



FISHERMANS BEND - INTEGRATED PROPOSAL FOR OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Council endorsement for officers to develop a detailed open space and recreation delivery plan for Fishermans Bend, building on the existing strategic work led by the State Government in recent years.
- 1.2 To seek Council approval for \$51,500 of funding to be allocated in the current 21/22FY to fast-track the start of the integrated water management analysis and Open Space and Recreation planning.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Context

- 2.1 The Fishermans Bend Framework (the Framework), approved by the State Government in 2018, is the overarching long term strategic plan for the development of Fishermans Bend through to 2050.
- 2.2 The Framework proposes to increase public open space and implement integrated water management initiatives to reduce the impact of storm and flood events and support residents. This is complimented by a series of parks, plazas and linear parks dedicated to passive recreation, water management, events, activations and active transport.
- 2.3 Significant development, focused on Montague, is underway in Fishermans Bend.
- 2.4 Given the pressure Council is now experiencing from sporting clubs for upgrades to key existing open spaces in the precinct and for access to future open space, further detailed planning and design work is required to inform Council's response to future proposals from clubs and the State Government on Fishermans Bend.
- 2.5 Council has agreed to advocate to increase the level of funding directed to open space land acquisition and embellishment for sport, recreation and integrated water



management facilities as well as streetscape projects that incorporate integrated water management features. At the 1 December 2021 ordinary meeting, Council endorsed Victorian and Federal Government election commitments including for JL Murphy Reserve and for the North Port Oval Redevelopment. A copy of this election commitment is Attachment 1. There are currently no election commitments seeking funding for redevelopment or embellishment of other open spaces in Fishermans Bend. Informal advocacy and formal advocacy at State Appointed consultative processes require updated service planning on Open Space and Recreation.

- 2.6 Council officers have developed a pipeline of potential upgrades and investment for sport and recreation facilities in JL Murphy Reserve over the next five (5) years to manage existing demand. This will be considered as part of Council's budget process for the 22/23FY. This includes minor capital works upgrades linked to the FIFA Women's World Cup announcement that are proposed for design and delivery in the next financial year.
- 2.7 Water management is a major challenge in Fishermans Bend. Many of Council's streets and parks including the expanded and new open spaces proposed in the Framework and streetscapes will need to incorporate stormwater detention tanks, stormwater harvesting, water sensitive urban design, large canopy trees and vegetated areas.

Proposed response

- 2.8 It is proposed that Council fast-track strategic and service planning work to understand community and club demand for open space and recreation and club facility priorities in Fishermans Bend beyond the next five years. This work is intended to:
 - Incorporate the integrated water management analysis for Fishermans Bend
 - Be informed by sport and recreation planning principles that will assist in prioritising the competing demands and expectations of the community and sporting clubs.
- 2.9 Completing the open space and recreation planning and the Integrated Water Analysis will:
- 2.10 Strengthen Council's advocacy with the Federal and State government for integrated water management facilities and for the early provision and embellishment of new and expanded open spaces in Fishermans Bend. (Proposed Prohasky and Wirraway North reserves; Montague North reserve, North Port Oval Redevelopment election)
- 2.11 Inform Council responses to proposals for the design and/ or use of Council managed open spaces in Fishermans Bend.
- 2.12 Provide Council with a clear longer-term view of open space priorities and the preferred staging and location of new recreational and distributed water storage facilities to address the needs of the growing Fishermans Bend community;
- 2.13 Enable Council to ensure the precinct implementation plans for Sandridge and Wirraway, incorporate the council and community priorities for open space.



Additional funding required in 2021/22

- 2.14 This work was not originally considered as part of the budget for the 21/22FY as there was uncertainty around the State Government's timing for Fishermans Bend. The Port Melbourne Soccer Club proposal in late 2021 marked an increase in the level of sophistication and quality in sports club proposals, highlighting the likelihood of competing demands into the future and need for a more structured framework for Council responses.
- 2.15 An additional \$51,500 is needed for this work in the current 21/22 FY. This work will carry over into the 22/23 FY with the balance to be funded through the existing allocation for the 22/23FY Fishermans Bend Program.



