

CBR-190

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 July 2020 6:39 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Benefits of VOSS programs

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

My name is [REDACTED] and for several years now, I have participated various VOSS courses. One that I found to be enormously beneficial was the public speaking course. The course gave me self confidence and self esteem that I had been lacking since I left full time employment because of ill health. At the current time, I am participating in both the Communication Course and the Creative Writing Course. They help me to better express myself orally and in writing. I am now in my mid 60's and all the courses provide fun and new friends that would otherwise be missing in my life. I no longer feel isolated or lonely. Particularly now in the time of Covid-19. I truly hope that these types of wonderful programs continue well into the future. They have had a significant worthwhile impact in my life.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

CBR-191

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 July 2020 7:28 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: City of Port Phillip Budget Submission - South Port Community Centre

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of South Port Community Centre and our many Council funded programs. This funding and the many programs it provides makes such a positive impact on many lives each week. We are particularly appreciative of Council's support during this challenging time when there is even more pressure than usual on funding sources and more competing priorities.

It is during times like these, however, that the programs SPCC provides become even more important to the well being of the community. The ability to feel connected and supported and to be able to participate in creative and collaborative programs is critical to people's emotional and physical well being. Our workers and programs are actively involved in keeping our isolated and vulnerable residents/participants supported, informed, safe and connected during these challenging times.

There are currently 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week. Many of these programs actively support the most disadvantaged and isolated residents in our community, who are significantly affected by COVID19.

Hopefully this COVID 19 crisis will begin to pass in the coming months and thanks to your support, SPCC will be in a position to continue to support our community on the journey to recovery. Research indicates that an active, healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from crises like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Chair of the Board

South Port Community Centre

CBR-192

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 15 July 2020 9:23 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Programs at Southport Community centre .

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi,

My name is [REDACTED] & I have been involved in different programs at the South Port community centre over the years.

My 8yr old son & I have attended the Get Out of Town school holiday program for the last 2 years. It has been a real help to be part of this program during the school holidays as it's hard to always keep my son entertained & find activities to do, especially if there is a cost involved. It also allows my son & I to do some activities we may not normally do or don't have access to together & have a memorable time. My son is an only child, so the program also helps him to interact & socialise with other children.

I have also been involved in a couple of different dance & exercise groups.

Through VOSS I have done programs including writing groups, communication courses, art therapy programs & more. The facilitators Robyn & Deb are very encouraging, helpful & inclusive & make myself & others feel welcome & competent.

The programs provided by South Port community centre & VOSS are so helpful, run well & help with my physical health & mental health which I really need as I suffer from anxiety & depression.

The programs help build skills & confidence & help people to socialise so they don't feel so isolated.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

CBR-193

From: Waterfront Welcomers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 10:00 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Continued Support for Waterfront / Port Phillip Welcomers & SPCC.

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear City of Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your continuing support for SPCC & Waterfront / Port Phillip Welcomers. It really has made a positive impact on our lives and those we communicate with.

Ours is one of the 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week.

Research has shown that an active, healthy, resilient, well informed and connected community will recover quicker from any disruptions, such as COVID-19 and your ongoing support makes that possible.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avg.com

CBR-194

From: Waterfront Welcomers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 10:02 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FW: Last chance to have your say on the updated Council Plan 2017-27 and draft budget 2020/21

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

I urge Council to continue its budget support of the Waterfront Welcomers programme which Operates at the Pier. The positive and constant compliments we as a group receive from visitors to Melbourne are huge as no other port seems to provide this greeting service. Passengers are constantly grateful for our assistance, be it a pamphlet and help on any no. of Port Melbourne/Victorian attractions but also our welcoming smiles.

[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avg.com

CBR-195

From: Waterfront Welcomers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 10:04 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Continued Support for Waterfront / Port Phillip Welcomers & SPCC

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your continued support of our Waterfront Welcomers/Port Phillip Welcomers program and SPCC. It has made a hugely positive impact on our lives.

Ours is one of 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week.

Research indicates an active, healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

CBR-196

From: Waterfront Welcomers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 10:07 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Continued Support for Waterfront / Port Phillip Welcomers & SPCC

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your continued support of our Waterfront Welcomers/Port Phillip Welcomers program and SPCC. It has made a hugely positive impact on our lives.

Ours is one of 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week.

Research indicates an active, healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

CBR-197

From: Waterfront Welcomers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 10:22 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Continued Support for Waterfront / Port Phillip Welcomers & SPCC

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your continued support of the Waterfront Welcomers/Port Phillip Welcomers programs and the many council funded SPCC programs.

This funding and the many programs it provides has made a huge positive impact to many lives each week.

Ours is one of 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week, it provides the participants the opportunity to work together and support each other whilst providing great benefit to our community and to visitors to the Port Phillip Council area.

Many of these programs actively support the most disadvantaged and isolated residents in our community, who are significantly affected by COVID19. Our workers & programs are actively involved in keeping our isolated and vulnerable residents/participants supported, informed, safe and connected during these challenging times.

Hopefully as this COVID crises begins to pass in the coming months, and thanks to your support, SPCC will be in a position to continue to support our community towards recovery. Research indicates an active healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible.

Regards [REDACTED]
Coordinator, Waterfront Welcomers & Port Phillip Welcomers
[REDACTED] Port Melbourne
PO Box 721, Port Melbourne
Ph: 9645 1476 / 0400 642 667 E: waterfrontwelcomers@pmnc.org.au
Web: www.southportcc.org.au

CBR-198

From: Waterfront Welcomers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 10:25 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabbp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Letter of support

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your continued support of our Waterfront Welcomers/Port Phillip Welcomers program and Southport Community Centre. Being one of the volunteer participants with Waterfront Welcomers, I have received many expressions of thanks from recipients of this much appreciated service. I am aware that it is a valuable program which has a huge impact on this community.

Ours is one of 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week.

I strongly believe that an active, healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible. Together we will rise out of this pandemic stronger than ever.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

CBR-199

From: Waterfront Welcomers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 11:22 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabbp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Continued Support for Waterfront / Port Phillip Welcomers & SPCC

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your continued support of our Waterfront Welcomers/Port Phillip Welcomers programs and SPCC. It has made a huge positive impact on our lives. The programs provide local information to tourists and locals on the Port Phillip area by provision of leaflets on attractions and information on local walks, the history of Port Melbourne, South Melbourne Markets and shopping strips within the Port Phillip Council area.

Ours is one of 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week.

Hopefully as this COVID crises begins to pass in the coming months, and thanks to your support, SPCC will be in a position to continue to support our community towards recovery. Research indicates an active healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible.

Thank you,

[REDACTED] (Ex Mayor of Port Phillip Council)

CBR-200

From: Waterfront Welcomers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 11:24 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabbp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Continued Support for Waterfront / Port Phillip Welcomers & SPCC

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your continued support of our Waterfront Welcomers/Port Phillip Welcomers programs and SPCC. It has made a huge positive impact on our lives. The programs provide local information to tourists and locals on the Port Phillip and information on local walks, the history of Port Melbourne, South Melbourne Markets and shopping strips within the Port Phillip Council area.

Ours is one of 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week.

Hopefully as this COVID crises begins to pass in the coming months, and thanks to your support, SPCC will be in a position to continue to support our community towards recovery. Research indicates an active healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

CBR-201

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 10:06 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Thank You - SouthPort Community Centre

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation and thanks for your continued support of our many council funded programs and SPCC. This funding and the many programs it provides makes a positive and meaningful impact on many, many lives each week.

There are currently 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week. Many of these programs actively support the most disadvantaged and isolated residents in our community, who are presently significantly affected by COVID19. Our workers & programs are actively involved in keeping our isolated and vulnerable residents/participants supported, informed, safe and connected during these challenging times.

Hopefully as this COVID crises begins to pass in the coming months, and thanks to your support, SPCC will be in a position to continue to support our community towards recovery. Research indicates an active healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]
SPCC Board Member

[REDACTED]
Director, Relationships
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

HWT Building, Level 3, 40 City Road, Southbank VIC 3006



Judo is 100% committed to the Banking and Finance Oath

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CBR-202

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 12:04 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Thank You SPCC and Port Philip Council

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Dig In Community Gardens and SPCC. Our involvement in both the gardens at Fisherman's Bend and Port Melbourne over the past three or so years has been invaluable to my family, as we've learnt how to grow food organically and sustainably in a small, urban space. Through Dig In, we have also met many other wonderful members of our local community, spent countless hours outdoors and been rewarded with beautiful fresh produce as well.

In addition, we have happily participated in events such as sausage sizzles at our local Bunnings Warehouse, welcomed senior members of our neighbourhood to Open Days and also shared knowledge and resources with other community organisations such as Back2Bikes, Sandridge Life Saving Club and the CWA.

This year in particular, our garden has been an absolute haven; a place for fresh air, and quiet contemplation, when everywhere else is off limits or overcrowded. On top of that, it offers us the ability to provide some sustenance for our family, which is a welcome measure of security in these challenging COVID times.

I have included here two links to videos we have filmed over the years at the gardens:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOzVKdfiyJ8>

<https://youtu.be/vsENDD0QHMM>

Once again, thank you for your continued support in making our gardens possible.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

CBR-203

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 1:11 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Support for Dig In and SPCC - Thank you

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your continued support of our Dig In Port Melbourne program and SPCC. It has made a hugely positive impact on our lives especially our son who has faced many challenges in his life. The Dig In community gives him a sense of purpose in general and more so during the current Covid pandemic.

Dig In Port Melbourne is one of 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week.

It keeps our son active, healthy, resilient, positive and connected to the community. Your support makes that possible.
Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CBR-204

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 3:46 PM
To: Helpdesk - Strategic Engagement <engagement@portphillip.vic.gov.au>;
Bernadene Voss - Mayor <Bernadene.Voss@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Exercise Programs at the South Port Community Centre

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello

I am emailing to support the on-line exercise programs that are run by [REDACTED] through the South Port Community Centre. I have only just started using them, but they are very important because they are helping participants keep fit and engaged with other people while Melbourne is in lock down. I need these strength building exercises as I have a osteoporosis and this type of exercise helps manage it. I can't go to the gym, so this service is vital.

Kind regards [REDACTED], Port Melbourne.



16th July 2020

Dear Councillor,

We are seeking economic assistance to help local businesses survive the current fallout from the continuing economic and health crisis we are in.

The continuation of trading restrictions with the second lockdown is leaving businesses decimated and many will not recover.



The loss of trade combined with mounting debts can only lead to a drastic decline in our precincts health.

We are seeking assistance from Copp to help with the social and economic recovery of our precincts.

The ASVBA request the following from the CoPP:

- 1) Rate relief. At a minimum a 25 % reduction of rates payable by businesses in the winter quarter, to acknowledge their financial hardship. It could be set up as a grant and therefore targeted to the businesses that can show financial hardship thru qualifying for Jobkeeper or similar test
- 2) The removal of parking fees for at least six months to allow easy access to our streets
- 3) A freeze on footpath trading permits until next year and an expansion of the areas used for outside dining to allow social distancing restrictions at no extra charge.

Yours sincerely



President
Acland Street Village Business Association



15th July 2020.

Dear Councillor,

To help local business to survive an unprecedented economic and health crisis, we seek economic relief from the City of Port Phillip.

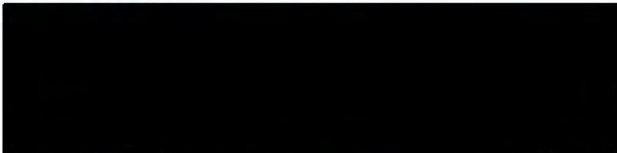
The second lock down and possible stage four restrictions has left business in an even more perilous position than the initial lock down.

A dramatic loss in trade combined with a tsunami of deferred cost shall if not managed well, will lead to devastation on our high streets.

The FSBA request the following actions from the CoPP:

- Rate relief equal 25% to all rates payable by businesses to be provided as rate relief in the winter quarter. Targeted by businesses that qualify for Jobkeeper and a similar test.
- The continuation of freeze on CoPP charges such as outside dining into next year.
- The heavy discounting or removal of parking fees for a least six months.

Yours truly,



President Fitzroy Street Business Association



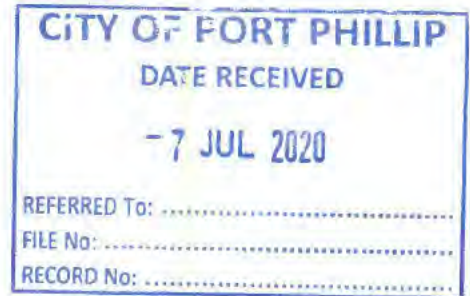
PORT MELBOURNE HISTORICAL AND PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC

ABN 67 050 276 976

C/O PORT MELBOURNE TOWN HALL
CORRESPONDENCE TO P.O. BOX 552
PORT MELBOURNE VIC 3207

PATRON: LIANA THOMPSON
THE LAST MAYOR OF PORT MELBOURNE
www.pmhps.org.au

The Mayor and Councillors
City of Port Phillip
St Kilda Town Hall
99a Carlisle Street
St Kilda Vic 3182



1st July 2020

Dear Cr Voss and fellow Councillors

Re Draft Budget 2020/21 and ASSIST Port Melbourne

Our Port Melbourne Historical & Preservation Society members are concerned about the proposal to reduce the Counter Services provided by ASSIST at the Port Melbourne Town Hall. The ASSIST officers have continually provided us with excellent service by keeping the key for our rooms and answering public enquiries about our Society as well as displaying and selling our publications. A reduction in their hours will certainly have implications for us.

It is not, however, only our Society who will lose a vital community service if the ASSIST hours are reduced. There are a number of citizens who do not have easy access to on-line information and who will be disadvantaged if the Counter Service is reduced. Even in our digital age, many people prefer to see and speak to others over a counter. In my own case, when I moved to Port Melbourne nine years ago I did not know anyone who lived in the area and so I headed to the Town Hall because I thought I needed a map as I didn't know any of the streets and I also thought that I would find out if there were any voluntary organisations that I could join. The ASSIST officer was very understanding and gave me a map and the information about volunteering which eventually led me to joining the Historical Society. What would I have done if I had not had this personal contact?

We hope that the ASSIST Counter Service will continue to operate within its current hours as we believe that the personal contact is still of great value to our citizens.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name], President, Port Melbourne Historical & Preservation Society

CBR-209

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 3:59 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabbp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>;
[REDACTED]
Subject: Garden of Remembrance Port Melbourne

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

I wish to support the written request of [REDACTED] AO to complete the Garden of Remembrance project at the Railway Reserve in Port Melbourne. I see the area each day as a local who resides nearby and attended the initial service there looking forward from 2018 for the completion. I have a lot of interest in the area of Port Phillip with my various roles and would think it very remiss not to compete the project having seen many others as important completed.

Best Regards

[REDACTED]
President Albert Park Lawn Tennis Club
Chairman Friends of St Vincent gardens

CBR-210

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 4:18 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: CoPP Budget Submission

Dear Port Phillip Council,

I am the program manager for Voices of the South Side which is a program run from SPCC for socially isolated residents that connects them up to their community through a range of courses and activities.

We witness the positive impact that the range of Council funded programs have on our participants' lives. This may be employment and training specific programs like ARCS, social programs such as RAG through to the wonderful City of Voices that brings such joy and connection to many vulnerable residents across the city.

We appreciate the support of the Council in a range of ways including access to facilities, funding of community projects such as Roarstage and employment opportunities offered to our Community Researchers via our small social enterprise.

This has been an extremely difficult time for many of our participants and ensuring that SPCC has the capacity to adapt our programs to keep them engaged and supported has been extremely important. We have received a great deal of positive feedback about the lifeline the continuation of these programs has had for our participants and are witnessing the importance of maintaining community connection be it through on-line courses, telephone support or walks. The COVID crisis has shown us that we have the flexibility to change our model of delivery when necessary and build our resilience as an organisation. Your support has been crucial during this time.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Manager of Voices of the South Side
SouthPort Community Centre

[REDACTED]
Project Manager
Voices Of the South Side

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CBR-211

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 5:28 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: South Port Community Centre Exercise classes

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council.

Thank you for your continued support for our Gentle Exercises Group and the South Port Community Centre in general. The positive impact this group has had on my wellbeing is immense.

Our exercise program, run by [REDACTED], is one of the 12 programs run by SPCC, funded by the council that help at least 300 people live better lives each and every week.

Keeping connected through our Zoom exercise classes, that [REDACTED] sets up for us every day, have been invaluable. The fact that I can see the other members while we exercise has been a boost for not just my physical self but my mental health as I have struggled with the depression of this lockdown coronavirus time. Having a routine has been a blessing. I have heard from other participants who were once nervous of technology that they now regularly Zoom with family and other groups to stay in touch as well as staying safe at home.

We all dearly wait for the time when we can safely be back together face to face in class but this Zooming has been a godsend. I know that my physical health would have deteriorated had I not had the option of continuing with a known and trusted class leader who knows us well and our various abilities. She has kept a watch on our health from afar and has been a constant source of encouragement at all times.

The council's support of these programmes and the people like [REDACTED] who run them, is crucial for us and the community as a whole, and should be applauded. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for considering continued funding for these programs.

Thank you

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CBR-212

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 5:32 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: [REDACTED] Make Your Mark program

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

On behalf of all the participants and staff regarding the Make Your Mark Program, we thank you for your ongoing support in this program. we acknowledge the time and work that goes into applying for funding. This program will help young adults acquire skills well beyond the academic walls and well into their adult lives while engaging their community.

So again, thankyou, from everyone.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CBR-213

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 6:38 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Cc: connect@pmnc.org.au
Subject: Love the program, love the SPCC, thank you, council!

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your continued support of [REDACTED]'s exercise classes and South Port Community Centre. It has made a hugely positive impact on many lives.

Research indicates an active healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

CBR-214

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 8:22 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Budget comment

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi

Thanks for the opportunity to make a submission.

I understand the Covid pandemic will change everything.

However so too will climate change, the far greater impacts of which are, as stated in the budget papers, already starting to be felt locally.

The community education/participation model of the innovative council supported Ecocentre is worthy of ongoing council support. Despite the serious nature of climate change there is still little serious focus on it in the main stream media. Therefore the ecocentre model makes a valuable contribution to our community and to young people in our region who will be among the future leaders we need.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

CBR-215

[REDACTED]

ALBERT PARK 3206

City of Port Phillip

16 July 2020

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Fishermans Bend Community Garden

Thank you for your continued support of Dig-In Community Garden at Fishermans Bend Community Centre, a program managed by Southport Community Centre. This program has a positive impact for community members.

I have been a member of Dig-In Community Garden at Fishermans Bend Community Centre for approximately three years.

Membership of Dig-In Community Garden not only provides me with access to space for growing healthy food, but also meaningful connection to my local community. The connections I have made through the community garden have links to other community organisations, including local lifesaving clubs and CWA. This has meant that I have been able to form deeper connections to the local community through my membership with Dig-In.

I am very grateful to City of Port Phillip for enabling COVID-safe access to the garden during these times. Research indicates that an active, healthy and resilient community will recover more quickly from disruptions, and your support makes that possible.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

CBR-216

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 9:22 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Continued support of SPCC exercise program for Seniors including Strength Training and Barre

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,
Thank you for your continued support of our Exercise classes for Seniors including Strength Training and Barre program and SPCC. It has made a hugely positive impact on our lives.

Research indicates an active healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

CBR-217

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 9:59 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: [REDACTED] exercise classes

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your continued support of [REDACTED] exercise classes. It makes a positive impact on our lives.

[REDACTED]

CBR-218

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 10:30 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Exercise Program run by M Montebello

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your continued support of our exercise program and SPCC. Since moving to Port Phillip 10 years ago this program has made a hugely positive impact on our health and wellbeing.

Since COVID-19 has restricted our ability to meet outdoors the council's continued support of [REDACTED]'s excellent program via Zoom has enabled us to continue exercising in a safe environment.

It is well known that an active healthy well informed community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support continues to make that possible.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Middle Park 3206.

CBR-219

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 6:46 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabbp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>; connect@pmcc.org.au; [REDACTED]
Subject: Exercise program and SPCC

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your continued support of our 50+ exercise program and SPCC that is provided by [REDACTED], it has made a hugely positive impact on our lives.

Ours is one of 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week.

Research indicates an active healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Albert Park

Submission to the City of Port Phillip – Council Plan and draft Budget 2020/21

From: Elsternwick Park Association Committee

Topic: Sustainable City- Strategic Direction 3: We have smart solutions for a sustainable future.
MOU Partnership and budget for Elsternwick Park North (EPN) and Elster Creek Project.
(Re:Council Plan and draft Budget papers)

Purpose

To thank the Council for keeping the budget allocation for Elsternwick Park North in the draft Budget.
To seek confirmation by Council of the 2018 resolution of Elsternwick Park North MOU to ensure the City of Port Phillip (CoPP) and Bayside City Council (BCC) partnership continues to jointly enact and co-fund the Masterplan for Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve - March 2020 (Masterplan report, BCC)

Overview

We commend CoPP on it's review of the Council Plan and draft Budget to provide emergency and targeted support to residents, business and groups impacted by COVID and prioritize plans for 2 years ahead to maintain a safe, well, cohesive and engaged community.

Priority

We applaud CoPP's commitment in the updated Council Plan (as agreed on 21 March 2018) to partner with Bayside Council to co-fund an urban forest and wetland subject to evidence which will deliver reduced downstream flooding, improved water quality, capacity for water harvesting, public amenity and enhanced biodiversity. (Media release B.Voss CoPP 21/3/2018).

Most importantly, it is critical for our community that the Masterplan is not delayed if in the context of climate change we are to prevent the future escalation of the damaging environmental threats of frequent flooding in Elster Creek. Flooding that results in loss of public amenity, safety hazards, damage to houses, insurance costs and high levels of pollutants flowing into the Bay harmful to biodiversity, habitat, residents and swimmers.

Value of EPNR Masterplan 2020

The Masterplan sets out a 1 in a 100 year opportunity to plan, create and achieve a world class sustainable environmental nature reserve which maximizes our goals through the integrated design of community amenity, the aquatic environment, flood mitigation, water quality improvement and reuse.

We believe the new Masterplan has been carefully developed and reviewed by professional experts in sustainable water management, flooding, habitat and biodiversity to ensure the new design can deliver the CoPP priorities set out in the plan and below:

- Flood mitigation benefits are achievable under the Plan of an extra 50-60,000M3 of mitigation (50% of the optimal water retention needed for 1% flood event), analysis by Melbourne Water is to investigate additional potential gains such as an expanded Head Street drain.
- Water quality benefits have been rigorously assessed and quantified enabling the proposed wetlands to treat over 1000ML of contaminated water before it enters the bay from Elster creek. In addition 1650kgs of total nitrogen can be removed from Elster creek. This aligns with the CoPP Water Sensitive City targets (refer CoPP Act and Adapt Report 2018-2028 page 53).
- Water treated through the wetland system will be harvested as recycled water and an alternative to potable water for use on public parks and gardens in CoPP. The available capacity is estimated in excess of 270ML of water per annum. This aligns with the CoPP Water Sensitive City targets (Refer to CoPP Act and Adapt Report 2018-2028 page 53). ***(Refer BCC Masterplan report pages 34-47)

The merits of the Masterplan as we understand offer an exceptional opportunity for residents to benefit from a beautifully designed and maintained native parkland, wetland, and urban forest that provides refuge and tranquility for people and wildlife. The proposed design is to achieve improved use of open space for engaging all ages and people in the community, in education, passive recreation and collaborations with related projects. All renowned to have positive benefits for our well-being, mental health and social connections.

The EPA is encouraged by hearing weekly from many local people about their enthusiasm, interests, use, enjoyment and aspirations for the future vision of the reserve, including the existing volunteer groups already involved in flora and fauna surveys, monthly clean ups and social activities. They talk of how they greatly value their activities especially in these times of Covid restrictions with their need for outdoor experiences.

Proposed Masterplan stages

The CoPP Mayor and Councilors have advocated and partnered to work collaboratively with the EPA and continue its role on the community reference panel with Bayside councilors and officers.

We therefore ask that CoPP propose to:

1. Endorse the EPNR Masterplan Report 2020 in accordance with 21 March 2018 resolution.
2. Co-fund a truly remarkable Urban Forest and Wetland to achieve the aligned priorities of COPPP detailed in the EPNR Masterplan.
3. Continue the dialogue with BCC for an MOU to be signed for implementation of the project.

By doing so the EPA believes this will build on the existing funding commitment by BCC to deliver the project and contribute to the project potentially becoming a focus for government investment and able to capitalize on past and future capital investment by Melbourne Water and DELWP under sustainable, livable and climate change initiatives.

Thank you

██████████
██████████
██████████
██████████

Submitted on behalf of the Elsternwick Park Association
16/7/2020



16 July 2020

Subject: Letter to Council re its budget.

Dear City of Port Phillip Council,

Current services Council offers to faith communities

City of Port Phillip (CoPP) provides real, in kind, experienced and dedicated support of a councilor, staff and meeting places on a regular, ongoing or as-needs basis with additional management and logistical support for key public events.

The Multifaith Network of the City of Port Phillip values very much our meeting and working together. The COPP provides facilities, staff and expertise as required particularly and currently through the work of Councillor **Tim Baxter** and Diversity Officer **Ewa Zysk** of Diversity & Inclusion team. This ensures Port Phillip Multi-Faith Network (PPMN) has access to the latest in meeting management and facilities, realistic insight from Council's view, and the constant presence of Council's many competing priorities. Our small network has worked amazingly well over the years, and have facilitated functions that have touched the lives of hundreds if not thousands of Port Phillip residents. As well, our own communities of faith have been enriched. Council's attendance at and participation in the Network provides opportunities for the community to be challenged and changed as a result of meeting regularly and sharing news of our own various activities.

Council has supported and helped realise pathways at our meetings and in our diverse and often segregated communities to talk, listen and exchange, such as the **Open House visiting program** and the **Interfaith Dialogue workshop** held at Port Melbourne Town Hall. We shared in promoting the Diversity booklet on **Multi-faith Network - A City of Sharing**, and was able to facilitate the creation of the CoPP DVD - **A Common Belief** and Sunday 21 June 2015 **A Shared Meal** with guest speakers.

Our **2016** public program included

- **Saturday 18 June Multicultural Eid/Iftar dinner** at the end of Ramadan, open to general public and a refugee fundraiser hosted at Betty Day Centre by the local Muslim community.
- **Sunday 19 June, 2-6pm** with Victorian Multicultural Commission support for **Journey into Friendship Bus Tour**, open to general public, featuring visits, introductions and presentations at St. Nicholas Russian Catholic Church, East St Kilda, St Kilda Synagogue, St Kilda and Hare Krishna Temple, Albert Park
- **2017: Sunday 4 June St Kilda Multicultural Iftar** at St Kilda Town Hall
- **2018: Regularly bi-monthly meetings** are open to invited presenters on different topics such as combatting Domestic Violence, Racism and Mis-treatment of Asylum Seekers and Refugees
- **2019: Friday 5 April Christchurch Massacre Multifaith Public Observance** hosted by local Muslim community with local Aboriginal, Maori, Christian, and Jewish communities performing rituals that symbolise peace and harmony at **St Kilda Town Hall front lawn**
- **2019: October Addressed Climate Change** by petitioning City of Port Phillip and writing a joint letter to the **Prime Minister and attending public rally**

2020:

PPMN supported and participated in **We-Akon Dilinja** - Mourning reflection, Sunday 26 January 2020, 6am-7am at Alfred Square, St Kilda.

Commentary on Economic and Social Recovery Program and/or Proposed reductions 2020-21

In uncertain times, there is always a need for calm, moderate and collective thinking. All 16 initiatives Council is considering meet this criteria so PPMN is happy to endorse.

In addition, PPMN will continue feeding back whole-of-community needs to continue with **Reconciliation, Acceptance of Diversity** and **Reduction or Eradication of Ignorance-fuelled Racism** as COVID-19 constraints and tightening budget concerns compete with priorities and needs.

1. Multifaith groups especially support extending hardship provisions in the current COVID-19 crisis
2. Council support for volunteering networks
3. Council support for bridging the digital divide as at the moment all religious gatherings can only be online.
4. Support the funding for emerging social impacts
5. Support work around affordable housing and temporary accommodation for rough sleepers
6. Support community assistance to food programs
7. Support for work with the community sector.

Continuing Economic and Social Recovery Program for faith communities

Regarding the draft Budget 2020/21 proposed 11 service reductions, it is not apparent why some of the programs would cease while conversion to digital implementation would reduce costs, improve accuracy of data collection and continue benefits to those adversely affected. Three Examples are listed:

- **Customer Satisfaction Survey:** if this was electronically captured by way of online form (ie, SurveyMonkey), would this deliver the desired data points AND cost savings IN real time?
- **Youth Leadership and Engagement program deferred for 6 months:** there has never been a more important time to connect with, inspire, engage and listen to what youth are experiencing. Rather than deferring, would switching this to webinar, online small group discussions or 1-1 mentoring work?
- **Pre-School Dental Check Program:** not sure of the program fail here, teeth decay and hygiene are unrelated to COVID-19. However, there is enough evidence to know that good dental hygiene from a young age improves general health and educational outcomes over lifetime of individuals and societies.

The importance of the network in these times

With Council support, we are continuing our focus on facilitating discussion between spiritual and faith leaders and representatives of the faith communities of Port Phillip - virtually meeting with a view to projects fostering social cohesion, raising awareness and celebrating diversity of Australia's First Peoples and the many and varied faith communities that came after.

Ongoing:

Regularly bi-monthly meetings are open to invited presenters on different topics: with past agenda topics including **Domestic violence, Homelessness, Eco Centre and Community Tree Planting** with June meeting topic being **Victorian Pride Centre**. Consistently, our Network reports, shares efforts and addresses public racism and discrimination wherever it arises. Including seeking meaningful reconciliation with Australia's First Peoples, Diverse General and Multicultural population.

2021:

Pending a favourable result from a preliminary submission to CoPP and Faith Communities Council of Victoria (FCCV), a PPMN sub-committee will be established to organise and co-host the **Victorian Interfaith Network Conference November 2021** in Port Phillip.

Regardless of outcome, PPMN appreciates Council's past support and look forward to continuing the productive relationship, in whatever shape this takes from now and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of Port Phillip Multifaith Network

Reverend Dr



retired Uniting Church
Minister, St Kilda
Christian



Centre for Awakening
Meditation & HomeStay,
Balaclava, *Buddhist*



Pastor, St Kilda Baptist,
Christian



Catalyst Enterprises,
Jewish

Social Health and Inclusion Port project - City of Port Phillip Budget Submission

COVID-19 has presented unprecedented challenges to local community organisations and residents. The closing of community services has compounded those who were already socially isolated and vulnerable in the community but has also meant that members of the community have found themselves newly isolated, either through job losses, loss of social activities, closure of volunteer opportunities and the closure of the art and music sectors.

Social Health and Inclusion Port (SHIP) members have experienced first-hand, the loss of face-to-face activities that would normally bring them together socially. There's a growing body of evidence suggests that the quality and quantity of social relationships affect health behaviours, physical and mental health.¹ Most people will be lonely at some stage, but the evidence suggests that some life transitions can act as triggers for chronic loneliness.² Residents in the City of Port Phillip (as elsewhere across the country and the globe) have experienced multiple major transitions: from school, to remote learning, office to working from home, from work to being unemployed and from regular volunteering to being confined at home.

Council plays a large part in the continued service delivery to residents that improve and maintain health and wellbeing across the municipality. The Social Health and Inclusion Port project committee members endorse the Council's principles:

- "Reprioritisation must be effective in providing the intended relief and increasing community capacity to withstand and recover from the pandemic and other future shocks.
- Reprioritisation should be targeted towards those that need it most and not duplicate support provided by others.
- Council must ensure financial sustainability.
- Reprioritisation of activities and services should be aligned to the Council Plan priorities, transparent, defensible, and distributed fairly based on the role of Council, support available from others, risk, and cost." (Budget pg 13)

In terms of the City of Port Phillip's Strategic Directions:

Strategic Direction 1: We embrace difference, and people belong

- Maintain annual Community Grants program at \$280,000 and suspending 'quick response' Neighbourhood Grants program for one year (\$56,000) – consulted with the community prior to the release of the draft Budget 2020/21.

SHIP endorses council's commitment to maintaining the community grants program; however, in this climate of uncertainty and constant change the Neighbourhood Grants program 'quick response' program is just the mechanism that community can draw upon in times of need. The Neighbourhood grants have been used for several community-led social inclusion and social connection projects in Port Melbourne in the past (1947 Centre Avenue celebration, Garden City Picnic in the park, Little Free Libraries, & Port Paw parade). The ability for the community to come together and innovate, with quick response funding support from council (such as is being offered at the City of Melbourne³), will be essential to build resilience in the community in a changing environment.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-action-on-health-inequalities-reducing-social-isolation

² www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/No-one_Should_Have_No-one_Working_to_end_loneliness.pdf?dtrk=true

³ <https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/>

Regarding the youth leadership and youth services development:

- Defer Youth Leadership and Engagement program for 6 months (\$12,000). 20 PORT PHILLIP TODAY AND TOMORROW
- Suspend Youth Service Development for 1 year (\$18,000).

SHIP has received consistent community feedback that there are limited opportunities, particularly in Port Melbourne for young people to engage in accessible social connection programs. There has been a decline in youth activities in the area and, despite ongoing consultation, no youth hub from which to coordinate said activities. COVID-19 has been a major disrupter of all the usual ways in which people (particularly young people) have connected to each other. UNICEF has conducted a survey with over 1000 young people across Australia⁴ and gathered their views on the recent situation and found that many of the way in which young people connected and the milestones they celebrated have been cancelled or postponed due to COVID. In it, “Brian says the school social events aren’t only an opportunity for Year 12 students to celebrate and socialise together but are where students find a sense of belonging and camaraderie.” (Unicef Living in Limbo Report 2020) The same is true for our primary school children, particularly foundation and grade 6 students.

- Suspend Early Education Partnership for 1 year (\$40,000).
- Reduce operational subsidy to kindergartens from \$4,000 to \$2,000 per centre (\$19,000).
- Cessation of pre-school dental check program funding agreement with Star Health (\$36,000)

Cessation of the pre-school dental check program funding agreement with Star Health means that families will no longer have easy access to preventable healthcare and tooth decay may develop for longer before being picked up by a healthcare professional.

Tooth decay is the most common health problem in Victoria with half of all children and adolescents affected, and it is five times more common than asthma in children⁵ (Department of Health, 2011). Between 2014-16, 14% of children (0-5yrs) in the city of Port Phillip that attended a public dental service presented with at least one decayed, missing or filled tooth⁶ (Dental Health Services Victoria, 2017). Poor oral health can affect a child’s ability to eat and speak and is also linked to poor diet, which means that pre-school dental check-ups are opportune times to detect and discuss nutrition concerns in children (Department of Health, 2011).

