Act by the member of Council staff must, upon becoming aware of the conflict of interest, immediately provide a written notice to the *Chief Executive Officer* explaining the nature of the conflict of interest.

9.2 If the member of Council staff referred to in sub-Rule 9.1 is the *Chief Executive Officer* the written notice must be given to the *Mayor*.

10. Retention of Written Notices

The *Chief Executive Officer* must retain all written notices received under this Chapter for a period of three years.

Chapter 6 – Miscellaneous

1. Informal Meetings of Councillors

If there is a meeting of Councillors that:

1.1 is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of *Council* or briefing Councillors;

1.2 is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and

1.3 is not a *Council meeting*, *Delegated Committee* meeting or *Community Asset Committee* meeting

the *Chief Executive Officer* must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting are:

(a) tabled at the next convenient *Council meeting*; and

(b) recorded in the minutes of that *Council meeting*.

2. Confidential Information

2.1 If, after the repeal of section 77(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the *Chief Executive Officer* is of the opinion that information relating to a meeting is confidential information within the meaning of the *Act*, he or she may designate the information as confidential and advise Councillors and/or members of Council staff in writing accordingly.

2.2 Information which has been designated by the *Chief Executive Officer* as confidential information within the meaning of the *Act*, and in respect of which advice has been given to Councillors and/or members of Council staff in writing accordingly, will be presumed to be confidential information.

Chapter 7 – Election Period Policy

1. Introduction and Definitions

Section 60 of the Act provides that a *Council's* Governance Rules must include reference to an election period policy in accordance with section 69.

In this Chapter,

"*Election Period Policy*" means a policy adopted by *Council* in accordance with section 69 of the *Act*.

"*Election Period*" has the same meaning as set out in section 3 the Act.

2. Policy included in Governance Rules

Council's Election Period Policy as adopted from time to time forms part of these Governance Rules in satisfaction of sections 60 and 69.

3. Review at least 12 months prior to an election

At least once in each *Council* term and, not later than 12 months prior to the commencement of an election period, Council will review its *Election Period Policy*

12.4 INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION AND PROCUREMENT THRESHOLDS - CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Author: Roslyn Wai - Chief Executive Officer
Presenter: Roslyn Wai - Chief Executive Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Instrument of Delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer and seek Council's support for specific procurement value thresholds and procurement methodology for the role of the Chief Executive Officer.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. In the exercise of the power conferred by s.11(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act), resolves that;
   a. There be delegated to the person holding the position, or acting in or performing the duties, of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
   b. The instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument.
   c. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked.
   d. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
2. Approves the following procurement value thresholds and procurement methodology delegations for the role of the Chief Executive Officer:

Procurement Value Threshold	**Procurement Methodology** **(Goods, Service and Works)**
Up to $5,000	Quotation not required. Informal quotation to be considered subject to nature of purchase (email)
$5,000 to $10,000	Minimum one informal quotation (email)
$10,001 to $50,000	Minimum one written quotation sought (formal statement)
$50,001 to $100,000	Minimum two written quotations sought (formal statement)
$100,001 to $150,000	Minimum three written quotations sought (formal statement)
$150,001 to $300,000	Request for Quote. Minimum three written quotations/submissions received.
$300,001 and above	Public Tender Process or eligible panel contracts.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

Melton City Council has lower purchasing thresholds within its Procurement Policy than peer councils, and this report seeks specific purchasing thresholds and procurement methodology delegations for the role of the Chief Executive Officer.

2. Background/Issues

Under the new *Local Government Act 2020* ('the Act), all Local Government Authorities in Victoria were required to have a Procurement Policy in place by December 2021.

Melton City Council used its existing Procurement Policy as the basis for development of an updated Policy to comply with the Act. Council approved the Policy in October 2021.

Officers did not propose any change to Council's purchasing thresholds within the Policy due to a Victorian Ombudsman's report released on 9 June 2021 that highlighted issues related to procurement at Melton City Council.

As a result, the purchasing thresholds for Melton City Council are lower than peer councils. The lower thresholds are impacting the organisation's ability to be timely and efficient in procurement of goods, services and works in day to day operations.

Council appointed a new CEO who commenced on 26 January 2022. The CEO acknowledges the Council decision of 10 months ago to maintain the purchasing thresholds whilst the organisation develops maturity in its systems, processes, procedures, and culture related to purchasing and procurement.

This report seeks approval for the role of the CEO to have specific purchasing thresholds to enable implementation of the Council set CEO Key Performance Indicators, organisational change related to the Organisational Review recommendations of July 2022, and to implement other matters related to the Council and Wellbeing Plan Theme 6. A high performing organisation that demonstrates civic leadership and organisational excellence.

Council's Audit and Risk Committee at its meeting of 3 August 2022 sought for the Minutes of the Committee Meeting to reflect support for the CEO to seek Council's consideration of increased procurement thresholds that align with peer councils.

It should be noted that peer councils have varying procurement value thresholds and procurement methodologies within their procurement policies. The procurement value thresholds proposed specifically for the role of CEO at Melton City Council considers the value thresholds and methodologies for the entire organisation of peer councils.

Table 1 Proposed procurement value threshold and procurement methodology sought for the role of the Chief Executive Officer at Melton City Council:

Procurement Value Threshold	**Procurement Methodology** **(Goods, Service and Works)**
Up to $5,000	Quotation not required. Informal quotation to be considered subject to nature of purchase (email)
$5,001 to $10,000	Minimum one informal quotation (email)
$10,001 to $50,000	Minimum one written quotation sought (formal statement)
$50,001 to $100,000	Minimum two written quotations sought (formal statement)
$100,001 to $150,000	Minimum three written quotations sought (formal statement)

$150,001 to $300,000	Request for Quote. Minimum three written quotations/submissions received.
$300,001 and above	Public Tender Process or eligible panel contracts.

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

The recommendation has no direct financial consideration.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

This decision of Council does not require consultation/public submission.

6. Risk Analysis

If Council:

1. does not support the recommendation it will delay implementation timeframes for Council determined CEO Key Performance Indicators, implementation of recommendations related to the Organisational Review of July 2022.
2. supports the recommendation, there will be two value thresholds and procurement methodologies at Melton City Council. One applicable to role of CEO and another applicable to all other officers of Melton City Council. This may:
   a. create confusion for external suppliers. To mitigate this risk the CEO delegations will be documented in the organisation's internal facing Procurement Procedure Manual only.
   b. create uncertainty for Council on use of the CEO role specific procurement delegations provided by Council to the CEO. To mitigate this risk the CEO would report quarterly to the Audit and Risk Committee on use of the role specific delegations whilst two value thresholds and procurement methodologies exist at Melton City Council.

7. Options

The options for Council are to:

1. approve the recommendation
2. seek further information to consider the recommendation
3. reject the recommendation.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Instrument of Delegation - Council to CEO

Melton City Council

S5 Instrument of Delegation to The Chief Executive Officer

In exercise of the power conferred by s 11(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and all other powers enabling it, the Melton City Council (Council) delegates to the member of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the position of Chief Executive Officer, the powers, duties and functions set out in the Schedule to this Instrument of Delegation,

AND declares that

1. this Instrument of Delegation is authorised by a Resolution of Council passed on <insert date>;
2. the delegation
   - 2.1 comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to this Instrument of Delegation;
   - 2.2 is subject to any conditions and limitations set out in the Schedule;
   - 2.3 must be exercised in accordance with any guidelines or policies which Council from time to time adopts; and
   - 2.4 remains in force until Council resolves to vary or revoke it.

The **Common Seal** of the)
Melton City Council **)**
was hereunto affixed)

……Mayor

……..……...Chief Executive Officer

……..……Dated

Melton City Council

S5 Instrument of Delegation to The Chief Executive Officer

Delegation Source

- *Local Government Act 2020*

Position

Title	Position
CEO	Chief Executive Officer

Melton City Council

S5 Instrument of Delegation to The Chief Executive Officer

Local Government Act 2020			
Provision	**Powers and Functions Delegated**	**Delegate**	**Conditions and Limitations**
11(1)	SCHEDULE The power to 1. determine any issue; 2. take any action; or 3. do any act or thing arising out of or connected with any duty imposed, or function or power conferred on Council by or under any Act.	CEO	The delegate must not determine the issue, take the action or do the act or thing 1. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which involves 1.1. entering into a contract exceeding the value of $500,000; 1.2. making any expenditure that exceeds $500,000 1.3. appointing an Acting Chief Executive Officer for a period exceeding 28 days; 1.4. electing a Mayor or Deputy Mayor; 1.5. granting a reasonable request for leave under s 35 of the Act; 1.6. making any decision in relation to the employment, dismissal or removal of the Chief Executive Officer; 1.7. approving or amending the Council Plan; 1.8. adopting or amending any policy that Council is required to adopt under the Act; 1.9. adopting or amending the Governance Rules; 1.10. appointing the chair or the members to a delegated committee; 1.11. making, amending or revoking a local law; 1.12. approving the Budget or Revised Budget; 1.13. approving the borrowing of money; or

Melton City Council

S5 Instrument of Delegation to The Chief Executive Officer

Local Government Act 2020			
Provision	**Powers and Functions Delegated**	**Delegate**	**Conditions and Limitations**
			1.14. subject to section 181H(1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, declaring general rates, municipal charges, service rates and charges and specified rates and charges; 2. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action, act or thing which is required by law to be done by Council resolution; 3. if the issue, action, act or thing is an issue, action or thing which Council has previously designated as an issue, action, act or thing which must be the subject of a Resolution of Council; 4. if the determining of the issue, taking of the action or doing of the act or thing would or would be likely to involve a decision which is inconsistent with a 4.1. policy; or 4.2. strategy adopted by Council; 5. if the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing cannot be the subject of a lawful delegation, whether on account of s.11(2)(a)-(n) (inclusive) of the Act or otherwise; or 6. the determining of the issue, the taking of the action or the doing of the act or thing is already the subject of an exclusive delegation to another member of Council staff.

12.5 RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION 821 (CR ABBOUSHI) IMPACT OF BUY LOCAL SECTION OF COUNCIL'S PROCUREMENT POLICY

Author: Natalie Marino - Acting Finance Manager
Presenter: Luke Shannon - Acting General Manager Corporate Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To respond to Notice of Motion 821, Impact of Buy Local section of Council's Procurement Policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council note the report.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

At the Scheduled Meeting of Council on 20 June 2022 Notice of Motion 821 (Cr Abboushi) was resolved:

> *"That Council request that officers prepare a report to be tabled on or before the August 2022 Council Meeting to update on whether the Buy Local Section of Council's Procurement Policy, adopted on 25 October 2021, is having a beneficial impact on supporting local businesses and the economy."*

This report responds to the Notice of Motion and provides a summary of local procurement spend and economic impact since the adoption of Council's Procurement Policy.

2. Background/Issues

At the Scheduled Meeting of Council on 20 June 2022 Notice of Motion 821 (Cr Abboushi) was resolved:

> *"That Council request that officers prepare a report to be tabled on or before the August 2022 Council Meeting to update on whether the Buy Local Section of Council's Procurement Policy, adopted on 25 October 2021, is having a beneficial impact on supporting local businesses and the economy."*

The fundamental procurement practice principles that must be applied to every procurement, irrespective of the value and complexity of that procurement, are outlined under the new best practice framework in line with the *Local Government Act 2020*. These principles are:

- Value for Money
- Open and Fair competition
- Accountability
- Risk Management
- Probity and Transparency
- Sustainable and social procurement objectives.

Council continues to monitor local spend and mandate a minimum 10 per cent weighted criteria across all tenders, as per Council's Procurement Policy adopted in 2021.

Currently, this figure does not include local sub-contractors engaged by third party supplier/principal contractors.

In addition to tenders, officers are encouraged to source local suppliers where possible.

From 1 October 2021 until 28 July 2022, a total of **$21,306,484** was spent locally.

The analysis below has been prepared based on REMPLAN data.

Impact Summary

Impact Summary	Direct Effect	Supply-Chain Effect	Consumption Effect	Total Effect	Type 1 Multiplier	Type 2 Multiplier
Output ($)	$21,306,484	$14,879,286	$4,032,078	$40,217,847	1.698	1.888
Employment (Jobs)	44	39	13	96	1.886	2.182
Wages and Salaries ($)	$4,932,209	$3,273,951	$856,154	$9,062,315	1.664	1.837
Value-added ($)	$8,834,297	$5,683,133	$2,382,044	$16,899,474	1.643	1.913

Impact on output

From a direct increase in output of $21,306,484, it is estimated that the demand for intermediate goods and services would rise by $14,879,286 dollars.

These supply-chain effects include multiple rounds of flow-on effects, as servicing sectors increase their own output and demand for local goods and services in response to the direct change to the economy.

The increases in direct and indirect output would typically correspond to the creation of jobs in the economy. Corresponding to this change in employment would be an increase in the total of wages and salaries paid to employees. A proportion of these wages and salaries are typically spent on consumption and a proportion of this expenditure is captured in the local economy. The consumption effects under this scenario are estimated at $4,032,078 dollars.

Total output, including all direct, supply-chain and consumption effects is estimated to increase by up to $40,217,847 dollars.

From a direct increase in output of $21,306,484 dollars the corresponding creation of direct jobs is estimated at 44 jobs. From this direct expansion in the economy, flow-on supply-chain effects in terms of local purchases of goods and services are anticipated, and it is estimated that these indirect impacts would result in the gain of a further 39 jobs.

Impact on Employment

The increase in direct and indirect output and the corresponding creation of jobs in the economy are expected to result in an increase in the wages and salaries paid to employees. A proportion of these wages and salaries are typically spent on consumption and a proportion of this expenditure is captured in the local economy.

The consumption effects under this scenario are estimated to further boost employment by 13 jobs. Total employment, including all direct, supply-chain and consumption effects is estimated to increase by up to 96 jobs.

Impact on Wages and Salaries

From a direct increase in output of $21,306,484 dollars it is estimated that direct wages and salaries would increase by $4,932,209 dollars. From this direct expansion in the economy, flow-on supply-chain effects in terms of local purchases of goods and services are anticipated, and it is estimated that these indirect impacts would result in the gain of a further 39 jobs and a further increase in wages and salaries of $3,273,951 dollars.

The increase in direct and indirect output and the corresponding creation of jobs in the economy are expected to result in an increase in the wages and salaries paid to employees. A proportion of these wages and salaries are typically spent on consumption and a proportion of this expenditure is captured in the local economy. The consumption effects under this scenario are expected to further boost employment in sectors such as retail therefore further increasing wages and salaries by $856,154 dollars. Total wages and salaries, including all direct, supply-chain and consumption effects is estimated to increase by up to $9,062,315 dollars.

Impact on Value-Added

From a direct increase in output of $21,306,484 dollars the corresponding increase in direct value-added is estimated at $8,834,297 dollars. From this direct expansion in the economy, flow-on supply-chain effects in terms of local purchases of goods and services are anticipated, and it is estimated that these indirect impacts would result in a further increase to value-added of $5,683,133 dollars.

The increase in direct and indirect output and the corresponding boost to jobs in the economy are expected to result in an increase in the wages and salaries paid to employees. A proportion of these wages and salaries are typically spent on consumption and a proportion of this expenditure is captured in the local economy. The consumption effects under this scenario are expected to further boost value added by $2,382,044 dollars. Total value-added, including all direct, supply-chain and consumption effects is estimated to increase by up to $16,899,474 dollars.

3. Council and Wellbeing Plan Reference and Policy Reference

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

4. A City that promotes greater education and employment

4.1 A strong local economy that supports business growth and attracts new investment.

4. Financial Considerations

Nil

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

Nil

6. Risk Analysis

There are no risks associated with this report.

7. Options

Nil

LIST OF APPENDICES

Nil

12.6 TOOLERN DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN REVIEW

Author: Matthew Milbourne - Coordinator Toolern Review
Presenter: Darren Rudd - Manager City Design & Strategy

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the proposed changes to the Toolern Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan, and the associated Planning Scheme Amendment C232 to the Melton Planning Scheme.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1) Seek authorisation from the Minister of Planning to prepare Planning Scheme Amendment C232 to the Melton Planning Scheme to implement the findings of the Toolern Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan Review.

2) Upon receipt of authorisation, prepare and exhibit Amendment C232 to the Melton Planning Scheme in accordance with the relevant requirements of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

3) Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and resolve any issues that are raised by submitters during the exhibition process prior to the amendment being reported back to Council for referral to a Planning Panel or adoption of the amendment.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

In the City of Melton Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs) are prepared to guide development in areas subject to the Urban Growth Zone. Development Contribution Plans (DCPs) are prepared to identify transport and community infrastructure projects that are required to service the growing community and identify the amount of money to be collected from the DCP to provide the required infrastructure.

PSP Guidelines prepared by the Victorian Planning Authority state that PSP and DCP documents should be reviewed at least every five years to monitor development.

The Toolern PSP and DCP were prepared by the Growth Areas Authority (now known as the Victorian Planning Authority) and gazetted into the Melton Planning Scheme in 2010 and have been amended multiple times. Despite these minor updates, a complete review of the PSP and DCP remained outstanding.

In October 2019 a team was created to review the Toolern PSP and DCP documents. The review is now complete, and it has recommended that:

- The Toolern DCP be changed to incorporate new infrastructure projects, delete redundant infrastructure projects, incorporate new land areas for infrastructure projects, incorporate new land acquisition values for infrastructure projects, incorporate new construction costs for infrastructure projects, and the incorporation of functional layout plans / road cross-sections / project cost sheets;
- The Toolern PSP be refreshed to ensure it is up to date; and
- Changes to ordinance within the Melton Planning Scheme to give effect to the changes to the Toolern PSP and DCP documents.

The review of the Toolern PSP and DCP documents found that eleven important transport projects identified in the approved Paynes Road and Rockbank Precinct Structure Plans are missing from the Toolern DCP (three intersection projects, three road projects, and five bridge projects), and three transport projects (one intersection project and two bridge projects) are missing from the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework* that was adopted by Council in December 2019.

The review of the Toolern PSP and DCP documents has found that transport, and community and recreation projects identified for Council to deliver were not informed by a concept design or detailed cost assessment. The review has prepared concept designs of the infrastructure to be delivered and has had those projects costed. The review has found a gap of approximately $234 million between the levies currently being collected, and the amount that Council will need to fund land costs and construct the infrastructure. This amendment seeks to recover some of the funding gap.

Amendment C232 to the Melton Planning Scheme, proposes to implement the recommendations of the Toolern PSP and DCP Review by making changes to the Toolern PSP and DCP documents, and associated changes to the ordinance in the Melton Planning Scheme.

Council will seek authorisation from the Minister of Planning to prepare and exhibit Amendment C232 to the Melton Planning Scheme.

2. Background/Issues

In the City of Melton Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs) are prepared to guide development in areas subject to the Urban Growth Zone. Development Contribution Plans (DCPs) are prepared to identify transport and community infrastructure projects that are required to service the growing community and identifies the amount of money to be collected from the DCP area to acquire land and construct the required infrastructure.

PSP Guidelines prepared by the Victoria Planning Authority state that PSP and DCP documents should be reviewed at least every five years to monitor development.

The Toolern PSP and DCP were prepared by the Growth Areas Authority (now known as the Victorian Planning Authority) and gazetted into the Melton Planning Scheme in 2010.

The Toolern PSP was one of the first PSPs to be prepared in Victoria. The Toolern PSP covers an area of approximately 2,200 hectares, making it the largest PSP in the State. The Toolern PSP allocated land based on a forecast population of 55,000 people in 24,000 dwellings.

<u>Toolern PSP and DCP Review</u>

In October 2019 a team was created to undertake a review of the Toolern PSP and DCP documents, and associated planning scheme ordinance.

The review has been summarised in a planning report (**Attachment 1**). The review has identified improvements that should be made to the Toolern PSP and DCP documents. The review identified the following changes to the documents:

- The Rockbank PSP and DCP was approved in 2016. The Rockbank DCP includes new transport construction projects along Paynes Road (shared boundary with the Toolern PSP area) that are 50% apportioned to the Toolern DCP. These projects are not currently included in the Toolern DCP and therefore no money is currently being collected for these projects in the Toolern DCP.
- The Paynes Road PSP was approved in 2016. The Paynes Road PSP includes new transport construction projects along Mount Cottrell Road (shared boundary with the Toolern PSP area) that are 50% apportioned to the Toolern DCP. These projects are not currently included in the Toolern DCP and therefore no money is currently being collected for these projects from the Toolern DCP.

- The Toolern (Cobblebank) Major Activity Centre was elevated to a Metropolitan Activity Centre in 2017 *(Plan Melbourne 2017-2050).* The Toolern PSP currently identifies the activity centre as a Principal Activity Centre.
- The *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework* was adopted by Council in December 2019, which identified several transport projects that should be added to the Toolern DCP. These projects are not currently identified in the Toolern DCP and therefore no money is being collected for these projects in the Toolern DCP.
- The number of dwellings being delivered and the household size in the PSP area have been higher than forecast, resulting in increased demand for community and recreation infrastructure.
- Developers and Council have encountered difficulties in delivering transport projects as Functional Layout Plans had not been prepared for the transport network, which has resulted in the Toolern PSP and DCP providing insufficient land for transport projects.
- Developers have reported to Council that the transport project costs have been significantly underestimated, as project cost sheets had not been prepared for transport projects.
- Melbourne Water have reviewed the Drainage Services Schemes operating in the Toolern PSP area and require changes to the amount of land required for drainage.

Heritage Overlay Schedule 74 – Parklea

Council engaged Extent Heritage consultants to undertake a review of Heritage Overlay Schedule 74 – Parklea, as the house identified in the Statement of Significance burnt down in 2014. This report can be found on the Toolern Review webpage on Council's website. Extent Heritage have recommended the following changes to the Toolern PSP and ordinance:

- Remove Schedule 74 to the Heritage Overlay as the house burnt down in 2014.
- Add a guideline to the Toolern PSP requiring on-site interpretation of the removed place and remaining extant fabric within the Toolern Creek reserve (Toolern Creek ford, cobbled driveway, and driveway plantings).

Community and Recreation Infrastructure

Council engaged ASR Research to undertake a review of the demographics of the Toolern PSP area. This report can be found on the Toolern Review webpage on Council's website. They have recommended the following changes to the Toolern PSP:

- Increase the number of dwellings in the Toolern PSP from 24,000 to 25,000.
- Increase the household size from 2.3 to 2.7 people.
- Increase the projected population from 55,000 to 68,000 people.

ASR Research then undertook a review of the community and recreation infrastructure based on the changes to the forecast population. This report can be found on the Toolern Review webpage on Council's website. They have recommended the following changes to the Toolern PSP and DCP:

- The size of community centres in the Toolern PSP should be increased in size to accommodate the increased population (increase the number of early childhood rooms in each of the centres from three rooms to four rooms).
- Adopt the community centre designs and project cost sheets prepared by HEDE Architects into the Toolern DCP.
- Adopt the VPA's Benchmark Infrastructure Costs for the construction of Active Open Space Reserves.

- Relocate the non-government primary school shown in Community Hub 3 to Community Hub 7.
- Increase the size of the non-government primary school in Community Hub 2 to 3.0 hectares (Ha).
- Decrease the size of the active open space reserve in Community Hub 2 by 0.2 Ha and increase the size of the community centre in Community Hub 2 by 0.2 Ha.
- Decrease the size of the government primary school in Community Hub 5 by 0.2 Ha and increase the size of the community centre in Community Hub 5 by 0.2 Ha.
- Relocate the indoor recreation centre and civic centre from land on the east side of Ferris Road to the west side of Ferris Road to sites owned by Melton City Council.
- Update the names and descriptions of community and recreation infrastructure to be consistent with naming and description conventions used in contemporary PSPs and DCPs.

Transport Infrastructure

Council officers undertook a review of the Rockbank PSP and DCP, and the Paynes Road PSP and DCP, which revealed projects that were apportioned to the Toolern DCP, and were not listed as projects in the Toolern DCP:

- Add the missing projects from the Rockbank PSP along Paynes Road to the Toolern PSP / DCP (three intersection projects, three road projects, and two bridge projects).
- Add the missing projects from the Paynes Road PSP along Mount Cottrell Road to the Toolern PSP / DCP (three bridge projects).

Council officers held a workshop with State Government Agencies that identified the following redundant projects that should be deleted from the Toolern PSP and DCP:

- Delete two road projects and two intersection projects from the Toolern PSP / DCP as they are in the future Rockbank South PSP area.
- Delete two rail line pedestrian underpasses and two pedestrian bridges over the Toolern Creek, as they are no longer required.

Council officers undertook a review of the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework, December 2019* and the *Cobblebank Employment and Mixed-Use Urban Design Framework, December 2019* to identify projects that should be added to the Toolern PSP and DCP:

- Add three transport projects from the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework* to the Toolern PSP / DCP (two bridge projects and one intersection project).

Council engaged Cardno to review the transport infrastructure items identified in the Toolern PSP and DCP. Cardno prepared Functional Layout Plans for the road network, bridge designs, new road cross-sections, and project cost sheets. This report can be found on the Toolern Review webpage on Council's website. They have recommended the following changes to the Toolern PSP and DCP:

- Incorporate the Functional Layout Plans and Road Cross-Sections into the Toolern DCP. These plans have identified additional land is required to deliver the transport network.
- Incorporate the bridge designs prepared by Cardno into the Toolern DCP.
- Incorporate the transport project cost sheets prepared by Cardno (roads and intersections), and Currie and Brown (bridges) into the Toolern DCP. These project cost sheets result in changes to most of the transport projects in the Toolern DCP.

- Update the names and descriptions of transport infrastructure to be consistent with the naming and description conventions used in contemporary PSPs and DCPs.

Land Valuations

Council engaged Charter Keck Cramer to undertake land valuations for infrastructure identified in the Toolern DCP. This report can be found on the Toolern Review webpage on Council's website. The land valuations have been incorporated into the revised Toolern DCP.

Drainage Infrastructure

Melbourne Water has provided Council changes to be made to the Drainage Service Schemes:

- Change the location and sizes of drainage assets in the Toolern PSP and DCP to reflect the location of assets in Melbourne Water's revised Drainage Service Schemes. This increases the overall amount of land required for drainage in the Toolern PSP area.
- Add a stormwater asset table to the Toolern PSP that identifies the purpose and size of each drainage asset.

Paynes Road PSP

Council officers are recommending that the Toolern PSP and DCP be amended to remove the Paynes Road PSP area from the Toolern DCP, as money is now being collected through the Paynes Road DCP.

Additional Changes

The amendment to the Toolern PSP and DCP documents also includes:

- Update the references to Melton Shire to Melton City.
- Removal of obsolete planning controls.
- Update the references to State Government departments / agencies to reflect their current names e.g. the Growth Areas Authority is now the Victorian Planning Authority.
- Update references to State Government and Council plans and strategies to reflect current editions e.g. Melbourne 2030 is now Plan Melbourne 2017-2050.
- Update terms to be consistent with Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 e.g. the Toolern Major Activity Centre is now the Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre.
- Add new suburb / locality names that were introduced in 2017. The Toolern PSP area covers four new suburbs – Cobblebank, Strathtulloh, Thornhill Park (part) and Weir Views.

<u>Planning Scheme Amendment C232</u>

Council officers have prepared documents for planning scheme amendment C232 to the Melton Planning Scheme. The documents have addressed the matters raised in the previous section of this report.

A planning report has been prepared (**Attachment 1**) which documents how the review was undertaken and summarises the proposed changes to the Toolern PSP and DCP documents. An explanatory report (**Attachment 2**) has been prepared which outlines the strategic justification for the amendment.

The amendment seeks to make the following changes to the Melton Planning Scheme:

- *Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 Urban Growth Zone*

  The proposed changes (**Attachment 3**) include the:

  - Application of the ordinance template as specified by the Minister for Planning in Ministerial Direction – the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
  - Update of references to the Metropolitan Activity Centre.
  - Update of references to State Government Departments and Agencies to reflect their current names.
  - Exemption of non-government schools from requiring a planning permit to use land identified as a non-government school in the PSP (this is standard practice in contemporary PSPs).
  - Introduce a new provision that a permit is required to construct or carry out works associated with a non-government school.
  - Increase the shop floor cap area in the Metropolitan Activity Centre from 30,000 sqm to 70,000 sqm to be consistent with the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework*.
  - Change the requirement for a dwelling in a Commercial 1 Zone to remove the permit exemption for a dwelling with a ground floor frontage greater than two metres.
  - Insert a new application requirement for residential subdivision that all applications must include a table that sets out the amount of land allocated to proposed uses and expected population, dwelling and employment yields.
  - Insert a new application for requirement for all subdivision that creates or changes access to a primary or secondary arterial road must be accompanied by a Traffic Impact Assessment Report.
  - Insert new guidance on land and home sales signs.
  - Amend the guidance on the display of promotions signs to include community uses rather than just education uses.

- *Schedule 3 to Clause 45.06 Development Contributions Plan*

  The proposed changes (**Attachment 4**) include:

  - Application of the ordinance template as specified by the Minister for Planning in Ministerial Direction – the Form and Content of Planning Schemes.
  - Update of references to State Government Departments and Agencies to reflect their current names.
  - Exempt non-government schools and housing provided by or on the behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services from paying Development Infrastructure Levies as required by the *Ministerial Direction – the Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
  - Updates to the Development Infrastructure Levies payable for the four charge areas.

- *Schedule to Clause 66.04 Referral of Permit Applications Under Local Provisions*

  The proposed changes (**Appendix 5**) relocate the referral provisions for land within the Metropolitan Activity Centre, within 500 metres of the former Melton Landfill, and within 440 metres of Technochem Australia to the relevant State Government Departments and Agencies. This content is currently found in Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 Urban Growth Zone.
- *Schedule to Clause 72.04 Incorporated Documents*

  Amend the schedule (**Appendix 6**) to incorporate the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, July 2011 (Amended June 2020)* and *Toolern Development Contributions Plan, July 2011 (Amended June 2022)*.

3. Council and Wellbeing Plan Reference and Policy Reference

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

3. A fast growing, innovative and well-planned City

3.1 A City of 20-minute neighbourhoods.

4. Financial Considerations

The Toolern Development Contributions Plan is collecting money to acquire land and construct identified transport, and community and recreation infrastructure projects located within the Toolern PSP area.

The current Development Infrastructure Levy specified in Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 Development Contributions Plan is collecting approximately $374.8 million (June 2021 dollars) for land acquisition and construction.

The updated land acquisition costs and construction costs attributable to the Toolern PSP area total approximately $609.4 million, resulting in a gap of approximately $234.6 million. The proposed amendment seeks to ensure that some of the $234.6 million gap can be recovered through an amended Development Infrastructure Levy.

Council officer time and resources are involved in the preparation, public exhibition, and adoption of an amendment.

Council is required to pay the statutory fees associated with the amendment process including the cost of an independent planning panel where costs will be incurred for the panel hearing, Council legal representation and Council's expert witnesses (planning expert, economic expert, community infrastructure expert – ASR Research, and transport expert – Cardno).

The costs associated with planning scheme amendments are covered by the recurrent budget of City Design and Strategy.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

Planning scheme amendments are subject to an exhibition process in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. This includes direct notification to affected landowners, notification to government agencies and prescribed Ministers, a notice placed in the local newspaper, and a notice placed in the Government Gazette.

Council staff will be available to meet with landowners during the consultation period. Any submissions received during the exhibition period will be assessed by Council officers who will seek to work with submitters to resolve issues where appropriate.

Once the exhibition period closes, a further report will be provided to Council summarising any submissions made to Amendment C232, the changes made to the amendment as a result of exhibition and recommending whether a planning panel is required.

6. Risk Analysis

If Council chooses not to seek authorisation to prepare a planning scheme amendment, it will expose Council to shortfalls in the funding for essential infrastructure required to service the development occurring in the Toolern PSP area.

7. Options

Council can resolve to:

1) Adopt the findings of the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan Review* (**Appendices 1 to 6**) and seek authorisation to prepare and exhibit a planning scheme amendment in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and resolve any issues; or

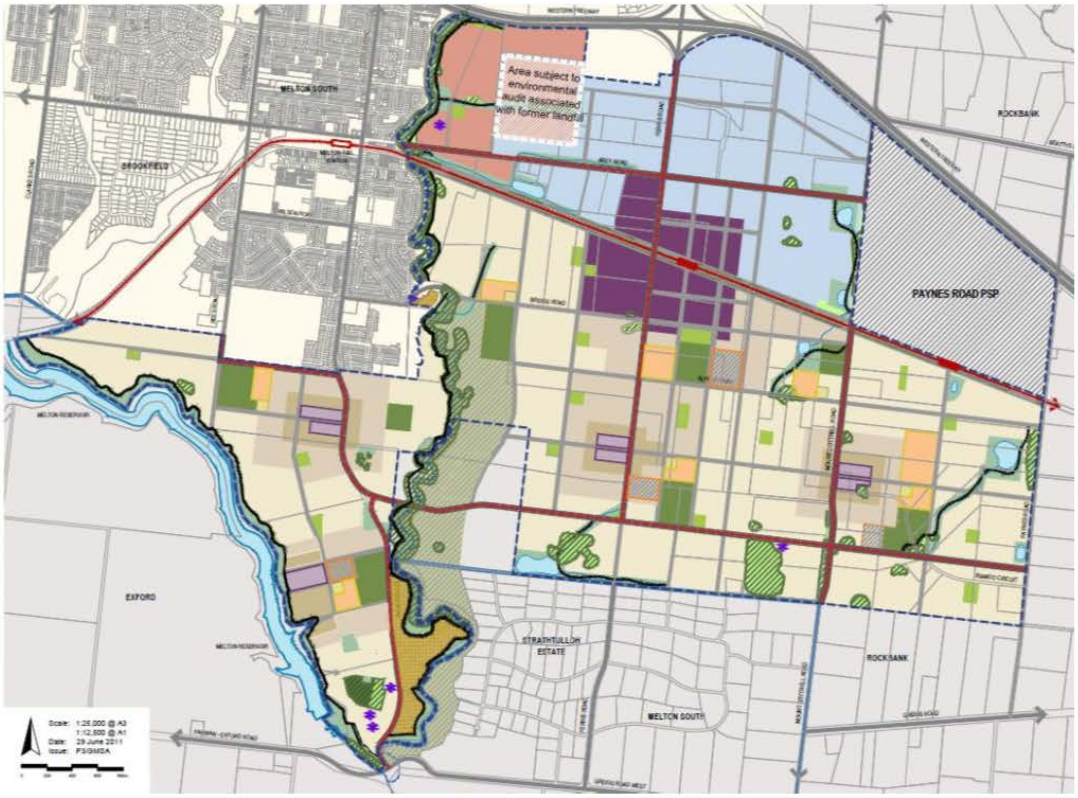
2) Not adopt the findings of the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan Review* (**Appendices 1 to 6**) and not proceed with the planning scheme amendment.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Toolern Development Contributions Plan Review and Precinct Structure Plan Refresh Planning Report, June 2022
2. Amendment C232 Explanatory Report, Undated
3. Amendment C232 Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 Urban Growth Zone, Undated
4. Amendment C232 Schedule 3 to Clause 45.06 Development Contributions Plan, Undated
5. Amendment C232 Schedule to Clause 66.04 Referral of Permit Applications Under Local Provisions, Undated
6. Amendment C232 Schedule to Clause 72.04 Documents Incorporated in this Planning Scheme, Undated

Toolern Development Contributions Plan Review and Precinct Structure Plan Refresh

Planning Report



Melton City Council

June 2022

Contents

Introduction 4
Toolern PSP 5
Toolern DCP 5
Context 8
Overarching Issues 11
Funding Shortfalls 11
Population Estimate 12
Development Services Scheme 12
Scope of the Review 13
Methodology 15
Recommended Changes 17
General Terms 17
Guidelines and Requirements 18
Review of State Government Strategies and Plans 19
DCP Errors 20
Urban Design Frameworks 21
Heritage Overlay Review 24
Community and Recreation Infrastructure Review 25
Transport Infrastructure Review 31
Projects to be Removed 31
New Projects 32
Changes to the Southern East-West Arterial Road 34
Constructed and Committed Projects 34
Functional Layout Plans 35
Land Valuations 36
Development Services Scheme Review 37
Development Infrastructure Levy 39
Community Infrastructure Levy 41
Planning Scheme Ordinance 42
Schedule 3 to the Urban Growth Zone 42
Schedule 3 to the Development Contributions Plan Overlay 43
Appendix 1 – Changes to Project Names and Project Descriptions 44
Appendix 2 – New Projects 53
Appendix 3 – Project Apportionments 55
Appendix 4 – Status of Projects 57

Appendix 5 – Deleted Project Values 65
Appendix 6 – New Project Values 69
Appendix 7 – Constructed Projects 72

Introduction

A Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) is a strategic plan that manages the development of new greenfield communities by allocating its future urban structure and determining the infrastructure required for its support. The delivery of this infrastructure is committed to in an associated Development Contributions Plan (DCP), which enables the collection of contributions from development proponents within the PSP area.

PSP guidelines prepared by the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) state that PSP and DCP documents should be reviewed at least every five years to monitor development.

The Toolern PSP and DCP were gazetted into the Melton Planning Scheme in 2010 and have been amended many times, see Table 1 below. Parts of the PSP have changed, however, a complete review of the PSP and DCP in its entirety remained outstanding. This review seeks to understand how development of the Toolern PSP area has been progressing and whether changes are required in the strategic direction of the PSP and the levy rates within the DCP to improve its effectiveness.

Table 1. Summary of amendments to the Toolern PSP and DCP documents

Date	Amendment No.	Description
October 2010	C084 (Part 1)	**Incorporated into Planning Scheme** Incorporate the Toolern PSP (including the Toolern Native Vegetation Precinct Plan) and the DCP into the Melton Planning Scheme
November 2011	C084 (Part 2)	**Inclusion of land centred on Abey Road** Inclusion of land at Abey Road that was excluded from C084 (Part 1). Inclusion of an amenity buffer for an existing land use (Technochem Facility)
December 2015	C161	**Paynes Road PSP removed** Separate the Paynes Road Precinct Structure Plan from the Toolern Precinct Structure Plan. This amendment permitted the Paynes Road PSP to be used as a residential use, rather than an employment use.
February 2019	C172	**Paynes Road Railway Station added** Paynes Road railway station added to the Toolern PSP area

Based on the findings of this review, a Planning Scheme Amendment will be required to implement the recommendations.

The review of the Toolern PSP and DCP documents has recommended that:

- The Toolern DCP be changed to incorporate new infrastructure projects required to service the rapidly growing community, delete redundant infrastructure projects, new land areas for infrastructure projects, new land acquisition values for infrastructure projects, new construction costs for infrastructure projects, and the incorporation of functional layout plans / road cross-sections / project cost sheets.
- The Toolern PSP be refreshed to ensure it is up to date. The changes to the PSP have aimed to be light handed and includes the removal of references to redundant state plans and strategies, and changes to names of state government departments and agencies to reflect their current names.

Toolern PSP

The Toolern PSP is located within the municipality of Melton and covers an area of approximately 2,200 hectares, making it one of the largest PSP areas in the State. The future urban structure was allocated based on a forecasted population of 55,000 residents who would be accommodated in around 24,000 dwellings, which include detached, semi-detached, townhouse and apartment developments. This information helped inform the identification of community and recreation infrastructure, employment areas and transport connectivity to service the future population.

The northern portion of the PSP area is identified as an employment and mixed-use precinct, with a focus on the provision of employment land. Adjacent to this precinct is the Cobblebank (Toolern) Metropolitan Activity Centre. This higher order activity centre is planned to be a catalyst for health, justice, educational, and professional services to meet demands of the wider surrounding region.

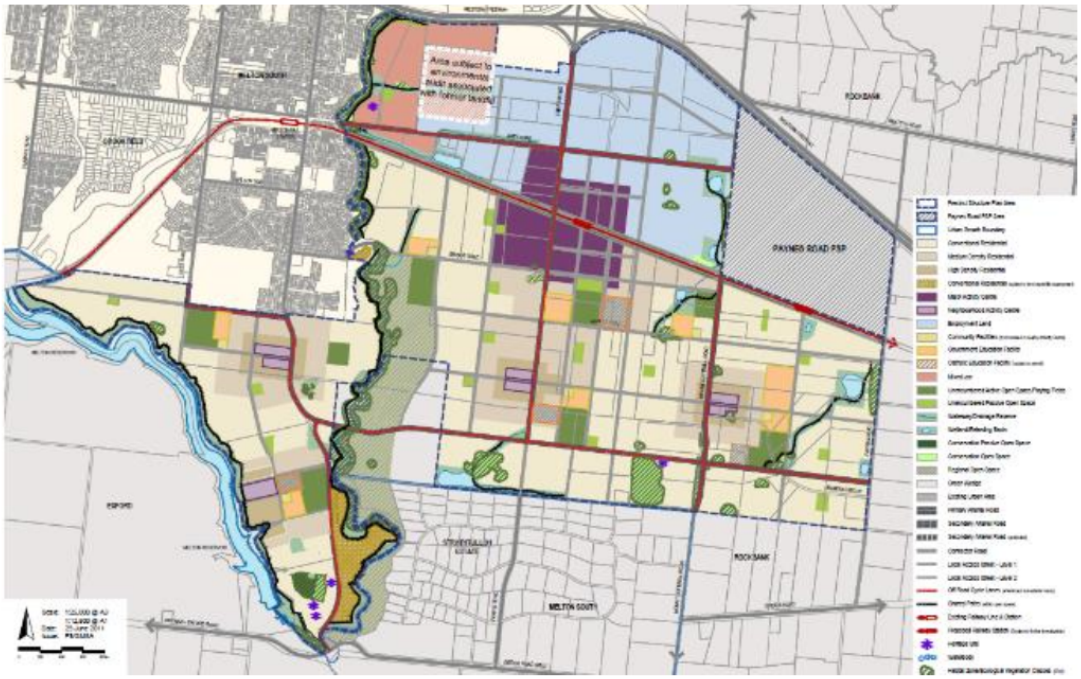


Figure 1. Future urban structure of the Toolern PSP area.

Toolern DCP

The Toolern DCP was prepared in conjunction with the PSP to support the delivery of infrastructure identified to service the future communities. The PSP helped identify the types and number of infrastructure items required, which are categorised into community and recreation infrastructure projects and transport infrastructure projects. The responsibility of delivering DCP infrastructure lies with Council, unless otherwise agreed to through a Section 173 agreement in which a developer may provide 'land-in-kind' or 'works-in-kind' instead of paying the DCP levy.

The DCP is a strategic planning policy tool to collect funds for the delivery of this infrastructure. There are two types of funding being collected:

- Development Infrastructure Levy (DIL) – the DIL is a contribution towards major infrastructure to be delivered in the PSP area. The DIL is paid by the developer at the time of subdivision. The following works, services and facilities can be funded from a DIL:
  - Acquisition of land for roads, public transport corridors, drainage, public open space, and community facilities.
  - Construction of roads, including bicycle and pedestrian paths, and traffic management and control devices (this includes the construction of bridges and intersections).
  - Basic improvements to public open space, including earthworks, landscaping, fencing, seating, and playground equipment.
  - Drainage works.
  - Buildings and works associated with the construction of maternal and child health centres, childcare centres, kindergartens, or any centre that provides these facilities in combination.
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - the CIL is collected from future homeowners to contribute towards community facilities. The CIL has a maximum cap stipulated in the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, which was $900 per dwelling at the time of the PSP preparation (the CIL has an indexed value of $1,225 in June 2021). The CIL pays for the construction of all other buildings or facilities used for community or social purposes. In the Toolern DCP the CIL is paying for the following infrastructure:
  - Community rooms in the six multipurpose community centres; and
  - Pavilions associated with the eight active open space reserves.

The Toolern DCP is currently collecting levies for infrastructure in five charge areas, see Figure 2 and Table 2.

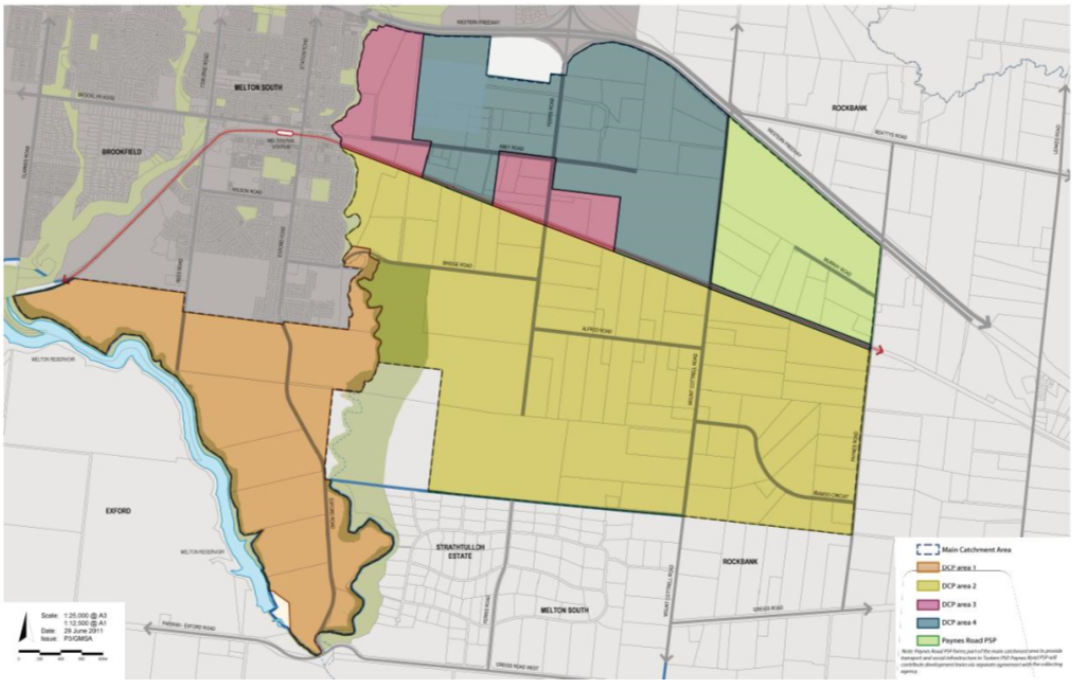


Figure 2. Toolern PSP Charge Areas

Table 2. Toolern PSP Charge areas

Charge Area	Community Infrastructure	Development Infrastructure
1 - Residential Area Land west of the Toolern Creek	• Recreation Infrastructure located in Areas 1 and 2 • Community Centres in Area 1 • Land purchase for the library, indoor recreation centre, and plaza in the Metropolitan Activity Centre	• Contributions towards all transport projects in Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4
2 - Residential Area Land east of the Toolern Creek and south of the rail line	• Recreation Infrastructure located in Areas 1 and 2 • Community Centres in Area 2 • Land purchase for the library, indoor recreation centre, and plaza in the Metropolitan Activity Centre	• Contributions towards all transport projects in Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4
3 – Residential Area Mixed-use land north of the rail line. Section of the Metro Activity Centre north of the rail line	• Recreation Infrastructure located in Hub 6 in Area 2 • Community Centre in Hub 6 in Area 2 • Land purchase for the library, indoor recreation centre, and plaza in the Metropolitan Activity Centre	• Contributions towards all transport projects in Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4
4 - Industrial Area Industrial land north of the rail line	• Not applicable	• Contributions towards all transport projects (except the shared path in the regional park) in Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4
5 - Residential Area Paynes Road PSP area	• Collecting money for the development of infrastructure in the Paynes Road PSP Area through the Paynes Road DCP	• Contributions towards all transport projects in Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4 • When the Paynes Road PSP was created it did not include a DCP • Development infrastructure levies were to be collected through the Toolern DCP until the Paynes Road DCP was created • The Paynes Road DCP has now been created • It is proposed through this review that the Paynes Road PSP area be removed from the Toolern DCP, as money is now being collected through the Paynes Road DCP rather than the Toolern DCP

The review has identified that the transport, and community and recreation project costs have been significantly under costed which is resulting in developers being poorly reimbursed for works-in-kind projects, and Council collecting insufficient money to build the required infrastructure.

Context

Since the gazettal of the Toolern PSP and DCP in 2010, several changes have occurred in the PSP area, guidance in the preparation of PSPs and DCPs, and the metropolitan strategic plan, *Plan Melbourne*. These have had consequences for the PSP area and have informed the scope of the review. The timeline below provides an overview of the major changes to the PSP area and policy influencing its development

Table 3. Changes to Toolern PSP context - 2005 to present

Year	Event	Implications
2005 November	Urban Growth Boundary extended to include the Toolern PSP area	• Work commences shortly thereafter on the preparation of the Toolern PSP
2009 October	PSP Guidelines introduced by the Growth Areas Authority (now the Victorian Planning Authority)	• Toolern PSP preparation is used as a pilot study for the new guidelines
2010 August	Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) extended to include all land between Melton Township and Caroline Springs	• Melton Township and the Toolern PSP area is no longer a satellite city • The change to the UGB creates connectivity issues for Toolern PSP to the new adjoining Rockbank PSP area to the east
2010 November	Toolern PSP and DCP gazetted into Melton Planning Scheme (C84-1)	• Development is now permitted in the Toolern PSP area subject to it being generally in accordance with the PSP
2010 November	Toolern PSP and DCP updated (C84-2)	• The PSP and DCP is updated to include reference to an amenity setback buffer area surrounding Technochem (a business on Abey Road)
2011	Work commences on the Atherstone residential estate	• Atherstone is the major residential estate in the Toolern PSP area, occupying approximately one quarter of the available residential land
2012	*West Growth Corridor Plan* released by the Growth Areas Authority	• Identified the Toolern Town Centre as a Principal Town Centre • Identified two future train stations in the Toolern PSP area at Ferris Road (Cobblebank) and Paynes Road (Thornhill Park) • Changed the land in the Paynes Road PSP area from employment to residential, which set the scene for the Paynes Road PSP
2012	*Toolern Town Centre Urban Design Framework* adopted	• The UDF was prepared to identify the location of the proposed Melton Hospital and health precinct, justice precinct, and Council assets
2013 August	Applied zones updated in Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 Urban Growth Zone (C148)	• In 2013 the State Government replaced the commercial and residential zones in the Melton Planning Scheme with a suite of new zones • The applied zones referenced in Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 were updated to reflect the new suite of zones
2014 April	Melton *Retail and Activity Centre Strategy* adopted by Council	• Identifies the Cobblebank (Toolern) Metropolitan Activity Centre as the highest order activity centre in the City of Melton • Identifies the remaining town centres in the Toolern PSP as Neighbourhood Activity Centres
2014 May	The Melbourne metropolitan planning strategy released – *Plan Melbourne*	• The Cobblebank (Toolern) major activity centres is identified as a Principal Activity Centre, which encourages intensified growth within the centre
2014 October	Toolern Park PSP and DCP is approved (C122)	• The Toolern Park PSP fills a small area that was excised from the Toolern PSP area
2014	Melbourne Water commences the review of all Drainage Service Schemes in the Toolern PSP area	• The size and location of drainage assets within the PSP area is updated. It is recommended that the area encumbered by drainage be increased
2015	Western Business Accelerator and Centre of Excellence (BACE) opens	• Provides support for businesses in the City of Melton and starts employment activity in the future Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre

Year	Event	Implications
2016 March	Paynes Road PSP is gazetted into the Melton Planning Scheme (C161)	• The Paynes Road PSP area is removed from the Toolern PSP area • Land is converted from an employment use to a residential use, implications for DCP funding as a DCP was not prepared for the PSP
2016 November	Rockbank PSP is gazetted into the Melton Planning Scheme (C145)	• Land directly east of the Toolern PSP. Includes Paynes Road upgrade projects that are apportioned to the Toolern PSP area
2017	A new metropolitan strategy for Melbourne is released - *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*	• The Cobblebank (Toolern) Activity Centre is upgraded from a Principal to a Metropolitan Activity Centre (higher order centre with a much wider catchment)
2017 August	11 new suburbs created in the City of Melton	• The Toolern PSP area was broken into four new suburbs – Weir Views, Cobblebank, Strathtulloh and Thornhill Park, which enables community and recreation infrastructure to be renamed to reflect the suburb it is located within
2018 July	Infrastructure Contributions Plans introduced into Planning system	• Introduction of standardised functional layout plan designs and benchmark costing sheets for ICP infrastructure items to fast-track development process with more adequate levy rates
2018 October	*Western Rail Plan* project announced	• The project will electrify the rail line to Melton and provide separated train tracks to Ballarat. Includes a new train station in Thornhill Park
2019 February	Paynes Road Railway Station added to Toolern PSP	• Proposed new station identified along the current Melton Rail Line in Thornhill Park
2019 December	*Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre* (CMAC) *Urban Design Framework* (UDF) adopted by Council *Cobblebank Employment and Mixed-Use* (CEMU) *UDF* adopted by Council Cobblebank Station opened	• *CMAC UDF* prepared to replace the Toolern Town Centre UDF 2012. This update was required to reflect the new status of the town centre as a Metropolitan Activity Centre • *CEMU UDF* prepared to provide guidance on development in the Mixed-Use and Employment areas located to the north of the Melton rail corridor • The opening of the station in 2019 was delivered as part of the Ballarat Line Upgrade project. This project also created a second track to Melton, which has facilitated the ability of trains being able to run in both directions all day
2020 January	Review of Toolern PSP and DCP commences	• Primary focus is on reducing the significant funding shortfall identified for transport, and community and recreation infrastructure
2020 December	Paynes Road DCP finalised	• Paynes Road DCP is prepared which separates the PSP area from the Toolern DCP. Identifies project costs for road, intersection and bridge projects along Mt Cottrell Road and apportions these works to the Toolern DCP
2021 August	Minister for Planning applies the Public Acquisition Overlay to the Melton Hospital site (GC190)	• Located within CMAC

In May 2022 there were 71 active planning permits associated with subdivisions in the residential and employment areas in the Toolern PSP area.

In May 2022 there were 25 named residential estates in the Toolern PSP area, and three named industrial estates. Four of the residential estates with planning permits are yet to be named.

Planning permits that permit staged subdivision currently cover approximately 60% of the Toolern PSP area (see Table 4).

Table 4. Percentage of each charge area subject to subdivision planning permits

Charge Area	Approx. Area % Subject to Subdivision Planning Permits
1	87%
2	77%
3	3%
4	6%

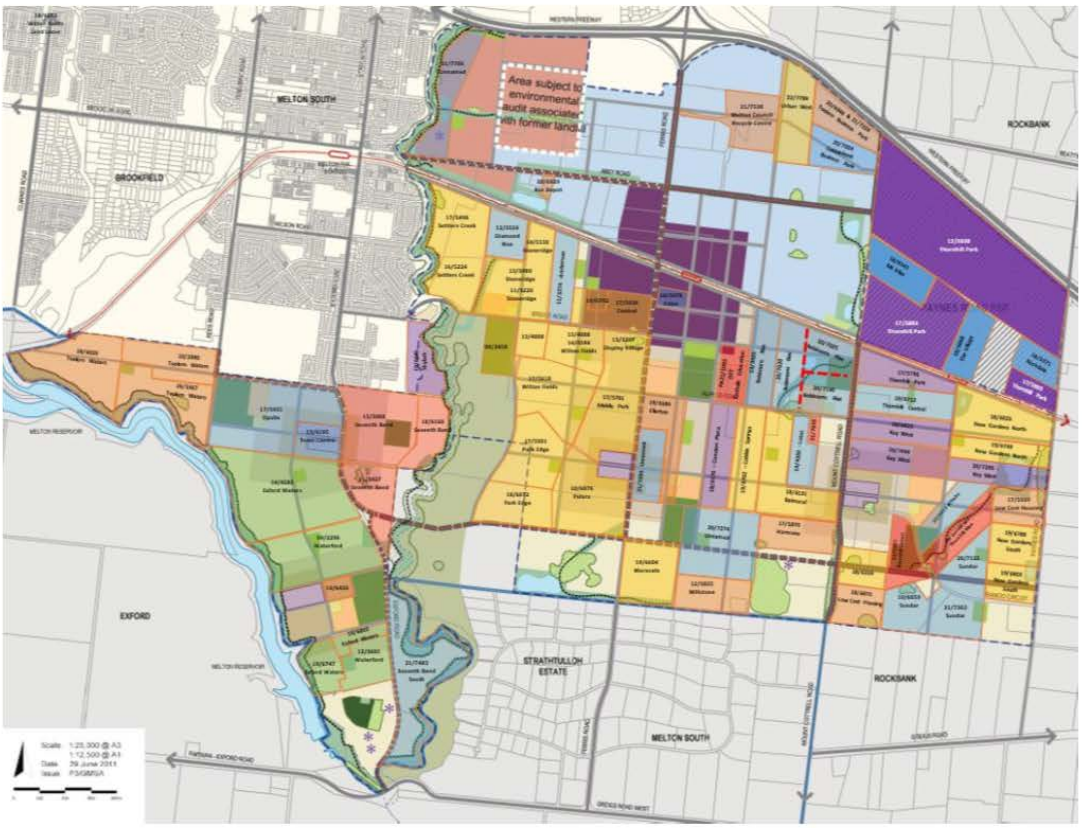


Figure 3. Estate Boundaries and Subdivision / Development Planning Permit Applications

Overarching Issues

As evident from the timeline, development within the municipality of Melton, and particularly the Toolern PSP area, has occurred at a rapid pace. This has resulted in a majority of the PSP area being committed to a development proposal and a funding arrangement for the delivery of DCP infrastructure.

Below is a summary of some of the issues that have been identified in the Toolern PSP area, which has resulted in the need for this review.

Funding Shortfalls

It has been identified that there are significant shortfalls in the funding arrangements to deliver transport, and community and recreation infrastructure. This is dues to the absence of project cost sheets for any of these projects.