3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Undertake strategic and service planning work to understand community and club demand for open space and recreation and club facility priorities in Fishermans Bend.
- 3.2 Adopts the Sport and Recreation planning principles, detailed below:
 - Facilitate a strategic approach to the provision of sport and active recreation facilities that promotes inclusiveness, is fair and equitable and accessible to all groups in the community now and in the future
 - Minimal impact to clubs with phasing that ensures new facilities are complete before current facilities are redeveloped
 - Impacted clubs experience an increased level of service after each phase
 - Ensure the community is supported through access and allocation of open space for both formal and informal recreation spaces as a priority over commercial elite sport.
 - All multi-purpose and flexible (ovals, rectangles and courts)
 - Facilitate shared club use and improved community access
 - Direct and legible active transport connections are prioritised
 - Space is provided for passive, community and informal sport uses
 - Consideration of synthetic and hybrid surfaces to increase hours of use
 - Managed risk of building within service easements
 - Continuance of some marginally undersized ovals (i.e. these ovals do not meet SSA Guidelines but can cater for junior level competition).
- 3.3 Endorses preparation of an additional Victorian Government election commitment for the early purchase, expansion and embellishment of open spaces and recreational facilities within Fishermans Bend.
- 3.4 Notes the Port Melbourne Soccer Club's proposal, for elite club sport facilities, will be considered as part of the service and strategic planning work including the proposal's alignment with the sport and recreation planning principles.
- 3.5 Approves the allocation of \$20,000 in the current 21/22FY to fast-track the commencement of the integrated water management consultancy.
- 3.6 Approves the allocation of \$31,500 in the current 21/22FY to fast-track the open space and recreation service planning for Fishermans Bend as soon as possible.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Context

- 4.1 The Fishermans Bend Framework (the Framework), approved by the State Government in 2018, is the overarching long term strategic plan for the development of



Fishermans Bend through to 2050. The Framework designates five precincts, including Montague, Sandridge and Wirraway in the City of Port Phillip and Lorimer and the Employment Precinct in the City of Melbourne. Precinct Implementation Plans are currently being prepared by the State Government for these precincts.

- 4.2 The intent is to transform Fishermans Bend from a primarily industrial area to a high density residential and mixed-use precinct with approximately 80,000 new residents and 80,000 new jobs by 2050.
- 4.3 To support this growth the Framework designates the delivery of one sport and recreation hub in each of the Capital City Zoned precincts, and 120 hectares of diverse and accessible public open spaces across Fishermans Bend as illustrated in the figure below.