Because tooth decay is largely preventable, regular dental check-ups are recommended to prevent problems from occurring. The cost associated with a dental check-up at a private clinic is often a barrier for many families, meaning that families in Port Phillip may no longer receive the necessary check-ups to prevent and detect oral health issues in their children.

While private dental clinics may also conduct dental screenings, these generally come at a cost for families and may use a child’s Child Dental Benefits Schedule, meaning vulnerable families will have less subsidy available for treatment costs.

Strategic Direction 6: Our commitment to you

- Reduce ASSIST Counter Services at Port Melbourne and South Melbourne Town Halls for 12 months (\$91,000), with officers to complete a review before 1 July 2021 to assess the impact

⁴ [Living in Limbo Report](#)

⁵ [Evidenced Based Oral Health Resource](#)

⁶ [Port Phillip Data](#)

of the change on community members who do not have online access to our services – consulted with the community prior to the release of the draft Budget 2020/21.

Port Melbourne residents, particularly older people with limited access to online information, routinely rely on the Assist desk for information and referrals to other services. Anecdotally we have information from the Port Phillip Welcomers volunteers that a number of elderly people using the service rely on phone contact as they do not have the ability to go online and this makes them very isolated as community members. We also know that some of the younger people that use South Port Community Centre services don't have the ability to get online, as they cannot purchase due to the costs. We therefore, do not endorse the withdrawal of counter services at Port Melbourne and South Melbourne Town Halls.

CBR-240

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 9:33 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Eco Centre

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

I wish to register my support for the ongoing operations of the EcoCentre and the construction of new premises

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

CBR-241

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 9:36 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Waterfront Welcomers in PORT MELBOURNE

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your continued support of our Waterfront Welcomers /Port Phillip Welcomers Program, for which I volunteer. It has made a very positive impact on the lives off the volunteers, people in the community assisted by our program, as well as the tourists that we assist from the cruise ships, during the cruise season. Ours is one of the 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week.

Research indicates that an active, healthy, resilient, well-informed and connected community, will recover more easily from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes all of this possible.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

CBR-242

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 10:18 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabbp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: South Port Community Programs

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your continued support of our Exercise program with [REDACTED] and SPCC. It has made a hugely positive impact on my fitness and health, especially during lockdown.

Ours is one of 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week. It also helps to keep people who live alone in touch with other people safely, via zoom.

Research indicates an active healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

CBR-243

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 10:46 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: SPPC support

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Councillors, City of Port Phillip,
Thankyou that over the years you have supported the life and wellbeing of Port Phillip residents particularly with regard to funding for 12 SPCC exercise programs which include more than 300 people.
I have attended for many years the Port Melbourne Neighbourhood House exercise programs led by [REDACTED]. I have found these programs very beneficial for my general health and wellbeing. Especially this year with the times of isolation and lockdown as I have been able to connect to the exercise programs via Zoom.
Despite the severe budget issues the council is facing the health and wellbeing of the people needs to be a high priority and funding support must continue.

Thankyou

[REDACTED]

CBR-244

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2020 3:14 PM
To: Bernadene Voss - Mayor <Bernadene.Voss@portphilip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Draft Budget,

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Bernadene,

Hopefully I am not too late to put in a request for the next Council budget. I am a happy volunteer with the Waterfront Welcomer group who meet cruise visitors at Station Pier – or who used to before March! It is an excellent program and I am keen that support from the Port Phillip Council continues in the coming years as it has over the past years. Of course there are other activities undertaken by its members now, during the Covid19 lock-down, many of which have benefited less lucky people. We appreciate the help that the Council has given us and thank you for it, hoping in the meantime that it will not be considered a less than necessary part of our community in the future.

I hope that my and other people's requests can be considered by you.

With best wishes,

[REDACTED]

CBR-245

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 11:27 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: love your program, love SPCC, thank your council!

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,
Thank you for your continued support of our STRENGTH AND EXERCISE program for older residents living in Port Phillip and the SPCC which facilitates it.

The program has made a hugely positive impact on our lives - by keeping us fit both physically and in our mental health. I have friends in other places who are very envious of this wonderful service and what it continues to do for people of my age and stage.

Ours is one of 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week. We are particularly blessed for having such a forward looking council.

I really hope that you will continue to fund such an important program for the elderly in your community.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The St Kilda Triangle: Budget Submission

17 July 2020

unChain Port Phillip Inc submits that the Council allocate significant funding towards a Business Case for the St Kilda Triangle in this budget.

Now is the time to strike as the successful local candidates in the past state and federal elections have both committed to work with the Council to resolve this issue.

The Triangle is an asset of state-wide importance. It should have a development with the pizzazz and drawing power of its neighbouring icons, the Palais and Luna Park. Such a development would also be a huge step in the much-needed urban renewal of Acland Street and Fitzroy Street.

Council has engaged in extensive consultation on the Triangle. The next step is to undertake a Business Case.

In the 2018 election campaign Martin Foley, promised to work with the City of Port Phillip during this term of government. He said:

'Regarding the future of the Triangle, a re-elected Andrews government will work with the City of Port Phillip on a business case to determine the best long term strategy for the Site. This will ensure that the extensive process that the Council has undertaken with the community is reflected in any mutually agreed process between the State and Local Government on the most appropriate way to resolve the future and best use of this iconic site.'

Newly elected Federal member, Josh Burns, has said:

'If elected, I will work with my friend and colleague the Member for Albert Park, Martin Foley, and with the Port Phillip Council, to find a resolution to this question (the future of the St Kilda Triangle).'

In response to unChain's budget submission last year Council said:

'The long term delivery of the St Kilda Triangle remains a key objective of the City of Port Phillip for its ability to transform St Kilda and Port Phillip. The current Victorian government has committed to work with the City of Port Phillip during this term of government to develop a business case to determine the best long-term strategy for the site. This must include consideration of Council's Masterplan and the winning entry in the international LAGI design competition for the Triangle ... we are committed to engaging fully in the business case process to ensure past Council and community work is considered.'

Port Phillip has spent a massive amount of money and time on the Triangle (perhaps too much). While Council currently receives a non-trivial return from parking fees, the medium term development of the Triangle as an entertainment and cultural precinct would provide a massive financial boost to Council's coffers. With significant government support for construction projects in the COVID-recovery process, now it the time to advance this project.

I am aware that the political reality is that the majority of Councillors would prefer to put the Triangle on the 'back-burner'. In the famous words of Lord Denning, the most celebrated English judge of the twentieth century, I urge Councillors to be 'brave spirits' not 'timorous souls'. It is time for Council to show some leadership.

However if Council feels that it is unwilling or lacks the skills to be the lead agency for the Triangle project, then it should ask the State government to take over that role.

I attach a brief history of the Triangle that Councillors may find useful.

██████████
Secretary unChain Port Phillip
██████████

A Brief History of the St Kilda Triangle

St Kilda Foreshore Urban Design Framework (UDF)

The St Kilda Foreshore Urban Design Framework (UDF) was a thirty-year vision incorporated into the Port Phillip Planning Scheme in 2004. The St Kilda Triangle was envisaged as an entertainment and cultural precinct, with significant public open space. The UDF included 11 specific proposals to implement this promise.

What went wrong?

The State government in the early 2000's refused to allocate any funding for the Triangle even though it is iconic Crown Land. This forced the Council in 2008 to approve a commercial development of the Triangle to subsidise the expensive restoration of the Palais theatre. However, this betrayed the promises in the UDF. Following an extensive community campaign, this plan was terminated in 2010.

Saving the Palais

The Palais is Australia's top theatre concert venue and was ranked by *Pollstar* magazine in 2014 as the 23rd best venue in the world. However in that year the Municipal Building Surveyor was about to close the theatre because of substantial building defects. The Council and the State Government acted. The key person was Martin Foley who responded to a community campaign by persuading the State Government to commit \$13.4 million for emergency works after the Council had promised \$7.5 million. Subsequently in 2016 the Council awarded a 30-year lease of the Palais to the American conglomerate, Live Nation. While not without controversy, this guaranteed the long-term future of the Palais. The result is that today, unlike in 2008, there is no need for a commercial development of the Triangle to subsidise the restoration of the Palais.

The Masterplan for the Triangle

Council has engaged in extensive consultation on a new Masterplan. Its Masterplan implements the vision in the UDF and its 11 Proposals. It provides

- 14,000 sq.m of cultural institutions
- 20,000 sq m of landscaped open space
- underground car parking
- implementation of the St Kilda Foreshore Urban Design Framework

The Land Art Generator Initiative (LAGI): A Catalyst?

LAGI is a biennial competition that brings sustainability, public art and land form together. Previous host cities were Dubai (2010), New York (2012), Copenhagen (2014) and Santa Monica (2016). The State Government and the Council succeeded in getting the 2018 LAGI competition at the Triangle with a focus on adding art and renewable energy to the Masterplan. The winning entry by

Melbourne's NH Architecture designed a swooping canopy that will provide renewable energy for 900 homes, the Palais and the Triangle.

The Next Step: The Business Case

The major issue is who will pay for an appropriate development of the St Kilda Triangle? The Masterplan raised the possibility of a third gallery space for the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). There are many other possibilities that a Business Case could explore (The BHP Centre for World Music and Dance???)

The Business Case would include consideration of the Council's Masterplan and the winning entry in the international LAGI design competition for the Triangle.

The Business Case may consider other possibilities such as decking over Jacka Boulevard as part of the Triangle development. In the past local experts Marcus O'Reilly and John Parkinson have put forward detailed proposals for this. The original 1906 Catani design for the slopes never envisaged a major arterial road like Jacka Boulevard. This has turned the foreshore precinct, Acland Street and Fitzroy Street into three isolated locations with little connectivity. Both streets are in desperate need of renewal and creative placemaking. The decking proposal would cost only about the amount of money required for the removal of two level crossings. The UK government has done extensive analysis of the benefits of such projects. A 'neighbourhood renewal' project like this will typically provide a Benefit Cost Ratio of 3.0 (See 'Valuing the benefits of regeneration: economics paper 7, Volume 1: final report' p. 15). This means that for every \$1 spent by the government, there is a return of \$3. This is significantly better than the returns on removal of level crossings or construction of new freeways.

I recognize that both the Council and the State Government face significant limits on their infrastructure spending. However I submit that now is the time to take the next step in planning for the St Kilda Triangle since developing a Business Case only involves a modest expenditure.

CBR-247

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 12:20 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Cc: Bernadene Voss - Mayor <Bernadene.Voss@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Love your program, love SPCC, thank your council

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your continued support of the Exercise Program run by [REDACTED] and for your support for the SPCC. Ours is one of 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week.

This Exercise Program has been of enormous and positive benefit to myself and a great contributor to my ongoing health – both physical and mental, as I find my body ageing.

I am so grateful that during these Covid times, these exercise classes have been able to continue using Zoom. [REDACTED] is so skilled in adapting the exercises to suit the wide range of physical abilities within the group, and I really appreciate her professional knowledge of the human body, joint protection and appropriate, associated movements. All these factors can only contribute to helping us lead a more active and healthy lifestyle as we keep ageing, and this in turn will help us to continue to contribute to the community in other ways.

In addition, research indicates an active healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible.

Thank you

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Chief Executive Officer
Port Phillip City Council
Private Bag No 3
St Kilda VIC 3182

Via email: helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au

17 July 2020

Dear Mr Smith

RE: Draft Budget 2020/2021

The Meydan Group, the owner and operator of the Cosmopolitan Hotel on Carlisle Street, St Kilda, and member of Acland Street Traders Association, continues to advocate for the prioritisation of funding for the St Kilda Precinct Strategic Plan.

The Council needs to prioritise the St Kilda precinct to support its local traders and community. The area is in dire need of revitalisation and economic stimulation – otherwise it will continue to decline. Failing to make an adequate investment in a strategic plan for St Kilda will result in Council falling short of its Council Plan.

In finalising the Budget and Council plan, we request that Council:

- Prioritise preparation and implementation of the St Kilda Precinct Strategic Plan (the Plan);
- Allocate additional funds towards the Plan for the Financial Year 2020/2021;
- Ensure ongoing funding for the Plan for the life of the project (3 – 5 years); and
- Support site specific amendments that will support the revitalisation of St Kilda in a more timely manner.

Cosmopolitan Hotel Site

The Cosmopolitan Hotel Site provides a redevelopment opportunity of strategic significance; being located on the periphery of the Acland Street activity centre, with three street frontages, and an area of over 3,500 square metres (Figure 1).

While the site has the potential to make a substantial contribution to the revitalisation of Acland Street through a commercial and residential development, it is currently zoned 'General Residential', which severely limits the area of the site that can be developed (65%) and the height to which it can be developed (3 storeys). These controls mean that the site is excessively constrained and cannot fulfil its potential. While this circumstance has been recognised by Council, the preference has been to await the preparation of a comprehensive St Kilda Precinct Strategic Plan (the Plan).

While the draft budget does provide some funding for the Plan, it is inadequate to provide any benefit to St Kilda in the short to medium term, and will further draw out an already lengthy process.



Figure 1: Cosmopolitan Hotel Site Location

Why is the St Kilda Precinct Strategic Plan required?

Even prior to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic reaching Australia, St Kilda was in need of revitalisation. This is recognised in the Council Plan, which includes among its priorities to ‘Develop a strategic plan for the St Kilda precinct, including a strategy to revitalise Fitzroy Street’ (June 2020 Draft: p90).

In our budget submission last year, we noted the number of vacant tenancies on both Acland Street and Fitzroy Street – a situation that is only being exacerbated by the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. Not only are there ongoing vacancies but several tenancies are occupied by less than ideal businesses which add very little to the vitality and viability of this precinct.

Preparation and implementation of a comprehensive strategic plan will assist in the revitalisation of St Kilda by:

- Setting a clear vision for the area, ensuring cohesive redevelopment;
- Providing clarity and certainty for residents and investors; and
- Unlocking the potential of underutilised properties, such as the Cosmopolitan Hotel site.

While a powerful tool, a strategic plan can readily take five years from inception to implementation into planning controls. Accordingly, it is imperative that work commences immediately and be adequately resourced so the process does not take longer than necessary.

What does the draft Council Budget commit to?

The draft budget includes the following in regard to the St Kilda Strategic Plan.

- St Kilda Strategic Plan – Establish the preferred direction to guide the future growth and facilitate change within the St Kilda precinct, and to align partnerships, employment and sustainability goals outlined in key Council strategies (\$100,000 to commence). (Page 20).

Strategic direction/ service category	Project Name	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Strategic Direction 4: We are growing but keeping our character City planning and urban design	Fishermans Bend Program	275	375	300	300
	Heritage Program Implementation	150	50	-	-
	Planning Scheme Ademdments	140	210	260	260
	South Melbourne Market Strategic Business Case	250			
	South Melbourne Precinct Strategic Plan	130	210	-	-
	St Kilda Precinct Strategic Plan	120	-	-	-

(Page 192)

Notably, there is a discrepancy between the two figures. We trust this will be resolved in the process of finalising the budget and assume the larger some, of \$120,000, is correct.

The allocation of \$120,000 places inadequate resources, and therefore, urgency on the St Kilda Precinct Plan. This amount would barely provide for the necessary background studies to allow the primary task to commence. Perhaps more concerningly, there is no forward budget to provide certainty that the task will continue to progress beyond 2020/2021.

What is required?

To be adequately funded, it is likely that the St Kilda Strategic Plan needs a budget of \$200,000 to \$250,000 over a two to three year period. At this point, it should be ready to move into the Planning Scheme Amendment funding stream.

How can this be redressed?

The Meydan Group appreciates the financial challenges faced by Council to fund all of its programs and activities given the combined impact of the cost of COVID-19 emergency relief packages and rate capping. Nonetheless, more can be done to ensure that the St Kilda Strategic Plan (the Plan) is adequately funded.

1) Budget Reallocation

In contrast to the \$120,000 allocated to the Plan:

- \$380,000 is allocated to strategic work associated with South Melbourne in the 2020 / 2021 financial year, with a further \$210,000 the following financial year;
- \$200,000 is allocated to Heritage Program Implementation over the same period; and
- \$1,250,000 is allocated to the Fishermens Bend program over a four year period.

While the allocation of spending behind the numbers is not apparent, we make the following observations:

- In comparison to St Kilda, South Melbourne is thriving, underpinned by the bustling South Melbourne market and associated retail areas;
- The heritage program should be reviewed in the light of the current budget and community challenges. Development within the municipality is already heavily constrained by blanket heritage controls, which have a tendency to be reviewed on a case by case basis through the statutory planning system. While this is not an ideal process, the case can be made that this is not a priority area for spending at this time.
- Again, it is not clear from the information available how the budget allocated to Fishermens Bend will be spent. While we recognise that the City of Port Phillip needs to protect its interest in the area and seek the best outcomes for the future community, there may be opportunities to reallocate some of this large budget to the more urgent need of the St Kilda community.

2) Alternate Funding Sources

Failing the ability to adequately redistribute budget to adequately fund the Plan, Council should give the project the priority it deserves by seeking alternate sources of funding and support.

As we identified in our submission last year, the Acland Street Village Special Rate and Charge Scheme raises a significant amount of money every year (approximately \$195,000 per annum). This is one possible source of funding that could be accessed to support the traders which contribute to

it. Other opportunities may include partnerships with key stakeholders, such as State government and landholders.

Alternate and Interim Solutions

The preparation and implementation of the St Kilda Strategic Plan is an important piece of work that will help to unlock the areas potential by, inter alia, applying more appropriate planning controls to strategic redevelopment sites such as the Cosmopolitan Hotel site. It is, however, a large piece of work that will take a number of years to prepare.

To unlock the potential of sites such as ours in a more timely and targeted manner, Council can actively pursue and support site specific planning scheme amendments. This provides two key benefits:

- Costs associated with background work and the amendment process will be substantially borne by the proponent; and
- It ensures Council's resources are invested in sites where owners and investors are prepared to act and make changes.

In closing, we emphasise the opportunity that the Cosmopolitan Hotel site provides to contribute to the revitalisation of St Kilda. The impacts of COVID-19 on tourism means that it currently contributes little to the local economy.

An appropriate opportunity to redevelop the site could significantly improve the site's benefit to the local community through its economic contribution, provision of housing, and improved interfaces with the three street frontages.

Council needs to openly and actively demonstrate to the business community that it wants the revitalisation of the once thriving St Kilda precinct, otherwise - as has been the case in recent years - investment will be directed elsewhere. With Council's support, the redevelopment of the Cosmopolitan Hotel site can be a catalyst for further private investment in the area.

To further discuss the opportunities provided by the Cosmopolitan Hotel site or the contents of this submission, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned, Jason Wood, on 0414 321 080, or Natasha Liddell on 0412 302 122.

We hope to be able to work with Council in a productive and timely manner to unlock the site's potential and contribute to the revitalisation of St Kilda.

Regards,



General Manager - Developments
Meydan Group

CBR-258

Comments on Council's updated Plan 2020/21-City of Port Phillip

As a long term resident of Balaclava, I continue to wonder why it remains a relatively neglected area when compared with other suburbs in the municipality.

With the current Covid crisis, the issue of "rough sleeping" has been amplified as many people try to seek shelter in doorways, under the train station, trees. I commend your plan to lease the Backpacker hostels in St Kilda so as to provide much needed and essential shelter for people.

Coupled with this is your plan and commitment to increase the stock of social housing in the area. Again I commend this plan as this current health crisis has "shone a light " on the inbuilt difficulties in living in cramped high rise public accommodation. It seems necessary to advocate with other levels of government for stimulus funds to be made available for the development of social housing stock, and for incentives to be geared towards the construction industry so that people have a stream of work and that construction of these much needed housing units can occur in the near future.

My other interest is in Council's Plan to create a sustainable future by committing to an actual greening of Balaclava. This suburb has the lowest percentage of canopy cover and open space when compared with other areas in the municipality. Council's target for greening is 21% by 2030. I would encourage you to increase this to 25% by 2030. Young trees take at least 10 years to develop an effective canopy to counter the impact of our changing climate, and extreme heat events during the summer/autumn period.

I note that there is a proposed reduction in the Sustainability budget and it seems hard to reconcile this when the interlocking of several factors creates health problems for many of our citizens.

Port Phillip council, and its predecessor St Kilda Council, has had a long term commitment to its more vulnerable citizens, and it seems that there will be an increase in vulnerability throughout this current health crisis. As one way of addressing the multiplicity of factors, investment in cooling our environment- our streets particularly those in Balaclava which carry high pedestrian traffic would be so advantageous to both residents, citizens and council.

Yours sincerely,

██████████

██████████ Balaclava.3183

17 July 2020

CBR-260



30/06/2020

Dear Anita,

Further to your discussions with James Brearley earlier today, the Fitzroy Street Business association wishes for the City of Port Phillip to retain funding for Renew Australia.

The FSBA would be willing to contribute the outstanding \$75000 to bring Renew to fruition. We strongly believe that Renew is the most promising initiative to come from Placemaking.

Covid-19 has seen problems compounded on our street, where we have seen vacancy rates rise along with an intimidating environment for locals and visitors alike. Renew supporting a Fitzroy Street Investment Strategy, we believe shall offer a long lasting benefit for the area.

Regards, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
FSBA President

CBR-261

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 1:49 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: GOOT..Get out of town..funding SPCC

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.


I was part of the 'Get Out Of Town' program that was offered through SouthPort Community Centre. I helped [REDACTED] with setting up of snacks,arts items and support for the families that attended the outings.. I found that i was inspired by how how much the children and parents were able to enjoy programs offered..and hoe much they got out of doing things that they would most likely not be able to do otherwise. It was rewarding to also see how excited the children and parents looked forward to seeing others as well.. it was a great extended community. GOOT also encourages the parents to interact with their own children in a fun environment. I hope the programme is able to continue. It has brought light and fun to everyone that is involved.

[REDACTED]

CBR-262

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 1:54 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Voss

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

The experience I've enjoyed participating in Creative Writing and Communication skills has helped me stay balanced. To have social contact, including zoom meetings is most relevant to my mental health. Deb and Robyn's programs that we each share keep us in check. I wish and hope they'll continue to give me this opportunity.... and thanks for being there. From the one and only [REDACTED] 

CBR-263

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 2:08 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: continuation of Exercise classes

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,
Thank you for your continued support of our exercise programs and SPCC. It has made a hugely positive impact on our lives.
Ours is one of 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week.

Research indicates an active healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible.

It also should be considered that many of the people who attend and benefit from these exercise classes are of an age which prevents them from driving and so central location and easy walking access is essential.
Thank you,
[REDACTED]



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Submission on the proposed City of Port Phillip budget 2020-21

REFRESH - REIMAGINE

unChain Inc.

We have not added a \$ budget amount to our submission items, instead we have taken the policy and strategic approach to the decision making process.

Budget: Strategy, outcomes and performance

- With the new Local Government Act 2020 progressively being implemented, CoPP must establish and comply with the new Community Engagement, Strategic Planning, Financial Management, Public Transparency, Service Performance principles and must comply with the Ministerial Good Practice Guidelines.
- These changes will change the way CoPP engages and informs the community and how it plans and executes relevant services and projects.
- The impact of the Corona virus has highlighted the need to do things differently.
- 2020-21 and probably 2021-22 are not going to be business as usual for CoPP nor the community and business in Port Phillip.
- Many in the community are ready for a “new and refreshed” approach by City Council staff and Councillors.
- CoPP should not aim just to meet benchmark comparisons with other relevant Councils but should aim to be the Council that creates the new benchmark levels to which others aspire.
- By effectively finding out about the needs of various people and the communities of Port Phillip, CoPP should gain up to date information and ideas, prioritising the ideas, make a decision, continually and progressively communicate and monitor the execution.
- As part of the new “community engagement” requirement, CoPP should develop a relevant version of a “Citizens’ Assembly” as one method of keeping CoPP informed of community needs and expectations, not just relying on councillors, CoPP staff and surveys that don’t ask useful and relevant questions
- As a result, CoPP will achieve not only what is needed but also establish the new benchmarks and gain the respect from the community.
- Targeted support and services must be maintained to meet needs with an execution strategy that is effective, efficient, measurable, tracked, sustainable and reviewed.
- Along with seeking and obtaining more State and Federal Government funds, CoPP needs to apply for funding for services from philanthropic funds and business sponsorship and partnerships to fund projects and services.
- CoPP can no longer continue to rely on rates and parking fines as the major sources of funding.
- Funding sources must be diversified.
- To achieve this CoPP need to have some staff that have real life commercial experience gained from outside the public sector so that projects and services are effectively and efficiently managed and the funds gained can be put to use in providing services and amenities for residents and tourist from State, Federal and Commercial funding as well as other income.

Rate relief

- Businesses and staff on Job Keeper and those on Job Seeker need support with many issues including paying rent or mortgages, CoPP can support them by establishing a “targeted rate relief” fund and strategy.
- An example is found at <https://www.mitichamcouncil.sa.gov.au/council/financial/rates-relief>
- For many, City Council rates are the largest tax they pay, residents want value and the relevant services they require.

Leases and licences compliance

- CoPP has to ensure those with leases or licences comply with the financial and non-financial aspects of their agreement.
- Some examples include the non upgrade of the Vineyard as per the lease, the free access to public toilets and the community room, which is still not listed on the CoPP website, at the West Beach Pavilion, which still pays no rent and the lack of pre planning when it was known that the 50 year lease for the St Kilda Marina was expiring years ago etc. By extending the current Marina lease, Council missed out on gaining a realistic lease income for a number of years.

Community support

- Targeted, relevant services and the support for community groups is an essential Council service and must continue.
- In particular, groups that support the vulnerable, those needing food, housing, child care, libraries, social services and support for those supporting the needs of older or younger people, arts, music, theatre, sport and the environment etc. A simple example of a basic services, where are the clean and safe public toilets in Port Phillip?

Environmental and sustainability issues

- The Eco centre is an amazing community based group with expertise and strong community engagement in many issues. The planned new EcoCentre community centre and its operational funding is required & supported.
- Restaurants should be audited and encouraged to have sustainable practices and outcomes. An example is found at <https://www.dinegreen.com/> which certifies and educates restaurants in the US to improve their sustainable practices.
- Industry and companies in Fishermans Bend should be encouraged to reduce emissions, collaborate and share resources, one company’s waste can be another company’s input to a new product. An example of industry collaboration is from Denmark at <http://www.symbiosis.dk/en/>
- CoPP should continue to fund and change the thinking and narrative about creating sustainable climate issues and practices across all CoPP services, residents, industry and commercial businesses in Port Phillip and the neighbouring Cities.
- Power Purchase agreements and local community power sharing systems should be encouraged.
- The Port Philip Sustainable Business Network, the Council climate emergency policy and the engagement of PECAN and other environment groups is supported so that a whole of council climate emergency plan is developed, funded and executed locally to mitigate and adapt to climate change across all of the CoPP, procurement practices included.

Business support

- Without relevant, well managed businesses, the street life of a city fails. We have seen this in many streets across the City. Vacant shops lead to dark streets at night and a self-fulfilling outcome of no customers which leads to less customers and which leads to more shops, restaurants and entertainment venues closing, and the spiral goes on.
- CoPP needs to establish a “vacancy levy” that will encourage landlords to meet the market with their rent expectations.
- Council needs to look beyond “place making” by establishing community based services and create safe, clean activated streets by renting the vacant shopfronts for services.

Improved communication of council policy decisions and services.

- Council needs to improve communication with the community on Council policy decisions, the services on offer and how the community communicates with council for assistance.
- CoPP needs to move from a “you can’t do this” to “how can we help you get this done, within the law” attitude. The community want openness and transparency. They do not want the removal of Third Party Rights, and offer engagement throughout the process.
- Many in the community have significant expertise and willingly volunteer their time to engage with CoPP.
- Given the success of video meetings, post Covid 19, CoPP should expand the use of video conferencing for “town hall” feedback and information events.
- Internal efficiencies, access to knowledge, service design and execution will be enhanced by the use of technology and trained staff.

Audit Committee

- The role, access and knowledge of the outcomes of the Audit committee must be improved such that there is transparency.
- It is very difficult to find out how to contact the Committee and its membership.
- It is not good practice to contact an audit committee through a staff member of the CEOs office.
- The audit committee should ensure that CoPP complies with all laws, in particular the new Local Government Act.

Staffing levels

- CoPP needs to continually review the systems capabilities, the size, shape and capabilities of the staff required to plan and execute the services determined by the Act and Council policy on local issues.
- Staff should be capable and encouraged to act as internal consultants which would reduce the excessive cost and reliance on external consultants.
- The CEO’s review of the staff structure and requirements is long overdue, in particular a review of the “middle waist line” staffing levels is required. Reducing the 5 divisions to 4 is a good step in the right direction.

Procurement and lifecycle management

- The CoPP Audit committee needs to continually review its contract and procurement strategy and procedures every 2 years as a minimum.
- Capital works projects must be prioritised and carried out by applying a strict review process based on needs rather than wants.
- Often both parties can become very comfortable and it is easy to just renew or give the contract to an existing supplier, same applies to leases relet without tender. How do new suppliers get a chance to tender?
- Some projects have not been built for a long lifecycle.
- An example is the dilapidated Middle Park sea front toilets, which received a sustainability award in 2012, but now require \$40K renovations, not very sustainable. The project was either not designed for its location, not specified correctly or not monitored during construction for compliance with the specification.
- The South Melbourne Town Hall should not have been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair such that it has to be evacuated and closed.
- We assume that all Council assets are inspected on a routine basis for compliance, hazardous materials, maintenance and safety.
- Why do some streets get resurfaced just because it is programmed to be undertaken rather than resurfaced based on need?
- Procurement policy needs to be based on many criteria which need to be reviewed to keep in line with changing community expectation and best practice.
- If Council does not have the capabilities nor the finances for major projects, council should request that the State Government take over and fund a project, like The Triangle and The St Kilda Marina.

CBR-265

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 2:54 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Council Plan and draft Budget 2020/21

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Please find below my submission on the [Council Plan and draft Budget 2020/21](#).

Targeted rate relief

Many ratepayers and residents of the City of Port Phillip have either lost money in their business, been put on job keeper or lost their job and now on job seeker.

These people need support from the City.

Will Council support ratepayers, businesses and community groups who are experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic by giving rate waivers, rate relief or deferrals?
Business and landlord rate relief should be extended to tenants, who do not directly pay rates, with the agreement of their landlord that any deferral or rebate will be directly passed on to the tenant.

It is suggested that, to be eligible, ratepayers (direct or indirect, such as tenants) must be

- Commercial and Community group ratepayers who have been required to close due to COVID-19 and are eligible for the 'Job Keeper' payment
- Residential ratepayers should be eligible for the 'Job Seeker' or 'Job Keeper' payment
- Any other ratepayer experiencing financial hardship due to income dropping by 15 per cent or more.

Its easy, Council can use existing documentation which has already been verified by the ATO, hence it's easy to implement.

This is an opportunity to support ratepayers and tenants who have lost income in their business, on Job Keeper or lost their job and on Job Seeker.

An example of this rate support can be found at the City of Mitcham in Adelaide which have adopted such support for residents and businesses..

See <https://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/council/financial/rates-relief>

Thank you
Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
St Kilda Beach
Melbourne Australia.
[REDACTED]

City of Port Phillip Council Budget Submission 2020/2021:

12/7/2020

SKWAT (St Kilda Water and Trees)

The Catani Gardens Storm Water Harvesting Project

The Proposal and Background:

SKWAT proposes *The Catani Gardens Storm Water Harvesting Project* as part of Port Phillip's wider "Water Sensitive Urban Design Programme." The project would involve collecting water from the drains underneath the Catani Gardens, and harvesting the storm water – instead of letting it flow out into the bay. The water would then be used to irrigate the gardens. Importantly, there is a large potential yield of water from St Kilda Hill that can be harvested. The project would be similar to the Alma Park and Albert Park plans. This small proposal would be part of a larger Port Phillip wide integrated water management system. Lastly, it must be noted the importance of the Catani Gardens for nature, sport, recreation, the heritage layout, and location next to Victoria's foremost foreshore.

The project was initially suggested by Helen Halliday in January 2020, and subsequently endorsed by members of the local community. In February 2020, a consultation was undertaken with, Roger Byrne, a long term International Manager of GHD's highly respected Asset Management Group. Byrne endorsed the proposal, and said the proposal was easy to implement and low-cost, with many benefits. SKWAT has briefed all three Lake Ward councillors – Andrew Bond, David Brand and Katherine Copsey – who are all enthusiastic.

Benefits:

- In the current COVID-19 pandemic, public spaces are vital for recreation and walks.
- 2020 has been a significantly wetter year than average, making it an ideal time to collect water, and to continue to keep the plants healthy.
- Reduces costs of water and maintenance in the long term.
- Addresses climate change:
 - Ensuring the grass and trees are healthy reduces the Urban Heat Island effect.
 - Collection of water in a drying climate.
 - Offsets the increasing salinisation from rising sea levels.
- Ensures the grass stays green – important for sport, recreation and events.
- A stable source of water adds more flexibility to the planting scheme.
- Collecting stormwater prevents waste and pollution from entering the bay.
- A new beginning after the apparent halt of the Albert Park Plan
- Preserving the heritage layout.
- Important for health:
 - Green spaces help cool an area, thus softening the effects of heatwaves.
 - Space for exercise is important.
 - Greenery and nature are important for mental health.
- This proposal directly addresses a number of key council goals (drawn from "*We are Port Phillip: Council Plan 2017-27, June 2020*"):
 - A solution to CoPP's Climate Change Emergency declaration of September 2019.
 - To make Port Phillip "a greener, cooler and more liveable city" by 2027 (CoPP, 2020).

- To make Port Phillip “A water sensitive city” by 2027 (CoPP, 2020, 46).
- To make Port Phillip “a sustained reduction in waste” by 2027 (CoPP, 2020, 46).
- To make Port Phillip “a city that is adapting and resilient to climate change” (CoPP, 2020, 46).
- To make Port Phillip “a sustained reduction in waste” (CoPP, 2020, 46).
- To address urbanisation “our public spaces and waterfront will need to be welcoming to all and cater for different and increased use as they become residents’ ‘backyards’” (CoPP, 2020, 43).

Assessment and Costs:

The costs may involve:

- A pump station on the drain with suitable trash removal.
- A suitable storage facility – underground tanks underground tanks, size depending on the predicted inflows and the likely watering demand.
- A recycled watering pump station together with the reconfiguration of the garden watering system to enable dual supply options & MWC isolation.
- We also need to identify the overall benefits that parks represent. The value chain of the community.
- The overall cost of a feasibility study estimated around \$25,000 from consultation with Roger Byrne.

The costs of NOT proceeding with the proposal in a timely manner:

- Degradation of the heritage listed Catani Gardens, VHR H1805, of State Significance¹ through lack of best practice and insufficient forward planning.

Recommendation:

We therefore seek council’s agreement to undertake a serious assessment of a recycled water project for Catani Gardens in the 2020/2021 budget at an estimated cost of \$25,000.

We would be pleased to speak to this submission at the Council meeting on 5 August.