The shortfalls for transport infrastructure are due to the following problems with the preparation and administration of the Toolern DCP:

- Functional Layout Plans were not prepared for the transport system, which has resulted in inadequate land being reserved for transport projects.
- Functional Layout Plans were not prepared for the transport system, which has resulted in uncertainty on how the transport system will look and perform once it is delivered.
- The absence of Functional Layout Plans resulted in inadequate money being collected to construct the interim road and intersection works.
- Project cost sheets were not prepared for transport projects.
- Bridge designs were not prepared for the 14 bridges located within the Toolern PSP area and project cost sheets were not prepared for them, which has resulted in ambiguity on what the bridges will look like and inadequate money being collected for their construction.
- The Paynes Road and Rockbank PSPs have identified new transport projects within the Toolern PSP area and have apportioned some of the construction costs for these projects to the Toolern DCP. These projects are not shown in the Toolern PSP or DCP documents, and the Toolern DCP is not currently collecting money for the construction of these projects.
- The *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework* has identified two bridge projects and one intersection project that are required to facilitate safe and efficient traffic movements to, and through, the Metropolitan Activity Centre. These projects are not shown in the Toolern PSP or DCP documents, and the Toolern DCP is not currently collecting money for the construction of these projects.

The shortfalls for community and recreation infrastructure are due to the following problems with the preparation of the Toolern DCP:

- Community Centre, Active Recreation Reserve and Pavilion designs were not prepared.
- Project cost sheets were not prepared for community and recreation infrastructure.

The infrastructure construction shortfalls can be identified through a comparison of projects in the Toolern PSP against similar sized projects in more contemporary Development Contribution Plans and Infrastructure Contributions Plans. For example:

- Active Recreation Reserve 01 (AR01) in the Toolern PSP has identified the cost of constructing a 9.83 Ha reserve as $3,827,633 in $2021/2022. The cost attributed to the construction a 10 Ha active recreation reserve in the Kororoit / Plumpton / Mt Atkinson ICPs is identified as $11,020,402 in

$2021/2022. This illustrates that the Toolern DCP is currently collecting only 35% of the construction costs needed. This results in a construction shortfall of approximately $7.2 million.

- Intersection 22 (IT22) in the Toolern PSP is a secondary arterial road intersection with a connector road. The Toolern DCP is currently collecting $1,353,545 for the construction of this intersection ($2021/2022). The VPA benchmark costs for a similar project is $4,169,574 in $2021/2022. This illustrates that the Toolern DCP is only collecting 32% of the construction costs needed. This results in a shortfall of approximately $2.8 million.

Shortfalls such as the exampled above are replicated across many of the transport projects, and recreation projects.

Population Estimate

The Toolern DCP assumed that the conventional density areas would be delivered at a residential density of 10 to 15 dwellings per net developable hectare. This is well below the density targets identified in more contemporary PSPs, which identify a minimum development rate of 16.5 dwellings per hectare.

It is noted that conventional density residential development in the Toolern PSP is achieving a density closer to 16.5 dwellings per hectare, which is resulting in a much greater population than originally forecast. Compounding this problem is the Toolern PSP assumed an unusually small household size, which has resulted in the population of the Toolern PSP area being significantly underestimated.

Development Services Scheme

Melbourne Water have undertaken a review of the Development Services Schemes (DSS) which apply to the Toolern PSP area. The PSP currently identifies three water catchment areas that drain to the Werribee River, the Toolern Creek, and the Kororoit Creek. The DSS review has broken the three catchments into eight DSS areas, and has identified that the drainage assets identified in the current PSP are insufficient and has created a new drainage plan that changes the size, location and function of most of the assets currently identified in the Toolern PSP.

Scope of the Review

In scope

The intent of this review is to understand the effectiveness of the existing PSP and DCP and will seek to refresh the documents without rewriting existing objectives, requirements, and guidelines. This review seeks to ensure the contents are up to date, accurate and errors are corrected by including the following scope:

- Review of text and plans to identify obvious errors and issues that need clarification.
- Update the PSP to include reference to any new State and Council documents such as Plan Melbourne, City of Melton Retail and Activity Centres Strategy etc. relevant to the Toolern PSP.
- Incorporate the outputs of the Melbourne Water Drainage Services Scheme Review.
- Remove obsolete references to the Paynes Road PSP area.
- Changes to existing DCP projects and potential new DCP projects as a result of the preparation of the Paynes Road PSP, Rockbank PSP and Toolern Park PSP.
- Prepare Functional Layout Plans for the transport network based on the Functional Layout Plans in the Victorian Planning Authority's *Benchmark Infrastructure Report*, April 2019.
- Prepare cost sheets for transport projects based on the cost sheets in the Victorian Planning Authority's *Benchmark Infrastructure Report*, April 2019.
- Review costs and land use budgets for all DCP projects.
- Review development infrastructure levy (DIL) rate as a result of any changes to the project costs and/or scope.
- Incorporate the recommendations from the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework* (UDF).
- Appraisal of density targets and actual density provision in developed areas and areas subject to a proposed or approved development plan. Conduct an audit of community and recreation infrastructure to determine supply / demand.
- Prepare cost sheets for community and recreation projects based on the cost sheets in the Victorian Planning Authority's *Benchmark Infrastructure Report*, April 2019.
- Investigate whether Heritage Overlay Schedule 74 - Parklea should be retained as the homestead has burnt down.
- Delete the heritage asset shown on Mount Cottrell Road as this place is not identified in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay.
- Update the PSP and DCP to show the revised location of school sites in conjunction with the intentions of Catholic Education.
- A Planning Scheme Amendment to implement the final report's recommendations.

Out of Scope

The review is primarily a refresh of the existing PSP and DCP, with updates to infrastructure project needs in accordance with population growth demand, and changes to levy rates to adequately collect contributions to deliver required infrastructure. Therefore, the following aspects were outside the scope of review:

- No significant change to the location of active open space, activity centres, and passive open space area. These are significant changes that would have a broader impact on the PSP area.
- Changes to the content of the Paynes Road PSP or Toolern Park PSP.
- A review of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is not within scope of the project and the existing rate of $900 per dwelling will remain (this will be indexed to $1,225 (June 2021 dollars)), despite the Minister updating the maximum levy rate to $1,150 per dwelling. The distinction between the Development Infrastructure Levy and CIL will remain.

- The State Government's new Development Contributions System (i.e. the standardised Infrastructure Contributions Plan) will not be included, as they do not apply retrospectively to existing DCPs.
- The *Native Vegetation Precinct Plan* will not be included as the site is not subject to the Melbourne Strategic Assessment area.

Given the size and complexity of this review representatives from the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) formed part of the Project Control Group which provided advice on the review at key stages.

Methodology

The approach adopted to undertake this review was informed by the scope, which required detailed understanding of transport infrastructure delivery needs, and whether sufficient community and recreation infrastructure was allocated to service the projected population.

Table 5 summarises the specialists engaged to conduct reviews, and the departments consulted.

Table 5. Contributions from Consultants and Council Departments in undertaking the review.

Consultant/Department	Nature of Role	Implications for PSP/DCP
Transport Infrastructure Review		
• Cardno (and sub-consultant Currie and Brown)	• Prepared Functional Layout Plans (FLPs) • Prepared project cost sheets associated with the FLPs • Prepared new road cross-sections • Prepared a table that identifies the land areas for transport on a property specific basis	• FLPs created to be added to the DCP • Project costs sheets to be added to the DCP • Add new cross-sections to the PSP • Alter land areas associated with transport projects • Informed changes to DIL rates for DCP transport projects
• Council Engineers • VicRoads • Department of Transport • VPA • DELWP	• Reviewed and approved Cardno's FLPs • Reviewed and approved Cardno's project cost sheets • Reviewed and approved proposed changes to the DCP transport projects	
Community and Recreation Infrastructure Review		
• ASR Research (and sub-consultants HEDE Architects and Quality Cost Control)	• Reviewed the population projection of the Toolern PSP area • Reviewed the DCP community and recreation infrastructure needs • Provided recommendations on changes to number and type of community centres to cater for childcare and kindergarten needs • Prepared community centre concept designs and associated project cost sheets	• Identified that the number of dwellings should increase from 24,000 to 25,000 • Identified that the population will increase from 55,000 people to 68,000 people • Informed which Community Hubs should have Level 1 or 2 centre designs • Informed changes to DIL rates for DCP community and recreation projects
• Victorian School Building Authority • Catholic Education Office of Melbourne	• Provided advice on the location and size of schools in the PSP area	• Identified minor changes to the size and location of some schools
• Council Community Planners • Council Recreation Planners • Council Early Childhood Service Unit • VPA • DELWP	• Reviewed and approved the revised population projections • Reviewed and approved the proposed changes to community centre designs and costs • Reviewed and approved the change in size to active open space reserves • Reviewed and approved the changes to active open space and pavilion construction costs	
Heritage Review		
• Extent Heritage	• Assessed whether Parklea (HO74) should be retained on the Heritage Overlay, and recommended controls to be included in the PSP	• Remove Parklea (HO74) from the Heritage Overlay • Add requirements and guidelines in PSP specific to Parklea
Development Services Scheme (DSS) Review		
• Melbourne Water	• Provided new boundaries for DSS areas	• New integrated water management plan created for the PSP, which revises the DSS boundaries, and the

Consultant/Department	Nature of Role	Implications for PSP/DCP
	• Recommended changes to the size and location of stormwater assets throughout the PSP area • Created a stormwater asset table to be included in the PSP	location and size of stormwater assets • Stormwater asset table created to be incorporated into the PSP
• Council Engineers	• Reviewed the changed stormwater assets	
Land Valuations		
• Charter Keck Cramer	• Prepared new land valuations taking into consideration the changes to land areas required for drainage, transport, and community and recreation infrastructure	• Identified new land valuations to be incorporated into the Toolern DCP • Informed changes to DIL rates for infrastructure projects
• Council Finance Services Unit	• Reviewed the land valuations	
Development Contribution Levy Rates		
• Council Major Development Planners • Council Finance Services Unit	• Assisted with updates on permits issued within the Toolern PSP area • Provided information about DIL and CIL funds collected to date • Provided information on projects delivered, are under construction, or are about to commence construction • Provided information about Section 173 agreements	• Information was used to determine whether the existing project costs should be retained in the PSP (for constructed projects), or whether new project costs should be prepared

A special project unit was created in Council to undertake this work, the Toolern Review Team. In addition to managing these consultant / internal relations to support the project, the team undertook review of the PSP and DCP contents to identify errors, updates, and inconsistencies for corrections.

In the early stages of the review, Council sent out letters to all landowners and stakeholders to notify them of the review and for their feedback on any perceived issues or matters to be taken into consideration. Stakeholders were made aware of the scope of review and the issue identified in the significant DCP levy shortfall, which was the primary concern of the review.

Recommended Changes

General Terms

A review was undertaken of the Toolern PSP and DCP documents to check the accuracy of terminology within the document and to identify errors and contradictions.

General changes have been recommended to update names of authorities, correct errors and fix contradictory statements / figures. The terms requiring updates can generally be categorised into the areas identified below in Table 6.

Table 6. Examples of updated terms and references

Type	Examples
Municipal reference	• *Melton Shire Council* replaced with *Melton City Council* • *Shire of Melton* replaced with the *City of Melton*
Changes to governance structure of State Government Departments	• *Department of Sustainability and Environment* replaced with *Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning* • *Department of Education and Early Childhood Development* replaced with *Department of Education and Training* • *Growth Areas Authority* replaced with the *Victorian Planning Authority*
Updated State Strategic document titles	• *State Planning Policy Framework* replaced by *Planning Policy Framework* • *Victorian Transport Plan* replaced with updated *Western Rail Plan*
Removal of abbreviations	• *Fwy* replaced with *Freeway* • *Rd* replaced with *Road*
Removal of obsolete planning controls	• HO106 is not subject to the heritage overlay and therefore reference to this should be deleted from the document
References to Paynes Road PSP	• When the Paynes Road PSP was created it did not include a DCP • Development infrastructure levies were to be collected through the Toolern DCP until the Paynes Road DCP was created • The Paynes Road DCP has now been created • It is proposed through this review that the Paynes Road PSP area be removed from the Toolern DCP, as money is now being collected through the Paynes Road DCP rather than the Toolern DCP
References to new suburb names	• In 2017 the Toolern PSP area was broken into a series of suburbs. The PSP and DCP documents have been amended to make references to the new suburbs where appropriate
References to State Government infrastructure	• *Health Precinct* updated to *Melton Hospital* • *Toolern Regional Park* updated to the *Toolern Creek Regional Park* • Government schools have been identified by the names provided by the Department of Education and Training e.g. *Toolern Waters P-6*
Grammatical corrections	• *Guideline* changed to *guidelines* • Changes arising from amendments and development since the PSP was gazetted. *i.e. Amendment C84 will rezone all land to UGZ.* Delete 'will' and change 'rezone' to 'rezoned'. Similarly, reference clauses have been updated and capitalised
Updated terms for consistency with Plan Melbourne 2017-2050	• *Principal Activity Centres* redefined as *National Employment and Innovation Clusters* • Cobblebank *Major Activity Centre* identified as a *Metropolitan Activity Centre* • *Node* replaced with *Precinct*
Updates associated with CMAC and CEMU UDF	• *Proposed Toolern Railway Station and Bus Interchange* replaced with *approved Cobblebank Railway Station and Bus Interchange* • Replace specifications such as *supermarket, department store* with *retail,* as well as including updated *floor area* figures

Guidelines and Requirements

Contemporary PSPs include objectives, requirements, and guidelines:

- Objectives outline what outcomes should guide the development of the PSP area.
- Requirements identify outcomes that must be met to implement the PSP's vision and objectives.
- Guidelines identify outcomes that should be met to implement the PSP's vision and objectives.

The Toolern PSP currently contains objectives and design guidelines but does not make specific reference to requirements. When reading the guidelines many of the guidelines contain the phrase *must be met*, which implies the guideline is a requirement.

The *design guidelines* in the PSP are proposed to be amended to become *design requirements and guidelines*. Design guidelines which 'must be met' will become requirements, and design guidelines that 'should be met' will remain as guidelines.

Review of State Government Strategies and Plans

A review was undertaken to identify outdated references to State Government Strategies and Plans.

References have been updated for the following outdated plans and strategies:

- *Growth Area Framework Plans* replaced with *Growth Corridor Plans, GAA, 2011*
- *Melbourne 2030* replaced with *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, DELWP, 2017*

The following new strategies and plans have been referenced in the documents:

- *Cobblebank Employment and Mixed-Use Urban Design Framework*, Melton City Council, 2019
- *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework*, Melton City Council, 2019
- *Melbourne Industrial and Commercial Land Use Plan*, DELWP, 2020

The following outdated strategies remain referenced as there is no equivalent strategy to replace it, and these strategies were used to inform the development of the Toolern PSP and DCP documents:

- *Meeting Our Transport Challenges*, State of Victoria, 2006
- *Victorian Transport Plan*, Department of Infrastructure, 2008

It is noted that the Victorian Planning Authority have released *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines: New Communities in Victoria,* Victorian Planning Authority, October 2021. These guidelines apply to the development of new Precinct Structure Plans, and therefore are not entirely relevant to the review of the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan* or the *Toolern Development Contributions Plan*.

It is noted that the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan* demonstrates general compliance with *Plan Melbourne 2017-2020* and the *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines: New Communities in Victoria*:

- The Toolern PSP creates 20-minute neighbourhoods.
- The Toolern PSP contains a hierarchy of activity centres (Metropolitan Activity Centre and Neighbourhood Activity Centres).
- The Toolern PSP contains employment areas and seeks to provide one job per household.
- The Toolern PSP identifies transport, and community and recreation infrastructure to service the needs of the growing community.
- The Toolern PSP identifies land for drainage to reduce the risk of flooding.
- The Toolern PSP identifies the retention of native vegetation and heritage places.
- The Toolern PSP provides a diversity of housing options through the identification of high-density, medium-density and conventional-density areas.
- The Toolern PSP identifies active transport and public transport to reduce reliance on private motor vehicles.
- The Toolern PSP creates a network of local parks and active open space reserves, including the identification of the future Toolern Creek Regional Park.
- The Toolern PSP includes a requirement for integrated water management plans to make better use of water, including the provision of recycled water.
- The Toolern PSP identifies land for local schools and community infrastructure, and includes regional infrastructure within the Metropolitan Activity Centre (public health, tertiary education, a civic precinct, and a justice precinct).

DCP Errors

Errors were identified in the PSP and DCP tables. The tables in the PSP and DCP contained incorrect figures due to the use of incorrect formulas in the original tables. The problems associated with the formula included rounding errors, missing values, wrong percentages, and numbers being shown as a negative number when it should have been a positive number. As some of the errors affected land percentages and infrastructure areas, some of the errors affected levy charges.

The review has identified community and recreation infrastructure land area contradictions within the PSP and DCP documents. For example, Table 8 in the Toolern PSP identifies the Government Primary School in Community Hub 4 as being 4.5 Ha in size, whereas Table 6 in the Toolern DCP identifies it as being 3.5 Ha in size.

The *Land Use Budget Table* in the Toolern DCP separated some sites into multiple lots to reflect subdivision requests that had been lodged with Council at the time of the amendment. The following subdivisions did not occur and therefore the following properties will be consolidated into a single lot:

- Combine properties 35A and 35B into a single property – Property 35;
- Combine properties 37A and 37B into a single property – Property 37;
- Combine properties 49A and 49B into a single property – Property 49;
- Combine properties 54A and 54B into a single property – Property 54;
- Combine properties 59A, 59B and 59C into a single property – Property 59;
- Combine properties 63A and 63B into a single property – Property 63;
- Combine properties 69A and 69B into a single property – Property 69;
- Combine properties 77A and 77B into a single property – Property 77;
- Combine properties 85A and 85B into a single property – Property 85;
- Combine properties 118A, 118B and 118C into a single property – Property 118; and
- Combine properties 123A and 123B into a single property – Property 123.

<u>Project Names and Descriptions in the PSP and DCP</u>

All project names and descriptions in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents have been updated to reflect contemporary project name and descriptions found in contemporary PSPs. **Appendix 1** provides a comparison of the project names and descriptions.

Urban Design Frameworks

In 2019, Melton City Council adopted the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre* (CMAC) *Urban Design Framework* (UDF) and the *Cobblebank Employment and Mixed-Use* (CEMU) *UDF*.

Both UDFs are detailed planning and design documents that set a long-term integrated design vision that guide the future use and development in the two major employment areas within the Toolern PSP area.

Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework

The *CMAC UDF* replaced the Toolern Town Centre UDF 2012. The *CMAC UDF* covers approximately 100 hectares of land that is intersected by Ferris Road and the Melbourne – Ballarat Railway Line.

The activity centre in Cobblebank is designated as an emerging Metropolitan Activity Centre in the State Government's metropolitan planning strategy, *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*.

Metropolitan Activity Centres are higher order centres that provide a diverse range of jobs, activities and housing for regional catchments that are well serviced by public transport. Metropolitan Activity Centres also play a major service delivery role, through government, health, justice, and education services as well as retail and commercial opportunities.

Development in CMAC:

- 2015 Melton City Council opened the Western Business Accelerator and Centre of Excellence (BACE).
- December 2019 the Cobblebank Railway Station is opened as part of the Ballarat Line Upgrade project, which also delivered a duplicated rail line to Melton. This project included the delivery of a signalised intersection at Ferris Road for the railway station (IT14).
- December 2019 a new bus route is established that connects Melton Railway Station to Cobblebank Railway Station.
- May 2021 Cobblebank Village Shopping Centre opened next to the Cobblebank Railway Station.
- July 2021 the State Government identified land required for the future Melton Hospital.
- November 2021 Cobblebank Stadium (CI02) opened – a six indoor court stadium.
- 2022 the State Government acquired the land for the future Melton Hospital.
- 2022 work commenced on the Catholic Secondary School in Cobblebank, opening in 2023.
- 2022 work commenced on the extension of Bridge Road to Melton Hospital and the construction of a signalised intersection at Ferris Road (IT15).
- 2022 the State Government provided a grant to Melton City Council through the Growing Suburbs Fund to construct a community services hub which will house 70 community service organisations in a three-storey building.

The *CMAC UDF* has identified the following land uses are to be provided:

- A new civic precinct on the west side of Ferris Road:
  - A new higher order civic centre containing a Level 3 Community Centre (CI01)
  - Western BACE
  - Cobblebank Stadium (CI02)
  - Show Oval
- A health precinct that contains public and private hospitals
- A legal and justice precinct that contains law courts and emergency services (police, fire, and ambulance)
- Two tertiary education precincts
- A retail precinct centred on the railway station that can accommodate 70,000 sqm of floor space
- A commercial precinct that can accommodate 25,000 sqm of floor space

- A large format (big box) retail precinct
- A residential precinct
- Areas where residential and commercial uses are permitted above ground floor uses

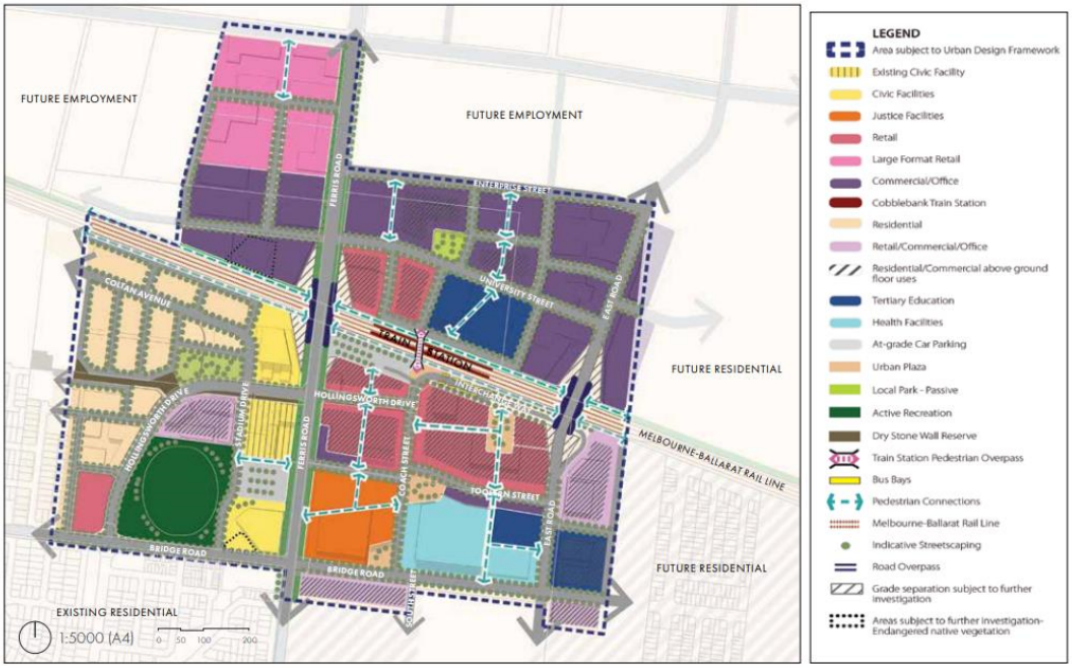


Figure 4. CMAC UDF Land Use Framework Plan

The *CMAC UDF* has recommended several changes be made to the Toolern PSP and DCP documents:

- The Indoor Recreation Centre and the Civic Facility should be relocated from the east side of Ferris Road. to the west side. This makes use of land that is already owned by Council and means land does not need to be acquired for these facilities.
- A new intersection should be included on Ferris Road to provide access to the railway station, the commercial precinct, and the northern tertiary education precinct.
- A new road over rail overpass is required at Ferris Road to ease traffic congestion when the boom gates are down and to ensure ambulances are not waiting for boom gates to lift.
- A new road over rail overpass is required at East Road to ease traffic congestion when the boom gates are down and to ensure ambulances are not waiting for boom gates to lift.
- Minor changes to road cross-sections.

<u>Cobblebank Employment and Mixed-Use Urban Design Framework</u>

The *CEMU UDF* area is approximately 490 hectares in size and is bound by the Western Freeway to the north, Mount Cottrell Road to the east, the Melbourne – Ballarat Railway Line to the south, and the Toolern Creek to the west.

The CEMU area provides land for future light industry, warehousing, big box retail and office to facilitate local job creation. The CEMU area also provide an opportunity for a mixed-use precinct towards the Toolern Creek.

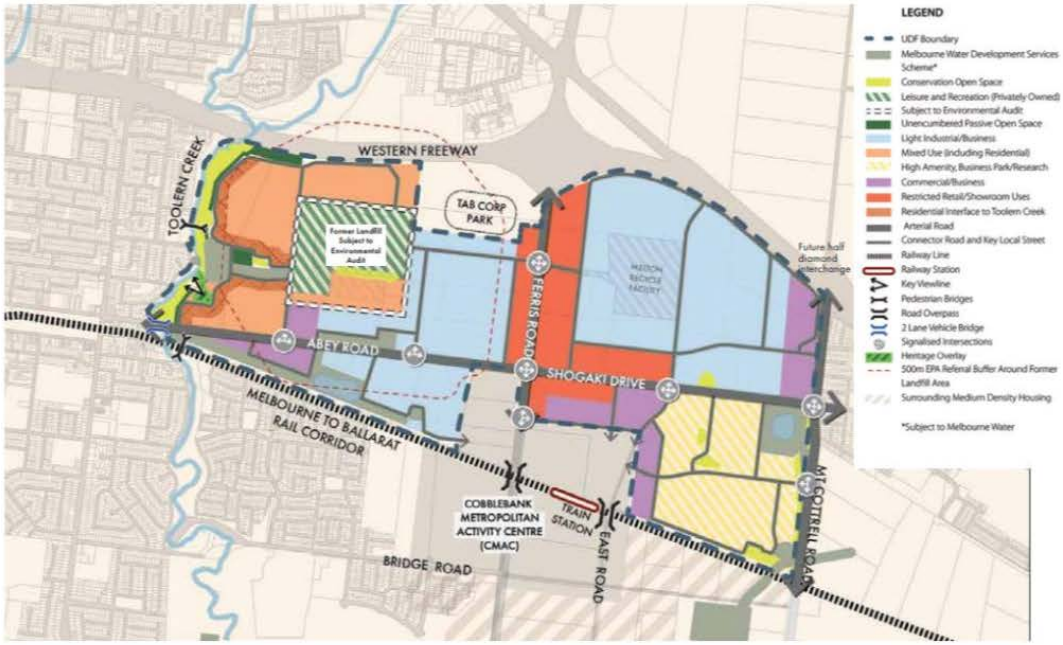


Figure 5. CEMU UDF Land Use Framework Plan

The *CEMU UDF* has recommended some minor changes to road cross sections in the Toolern PSP.

Heritage Overlay Review

Heritage Overlay – Schedule 106

When the Toolern PSP was being prepared, Amendment C84 was under consideration. Amendment C84 sought to include a house in the heritage overlay, which would have been Schedule 106 to the Heritage Overlay. On this basis, the house was identified as a heritage site in the Toolern PSP maps on property 58.

Following the gazettal of the Toolern PSP, the planning panel for Amendment C84 recommended that the house subject to Schedule 106 should not be included in the Heritage Overlay. On this basis, it is recommended that the house on property 58 should no longer be identified as a heritage place in the Toolern PSP and DCP maps.

Heritage Overlay – Schedule 74 – Parklea

Parklea is identified in the Heritage Overlay at Schedule 74 (HO74). In 2018, a fire destroyed the house at HO74.

Council engaged Extent Heritage to review the site and they recommended that the place should be removed from the Heritage Overlay.

Extent Heritage recommended that the PSP should require some on-site interpretation of the removed place, and interpretation of the remaining heritage fabric (Toolern Creek ford, cobbled driveway, driveway plantings and water tank) most of which can be retained in the Toolern Creek waterway reservation.

More information on the review of HO74 can be found in *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan Review – Parklea (HO74) Recommendations Report, Extent Heritage, April 2020.*

The site will continue to be identified on the plans as a heritage place as there are two heritage guidelines proposed in the Toolern PSP to:

- Provide on-site interpretation of the house that was destroyed by fire; and
- Provide on-site interpretation of the heritage fabric to be retained in the Toolern Creek waterway reservation (the Toolern Creek ford, the cobbled driveway, and driveway plantings).

Community and Recreation Infrastructure Review

ASR Research were engaged to undertake the following tasks:

- Review the population projections for the Toolern PSP area
- Review whether the community infrastructure being provided in the Toolern PSP and DCP is adequate having consideration for the level of development that has already been approved
- Apply the standard community facility, and sports and recreation designs included in the VPA's Benchmarking Infrastructure Costings to the PSP community infrastructure projects
- Prepare cost estimates based on the designs prepared in order to inform the review of the Toolern PSP and DCP
- Provide recommendations / options on how any changes to community infrastructure provision could be addressed through the PSP and DCP

Revised Population Projection

ASR Research undertook a review of the density of housing being delivered in the Toolern PSP area and has advised that housing is being delivered at a rate denser than the PSP assumed. ASR Research have found that the number of dwellings is expected to increase from 24,000 to 25,030.

ASR Research reviewed the number of people per dwelling. They found that the PSP had assumed that each dwelling would contain 2.3 people, which is well below the assumed household rate of 2.8 people used in contemporary PSPs. ASR Research have recommended that the Toolern PSP should assume an average household size of 2.7 people, which increases the overall population from 55,000 to 68,000.

More information on the revised population projections can be found in *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan Review – Community Infrastructure Recommendations Report, ASR Research, January 2021*

Infrastructure Implications

The Department of Education and Training (DET) and Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools have recommended that no additional schools are required to service the increased population, and have recommended some minor changes to the size and location of schools to cater for the revised population.

ASR Research has recommended that no additional community and recreation infrastructure is required to service the increased population, and it has recommended that some changes be made to the infrastructure projects identified in the PSP area to make it work harder.

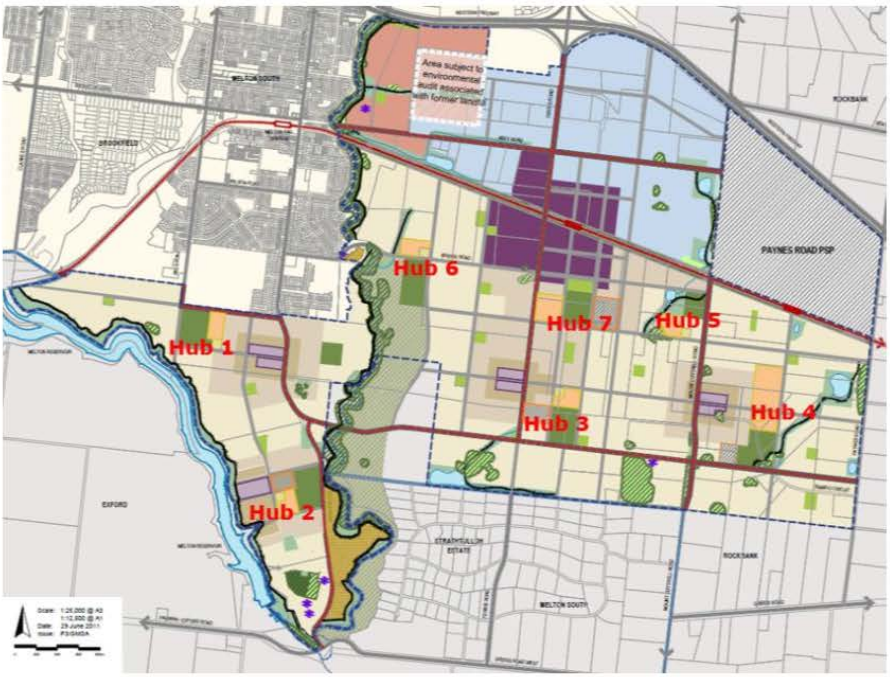


Figure 6. Community Hub Locations

ASR Research have recommended the following changes to community and recreation infrastructure to cater for the increased demand:

Community Hub 1 – Weir Views North

- No changes recommended

Community Hub 2 – Weir Views South

- Upgrade the multi-purpose community centre to a Level 2 Community Centre, and increase the size of land by 0.2 Ha from 0.8 Ha to 1.0 Ha
- Decrease the size of the active open space reserve by 0.2 Ha from 9.16 Ha to 8.96 Ha
- Increase the size of the non-government primary school from 2.55 Ha to 3.00 Ha (this reflects the area of the school that opened in 2022)

Community Hub 3 - Strathtulloh

- Relocate the non-government primary school to Community Hub 7 (Cobblebank Central)

Community Hub 4 – Thornhill Park

- The secondary school and specialist school, which is identified on a site 10.5 Ha in size, should be shown as a consolidated polygon

Community Hub 5 – Cobblebank East

- Decrease the government primary school from 3.7 Ha to 3.5 Ha
- Upgrade the multi-purpose community centre to a Level 2 Community Centre, and increase the size of land from 0.8 Ha to 1.0 Ha

Community Hub 6 – Bridge Road

- No changes recommended

Community Hub 7 – Cobblebank Central

- Increase the size of the non-government school site from 5.98 Ha to 9.93 Ha (land identified for a school on Properties 33 and 34 should be deleted). The land formerly identified as a non-government school on Properties 33 and 34 should be used for active open space (0.29 Ha)

Metropolitan Activity Centre

- Relocate the Indoor Recreation Centre, and the Level 3 Community Centre / Civic Centre from land on the east side of Ferris Road to the west side of Ferris Road. This results in a reduction in the Development Infrastructure Levy to purchase the land, as the land on the west side of Ferris Road is land already owned by Council

More information on the community and recreation infrastructure revisions can be found in *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan Review – Community Infrastructure Recommendations Report, ASR Research, January 2021*

Education Infrastructure

The following education infrastructure has been constructed in the Toolern PSP area:

- Strathtulloh Government Primary School on Bridge Road in Community Hub 6 (opened in 2022)
- St Lawrence of Brindsi Catholic Primary School in Community Hub 2 in Weir Views (opened in 2022)

The following education infrastructure is currently under construction in the Toolern PSP area:

- Catholic Regional College – Cobblebank campus - a secondary school located in Community Hub 7 in Cobblebank. This school is opening in 2023

Money was allocated in the 2018-19 State Budget to buy land for the Cobblebank Government Secondary School located in Community Hub 7. The land for this school has not yet been acquired by the State Government.

Planning work undertaken by the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools has strategically justified the need for three Catholic Primary School sites and one Catholic Secondary School in the Toolern PSP area.

Community Centre Projects

ASR Research identified that 24 kindergarten rooms will be required to service the proposed population of 68,000 people. Kindergarten rooms are provided in Level One and Level Two Community Centres. Six Level One and Level Two Community Centres are currently identified in the Toolern PSP area. Council has already built a four-room community centre in Bridge Road (Community Hub 6)

The VPA Benchmark Designs provide three kindergarten rooms in Level 1 and Level 2 Community Centres, which if built, would result in a shortfall of five kindergarten rooms.

Council engaged HEDE Architects to create concept designs and project cost sheets for Level One and Level Two Community Centres with four kindergarten rooms.

The HEDE Level One Community Centre is 256 sqm larger than the VPA benchmark design centre and can be located comfortably on a site that is 0.8 Ha in area.

The HEDE Level Two Community Centre is 261 sqm larger than the VPA benchmark design centre and can be comfortably accommodated on a site that is 1.0 Ha in area.

Several options were explored to accommodate the extra children in the Toolern PSP area:

1. Build an additional Level One Community Centre (Level One Centres would use the VPA's benchmark designs and costs), and use the HEDE designs for the two Level Two Community Centres
2. Upgrade the five remaining community centres to be four kindergarten room centres using the HEDE designs and costs
3. Use the VPA's benchmark designs and costs, resulting in a shortage of five kindergarten rooms

Table 7 provides a cost comparison of the three options explored for kindergarten room provision.

Table 7. Kindergarten room provision options

Current DCP $2020/2021	Option 1 Build an additional centre	Option 2 HEDE designs for the five new centres	Option 3 VPA benchmark designs
$36,834,295	$55,832,481	$48,805,837	$47,014,790
Difference between current and new	$18,998,185	$11,971,542	$10,180,494
Increase in cost between current and new	52%	33%	28%

This amendment uses Option 2 which will result in an increase in the Development Infrastructure Levy to fund the increase in kindergarten rooms. This ensures that an adequate number of kindergarten rooms have been provided to service the community, whilst minimising the additional costs to the Toolern DCP.

The Community Infrastructure Levy will continue to pay for the community rooms in the community centres.

More information on the Community Centre Designs and costs can be found in *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan Review – Community Infrastructure Recommendations Report, ASR Research, January 2021*

Active Recreation Projects

The VPA *Benchmark Infrastructure Report, Cardno, April 2019* provides benchmark designs and costs for the construction of active open space and pavilions.

Active Open Space Construction

Table 8 illustrates which of the VPA benchmark designs and costs have been applied to each of the active open space projects in the Toolern PSP area.

Table 8. Active Open Space Reserve size

Hub	Size in the Toolern PSP	VPA Benchmark Design
Hub 1 – Weir Views North	9.83 Ha	8-10 Ha
Weir Views East	4 Ha	5-6 Ha
Hub 2 – Weir Views South	9.16 Ha	8-10 Ha
Hub 3 – Strathtulloh	8.45 Ha	8-10 Ha
Hub 4 – Thornhill Park	8.48 Ha	8-10 Ha
Hub 5 – Cobblebank East	4.56 Ha	5-6 Ha
Hub 6 – Bridge Road	11 Ha	8-10 Ha
Hub 7 – Cobblebank Central	7.9 Ha	Constructed

Table 9 identifies how much money is currently being collected to construct each active open space reserve, and how much money is likely to be needed to construct each reserve using the VPA's benchmark designs and costs.

Table 9. Active Open Space construction costs

Hub	DCP Value $2020/2021	VPA Benchmark Cost	Difference
Hub 1 – Weir Views North	$2,639,749	$7,714,281	-$5,074,532
Weir Views East	$3,214,792	$8,536,422	-$5,321,630
Hub 2 – Weir Views South	$3,214,792	$11,020,402	-$7,805,610
Hub 3 – Strathtulloh	$5,754,874	$11,020,402	-$5,265,528
Hub 4 – Thornhill Park	$3,771,070	$11,020,402	-$7,249,332
Hub 5 – Cobblebank East	$3,214,792	$8,536,422	-$5,321,630
Hub 6 – Bridge Road	$3,771,070	$3,771,070 (constructed)	-
Hub 7 – Cobblebank Central	$3,214,792	$11,020,402	-$7,805,610
TOTAL	**$28,795,749**	**$72,639,803**	**-$43,843,872**

It is noted that 30% of construction cost for Hub 1 – Weir Views North is apportioned to existing development in Melton South.

It is recommended that the Development Infrastructure Levy be increased to cover the increased costs of constructing active open space reserves.

Pavilion Construction

Table 10 identifies how much money is currently being collected to construct each pavilion, and how much money is likely to be needed to construct each pavilion using the VPA's benchmark designs and costs.

Table 10. Pavilion construction costs

Hub	DCP Value $2020/2021	VPA Benchmark Cost	Difference
Hub 1 – Weir Views North	$1,111,286	$1,762,413	-$651,127
Weir Views East	$1,587,551	$1,762,413	-$174,862
Hub 2 – Weir Views South	$1,587,551	$1,762,413	-$174,862
Hub 3 – Strathtulloh	$2,381,327	$3,524,826	-$1,143,499
Hub 4 – Thornhill Park	$1,587,551	$1,762,413	-$174,862
Hub 5 – Cobblebank East	$1,587,551	$1,762,413	-$174,862
Hub 6 – Bridge Road	$1,587,551	$1,587,551 (constructed)	-
Hub 7 – Cobblebank Central	$1,587,551	$1,762,413	-$174,862
TOTAL	**$13,017,919**	**$15,686,855**	**-$2,668,936**

It is proposed that all the pavilions use the VPA's pavilion design for two playing fields, except for Hub 3 – Strathtulloh which will construct two two-playing field pavilions to service four playing fields.

It is noted that 30% of the construction cost Hub 1 – Weir Views North is apportioned to existing development in Melton South.

The pavilions are funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy. It is recommended that the new pavilion costs be included in the updated Toolern DCP.

Constructed and Committed Projects

Nine community and recreation projects have been constructed already. For these projects the current construction cost in the Toolern DCP are being retained and indexed to $2021/2022.

Table 11 identifies all the community and recreation projects that have been constructed in the Toolern PSP area.

Table 11. Community and recreation infrastructure that has been constructed

Project ID	Project Description	Project Status
CI02	**Cobblebank Indoor Recreation Centre** Indoor Recreation Centre located within the Metropolitan Activity Centre.	Constructed
CI18A	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 6** - early childhood components - including kindergarten and maternal health. Area 2 contribution (60%)	Constructed
CI18B	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 6** - early childhood components - including kindergarten and maternal health. Area 3 contribution (40%)	Constructed
CI19A	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 6** - childcare components. Area 2 contribution (60%)	Constructed
CI19B	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 6** - childcare components. Area 3 contribution (40%)	Constructed
CI20	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 6** - community rooms component	Constructed
AR15A	**Bridge Road Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 6** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ - Tennis / multi-purpose hard courts incorporating 4 courts with lighting and parking, including all construction works, landscaping and related infrastructure Area 2 Contribution (60%)	Constructed
AR15B	**Bridge Road Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 6** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ - Tennis / multi-purpose hard courts incorporating 4 courts with lighting and parking, including all construction works, landscaping and related infrastructure Area 3 Contribution (40%)	Constructed
AR16	**Bridge Road Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 1**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure	Constructed

Two of the community and recreation projects have been relocated to land that Council already owns, and therefore the land no longer needs to be acquired. Table 12 identifies the two projects where the land no longer needs to be acquired.

Table 12. Community and recreation infrastructure where land has already been acquired

Project ID	Project Description	Project Status
CI01	**Cobblebank Higher Order Civic Facility** Higher Order Civic Facility, including a Level 3 Community Centre, located within the Metropolitan Activity Centre.	Land owned by Council
CI02	**Cobblebank Indoor Recreation Centre** Indoor Recreation Centre located within the Metropolitan Activity Centre.	Land owned by Council

Transport Infrastructure Review

When contemporary PSPs are developed, Functional Layout Plans (FLPs) are developed to ensure that the road network is well designed, and enough land is reserved for the future needs of the community. The FLPs are used to produce project cost sheets that ensure enough money is being collected to build the transport network.

When the Toolern PSP was developed, it did not include FLPs or project cost sheets.

Council engaged Cardno to undertake the following tasks as part of the *Transport Infrastructure Review*:

- Review the additional transport projects identified in the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework*
- Prepare Functional Layout Plans (FLPs) for all transport projects based on the VPA's benchmark designs
- Provide revised land takes for the transport projects based on the new FLPs
- Prepare cost sheets for all transport projects based on the VPA's benchmark designs
- Provide recommendations to update the Toolern PSP and DCP documents

Projects to be Removed

Table 13 identifies transport projects to be removed from the Toolern PSP and DCP documents. They have been agreed to be removed by Council, the VPA, the Department of Transport and VicRoads.

Table 13. Transport projects to be removed from the Toolern DCP

Project to be Deleted	Reason for Deletion
RD09 – Paynes Road – Toolern PSP southern boundary to Greigs Road	Located in the Rockbank South PSP area. To be included in the future Rockbank South Infrastructure Contributions Plan (ICP)
RD10 – Mount Cottrell Road – Toolern PSP southern boundary to Greigs Road	Located in the Rockbank South PSP area. To be included in the future Rockbank South ICP
IT08 – Paynes Road and Greigs Road Intersection	Located in the Rockbank South PSP area. To be included in the future Rockbank South ICP
IT09 – Mount Cottrell Road and Greigs Road Intersection	Located in the Rockbank South PSP area. To be included in the future Rockbank South ICP
BD09 – Railway Pedestrian Underpass	Replaced by the future East Road Rail Overpass (BD16)
BD11 – Railway Pedestrian Underpass	To be constructed as part of the Thornhill Park (Paynes Road) Train Station project
BD12 – Toolern Creek Pedestrian Bridge	An adequate number of bridges are shown over the Toolern Creek
BD13 – Toolern Creek Pedestrian Bridge	An adequate number of bridges are shown over the Toolern Creek

New Projects

Missing projects from the Rockbank PSP and DCP

In 2010 the Urban Growth Boundary was changed, which brought land to the east and south of the Toolern PSP into the Urban Growth Boundary – Rockbank and Rockbank South Precinct Structure Plan areas.

In 2016 the Rockbank PSP and DCP were approved by Amendment C145 to the Melton Planning Scheme.

The Rockbank PSP and DCP include transport projects that urbanise Paynes Road, which lies on the boundary of the two PSPs. The Rockbank PSP and DCP included FLPs and project cost sheets for four intersection projects, three road projects, and two bridge projects and proposed that 50% of the project construction costs be borne by developers in the Rockbank PSP area, with the remainder of the construction costs to be recovered by the Paynes Road and Toolern PSPs.

One of the Paynes Road intersections is already included in the Toolern PSP and DCP – IT07. It is proposed that the design of IT07 be updated to the design and cost currently incorporated into the Rockbank PSP.

Table 14 identifies the transport projects to be added to the Toolern DCP from the Rockbank DCP.

Table 14. Transport projects to be added from the Rockbank PSP

Project ID	Project Description
RD22	**Paynes Road: Alfred Road (IT30) to East-West Connector Road 1 (IT31)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).
RD23	**Paynes Road: East-West Connector Road 1 (IT31) to Exford Road (IT07)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).
RD24	**Paynes Road: Exford Road (IT07) to East-West Connector Road 2 (IT32)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).
IT07	**Intersection: Exford Road and Paynes Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT30	**Intersection: Paynes Road and Alfred Road** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT31	**Intersection: Paynes Road and East-West Connector Road 1** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT32	**Intersection: Paynes Road and East-West Connector Road 2** Construction of a signalised 3-way intersection (interim standard).
BD17	**Paynes Road Rail Overpass** Construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of Paynes Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (interim standard).
BD18	**Paynes Road Level Crossing Upgrade** Construction of an upgrade to the level crossing at the intersection of Paynes Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor, including automatic gates and pedestrian crossings (ultimate standard). Note: Paynes Road level crossing will be closed upon completion of the construction of the Paynes Road Overpass (BD17).

It is proposed that all of the new transport projects will be apportioned 50% to the Toolern PSP area and 50% to the Rockbank PSP area, except for BD17 and BD18 which be apportioned 25% to the Toolern PSP area, 25% to the Paynes Road PSP area and 50% to the Rockbank PSP areas.

The Toolern DCP will be updated to include the designs and costs (indexed to $2021/2022) that are currently in the Rockbank DCP.

Missing projects from the Paynes Road PSP

In 2016 the Paynes Road PSP was approved by Amendment C161 to the Melton Planning Scheme. The Paynes Road PSP excised an industrial area from the Toolern PSP area and changed this to a residential land use.

The Paynes Road PSP added three new transport projects to the section of Mount Cottrell Road located between the Western Freeway and the Melbourne – Ballarat Rail Line. Table 15 identifies the transport projects to be added to the Toolern DCP from the Paynes Road PSP.

Table 15. Transport projects to be added from the Paynes Road PSP

Project ID	Project Description
BD19	**Mount Cottrell Road Freeway Interchange** Purchase of land for the construction of a half diamond interchange at the intersection of Mount Cottrell Road and the Western Freeway corridor (ultimate standard, southern approach only)
BD20	**Mount Cottrell Road Rail Overpass** Purchase of land for the construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of Mount Cottrell Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (ultimate standard).
BD21	**Mount Cottrell Road Level Crossing Upgrade** Construction of an upgrade to the level crossing at the intersection of Mount Cottrell Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor, including automatic gates and pedestrian crossings (ultimate standard). Note: Mount Cottrell Road level crossing will be closed upon completion of the construction of the Mount Cottrell Road Overpass (BD20).

It is noted that BD19 and BD20 will be a primary arterial road, which is owned by VicRoads and the construction of these projects will be handled by the State Government, and therefore BD19 and BD20 are land purchase projects only.

As the section of Mount Cottrell Road between the Western Freeway and the Melbourne - Ballarat Rail Line is on the border of the Toolern and Paynes Road PSPs the construction cost of transport projects in this section (RD12, IT10 and IT19) will be shared by the two PSP areas (50% each).

The Toolern DCP will be updated to include the designs and costs (indexed to $2021/2022) that are currently in the Paynes Road DCP.

Missing projects from the Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework

In 2019 Council adopted the Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework (CMAC UDF).

The CMAC UDF identifies three new transport projects that should be added to the Toolern DCP to ensure the transport system can accommodate the planned civic, retail, health, education and justice precincts which include Tertiary education campuses, the Melton Hospital, and a new law court precinct. These projects are identified in Table 16.

Table 16. Transport projects to be added from the CMAC UDF

Project ID	Project Description
IT29	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Enterprise Street** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
BD15	**Ferris Road Rail Overpass** Construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of Ferris Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (interim standard).
BD16	**East Road Rail Overpass** Construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of East Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (interim standard).

The new intersection on Ferris Road (IT29) is required to provide controlled access to the future tertiary education campus located on the north side of the Melbourne - Ballarat Rail Line, as well as the northern section of the Cobblebank Railway Station.

The new overpasses at Ferris Road and East Road are to provide access to the Metropolitan Activity Centre which will contain the Melton Hospital, a legal and emergency services precinct, a civic precinct, tertiary education, and substantial retail facilities. These at-grade level crossings will create traffic congestion in the Metropolitan Activity Centre if they are not removed.

Changes to the Southern East-West Arterial Road

The Toolern PSP currently identifies the segment of the East – West Arterial Road located between Mount Cottrell Road and Paynes Road (RD08) as a primary arterial road.

The VPA, the Department of Transport, VicRoads and Council have agreed that this segment of road should be changed to a secondary arterial road. As some planning permits have been issued for land abutting this road and subdivision layouts have been approved which show the road as a primary arterial road within a 45-metre road cross-section, the PSP and DCP will continue to reserve a 45-metre road cross-section.

Constructed and Committed Projects

Some of the transport projects have been constructed already, are under construction, or are committed projects where the construction value has been agreed to already. For these projects, the current construction cost in the Toolern DCP is being retained and indexed to $2021/2022. Table 17 identifies the transport projects that have been constructed or are committed projects.

Table 17. Transport projects that have already been constructed or committed for construction

Project ID	Project Description	Project Status
RD01	**Rees Road: Coburns Road (PSP boundary) to East West Arterial (IT01)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase of land to increase reserve width from 20m to 34m (ultimate).	Constructed
RD12	**Mount Cottrell Road: Western Freeway to Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land (including native vegetation re-alignment) to increase reserve width from 20m to 45m (ultimate).	Constructed
RD17	**Ferris Road: Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line to Exford Road (IT05)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout).	Part Constructed Part Committed
RD18	**Abey Road: Toolern Creek (BD01) to Ferris Road (IT13)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve with from 19m to 38m (ultimate).	Constructed
IT14	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Hollingsworth Drive** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).	Constructed
IT15	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Bridge Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Committed
IT16	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Alfred Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Constructed
IT19	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Baxterpark Drive** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).	Constructed
IT24	**Intersection: Exford Road and Connector Road** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).	Constructed
IT26	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Alfred Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Constructed
IT28	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Southern Connector Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Committed
BD01	**Abey Road Bridge** Construction of an arterial road bridge over the Toolern Creek.	Constructed

Project ID	Project Description	Project Status
BD02	**Bridge Road Bridge** Construction of a connector road bridge over the Toolern Creek.	Constructed
TR01	**Toolern Creek Regional Park Trail** Concrete Shared Path including pavement, drainage, and landscaping (3 metres wide, length 3,250 metres)	Constructed

Table 18 identifies transport projects where the land has already been acquired.

Table 18. Transport projects where land has already been acquired

Project ID	Project Description	Project Status
RD20	**Ferris Road: Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line to Exford Road (IT05)** Purchase land to increase reserve width from 20m to 38m, for road section on Property 30 only.	Land acquired
PT01	**Bus Interchange** Purchase land to provide for Local Bus Interchange (1 Hectare)	Land acquired

Functional Layout Plans

In May 2021, Cardno issued Council with a set of Functional Layout Plans, which have been reviewed and approved by Council, the Victorian Planning Authority, the Department of Transport, VicRoads, and DELWP.

The FLPs have been designed to connect to transport projects that have already been designed or constructed in the Toolern and Paynes Road PSP areas.

When preparing the FLPs, Cardno were instructed to use the road cross-sections in contemporary PSPs and this has resulted in many of the road projects requiring less land than the PSP currently requires (Table 19).

Table 19. Revised road widths

Project ID	Road Type (Current)	Road Type (Proposed)	Current Width	Revised Width	Comment
RD01	Secondary	Secondary	38m	34m	Contemporary secondary arterial width
RD02	Secondary	Secondary	38m	34m	Contemporary secondary arterial width
RD03	Secondary	Secondary	38m	34m	Contemporary secondary arterial width
RD04	Secondary	Secondary	31m	34m	Contemporary secondary arterial width
RD05	Secondary	Secondary	38m	34m	Contemporary secondary arterial width
RD06	Secondary	Secondary	38m	34m	Contemporary secondary arterial width
RD07	Secondary	Secondary	38m	34m	Contemporary secondary arterial width
RD08	Primary	Secondary	45m	45m	Permits have approved for a road 45m in width
RD09					Deleted - located in the Rockbank South PSP
RD10					Deleted – located in the Rockbank South PSP
RD11	Primary	Primary	45m	41m	Contemporary primary arterial width
RD12	Primary	Primary	45m	41m	Contemporary primary arterial width
RD13					Missing project – number skipped
RD14	Primary	Primary	45m	45m	Cross-section modified to include pedestrian paths on both sides of the road
RD15	Primary	Primary	45m	41.8m	Cross-section modified to utilise the existing centre verge
RD16	Secondary	Secondary	38m	38m	Road width maintained to provide drainage on the eastern side of the road
RD17	Secondary	Secondary	38m	38m	Road width maintained to provide drainage on the eastern side of the road
RD18	Secondary	Secondary	38m	40m	Existing road width
RD19	Primary	Primary	45m	45m	Cross-section modified to include pedestrian paths on both sides of the road

The new FLPs include land take measurements, which will be used to modify the area required for transport purposes in the PSP and DCP tables.

Land Valuations

Council engaged Charter Keck Cramer to undertake land valuations for all land being acquired by Council for transport projects (road, intersections, bridges and the bus interchange), community facility projects, and active recreation projects.

The land valuations can be found in the report *Land Acquisition Assessment – Toolern Development Contributions Plan Land Assessment , Charter Keck Cramer, May 2022.*

Development Services Scheme Review

In 2014, Melbourne Water started reviewing some of the Development Services Schemes (DSS) in the Toolern PSP area.

In the current PSP, the *Integrated Water Management Plan* at *Plan 14* identifies four water catchment areas. The Melbourne Water DSS review has broken these four water catchment areas into eight DSS areas.

The Melbourne Water review has also made changes to the size, location and function of many of the stormwater assets located in the eight DSS areas.

Plan 14 – Integrated Water Management Plan in the Toolern PSP will be replaced with a new plan (figure 7) that shows the new DSS areas and the revised polygons which identify the location of each stormwater asset.

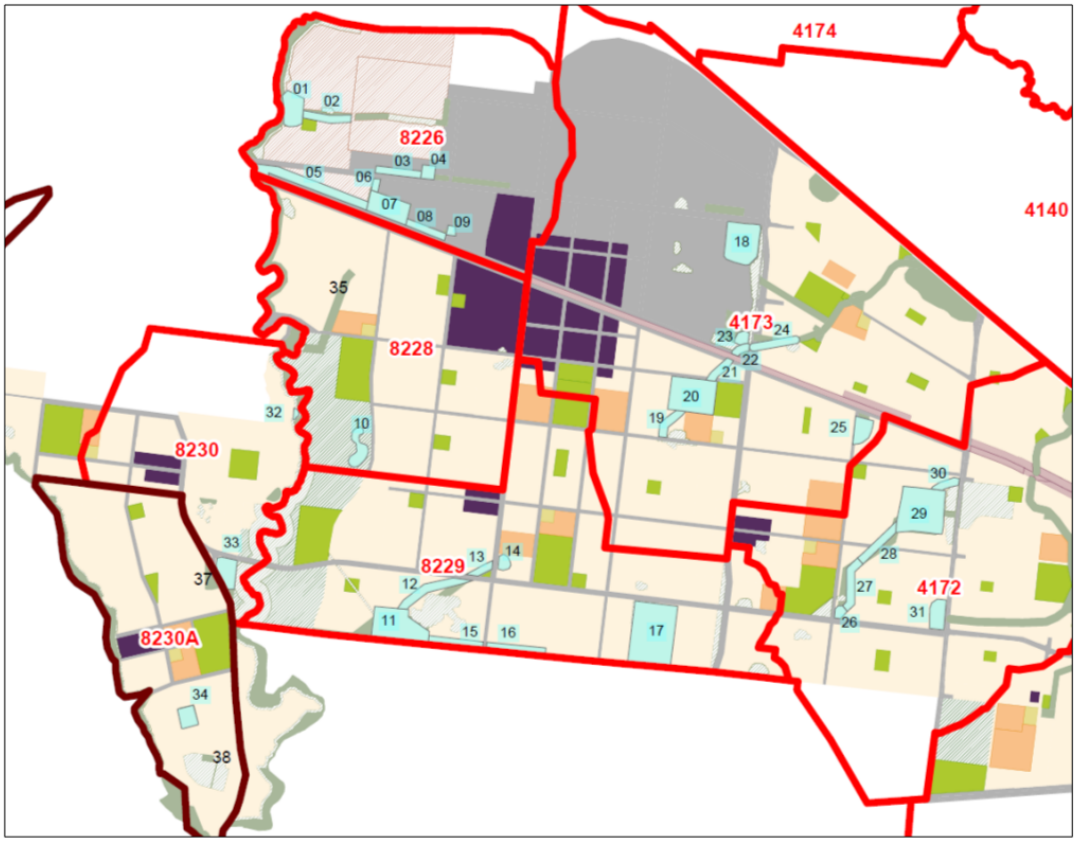


Figure 7. Stormwater Asset Plan

Melbourne Water have proposed that the extent of land require for drainage and waterway purpose increases from 136.71 Ha to 145.82 Ha, which is an increase of 9.11 Ha. It is noted that the retarding basin on properties 58 and 60 are counted as conservation open space (Lignum swamp) instead of a waterway in Tables 1 and 2 in the Toolern PSP and DCP.