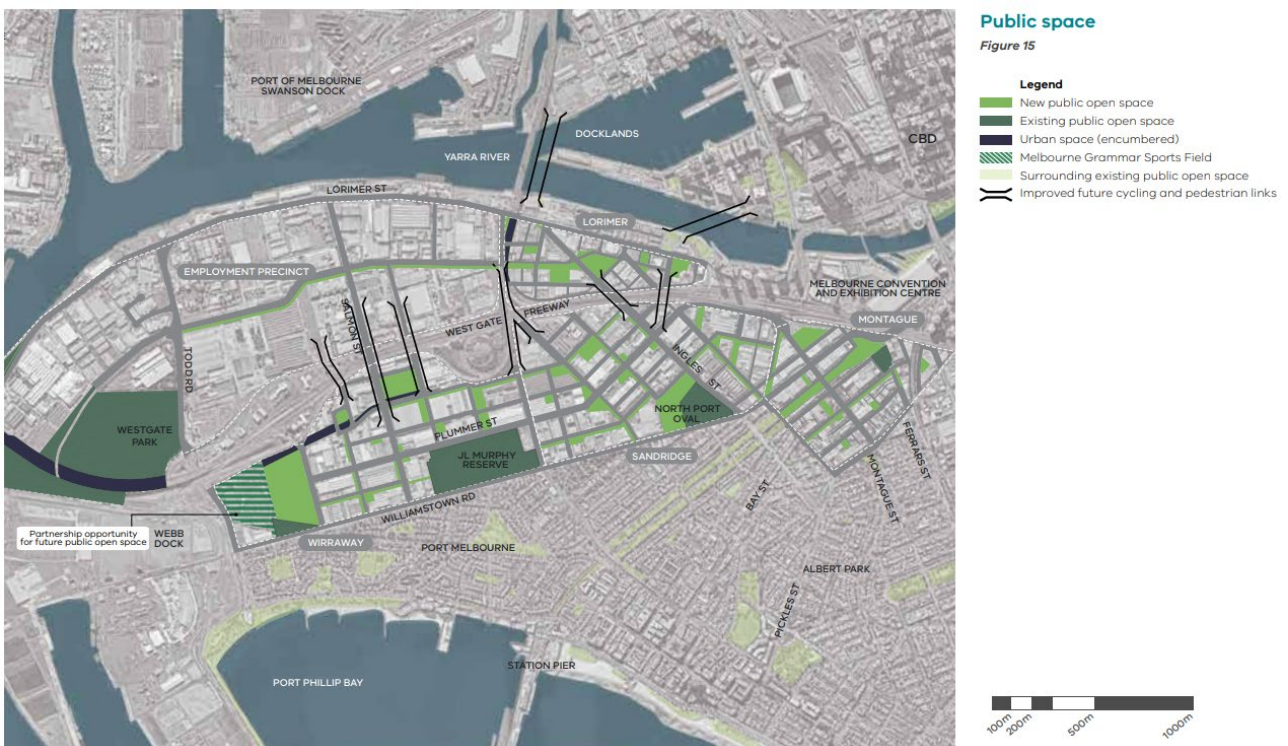


Figure 1 – Proposed public space identified in the Fishermans Bend Framework, 2018

- 4.4 There are four key recreation reserves proposed in Montague, Sandridge and Wirraway, including Prohasky Reserve and Wirraway North in Wirraway, the expanded North Port Oval Precinct (both expanded open space and sport and recreation hub) in Sandridge and Montague North Park in Montague.
- 4.5 These new open spaces are intended to complement the four existing public open spaces in Montague, Sandridge and Wirraway which accommodate a variety of uses and user groups, JL Murphy Reserve and Elder Smith Reserve in Wirraway, North Port Oval in Sandridge and Kirrip Park delivered in 2016 by Council in partnership with the State Government in Montague.

Fishermans Bend Framework Targets

4.6 The Framework 2018 established a number of targets to guide the redevelopment including:

- Tree planting to deliver 50% urban forest canopy coverage in public spaces
- Reductions in nutrient discharges from storm water and effluent into Port Phillip Bay, including 80% reduction in Total Suspended Solids (grit etc);
- 25 megalitres of stormwater diverted through distributed water storage in streetscapes and open spaces (all precincts including Lorimer, but not the Employment Precinct).
- Design outcomes that reduce the impact of storm and flood events and sea level rises.

Development activity across Fishermans Bend

4.7 Significant development is underway in Fishermans Bend particularly in the Montague Precinct. Figure 2 shows current development in Fishermans Bend.