Contacts:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

¹ Exceptional specimens of *Phoenix canariensis* and *Washingtonia robusta* represent the greatest concentration of palms in a Victorian public garden. <https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/1997>

CBR-267

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 3:20 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabbp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Exercise program

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Council, I am writing to express my gratitude to you, for continuing to enable the enhanced health and well being of senior citizens, with the exercise program with [REDACTED] at SPCC, and via Zoom during Corona. It gives me a reason to get up in the mornings!

Many thanks, [REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)



COUNCIL BUDGET SUBMISSION

2020/21

CONTACT:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ripponlea

[REDACTED]



PROJECT SUMMARY

HUMIFORM connects young people with their impact, their community and the world to empower them to become active citizens and change makers.

Our long term vision is to secure a permanent space to run education programs, events and workshops for young people in the City of Port Phillip. Currently, we are growing our community and establishing our business as a leader in sustainability education. We are appealing to the City of Port Phillip Council to include funding in the Budget 2020/21 for a location, for 5-8 hours a week, to trial our after school and holiday programs. HUMIFORM would also like to work closely with the council to promote the programs and connect with local change makers interested in engaging with young people.

HUMIFORM Founder, [REDACTED] has worked as an educator in the City of Port Phillip for over a decade and has extensive experience building and nurturing strong relationships with diverse young people. Her programs have a proven track record, giving our youth the confidence to make a difference in their community, and a sense of purpose and belonging. Despite the global pandemic, this year HUMIFORM is facilitating ongoing social and environmental impact programs in collaboration with a number of schools across Melbourne. We are now seeking to expand our operations and impact, and offer meaningful after school and holiday programs, workshops and events to young people aged 6-16.

Our city needs to support our youth to have critical conversations, engage and connect with local change makers, and feel empowered to make a difference on a range of environmental and social issues. This will not only benefit the young people themselves but create a resilient and connected community more broadly. Through conversations with young people and parents in the City of Port Phillip, we have identified that young people are hungry for opportunities to learn about the world and participate in meaningful action, and parents are looking for ways to support them to do this.





IMAGE: [redacted] Roots & Shoots Australia Tour



THE INSPIRATION NATURE CLUB

[redacted] Founder of HUMIFORM

In 2014, by student request I started a lunchtime Nature Club for a group of budding six year old environmentalists at St Kilda Primary School. Every week we dove into a new nature related topic and I was amazed at what they could understand and get excited about.

The following year, I brought in an article that talked about how tourists were injuring little penguins on the St Kilda foreshore by shoving their selfie sticks into the penguin's burrows and the group was outraged. It sparked an investigation into the world of the little penguins and Nature Club decided to raise money to help microchip them to keep them safe. It was astonishing to see how determined they were to make a difference.

I never could have imagined that six years later Nature Club would still be going strong. These same students are now in their first year of high school and, even though they are all at different schools and we are in the middle of a global pandemic, the group is still meeting weekly to continue their social and environmental work. I have had the immense privilege of watching them blossom into passionate change makers. They have allowed me to witness first hand the potential and capacity young people have to change the world. HUMIFORM was inspired by this potential.

Please see Appendix A for testimonials from Nature Club members and parents.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The next generation faces a future of uncertainty, change and upheaval due to the climate crisis and the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. A [report](#) issued by the Australian Psychological Society at the end of 2019 identified that 4 in 5 Australian youth are anxious about climate change. New [research](#) released by the headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation in June found young Australians are fearful and uncertain for their future as a result of COVID-19, with 40% of young respondents affirming that the pandemic has impacted their confidence to achieve future goals.

These anxieties are playing out in our community. At the end of 2019, on the last day of Term 4 at St Kilda Primary School, we endured temperatures of 44 degrees. Students weren't allowed to go outside to play and instead had to watch from the windows as the scorching hot winds whipped up a frenzy outside. One of the students quietly confided to me that she was scared. She pointed out that the weather we were experiencing wasn't normal and that our government wasn't doing anything about the climate crisis. The young people in our community are aware that the world is changing. It is our responsibility to ensure that they don't lose hope for their future.

HUMIFORM founder, [REDACTED], has a decade long track record when it comes to organising and facilitating youth empowerment groups and events in the City of Port Phillip. She has an extensive local network including organisations, parents, young people, schools, businesses, educators and change makers. Since the start of 2020, HUMIFORM has been running ongoing, high impact programs with three different schools and the demand for these programs is increasing steadily, despite the obstacles presented by a global pandemic. We are now looking to expand our operations and secure a space in the City of Port Phillip to put down roots and grow our community. Our goal is to reach as many young people as possible and help them realise the power they have to make a difference.

Our long term vision is to launch a HUMIFORM Impact Hub, that will allow young people to meaningfully explore their understanding of the world we live in and their role in creating positive social and environmental change. It will be a place where they can develop skills, knowledge and connections to confidently contribute to a more fair, equitable and sustainable planet. At the hub, young people are given permission to create a vision for the world they want to live in, and opportunities to work together to bring their vision to life. It will be a space that facilitates ongoing programs, workshops, events and experiences that nurture deep connections and create community resilience, planting the seeds for a better Australia and a better humanity.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

After School Programs

During the school term, HUMIFORM will run weekly hour-long student-led, facilitator supported sessions for 5 different age groups; Grade 1-2, Grade 3-4, Grade 5-6 and Year 7-8. Each session will allow up to 20 young people to explore the issues they are passionate about and discover how they can make a difference in thoughtful and meaningful ways.

Students will have the opportunity to develop a range of different skills and understandings about the world we live in. Topics may include doughnut economics, diversity and inclusion, gender, climate, biodiversity, consumption, fashion, localism, intersectional environmentalism, food systems, human rights, restorative justice, democracy, poverty and sustainability. We will engage local experts to speak and work with the groups to develop their empathy, compassion and listening skills, and to broaden their understanding of and connection to our community.

Holiday Programs

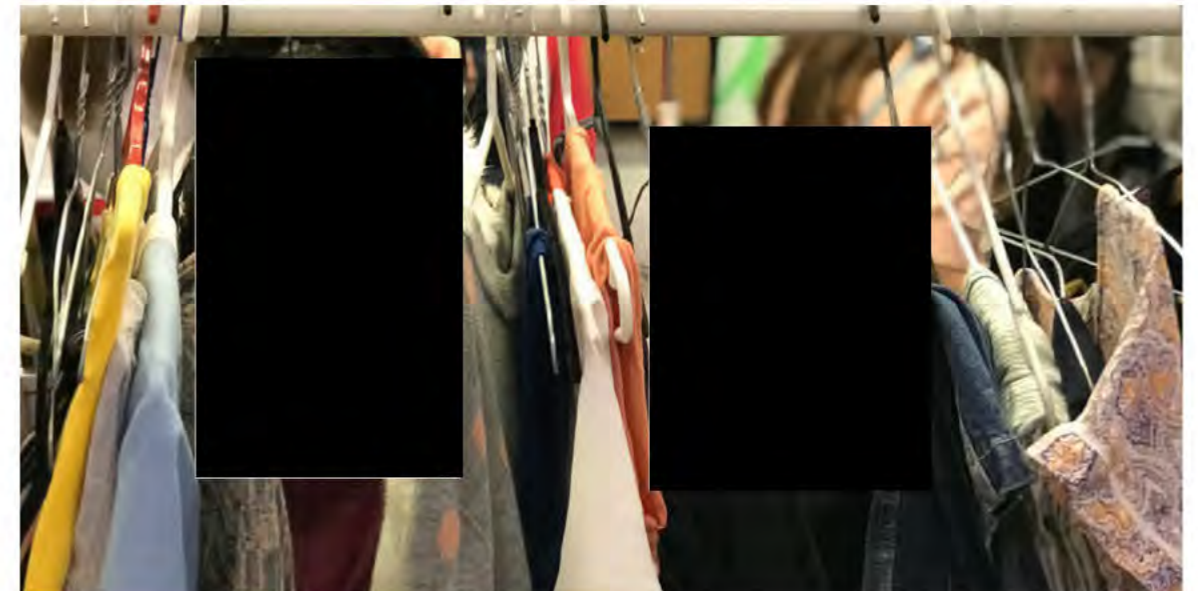
The school holidays are a great opportunity to deep dive into an issue and get creative about how we can contribute to solutions. HUMIFORM will offer a range of different programs and workshops, that run anywhere from 1 hour to 5 days. These sessions will allow young people to investigate issues and use their imaginations to create solutions. Themes for these programs and workshops may include fashion for people and the planet, op shop tours, craftivism, developing change maker skills, letter writing, sustainable cooking, zero waste, storytelling, gardening and much much more.



Events

HUMIFORM will facilitate and co-create workshops, clothing swaps, documentary screenings, panels and speaker events with a diverse range of stakeholders. The aim of these events is to expose young people to new ideas and skills and to create empathy, understanding and compassion for people who are different from themselves.

In 2019, HUMIFORM ran a teen clothing swap event at the South Melbourne Market (see images) and we were overwhelmed by the response. Those who attended really enjoyed learning about the stories behind our clothes and updating their wardrobe in a way that respected people and the planet.





PROJECT ALIGNMENT WITH THE COPP COUNCIL PLAN 2017-2027

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Change Maker Program

During the four units of the HUMIFORM Change Maker Program, over the course of a school year, students explore their passions and interests through the lens of social and environmental impact and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. They develop a nuanced understanding of the world we live in, the problems we face and the solutions that exist locally and beyond.

Students have the opportunity to learn from a diverse range of experts in the social and environmental impact space and contribute to the projects they are working on. They discover what it takes to be a responsible change maker and drive meaningful and thoughtful impact in their community. This program is currently being run in collaboration with St Kilda Primary School

Project Utopia

Project Utopia is designed to inspire students to imagine what is possible, instil hope and support them to create a vision for their community in 2040. With the guidance of school leadership, they will apply their ideas and vision to their school and plan and execute a project that has a positive impact. This project is scheduled to run in collaboration with Monterey Secondary College.

Fashion Impact Project

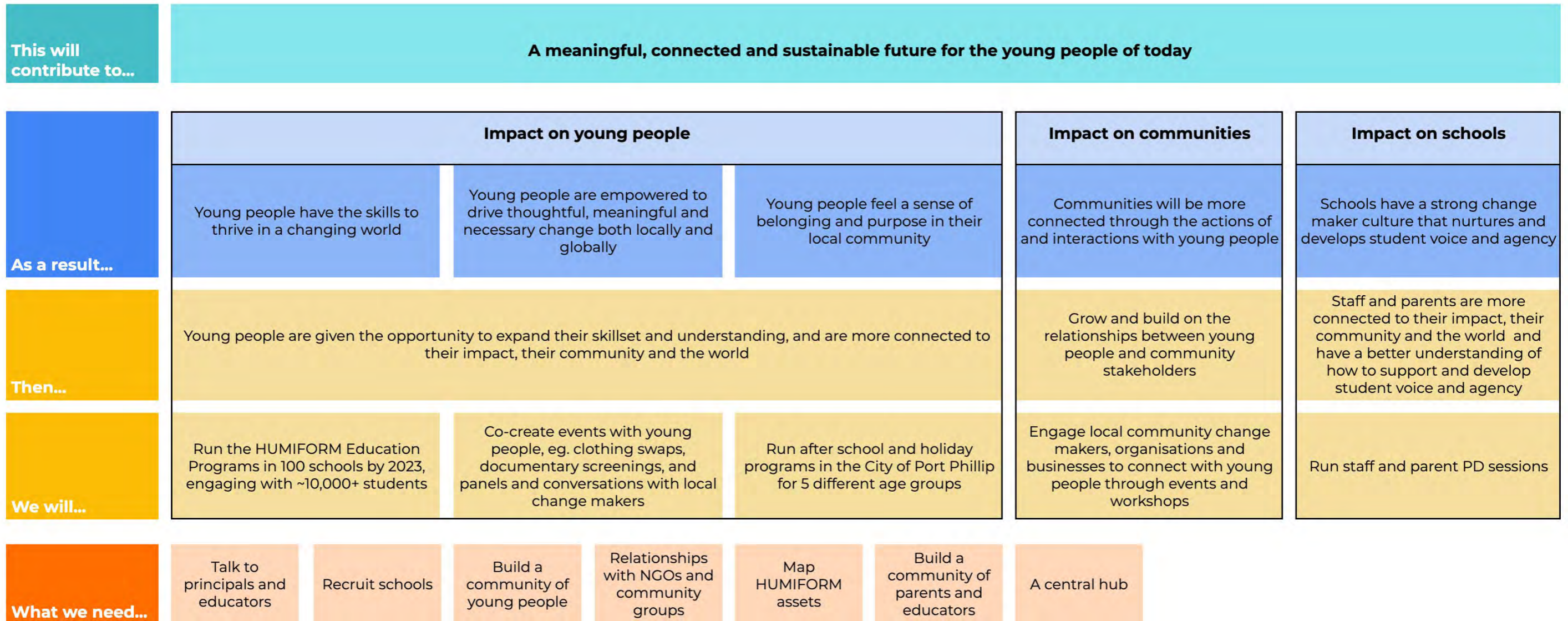
HUMIFORM's Fashion Impact Project gives young people the opportunity to explore the stories behind their clothes and engage with fashion in positive and meaningful ways.

HUMIFORM is partnering with schools to allow students to take ownership of our t-shirt creation process at every stage. Students design, market and sell ethically made tees. Each t-shirt features artwork that shares a message about an issue that matters to the school community. This project is currently being run in collaboration with Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION	OUTCOMES BY 2027	HUMIFORM ACTIONS
1. We embrace difference, and people belong	A safe and active community with strong social connections	The programs, events and workshops we run will promote deep community connections between young people and other stakeholders including local council, NGOs, businesses, and community groups and leaders.
	Access to services that support the health and wellbeing of our growing community	Empowering young people to take action to improve their community contributes to positive health and wellbeing outcomes.
	Community diversity is valued and celebrated	We will collaborate with a diverse range of community members to run events and workshops. Throughout all the activities we run we will openly and honestly address diversity and inclusion to develop awareness, empathy and compassion in the young people we work with.
3. We have smart solutions for a sustainable future	A city that is adapting and resilient to climate change	The programs we run with young people will educate them about the climate crisis, empower them to take action and build resilience for the future.



THEORY OF CHANGE



FOUNDER

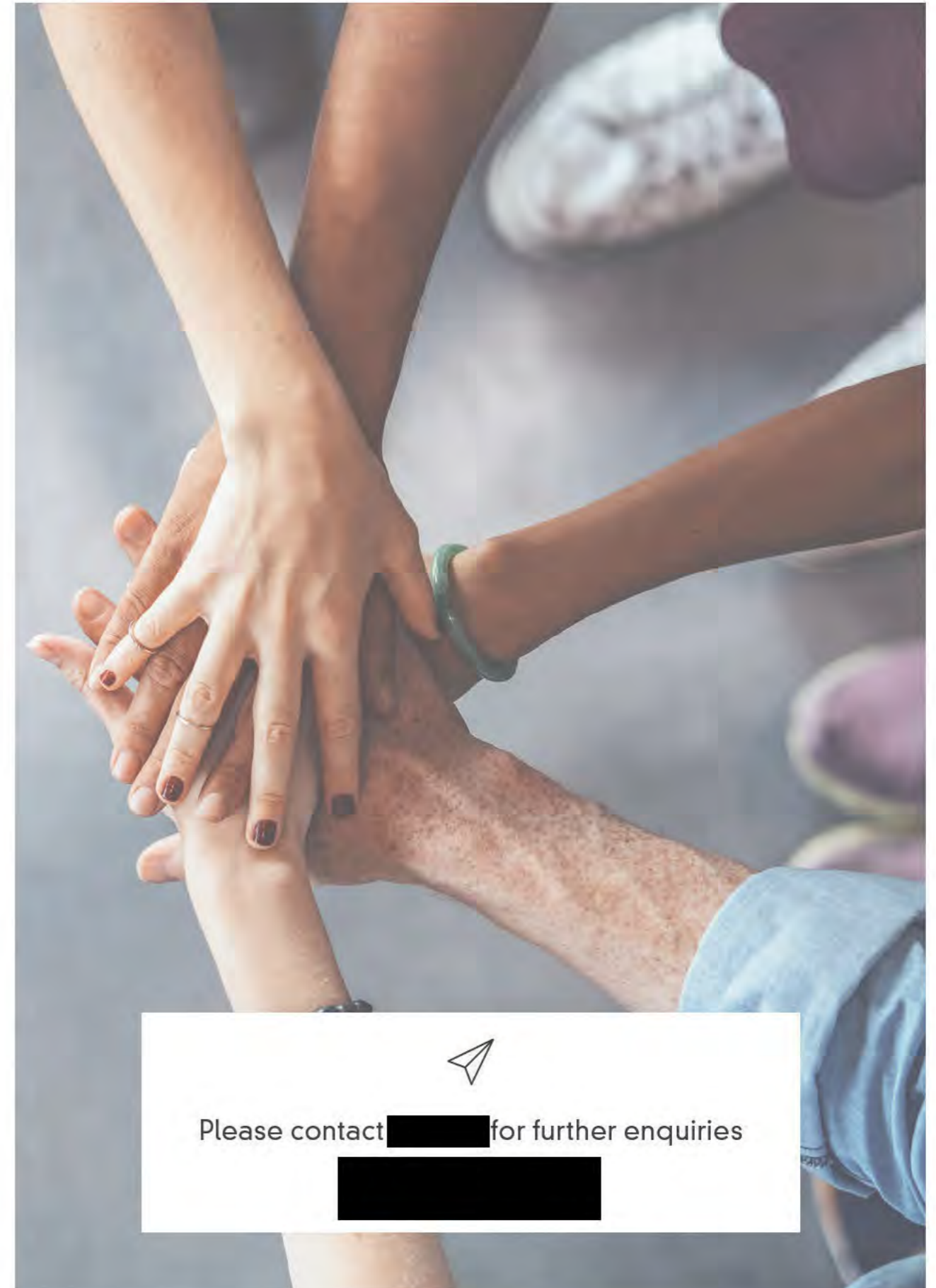


██████████ is the founder of HUMIFORM. Having worked with young people for over a decade, she is passionate about connecting them to their impact and empowering them to take action in their communities.

With a degree in International Studies, ██████████ has been active in the social and environmental impact space for many years. She is an experienced writer, researcher and consultant, working for companies such as Planet Ark, Project JUST, Abadia, Dorsu, Ethical Made Easy and Eco Warrior Princess to name a few. In 2016, she walked 3500km across Southeast Asia, as part of a project called [Walk Sew Good](#), to learn from and share the stories of people creating fashion in positive and sustainable ways.

In 2019 alone, ██████████ was selected to attend Al Gore's [Climate Reality Leadership Conference](#) in Brisbane; a facilitator at [Shift Australia](#), invited to [Cotton Camp](#) to understand the sustainability credos of the Australian cotton industry; investigated the [Australian Ethical Fashion Report](#); attempted the [Oxfam 100km Trailwalker](#); facilitated opportunities for young people to attend events and conferences, including an intimate [Melbourne Zoo gathering](#) to meet and speak with activist and primatologist Dr ██████████ volunteered for the [Prader Willi Syndrome Association](#); and won [Moral Fairground's Early Ethical Enterprise Pitch Competition](#).

At the beginning of 2019, ██████████ founded HUMIFORM to grow the impact of her work with young people and to plant the seeds for a better future. Despite the ongoing global pandemic, Megan has been working with a number of schools to successfully facilitate social and environmental impact programs. HUMIFORM has been growing steadily over the last year.



Please contact ██████████ for further enquiries



APPENDIX A: NATURE CLUB TESTIMONIALS

NATURE CLUB MEMBERS

■■■■, Age 13

I LOVE Nature Club. As a young person I feel very strongly about the future our present society is creating. Nature Club is a great way to meet kids with similar beliefs and passions. It is extremely motivational to find out you're not alone.

Nature Club has broadened my understanding about so many topics. I feel more educated and in being so, more capable of taking action. I am more aware of the power I have as an individual.

■■■■, Age 13

Nature Club has impacted me in the way it's changed my thinking of the world and helps me not just to see the world in black-and-white. It has opened my mind to much more of the problems in our earth and has made me who I am today.

I love Nature Club because it's a great way to get involved and have your say in what happens in the world and your future. I think it has made me a better person because it has helped me to see that anyone including me can make a change in the world. I loved meeting new people with lots of different opinions and personalities.

■■■■, Age 13

I enjoy Nature Club because when I participate it gives me the courage and hope that someday I can make a difference to our world. And the fact that I can do this with my friends beside me inspires me even more. The impact Nature Club has had on me is that it has made me realise that my dreams are possible, and that I should take any opportunities that are thrown my way.

■■■■, Age 13

I enjoy spending time with my friends and learning ways to make a difference in our community. Taking action together for the environment and teaching people to care about our world. I have been in Nature Club on and off since I was in year one and it has really helped me see things in a different way. Nature Club has taught me so much about the environment and has made me passionate about nature and able to take action.

■■■■, Age 13

Even though everyone in Nature Club is so diverse, we all have and show the same passion for the goal that all of us want to achieve. It has made me learn I need to know about the environment. If I wasn't in Nature Club, I'd probably wouldn't have so much knowledge about this topic.

■■■■, Age 13

The thing I enjoy most about Nature Club is working and discussing with other people to create change in the community we currently live in. Nature Club has given me an opportunity to take risks with some things and has allowed me to push me out of my comfort zone.

Nature Club has allowed me to see and debate on how other people see their challenges and difficulties. I have got to hear and be influenced by other talented people's thoughts and see a new perspective. Nature Club made me more aware of the world we live in. It has impacted the way I act on certain issues in my daily life, and has showed me the problems we need to solve in our world.

■■■■, Age 13

I really enjoy Nature Club because I get to meet with young people like myself who want to make a difference. It has taught me lots including how to improve in myself and how to public speak better. It has provided me with lots of opportunities that push me out of my comfort zone and I like learning new things and I feel as though I can really make a difference in the world.

PARENTS OF NATURE CLUB MEMBERS

My daughter joined [REDACTED]'s Nature Club in first grade and gave up lunch times every week until year 6 so she could take part. During that time I saw her passion and curiosity about environmentalism grow under [REDACTED]'s kind and generous leadership. Through [REDACTED] and Nature Club my daughter learnt about taking initiative, collaboration and that with consistency and work, you can make a real difference. [REDACTED] inspired in her a willingness to be courageous and active in her school and community. She met Jane Goodall, which remains one of her most important memories of her primary years. [REDACTED] was wonderful throughout this whole time, keeping all the parents engaged and informed while her Nature Clubbers learnt more and more each week. When [REDACTED] did her Walk Sew Good they followed her every step virtually and rejoiced upon her return. She was a wonderfully strong, positive and capable role model for that group of children and they were so fortunate to have her teach and guide them.

I have known [REDACTED] for over seven years, through her teaching role at my daughter Josie's school (St Kilda Primary) and through [REDACTED]'s 'Nature Club', of which [REDACTED] has been a member since 2014. I have also been involved in mentoring [REDACTED] as she has established HUMIFORM.

[REDACTED] has always impressed me with her absolute dedication to the tasks I've watched her perform, whether it be supporting kids with significant challenges in her teaching role, literally walking across a continent to draw attention to an important cause (Walk Sew Good) or creating HUMIFORM from scratch.

She is a gifted communicator, with a particular knack for getting her message across to kids and young adults. Through 'Nature Club' she has sparked a passion in a group of students that I believe will have a lasting impact: she has taught them to be compassionate, ethical, critical thinkers. She has educated them about some of the complex and challenging issues they will face as adults, but always with an enormous amount of hope for the future.

It is with joy that I write this reference for [REDACTED] whom I met in 2013, when my daughter [REDACTED] started prep at St Kilda Primary School. [REDACTED] was employed as a Learning Assistant and started Nature Club a year later, a space for students to consider how decisions impact our climate. It was in joining this lunch time club that my daughter began to know herself and started speaking for what she believed in.

The space that [REDACTED] created was safe. Safe to explore concepts and ideas often believed only adults can engage on. The space was supportive. Supporting the belief that all voices matter and in little ideas, big impact can grow. The space was inspiring. The inspiration came from [REDACTED]'s personal dedication to doing humanity better, for people and planet. [REDACTED] lives the change that she wants to see, and [REDACTED] witnessed that first hand.

In the seven years, through [REDACTED]'s guidance, [REDACTED] has; ran a fund-raiser to get microchips for little fairy penguins; written letters to CoPP to ban plastic straws; made a video appeal to Coles to ban plastic bags; held National Tree Day at School as a fund-raiser; educated the School on palm oil; donated money to save orang-utans and met Jane Goodall.

All this has happened on [REDACTED]'s own time and using her own finances. The skills that Soleil has learnt through Nature Club are globally transferrable and she is only 13! I have personally witnessed, when a young person is passionate and engaged, what appears to be difficult activism becomes child's play.

The impact that [REDACTED] has had on [REDACTED] and now continues to have through Humiform, is ongoing. Soleil knows how to critically question "the norm", can articulate with gentle persuasion, is motivated by a vision that humanity and nature is one, believes that change happens through activism and already makes personal decisions that considers the collective. What I know to be true, as her mother, is that [REDACTED] has been an instrumental part of the village that I've needed to raise this child.

APPENDIX B: OTHER TESTIMONIALS

My daughter, [REDACTED], attended St. Kilda Primary School from Prep to Grade 6 (2012 – 2019) where she had the great pleasure of being a member of the school's Nature Club which was run by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is a warm, creative and inspiring teacher whom all of the Nature Club students connected with, trusted and respected.

Nature Club was unique and experiential, educating the students about the environment in a fun and engaging way. [REDACTED] developed various nature-based projects and activities for the children to participate in and also initiated and organised their involvement in a number of exciting events outside school.

There were many favourite moments for [REDACTED] but two particularly stood out. The first was being invited to attend and present at Roots & Shoots at Melbourne Zoo, where she had the honour of meeting Dr [REDACTED]. The second was being given the incredible opportunity of singing at Undress Runways, a large event which promotes the ethical and sustainable production of clothing. Being a part of Nature Club was undoubtedly one of the highlights of [REDACTED]'s primary school journey, providing her with many wonderful memories. Now a high school student, [REDACTED] is environmentally educated and cares deeply about protecting our world, often sharing her insights and ideas with family and friends.

I hope that [REDACTED] continues with Nature Club so that other young children may also share in this experience. [REDACTED]'s dedication, positive influence and imparted wisdom has been very much appreciated and I fully encourage and support her future endeavours.

I write in support of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has been one of the greatest influences in our daughter's life. Megan's dedication to causes that really matter has inspired my daughter and her peers and we are forever grateful for this. I truly believe that she helps to plant the seeds of a social and environmental conscience in these children along with the drive and leadership to make change.

[REDACTED] has given time and energy and I would support her being assisted in any way to progress her important work. Her communication and organisation is to be commended and any endeavours to progress her programs would be highly justified.

[REDACTED] - Principal, St Kilda Primary School

[REDACTED] has been an invaluable part of the St Kilda Primary School staff for over a decade. In this time, she has developed strong relationships with staff, parents and students and has been actively contributing to our school's sustainability journey. [REDACTED] ran a lunchtime Nature Club for six years and the impact it had on the children who attended was extraordinary. Last year, six out of ten student school leaders were members of the club and the initiative, organisation and empathy these students demonstrated was well beyond their years.

We are honoured to have [REDACTED] working with our Year 5 students this year in an ongoing capacity. Her passion for social and environmental issues is infectious. The children are developing a deep and meaningful understanding of the world they live in and the influential role they play in affecting change. It has been inspiring to watch the children embrace and strive to make a difference to their world and to recognise their potential as influential leaders. I greatly look forward to seeing how the program develops during the second half of the year.

[REDACTED] is visionary and her personal endeavours to make a real difference to our world is outstanding. We have a significant resource in [REDACTED], and our students, both current and future will no doubt continue to thrive under her guidance and leadership.

[REDACTED] met, and then exceeded all of my expectations; in my opinion, she is inspirational and outstanding in her role.

I highly commend her.

██████████ - Director of Coerwull Centre for Leadership and Service, Teacher of Science and Psychology, Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School

My name is ██████████ and I work as the Director for Leadership and Service at Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School. I was approached by ██████████ early this year to collaborate on the Fashion Impact Project with the Year 9 students at our school. The Fashion Impact Project is still underway, but has already offered many opportunities for deep and real life learning for our students. They are considering their clothing purchases more carefully, show a greater understanding of the questions they should be asking to investigate if a clothing brand fits with their own values, and are planning ways in which this learning can have long term impacts on our school community.

██████████'s contributions have been invaluable. She offers a wealth of knowledge about the fashion industry, she balances the difficult truths with hopeful and uplifting stories about how we can all do better. She is engaging, organised and creative in her approach to working with young people.

██████████ has been very adaptable in how we can offer the best experience for Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar students undertaking the Fashion Impact Project while facing the challenges of Covid19. We have run online workshops and had opportunities for collaboration and research through virtual platforms, all with great levels of engagement. This project has helped formulate a sense of school community during a time when this is one of our greatest priorities.

██████████ - SO:ME Space Coordinator, South Melbourne Market

South Melbourne Market occasionally has vacant stalls, and in 2019 while we were seeking to fill one of these, we sought out temporary activations to engage our Market community. ██████████ of Humiform was invited to use the space for one day to hold a clothing swap for teenagers as a way to draw them to the Market, rethink existing fashion systems, encourage them to explore sustainable options and meet like-minded peers. ██████████ was able to attract around 20 teenagers to the event, after which she received inquiries as to when the next clothing swap would be held. A City of Port Phillip Youth Services team member at that time attended and commented that she was extremely impressed with the number of attendees and their level of enthusiasm as it is traditionally an

age group which is difficult to engage. The Market would welcome ██████████ to return in a similar capacity at any appropriate time and wish her all the best in finding a permanent venue to run her activities.

██████████ - Community Fundraising Officer, Australian Conservation Foundation

From the introduction, our initial meeting to ensure I was providing the right content, the presentation itself and the feedback – working with ██████████ at HUMIFORM was an excellent experience.

I not only had the opportunity to learn more about where Grade 5 students are at with regards to conservation and climate change, I had the privilege to present them with more information to help them feel informed and further educated about the current state of our planet and importance of reducing emissions globally.

Despite the interruption of a global pandemic, I was still able to present to the students via video and received feedback in a timely manner. The questions and comments from students had me feeling positive about how humans will share this planet and its resources with nature, in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with HUMIFORM through the Change Maker Program.

APPENDIX C: ORGANISATIONS & INDIVIDUALS HUMIFORM HAS ENGAGED & COLLABORATED WITH

- [Australian Conservation Foundation](#)
- [Beacon Foundation](#)
- [Climate for Change](#)
- [Courage to Care](#)
- [Eco Styles](#)
- [The Ironic Minimalist](#)
- [\[REDACTED\]'s Roots and Shoots Australia](#)
- [\[REDACTED\], MP for Macnamara](#)
- [\[REDACTED\], local author and artist](#)
- [\[REDACTED\], Human Centred Designer](#)
- [Oaktree](#)
- [Oxfam Australia](#)
- [OzHarvest](#)
- [Planet Ark](#)
- [School Strike 4 Climate](#)
- [South Melbourne Market](#)
- [St Kilda Mums](#)
- [Style Wilderness](#)
- [The Tiny Non-Profit](#)
- [Undress Runways](#)

APPENDIX D: DEEP LEARNING PEDAGOGY

The work we do at HUMIFORM is informed by the Deep Learning Pedagogy designed by [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Deep learning is the process of acquiring 6 global competencies (see below) that describe the skills and attributes needed for learners to flourish as citizens of the world.

Character

- Learning to learn
- Grit, tenacity, perseverance and resilience
- Self-regulation, responsibility and integrity

Citizenship

- Thinking like global citizens
- Considering global issues based on a deep understanding of diverse values and worldviews
- Genuine interest and ability to solve ambiguous and complex real-world problems that impact human and environmental sustainability
- Compassion, empathy and concern for others

Collaboration

- Working interdependently and synergistically in teams
- Interpersonal and team-related skills
- Social, emotional and intercultural skills
- Managing team dynamic and challenges
- Learning from and contributing to the learning of others

Communication

- Communicating effectively with a variety of styles, modes and tools including digital
- Communication designed for different audiences
- Reflection on and use of the process of learning to improve communication

Creativity

- Having an “entrepreneurial eye” for economic and social opportunities
- Asking the right inquiry questions
- Considering and pursuing novel ideas and solutions
- Leadership to turn ideas into action

Critical Thinking

- Evaluating information and arguments
- Making connections and identifying patterns
- Problem solving
- Constructing meaningful knowledge
- Experimenting, reflecting and taking action on ideas in the real world

APPENDIX E: DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS

HUMIFORM uses the Doughnut Economics framework to guide our decisions and operations, ensuring that we keep social and planetary boundaries front of mind.

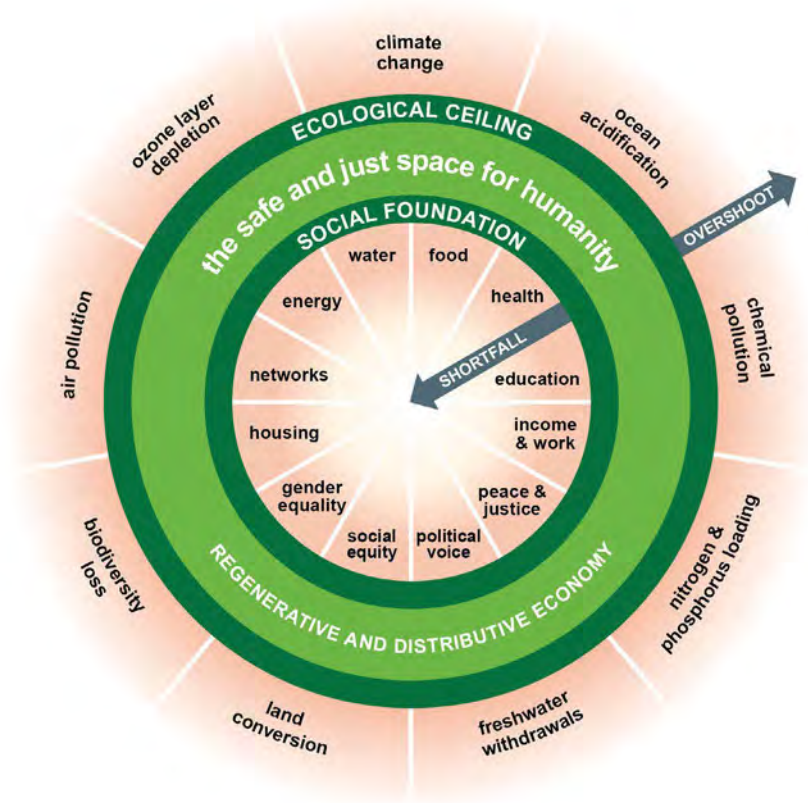


Diagram by [REDACTED], Doughnut Economics

CBR-269

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 3:14 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: THANKYOU PP COUNCIL FROM SPCC

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

Thank you for your ongoing support with SouthPort Community Centre.