Melbourne Water has also prepared a stormwater asset table which will be incorporated into the PSP (Table 20). This table identifies the name and function of each asset, identifies which DSS it is in, identifies its size, and identifies whether Melbourne Water or Council will be responsible for the asset once it is constructed.

Table 20. Stormwater Asset Plan

Stormwater Asset ID	Type	Waterway corridor width (m)	Required land area (ha)	Property Number	Development Services Scheme	Responsibility
1	Wetland	N/A	3.17	86 and 87	Abey Road	Melbourne Water
2	Waterway	50	1.86	88	Abey Road	Melbourne Water
3	Waterway	50	1.66	90 and 91	Abey Road	Melbourne Water
4	Sediment pond	N/A	0.92	95	Abey Road	Melbourne Water
5	Waterway	60	5.29	101, 102 and 103	Abey Road	Melbourne Water
6	Waterway	50	0.44	104A, 104B and 104C	Abey Road	Melbourne Water
7	Retarding basin, wetland	N/A	4.43	104A, 104B, 104E, 105 and 106	Abey Road	Melbourne Water
8	Waterway	50	1.45	107 and 108	Abey Road	Melton City
9	Sediment pond	N/A	0.40	109	Abey Road	Melton City
10	Wetland	N/A	2.20	27	Ferris Road	Melbourne Water
11	Retarding basin, wetland	N/A	8.00	29	Melton South	Melbourne Water
12	Waterway	60	3.00	29	Melton South	Melbourne Water
13	Waterway	60	0.90	29	Melton South	Melbourne Water
14	Sediment pond	N/A	0.80	29	Melton South	Melbourne Water
15	Waterway	60	2.28	29	Melton South	Melbourne Water
16	Waterway	60	2.33	59A	Melton South	Melbourne Water
17	Retarding basin	N/A	11.98	58 and 60	Melton South	Melton City
18	Retarding basin, wetland	N/A	6.51	124	Shogaki Drive	Melbourne Water
19	Waterway	60	1.44	37	Shogaki Drive	Melbourne Water
20	Retarding basin, wetland	N/A	7.68	37, 38, 39, 40 and 41	Shogaki Drive	Melbourne Water
21	Waterway	60	1.12	38	Shogaki Drive	Melbourne Water
22	Waterway	60	0.96	124	Shogaki Drive	Melbourne Water
23	Sediment pond	N/A	0.78	124	Shogaki Drive	Melton City
25	Retarding basin, wetland	N/A	2.00	66	Shogaki Drive	Melton City
26	Sediment pond	N/A	0.58	72 and 73	Iramoo Circuit	Melbourne Water
27	Waterway	60	2.24	72 and 73	Iramoo Circuit	Melbourne Water
28	Waterway	60	2.00	72	Iramoo Circuit	Melbourne Water
29	Retarding basin, wetland	N/A	10.00	67, 68 and 74	Iramoo Circuit	Melbourne Water
30	Waterway	60	0.98	67	Iramoo Circuit	Melbourne Water
31	Retarding basin, wetland	N/A	2.20	75 and 76	Iramoo Circuit	Melton City
32	Bioretention system	N/A	0.24	3	Exford Road	Melton City
33	Wetland	N/A	2.48	7	Exford Road	Melbourne Water
34	Wetland	N/A	1.37	10	Waterford	Melbourne Water
35	Waterway	40	4.18	16, 17, 18, 19 and 25	Ferris Road	Melbourne Water
37	Retarding basin, wetland	N/A	1.21	8	Waterford	Melton City
38	Retarding basin, wetland	N/A	0.35	147	Waterford	Melton City

* Stormwater Asset ID 24 has been deleted as it is in the Paynes Road Precinct Structure Plan area

Development Infrastructure Levy

Table 21 shows how much Development Infrastructure Levy (DIL) is currently being collected for each of the four charge areas in the Toolern DCP. The DIL has been indexed to $2021/2022.

Table 21. Current Toolern DCP DIL rates indexed to $2021/2022

Infrastructure Category	Charge Area 1 DIL $2021/2022	Charge Area 2 DIL $2021/2022	Charge Area 3 DIL $2021/2022	Charge Area 4 DIL $2021/2022
Transport	$122,8230	$122,830	$122,830	$122,830
Community and Recreation	$146,730	$155,668	$135,885	$1,570
Plan Preparation	$976	$976	$976	$976
TOTAL	**$270,536**	**$279,474**	**$259,691**	**$124,616**

Table 22 shows the proposed changes to DIL rates for each of the four charge areas. The DIL has been influenced by changes to the net developable area, new land values (based on indexation provided by Council's finance department), the removal of some projects, the addition of new infrastructure projects, and revised construction costs for infrastructure.

Table 22. Proposed new Toolern DCP DIL rates

Infrastructure Category	Charge Area 1 DIL $2021/2022	Charge Area 2 DIL $2021/2022	Charge Area 3 DIL $2021/2022	Charge Area 4 DIL $2021/2022
Transport	$236,974	$236,974	$236,974	$236,203
Community and Recreation	$211,985	$214,410	$141,951	$1,756
Plan Preparation	$1,092	$1,092	$1,092	$1,092
TOTAL	**$450,050**	**$452,476**	**$380,016**	**$239,051**

Tables 23, 24 and 25 have provided comparisons of the proposed new DIL rates for the Toolern DCP with the DIL rates in contemporary PSPs in the City of Melton.

Table 23. Comparison of transport DIL rates in contemporary DCPs

Development Contributions Plan	DIL Rate $2021/2022 Transport
Diggers Rest DCP	$107,120
Paynes Road DCP	$183,123
Rockbank North DCP	$203,460
Toolern DCP	$236,974
Rockbank DCP	$258,594

Table 24. Comparison of community and recreation DIL rates in contemporary DCPs

Development Contributions Plan	DIL Rate $2021/2022 Community and Recreation
Toolern DCP – Charge Area 4	$1,756
Toolern DCP – Charge Area 3	$141,951
Diggers Rest DCP	$153,832
Rockbank North DCP	$207,186
Toolern DCP - Charge Area 1	$211,985
Toolern DCP – Charge Area 2	$214,410
Rockbank DCP	$221,250
Paynes Road DCP	$249,640

Table 25 provides a comparison of the overall DIL being collected in contemporary DCPs in the City of Melton (a combination of the transport DIL, the community and recreation DIL, and the cost of preparing the PSP DIL).

Table 25. Comparison of DIL rates in contemporary DCPs

Development Contributions Plan	Transport DIL	Community and Recreation DIL	Plan Preparation DIL	Total DIL
Toolern DCP – Charge Area 4	$236,203	$1,756	$1,092	$239,051
Diggers Rest DCP	$107,120	$153,832	-	$260,952
Toolern DCP – Charge Area 3	$236,974	$141,951	$1,092	$380,016
Rockbank North DCP	$203,460	$207,186	-	$410,646
Paynes Road DCP	$182,856	$249,640	$266	$432,763
Toolern DCP - Charge Area 1	$236,974	$211,985	$1,092	$450,050
Toolern DCP – Charge Area 2	$236,974	$214,410	$1,092	$452,476
Rockbank DCP	$258,594	$221,250	-	$479,844

The new combined DIL rates proposed in the Toolern DCP are similar to the rates being paid by developers in other PSP areas in the City of Melton with DCPs.

Comparisons have not been provided for Melton North and Taylors Hill West DCPs as development is nearing completion in these PSP areas.

A comparison has not been provided against the Toolern Park DCP as this DCP is only collecting money for one transport project, and three community and recreation projects.

Comparisons have not been provided against the Kororoit, Plumpton and Mt Atkinson PSP areas, as these are subject to Infrastructure Contributions Plans which use a different methodology for land acquisition which results in DIL amounts that are not directly comparable to the Toolern DCP context.

Table 26. Comparison of DIL rates for the Toolern DCP

Development Contributions Plan	Total DIL (Current $2021)	Total DIL (Proposed)	Difference
Toolern DCP - Charge Area 1	$270,534	$450,050	$179,516
Toolern DCP – Charge Area 2	$279,474	$452,476	$173,002
Toolern DCP – Charge Area 3	$259,691	$380,016	$120,325
Toolern DCP – Charge Area 4	$124,617	$239,051	$114,434

Whilst the changes to the DIL rate are large, they are required to ensure adequate money is being collected to construct the infrastructure required to service the Toolern PSP development area.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Toolern PSP is currently collecting $1,225 ($900 indexed to $2021/2022) per dwelling via the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to construct community rooms in Level 1 and Community Centres and Pavilions in the Toolern PSP.

It is estimated that there will be 25,030 dwellings in the Toolern PSP area. Council is therefore expecting to collect approximately $30.7 million through the CIL.

Council will need to deliver the infrastructure identified in Table 27 through the CIL.

Table 27. CIL analysis

Infrastructure to be Delivered by CIL	Infrastructure Value $2021/2022	CIL Per Dwelling $2021/2022
Community Meeting Rooms		
Hub 1	$506,393	$20.23
Hub 2	$1,389,726	$55.52
Hub 3	$723,419	$28.90
Hub 4	$723,419	$28.90
Hub 5	$1,389,726	$55.52
Hub 6	$1,936,154	$77.35
Subtotal	**$6,668,837**	**$266.43**
Pavilions		
AR02	$1,233,689	$49.29
AR04	$1,762,413	$70.41
AR06	$1,762,413	$70.41
AR08	$3,524,826	$140.82
AR10	$1,762,413	$70.41
AR12	$1,762,413	$70.41
AR14	$1,762,413	$70.41
AR16	$1,611,363	$64.38
Subtotal	**$15,181,943**	**$606.55**
TOTAL	**$21,857,781**	**$872.98**

It is estimated that there will be $8.8 million of CIL that would have been collected and will not have been spent when the Toolern DCP area is fully constructed.

Planning Scheme Ordinance

Schedule 3 to the Urban Growth Zone

The content of the schedule has been placed into the new template for the schedule to the Urban Growth Zone to be consistent with *The Form and Content of Planning Schemes Ministerial Direction (Minister for Planning, 19 January 2022).*

The following changes are proposed to text in Schedule 3 to the Urban Growth Zone

General changes

- References to the *Major Activity Centre* have been updated to a *Metropolitan Activity Centre* to be consistent with *Plan Melbourne* and the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre UDF*.
- References to the *Growth Areas Authority* updated to the *Victorian Planning Authority*.
- References to the *Roads Authority* updated to the *Road Management Authority*.

Section 2.3 Special provisions – Use of land

- Identify non-government schools as uses that do not require a planning permit if they are located on land identified as a Potential Non-Government School in the Toolern PSP Future Urban Structure. This change has been requested by Catholic Education Melbourne. This change is consistent with the approach taken to non-government schools in the City of Melton.
- The shop floor area cap in the Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre is increased from 30,000 sqm to 70,000 sqm. This change is required to provide consistency between the planning scheme ordinance and the floor area identified in the Toolern PSP and the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre UDF*.
- Delete the permit requirements for a dwelling in the Commercial 1 Zone that stated that 'no permit is required to construct a dwelling with a ground floor frontage greater than two metres.' This is inconsistent with the Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre UDF, which encourages dwellings to be constructed at upper levels.

Section 2.5 Specific provisions – Buildings and works for a school

- Introduction of a new provision that *a permit is required to construct or carry out works associated with a primary school or secondary school on land shown as a Potential Non-Government School unless exempt under Clauses 62.02-1 and 62.02-2*. This provision is used in other schedules to the Urban Growth Zone in the Melton Planning Scheme.

Section 3.0 Application requirements

- Insert a new application requirement for residential subdivision that all applications must include '*a table setting out the amount of land allocated to the proposed uses and expected population, dwelling and employment yields.*' This is a standard application requirement in other schedules to the Urban Growth Zone in the Melton Planning Scheme.

Section 6.1 Land and home sales signs

- Insertion of new guidance on land and home sales signs that are used in other schedules to the Urban Growth Zone in the Melton Planning Scheme:
  - *A permit may be granted to display a sign promoting the sale of land or homes on the land (or on adjoining land in the same ownership) with an area greater than 10 square metres.*
  - *If the sign does not meet all the provisions listed above, it must comply with the provisions of Clause 52.05.*

Section 6.2 Education promotion signs

- This section is to be updated to broaden the display of promotion signs to include community uses rather than just education uses. This includes community facilities, potential government schools, potential non-government schools and credited open space. This is a standard signage provision in other schedules to the Urban Growth Zone in the Melton Planning Scheme.

Schedule 3 to the Development Contributions Plan Overlay

It is proposed that all the Development Infrastructure Levy rates be updated to reflect the new rates identified through the introduction of new infrastructure projects, the deletion of identified infrastructure projects, and the revised infrastructure costs recommended by Cardno and ASR Research.

General changes

- References to the *Department of Sustainability and Environment* updated to the *Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning*

Section 4.0 Non-government schools

- This section has been deleted. This section requires non-government schools to play Development Infrastructure Levies (DIL). This is inconsistent from the approach taken to non-government schools in other schedules to the Development Contributions Plan Overlay in the Melton Planning Scheme, where non-government schools are considered encumbered land and therefore are exempt from paying DIL.

Section 5.0 Land or development excluded from development contributions plan

- Two new land uses are proposed to be made exempt from paying the development contributions plan levies. These changes have been made as these uses are exempt from paying levies in other schedules to the Development Contributions Plan Overlay in the Melton Planning Scheme:
  - *Use and development for a non-government school.*
  - *Use and development associated with a dwelling that is existing or approved at the approval date of this provision.*

Appendix 1 – Changes to Project Names and Project Descriptions

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Proposed Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents
Road Projects		
RD01	**Rees Road: Coburns Road to East West Arterial**. Re-construct existing 2-lane road to provide 2-lane carriageway of secondary arterial road (38 metre road reserve, length 180 metres) *Interim layout* Purchase of land to increase reserve width from 20m to 38m for 180 metres (ultimate).	**Rees Road: Coburns Road (PSP boundary) to East West Arterial (IT01)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase of land to increase reserve width from 20m to 34m (ultimate).
RD02	**East West Arterial: Rees Road to Exford Road**. Construct new 2-lane carriageway of divided secondary arterial road (38 metre road reserve, length 970 metres) *Interim layout* Purchase of land to increase reserve width from 0m to 38m for 970 metres (ultimate).	**East West Arterial: Rees Road (IT01) to Exford Road (IT02)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard) Purchase of land to increase reserve width from 0m to 34m (ultimate).
RD03	**East West Arterial: Exford Road Section**. Re-construct existing 2-lane road to provide 2-lane carriageway of divided secondary arterial road (38 metre road reserve, length 900 metres) *Interim layout* Purchase land to increase reserve width from 20m to 38m for 900 metres (ultimate).	**Exford Road: East West Arterial (IT02) to Exford Road (IT03)** Re-construct existing 2-lane road to provide 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 20m to 34m (ultimate).
RD04	**Exford Road: East West Arterial to Greigs Road**. Re-construct existing pavement to provide 2-lane carriageway of undivided secondary arterial road (31 metre road reserve, length 2,310 metres) *Interim layout* Purchase land to increase reserve width from 20m to 31m for 2,310 metres (ultimate).	**Exford Road: Exford Road (IT03) to Greigs Road (IT04)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 20m to 34m (ultimate).
RD05	**East West Arterial: Exford Road to Toolern Creek**. Construct new 2-lane carriageway of divided secondary arterial road (38 metre road reserve, length 400 metres) *Interim layout* Purchase land to increase reserve width from 0m to 38m for 400 metres (ultimate).	**Exford Road: Exford Road (IT03) to Toolern Creek (BD03)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 0m to 34m (ultimate).
RD06	**East West Arterial: Toolern Creek to Ferris Road**. Construct new 2-lane carriageway of divided secondary arterial road (38 metre road reserve, length 1,680 metres) *Interim layout* Purchase land to increase reserve from 0m to 38m for 1,680 metres (ultimate).	**Exford Road: Toolern Creek (BD03) to Ferris Road (IT05)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve from 0m to 34m (ultimate).
RD07	**East West Arterial: Ferris Road to Mount Cottrell Road**. Construct new 2-lane carriageway of divided secondary arterial road. (38 metre road reserve, length 1,600 metres) *Interim layout* Purchase land to increase reserve width from 0m to 38m for 1,600 metres (ultimate).	**Exford Road: Ferris Road (IT05) to Mount Cottrell Road (IT06)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road. (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 0m to 34m (ultimate).
RD08	**East West Arterial: Mount Cottrell Road to Paynes Road**. Construct new 2-lane carriageway of primary arterial road. (45 metre road reserve, length 1,650 metres) *Interim layout* Purchase land to increase reserve width to 0m to 45m for 1,650 metres (ultimate).	**Exford Road: Mount Cottrell Road (IT06) to Paynes Road (IT07)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width to 0m to 45m (ultimate).
RD09	**Paynes Road: Toolern Boundary to Greigs Road**. Upgrade existing 2-lane unsealed rural road to provide 2-lane carriageway (length 725 metres).	Deleted – this project is in the Rockbank South PSP area
RD10	**Mount Cottrell Road: Toolern Boundary to Greigs Road**. Upgrade existing 2-lane unsealed rural road to provide 2-lane carriageway (length 1,045 metres).	Deleted – this project is in the Rockbank South PSP area
RD11	**Mount Cottrell Road: Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line to East West Arterial to UGB southern boundary**. Upgrade existing 2-lane unsealed road to provide 2-lane carriageway of primary arterial road (45 metre road reserve, length 2,190 metres) *Interim layout* Purchase land (including native vegetation re-alignment) to increase reserve width from 20m to 45m for 2,190 metres (ultimate).	**Mount Cottrell Road: Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line to PSP southern boundary** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land (including native vegetation re-alignment) to increase reserve width from 20m to 41m (ultimate).
RD12	**Mount Cottrell Road: Western Freeway to Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line**. Upgrade of existing 2-lane unsealed road to provide 2-lane carriageway of primary arterial road (45 metre road	**Mount Cottrell Road: Western Freeway to Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout).

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Proposed Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents
	reserve, length 1,680 metres) *Interim layout* Purchase land (including native vegetation re-alignment) to increase reserve width from 20m to 45m for 1,680 metres (ultimate).	Purchase land (including native vegetation re-alignment) to increase reserve width from 20m to 45m (ultimate).
RD13	This project number was skipped in the Toolern DCP	Skipped Project - There is no RD13 in the Toolern DCP
RD14	**Shogaki Drive: Ferris Road to Mount Cottrell Road (Western Half)**. Upgrade existing 2-lane sealed road to provide 2-lane carriageway of primary arterial road (45 metre road reserve, length 800 metres). *Interim layout*. Purchase land to increase reserve width from 40m to 45m for 800 metres (ultimate).	**Shogaki Drive: Ferris Road (IT13) to Industrial Connector Road (IT12)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 40m to 45m (ultimate).
RD15	**Ferris Road: Western Freeway to Shogaki Drive**. Construction of additional lane in either direction to existing 4-lane divided road to provide ultimate 6-lane divided arterial road (45 metre road reserve, length 940 metres). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 34m to 45m for 940 metres (ultimate).	**Ferris Road: Western Freeway to Shogaki Drive (IT13)** Construction of additional lane in either direction to existing 4-lane divided road to provide ultimate 6-lane divided arterial road (ultimate layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 34m to 45m (ultimate).
RD16	**Ferris Road: Abey Road to Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line**. Upgrade of existing 2-lane sealed/ unsealed road to provide 2-lane carriageway of divided secondary arterial road (38 metre road reserve, length 620 metres) *Interim layout* Purchase land to increase reserve width from 34m to 38m for 620 metres (ultimate).	**Ferris Road: Abey Road (IT13) to Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 34m to 38m (ultimate).
RD17	**Ferris Road: Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line to East West Arterial**. Upgrade of existing 2-lane sealed/ unsealed road to provide 2-lane carriageway of divided secondary arterial road (38 metre road reserve, length 2,160 metres) *Interim layout*	**Ferris Road: Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line to Exford Road (IT05)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout).
RD18	**Abey Road: Toolern Creek to Ferris Road**. Upgrade of existing 2-lane sealed/ unsealed road to provide 2-lane carriageway of divided secondary arterial road (38 metre road reserve, length 2,160 metres) *Interim layout* Purchase land to increase reserve with from 19m to 38m for 270 metres east of Toolern Creek (ultimate).	**Abey Road: Toolern Creek (BD01) to Ferris Road (IT13)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve with from 19m to 38m (ultimate).
RD19	**Shogaki Drive: Ferris Road to Mount Cottrell Road (Eastern Half)**. Construct new 2-lane carriageway of primary arterial road (45 metre road reserve, length 800 metres) *Interim layout* Purchase land to increase reserve width from 0m to 45m for 800 metres (ultimate).	**Shogaki Drive: Industrial Connector Road (IT12) to Mount Cottrell Road (IT10)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 0m to 45m (ultimate).
RD20	**Ferris Road: Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line to East West Arterial**. Purchase land to increase reserve width from 20m to 38m, for road section on Property 30 only. Area = 0.50 hectares (ultimate).	**Ferris Road: Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line to Exford Road (IT05)** Purchase land to increase reserve width from 20m to 38m, for road section on Property 30 only.
RD21	**Ferris Road: Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line to East West Arterial**. Purchase land to increase reserve width from 20m to 38m, for balance of required land (excluding Property 30). Area = 3.45 hectares (ultimate).	**Ferris Road: Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line to Exford Road (IT05)** Purchase land to increase reserve width from 20m to 38m, for balance of required land (excluding Property 30).
Intersection Projects		
IT01	**Rees Road and East West Arterial: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised 4-way intersection and slip lanes. Additional contingency fee of 30% added to construction cost. Additional design and project management fee of 10% added to construction cost.	**Intersection: Rees Road and East West Arterial** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT02	**East West Arterial and Exford Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised T-intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: East West Arterial and Exford Road** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).
IT03	**East West Arterial and Exford Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised T-intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Exford Road and Exford Road** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).
IT04	**Exford Road and Greigs Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Upgrade of protected right-turn lane and left-turn deceleration lane, including drainage and landscaping.	**Intersection: Exford Road and Greigs Road** Upgrade of protected right-turn lane and left-turn deceleration lane, including drainage and landscaping.

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Proposed Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents
IT05	**East West Arterial and Ferris Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised 4-way intersection and slip lanes. Purchase of 0.304 hectares of additional required land.	**Intersection: Exford Road and Ferris Road** Purchase of land and construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT06	**East West Arterial and Mount Cottrell Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout*. Construction of signalised 4-way intersection and slip lanes. Purchase of 0.342 hectares of additional required land.	**Intersection: Exford Road and Mount Cottrell Road** Purchase of land and construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT07	**East West Arterial and Paynes Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised 4-way intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Exford Road and Paynes Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT08	**Paynes Road and Greigs Road: Intersection**. Upgrade of protected right-turn lane and left-turn deceleration lane, including drainage and landscaping.	Deleted – this project is in the Rockbank South PSP area
IT09	**Mount Cottrell Road and Greigs Road: Intersection**. Intersection upgrade - construction of roundabout.	Deleted – this project is in the Rockbank South PSP area
IT10	**Mount Cottrell Road and Shogaki Drive: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised 4-way intersection and slip lanes. Purchase of 0.301 hectares of additional required land.	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Shogaki Drive** Purchase of land and construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT11	This project number was skipped in the Toolern DCP	Skipped Project - There is no IT11 in the Toolern DCP
IT12	**Shogaki Drive and Collector Street: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised 4-way intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Shogaki Drive and Industrial Connector Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT13	**Ferris Road and Shogaki Drive: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised 4-way intersection and slip lanes. Purchase of 0.47 hectares of additional required land.	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Shogaki Drive** Purchase of land and construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT14	**Ferris Road and MAC Northern Collector Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised T-intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Hollingsworth Drive** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).
IT15	**Ferris Road and Bridge Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised 4-way intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Bridge Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT16	**Abey Road and Industrial Connector Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of a signalised T-intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Abey Road and Industrial Connector Road** Construction of a signalised T-intersection (interim standard).
IT17	**Abey Road and Bundy Drive: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised T-intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Abey Road and Bundy Drive** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).
IT18	**Ferris Road and Shakamaker Drive: Intersection**. **Ultimate layout** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Shakamaker Drive** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (ultimate standard).
IT19	**Mount Cottrell Road and Murray Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised T-intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Baxterpark Drive** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).
IT20	**Mount Cottrell Road and Southern Connector Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised 4-way intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Southern Connector Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT21	**East West Arterial and Eastern North-South Connector Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised 4-way intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Exford Road and Eastern North-South Connector Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT22	**East West Arterial and Central North-South Connector Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised 4-way intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Exford Road and Central North-South Connector Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT23	**East West Arterial and Western North-South Connector Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised T-intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Exford Road and Western North-South Connector Road** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).
IT24	**Exford Road and Connector Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised T-intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Exford Road and Connector Road** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Proposed Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents
IT25	**Mount Cottrell Road and Bridge Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised T-intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Bridge Road** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).
IT26	**Mount Cottrell Road and Alfred Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised 4-way intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Alfred Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT27	**Ferris Road and Alfred Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised 4-way intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Alfred Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
IT28	**Ferris Road and Southern Connector Road: Intersection**. *Interim layout* Construction of signalised 4-way intersection and slip lanes.	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Southern Connector Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).
Bridge Projects		
BD01	**Abey Road Bridge**. 2-lane bridge over Toolern Creek, incorporating abutments and street lighting (12-metre wide concrete structure, deck length 61 metres).	**Abey Road Bridge** Construction of an arterial road bridge over the Toolern Creek.
BD02	**Bridge Road Bridge**. 2-lane bridge over Toolern Creek, incorporating abutments and street lighting (12-metre wide concrete structure, deck length 91.5 metres).	**Bridge Road Bridge** Construction of a connector road bridge over the Toolern Creek.
BD03	**East West Arterial Bridge**. 2-lane bridge over Toolern Creek, incorporating abutments and street lighting (12-metre wide concrete structure, deck length 91.5 metres).	**Exford Road Bridge** Construction of an arterial road bridge over the Toolern Creek.
BD04	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge (No. 1)**. Bridge over Toolern Creek, incorporating abutments and lighting (3-metre wide timber structure, deck length 30 metres).	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge 1: Toolern Creek** Construction of a shared use pedestrian bridge over the Toolern Creek.
BD05	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge (No.2)**. Bridge over Toolern Creek, incorporating abutments and lighting (3-metre wide timber structure, deck length 30 metres).	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge 2: Toolern Creek** Construction of a shared use pedestrian bridge over the Toolern Creek.
BD06	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge (No. 3)**. Bridge over Toolern Creek, incorporating abutments and lighting (3-metre wide timber structure, deck length 30 metres).	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge 3: Toolern Creek** Construction of a shared use pedestrian bridge over the Toolern Creek.
BD07	**Pedestrian Underpass 1: Melbourne Ballarat Railway**. Construction, including 3-metre wide, 50-metre long box culverts, endwalls, concrete path, drainage and lighting.	**Pedestrian Underpass 1: Melbourne Ballarat Railway** Construction of a pedestrian underpass.
BD08	**Pedestrian Underpass 2: Melbourne Ballarat Railway**. Construction, including 3-metre wide, 50-metre long box culverts, endwalls, concrete path, drainage and lighting.	**Pedestrian Underpass 2: Melbourne Ballarat Railway** Construction of a pedestrian underpass.
BD09	**Pedestrian Underpass 3: Melbourne Ballarat Railway**. Construction, including 3-metre wide, 50-metre long box culverts, endwalls, concrete path, drainage and lighting.	Deleted – replaced by BD16 (see Appendix 2)
BD10	**Pedestrian Underpass 4: Melbourne Ballarat Railway**. Construction, including 3-metre wide, 50-metre long box culverts, endwalls, concrete path, drainage and lighting.	**Pedestrian Underpass 4: Melbourne Ballarat Railway** Construction of a pedestrian underpass.
BD11	**Pedestrian Underpass 5: Melbourne Ballarat Railway**. Construction, including 3-metre wide, 50-metre long box culverts, endwalls, concrete path, drainage and lighting.	Deleted – will be constructed as part of the Paynes Road Railway Station project
BD12	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge (No. 4)**. Bridge over Toolern Creek, incorporating abutments and lighting (3-metre wide timber structure, deck length 30 metres).	Deleted – an adequate number of bridges have been provided over the Toolern Creek
BD13	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge (No. 5)**. Bridge over Toolern Creek, incorporating abutments and lighting (3-metre wide timber structure, deck length 30 metres).	Deleted – an adequate number of bridges have been provided over the Toolern Creek
BD14	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge (No. 6)**. Bridge over Toolern Creek, incorporating abutments and lighting (3-metre wide timber structure, deck length 30 metres).	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge 4: Toolern Creek** Construction of a shared use pedestrian bridge over the Toolern Creek.
Public Transport Projects		
PT01	Purchase land to provide for **Local Bus Interchange** (1 hectare).	**Bus Interchange** Purchase land to provide for Local Bus Interchange (1 Hectare)
Trail Projects		

47

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Proposed Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents
TR01	**Concrete Shared Path** including pavement, drainage and landscaping (3 metres wide, length 3,250 metres): Regional Park linkages.	**Toolern Creek Regional Park Trail** Concrete Shared Path including pavement, drainage and landscaping (3 metres wide, length 3,250 metres)
Community Facility Projects		
CI01	Purchase land to provide **Library** located in Major Activity Centre (4 hectares).	**Cobblebank Higher Order Civic Facility** Higher Order Civic Facility, including a Level 3 Community Centre, located within the Metropolitan Activity Centre.
CI02	Purchase of land to provide **Aquatic / Leisure Centre** (Level 3), located in Major Activity Centre (2.5 hectares).	**Cobblebank Indoor Recreation Centre** Indoor Recreation Centre located within the Metropolitan Activity Centre.
CI03	**Early Learning Facility within Government Primary School (Community Hub 1)**. Type 1 Facility (higher order) to provide for kindergarten and maternal child health components. Construction of new building, including car parking and landscaping.	**Weir Views North Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 1) in **Community Hub 1** - early childhood rooms component - including kindergarten and maternal health.
CI04	**Multipurpose Community Centre (Community Hub 1)**. Purchase of land (0.8 hectares) and construction of the childcare components of the multipurpose community centre.	**Weir Views North Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 1) in **Community Hub 1** - community rooms component.
CI05	**Multipurpose Community Centre (Community Hub 1)**. Construction of the community room components of the multipurpose community centre.	Deleted – Council no longer provides childcare rooms in Early Childhood Centres
CI06	**Early Learning Facility within Government Primary School (Community Hub 2)**. Type 2 Facility (lower order) to provide for kindergarten component only. Construction of new building, including car parking and landscaping.	**Weir Views South Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 2** - early childhood rooms component - including kindergarten and maternal health.
CI07	**Multipurpose Community Centre (Community Hub 2)**. Purchase of land (0.85 hectares) and construction of the childcare components of the multipurpose community centre.	**Weir Views South Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 2** - community rooms component.
CI08	**Multipurpose Community Centre (Community Hub 2)**. Construction of the community room components of the multipurpose community centre.	Deleted – Council no longer provides childcare rooms in Early Childhood Centres
CI09	**Early Learning Facility within Government Primary School (Community Hub 3)**. Type 2 Facility (lower order) to provide for kindergarten component only. Construction of new building, including car parking and landscaping.	**Strathtulloh Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 1) in **Community Hub 3** - early childhood rooms component - including kindergarten and maternal health.
CI10	**Multipurpose Community Centre (Community Hub 3)**. Purchase of land (0.8 hectares) and construction of the childcare components of the multipurpose community centre.	**Strathtulloh Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 1) in **Community Hub 3** - community rooms component.
CI11	**Multipurpose Community Centre (Community Hub 3)**. Construction of the community room components of the multipurpose community centre.	Deleted – Council no longer provides childcare rooms in Early Childhood Centres
CI12	**Early Learning Facility within Government Primary School (Community Hub 4)**. Type 1 Facility (higher order) to provide for kindergarten and maternal child health components. Construction of new building, including car parking and landscaping.	**Thornhill Park Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 1) in **Community Hub 4** - early childhood rooms component - including kindergarten and maternal health.

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Proposed Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents
CI13	**Multipurpose Community Centre (Community Hub 4)**. Purchase of land (0.8 hectares) and construction of the childcare components of the multipurpose community centre.	**Thornhill Park Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 1) in **Community Hub 4** - community rooms component.
CI14	**Multipurpose Community Centre (Community Hub 4)**. Construction of the community room components of the multipurpose community centre.	Deleted – Council no longer provides childcare rooms in Early Childhood Centres
CI15	**Early Learning Facility within Government Primary School (Community Hub 5).** Type 2 Facility (lower order) to provide for kindergarten component only. Construction of new building, including car parking and landscaping.	**Cobblebank East Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 5** - early childhood rooms component - including kindergarten and maternal health.
CI16	**Multipurpose Community Centre (Community Hub 5).** Purchase of land (0.8 hectares) and construction of the childcare components of the multipurpose community centre.	**Cobblebank East Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 5** - community rooms component.
CI17	**Multipurpose Community Centre (Community Hub 5).** Construction of the community room components of the multipurpose community centre.	Deleted – Council no longer provides childcare rooms in Early Childhood Centres
CI18A	**Early Learning Facility within Government Primary School (Community Hub 6).** Type 1 Facility (higher order) to provide for kindergarten and maternal child health components. Construction of new building, including car parking and landscaping. Area 2 contribution.	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 6** - early childhood components - including kindergarten and maternal health. Area 2 contribution (60%)
CI18B	**Early Learning Facility within Government Primary School (Community Hub 6).** Type 1 Facility (higher order) to provide for kindergarten and maternal child health components. Construction of new building, including car parking and landscaping. Area 3 contribution.	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 6** - early childhood components - including kindergarten and maternal health. Area 3 contribution (40%)
CI19A	**Multipurpose Community Centre (Community Hub 6).** Purchase of land (0.8 hectares) and construction of the childcare components of the multipurpose community centre. Area 2 contribution (60%).	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 6** - childcare components. Area 2 contribution (60%)
CI19B	**Multipurpose Community Centre (Community Hub 6).** Purchase of land (0.8 hectares) and construction of the childcare components of the multipurpose community centre. Area 3 contribution (40%)	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 6** - childcare components. Area 3 contribution (40%)
CI20	**Multipurpose Community Centre (Community Hub 6).** Construction of the community room components of the multipurpose community centre.	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 6** - community rooms component
Active Recreation Projects		
AR01	**Playing Fields 1 (Hub 1).** Active open space reserve. Construction of 2 football/cricket ovals and 4 tennis courts.	**Weir Views North Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 1** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ - Tennis / multi-purpose hard courts incorporating 4 courts with lighting and parking, including all construction works, landscaping and related infrastructure

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Proposed Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents
AR02	**Pavilion 1 (Hub 1).** Construction of pavilion to serve Playing Fields 1.	**Weir Views North Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 1**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure
AR03	**Playing Fields 2.** Active open space reserve. Construction of 2 soccer pitches.	**Weir Views East Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ
AR04	**Pavilion 2.** Construction of pavilion to serve Playing Fields 2.	**Weir Views East Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure
AR05	**Playing Fields 3 (Hub 2).** Active open space reserve. Construction of 2 football/ cricket ovals.	**Weir Views South Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 2** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ
AR06	**Pavilion 3 (Hub 2).** Construction of pavilion to serve Playing Fields 3.	**Weir Views South Sports Reserve** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 2**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure
AR07	**Playing Fields 4 (Hub 3).** Active open space reserve. Construction of 4 soccer pitches.	**Strathtulloh Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 3** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ
AR08	**Pavilion 4 (Hub 3).** Construction of pavilion to serve Playing Fields 4.	**Strathtulloh Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 3**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure
AR09	**Playing Fields 5 (Hub 4).** Active open space reserve. Construction of 2 football/ cricket ovals and 4 tennis courts.	**Thornhill Park Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 4** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ - Tennis / multi-purpose hard courts incorporating 4 courts with lighting and parking, including all construction works, landscaping and related infrastructure
AR10	**Pavilion 5 (Hub 4).** Construction of pavilion to serve Playing Fields 5.	**Thornhill Park Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 4**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure
AR11	**Playing Fields 6 (Hub 5).** Active open space reserve. Construction of 2 soccer pitches.	**Cobblebank East Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 5** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Proposed Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents
AR12	**Pavilion 6 (Hub 5).** Construction of pavilion to serve Playing Fields 6.	**Cobblebank East Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 5**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure
AR13	**Playing Fields 7 (Hub 7).** Active open space reserve. Construction of 2 football/ cricket ovals.	**Cobblebank Central Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 7** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ
AR14	**Pavilion 7 (Hub 7).** Construction of pavilion to serve active playing fields 7.	**Cobblebank Central Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 7**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure
AR15A	**Playing Fields 8 (Hub 6).** Active open space reserve. Construction of 2 football/ cricket ovals and 4 tennis courts. Area 2 contribution (60%).	**Bridge Road Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 6** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ - Tennis / multi-purpose hard courts incorporating 4 courts with lighting and parking, including all construction works, landscaping and related infrastructure Area 2 Contribution (60%)
AR15B	**Playing Fields 8 (Hub 6).** Active open space reserve. Construction of 2 football/ cricket ovals and 4 tennis courts. Area 3 contribution (40%).	**Bridge Road Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 6** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ - Tennis / multi-purpose hard courts incorporating 4 courts with lighting and parking, including all construction works, landscaping and related infrastructure Area 3 Contribution (40%)
AR16	**Pavilion 8 (Hub 6).** Construction of pavilion to serve active playing fields 8.	**Bridge Road Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 1**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure
OS01	Purchase of 9.83 hectares of **land for active open space** required for AR01 and AR02.	**Weir Views North Sports Reserve** Purchase of 9.83 hectares of land for active open space for AR01 and AR02
OS02	Purchase of 4.00 hectares of **land for active open space** required for AR03 and AR04.	**Weir Views East Sports Reserve** Purchase of 4.00 hectares of land for active open space for AR03 and AR04
OS03	Purchase of 9.16 hectares of **land for active open space** required for AR05 and AR06.	**Weir Views South Sports Reserve** Purchase of 8.96 hectares of land for active open space for AR05 and AR06
OS04	Purchase of 8.45 hectares of **land for active open space** required for AR07 and AR08.	**Strathtulloh Sports Reserve** Purchase of 8.62 hectares of land for active open space for AR07 and AR08
OS05	Purchase of 8.48 hectares of **land for active open space** required for AR09 and AR10.	**Thornhill Park Sports Reserve** Purchase of 8.69 hectares of land for active open space for AR09 and AR10
OS06	Purchase of 4.56 hectares of **land for active open space** required for AR11 and AR12.	**Cobblebank East Sports Reserve** Purchase of 4.56 hectares of land for active open space for AR11 and AR12

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Proposed Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents
OS07	Purchase of 7.90 hectares of **land for active open space** required for AR13 and AR14. Area 2 contribution (60%).	**Cobblebank Central Sports Reserve** Purchase of 8.19 hectares of land for active open space for AR13 and AR14. Area 2 Contributions (60%)
OS08	Purchase of 7.90 hectares of **land for active open space** required for AR13 and AR14. Area 3 contribution (40%).	**Cobblebank Central Sports Reserve** Purchase of 8.19 hectares of land for active open space for AR13 and AR14. Area 3 Contributions (40%)
OS09	Purchase of land (1.0ha) for **Major Activity Centre Public Open Space**	**Cobblebank MAC Open Space** Purchase of 1.0 hectare for Metropolitan Activity Centre Public Open Space
Government Schools		
	Community Hub 1 Government Primary School	**Community Hub 1** Proposed Government Primary School (Toolern Waters P-6)
	Community Hub 2 Government Primary School	**Community Hub 2** Proposed Government Primary School (Weir Views P-6)
	Community Hub 3 Government Primary School	**Community Hub 3** Proposed Government Primary School (Strathtulloh Safari P-6)
	Community Hub 4 Government Primary School	**Community Hub 4** Proposed Government Primary School (Thornhill Park P-6)
	Community Hub 4 Government Secondary School	**Community Hub 4** Proposed Government Secondary School (Thornhill Park 7-12)
	Community Hub 4 Government Special Needs School	**Community Hub 4** Proposed Government Specialist School (Thornhill Park Specialist School)
	Community Hub 5 Government Primary School	**Community Hub 5** Proposed Government Primary School (Cobblebank P-6)
	Community Hub 6 Government Primary School	**Community Hub 6** Government Primary School (Strathtulloh P-6)
	Community Hub 7 Government Secondary School	**Community Hub 7** Proposed Government Secondary School (Cobblebank 7-12)
Structure Planning		
PL01	Preparation of Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan.	**Plan Preparation** Preparation of Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan.

Appendix 2 – New Projects

Project ID No.	New Project Name and Project Description	New Project Inclusion Rationale
New Road Projects		
RD22	**Paynes Road: Alfred Road (IT30) to East-West Connector Road 1 (IT31)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).	Missing project from the Rockbank DCP. The Rockbank DCP apportions 50% of the construction cost of this project to the Toolern DCP.
RD23	**Paynes Road: East-West Connector Road 1 (IT31) to Exford Road (IT07)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).	Missing project from the Rockbank DCP. The Rockbank DCP apportions 50% of the construction cost of this project to the Toolern DCP.
RD24	**Paynes Road: Exford Road (IT07) to East-West Connector Road 2 (IT32)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).	Missing project from the Rockbank DCP. The Rockbank DCP apportions 50% of the construction cost of this project to the Toolern DCP.
New Intersection Projects		
IT29	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Enterprise Street** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	The Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework recommends the inclusion of this project. This intersection is required to facilitate access to the future tertiary education facilities located north of the railway line.
IT30	**Intersection: Paynes Road and Alfred Road** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Missing project from the Rockbank DCP. The Rockbank DCP apportions 50% of the construction cost of this project to the Toolern DCP.
IT31	**Intersection: Paynes Road and East-West Connector Road 1** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Missing project from the Rockbank DCP. The Rockbank DCP apportions 50% of the construction cost of this project to the Toolern DCP.
IT32	**Intersection: Paynes Road and East-West Connector Road 2** Construction of a signalised 3-way intersection (interim standard).	Missing project from the Rockbank DCP. The Rockbank DCP apportions 50% of the construction cost of this project to the Toolern DCP.
New Bridge Projects		
BD15	**Ferris Road Rail Overpass** Construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of Ferris Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (interim standard).	The Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework recommends the inclusion of this project. This overpass is required to facilitate access to the Metropolitan Activity Centre and the future public hospital.
BD16	**East Road Rail Overpass** Construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of East Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (interim standard).	The Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework recommends the inclusion of this project. This overpass is required to facilitate access to the Metropolitan Activity Centre and the future public hospital.
BD17	**Paynes Road Rail Overpass** Construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of Paynes Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (interim standard).	Missing project from the Rockbank DCP. The Rockbank DCP apportions 50% of the construction cost of this project to the Toolern and Paynes Road DCPs.
BD18	**Paynes Road Level Crossing Upgrade** Construction of an upgrade to the level crossing at the intersection of Paynes Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor, including automatic gates and pedestrian crossings (ultimate standard). Note: Paynes Road level crossing will be closed upon completion of the construction of the Paynes Road Overpass (BD18).	Missing project from the Rockbank DCP. The Rockbank DCP apportions 50% of the construction cost of this project to the Toolern and Paynes Road DCPs.

Project ID No.	New Project Name and Project Description	New Project Inclusion Rationale
BD19	**Mount Cottrell Freeway Interchange** Purchase of land for the construction of a half diamond interchange at the intersection of Mount Cottrell Road and the Western Freeway corridor (ultimate standard, southern approach only)	Missing project from the Paynes Road DCP. Land located within the Toolern PSP area.
BD20	**Mount Cottrell Rail Overpass** Purchase of land for the construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of Mount Cottrell Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (ultimate standard).	Missing project from the Paynes Road DCP. Land located within the Toolern PSP area.
BD21	**Mount Cottrell Road Level Crossing Upgrade** Construction of an upgrade to the level crossing at the intersection of Mount Cottrell Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor, including automatic gates and pedestrian crossings (ultimate standard). Note: Mount Cottrell Road level crossing will be closed upon completion of the construction of the Mount Cottrell Road Overpass (BD20).	Missing project from the Paynes Road DCP. The Paynes Road DCP apportions 75% of the construction cost of this project to the Toolern DCP.

Appendix 3 – Project Apportionments

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description	Apportionments
Road Projects		
RD12	**Mount Cottrell Road: Western Freeway to Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land (including native vegetation re-alignment) to increase reserve width from 20m to 45m (ultimate).	This project is on the boundary of the Paynes Road PSP. • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Paynes Road DCP • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP
RD22	**Paynes Road: Alfred Road (IT30) to East-West Connector Road 1 (IT31)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).	This project is on the boundary of the Rockbank PSP. • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Rockbank DCP • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP
RD23	**Paynes Road: East-West Connector Road 1 (IT31) to Exford Road (IT07)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).	This project is on the boundary of the Rockbank PSP. • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Rockbank DCP • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP
RD24	**Paynes Road: Exford Road (IT07) to East-West Connector Road 2 (IT32)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).	This project is on the boundary of the Rockbank PSP. • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Rockbank DCP • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP
Intersection Projects		
IT07	**Intersection: Exford Road and Paynes Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	This project is on the boundary of the Rockbank PSP. • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Rockbank DCP • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP
IT10	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Shogaki Drive** Purchase of land and construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	This project is on the boundary of the Paynes Road PSP. • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Paynes Road DCP • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP
IT19	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Baxterpark Drive** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).	This project is on the boundary of the Paynes Road PSP. • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Paynes Road DCP • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP
IT30	**Intersection: Paynes Road and Alfred Road** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	This project is on the boundary of the Rockbank PSP. • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Rockbank DCP • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP
IT31	**Intersection: Paynes Road and East-West Connector Road 1** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	This project is on the boundary of the Rockbank PSP. • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Rockbank DCP • 50% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP
IT32	**Intersection: Paynes Road and East-West Connector Road 2** Construction of a signalised 3-way intersection (interim standard).	This project is on the boundary of the Rockbank and Rockbank South PSPs. • 75% of the construction cost apportioned to the Rockbank DCP and the Rockbank South ICP • 25% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP
Bridge Projects		
BD17	**Paynes Road Rail Overpass** Construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of Paynes Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (interim standard).	This project is on the boundary of the Rockbank and Paynes Road PSPs. • 75% of the construction cost apportioned to Rockbank and Paynes Road DCPs • 25% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description	Apportionments
BD18	**Paynes Road Level Crossing Upgrade** Construction of an upgrade to the level crossing at the intersection of Paynes Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor, including automatic gates and pedestrian crossings (ultimate standard). Note: Paynes Road level crossing will be closed upon completion of the construction of the Paynes Road Overpass (BD17).	This project is on the boundary of the Rockbank and Paynes Road PSPs. • 75% of the construction cost apportioned to Rockbank and Paynes Road DCPs • 25% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP
BD21	**Mount Cottrell Road Level Crossing Upgrade** Construction of an upgrade to the level crossing at the intersection of Mount Cottrell Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor, including automatic gates and pedestrian crossings (ultimate standard). Note: Mount Cottrell Road level crossing will be closed upon completion of the construction of the Mount Cottrell Road Overpass (BD20).	This project is on the boundary of the Paynes Road PSP. • 25% of the construction cost apportioned to the Paynes Road DCP • 75% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP
Community Facility Projects		
CI01	**Cobblebank Higher Order Civic Facility** Higher Order Civic Facility, including a Level 3 Community Centre, located within the Metropolitan Activity Centre.	This facility has been relocated to land already owned by Council. Land is no longer required to be acquired for this facility.
CI02	**Cobblebank Indoor Recreation Centre** Indoor Recreation Centre located within the Metropolitan Activity Centre.	This facility has been relocated to land already owned by Council. Land is no longer required to be acquired for this facility.
CI03	**Weir Views North Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 1) in **Community Hub 1** - early childhood rooms component - including kindergarten and maternal health.	The catchment of this facility includes established houses in Melton South. • 70% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP • 30% apportioned to existing development in Melton South
CI04	**Weir Views North Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 1) in **Community Hub 1** - community rooms component.	The catchment of this facility includes established houses in Melton South. • 70% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP • 30% apportioned to existing development in Melton South
Active Recreation Projects		
AR01	**Weir Views North Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 1** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ - Tennis / multi-purpose hard courts incorporating 4 courts with lighting and parking, including all construction works, landscaping and related infrastructure	The catchment of this facility includes established houses in Melton South. • 70% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP • 30% apportioned to existing development in Melton South
AR02	**Weir Views North Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 1**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure	The catchment of this facility includes established houses in Melton South. • 70% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP • 30% apportioned to existing development in Melton South
OS01	**Weir Views North Sports Reserve** Purchase of 9.83 hectares of land for active open space for AR01 and AR02	The catchment of this facility includes established houses in Melton South. • 70% of the construction cost apportioned to the Toolern DCP • 30% apportioned to existing development in Melton South

Appendix 4 – Status of Projects

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Status of Project
Road Projects		
RD01	**Rees Road: Coburns Road (PSP boundary) to East West Arterial (IT01)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase of land to increase reserve width from 20m to 34m (ultimate).	Land partially acquired Road partially constructed (83.5%)
RD02	**East West Arterial: Rees Road (IT01) to Exford Road (IT02)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard) Purchase of land to increase reserve width from 0m to 34m (ultimate).	Land acquired
RD03	**Exford Road: East West Arterial (IT02) to Exford Road (IT03)** Re-construct existing 2-lane road to provide 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 20m to 34m (ultimate).	Land partially acquired Road partially constructed
RD04	**Exford Road: Exford Road (IT03) to Greigs Road (IT04)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 20m to 34m (ultimate).	Land partially acquired Road partially constructed
RD05	**Exford Road: Exford Road (IT03) to Toolern Creek (BD03)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 0m to 34m (ultimate).	Land partially acquired
RD06	**Exford Road: Toolern Creek (BD03) to Ferris Road (IT05)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Create road reserve 34m (ultimate).	Not commenced To be constructed by Lendlease Council owns the land
RD07	**Exford Road: Ferris Road (IT05) to Mount Cottrell Road (IT06)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road. (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 0m to 34m (ultimate).	Not commenced
RD08	**Exford Road: Mount Cottrell Road (IT06) to Paynes Road (IT07)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width to 0m to 45m (ultimate).	Not commenced
RD09	Deleted – this project is in the Rockbank South PSP area	Deleted – this project is in the Rockbank South PSP area
RD10	Deleted – this project is in the Rockbank South PSP area	Deleted – this project is in the Rockbank South PSP area
RD11	**Mount Cottrell Road: Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line to PSP southern boundary** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land (including native vegetation re-alignment) to increase reserve width from 20m to 41m (ultimate).	Land partially acquired Road partially constructed
RD12	**Mount Cottrell Road: Western Freeway to Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land (including native vegetation re-alignment) to increase reserve width from 20m to 45m (ultimate).	Constructed
RD13	Skipped Project - There is no RD13 in the Toolern DCP	Skipped Project - There is no RD13 in the Toolern DCP
RD14	**Shogaki Drive: Ferris Road (IT13) to Industrial Connector Road (IT12)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 40m to 45m (ultimate).	Not commenced

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Status of Project
RD15	**Ferris Road: Western Freeway to Shogaki Drive (IT13)** Construction of additional lane in either direction to existing 4-lane divided road to provide ultimate 6-lane divided arterial road (ultimate layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 34m to 45m (ultimate).	Not commenced
RD16	**Ferris Road: Abey Road (IT13) to Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 34m to 38m (ultimate).	Not commenced
RD17	**Ferris Road: Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line to Exford Road (IT05)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout).	Partially constructed Partially committed
RD18	**Abey Road: Toolern Creek (BD01) to Ferris Road (IT13)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve with from 19m to 38m (ultimate).	Constructed
RD19	**Shogaki Drive: Industrial Connector Road (IT12) to Mount Cottrell Road (IT10)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land to increase reserve width from 0m to 45m (ultimate).	Not commenced
RD20	**Ferris Road: Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line to Exford Road (IT05)** Purchase land to increase reserve width from 20m to 38m, for road section on Property 30 only.	Land acquired
RD21	**Ferris Road: Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line to Exford Road (IT05)** Purchase land to increase reserve width from 20m to 38m, for balance of required land (excluding Property 30).	Land owned by Council
RD22	**Paynes Road: Alfred Road (IT30) to East-West Connector Road 1 (IT31)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).	Not commenced
RD23	**Paynes Road: East-West Connector Road 1 (IT31) to Exford Road (IT07)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).	Not commenced
RD24	**Paynes Road: Exford Road (IT07) to East-West Connector Road 2 (IT32)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).	Not commenced
Intersection Projects		
IT01	**Intersection: Rees Road and East West Arterial** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
IT02	**Intersection: East West Arterial and Exford Road** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
IT03	**Intersection: Exford Road and Exford Road** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
IT04	**Intersection: Exford Road and Greigs Road** Upgrade of protected right-turn lane and left-turn deceleration lane, including drainage and landscaping.	Not commenced
IT05	**Intersection: Exford Road and Ferris Road** Purchase of land and construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced To be constructed by Lendlease
IT06	**Intersection: Exford Road and Mount Cottrell Road** Purchase of land and construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
IT07	**Intersection: Exford Road and Paynes Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
IT08	Deleted – this project is in the Rockbank South PSP area	Project deleted as it is in the Rockbank South PSP area
IT09	Deleted – this project is in the Rockbank South PSP area	Project deleted as it is in the Rockbank South PSP area

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Status of Project
IT10	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Shogaki Drive** Purchase of land and construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Partially constructed
IT11	Skipped Project - There is no IT11 in the Toolern DCP	This project was skipped in the Toolern DCP
IT12	**Intersection: Shogaki Drive and Industrial Connector Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
IT13	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Shogaki Drive** Purchase of land and construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
IT14	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Hollingsworth Drive** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).	Constructed
IT15	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Bridge Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Committed project Part of Bridge Road extension
IT16	**Intersection: Abey Road and Industrial Connector Road** Construction of a signalised T-intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
IT17	**Intersection: Abey Road and Bundy Drive** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
IT18	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Shakamaker Drive** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (ultimate standard).	Not commenced
IT19	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Baxterpark Drive** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).	Constructed
IT20	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Southern Connector Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
IT21	**Intersection: Exford Road and Eastern North-South Connector Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
IT22	**Intersection: Exford Road and Central North-South Connector Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
IT23	**Intersection: Exford Road and Western North-South Connector Road** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced To be constructed by Lendlease
IT24	**Intersection: Exford Road and Connector Road** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).	Constructed
IT25	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Bridge Road** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
IT26	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Alfred Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Constructed
IT27	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Alfred Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Constructed
IT28	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Southern Connector Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Committed To be constructed by LendLease
IT29	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Enterprise Street** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
IT30	**Intersection: Paynes Road and Alfred Road** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Status of Project
IT31	**Intersection: Paynes Road and East-West Connector Road 1** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
IT32	**Intersection: Paynes Road and East-West Connector Road 2** Construction of a signalised 3-way intersection (interim standard).	Not commenced
Bridge Projects		
BD01	**Abey Road Bridge** Construction of an arterial road bridge over the Toolern Creek.	Constructed
BD02	**Bridge Road Bridge** Construction of a connector road bridge over the Toolern Creek.	Constructed
BD03	**Exford Road Bridge** Construction of an arterial road bridge over the Toolern Creek.	Not commenced
BD04	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge 1: Toolern Creek** Construction of a shared use pedestrian bridge over the Toolern Creek.	Not commenced
BD05	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge 2: Toolern Creek** Construction of a shared use pedestrian bridge over the Toolern Creek.	Not commenced
BD06	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge 3: Toolern Creek** Construction of a shared use pedestrian bridge over the Toolern Creek.	Not commenced
BD07	**Pedestrian Underpass 1: Melbourne Ballarat Railway** Construction of a pedestrian underpass.	Not commenced
BD08	**Pedestrian Underpass 2: Melbourne Ballarat Railway** Construction of a pedestrian underpass.	Not commenced
BD09	Deleted – replaced by BD16 (see Appendix 2)	Project deleted as it has been replaced by BD16
BD10	**Pedestrian Underpass 4: Melbourne Ballarat Railway** Construction of a pedestrian underpass.	Not commenced
BD11	Deleted – will be constructed as part of the Paynes Road Railway Station project	Project deleted as this underpass will be included in the Paynes Road Station construction project
BD12	Deleted – an adequate number of bridges have been provided over the Toolern Creek	Project deleted as this underpass will be included in the Paynes Road Station construction project
BD13	Deleted – an adequate number of bridges have been provided over the Toolern Creek	Project deleted as this underpass will be included in the Paynes Road Station construction project
BD14	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge 4: Toolern Creek** Construction of a shared use pedestrian bridge over the Toolern Creek.	Not commenced
BD15	**Ferris Road Rail Overpass** Construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of Ferris Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (interim standard).	Not commenced
BD16	**East Road Rail Overpass** Construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of East Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (interim standard).	Not commenced
BD17	**Paynes Road Rail Overpass** Construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of Paynes Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (interim standard).	Not commenced

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Status of Project
BD18	**Paynes Road Level Crossing Upgrade** Construction of an upgrade to the level crossing at the intersection of Paynes Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor, including automatic gates and pedestrian crossings (ultimate standard). Note: Paynes Road level crossing will be closed upon completion of the construction of the Paynes Road Overpass (BD17).	Not commenced
BD19	**Mount Cottrell Freeway Interchange** Purchase of land for the construction of a half diamond interchange at the intersection of Mount Cottrell Road and the Western Freeway corridor (ultimate standard, southern approach only)	Not commenced
BD20	**Mount Cottrell Rail Overpass** Purchase of land for the construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of Mount Cottrell Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (ultimate standard).	Not commenced
BD21	**Mount Cottrell Road Level Crossing Upgrade** Construction of an upgrade to the level crossing at the intersection of Mount Cottrell Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor, including automatic gates and pedestrian crossings (ultimate standard). Note: Mount Cottrell Road level crossing will be closed upon completion of the construction of the Mount Cottrell Road Overpass (BD20).	Not commenced
Public Transport Projects		
PT01	**Bus Interchange** Purchase land to provide for Local Bus Interchange (1 Hectare)	Land acquired
Trail Projects		
TR01	**Toolern Creek Regional Park Trail** Concrete Shared Path including pavement, drainage and landscaping (3 metres wide, length 3,250 metres)	Constructed
Community Facility Projects		
CI01	**Cobblebank Higher Order Civic Facility** Higher Order Civic Facility, including a Level 3 Community Centre, located within the Metropolitan Activity Centre.	Land acquired
CI02	**Cobblebank Indoor Recreation Centre** Indoor Recreation Centre located within the Metropolitan Activity Centre.	Land acquired Facility constructed
CI03	**Weir Views North Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 1) in **Community Hub 1** - early childhood rooms component - including kindergarten and maternal health.	S173 Agreement to purchase land
CI04	**Weir Views North Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 1) in **Community Hub 1** - community rooms component.	Not commenced
CI05	Deleted – Council no longer provides childcare rooms in Early Childhood Centres	Project deleted as Council does not include childcare rooms in early childhood centres
CI06	**Weir Views South Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 2** - early childhood rooms component - including kindergarten and maternal health.	Not commenced
CI07	**Weir Views South Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 2** - community rooms component.	Not commenced
CI08	Deleted – Council no longer provides childcare rooms in Early Childhood Centres	Project deleted as Council does not include childcare rooms in early childhood centres

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Status of Project
CI09	**Strathtulloh Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 1) in **Community Hub 3** - early childhood rooms component - including kindergarten and maternal health.	Not commenced
CI10	**Strathtulloh Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 1) in **Community Hub 3** - community rooms component.	Not commenced
CI11	Deleted – Council no longer provides childcare rooms in Early Childhood Centres	Project deleted as Council does not include childcare rooms in early childhood centres
CI12	**Thornhill Park Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 1) in **Community Hub 4** - early childhood rooms component - including kindergarten and maternal health.	Not commenced
CI13	**Thornhill Park Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 1) in **Community Hub 4** - community rooms component.	Not commenced
CI14	Deleted – Council no longer provides childcare rooms in Early Childhood Centres	Project deleted as Council does not include childcare rooms in early childhood centres
CI15	**Cobblebank East Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 5** - early childhood rooms component - including kindergarten and maternal health.	Not commenced
CI16	**Cobblebank East Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 5** - community rooms component.	Not commenced
CI17	Deleted – Council no longer provides childcare rooms in Early Childhood Centres	Project deleted as Council does not include childcare rooms in early childhood centres
CI18A	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 6** - early childhood components - including kindergarten and maternal health. Area 2 contribution (60%)	Constructed
CI18B	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 6** - early childhood components - including kindergarten and maternal health. Area 3 contribution (40%)	Constructed
CI19A	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 6** - childcare components. Area 2 contribution (60%)	Constructed
CI19B	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 6** - childcare components. Area 3 contribution (40%)	Constructed
CI20	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in **Community Hub 6** - community rooms component	Constructed
Active Recreation Projects		
AR01	**Weir Views North Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 1** incorporating:	Not commenced

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Status of Project
	- Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ - Tennis / multi-purpose hard courts incorporating 4 courts with lighting and parking, including all construction works, landscaping and related infrastructure	
AR02	**Weir Views North Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 1**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure	Not commenced
AR03	**Weir Views East Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ	Not commenced
AR04	**Weir Views East Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure	Not commenced
AR05	**Weir Views South Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 2** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ	Not commenced
AR06	**Weir Views South Sports Reserve** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 2**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure	Not commenced
AR07	**Strathtulloh Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 3** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ	Not commenced
AR08	**Strathtulloh Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 3**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure	Not commenced
AR09	**Thornhill Park Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 4** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ - Tennis / multi-purpose hard courts incorporating 4 courts with lighting and parking, including all construction works, landscaping and related infrastructure	Not commenced
AR10	**Thornhill Park Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 4**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure	Not commenced
AR11	**Cobblebank East Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 5** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ	Not commenced
AR12	**Cobblebank East Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 5**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure	Not commenced
AR13	**Cobblebank Central Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 7** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ	Not commenced

Project ID No.	Former Project Name and Description in the Toolern PSP and DCP documents	Status of Project
AR14	**Cobblebank Central Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 7**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure	Not commenced
AR15A	**Bridge Road Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 6** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ - Tennis / multi-purpose hard courts incorporating 4 courts with lighting and parking, including all construction works, landscaping and related infrastructure Area 2 Contribution (60%)	Constructed
AR15B	**Bridge Road Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in **Community Hub 6** incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ - Tennis / multi-purpose hard courts incorporating 4 courts with lighting and parking, including all construction works, landscaping and related infrastructure Area 3 Contribution (40%)	Constructed
AR16	**Bridge Road Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion in **Community Hub 1**, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure	Constructed
OS01	**Weir Views North Sports Reserve** Purchase of 9.83 hectares of land for active open space for AR01 and AR02	S173 Agreement to purchase land
OS02	**Weir Views East Sports Reserve** Purchase of 4.00 hectares of land for active open space for AR03 and AR04	S173 Agreement to purchase land
OS03	**Weir Views South Sports Reserve** Purchase of 8.96 hectares of land for active open space for AR05 and AR06	Not acquired
OS04	**Strathtulloh Sports Reserve** Purchase of 8.62 hectares of land for active open space for AR07 and AR08	Not acquired
OS05	**Thornhill Park Sports Reserve** Purchase of 8.69 hectares of land for active open space for AR09 and AR10	Not acquired
OS06	**Cobblebank East Sports Reserve** Purchase of 4.56 hectares of land for active open space for AR11 and AR12	Not acquired
OS07	**Cobblebank Central Sports Reserve** Purchase of 8.19 hectares of land for active open space for AR13 and AR14. Area 2 Contributions (60%)	Not acquired
OS08	**Cobblebank Central Sports Reserve** Purchase of 8.19 hectares of land for active open space for AR13 and AR14. Area 3 Contributions (40%)	Not acquired
OS09	**Cobblebank MAC Open Space** Purchase of 1.0 hectare for Metropolitan Activity Centre Public Open Space	Not acquired
Structure Planning		
PL01	**Plan Preparation** Preparation of Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan.	Plan prepared

Appendix 5 – Deleted Project Values

The following transport, and community and recreation projects were identified as requiring land acquisition.