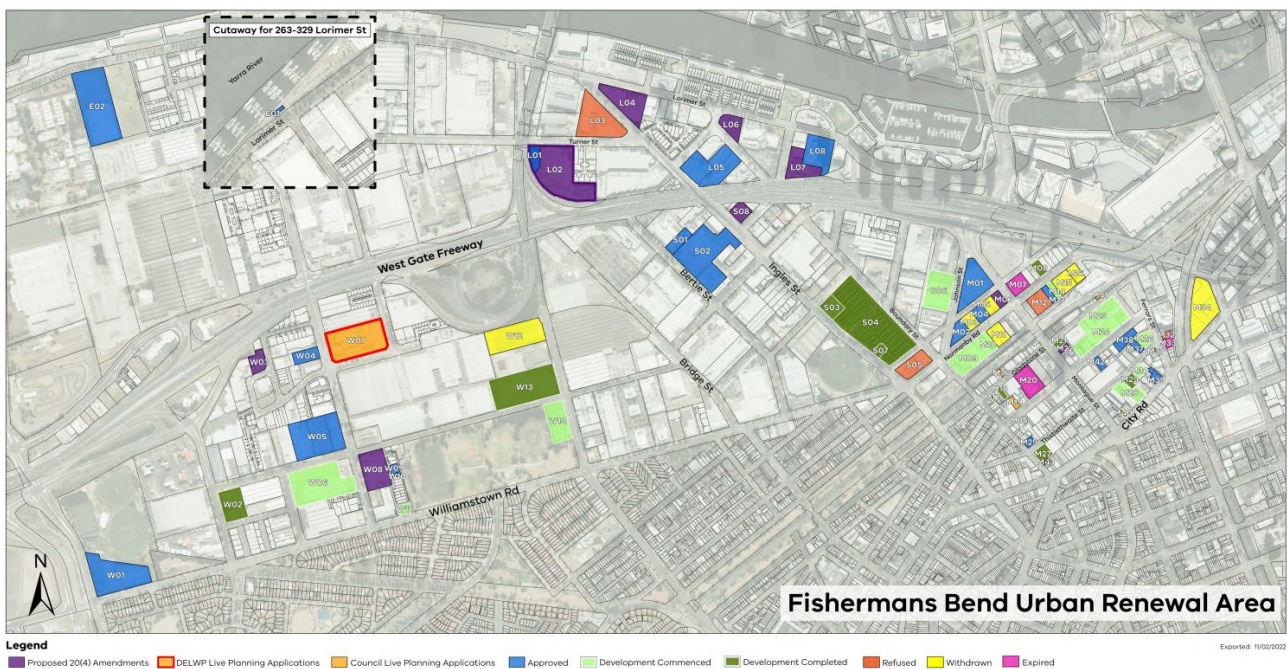


Figure 2 – Development in Fishermans Bend – February 2022

4.8 Across the four Fishermans Bend Precincts:

- Fifteen projects have been completed with 1,263 dwellings, 18,782 square metres of commercial floor area, 6 affordable housing dwellings and approximately 2,400 new residents;
- Six projects under construction with 1,570 dwellings, 27,800 sq metres of commercial floor area, 70 affordable housing dwellings and approximately and approx. 2,980 residents.



- 21 other projects approved, but not yet commenced with a total of 7,600 dwellings, 185,000 sq metres of commercial floor area, approximately 180 affordable and social housing dwellings and 14,500 residents.
- Eight applications under consideration with a total of 3,560 dwellings, 85,600 square metres of commercial floor area and approximately 221 affordable and social housing dwellings and 7,000 residents.

Only five of the above approvals and applications are outside of City of Port Phillip.

Council's Election Commitments for Fishermans Bend Open Space

4.9 At the 1 December 2021 Ordinary Meeting of Council, Council endorsed Victorian Government election commitments for funding to upgrade Pitch 3 at JL Murphy Reserve to become a synthetic pitch, and the North Port Oval Redevelopment as a shared Victorian Government and Federal government election commitment. This election commitment request is Attachment 1. There are no election commitments seeking redevelopment of the other open spaces across Fishermans Bend.

Current usage of JL Murphy Reserve

4.10 JL Murphy Reserve is a major public space at Fishermans Ben and is predominantly used for recreation and active sport. The tenant clubs at JL Murphy are:

- Middle Park Football (Soccer) Club
- Port Melbourne Baseball Club
- Port Melbourne Colts Football Club
- Port Melbourne Colts Junior Football Club
- Port Melbourne Cricket Club
- Port Melbourne Sharks Soccer Club

4.11 Capital works at the site have been delayed while the Fisherman's Bend planning has been underway. This has meant that many of the sporting fields at JL Murphy Reserve are now in need of upgrades to ensure they are safe and fit for purpose.

4.12 JL Murphy Reserve has been selected as a training facility for the FIFA Women's World Cup in July to August 2023. Council officers are currently working to understand the minor capital works needed on the pavilion to ensure that the facilities are fit for purpose.

Current Pressures and Future Challenges

4.13 There are significant pressures on the existing public open spaces within Fishermans Bend and all are at or nearing capacity. JL Murphy Reserve in particular is experiencing high usage from sporting clubs, community sport, the new school and growing informal recreation by community members.

4.14 Council officers are managing the aspirations of the various clubs who have proposals for various developments at JL Murphy Reserve, North Port Oval or surrounds (including Port Melbourne Football Club, Port Melbourne Soccer Club, Port Melbourne Baseball Club, Middle Park Soccer Club) to increase their exclusive use of these open



spaces and/or the quality of club facilities. This includes the recent proposal by the Port Melbourne Sharks Soccer Club.

- 4.15 Council's recently endorsed Places for People: Public Space Strategy 2022 – 2032 (Public Space Strategy) did not include Fishermans Bend as Fishermans Bend would be considered as part of Council's input into precinct implementation plans developed by the State Government.
- 4.16 The Public Space Strategy include a prioritisation process and criteria for delivering its seven city-wide public spaces outcomes but there is no similar guidance for the provision, access to and operation of Council's sport and recreational facilities.
- 4.17 Water management in Fishermans Bend will require that many of Council's parks and streetscapes incorporate stormwater detention tanks, stormwater harvesting, water sensitive urban design, large canopy trees and vegetated areas, and changes to levels and design of streetscapes and public spaces.
- 4.18 Council officers have contributed to the development of the Fishermans Bend Framework in 2018 through the Planning Panel process, background strategies and service planning including the Fishermans Bend Public Space Strategy and Community Infrastructure Planning in 2017.

