



9.3 **FRIENDS OF SUAI/COVALIMA CHAIRPERSON APPOINTMENT**

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **ALLISON KENWOOD, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND INCLUSION**

PREPARED BY: **CARLENE HARLOCK, COORDINATOR FRIENDS OF SUAI/COVALIMA**

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Council endorsement of the appointment of the Friends of Suai/Covalima (FoSC) Community Reference Committee (CRC) Chairperson.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Chairperson of the FoSC CRC is appointed by Council on the recommendation of the FoSC CRC for a period of three years.
- 2.2 Megs Alston has been nominated to continue in the role as Chairperson for a further three-year term. Support for her nomination was confirmed at the FoSC annual meeting held on 17 November 2022.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Accepts and endorses the nomination of Megs Alston as Chairperson of Friends of Suai/Covalima Community Reference Committee.
- 3.2 Formally recognises the on-going contribution of Megs Alston to the Friends of Suai/Covalima Community Reference Committee and Council's Friendship with Suai/Covalima.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 Megs Alston was appointed as Chairperson of the FoSC CRC in 2016 and re-elected in 2019. She has been nominated to continue in the role for a further three-year term. Support for the nomination was confirmed by the FoSC CRC at the annual meeting held on 17 November 2022.
- 4.2 This voluntary role is a three-year appointment and as per the FoSC Terms of Reference, with Council approval required for this appointment.
- 4.3 The FoSC CRC is an advisory group to Council and has appropriate community representation to facilitate its functioning and ensure good governance to achieve its purpose.
- 4.4 The work of the FoSC is guided by the 'Friends of Suai/Covalima Strategic Plan 2020-25' to deliver on Council's commitment to the friendship. The Strategic Plan has been revised to reflect Council's decision in December 2021 to reduce funding for the FoSC program, and with insights from a review conducted by FoSC. The revision was endorsed by Council on 2 November 2022 (see Attachment 1).



- 4.5 The achievements of FoSC are highlighted in an Annual Report which is presented to Council each year. The 2021/22 Annual Report was unanimously endorsed by Council on 2 November 2022.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The recommendation for the appointment of Megs Alston as Chairperson for a further three years has come from community members that make up the Friends of Suai/Covalima (FoSC) Community Reference Committee.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 No legal or risk matters have been identified. The process for appointment of the Chairperson is outlined in the Friends of Suai/Covalima (FoSC) Community Reference Committee's Terms of Reference.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The financial impacts of FoSC were reported to, and endorsed by, Council on 2 November 2022 and are included in the FoSC 2021/22 Annual Report.
- 7.2 There is no cost associated with appointment of the Chairperson which is a voluntary role.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 The environmental impacts of FoSC activities were reported to, and endorsed by, Council on 2 November 2022 and are included in the FoSC 2021/22 Annual Report.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The extensive community benefits of FoSC activities were reported to, and endorsed by, Council on 2 November 2022 and are included in the FoSC 2021/22 Annual Report.
- 9.2 The friendship is a community initiated, longstanding commitment that supports a two-way relationship which is enriching for both communities.
- 9.3 Benefits to the Suai/Covalima community are primarily through the operation and programs delivered through the Covalima Community Centre which is one of the greatest legacies of the Friendship. The centre employs some 30 people and offers services throughout the district of 70,000 people.
- 9.4 The Friendship is a community strengthening opportunity for the City of Port Phillip and one that has generated significant pride in the wider community in recognition of the support provided to our near neighbour Timor-Leste. Port Phillip residents provide time, skills, money and friendship ensuring the relationship is based on community-to-community links. The Friendship engages residents, service clubs, churches and educational institutions in Port Phillip to connect with and support friends in Timor-Leste.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 Since 2000, the FoSC Friendship Agreement and program have been guided by Council values and align with strategic goals of each Council Plan.



10.2 This program aligns with two of the Strategic Directions in the 2021-31 Council Plan:

Strategic Direction 1 – Inclusive Port Phillip, Initiative:

- We will provide: client services and programs that are inclusive and accessible for all, including people who identify as LGBTIQ+, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Indigenous backgrounds, and people experiencing homelessness.

Strategic Direction 5 – Well Governed Port Phillip, Initiative:

- We will provide: opportunities for our community to participate in civic life and help share Council policy, services, programs and decisions by facilitating engagement in line with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

10.3 The FoSC Community Reference Committee is a formal advisory group to Council, providing community members with the opportunity to participate in civic life to inform Council decision making. The CRC work with the CCC and local government in Suai to provide good governance for the benefit and wellbeing of its community

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

11.1.1 The reappointment of the Chairperson will take effect immediately.

11.2 COMMUNICATION

11.2.1 The FoSC membership and interested parties will be advised of the reappointment of the FoSC Chairperson. The appointment will be noted at the next meeting of the FoSC and documented in the Minutes.

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. Friends of Suai Covalima Strategic Plan 2020-25 (revised 2022)**