The land for these projects is not required to be purchased as Council already owns this land, and therefore it is not required to be acquired by the DCP. This results in a $12.6 million saving to the Toolern DCP.

Community and Recreation Projects

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description	Construction Amount Saved from the DCP $2021/2022
CI01	**Cobblebank Higher Order Civic Facility** Higher Order Civic Facility, including a Level 3 Community Centre, located within the Metropolitan Activity Centre.	$4,500,000
CI02	**Cobblebank Indoor Recreation Centre** Indoor Recreation Centre located within the Metropolitan Activity Centre.	$8,100,000
Total Saving to DCP		**$12,600,000**

The following transport projects have been deleted from the Toolern DCP, which has reduced the cost of the new projects being added to the Toolern DCP:

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description	Construction Amount Saved from the DCP $2021/2022
RD09	**Paynes Road: Toolern Boundary to Greigs Road.** Upgrade existing 2-lane unsealed rural road to provide 2-lane carriageway (length 725 metres).	$1,842,205
RD10	**Mount Cottrell Road: Toolern Boundary to Greigs Road.** Upgrade existing 2-lane unsealed rural road to provide 2-lane carriageway (length 1,045 metres).	$2,655,316
IT08	**Paynes Road and Greigs Road: Intersection.** Upgrade of protected right-turn lane and left-turn deceleration lane, including drainage and landscaping.	$516,979
IT09	**Mount Cottrell Road and Greigs Road: Intersection.** Intersection upgrade - construction of roundabout.	$516,979
BD09	**Pedestrian Underpass 3: Melbourne Ballarat Railway.** Construction, including 3-metre wide, 50-metre long box culverts, end walls, concrete path, drainage, and lighting.	$2,973,499
BD11	**Pedestrian Underpass 5: Melbourne Ballarat Railway.** Construction, including 3-metre wide, 50-metre long box culverts, end walls, concrete path, drainage, and lighting.	$2,973,499
BD12	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge (No. 4).** Bridge over Toolern Creek, incorporating abutments and lighting (3-metre wide timber structure, deck length 30 metres).	$1,384,668
BD13	**Shared Use Pedestrian Bridge (No. 5).** Bridge over Toolern Creek, incorporating abutments and lighting (3-metre wide timber structure, deck length 30 metres).	$1,384,668
Total Saving to DCP		**$14,257,813**

The following existing transport projects have been apportioned to the Paynes Road DCP, which has reduced the cost of the projects:

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description	Construction Amount Saved from the DCP $2021/2022
RD12	**Mount Cottrell Road: Western Freeway to Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout). Purchase land (including native vegetation re-alignment) to increase reserve width from 20m to 41m (ultimate).	$3,959,120 (construction component)
IT10	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Shogaki Drive** Purchase of land and construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	$666,771 (construction component)
IT19	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Baxterpark Drive** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).	$535,778
Total Saving to DCP		**$5,161,669**

The following existing transport project has been apportioned to the Rockbank DCP, which has reduced the cost of the project:

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description	Construction Amount Saved from the DCP $2021/2022
IT07	**Intersection: Exford Road and Paynes Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	$2,809,888
Total Saving to DCP		**$2,809,888**

The following new transport projects have been apportioned to the Paynes Road and Rockbank DCPs, which has reduced the cost of the projects:

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description	Construction Amount Saved from the DCP $2021/2022
RD22	**Paynes Road: Alfred Road (IT30) to East-West Connector Road 1 (IT31)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).	$699,345
RD23	**Paynes Road: East-West Connector Road 1 (IT31) to Exford Road (IT07)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).	$895,730
RD24	**Paynes Road: Exford Road (IT07) to East-West Connector Road 2 (IT32)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).	$474,078
IT30	**Intersection: Paynes Road and Alfred Road** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	$1,936,132
IT31	**Intersection: Paynes Road and East-West Connector Road 1** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	$1,675,114
IT32	**Intersection: Paynes Road and East-West Connector Road 2** Construction of a signalised 3-way intersection (interim standard).	$2,621,582
BD17	**Paynes Road Rail Overpass** Construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of Paynes Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (interim standard).	$11,157,454
BD18	**Paynes Road Level Crossing Upgrade** Construction of an upgrade to the level crossing at the intersection of Paynes Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor, including automatic gates and pedestrian crossings (ultimate standard). Note: Paynes Road level crossing will be closed upon completion of the construction of the Paynes Road Overpass (BD18).	$471,052
BD21	**Mount Cottrell Road Level Crossing Upgrade** Construction of an upgrade to the level crossing at the intersection of Mount Cottrell Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor, including automatic gates and pedestrian crossings (ultimate standard). Note: Mount Cottrell Road level crossing will be closed upon completion of the construction of the Mount Cottrell Road Overpass (BD20).	$131,250
Total Saving to DCP		**$20,061,738**

Appendix 6 – New Project Values

The following projects are projects that were missing from the Rockbank DCP:

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description	Construction Amount Apportioned to Toolern DCP $2021/2022	Construction Amount Apportioned to External DCP $2021/2022
RD22	**Paynes Road: Alfred Road (IT30) to East-West Connector Road 1 (IT31)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).	$699,345	$699,345
RD23	**Paynes Road: East-West Connector Road 1 (IT31) to Exford Road (IT07)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).	$895,730	$895,730
RD24	**Paynes Road: Exford Road (IT07) to East-West Connector Road 2 (IT32)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim standard).	$474,078	$474,078
IT30	**Intersection: Paynes Road and Alfred Road** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	$1,936,132	$1,936,132
IT31	**Intersection: Paynes Road and East-West Connector Road 1** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	$1,675,114	$1,675,114
IT32	**Intersection: Paynes Road and East-West Connector Road 2** Construction of a signalised 3-way intersection (interim standard).	$873,861	$2,621,582
BD17	**Paynes Road Rail Overpass** Construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of Paynes Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (interim standard).	$3,719,151	$11,157,454
BD18	**Paynes Road Level Crossing Upgrade** Construction of an upgrade to the level crossing at the intersection of Paynes Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor, including automatic gates and pedestrian crossings (ultimate standard). Note: Paynes Road level crossing will be closed upon completion of the construction of the Paynes Road Overpass (BD17).	$157,017	$471,052
Total		**$10,430,428**	**$19,930,487**

The following projects are projects that were missing from the Paynes Road DCP:

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description	Construction Amount Apportioned to Toolern DCP $2021/2022	Construction Amount Apportioned to External DCP $2021/2022
BD19	**Mount Cottrell Freeway Interchange** Purchase of land for the construction of a half diamond interchange at the intersection of Mount Cottrell Road and the Western Freeway corridor (ultimate standard, southern approach only)		Land project only – no external apportionment
BD20	**Mount Cottrell Rail Overpass** Purchase of land for the construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of Mount Cottrell Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (ultimate standard).		Land project only – no external apportionment
BD21	**Mount Cottrell Road Level Crossing Upgrade** Construction of an upgrade to the level crossing at the intersection of Mount Cottrell Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor, including automatic gates and pedestrian crossings (ultimate standard). Note: Mount Cottrell Road level crossing will be closed upon completion of the construction of the Mount Cottrell Road Overpass (BD20).	$393,750	$131,250
Total		**$393,750**	**$131,250**

The following projects are projects that were recommended to be added from the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework*:

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description	Construction Value Added to the DCP $2021/2022
IT29	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Enterprise Street** Construction of a signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).	$4,773,543
BD15	**Ferris Road Rail Overpass** Construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of Ferris Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (interim standard).	$15,075,483
BD16	**East Road Rail Overpass** Construction of a rail-road grade separation at the intersection of East Road and the Melbourne - Ballarat rail corridor (interim standard).	$13,833,445
Total		**$33,682,471**

Appendix 7 – Constructed Projects

The following projects have been constructed (or the land acquired). The project values have been frozen at the value that is currently in the DCP, and then indexed to $2021/2022.

If these projects were costed today, it is anticipated that their values would be expected to be significantly higher, as demonstrated in the increase in construction values of similar projects that have had new project cost sheets prepared.

Bridge 01 – Abey Road Bridge

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
BD01	**Abey Road Bridge** Construction of an arterial road bridge over the Toolern Creek.

Bridge 02 – Bridge Road Bridge

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
BD02	**Bridge Road Bridge** Construction of an arterial road bridge over the Toolern Creek.

Road 01 – Rees Road: PSP Boundary to East-West Arterial Road

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
RD01	**Rees Road: Coburns Road (PSP boundary) to East West Arterial (IT01)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout).

Road 12 – Mount Cottrell Road: Western Freeway to Railway Line

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
RD12	**Mount Cottrell Road: Western Freeway to Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout).

Road 17 – Ferris Road: Rail Line to Exford Road

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
RD17	**Ferris Road: Melbourne Ballarat Rail Line to Exford Road (IT05)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout).

Road 18 – Abey Road: Toolern Creek to Ferris Road

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
RD18	**Abey Road: Toolern Creek (BD01) to Ferris Road (IT13)** Construction of a 2-lane arterial road (interim layout).

Intersection 14 - Ferris Road and Hollingsworth Drive

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
IT14	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Hollingsworth Drive** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).

Intersection 19 – Mount Cottrell Road and Baxterpark Drive

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
IT19	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Baxterpark Drive** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).

Intersection 24 – Exford Road and Elpis Road

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
IT24	**Intersection: Exford Road and Elpis Road** Construction of signalised T-intersection (interim standard).

Intersection 26 – Mt Cottrell Road and Alfred Road

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
IT26	**Intersection: Mount Cottrell Road and Alfred Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).

Intersection 27 – Ferris Road and Alfred Road

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
IT27	**Intersection: Ferris Road and Alfred Road** Construction of signalised 4-way intersection (interim standard).

Public Transport 01 – Bus Interchange (located at Cobblebank Railway Station)

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
PT01	Bus Interchange Purchase land to provide for Local Bus Interchange (1 Hectare)

Community Infrastructure 02 – Cobblebank Stadium

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
CI02	**Cobblebank Indoor Recreation Centre** Indoor Recreation Centre located within the Metropolitan Activity Centre.

Community Infrastructure 18, 19 and 20 – Bridge Road Children's and Community Centre

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
CI18A	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in Community Hub 6 - early childhood components - including kindergarten and maternal health. Area 2 contribution (60%)
CI18B	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in Community Hub 6 - early childhood components - including kindergarten and maternal health. Area 3 contribution (40%)
CI19A	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in Community Hub 6 - childcare components. Area 2 contribution (60%)
CI19B	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Purchase of land and construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in Community Hub 6 - childcare components. Area 3 contribution (40%)
CI20	**Bridge Road Community Centre** Construction of a multi-purpose community centre (Level 2) in Community Hub 6 - community rooms component

Active Recreation 15 and 16 – Bridge Road Sports Reserve

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
AR15A	**Bridge Road Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in Community Hub 6 incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ - Tennis / multi-purpose hard courts incorporating 4 courts with lighting and parking, including all construction works, landscaping and related infrastructure Area 2 Contribution (60%)
AR15B	**Bridge Road Sports Reserve** Construction of a sports reserve in Community Hub 6 incorporating: - Playing surfaces and car parks, including all construction works, landscaping, and related infrastructure - Playground including play space, youth space, picnic facilities, and BBQ - Tennis / multi-purpose hard courts incorporating 4 courts with lighting and parking, including all construction works, landscaping and related infrastructure Area 3 Contribution (40%)
AR16	**Bridge Road Sports Reserve Pavilion** Construction of a pavilion in Community Hub 1, including all building works, landscaping, and related infrastructure

Trail 01 – Regional Park Trail

Project ID No.	Project Name and Description
TR01	**Toolern Creek Regional Park Trail** Concrete Shared Path including pavement, drainage, and landscaping (3 metres wide, length 3,250 metres)

Planning and Environment Act 1987

MELTON PLANNING SCHEME

AMENDMENT C232

EXPLANATORY REPORT

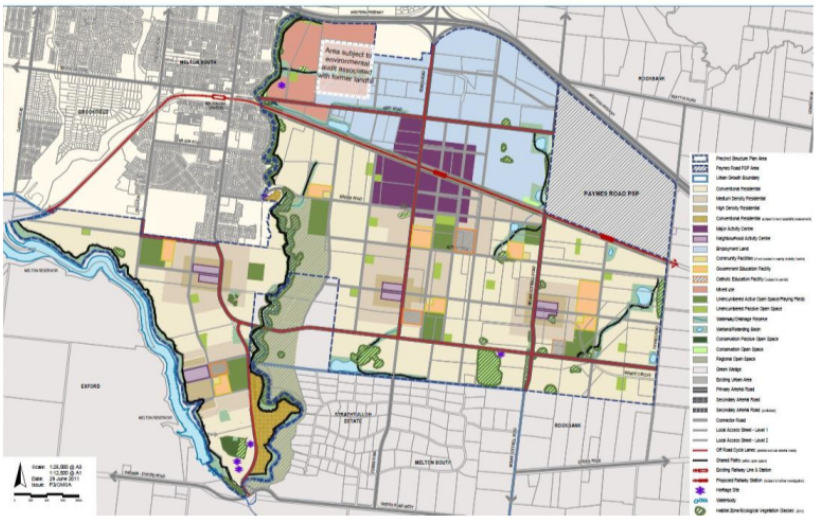
Who is the planning authority?

This amendment has been prepared by the Melton City Council, which is the planning authority for this amendment.

The amendment has been made at the request of Melton City Council.

Land affected by the amendment

The amendment applies to land in the City of Melton, which is subject to Clause 37.07 Urban Growth Zone, Schedule 3 Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, and Clause 45.06 Development Contributions Plan Overlay, Schedule 3 Toolern Development Contributions Plan.



What the amendment does

The amendment proposes to implement the recommendations of the *Toolern Development Contributions Plan and Precinct Structure Plan Review, June 2022* by amending various provisions of the Melton Planning Scheme.

Specifically, the amendment:

- Amends the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, July 2011 (amended February 2019)* and the *Toolern Development Contributions Plan, July 2011 (amended June 2020)* to reflect the recommendations of the *Toolern Development Contributions Plan and Precinct Structure Plan Review, June 2022*.
- Amends Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 Urban Growth Zone to reflect the changes to the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan*;
- Amends Schedule to Clause 43.01 Heritage Overlay to delete Schedule 74;
- Amends Schedule 3 to Clause 45.06 Development Contributions Plan to reflect the changes to the *Toolern Development Contributions Plan*;

- Amends Schedule to Clause 66.04 Referral of Permit Applications Under Local Provisions to reflect the changes to the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan* (July 2011, Amended June 2022); and
- Amend the Schedule to Clause 72.04 by inserting the following documents:
  - *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan* (July 2011, Amended July 2022); and
  - *Toolern Development Contributions Plan* (July 2011, Amended July 2022).

Strategic assessment of the amendment

Why is the amendment required?

The *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan (including Toolern Native Vegetation Precinct Plan), July 2011 (amended February 2019)* (PSP) and *Development Contributions Plan* (DCP), *July 2011 (amended June 2020)* were prepared by the Growth Areas Authority (now Victorian Planning Authority) and incorporated into the Melton Planning Scheme via Amendment C84, gazetted on 24 November 2011. The PSP provides direction for growth within the precinct and reflects the strategic direction of *Melbourne 2030* (replaced by *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*).

The PSP anticipated the development of 24,000 dwellings and a population of 55,000 people. To service this new population, the PSP identifies a Major Activity Centre (replaced by a Metropolitan Activity Centre), four Neighbourhood Activity Centres, a regional employment and industrial precinct, roads, education and community facilities, public recreation areas, a regional park on the Toolern Creek, and conservation areas.

The DCP enables monetary contributions towards transport, and community and recreation infrastructure in the incorporated document *Toolern Development Contributions Plan, July 2011 (amended June 2020)*.

Council has been monitoring the implementation of the PSP and DCP since their approval (via Amendment C84). There has been significant progress within the precinct area, necessitating a review of the *Toolern Development Contributions Plan* and the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan.*

The review has been informed by:

- State and Local Planning Policy Frameworks within the Melton Planning Scheme; and
- Other reviews, audits and papers commissioned by Melton City Council.

The review identified the following key issues, which are addressed in this amendment:

- The *Rockbank PSP* and *DCP* was approved in 2016. The *Rockbank DCP* includes new transport construction projects along Paynes Road (shared boundary with the Toolern PSP area) that are 50% apportioned to the Toolern DCP. These projects are not currently included in the Toolern DCP and therefore no money is currently being collected for these projects from the Toolern DCP.
- The *Paynes Road PSP* was approved in 2016. The *Paynes Road PSP* includes new transport construction projects along Mount Cottrell Road (shared boundary with the Toolern PSP area) that are 50% apportioned to the Toolern DCP. These projects are not currently included in the Toolern DCP and therefore no money is currently being collected for these projects from the Toolern DCP.
- The Toolern (Cobblebank) Major Activity Centre was elevated to a Metropolitan Activity Centre in 2017 (*Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*).
- The *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework* was adopted by Council in December 2019, which identified several transport projects that should be added to the Toolern DCP.
- The number of dwellings being delivered and the household size in the PSP area have been higher than forecast, resulting in increased demand for community and recreation infrastructure.
- Developers and Council have encountered difficulties in delivering transport projects as Functional Layout Plans had not been prepared for the transport network, which has resulted in the Toolern PSP and DCP providing insufficient land for transport projects.

- Developers have reported to Council that the transport project costs have been significantly underestimated, as project cost sheets had not been prepared for transport projects.

- Melbourne Water have reviewed the Drainage Services Schemes operating in the Toolern PSP area and require changes to the amount of land required for drainage.

The review recommended the following changes to the Toolern DCP and PSP documents:

Demographics

ASR Research were engaged by Melton City Council to undertake a review of the demographics of the Toolern PSP area. ASR Research considered planning approvals and found that residential densities have been higher than forecast, which has resulted in more dwellings being provided in the PSP than originally forecast. ASR Research also found that the Toolern PSP significantly underestimated the overall average household size for dwellings in the Toolern PSP area.

ASR Research made the following recommendations in their report - *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan Review – Community Infrastructure – Recommendations Report, January 2021*:

- Increase the number of dwellings in the Toolern PSP from 24,000 to 25,000.

- Increase the household size from 2.3 to 2.7 people.

- Increase the projected population from 55,000 to 68,000 people.

- Increase the size of community centres in the Toolern PSP area to accommodate increased population (increase the number of early childhood rooms required in each of the six planned community centres from three rooms to four rooms).

Community and Recreation Infrastructure

ASR Research were engaged by Melton City Council to undertake a review of the community infrastructure identified in the Toolern PSP area. ASR Research made the following recommendations in their report - *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan Review – Community Infrastructure – Recommendations Report, January 2021*:

- Incorporate the community centre designs and project cost sheets prepared by *HEDE Architects* into the Toolern DCP. This results in changes to the construction costs for most community centres.

- Adopt the VPA's Benchmark Infrastructure Costs for the construction of Active Open Space Reserves and incorporate these into the Toolern DCP.

- Relocate the non-government primary school shown in Community Hub 3 to Community Hub 7, at the request of the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools.

- Increase the size of the non-government primary school in Community Hub 2 to 3.0 Ha, at the request of the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools.

- Decrease the size of the active open space reserve in Community Hub 2 by 0.2 Ha and increase the size of the community centre in Community Hub 2 by 0.2 Ha.

- Decrease the size of the Government primary school in Community Hub 5 by 0.2 Ha (at the request of the Victorian School Building Authority) and increase the size of the community centre in Community Hub 5 by 0.2 Ha.

- Relocate the indoor recreation centre and the civic centre from land on the east side of Ferris Road to the west side of Ferris Road to sites owned by Melton City Council.

- Update the names and descriptions of community and recreation infrastructure to be consistent with naming and description conventions used in contemporary PSPs and DCPs.

Charter Keck Cramer were engaged by Melton City Council to undertake land valuations for infrastructure identified in the Toolern DCP. The land valuations are found in their report – *Land Valuations for the Toolern Precinct Structure Plan Area, May 2022*:

- Update land values prepared by *Charter Keck Cramer* into the Toolern DCP.

Transport Infrastructure

Melton City Council undertook a review of the *Rockbank Precinct Structure Plan, August 2016* and *Development Contributions Plan*, *August 2016*, and the *Paynes Road Precinct Structure Plan, February 2016* and *Development Contributions Plan, December 2020*. The review revealed projects that were apportioned to the Toolern DCP, and were not listed as projects in the Toolern DCP:

- Add the missing projects from the *Rockbank PSP* along Paynes Road to the Toolern PSP / DCP (three intersection projects, three road projects, and two bridge projects).

- Add the missing projects from the *Paynes Road PSP* along Mount Cottrell Road to the Toolern PSP / DCP (three bridge projects).

Melton City Council held a workshop with State Government Agencies that identified a number of projects that should be deleted from the Toolern PSP and DCP:

- Delete two road projects and two intersection projects from the Toolern PSP / DCP as they are in the future Rockbank South PSP area.

- Delete two rail line pedestrian underpasses and two pedestrian bridges over the Toolern Creek, as they are no longer required.

Melton City Council undertook a review of the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework, December 2019* and the *Cobblebank Employment and Mixed-Use Urban Design Framework, December 2019* to identify projects that should be added to the Toolern PSP and DCP:

- Add the missing projects from the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework* to the Toolern PSP / DCP (two bridge projects and one intersection project).

Cardno was engaged by Melton City Council to review the transport infrastructure items identified in the Toolern PSP and DCP. Cardno prepared Functional Layout Plans for the road network, bridge designs, new road cross-sections, and project cost sheets. Cardno prepared the report - *Recommended Changes to Toolern PSP and DCP Documents, March 2022*:

- Incorporate the Functional Layout Plans (FLPs) prepared by Cardno into the Toolern DCP. The FLPs have identified additional land is required to deliver the transport network.

- Incorporate the bridge designs prepared by Cardno into the Toolern DCP.

- Incorporate the transport project cost sheets prepared by Cardno, and Currie and Brown into the Toolern DCP. These project cost sheets result in changes to most of the transport projects in the DCP.

Charter Keck Cramer were engaged by Melton City Council to undertake land valuations for infrastructure identified in the Toolern DCP. The land valuations are found in their report – *Land Valuations for the Toolern Precinct Structure Plan Area, May 2022*:

- Update land values prepared by Charter Keck Cramer into the Toolern DCP.

Melton City Council has prepared a planning report that summarises additional changes to be made to the Toolern PSP and DCP documents, *Toolern Development Contributions Plan Review and Precinct Structure Plan Refresh Planning Report, June 2022*:

- Index the values of transport infrastructure, and community and recreation infrastructure that has been delivered to $2021.

- Update the names and descriptions of transport infrastructure to be consistent with naming and description conventions used in contemporary PSPs and DCPs.

Drainage Infrastructure

Melbourne Water has provided Council changes to be made to the Drainage Service Schemes:

- Change the location and sizes of drainage assets in the Toolern PSP and DCP to reflect the location of assets in Melbourne Water's revised Drainage Service Schemes. This increases the amount of land required for drainage in the Toolern PSP area.

- Add a stormwater asset table to the Toolern PSP that identifies the purpose and size of each asset.

Heritage Overlay Schedule 74 – Parklea

Extent Heritage were engaged by Melton City Council to review the site subject to Schedule 74 of the Heritage Overlay, as the house identified in the Statement of Significance burnt down in 2014. The following recommendations have been taken from their *Recommendations Report, April 2020*:

- Remove Schedule 74 to the Heritage Overlay as the house burnt down in 2014.

- Add a guideline to the Toolern PSP requiring on-site interpretation of the removed place and remaining extant fabric within the Toolern Creek reserve (Toolern Creek ford, cobbled driveway, and driveway plantings).

Paynes Road PSP

- Remove the Paynes Road PSP area from the Toolern DCP as money is now being collected from through the Paynes Road DCP.

The amendment proposes to update the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, July 2011 (amended February 2019)* to:

- Update references to State Government departments / agencies to reflect their current names e.g. Growth Areas Authority is now the Victorian Planning Authority.

- Update references to Melton Shire to Melton City.

- Remove obsolete planning controls.

- Update references to State Government and Council plans and strategies to reflect current editions such as *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*.

- Update terms to be consistent with *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* e.g. Toolern Major Activity Centre is now the Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre.

- Add new suburb names that were introduced in 2017. The Toolern PSP area covers four new suburbs – Cobblebank, Strathtulloh, Thornhill Park and Weir Views.

- Add projects that are apportioned to the Toolern DCP from the Rockbank DCP and the Paynes Road DCP.

- Add missing projects from the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework*.

- Delete redundant transport projects.

- Update land areas associated with changes to drainage, transport, and community and recreation infrastructure.

The amendment proposes to update the incorporated *Toolern Development Contributions Plan, July 2011 (amended June 2020)* to:

- Update references to State Government Strategies and department / agency to reflect their current names e.g. Growth Areas Authority is now the Victorian Planning Authority.

- Update references to Melton Shire to Melton City.

- Remove obsolete planning controls.

- Update references to State Government and Council plans and strategies to reflect current editions such as *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*.

- Update the documents to reference State Government and Council plans and strategies to reflect current editions such as *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*.
- Update terms to be consistent with *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* e.g. Toolern Major Activity Centre is now the Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre.
- Add new suburb names that were introduced in 2017. The Toolern PSP area covers four new suburbs – Cobblebank, Strathtulloh, Thornhill Park and Weir Views.
- Add projects that are apportioned to the Toolern DCP from the Rockbank DCP and the Paynes Road DCP.
- Add missing projects from the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework*.
- Delete redundant transport projects.
- Update land areas associated with changes to drainage, transport, and community and recreation infrastructure.
- Update infrastructure project costs.

The amendment proposes to update Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 Urban Growth Zone to:

- Apply the ordinance as specified by the Minister for Planning in *Ministerial Direction – the Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Update references to the Metropolitan Activity Centre.
- Update references to State Government departments and authorities to reflect their current names.
- Exempt non-government schools from requiring a planning permit to use land identified as a non-government school in the PSP.
- Introduce a new provision that a permit is required to construct or carry out works associated with a non-government school.
- Increase the shop floor cap area in the Metropolitan Activity Centre from 30,000 sqm to 70,000 sqm to be consistent with the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre UDF*.
- Change the requirement for a dwelling in a Commercial 1 Zone to remove the permit exemption for a dwelling with a ground floor frontage greater than two metres.
- Insert a new application requirement for residential subdivision that all applications must include a table that sets out the amount of land allocated to the proposed uses and expected population, dwelling and employment yields.
- Insert a new application requirement for all subdivision that all applications that create or change access to a primary or secondary arterial road must be accompanied by a Traffic Impact Assessment Report.
- Insert new guidance on land and home sales signs.
- Amend the guidance on the display of promotion signs to include community uses rather than just education uses.

The amendment updates Schedule 3 to Clause 45.06 Development Contributions Plan to:

- Apply the ordinance as specified by the Minister for Planning in *Ministerial Direction – the Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.
- Update references to State Government departments and authorities to reflect their current names.
- Exempt non-government schools and housing provided by or on the behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services from paying Development Infrastructure Levies as required by *Ministerial Direction – the Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.

- Update the Development Infrastructure Levies payable for the four charge areas.

The amendment updates the Schedule to Clause 66.04 Referral of Permit Applications Under Local Provisions to:

- Apply the ordinance as specified by the Minister for Planning in *Ministerial Direction – the Form and Content of Planning Schemes*:
  - Relocate the referral provisions of an application on land shown as a Metropolitan Activity Centre to the Victorian Planning Authority from Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 Urban Growth Zone.
  - Relocate the referral provisions of an application for residential subdivision or development within 500 metres of the former Melton Landfill to the Environment Protection Authority from Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 Urban Growth Zone.
  - Relocate the referral provisions of a sensitive use within 440 metres of the Technochem Australia to the Environment Protection Authority and WorkSafe Victoria from Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 Urban Growth Zone.

The amendment updates the Schedule to Clause 72.04 Incorporated Documents to:

- Reference the updated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, July 2011 (Amended February 2019)* to *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, July 2011 (Amended June 2022).*
- Reference the updated *Toolern Development Contributions Plan, July 2011 (Amended June 2020)* to *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, July 2011 (Amended June 2022).*

How does the amendment implement the objectives of planning in Victoria?

The amendment will facilitate the implementation of an updated PSP and DCP that will:

- Ensure landowners are properly compensated for land required to deliver required transport, and community and recreation infrastructure.
- Ensure adequate money is being collected to build required transport, and community and recreation infrastructure.

The amendment implements the following objectives of planning in Victoria, set out in Section 4(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to:

a) Provide for the fair, orderly, economic and sustainable use, and development of land.

c) Ensure a pleasant, efficient and safe working, living and recreational environment for all Victorians and visitors to Victoria.

e) Protect public utilities and other assets and enable the orderly provision and co-ordination of public utilities and other facilities for the benefit of the community.

f) Facilitate development in accordance with the objectives of planning in Victoria.

The amendment implements these objectives by:

- Providing a fair and reasonable basis between existing development and new development according to the share of usage of the infrastructure project.
- Providing a lawful and equitable method to collect contributions.
- Providing certainty as to the required development contributions for residential, retail, commercial and industrial development.
- Aiding the orderly and timely provision of necessary social and physical infrastructure throughout the municipality.

The amendment implements Part 3B of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* by enabling a Development Infrastructure Levy and Community Infrastructure Levy for land development in the municipality.

How does the amendment address any environmental, social and economic effects?

Environmental effects

Areas that have been identified for conservation purposes in the *Toolern Native Vegetation Precinct Plan, July 2011 (amended February 2019)* will be retained.

Areas that have been identified for open space in the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, July 2011 (amended February 2019)* will be retained.

This amendment proposes to:

- Make minor changes to the size of two active open space reserves.
- Increase the size of the community centre at Community Hub 2 by 0.2 Ha, thereby reducing the size of the active open space reserve by 0.2 Ha.
- Increase the size of the active open space reserve for Community Hub 7 (land formerly identified as a non-government school) by 0.29 Ha.
- Make changes to the size and location of land identified for stormwater and drainage purposes. The changes to this land are in accordance with the revisions made by Melbourne Water to the Drainage Service Schemes in the Toolern PSP area and are required to ensure flood risk is managed appropriately.

Economic effects

This amendment proposes to amend the *Toolern DCP, July 2011 (amended June 2020)* to ensure adequate funds are being collected to acquire land and construct basic and essential infrastructure required to facilitate development within the Toolern PSP areas and to provide services for the growing community.

This amendment proposes to:

- Include transport projects from the Paynes Road and Rockbank PSPs and DCPs that are apportioned to the Toolern DCP ensuring adequate funds are being collected to construct transport projects along Paynes Road and Mount Cottrell Road.
- Include transport projects from the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework* ensuring adequate funds are being collected to construct transport projects to service development in the Metropolitan Activity Centre.
- Amend land areas set aside for transport projects, and community and recreation projects to ensure sufficient land is being reserved to construct essential infrastructure, and landowners are adequately compensated for land required for this purpose.
- Remove redundant transport projects from the Toolern DCP.
- Provide Functional Layout Plans and designs for bridges, community centres and active open space reserves to provide clarity and transparency to landowners, developers, the community, and state government departments and agencies on infrastructure to be provided within the Toolern PSP area.
- Provides project cost sheets for all infrastructure based on the Victorian Planning Authority's *Benchmark Infrastructure Report, April 2019*. This will provide clarity and transparency to landowners, developers, the community, and state government departments and agencies on the cost of constructing the infrastructure identified in the Toolern DCP.

Social effects

This amendment provides net community benefit n respect to the delivery of infrastructure for early childhood, in response to the projected increase in population and state government policy. It increases the size of all community centres in the Toolern PSP area to ensure adequate early childhood rooms are provided to service the needs of three and four-year old kindergarten needs in line with state government policy.

This amendment will improve the content within the Toolern PSP, make adequate provision of funds within the DCP, and strengthen statutory planning controls, which in turn will improved the facilitation of development within the precinct to accommodate the growing population and provide services and amenities for the growing community.

Does the amendment address relevant bushfire risk?

The majority of the Toolern PSP area is identified as a bushfire prone area particularly those areas that are not developed. Council is required to assess certain development applications against the provision under Clause 13.02-1 (Bushfire Planning) of the Melton Planning Scheme and be satisfied that those proposals adequately address this policy.

The CFA were consulted on the proposed changes to the Toolern PSP, DCP and statutory controls, and they have not requested any changes to the proposed controls.

Does the amendment comply with the requirements of any Minister's Direction applicable to the amendment?

The amendment has been drafted in accordance with the *Ministerial Direction – Form and Content of Planning Schemes*.

The amendment also complies with the following relevant Ministerial Directions:

Direction No. 1 – Potentially Contaminated Land

This amendment does not change the location of sensitive uses currently identified in the Toolern PSP.

The Toolern PSP and Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 Urban Growth Zone, identify a former landfill site which is subject to an Environmental Audit Overlay. An application for residential subdivision and development within 500 metres of the former landfill must be referred to the EPA.

This amendment proposes to improve the readability of the PSP by showing the extent of the landfill and its 500-metre buffer.

Direction No. 9 – Metropolitan Planning Strategy

This amendment will facilitate the development of land within the Urban Growth Boundary of Metropolitan Melbourne.

The amendment changes the designation of the Major Activity Centre to a Metropolitan Activity Centre to be consistent with the centre's designation in *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*.

The changes to the Toolern DCP and PSP will appropriate infrastructure is provided for the growing community, and sufficient funds are being collected to acquire the land and construct the infrastructure.

The amendment implements the following directives by enabling a range of infrastructure investments that will support sustainable population growth, while improving the City's environmental, social and economic well-being:

Direction 1.1	*Create a city structure that strengthens Melbourne's competitiveness for jobs and investment.*
Direction 2.2	*Deliver more housing closer to jobs and public transport.*
Direction 3.3	*Improve local travel options to support 20-minute neighbourhoods.*
Direction 4.1	*Create more great public spaces across Melbourne.*
Direction 5.1	*Create more 20-minute neighbourhoods.*
Direction 5.2	*Create neighbourhoods that support safe communities and healthy lifestyles.*

Direction 5.3 Deliver social infrastructure that support strong communities.
Direction 5.4 Deliver local parks and green neighbourhoods in collaboration with communities.

Direction No. 11 – Strategic Assessment of Amendments

This direction seeks to ensure a comprehensive strategic evaluation of a planning scheme amendment. Council has undertaken a thorough review and examination of the Toolern PSP, DCP and statutory controls and has determined that updates are required to ensure the documents reflect the requirements for delivering timely access to services to support a quality and affordable lifestyle.

The review was informed by a range of studies:

- Review of community infrastructure by ASR Research.
- Review of transport infrastructure by Cardno.
- Review of Schedule 74 to the Heritage Overlay by Extent Heritage.
- Land valuations undertaken by Charter Keck Cramer.

Direction No. 12 – Urban Growth Areas

This direction applies to the preparation of a planning scheme amendment that provides for changes to an incorporated precinct structure plan or proposes changes to provisions in a schedule to the Urban Growth Zone.

The Toolern PSP and DCP were developed in accordance with the PSP Guidelines prepared by the Growth Areas Authority (now Victorian Planning Authority) in 2009.

The review of the Toolern DCP and PSP documents identified some significant gaps in the way that the Toolern DCP was developed and implemented (absence of functional layout plans, bridge designs, designs of community centres / pavilions / active open space reserves, and project cost sheets). The monitoring and review requirement means that Council is able to adjust to changing circumstances including the need to increase the Development Infrastructure Levy to ensure adequate funds are collected to deliver the infrastructure to service the rapidly growing population.

Contemporary PSPs include Functional Layout Plans (FLPs) to identify how much land is required for transport infrastructure (demonstrating how the transport network will operate in its interim and ultimate states) and inform the development of project cost sheets.

FLPs and project cost sheets were not required when the Toolern PSP was developed. Council have now prepared these as part of the review recommendations, revealing the shortfall in required for transport projects and insufficient funds to acquire land for, or construct, transport infrastructure.

This amendment includes FLPs and project cost sheets for transport infrastructure to ensure adequate land is being reserved for transport infrastructure, and adequate funds are being collected for land acquisition and the construction of transport infrastructure.

In contemporary PSPs preliminary designs and project cost sheets are prepared for community centres, pavilions, and active open space. These designs and cost sheets ensure adequate funds are being collected to fund the construction of the community and recreation infrastructure.

Preliminary designs and project cost sheets were not required when the Toolern PSP was developed, Council have now prepared these as part of the review recommendations, revealing the shortfall in funds required to deliver community and recreation infrastructure.

This amendment has prepared preliminary designs and project cost sheets for community centres, pavilions, and active open space. This will ensure adequate funds are being collected to construct community and recreation infrastructure.

Direction No. 19 – Preparation and Content of Amendments that may significantly impact the environment, amenity and human health

Council has sought the written views of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to inform the basis of amendments to the Toolern PSP and its statutory controls. The views of EPA were provided on 22 April 2022.

The EPA provided support for changes to the Toolern PSP that mitigate risks related to environment and human health, specifically in relation to ensuring adequate separation distances from existing and proposed industry and the management of potentially contaminated plan. Suggested changes made by the EPA in relation to the identification of the referral areas associated with the former landfill site and Technochem Australia has been incorporated into the Toolern PSP.

Direction No. 20 – Major Hazards Facilities

This amendment does not change the location of sensitive uses currently identified in the Toolern PSP.

The Toolern PSP identifies that any planning permit application for a sensitive use north of the railway line and within 440 metres of land at 41-53 Abey Road (Technochem Australia) must be referred to the EPA. Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 Urban Growth Zone, requires an application for a sensitive use on land north of the railway line and within 440 metres of land at 41-53 Abey Road (Technochem Australia) to be referred to the EPA and WorkSafe Victoria.

This amendment proposes an amendment to the relevant maps in the PSP to show the 440-metre buffer.

Preparation and Content of Development Contributions Plans

This amendment proposes to change Schedule 3 to Clause 45.06 Development Contributions Plan to exempt non-government schools and housing provided by or on the behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services from paying the development infrastructure levy or a community infrastructure levy.

The transport infrastructure projects identified to be added to the Toolern DCP are works and facilities that are appropriate for funding through a development infrastructure levy.

How does the amendment support or implement the Planning Policy Framework and any adopted State policy?

The amendment represents an integrated decision-making process that balances the various objective of the relevant State planning policies as follows:

- *Clause 11.01-R Settlement*: This amendment proposes to change the name of the Major Activity Centre to a Metropolitan Activity Centre to be consistent with *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*.
- *Clauses 11.02 Managing Growth and 11.03 Planning for Places*: This amendment proposes changes to the Toolern PSP and DCP documents to ensure adequate funds can be collected to acquire land and construct essential infrastructure required to service the growth of the precinct.
- *Clause 12.01 Biodiversity*: No changes are proposed to the native vegetation management identified in the Toolern PSP and Native Vegetation Precinct Plan, and therefore retains its commitment to the protection of biodiversity.
- *Clause 13.02 Bushfire*: This amendment is within a bushfire prone area. Council is required to implement the requirements of Clause 13.02 should any applications be submitted for subdivision or development.
- *Clause 16.01 Residential Subdivision*: This amendment maintains areas identified for the delivery of residential development. The proposed amendment to Schedule 3 of Clause 37.07 Urban Growth Zone will require all residential development in Commercial 1 Zone areas to require a permit if its ground floor frontage exceeds two metres. This will encourage a diversity of housing within the Metropolitan Activity Centre and Neighbourhood Activity Centres.
- *Clause 17.01 Employment*: This amendment includes the Toolern (Cobblebank) Employment Precinct and the future Toolern (Cobblebank) Metropolitan Activity Centre, which are identified as significant employment areas in the *Melbourne Industrial and Commercial Land Use Plan, April 2020*. These employment areas are significant to the municipality and the broader western region of Melbourne. There are no changes to these employment precincts to facilitate growth in employment in these areas.

- *Clause 17.02 Commercial*: This amendment proposes to increase the retail floor cap in the Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre from 30,000 square metres to 70,000 square metres to be consistent with the approved *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework*.

- *Clause 18 Transport*: This amendment proposed to add transport projects to the Toolern DCP to ensure that adequate transport infrastructure is delivered to service the growth of the community. The amendment proposes to add transport projects from the Paynes Road and Rockbank PSPs, and the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework.* The amendment proposes to change the land areas and project costs for most transport projects to ensure adequate funds are being collected to acquire the land and construct the projects identified in the Toolern PSP and DCP.

- *Clause 19 Infrastructure*: This amendment proposes minor changes to the size of some community and recreation infrastructure to give effect to state policy that requires the provision of kindergarten services to three- and four-year olds.

How does the amendment support or implement the Local Planning Policy Framework, and specifically the Municipal Strategic Statement?

The amendment is consistent with the Municipal Strategic Statement.

Municipal Strategic Statement

- *21.06 Activity centres and Retail Provision*: This amendment proposes a change to the designation of the Major Activity Centre to a Metropolitan Activity Centre and identifies it as an area suitable for transit-oriented development. This amendment proposes to increase the retail floor cap in the Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre from 30,000 square metres to 70,000 square metres to be consistent with the approved *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework*

- *Clause 21.09 Economic Development*: This amendment proposes to facilitate development within the Toolern PSP area to encourage economic development and maximise economic opportunities within the Toolern (Cobblebank) Metropolitan Activity Centre. It will deliver services and amenities required for the growing community, which will support economic growth.

- *Clause 21.10 Transport*: This amendment proposes to add transport projects to the Toolern DCP to ensure that appropriate transport infrastructure is delivered to service the growth of the community. The amendment proposes to add transport projects from the Paynes Road and Rockbank PSPs, and the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework.* The amendment proposes changes to the land areas and project costs for most transport projects to ensure adequate money is being collected to acquire the land and construct the projects identified in the Toolern PSP and DCP.

- *Clause 21.11 Infrastructure*: This amendment includes controls that seek the protection of the Werribee River and Melton Reservoir, which forms the westernmost boundary of this PSP. The Melton Reservoir is used for irrigation purposes within the City of Wyndham. Feedback was sought from utility service providers and they requested changes to the location of utilities shown in Plan 14 Integrated Water Management and Plan 18 Utilities in the Toolern PSP.

Local Planning Policies

No changes are required to give effect to local planning policies contained within the Melton Planning Scheme.

Does the amendment make proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions?

The amendment makes appropriate use of the Victorian Planning Provisions by applying:

- The Urban Growth Zone to manage development in a PSP area and an amended Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 Urban Growth Zone.

- The Development Contributions Plan Overlay to collect funds for development of essential infrastructure to service the growth of the precinct and an amended Schedule 3 to Clause 45.06 Development Contributions Plan.

How does the amendment address the views of any relevant agency?

This amendment has been prepared in consultation with agencies including Ambulance Victoria, Australian Pipelines Association (APA), AusNet Services, Catholic Education Melbourne, Country Fire Authority (CFA), Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP), Department of Education and Training (DET) / Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions (DJPR), Department of Transport (DoT), Downer Group, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC), Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Greater Western Water, Heritage Victoria, Homes for Victoria, Jemena, Level Crossing Removal Authority, Melbourne Airport, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, Powercor, Public Transport Victoria, State Emergency Services (SES), Sport and Recreation Victoria, Southern Rural Water, VicRoads, Victorian Planning Authority (VPA), Victoria Police, and the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Does the amendment address relevant requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010?

This amendment will not impact the anticipated transport network and services envisaged by the current incorporated Toolern PSP.

This amendment updates the Toolern DCP to include transport projects from the Paynes Road and Rockbank PSPs, and the *Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre Urban Design Framework*.

Resource and administrative costs

- **What impact will the new planning provisions have on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority?**

The amendment will have minimal impact on the resource and administrative costs of the responsible authority. The incorporation of the revised Toolern PSP and DCP in the Melton Planning Scheme will facilitate the efficient planning of the area.

The proposed changes to the Toolern DCP will increase the amount of development infrastructure levy collected to ensure that adequate money is collected to fund the acquisition of land and construct basic and essential transport, and community and recreation infrastructure to service the growth of the precinct. Council have the administrative and business infrastructure to manage the collection of funds from the Toolern DCP.

Where you may inspect this amendment

The amendment can be inspected free of charge at the Melton City Council website at www.melton.vic.gov.au/planningschemeamendments

The amendment is available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at the following places:

Melton Civic Centre
232 High Street
Melton VIC 3337

The amendment can also be inspected free of charge at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning website at www.planning.vic.gov.au/public-inspection.

Submissions

Any person who may be affected by the amendment may make a submission to the planning authority. Submissions about the amendment must be received by [insert submissions due date].

A submission must be sent to:

Manager City Design and Strategy
Melton City Council

PO Box 21
Melton VIC 3337

Alternativity, via email to citysupport@melton.vic.gov.au

Panel hearing dates

In accordance with clause 4(2) of Ministerial Direction No.15 the following panel hearing dates have been set for this amendment:

- directions hearing: [insert directions hearing date]
- panel hearing: [insert panel hearing date]

04/10/2018
C232

SCHEDULE 3TO CLAUSE 37.07 URBAN GROWTH ZONE

Shown on the planning scheme map as **UGZ3**

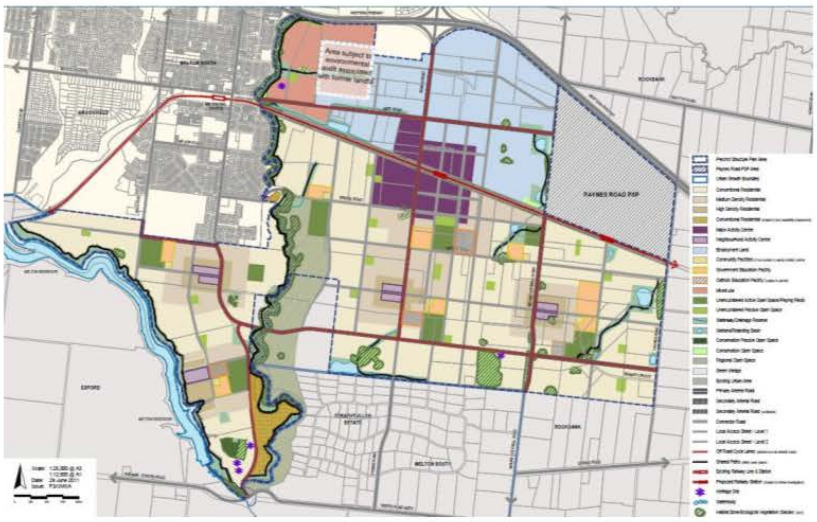
TOOLERN PRECINCT STRUCTURE PLAN

1.0 The Plan

30/07/2018
C232

Plan 1 shows the future urban structure proposed in the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*. It is a reproduction of Plan 5 in the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*.

Plan 1 to Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07



2.0 Use and development

30/07/2018
C232

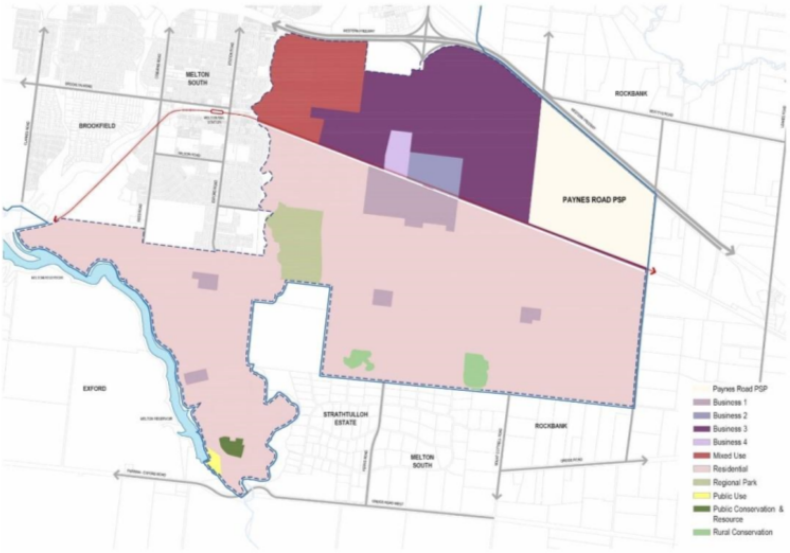
2.1 The Land

30/07/2018
C232

The use and development provisions specified in this schedule apply to land as shown within the 'precinct boundary' on Plan 2 of this schedule and shown as UGZ3 on the planning scheme maps. This schedule must be read in conjunction with the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022.*

Plan 2 to Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07

OFFICIAL



Note:

If land shown on Plan 2 is not zoned UGZ, the provisions of this zone do not apply.

2.2 Applied zone provisions

19/01/2022 C232

~~The provisions of the following zones in this scheme apply to the use and subdivision of land, construction of a building, and construction and carrying out of works, by reference to Plan 2 of this schedule.~~

Table 1 allocates the land use / development shown on Plan 2 of this schedule with a corresponding zone from this scheme.

When the use / development in the left column is carried out or proposed generally in accordance with the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*, the use, subdivision, construction of a building and construction and carrying out works provisions of the corresponding zone in the right column apply.

A reference to a planning scheme zone in an applied zone must be read as if it were a reference to an applied zone under this schedule.

For example: The Commercial 2 Zone specifies 'Shop' as a Section 1 Use with the condition 'The site must adjoin, or have access to, a road in a Transport Zone'. In this instance the condition should be read as 'The site must adjoin, or have access to, a road in a Transport Zone or an applied Transport Zone in the Urban Growth Zone schedule applying to the land'.

Table 1: Applied zone provisions

Land shown on plan 2 of this schedule	Applied zone provisions
Business 1	Clause 34.01 – Commercial 1 Zone
Business 2	Clause 34.01 – Commercial 1 Zone
Business 3	Clause 34.02 – Commercial 2 Zone

OFFICIAL

Land shown on plan 2 of this schedule Business 4	Applied zone provisions Clause 34.02 – Commercial 2 Zone
Land shown on plan 2 of this schedule Mixed Use	Applied zone provisions Clause 32.04 – Mixed Use Zone
Land shown on plan 2 of this schedule Regional Park	Applied zone provisions Clause 36.02 – Public Park and Recreation Zone
Land shown on plan 2 of this schedule Residential	Applied zone provisions Clause 32.08 – General Residential Zone
Land shown on plan 2 of this schedule Rural Conservation	Applied zone provisions Clause 35.06 – Rural Conservation Zone
Land shown on plan 2 of this schedule Public Use	Applied zone provisions Clause 36.01 – Public Use Zone – Schedule 1
Land shown on plan 2 of this schedule Public Conservation and Resource	Applied zone provisions Clause 36.03 – Public Conservation and Resource Zone
Land shown on plan 1 of this schedule Primary Arterial Road	Applied zone provisions Clause 36.04 – Transport 2 Zone

2.3 **Specific provisions – Use of land**

30/07/2018
C232

Section 1 - Permit not required

Use	Condition
~~**Dwelling where the applied zone is Commercial 1 Zone (west of Ferris Road, north of Bridge Road, and south of the Ballarat Railway Line)**~~	~~No permit is required to a construct a dwelling with a ground floor frontage greater than two metres.~~
~~**Dwelling Commercial 1 Zone (east of Ferris Road, and north of the Ballarat Railway Line)**~~	~~No permit is required to a construct a dwelling with a ground floor frontage greater than two metres.~~
Office ~~**where the applied zone is General Residential Zone**~~	~~A permit may be granted to use land for an office if the leasable floor area of the office does not exceed 100 square metres.~~ On land where the applies zone is General Residential Zone in the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*. The leasable floor must not exceed 100 square metres.
Primary school **Secondary School**	On land shown as 'Potential Non-Government School' in the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022.*

OFFICIAL

Shop ~~where the applied zone is Commercial 1 Zone~~	~~A permit is required to use land for a shop if the combined leasable floor space for all shops exceeds the following areas (square metres) for the relevant centre as described in the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan*:~~ On land where the applied zone is Commercial 1 Zone. The combined floor area for all shops must not exceed: • 70,000 square metres for land shown as ~~Toolern Major~~ Metropolitan Activity Centre in the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022.* • 4,000 square metres for land shown as Exford Road Neighbourhood Activity Centre (north) in the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022.* • 4,000 square metres for land shown as Exford Road Neighbourhood Activity Centre (south) in the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022.* • 4,000 square metres for land shown as Ferris Road Neighbourhood Activity Centre in the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022.*
Any use listed in Clause 62.01	Must meet requirements of Clause 62.01.