Proposed Response

- 4.19 Council Officers are proposing to respond to the above pressures and opportunities by:
 - 4.19.1 Adopting the proposed Sport and Recreation planning principles, detailed in this report to guide future considerations and decision-making.
 - 4.19.2 Bringing forward integrated water management analysis, using Council's updated flood model, to quantify the distributed water storage and water quality functions the streetscapes and open spaces in Fishermans Bend will need to perform to deliver the Framework targets.
 - 4.19.3 Preparing an additional Victorian Government election commitment for the early purchasing of the new open spaces identified in the Framework and embellishment of these new open spaces and provision of recreational facilities to support community sport and the growing Fishermans Bend population.

Proposed Sport and Recreation Planning Principles

- 4.20 Establishing an agreed set of sport and recreation planning principles will assist Council to manage the competing demands and expectations of sporting clubs including Port Melbourne Soccer Club.
- 4.21 The following planning principles for sport and recreation planning in Fishermans Bend have been prepared to guide further work and support consistent decision making by Council:
 - Facilitate a strategic approach to the provision of sport and active recreation facilities that promotes inclusiveness, is fair and equitable and accessible to all groups in the community now and in the future



- Minimal impact to clubs with phasing that ensures new facilities are complete before current facilities are redeveloped
- Impacted clubs experience an increased level of service after each phase
- Ensure the community is supported through access and allocation of open space for both formal and informal recreation spaces as a priority over commercial elite sport.
- All multi-purpose and flexible (ovals, rectangles and courts)
- Facilitate shared club use and improved community access
- Direct and legible active transport connections are prioritised
- Space is provided for passive, community and informal sport uses
- Consideration of synthetic and hybrid surfaces to increase hours of use
- Managed risk of building within service easements
- Continuance of some marginally undersized ovals (i.e. These ovals do not meet SSA Guidelines but can cater for junior level competition).

Scope of Required Analysis and Planning

- 4.22 The initial urgency for this Open Space and Recreation planning and integrated water management analysis is to respond to competing demands from sporting clubs and to support Council's advocacy.
- 4.23 The scope of this work spread across a number of distinct phases is detailed as follows.

Phase 1A – Assessing the water storage requirements for open spaces and streets

- 4.24 Integrated water management analysis will focus on existing and new open spaces, and streetscapes to identify where and how much distributed water storage is required in these spaces, to determine the useable areas of open new/ existing open spaces across Fishermans Bend to inform the open space and recreation (OSR) planning.
- 4.25 This will be an input into the development of precinct implementation plans and update Council's flood modelling and preparation of its Local Streets Toolkit (streetscape designs), which being progressed through the Fishermans Bend Program.

Phase 1B – Planning for Fishermans Bend Growth

- (a) **OSR Service Planning:** This involves establishing the current and open space and sport and recreation provision, confirming growth projections and undertaking service planning to determine the required sport and recreation facilities, including the indicative location and layout of these facilities. This work will be completed to deliver Framework and other targets.
- (b) **Devising the Key Moves:** Identifying the moves across existing and proposed open spaces to deliver open space and sport and recreation projects in priority order. This will be informed by the principles in Council's recently adopted *Places*



for People: Public Space Strategy 2022 – 2032, the Sport and Recreation planning principles included in this report and the Framework and other strategies.

Phase 2 – Reconciling the proposed key moves with the State

Reconciling OSR service planning and key moves (new open spaces, facilities and changes to existing open spaces and the facilities) with the State Government.

Phase 3 – Refining and Design Development

Embed the OSR planning through the State Government led development of the Sandridge and Wirraway Precinct Implementation Plans.

- 4.26 The work through each of the phases is intended to be consistent with Council's endorsed Public Space Strategy, the proposed Sport and Recreational planning principles and environmental performance targets contained in the Fishermans Bend Framework and supporting strategies.

Additional Council funding required in 2021/22

- 4.27 The integrated water management analysis is specialised in nature and cannot be undertaken by Council. There are no existing resources within Council to complete the OSR planning and prioritisation work within the required timeframes.
- 4.28 To address current demands and to influence the future precinct planning, work needs to commence in the current 21/22 FY with an additional \$51,500. This work will carry over into the 22/23 FY for completion. The balance can be funded through the Fishermans Bend Program 22/23FY.