A few years ago I participated in the Applied Reception Customer Service Course at SPCC which led me to other programs and activities at the centre. Due to circumstances I was experiencing, including isolation I found SPCC was the perfect place to regain my voice, develop personally and professionally as well as connect with a vast diverse community. Now I volunteer at training and mentoring others in the ARCS program and regularly witness the positive impact the centre has on peoples lives and It's contribution to a healthy Community.

I believe SPCC will be vital in the recovery process for disadvantaged and minority groups in the COPP affected by the COVID-19.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

CBR-270

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 4:27 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabbp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Draft Budget Comments

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello.

I have grave concerns over the draft budget and have laid some of these out below. It is vitally important to me and many others, especially in the Bendigo Avenue and Tiuna Grove areas of Elwood that these items are clarified - particularly if the lack of specificity over concerns first raised at meetings with officers in February 2019 and several Council meetings since then have not been remedied. For example:

Page 32

"It is a city of neighbourhoods, each with its own character, defined by heritage buildings, strip shopping precincts and tree-lined streets." Not realistically a valid statement when heritage reviews are underfunded and Council's error in measuring building heights has allowed higher buildings in some streets - which has attracted developers to knock down existing housing stock in streets where this should not occur.

Page 90

"Review the Housing Strategy in the next Council Plan to ensure new residential development is well located and respects the character and heritage of established neighbourhoods."
and " review of Heritage Overlay 6 (East St Kilda)"
These priorities ignore the promise at Council meetings (including July 1, 2020) that HO8 review was imminent - there is no mention of this review at all! Cr. Bond raised the height measurement error which led Council to set NRZ5 streets as NRZ6 - and was told that the Housing Strategy would address this in a timely manner - NOT told 4 years.
The \$200k expenditure (line 2, page 196 apparently does not extend to Elwood's review and accelerated implementation??

And in my capacity as Committee Chair, 1st Elwood Scout Group:

Page 133, Elwood

Description of amenities and facilities includes the Sailing and Angling clubs but overlooks the Scout Water Activity Centre at the foreshore. Is this because they are Council owned buildings whereas Scouts built our own building in 3 stages in the 50/s and early 60's?.

I have just come from a video meeting with Council officers who displayed a lack of understanding of Scouting and how it uses its facilities.

I hope you can provide some clarity on these matters prior to the August 5 Council meeting.

Thanks in advance

[REDACTED]

Email sent using Optus Webmail

CBR-271

GASWORKS ARTS INC.

Response to the updated Council Plan and draft Budget 2020/21

Submitted by: [REDACTED], Chair, Gasworks Arts Park, Albert Park

Gasworks welcomes this opportunity to comment on the updated Council Plan and draft Budget. We appreciate the significant challenges facing the CoPP and we support the Council in its prioritisation of activities that “are essential to helping the community move from response to recovery as quickly as possible”. (p.13)

We are grateful for our partnership with the Council in making the Arts an aspect of this recovery, helping to bring the community together in creative and safe ways. As a significant and important critical mass of arts activities at the western end of the City, Gasworks is committed to helping artists and Council to navigate this difficult period. This submission outlines some of the ways that we can do this.

About Gasworks

As a multi-arts hub in the City of Port Phillip, Gasworks Arts Park produces a high level of activity across performing arts, visual arts, and food culture. In a normal year our two theatres present more than 200 live performances, our two galleries present more than 30 exhibitions, and we curate activities involving hundreds of artists. Genres in the performing arts include drama, circus, cabaret, comedy, music, dance, spoken word and puppetry.

Every project involves many artists and creatives, and also technical and on-site delivery staff, so that a multiplier effect exists for each project over the extended period of time that arts projects take to develop - for visual arts typically one year and for performing arts typically two years. The economic ripple effect of the program at Gasworks Arts Park makes a positive contribution to sculptors, ceramicists, painters, photographers, writers, script editors, directors, producers, composers, musicians, actors, dancers, circus performers, designers of lighting, sound, projection, costumes and sets, technicians, web designers and video editors.

Across the visual arts we regularly curate and present oils, watercolours, charcoals, landscapes, life drawing, collage, photography, small sculptures and multi-media work. The precinct has 15 permanent artists in residence, covering the disciplines of visual arts, sculpture, ceramics and jewellery. Many of our artists win public commissions to produce new work which is then enjoyed by people all over Australia and beyond. All artists offer collaborative public access projects to benefit the community.

We host more than 500 open access public art classes a year, getting people of all ages involved in life drawing, candle making, landscape painting, still life, photography and more.

In Term 4 of 2020 we will be launching our short-term visual arts residency program, which will include mentorship by resident artists and the opportunity to present a new project to Gasworks for public presentation in 2021. Also in Term 4, we will be offering a commission to a performance ensemble to develop a new public performance piece outside in the park, to be realised in 2021.

A group exhibition or performance showcase is an accessible way to begin to present work publicly. Across our galleries and theatres, numerous group showcases are presented each year, including the highly popular and family friendly Gasworks Circus Showdown.

Our farmers market attracts up to 3,000 people per month and our café is open for breakfast and lunch 7 days a week.

Arts Incubator & Partnering with Council to “foster access, participation, local arts development and Port Phillip as a cultural destination”

Artists have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 restrictions, along with tourism and hospitality businesses, which typically are also linked to arts and cultural activity. Our COVID-19 recovery impact will have a direct economic benefit for the City and for artists during the time their projects are incubated at Gasworks Arts Park and presented to the public.

This year we will be launching our newest artist commission, partly funded by private donors, the Gasworks Gate. This sculptural tree on hinges will resemble the trees at Gasworks Arts Park, with the inclusion of 140 copper leaves that will age green over time. Last year we commissioned several new Australian plays including a biography of Australian spy Nancy Wake, an exploration of coming out as an AFL football player, and Sensory Decadence, a contemporary circus piece that blended dance, with circus and visual art. Next year, our outdoor performance commission, enabled also by private donations, will engage with audiences outside in the park, through a processional guided visit to various park locations.

Gasworks connects artists to more experienced artists who act as mentors or advisors to guide the development of new work. We maintain a network of script editors, directors, producers, casting agents and publicists and handpick appropriate matches. Gasworks is committed to extending its mentoring role to support artists at this crucial time.

Immediate COVID-19 Accessibility: Supporting Council's aim that "arts, culture and creative expression is part of everyday life"

Gasworks Arts Park is well positioned to lead the way in our community's return to arts participation, with opportunities to leverage our midsize venue spaces, together with outdoor spaces and our online channels. We are cognisant of the Council's aim to help "our community move from response to recovery as quickly as possible"; Gasworks can assist this aim in three main areas.

Theatres: Having a midsize theatre leaves Gasworks Arts Park well positioned in terms of COVID-19 recovery plans. When government restrictions allow 50 patrons to attend in a physically distanced way we will be able to accommodate that format, whereas small theatres do not have the space and larger theatres cannot cover costs at that attendance level. Having both indoor and outdoor foyer spaces increases the opportunity for audiences to physically distance before and after the show. Gasworks is keen to support sister organisations in our city to utilise space in the Park who may struggle with accommodating physical distancing requirements.

Online events: Our online footprint is growing consistently, with a new mobile-friendly website launched in June 2020. We will be adding video assets to this website, such as a 3D tour by Ignition Studios, a video tour of all our spaces, and the Melbourne-first partnerships with the Smartify art gallery app, allowing our exhibitions to be viewed all over the world. This year Gasworks will be a part of the first-ever online Open House Melbourne festival, welcoming visitors to our behind-the-scenes areas in a safe way. We are also exploring options which may enable older citizens to develop their creativity and relationship with the arts online.

Outdoor activities: Our suite of outdoor activities will enable visitors to attend events wholly outdoors, taking advantage of fresh air and physical distancing. To complement our award-winning monthly farmers market, soon we will be launching Tastings@Gasworks, a gourmet food market which will offer takeaway food ingredients with bookable educational workshops. This new event will be part of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival.

Also in the park, Gasworks is offering a \$10,000 outdoor performance commission for the development of a new piece of site-specific work to take place in Gasworks Arts Park. This is a three-month development project to take place from September to November 2020, culminating in a developmental preview showing to an invited audience in late November 2020. In 2021 we will be launching our first large format 2D art exhibition outdoors, focussing on the natural environment of Port Phillip, depicted by wildlife photographers. This new exhibition will be installed inside the high brick boundary wall on Pickles Street and will be free of charge and accessible at all hours seven days a week.

Already resident artists at Gasworks have responded to the crisis and have and continue to develop work that the community can engage with. Robert Lee Davis has installed four artworks in the Porthole at Gasworks entitled: "In Response" on

nature's reaction to the COVID-19 conditions. These works can be viewed safely within physical distancing guidelines and also online.

Ben Storch has received a small Creative Victoria grant to explore AR and VR as an art form, and has proposed a project where virtual, animated artworks are placed in the Gasworks Arts Park. These can be triggered on mobile devices when people walk in the park, or in a virtual park environment on their devices at home.

Park Upgrade: Supporting Social Inclusion and Diversity

Gasworks Arts Park welcomes the inclusion of the design cost of the park upgrade in this year's budget, with the first tranche of the construction budget being scheduled for the following year. We have been collaborating with Council on the design of the park upgrade for over a year now, sharing our deep knowledge of how the park is used and the opportunities for improvement. We are grateful to the Council for their continued commitment to this project. The guiding themes for the park upgrade collaboration are:

- To enhance and honour the Park's point of difference as a unique home for creativity.
- To utilise the creative talent, vision and knowledge of the Gasworks resident artists to create unique and bespoke artistic legacies within the park.
- To support a variety of public arts events, including ticketed events in the infrastructure and layout of the Park.
- To improve facilities to further encourage and support social gatherings at the Park.

The provision of arts and public spaces will play a significant role in the recovery of our community. As a socially inclusive space, and one that allows for a diversity of uses, Gasworks Arts Park is especially important in that project. In showcasing art and bringing residents and artists together in creative and safe ways, Gasworks Arts Park in partnership with the City of Port Phillip, looks forward to playing our part in the recovery of our community.

While there are many negatives associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, our responses to it present opportunities to cement enduring networks within the Port Phillip arts community and to ensure that the many opportunities available at Gasworks can now be made more inclusive for all residents in our community.

We congratulate the Council for its leadership during this period and note, in particular, its emergency relief, social housing, and arts rescue package. We are confident that our continued partnership with Council will help it to fulfil its commitment to the arts as a way of ensuring Port Phillip remains "a City where arts, culture and creative expression is part of everyday life" and where the diversity of the community can be accommodated.

CBR-272

17th July 2020

Council Planning and Performance
Port Phillip City Council
Private Bag No 3
St Kilda VIC 3182

RE: Submission in relation to proposed Council Plan and Budget

I preface my comments by noting the following statements from your documents:

- The Council Plan sets out our long-term vision for the City of Port Phillip.
- The Integrated Plan is supported by....detailed strategies and delivery plans that will help deliver our vision and the outcomes we are committed to.
- The Financial Plan provides the context within which the Council formulates the Council Plan.
- Rate capping represents a major challenge....that will require fundamental changes to the way we operate. A business as usual approach will not be sufficient.

It is my contention that the Council Plan is too complex. The detailed strategies that have evolved from the 5 broad 'strategic direction' statements have created too many projects on an annual basis. The result is complexity in terms of delivery, increased annual cost and in turn an unnecessary financial burden on the community.

It is my view that Council has tried to do too much too quickly. Council should be providing direction to officers to reduce the number of detailed strategies and hence projects in the Council Plan to a more manageable level. This would also enable a recalibration of the Financial Plan.

It is noted that the changes made to the 2020/21 budget and following years of the Financial Plan essentially involve deferments of projects and the related expenditure. No real attempt has been made to reduce expenditure, presumably because all areas of council regard their strategies as essential. Reducing complexity peels back costs both operational and capital.

In the current environment, rates should not be increasing in 2020/21. Council should be identifying areas in which to cut operating expenditure to fund initiatives for those who need it most.

It is noted in the Plan that 'a significant portion of our costs remain fixed, with staff salaries'....Staff are not a fixed cost and with turnover expected at 10% per annum, reductions can be effected very quickly, whilst acknowledging that essential staff would need to be replaced. Proposed staff wage increases should be deferred and a review/replacement of the existing superannuation system undertaken – defined benefit schemes have proven to be very costly.

Page 13 of the Plan notes 'Reprioritisation of activities and services should be aligned to the Council Plan priorities' – if you do not reduce the number of detailed strategies and hence projects, all that occurs is a deferment of cost, not a genuine and meaningful reduction. Indeed the last words on page 14 describe action has been taken in a way to ensure 'responses to our strategies are maintained over the medium and long-term'.

Observations re Plan responses:

Pages 22-26 of the Plan identify 'major changes to existing projects and programs'. Whilst difficult to calculate in total, deferment of costs approximates \$24m, land acquisition for the Sustainability Hub (\$17.5m) has been removed and the Kerferd Rd safety improvement project (\$2m) has been deleted as replaced by the State Government Shrine to Sea initiative.

Projects not previously identified in the Council Plan for which funding is required total \$2.219m of which \$0.975m relates to the Council election. How was the latter expense missed in the previous plan and are the projects that make up the \$2.219m all essential?

One project which should not have one more dollar spent on it is the Park St Bike Link. Not only will it make the eastern end of Park St unworkable and the section west of Kings Way unsafe, there is a far better solution for a dedicated east – west crossing of Kings Way and a connection to Moray St and beyond to the Bay. Utilise part of the very wide southern footpath where Kings Way joins St Kilda Rd. Then across the Queens Rd/ Kings Way intersection at the existing traffic lights, continue behind Mac Robertson Girls High and join the Albert Rd existing bike paths.

The 10 year Plan appears over ambitious with respect to cash flow from the second highest revenue stream - parking. Given the determination expressed in the strategies to stop people using cars, it is difficult to understand how parking revenue (including fines) will increase by 60% to \$45m between 2021 and 2030. Particularly so, given the reduction in street parking spaces

A suggestion regarding the possibility of increased revenue to use for the benefit of the local community, whether increased green space, wider footpaths or laneways, community services:

The revised planning scheme for the St Kilda Rd North area – C107, gifted property owners in Sub-Precinct 2 the prospect of an additional 7 floors in a developed building. This represents a windfall gain in excess of 50% in the value of the site. It would not be unreasonable or unrealistic to implement a Development levy of between \$1 and \$3/sqm, based on the area of each site as a contribution to the local community.

The Integrated Transport Strategy is unbalanced. Despite a growing population it is based on no growth in car usage and major expenditure on bike infrastructure. Whilst this is admirable and an increase in the safety of bike use is a major plus for the community, the zero growth in car use assumption is flawed. A large part of the population growth will result from new apartment developments. Many of these will attract older residents

moving closer to the city but with family, business or leisure activities that require car use. In addition, weekly shopping cannot be completed at the local IGA and medical services are not necessarily within walking distance or indeed practical by tram.

The car use assumption also ignores the number of service personnel that are required to attend each multi storey tower, including those required by residents. Bike riding is not a solution for a large part of our population and discriminates against older as well as less mobile people.

Whilst being unaware of the specific project scopes or justification, there are a number of significant projects in the 10 year Plan the timing of which could be questioned:

- Gasworks Arts Park Reinstatement
- Kings Place Pocket Park
- Lagoon Reserve Pavilion Replacement
- St Kilda Library Redevelopment

Clearly the present health crisis has significantly impacted the Council's financial position and endeavours have been made to rearrange spending in 2020 and 2021. My main concern with the 10 Year Plan is its complexity driven by an increasing number of projects which each result in additional operational costs, all starting from 5 broad strategic directions.

It is time to cut off some branches of the strategic tree and by so doing, eliminate a number of projects, simplify the organisational structure and reduce the cost base. Only essential projects should remain and be focussed on maximum community benefit.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment and will be happy to answer any questions regarding my comments above.

████████████████████
██
Melbourne VIC 3004
████████████████████
██

CBR-273

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 5:00 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Southport Community Centre

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

As a Board Member of the SPCC I want to thank you for your continued support of our many council funded programs. This funding has a hugely positive impact on many lives each week.

There are currently 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week. Many of these programs actively support the most disadvantaged and isolated residents in our community, who are significantly affected by COVID19. Our workers & programs are actively involved in keeping our isolated and vulnerable residents/participants supported, informed, safe and connected during these challenging times.

We look forward, particularly in light of the impact of COVID-19, to continuing this great work in support of our local community, made possible by your support.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Feedback re the updated City of Port Phillip (CoPP) Council Plan 2017-27 and Draft Budget 2020/21

Introduction

As I write this we in metropolitan Melbourne and the Shire of Mitchell, are all back in Stage 3 lockdown and into relative isolation and a general feeling of on-going anxiety. During this unprecedented time in Australia's history due to the impact of COVID-19, PPCG's vision remains unaltered - *a fair and just society that values all people*¹.

Early on in the COVID-19 pandemic, PPCG quickly re-purposed its staff and resources to establish **Share the Food**. We did this as we knew that our clients - the majority, who are the most vulnerable and marginalised residents of Port Phillip, would struggle to access food and other necessary resources during the pending closure of many community and support services. We also knew that external services such as SecondBite would have reduced volunteer staff that would mean that residents with the most need in Port Phillip would be at risk of hunger and also a loss of their daily connections through receiving and sharing food.

It is a testament to Council and a reflection of Council's commitment to its Council Plan 2017 - 2027 that Council quickly provided us with staff expertise, a location and funds to assist PPCG a very small yet committed and agile organisation, to set up **Share the Food**. This has meant that PPCG has gone from feeding hundreds of people a week to feeding thousands.

Between April –June 2020 PPCG via **Share the Food**, has distributed ~\$300k worth of food and essential items. *To put this into context PPCG usually distributes ~\$200k worth of food and essential items per annum.* The client and target groups remain our typical client groups that have complex needs underpinned by poverty, family violence and lack of education and support, plus the newly-unemployed, students, people on bridging visas and people who are falling through the cracks of assistance programs.

Whilst we do not know the future of JobSeeker and JobKeeper payments as of September 2020, we anticipate that these will change – the first to a lesser amount and the second to a tighter eligibility. With the unemployment rate at ~7.4% - the highest in Australia since 1998, with nearly 1 million people currently out of work, the foreseeable economic and social impacts are dire and will be felt for a long time. However in this time of significant upheaval

¹ PPCG is a NFP organisation that works in partnership with local, state and federal governments, funders, clients, stakeholders and communities to provide welfare, financial counselling and education for people on low incomes, disadvantaged, in crisis, marginalised and / or at risk of homelessness. In 2019 - 2020 38% of PPCG clients were from CALD backgrounds, 53% lived in public housing and 32% identified as homeless.

in what it means to belong to our community, how we work and how we live, we have also seen and experienced firsthand hope, compassion, acts of random kindness, incredible generosity and glimpses of a better future for our community and in line with PPCG's vision: *a fair and just society that values all people*. It is therefore imperative that Council remains strong, steady and leads Port Phillip – in all its many and diverse parts, through this current crisis and into a brighter future.

Updated City of Port Phillip (CoPP) Council Plan 20/21

We applaud the ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion in the updated Council Plan. The Plan 2017 - 2027 continues its commitment to partnerships, stakeholder engagement and community development that will enable and contribute to the social inclusion and participation of all people across Port Phillip at this particularly difficult time as Victoria confronts new waves of community transmission from COVID-19. We are pleased that Council's Strategic Direction 1: "*We embrace difference, and people belong*", remains in place. PPCG has a longstanding commitment to social inclusion and diversity and this sentence speaks volumes about Council's commitment to a society that values and promotes opportunities for all its citizens to fully participate in community life.

Draft Budget 2020/21

PPCG acknowledges that the overall impact of COVID-19 on Council finances estimated at \$32 million is devastating - with \$12.7 million felt in the previous FY 2019/20, and a further \$19.3 million in this FY 2020/2021.

We fully support the ~\$4+ million devoted to COVID-19 social and economic recovery measures as we know that it is all of the community – businesses, agencies, artists, creative and recreational industries, community, housing, health; and families and individuals that will all need to be supported now and into the future. ***We would therefore like to see this amount continually reviewed to ensure that the creativity and compassion that Port Phillip is renowned for and now so evident during the pandemic, continues with as much financial and other supports as possible to inspire a renewed sense of place, locality and creativity.***

Proposed Funding to PPCG

It's critical that at this time of isolation and hardship for so many, that we reach out to all with kindness and generosity. We are therefore extremely grateful that Council has proposed in its draft budget:

1. \$45k for PPCG for ***Share The Food*** July to September 2020 (p. 17 – 19); and
2. \$588k Service Deed funding for PPCG for FY 2020/2021 (p.71).

We support these funds wholeheartedly. For the past 3 years PPCG has delivered in excess of its CoPP KPIs. To do this PPCG has directly contributed ~\$200k from other external grants and funding as well as providing in-kind volunteer and other practical food and essential items to the value of ~\$150k. In summary CoPP provides us with \$588k and we leverage off this grant to deliver close to \$1 million worth of direct value against Council's investment. In addition we generate ~\$350k of income to provide other programs in education and financial counselling which also directly benefit CoPP residents.

As a note re point 2 above, PPCG has since 2010 been in a continuing state of uncertainty re Service Deed funding from CoPP and in a cycle of short term (1 - 2 year extensions). Most importantly unlike state or government funding, Council does not pass on state CPI nor award increases. This has meant that during the past 10 years Council funds have remained fairly static whilst PPCG salaries and wages (under our Award - SCHCADS) have increased by up to 35%. ***However in the midst of a pandemic and recession, we are grateful for Council funding as it means that our staff can continue their work and contribute to ameliorating the challenging impacts of COVID-19; and re-engaging and re-building our community post COVID-19. This is a conversation to be had in the future.***

Homelessness

We applaud Council's commitment to proactively addressing homelessness and providing further social housing. We know that homelessness is complex involving mental and physical health issues, family breakdown, substance use and abuse, and domestic violence; and it is not simply about providing housing. We work with people who are homeless every day and in many different ways and settings, as not all homelessness is visible, and not all people who are homeless can 'be fixed' by moving them off the street, or out of sight / out of mind. This is an opportunity for Council to continue its ground-breaking work in this area and for a range of community, health and housing organisations to come together through Council leadership and facilitation. ***The solution is to provide safe and secure housing with professional and wrap around supports on site 24/7 to address the wider social and physical health issues behind both homelessness, and the housing crisis. PPCG has the experience and expertise to directly contribute to this.***

Reduced Staffing and Smaller Local Government

Council is proposing \$23 million of savings and continuing to identify further operational and staffing costs. We understand the difficult decisions Council needs to make re the funding of programs and services versus internal funding cuts, and perhaps an easier and more palatable political outcome for many through reduction of staff. As we see from immediate and ongoing responses of Council to the direct and continuing impacts of COVID-19, local government understands that what is essential at this time and into the immediate future is to support the community through a wide range of direct interventions – not just through roads, rubbish and footpath repairs. ***To achieve the outcomes that everyone is wanting in the community – i.e. a return to as normal as possible is to not cut too deep into Council staff and resources. We have seen this in other tiers of government and business, which has led to poverty, mental health issues and displacement of people from their local connections – hence the now stark contrast and divide between the 'haves and have-nots' increasingly visible in our City.***

Council spends money on small initiatives that often do not deliver positive social impacts. A case in point is the continued funding for South Port Community Legal Service (noting that there are several other examples). ***We believe that this is a missed opportunity to consolidate legal services across Port Phillip that:***

- ***Would benefit all residents of Port Phillip and not just residents in the suburbs of Port Melbourne, South Melbourne, Middle Park, Albert Park, Southbank and Fisherman's Bend; and***

- ***Should be allocated through an equitable and transparent process that ensures council funding for legal services delivers maximum value for the community as a whole and targets those with high legal need.***

Additional Comments

PPCG supports fully:

- Reinstating \$10k in 2020/21 in project funding for Friends of Suai/Covalima for the length of the current Friends of Suai/Covalima agreement as compassionate and kind;
- Replacing the \$50k budget allocation in 2020/21 in the draft budget document and \$2.236,000 million forecast allocation in 2021/22 for the Port Phillip EcoCentre Redevelopment in line with its positive work in environmental / climate change initiatives;
- Suspending the 'quick response' Neighbourhood Grants program for one-year, reinstating funding from 2021/22.

PPCG supports in principle:

- Reducing ASSIST Counter Service at Port Melbourne and South Melbourne Town Halls for one year with a complete review before 1 July 2021, to assess the impact of the change on community members who do not have online access to our services. ***As a key service deliverer and stakeholder with ASSIST at both Town Halls, PPCG expects to be involved in this review based on an open and transparent process.***

We also acknowledge the important and essential role of volunteers. Volunteers have always been and continue even more so to be the backbone of PPCG's programs and services. The proposed Council corporate volunteer program that allows Council staff to volunteer for up to 2 days per annum is a welcome initiative, and as PPCG can attest has been invaluable to us and the community re ***Share the Food***. In addition volunteering directed to local community sector organisations delivering programs to support social recovery and / or on-going relief for vulnerable communities is vital (*Initiative 20 – p17 & 18*).

A Re-imagined Community or Life after Coronavirus

This is a time for brave and progressive Councillors who understand that the world and the City have changed. PPCG urges Council to be bold. This is an opportunity to build the social and economic infrastructure needed to support individuals, families and communities, sustain local businesses and prepare for ongoing challenges, including climate change.

Council through its **updated City of Port Phillip (CoPP) Council Plan 2017-27 and Draft Budget 2020/21** continues to demonstrate leadership and commitment through a whole-of-Council approach and working collaboratively with its many partners and key stakeholders to reduce the current and emerging inequalities as a direct result of COVID-19. PPCG is willing and able to work closely with Council throughout this unprecedented time to hold and embed Council's vision for Port Phillip as a City that is inviting, liveable, caring and compassionate.



██████████ - Executive Officer
Port Phillip Community Group
17 July 2020

Submission to the City of Port Phillip regarding Council Plan & draft Budget 2020/21

By [REDACTED]

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the Council Plan and draft Budget 2020/21.

Firstly, I have provided a summary of my views, and then a more detailed explanation. I have also added a small section detailing a few potential typos in the Plan/Budget document.

In summary, I:

- support the majority of decisions of the City of Port Phillip (CoPP)
- support my rates increasing
- support fee increases
- support the Economic and Social Recovery program
- support Reinstating \$10,000 for Friends of Suai/Covalima
- do not support the \$430,000 reduction from the Bike Infrastructure Program
- do not support additional cuts to services
- love living in St Kilda, I am proud to be living in the City of Port Phillip
- commend the council on its response to the COVID-19 crisis.

In more detail, I:

Support the majority of decisions of the COPP

I understand with the Covid-19 crisis we are in extraordinary times. This major public health issue has led to a severe economic crisis, which demands extraordinary measures. Although, I believe a vibrant community needs good services, I understand that there has to be cuts and I believe COPP has chosen wisely where to make these cuts.

Support my rates increasing

I am agreeable for my rates to be increased by 2%. No one wants to pay more than they have to, but in a fair and equitable society, services are needed. I accept that these are better able to be provided if there is more rates revenue.

NB I am aware of the Ratepayers of Port Phillip Inc. Although, I am a ratepayer (and resident), this organisation in no way represents my views. They have a Facebook page, which, in my opinion is not reflective of the majority of ratepayers and/or residents. I know of a number of people, myself included, who have been blocked from commenting on that Facebook group. So, it may appear there is consensus on their page, but this is misleading; many people, who have different views, are unable to comment on their page. I am also aware of the number of fake accounts and people who are neither residents nor ratepayers in the area, again helping to make the page appear it has more local support than it actually does.

Support fee increases

Generally, the fee increases are small (2.25%) which I believe is reasonable given the shortfall in revenue.

Support the Economic and Social Recovery program

Makes sense, to me, to provide assistance to those who need it most.

Support Reinstating \$10,000 for Friends of Suai/Covalima

I would prefer to see Friends of Suai/Covalima receive the full \$38,000, but understand in these economic times cuts have to be made. I believe cutting all funds to this group would be difficult and hard for the group. Therefore, providing the \$10,000 is a compromise which helps the group transition from funding.

Do not support the \$430,000 reduction from the Bike Infrastructure Program

Under Strategic Direction 2: We are connected and it's easy to move around, a reduction of \$430,00 to the Bike Infrastructure Program. I believe bicycle infrastructure is needed more now given: 1. with Covid-19 people are fearful of using public transport and therefore are seeking other modes of transport. 2. Preferable to have people using their bicycles than their cars as COPP roads are already at maximum capacity.

It would be easy to argue that the disruptions of Covid-19 will just short term and therefore it's not necessary to plan for a city not using public transport. However, the fear of contracting Covid-19 and resultant reluctance to use public transport, may last for years. Therefore, I believe cutting back on bicycle facilities is not a good idea.

Do not support additional cuts to services

I do not believe now is the time to be cutting back on services, other than those required to balance the budget. When economic growth is slow, money is needed to be injected into the economy to boost the economy.

I love living in St Kilda, I am proud to be living in the City of Port Phillip

I believe St Kilda has a great sense of community. People, generally, are inclusive and consider everyone to be part of the community. I see compassion in the way people treat all members of the community, including rough sleepers and those who are doing it tough.

I am proud to live in the City of Port Phillip. The decisions the council has made have helped the area be what it is. I have friends who do not want to live in other municipalities because they are not as progressive and compassionate as this one.

Commend the council on its response to the COVID-19 crisis

Navigating through this once-in-a-lifetime crisis has not been easy. I commend the council on how they have responded and dealt with issues as they have arisen. From the Emergency package, through to the cuts that have been made. It seems to me, COPP has been responsive, considered and compassionate in its approach. Thank you COPP.

I look forward to continuing to live in a City which is bold, liveable, caring and beautiful.

Extra notes: regarding the Draft Council Plan and Budget document:

P12: It states: "On 25 March 2019, we announced a \$2.5 million....." I am wondering if this should be 25 March 2020?

P15: It states: "Below are the proposed changes to our Council Plan that was adopted on 19 June 2019." I am wondering if this date should be 17 June 2020?

CBR-276

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2020 8:36 AM
To: Bernadene Voss - Mayor <Bernadene.Voss@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: DIG IN AND FISHERMANS BEND COMMUNITY GARDENS

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Mayor Voss,

Thank you for your continued support of our Dig In & Fishermans Bend Community Gardens programme and SPCC.

The Dig In community are most grateful for your assistance in keeping our most beloved and essential community garden going when we were faced with our first lockdown. We continue to still be able to grow fresh produce and all abide by strict Covid guidelines to keep ourselves and all participants safe. This has been particularly important to our single people who need to be able to get out and exercise, at the same time growing produce they do not need to visit supermarkets to purchase
.....

Ours is one of 12 SPCC council funded programmes that serve more than 300 participants each week, and they also have been supportive of keeping the gardens open to plot holders

Research indicates an active healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Secretary - Dig In & Fishermans Bend Community Gardens

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

██████████
St Kilda 3182

14 July 2020

Dear Mayor and Deputy Mayor,

I have recently learned that Council funding support for a program of enormous value to the citizens of Port Phillip may be withdrawn. I write to you to set out the value of the program and ask that Port Phillip Council continue the funding.

I have been attending exercise classes run by Ms ██████████ for over a year. ██████████ runs classes in a number of locations. I have regularly attended classes at St Peter and Paul's Church hall in Dorcas Street and at Sol Greene Reserve in Montague Street. I am retired and these classes have been invaluable in keeping me fit and healthy.

I cannot speak too highly of ██████████'s work. Her professionalism, clear explanation, attention to the individual needs of group members is truly outstanding. She recalls who is recently recovering from injury or ill health; she offers modified versions for those who, for whatever reason, may need it. She creates a positive and cheerful atmosphere for the group and keeps us interested by varying the activities. We all leave feeling healthy and well exercised, and psychologically positive about our lives. Attendance has been of great benefit to me and to the others I have met in these groups.

Since the closure of face-to-face sessions due to Covid 19 ██████████ has been working hard to produce online versions of her classes to keep us all active and fit. I believe ██████████'s service to older Port Phillip citizens is something that should be supported by our Council and I urge you to continue funding of these valuable community programs. I can be contacted at ██████████

Yours sincerely

██████████

CBR-279

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 17 July 2020 1:50 PM
To: Bernadene Voss - Mayor <Bernadene.Voss@portphilip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Save our program

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Bernadene

Thank you for your continued support of our Gentle exercise program and SPCC. It has made a hugely positive impact on my life. When I moved to Port Melbourne I was very lonely. The exercise program at Liardet St and Sol Green not only gave me necessary active exercise but enabled me to meet local ladies and make new friends. Not easy at my age. This wonderful program is extremely beneficial for appropriate exercise and community involvement. The ability to continue with zoom during Covid is great but I anxiously await the return to SPCC for the human interaction

Ours is one of 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week

Research indicates an active healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Port Melbourne

CBR-280

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 20 July 2020 11:02 AM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: SPCC exercise program for older adults

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port Phillip Council,

I am writing to thank you for supporting our exercise program and SPCC. This has been invaluable during the COVID-19 lockdowns and enabled us to maintain the gains we experienced in the face to face sessions we previously attended. Your support makes it possible for us to remain connected, healthy and active at this difficult time.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad.

CBR-281

Submission by [REDACTED] in Response to the City of Port Phillip Draft Budget 2020

The events of recent months with the worldwide Covid19 pandemic have revealed the dramatic and fundamental need to transform our attitudes to urban planning and transport. In particular, the dependence on the automobile, which has been revealed by studies to be an overly wasteful, unnecessary and inefficient form of transport for metropolitan areas like the City of Port Phillip.

Across Europe and North America and elsewhere municipalities have led the way in initiating moves to create separated bicycle lanes and provide increased movement and safer public space for pedestrians. Encouragements to further use of independent, speed-reduced and limited power-assisted modes of transport have become a commonplace. Such initiatives are necessary for the healthy and wellbeing of our cities and their citizens.

It is an understood fact that bicycle use in our city will only advance if the streets are made safer for cyclists.

This means separated bicycle lanes and the elimination of automobile parking from certain streets. Studies have recognized that the City includes some of the most dangerous and deadly locations for cyclists in the Melbourne metropolitan area.

Recent weeks have seen major initiatives worldwide favoring the increased use of the bicycle by citizens of all ages and capacities in Australian cities, such as the City of Melbourne. Not so in Port Phillip where the promised Bike Infrastructure program has been put on hold with a \$430,000 reduction and reduced to “design and consultation in 2020-21.

Instead of activism and the City leading the way we see a deferral of projects such as the Garden City Bike Path. Nothing for bicycle education or training and young cyclists. Nothing for improved street signage.

No provision appears to have been made for urgent temporary initiatives for pedestrians or cyclists given the possibility of changes to public health regulations, such as introduction of State Four restrictions.