Section 2 - Permit required

Use	Condition
Major sports and recreation facility ~~where the applied zone is Commercial 1 Zone (west of Ferris Road, north of Bridge Road, and south of the Ballarat Railway Line)~~	On land where the applied zone is Commercial 1 Zone west of Ferris Road, north of Bridge Road, and south of the Ballarat Railway Line in the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022.*
Shop ~~where the applied zone is Commercial 1 Zone (east of Ferris Road, and north of the Ballarat Railway Line)~~	~~A permit is required to use land for a shop if the leasable floor area exceeds 100 square metres.~~ On land where the applied zone is Commercial 1 Zone east of Ferris Road and north of the Ballarat Railway Line in the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022.* The leasable floor area must not exceed 100 square metres.
Supermarket where the applied zone is Commercial 2 Zone	On land where the applied zone is Commercial 2 Zone in the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022.* The leasable floor area must not exceed 1,800 square metres. The site must adjoin, or have access to, a road in a Transport Zone 2.
Any other use not in Section 1 or 3 in the Table of uses in the applicable applied zone	

Section 3 - Prohibited

Use	Condition
Any other use in Section 3 in the Table of uses of the applicable applied zone	

OFFICIAL

2.4 Specific provisions - Subdivision

30/07/2018
C232

Metropolitan and Neighbourhood Activity Centres and Employment Land

If the land is shown as in or adjoining a Business 1, Business 2, Business 3 or Business 4 area on Plan 2, a permit must not be granted to ~~use or~~ subdivide land~~, or to construct a building or construct and carry out works~~ until an Urban Design Framework for the activity centre or employment land has been prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

A permit may be granted to subdivide land ~~or to construct a building or construct and carry out works~~ prior to the approval of an Urban Design Framework if, in the opinion of the responsible authority, the grant of the permit is consistent with the requirements for the Urban Design Framework for the relevant locality set out in the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*.

The responsible authority may allow an Urban Design Framework to be prepared in stages. The Urban Design Framework may be amended to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Toolern Creek Park Western Interface

Except with the consent of the Responsible Authority, a permit must not be granted to ~~use or~~ subdivide land~~, or construct a building and carry out works~~ within land located adjacent to the west of the Toolern Creek Park (shown as 'Toolern Creek Regional Park - western interface' on Plan 7 'Image & Character' of the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*) until an Urban Design Framework has been prepared to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

A permit may be granted to subdivide land ~~or to construct a building or construct and carry out works~~ prior to the approval of an Urban Design Framework if, in the opinion of the responsible authority, the grant of the permit is consistent with the requirements for the Urban Design Framework for the relevant locality set out in the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*.

Exford Road Conservation Area

Except with the consent of the Responsible Authority, a permit must not be granted to ~~use or~~ subdivide land~~, or construct a building and carry out works~~ within shown as the Exford Road Conservation Area (on Plan 7 'Image & Character' of the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*) until an Urban Design Framework has been prepared to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

A permit may be granted to subdivide land ~~or to construct a building or construct and carry out works~~ prior to the approval of an Urban Design Framework if, in the opinion of the responsible authority, the grant of the permit is consistent with the requirements for the Urban Design Framework for the relevant locality set out in the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*.

North West Mixed Use Precinct ~~Urban Design Framework~~

Except with the consent of the Responsible Authority, a permit must not be granted to ~~use or~~ subdivide land~~, or construct a building and carry out works~~ within land shown as the North West Mixed Use Precinct Urban Design Framework Area (on Plan 7 'Image & Character' of the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*) until an Urban Design Framework has been prepared to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

A permit may be granted to subdivide land ~~or to construct a building or construct and carry out works~~ prior to the approval of an Urban Design Framework if, in the opinion of the responsible authority, the grant of the permit is consistent with the requirements for the Urban Design Framework for the relevant locality set out in the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*.

2.5 Specific provisions - Buildings and works

30/07/2018
C232

Dwellings on a lot less than 300 square metres

A permit is not required to construct or extend one dwelling on a lot ~~with an area~~ less than 300 square metres where a site is identified as a lot to be assessed against the *Small Lot Housing Code* via a restriction on title, and it complies with the *Small Lot Housing Code* (Victoria Planning Authority, November 2019) incorporated pursuant to Clause 72.04 of the Melton Planning Scheme.

~~A permit is not required to construct a fence within 3 metres of a street provided that the Front Fence Height Standard in Table A2 to Clause 54.06-2 is met.~~

Buildings and works for a school

A permit is required to construct or carry out works associated with a Primary school or a Secondary school on land shown as a Potential Non-Government School unless exempt under Clause 62.02-1 and 62.02-2.

Metropolitan and Neighbourhood Activity Centres and Employment Land

If the land is shown as in or adjoining a Business 1, Business 2, Business 3 or Business 4 area on Plan 2, a permit must not be granted to ~~use or subdivide land, or to~~ construct a building or construct and carry out works until an Urban Design Framework for the activity centre or employment land has been prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

A permit may be granted to ~~subdivide land or to~~ construct a building or construct and carry out works prior to the approval of an Urban Design Framework if, in the opinion of the responsible authority, the grant of the permit is consistent with the requirements for the Urban Design Framework for the relevant locality set out in the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*.

The responsible authority may allow an Urban Design Framework to be prepared in stages. The Urban Design Framework may be amended to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Toolern Creek Park Western Interface

Except with the consent of the Responsible Authority, a permit must not be granted to ~~use or subdivide land, or~~ construct a building and carry out works within land located adjacent to the west of the Toolern Creek Park (shown as 'Toolern Creek Regional Park - western interface' on Plan 7 'Image & Character' of the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*) until an Urban Design Framework has been prepared to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

A permit may be granted to ~~subdivide land or to~~ construct a building or construct and carry out works prior to the approval of an Urban Design Framework if, in the opinion of the responsible authority, the grant of the permit is consistent with the requirements for the Urban Design Framework for the relevant locality set out in the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*.

Exford Road Conservation Area

Except with the consent of the Responsible Authority, a permit must not be granted to ~~use or subdivide land, or~~ construct a building and carry out works within shown as the Exford Road Conservation Area (on Plan 7 'Image & Character' of the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*) until an Urban Design Framework has been prepared to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

A permit may be granted to ~~subdivide land or to~~ construct a building or construct and carry out works prior to the approval of an Urban Design Framework if, in the opinion of the

OFFICIAL

responsible authority, the grant of the permit is consistent with the requirements for the Urban Design Framework for the relevant locality set out in the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*.

North West Mixed Use Precinct ~~Urban Design Framework~~

Except with the consent of the Responsible Authority, a permit must not be granted to ~~use or subdivide land, or~~ construct a building and carry out works within land shown as the North West Mixed Use Precinct Urban Design Framework Area (on Plan 7 'Image & Character' of the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*) until an Urban Design Framework has been prepared to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

A permit may be granted to ~~subdivide land or to~~ construct a building or construct and carry out works prior to the approval of an Urban Design Framework if, in the opinion of the responsible authority, the grant of the permit is consistent with the requirements for the Urban Design Framework for the relevant locality set out in the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*.

~~2.6~~ ~~Specific provisions – Resolution of doubt~~

~~If any doubt arises as to whether a provision specified in this schedule applies to land, a permit may be granted for any use or development if the responsible authority is satisfied that the use or development is generally in accordance with the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan.*~~

~~2.6~~ ~~Specific provisions – Urban Design Frameworks~~

~~Metropolitan and Neighbourhood Activity Centres and Employment Land~~

~~If the land is shown as in or adjoining a Business 1, Business 2, Business 3 or Business 4 area on Plan 2, a permit must not be granted to use or subdivide land, or to construct a building or construct and carry out works until an Urban Design Framework for the activity centre or employment land has been prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.~~

~~A permit may be granted to subdivide land or to construct a building or construct and carry out works prior to the approval of an Urban Design Framework if, in the opinion of the responsible authority, the grant of the permit is consistent with the requirements for the Urban Design Framework for the relevant locality set out in the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*~~

~~The responsible authority may allow an Urban Design Framework to be prepared in stages. The Urban Design Framework may be amended to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.~~

~~Toolern Creek Park Western Interface~~

~~Except with the consent of the Responsible Authority, a permit must not be granted to use or subdivide land, or construct a building and carry out works within land located adjacent to the west of the Toolern Creek Park (shown as 'Toolern Creek Regional Park - western interface' on Plan 7 'Image & Character' of the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*) until an Urban Design Framework has been prepared to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.~~

~~A permit may be granted to subdivide land or to construct a building or construct and carry out works prior to the approval of an Urban Design Framework if, in the opinion of the responsible authority, the grant of the permit is consistent with the requirements for the Urban Design Framework for the relevant locality set out in the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*.~~

~~Exford Road Conservation Area~~

~~Except with the consent of the Responsible Authority, a permit must not be granted to use or subdivide land, or construct a building and carry out works within shown as the Exford Road Conservation Area (on Plan 7 'Image & Character' of the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*) until an Urban Design Framework has been prepared to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.~~

~~A permit may be granted to subdivide land or to construct a building or construct and carry out works prior to the approval of an Urban Design Framework if, in the opinion of the responsible authority, the grant of the permit is consistent with the requirements for the Urban Design Framework for the relevant locality set out in the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*.~~

~~North West Mixed Use Precinct Urban Design Framework~~

~~Except with the consent of the Responsible Authority, a permit must not be granted to use or subdivide land, or construct a building and carry out works within land shown as the North West Mixed Use Precinct Urban Design Framework Area (on Plan 7 'Image & Character' of the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*) until an Urban Design Framework has been prepared to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.~~

~~A permit may be granted to subdivide land or to construct a building or construct and carry out works prior to the approval of an Urban Design Framework if, in the opinion of the responsible authority, the grant of the permit is consistent with the requirements for the Urban Design Framework for the relevant locality set out in the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022*.~~

2.8 ~~Specific provisions – Referral of applications~~

~~An application on land shown as 'Major Metropolitan Activity Centre' in Map Plan 1 to this schedule must be referred in accordance with Section 55 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to the Growth Areas Victorian Planning Authority.~~

~~Unless a reduced distance is accepted by the Responsible Authority and Environment Protection Authority (EPA) based on the findings of a satisfactory environmental audit report, an application for residential subdivision and development of land within 500m of the former 22.18 hectares Melton landfill site on Ferris Road must be referred in accordance with Section 55 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to the EPA.~~

~~An application for a sensitive use on land that is north of the railway line and within 440m of the boundary of the Technochem Australia Pty Ltd site at 41-53 Abey Road must be referred in accordance with Section 55 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to the EPA and WorkSafe Victoria.~~

3.0 Application requirements

30/07/2018
C232

The following application requirements apply to an application for a permit under Clause 37.07, in addition to those specified in Clause 37.07 and elsewhere in the scheme and must accompany an application, as appropriate, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. If in the opinion of the responsible authority an application requirement listed below is not relevant to the assessment of an application, the responsible authority may waive or reduce the requirement.

Subdivision – Residential development

In addition to the requirements of Clause 56.01, the site analysis and design response must show or address the following to the satisfaction of the responsible authority:

- A table setting out the amount of land allocated to the proposed uses and expected population, dwelling and employment yields.

- A hydrogeological assessment of the groundwater conditions on the site and the potential impacts on the proposed development including any measures required to mitigate the impacts of groundwater conditions on the development and the impact of the development on groundwater.
- A preliminary site assessment of the potential for contaminated land as a result of previous land uses, carried out by a suitably qualified person.
- ~~A Transport Impact Assessment Report to the satisfaction of the relevant Roads Authority (be it VicRoads or Council) Head, Transport for Victoria and / or the responsible authority~~.
- An application for a residential subdivision of 10 lots or more must be accompanied by Subdivision and Housing Design Guidelines, prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Subdivision – General

- An application that proposes to create or change access to a primary or secondary arterial road must be accompanied by a Traffic Impact Assessment Report (TIAR). The TIAR, including functional layout plans and a feasibility / concept road safety audit, must be to the satisfaction of the Head, Transport for Victoria, or the Melton City Council, as required.

Public Infrastructure Plan ~~All Subdivision~~

An application for subdivision and/or use and development of land must be accompanied by a Public Infrastructure Plan which addresses the following:

- What land may be affected or required for the provision of infrastructure works;
- The provision, staging and timing of any stormwater drainage works;
- The provision, staging and timing of roadworks internal and external to the land consistent with any relevant traffic report or assessment;
- The landscaping of any land;
- What, if any, infrastructure set out in the Development Contributions Plan applying to the land is sought to be provided as 'works in lieu' subject to the consent of Melton City Council;
- The provision of public open space and land for any community facilities; and
- Any other matter relevant to the provisions of public infrastructure required by the responsible authority.

Kangaroo Management Plan ~~Subdivision- land that does not abut a linear corridor or intended to be in public ownership~~

An application for the subdivision of land that does not abut a linear corridor in or intended to be in public ownership must be accompanied by an Eastern Grey Kangaroo Management Plan that includes:

- Strategies (i.e. Staging) to avoid land locking Eastern Grey Kangaroos;

and where this is not practicable

- Management solutions and actions to respond to their containment in an area with no reasonable likelihood of their continued safe existence.

The plan must be to the satisfaction of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

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4.0 Conditions and requirements for permits

30/07/2018
C232

~~Condition – General requirements~~

~~A planning permit must include a condition or conditions which ensure that any requirements or conditions set out in the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan* and the *Toolern Native Vegetation Precinct Plan* are implemented as part of the planning permit or the plans endorsed under the planning permit.~~

Condition – First stage of development

Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance for the first stage of a development, the owner must, if required by the Responsible Authority, enter into an agreement, or agreements, under Section 173 of the Act which specifies the infrastructure required to be provided as part of the development. The agreement must give effect to the approved Public Infrastructure Plan.

Condition – Subdivision permits that allow the creation a lot of less than 300 square metres

Any permit for subdivision that allows the creation of a lot less than 300 square metres must contain the following conditions:

- Prior to the certification of the plan of subdivision for the relevant stage, a plan must be submitted for approval to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. The plan must identify the lots that will include a restriction on title allowing the use of the provisions of the *Small Lot Housing Code (Victorian Planning Authority, November 2019)* incorporated pursuant to Clause 72.04 of the Melton Planning Scheme; and
- The plan of subdivision submitted for certification must identify whether type A or type B of the *Small Lot Housing Code (Victorian Planning Authority, November 2019)* applies to each lot to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority

Condition – Subdivision permits requiring an Eastern Grey Kangaroo Management Plan

Any permit granted for subdivision must contain the following condition if an Eastern Grey Kangaroo Management Plan was required to be submitted with the permit application:

- The subdivision must implement the Eastern Grey Kangaroo Management Plan by either:
  - Proceeding in the order of stages as shown on the plan; and where this is not practicable
  - Implementing the management solutions and actions of the Plan.

Condition – Salvage and Translocation

Salvage and translocation of threatened flora ~~and fauna~~ species and ecological communities must be undertaken in the carrying out of development to the satisfaction of the Secretary to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Condition – All buildings, subdivision and associated works applications within 100 metres of the Toolern Creek, on land subject to the Precinct Structure Plan (Growling Grass Frog Conservation Management Plan)

Any permit granted for buildings, subdivision and associated works must contain the following conditions:

OFFICIAL

- Prior to the commencement of works a Growling Grass Frog conservation management plan must be prepared to the satisfaction of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and submitted to and approved by the responsible authority.
- The Growling Grass Frog conservation management plan must be implemented to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Condition – All buildings, subdivision and works applications (Golden Sun Moth) on land identified as Properties 2573-2675 Western Highway, Rockbank

- Prior to the commencement of works a targeted survey for the Golden Sun Moth must be prepared to the satisfaction of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.
- Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance in respect of any plan of subdivision within which Golden Sun Moth native habitat has been identified:
  - Offsets for removal of Golden Sun Moth native habitat within the area of that plan of subdivision must be provided or agreed to the satisfaction of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Condition – Subdivision or buildings and works permits where land is required for community facilities, public open space and road widening

A permit for subdivision or buildings and works, where land is required for community facilities, must include the following condition:

- Land required for community facilities, as set out in the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022* or the *Toolern Development Contributions Plan, June 2022* must be transferred to or vested in Council at no cost to Council unless the land is funded by the *Toolern Development Contributions Plan, June 2022*

A permit for subdivision or buildings and works, where land is required public open space, must include the following condition:

- Land required for public open space as a local or district park as set out in the *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022* or the *Toolern Development Contributions Plan, June 2022* must be transferred to or vested in Council at no cost to Council unless funded by the *Toolern Development Contributions Plan, June 2022*.

A permit for subdivision or buildings and works, where land is required for road widening, must include the following condition:

- Land required for road widening including right of way flaring for the ultimate design of any intersection with an existing or proposed arterial road must be referred to or vested in Council or relevant roads authority ~~VicRoads~~ at no cost to the acquiring agency unless funded by the *Toolern Development Contributions Plan, June 2022*.

A permit for subdivision or buildings and works, where land is required for community facilities, public open space or road widening, must include the following condition:

- Land required for a community facility, road or public open space must be shown on a Plan of Certification as a reserve in favour of Melton City Council or another relevant authority ~~person or body~~.

5.0 Exemption from notice and review

30/07/2018 C232

An application for a convenience shop or office in the General Residential Zone is not exempt from the notice requirements of Section 52(1)(a), (b) and (d), the decision requirements of Section 64(1), (2) and (3) and the review rights of Section 82(1) of the Act.

OFFICIAL

6.0 Decision guidelines

30/07/2018 C232

Sensitive Use on land shown as Mixed Use, Business 2, Business 3 or Business 4 on Plan 2

~~Before deciding on an application to use land for a sensitive use on land shown as Mixed Use, Business 2, Business 3 or Business 4 on Plan 2, in addition to the decision guidelines in Clause 65 and Clause 37.07-14, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:~~

The following decision guidelines apply to an application for a permit under Clause 37.07, in addition to those specified in Clause 37.07 and elsewhere in the scheme which must be considered, as appropriate, by the responsible authority:

- ~~The *General Practice Note on Potentially Contaminated Land June 2005 (DSE).*~~
- *Planning Practice Note 30: Potentially Contaminated Land, July 2021*
- The status of any remediation being carried out at the former Melton landfill site on Ferris Road.
- The views of the EPA and WorkSafe Victoria if the land is north of the railway line and within 440m of 41-53 Abey Road, Melton (measured from the boundary of 41-53 Abey Road Melton).

7.0 Signs

04/10/2018 C232

Sign requirements are at Clause 52.05. All land located within *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan, June 2022* area is in category specified in its applied zone at Clause 2.2 of this schedule. If there is no applied zone the land is in Category 2.

~~Business Identification Signage in the General Residential Zone~~

~~A permit may be granted for a business identification sign of no more 2 square metres on land where the applied zone is General Residential Zone provided:~~

- ~~The application for a permit is lodged concurrently with an application for buildings and works for an office on the same land.~~
- ~~The sign is not illuminated~~
- ~~No fittings or wiring are visible from adjacent streets or properties.~~

Land and home sales signs

Despite the provisions of Clause 52.05, signs promoting the sale of land or homes on the land (or on adjoining land in the same ownership) may be displayed without a permit provided:

- The advertisement area for each sign does not exceed 10 square metres.
- Only one sign is displayed per road frontage. Where the property has a road frontage of more than 150 metres multiple signs may be erected provided there is a minimum of 150 metres distance between each sign, with a total of not more than 4 signs per frontage.
- The sign is not animated, scrolling, electronic or internally illuminated sign.
- The sign is not displayed longer than 21 days after the sale (not settlement) of the last lot.
- The sign is setback a minimum of 750mm from the property boundary.

A permit may be granted to display a sign promoting the sale of land or homes on the land (or on adjoining land in the same ownership) with an area greater than 10 square metres.

If the sign does not meet all the provisions listed above, it must comply with the provisions of Clause 52.05.

Education / community promotion signs

Despite the provisions of Clause 52.05, a permit may be granted, for a period of not more than 5 years, to display an advertising sign that promotes a~~n~~ community facility or education centre on the land identified as ~~'education facility', 'community facilities' or 'unencumbered active open space / playing fields' on Map 1 to this schedule~~ community facilities, potential government school, potential non-government school and credited open space on Plan 1 to this schedule.

OFFICIAL

SCHEDULE 3 TO THE DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN OVERLAY

Shown on the planning scheme map as DCPO3.

TOOLERN PRECINCT STRUCTURE PLAN DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN

1.0 Area covered by this development contributions plan

Land to the south and east of Melton Township within the DCPO3 area.

[Image]

2.0 Summary of costs in June 2021 dollars

Facility	Total cost $	Time of provision	Actual cost contribution attributable to Development Infrastructure Levy (DIL) $	Proportion of DIL cost attributable to total development %
Roads	$121,328,898	As required	$115,300,625	95%
Intersections	$176,986,625	As required	$163,853,313	93%
Bridges	$92,736,963	As required	$80,724,908	87%
Public Transport	$3,300,000	As required	$3,300,000	100%
Unencumbered Land for Active Open Space	$120,800,000	As required	$114,905,000	95%
Community Facilities	$71,187,221	As required	$61,102,539	86%
Outdoor Active Recreation	$91,713,154	As required	$72,696,366	79%
Off-road pedestrian and cycle trails	$916,463	As required	$916,463	100%
Structure Planning	$1,678,504	As required	$1,678,504	100%
TOTAL	**$680,647,827**	-	**$614,477,717**	

3.0 Summary of contributions for Charge Areas in June 2021 dollars

Summary of contributions for Charge Area 1 in June 2021 dollars

Facility	Levies payable by the development ($)	
	Development Infrastructure Levy (DIL) All development	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Residential
Roads	$74,989	$-
Intersections	$106,566	$-
Bridges	$52,502	$-
Public Transport	$2,146	$-

Unencumbered Land for Active Open Space	$86,339	$-
Community Facilities	$63,266	$900 per dwelling
Outdoor Active Recreation	$62,381	$900 per dwelling
Off-road pedestrian and cycle trails	$770	$-
Structure Planning	$1,092	$-
TOTAL	**$450,050** **Per net developable hectare**	**$900 per dwelling**

Summary of contributions for Charge Area 2 in June 2021 dollars

Facility	Levies payable by the development ($)	
	Development Infrastructure Levy (DIL) All development	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Residential
Roads	$74,989	$-
Intersections	$106,566	$-
Bridges	$52,502	$-
Public Transport	$2,146	$-
Unencumbered Land for Active Open Space	$100,548	$-
Community Facilities	$48,592	$900 per dwelling
Outdoor Active Recreation	$65,270	$900 per dwelling
Off-road pedestrian and cycle trails	$770	$-
Structure Planning	$1,092	$-
TOTAL	**$452,476** **Per net developable hectare**	**$900 per dwelling**

Summary of contributions for Charge Area 3 in June 2021 dollars

Facility	Levies payable by the development ($)	
	Development Infrastructure Levy (DIL) All development	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Residential
Roads	$74,989	$-
Intersections	$106,566	$-
Bridges	$50,502	$-

Public Transport	$2,146	$-
Unencumbered Land for Active Open Space	$89,867	$-
Community Facilities	$34,168	$900 per dwelling
Outdoor Active Recreation	$17,915	$900 per dwelling
Off-road pedestrian and cycle trails	$770	$-
Structure Planning	$1,092	$-
TOTAL	**$380,016** **Per net developable hectare**	**$900 per dwelling**

Summary of contributions for Charge Area 4 in June 2021 dollars

Facility	Levies payable by the development ($)	
	Development Infrastructure Levy (DIL) All development	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Residential
Roads	$74,989	$-
Intersections	$106,566	$-
Bridges	$50,502	$-
Public Transport	$2,146	$-
Unencumbered Land for Active Open Space	$1,756	$-
Community Facilities	$-	$900 per dwelling
Outdoor Active Recreation	$-	$900 per dwelling
Off-road pedestrian and cycle trails	$-	$-
Structure Planning	$1,092	$-
TOTAL	**$239,051** **Per net developable hectare**	**$900 per dwelling**

The capital cost for each infrastructure item will be adjusted by applying the Building Price Index, as published in the latest edition of Rawlinsons Australian Construction Handbook on 1 July each year.

The land values for each infrastructure item, where applicable, will be adjusted on 1 July each year following site specific land valuations undertaken by a registered valuer.

The offset costs for the removal of native vegetation which form a component of the cost of particular infrastructure items within the Toolern Precinct Structure Plan Development Contributions Plan will be adjusted in accordance with any Offset Plan prepared to the satisfaction of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and approved by the Responsible Authority.

4.0 Land or development excluded from development contributions plan

Land required for the following (as set out in the Toolern Precinct Structure Plan) is exempt from the provisions of this overlay:

- 6 and 4 lane arterial roads, railway reservations, community facilities, government schools.
- Use and development for a non-government school.
- Housing provided by or on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Melbourne Water drainage reserves and retarding basins.
- Heritage and conservation areas.
- Open space (active and passive).
- Melton landfill, Ferris Road (21.82 ha) as shown in Section 2.3.10 of the Toolern Precinct Structure Plan.
- Use and development associated with a dwelling that is existing or approved at the approval date of this provision.

Note: This schedule sets out a summary of the costs and contributions prescribed in the development contributions plan incorporated document. Refer to the incorporated development contributions plan for full details.

25/05/2017

SCHEDULE TO CLAUSE 66.04 REFERRAL OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS UNDER LOCAL PROVISIONS

1.0 Referral of permit applications under local provisions

25/05/2017

Clause	Kind of application	Referral authority	Referral authority type
Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 (UGZ)	An application on land shown as 'Metropolitan Activity Centre' on Plan 5 in the incorporated *Toolern Precinct Structure Plan*.	Victorian Planning Authority	Recommending authority
Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 (UGZ)	An application for residential subdivision and development of land within 500 metres of the former 22.18 Melton Landfill site at 80-90 Abey Road and 2-26 Ferris Road, Cobblebank (unless a reduced distance is accepted by the Responsible Authority and Environment Protection Authority based on findings of a satisfactory environmental audit report)	Environment Protection Authority	Recommending authority
Schedule 3 to Clause 37.07 (UGZ)	An application for a sensitive use on land north of the Ballarat Railway Line and within 440 metres of Technochem Australia at 41-53 Abey Road, Cobblebank	Environment Protection Authority and WorkSafe Victoria	Recommending authority

30/07/2018

SCHEDULE TO CLAUSE 72.04 DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED IN THIS PLANNING SCHEME

1.0 Incorporated documents

30/07/2018
C232

Name of document	Introduced by:
Toolern Precinct Structure Plan (including Toolern Native Vegetation Precinct Plan), July 2011 (Amended ~~February 2019~~ June 2022)	~~C172melt~~ C232melt
Toolern Development Contributions Plan, July 2011 (Amended ~~June 2020~~ June 2022)	~~C226melt~~ C232melt

12.7 MELTON CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION - VICGRID VICTORIAN TRANSMISSION INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK

Author: Karl Sass - Strategic Planner
Presenter: Sam Romaszko - Acting General Manager Planning & Development

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Council with an update on the proposed Victorian Transmission Network Investment Framework Preliminary Design and to consider and endorse a Council submission in response to the proposed Framework.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorses the submission to the proposed Victorian Transmission Network Investment Framework Preliminary Design and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to lodge the submission.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

In response to growing awareness of the deficiencies of current planning processes to assess new renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure, the State government has released the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF) Preliminary Design for community consultation on 1 July 2022.

Council officers have reviewed the Framework documentation and have prepared a submission for Council's consideration at **Appendix 2**.

The VTIF consultation process is an important avenue for Council to capture the learnings and highlight some of the improvement opportunities for the assessment process related to the Western Renewables Link, (previously Western Victoria Transmission Network Project [WVTNP]). The Western Renewables Link is currently undergoing planning assessment via an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) and is scheduled for formal public exhibition early in 2023.

Importantly the VTIF process includes community consultation and consideration of social, economic and environmental issues as part of the decision-making process. These issues were not considered by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) as part of the decision-making process that selected the alignment proposed for the Western Renewables Link. Whilst the VTIF offers an improved process it still prioritises delivery costs over host community impacts and requires the support of a suite of guideline documents to provide greater clarity on the process and development outcomes.

This report recommends that Council endorse the attached submission and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to lodge Council's submission with VicGrid. In response to growing awareness of the deficiencies of current planning processes to assess new renewable energy generation and transmission infrastructure, VicGrid released the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF) Preliminary Design for community consultation on 1 July 2022.

2. Background/Issues

In July 2021 the Victorian Government created VicGrid, a division of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to coordinate future investment within the six transmission Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) which are located throughout regional Victoria. These REZs are integral to the State transitioning from coal fired power stations to renewable energy sources and require connection through transmission infrastructure into the electricity grid.

The Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF) Preliminary Design Consultation Paper (see **Appendix 1**) proposes to introduce a strategic process to co-ordinate future investment in transmission, generation and storage infrastructure across Victoria's REZs. It also seeks to better integrate land use considerations, environmental impacts and community views into the planning process, which is in contrast to how these decisions are currently made. The Framework promotes opportunities for earlier and deeper engagement with local communities with the aim of better managing impacts for host communities.

The VTIF attempts to address an identified gaps in project approval and planning assessment processes for new transmission infrastructure such as the 'poles and wires' and generation infrastructure such as wind and solar farms.

Learning from the Western Renewables Link Council has experience with the assessment of transmission infrastructure through the Western Renewables Link, previously Western Victoria Transmission Network Project (WVTNP), which is currently undergoing planning assessment via an Environmental Effects Statement (EES). Council is a member of the Technical Reference Group (TRG) for the EES process and is aware of community concern about the project and the processes it has followed. Previous reports to Council have documented some of the process and communication deficiencies related to the Western Renewables Link enabling Council to be well placed to comment on the VTIF.

Currently, new transmission infrastructure proposals in Victoria are assessed by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) under the . In summary, AEMO's assessment is based on a relatively narrow assessment criteria focussing on the lowest-cost option with no consideration given to social, environmental and economic impacts on host communities.

In the case of the Western Renewables Link, AusNet was contracted to deliver the project prior to any triple bottom line impact assessment and with a focus on a low-cost solution. These impacts are now being considered through the State's Environmental Effects Statement (EES) planning process over seen by the Minister for Planning.

While the EES does consider the social, economic and environmental impacts including community consultation, it is based on an already identified low cost option with AusNet contracted to deliver the project. Arguably it would have been better to test the impacts of multiple transmission corridor options rather than just a single option.

Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF) Preliminary Design

VicGrid's proposed VTIF represents a notable improvement from the status quo in addressing gaps in the current assessment process of transmission and generation infrastructure as discussed above.

The VTIF Preliminary Design is summarised below:

- Partially replacing the RIT-T process with a more holistic alternative, primarily operated by a single body (VicGrid)
- Improvements to community engagement with stakeholders including with Traditional Owners, host communities, businesses, and individual landowners
- Community consultation occurs early in the process.
- A new strategic land use assessment and multi assessment criteria to analyse multiple transmission pathways

- Regular feedback loops throughout the process to respond to issues, build understanding and manage expectations
- Improved benefit-sharing that enables meaningful and locally driven benefits for communities hosting transmission infrastructure.
- The consideration of multiple options and multi assessment criteria that includes social, environmental and economic impacts and benefits.

Council officers have identified a number of improvements that could be made to the proposed VTIF. Council's proposed submission at Appendix 2 can be summarised as follows:

- General support for the changes proposed, particularly community engagement and multi criteria assessment of different transmission corridor options
- Identifying site characteristics such as peri urban settings and sensitive landscapes where new transmission infrastructure should be placed underground
- Advocacy for underground High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission options as a low impact, long term solution
- Highlight of the RIT-T process challenges and its failure to consider all costs and community impacts
- Greater visibility and agency is required by the State government in the consultation and land access engagement processes
- Ensuring communities which are hosting transmission infrastructure see benefits relative to the impacts and informed by high levels of engagement.
- Additional technical advice on how to holistically consider the visual impacts on landscapes.

Whilst the VTIF process will not apply to the Western Renewables Link, as it is an approved AEMO project, it is important that Council makes a submission as Council's experience with this project offers valuable insights to what the VTIF is proposing.

Council's full submission is attached as per **Appendix 1**.

3. Council and Wellbeing Plan Reference and Policy Reference

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

5. A community that is actively engaged in the City

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

4. Financial Considerations

There are no financial considerations in the preparation and lodgement of a Council submission.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

Not applicable however feedback from the community on the Western Renewables Link has informed Council's submission.

6. Risk Analysis

Not proceeding with the submission to VicGrid may risk Council's issues with the assessment of the Western Renewables Link not being addressed in future planning processes for future transmission or generation project proposals. It is also reasonable to assume that impacted landowners would expect Council to lodge a submission that advocates for positive change on how these decisions are made.

7. Options

Council can choose to:

1. Endorse the submission prepared by Council officers at **Appendix 2** and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to lodge the submission and resolve or clarify any content in relation to Council's submission, or
2. Make amendments to the submission prepared by Council officers at **Appendix 2** and then authorise the Chief Executive Officer to lodge the submission and resolve or clarify any content in relation to Council's submission.
3. Not make a submission.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. VicGrid's Victorian Transmission Investment Framework Preliminary Design, 1 July 2022
2. Council officer's submission to the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework Preliminary Design, 1 July 2022

Victorian Transmission Investment Framework

PRELIMINARY DESIGN

Consultation Paper

JULY 2022

VICTORIA State Government | Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Victorian Transmission Investment Framework

PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONSULTATION PAPER

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices. We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.

Have your say

engage.vic.gov.au

We encourage you to provide feedback on the proposed Victorian Transmission Investment Framework. Your views will help shape future investment decisions about the development and coordination of large-scale transmission in Victoria's REZs, including the role of VicGrid in community engagement.

You can provide feedback by:

- Submitting a response to this consultation paper through Engage Victoria, the Victorian Government's online consultation platform at **engage.vic.gov.au**
- Completing an Engage Victoria community survey which takes about 10-15 minutes, available at **engage.vic.gov.au**

All submissions must be received by 15 August 2022

Shortened terms

AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DTSO	Declared Transmission System Operator
ESO	Electricity Grid System Operator (United Kingdom)
ESB	Energy Security Board
ISP	Integrated System Plan
MCA	Multi-Criteria Analysis
NEM	National Electricity Market
REZ	Renewable Energy Zone
RIT-T	Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission
SLUA	Strategic Land Use Assessment
TNSP	Transmission Network Service Provider
VAPR	Victorian Annual Planning Report
VNIT	Victorian Network Investment Test
VRET	Victorian Renewable Energy Target
VTIF	Victorian Transmission Investment Framework

Contents

	Executive summary	2
	Proposed Victorian Transmission Investment Framework	8
	Purpose of this Consultation Paper	10
	Proposed Victorian Transmission Investment Framework planning process	19
	Overview of the proposed VTIF planning process	20
1	Developing future electricity system scenarios	26
2	Developing candidate REZ pathways	30
3	Identifying the optimal REZ pathway	34
4	REZ transmission project planning and procurement	38
	Introducing new access arrangements that support investment	42
	Basing transmission and REZ development on early, inclusive and ongoing community engagement	50
	Introducing benefit sharing arrangements that enable better outcomes for local communities	56
	Identifying clear roles and responsibilities for VicGrid	62
	Appendix A Questions for stakeholders	67

Executive summary

Renewable Energy Zones are needed in a changing energy landscape

Victoria is undergoing a once-in-a-generation opportunity as we transition to a clean energy future. To ensure Victoria has an affordable, reliable and secure electricity supply that meets our emissions reduction targets, we need a next-generation power grid that connects the world-class renewable energy resources across our state. Developing large-scale Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) will be central to Victoria's energy transition, ensuring we maximise the benefits for all Victorians while delivering investment in our regions.

Victoria's energy system is experiencing rapid structural change. The coal-fired power stations that have powered our state for decades are reaching the end of their technical life or are becoming uneconomic. Yallourn power station is scheduled to retire in 2028, representing around 14 per cent of the state's generation capacity in today's terms. The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has projected Loy Yang A and B, Victoria's other operating coal-fired units, are likely to exit the market as early as 2032.

These changes would accelerate the energy transition that is already occurring in Victoria and would make an important contribution to the Victorian Government's goal of reaching net zero emissions by 2050. However, these plants represent a major part of Victoria's current electricity supply. We must be well-prepared to manage potential early closures by increasing resilience in our energy system and providing certainty and confidence to investors. These changes also present an opportunity to deliver regional development and social benefits to Victorian communities through new investment as the transition occurs.

At the same time, rapid changes in technology are driving the emergence of new and transformed industries that heavily rely on electricity. These include the electrification of transport, replacing residential, commercial and industrial gas uses and the potential development of a hydrogen fuel sector powered by renewable energy. Over the coming decades, these could drive a rapid increase in Victoria's electricity use, potentially several times above current demand. Our electricity supply will need to meet these new requirements, while maintaining reliability and affordability. Yet as our technologies and systems become more complex and interdependent, it is becoming harder to forecast exactly how these drivers will play out, and harder to plan for their impacts on our electricity system.

Industry is already making long-term investments to deliver reliable, cheap and clean electricity to all Victorians, driven by initiatives such as the Victorian Government's Victorian Renewable Energy Target and recently announced offshore wind targets[1].

As part of this, Victoria is making the most of the jobs, training and regional economic development opportunities that new investments bring. In 2020, Victoria recorded 7,800 renewable energy jobs, a third of the sector's total jobs in Australia.

Yet more work is needed to position Victoria to make the most of the changes in the electricity industry. Our forward planning and investment need to adapt to greater uncertainty and to balance emerging opportunities and risks. At the same time, it is important to lower prices for consumers, unlock regional development opportunities and protect important regional assets, such as indigenous cultural heritage, agriculture, biodiversity and visual amenity.

Developing REZs is central to Victoria's response, and transmission is the key enabler. The state's transmission network is the backbone of the electricity system and was built to transfer power from the coal fields in the Latrobe Valley to homes and businesses. However, our best renewable energy resources are dispersed across the state, and many are in areas that are not well-served by our existing grid. New investment will be needed to ensure our transmission network is able to harness them efficiently. Moreover, new transmission can be costly and takes up to a decade to deliver. This means Victoria needs to focus its resources and start the process of putting the necessary infrastructure in place now.

Considered development of REZs provides an opportunity to better coordinate transmission, generation and storage in areas of abundant solar and wind resources. This would provide affordable and reliable energy to all Victorians while unlocking economic and social development opportunities for host communities.

However, the scale of this change, and the infrastructure required, has the potential to negatively impact hosting communities.

Our approach to REZ development should deliver local benefits, minimise impacts and foster local community support while delivering the investment needed to take advantage of the energy transition

1 energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/offshore-wind

New arrangements are being explored to maximise the opportunities of REZ development in Victoria

In Victoria, transmission expansion planning is undertaken by AEMO in its Victorian Transmission Network Services Provider role as planner and procurer of transmission in Victoria. This is in contrast to most other states where the asset owner is also the Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSP) that plans and makes investment decisions for network expansions. In Victoria, under the National Electricity Rules, most grid expansion projects are subject to the Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T) and a competitive procurement process (for projects greater than $10 million). These arrangements were introduced in the 1990s, as part of the process of reforming and privatising the state's electricity sector, to minimise inefficient investment and limit it to incremental changes that respond to growth in demand.

These arrangements were not designed for major changes in generation sources, size or location. In particular, the timing of new transmission is critical for Victoria to manage coal plant retirements. However, the current framework provides limited support for strategic, anticipatory transmission investment. There is limited coordination between renewable energy generation and transmission development, which complicates the timely delivery of transmission infrastructure and contributes to uncertainty about connection timelines and grid constraints.

Related to this, under current investment test settings projects that have been identified as necessary to meet security, reliability and emissions reduction requirements are not guaranteed to proceed in a timely manner or may not proceed at all. Because of the complexities of the energy transition, strategic investments are becoming both more valuable and harder to justify based on the present benefits that they would deliver. This presents a downside risk for generation investment.

Existing transmission planning frameworks also provide limited opportunities to integrate land use, environmental impacts and community views early in the transmission planning process.

In Victoria, communities, farm businesses, Traditional Owners, individual landowners and regional stakeholders have highlighted that existing planning and frameworks have been inadequate to incorporate their values and concerns, or to deliver meaningful local benefits.

While existing approvals processes and Environmental Effects Statement (EES) requirements provide an opportunity for these local groups to input, this engagement occurs towards the end of the process. More can be done to support communities that would host the new infrastructure that Victoria needs and to ensure investment risks are minimised.

In the past year the Victorian Government established VicGrid as a division within the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to lead the delivery of REZs. With the support of AEMO, VicGrid has progressed urgent, no-regrets investments that strengthen and modernise Victoria's grid, through the Government's $540 million REZ fund. The REZ fund was established to strengthen the grid and unlock the potential of Victoria's REZs by enabling near-term investments to reduce existing constraints and support the connection of Victoria's pipeline of renewable energy projects.

But more needs to be done to ensure our REZs can be developed and become an attractive destination for renewable investment. Improving the coordination between transmission and generation development and providing greater certainty around the geographic location of infrastructure can reduce risk and costs to developers to provide the affordable and reliable energy that Victoria needs.

To build community support and facilitate the investment needed to enable an orderly transition to renewables, our transmission planning framework should be more strategic, timely and well-coordinated, with meaningful community engagement. It is important that our planning and investment settings build confidence among industry and communities to ensure we maximise the benefits of REZ development.

Working closely with our regional communities will be critical. Our planning approach should integrate local values and ensure local communities can influence the planning and investment process and directly benefit from regional development opportunities.

To capture these opportunities, interstate and international experience in transmission planning has been drawn on to develop a proposal for a new Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF).

Importantly, this proposal is subject to Victorian Government approval and is presented to stakeholders for input.

As outlined in **Figure 1**, the proposed VTIF aims to create an integrated and targeted approach to transmission and REZ development that fosters community support and renewable infrastructure investment.

The proposed VTIF would apply to the whole of Victoria's transmission network to ensure the development of transmission both inside and outside of REZs occurs in a consistent and complementary way.

It would apply to all future Victorian transmission development, but not apply retrospectively to projects that have already commenced regulatory processes. As such, all transmission investment in Victoria would be undertaken in a manner which meets our strategic energy needs, timing and objectives in the best interests of Victorians.

Importantly, the proposed VTIF would include multiple measures to ensure transmission investment is efficient and prices are minimised for Victorian electricity consumers. These are set out in this consultation paper.

FIGURE 1 Proposed Victorian Transmission Investment Framework objectives and approach

OBJECTIVE	PROPOSED APPROACH
Maintain core electricity objectives	Ensuring that Victoria's electricity supply is secure, reliable, affordable and reduces emissions
Proactive and delivers timely investments	Early planning to identify the state's long-term energy system needs and meet them with anticipatory investments
Adaptive and flexible	Reviewing and updating the state's plan as circumstances evolve to continue to meet Victoria's energy needs
Coordinated	Integrated and long-term planning to identify acceptable locations for REZ infrastructure and the right mix of technologies while coordinating shared benefits across the state
Transparent and more certain	A clear investment plan for the state's REZs, with processes that provide more certainty to investors and communities
Tailored to Victoria's objectives and energy needs	Incorporating a wide range of considerations into the planning process to maximise the benefits of REZ development in Victoria
Inclusive and participatory	Early, ongoing and meaningful engagement so local values and preferences are integrated in the planning and development of REZs
Fair and meaningful benefits	Clear and coordinated avenues for local and regional benefits, supported by VicGrid

Gannawarra Solar Farm Edify Energy

The proposed Victorian Transmission Investment Framework

To foster community support and investment in REZs, the proposed VTIF outlines an approach comprising five key elements:

1. A new planning process for transmission and REZ development
2. Introducing new access arrangements that support investment.
3. Basing transmission and REZ development on early, inclusive and ongoing community engagement.
4. Introducing benefit sharing arrangements that enable better outcomes for local communities.
5. Identifying clear roles and responsibilities for VicGrid.

A high-level summary of each of these elements of the preliminary framework are summarised below.

The proposed VTIF planning process

The VTIF would develop a 25 year strategic plan for Victorian transmission and REZ development, called the optimal REZ pathway. The optimal REZ pathway describes the most resilient and robust development path, coordinating future demand, generation, storage and the transmission needed to enable it.

The process to identify the optimal REZ pathway includes new planning tools, such as a Strategic Land Use Assessment (SLUA) and a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA). These help to incorporate early stakeholder input and economic, social and environmental considerations for transmission development. A summary of the proposed process is provided in Framework overview and planning process. This includes a proposed Victorian Transmission Planning Objective that would drive the Framework.

Developing future electricity system scenarios (Stage 1) describes how planning would be driven by multiple plausible scenarios instead of a primary, most-likely scenario. This approach would identify the development strategy – or REZ pathway - that performs best across all scenarios. The United Kingdom is an example of applying this approach to planning transmission infrastructure under uncertainty, sometimes called Least Worst Regrets (LWR).

Developing candidate REZ pathways (Stage 2) outlines the approach to developing several candidate REZ pathways, one for each scenario. This process incorporates early community input to identify preferences, opportunities and impacts through the SLUA and MCA processes.

Identifying the optimal REZ pathway (Stage 3) outlines how candidate pathways would be narrowed down to the optimal pathway and tested for technical and economic efficiency. REZs with projects to be developed in the next 10 years would be formally declared, specifying each REZ's geographic boundary, transmission hosting capacity, access offered and development timing. The pathway would also outline any additional transmission infrastructure augmentations outside of REZs needed to support the development of additional hosting capacity.

REZ transmission project planning and procurement (Stage 4) outlines the process to specify and assess candidate transmission projects. Non-network solutions would be considered in this step and the VTIF would apply a proposed Victorian Network Investment Test (VNIT). The VNIT would take the form of a least net cost test for projects needed to deliver the needs set out by the optimal REZ pathway and access arrangements. For any other projects the VNIT would be a maximum net benefit test. REZ transmission projects would then be procured for delivery, with projects that meet a contestability threshold subject to a contestable procurement process.

Changes to the planning framework will provide increased certainty that transmission projects identified on the optimal pathway will proceed. This will allow investors to develop renewable energy projects with greater certainty that the infrastructure will be there to allow efficient connection, increasing the attractiveness of Victoria as an investment destination.

Introducing new access arrangements that support investment

This chapter considers access and pricing arrangements for Victoria as part of REZ development. The Victorian Government supports the introduction of a NEM-wide access and pricing solution and the Energy Security Board is currently consulting on proposed models that will be considered by Energy Ministers in the future. However there is uncertainty about which model would ultimately be recommended and agreed to, and the extent to which stakeholder and investor concerns would be addressed.

The Victorian Government is seeking feedback on access arrangements that could be implemented in Victoria, as a standalone measure or as an interim arrangement until a NEM-wide approach could be introduced. The options being considered in Victoria are a physical access model, a financial access model and retaining an open access regime. The Government is proposing that the physical access model better suits the circumstances in Victoria, including adoption within a meshed network.

An access and pricing regime can give a clear signal to developers on the right geographic locations to connect, reduce connection costs and, potentially, provide an easier route through the necessary approvals to allow construction and operation. Reducing these connection costs and investor risk will lower the cost of building new renewable generation in Victoria, benefiting both developers and electricity consumers.

Basing transmission and REZ development on early, inclusive and ongoing community engagement

If REZ development is to be successful in the longer term, it needs to bring the values of local communities, Traditional Owners, farmers and regional stakeholders and industries into the planning process early and in a proactive way to help shape REZ design and delivery. The current process provides an opportunity for community engagement through the EES, but only after projects have been planned. Placing community engagement at the beginning of the process would aim to build a level of acceptance for REZ development and would help to manage the cumulative impacts that communities may feel over time. It would also help generators to choose locations that enjoy more community support and may help smooth formal planning approvals processes.

This chapter outlines the proposed approach to engaging with stakeholders as part of REZ development. It brings forward localised, place-based engagement and provides avenues for ongoing and meaningful participation so that local values, preferences and concerns can help guide transmission planning and investment decisions.

Introducing benefit sharing arrangements that enable better outcomes for local communities

This chapter builds on the proposed engagement approach by identifying high-level options to embed benefit sharing in REZ transmission and generation projects, including ways to strategically coordinate activities or pool funds to create greater benefits for local stakeholders.

Identifying clear roles and responsibilities for VicGrid

As VicGrid was established to coordinate the development of REZs, it is proposed that its role would include a mix of technical, strategic and community-based functions, including developing planning scenarios, identifying the optimal REZ pathway and administering access rights in REZs. This chapter discusses this mix of potential roles and responsibilities under the Framework.

Within the proposed Framework, VicGrid would play a key role in facilitating greater engagement and benefit sharing outcomes for local communities and Traditional Owners.

This would entail developing partnerships and networks with a range of community, industry and government stakeholders across regions and to identify and enable opportunities for local communities, while also enhancing the engagement activities during project approvals and delivery. There also is potential for VicGrid to play a more direct role in benefit sharing in Victoria's REZs and facilitating consultative community decision-making processes.

The proposed VTIF would help deliver REZ and transmission development in Victoria in way that meets the challenges of a rapidly changing electricity sector and makes the most of emerging opportunities. The Victorian Government is seeking stakeholder views on the proposed VTIF. All interested parties are encouraged to provide feedback. To find out more about how you can have your say visit, engage.vic.gov.au/victorian-transmission-investment-framework.

Victorian Transmission Investment Framework

PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONSULTATION PAPER

The proposed Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF) would plan and deliver Victoria's Renewable Energy Zones (REZs), so we can effectively develop our electricity grid in a way that builds community support and encourages new investment

What we are proposing

- A new planning process for transmission and REZ development that enables strategic, proactive and adaptive grid development
- Options for new access arrangements for Victoria's REZs
- A more participatory and inclusive approach with early and ongoing engagement
- Options for benefit sharing arrangements in Victoria's REZs
- New potential roles and functions for VicGrid

Proposed Victorian Transmission

VTIF planning process

The VTIF planning process would help coordinate transmission investment with renewable energy generation and storage across Victoria's REZs

Proposed VTIF planning process

1 System scenarios

Identify the investment needs for Victoria's electricity system for the next 25 years, consistent with net zero emissions by 2050

2 Candidate REZ pathways

Determine how transmission, generation and storage infrastructure could be developed across REZs to meet system needs

Have your say

Investment Framework

- Introducing new access arrangements that support investment
- Basing transmission and REZ development on early, inclusive and ongoing community engagement
- Introducing benefits sharing arrangements that enable better outcomes for local communities
- Identifying clear roles and responsibilities for VicGrid

3 Optimal REZ pathway
Select the 'optimal' REZ Pathway that would deliver the most robust, reliable and affordable electricity system at lowest cost

4 REZ transmission projects
Identify, assess and procure projects from the need defined by the REZ pathway

5 Approvals — NO PROPOSED CHANGE
Seek planning and environmental approvals for the selected transmission project

6 Delivery — NO PROPOSED CHANGE
Construct, operate and maintain REZ transmission project and deliver benefits to host communities

7 Review
Review and update the optimal REZ pathway

engage.vic.gov.au

Purpose of this Consultation Paper

Purpose

This Consultation Paper seeks stakeholders' views on a proposed approach to developing Victoria's Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) and the associated transmission infrastructure.

We are seeking feedback on the draft Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF) which is intended to make sure we acquire the investment we need in the right places at the right time.

Responding to this Consultation Paper provides stakeholders with an opportunity to provide feedback on a reform that could be critical to Victoria's energy future.

Feedback from stakeholders on all aspects of the proposed Framework will inform a Government decision on whether to proceed with – and the final design of – the VTIF.

Scope

This Consultation Paper provides a conceptual overview of our proposed VTIF. We are seeking feedback on key areas including:

- The objectives and application of the Framework
- Adopting Victorian system scenarios that plan for plausible, diverse future scenarios
- A new approach to land use planning and how investment is allocated across REZs
- How Victoria's optimal transmission pathway is selected and reported on
- An investment test for operationalising transmission network upgrades
- A review of contestability frameworks for transmission investments
- Potential access scheme models for REZ transmission infrastructure
- A new approach to consumer and stakeholder engagement, including benefits sharing
- How responsibilities might be best assigned under the Framework's roles.

We are not consulting on transmission development needed to meet the current network performance standards and broader system security and reliability requirements. Further work will be undertaken with AEMO to ensure the integration of these planning requirements within the Framework.

How to have your say

The Victorian Government is considering the introduction of a new transmission investment framework for the development of REZs to enable the state to meet its emissions reduction targets, as well as maintain an affordable, secure, and reliable energy supply and deliver major new employment and economic development opportunities in regional Victoria.

Proposed reforms seek to integrate economic considerations, land use, environmental, heritage and community values earlier in the transmission planning process in a way that supports better outcomes for local communities and provides clarity for project delivery.

Your feedback will help shape how future investment decisions could be made about the planning, development and coordination of large-scale transmission and renewable generation in Victorian REZs.

You can provide feedback by:

- Submitting a response to this Consultation Paper through Engage Victoria, the Victorian Government's online consultation platform
- Completing an Engage Victoria community survey at engage.vic.gov.au/victorian-transmission-investment-framework. It takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete

We will publish submissions that are not confidential

To promote transparency and further public discussion of the proposed Framework, we intend to publish all submissions. If you believe your submission contains information that should be treated as confidential or commercially sensitive, please clearly indicate this when you provide it to us.

If you indicate that only part of your submission is confidential or commercially sensitive, you will need to provide us two copies – one complete and one redacted version (preserving page numbers etc by not simply deleting information).

Thank you for your engagement and participation. All responses are highly appreciated and are welcome before 15 August 2022.

For any queries regarding the process, please email REZDevelopment@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Next steps

As part of the consultation, we will be holding an industry workshop and a series of stakeholder regional briefings. Please subscribe through Engage Victoria to receive project updates and be notified about consultation activities.

We will collate and analyse feedback received during the consultation period in the coming months, and this will inform Government's decision on whether to proceed with – and the final design of – the VTIF.

A report summarising the feedback received during the consultation period is expected to be published later in 2022. A date has not been set for a final decision on the proposed VTIF.

Consultation timeline

Public consultation opens	**1 July 2022**
Submissions are invited	engage.vic.gov.au
Stakeholder briefings	**July – August 2022**
VicGrid will hold an industry workshop and a series of stakeholder briefings	
Regional information sessions	**July - August 2022**
VicGrid will hold a series of regional briefings to consult with key, directly-impacted stakeholder groups within each REZ	
Public consultation closes	**15 August 2022**
Submissions will be accepted until 11.59pm	
Report	**Late 2022**
VicGrid will publish a report summarising feedback from stakeholder workshops and submissions	

Context

Victoria's energy transition

Victoria's energy system is experiencing a once-in-a-generation transition. The coal-fired power stations that have powered our state for decades are ageing and will need replacing. Victoria's three remaining brown coal generators in the Latrobe Valley provide the state with almost 5,000 megawatts (MW) of generation capacity and supplied around 70% of our electricity needs in 2020.

The Yallourn power station is currently scheduled to exit the market in 2028; however, the precise timing of the exit of the two Loy Yang power stations is uncertain and will occur at some point over coming years. Alternative generation and its associated investment will be needed in the future, although the precise timing is not yet clear.

In parallel, renewable energy generation is growing rapidly and is now the cheapest form of electricity generation in the market. Industry is making long-term investments in renewable generation and storage, such as large-scale wind and solar farms backed up by grid-sized batteries. Victoria is also the first state to make a serious commitment to developing offshore wind power. The Government has committed to developing at least 2,000MW of capacity to come online by 2032, increasing to 4,000MW by 2035 and 9,000MW by 2040.[2] These investments in renewable energy capacity will deliver affordable, reliable and clean electricity for all Victorians.

Aligned with this, the need to reduce emissions to meet climate change goals will require our electricity generation fleet to transition away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy. And greater demand will be placed on electricity generation. Technology is evolving to drive electricity demand growth at a pace not seen before. Existing industries that rely heavily on fossil fuels will seek to transition to using electricity, like the rollout of electric vehicles and substituting electricity for gas uses. And new, electricity-intensive industries may emerge, such as creating new hydrogen fuel using renewable electricity generation.

These changes will likely increase demand on our energy system, but the exact nature of these changes and the subsequent impact on our electricity needs is difficult to predict.

Victoria will need more electricity from new, renewable resources. This transformation brings significant opportunities for regional economic development, jobs and training, and benefits for communities hosting electricity infrastructure.

Victoria is currently leading the nation with 7,800 renewable energy jobs in 2020, which is a third of Australia's total renewables sector jobs. Each 1,000MW of offshore wind power is expected to create up to 600 full-time equivalent jobs during peak construction, plus approximately 300 ongoing jobs over 30 years of operation.

Importantly, the energy transition is playing a key role in reducing carbon emissions to address climate change. Victoria's *Climate Change Act 2017* provides a clear framework for climate action in Victoria, legislating a net zero by 2050 goal and requires the setting of five yearly interim emissions reduction targets to manage an orderly transition. The Government has already set ambitious, but achievable targets to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels by 28–33% by 2025 and 45–50% by 2030.

2 For more information please see energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/offshore-wind

Transmission infrastructure is the backbone of the electricity system and enables the connection of new generation and storage, delivering power to where it is needed in the state. This capacity is vital to the state's economic growth into the future. Victoria's transmission network was largely built in the second half of the 20th century to meet the needs of an energy system that transferred electricity from the coal fields in the Latrobe Valley to residential areas and industries across the state. However, Victoria's best renewable energy resources are dispersed across regions that are not always well-served by our existing grid. We need to ensure that our grid keeps up with the momentum of the energy transition so we can appropriately harness these resources.