Benefits of the Proposed Response

- 4.29 Commencing open space and recreation planning work, in tandem with integrated water management analysis for Fishermans Bend will strengthen Council's advocacy for Fishermans Bend and as inputs into the precinct implementation plans for the Montague, Sandridge and Wirraway precincts.
- 4.30 Completing the necessary open space and recreation planning, prioritisation and preliminary designs for Fishermans Bend and incorporating the findings of the Integrated Water Analysis will:
- 4.30.1 Strengthen Council's advocacy for sufficient State Government funding for open space and integrated water management facilities in Fishermans Bend and limit the funding required from Council;
 - 4.30.2 Inform Council responses to unsolicited proposals for the design and/ or use of Council managed open spaces in Fishermans Bend.
 - 4.30.3 Enable integrated planning for new and existing open spaces for recreation, sport and sustainability outcomes;
 - 4.30.4 Provide a long-term view of open space priorities, staging and location in response to the needs of the growing Fishermans Bend community;



5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 As the work is progressed, consultation with the State Government and City of Melbourne will be undertaken through the governance structure established through the Fishermans Bend Partnership Agreement. This is to ensure the outcomes of this work are adopted into the Precinct Implementation Plans for Montague, Sandridge and Wirraway.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 If the consultancy and open space and recreation planning work is not undertaken and the sport and recreation planning principles not adopted, the Council's risks will increase in responding to unsolicited proposals from sports clubs and others. This includes the Port Melbourne Soccer Club proposal to fully utilise the future Prohasky Reserve for commercial elite sport received in late 2021, and the Port Melbourne Secondary College requesting use of JL Murphy Reserve for sports classes and overflow use at lunchtimes. Beyond these proposed schools may pursue access to Council open spaces.
- 6.2 If the consultancy and open space and recreation planning work is not undertaken, there are possible missed opportunities for external funding.
- 6.3 There is a risk to Council that new or upgraded public open spaces and recreation facilities will not meet the needs of the growing Fishermans Bend population, may not address the flood prone nature of Fishermans Bend and may not meeting the Framework targets.
- 6.4 Progressing this work assists in managing the strategic risk identified by Council for Fishermans Bend:
- **Funding and Finance** - Infrastructure required to support the redevelopment is inadequately funded and/or costs inappropriately apportioned between different levels of government and development, potentially leading to negative impacts on development viability, financial risks or inter-generational equity issues.
- 6.5 Fast tracking this work is also intended to help manage the other strategic risks for Council related to the Fishermans Bend renewal:
- **Strategic Outcomes** – Endorsed strategic outcomes are not achieved within desired timeframes, or at all due to lack of commitment to infrastructure or service provision, insufficient planning provisions or other non-planning scheme related policy levers.
 - **Market Confidence, Brand, Placemaking and Transition** - Growth/investment does not proceed as planned due to a lack of investment confidence, a failure to adequately fund and/or leverage catalytic investment to unlock development potential, create a sense of place, or a failure to adequately manage the transition from industrial to a mixed-use area.
 - **Reputation** - Governance arrangements fail to adequately manage the above three risks creating reputational risk for the Partners within the community and the private sector.



7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 This work was not originally considered as part of the budget for the 21/22FY. The 21/22FY for the Fishermans Bend Program has been fully allocated.
- 7.2 To address current demands and to be ready to influence the direction of future precinct planning, work needs to commence in the current 21/22 FY with an additional \$51,500.
- 7.3 The integrated water management analysis will involve a consultancy that runs across the 21/22 and 22/23 financial years with an estimated value of \$80,000. Should Council want this work to progress, a \$20,000 budget allocation will need to be funded by Council this financial year. The remaining \$60,000 can be funded as part of the Fishermans Bend Program in 22/23 FY.
- 7.4 Completing the longer-term open space planning, will require an additional temporary resource for 12-months. Should Council want to progress this work, a \$31,500 budget allocation will need to be funded by Council this financial year. The 10-month balance of this fixed term role totalling \$118,750 is proposed to be funded as part of the Fishermans Bend Program in 22/23 FY.
- 7.5 As a rolling program, the Fishermans Bend Program has a \$300,000 funding allocation in the 22/23FY. The work of the OSR Planner will include identifying external funding and grant opportunities.
- 7.6 Since 2016, Council has invested \$10.3million in upgrades to the existing open spaces and the establishment of Kirrip Park using Open Space Contributions.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 Significant investment in infrastructure will be required to ensure that Fishermans Bend adapts to the challenges of climate change, particularly flooding and sea level rise, and to implement greening and water management infrastructure in our streets and public spaces that are necessary to create a safe and healthy community.
- 8.2 The State Government has set ambitious goals to reduce flood risks, improve water quality, minimise potable water use and increase canopy cover for Fishermans Bend to become Australia's largest Green Star community. To achieve these goals, many of Council's parks and streetscapes will be required to incorporate stormwater detention tanks, stormwater harvesting, water sensitive urban design, large canopy trees and vegetated areas, changes to levels and design of streetscapes and public spaces.
- 8.3 A key focus of the OSR planning for Fishermans Bend will be to deliver sustainability benefits, including the targets in the Framework and anticipated Water Sensitive City Strategy for Fishermans Bend. This will involve integrating Water Sensitive City principles, protecting existing areas of biodiversity, planting trees and encouraging urban cooling.
- 8.4 Integrating the distributed water storage requirements with the open space and recreation planning is intended to provide more feasible solutions to managing the environmental challenges in Fishermans Bend whilst also providing expanded facilities for the growing Fishermans Bend community.