The City of Port Phillip is negligent of cyclists within its midst. It does not record them or bicycle ownership in the municipality in the General Statistics quoted in the Draft Budget.

Lip service is given to the difficulties imposed by the extent of automobile use and the dumping of automobiles on our public thoroughfares under the guise of “parking”. But nowhere is there a practical realization of the need to tackle this and associated problems head on with policies, initiatives and expenditure directly favoring a solution to these problems: increased bicycle use.

[REDACTED] - [REDACTED], St Kilda, Vic.3182

17 July 2020

17 July 2020

Dear Councillors,

To help local business to survive an unprecedented economic and health crisis, we seek relief from the City of Port Phillip. Real economic relief.


The second lock down leaves businesses in an even more terrifying position than during the initial phase.

A dramatic loss in trade combined with an escalation of deferred costs shall, if not managed well, lead to utter devastation in our already flailing high streets. We plead for your assistance to assist in salvaging not only the livelihood of traders throughout the area, but also the community – commercial and residential – that these areas foster both local and tourism, local jobs and income for you the CoPP.

I request the following actions from the CoPP:

- Rate relief equal to 25% of all annual rates payable by businesses for the winter quarter. Targeted at businesses that qualify for Job Keeper and similar tests
- The continuation of the freeze on charges such as outside dining into next year
- The heavy discounting or removal of parking fees for at least six months.
- Upholding your word of the already established commitment to funding half of the Renew project (\$75,000) now that the FSBA has decided to commit its own funds to meet the required other half in light of the State Government showing no interest in assisting our plight.
- A thorough and reasonable consideration of a "Hoyne-like" project which will complement the Renew project and build and expand upon the now almost defunct Placemaking exercise. Quotations are currently being sought for approval as per our requirement.

Sincerely,



Vice-President Fitzroy Street Business Association
Trader, Landlord and Resident of St. Kilda

Thank you for the opportunity to make submission to your budget planning process.

Balaclava is a booming precinct with a lively shopping strip in the CoPP that requires attention.

BEST would like to acknowledge full support of the submission made by PECAN

We propose that Council undertakes a coordinated and planned review of Balaclava area that takes in the following

- Increasing canopy cover. Council needs to set more ambitious targets to mitigate the documented deficit of canopy in the Balaclava precinct. With its mix of narrow and wide streets planning is needed to maximize the benefits possible from our public spaces by developing a local plan.
- An overall review of traffic management should feed into such a local plan to address the impact of current and future approved activity in William St and Carlisle St. Including but not limited to traffic management in William St/Nightingale St/Gibbs St/Bothwell St and Woodstock St.
- Balaclava Walk - inclusion in the Budget as an advocacy item is appreciated however it needs to be actualized including a review of embankment to restore the greening of this area.
- Improvement of street crossings is needed especially at the pedestrian crossings at Nightingale St and Grosvenor St. This section of the Balaclava Walk has been on the books for 15 years. It has been fully documented and designed by MGS and should be expedited. *(see attachment 1)*
- We have already made submissions to the public Spaces Strategy which should be directing Council expenditure to areas of highest need. The Balaclava St Kilda East area has a historic deficit in that regards which needs a planned response. A starting point would be to maximize our corridors of open space along roadways (Such as Bothwell Street) along our railway reserves and embasures and by making use of shared spaces such as at the St Kilda Primary School. Such opportunities for partnership maximises existing open space (i.e. St Kilda Primary School)
- Opportunities to use the water from the Town Hall Drain for stormwater flood reduction and watering open space in this area.

This submission aligns with CoPP Strategic directions 2, 3 and 4.

We note support for our position from Council documents:

- Balaclava has one of the higher density populations.
- Balaclava has the least open space and sporting/recreational space across the city
- Balaclava is significantly deficit in tree canopy when compared with other precincts across the city
- Balaclava is undergoing significant change in the William St precinct

Attachment 1 – Timeline of Community Action for Nightingale St Crossing

Community Action for Nightingale Street/Balaclava Walk

Crossing

- **2006** A community meeting (requested by residents) held with Cr Ray to address traffic and parking issues in William and Nightingale Streets. Council acknowledged concerns about pedestrian safety issues relating to walk/street intersection and agreed to works of a minor nature at the crossing from Balaclava Walkway across Nightingale Street on both sides of the bridge. Completion of the crossover was to be referred to 07/08 capital works program.
- **2007** As promised a minimum construction of two x pedestrian refuge islands and line marking was completed.
- **2012** A comprehensive and lengthy proposal and community consultation was undertaken to redefine Balaclava walk. On 24 September 2012, Council adopted the **Balaclava Walk Masterplan. This plan tied the redevelopment and road treatment of the Nightingale St crossing to its success. Relevant wording from the plan;**

Precinct Four: Nightingale Street Interface

A proposed minor civic space that forms the southern gateway to Balaclava Walk East and West

- *Traffic calming measures to be redesigned to reduce visual clutter and respond to the residential nature of the street*
- *Design response;*
Provide a common street treatment to the area, to help unify the space and announce the gateway to Balaclava Walk East and West. Incorporate traffic calming measures to Nightingale Street and provide a generous and clear pedestrian crossing. Widen footpaths on Nightingale Street so that they meet the piers of the railway bridge
- **May 2013-November 2014** Balaclava walkway closed for station redevelopment. Nightingale Street bridge area largely neglected and used as a tipping area for contaminated material, temporary signposting poorly maintained and rubbish accumulation allowed. Significant additional tagging occurred in the area particularly across the bluestone bridge which has continued to this day.
- **2014** A petition was submitted to Council seeking support to manage traffic and parking issues in Nightingale St. In this larger document it was noted that the speed, volume and type of traffic along with poor sight lines all combined to make this particular area (East and West of the bridge) an unsafe and unpleasant experience for pedestrians.
- **2015** Balaclava Walk - Council's city design team advised that this project was no longer live and there would be no completion of the work proposed at Nightingale St
- **2015** Proposed approval of 5 storey development (incorporating one café space and 14 offices) on the north eastern side of the bridge.

- **2015 Request (residents) made to Cr Huxley for a collective resolution to the street landscaping and pedestrian treatment of the area west of the bluestone rail bridge on Nightingale Street, leaving out the eastern side as Council already indicated they were reluctant to address works until approved development completed. (July 2020 this development site remains a vacant block of land)**
In principal support for a coordinated response by the City of Port Phillip from the following officers
 - Rebecca Doherty – Place Manager Activity Centres
 - Mark Fusco - Coordinator Parks Services
 - Simon Roberts – Urban Forest Planner
 - Ted Teo – Senior Traffic Engineer - Transport Safety Engineering
 - Phil Beard – Principal Planner City Development
- **2015 Save Our Bollards campaign (SOB)**
Council proposed to remove bollards at Railway place and Nightingale St crossing to allow through traffic. This was reversing a 30 year situation that limited vehicle traffic to residential properties backing onto the laneway. Community action was successful in maintaining status quo, arguing for pedestrian safety and amenity over vehicles.
- **2019 BEST raises issue of crossing with Canal Ward councillors at a meeting in December 2019. At this meeting the request is made to unlink this development from the Balaclava Walk Masterplan and incorporate works in upcoming budget.**

The City of Port Phillip has repeatedly acknowledged since 2006 that this crossover requires treatment.

The treatment of the crossover should not have been tied to Balaclava Walk Masterplan when it became evident that this would not be delivered.

This particular crossover seems to be an anomaly in a street that can be traversed all the way to the Elwood foreshore where, without exception, every street and walkway pedestrian crossing has been appropriately constructed and landscaped to minimise width of crossing and maximise calming of traffic.

- 3200 (approx.) commuters access Balaclava station each weekday
- 85 % of people access the station by walking
- The bluestone bridge at the crossover stands at 5.0 metres. This clearance allows the largest vehicle permissible on the road in Victoria to pass under. This is unlike the bridges at Carlisle, Inkerman and Grosvenor that do not have this clearance.
- This majestic bridge is an unusual asset in the CoPP due to its size, construction and position in a residential street. It should be celebrated and cared for which includes enhancement of immediate environs.

CBR-284.

Introduction

PECAN is a non-partisan umbrella organisation that includes representatives from Australian Conservation Foundation Macnamara, Australian Youth Climate Coalition, Bayside Climate Crisis Action Group, Community Alliance of Port Phillip, Elsternwick Park Association, Elwood Floods Action Group, Extinction Rebellion Port Phillip, Locals Into Victoria's Environment, Port Phillip Alliance for Sustainability, Port Phillip EcoCentre, Stop [REDACTED] and unChain St Kilda.

PECAN aims to create and sustain a strong climate action movement in Port Phillip to address the climate crisis.

PECAN priorities for the 2020-21 budget are listed below and follow some preliminary comments relating mainly to Council's role as educator about climate change within the Port Phillip community.

Summary of submission

PECAN requests that council commits to support its role as an educator and facilitator.

1. Council commits to ongoing funding for the EcoCentre.
2. Council ensures that all climate-related projects display educational information showing the benefits of the project.
3. Council develops and implements an education strategy to inform residents of how the City is tackling the climate emergency.
4. Council commits to achieving measurable targets to tackle the climate emergency, and uses place-based signage to inform residents of the City's progress toward these targets.
5. That Council strengthens its overall response to the climate emergency and works with its community using genuine citizen engagement processes in accordance with the requirements of the new Local Government Act 2020.
6. That Council engages with environment groups to jointly develop detailed reporting commencing with target setting with dates, responsibilities and budgets, and ongoing transparency with project implementation.

PECAN Budget Submission recommendations:

7. That Council facilitates a Power Purchase Agreement directed toward the commercial and industrial sectors.
8. That Council supports the development of Collective Power Purchasing Systems for Port Phillip residents, especially apartment dwellers.
9. In conjunction with other Councils, that Port Phillip should propose that stimulus funds be provided in a retrofitting program directed towards low income/vulnerable households.
10. That Council develops a Green-Blue Infrastructure Action Plan, incorporating a review of Greening Port Phillip together with a catchment-based Integrated Water Management Plan.
11. Council integrates ongoing work through Move Connect Live and related transport policies 2020-2028 with the proposed Green -Blue Infrastructure Action Plan, and in the short term gives priority to temporary bike lanes.
12. That through participation in CASBE, Council's Planning Scheme can be successfully updated to upgrade building performance standards with a target of 2023.

13. That Council reviews Sustainability staffing capability in the context of Project requirements in 2020/21.

Council as Educator and Facilitator

EcoCentre

We believe that the EcoCentre has performed a key role in many aspects of environmental sustainability in Port Phillip and indeed across many Melbourne metropolitan boundaries and plays a key role in implementing the City's role to educate and facilitate community engagement in Sustainability.

It has outgrown its existing building and it is now time for the CoPP to support an expanded role for it by both completion of the new building so that it is fit for purpose, and expanding its operational funding. PECAN welcomes Council's funding provision in the 2020/21 and following Budgets to resource the rebuilding of the EcoCentre.

Recommendation 1: Council commits to ongoing funding for the EcoCentre.

Climate change and learning opportunities

While Council has a direct role in community education about climate change, we think that it should be better promoting the sustainability projects it carries out, in a way which assists citizens to better understand and learn about specific measures aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change.

To take one simple example, the excellent work Council has undertaken in rainwater harvesting at Alma Park is a perfect opportunity to include onsite signage explaining the project as a measure to address the effects of the climate emergency. These signs could be linked to websites drawing citizens attention to the deeper levels of project complexity. Unfortunately, there is only one sign alongside the beautiful reed bed, and it states, 'fluctuating water levels, keep out'.

A similar situation is found at South Melbourne market, where the rooftop solar project provides an excellent opportunity to educate about and promote awareness of the climate emergency through signage around the market.

Recommendation 2: Council ensures that all climate-related projects display educational information showing the benefits of the project.

Making the most of what the council does

We urge Council to develop and implement a sophisticated educational/communication strategy to ensure that the Sustainability projects it undertakes create learning opportunities for Port Phillip citizens into the climate emergency and the ways Council is addressing it. Both traditional and digital media should be developed and elevated in their role to serve this purpose. In this regard, the Port Phillip EcoCentre could serve as an internal consultant to Council in this task.

Recommendation 3: Council develops and implements an education strategy to inform residents of how the City is tackling the climate emergency.

Climate action targets

There is a close link between citizen engagement and the setting of and reporting on Council climate action targets (including in the community codesign, performance assessment and review of targets). Targets to address the Council emergency should be further developed and the places where targets are reported, should be expanded to where citizens are likely to see them. South Melbourne Market, given the rooftop solar project would provide an excellent opportunity for contemporary improvements to such signage.

Recommendation 4: Council commits to achieving measurable targets to tackle the climate emergency, and uses place-based signage to inform residents of the City's progress toward these targets.

A cultural shift to community

Finally, such a project of community engagement will not work if the relationship of Council to citizens is framed at the highest level of council descriptors as a contractual relationship between Council as a business and citizens as customers. A deep public engagement strategy requires a basic cultural shift in the way in how the Council understands its relationship to its citizens.

The new Local Government Act 2020 strengthens the responsibility of Councils to follow more sophisticated processes of community engagement and this represents an important and mandated cultural shift.

Such a shift requires not merely a process of consultation prior to undertaking the kind of measures we propose but rather genuine citizen engagement at every stage of Council's response to the climate emergency to reflect and support community participation as being at the heart of the actions taken.

Recommendation 5: That Council strengthens its overall response to the climate emergency and works with its community using genuine citizen engagement processes in accordance with the requirements of the new Local Government Act 2020.

Setting and reporting on climate action targets

Apart from more public visibility and reporting across Council targets, (note that Port Phillip is one of the few Councils to have declared a climate emergency without having developed a target for community emissions, now approximately 2m tCO₂e annually), much more systematic and consistent reporting on targets and progress to meeting them is necessary. There is a wide transparency gap, with a historic reluctance to work with community, to provide information on key projects, or to release consultants reports even in situations where there is no necessity for confidentiality.

Recommendation 6: That Council engages with environment groups to jointly develop detailed reporting commencing with target setting with dates, responsibilities and budgets, and ongoing transparency with project implementation.

PECAN Budget Proposals

An increasing number of Councils are declaring Climate Emergencies – neighbouring Councils Bayside, Stonnington and Glen Eira have made recent Declarations and Bayside has just published its draft Climate Emergency Plan, as has Yarra. Port Phillip declared a Climate Emergency in September last year, but has yet to produce its own Climate Emergency Plan.

We draw attention to the draft Budget where significant cuts are proposed for a number of programs within Sustainability, as can be seen from the Budget papers for this year and last:

Allocations from the 2019 Budget (p83) and the current draft Budget (p85):

	2019/20	2020/21
Operating:	\$3,979,365	\$3,129,201
Capital:	\$2,618,302	\$355,484
	\$6,597,667	\$3,484,685

That represents a decrease of \$3,112,982 or a 47% reduction; the subsequent increased funding for the EcoCentre brings the year to year reduction to 40%.

Sustainability is now funded at 1.47% of CoPP's total proposed expenditure of \$237,676,000. The Capital allocation has been reduced by nearly \$2,300,000 and Operating by \$850,000.

PECAN has developed this Budget Submission with awareness of the COVID-19 impact on Council's revenues in 2020/21 and the cuts to Sustainability programs. However, the priorities we have nominated here fortuitously have limited capital requirements and for the most part involve accelerated planning, integration and completion of existing projects. They also represent the key components of PECAN'S Climate Emergency Plan which we believe the incoming Council must proceed with and further, they are consistent with existing Actions in Council's Act and Adapt strategy.

The Local Government Act 2020 is now coming into effect and we refer to Part 2, Division 1, Sec 9 (2) (b) and (c) which stipulate important new responsibilities for Local Government, in particular Overarching Governance Principles concerning intergenerational equity and planning for climate change risks:

- b) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;
- c) the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted

1. Community Emissions

Our highest priority is community emissions, which represent over 99% of all Port Phillip emissions and currently generate about 2m tonnes of CO2e annually. Two thirds of emissions (65%) are created through electricity use, and about 16% from gas and transport sectors respectively. Community emissions are made up of residential, commercial and industrial sectors. The industrial and commercial sector are the highest users of electricity. Many factors may militate against Councils being able to reach and communicate effectively with individual operators or households. We believe that the most efficient way for Council to make inroads into community emissions is to focus on large electricity users in the commercial and industrial sectors through facilitating mechanisms like Power Purchase Agreements.

Power Purchase Agreements

Port Phillip is already a member of such an Agreement, the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project (MREP), involving a mix of Councils, Universities and commercial operators like Australia Post and the National Bank. MREP has been so successful that Melbourne City Council has just completed a second MREP, this one focussed more towards commercial operators like Fulton Hogan, Cbus Property, ISPT Property, Citywide Asphalt and food manufacturer Mondelez International (Cadbury). Yarra Council also proposes PPAs in its CE Plan.

Over 60 PPAs were implemented between 2017 and 2019, mainly involving large corporates. For members there are significant benefits:

- Meeting Sustainability Targets
- Savings in Energy costs
- Budget Certainty through fixed price contracts
- Improved Public Profile
- Supporting Rural jobs, through construction and operation of solar/wind farms.

The Business Renewable Centre Australia, funded through DELWP and ARENA, in its State of the Market Report 2019, reports a large pipeline of projects seeking off-takes. PECAN believes that the timing is opportune for Council to facilitate a PPA between large commercial and industrial users and an appropriate developer, with the involvement and support of residents and community groups - a Port Phillip Renewable Energy Project.

Such a project can be supported on a number of grounds:

First, there is no capital outlay involved – development of the project would require the involvement of staff with expertise and capability, and obviously some administrative support, but these expenditures would be minimal against the benefits of completion of a successful project.

Second, a PPA aligns with Council's Strategic Direction 3: We have smart solutions for a sustainable future - A CITY WITH LOWER CARBON EMISSIONS 3.2 *Facilitating a reduction in community greenhouse gas emissions by partnering with the community and private sector.*

Third, Port Phillip brings a significant level of experience and familiarity to this project through its involvement with the MREP.

Fourth, the project has the potential to achieve significant reductions in community emissions. A project of the scale of the existing MREP involves the purchase of 88 GWh annually, equivalent to over 8% of Port Phillip's residential, commercial and industrial electricity usage each year. It would be possible to aim at a PPA for large commercial and industrial users to provide between 5 and 10% of existing Port Phillip electricity consumption from renewable energy sources. The completion of such a project would encourage further PPAs and bring significant change to Port Phillip's emissions profile.

Recommendation 7: That Council facilitates a Power Purchase Agreement directed toward the commercial and industrial sectors.

A collective purchasing arrangement directed toward Residential Emissions

Port Phillip's take up of solar PV is one of the lowest in Melbourne, due in large part to the number of residents living in apartments and without access to roof space for solar installation. As the majority of Port Phillip residents are apartment dwellers there is significant demand for low cost renewable energy which cannot currently be met.

Council has recognized this problem and In Act and Adapt it proposed the development of a program to enable apartment dwellers to access renewable energy:

A CITY WITH LOWER CARBON EMISSIONS - Action 18: (P37) Work with the community to determine the viability of a collective purchase of offsite renewable energy for a consortium of apartment buildings.

At the moment apartment dwellers may not have roof space and people living in free standing houses may not be able to afford solar. By aggregating them, it is likely that there are several thousand households who would be attracted to a Council facilitated PPA or other form of collective purchasing system providing lower cost power from renewable sources.

The PECAN forum in February and the webinars currently being held in conjunction with Council suggest residents see the availability of PPAs as very high priority. At the most recent webinar PPAs were ranked the highest priority in terms of Council action. We believe that a project directed towards residents would attract a level of community support comparable with the PPA proposed for commercial and industrial users, ie being able to supply between 5% and 10% of existing Port Phillip residential electrical usage through renewable sources.

There are technical legislative and commercial issues which may militate against a PPA in its current form for the residential sector. However other models are emerging elsewhere; for example London Council has contracted a specific retailer who is Green branded and is able to reach residential users with the endorsement of the Council. DELWP is currently investigating options in this area. We believe this is an area needing Council input and support.

There are other approaches to reducing residential emissions such as solar farms, Virtual Power Plants, community microgrids and within-apartment block systems like that developed by ALLUME Energy. Some of them may have specific value in particular situations, but none of these options is scalable in the same way as a large scale residential purchasing system.

The principles supporting the PPA for commercial and industrial users can equally apply to a residential collective purchasing system – no capital outlay, alignment with Act and Adapt, Council experience and capacity, and potential to make significant reductions in community emissions.

Recommendation 8: That Council supports the development of Collective Power Purchasing Systems for Port Phillip residents, especially apartment dwellers.

Community environmental retrofits

In the context of new stimulus funding becoming available from State or Commonwealth governments, Council could propose widescale retrofitting of residential and commercial properties leading to significant improvements in energy efficiency and performance. A program of this kind could be directed towards low income and vulnerable households, especially those affected through the COVID-19 pandemic. Such a program has been advocated from many quarters, and would bring much needed employment opportunities, given that Macnamara is one of the worst hit electorates in Australia, with 45,000 individuals and 11,843 businesses being supported by JobKeeper payments.

Recommendation 9: In conjunction with other Councils, that Port Phillip should propose that stimulus funds be provided in a retrofitting program directed towards low income/vulnerable households.

2. Green-Blue Infrastructure

We draw attention to the draft Budget where significant cuts are proposed for a number of programs within this area:

- Water Sensitive Urban Design \$600,000 to \$50,000
- Greening Port Phillip \$640,000 to \$440,000
- Foreshore Vegetation \$150,000 to \$0
- Open Space Irrigation \$415,000 to \$50,000

As stated earlier, we consider that the deferral of funding this year may provide an opportunity for Council to review a number of programs in the Green-Blue infrastructure area. We think that this is an area where Council needs to develop a new approach.

Over the past decade Council has developed or started Strategies and Plans around Public Space, Stormwater Management, Permeability, Urban Forest, Flood Mitigation, Urban Heat Island, Coastal Hazard, Integrated Water Management and Biodiversity. All of them have been carried out independently, without the essential integration necessary to make these projects fully functional.

In essence, the interrelationship between water planning and landscape planning is not properly implemented, and the necessary integration and coordination of these domains has not occurred. An example of how this process can be successfully implemented can be seen in the City of Melbourne, which is well into developing stormwater harvesting systems with 22 installations to date, enabling the irrigation of the parks with water sourced from within each of the catchments.

DELWP has published a manual for Councils, Planning a Green-Blue City, which sets out the key principles as follows:

'The inherent multi functionality of natural systems requires an equally integrated approach to identify, prioritize and deliver initiatives that will create greener and more successful cities. The planning of green-blue infrastructure aims to do just that: to explore synergistic opportunities for integrated greening and water management outcomes and to create a framework for collaboration between Council departments and key industry and community groups to deliver a new blue print for cities and towns.

Accordingly, a green-blue infrastructure action plan should be an integrative document that draws on documents and evidence already developed by the council, but should be embedded in the current Council plan, strategic resource plan and the budget to enable integrated delivery of initiatives'

And within the context of integration, there are a number of separate Council programs which are interrelated and where review/implementation require integration with other programs/strategies.

First, the Greening Port Phillip program needs major review. Its canopy cover targets (an increase of 1.9% by 2028) are completely inadequate, are well short of best practice and do not reflect the imbalances across the municipality. Mapping by DELWP and RMIT shows significant reductions in canopy cover in a number of areas across Port Phillip between 2014 and 2018. The consultant's work for the 2017 report did not examine senescence levels of the existing tree stock, or the need for better species selection in the context of time to canopy maturity, or resilience to lower rainfall and hotter temperatures. Our understanding is that Greening Port Phillip is to be updated in 2020/21. We think this review should be given high priority in conjunction with the completion of the Public Space Strategy, together with heat mapping across the municipality which has been on Council's to-do list for several years but is still to be undertaken.

Mapping heat spots should be an integrative component of a Greening Port Phillip review; it would enable the identification of urban heat spots and precincts, and in turn enable the development of Precinct Priority Plans which some Councils are now programming and which we think should be a high priority in Port Phillip.

Catchment-Based Integrated Water Management

The preparation of an Integrated Water Management Plan is another issue that has been on Council's to-do list since publication of the Water Plan in 2010. Council's work in this area has not been catchment based and consequently decisions have been made on an ad hoc basis. The years spent chasing a viable stormwater harvesting scheme at Albert Park Lake are an example of this kind of decision making. We commend the Council for completion of the Alma Park stormwater harvesting scheme, which brings Council's alternative water harvesting annually to about 30ML, but point out that Council is still a long way short of the 80ML target of alternative water resource set many years ago. The Catani gardens project now under examination by Council should be given strong support if its viability can be confirmed upon closer examination.

The pause in WSUD funding this year may be opportune given that it is time to review the cost-effectiveness of raingardens as a major mechanism for WSUD in Port Phillip, given their inability to capture stormwater. There are significant opportunities for stormwater harvesting within Port Phillip's 20 catchment systems, Alma Park being the best example to date.

Elster Creek and Elsternwick Park

PECAN strongly supports Council's continued involvement in this important project. On completion it will bring major benefits to Port Phillip - it literally ticks all the boxes. Apart from being the first major flood reduction intervention in Elwood for nearly 30 years, it could provide more than the missing 50ML of harvested stormwater referred to above – the estimated total amount of water able to be harvested is approx. 270ML annually. In addition it will provide significant benefits in limiting the amount of nitrogen pollutants which now flow into the Bay. The State Government has provided funds for expanding the woodlands area of the Park, and the wetlands will be further expanded; both expansions will provide greater biodiversity across the Park.

The existing Park is already widely used by Port Phillip residents, and on completion it will become an iconic nature reserve which will attract many more users from Port Phillip and across Melbourne.

Recommendation 10: That Council develops a Green-Blue Infrastructure Action Plan, incorporating a review of Greening Port Phillip together with a catchment-based Integrated Water Management Plan.

3) Integrated Transport Plan

Move Connect Live, Sustainable Parking Policy and the Parking Management Policy all recognize the increasing pressures caused by private car usage, and Council is proposing actions that redesign a number of our streets to provide enough capacity to carry an additional 55,000 walking trips, 27,000 bike trips and 14,000 public transport trips by 2028. This process will integrate these preferred modes with new parking policy and associated roadworks. Within the framework of the Green-Blue Infrastructure Plan described above, increased canopy cover and passive irrigation capacity can be developed in a way that will enhance the attractiveness and amenity of these new streetscapes.

Since the pandemic's arrival many more people are cycling and it is likely that this will persist for some time given the aversion to travelling on public transport.

Major cities around the world (Berlin, Milan) and Melbourne have installed temporary bike lanes using water barriers or bollards. Consideration should be given to the installation of temporary lanes which are proposed in Council's planned bicycle network or form part of State strategic routes.

Recommendation 11: Council integrates ongoing work through Move Connect Live and related transport policies 2020-2028 with the proposed Green -Blue Infrastructure Action Plan, and in the short term gives priority to temporary bike lanes.

4) Upgraded Planning Scheme

To accelerate the transition towards zero-carbon buildings and precincts, Council needs to work through CASBE to advocate to the state government to raise mandatory standards, and to work towards including minimum energy performance standards to be required at point of sale and lease for residential and commercial buildings.

Improved building efficiencies must be part of a Port Phillip Climate Emergency Plan, and while Planning Schemes cannot be upgraded overnight, it is important that Council supports the CASBE working process and joins with other Councils in bringing about a more efficient building modality.

Recommendation 12: That through participation in CASBE, Council's Planning Scheme can be successfully updated to upgrade building performance standards with a target of 2023.

5) Resourcing Sustainability

Given the urgency of Climate Action we are concerned about the effect of the proposed restructure of Sustainability, involving the abolition of a number of positions, including that of Sustainability Manager. Capability within Sustainability appears to us to need to be increased in terms of both expertise and authority if key projects are to be managed to completion.

As a community group, we wish to ensure that this structural review will enhance the strategic capacity and the operational efficiency of the Council in dealing with Sustainability and Climate Change issues facing our community. We make the general point that the projects proposed are complex and will require adequate resourcing to bring to successful completion.

Recommendation 13: That Council reviews Sustainability staffing capability in the context of Project requirements in 2020/21.

CBR-285

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 20 July 2020 3:53 PM
To: Helpdesk - Council Plan & Budget <helpdeskabpp@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Exercise Class

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Dear Port PhPhillip Council,

Thank you for your support of [REDACTED]'s exercise program and SPCC. I have participated in it for many years, and benefit from it greatly.

Your support for it to continue will make this possible.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad.

Port Phillip EcoCentre Submission re: City of Port Phillip Budget 2020-2021

Dear Councillors,

Port Phillip Council faces extraordinary challenges in 2020, echoed across the broader Port Phillip community. During such times, community-led organisations are well-positioned provide a nimble, reliable and immense contribution to the resilience our municipality.

1. Thank you for co-funding the EcoCentre.

The Port Phillip EcoCentre wishes to thank City of Port Phillip for your foundational and ongoing partnership in creating clean, safe, green, healthy and connected neighbourhoods, parks and beaches; and for Council's funding pledge toward a fit-for-purpose EcoCentre for education, volunteering, citizen science, sustainable solutions and leadership. The EcoCentre will continue to work closely with Council to secure matching funding for this important community facility, as a part of economic and social COVID-recovery opportunities.

Council provides a critical core funding as part of the EcoCentre's diverse funding mix of fee-for-service programs, philanthropic grants, state and Commonwealth grants and community donations. Port Phillip funds approximately 30% of our budget, with 60% of program benefits delivered to Port Phillip residents and landscapes, and \$10 economic impact delivered for every \$1 invested by Council into the EcoCentre.¹ This year, Council funding is more critical as many of our fee-for-service programs are restricted due to public health protocols, and philanthropic support is split to assist many community needs; yet the EcoCentre has prepared a range of research, remote learning and peer-to-peer models to keep our members and volunteers socially supported while remotely collaborating on key sustainability actions.

2. The EcoCentre is deeply valued by community.

Over the past four years, City of Port Phillip has been copied into letters of support from hundreds of individuals, community groups, other bayside Mayors, Members of Parliament, and research institutions who value the EcoCentre model and advocate for its capital and programmatic expansion, enabling an associated array of community and ecological benefits – and many transformative personal experiences for the 87,000 service users annually.

"What the EcoCentre does best... is willingness to integrate everyone as a group and share knowledge and experience together." – *community meals volunteer*

"I like the great sense of community, new friends, new experiences, more community situations, belonging, sense of hope, lots of people that care." – *community garden volunteer*

"When I leave an EcoCentre program and return to the world, I feel uplifted and hopeful in a way that I haven't in a long time." – *Community Enviro Fest participant*

"There are a few changes the EcoCentre has brought into my life: I went from eating meat every day to 2x per week. I used to roll my Council bins out every week but now it's down to half. I haven't bought a single thing (except food) since I started at the EcoCentre because I would rethink every purchase decision and either realise I did not need it at all, or could improvise with something I already have. I have to start up my car once a week because I have hardly driven it – switched to walking, cycling and trams." – *citizen science volunteer*

"We had two official goals: to have a wonderful snorkel while observing the marine life, and to look out for pollution. An EcoCentre educator asked me how the experience was. I mean, the answer was obvious: the experience was unforgettable, the most bravest thing I have ever done! I loved it a lot."

– *13 year old Alive Outside! program participant*

¹ FY19-20 funding value : economic impact value from *Economic and Environmental Benefits Statement* (Essential Economics 2017, Hip V Hype 2019)

When Port Phillip and community members started this environmental hub together, 21 years and 275,000 volunteer hours ago, no one could anticipate the success of the model and rapid project growth as Port Phillip residents join the world in deep concern about climate change, as well as personal commitment to contributing to local solutions. Between 2017 and 2019, EcoCentre volunteer hours doubled to more than 20,000 per annum. In the last decade, youth involvement has increased 600%. EcoCentre programs have been recognised by the Premier's Sustainability Awards, United Nations Australia Association, nationally through Keep Australia Beautiful and locally through the Inner Eastern Local Learning and Employment Network.

We are proud that our way of engaging local community and operating as a hub for environment groups increasingly inspires other organisations, as they work together with their communities in this current time of global climate and ecological crisis, now compounded by worldwide health and economic challenges.

3. Despite many circumstances beyond our control, the EcoCentre has been nimble, adaptive and has expanded many community benefits this year due to our new Funding Agreement.

The first half of the year indicated KPI growth for increased knowledge of local ecosystems, connection to local nature and intention to spend more time in local nature. Although volunteer hours and immersive nature programs have been limited in the second half of the year due to health restrictions, the 'independent action' focus of our online public programs, e.g. Plastic Free July, waste-free cooking, and habitat garden design, has lifted the participant evaluation reports of sustainable behaviour changes as a result of the workshop (93% participants).

While working remotely since March 2020, the EcoCentre team has:

- o developed/delivered 12 online public workshops, 15 nature clips, 14 school curriculum modules, 10 youth programs, 2 live streams, and 2 cross-sector roundtables
- o continued to host weekly virtual community lunches (and provides technology training)
- o set up peer-to-peer phone trees for volunteers to maintain social connection
- o posted indigenous seeds to grow at home to prepare for future community greening
- o redesigned citizen science for safe solo participation, resulting in citizen documentation of 21 species never previously recorded in Port Phillip
- o and consulted closely with our range of partners to design our next adaptive offerings.

City of Port Phillip base funding instilled confidence, calm and flexibility to provide continuous programs and outreach to our members, volunteers, partner organisations and neighbours.

"I like the camaraderie and learning from doing. It makes me feel happy and content. COVID-19 has had a positive effect in that I have caught up with three other EcoCentre members for walks (one at a time of course) when no other activity was permitted." – EcoCentre member

*"Inspiring and uplifting. COVID-19 has not stopped our group loving being together."
- community garden volunteer*

4. The EcoCentre delivers for the Council Plan.

EcoCentre programs are designed to complement and extend Port Phillip's council services, collaborating at an ecosystem scale for initiatives in alignment with Council Strategies, in particular

- o Direction 1: We embrace difference and we belong
e.g. Community gardening, community lunch, Multicultural Bay Ambassadors, Seniors Workshops, Work for the Dole, Sessions with Elders, youth services and Scouts

- Direction 3: We have smart solutions for a sustainable future
e.g. Community compost, Living Water Workbees (catchment care, installing rain gardens and raintanks), ResourceSmart Schools Waste/Water/Energy certification, Port Phillip Baykeeper, coastal revegetation and erosion monitoring, citizen science, Teachers' Environment Network, Clean Bay Blueprint, expert advisory panels, shareable resources
- Direction 5: We thrive by harnessing creativity.
e.g. Producing films such as 'Our Catchment', partnerships with local artists such as Serene Lau's Port Phillip Dragon, FReezA musicians, and St Columba's Climate Choir

The EcoCentre Annual Report features Stories of Change and quantitative performance indicators to evaluate the reach, impacts and outcomes of our strategies and programs.

In a budget-challenged year, the EcoCentre's capabilities offer an effective and trusted outreach partnership that continues to help Council cover issues that are of community interest but not funded through Council programs.