That is why the Victorian Government is developing Victoria's REZs to coordinate the transmission, generation and storage the state needs. REZs are areas of abundant renewable energy resources, such as wind and solar, that can provide timely and cost-effective delivery of secure and clean energy for Victoria. To meet our energy and emissions reduction ambitions, the development of Victorian REZs is essential.

The Victorian Government has taken steps to progress REZ development, facilitate the energy transition and address regulatory barriers. The Victorian Government has responded to calls from industry facing issues in connecting renewable energy projects to our network.

In late 2020, the $540m REZ Fund was set up to assist financing of REZ network projects. A set of Stage One network projects from this initiative – which are urgent, no-regrets investments with minimal land and environmental impacts – have been launched (see **Box 1**). These investments unlock grid capacity for renewable energy generators currently operating on the Victorian network as well as new projects looking to connect across the state. Government will make a final investment decision on these projects in 2022, subject to the projects demonstrating a clear benefit to Victorian households and businesses.

The Victorian Government is also seeking to work with regional communities and increase engagement on the development of energy infrastructure. A new division within the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), VicGrid, has been established to coordinate the overarching planning and development of our REZs, including overseeing investments made through the REZ Fund.

VicGrid will engage with regional communities, Traditional Owners and local industries on an ongoing basis regarding energy infrastructure development across the state to listen to on-the-ground concerns and identify opportunities (for more information see **Basing transmission and REZ development on early, inclusive and ongoing community engagement**).

BOX 1

Stage 1 REZ projects

On 3 August 2021, the Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change announced the next step in Victoria's $540 million REZs investment, with the creation of VicGrid and the progression of a series of Stage One network investment projects set to strengthen and modernise Victoria's electricity grid.

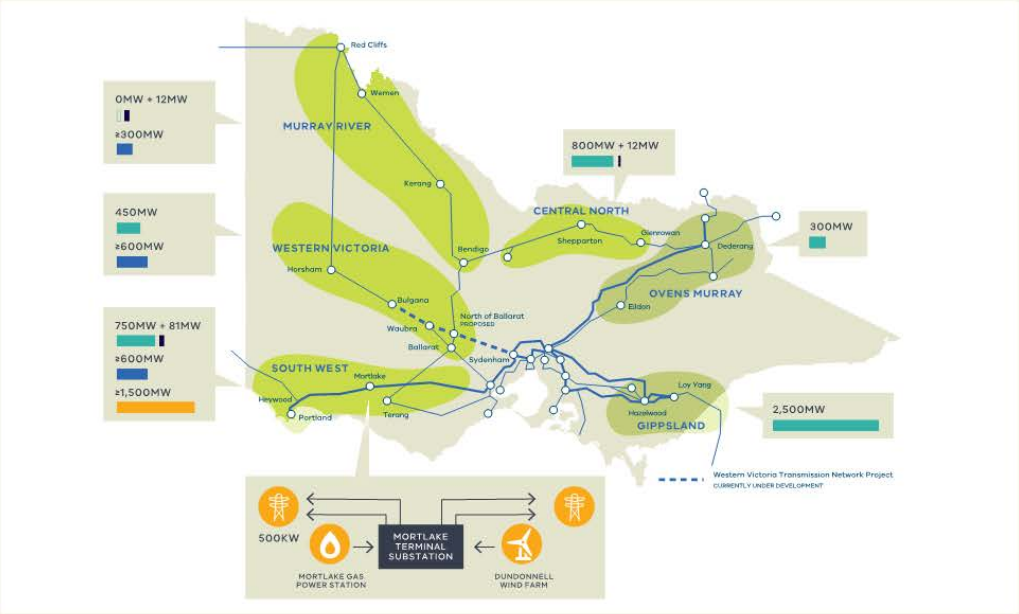
As part of this next phase, the Victorian Government directed the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to progress a series of Stage One projects under two procurement streams. AEMO is seeking proposals for three sets of minor network upgrade projects to the transmission network across the Murray River, South-West and Central North REZs, with the relevant incumbent network service providers. These REZs are located in the Loddon Mallee, Barwon South-West and Hume Regions.

Separately, a call for expressions of interest and tender process is being undertaken for three projects for services to strengthen the system across the Murray River, Western Victoria and South-West REZs (Loddon Mallee, Grampians and Barwon South-West Regions). These projects aim to increase the ability of the transmission network to maintain a steady operating state with connection of additional capacity in each REZ.

In January 2022, the Victorian Government directed AEMO to seek a proposal for the next phase of the investigation of the Stage One Mortlake Turn-In Project from the owner of the Mortlake Terminal Station, AusNet Services. This project seeks to maximise renewable energy generation in Victoria by addressing network voltage constraints that are limiting how much electricity generators in the South-West REZ can feed into the grid.

Following these processes, the Government will make a final investment decision, subject to the projects demonstrating a clear benefit to Victorian households and businesses.

Victorian Renewable Energy Zones overlaid with Stage 1 projects progressing to procurement phase



REZ OVERLAID WITH STAGE 1 PROJECTS
Progressing to procurement phase

SPARE HOSTING CAPACITY (MW)
Based on AEMO's 2020 ISP: appendix--5.pdf (aemo.com.au)

MINOR NETWORK UPGRADE PROJECTS
Enable additional hosting capacity (MW) to accommodate greater levels of renewable generation from new and existing connections

SERVICES TO STRENGTHEN THE SYSTEM
Increase the ability of the transmission network to maintain a steady operating state with connection of additional generator capacity (MW)

MORTLAKE TURN-IN PROJECT
Address network voltage constraints that are limiting the amount of electricity (MW) generators can export to the grid Western Victoria Transmission Network Project currently under development

15

BOX 2

Key drivers in Victoria's energy transition

Victoria's coal-fired power stations are ageing and are expected to close earlier than scheduled

Victoria must act now to be prepared for the closure of coal-fired power stations as they reach the end of their technical life or become uneconomic. It is crucial that our energy system is resilient to potential early retirements to protect consumers from spikes in electricity prices and reduced reliability.

Yallourn power station is expected to retire in 2028, representing a major reduction of around 14 per cent of the state's generation capacity in today's terms. Building the transmission, generation and storage infrastructure needed to replace this lost generation can take many years and so Victoria must start putting this in place now.

The state's other coal-fired power stations, Loy Yang A and B, are scheduled to retire in the late 2040s; but there is uncertainty around their actual closure date. AEMO has forecast under their ISP 'Step Change' scenario that both power stations could be offline as early as 2032.[3] Victoria must be prepared for potential early closures by increasing resilience in our energy system.

Changes in technology and industries are increasing complexity and uncertainty

New trends are increasing complexity and uncertainty in the energy market. The shift to a low emissions economy is raising the potential for new sources of electricity demand, such as through the electrification of transport, the potential conversion of gas use to electricity, and opportunities for hydrogen fuel development.

The Victorian Government released its $100m Zero Emissions Vehicle Roadmap in 2021 to ensure the state is a leader in the adoption of zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) in Australia. This included a target for 50 per cent of all new light vehicle sales to be ZEV by 2030, which is expected to increase electricity drawn from the grid.

Through the Victorian Renewable Hydrogen Industry Development Plan, Victoria is positioning itself to take advantage of emerging hydrogen opportunities that are forecast to add $11 billion to the national economy each year by 2050, as well as up to 7,600 jobs.[4] Victoria's commitment to developing offshore wind is a key part of this. Producing green hydrogen for domestic use or export would create major new industrial demand for electricity.

Alternatively, new sources of renewable generation are reducing electricity demand from the grid. Consumers are increasingly taking control of their energy bills by installing rooftop solar and taking up smart home technologies, including through support programs from Solar Victoria. From the perspective of the grid, these distributed technologies are reducing minimum electricity demand, especially during the middle of the day when the sun is shining.

In addition, the Victorian economy is changing as it transitions to a low emissions future and shifts in major industrial plants may lead to changing electricity demand patterns for some industries.

The market is driving significant investment in renewable energy projects across Victoria

The market is delivering significant investments in renewable energy generation as a result of wind and solar's favourable economics. This renewable generation is driving new investment, creating jobs, reducing emissions from electricity generation and supporting supply chain development. Victoria currently has a pipeline of 3,448MW of renewable energy projects across the State, creating approximately $1.3 billion capital investment and 1,200 jobs in 2020-21.

Victoria is committed to embracing this economic growth opportunity through our renewable energy and offshore wind targets. Victoria has already met its 25% renewable energy target by 2020. Under our Victorian Renewable Energy Auction Scheme, we have contracted 928MW of installed generation capacity and expect to deliver at least 600MW more under a second auction launched in 2021. In line with our net zero emissions by 2050 target, decarbonising energy sector emissions will continue to require significant new investment by the middle of the century.

3 Australian Energy Market Operator, Draft 2022 ISP
aemo.com.au/en/energy-systems/major-publications/integrated-system-plan-isp/2022-integrated-system-plan-isp

4 Deloitte 2019, Australian and Global Hydrogen Demand Growth Scenario Analysis. Note that jobs and economic impacts relate to all hydrogen types.

The way Victoria plans transmission and generation needs to adapt to the new energy landscape

Developing REZs requires long-term planning to coordinate the roll out of transmission, generation and storage infrastructure to meet the needs of all Victorians. This planning needs to effectively address new trends that are creating increasing complexity and uncertainty in the energy sector (**Box 2**).

It is crucial that Victoria is prepared for and resilient to the closure of coal-fired power stations in coming years. As market conditions change and the sector decarbonises, Victoria must be prepared for the event that this capacity is withdrawn earlier than expected.

Developing and constructing the transmission infrastructure to connect significant new sources of renewable energy generation to replace this capacity has long lead times. This drives the need for cost-effective investments in energy infrastructure that anticipate and are flexible to future developments in the market.

Historically, the way our energy system has been planned reflects an era of greater certainty, increasing year-on year electricity demand and incremental investments over time to keep up with demand. Today, Victoria faces an energy landscape that may benefit from a new approach for planning that can deal with complexity, make anticipatory investments, proactively engage communities, and integrate land use considerations. The current transmission planning and investment process is outlined in **Box 3**.

This transition from reactive to anticipatory investment brings with it the chance of establishing a Victorian investment framework better suited to meet the needs of not just the energy industry, but also Victorian consumers, impacted communities and the environment. Designed and implemented effectively, the transformation could also bring significant opportunities for regional economic development, jobs and training and benefits for communities hosting electricity infrastructure.

Uncertainty regarding the closure of Victoria's remaining fossil-fuel generation and the potential growth in electricity demand from emerging industries means a business-as-usual approach may not deliver the necessary grid infrastructure in time. Without transmission planning that anticipates these future trends, the reliability and affordability of Victoria's grid may be challenged.

The Victorian Government recognises how important it is that planning for transmission infrastructure must include meaningful engagement with local communities, Traditional Owners and regional stakeholders to ensure that local views inform decisions from the outset. There is an opportunity to appropriately reflect local values, maximise the benefits of renewable energy infrastructure and minimise any negative impacts. The energy transition should be a shared legacy for Victoria with the economic development opportunities and broader benefits shared with host communities.

Ballarat Energy Storage System Spotless Downer

Under Victoria's existing transmission planning and investment framework, land use considerations and the views of the local communities are brought into the process after the transmission planning regulatory process is completed. This approach means economic and engineering decision-making does not fully benefit from broader land use, environmental and social considerations, and on-the-ground priorities for stakeholders and landholders.

At the same time, the development of Victorian REZs must deliver affordable, clean and reliable electricity for all Victorians, while still maintaining compatibility with the national arrangements.

The proposed VTIF has been designed to provide a fit-for-purpose approach to better meet the needs of community and energy consumers. Importantly, measures are incorporated into the Framework to ensure costs are minimised for Victorian electricity customers.

This Consultation Paper sets out options for achieving this outcome and to facilitate feedback and stakeholder input into the process.

BOX 3

Victoria's existing transmission planning and investment framework

The transmission planning and investment framework in Victoria is unique within the National Electricity Market (NEM). Historically, Victoria has been the only state to have an independent transmission planner and procurer of transmission – AEMO – and contestable procurement that allows different transmission businesses to tender to deliver new transmission infrastructure. In other states there is an integrated Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSP), who undertakes both the planning and delivery of new transmission infrastructure.

New transmission projects are identified through two processes:

- The Integrated System Plan (ISP): a whole-of-system plan undertaken by AEMO in its role as national planner on a biennial basis that provides a roadmap for new transmission investment across the NEM for the next twenty years.
- The Victorian Annual Planning Report (VAPR): an annual report published by AEMO in its role as Victorian Transmission Planner, which identifies upgrades to the existing Victorian network needed over the next ten years should the transmission system not be adequate to meet reliability and security and network augmentations which deliver net market benefits by reducing network constraints for generators.

Once projects have been identified, AEMO undertakes the Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T). The RIT-T is a cost-benefit analysis that considers a narrow range of economic costs and benefits to determine whether the project should proceed or can be delivered through non-network options such as battery storage. If the project returns a net-cost under the RIT-T, then the project does not proceed even if it has been identified as necessary through either the ISP or VAPR.

Projects that pass the RIT-T, and are valued at over $10 million, are then subject to the contestable procurement process. Transmission businesses tender for delivery of the project. The successful business then undertakes the necessary planning and environmental assessments and approvals– including community engagement, prior to constructing the transmission infrastructure. Projects valued below $10 million are directly negotiated between AEMO and the incumbent Declared Transmission System Operator (DTSO), usually AusNet Services.

Proposed Victorian Transmission Investment Framework planning process

Overview of the proposed VTIF planning process

The proposed VTIF planning process is an integrated process for planning and developing the transmission infrastructure needed for REZ development. It would help Victoria flexibly adapt to changing system needs, coordinate the timely roll-out of REZs and ensure that land use, environment and local community needs are integrated in the design and delivery of REZs.

The VTIF would identify an 'optimal REZ pathway' for the electricity system, a strategic response to a range of plausible energy futures. The optimal pathway describes the most resilient and robust development path for Victoria over the next 25 years, coordinating future demand, generation, storage and the transmission needed to enable it.

It would help ensure that Victoria would be well-positioned to manage the eventual retirement of its remaining coal-fired power stations, while making the most of its renewable energy resources and the substantial opportunities that new energy technologies, jobs and investments can bring to the state.

Increasing uncertainty in the energy sector means it is becoming harder to plan and deliver large, long-lived infrastructure investments that are also as efficient as possible. Acknowledging this, the proposed Framework adopts internationally established practice for planning infrastructure under uncertainty. Instead of using a primary, most likely future scenario, planning would be driven by several plausible scenarios and would identify the development strategy – or REZ pathway - that performs best across all of them. The United Kingdom is an example of applying this approach in transmission development, sometimes called Least Worst Regrets (LWR).

In effect, the proposed Framework would develop several candidate REZ pathways in parallel and narrow this down to the optimal REZ pathway and the most efficient projects to deliver it.

Developing the candidate REZ pathways would include early engagement and work to integrate local community, Traditional Owner and stakeholder values and perspectives, particularly related to where infrastructure could be sited.

The proposed Framework could also include an updated approach to contestable procurement and new access arrangements for REZs.

Victoria's REZs would be officially declared in a sequential manner, driven by the needs and timing of the optimal REZ pathway. Declaring a REZ would include specifying its intended transmission hosting capacity, access arrangements, geographic boundary and indicative development timing.

Proposed Victorian REZ Transmission Planning objective

Should Government proceed with the proposed VTIF, a new legislated objective for transmission planning in Victoria would be required. The objective should reflect the needs and uncertainties in a changing industry.

The draft objective set out in **Box 4** is intended to balance important considerations, such as environmental benefits with ensuring the efficient provision of transmission services with respects to price, reliability and security.

BOX 4

Draft Victorian Transmission Planning Objective

To promote efficient investment in, and efficient operation and use of, electricity transmission services for the long-term interests of Victorian consumers of electricity with respect to:

- Price, quality, safety and reliability and security of supply of electricity
- The reliability, safety and security of the national electricity system
- The orderly transition of the Victorian electricity system, consistent with the commitment to net zero emissions by 2050
- The delivery of transmission, consistent with a least regrets development pathway

End-to-end process

The proposed VTIF includes seven stages, illustrated in **Figure 2**.

1 System scenarios

NEW FOR CONSULTATION

Stage 1 would develop a limited number of plausible, diverse future scenarios for the electricity system in Victoria over the coming 25 years – here system refers to combined electricity generation, transmission and storage. The system scenarios would drive the rest of the Framework to ensure appropriate levels of reliability and system strength. They would consider factors such as future demand, generation amount, timing and location, and the network transfer capacity required to deliver access arrangements, operational system security and reliability standards.

The scenarios would be consistent with Victorian Government policy goals, such as meeting net zero emissions by 2050, Victorian Renewable Energy Target and offshore wind commitments. It is important that the scenarios have broad stakeholder support and are consistent with national transmission planning reform, including the AEMO's ISP, with market bodies, industry stakeholders, consumer groups and other stakeholders consulted in developing the scenarios. It is anticipated the scenarios would be reviewable and able to respond to evolving circumstances as needed.

2 Candidate REZ pathways

NEW FOR CONSULTATION

Stage 2 would develop a set of candidate REZ pathways, one for each system scenario. A REZ pathway describes a potential development path for transmission, generation, storage in Victoria to develop the REZs. Each pathway describes how new transmission capacity could be allocated across REZs, the most acceptable corridors where that capacity could be situated, and the technical requirements needed to meet security and reliability standards. Candidate pathways represent ways of bringing together plausible future system needs with social, environmental and economic considerations at a local, regional and state level. These pathways would therefore be a key point for capturing local and regional opportunities within our transmission planning.

This Stage would be a focal point for partnering with Traditional Owners and engaging with local communities and other regional stakeholders. A Strategic Land Use Assessment (SLUA) would help identify the lowest impact, most acceptable areas within REZs where transmission could be sited and a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) would determine how investment could be allocated across Victoria's REZs in a way that balances environmental, heritage and social values with the need to deliver cheap, clean and reliable electricity.

3 Optimal REZ pathway

NEW FOR CONSULTATION

Following this, **Stage 3** would apply internationally established principles for planning infrastructure under uncertainty. It would evaluate the benefits and costs of multiple options in multiple scenarios and would select the option that is most robust, that is, it minimises expected costs in all scenarios. This approach is similar to the approach applied in the United Kingdom to address the uncertainties experienced in the market there.

The optimal REZ pathway would set out the preferred amount, location and timing for transmission investment over 25 years. It would be consulted on with stakeholders and include engagement with impacted local communities, Traditional Owners, and regional industries, to ensure that an appropriate range of views, concerns and preferences influence development of Victoria's REZs. The views of industry and other stakeholders who may be affected would also be sought.

Once the optimal REZ pathway is identified, REZs would be declared, driven by the needs and timing of the optimal REZ pathway. Initially, priority REZs would be declared where projects would be developed within the next 10 years. Declaring a REZ would include specifying its intended transmission hosting capacity, access arrangements, geographic boundary and indicative development timing.

4 REZ transmission projects

NEW FOR CONSULTATION

Having identified the optimal REZ pathway, **Stage 4** would see the planning, assessment and procurement of efficient transmission projects. This would occur in three steps.

First, identifying candidate projects that can deliver the transmission needs identified in the optimal REZ pathway. Projects would be scoped and specified to meet the requirements set by the optimal REZ pathway and REZ access arrangements. To ensure technology neutrality, network and non-network solutions would be considered in this step.

Second, a least cost assessment of the projects would be undertaken applying the proposed Victorian Network Investment Test (VNIT) to identify the most efficient options for delivering the optimal REZ pathway. Community and environmental impacts and benefits would be considered earlier in the planning process and would be integrated into the design of the optimal REZ pathway. Any additional transmission projects would be subject to a maximum net benefit assessment.

Third, projects would be procured for delivery. Those that meet a contestability threshold would be subject to a contestable procurement process.

5 Approvals

NO PROPOSED CHANGE

In Stage 5, the project proponent, in partnership with VicGrid, would commence heritage, environmental and land use planning assessments as required ahead of project delivery. As part of this, the project proponent would propose a preferred route, within the REZ location previously identified in the optimal REZ pathway. It is noted that the project's land approvals applications would be expected to be significantly informed by early work to integrate land use, environmental, Traditional Owner and community values into the transmission planning process. VicGrid would maintain a role in planning approvals such as the Environmental Effects Statement (EES), to ensure continuity in community engagement throughout the development of Victoria's REZs.

6 Delivery

NO PROPOSED CHANGE

The recommended projects will then be constructed and commissioned by the successful TNSP.

7 Review

The proposed Framework includes an annual review of the optimal REZ pathway and proposed projects, to check if underlying assumptions or costs have changed, or if any projects should be brought forward or delayed. The Victorian Government would also periodically review the Framework process, including seeking stakeholder feedback on possible improvements.

Access and pricing arrangements

In addition to the new planning process, the Victorian Government is considering allocating access rights for declared REZs. This consultation paper outlines options for access and pricing arrangements within REZs, and how those options interact with potential national reforms.

Framework scope and timing

Scope

The proposed Framework would only apply to future Victorian transmission development identified through the Optimal REZ Pathway Plan. It would not apply retrospectively to projects that have already commenced regulatory processes. This would include all transmission projects outside of geographic REZ boundaries that are needed to deliver the optimal REZ pathway.

The 'meshed' network topography in Victoria – that is, the network is interconnected, interdependent – makes it difficult to separate out distinct areas. For this reason, setting geographic boundaries that separate REZ infrastructure from other shared transmission infrastructure can be complex. And the addition of significant hosting capacity within a REZ may necessitate additional transmission infrastructure build outside of REZs to maintain reliability and security of the system. A VTIF that applies both within and outside of REZs would help to ensure a consistent approach to transmission investment across Victoria.

It is envisaged that the outputs of the VTIF would be fed into the national planning process and incorporated into the subsequent ISP. Similarly, outputs from ISP processes will be incorporated into the development of Victoria's optimal pathway plan to ensure consistency between national and Victorian transmission development. VicGrid will work with AEMO during the development of the framework to identify appropriate points of consultation to ensure alignment between the national planning framework (including the ISP) and VTIF.

Timing

The VTIF is proposed to run on a four-yearly cycle. It would provide reasonable certainty about the optimal REZ pathway for the coming four years. The next cycle would update the pathway for the next 25 years, providing reasonable certainty for the coming four-year period.

This approach recognises the long lead times for transmission investment and the potential costs associated with changing projects which had already been committed. It aims to balance certainty for the market with the need to adapt plans in a very changeable environment.

The initial stages of the proposed Framework are both time and resource intensive. Incorporating community engagement, consideration of land use, environmental, heritage and social issues early in the process, involves more time to deliver an optimal REZ pathway that meets the needs of all Victorians. However, the proposed stage 1 and parts of stage 2 of the process can run in parallel.

Furthermore, it is envisaged that latter stages of the process - the investment test, procurement and planning and environmental assessment - will be delivered more quickly than the current framework due to the time spent incorporating community views and land use considerations into the early planning of REZ pathways.

The VTIF would be published prior to the biennial AEMO ISP. In this way each VTIF review would fall at the same stage of the ISP process and each publication's outputs can be incorporated in the other's following cycle.

Should the Framework proceed, the first Optimal REZ Pathway Plan and any subsequent REZ declarations will be made prior to the release of the 2024 ISP.

FIGURE 2 Proposed Victorian Transmission Investment Framework VTIF planning process

Minimising costs to electricity consumers

The proposed VTIF includes several measures to ensure that costs are minimised for Victorian electricity customers. These have been designed into the stages of the Framework. Key measures include:

- Potential weighting of system scenarios, informed by expert stakeholder views. This would ensure that no single scenario unduly influences the outcomes of the proposed VTIF (**Developing future electricity system scenarios (Stage 1)**).
- The proposed MCA allocation tool includes a generator expression of interest process to ensure that selected REZs would be commercially attractive for development and ensure utilisation of transmission capacity. The auctioning of access rights would require a financial commitment from prospective generators. These steps provide a level of certainty that renewable generation development would occur in the selected REZs and that any investment in transmission lines would be cost-effective (**Developing candidate REZ pathways (Stage 2)**)
- The proposed development of candidate pathways optimises the coordination of generation and transmission investments consistent with the principle of minimising overall forecast system costs and delivering the lowest unit cost of energy to consumers (**Developing candidate REZ pathways (Stage 2)**).
- The proposed optimisation analysis places high value on prioritising investment options that would be the most robust under all scenarios and therefore least likely to become stranded (**Identifying the optimal REZ pathway (Stage 3)**).
- Flexibility mechanisms that would allow timely adaptation to changes. These would reduce the cost of the system over the long-term, minimise the capital at risk, and preserve optionality to cater for evolving futures. These measures include:
  - The proposed optimal REZ pathway would be sequenced into a series of stages with projects that can be staged over different time horizons. Only projects that are required to meet system needs in the following four years would be considered 'committed' (**Identifying the optimal REZ pathway (Stage 3)**).
  - The ability to use up-to-date information and assumptions to inform the selection of the preferred project(s) under the proposed investment test ().
  - The proposed four yearly re-runs of the planning process to consider how to update the optimal REZ pathway (**REZ transmission project planning and procurement (Stage 4)**).
  - The proposed use of triggers to identify when investment tests should be progressed within the four-year period between applications of the optimisation analysis (**REZ transmission project planning and procurement (Stage 4)**).
- The proposed VNIT – a cost effectiveness test - would ensure the proposed investment options are efficient in meeting the requirements of the optimal REZ pathway in the most cost-effective way (**REZ transmission project planning and procurement (Stage 4)**).
- Contestable procurement arrangements would create a competitive bidding environment which drives lower pricing (**REZ transmission project planning and procurement (Stage 4)**).
- Auctioning access rights provides scope for generators to co-finance transmission infrastructure, reducing the costs borne by consumers.

Have your say

1 What are your views on the proposed Victorian Transmission Planning Objective? Does it incorporate the right issues that impact the development of transmission in Victoria?

2 What are your views on the proposed measures to ensure costs to consumers are minimised as outlined above and detailed elsewhere in the consultation paper?

STAGE 1

Developing future electricity system scenarios

Purpose

Increasing uncertainty in the energy sector means it is becoming harder to accurately forecast future demand, technology mix and supply. In turn, this makes it harder to identify the most efficient location, size and timing for large transmission infrastructure investments.

Stage 1 would develop a limited number of plausible future scenarios for the electricity system in Victoria, where system refers to combined electricity generation, transmission and storage. These system scenarios would capture diverse drivers and trends and would reflect Victorian Government policy commitments, such as achieving net zero emissions by 2050, the Victorian Renewable Energy Target and offshore wind commitments, to ensure that REZ planning positions Victoria's electricity system to be reliable and resilient to a range of plausible changes and shocks. The system scenarios establish a more anticipatory transmission need that drives the rest of the VTIF.

Outputs

Stage 1 would generate a limited number of system scenarios that include projected future demand, generation amount, timing and location, and the network transfer capacity required to support access arrangements and meet system security standards and the reliability standard over a 25 year forward period. The network transfer capacity requirements for each system scenario would guide the focus and locations of subsequent work identifying candidate transmission corridors.

Approach

This Stage would develop system scenarios that are consistent with the Victorian Transmission Planning Objective and Victorian Government policy goals. This could include, for example, achieving net zero by 2050, delivery of the State's Offshore Wind strategy, regional economic development strategies or other future initiatives.

The system scenarios would be updated every four years, as part of the cycle for the VTIF. They would also be subject to an annual review, to check that planning assumptions remain relevant.

It is envisaged that the inputs and outputs from ISP processes will also be incorporated into the development of the VTIF system scenarios to ensure consistency between national and Victorian transmission development. VicGrid will work with AEMO during the development of the framework to identify appropriate points of consultation to ensure alignment between the national transmission planning framework (including the ISP) and VTIF.

Consultation would be a key aspect of developing the system scenarios. Work in this Stage would include broader and technically focussed engagement with a range of stakeholders to ensure inputs, assumptions and methodology are appropriate and well-supported.

Scenario inputs

The following dimensions would frame the system scenarios.

Changes to existing demand	Existing demand trends for Victorian residential and business customers and the implications of distributed energy resources (primarily rooftop solar and battery storage) on peak and minimum levels of demand
New sources of demand	Potential new sources of demand such as electrification of transport, broader electrification of current gas usage, and local hydrogen production
Capacity mix	Expected changes in the generation mix as a result of thermal generation retirements (coal and gas plant), the rate of decarbonisation, and changes in technology costs
Interconnection	Expected NEM-wide developments in new interconnection and transmission investment, and implications for the transfer capacity of REZs

Scenario diversity

System scenarios would need to be appropriately diverse, to reflect the range of possible futures for Victoria, while also being plausible and an appropriate basis for planning. To illustrate, system scenarios could reflect the following potential drivers.

Future emissions reduction ambitions	Deeper emissions reduction targets are implemented for the energy sector that incentivise greater renewable energy generation
Maintaining Victoria's energy reliability and security	More rapid transmission capacity is needed to meet accelerated investment in generation to replace early thermal generation retirements
Managing operational system security	Industrial loads leave the market and minimum demand levels decline
Changes in electricity demand	Demand changes related for example to electrification of transport, uptake of distributed energy resources or new energy intensive industries, such as hydrogen production using renewable energy

Once developed, each scenario would be weighted, attributing a probability to each scenario. These probabilities would be developed through the scenario consultation process.

Establishing the transmission need

Each system scenario would identify the energy gap between forecast demand and forecast supply, and the best mix of generation and storage expansion options to address the gap. The investment need would then be converted into a required level of new transmission capacity in REZs and across Victoria.

This analysis would take a holistic view of the Victorian transmission network, and its interconnection with the NEM, rather than being focussed on each REZ. It would need to consider ways to minimise the new transmission required to deliver the additional generation, as well as specifying the level of redundancy and risk of curtailment required for the grid in meeting the energy gap.

The process would be central in defining the value of access offered in Victorian REZs and would need to address several important questions. For example, whether the transmission capacity should be sized to be able to export the maximum coincident generation, even if that occurs infrequently. A related issue is the level of redundancy to be provided, such that an unexpected transmission outage does not require a significant generation r customer demand curtailment.

While this process is subject to further consideration and design, techniques similar to those used in developing the transmission and generation expansion plans in the ISP could be utilised to ensure transmission plans meet security and reliability constraints. As a validation step, each plan's viability could be confirmed through a power system analysis of critical conditions, such as coincident maximum generation and demand, with time sequential modelling used to confirm the power system that can be operated securely and maintain reliable supply under credible contingencies.

Planning horizon

The VTIF would include a 25-year timeframe for system scenarios. AEMO's Electricity Statement of Opportunities supports planning decisions over 10 years (with a 5-year reliability forecast). The ISP creates a coordinated plan for generation and transmission development across the NEM with a 20-year planning horizon and major transmission assets have economic lives of around 40-50 years. The Government is proposing to have a longer planning horizon as a way of providing more direction and clarity for market participants.

Have your say

3 What do you think about the proposed 25 year time horizon? To what extent does the outlook length appropriately balance forecasting capabilities and the need to plan for the long-term?

4 What do you think about the proposed core inputs for the system scenarios? What other inputs should be considered?

STAGE 2

Developing candidate REZ pathways

Purpose

Stage 2 would develop a set of candidate REZ pathways, one for each system scenario. Each REZ pathway describes how new transmission capacity could be allocated between REZs, the most appropriate corridors where that capacity could be situated and technical requirements to meet power system security standards and the reliability standard. Each candidate REZ pathway represents a way of bringing together plausible future electricity system needs with social, environmental and economic considerations and strategic objectives at local and state level.

Upfront, strategic engagement aims to involve a wide range of stakeholders early, to build relationships and to improve the process and outcomes for all affected parties. Mapping areas where future development could meet network needs and achieve a level of social acceptance, would allow the early identification of issues, minimise impacts and contribute to smoother planning and environmental approvals processes. This approach will help to manage cumulative impacts that communities feel over time and provide generators with better information on suitable locations.

Balancing the allocation of capacity across REZs allows transmission planning to consider a range of factors relevant to REZ development, such as the level of community support, generator interest and jobs and investment.

Outputs

This Stage has multiple outputs. The mapping work described below would produce an initial landscape-level analysis of the suitability of land for generation and transmission, accounting for resource quality and the needs of each system scenario. It would then produce a more detailed heat map identifying candidate transmission corridors in each REZ and a strategic land use ranking that reflects overall suitability for transmission development.

Following this, Stage 2 would produce one candidate transmission pathway for each system scenario that describes the capacity, location and indicative timing for new transmission infrastructure.

Approach

Stage 2 begins with the set of system needs arising from the system scenarios defined in Stage 1. It combines the following steps to produce a candidate REZ pathway for each system scenario.

1 Strategic Land Use Assessment (SLUA)
2 Available network capacity
3 Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA)
4 Least-cost engineering analysis
5 Verify candidate power system

The steps combine as follows: First, identifying the lowest impact, most acceptable corridors within REZs where transmission could be sited (SLUA).

Second, using these candidate corridors and other criteria to balance how investment could be allocated across Victoria's REZs effectively (SLUA output, available network capacity and MCA).

Third, developing an acceptable REZ transmission pathway that meets forecast system requirements over the coming 25 years. This would be done for each system scenario, though it is anticipated that the most acceptable corridors would be common across most, if not all scenarios (MCA output, Least-cost engineering analysis, Verify candidate power system).

This process is summarised in **Table 1**.

Strategic Land Use Assessment

The SLUA would be a geospatial mapping exercise that would seek to identify the lowest-impact corridors for transmission development, accounting for a range of land use values including national parks, residential areas, ecologically sensitive areas, agriculture, indigenous cultural heritage, visual amenity, corridor length and terrain suitability, among others. The SLUA would bring together existing datasets with early community and stakeholder engagement to identify the suitability of geographic areas to hosting transmission and generation.

The SLUA would comprise the following elements: Initially, a landscape-level desktop analysis would check that the land requirements for generation and transmission for each system scenario are feasible, accounting for a range of factors. It would identify preferred transmission corridor start and end points and study areas for more detailed study. In practice this could be undertaken in parallel with Stage 1, developing system scenarios. This stage would also involve early engagement to identify community values, which would be included in the corridor identification process.

Following this, the SLUA would conduct more detailed assessments within study areas, to narrow down to the lowest-impact corridors. In some cases, this may involve assessing competing land use values. The SLUA process would also include engagement with stakeholders to help determine results, including for example Traditional Owners and Aboriginal groups, agricultural groups and farmers, local councils and environment groups, among others.

It is intended that these studies would produce heat maps describing how suitable areas of land would be for transmission, including a spectrum from 'high risk' zones to viable areas. This step would produce an SLUA ranking for each candidate corridor and each REZ, for use in the MCA.

As an indication of scale:

- Study areas may cover hundreds of square kilometres
- Candidate corridors would be up to 10 kilometres wide
- Later in the process, preferred corridors would be narrowed to transmission routes. Eventual micro-siting would involve adjustments in the order of tens-of-hundreds of metres.

For more information, please see **Basing transmission and REZ development on early, inclusive and ongoing community engagement**.

TABLE 1 Candidate REZ pathway components

STAGE	INPUT	OUTPUT
1 System scenarios	Victorian policy objectives, including net zero emissions by 2050, and input assumptions relating to changes in the generation capacity mix and national investment in transmission interconnection	Victoria region-wide generation and demand (MWh and MW) forecast for each system scenario over 25 years (incl storage) Amount, approximate timing, and location of transmission capacity to meet security and reliability standards
2.1 Strategic Land Use Assessment	A range of data layers across land use, environment, culture and heritage Based on on-the-ground engagement, the values, sentiment and priorities of local communities High-level transmission costs benchmarks	Landscape-level analysis of the suitability of land for generation and transmission, accounting for resource quality and the needs of each system scenario Heat maps to support identification of candidate corridors in each REZ For each REZ, an overall land use suitability score and a ranking for each corridor within each REZ
2.2 Available network capacity	The available and planned transmission network capacity for Victoria, including from the ISP, and any projects underway that would impact the REZ	Identifies the transmission transfer capacity (MW) per REZ and potential network constraints to load centres
2.3 Multi-Criteria Analysis	Generator interest Resource quality Land use assessment Community and Traditional Owner development preferences Regional development opportunities Transmission cost benchmarks System robustness / regional diversity	Establishes a guide for allocating new transmission hosting capacity across Victoria's REZs
2.4 Candidate REZ pathway	Outputs from Stages 1 - 2.3	Engineering design for least cost transmission projects that can deliver the requirements set in previous steps
2.5 Verify candidate power system	Draft candidate transmission pathways from step 2.4	Stage-gate assessment that each candidate power system (candidate transmission pathway plus assumed generation and storage) meets requirements

Available network capacity

This step establishes a baseline by assessing existing network capacity and constraints for each REZ, including any committed projects through the ISP. The assessment must consider the restrictions on physical limits of transfer capacity from the REZs that derive from the broader state network. As part of this process, 'common core' (no-regrets) transmission projects would be identified that are optimal across all scenarios. For the first assessment, committed projects would also include any projects currently on foot. This step would require collaboration with key organisations such as AEMO and AusNet Services.

Multi-Criteria Analysis

REZ development should produce the best outcomes for Victorians. As part of this, there are several factors outside of traditional electricity system planning that are important to consider.

The MCA is a tool to help incorporate additional considerations and balance how new transmission investment would be allocated across the state's REZs to meet our energy system needs while maximising community and regional benefits. For each scenario, it would provide a guide for the relative amount and build rate of transmission hosting capacity that would be allocated to each REZ and to candidate corridors within that REZ.

Consequently, the MCA would alter the expected distribution of generation in each system scenario. The following criteria are proposed:

- Generator interest
- Resource quality
- Land use assessment
- Community and Traditional Owner development preferences
- Regional development opportunities
- A benchmark cost for transmission development for each REZ
- System robustness/regional diversity (to be applied as needed)

Government would undertake careful work and thorough consultation to develop scores for each criterion and any weightings that could be applied to them. In some cases, like resource quality, this would make use of existing data sets. Others would require a dedicated process. For example, generator interest could be assessed through an Expression of Interest process. Regional development could be evaluated through an economic impact statement that investigates local growth opportunities across the REZ.

Government would also undertake further work and consultation on overall MCA development, including on governance, decision-making processes and stakeholder representation. It is important that the MCA be developed appropriately and informed by broad stakeholder and community feedback, as part of building support for how REZs are developed in Victoria.

Candidate REZ pathway

This step would deliver the least-cost engineering design to defined requirements established in previous stages, including community, social and environmental considerations. These include candidate corridors from the SLUA, available network capacity and constraints and the distribution of transmission and generation from the MCA. It would produce at least one candidate transmission pathway for each system scenario.

Verify candidate REZ pathways

This final step is included to verify that each candidate pathway together with assumed generation and storage can be operated in accordance with the power system security standards and the reliability standard. This step would also check that the design is consistent with the SLUA, local community views and delivers the least-cost result. The analysis would include:

- A technical test to confirm that the pathway is feasible and capable of delivery from a network operational and planning perspective. It would also review regional diversity and system robustness, to ensure that the pathway maintains resource adequacy and transmission redundancy.
- An efficiency test to establish, with the best available information, that the candidate power system supports the lowest total system design to meet the scenario taking into account generation/storage costs as well benchmarks for transmission costs.

The results of the technical and efficiency tests would have been considered by the planner in developing the candidate REZ pathways. This step is a stage-gate to check each candidate pathway before progressing to the next Stage. If issues arise, system scenarios and candidate pathways would be developed iteratively.

Have your say

5 How could this process for producing candidate transmission pathways best support cost-efficient transmission investment?

6 What considerations should be assessed as part of the strategic land use assessment? What might be the most appropriate methodology for the tool and how would the information be gathered and measured?

7 What do you think about the draft criteria to apply in the Multi-Criteria Analysis? What sources of data could help inform the criteria assessment?

STAGE 3

Identifying the optimal REZ pathway

Purpose

Stage 3 identifies the optimal REZ pathway for the state that is robust under all system scenarios and delivers timely transmission investments, at lowest cost. Its focus is on identifying which pathway from stage 2 delivers the best outcomes for Victoria across all future scenarios.

Outputs

The optimal REZ pathway would set out the preferred capacity, location and timing for transmission investment over 25 years. Subsequently, individual transmission projects would be developed and assessed on their capacity to meet these specifications in the most efficient way.

REZ declaration

When the optimal path is identified, REZs that require development within the next 10 years would be declared. REZ declaration would include REZ geographic boundaries, intended amount, location and timing of new transmission hosting capacity and access arrangements.

Approach

It is common practice in transmission planning to use a limited number of scenarios, or a central scenario with a sensitivity analysis as the basis for investment decisions. Typically, these scenarios are analysed independently, with planning based on a main scenario and some reinforcement options common to other scenarios.[5] In Australia, under current guidelines AEMO is required to identify a NEM optimal development path that has a positive net benefit in the most likely scenario.[6]

Best practice for planning infrastructure under uncertainty shifts the emphasis to identifying strategies that would perform well across a range of plausible scenarios. This serves to minimise the risk that insufficient transmission will be built to meet the relevant environmental, reliability, and security objectives.

One way to do this is to evaluate the benefits and risks of multiple options in multiple scenarios and select the option that proves to be most robust; that is, it minimises expected costs in all scenarios. The United Kingdom's National Electricity Grid System Operator (ESO) is an example of applying this type of approach in transmission planning.[7] In Australia, AEMO has been developing the same technique as an additional, discretionary tool to help assess planning outcomes in the ISP.[8] In the United States, similar principles are being applied in water resource planning, under the umbrella term Decision Making Under Deep Uncertainty.[9]

This Stage would undertake optimisation analysis to identify the optimal REZ pathway using a similar approach to the UK National Grid ESO and AEMO analyses cited above. The approach would comprise three steps:

1 Undertake a cost-benefit analysis of each candidate REZ pathway.
2 Assess the performance of each candidate REZ pathway under all system scenarios. This step identifies the optimal REZ pathway.
3 Test the results using a sensitivity analysis.

5 Mancarella, P. et al 2020, *Study of advanced modelling for network planning under uncertainty Part 1: Review of frameworks and industrial practices for decision making in transmission network planning*. Report prepared for National Grid Electricity System Operator
6 Australian Energy Regulator, August 2020, *Cost benefit analysis guidelines: Guidelines to make the Integrated System Plan actionable*
7 National Grid Electricity System Operator (UK), November 2021, nationalgrideso.com/research-publications/network-options-assessment-noa/methodology
8 Australian Energy Market Operator, August 2021, *ISP methodology*.
9 RAND Corporation, November 2021, Water planning for the uncertain future, rand.org/pubs/tools/TL320/tool.html

Cost-benefit analysis of the candidate REZ pathways

The cost-benefit analysis (CBA) would establish expected benefits and costs for each candidate REZ pathway / system scenario combination. The following elements are proposed for the CBA:

BENEFITS	COSTS
Avoided constraints and curtailment of generation because of increased capacity	Capital costs
Improvements to system security and strength	Operating costs
Improved reliability	
Increased resilience to High Impact Low Probability (HILP) events, due to increased interconnection of nodes within the network	
Increase in Gross State Product (GSP) due to investment	
Environmental and carbon emissions reduction benefits (to the extent that these are different between the pathway plans under the various scenarios)	

All candidate REZ pathways would meet announced Victorian Government policy requirements such as carbon emissions reduction or regional economic development goals. Given this, the CBA is limited to benefits and costs directly related to transmission. The present value of expected benefits would be measured against a 'do nothing' base case. Measuring the GSP increase due to transmission investment can be challenging. It is proposed for inclusion to capture the important economic impact that transmission development can bring to the state.

Local community and environmental costs and benefits are considered earlier in the development of candidate pathways. This would ensure that each pathway that is analysed through the CBA has been selected based on an assessment of the expected community and environmental impacts.

Identify the optimal REZ pathway

Using the results of the CBA, the optimal pathway analysis evaluates the net benefits foregone (regrets) for each candidate REZ pathway if other system scenarios were to eventuate. This requires modelling system operation under all pathway/scenario combinations. The optimal pathway is the most robust pathway under all scenarios; that is, it minimises regrets under all scenarios. This allows system planning to best manage an uncertain future.

Figure 3 shows an illustrative example of the optimisation analysis. Under this example, six pathways have been identified and they are all measured against four scenarios. In this case, pathway 2 is the optimal pathway as lowest cost of all six pathways should any of the four scenarios eventuate.

FIGURE 3 **Illustration of optimal REZ pathway analysis**

COSTS ($M)	REZ PATHWAYS						
System scenarios	1	2	3A	3B	4A	4B	
A	0	100	200	250	300	250	Highest cost
B	200	0	400	425	450	500	
C	200	100	0	25	300	350	
D	250	100	200	100	0	50	
Optimal REZ pathway	250	100	400	425	450	500	

Scenario weighting

While all system scenarios would be developed to represent a plausible future, inevitably some scenario drivers will be seen as more likely and others as being more speculative. Weighting the system scenarios would allow planners to manage the influence of trends that appear less certain at a given point in time. While it is challenging to assign explicit probabilities to future scenarios, it can also be argued that weighting all scenarios equally is still a weighting and this approach merely shifts the issue of objectivity and consistency into the process of developing the system scenarios. In the UK, National Grid ESO began with equal weightings but now is shifting to a weighted approach.

Sensitivity analysis

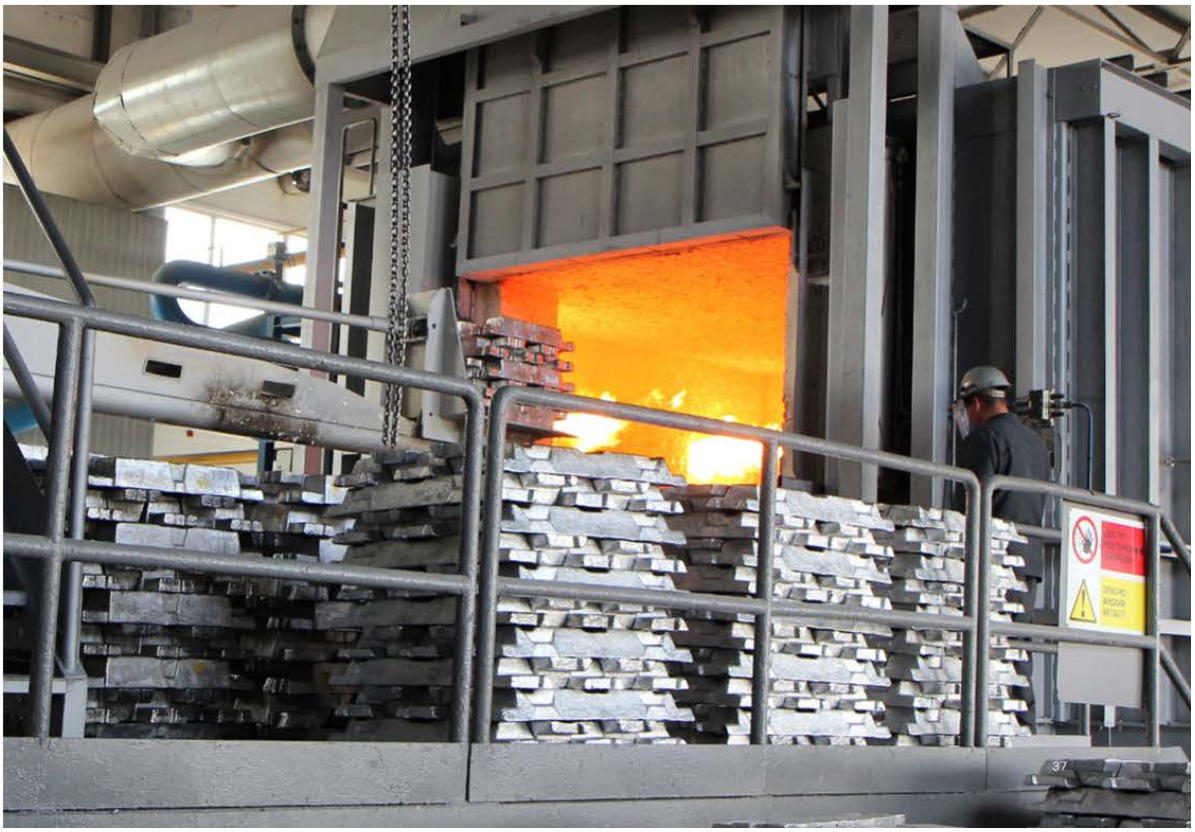
A sensitivity analysis would be undertaken to further test the robustness of the optimal REZ pathway to changes in underlying assumptions. This would bolster the rigour of the CBA and the optimal REZ pathway result.

Have your say

8 Are the appropriate costs and benefits included in the CBA used in the Optimisation Analysis?

9 What are your views of the Optimisation Analysis as a mechanism to identify the right transmission pathway for Victoria? What could improve the analysis?

10 Should the system scenarios be weighted equally or not when undertaking the optimal REZ pathway analysis? Why, or why not? Do you have a view on an appropriate process for determining any weightings?



STAGE 4

REZ transmission project planning and procurement

Purpose

Having identified the optimal REZ pathway, Stage 4 identifies and assesses transmission projects to be delivered. As part of this, it applies a proposed Victorian Network Investment Test (VNIT) that would build investment certainty and a revised approach to which projects would be contestable to ensure efficiency and timeliness.

Outputs

This Stage would produce:

- A sequence of stages for delivering the optimal REZ pathway.
- For stages within a 10-year horizon, candidate network and non-network projects that can deliver the specified need from the optimal REZ pathway.
- Preferred projects for delivery, identified through the VNIT using either a least net cost or net benefits test.

Approach

This Stage would apply two proposed planning tools: a new proposed investment test for REZ transmission projects, the VNIT, and a REZ contestability threshold.

First, this Stage would develop candidate projects that can deliver near-term stages of the optimal REZ pathway. To ensure technology neutrality, network and non-network solutions would be considered in this step. The Stage would consider a range of options that can meet requirements set by the pathway, in conjunction with the level of access to be made available in the REZ. Near-term would be taken as projects to be delivered within the next 10 years.

Second, the Stage would apply the VNIT to identify the most efficient options. A least net cost form of the VNIT applies to projects identified to deliver the optimal REZ pathway.

Third, projects that meet proposed contestability criteria set out below would be subject to a contestable procurement process. Projects below the threshold would be procured directly through the incumbent Declared Transmission System Operator (DTSO).

Victorian Network Investment Test

It is proposed that the VNIT could be applied either as a least net cost test or a maximum net benefits test.

In cases where a project is necessary to deliver the level of capacity required by the optimal REZ path, the least net cost form would apply. In cases where the project is not needed for this but may produce operational and economic benefits, the maximum net benefits form would be used instead. This means that the 'critical path' would be delivered under a least net cost test, and other projects under the maximum net benefits test.

The rationale for the least net cost approach is that transmission need would already have been established in earlier stages of the Framework. It is the REZ transmission capacity needed to meet security and reliability requirements, given a range of plausible supply and demand scenarios, with the least potential regrets for consumers and communities. What remains is to deliver the new capacity in the most efficient way. This approach mirrors the mechanism for reliability corrective action under the current RIT-T and is effectively a cost-effectiveness, with the potential to include wider community benefits.

Community and environmental impacts and benefits, including regional development, would be considered earlier in the planning process in the development of candidate pathways and would be integrated in the design of the optimal REZ pathway. All REZ transmission projects identified in the optimal pathway would therefore consider these wider costs and benefits before reaching the investment test.

Additional projects that are not identified to deliver the REZ optimal pathway plan would be subject to a net economic benefit test.

Adopting a least net-cost approach would ensure the integrity of the optimal REZ pathway. It would provide certainty to investors that, over the immediate horizon of the VTIF, the identified transmission infrastructure will be built. This will reduce risks and associated costs to renewable developers and allow earlier commitment of generation that will better allow for the coordination of transmission and generation investment.

This approach may also deliver a result faster on average, relative to current RIT-T arrangements. This is because the test would not require a project design to achieve net present benefits before it can proceed. Also, in effect it would remove the RIT-T Project Specification Consultation Report (PSCR) stage, similar to actionable ISP projects, because the Framework establishes parameters for socially acceptable development and project options earlier in the process. Table 2 outlines aspects of the proposed VNIT.

TABLE 2 **Aspects of proposed Victorian Network Investment Test**

ASPECT	DESCRIPTION
Defining the transmission need	The objective for network investment in accordance with the VTIF optimal REZ pathway
Technology neutrality	Viable network and non-network solutions would be considered as part of the process
Form of test	Least net cost where required to deliver the optimal REZ pathway; maximum net benefits otherwise
Scope of benefits	Benefits as currently included within the RIT-T along with potential community benefits

Proposed VNIT scope and inputs

The scope of benefits proposed for the VNIT would include those currently considered in the RIT-T. One additional option is to also include community benefits within the VNIT, so that a level of value from proposed projects is shared with host communities. This is outlined further in **Introducing benefit sharing arrangements that enable better outcomes for local communities**. However, wider benefits, such as emissions reductions, community support or regional development are important considerations for transmission development, but they can be challenging to quantify in a way that is objective and consistent across different locations and periods in time when assessing projects.

The proposed Framework incorporates these factors in a more qualitative way elsewhere in the process. For example, emissions reductions are incorporated into each scenario and emissions reduction benefits are considered at the CBA for the optimisation analysis. Local values for land use, such as agriculture and sensitive ecological areas protection, would be incorporated through the SLUA. The MCA would factor in regional development opportunities.

VNIT inputs would include those used in the optimisation analysis CBA, but with scope to update assumptions as appropriate (e.g. to reflect changed fuel costs). There is the potential for projects to undertake a VNIT three to four years after the development of the optimal REZ pathway, and therefore it is appropriate that costs and benefits used to compare options are as up to date as possible.

Contestability

Contestable procurement is a critical component of transmission development in Victoria. Contestability brings several benefits. Firstly, a competitive tendering drives lower prices for transmission projects and reduced end electricity costs for consumers. Secondly, it helps drive timely delivery, better value in contract terms and conditions and market innovation.

However, while these benefits are apparent in larger projects, they are less ascertainable in smaller builds. In some cases, the time and cost of running the process is, arguably, greater than the benefits gained.

Moreover, the current contestability threshold - projects that exceed $10 million - has not been amended since the 1990s. At the same time, project costs have increased, and the threshold value has not been adjusted for inflation. Arguably, it is now out of step with current practice. The UK is considering a competitive framework for high value projects in excess of £100m (not yet legislated). In the US, the threshold varies between US $5m - $50m.

For these reasons, changes are being considered to the contestability threshold. Government is seeking feedback on two options being considered:

- Increasing the contestability threshold from $10m to a higher value such as $50m or $100m
- Applying different contestability requirements in different value bands, such as:
  - Low value <$10m: non-contestable process
  - Medium value $10m - $100m: a closed contestable process from a limited pre-established panel of suppliers
  - High value >$100m: existing open contestable process

Related to this, there may be the need to review how revenue for non-contestable projects should be set, particularly if the threshold is raised. At present, interim charges are set through direct negotiation between AEMO and the incumbent DTSO, until the end of the current regulatory period. Following this, the asset is usually rolled into the DTSO's regulatory asset base, with operating allowances and rates of return set through the national framework.

If the threshold were replaced with one of the options above, having higher value but non-contestable projects may justify introducing greater transparency and scrutiny of interim allowances and charges. One option would be a regulatory price setting process that requires the transmission provider to submit a public proposal for scrutiny by stakeholders and the regulator. This could be similar to the Contingent Project Application process under the national framework.

This approach would need to balance the benefits of introducing public scrutiny against the potential extra time required for the process. Noting that streamlining delivery is a motivation for considering raising the threshold, it is important to get this balance right.

As outlined in **Introducing benefit sharing arrangements that enable better outcomes for local communities**, the procurement process could also include selection criteria that assess projects according to the delivery of local benefits as well as social and environmental outcomes.

Have your say

11 What are your views about the Victorian Network Investment Test assessment being limited to the least net cost of the solution rather than reassessing the 'need' for the solution? Does this contribute to greater certainty around transmission development?

12 Do you consider the threshold for contestable procurement should be changed? What is the preferred model?

Introducing new access arrangements that support investment

The Victorian Government is exploring ways to better facilitate the energy transition, in line with achieving its renewable energy targets and net zero emissions commitment. This includes considering whether improvements can be made to current access and pricing arrangements to incentivise new connections in Victoria's REZs and provide an attractive investment environment to support Victoria's transition to renewables.

IMAGE Ballarat Energy Storage System Spotless Downer

Access and pricing arrangements can incentivise commitment and connection into REZs. Access arrangements can be used to control the type and volume of connecting projects and the conditions of their access to network capacity, which better aligns timing for transmission investment as greater need arises.

Greater certainty is also given to investors by reducing connection risk. Pricing arrangements can influence how much projects can earn for electricity sold to the market, the types of projects deployed, and the extent to which it reflects location-specific network conditions. This ensures the lowest cost generation is deployed first, delivering benefits to energy consumers through lower wholesale prices. Improving our access arrangements in REZs also provides a potential opportunity to capture and share the value of new generation investments with local communities.

The Victorian Government supports the introduction of a NEM-wide access and pricing solution. Currently, the Energy Security Board (ESB) is progressing further work on its proposed pricing arrangements that would apply at the national level. The ESB is currently consulting on options and will make recommendations on a combination of models that would apply over investment and operational timeframes. Energy Ministers are expected to consider the recommended approach put forward by the ESB in late 2022.

However, there is still uncertainty about the final design, whether the final proposal will be agreed by Energy Ministers, and the timing of implementation.

Given these uncertainties, options are being considered to introduce favourable regulatory settings for REZ development at a state level. REZ access arrangements could be implemented in Victorian REZs, either as standalone measures to attract investment in these areas, or as interim arrangements across Victoria if a NEM-wide approach is introduced at a later date.