- 8.5 Early consideration will be given to the appropriateness of synthetic and hybrid surfaces given the flood prone nature of Fishermans Bend, the anticipated use of part of the open spaces in Fishermans Bend for distributed water storage to assist in dealing with storm and flood events and the durability of different surfaces to manage continued high usage from sporting clubs and community access.
- 8.6 Through the planning process significant consideration will be given for both synthetic and hybrid surfaces from a water usage and permeability perspective as synthetic surfaces have a much lower water requirement than both natural turf and hybrid surfaces, which is beneficial to meeting Council's potable water use targets (203 ML/y by the year 2028).
- 8.7 Water management is a major challenge in Fishermans Bend that will require many of Council's parks and streetscapes to incorporate stormwater detention tanks, stormwater harvesting, water sensitive urban design, large canopy trees and vegetated areas, and changes to levels and design of streetscapes and public spaces.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The proposed sport and recreation planning principles are intended to assist in managing the competing the demands from the commercial elite, community sport and broader community access to open spaces and recreational facilities by the Port Philip community.
- 9.2 Providing well considered, designed and durable public open spaces and sport and recreation facilities in Fishermans Bend will be critical to ensuring the health and wellbeing of the growing Fishermans Bend community.
- 9.3 If this planning work is not undertaken, there is a risk that new or upgraded public open space and sport and recreation facilities will not respond to the forecast population growth in Fishermans Bend.
- 9.4 Without the ability to grow and develop, there is a risk to the health and wellbeing of future generations because of the limitations to participation.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 Providing high quality sport and recreation facilities and public open spaces in Fishermans Bend delivers on the Liveable Strategic Direction of the Council Plan 2021 – 2031 'Port Phillip is a great place to live, where our community has access to high quality public spaces, development and growth are well managed, and it is safer and easy to connect and travel with'. The Council Plan 2021-2031 key outcomes for Recreation and Open Space include the following service profile statements:
 - Providing high quality and unique parks, open spaces and foreshore for the enjoyment of our community and visitors
 - Plan, deliver and activate sport, recreation and open space facilities and services to create community health and wellbeing.
- 10.2 The scope of Council's recently endorsed Places for People: Public Space Strategy 2022 – 2032 (Public Space Strategy) excluded Fishermans Bend and does not include any specific actions for Fishermans Bend. However, it does include key moves for Council to advocate to, and partner with, the Victorian Government for:



- Improving the quality and diversity of the four existing public open spaces
- Early delivery of key open spaces within Fishermans Bend to respond to population growth
- Improved connectivity between public space in Fishermans Bend, South Melbourne and Port Melbourne
- Delivering high quality public spaces with a range of uses and functions to meet the needs of the future community.

The Strategy does include a prioritisation process and criteria for delivering its seven city-wide outcomes for its public spaces but there is not yet similar guidance for the provision, access to and operation of Council's sport and recreational facilities.

- 10.3 Council's vision in the Sport and Recreation Strategy 2015- 2024 is to foster an 'engaged and connected community that utilise the large and diverse network of local sport and recreation opportunities, to achieve their health and wellbeing goals'.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

- 11.1.1 Procure required consultants/ resources – May 2022
- 11.1.2 Initiate water analysis and service planning – June 2022
- 11.1.3 Finalise integrated water analysis – Late 2022
- 11.1.4 Finalise open space and recreation planning – Mid 2023

11.2 COMMUNICATION

- 11.2.1 The benefits to the City of Port Phillip from completing this integrated water analysis, open space and recreation planning are:
- Informing Council responses to proposals for the design and/ or use of Council managed open spaces in Fishermans Bend and avoid potential for ad-hoc decision making on a first-come-first-served basis.
 - Strengthening Council's advocacy position for funding of open space and water management Infrastructure in the development of and any external funding requests to other levels of government (including new State Government election commitment).
 - Providing a longer-term integrated view of open space priorities and the preferred staging and location of new recreational facilities to respond to the needs of the growing Fishermans Bend community.
 - Enabling Council to establish priorities to input into the process, led by the Fishermans Bend Taskforce, for developing precinct implementation plans for Sandridge and Wirraway.
- 11.2.2 As the work is progressed, consultation with the State Government and City of Melbourne will be undertaken through the governance structure established through the Fishermans Bend Partnership Agreement.