RECOMMENDATION

That Port Phillip Council

- **continue the effective EcoCentre Funding Agreement so that along with other environmental, community and educational outcomes, we may continue our responsive, creative adaptations to a diverse portfolio of programming for environmental and community health that remain of critical importance during the coronavirus pandemic; and**
- **maintain its resource commitment to the development of a new fit-for-purpose environmental hub while continuing joint advocacy with the EcoCentre to secure matching funding**

Thank you to Councillors and Officers for your consideration during this difficult budget year. The EcoCentre stands strong to play our role in our community's resilience and recovery, while never losing context of the climate emergency and protecting our local environments.

Sincerely,



President



Community Alliance of Port Phillip

RESPONSE TO THE CITY OF PORT PHILLIP UPDATED DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN AND BUDGET 2020/21

The Community Alliance of Port Phillip (CAPP) represents community members from across the municipality of the City of Port Phillip. The purposes of CAPP are:

1. to promote the development and implementation of policies in the City of Port Phillip that
 - maintain Port Phillip as a well-planned, liveable municipality
 - progress equity, social justice, inclusiveness and environmental sustainability
 - value cultural diversity and the arts
2. to promote sound governance and community representation by the City of Port Phillip
3. to promote community awareness, debate and action on issues affecting the community and residents of Port Phillip.

This CAPP submission in response to the Draft Plan and Budget 2020/21 covers:

1. Capital Works and Project deferrals and the reluctance to Borrow
2. Temporary and Service Level Reductions/Changes
3. Economic and Social Recovery Plan
4. The Arts and Music
5. Housing
6. Climate Action and Sustainability
7. Libraries

1. Capital works and major project deferrals and the reluctance to borrow

CAPP is concerned by Council's 'austerity' response to the revenue hit it is suffering due to the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. The approach taken has been to 'balance the books' via a range of service cuts, organisational restructuring, paying off already low debt and deferral of major capital and other projects. We do not believe this is in the community's best interests.

At a time when our community and our economy is being turned upside down by COVID-19 we had hoped for a more visionary budget. Such a budget would respond to the crisis by developing a plan for prudent borrowings to achieve a bold vision. That vision would contribute to stimulating the local economy, create local jobs and enhance the community services we have all come to appreciate and rely on through these challenging times.

The effects of the crisis on our community are escalating. Childcare fees were re-instated for parents on 13 July and JobKeeper is being removed for childcare workers on 20 July. Businesses and workers in our community currently supported by JobKeeper and others receiving increased JobSeeker payments face ongoing uncertainty about how long this support will last. And we know that both St Kilda and Elwood are in the list of the top ten postcodes with the highest proportions of people receiving these payments. Post September, even more of our community will be doing it tough.

We understand that the Draft Budget has been framed with an incoming Council in mind, and from a desire not to pre-empt the priorities the new Council may determine for its four- year term. But we disagree with the current Council shying away from presenting its own vision for responding to the crisis now in a way that gives the community some confidence that Council will lead, support and invest in our community into the future, as we struggle to meet the challenges thrown at us by the COVID-19 crisis.

The Draft Budget states: 'We have the capacity to borrow up to \$75 million and still achieve a low risk rating in accordance with Victoria Auditor General's Office (VAGO) financial sustainability risk assessment.' (p59) If there was ever a time for prudent borrowing to reap economic stimulus and intergenerational benefit, then it is now.

Rather than defer major projects to subsequent years, Council would do well to support expenditure on them in 2020/21.

We approve of the proposal to conduct quarterly in-depth reviews of the Budget in this financial year to enable adjustments to be made in response to the ongoing crisis.

We believe however, that the deferral of expenditure in the 2020/21 financial year is short sighted and will have the dual effect of delaying critical projects and further dampening our local economy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

a. That Council re-visit the decision *not* to borrow in 2020/21 and develop a plan supported by prudent borrowings, to bring forward major projects currently proposed for deferral, including:

Children's Centres Improvement Program (\$1.4 million)
Water Sensitive Urban Design Program (\$550,000)
Energy Efficiency and Solar Program (\$350,000)
Greening Port Phillip Strategy Implementation (\$200,000)
Building Renewal and Upgrade Program (\$655,000)
Bike Infrastructure Program (\$430,000 proposed for deferral)
Elster Creek Catchment Partnership and Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve (\$930,000)
St Kilda Library re-development (\$250,000)
Designate the Fitzroy Street Public Toilet as a high priority site

b. That Council contribute to post pandemic economic recovery by investing in a 12-month job creation program (\$10 million for '100 Jobs Port Phillip') to employ local residents who have lost jobs/income due to the pandemic. The focus of this should be on employing those from sectors most affected, such as hospitality, the Arts and early childhood services and contribute to services that will enhance community recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. The positions created would be short-term, up to 12 months in duration.

Examples might include:

- Commissioning local artists to produce a range of public mural and public sculpture projects in our shopping strips and open spaces.
- Employing a team of neighbourhood recycling ambassadors (out of work actors?) for creative community education projects to reduce contamination in recycling bins (the costs of which have skyrocketed for Council by \$50,000 a month in recent times).
- Employing a community greening team (as gardeners?) for a co-ordinated program of tree, shrub and grasses planting in open spaces, footpaths and verges.
- Supporting our local early childhood education and care services who face a range of challenges during the continuing crisis (such as the costs of replacing staff needing to take leave due to COVID-19/COVID-19 testing and isolation) by employing a pool of part time relieving staff from among the often regular casuals 'laid off' in recent months.
- Creating and training community connections' team to undertake a range of community support functions for those in most need – walking with older citizens or others in need of companionship, food delivery, library book deliveries, transport to appointments (in partnership with local community service organisations). This would build on volunteer models such as the Port Phillip Welcomers Program run out of the SouthPort Community Centre Inc.

2. Temporary and Service Level Reductions/Changes

CAPP is concerned that the service level reduction focus on youth, early education, kindergartens and pre-schoolers leaves our younger citizens vulnerable. Examples:

- Defer Youth Leadership and Engagement program for 6 months (\$12,000).
- Suspend Early Education Partnership for 1 year (\$40,000).
- Suspend Youth Service Development for 1 year (\$18,000).
- Reduce operational subsidy to kindergartens from \$4,000 to \$2,000 per centre (\$19,000).
- Cessation of pre-school dental check program funding agreement with Star Health (\$36,000).

The Draft Budget states that some of these deferrals are due to social distancing requirements and so CAPP requests that the funds that could be not used on these programs be allocated to other parts of the program areas for youth and early education that require funding, rather than be seen as savings.

CAPP also notes that the halving of the kindergarten subsidy can only have a negative impact on programs and educational activities. The saving is minimal but the effect on services and on children is significant.

CAPP notes the one proposed service increase in children's services, being to:

Provide additional Lead Family/Assertive Outreach resource to meet Council-endorsed Children's Services Policy commitments to support families experiencing vulnerability to access early years education services (\$100,000)

We ask: How will this position relate to the existing Enhanced Maternal and Child (EMCH) Program which already focuses on identifying and supporting families from birth who are identified as vulnerable, or with additional needs?

CAPP believes that EMCH Service is Council's key service area for identifying families in need of extra support and facilitating better access to early years education services.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a. That the proposed service level reductions be rethought, in particular to ensure that younger citizens are not disadvantaged.
- b. That the new Family/Assertive Outreach position be clearly integrated with the EMCH Service.

3. Economic and Social Recovery Program

CAPP welcomes the Economic and Social Recovery Program of \$4.2 million which builds on the \$2.8 million emergency relief package for 2019/20 and supports the strategies to ameliorate the effects of the pandemic for local businesses, such as rent relief, rate deferrals, waiving footpath trading fees etc.

Identifying a fund for responding to emerging social impacts as we move through different stages of the pandemic is also commendable, but the allocation of just \$200,000 seems woefully inadequate.

There are a number of programs/projects mentioned here that appear to have no budget allocation despite clearly having a cost in terms of officer time. In contrast, the Corporate volunteer program which allows staff to volunteer for up to 2 days per annum has a cost allocated of \$150,000, presumably to cover staff time/salary.

CAPP would like to understand the costs of all aspects of the Economic and Social Recovery Program so the Community can monitor the success or otherwise of these 'no budget allocation' projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. That Council review its allocation of funds for emerging social issues at the first quarterly review scheduled for February 2021, with a view to expanding the allocation of funds.
- b. That the Council is transparent on all the costs within the Economic and Social Recovery Program and provides guidance on how the Community can monitor the success or otherwise of these programs.

4. The Arts and Music

Arts and creative industries account for around 35 percent of the economic activity in our city and as a sector are the second largest employer in the City of Port Phillip.

CAPP notes that the Arts Rescue Package announced in May 2020 designed to support local artists, cultural organisations and creative businesses dealing with the pandemic was largely funded from savings in the 2019-2020 Creative Industries and Creative Prosperous City Strategy budget.

CAPP notes that the Draft Budget proposes no changes to the funding for the 2020/21 St Kilda Festival. As we enter deeper into the COVID 19 crisis it becomes clearer that gatherings of 200,000 plus are unlikely to be allowed in February 2021.

With the importance of the Arts to our local economy it would be appropriate that any further savings from the Arts budget, including from the St Kilda Festival not going ahead, be reallocated to activities in this sector, particularly to local activities and artists.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. That Council makes a decision to cancel the St Kilda Festival for 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b. That any savings from the creative industries budget, particularly from cancellation of the St Kilda Festival, be reallocated to arts activities in the City of Port Phillip involving local artists.

5. Housing

The Council Plan states that it “Builds on the successful partnership with HousingFirst as Trustee of the Port Phillip Housing Trust and maintains our longstanding leadership in affordable housing. This is central to our commitment to maintaining a diverse, inclusive and equitable city, especially for those who are disadvantaged and marginalised. Funding is for an annual cash contribution to an affordable housing reserve and the associated costs for implementing affordable housing projects.”

CAPP strongly supports this statement. It places the need to develop long term, secure, affordable housing for low income citizens at the forefront of Council’s housing policy. While other levels of government play a central role in funding the development of affordable housing, Council’s contribution in the form of land, buildings and annual monetary commitments, places our local housing associations in an advantaged position when applying for government funds to develop housing in Port Phillip. This partnership between State/Federal governments, Port Phillip Council and our Housing Associations must be maintained in order to grow social housing in this municipality. The Marlborough Street, St Kilda housing project to be developed by Housing First and the Emerald Street South Melbourne project to be developed by South Port Community Housing Group are current examples.

The 2020/21 Council Budget and projected budgets must reflect these commitments.

It is clear that Council intends to bring together housing projects aimed at tackling homelessness and projects designed to provide more secure low cost permanent social housing in Port Phillip particularly for those low income people currently in precarious private rental accommodation many of whom have lost jobs during the pandemic and those struggling to survive on social security benefits.

Three projects are identified in the budget which focus on providing housing and welfare supports for people experiencing homelessness. CAPP supports these initiatives:

- A. A temporary common ground facility – to lease former backpacker (Habitat HQ) accommodation in St Kilda to keep rough sleepers in supported housing: \$250,000
- B. A permanent common ground facility in partnership with DHHS to deliver permanent supported housing for persons from Council’s By-name list/ transitioning from the Habitat temporary accommodation to reduce rough sleeping: \$25,000
- C. Port Phillip Zero project funding to achieve a coordinated service response to homelessness (collective impact approach). Includes CoPP “By Name list” updated fortnightly. \$50,000

RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

- a. The existing Social Housing Fund (SHF), currently standing at \$2.5 million, be increased to provide for the added initiatives aimed at homelessness. It is proposed that an additional amount of \$200,000 be added to the current annual allocation of \$500,000 council provides.
- b. Council honor its commitment to provide grants from the SHF to any Registered Housing Agency applying to build and operate social housing in Port Philip. Housing First’s Marlborough St Project in St Kilda and South Port Community Housing Group (SPCHG) forthcoming project at Emerald St. South Melbourne are two such projects.
- c. Council, in conjunction with Housing First, allocate funds from the SHF to refurbish properties in the Port Phillip Housing Trust to improve standards in older properties and to expand, where possible, the number of units. A number of these properties are Rooming Houses which, if refurbished, would add to the number and quality of units aimed at addressing homelessness. State Government funds would also to be sought.
- d. The current pandemic warrants an injection of additional funds by Council to meet the costs of the three homelessness projects identified in the budget totalling \$325,000.

6. Climate Action and Sustainability

CAPP sees addressing Climate Change as integral to ensuring an equitable, inclusive and sustainable city. It also sees the need to respond to a future which is more uncertain and in need of greater Government intervention rather than less. The 2020 Local Government Act shifts the balance of Council responsibilities to require Councils to adopt policies and actions as follows:

- (a) priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;

(b) the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted

Guidance is provided in the Act about how this is to be done including engaging the community in strategic planning, innovating and continuously improving, collaboration with other councils and compliance with good governance principles.

Over the past 4 years the Council has only partially completed actions related to its Sustainable Environment Strategy 2018-2028, Act and Adapt. The outcomes have been mixed partly because of the lack of clear policy direction, strategic plans development, the scatter gun approach to actions and failure in integrating actions between departments and across the Council.

The budget has a series of proposals which will have damaging effects on the Sustainability area including the following areas of budget reduction:

- Greening Port Phillip from the current budget of \$640,000 to \$440,000 (still not including any additional funding for parks and gardens and other public spaces across the city)
- The deferral of the release of the Public Spaces Strategy which could have had budget implications to redress historic imbalances in the provision of open space in the city.
- The WSUD reduction from \$600,000 to \$50,000.
- The deferral of work on assessing the urban heat island effect with the City overall having been assessed as having a temperature increase in many areas in the past 4 years.
- The uncertainty about action on water recycling, flood mitigation and other aspects of Integrated Water Management as the Plan remains incomplete.
- The reduction of funding for action on community emissions from \$300,000 to \$125,000.

The role of the Sustainability Department seems to have become residual in the last year, programs have been reduced and are not integrated, key reports are not being produced, and reporting on actions against baseline figures and targets has almost ceased.

We support strengthened and concerted action in two key areas. First, there has been minimal outcome in respect of community emissions reduction, with emissions running at the rate of approximately 2million tCO₂e annually. In the life of this current Council the City of Melbourne has been able to complete two Renewable Energy projects, in the first of which Port Phillip is a member. We believe that Council should commit to facilitating two such Power Purchase Agreements, one for the commercial sector and the other for residents, especially those in apartments and without other access to rooftop solar.

The second area where Council needs to make a new start is that of Green-Blue infrastructure. Over the past decade Council has developed or started Strategies and plans around Public Space, Stormwater Management, Urban Forest, Flood Mitigation, Urban Heat Island, Integrated Water Management and Biodiversity. All of them have been carried out in isolation, without any of the essential understanding of the integration necessary to make these projects successful. In 2017 DELWP produced a manual for Councils, *Planning a Green-Blue City*, from which this quotation is taken: *'The inherent multi functionality of natural systems requires an equally integrated approach to identify, prioritize and deliver initiatives that will create greener and more successful cities. The planning of green-blue infrastructure aims to do just that: to explore synergistic opportunities for integrated greening and water management outcomes and to create a framework for collaboration between Council departments and key industry and community groups to deliver a new blue print for cities and towns.*

Accordingly, a green-blue infrastructure action plan should be an integrative document that draws on documents and evidence already developed by the council, but should be embedded in the current council plan, strategic resource plan and the budget to enable integrated delivery of initiatives’

These two key priorities draw attention to the proposed restructure of Sustainability, involving the abolition of positions, including that of Sustainability Manager. Capacity within Sustainability needs to be substantially increased in terms of both expertise and authority if key projects are to be managed to completion. Council needs to increase, rather than reduce its capacity to respond to Environmental issues in general and the Climate Crisis in particular, and this represents the third of our priorities.

In addition to these priorities CAPP wishes to draw attention to three areas which it is necessary for Council to support as essential responses to the impacts of Climate Change.

1. Integrated Transport Strategy. Current strategies and policies do not promote lower car usage or increased use of bikes, walking or public transport. There is a heightened awareness and need for cycling as a result of COVID19, and thus Council can give attention to creating temporary bike lines consistent with those identified in the bicycle network or in State strategic routes.

2. Elsternwick Creek. Council should continue involvement with the Elsternwick Creek project. It is a major flood reduction program for Elwood, is a main sources of harvested storm water, will limit the flow of nitrogen pollutants into Pt Phillip Bay, and with continued support will expand the biodiversity in the park and waterway.

3. Ecocentre. The work of the Ecocentre is essential to local education, research and action. For its size, it operates an impressive range of activities. Council should continue to support and advocate for the rebuilding of the long out of date and inadequate building housing the Ecocentre.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

- a. Facilitate Power Purchase Agreements which involve the local commercial and industrial sectors and facilitate the linkage of apartments with houses;
- b. Review the Greening Port Phillip program to take account of canopy cover target and implement heat mapping;
- c. Complete the Integrated Water Management Plan;
- d. Continue involvement in the Elster Creek and Elsternwick Park Project;
- e. Create temporary bike lanes consistent with the state strategic routes; and
- f. Continue to support and advocate for the rebuilding of the Eco Centre.

7. Libraries

Council operates five libraries across Port Phillip as well as online and in-home library and information services with over 600,000 library visits in the last year. In 2018/19, 20,187 new books were added to the libraries. The Council normally spends \$800,000 on new purchases and is proposing to decrease this expenditure in the 2020/21 Budget by \$200,000.

The City of Port Phillip is already behind similar councils in its spending on new materials, having the lowest proportion of library resources less than five years old – 48.8% compared with 72.0% for similar councils (<https://knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/councils/port-phillip/reports/libraries>). The reduction of purchases in a time when the community is in greater need of these resources is disappointing and CAPP recommends that this decrease not be implemented.

CAPP also notes that over 5,000 Inter library loans occurred in 18/19 which was an increase from the previous year. The Budget proposed to increase the Inter Library Loan fee from \$2.10 to \$28.50. If the number of Inter Library loans remains the same (5,267) this increase in the fee provides revenue of \$150,190.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. That Council does not decrease the library purchases by \$200,000 in 2020/21.
- b. That an explanation be provided on the large increase in the Inter Library Loan fee.

Conclusion

CAPP appreciates the opportunity to comment and make recommendations on the City of Port Phillip Draft Council Plan and Budget 2020/21.

We would also like the opportunity to speak to our submission on August 5.

If Council has any questions or seeks clarification on any issue please contact


Secretary



SOUTH PORT COMMUNITY HOUSING GROUP SUBMISSION TO CITY OF PORT PHILIP -Updated Council Plan and draft Budget 2020/21

In this submission we address Strategic Direction 1.2 - An increase in affordable housing

We will work towards this outcome by:	Our priorities for the next four years:
<p>A Pursuing new, sustainable funding streams to significantly increase the supply of social housing.</p> <p>B Establishing and facilitating partnerships to support diverse and innovative new affordable housing projects and reduce the risk of homelessness.</p>	<p>Implement In Our Backyard – Growing Affordable Housing in Port Phillip 2015-2025 to increase the supply and diversity of affordable housing aligned to priority local needs – low income families, older people, key workers, and single people at greatest risk of homelessness.</p> <p>Review and implement the Homelessness Action Strategy 2015-2020 and provide support for people experiencing homelessness to access suitable housing.</p> <p>Use Council property assets (land and air space contributions) and cash contributions to facilitate delivery of new community housing units by local housing organisations, including progressing development of 46-58 Marlborough Street, Balaclava.</p> <p>Work with the Victorian Government and local community housing organisations to optimise benefits from existing social housing sites, through increased yield, quality and housing type, aligned to local needs.</p> <p>Facilitate partnerships between the community housing, private and philanthropic sectors that fund and deliver new housing projects, including in Fishermans Bend.</p>

Initiatives 26-32 in *Economic and Social Recovery program*

- 26 Introduction of mandatory affordable housing contributions (Inclusionary Zoning) as part of new private development – Advocate (in partnership with other local governments) for release and action by the Victorian Government / Planning Minister following recent Ministerial Advisory Committee on Planning Mechanisms for Affordable Housing. Also advocate to ensure mandatory affordable housing contributions are included in response, potentially phased in over time. \$0
- 27 Renewal of Public Housing Estates to increase the supply of social housing – develop a Memorandum of Understand (MOU) with Victorian Government for program of renewal of Public Housing Estates in Port Phillip to increase the supply of social housing. Prioritise Dorcas Street Housing Estate, offering potential for housing and wider neighbourhood benefits (community & health facilities, public space, business innovation hub). \$0
- 28 Temporary common ground facility- lease former backpacker accommodation in St Kilda to keep rough sleepers in supported housing \$250,000
- 29 Permanent common ground facility- partner with DHHS to deliver permanent supported housing for persons from Council’s By-name list / transitioning from ‘pop-up’ to reduce rough sleeping. \$25,000
- 30 Port Phillip Zero project - continue funding to achieve a coordinated service response to homelessness (collective impact approach). Includes CoPP ‘By-name list’ updated fortnightly \$50,000
- 31 Government stimulus package funding directed at discounted purchase of community housing units by Registered Agencies – Advocate to State and Commonwealth governments for stimulus funding to apply to, negotiation of new development approvals, purchase of units in approved development and purchase of vacant apartments. Review all existing Fishermans Bend development approvals with affordable housing conditions to consider ‘amending’ form of contribution to discounted purchase. \$0
- 32 Delivery of affordable ‘Build to Rent’ housing – through incentivising private investment in rental housing for low and moderate-income earners through rental subsidy’s \$0



South Port Community Housing Group Inc. (SPCHG), is a not-for-profit, charitable, community based, registered housing provider operating exclusively in the City of Port Phillip (<http://www.spchg.org.au/>). We provide long term rental housing exclusively to people on the lowest incomes and vulnerable to recurring homelessness. We have been in operation since 1983 and share long historical ties to the Council: our founding organisations were the Cities of Port Melbourne and South Melbourne and the local Uniting Church.

Primarily as a contractor to the State Government via leases and services funding agreements, we run two programs:

- community housing management involving 283 tenancies across 27 distinct buildings; 15 of which are multi-unit 1-bedroom or studio apartment buildings and 12 of which are houses and flats accommodating family units (ex St Kilda Rental Housing Co-op). Two of the multi unit buildings are owned by the organisation; 13 are leased from the State Government via General Leases in which SPCHG is responsible for all building management issues except for fire safety equipment which is the responsibility of the State.
- A Specialist Homelessness Service providing case managed support services to young people aged 16-25 experiencing homelessness.

We have recently been successful in achieving financial support from the State's Social Housing Growth Fund to the amount of \$9.2 million for a redevelopment of the site at 15 Emerald Street, South Melbourne, to provide 45 long term rental housing units for people on very low incomes and aged over 55 years.

It is important to highlight that SPCHG is, by choice, registered with the State Government as a Housing Provider, not a Housing Association. We focus on meeting the need for secure housing by people who are on the lowest of personal incomes and who have experienced homelessness and are at risk of recurring homelessness. Our tenant referrals come exclusively from homelessness agencies. As a Housing Provider, we do not receive some of the financial head-starts of the Housing Associations. For example, we have never had title to a government housing asset transferred to us as most of the Housing Associations did. We do not have permission to charge a rent in excess of 25% of tenant's income. The Associations do. We allocate a significant proportion of our income to supporting our (mostly very vulnerable and socially isolated) tenants and developing a community that encourages social connection and participation in group activities.

As a result of financial factors related to our tenant profile and our net income, having a supportive local Council who value our commitment and our efforts to house the most vulnerable and do so in a way that can build connections and community, is vital. SPCHG has worked very closely with the Council over many years and are keen to maintain that close involvement.



We note that the Council Plan and Draft Budget contain a Council role in:

- planning mechanisms for affordable housing
- supporting the renewal of public housing estates, particularly Dorcas Street, South Melbourne
- establishing temporary and permanent Common Ground facilities in the municipality
- an advocacy role with the State about its proposed stimulus program of discounted housing purchase for community housing agencies including amending Fishermans Bend planning permits to allow purchase.
- a co-ordination role with the Port Phillip Zero project which identifies by name people who are sleeping rough (another new and non-traditional role and expense).
- Delivery of build to rent housing

We strongly support the Council's leadership role in advocating for increased social housing.

We have been a grateful beneficiary of Council's Community Grants Program, Community Festivals Grants Program and a Social Meals Program to benefit our tenants.

We see strong benefits in working with Council's planning personnel on achieving worthy outcomes from an inclusionary zoning scheme and in influencing rules relating to Fishermans Bend developments especially those that relate to the floor uplift incentives.

We have assisted in the development of the various Council Housing Strategies over the years. We note that the *'In Our Backyard – Growing Affordable Housing in Port Phillip 2015-2025'* program is still listed as a priority in the Council Plan. However we note there is no discussion of this program or obvious budget allocation to facilitate its policies. There is no mention of the promised packaging of Council properties with supporting cash contributions of \$500,000 per year for the purpose of assisting local registered community housing organisations to leverage finance for the delivery of projects (page 26 *In Our Backyard*) or the Expression on Interest process that was to give "preference to local registered community housing organisations (PPHA, St KCH and SPCHG)" (p 27).

We submit that Council should implement and fund the actions contained in Policy 1 of *In Our Backyard*.

We submit that Council honour its commitment to provide grants to any Registered Housing Agency applying to build and operate social housing in Port Philip (Council motion 6 March 2019).



From our participation in Council's *In Our Backyard Action Plan Community Forum*, we became aware of Council plans to dispose of some of the Council sites in the *In Our Backyard* pipeline to consolidate funds to acquire a larger site suitable for the Common Ground initiative however there has been no consultation about this process.

We also note that the establishment of temporary and permanent Common Ground facilities appear as new initiatives in the Council's Draft Plan/Budget, appearing unexplained under the heading of Economic and Social Recovery Programs.

While we are supportive of Council taking an active interest in local homelessness, particularly as it will be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, the budget documents provide no clear justification or rationale for Council to spending significant funds on Common Ground initiatives. It is unclear why Council has chosen a Common Ground model as the appropriate response. Our understanding of the purpose of the Common Ground model is that it:

- provides long term housing to people who have experienced recurring homelessness and have significant support needs, particularly health support needs and
- that such support is provided on site and
- that the housing development is typically mixed between the above target group and a higher income group seeking affordable housing and
- there is a 24-hour concierge/security service at the front door of the building.

We assert that the outcomes from a Common Ground approach do not need to occur in one large high-density residential building. The outcomes of a Common Ground response could equally, and we think even better, be provided via a dispersed model with scattered housing and support/health services in a particular locality. Eg Emerald Hill, South Melbourne. Additionally, we believe that there would be advantages to this model *not* operating in a single, high-density residential building. Security issues would be reduced.

SPCHG's model of supported tenancy management provides outcomes very similar to those proposed in a Common Ground proposal.

We submit that Council should, in the spirit of Council's *In Our Backyard*, explore if local housing organisations may be more able and appropriate to manage this housing and provide these services.



SPCHG Submission July 2020

While Council has consulted the community on a number of proposed budget initiatives which are new and documented such consultation, (eg discontinuing funding for St Kilda Legal Service and ceasing printing of Diversity magazine), it appears not to have done so about the Common Ground proposals.

We submit that Council undertake consultation, including with local housing organisations and services, about the most appropriate response to homelessness in the municipality. This consultation must occur prior to any allocation of funds or decisions made by Council.

████████████████████
Chairperson

████████████████████
CEO

17 July 2020



July 2020

This is a time for leadership

Progressive Port Phillip Submission to the 2020-21 City of Port Phillip Draft Budget

1. Progressive Port Phillip

Progressive Port Phillip is a grassroots movement of hundreds of local people from all walks of life, including many with experience in advocating for more effective services in areas like child care, the environment, housing, heritage, planning, transport, women's rights, LGBTIQ rights, education and more.

Progressive Port Phillip thanks Council for the opportunity to comment on the draft Budget and respectfully requests to be able to speak to Council at the appropriate time.

2. This Budget is being framed at an unprecedented time.

We are in the midst of a once in a century global pandemic crisis.

This is a time for leadership.

Actions by governments at all levels at this time do matter. Not to put too fine a point on it, these are matters of life and death.

During this pandemic, Council has taken really important steps to redeploy staff and provide funding to supply food and other essentials to residents doing it tough; provide rate and rental relief packages to businesses and residents; and directly support artists and their work among other measures.

But this is the time to step up further.

There is evidence that Australians' perceptions of government have improved during the crisis. The highly respected Australian Leadership Index reports that 'on the back of their handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, public perceptions of Federal, State and Local Governments are positive for the first time since measurement began' and significantly in advance of public perceptions of private sector leadership.¹

¹ <https://www.australianleadershipindex.org/portal/ExecutiveSummary.aspx>

We are in a better position than many other countries because of Australia's sustained investments in high quality public health, education and effective government-led stimulus measures. This not an accident: it is due to prolonged public investment in crucial services using a variety of mechanisms and tools.

It is also a time for flexibility and preparedness to adapt as circumstances change. It is likely that this Budget will need to be amended and adjusted as the pandemic runs its course. Councillors and staff need to be open to community concerns and be responsive to challenges as they arise.

3. This is not a time for smaller government or austerity

Much as we might hope otherwise, the pandemic will be with us for some time and its social and economic effects will be profound and permanent. The relationship between Council, businesses and residents will inevitably be changed.

Now is the time for a more expansive vision of our City, not a time to shrink. The old solution of cutting expenditure will not get us out of this continuing crisis but will only deepen it.

The Grattan Institute says that for the next two years, stimulus rather than austerity should be the priority.²

And you can see why. Our community has relatively few COVID-19 cases but it is hurting:

- The number of people on Newstart and Sickness Allowance in the electorate of MacNamara has risen from 3052 in December 2019 to 9428 on JobSeeker Payment in May 2020.³
- The number of young people on Youth Allowance (Other) has risen from 136 to 421 over the same period.⁴
- The number of businesses applying to access the JobKeeper Payment in the City is alarming: 1689 in Port Melbourne; 1594 in South Melbourne; 1394 in St Kilda; 819 in East St Kilda; 781 in Elwood and 646 in Albert Park and Middle Park or close to 7,000 businesses in total.⁵

In response to this crisis, the Grattan Institute calls on governments to give priority to small-scale infrastructure spending and maintenance and to fund local councils to bring forward new projects, or to ramp up maintenance spending. Funding should be allocated based on transparent criteria. It notes more than \$1.1billion was made available to local government for local community infrastructure projects during the GFC. Nearly 71 per cent of projects were completed by mid-March 2011.⁶

4. This is a time to invest in people, services and communities

² Daley, J., Wood, D., Coates, B., Duckett, S., Sonnemann, J., Terrill, M., Wood, T. and Griffiths, K. (2020). *The Recovery Book: What Australian governments should do now*. Grattan Institute, p40

³ Klapdor, M and Giuliano, G., *The Impact of COVID-19 on JobSeeker Payment recipient numbers by electorate*, Research Paper Series 20-21, Parliamentary Library of Australia, 14 July 2020

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Source: ATO and Australian Treasury

⁶ Daley, J., et al, op.cit.

Therefore, Council should proceed with all of its planned capital works program rather than deferring elements.

Council should reverse its proposed cuts to services, especially in libraries, Council assist services, health and early childhood services, streetscaping and tree planting. These services are needed now more than ever.

Council must work closely with trader organisations to ensure that retail shopping strips in the municipality pull through this crisis. These streets are central to the character of neighbourhoods across the municipality and to the well-being and livelihoods of many. This could involve a combination of rate and fee relief as well as co-investment in pop-up activities and collaboration with traders and owners to identify long-term anchor tenants offering services relevant to local residents.

Council should further consider targeted rate relief for residents and businesses in receipt of JobKeeper and JobSeeker payments.

Council should be vigorously advocating with all local governments in Victoria about the way the sector has been left without sufficient support to deal with the hit to revenues and services caused by the pandemic.

Specifically, Council should be highlighting the fact that:

- The Commonwealth Government has deliberately excluded local government from the JobKeeper program
- The State Government has not offered a sector specific support or relief package to local government beyond indicating that local government can borrow in order to meet current challenges.

5. This is a time to plan for and build the future

The City of Melbourne has brought forward a number of projects in its 20-21 budget, borrowing \$200m over four years at a cost of \$7.3m in interest charges over this period. This is part of a \$463m package of investment that aims to fast track some significant capital works including creating more public open space, renew parks and gardens, enhance recreation and community facilities, and improve waste collection, roads, cycling lanes, laneways and footpaths.⁷

With historically low interest rates, Council should use this moment to plan and undertake work to meet immediate and longer-term challenges, including steps to address climate change; housing affordability; transport congestion and connectivity; demographic change; open space and population growth.

Council should undertake these key steps:

It should address ageing social and physical infrastructure services: upgrade community and Council child care centres to ensure they remain fit for purpose; upgrade and renew libraries, footpaths and drainage – all on the drawing board - through a significant program of investment in these services over the next two years. This is exactly the type of fast-track, easily doable and necessary small project and maintenance work that the Grattan

⁷ City of Melbourne, *Annual Budget and Plan, 2020-21*

Institute is calling for. And such a program will add to the value of Council's balance sheet over time.

It should invest in new social infrastructure:

- Working with local community housing providers across the City, State and Commonwealth Governments to build new affordable housing
- Improvements to waste collections and recycling, including procurement strategies
- Greater connectivity and reduced congestion through accelerated implementation of Council's Bike Lane program and safer, better maintained foot paths.

It should invest in a suite of measures to better prepare Port Phillip for climate change:

- A major program to increase tree canopy cover so as to reduce summer urban heat
- A major program to improve permeability across the City which would be so crucial at times of extreme weather
- Energy efficiency investment to accelerate the retrofit of Council and community assets to drive further reductions in energy costs over time
- Leverage Council's know-how & influence to secure renewable energy purchasing agreements with benefits for commercial and industrial sectors
- Continued support for the Eco Centre and its building renewal.

6. We are all in this together

If we get things right locally, we can contribute to a better state and country. If we realise the obligations we have from one to another, we will all be stronger for that.

With interest rates at historical lows, especially for AAA government rated agencies, Council faces an important choice. Not to prudently borrow now, in ways that can strengthen Council's balance sheet, will leave future generations with massive climate, infrastructure and social debts.

As Per Capita points out: As we emerge from this crisis and start to rebuild, we must focus not on the debt we have taken on, but on the opportunity that lies before us: to remake our society in a way that leaves no-one behind, and ensure that our children have a future to look forward to, rather than to fear.⁸

There is no magic money tree, however. Council must invest prudently and manage resources wisely as a steward for the community.