The objectives of introducing access and pricing arrangements are:

- Attracting new renewable energy investment (and firming technologies) into Victorian REZs by:
  - Reducing future curtailment risk, thereby increasing revenue certainty
- Improving coordination between generation and network development by:
  - Providing a system that works better than the current arrangements
  - Supporting community acceptance of energy investments (network and generation).
- Feasible to implement and does not introduce undue complexity by:
  - Including the ability to operate in conjunction with, or independently of, national access and pricing reform measures

Many stakeholders have been consulted on access arrangements before now, including by the ESB and the NSW Government earlier 2021 and 2022. This consultation seeks to build on the published feedback provided to those processes to develop options for Victoria. However, some aspects of Victorian REZs are unique compared to those in other jurisdictions and will need to be accommodated in any Victorian approach – such as REZs on a highly meshed network or with single technologies being dominant in particular areas.

Shortlisted access options for Victorian REZs

Three options have been shortlisted for access arrangements which could apply in Victorian REZs in the absence of, or prior to, the introduction of NEM-wide pricing reforms. The three options were flagged as preferred approaches by a range of stakeholders in prior ESB and NSW Government consultation processes:

Introducing a REZ-specific physical access model	Providing certainty of the total volume of generation and storage able to access the REZ network
Introducing a REZ-specific financial access model	Introducing a two-tiered system to access the REZ network, with the first tier of access entitled to compensation for some in-REZ curtailment
Retaining an open access regime	No changes proposed relative to status quo arrangements

If new access arrangements are to be adopted for Victorian REZs, it is proposed that the physical access model may better suit the circumstances in Victoria. This assessment has given particular regard to needing to adopt an access model that is suitable for adoption within a meshed network. The benefits of the physical access model are that it is considered the simplest form of access arrangement to implement, it can co-exist or conform with national access reforms and is consistent with other jurisdictions.

The Government engaged Baringa Partners to provide high level advice on the opportunities and limitations of each option. A more detailed report is provided along with this Consultation Paper at engage.vic.gov.au/victorian-transmission-investment-framework. An overview of the design and assessment of each option are summarised in **Table 3** and **Table 4**.

Allocation of access rights

There are various ways access rights could be allocated to prospective connecting projects, including non-competitive processes (such as project queuing), competitive on non-price merits, and competitive on price-merits. Each approach has benefits and limitations. Depending on the final transmission development process, the access right allocation process could be used to inform the final transmission network design.

A preliminary preference is for allocation on price-merits, with bids informing access fees or similar contributions made by the successful projects.

TABLE 3 Summary of three shortlisted access options for Victorian REZs

	ACCESS OPTION		
	PHYSICAL ACCESS MODEL	FINANCIAL ACCESS MODEL	OPEN ACCESS REGIME
Limits on volume of connection to the REZ	Predefined limit on volume of access rights (e.g. MW cap on connections). Subsequent connections could be allowed for example where volume set is not fully utilised or additional network capacity is made available and limit can be increased	Predefined limit on volume of access rights (e.g. MW cap on connections). Subsequent connections could be allowed for example where volume set is not fully utilised or additional network capacity is made available and limit can be increased	No limits on volume of connections (noting that connection approvals may impose limitations)
Limits by technology	In REZs with a dominant technology type, ring-fencing of access rights for (non-dominant) technologies or dispatch profiles. For example, in a solar-dominant REZ, 1500MW of access rights might be available, with 300MW of that volume ring-fenced for technologies capable of dispatch during non-solar hours	No limits on nature of connections, the market determines the capacity mix. Interval-based access rights (identified below) provide an alternative means to enable a complementary technology mix	No limits on type of technologies (noting that connection approvals may impose limitations)
Differentiated access types	All generation connects with equal access entitlements (single 'tier' of access)	Two 'tiers' of access rights, with Tier One entitled to compensation from Tier Two for curtailment caused by their dispatch	All generation connects with equal access entitlements (single 'tier' of access)
Definition of access rights	Access rights allocated on a MW basis, not defined by dispatch 'shapes'	Access rights defined on an hourly interval basis in MWh Interval-based access rights are expected to encourage complementary technologies to connect, as connecting projects will hold the favourable Tier One access rights for only the intervals they expect to dispatch into, leaving the remaining Tier One access rights available to other projects	With no limits on access, definition of rights not required

TABLE 4 Assessment of three shortlisted access options for Victoria's REZs

	ACCESS OPTION		
	PHYSICAL ACCESS MODEL	FINANCIAL ACCESS MODEL	OPEN ACCESS REGIME
Complexity	Relatively simple, 'set and forget' approach	Complex approach, requiring ongoing administration	Simplest approach
Curtailment risk	All connections face curtailment risk (but are likely to be a lower risk, as long as appropriate limits are set on connections)	All connections face curtailment risk, but Tier One access rights holders are protected from the financial impacts of curtailment caused by Tier Two access rights holders. Both tiers remain exposed to curtailment risk caused by factors outside the REZ	All connections face curtailment risk
Certainty for connecting projects	Higher certainty of future congestion and transmission losses caused by in-REZ generation (risk of congestion caused by non-REZ generation increasing in meshed network topologies)	For Tier One access rights holders, high certainty of future congestion caused by in-REZ generation (risk of congestion caused by non-REZ generation increasing in meshed network topologies)	Low certainty of future congestion and transmission losses
Adaptation for meshed network	Predefined limit on access rights would likely need to be set below the network transfer capacity. It would be set with consideration of current and projected through-flow of generation from outside the given REZ, as well as consideration of any existing generation. As this is a simple 'set and forget' approach, a meshed network topology would not significantly change ongoing operation of the access model	Predefined limit on access rights would likely need to be set below the network transfer capacity. It would be set with consideration of current and projected through-flow of generation from outside the given REZ, as well as consideration of any existing generation. This model requires the introduction of a compensation settlement mechanism. This would likely become more challenging to implement in a meshed network, given the additional complexity of calculating compensation requirements in this context	No adaptations, dependent on locational signals in pricing (for example, regional prices adjusted with loss factors) to indicate where the through-flow of generation may deteriorate network access and conditions

Additional design features for access arrangements

In addition to the high-level design features summarised in **Table 3**, there are other design features which will need to be considered through the next phase of policy design, if either the physical or financial access model is adopted. These other design features are flagged in Baringa Partners' Options Paper: Access for Victorian REZs, which provides a broader assessment of REZ access model options than included in this chapter. The additional design features are:

Tenure of access rights

A decision on the duration of access rights needs to trade-off providing certainty to investors (longer duration) with remaining flexible to long-term changes (shorter duration). It is proposed that the tenure will be defined in the 10-20 years range – with 10 years the minimum to provide material improvements in certainty but noting investors would prefer longer.

System after expiry of access rights

If the physical or financial access models are introduced, the intention is that the REZ would return to the national access arrangements in place at the time after the access rights expire. It is not intended that access rights holders would be required to re-compete for access under a subsequent Victorian scheme.

Generator commitment and milestones

To ensure that renewable energy and storage projects are built in Victorian REZs and deliver electricity for Victorian consumers, the design of access arrangements should mitigate hoarding of, and speculation on access rights. This could be done with generator commitments, such as upfront payments for access rights. It could also be addressed with development milestones tied to retention of access rights. Generator milestones would need to have enough flexibility to allow for reasonable delays and those outside of the proponent's control.

Access right conditions

Conditions could be placed on access rights holders which, for example, require them to provide local content and community benefits. In the NSW Central Orana REZ, it is proposed that projects seeking an access right will be required to contribute to community and employment initiatives (via an access fee).

It is being considered how access conditions could support use of local content and provide for better community outcomes that importantly would not introduce undue complexity or excessive cost on new generation projects.

Transfer and trading of access rights

Under the proposed financial access model, there is the potential to introduce options to transfer or trade Tier One and Tier Two access rights with other access rights holders. This would provide the holders of access rights with greater flexibility to manage their access rights in line with their access needs. The trade-off, however, would be complexity of implementation, requiring a process for registering the movement of access rights, and translating this through to settlement processes. If trading is anticipated to be widespread, a bespoke trading platform may be needed, which would require additional cost and time to implement. Importantly, such a market mechanism would need to show that it can better achieve Victorian Government objectives than a more conventional approach.

Treatment of storage and load

Storage and load have the potential to benefit the access of REZ-connected generators, as well as wider system security and reliability. For this reason, it is intended to provide access and pricing arrangements that accommodate such connections into REZs.

There are various ways it could be achieved, including through allowing storage to connect with or without access rights, and with or without generator commitments or any ongoing access fees if introduced. Some design considerations need to be made to maintain competitiveness between technologies. For example, there may be concern that storage could compete with wind generators for access to evening peak prices, and therefore a need to design an approach that does not significantly deteriorate certainty for prospective wind generators. Load could be allowed to connect into REZs with or without incentives for consuming electricity at certain times of the day or when certain network conditions occur.

Flexible allocation of rights

Access rights could be allocated to specific assets, such as generation or storage assets, to a project as a whole (such as co-located hybrid projects) or shared between multiple projects. This would need to consider trade-off of flexibility to accommodate different technical and commercial arrangements, with providing certainty to prospective access rights holders, and implementation simplicity.

Grandfathering and transitional arrangements

It is intended that transitional arrangements would apply to existing projects in a REZ where a new access scheme is implemented. This is to ensure these projects are not negatively impacted by the scheme. Two approaches could be taken:

1 All generation and storage projects in a REZ are part of a new scheme. Total network capacity in the REZ is determined and the amount taken up by existing projects is 'grandfathered' to those projects, with remaining capacity available to new projects through a rights allocation process.
2 Only new generation or storage projects in a REZ are part of a new scheme and the open access regime continues to apply to existing projects. Only additional (such as through a network augmentation) or unused capacity in the REZ is available to new projects under the new scheme.

Another key consideration is at which point of its development a project would qualify for a transitional arrangement when the new scheme applies, for example at the point that the project has planning approval, or a connection agreement. Whatever point is most appropriate, projects should be on track for development in that they are not preventing available capacity that could be allocated to another project.

Outcomes

Informed by feedback to this Consultation Paper, the Victorian Government will determine the most appropriate access option that applies to Victoria's REZs. The selected option will then form the basis of more detailed design work to identify a feasible approach to managing access in Victorian REZs and attracting renewable energy investors to connect in these parts of the network.

Have your say

13 Should a bespoke access regime be adopted in Victoria's REZs? Which option is best suited to Victoria?

14 In the context of access to Victorian REZs, how should storage be treated to benefit the REZ and wider market, while not creating risk and uncertainty for wind generation?

15 How should transitional arrangements apply to existing generation and storage projects if a new access scheme is adopted? At what point in the development stage of the project should make it qualify for a transitional arrangement?

Basing transmission and REZ development on early, inclusive and ongoing community engagement

While REZs offer significant benefits and new development opportunities across Victoria, they come with impacts for regional communities. A core aspect of proposed new structures and processes under the VTIF is embedding local engagement and land use assessments in how we plan and develop Victoria's REZs so we can maximise the benefits of renewable energy infrastructure and minimise any negative impacts. The location and scale of new generation, storage and transmission investment should consider the values, preferences and interests of local communities, Traditional Owners, agricultural groups and farm businesses, local councils and other regional stakeholders and industries.

Challenges to overcome

There has been a clear desire from a range of stakeholder groups to see greater engagement during the transmission infrastructure planning process than is provided for under the current framework. These groups want early and ongoing involvement in the planning and investment process to ensure their values, priorities and concerns are adequately considered in decisions.

There are opportunities to improve current transmission infrastructure planning and investment frameworks, so they require early and meaningful engagement with local groups. This includes providing up-front attention to land use conflicts, such as the impact of renewable energy infrastructure on agricultural land and significant cultural and environmental sites. These impacts are currently assessed through the EES, but only after a project has passed the RIT-T and undergone several years of planning. This creates a risk of project failure well into its development and can overlook key issues for local communities.

The proposed VTIF aims to address existing challenges through improved processes and outcomes for local communities, including:

- Coordinated and consistent engagement activities and outcomes with Traditional Owners, stakeholders and local communities
- Clear responsibility and accountability for engagement between different actors
- Transparent communication and engagement processes that are accessible and easy to understand
- Early planning and dialogue to prepare these groups for engagement so they can provide meaningful input into the transmission planning process
- Regular feedback loops throughout the process to build understanding and manage expectations and
- Meaningful and ongoing opportunities for localised benefit sharing so that these groups receive appropriate benefits for hosting REZ infrastructure

The direction proposed

The proposed VTIF aims to engage local communities, Traditional Owners and regional stakeholders in a proactive, inclusive and coordinated way as we unlock our REZs. In response to earlier feedback from stakeholders, we are proposing to enhance engagement through the transmission development process for our REZs to generate improved processes and outcomes for Traditional Owners, local communities and regional stakeholders.

The proposed Framework is a more participatory approach that brings communities together with government, industry and regional stakeholders to plan and develop Victoria's REZs in an integrated and strategic way that targets preferred and acceptable areas for new infrastructure.

Our proposed engagement approach under the Framework brings forward localised, place-based engagement to foster community support and deliver benefits and development opportunities that are fair and meaningful to host communities. We are proposing a Framework that is inclusive and offers genuine and ongoing opportunities for local input into the planning process. This includes identifying clear, coordinated and equitable avenues for local and regional benefits from REZ development, consistent with community needs and aspirations.

Undertaking this approach to engagement as we plan and deliver Victoria's REZs offers greater certainty to communities and proponents around the location of new transmission, generation and storage infrastructure. It is a more coordinated and inclusive approach that supports more transparent and accountable planning and investment decisions and ultimately better outcomes for all Victorians.

We are interested in feedback on appropriate frameworks and models to ensure local communities can participate meaningfully in REZ development through an ongoing forum that can facilitate new opportunities in our regions.

Proposed engagement under our Framework

The proposed VTIF identifies multiple opportunities for Traditional Owners, stakeholders and local communities to influence the planning and delivery process for Victoria's REZs. Our proposed approach recognises the need to establish an ongoing and tailored dialogue with our regional stakeholders through appropriate channels to help guide investment in energy infrastructure, shape potential approaches to sharing the benefits and identify regional development opportunities.

VicGrid will partner with Traditional Owners in a way that is tailored to Traditional Owners needs and expectations (detailed further in **Identifying clear roles and responsibilities for VicGrid**. This will be consistent with **Pupangarli Marnmarnepu**, DELWP's Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy, which is a 5 year roadmap that empowers and partners with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to advance self-determination.

As part of this new engagement approach, it is proposed to increase points for Traditional Owners, stakeholders and local communities to get involved in the transmission planning process and improve visibility of, and transparency in, those opportunities.

A more participatory and integrated Framework is expected to drive greater ownership in the decision-making for the transmission and generation infrastructure that Victoria needs. It will help provide greater certainty among Traditional Owners, local communities, farm businesses, industry and regional stakeholders around how, when and where our REZs will be developed.

As the optimal REZ pathway and the REZ transmission projects needed to unlock our REZs are selected, engagement would become more targeted and tailored to host communities, including landholders, Traditional Owner groups, and local industries and business. An overview of the key engagement points along the Framework is outlined in **Figure 4**. Feedback in response to this Consultation Paper will inform more detailed design of the engagement approach and methodology.

Embedding local values, interests and priorities in this way will help set clear expectations for how we plan and deliver Victoria's REZs and create the foundations for meaningful conversations around benefit sharing and regional development. The Victorian Government is considering ways to adequately capture local views and issues throughout the decision-making process, including through existing bodies or more targeted and tailored forums such as regional or community reference groups. These groups would provide an ongoing centralised platform for REZ communities to be involved in REZ development and could extend to a wide range of stakeholders, including government and industry.

The Victorian Government welcomes feedback on the proposed engagement opportunities and how best to capture and represent the views and preferences of communities and stakeholders in our regions.

Proposed new tools

The proposed VTIF includes tools and approaches that can help to provide more meaningful avenues for engagement and better capture and reflect the views and interests of stakeholders and our regional communities. This includes a new SLUA and MCA, outlined in **Developing candidate REZ pathways (Stage 2)**, which will be proactive measures to integrate the views and interests of communities, Traditional Owners and regional industries in the process for determining where new renewable energy infrastructure should be allocated across our REZs.

Strategic Land Use Assessment

The SLUA is an integrated mapping exercise that will collectively assess a number of environmental, social and economic considerations to determine suitable locations for siting infrastructure in our REZs.

As described in **Box 5**, early engagement is proposed with local communities, industries and Traditional Owners as part of this assessment so that acceptable areas for development are consistent with local values, priorities and concerns and leverage local knowledge.

Engagement would also occur with key regional stakeholders, such as local councils, to utilise existing data sets and ensure that our SLUA captures a wide variety of layers and inputs that can present a comprehensive view of Victoria's suitable areas for development.

By positioning the SLUA at the start of transmission planning, there would be a direct avenue for local communities in REZs to provide valuable input around the location, and ultimately the amount, of transmission, generation and storage infrastructure across our REZs, well before investment decisions are made. This planning tool would help direct development towards areas that maximise the benefits to local communities while minimising negative impacts. It would also be an ongoing tool for capturing community values, preferences and concerns and emerging land use conflicts as our REZs are developed.

One critical aspect of the SLUA is to avoid culturally sensitive sites and to ensure a holistic approach to REZ development that listens and responds to the values, issues and priorities of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians.

Partnering with Traditional Owners in this early planning activity will enable an early dialogue around future developments well before they proceed to approval, thereby allowing transmission plans to be shaped by Traditional Owner interests and concerns. VicGrid will engage Traditional Owners to understand how best to partner with Traditional Owners in these early planning processes to adequately respond to concerns and account for benefits and opportunities.

Multi-Criteria Analysis

Each of Victoria's REZs have unique characteristics, including those that will shape and drive its potential role in the energy system. For example, some REZ communities have greater density of existing industry, while others may be more attractive for investors owing to having a stronger resource.

The MCA is a way to assess the suitability of developing transmission, generation and storage infrastructure across and within our REZs in terms of their relative social, environmental, technical and commercial merits for the renewable energy investment we need to transition our energy system. This analysis would allow us to meaningfully and explicitly capture and account for a wider range of stakeholder and community views alongside technical and economic considerations in designing our REZs in the best interests of Victorians.

The SLUA and MCA are proposed to provide a more transparent, accountable and certain process for embedding local values and priorities in how we plan our REZs, for our local communities and investors.

BOX 5

Strategic Land Use Assessment

The SLUA would map opportunities and constraints in areas across the state and identify preferred 'candidate corridors' for transmission infrastructure to support renewable energy development. The process would contain its own multi-criteria assessment covering a range of environmental, social and economic factors (such as national parks, landscape, cultural heritage, agricultural, water usage, population density, energy resources and grid capacity).

These layers captured by the SLUA will be developed and finalised with local communities, Traditional Owners and regional stakeholders to ensure the assessment adequately captures local constraints and opportunities. In addition, the results of the research would be evaluated through an iterative process involving key community stakeholders, such as a reference group.

The objective is to identify and develop potential 'candidate corridors' that are preferred and acceptable for hosting new renewable energy infrastructure, consistent with local values, preferences and interests. A key output would be identified 'high risk' areas to proactively avoid sensitive sites and minimise social, cultural and environmental impacts from the development of REZs.

Strategic land use assessment heat map example

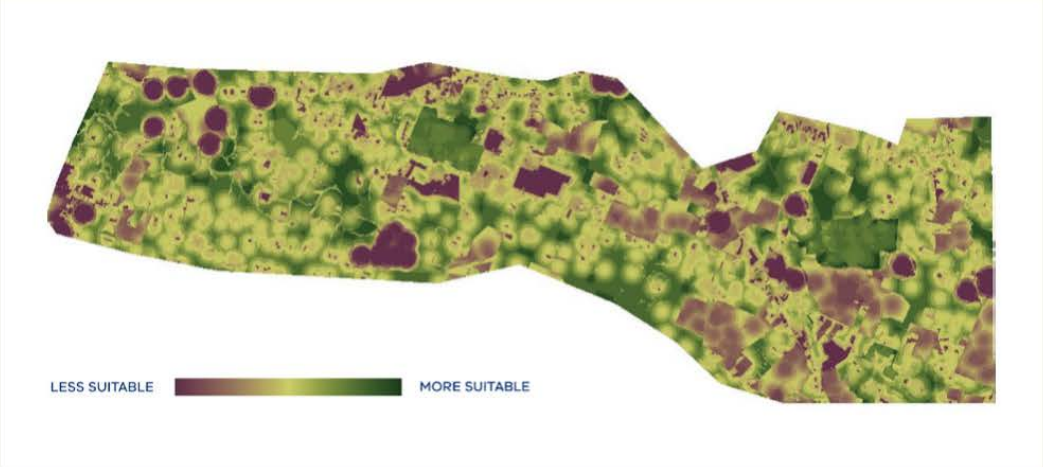


Image adapted from: Kentucky Transmission Line Siting Methodology. EPRI, Palo Alto, CA, Kentucky Power Cooperative, Winchester, KY, and E.ON U.S., Louisville, KY: 2007. 1016198.

Have your say

16 Who should be engaged during the development of REZs and at what points in the planning and investment process under the proposed VTIF?

17 What representative bodies would be appropriate for enabling coordinated engagement across our REZs? How should those bodies be included in the decision-making process to meet the objectives of the proposed VTIF?

18 How should VicGrid partner with Traditional Owners and engage local communities and stakeholders during the SLUA and MCA processes to achieve the proposed outcomes? Please discuss specific methods or approaches as relevant.

FIGURE 4 **Proposed engagement opportunities under VTIF**

We are here

Framework design

Ongoing engagement to help design the proposed VTIF and our approach to engaging on REZs

Framework implementation

Early engagement

Gather local input for strategic land use assessment

Early and wide engagement on local values and priorities to identify significant sites and appropriate trade-offs

VicGrid lead

Proposed Victorian Transmission Inve process

1 System scenarios

Develop system scenarios

Consultation to develop scenarios, including modelling assumptions and inputs. Wide engagement to build understanding of our electricity system needs and outlook

2 Candidate REZ pathways

Develop REZ Pathway Plans

Targeted engagement to determine candidate corridors from the strategic land use assessment and provide input into the multi-criteria assessment. This process of targeted in-depth engagement will help to balance social, cultural, environmental, economic and technical considerations in developing the Pathway Plans

Foundational engagement

Build understanding of REZs and identify issues, priorities and aspirations across our REZs

VicGrid's proposed wider role to build community support for REZs by supporting engagement and benefit sharing

VicGrid's ongoing partnership with Traditional Owners through tailored engagement and benefit delivery

54 Victorian Transmission Investment Framework Preliminary Design Consultation Paper

VicGrid

stment Framework

Proponent lead

3 Optimal REZ pathway	4 REZ transmission projects	5 Approvals NO PROPOSED CHANGE	6 Delivery NO PROPOSED CHANGE	7 Review
Select optimal REZ Pathway Plan Wide engagement to consult on the results of the selected optimal REZ Pathway Plan, with targeted early engagement on transmission projects planned for declared REZs	**Assess and procure REZ transmission projects** Targeted engagement as part of formal project assessment. Wide engagement on issues, impacts and potential benefits ahead of project approvals	**Project approvals** Wide engagement within proposed corridor to gather more detailed input regarding social, cultural, environmental and regional economic considerations as part of planning and environmental approvals. This includes targeted engagement with affected groups and is a key point for localised input to shape the final design and route of the project. Proponent also commences benefit sharing discussions, supported by VicGrid	**Project delivery** Proponent conducts ongoing engagement to respond to issues and deliver local and regional benefits, supported by VicGrid	**Review optimal REZ Pathway Plan** Targeted engagement and wide consultation to review Pathway Plan and update as required

55

Introducing benefit sharing arrangements that enable better outcomes for local communities

The development of REZs has the potential to unlock a variety of social and economic benefits for local communities. Investment in REZ infrastructure will drive new economic activity and deliver a range of benefits – from local jobs and supply chain opportunities, through to social inclusion, diversification of skills and co-investment in energy projects.

Communities have identified that delivering tangible, long-lasting social and economic benefits in REZ host communities is critical to fostering fair and balanced participation in the energy transition.

A range of benefit sharing options are being considered to help distribute these benefits to local REZ communities and Traditional Owners. We want to improve the delivery of social and economic benefits, in ways that are fair, meaningful and participatory.

This Consultation Paper seeks views on how benefit sharing arrangements can be designed to meet community expectations. We are interested in stakeholder input into the scope and design of benefit sharing models under the proposed VTIF, including appropriate governance and delivery mechanisms, funding options and verification arrangements.

As part of this consultation, we are also interested in understanding the role VicGrid should play in supporting and enabling benefit sharing outcomes across our REZs, including through a more centralised delivery model.

Types of benefits that can be delivered to communities

There are a range of ways in which Victorian communities can benefit from development of REZs. These benefits flow from the construction and operation of new infrastructure projects in REZ projects, such as:

- Employment opportunities, including both direct and indirect jobs
- Training, skills and other workforce development opportunities
- Benefits to local supply chains
- Improvements to local infrastructure and services
- Diversification of local economies
- Investment and co-ownership opportunities in renewable energy projects

Some of these benefits may be immediate, like creating local employment. Others will take time and effort to ensure communities benefit in a meaningful and lasting way based on their vision for the region and their priorities for action to achieve it.

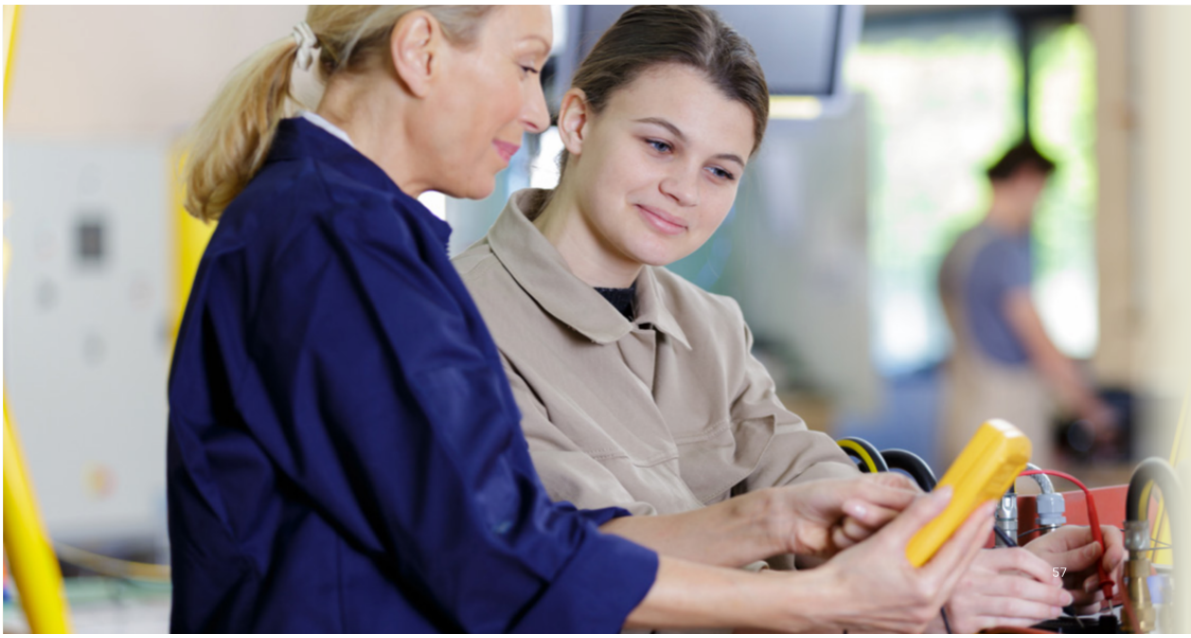
A number of different benefit-sharing methods have been adopted by renewable energy proponents to deliver benefit sharing outcomes in local communities. These models have been increasingly used in renewable energy generation projects and could be further integrated into transmission projects.

Benefits sharing associated with transmission, including payments for access easements and short-term employment creation, could also include wider community benefit sharing models.

Delivering community benefits through Victorian Government projects

The Victorian Government has published the updated Guide Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing in Renewable Energy Development in Victoria (CEBS Guide) as part of the Second Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET2) Auction to support better community engagement and benefit sharing practices. The CEBS Guide sets out the Government's expectations of renewable energy generators. It promotes a flexible and innovative approach, recognising that different benefit sharing models, such as those outlined in **Figure 5**, should be tailored to local communities and the particular nature of the project. Benefit sharing and engagement approaches outlined and delivered by developers are enforced through the auction and contracting process.

There is an opportunity to apply the approaches outlined in the CEBS Guide beyond VRET2 to Victoria's REZs, through our access regime, or more broadly to transmission providers.



The Victorian Government has also established the Social Procurement Framework and the Local Jobs First Policy to deliver benefits to Victorian communities through government procurement processes, including contracts for VRET2 projects and from REZ Fund Stage One Projects. As part of the assessment of REZ transmission network projects, proponents will need to demonstrate understanding of the Victorian Government's Social Procurement Framework and Local Jobs First Policy, and readiness to create and capture outcomes for local communities.

Implementing these policies generates social, environmental, and economic outcomes directly in Victoria's regions through transmission investments. This would help deliver jobs, skills and development opportunities through projects construction and operation.

Principles for benefit sharing

The Victorian Government is committed to developing a coordinated, consistent and meaningful approach to benefit sharing in our REZs, to help fill existing gaps and provide more certainty to Traditional Owners, local communities, agricultural businesses, individual landowners and proponents.

Early partnerships between VicGrid and these groups will be important to identify and secure fair and meaningful benefits consistent with the aspirations of the region.

Our approach to benefit sharing will be informed by the following key principles:

Early, ongoing and meaningful engagement	Based on a genuine desire to understand local issues and needs and actively work in partnership with local stakeholders
Tailored, appropriate and mutually beneficial	To reflect local stakeholder needs, expectations and preferences, as well as the nature and scale of the project
Flexible and innovative	To deliver benefits based on localised engagement and negotiation, and with a willingness and ability to adapt to changing local stakeholder and preferences over time
Targeted, strategic and long-term benefits	To create a positive legacy in the local community, with strategic and long-lasting benefits that the local stakeholder and region wants and needs
Inclusive	Considering diverse community needs and preferences and aiming to bring different parts of the community together to achieve collective outcomes
Transparent	So that eligibility requirements, decision-making processes and the nature of benefits are clear, easily understood and enable communities to hold delivery partners to account

Options to enable community benefit sharing under the proposed VTIF

There are various ways in which benefits can be delivered to host communities through the proposed VTIF. Our approach needs to balance the delivery of fair and meaningful local and regional benefits with the costs to electricity consumers and the practicalities of implementation and design.

Figure 6 sets out potential options for how benefit sharing may be enabled and delivered through the proposed investment framework. We are interested in understanding stakeholders' priorities for which models best achieve the principles and objectives above.

FIGURE 5 Types of benefit sharing identified in Victorian Government's CEBS Guide

TYPES OF BENEFIT SHARING	HOW IT WORKS
Local jobs and procurement	Programs targeting job creation and service delivery in host communities, to secure local economic benefits
Neighbourhood benefit programs	Programs to benefit areas around a project, contributions to neighbourhood infrastructure or screening measures to address noise or amenity concerns
Beyond compliance level activities	These are measures beyond the standard benefits that are required of renewable energy project proponents, and include additional vegetation screening or measures to reduce visual and noise amenity
Community benefit funds and sponsorship	Programs to fund local community initiatives, like community energy projects or local social and economic programs, through sponsorships, community funds (grants) or long-term legacy initiatives
Employee volunteerism	Programs where project proponents provide labour or equipment free of charge to assist local community projects
Innovative products	Offering products that can benefit the local community or local energy tourism opportunities
Innovative financing	Programs offering co-investment in renewable energy project or opportunities for co-ownership in the project

FIGURE 6 Sources of benefit sharing opportunities and consideration of model design

Generation	Transmission	Mixed Generation and transmission
Obligations could be imposed on generators in return for 'access' rights to use REZ infrastructure to capture value for host communities. These could be in the form of prescribed or industry-led solutions	Benefit sharing could be included as a cost in project assessments (investment test) or as part of the selection criteria when assessing transmission projects (procurement)	A centralised approach could pool funds from generation and transmission within REZs to help deliver local and regional benefits at a broader scale

Key design considerations

Careful design is needed to align any new benefit sharing models with the key principles identified in this chapter, including governance, eligibility and compliance arrangements. Stakeholder views are sought on these design aspects.

Governance and decision-making

Governance arrangements would determine how communities and Traditional Owners are embedded in local decision-making and how benefits are distributed and realised. Three broad governance approaches that could be applied or developed into hybrid arrangements are identified below:

Proponent-led	Transmission provider/generators administer and deliver community benefits for a particular project (or projects), consistent with engagement and benefit sharing principles and requirements
Centrally-administered	Funds from a project or group of projects are collected and administered by a central body and delivered to community based on local or regional needs and preferences
Community-led and -administered	Funds from a project or group of projects are collected and administered by a community body, such as a reference group or community panel, and delivered to community based on local or regional needs and preferences

Appropriate governance arrangements for benefit sharing will need to consider other consultative bodies supporting engagement on REZs. This would ensure that local communities have the right platform to drive regional development in their local area without unnecessarily duplicating new or existing bodies.

Eligibility

Benefit sharing models need to consider which communities and community members are eligible to receive benefits and how eligibility is determined. This includes consideration of which community members can participate in benefit sharing decisions under relevant governance arrangements. For some types of benefit sharing, such as distribution of community grants, careful design is needed to determine who is eligible for payments and the criteria by which payments are assessed. For broader community benefits, such as training and employment opportunities, consideration is needed to ensure benefits are spread equitably among the community based on the impact of the project and the diverse needs and preferences of the community.

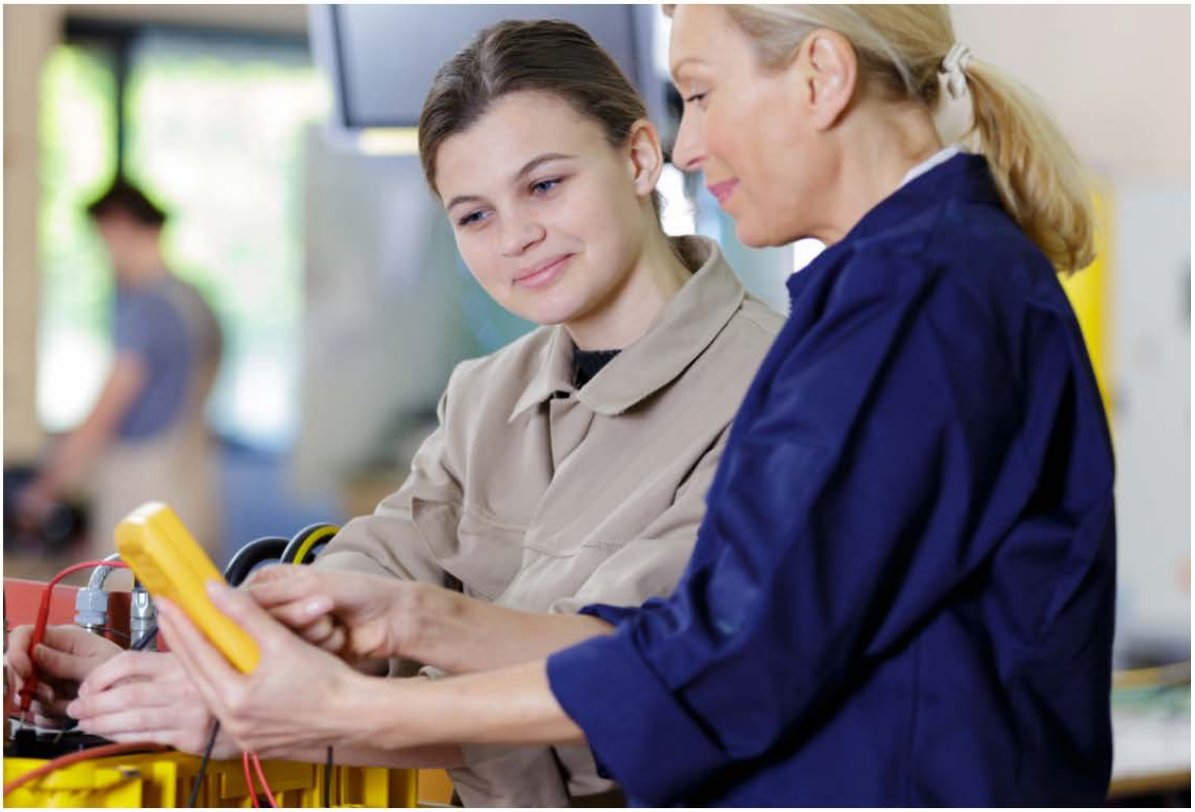
Scope and verification

Benefit sharing mechanisms may be regulated through obligations placed on generators or transmission providers, as criteria in project assessments, or as voluntary measures without strict compliance requirements. Delivering certain types of local benefits could be a regulated condition of access to the local REZ. Other benefits could be assessed as competitive criteria when tendering for the supply and delivery of REZ infrastructure. Consideration would need to be given to the scope of benefit sharing and community engagement measures that are to be required of developers and generators and the means by which these can be prescribed or achieved, such as through REZ access requirements. Consideration would also be needed around how those regulations are verified and enforced, and which body should be responsible.

Have your say

19 What benefit sharing arrangements (or options) under the proposed VTIF would best deliver meaningful benefit sharing outcomes for host communities while balancing costs to electricity consumers?

20 How should benefit sharing arrangements be designed to meet the proposed benefit sharing principles? How should communities and stakeholders be involved?



Identifying clear roles and responsibilities for VicGrid

Context

Victoria has unique transmission arrangements that separate asset ownership and operation from planning and investment decision making. Currently, the majority of the state's transmission assets are owned and operated by AusNet Services. AEMO plans and procures network augmentation. REZ development is currently identified by AEMO under the ISP. If actionable, it proceeds under the expedited RIT-T process for actionable ISP projects.

In early 2021 the Victorian Government sought initial feedback on its proposed approach to REZ development, including the proposed role of VicGrid. Stakeholder responses to the REZ Development Plan Directions Paper provided a range of views on roles and responsibilities for REZ development in Victoria.

However, there was general agreement that a responsible body is needed to coordinate renewable energy development with transmission and lead community engagement and land use planning for transmission across the state.

Also, there was consensus that any arrangements should have clearly set out roles and responsibilities, to avoid duplication and minimise complexity.

In June 2021, as an interim step, the Victorian Government established VicGrid as a division within DELWP to lead the delivery of REZs in Victoria, including the development and delivery of stage 1 projects identified in the REZ Development Plan Directions Paper.

New functions under the Framework

Should the Victorian Government proceed with the proposed Framework, the VTIF would replace the current regulatory framework for planning and investment decisions in Victoria.

The VTIF would introduce new technical, strategic, and community-based functions, including, but not limited to:

- Developing the system scenarios
- Identifying the candidate REZ pathways, including undertaking the SLUA and MCA
- Identifying the optimal REZ pathway
- Administering access rights in REZs

As VicGrid was established to coordinate the development of REZs, it is proposed that it would perform these additional functions as part of its role.

The VTIF also contains functions that are currently the responsibility of AEMO, Victoria's transmission planning body:

- Applying the efficiency test
- Identification of specific transmission projects
- Procurement of the related projects

Further consideration and consultation with AEMO and other stakeholders is required to determine how new functions introduced through the VTIF would operate in conjunction with those and other existing Victorian Transmission Network Service Provider functions currently performed by AEMO or if further institutional arrangements are required. It may be appropriate that a single entity be responsible for all Victorian transmission planning and investment functions to ensure a holistic, end-to-end process of delivering transmission planning and developing Victoria's REZs.

The responsibilities specified above do not include those processes needed to meet the current network performance standards and broader system security and reliability requirements. Ensuring these processes are integrated into the VTIF will be the subject of further consideration and stakeholder engagement including with AEMO.

Given its proposed roles in developing, updating and delivering Victoria's REZ transmission, there may be benefits in establishing VicGrid as separate body or independent authority, governed by legislation enacted by the Victorian Government. The functions and processes of VicGrid would be set out in legislation and regulation, providing clarity and certainty to investors and stakeholders on the development of the optimal REZ pathway and outcomes of the VNIT. VicGrid's processes would be overseen by an independent regulator.

The following principles are proposed to guide the functional allocation of roles between the bodies under the proposed VTIF:

- Clarity of accountability
- Minimising complexity and duplication
- Independence
- End to end processes for community engagement
- Transparency

The proposed role of VicGrid in engagement and benefit sharing

In response to the REZ Development Plan Directions Paper, there was widespread support for VicGrid to take on an overarching and broad role with respect to engaging communities and building social acceptance for REZs, including through land use planning.

Outside of the direct roles and responsibilities that VicGrid could play as part of implementing the proposed Framework, VicGrid will support better overall processes and outcomes for stakeholders, including facilitating better engagement activities and actively working with local communities and regional industries.

In this respect, VicGrid will work with parts of the Victorian Government, such as Regional Development Victoria, to coordinate the delivery of engagement and benefit sharing for local areas within REZs. VicGrid will need to build trust in the community to ensure it delivers on this role and maximises the opportunities of REZ development.

An overview of VicGrid's potential engagement role is provided in **Figure 7**. Based on an appreciation for the unique qualities and values across our regions, VicGrid would take a place-based approach to developing our REZs that helps to deliver the right infrastructure in the right locations for our regional communities. Tailoring engagement across our REZs in a way that recognises local needs, connections to community and aspirations for the future will enable shared benefits that are locally driven and meaningful.

In addition to performing community engagement functions under the Framework, VicGrid would also partner with project proponents during the approvals processes.

The aim of this approach would be to provide communities with continuity between the development of the Optimal REZ Pathway and the delivery of the individual projects, in addition to allowing project proponents to maximise leverage of VicGrid's existing information and insights into impacted communities. This coordinating role would also help manage cumulative impacts from REZ development.

VicGrid may also be expected to facilitate and enable benefit sharing outcomes to local communities and Traditional Owners in ways that are community-led and meaningful. VicGrid's proposed role would support community expectations and allow communities to catalyse local benefits and regional development opportunities. This would entail developing partnerships and networks across regions and to identify and enable those opportunities.

VicGrid's engagement and consultation role with respect to benefit sharing could therefore include:

- Coordinating with community, industry and government partners to unlock opportunities and support more coordinated and streamlined benefit delivery in REZs
- Working with institutions, training organisations and regional partners to identify local training needs and opportunities
- Championing best practice and innovative approaches to benefit sharing
- Identifying links and opportunities between different benefit sharing approaches within and across our REZs, including ways to generate cumulative regional development benefits that can deliver long-term outcomes at scale
- Working with Traditional Owners, Aboriginal businesses and Aboriginal Victorians to facilitate and enable the delivery of Aboriginal-led benefits to local Aboriginal communities

There is also the potential for VicGrid to play a more direct or central role in benefit sharing in Victoria's REZs, such as through administering aggregated community funds and facilitating consultative community decision-making processes.

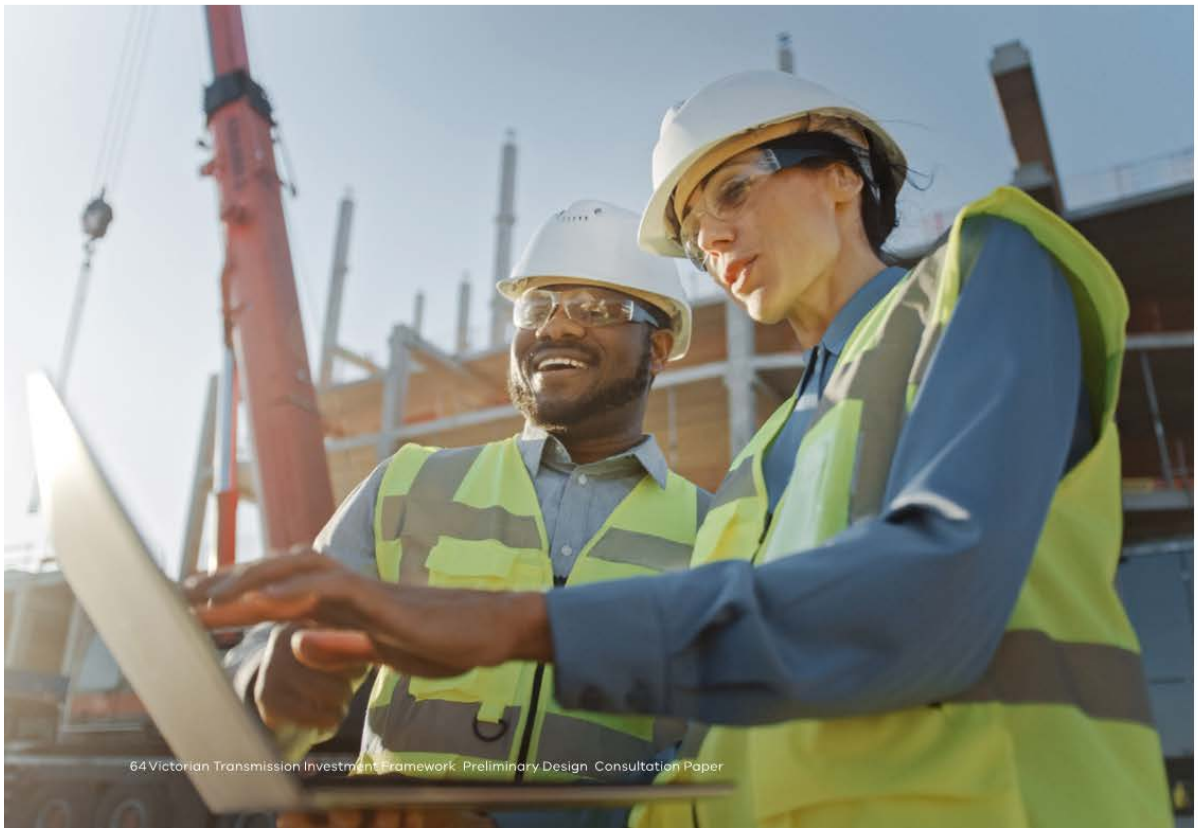


FIGURE 7 VicGrid's potential role working with communities, Traditional Owners and stakeholders to support better outcomes

Providing information on REZs and transmission projects	Building an ongoing relationship with communities	Partnering with Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal communities
Providing information and updates to local communities around key developments, impacts or concerns throughout the planning process to build understanding	Providing an ongoing presence and facilitate community engagement through the planning and delivery of REZs	Partnering with Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal Communities, including Aboriginal businesses, to proactively account for their needs and concerns, and facilitate and catalyse local benefits and opportunities identified by Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians

Partnering with key stakeholders to better coordinate engagement during planning and delivery of REZs	Identifying and catalysing local benefit sharing	Developing and leveraging regional development opportunities
Working closely with government, industry and community stakeholders to better coordinate on-the-ground engagement and development activities so they meet community needs and mitigate cumulative impacts as REZs are developed	Working with business, training, government and community organisations and institutions to identify, articulate and catalyse local benefits through building partnerships and networks	Developing and leveraging opportunities for jobs and skills development, as well as other opportunities such as community energy projects and distribution network upgrades, or land use innovations in the agricultural sector. This includes working with developers, government, industry and community to enhance local content and social procurement outcomes.

Partnering with Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal Communities

The Victorian Government has committed to enabling the Self-Determination of Victoria's First Peoples. DELWP has adopted 'Pupangarli Marnmarnepu' our Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy, which is a 5-year roadmap that empowers and partners with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to advance self-determination. The Strategy aligns to the whole-of-government commitments set out in the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023.

DELWP is working towards a future where the inherent principles and architecture of Pupangarli Marnmarnepu are embedded and Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians are at the centre of decision-making around issues and opportunities that directly affect them.

Engaging with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians is a key role for VicGrid and would be embedded in REZ planning and decision-making processes. VicGrid will work in partnership with Traditional Owner Groups and Aboriginal Victorians to better understand what REZ development may mean for Country and community, what concerns Traditional Owners might have about REZ development and what solutions could bring benefits to Victoria's Aboriginal communities. This includes working with both Registered Aboriginal Parties and non-registered Traditional Owner groups, peak bodies, Victorian Aboriginal businesses, and local Aboriginal communities across Victoria.

VicGrid will listen to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians' feedback and will be responsive and accountable to their concerns and aspirations. Outcomes will be delivered through an engagement approach tailored to and respecting Traditional Owners' needs, time and expectations, including keeping Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians informed ahead of time as REZs are planned and developed. The approach will be place-based, facilitated through VicGrid's regional partners as part of DELWP's broader commitment to enabling Self-Determination.

The proposed VTIF includes specific engagement and partnership opportunities for Traditional Owners to participate in decision-making, such as during the Strategic Land Use Assessment. At the procurement stage, REZ projects would be evaluated against the Victorian Government's Social Procurement Framework and Local Jobs First Policy, which includes promoting outcomes for Aboriginal business sectors. VicGrid would work with Aboriginal businesses to support their involvement and feedback in REZ development projects and would facilitate and enable economic and other benefits as identified by Traditional Owners.

Have your say

21 Are the proposed principles appropriate to guide the proposed allocation of functions between the different bodies?

22 What challenges exist if VicGrid takes responsibility for functions introduced by the VTIF?

23 What should the final entity form of VicGrid be, should the VTIF be implemented? What governance arrangements would be appropriate for VicGrid?

APPENDIX A

Questions for stakeholders

VISIT engage.vic.gov.au

Have your say SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS

VISIT **engage.vic.gov.au**

1. What are your views on the proposed Victorian Transmission Planning Objective? Does it incorporate the right issues that impact the development of transmission in Victoria?
2. What are your views on the proposed measures to ensure costs to consumers are minimised as outlined above and detailed elsewhere in the Consultation Paper?
3. What do you think about the proposed 25 year time horizon? To what extent does the outlook length appropriately balance forecasting capabilities and the need to plan for the long-term?
4. What do you think about the proposed core inputs for the system scenarios? What other inputs should be considered?
5. How could this process for producing candidate transmission pathways best support cost-efficient transmission investment?
6. What considerations should be assessed as part of the strategic land use assessment? What might be the most appropriate methodology for the tool, and how would the information be gathered and measured?
7. What do you think about the draft criteria to apply in the Multi-Criteria Analysis? What sources of data could help inform the criteria assessment?
8. Are the appropriate costs and benefits included in the CBA used in the Optimisation Analysis?
9. What are your views of the Optimisation Analysis as a mechanism to identify the right transmission pathway for Victoria? What could improve the analysis?
10. Should the system scenarios be weighted equally or not when undertaking the optimal REZ pathway analysis? Why, or why not? Do you have a view on an appropriate process for determining any weightings?
11. What are your views about the Victorian Network Investment Test assessment being limited to the least net cost of the solution rather than reassessing the 'need' for the solution? Does this contribute to greater certainty around transmission development?
12. Do you consider the threshold for contestable procurement should be changed? What is the preferred model?
13. Should a bespoke access regime be adopted in Victoria's REZs? Which option is best suited to Victoria?
14. In the context of access to Victorian REZs, how should storage be treated to benefit the REZ and wider market, while not creating risk and uncertainty for wind generation?
15. How should transitional arrangements apply to existing generation and storage projects if a new access scheme is adopted? At what point in the development stage of the project should make it qualify for a transitional arrangement?
16. Who should be engaged during the development of REZs and at what points in the planning and investment process under the proposed VTIF?
17. What representative bodies would be appropriate for enabling coordinated engagement across our REZs? How should those bodies be included in the decision-making process to meet the objectives of the proposed VTIF?
18. How should VicGrid partner with Traditional Owners and engage local communities and stakeholders during the SLUA and MCA processes to achieve the proposed outcomes? Please discuss specific methods or approaches as relevant.
19. What benefit sharing arrangements (or options) under the proposed VTIF would best deliver meaningful benefit sharing outcomes for host communities while balancing costs to electricity consumers?
20. How should benefit sharing arrangements be designed to meet the proposed benefit sharing principles? How should communities and stakeholders be involved?
21. Are the proposed principles appropriate to guide the proposed allocation of functions between the different bodies?
22. What challenges exist if VicGrid takes responsibility for the functions introduced by the VTIF?
23. What should the final entity form of VicGrid be, should the VTIF be implemented? What governance arrangements would be appropriate for VicGrid?

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CITY OF MELTON

Table of Contents

Introduction 2
Existing Processes and Settings 3
Existing RIT-T process for the Victorian Renewables Link 3
Current RIT-T process example: Humelink Project, New South Wales ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Lack of information limits alternatives for Renewable Energy Link RIT-T process 4
Environmental Effects Statement (EES) and community engagement for the Western Renewables Link 4
Energy Infrastructure Proposals within Melton City Council Green Wedge areas 5
Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF) Preliminary Design Consultation Paper 6
Response to Consultation Paper Questions 6
Baringa Options Paper - Access for Victorian REZs 12
Potential DC for alternatives in a wider network assessment 12
Overhead vs underground transmission lines 12
Need to properly assess the Western Renewables Link 12

Melton City Council Submission
Victorian Transmission Investment Framework - Preliminary Design

Melton City Council

15 August 2022

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF)* Preliminary Design.

The City of Melton has a current population of over 180,000 people, which by 2051 is forecast to grow to 450,000, before reaching an ultimate population of over 500,000 people, which is greater than the current population of Canberra, and a similar population to Tasmania. In the context of such growth, remaining Green Wedge rural areas provide an increasingly important open pastoral break in the landscape, and provide a variety of aesthetic, cultural, economic, and environmental values to our community.

The Western Renewables Project is a proposed 190km overhead transmission line which will traverse the length of the municipality via the Western Plains North Green Wedge including towers of up to 80 metres high. This project will have significant impacts on the valued rural landscape, as well as environmental, economic and social impacts for residents, farmers, and the broader community. This project is currently undergoing assessment via the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) process.

The City of Melton is supportive of further investment in renewable energy generation and transmission capacity, including the Renewable Energy Zones (REZs). However, lessons from the Western Renewables Project has demonstrated significant deficiencies relating to social, economic, and environmental considerations in the Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T) and the proceeding Environmental Effects Statement (EES). These deficiencies are further detailed in this submission.

Therefore, the City of Melton welcomes reforms to existing process proposed in the *Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF)* Preliminary Design which represents a significant improvement from current processes.

Should you have any questions about the above or the content of our submission, please contact Council's Manager City Design and Strategy, Darren Rudd darrenr@melton.vic.gov.au by email.

Yours sincerely,

Roslyn Wai
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Existing Processes and Settings

The *Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF)* Preliminary Design is understood to be intended to replace the stages of RiT-T process prior to an Environmental Effects Statement (EES). Council is broadly supportive of the proposed changes and notes the attempt to identify important process deficiencies and gaps of the RIT-T, and how these projects directly impact communities. Currently, these stages consist of the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) conducting a Regulatory Investment Test for Transmission (RIT-T), culminating in the final Project Assessment Conclusions Report (PACR) assessment and the appointment of contracts.

The City of Melton is one of the communities impacted by the Western Renewables Link project which passes through the northern half of our municipality and is of significant concern to our community. Many of these impacts are now only being considered well after the RIT-T process had green lighted the project.

Existing RIT-T process for the Victorian Renewables Link

The Victorian Renewables Link (previously called the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project) was assessed by AEMO with the *Victorian Renewables Integration Report - Project Assessment Conclusions Report* (PACR) of July 2019. Council believes this process has similar shortcomings to those reported by the VEPC in relation to the *HumeLink* Project (detailed below), with true project costs being much higher and benefits being over-stated.

The PACR report assessed two options which can be summarised in brief as follows:

- Option B3 re-using and upgrading the existing Moorabool to Ballarat and Ballarat to Bulgana transmission corridors with new double circuit 220kV lines
- Option C2 (The selected option) to build a new terminal station at North Ballarat, new 500kVv North Ballarat to Sydenham link, new 220kVv North Ballarat to Bulgana link, with new easements.

No options were considered to upgrade the existing corridors with 500kV lines. Existing corridor upgrades and re-use were only considered in the context of lower capacity 220kV powerlines.

The creation of the new North Ballarat terminal site and new North Ballarat to Bulgana link was justified in the earlier draft Report document with a statement at page 28 that *'initial assessment has indicated that there may be insufficient space in Ballarat Terminal Station for the proposed 500 kV plant.'* No detailed assessment has been made, nor site expansion options considered, despite the existing Ballarat terminal being located in a low-density rural living area.

At page 49 of the PACR, Option C2 was considered to provide superior benefits in the following regards:

- Option C2 does not increase overloads on the Moorabool to Geelong to Keilor transmission lines.
- Option C2 enables a higher Victoria to New South Wales transfer capacity, which results in higher projected fuel cost savings.
- Option C2 facilitates the future KerangLink transmission augmentation, and therefore has benefits in changing the timing for transmission investment.

Overloading risks are heavily impacted by the choice of 220kV over 500kV lines, and both New South Wales transfer capacity and KerangLink augmentation is assumed to be provided by the capacity of 500kV lines.

In the absence of any detailed assessment of similar options (ie.500kV options) using the existing transmission corridors and sites, there is no assurance of greater efficiencies, but significant unassessed impact imposed on a new infrastructure corridor through rural and peri-urban land.

Similar to *Humelink*, the report at page 20 of the PACR states that the cost estimates provided have a very wide accuracy margin of error of plus or minus 30%, leaving wide margins of uncertainty. Council is of the view that even with the contingency of 30% this will still be below the true project cost.

Very little detail is provided of land acquisition or vegetation offset costs, which are unlikely to be accounted for in sufficient detail. All external costs to the community and local economy such as tourism, agricultural, and environmental impacts of a new greenfield transmission corridor are not considered in any way in the RIT-T economic assessment process.

There is a clear need for a more holistic analysis of alternative projects and the existing conditions within, and adjoining, a proposed corridor. In addition, social, economic and environmental impacts of a proposed project need to be explored and

meaningful community engagement need to occur earlier in the process. It is noted and understood that the proposed VTIF process attempts to address the shortcomings of the current options analysis overseen by AEMO.

Lack of information limits alternatives for Renewable Energy Link RIT-T process

The current RiT-T process fails to properly account for costs such as land acquisition, vegetation offsets, loss of production for impacted farms, businesses and the large cost of getting the project through the regulatory EES process. In the case of the Western Renewables Link these are substantial costs exacerbated by a loss of public confidence and trust in the process and the project proponent.