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – 06 APRIL 2022



12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any material or general interest in the matter.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Election Commitment - North Port Oval Development



North Port Oval Development

Help grow female participation in sports through expanded facilities

The reserve is a vital part of the Port Melbourne open space network and holds historical significance for the sporting community.

What is the ask?

Council is requesting the Australian Government commit to partnership with the Victorian Government to purchase and develop the Australia Post site adjacent to Northport Oval (NPO), to ensure adequate sporting facilities are available to meet increased demand due to population growth and increased female participation.

What is the issue that this initiative will address?

NPO has been home to the Port Melbourne Cricket Club (PMCC) and Port Melbourne Football Club (PMFC) for 150 years, both sharing the ground for their respective seasons. Growth in numbers through increased female participation in both sports and the introduction of AFLW has meant that it is becoming more difficult to share the site. Council has limited public space and all other grounds are heavily utilised, therefore there is no opportunity to relocate either club.

North Port Oval Development

The Council Plan has a Council indicator to grow female and gender diverse sporting participation outcomes. Both the Port Melbourne Cricket Club and the Port Melbourne Football Club are looking to meet these outcomes.

Open Space and sports facilities will remain a constant opportunity and challenge as Fishermans Bend continues to develop.

What is Council proposing?

The area of land adjacent to NPO is the current Australia Post site. If this parcel of land is developed as an open space and sports facility, then alterations to the use of NPO could occur in consultation with Council and both sports clubs.

Developing the area of land and therefore also facilitating development opportunities of NPO will attract visitors from across the region, state and country, and increase participation, particularly women.

How does initiative align with the Council Plan and Victorian/Australian Government priorities?

Council:

[Council Plan 2021-31](#) – Inclusive Port Phillip – A City that is a place for all members of our community, where people feel supported and comfortable being themselves and expressing their identities.

- We will provide high-quality sport and recreation infrastructure designed for shared community use that enables people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to participate, including major projects such as JL Murphy, Lagoon Reserve, North Port Oval, RF Julier, Port Melbourne Netball Courts, Wattie Watson Oval and other sports field lighting and minor recreation infrastructure renewals, subject to available budget funding.
- We will partner with local sporting clubs, schools and recreation providers to facilitate participation in recreation and leisure activities to enable everyone in our community to be more active.
- We will partner with sport and recreation providers to improve access and gender equity within their programs.

This project is consistent with outcomes in the [Sports and Recreation Strategy 2015-2024](#).

Victorian Government:

The project supports the following:

- The Victorian Government's commitment to increasing the number of women and girls participating in sport and active recreation, from grassroots through to senior leadership roles.

- Sport and Recreation Victoria's work to inspire women and girls to participate and become leaders in sport at all levels.
- Sport and Recreation Victoria initiatives that create more participation opportunities for all Victorians, including building a more sustainable and inclusive sport and recreation sector
- Victorian Government's support to under-represented groups experiencing barriers to participation in sport and recreation.

Australian Government:

The Australian Government has a clear and bold vision for sport in Australia – to ensure we are the world's most active and healthy nation, known for our integrity and sporting success. Sport 2030 has four key priority areas that will, when fully implemented, create a platform for sporting success through to 2030 and beyond. The priorities are:

- Build a more active Australia – More Australians, more active, more often;
- Achieving sporting excellence – National pride, inspiration and motivation through international sporting success;
- Strengthening Australia's sport industry – A thriving Australian sport and recreation industry.
- Strengthening Australia's sport industry – A thriving Australian sport and recreation industry.

How does the initiative assist the community to recover from COVID-19?

Developing the area of land and therefore also facilitating development opportunities of NPO will attract visitors from across the region, state and Country.

Significant participation and wellbeing opportunities will be created as a result of this project, including support for females, CALD communities and juniors. Players, spectators, and volunteers will be supported to get involved and be active, create a sense of local community, and enhance their mental and physical wellbeing.

Cost and current status?

Cost

The cost is subject to a detailed cost analysis. Council is requesting Victorian Government commit to purchasing and developing the Australia Post site adjacent to North Port Oval.

Status

The Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal plans have indicated the site as a green space and Council encourages this to be a sports ground to accommodate the local community.