To help respond to these challenges and to invest for the future we propose:

- Strategic borrowing and use of reserves
 - Council has a strong balance sheet that can enable it to grow inter-generational assets at a time when interest rates are at record lows
 - Council has built reserves over a number of years to be prudently deployed for the long-term benefit of the City and for use at times of crisis. These reserves have been replenished recently through asset sales. While it must and should retain very significant firepower as the pandemic unfolds, Council should also consider a modest allocation from reserves to help ameliorate the crisis that communities in Port Phillip are facing right now

⁸ Per Capita, *Some Facts about Debt*, Melbourne, April 2020, p18

- Advocacy to the State Government for a new local government loan pipeline through Treasury Corporation of Victoria, especially given State Government encouragement to meet obligations in this way during the crisis.
- Consideration in future of longer-term infrastructure asset financing options, specifically Australian Superannuation Infrastructure Investment Vehicles, a plan supported by the Financial Services Council⁹
- Cutting the 2021 St Kilda Festival
 - This saving could be re-purposed to both reverse many of the service cuts proposed in the draft budget and support a significant new municipal-wide live music and arts event program across 2021
- Cuts to reduce the use of external consultants which could be used to build in-house expertise and knowledge and deliver longer term structural savings
- Senior management wage and bonus freeze in FY21
- A practical, no-frills independent efficiency and effectiveness review [i.e. excluding major consultancies] to cut excessive management and ensure alignment with and delivery of the post-Election Council plan.

Council must be flexible and responsive as the pandemic unfolds and communicate deeply with Port Phillip communities about the Budget challenges it faces.

7. Conclusion

This is a time to build trust, connections and communities.

It is not the time to trim services or delay capital spending.

We cannot assume business will return to usual. This pandemic has exposed too many fault lines in work, schooling, child care, housing, arts, retailing and opportunity to go back to that. We must bounce back better.

It is not the time to be nervous.

It is the time to invest in services, facilities and assets that communities across Port Phillip need now and that our children and their children will use, enjoy and treasure into the future.

Submitted for Progressive Port Phillip by

⁹ Financial Services Council, *Accelerating Australia's Economic Recovery*, June 2020

[REDACTED] Elwood

[REDACTED] Balaclava

CBR-297

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 23 July 2020 2:27 PM
To: Bernadene Voss - Mayor <Bernadene.Voss@portphillip.vic.gov.au>
Subject: Lighting in Hester Reserve, Port Melbourne

[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hi Bernadene,

I am reaching out to you as a last resort. I have been speaking with council, approx 4-5 different people over 4 years to have lighting installed in Hester Reserve, Port Melbourne.

I am now frustrated at the lack of care/response to my ongoing requests as it is a matter of security. Can you please tell me what I need to do/who I need to talk to, so that someone actually does something.

Several years ago we had an attempted robbery while we were home (with our babies asleep) and the offender got away through the (dark) park and was nowhere to be found. There is a police presence in Hester reserve this morning after an incident through the night.

God knows what goes on there during the night - it is pitch black. I believe Something much more sinister will happen there if lighting is not installed.

Thank you for your time & I look forward to your response - any help will be much appreciated.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

'Have your Say' Submissions

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-024	[REDACTED]	Keysborough	Thank you for supporting the Port Phillip Eco Centre all the best for 2020.
CBR-025	[REDACTED]	Balaclava	Please put health as number one on your expenditure and fix the public toilets in St Kilda. With health being so at risk if you need to visit a facility in St Kilda from degradation to dirt and grime. Please do this quickly. It is offensive to rate payers and tourism will be affected. Make a pleasant environment and people will come to your locality. Bringing spending money to your area. See the reviews, very negative, of St Kilda over this issue online.
CBR-026	[REDACTED] The left handed chef	South Melbourne	As a business owner in Port Phillip for 8 years and with the current climate difficulties I think businesses shouldn't pay for footpath trade. During summer next year it will Be our opportunity to try and gain some money we are losing through this whole time.
CBR-027	[REDACTED] Bingo Industries	City of Port Phillip	We would like to request that council give bin providers the opportunity to pay for on ANNUAL skip permit fee to cover unlimited placements within City of Port Phillip. The following councils already do so and this makes applications much easier, as we do not need to continually request cover; - BRIMBANK - CASEY - DAREBIN - DANDENONG - MANNINGHAM - MORELAND - MORNINGTON PENINSULA - WHITTLESEA
CBR-028	[REDACTED] Bodhi and Ride	Port Melbourne	Hello I am a small business owner on Bay Street Port Melbourne and have been hit hard by the pandemic. Your plan for the 20/21 budget should not include a 2% increase in council tax. Why should there be an increase? We don't earn 2% more or get paid 23% more. In fact, our revenues have dropped by 75% compared to this time last year, and this is likely to continue. Why did you not decrease council tax while many businesses were forcibly shut down? It's not I ke we used the garbage collection, or were aided by any local business assistance, or any community outreach by the council. In fact, nothing was done. All we could do was defer our council tax payments - thank you! that's hardly going to help struggling businesses. Just take a walk down Bay Street Port Melbourne. It's the only street where Chemists move out, and Vinnies moves in. do more to help struggling businesses and stop taking our money for services we didn't utilize in the 3 months of lockdown.

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission																												
CBR-029	[REDACTED]	A bert Park	<p>My question relates to pay within the council. How with a declining revenue base, the whole community taking pay cuts or losing jobs, business struggling, can the council agree with pay rises across the board? How can they justify these increases whilst increasing rates to a struggling community? How can the council office of the CEO justify keeping all staff when their staff levels across the rest of the council have fallen?</p> <p>The pay across every area on average has increased:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2019/20</th> <th>2020/21</th> <th></th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>FTE</th> <th>AVE</th> <th>FTE AVE INCREASE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Office of Chief Executive</td> <td>68</td> <td>\$125,074</td> <td>68 \$130,632 4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community & Economic Development</td> <td>284</td> <td>\$83,658</td> <td>259 \$94,764 13%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Infrastructure & Amenity</td> <td>232</td> <td>\$94,082</td> <td>221 \$100,765 7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Customer & Corporate Services</td> <td>150</td> <td>\$120,807</td> <td>149 \$123,886 3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>City Strategy & Sustainable Development</td> <td>117</td> <td>\$104,718</td> <td>108 \$119,556 14%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>I cannot see that there is an increased benefit to the community to remotely justify this increase.</p>		2019/20	2020/21			FTE	AVE	FTE AVE INCREASE	Office of Chief Executive	68	\$125,074	68 \$130,632 4%	Community & Economic Development	284	\$83,658	259 \$94,764 13%	Infrastructure & Amenity	232	\$94,082	221 \$100,765 7%	Customer & Corporate Services	150	\$120,807	149 \$123,886 3%	City Strategy & Sustainable Development	117	\$104,718	108 \$119,556 14%
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CBR-030	[REDACTED]	Port Melbourne	<p>I live in the Ingle street, Port Melbourne development. All the residence in this development including myself pay a body corporate to collect our weekly waste and fortnightly recycling, manage our roads and street lamps, and PI insurance etc... we also do not have access to hard rubbish collection and need to pay to dispose of our hard rubbish. We pay over \$2k per year to the body corporate. This was not our choice but a decision by the council. We also pay the full council rates. This is over \$4k per year which is a strain on household bills factoring all other living expenses. We were informed over 2 years ago that the council was working to find a solution to remove the waste collection costs from our council rates given this is not a service that is provided to us at all. This has not occurred. I would ask that you please consider this as part of this years budget and council rates calculation. I don't think it is fair or reasonable for us to be paying for a service that is not provided to us by council particular when this is not our choice.</p>																												
CBR-031	[REDACTED]	St Kilda West	<p>A lot of stats but I see little funding in regards to older generation and not enough fees to johnny come lately. Not enough increase fees to outside visitors, new developments and festivals. Increase rates on generations of people who have lived in the area for decades - long before it became a trendy suburb. Subsidies should be granted to people who have especially occupied the property for well over 50 years. Pensioners cannot eat their bricks and Governments want people living in their homes for as long as possible however your rates are pushing them out of somewhere where they have lived all their lives. Extremely annoyed and I expect council should have something in their policies etc for rebates for long standing residents who have paid rates to your Council probably longer than half of you have been alive !!!!</p> <p>Fees should charged or be increased substantially for all festivals and events such as music concerts, triathlons as most of these are not for locals and local trades do not get business from these events as they are usually in house catering or they come, block our streets, create noise and then leave. No benefits to the area whatsoever.</p>																												
CBR-032	[REDACTED] Ratepayers of Port Phillip	St Kilda East	<p>This budget is irrespons ble. Very little effort has been made to make substantial savings to return the budget to surplus. Raiding the general reserve funds to cover up the enormous deficit is fiscally irrespons ble. I strongly oppose the budget in its current form and would suggest that competent management is required to make wholesale changes to the council in order to provide value for ratepayers.</p>																												
CBR-033	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>Hi, I am strongly opposed to council raising rates in the current environment, I know many older residents who have lived in the area for decades, it is a huge struggle for them to Just make ends meet. Frankly, I am staggered that you would even consider it.</p>																												