The current RiT-T process lacks a triple bottom line assessment and results in sending a single preferred project through the EES approval process, when other transmission corridor options could have proven more favourable through a multi-criteria assessment where social, economic and environmental impacts and costs are weighted into the decision. This locks or 'rail-roads' the subsequent Environmental Effects Statement (EES) proponent into an option defence model rather than having the project corridor option, put forward that might work best for both the community that is impacted and equally the consumer when full project costs are considered.

The RIT-T process also risks locking projects in that are wedded to old technologies in a context where there is rapid progression. Arguably the Western Renewables Link is doing this, locking in outdated AC technology when many new European projects are moving an adapting to HVDC transmission technologies and distributed energy storage and transmission models.

Council's preference is for new transmission infrastructure corridors through the green wedge and areas of environmental sensitivity should be underground, similar Europe and countries such as South Korea. Increasingly HVDC underground is providing the best alternatives to conventional overhead AC powerlines, offering narrower corridors, less environmental impact and less shedding of energy.

Environmental Effects Statement (EES) and community engagement for the Western Renewables Link

The EES process is partially hamstrung as it is only assessing the narrow outcome of the RIT-T process, rather than a holistic analysis of a proposed project and viable alternative designs.

In 2019, AEMO awarded AusNet the contract to deliver the Western Renewables Link including undertaking an EES approval process. This project has experienced a significant decline in public confidence in the process with community consultation from the proponent being often superficial in nature which undermines residents willingness to engage with the process, and is leading to poor outcomes as reported in the 2022 review undertaken by the Essential Service Commission.

Many landowners have struggled to comprehend how a privately owned company has legal rights to access land. The process of engagement has lacked the visibility of any government stewardship, when it is State government legislation through the *Electricity Industry Act 2000* which enables investigations for new electricity infrastructure to occur on private land. There is an intermediatory role for government to play through both the project investigation and EES process in engaging with the community and explaining the process and their legal rights. This should not be left to the electricity companies.

Meaningful community engagement needs to occur prior to the EES to bring the community along on the journey in arriving at the preferred solution, but also to better inform decision makers of existing conditions in a corridor *prior* to it be identified as a preferred corridor.

Improved methods are required for landscape visual impact assessment (LVIA) of transmission infrastructure. Current methods are largely adapted from wind farm applications, where the transmission infrastructure makes up a small component of the overall project. Current project impacts are assessed via a quantitative methodology relating to visual mass, the angle of viewing, and how far the powerlines can be seen. This process fails to consider the impact on the *character* of the landscape.

Due to the significant scale of overhead infrastructure up to 80 metres high which can be seen for kilometres, the towers can 'industrialise' a rural landscape. This in-turn has significant social impacts for communities who value their surrounding landscape for its rural qualities. These impacts are not sufficiently quantified or understood by current processes. This has important implications relating to overhead vs underground transmission infrastructure.

Under the current EES process, a private actor submits lengthy technical reports to the DELWP Technical Reference Group (TRG) supporting their private interests based on the RIT-T process, often to a poor standard. The burden of proof then falls to Councils and other authorities which are part of the TRG to disprove inaccurate or incomplete information, often at significant resource expense from Council. This transfers the burden of proof from the private to the public sector. Minimum standards for assessment should be required in this process, including ensuring analysis of the corridor, rather than just generalising based on a small sample size of part of the 190km corridor.

Energy Infrastructure Proposals within Melton City Council Green Wedge areas

Wind, solar and battery storage facilities are driving Victoria's efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Large parcels of land in the outer west of Melbourne are attractive locations for renewable energy projects providing they have access into the existing grid. Council has had solar farm proposals located on farming land, proximate to terminal stations. This is resulting in significant visual impact and change.

Planning permit applications for Solar farms and other renewable energy facilities in Victoria are subject to clause 53.13 and importantly Clause 72.01-1 in the *Melton Planning Scheme* identifying the Minister for Planning the Responsible Authority for energy generating facilities of 1 megawatt or greater. As the assessment of large energy facilities can include complex technical details which Council lacks expertise in, this is often appropriate. However, it does mean that applications are decided only by the Minister's office on a case by case basis and risks significant change occurring on land in the absence of a strategic assessment that might consider the identification and proper planning of renewable energy facility precincts.

Importantly, Clause 53.13 to the *Melton Planning Scheme* include the Solar Energy Facilities Design and Development Guideline (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, August 2019). These guidelines focus on suitable locations for solar energy facilities and consider:

- a sufficient distance from existing urban areas or designated urban growth areas
- where there can be adequate space between facilities within an area to avoid cumulative impacts of built form concentration.

Other guidelines similarly focus on avoiding the ad-hoc concentration of facilities by distancing them apart within the landscape.

While Green Wedge zoning prohibits most commercial and industrial uses, utilities installations and renewable energy facilities can apply for permits and benefit from the above-mentioned planning provisions. This warrants consideration and proper planning for energy hub precincts, rather than the current ad-hoc approach.

Council's example shows that multiple solar energy plants and a battery storage facility have been approved in the green wedge area, and since, Council has received queries for a number of other proposals intended to be built adjacent and use synergies with this power generation for other related industrial activities. This is occurring in areas with unsealed rural roads and a plan that suggest the character of the area is to remain an open pasture.

While those activities fall within industrial land uses and were therefore prohibited within the Green Wedge zoning, this example illustrates the ad-hoc nature in which these decisions are being made. There is an opportunity for the State to work in partnership with local Council's to identify and strategically plan for these renewable energy hubs.

Key relevant issues raised from Council's experiences and observations can be summarised as:

- There is the potential for a significant proliferation of energy infrastructure in Green Wedge areas similar to an unplanned Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) area.
- Current State standard planning scheme provisions strongly support new energy infrastructure in green wedge areas, in the absence of a proper plan that identifies where these hubs might occur and how they might be best planned and established.

Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF) Preliminary Design Consultation Paper

Response to Consultation Paper Questions

Please find below our responses to the questions for stakeholders raised in the VTIF consultation paper.

1.	What are your views on the proposed Victorian Transmission Planning Objective? Does it incorporate the right issues that impact the development of transmission in Victoria?
Response:	The draft objective as written fails to incorporate any of the wider issues that are proposed to be better considered by the new VTIF process. It is focused on consumer benefit, rather than net public benefit, which is usually the test for major infrastructure projects. This may lead towards continuance of overstating project benefits and underestimating project costs and impacts, risking proper consideration of wider environmental, economic, and community impacts. There is a need to consider overall economic cumulative impacts, including on tourism, agriculture, and other local activities, and proper analysis of land acquisition, vegetation offsets, and regulatory process costs. The objective should include mention of wider considerations, and net public benefit.
2.	What are your views on the proposed measures to ensure costs to consumers are minimised as outlined above and detailed elsewhere in the consultation paper?
Response:	Many of these measures are supported and allow the community through the multi scenario approach to be part of the process of selecting the least impactful transmission pathway. This will be an improvement provided all costs and impact related costs are considered as part of the process. It is understood that while a least cost Victorian Network Investment Test (VNIT) would apply to initial works needed outlined in a REZ pathway, the need for any additional works that arises will instead be subject to a 'maximum net benefit' test. Careful consideration should be made to ensure that this does not allow for or support any unnecessary 'gold-plating' of additions, or additions of a scale not really appropriate to the wider strategy of the REZ pathway and wider Victorian energy network.
3.	What do you think about the proposed 25-year time horizon? To what extent does the outlook length appropriately balance forecasting capabilities and the need to plan for the long-term?
Response:	Considering the needs of operations over the long-term, such as a 25-year period as proposed is appropriate. Given the magnitude of change proposed, many projects will require 5 -7years from concept to delivery. The challenge is that lengthy design and approval processes are needing to consider technological change and different forms of grid infrastructure, energy generation and lifespans. As experienced with the Western Renewables Link, new major overhead transmission projects are also going to be met with significant community opposition. This calls for some guiding principles of when the location context might warrant an underground transmission solution to reduce delays experienced through community opposition. In some instances, and with further technology improvements, HVDC could be the best solution for more built up locations and areas of environmental sensitivity. This would allow for a long-term view which despite higher initial capital costs, would likely result in lower levels of community opposition, more favourable whole-of-life (costing) benefits and reduced land take costs. In comparison, recent RIT-T assessments focus on narrow and more short- term benefits, relying on simultaneous projects to justify their worth to consumers. VITF assessments are supported to follow a multi-criteria approach for project costs and impacts.

4.	What do you think about the proposed core inputs for the system scenarios? What other inputs should be considered?
Response:	The availability of potential spare transmission capacity from the retirement of coal and gas generators should be considered and included in network planning. Similarly, the departure of demand from highly consuming industries turning to their own renewable generation, such as the wind power proposal of the Portland aluminium smelter, may also free up potential spare transmission capacity. Potential efficiencies where available should be considered wherever generation is able to be located closer to demand (i.e. cities) with reduced transmission capital costs and transfer losses. This would see consideration of a scenario where new residential estates which already have a high take up of solar generation are using local storage and supply options in a more distributed energy supply model. This would likely result in planning frameworks identifying sites and supporting cooperatives for community-based battery storage.
5.	How could this process for producing candidate transmission pathways best support cost-efficient transmission investment?
Response:	Recent RIT-T assessment processes have overlooked using and upgrading existing infrastructure or the impact new transmission corridors have on the community and environment. Proper consideration of multiple options would overcome many of these issues and would allow the best cost and least impactful option to be identified. The current RIT-T process has a narrow economic focus and fails to identify the true cost of projects. The process favours new infrastructure corridors rather than a proper analysis of existing transmission corridors and terminals. Through the Western Renewables Link project, a viable and cheaper option to upgrade existing terminal and transmission corridors was dismissed, despite likely lower environmental impacts and community opposition. The VTIF process should include a mandatory assessment of options that include the upgrade or location of candidate transmission pathways along existing infrastructure easements. Equally the VTIF should be transparent about objectives to develop contingent transmission infrastructure alignments, where new infrastructure corridors are deemed necessary to guarantee supply in the event other infrastructure are experiencing faults. This appears to be a major decision-making driver for the Western Renewables Link and a lack of transparency about this requirement has only added to erode distrust in the project and its approval processes. There is also opportunity to identify upfront where corridors will need to fully investigate an underground transmission option. Within the weighting criteria, underground options whilst more costly, should be weighted with the high benefit of strong support, a more streamlined approval process and a lower environmental impact (due to a narrow easement corridor for HVDC).
6.	What considerations should be assessed as part of the strategic land use assessment? What might be the most appropriate methodology for the tool and how would the information be gathered and measured?
Response:	The intent of applying a Strategic Land Use Assessment at the start of the transmission process is supported, however the requisite community engagement is likely to demonstrate early opposition to any new major overhead transmission infrastructure. For this reason, the re-use and upgrading of existing transmission corridors and terminal sites should be the priority in any multi criteria assessment (MCA). The MCA should follow a similar index of reports and analysis to those informing the Environmental Effects Statement of the Western Renewables Link. As identified through the Western Renewables Link, a major source of consistent community frustration is the visual and psychological impact of 80-metre-high 500Kv powerlines. Consideration should be given to avoid such visual impacts wherever possible and to avoid impacts to nearby properties rather than considering only those directly occupied by such structures. The use of sections of undergrounding may

	be warranted to avoid built up areas, areas of landscape significance and environmental sensitivity. Consideration should be given to a criterion that identifies candidate conditions where underground transmission options are warranted. The MCA would benefit from the support of planning guidelines focused on minimising the property and environmental impacts of overhead transmission infrastructure. This could be used to inform the SLUA and provide guidance on aspects such as distance to dwellings, avoiding property splitting, retaining windbreak plantings, avoiding areas of landscape significance, community and recreational infrastructure. In addition, the impact on both specific industries and businesses should be explored. In the City of Melton's case with the Western Renewables Link, there is significant potential impact to businesses with the current alignment being considered. Affected businesses are equine businesses and hobby farms which have both economic and cultural significance, as well as the Melton Airfield which is unique in offering flight training, tourism and an aviation base for emergency services.
7.	What do you think about the draft criteria to apply in the Multi-Criteria Analysis? What sources of data could help inform the criteria assessment?
Response:	Similar to the comment above, this process would be well supported by planning guidelines to provide siting criteria for overhead transmission infrastructure and site contexts where underground power would be a priority solution. The MCA should also highlight rather than obscure environmental impacts as a project determinant.
8.	Are the appropriate costs and benefits included in the CBA used in the Optimisation Analysis?
Response:	There are several omissions in the CBA. In terms of costs, it is unclear whether there is an inclusion of approval costs, land costs, compensation, cumulative impact costs and environmental impacts/off-sets. Weighting should also be given to measures of community support.
9.	What are your views of the Optimisation Analysis as a mechanism to identify the right transmission pathway for Victoria? What could improve the analysis?
Response:	This approach risks following the mistakes of the RIT-T process focusing on narrow project cost criteria and understating the impacts on community and the environment. More detail should be provided on the weighting criteria for system scenarios and whether options such as underground HVDC would be rated as low impact/high (community) support options. Whilst the optimisation analysis seems a plausible approach the information on this approach remains vague.
10.	Should the system scenarios be weighted equally or not when undertaking the optimal REZ pathway analysis? Why, or why not? Do you have a view on an appropriate process for determining any weightings?
Response:	As above, weighting should support the most likely scenarios and low impact options in addition to outcomes that favour a lower emissions outcome. Weighting should also be given to the level of support from local (impacted) communities and avoid the polarisation of the rural communities that are impacted versus the metropolitan region that is demanding access to and certainty of energy supply.
11.	What are your views about the Victorian Network Investment Test assessment being limited to the least net cost of the solution rather than reassessing the 'need' for the solution? Does this contribute to greater certainty around transmission development?
Response:	The use of a least net cost test, guided by the parameters of earlier stages of work, appears appropriate. Any additional needs being assessed on net benefits may possibly still be open to such issues and needs to consider the omission of environmental impacts, land access and cumulative economic impacts. It is noted that the scope of benefits to be assessed by this new VNIT test will be *'benefits as currently included within the RIT-T along with potential community benefits.'* Please see previous comments on

	case study examples of issues with the RIT-T process and consider all issues raised with benefits counted.
12.	Do you consider the threshold for contestable procurement should be changed? What is the preferred model?
Response:	It is understood that the current process contestable threshold for procurement where multiple parties can quote for work in energy projects is a comparatively very high at $10,000,000, with consideration being given to raising this to as high as $50,000,000. Excluding such large contracts from any ability of the market testing seems to contradict the governance rules the State government applies across its departments, agencies and Local government. The rationale applied to this proposed change lacks any clear justification or demonstration that the change acts in the broader public interest.
13.	Should a bespoke access regime be adopted in Victoria's REZs? Which option is best suited to Victoria?
Response:	No comment.
14.	In the context of access to Victorian REZs, how should storage be treated to benefit the REZ and wider market, while not creating risk and uncertainty for wind generation?
Response:	New energy storage provides many benefits in providing supply without needing to increase generation and transmission infrastructure. Regulatory measures could be applied to deter anti-competitive practices and to allow wind generation fair access to evening peak prices. There is however an argument to provide a trading environment that might favour storage options where this becomes an efficient and cheaper supply option. This would be in preference to building more wind power generation at a time where enough energy is being created to be stored and released to cover peak evening loads.
15.	How should transitional arrangements apply to existing generation and storage projects if a new access scheme is adopted? At what point in the development stage of the project should make it qualify for a transitional arrangement?
Response:	In regard to the two options in the discussion paper for grandfathering of existing projects into a REZ access scheme, option 1 appears the most useful: *'1. All generation and storage projects in a REZ are part of a new scheme. Total network capacity in the REZ is determined and the amount taken up by existing projects is 'grandfathered' to those projects, with remaining capacity available to new projects through a rights allocation process.'* This option provides the access rights to existing operators, which can then be traded to new operators, potentially financially incentivising renewable energy transitions and encouraging existing aging generators to trade their place in the transmission network to new operators. It also highlights gaps in the network where exiting power generators can be replaced new providers. Regarding the question of, what point a proposed development should benefit from transitional arrangements, these should be open to all live project operators that hold a valid planning approval. This option should be available for a limited time (two years), to avoid warehousing of projects and encourage good supply, levels of investment and competition.
16.	Who should be engaged during the development of REZs and at what points in the planning and investment process under the proposed VTIF?
Response:	It is essential to provide involvement to those who are impacted by the proposal as the current RIT-T process bypasses any consideration of localised impacts in its corridor and investment selection process. The process should involve a strong agency involvement from the State government and include consultation with Local councils, landowners, local community and resident's groups, Landcare groups

	and agricultural and industry groups. Discussion with independent experts such as the VEPC would also be useful. Local councils hold valuable local knowledge and contacts and should be involved throughout the process. Other land managers and interested government bodies acting within the potential corridor such as Parks Victoria, water and fire authorities and Traditional Owners should be involved.
17.	What representative bodies would be appropriate for enabling coordinated engagement across our REZs? How should those bodies be included in the decision-making process to meet the objectives of the proposed VTIF?
Response:	Local councils are important in providing local knowledge, contacts, and often even venues for community meetings to discuss proposals that are important to the community (for example, Moorabool Shire Council facilitated early AusNet Western Renewable Link meetings with the community) and are an important first point of contact and feedback for initial discussions. Stakeholders involved in the Western Renewables Link project Environmental Effects Statement, provide a comprehensive list of the likely relevant parties that should be included in the decision making process. There is strong support for greater visibility of the State government in the community engagement and land access processes, rather than private energy companies. Genuine engagement with the sample parties listed earlier in the process is a positive aspect of the proposed VTIF.
18.	How should VicGrid partner with Traditional Owners and engage local communities and stakeholders during the SLUA and MCA processes to achieve the proposed outcomes? Please discuss specific methods or approaches as relevant.
Response:	The City of Melton supports early, respectful and genuine dialogue with Traditional Owners and communities. In contrast to the Western Renewables Link EES process, consultation and engagement should be led by the State government and not left to private energy companies. It should also be under the auspice of Code of Conduct and publicised engagement and land access guidelines. We would suggest convening community forums and open engagement with the community on first trying to resolve the broader transmission challenge, including the community in selecting the criteria to be set to narrow corridor pathways. Ideally the process would rely on building a broader level of community stewardship in connecting the REZ's. This would involve engagement with the community on the broader energy solution rather than just the energy transmission problem. This could then be researched and resolved relatively early in the process, providing significant improvement, understanding, and resolution of tensions and concerns for the community, and reducing the likelihood of community opposition. Concerns identified might include alternative corridors, alternative technologies, impacts on the use of pivot irrigation for agriculture, impacts to the environment and landscape and potential mitigation measures, or concerns that existing sites or transmission routes should be upgraded instead.
19.	What benefit sharing arrangements (or options) under the proposed VTIF would best deliver meaningful benefit sharing outcomes for host communities while balancing costs to electricity consumers?
Response:	The priority focus should be on minimising the impact of the proposal. Benefit Sharing options should be discussed with the relevant Local government and stakeholders on a case by case basis, in some areas employment opportunities may be very highly needed, in other proposals support for environmental works or Landcare groups to ameliorate impacts. The concept of benefit sharing is supported and would serve to return a level of benefit on directly impacted communities. VicGrid should ensure communities which have to host transmission infrastructure which are outside of the REZs see the same level of engagement and benefits sharing. These communities often experience the detrimental impacts of transmission infrastructure such as visual impact of transmission infrastructure,

	but experience less of the benefits such as employment opportunities. Local content requirements could form part of wider benefit sharing arrangements.
20.	How should benefit sharing arrangements be designed to meet the proposed benefit sharing principles? How should communities and stakeholders be involved?
Response:	Benefit sharing could form part of the early community discussion in consultation forums or other forms of consultation and may help to positively balance discussions and concerns. Flexibility of sharing options, combined with this early engagement, potentially assisted by the guidance of local Councils, could go a long way towards achieving the proposed benefit sharing principles. Combine this with careful consideration of how to be highly inclusive, the careful strategic selection of actions for long term lasting benefits, and good governance processes working with reputable and reliable partners to deliver appropriately, and the proposed principles should be very achievable.
21.	Are the proposed principles appropriate to guide the proposed allocation of functions between the different bodies?
Response:	The proposed principles (*Clarity of accountability, Minimising complexity and duplication, Independence, End to end processes for community engagement, and Transparency*) seem appropriate and sufficient. A potential independent regulator of VicGrid as was mentioned in the discussion paper would only add to the solid nature of these governance principles and should be visible during engagement and land access phases.
22.	What challenges exist if VicGrid takes responsibility for functions introduced by the VTIF?
Response:	If VicGrid implements the VTIF it will replace the role of the RIT-T and AEMO, and VicGrid will need to internally develop some of the assessment capabilities currently carried out by AEMO. Council welcomes this potential transition, as VicGrid is planning to provide a higher level of community consultation and concern for external factors with the VTIF, which AEMO does not consider. As VicGrid is based in Victoria, and has the capability for better community engagement, a greater appreciation of local community concerns is likely to occur. There will have to be some remedial public relations work to rebuild public trust following the Western Renewables Link. The City of Melton would look forward to holding further discussion with VicGrid on how we can work together to build greater public confidence in future major transmission corridor projects.
23.	What should the final entity form of VicGrid be, should the VTIF be implemented? What governance arrangements would be appropriate for VicGrid?
Response:	VicGrid should replace AEMO within Victoria as a one-stop shop for providing information and supporting processes for energy industry infrastructure assessment and approvals. The DELWP has accumulated useful staff and experience during the previous rollout of projects such as the Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET) program and in work looking at better sharing the benefits of wind power generator royalties with surrounding communities. In this context, it would be beneficial for VicGrid to remain a division of DELWP, with close access to these resources and useful positive experience. For management of these processes to remain at a State government level also seems appropriate given the scale of these energy networks. VicGrid would benefit from a review of previous reports and papers published by the Victorian Energy Policy Centre (VEPC), who have provided a thorough analysis of AEMO and its governance model. The VEPC has extensive experience and knowledge of operational matters in the energy industry and have made several sound recommendations on how decisions on large energy projects can be improved for the benefit of both consumers and the broader community.

Baringa Options Paper -Access for Victorian REZs

Council also notes the second options paper prepared by Baringa Consulting on *Access for Victorian Renewable Energy Zones (REZs)*. This paper covers in more detail many of the same access rights system matters covered in pages 42 to 48 and questions 13, 14 and 15 of the main discussion paper.

It is unnecessary for Council to provide further commentary on these matters that are primarily of concern to industry operators, and our position on this paper is described by Council's response to questions 13, 14 and 15.

Potential for DC alternatives in a wider network assessment

It is noted that there are a number of Renewable Energy Zones planned to be established and expanded within Victoria with associated transmission upgrades and other energy network improvements, and at the same time there is significant momentum from both AEMO and the new federal government towards vast new investments in energy generation and transmission infrastructure.

It is also notable that many new generation facilities produce DC power rather than AC as has been the historically been the case with coal generators.

In the context of vast projected network investment, it would be worth considering whether there are any opportunities to consider HVDC options for new projects. Regarding HVDC, a report (by Amplitude Consultants) commissioned by several Councils in relation to the Western Renewables Link shows that underground HVDC is increasingly being used in Western Europe, due to its narrow easement and lower environmental and visual impact. Council considers this a long-term feasible option for built up areas and areas of high environmental, cultural, and landscape sensitivity.

The Amplitude Report outlines the state of modern HVDC cable technology and the efficiencies available for long distance transmission. VicGrid may wish to consider whether any form of review of the potential of HVDC cable network alternatives is worth completing, whether as part of the REZ program or in conjunction with other wider Australian network and inter-state connection initiatives working with AEMO.

Overhead vs underground transmission lines

New overhead infrastructure is likely to be increasingly viewed by the community as visual pollution. Consequentially, it is likely community pressure will lead to continued opposition toward these projects. With the level of development in the peri-urban and green wedge areas of Melbourne coupled with areas of environmental sensitivity there is an increasing argument to consider underground transmission options as a default position.

This position would provide certainty to the industry, forcing innovation to drive down costs and achieve a much higher level of community support with arguably shorter approval processes.

Need to properly assess the Western Renewables Link

The Western Renewable Link is stated to cost a headline net present value figure of $370 million under the 2019 Project Assessment Conclusions Report, but with a 30% margin of error, which aligns with the cost quotes from providers at page 40 of the report which were an average of $490 million.

This does not account for current inflation, detailed land acquisition and vegetation offset costing and the time and costs of the extensive regulatory approval process. This project is experiencing delays and will continue to do so given the level of community opposition and issues with the supply chain impacting the sector. While the project is still in regulatory processes and no work has begun, there is still a great opportunity for a proper assessment process, to best allocate these vast funds to the best possible option, to minimise wide economic and environmental impacts, and better respond to what is strong community concern.

Impacted communities have been exposed to the complexity and uncertainty of a legislative and decision-making process which is no longer fit for purpose.

The VTIF offers a positive and a necessary step forward for future transmission projects and is too late for the Western Renewables Link that will continue to provide a learning platform to refine and improve the VTIF

12.8 EXTENSION OF CONTRACT NO. 15/032 - PROVISION OF BANKING AND REVENUE COLLECTION SERVICES

Author: Natalie Marino - Acting Finance Manager
Presenter: Peter Leersen - Chief Financial Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider Council's arrangements for Provision of Banking and Revenue Collection Services contract.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. exercise the option available in the current banking and revenue collection services Contract 15/032 until 31 December 2022 and notify the contractor of Council's decision; and
2. opt into the State Government Banking and Financial Services contract as part of a Master Supply Agreement (MSA) to provide banking services and products under the State Purchasing Contract (SPC) for the remaining period of four years; and
3. utilise the service and Commonwealth Bank Australia (CBA) under the terms of the Master Supply Agreement (MSA).

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

This report provides information in relation to Council's current contracts for Transactional Banking and Revenue Collection Services. The contract provides for an option to extend a further six months until 31 December 2022 at Council's discretion. Officer's recommendation is to exercise the option to extend the contract to allow Council time to opt into the State Government Banking and Financial Services contract.

2. Background/Issues

Council's contract for Transactional Banking and Revenue Collection Services provides for an option for a further six-month extension.

The contract covers the provision of all transactional banking and revenue collection services including the services listed below:

Transactional Banking and Other Services:

- Electronic Banking
- Collection Services (Bpay, online, direct debit)
- Payment Services (Payroll, suppliers)
- Corporate Purchase Cards
- Account Management
- Merchant Services

The Victorian Government has elected to obtain its future banking requirements using a panel arrangement. To this end it has conducted a competitive tender to select suitable suppliers for this panel and three banks appointed to this panel are:

- Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)
- National Australia Bank (NAB)
- Westpac Banking Corporation (Westpac)

These three banks are contracted through a Master Supply Agreement (MSA) to provide banking services and products under the State Purchasing Contract (SPC) for a minimum period of five years, commencing 1 October 2021 until 30 September 2026. The new SPC has four modules that cover banking, payments, and collection services.

A State Purchasing Entity (SPE), in this case, Melton City Council, have the option to use one bank or a combination of banks for different services. Council engaged Whitmore Consulting to conduct an analysis on the SPC and took into consideration the below:

- Pricing offered for high volume channels by the above panel using the Bank Selector Tool supplied by Council as part of the State Government documentation
- Any additional noteworthy pricing not included in the Bank Selector Tool options
- Qualitative study of the following areas based on the knowledge of the market offerings of each of the panel banks:
    - Product suits
    - Innovative services
    - Relationship management
    - Implementation capabilities

Also included in the scope of the engagement was a view on the current environment for banking and bill payment services, and the changing marketplace preferences for transacting and the impact of the COVID pandemic on this movement.

It is recommended that Council have a single bank relationship. A saving of $85,578 per annum can be achieved by retaining the services of CBA and appending to the SPC.

CBA has provided value adding advice including assisting Council with its business transformation project in the Accounts Receivable.

3. Council 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

By extending the Provision of Transactional Banking and Revenue Services with Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) benefit to Council would be:

1. No transition costs in respect to Council moving to another provider.
2. Allow continued improvement of facilities to receive payments creating efficiencies and savings to Council once opting into SPC.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

No consultation was required in the preparation of this report.

6. Risk Analysis

The schedule of fees and charges from the contractor provides Council with competitive costs and provides Council with facilities to receive payments. No major financial risk to Council is foreseen.

7. Options

Council could:

1. go to market and call for new tenders for banking arrangements,
2. opt into the SPC with CBA for the provision of transactional banking and revenue collection services.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Nil.

12.9 SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISORS ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

Author: Pauline Hobbs - Advocacy Coordinator
Presenter: Sean McManus - Acting Executive Manager Corporate Strategy and Investment

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To recommend participation in the Monash Council advocacy campaign to achieve improved Victorian Government funding for School Crossing Supervisors.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council participate in Monash City Council's advocacy campaign highlighting local governments' concern about the sustainability of the school crossing supervisor program and seek reform to the way road safety around schools is managed.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

The Victorian Government's financial support for councils to provide school crossing services has gradually decreased over time. This has resulted in increased cost to councils.

Initial Victorian Government funding for School Crossing Supervisors was approximately two thirds of the total cost. In 2021/22 the Victorian Government contribution to this service was 29.35 percent for the City of Melton, with State contribution to decrease further in 2022/23 to under 20 percent. This continued decrease in co-contribution is not sustainable for local government.

Given this is an issue facing the Victorian local government sector, Monash Council is planning to coordinate an advocacy campaign to seek restoration of funding for this critical service. It is recommended that Melton City Council participates in this campaign.

2. Background/Issues

School Crossing Supervisors play a critical role in community safety when assisting children and families crossing the road before and after school. School crossings are key to making roads safer around schools and are highly valued by the community at large. Council is committed to ensuring road safety around schools.

Initially funding for this program was close to two-thirds covered by the Victorian Government and the remainder by Council. This has dwindled proportionately over the years with Council's financial year ending 30 June 2021 showing a net cost to Council of $1.2M. Funding from the Victorian Government covered 29.35 percent of the full program equating to $356,419. In the 2022/23 budget, the school crossing service will cost Council $2.25M with the Department of Transport contributing funding of $440,000 equating to just under 20 percent.

Council has a total of 71 school crossings. At present 109 School Crossing Supervisors are required to manage this service with 13 positions vacant in term three.

The need for a school crossing to have a supervisor is triggered by a number of traffic and pedestrian counts. As a major growth area with more schools to be delivered, it is anticipated there will be a significant increase in the number of school crossings requiring supervisors over the next 30 years. A continued trend in decreased State funding for the school crossing service will further increase the cost to council to provide this service. Ensuring an appropriate share of State funding for school crossing supervisors is therefore considered an important advocacy issue.

New technology is currently being rolled out across 38 sites in six metropolitan council areas. Dynamic crossings use sensors and high-definition cameras to detect how many people are waiting at a crossing and adjust the crossing time accordingly, keeping students and families safe and improving traffic flow. As part of the campaign Melton City Council will seek timing for delivery of dynamic crossing and/or similar technology to increase efficiencies in costs for the service.

Monash City Council has identified that:

1. Victorian Government financial support for councils to provide the service has gradually decreased over time
2. changing demographics are making it increasingly difficult to attract staff
3. growing numbers of crossing sessions are unstaffed each day
4. costs to councils are increasing each year.

Funding has altered over time for councils with three regional councils stepping away from funding the service, and an inequitable funding of metro councils. One example of a Council who stepped away from the program is Northern Grampians Shire who withdrew from the program over five years ago, with the Victorian Government now providing the service.

A study undertaken for Melton Council by McArthur in 2021, highlighted the income variance per individual crossing as:

- Melton $4,512
- Wyndham $5,831
- Monash $6,018
- Maroondah $5,875

Monash Council has developed an advocacy campaign and invited all Victorian councils to join the campaign (Appendix 1). The attached campaign outline has the objective that from 1 July 2023 the Victorian Government will fund 100 percent of the total costs for the School Crossing Supervisor program. A number of tactical approaches are also outlined.

However, following sector feedback Monash Council has advised that the while councils are looking to the Victorian Government to fully fund the program, regardless of funding the program is no longer fit for purpose and needs to change. Based on feedback from other Council's Monash Council proposes to proceed with the campaign highlighting:

> ***local government's concern about the sustainability of the school crossing supervisor program and seek reform to the way road safety around schools is managed.***

It is recommended that Council participate in this campaign.

The advocacy campaign will be a mix of engagement of local members and Ministers, with social media and media. A kit will be distributed to all participating councils that includes templates, fact sheets and draft media releases.

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

   1.2 A safe community where people feel proud to live.

4. Financial Considerations

The cost of participation for metro councils is $3,700 which can be funded through Council's recurrent budget.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

This report is seeking approval for the participation in the campaign and not requiring public consultation.

6. Risk Analysis

Given the revised campaign approach following local government feedback, it is considered appropriate to support this campaign given the declining financial support provided by the State to support the school crossing supervisor service in an endeavour to improve sustainability of the program and promote safety around schools.

7. Options

1. Support Monash City Council's advocacy campaign.
2. Not participate in the campaign led by Monash City Council
3. Develop a stand-alone Melton City Council advocacy campaign.

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Monash City School Crossing Campaign

40
CHILDREN
CROSSING
STOP
School Crossing
Supervisors

The Victorian School Crossing Supervisor model is failing:

- Victorian Government financial support for councils to provide the service has gradually decreased over time
- changing demographics are making it increasingly difficult to attract staff
- growing numbers of crossing sessions are unstaffed each day
- costs to councils are increasing each year

The increasing burden on councils and their local communities is unfair

- finance is being diverted from local government responsibilities
- council staff are required to fill the vacant shifts creating shortages, and less work being done
- the failing model is creating inefficencies resulting in growing direct and hidden costs to councils

Northern Grampians Shire Council disagrees wi government's new school crossing supervisors

By Anthony Piovesan
Updated December 23 2016 at 11:20am, first published December 21 2016 at 11:11am

Stawell school principals and school council members Robyn Jones, Kate Harney, Helen Giles, Lindy Chester, Trish Kennedy, Nick Lynch, Jim O'Brien and Karen Hyslop protest against crossing cuts in May. PICTURE: Paul Carracher

Northern Grampians Shire Council disagreed with the state government's move to make funding 50-50 between the state government and local councils for the School Crossing Program as of

What are other councils doing?

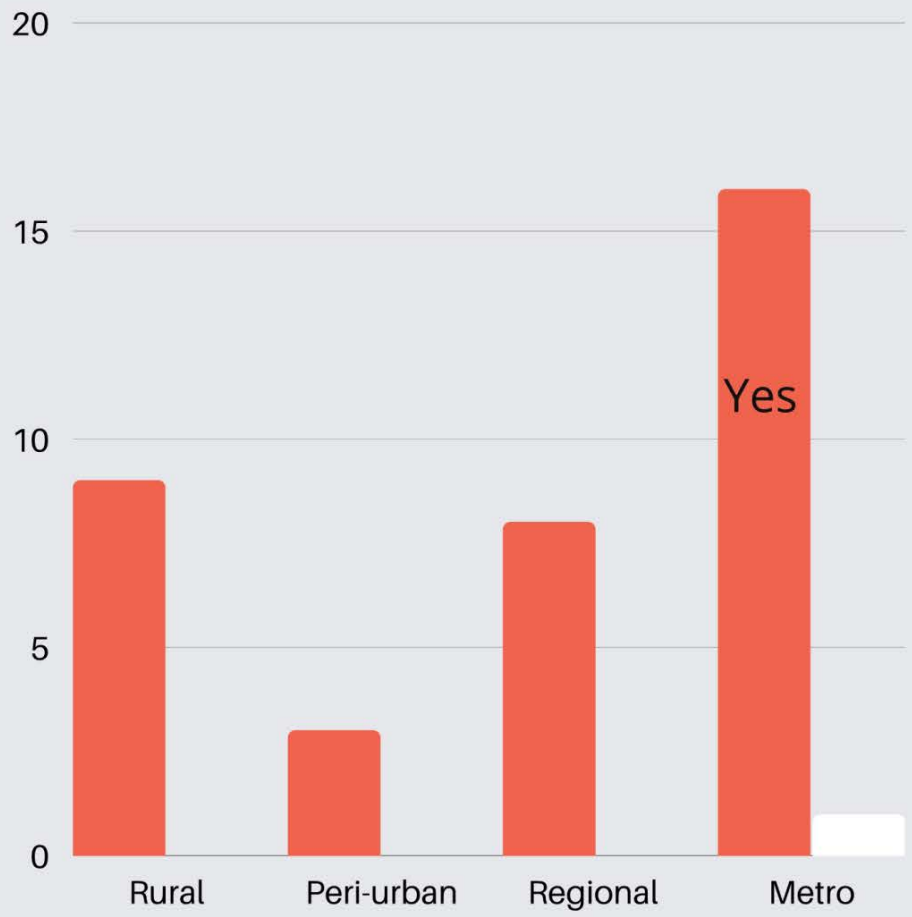
- Northern Grampians has withdrawn. School crossings are now government managed and funded.
- Southern Grampians has resolved to return the responsibility of the School Crossing Service back to DoT and the affected schools.
- Golden Plains has requested the service be 100% government funded.

Survey results

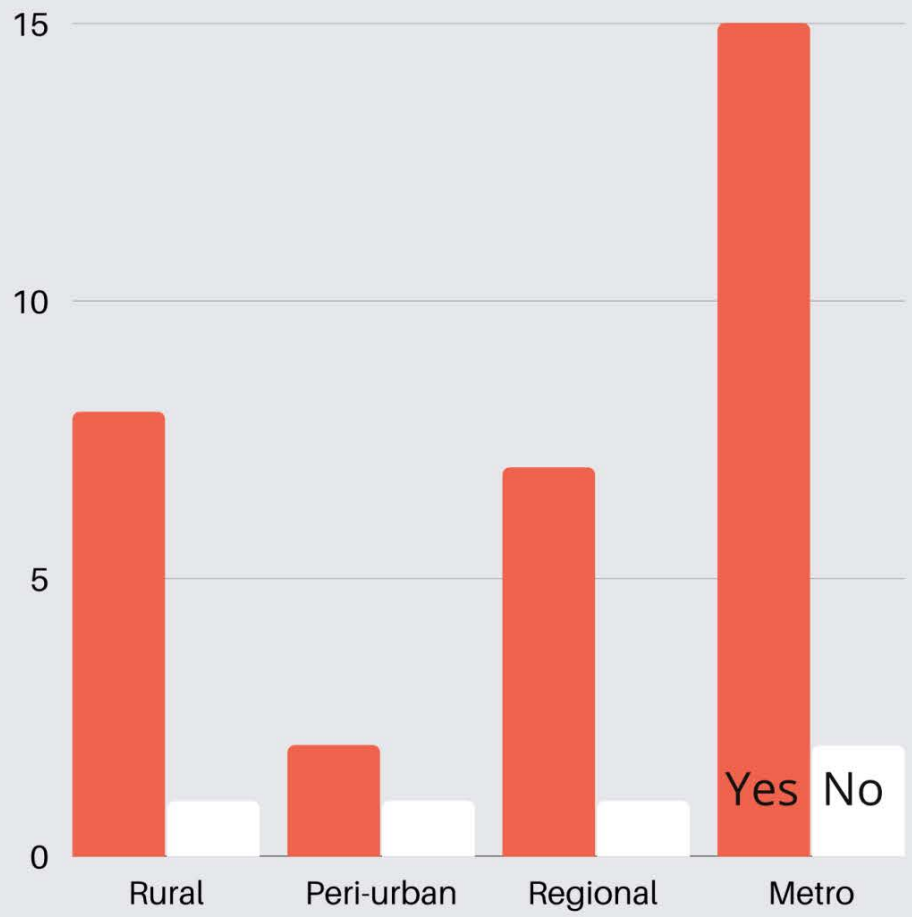
How much does the Victorian Government contribute to costs? (on average)

Rural	Peri-urban	Regional	Metro
30.7%	34.2%	29%	29%

If a session is unsupervised due to absence, do other Council employees cover the crossing?

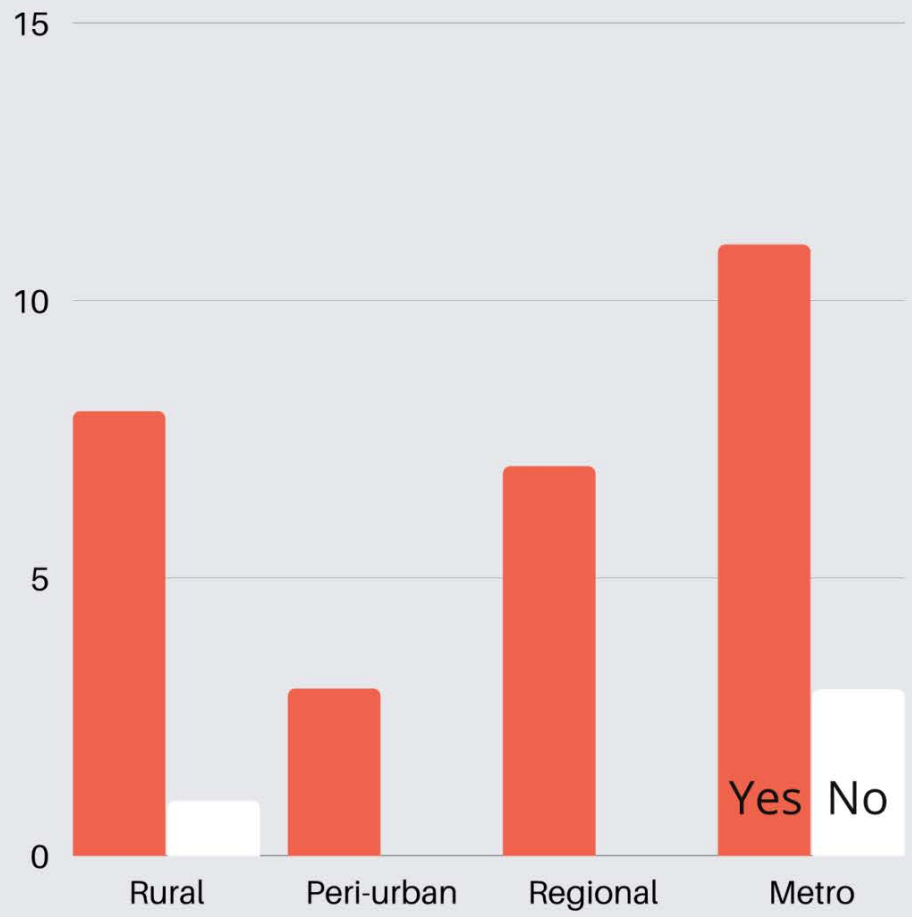


Do you have a shortage of people willing to participate as crossing supervisors in your municpality?



There is currently a view that the School Crossing Service is not sustaninable.

Does your council share this view?



Some other key findings...

Metropolitan councils have the highest number of vacancies per week - some are managing 15-35 per week.

In Terms 1 and 2, many councils had unsupervised crossings:

- Rural - as many as 50
- Regional - between 22-54
- Metropolitan:While some had limited unsupervised sessions, many reported hundreds (140-600)

All respondents support full cost recovery from the Victorian Government.

Goal

Relieve local government of the financial burden created by the state government for councils to provide school crossing supervisor services.

Objective

From 1 July 2023 the Victorian Government will fund 100% of the total costs for the School Crossing Supervisor program.

The Campaign

When?	Likely September
Where?	It will be statewide
Who?	The City of Monash will lead a small committee representing metro, regional, peri-urban and rural councils
How?	High level statewide media coverage supported by local media and social media

Key messaging

The decades old state government School Crossing Supervisor model, which has served our communities well, is now broken and failing.

Local Government is handing back the service so that it can be fixed with 21st century solutions.

Local Government will always be partners.

What would the campaign look like?

1. Councils write to government highlighting major problems
2. Councils meet with ministers to underscore the issues personally, and hopefully to negotiate solutions
3. Councils write to government (after appropriate gap) saying that they are no longer in a position to provide the service beyond 1 July 2023, (citing safety concerns and communities' inability to foot costs that are government responsibility).
4. Statewide media followed by local activity.

Stage 1 campaign

4 weeks

2 major launch events

Request meetings with major government stakeholders

- political
- public servants

Campaign kits would be provided to councils for local action: the kits would likely contain:

- fact sheets
- FAQs
- form letters (for MPs, School Councils, Ministers)
- images
- draft media releases
- social media icons and sample content

Digital design and printing

Coordination and help desk service

Budget

The estimated stage 1 delivery budget is $45,000 (+GST). There will be some disbursements.

In the event a longer campaign is required approval will be sought before implementation and further expenditure.

Councils should budget for a shared contribution of up to $100,000 (GST).

The total amount would be invoiced in tranches to ensure expenditure is minimised and managed appropriately.

Based on 35 councils participating and a cost split between metro/regional (80%) and rural councils (20%), indicative fees are:

Metro/regional - $3,700
Rural Councils/ peri-urban - $1,500

A more accurate assessment can be provided once the number of particpating councils is confirmed.

Some questions...

Please send you answers to

Thalia Bennett at

Monashschoolcrossingadvocacy@monash.vic.gov.au)

1. Will your council commit to the campaign?
   - write to government flagging withdrawal
   - information sharing
   - financial contribution
   - officer time
   - Mayoral support through media activity

2. Will your council participate in the campaign coordination committee?
   - oversight of campaign (incl budget), participate in delegation, liaise with councils
   - will need to ensure there is metro, regional, peri urban, interface and rural experience
   - appropriately skilled people with time to contribute

3. Each participating council will need a single point of contact to receive information. Who will be your council's representative?

12.10 PROPOSED COUNCIL CHRISTMAS EVENT IN CAROLINE SPRINGS

Author: Heidi Taylor - Coordinator Events and Culture
Presenter: Luke Shannon - Acting General Manager Corporate Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To outline the recommended approach for providing an additional Council-delivered Christmas event in the eastern corridor.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1) Plan and deliver an annual Christmas event in Caroline Springs (in addition to the Carols by Candlelight event held annually at Hannah Watts Park, Melton).
2) Withdraw the recurrent funding commitment for the community-run Christmas event in Caroline Springs, notify INChurch accordingly and redirect funding to the Council-run event.
3) That INChurch, along with other community groups be invited to participate in the Council-run event
4) Continue to provide $10,000 in recurrent funding to Lions Club of Diggers Rest to support its local Carols by Candlelight event.

REPORT

1. Executive Summary

Melton City Council has a proud track record in running a safe and diverse mix of community events, while also facilitating the community to run their own events. As part of its major event program, Council delivers an annual Carols by Candlelight event at Hannah Watts Park, Melton.

Council also currently provides financial support to two community organisations for the provision of non-profit community Carols events in Caroline Springs and Diggers Rest.

Following a hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and in response to Councillor feedback, Council officers have reviewed the existing program and are recommending Council host two Christmas events within the municipality, one in Melton and one in the eastern corridor.

This report provides context around the Christmas events currently delivered or funded by Council, considers recurrent funding commitments to community groups to hold their own Christmas events, and proposes that Council deliver an additional event in Caroline Springs from 2022 onwards.

2. Background/Issues

In 2014, as part of its major event program, Council delivered its first municipal Carols by Candlelight event at Hannah Watts Park, Melton. The approved budget for this event is $80,000.

Council's Christmas Carols by Candlelight event attracts up to 5,000 community members. Amateur community and schools perform prior to a professional program, which includes an appearance from Santa. The event has shown strong growth since its inception and has returned consistently positive feedback from attendees.

As a result of endorsed Notice of Motions, Council also provides recurrent funding of $40,000 to INChurch, and $10,000 to the Lions Club of Diggers Rest, for the purpose of running their own Carols by Candlelight events.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 3 April 2017 via Notice of Motion 443, it was resolved that "commencing Christmas 2017 Council financially support up to $40,000 'In Church', or in their absence an alternate community organisation, to provide a community level 'Carols by Candlelight' event in Caroline Springs."

Notice of Motion 649 was carried at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 19 August 2019, where Council resolved "to commit to $10,000 recurrent funding for Diggers Rest Carols by Candlelight".

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no in person carols events were held in the municipality in 2020.

In 2021, Council received a request from INChurch for support towards its carols live streaming event. Due to the fact that Council determined it would hold an online Carols event for the municipality in light of lockdown restrictions, in September 2021 Council advised INChurch that it would not provide funding for its proposed online Carols event. INChurch was invited to participate in the online event, which they accepted.

Following a hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and in response to Councillor feedback, Council officers have reviewed the existing program and are recommending Council host two Christmas events within the municipality, one in Melton and one in Caroline Springs.

The Melton event will retain its current format, whilst a new event in Caroline Springs would feature a community performance stage, a twilight Christmas market and roving entertainment for families. The new Christmas event is proposed to be held as a twilight event on a Friday evening in the lead up to Christmas. Council would invite performers from local schools, community, and Christian groups to participate in the community performance stage programming. The proposed twilight Christmas market will comprise of 40-50 market stalls selling Christmas related items or gifts. In addition to the community stage, entertainment may also include photos with Santa, carollers, roving elves and a stage MC. Styling for the event would remain traditional with Christmas tree and decorations for trees within the park. Lake Caroline has been identified as a suitable venue to host the Christmas event.

Should Council resolve to deliver its own Christmas event in Caroline Springs, it is recommended that Council withdraws its financial commitment to INChurch, and redirects funding to the Council-run event. INChurch could be invited to participate in the Council-run event to be held at Lake Caroline.

It is recommended that Council continue provide recurrent funding of $10,000 to the Lions Club of Diggers Rest to support its local Carols by Candlelight event.

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

   1.3 Local neighbourhoods are socially and culturally connected.

4. Financial Considerations

It is estimated that the additional Council Christmas event would cost approximately $50,000. Council currently contributes $40,000 towards the INChurch Carols by Candlelight event. This recurrent funding could be redirected to fund the new Council-delivered Christmas event. If adopted, it is estimated that there would be a $10,000 overrun on this program area, which would be accommodated within the existing department operating budget.

5. Consultation/Public Submissions

No public consultation was undertaken in preparing this report.

6. Risk Analysis

The following potential risk has been identified:

- Negative coverage from the public resulting from the cancellation of recurrent funding to a community organisation.

7. Options

Option 1

1) Plan and deliver an annual Christmas event in Caroline Springs, (in addition to the Carols by Candlelight event held in Melton).
2) Withdraw the recurrent funding commitments for the community-run Christmas event in Caroline Springs and notify INChurch accordingly. Invite INChurch to be part of the new Christmas event in Caroline Springs, alongside other Christian groups and local schools.
3) Continue to provide $10,000 in recurrent funding to the Lions Club of Diggers Rest to support its Carols by Candlelight event.

Option 2

1) Continue with existing arrangements of providing recurrent funding of $40,000 and $10,000 to INChurch and Lions Club of Diggers Rest, respectively, for the purpose of running their own Carols by Candlelight events and not deliver a Council-run Christmas event in Caroline Springs.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Nil

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 829 (CR DEEMING)

Councillor: Moira Deeming

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the meeting of Council to be held on Monday 15 August 2022.

MOTION:

That Council write to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, The Honourable Lily D'Ambrosio MP, and to the Sustainability Fund Committee at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to seek confirmation as to:

1. whether the recommendations of the Victoria Auditor General made in his report issued in July 2018 entitled "Managing the Municipal and Industrial Landfill Levy" have been addressed and accommodated in respect to the Municipal and Industrial Waste Levy (MIWL);
2. whether only $44 million of the $320 million of MIWL collected in 2020-21 was allocated to the Sustainability Fund administered by DELWP.

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OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council officers will action in accordance with the Notice of Motion, subject to Council decision.

14.2 NOTICE OF MOTION 830 (CR DEEMING)

Councillor: Moira Deeming

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the meeting of Council to be held on Monday 15 August 2022.

MOTION:

That Officers prepare a costed report into becoming a member of the Alliance for Gambling Reform.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council officers will action in accordance with the Notice of Motion, subject to Council decision.

14.3 NOTICE OF MOTION 831 (CR SHANNON)

Councillor: Julie Shannon

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Meeting of Council to be held on 15 August 2022.

MOTION:

That Council write to the Honourable Danny Pearson, Minister for Housing and to the Honourable Colin Brooks, Minister for Child Protection and Family Services to support advocacy to increase Housing Transition Support funding and Integrated Family Services funding for Melton City Council.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council officers will action in accordance with the Notice of Motion, subject to Council decision.

14.4 NOTICE OF MOTION 832 (CR ABBOUSHI)

Councillor: Steven Abboushi

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Meeting of Council to be held on 15 August 2022.

MOTION:

That Council write to the Minister for Education and the Department of Education to raise concerns of increasing capacity of Rockbank Primary School with no consideration of internal parking for staff.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council officers will action in accordance with the Notice of Motion, subject to Council decision.

14.5 NOTICE OF MOTION 833 (CR ABBOUSHI)

Councillor: Steven Abboushi

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Meeting of Council to be held on 15 August 2022.

MOTION:

That Officers investigate options, and report to Council, on opportunities to increase street parking along Westcott Parade, Rockbank, including associated costs and refer to budget deliberations in 2023.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council officers will action in accordance with the Notice of Motion, subject to Council decision.

14.6 NOTICE OF MOTION 834 (CR RAMSEY)

Councillor: Sophie Ramsey

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Meeting of Council to be held on 15 August 2022.

MOTION:

That Council request officers prepare a report to Council on the timeframe for revision of Council's Local Laws and that consideration be given to inclusion of a 'Hooning' by law.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council officers will action in accordance with the Notice of Motion, subject to Council decision.

14.7 NOTICE OF MOTION 835 (CR RAMSEY)

Councillor: Sophie Ramsey

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Meeting of Council to be held on 15 August 2022.

MOTION:

That Officers prepare a briefing of Council to inform Councillors of condition audit process and outcomes regarding existing community and sporting facilities/grounds and parks and how this information is used to inform the Draft Capital Program for future years, with focus on older facilities of the municipality.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council officers will action in accordance with the Notice of Motion, subject to Council decision.

14.8 NOTICE OF MOTION 836 (CR RAMSEY)

Councillor: Sophie Ramsey

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Meeting of Council to be held on 15 August 2022.

MOTION:

That Council write to the Honourable Gayle Tierney MP, Minister for Training and Skills, and to local members of Parliament to seek an update on the TAFE Business Case funded in the 2021/2022 Victorian State Budget.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council officers will action in accordance with the Notice of Motion, subject to Council decision.

14.9 NOTICE OF MOTION 837 (CR RAMSEY)

Councillor: Sophie Ramsey

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Meeting of Council to be held on 15 August 2022.

MOTION:

That Council request officers prepare a report to Council that outlines identified gaps in health for the City of Melton and opportunities to explore key areas for collaboration and advocacy, including consideration of Council hosting a networking breakfast for health related businesses.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council officers will action in accordance with the Notice of Motion, subject to Council decision.

14.10 NOTICE OF MOTION 838 (CR SHANNON)

Councillor: Julie Shannon

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 15 August 2022.

MOTION:

That Council write to the Victorian State Government, The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas, Minister for Health and The Hon Melissa Horne, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation in regards to following in the footsteps of the Western Australian Government and advocating for the removal of all illegal Vapes from any place selling or distributing them throughout the municipality.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council officers will action in accordance with the Notice of Motion, subject to Council decision.

14.11 NOTICE OF MOTION 839 (CR ABBOUSHI)

Councillor: Steven Abboushi

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Meeting of Council to be held on 15 August 2022.

MOTION:

That Council undertake a strategy paper on all Rugby codes to assess the current and future needs (participation levels and infrastructure requirements) of the sport in the City of Melton, and include recommendations on where Council plans or can further develop rectangle pitches for the codes (including the reallocation of existing sportsgrounds if appropriate) for all rugby codes in the City.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council officers will action in accordance with the Notice of Motion, subject to Council decision.

14.12 NOTICE OF MOTION 840 (CR VANDENBERG)

Councillor: Ashleigh Vandenberg

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 15 August 2022.

MOTION:

That officers prepare a costed report for the installation of Seal the Loop bins at popular fishing areas in the City of Melton.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council officers will action in accordance with the Notice of Motion, subject to Council decision.

14.13 NOTICE OF MOTION 841 (CR VANDENBERG)

Councillor: Ashleigh Vandenberg

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 15 August 2022.

MOTION:

That Council write to the Honourable Jacinta Allan, Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport Infrastructure; the Honourable Ben Carroll, Minister for Public Transport, Minister for Roads and Road Safety; the Honourable Lizzie Blandthorn, Minister for Planning; Steve McGhie, Member for Melton, requesting the following level crossings be in included in future level crossing removal projects:

- Ferris Road level crossing,
- Station Road and Exford Road level crossing,
- Coburns Road and Rees Road level crossing.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council officers will action in accordance with the Notice of Motion, subject to Council decision.

14.14 NOTICE OF MOTION 842 (CR VANDENBERG)

Councillor: Ashleigh Vandenberg

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 15 August 2022.

MOTION:

That Council write to:

1. the Honourable Amanda Rishworth MP, Minister for Social Services; and the Honourable Bill Shorten MP, Minister for Government Services; with copies to the Honourable Sam Rae, Member for Hawke and the Honourable Brendan O'Connor Member for Gorton, to review the existing Rental Assistance Payment model, and develop a new model that is more in line with current housing costs; and
2. the Honourable Julie Collins MP, Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness; and the Honourable Justine Elliot MP, Assistant Minister for Social Services and Assistant Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, with copies to the Honourable Sam Rae, Member for Hawke and the Honourable Brendan O'Connor Member for Gorton, to develop a federal housing strategy to address housing needs.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council officers will action in accordance with the Notice of Motion, subject to Council decision.

14.15 NOTICE OF MOTION 843 (CR VANDENBERG)

Councillor: Ashleigh Vandenberg

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 15 August 2022

MOTION:

That Council officers investigate the construction of a school crossing, footpath, and a right turn lane, on Rees Road Melton South near Al Iman College, and provide a report to Council with the findings and indicative costs.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

Council officers will action in accordance with the Notice of Motion, subject to Council decision.

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 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting - Unconfirmed Minutes 3 August 2022
(e) as it relates to legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies.

17.2 Plumpton Aquatic Centre
(a) and (c) as it relates to Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released; AND land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values.

18. CLOSE OF BUSINESS