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-034	[REDACTED]	St Kilda East	<p>Your proposed budget includes near zero funding for improved bicycle facilities within the City of Port Phillip. How do you expect people to move around post covid without improved cycling facilities? Why do you allow so many death zone (door zone) bicycle lanes in CoPP?</p> <p>The demand for cycling has skyrocketed since the covid pandemic began and you have proposed ZERO funding to support this transition</p>
CBR-035	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>All efforts should be made to avoid any raise in rates. Council need to focus on delivery of core responsibilities to rate payers and reduce frivolous spending such as access to Ripponlea house, landscaping in front of Palais Theater, etc.</p>
CBR-038	[REDACTED] SouthPort Community Centre	St Kilda	<p>Dear Port Phillip Council,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support of our City of Voices Inclusive Theatre Company program and South Port Community Centre. With Council's support, our group has been running since 1992 and has made a hugely positive impact on the lives of all who have participated.</p> <p>Many of our members are vulnerable and socially isolated - elderly people, people on low incomes, and/or people living with disabilities. But, during the COVID pandemic our group has looked out for one another, moved its weekly sessions to Zoom and provided much needed friendship, connection and creative expression during what is a difficult period for many people. The uptake of technology previously seen as 'too hard' has been a real bonus for some of our members too, allowing them to connect virtually with one another for the first time.</p> <p>As one participant, 'Peter', said: "City of Voices has meant a lot to me. I wouldn't have thought three months ago I'd know how to use Zoom, but now I do. And without that, I'm a single person living alone, and the COVID 19 is very very...it's been hard, being isolated. But looking forward to City of Voices every week, I learn a new skill every week, get to catch up with everyone. Everyone's fantastic, they've sort of become a second family to me, and without it I don't know where I'd be."</p> <p>City of Voices is one of 12 SPCC council-funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week.</p> <p>Research indicates an active healthy, resilient, well-informed, connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19 and your support makes that possible. Our little theatre group is an example of this in action, connecting people with one another through a shared interest and increasing social networks, health and happiness.</p> <p>So, thank you Port Phillip Council. We appreciate your support and hope that it can continue into the future.</p>
CBR-039	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it enables me contribute to the Port Phillip Community as well as making a positive impact on the environment. The Eco Centre enlightens me on what I can do better for not only the local community but on the environment too. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-040	██████████ Port Phillip EcoCentre	St Kilda	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it is a welcoming place that allowed me to connected to like-minded people in my community for the first time back in 2012. As a migrant, the EcoCentre has helped me integrate into community and expand my sustainability knowledge and skills that I can pass on to other members of the community. Five years after connecting through the community garden, the EcoCentre has become my workplace and a vehicle to pursue my purpose to create sustainable, inclusive and resilient communities. Our programs are valuable for all demographics: children, young professionals, families, seniors and multicultural communities. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.
CBR-041	██████████	Ripponlea	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because I am a teacher at Albert Park Primary School and utilise their expertise and guidance on meeting the learning and curriculum needs of our students. I am also a parent of children at two local schools who also access the EcoCentre for numerous programs. As an individual, I access the EcoCentre to provide me with inspiration to keep participating in actions that make a difference to the people and our precious places. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.
CBR-042	██████████ Marine Education Science and Community inc (MESAC)	Cheltenham	The growing public awareness of our environmental concerns, has been largely engendered by deeply committed organizations like the Eco Centre, whose reasoned educational leadership, around the top of the Bay has been a key factor. I would hope that Council recognises this and continues its funding for this admirable group.
CBR-043	██████████	Port Melbourne	I wish to advise that the Assist Desk staff at the Port Melbourne Town are an invaluable source of information and help to residents. In particular the elderly and infirm. Many members of the community are unable to use the internet and/or internet banking. The service provided by these friendly and helpful Council staff is one of the only face to face interactions that ratepayers have with our Council. This is a very important aspect of Local Government.
CBR-044	██████████ Karen Hopkins Art	Melbourne	Please continue to support the EcoCentre and their essential education, research, and volunteering programs, I feel these are absolutely VITAL in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because I have learned so much about the environment and been able to gain support and connect with others in practical and supportive activities. Please continue to prioritize the amazing EcoCentre programs its staff and redevelopment in this and future budgets.
CBR-045	██████████	Elwood	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is an important part of my life and it is where I would normally go on Friday afternoons to garden with the friends that I have made since I joined in early 2019. It is a focal point for people to organise around and it helps to legitimise collective action towards preventing potential environmental collapse which, if it occurred, may be a disruptive event on a larger scale than what we are currently experiencing. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-046	██████████ Volunteer at the EcoCentre	St Kilda	<p>Thank you so much for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. Please continue to do so.</p> <p>I am a dedicated Volunteer at the EcoCentre because it is vital to my personal well being and the health of our Port Phillip Areas. Both the Bay and the Gardens.</p> <p>During this Covid-19 time, I visit as a member of the Community, I check on the worms, admire the gardens and harvest fresh food. Now that is an uplifting heavenly walk.</p> <p>Day changer. It is the opportunity to care, to be touched by beauty and to receive good tucker.</p> <p>May we prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-047	██████████	St Kilda	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because the grassroots programs help gain and disseminate valuable information about local issues in the Port Phillip area. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-048	██████████	St Kilda	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is a very important part of the local community for me.</p> <p>As a TAFE teacher I have taken adult English language students on excursions to the Eco Centre. This generated everyday English language learning activities, facilitated discussions about what people have done, do now, and can do as we make the necessary changes for a sustainable culture, and also introduced students to new possible social contacts and activities for themselves and their children.</p> <p>Through the Eco Centre, I have also learnt a lot about our local environment, and taken part in activities and citizen science projects.</p> <p>We are incredibly lucky to have this Centre and its knowledgeable staff in our local area.</p> <p>Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-049	██████████	St Kilda	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it does so many wonderful things so economically. As well, it is a beacon of integrity, hope and inspiration, practically and educationally. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-050	██████████	Elwood	<p>I have been involved with the EcoCentre for many years and wish to thank COPP for supporting the EcoCentre and their outstanding education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because they are a local, effective, enthusiastic and talented organisation - marvellous staff and committee of management who have achieved extraordinary outcomes over many years. They continue to make effective and inspiring connections in the municipality which create opportunities for young and old to learn more about our local environment and how we can contribute to environment protection and action to mitigate and adjust to climate change.</p> <p>Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-051	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>Dear Mayor, & Cr Gross,</p> <p>I am writing to you as a local resident in St kilda for over thirty years and as a resident of Victoria all my life. I ask you to stop supporting any additional funding and expansion of the Eco Centre, located within the grounds of the St Kilda Botanic Gardens. For too long this group has had exclusive occupation of a facility which should be part of the botanic gardens, a public asset, open to all. The eco centre whose messages I support, operates to duplicate educational services which are already offered by the State of Victoria's public education system. The eco centre is not operated as a community or public resource but rather functions as an exclusive group on a publicly funded stipend. I note the 2019 media release from Minister Neville outlining funding for the Kids Teaching Kids which is a national peer education program about sustainability. This I humbly suggest and other "in school" education programs is where State and local government spending and funds for sustainability are best directed and managed.</p> <p>I have observed for years how the eco centre has gradually physically isolated itself from the gardens (partly to screen the ugly mess it generates on the grounds it uses) and constructs sheds and structures inappropriately across the site it occupies to the exclusion of the general public. The centre would be more accessible and useful if re-located elsewhere and the land returned to become part of gardens which it once was. It operates as a club for a few and is highly funded by state and local government in an elitist compound. I humbly ask that you not consider any future funding to this group and that current and future funding is directed to the quality and professional services open to all Victorians offered by the education and sustainability programs operated by state government departments. Any money from state and local government would be better spent trying to keep the trees and gardens in the botanic gardens alive rather than in the perilous state of decline many are in.</p> <p>Please do not fund the expansion and development of the Eco Centre as outlined in the draft budget.</p> <p>I look forward to hearing your views on this matter. Yours respectfully,</p>
CBR-052	[REDACTED]	St Kilda East	<p>The EcoCentre is important to me because it brings our community together and gives us hope for the future by empowering us to tackle climate change in our own backyard. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-053	[REDACTED]	Elwood	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it's doing something very practical about the local environment, not just talking about it. It's also engaging the community in its efforts, which I feel is worthy in itself.</p> <p>Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets. I'm proud to live in the city of Port Phillip knowing it supports such valuable projects.</p>
CBR-054	[REDACTED]	South Melbourne	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because as a volunteer there, I have seen the incredible work that EcoCentre do with helping build community, protecting the Bay and surrounds areas, building awareness and educating about the local habitat and animals. Also to support EcoCentre in the incredible research they conduct with citizen scientists such as the Clean Bay Blueprint (microplastics) and Sunscreen Project. Lastly, the opportunities EcoCentre provide through education for our future generation, opportunities for university students to gain experience, workplaces and large organisations to get hands on volunteering and giving back to the environment and more. So please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets to ensure a regenerative future together as a community!</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-055	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change.</p> <p>The EcoCentre is important to me because I have learn so much and built much more knowledge from attending sessions online and in person about native an indigenous plants and their importance in our ecosystem. I am so privileged that I have had the chance to interact with like minded members of the community in relation to the eco center.</p> <p>Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-056	[REDACTED] Australian Landcare International	St Kilda East	<p>I know that the Council has supported The EcoCentre for many years with great results. Thank you for that. The EcoCentre has been important to me over many years as a source of community knowledge and drive on environmental issues for many parts of the local communities. Being involved in Landcare at a local and international level, I have found the Staff of the EcoCentre very active, generous with their time and knowledge, and helpful on a wide range of issues. Please continue to support their work, and their needs for redevelopment to expand their work when you are assessing your on-going Council programs.</p>
CBR-057	[REDACTED]	Brighton North	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change.</p> <p>The EcoCentre is important to me because it provides a physical presence to help the community focus on the environment in these busy times. For adults, it's an oasis in a sea (mixed metaphor?) of hustle and bustle. And, most importantly, it both establishes and demonstrates a much needed vision of hope and care to so many children.</p> <p>Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-058	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it gives the opportunity to connect with the land and learn sustainable practices. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-059	[REDACTED]	Blairstown	<p>I write to explain the importance of the Eco Centre and the vital roles it fulfills in public education and change. Thank you for your support for the Eco Centre in not only its powerful education programs but for the scientific research it undertakes. Without its' firm volunteer base and vital Council budget contributions, this necessary community work would diminish.</p> <p>The ongoing support of Port Phillip Council, its' funding and collaboration make the Eco Centre a leader in the field of community involvement.</p> <p>I represent a student education program 'The Canopy of Care'. We use and contribute to the citizen science programs of the Eco Centre and Bay Keeper. The Canopy of Care is a collective of like-minded organisations that provide resources and on-site experiences that inform students about key environmental issues, particularly those that are facing our coast and waterways. The key focus is to engage our young adults in an entertaining and interactive manner and to provide inspiration and support to enable them to take action at a community level. Students are encouraged and resourced to become custodians of their own futures. Conservation through education is essential. Collaboration with the Eco Centre is indeed a centre-piece.</p> <p>Please prioritise Eco Centre in its programs and in its redevelopment. It is a jewel in the crown of Port Phillip; its' importance cannot be underestimated and its future must be assured. Every dollar is an investment in this age of climate change and uncertainty. Its' true worth is in the hope and positivity it provides to all-comers who really do become actively and powerfully engaged in determining a better future for Port Phillip especially, and beyond.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p>
CBR-060	[REDACTED]	Elwood	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it is such a unique organisation and is a treasure in Port Phillip. I am a regular volunteer in the garden and so many people have become a really connected community through this activity. The worth to us all cannot be measured. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-061	[REDACTED] Australian Landcare International; CoPP Biolinks Group; Westgate Biodiversity; Bili Nursery & Landcare	South Melbourne	<p>Port Phillip councillors</p> <p>Thank you for continuously supporting the EcoCentre and its essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change.</p> <p>The EcoCentre is very important to me because Australian Landcare International, of which I am deputy chair, has met there for years; it encourages young environmentalists; it strongly supports local Landcare groups and activities; it has helped me and colleagues foster, with CoPP staff in support, a biolinks information network; and it encourages recycling, local artists and eco-friendly construction. Moreover it intensifies community spirit.</p> <p>Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre's programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p> <p>Thanks again</p>
CBR-062	[REDACTED]	South Melbourne	<p>Keep the South Melbourne Market Neff Market Kitchen Open.</p> <p>Market would be not the same without cooking class. This is so a institutions in our community</p>
CBR-063	[REDACTED]	Elwood	<p>I have been a volunteer for 2 years at Port Philip Community Group. I have assisted with Intake, special events such as Homelessness Week and Christmas community lunches, fresh food relief, reception, technology education, and social housing community lunches. I am now assisting with the new Share the Food Program.</p> <p>Please, put the needs of our most vulnerable first in this crisis. This is a Council obligation that has been committed to in Social Justice statements of policy.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-069	[REDACTED]	Burwood	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because we work together to educate the public about our critical local bay ecosystems and the threats that they face. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.
CBR-070	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it provides us with invaluable opportunities to engage with and support our Understanding of the environment, adds to the experience of the Blessington gardens, helps increase and support biodiversity in our city, and creates the opportunity for a like-minded community. The current team is amazingly effective. For all those reasons, please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets
CBR-071	[REDACTED]	Ripponlea	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me as they have been instrumental in assisting and mentoring our Green Team at St Columba's, enabling us to achieve our sustainability goals, including our 5 star Resource Smart rating, significant successful grant applications and numerous awards. Aside from the many opportunities they have provided for education and research for my children through school, my family have also benefited from their numerous programs that have encouraged them to be engaged in their local environment in a very positive and meaningful way. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.
CBR-072	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	Back to basics please
CBR-073	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it enables me to feel a part of a community and has helped me learn to lead a more sustainable life, as well as giving me the confidence to share what I have learnt. I learnt how to compost correctly at the eco centre and then set up a shared compost for the units in my apartment block, and at the eco centre I have been taught about indigenous plants and their uses. I have also had the opportunity to share my knowledge of worm farming. I have reduced my use of plastic since by learning alternatives at the eco centre. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment programs. Regards
CBR-074	[REDACTED]	St Kilda East	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because learning to live sustainably and protect our natural environment is so vital for the future of our local area. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-075	██████████ Clarendon Children's Centre	South Melbourne	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change.</p> <p>As a childcare centre offering early education and care to some of our youngest citizens, we are committed to educating the next generation about sustainability, care for Country and the importance of protecting our environment. The EcoCentre has been an important resource that has supported our goals by providing valuable training and support to the educator team. We also routinely share information, resources and learning opportunities that the EcoCentre provides to our children and families.</p> <p>Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-076	██████████ Mammal Survey Group of Victoria	Melbourne	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it has space for meetings for affiliated environmental support groups and community groups that helps us come together. They have a strong focus on participation for all ages and allow networking and the sharing of ideas. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-077	██████████	Fish Creek	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it gives me a way to learn about and protect the Bay sea life that I love in an area I frequently dive and snorkel. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-078	██████████	Brighton	<p>THANK YOU for supporting the ECOCENTRE in its wonderful education, reseach & volunteer work in these troubled times. Even tho i live in the neighbouring Bayside suburb of Brighton, i am a fervent supporter, member & volunteer because of its very worthy programs, please continue to support it in this & future budget considerations.</p> <p>Thank you once again</p>
CBR-080	██████████	Hoppers Crossing	<p>Dear Port Phillip Councillors,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support of the ARCS - Applied Reception/Customer Service Training Program and SouthPort Community Centre.</p> <p>ARCS is an ongoing 21 week vocational training program, catering to those who are under-employed or experiencing barriers to employment.</p> <p>A recent survey showed that 91% of ARCS graduates go on to either further study, skilled volunteering or paid work.</p> <p>During this COVID-19 epidemic, the ARCS program continued via the online platform, Zoom with 12 participants successfully graduating last week.</p> <p>The ongoing support of Port Phillip Council will continue to make this happen, helping others successfully embark on their journey from unemployment into the world of work.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-081	[REDACTED]	Port Melbourne	<p>It is important to continue to invest in vital public services. The services provided by council are vitally necessary, probably more during this time of Covid19 than in any other time. Some of the vital services provided by Council that must be continued include childcare; Maternal & Child Health services; cycling infrastructure; libraries; parks and public spaces; housing; waste and rubbish management; supporting the Eco-Centre; and responding to the challenges of the Climate emergency.</p> <p>Childcare services should be provided by Council for people living in the city. Publicly owned and affordable child care is a vital service. Council should increase the amount of child care services provided; the council run child care services must be of high quality, and affordable.</p> <p>The Maternal & Child Health (MCH) services are a vital service to families in the community, and must be continued.</p> <p>We need better facilities for bicycle riders. More people will cycle if they feel it is safe to do so, and they will feel it is safe if there are separate bike paths and bike lanes. Since the restrictions resulting from Covid 19 there has been a significant increase in people cycling, and there needs to be better facilities for these increased numbers of cyclists. The best facilities for cyclists are separate bike paths, where there are no risks from cars, and no risks to pedestrians. I would like to see separate bike paths all along the sea shore, including along St. Kilda beach. Having cyclists and pedestrians together, as along the St Kilda beach, and along South bank of the Yarra, does not work. Pedestrians and cyclists get irritated by each other. It would be better to have a separate bike path.</p> <p>We also need separate bike paths and bike lanes in other parts of the city. The bike lanes that exist are good, but we need more of them. We also need more bike parking racks.</p> <p>Libraries are a great community resource and Council must continue to fund these great resources.</p> <p>Parks and public spaces are a great resource in the city. We need more of them. Council should consider where it is possible to close roads and convert them to bike paths, parks and open spaces. Council must continue to fund tree planting and care for trees and parks in the city. These are vital public places; particularly during Covid 19 when many people are working from home or not working, they are using parks and public spaces. Parks and public spaces are good for both mental and physical health of residents and visitors to the city. The Eco-Centre, in the St. Kilda Botanical gardens, is an excellent educational public resource, and must be maintained.</p> <p>Covid 19 has hit homeless people hard, and Council should work with other levels of government, housing providers and developers to provide high-quality social housing to help people who need it most.</p> <p>Rubbish and waste management must continue to be funded and managed by Council. As waste management becomes more problematic, Council must investigate further opportunities for recycling, and be innovative in relation to waste management. Residents must be strongly encouraged to dispose of rubbish and waste responsibly.</p> <p>We are living in a Climate emergency. Perhaps some people are more focussed on Covid 19, but we must not forget that Summers are getting hotter, bushfires are getting worse, and that extreme weather events are going to become more frequent. The Climate emergency is continuing. Council must continue to reduce carbon emissions, promote renewable energy, and educate residents about responses to the Climate emergency. Putting solar panels on the roof of the South Melbourne market was an excellent Council initiative, and there should be more investment in renewable energy. Council should investigate putting solar panels on the roofs of all Council owned properties, and providing solar power for all its facilities</p> <p>We need to ensure that we continue these essential services in our city, to meet the demands and needs of all residents.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-082	[REDACTED]	Albert Park	<p>Dear Port Phillip Councillors, Thank you for your continued support of the ARCS - Applied Reception/Customer Service Training Program and SouthPort Community Centre.</p> <p>ARCS is an ongoing 21 week vocational training program, catering to those who are under-employed or experiencing barriers to employment.</p> <p>A recent survey showed that 91% of ARCS graduates go on to either further study, skilled volunteering or paid work.</p> <p>During this COVID-19 epidemic, the ARCS program continued via the online platform, Zoom with 12 participants successfully graduating last week.</p> <p>The ongoing support of Port Phillip Council will continue to make this happen, helping others successfully embark on their journey from unemployment into the world of work.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Thanks everyone for taking action! The more voices thanking Council for their support, the better!</p> <p>x ARCS</p>
CBR-083	[REDACTED]	Albert Park	<p>Dear Port Phillip Councillors, Thank you for your continued support of the ARCS - Applied Reception/Customer Service Training Program and SouthPort Community Centre.</p> <p>ARCS is an ongoing 21 week vocational training program, catering to those who are under-employed or experiencing barriers to employment.</p> <p>A recent survey showed that 91% of ARCS graduates go on to either further study, skilled volunteering or paid work.</p> <p>During this COVID-19 epidemic, the ARCS program continued via the online platform, Zoom with 12 participants successfully graduating last week.</p> <p>The ongoing support of Port Phillip Council will continue to make this happen, helping others successfully embark on their journey from unemployment into the world of work.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
CBR-084	[REDACTED]	Elwood	<p>Dear Council</p> <p>I would like to express my thanks to you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially as global climate change is such a major issue needing urgent attention by us all. The EcoCentre is important to me as it offers options and solutions that will help us all protect and sustain our planet, starting at an individual and local level - we can all contribute. Please continue to prioritise their programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p> <p>I would also like to see promotion of EcoCentres across all councils and have them working together where possible.</p>
CBR-086	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre through many years, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me and to the community, providing a valuable focal point for education, research and volunteering programs for all age groups. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-087	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>Dear Port Phillip Councillors,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support of the ARCS - Applied Reception/Customer Service Training Program and SouthPort Community Centre.</p> <p>ARCS is an ongoing 21 week vocational training program, catering to those who are under-employed or experiencing barriers to employment.</p> <p>A recent survey showed that 91% of ARCS graduates go on to either further study, skilled volunteering or paid work.</p> <p>During this COVID-19 epidemic, the ARCS program continued via the online platform, Zoom with 12 participants successfully graduating last week.</p> <p>The ongoing support of Port Phillip Council will continue to make this happen, helping others successfully embark on their journey from unemployment into the world of work.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
CBR-088	[REDACTED]	Melbourne	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because of their significant value to connect locals, residents and those in the wider catchment to care for Country, highlighting values of Boon Wurrung People. Connecting people to their land and waterways of City of Port Phillip in particular is more important now than it ever has been due to this extraordinary year. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets. They have desperately outgrown their facilities for the quality of educational, research, and community connectedness that they deliver.</p>
CBR-089	[REDACTED]	A bert Park	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change.</p> <p>The EcoCentre is important to me because it provides resources for the community, and it has been helpful to me for clarifying environmental issues and actions that I can take. I think we're extremely lucky in Port Phillip to have such a place.</p> <p>Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-090	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>I'm writing to thank you for supporting the City of Voices choir and say how much joy I have had from watching their shows over the years. My sister is in the group and she loves it. The connections she has made there have enhanced her life in lots of ways, both in the time she spends with the group and with the people she has met through it. It is inclusive in the best possible way and I really see it as at the heart of what a community is and should strive to be. Please continue to support it!</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-091	[REDACTED]	Ferntree Gully	<p>Dear Port Phillip Councillors, Thank you for your continued support of the City of Voices Inclusive Theatre Group and SouthPort Community Centre.</p> <p>City of Voices (COV) is an inclusive theatre company operating as a program of SouthPort Community Centre. Ours is one of 12 Council-funded programs run by SPCC that serve more than 300 participants each week.</p> <p>At City of Voices, our mission is to give all people, regardless of age, ability or socio-economic status, the opportunity to engage in the creative arts.</p> <p>Established in 1992, COV has been creating original theatrical work for the local Port Phillip community for over 25 years. The majority of our participants live, work or study in the City of Port Phillip.</p> <p>During this COVID-19 epidemic, City of Voices has continued to meet on Zoom, supporting each other, reducing loneliness and isolation, and keeping our minds creative and active during what have been difficult times. We are not just a theatre group but a 'second family' for our members, many of whom are from vulnerable and isolated groups.</p> <p>Research indicates that an active, healthy, resilient, well-informed and connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19. City of Voices is an example of that community connection in action. Port Phillip Council - your support makes that possible.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Thanks everyone for taking action! The more voices thanking Council for their support, the better! x COV</p>
CBR-092	[REDACTED]	St Kilda West	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change.</p> <p>The EcoCentre is important to me particularly as an educational resource, having attended some local field trips and lectures on Port Phillip intertidal zone ecology, local flora/fauna/indigenous plant walks.</p> <p>Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-121	<p>██████████ General Manager View Hotel</p>	Melbourne	<p>Dear Lord Mayor, We are an independent 206 room Hotel with 80 staff located at 562 St Kilda Road in the Gateway Ward.</p> <p>Our business is experiencing ongoing hardship due to a reduction in revenue; arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic. To date we have drained our resources having tipped in our reserves of \$500k to keep the business afloat. Now, the financial obligations of the business have become a sensitive focus-point, in particular, as to how we can manage those obligations in a way that ensures our continued operation during and beyond the current uncertain and challenging environment. One financial commitment of our business which is currently under strain is the obligation to pay Council rates and charges. These are approximately \$150k per year and we have been a dutiful rate payer since 1985. I acknowledge that the council has refunded some registration fees which to my knowledge equates to approximately a mere \$317.</p> <p>We are writing to request that Council consider providing us with a part waiver, part deferral of rates and charges to assist us with continuing our operations and surviving the pandemic. We propose that Council provide us with a 50% waiver of rates and charges over the pandemic period with the remainder to be deferred and repayable by equal monthly installments over a 24 month period following the end of that period. We would be grateful if Council could consider our proposal and contact us to discuss as soon as possible, with a view to reaching agreement on a way forward which is acceptable to both parties.</p> <p>In addition I would like to address the absence of support for the many businesses along St Kilda Rd. The council marketing online appears to be focused on the three main precincts of Port Melbourne, South Melbourne Markets and St Kilda foreshore. As a hotel along the St Kilda council border we provide a facility that serves the community and business and we have never asked for any support. We need it now. In normal conditions we market the hotel and acquire guests from the Victorian, Interstate and International markets spending upwards of \$350k to achieve this. These guests actively contribute to the community of Port Phillip spending money on the St Kilda foreshore and retail precincts.</p> <p>I have been very impressed with the support that has been provided by the City of Melbourne whilst the City of Port Phillip has been woeful in engaging with businesses in need. Subsequently I am assembling a body that will represent all the major hotels in the City of Port Phillip area. This is to ensure the Accommodation Hospitality sector is fairly represented and recognised as a major provider for employment and community. We have been forgotten.</p> <p>I look forward to engaging with you further. Kind Regards,</p>
CBR-124	██████████	Middle Park	I would like Council to support the Port Phillip Enviro Centre. The work it does is more important than ever and is a tangible way of tackling critical environmental issues
CBR-125	██████████	St Kilda East	I wish to submit a Council look at greatly increased levels of both internal economy, and also look at making all departments compliant with both their empowering legislation but also with the broader Legal Requirements. As the Council's operating environment has much high value land which results in high rate levels and also low levels of new infra-structure spending
CBR-126	██████████	South Melbourne	I agree with the proposed support from the City of Port Phillip for the EcoCentre and its work, especially in a world so challenged by climate change. And also support the fact Council recognises this climate emergency. The EcoCentre is important to me because its research helps us to understand the impact of how we can improve the environment and affect climate change for the future, and it involves many volunteers which is an important benefit for our community and young people. As a resident of the CoPP since 2004, I ask you to please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-127	[REDACTED]	A bert Park	Thank you to the City of Port Phillip for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world so challenged by climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because this environmental organisation has provided vital education and community resources not only to my four children and their network, but to countless other individuals—as an educational hub and as an all-important volunteer centre. The Eco Centre's programs empower the community to become involved in the development of a sustainable future for all of us. As a long term resident of the CoPP I ask you to please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.
CBR-128	[REDACTED]	Port Melbourne	I am a resident of the Ingles St development and my submission is asking for a review into the calculation of rates that the Council of Port Phillip levy on myself and other residents of this development. As a resident we pay both rates and body-corporate fees and both include fees for the collection & removal weekly waste and fortnightly recycling. The Council has divested itself of responsibility but it still charges for, and collects money, for a service it does not provide. Accordingly, I ask that the Council review the elements that go into its calculations of rates for residents of Port Phillip and make the relevant adjustments to its invoicing and budgets.
CBR-129	[REDACTED] Kids In Nature Network and Port Phillip EcoCentre	Elwood	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it was the first place in Melbourne where I connected with my local community when moving to Melbourne. This is the place where I learnt everything about our unique local environment and the bay. It is a super welcoming place and a very special community centre that really gets things done for nature, sustainability, our climate and community capacity building. I now count myself lucky enough to work as education manager in their staff team. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets. The City of Port Phillip community is extremely lucky to have a local environmental and sustainability hub like this. Continued support for its programs and the redevelopment of the premises will enable the organisation to maximise its reach and the collaborative and collective impact for the entire community, in particular young people, in a time where climate action and community cohesion and resilience are vitally important, both for the current and future well-being of us all.
CBR-130	[REDACTED]	Elwood	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because It provides a leading light for all of us who care about our living home(our planet), to follow and to connect cohesively as a community. write 1-2 sentences on your connection with the EcoCentre and our programs]. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-131	[REDACTED] South Port Community Centre	Caulfield North	<p>Dear Port Phillip Councillors, Thank you for your continued support of the ARCS - Applied Reception/Customer Service Training Program and SouthPort Community Centre.</p> <p>ARCS is an ongoing 21 week vocational training program, catering to those who are under-employed or experiencing barriers to employment.</p> <p>A recent survey showed that 91% of ARCS graduates go on to either further study, skilled volunteering or paid work.</p> <p>During this COVID-19 epidemic, the ARCS program continued via the online platform, Zoom with 12 participants successfully graduating last week.</p> <p>The ongoing support of Port Phillip Council will continue to make this happen, helping others successfully embark on their journey from unemployment into the world of work.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
CBR-132	[REDACTED]	Elwood	<p>Thank you for re-instating at least partial funding in the new financial year for the redevelopment of PP Ecocentre, a pivotal, leading facility in local and regional environmental research and education. Its impact on improving our local and regional environment, on bringing community together, teaching skills and supporting individuals and organisations to transition to a more sustainable future cannot be understated.</p> <p>I endorse the priorities for social housing and caring for the vulnerable, as well as supporting the creatives who continue to struggle in C-19 times. I would hope that Council can make strong moves towards Zero emissions in this new FY. The Climate Emergency is upon us and cannot be left unaddressed.</p> <p>Funds spent on educating the community intensively to accurately manage household and business waste streams will save CoPP money on the landfill levy. Better education of the public in regards to public littering and more effective infrastructure, such as dedicated butt bins for cigarettes, will also greatly improve public amenity. There is so much to do in this regard.</p> <p>I am disappointed that funds for partnering with Bayside regarding Elsterwick Nature Reserve and Greening projects seem to have been postponed, if I am not mistaken. Green spaces have proved vital for community health as so many other activities have been limited. International research verifies the positive impact of public green spaces on community and mental health. Greening initiatives would give high value for small investments, so I urge council to revisit these aspects of the new budget.</p>
CBR-133	[REDACTED] South Port Community Centre	Port Melbourne	<p>Dear Port Phillip Councillors, Thank you for your continued support of the ARCS - Applied Reception/Customer Service Training Program and SouthPort Community Centre.</p> <p>ARCS is an ongoing 21 week vocational training program, catering to those who are under-employed or experiencing barriers to employment.</p> <p>A recent survey showed that 91% of ARCS graduates go on to either further study, skilled volunteering or paid work.</p> <p>During this COVID-19 epidemic, the ARCS program continued via the online platform, Zoom with 12 participants successfully graduating last week.</p> <p>The ongoing support of Port Phillip Council will continue to make this happen, helping others successfully embark on their journey from unemployment into the world of work.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-134	[REDACTED]	Elwood	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and its essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it is a hub for vital work to support the environment. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.
CBR-135	[REDACTED]	Balaclava	As a City of Port Phillip resident and member of the community group, Balaclava Environment and Street Trees, I want to say thanks for Council's support of the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs. The EcoCentre does excellent environmental education and community engagement work and is doing a great job of keeping the community connected through Melbourne's COVID-19 lockdowns. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future CoPP budgets.
CBR-136	[REDACTED]	Balaclava	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because of the joy that it provides my kids and my friend's kids. They learn so much there!! Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.
CBR-137	[REDACTED]	St Kilda West	As part of the updated Council Plan and draft Budget 2020/21, I urge the Port Phillip City Council to prioritize the implementation of a network of protected, separated bike paths throughout the Port Phillip area. I urge the council to install temporary protected bike lanes as soon as possible, to take advantage of the decrease in motor vehicle traffic and the increase in bicycle traffic arising from the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Such temporary bike lanes should, in due course, be replaced by permanent protected bicycle lanes. Having reliable, safe bicycle infrastructure promotes cycling in the city. This provide numerous benefits, including a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and a smoother, safer flow of traffic (both motor vehicle and bicycle). It would also help to make Melbourne one of the world's great "green," environmentally-sustainable cities, with an impressive and well-developed network of cycling infrastructure.
CBR-138	[REDACTED]	Elwood	I am a resident of Port Phillip with three primary school aged children. I'd like to thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education programs. These are incredibly important in the world we live in today - a world of uncertainty where the one certain is that we are experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre plays such an important role in our lives - we love visiting it on our weekend strolls through the gardens; we enjoy and learn from their engaging events; we benefit from their vital research; and my children get so much out of their environmental education programs run at our local primary school. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-139	[REDACTED]	St Kilda West	<p>It is totally inappropriate, and tone deaf, to be increasing rates in a year where most ratepayers have taken a major financial hit due to covid. Are we in this together, or does the Council see itself as not needing to care? That, plus the fact that PP's key metrics, compared to neighbouring councils, highlight extravagant spending and inefficient/bloated management, suggests that either the council needs to take a good hard look at itself, or resign and let some fresh blood do it.</p> <p>At a minimum: Compared to Bayside, Stonnington, and Hobson's Bay your spending is extravagant, your staffing levels indicate gross inefficiency, and spending 33% of income on mgt is further indication of a council out of control. Further, you clearly treating single residences as cash cows, for they are being the brunt of the increases each year.</p> <p>What needs to happen: 1. Cut staffing by 20% to bring PP in line with the councils listed above. Mgt & admin to take the highest hit. 2. Cut spending by 30%, to progressively bring PP in line with those council. 3. Collect market-rated rental from council-owned businesses and properties. 4. Cut this year's rates by 5%, compared to last year. 5. Introduce term limits in councillors, ie bring in fresh thinking, which is focussed on the needs of ratepayers, not the councillors.</p>
CBR-140	[REDACTED]	Elwood	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it provides a unique "portal" for locals and visitors to appreciate the connection of humans to the rest of the natural world in this place. The EcoCentre has provided me with an indepth understanding of the land and the sea and how best to perform my civic duties in relation to both those things. Not a lot of councils have an EcoCentre that does that. The centre works to create a resilient and caring community through all the work it does and as a resident of this municipality, this is vital to my identifying with my "place". Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-141	[REDACTED]	St Kilda East	<p>What are you doing to support cycling in the City of Port Phillip and lead a 'post-covid' change in transport patterns. You need to build infrastructure to support people who want to make this mode shift, and there is ZERO budget for sustainable transport improvements within this budget</p>
CBR-142	Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Inc	Hobson Bay	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to us all because we need to keep connected to the natural environment and each other especially during this pandemic and into the future.</p> <p>I am the Chair of the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre that aims to connect people to nature in western Melbourne. We have been working with the EcoCentre for the last few years to share programs, ideas and community activities. They are a vital source of knowledge and inspiration for our Centre and for all Victorians to help us protect and look after our natural environment. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-143	[REDACTED]	St Kilda East	<p>Dear Port Phillip Councillors,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support of the City of Voices Inclusive Theatre Group and SouthPort Community Centre. City of Voices (COV) is an inclusive theatre company operating as a program of SouthPort Community Centre. Ours is one of 12 Council-funded programs run by SPCC that serve more than 300 participants each week. At City of Voices, the mission is to give all people, regardless of age, ability or socio-economic status, the opportunity to engage in the creative arts. I first encountered the City of Voices production company performing an amazing show at the EcoCentre's 20th birthday Community EnviroFest - the joy and pride was absolutely contagious.</p> <p>During this COVID-19 epidemic, City of Voices has continued to meet on Zoom, supporting each other, reducing loneliness and isolation, and keeping our minds creative and active during what have been difficult times. Like other community-based organisations (I wrote about the EcoCentre in a separate submission), there is a unique benefit from familiar faces and shared passions to provide a cascade of benefits.</p> <p>Our municipality is known for its creative arts - thank you for supporting this signature program that ensures the arts reach everyone, especially when the power of creative connection is most starkly needed for our wellbeing.</p> <p>Research indicates that an active, healthy, resilient, well-informed and connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19. City of Voices is an example of that community connection in action. Port Phillip Council - your support makes that possible. Thank you.</p>
CBR-144	[REDACTED]	St Kilda West	<p>I am so glad you are supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs. There is so much happening at both a community level and a global level, particularly regarding climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it empowers me within my community to be able to learn how to tackle climate change at a local level. I also have made connections within the community that I would never otherwise have made. And without the EcoCentre the COPP would lose an extremely valuable resource in the coordination, education and empowerment of its citizens when making a difference re climate change. COPP is much stronger with the EcoCentre. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-145	[REDACTED]	St Kilda East	<p>In a year of economic challenges, many social and environmental services are at risk. Valuable investments such as the Port Phillip EcoCentre, however, stand to deliver deeper return on investment during such times -- the EcoCentre is able to pivot nimbly, and provide trusted and expert outreach to residents, their members and volunteers including digital programs, using their database to provide kind check ins by phone, and providing referrals to wraparound services for food access, mental and physical health care. All this while seemingly not slowing down their team's ability to design and deliver quality, evidence-based and inspirational enviro programs such as their Thursday night seminars and workshops, new formats of education programming (even though no schools have standardised tech requirements!), and citizen science that has been adapted for safe solo data collection while still feeling connected to the shared purpose and community network.</p> <p>I therefore write to applaud the Council's continuing investment in EcoCentre programs, and redevelopment (a standing commitment, only expended upon securing matched funding... though many community members would wholeheartedly endorse its 100% investment by Council due to being a community-led organisation delivering equal or stronger benefits than surf lifesaving clubs or sporting pavilions built in the last 5 years).</p> <p>The model and track record of the EcoCentre provide a strong endorsement for the Council's partnership in what will clearly be a dynamic, multifaceted, far-reaching and innovative approach to keeping community and the environment well during and beyond this pandemic.</p> <p>As a frontline health worker (in public psychiatry, with a catchment overlapping Port Phillip), I can testify to the preventative, therapeutic and recuperative benefits of a hub like the EcoCentre in our community. Council's EcoCentre funding makes an incred ble triple bottom line return - economic, social and environmental - and although much of that is not captured in spreadsheets, or may involve sensitive health data that can't be part of the EcoCentre headlines, the ripple impacts of this centre should not be underestimated.</p> <p>Please continue to invest in our community by funding the EcoCentre in this budget and future budgets.</p>
CBR-146	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>More than happy to discuss with council rep or present with time...</p> <p>Having reviewed the Draft plan, it is outstanding at the lack of Security upgrade's occurring across the council namely St Kilda where there seems to be large scale issues with the security of our owners, patrons, lessors, and tenants. There is a lack of support for immediate security upgrades across St Kilda and it is surprising that the council seems to have discounted the need for general security upgrades to allow for the redevelopment.</p> <p>The redevelopment will serve no purposes if the community does not feel safe to leave there place to visit(just review social media- it is ACTUALLY DISGUSTING) this precinct and be viable in the area, as it once was, we are rate payers and need to be safe!</p> <p>Further to the above, the significant decline in occupancy rates will only continue to drive council budgets through the floor and not providing for future upgrades and will only take longer to get back to the normal ST KILDA we all want.</p>
CBR-147	[REDACTED] Port Phillip Community Group	Caulfield South	<p>☐ Thank you for supporting the Port Phillip Community Group (PPCG) to continue to make a positive difference to the financial, physical and psychological well-being of individuals and families on low income, experiencing disadvantage or in financial hardship. PPCG provides programs and services, such as casework, financial counselling, education and skills development, volunteering, social meals to rooming houses, and recreational and creative activities to promote social inclusion and well-being. The work of PPCG is important to the community because for many years it has provided amazing assistance to those members of our community who for whatever reason have found themselves in very difficult situations. This group "punch far above their weight" in the amount of people they help with the limited resources that they have . Please continue to prioritise funds and support to the Port Phillip Community Group in this and future budgets.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-148	[REDACTED]	St Kilda East	I strongly encourage Council to continue to support the Port Phillip Community Group (PPCG) and to increase its funding commensurate with the increase in demand for its services following the economic devastation wrought by Covid-19. As a finalists of the Victorian Training Awards, 2019, there is no question as to its efficacy and such efforts should be financially rewarded. PPCG is important to the community because it provides such a breadth of services, both directly and by referrals, making an outsized contribution to the community. As a long-time resident and Board member of PPCG, I urge you to prioritise funds and support to the Port Phillip Community Group in this and future budgets with an increase in funding of at least 12.5%.
CBR-149	[REDACTED] Port Phillip Community Group	Kew	Thank you for supporting the Port Phillip Community Group (PPCG) to continue to make a positive difference to the financial, physical and psychological well-being of individuals and families on low income, experiencing disadvantage or in financial hardship. PPCG provides programs and services, such as casework, financial counselling, education and skills development, volunteering, social meals to rooming houses, and recreational and creative activities to promote social inclusion and well-being. The work of PPCG is important to the community because it helps connect people who may otherwise be disconnected, it helps members of our community develop skills in areas that will support them improve their lives and sometimes provides advocacy for people who don't have a voice. Please continue to prioritise funds and support to the Port Phillip Community Group in this and future budgets.
CBR-150	[REDACTED] Port Phillip Community Group	St Kilda	Thank you for your continued support to the Port Phillip Community Group. As a support worker at PPCG, I see every day just how important it is for the local community to have a space in which to access information, referral and support; education; financial counselling; emergency relief; social meals and recreational programs. I feel the work of PPCG has been especially important throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Please continue to prioritise funds and support to the Port Phillip Community Group in this and future budgets.
CBR-153	[REDACTED] Libertarian Productions Pty Ltd	Balaclava	<p>Parking Permits for William Street, Balaclava.</p> <p>A permit system that would allow residents to park outside or near their homes at all times. And on the park side of the street have all day or 2 hour parking available for people using the playground/park or catching the train from Balaclava Station.</p> <p>We have no back entrances so unpacking shopping and getting children out of cars safely is very difficult when the parking is taken up by people from elsewhere.</p>
CBR-154	[REDACTED]	Caulfield South	<p>It's a tribute to Port Phillip Council that it provides funding for the EcoCentre. I note that the draft budget includes funding for the redevelopment of the centre but it's also vital that the EcoCentre can continue to engage with the broader community through its outreach activities, educational programs, research collaborations. As a volunteer with the EcoCentre I have seen the value of these initiatives firsthand and, at a personal level, understand and appreciate the opportunity it provides many people for valuable skills acquisition and development.</p> <p>One can only speculate on how important the Port Phillip EcoCentre's approach to community engagement on all these fronts will be as we negotiate our way through both the COVID and climate crises.</p> <p>Thanks again to Council for its vision in continuing to support the EcoCentre.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-155	██████████ Foresight Education & Design	Bega	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it provides comprehensive programs and events in the areas of education, research and citizen science. The EcoCentre is a champion of protecting the local environment. Intelligent and motivated staff deliver unique programs for the community. A major reason that the environment of Port Phillip is in better condition today is because of all th good work done by the EcoCentre. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.
CBR-156	██████████	Footscray	Pls continue to support the port Philip eco centre. They are undertaking amazing work to bring about critical awareness of just how important the bay and marine eco system is to this city.
CBR-157	██████████ Albert Park Primary School	South Melbourne	Thank you for your contributions to the EcoCentre; their work in promoting leadership amongst students greatly benefits the confidence children have about their future. Working with the EcoCentre to positively influence the environment helps them manage anxiety about climate change.
CBR-158	██████████	St Kilda West	<p>Dear Council</p> <p>I write on behalf of my family: 5 voters and different ratepayers. We wish to record our support for all the good work of Council and in particular, our support for:</p> <p>Well resourced local government: red tape is safety tape and we need strong well resourced public services, particularly in the covid time. We are now seeing and suffering the fallout of deregulation of public institutions: with loss of expertise, corporate knowledge and governance in the long term public interest. We need to increase or at least maintain rates to support proper governance.</p> <p>Support for our kindergartens and childcare: these centres are vital for building community and supporting families, women in particular. Relationships between children and their families, across the municipality, are the building blocks for engagement and belonging. Many of the worlds most prosperous and successful governments (german, scandinavian) give greater support, recognising access to childcare and education for families to be essential for fair and happy society.</p> <p>More support for environment and climate change initiatives: local residents have repeatedly voted for strong environmental initiatives, with very high votes for environment parties at all levels of government. Even among lifetime liberal voters, we see strong support for action on environment and climate change and protection of "the Garden State". The is what the community want and it is what our experts say we need to do.</p>
CBR-159	██████████	Middle Park	<p>With the Corona Virus gradually getting a foothold in Port Phillip, in this FY budget some reduction in expenditure is required. All funding for the arts/events and "could have" type services should cease.for 2020/21. If the gallery cant open or the event is cancelled then it does not require ratepayers funding. However core function like rubbish collection, street cleaning, maintenance of infrastructure like paths, roads, drains and parks should continue.</p> <p>Note: surely a submission require the submitter address and not just a suburb? This submission link does not have provision for an address. Proof of residence in Port Phillip or if you are a Port Phillip ratepayer is essential when talking about spending of our high rates. Only funding for the benefit of residents and ratepayers should be proposed. Please add address to this survey form.</p> <p>Addendum: Further council should not be funding and planning event in 2021 that won't happen, like sadly, the St Kilda Festival. Recently the St Kilda Film Festival had to go online when St Kilda theatres and the town hall could not be used.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-160	[REDACTED]	Port Melbourne	<p>Thank you for your continued support of the City of Voices Inclusive Theatre Group and SouthPort Community Centre.</p> <p>City of Voices (COV) is an inclusive theatre company operating as a program of SouthPort Community Centre. Ours is one of 12 Council-funded programs run by SPCC that serve more than 300 participants each week.</p> <p>At City of Voices, our mission is to give all people, regardless of age, ability or socio-economic status, the opportunity to engage in the creative arts. Established in 1992, COV has been creating original theatrical work for the local Port Phillip community for over 25 years. The majority of our participants live, work or study in the City of Port Phillip.</p> <p>During this COVID-19 epidemic, City of Voices has continued to meet on Zoom, supporting each other, reducing loneliness and isolation, and keeping our minds creative and active during what have been difficult times. We are not just a theatre group but a 'second family' for our members, many of whom are from vulnerable and isolated groups.</p> <p>Research indicates that an active, healthy, resilient, well-informed and connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19. City of Voices is an example of that community connection in action. Port Phillip Council - your support makes that possible.</p>
CBR-161	[REDACTED]	Port Melbourne	<p>Thank you for your continued support of the City of Voices Inclusive Theatre Group and SouthPort Community Centre.</p> <p>City of Voices (COV) is an inclusive theatre company operating as a program of SouthPort Community Centre. Ours is one of 12 Council-funded programs run by SPCC that serve more than 300 participants each week.</p> <p>At City of Voices, our mission is to give all people, regardless of age, ability or socio-economic status, the opportunity to engage in the creative arts.</p> <p>Established in 1992, COV has been creating original theatrical work for the local Port Phillip community for over 25 years. The majority of our participants live, work or study in the City of Port Phillip.</p> <p>During this COVID-19 epidemic, City of Voices has continued to meet on Zoom, supporting each other, reducing loneliness and isolation, and keeping our minds creative and active during what have been difficult times. We are not just a theatre group but a 'second family' for our members, many of whom are from vulnerable and isolated groups.</p> <p>Research indicates that an active, healthy, resilient, well-informed and connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19. City of Voices is an example of that community connection in action. Port Phillip Council - your support makes that possible.</p>
CBR-162	[REDACTED]	Port Melbourne	<p>Dear Councillors. I would like to thank you and all the Councillors since 2000 for supporting City of Port Phillip Friends of Suai/Covalima and all the vital programs that have been undertaken over the past 20 years. The friendship that has been built between the community of Suai/Covalima and the residents of Port Phillip not only provides much needed support to our friends in Timor Leste but has deepened and strengthened our own community's awareness of the importance of our nation's relationship with our neighbours. In a country where our national security is so often discussed this program provides a model of how important community to community and people to people relationships are in securing our long term future as a respected and committed member of the Asia Pacific region. It also show how when local government and the community work together it is possible to manage an extremely cost effective program and to achieve remarkable results with limited resources.</p> <p>I respectfully ask that you continue to include the City of Port Phillip Friends of Suai/Covalima in this and future budgets.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-163	██████████ City of voices	Port Melbourne	<p>Dear Port Phillip Councillors, Thank you for your continued support of the City of Voices Inclusive Theatre Group and SouthPort Community Centre.</p> <p>City of Voices (COV) is an inclusive theatre company operating as a program of SouthPort Community Centre. Ours is one of 12 Council-funded programs run by SPCC that serve more than 300 participants each week.</p> <p>At City of Voices, our mission is to give all people, regardless of age, ability or socio-economic status, the opportunity to engage in the creative arts.</p> <p>Established in 1992, COV has been creating original theatrical work for the local Port Phillip community for over 25 years. The majority of our participants live, work or study in the City of Port Phillip.</p> <p>During this COVID-19 epidemic, City of Voices has continued to meet on Zoom, supporting each other, reducing loneliness and isolation, and keeping our minds creative and active during what have been difficult times. We are not just a theatre group but a 'second family' for our members, many of whom are from vulnerable and isolated groups.</p> <p>Research indicates that an active, healthy, resilient, well-informed and connected community will recover more quickly from disruptions like COVID-19. City of Voices is an example of that community connection in action. Port Phillip Council - your support makes that possible.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
CBR-164	██████████ LIVE - Locals Into Victoria's Environment	Middle Park	<p>For 15 years I have participated in EcoCentre events. They employ excellent people and attract scores of volunteers to help with their projects. Council funding has enabled them to provide this excellent community service. Council is effectively outsourcing these services at a very modest cost. EcoCentre staff need a decent place to work. Their current accommodation is appalling. Are they not as worthy of suitable accommodation as was funded for the Lifesaving Clubs? Please give them the accommodation and the funding they need to continue their good work.</p>
CBR-165	██████████	Windsor	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it keeps me informed locally which is where it all needs to start. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-166	██████████ CAPP, PECAN, Extinction Rebellion.	Elwood	<p>The reconstruction of the EcoCentre building in the Blessington St Gardens is long overdue and needs to be regarded by Council as a critically urgent priority for allocation of finances to commence the actual rebuilding without further delay in this time of publically declared climate emergency. Council needs to find the funds within its own capacity, as it can surely do, without making its own contribution contingent on the State Government committing funds beforehand. Commencing the rebuilding now would add greatly to the effectiveness of the EcoCentre as a hugely welcome leader in promoting and supporting community-based action to remediate the inadequacies of knowledge, resilience, and targeted programs and projects for improving the sustainability of our ecologically challenged urban environment</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-167	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>To Whom it May Concern.</p> <p>I would like to add my voice to 'chorus' of voices that are supporting funding for the Ecocentre in the COPP 2020 budget.</p> <p>I was on the original Ecocentre Committee about 20 years ago when it was converted from a gardener's cottage to one of the first model sustainable buildings in Melbourne. -Solar power, grey and black water recycling, composting of garden waste, outreach programs-I have seen the Ecocentre grow and evolve until it has become a remarkably important cog in the City's effort to become more sustainable. I am sure you have read the Ecocentre's excellent monthly newsletter and have been as amazed as I am by the size and level of involvement of their program.</p> <p>I therefore ask for two things.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allocate money for the necessary redevelopment works which will mean that the Ecocentre's programs can be expanded by a factor of three. Government 2. Advocate for Ecocentre funding to State government with as much strength as possible. <p>Yours Sincerely.</p>
CBR-168	[REDACTED] Werribee River Association	Wyndham	<p>I wish to support a call for continued funding of the Port Phillip Ecocentre.</p> <p>The Werribee River Association has been involved with the EcoCentre now for some years, using the EcoCentre and its staff as a mentor and adviser with regard to business operations, management, planning and professional development, much of that on-site. We have also actively worked with the EcoCentre on Port Phillip Bay programs out in the field such as litter, microplastics, seashell and beach profile research, as well as school connections, grant management and collaboration with water authorities and others. We hope you can continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets as the centre has meant so much to us in our growth out west of Melbourne.</p>
CBR-169	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>I thank you for supporting the EcoCentre with the funding that it needs and deserves, to deliver their services to the community. The EcoCentre is important to me because its programs are pivotal in mitigating climate change and empowering the community to collaborate on this issue. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-170	[REDACTED] Greensong/EcoCentre	Melbourne	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre Programs and the building a new larger building. They do not have the space needed to run the amount of programs our community would like and our environment needs.</p> <p>The EcoCentre is important to me because I volunteered there for a year and a half when moving from overseas to Melbourne and found a really caring and nurturing community, not only got the environment but for our community. Later I joined the EcoCentre as coordinator of the garden group and on various projects and the education team. I found my tribe, people who work tirelessly because they believe we can make a positive difference in the lives of those we work with and our environment.</p> <p>Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets. The education, research and volunteering programs are peacemaking so that people connect on a deep level to their local place and develop love and care for it. This is essential in a world experiencing climate change and the predicted challenging near future scenarios.</p> <p>The EcoCentre fosters engagement that offers so much more than educational programs and research, it connects people to each other and our local natural world in meaningful ways. We need the sense of community and resilience of individuals, community and environment to survive the challenges ahead.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-171	[REDACTED]	Richmond	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because the environment is important to me. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.
CBR-172	[REDACTED] Poets Grove Children's Centre	Elwood	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because they offer many opportunities for me to share with my children the importance of taking care of our environment. Why community is powerful and I like to encourage them to think about how they can be more sustainable. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets. [REDACTED]
CBR-173	[REDACTED]	Caulfield	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because the health of our planet is vital and the EcoCentre is a bright light in our efforts to achieve this goal. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.
CBR-174	[REDACTED]	Elwood	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it provides an excellent venue for training up Penguin Guide volunteers and also provides a welcoming and inclusive hub for the many diverse people of this area to connect and learn about a wide variety of things. It is staffed by friendly and knowledgeable people who are always willing to share their expertise and provide advice on numerous topics, including ways to lessen the effects of climate change and pollution at a local level eg empowering individuals and our community. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.
CBR-175	[REDACTED]	Footscray	I am writing to thank the Council for continuous support of the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. I am an employee of the EcoCentre, but reside in a different municipality (Maribymong). Joining the EcoCentre staff at the beginning of this year was an exceptionally exciting advancement in my career, with a background in Environmental Science and Community Engagement. I have never known a Council to take environmental issues and concerns so seriously. This was one of the biggest motivators for my application to work with the EcoCentre - the possibilities are endless and embraced by those who have the authority to make things happen. Since joining the EcoCentre staff in January, I have continued to be impressed and inspired by my colleagues, our volunteers, the community, and the Council in our collective commitment to ensuring a positive future for our environment. We have however outgrown our humble building, and this will restrict us from taking our actions even further in the future. So I thank you, for prioritising the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-176	██████████ Reptile Encounters	Northcote	Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. I am an environmental science student and volunteering at the EcoCentre has been hugely beneficial and relevant to my education. This experience has opened my eyes to the importance of the work being undertaken at the EcoCentre. I have been heavily involved as a volunteer in the microplastic analysis research project which I consider to be essential in gaining insight into plastic pollution in the bay. This research wouldn't be possible without organisations like the EcoCentre. Another project I have been involved in is the research on sunscreen chemical prevalence in the bay. The samples and data collected in both of these projects facilitates many researchers and students at RMIT to conduct research providing important knowledge on the threats of pollution to the local marine environment. Five of my family members who reside in the Port Phillip area have taken great pleasure in assisting me with sample collection and hearing about the work being done in their area. This has even inspired interest in science from my 5-year-old niece. Of course my involvement only covers a small fraction of the work that is being done at the EcoCentre. Each time I visit I am in awe of all of the staff who work tirelessly on multiple projects at any given time. There is a huge amount of passion and dedication in the small team that keep the centre ticking over, and it is not surprising that this inspires a great number of passionate volunteers dedicating their time every week. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.
CBR-177	██████████	St Kilda	I urge Council to maintain funding for the EcoCentre. It is an. Excellent institution of which CoPP can be proud, and to stunt its development would be a very false economy.
CBR-222	██████████ Port Phillip EcoCentre	St Kilda East	Thank you City of Port Phillip for your continued core funding of the Port Phillip EcoCentre, which the organisation then works diligently to leverage into many more funded programs, partnerships and outcomes for people and the environment in City of Port Phillip, and wider ecosystems in which our municipality is situated. We look forward to delivering a creative, inclusive and adaptive suite of engagements in the year ahead that respond sensitively to COVID-19 challenges while continuing the important mission of sustainability and climate action. Please continue to partner in funding the EcoCentre programs, and capital expansion, in this and future budgets.
CBR-224	██████████ St Kilda Medical Group	St Kilda	Thank you for continuing to support the Ecocentre in the next council budget. The Ecocentre is a leading Port Phillip organisation that promotes health, vibrancy, community and environmental sustainability in both our council area and beyond. In the time of COVID19, ongoing financial support for the Ecocentre and its proposed development will create jobs in the short term, as well as improved resilience to this pandemic, and future challenges such as climate change. We need to safeguard and strengthen our community, and the Ecocentre is doing just that.
CBR-225	██████████	St Kilda	Thank you for supporting the Port Phillip Community Group (PPCG) to continue to make a positive difference to the financial, physical and psychological well-being of individuals and families on low income, experiencing disadvantage or in financial hardship. PPCG provides programs and services, such as casework, financial counselling, education and skills development, volunteering, social meals to rooming houses, and recreational and creative activities to promote social inclusion and well-being. The work of PPCG is important to the community as a trusted outreach source - I have heard first-hand recipients discuss the significant impact for them of PPCG's programs. Please continue to prioritise funds and support to the Port Phillip Community Group in this and future budgets.
CBR-226	██████████	South Melbourne	As a 40 year resident of the City of Port Phillip would like the council to continue to support the EcoCentre in their forth coming draft budget. They do a terrific job in education as well as research and volunteering programs in a world challenged by climate change. Please assist them!

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-227	[REDACTED]	Elwood	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm an Elwood resident and my children attend St Columba's Primary School.</p> <p>This year, the teacher who leads the school's wonderful sustainability program, Steph Young, was named Teacher of the Year at the Resource Smart Schools Awards, and the parent "Green Team" was named Volunteer of the Year.</p> <p>An essential part of the success of the school's sustainability/environmental initiatives has been the support provided by the staff at the Port Phillip Ecocentre. They do amazing work advising, encouraging and teaching the local community about the natural world, natural history, and care for the environment</p> <p>Please continue to support the Port Phillip Ecocentre to deliver their wonderful programs. The new purpose built centre will be an amazing asset for our community and I can't wait to see work begin!</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
CBR-228	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>Thank you to the council for continuing to support the Port Phillip EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre has been an important hub for social connection and an enabling organisation for me to take charge of my environmental stewardship through its programs, education and its presence in our community. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets as its work continues to benefit our community and to have far reaching impacts. This is important now more than ever as we progress through the climate emergency and deal with the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic.</p>
CBR-229	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>The Port Phillip Eco Centre is an exemplary environmental organisation. The Port Phillip Council is to be commended for having initiated the Port Phillip Eco Centre twenty years ago and for continuing to support it ever since. it is good to see the Council maintain its operational budget and contribute to the rebuilding of the Eco Centre which, as I understand is very much needed. From the Eco Centres annual report the Eco centre now attracts funds from many sources and the council's funding is in fact an investment in sustainability in the local community in many ways. Early this week the most recent climate modelling indicated the world is on track for 2 degrees warming by 2040 and above 7 degrees warming by the end of the century. In this alarming circumstances support for increased understanding and practical measures to address this unprecedented situation is imperative. More Eco centres are desperately needed across the country and our Eco Centre is an exemplar for others. Please make the most of the treasure we have in our midst and do not underestimate its extraordinary potential both for our community and others.</p> <p>Kind Regards</p>
CBR-230	[REDACTED] COV	Armadale	<p>Hi I was born with Polio I am a 68 yr old Male Living alone I was introduced to city or voices there three years ago COV Is a Inculsive organisation During this time of Covid our weekly meetings on Zoom who would have thought have been Invaluable Keeping us connected to like minded Group COV give as an opportunity to grow as a person without Fear or Judgment Always Encouraged I would like to thank the City of Port Phillip for there Funding which is Invaluable Being Isolated has been very Difficult Without COV I don't Know how I would have coped They have become my Second Family I look Forward to your. continued Support It means more much more to us all than U can Imagine</p>
CBR-231	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>Thank you for continuing your support of the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing unprecedented climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because my kids love coming here and learning about local issues - the global things are too big for them. Think global act local !! Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets. This is a fantastic use of ratepayers' money.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-232	[REDACTED]	Mont A bert	Thank you for the ongoing support of the EcoCentre, support which allows for the continuation of very essential programs in research and education so often involving the work of amazing volunteers in turn supporting a dedicated staff. As a Senior I am now restricted to being more of an observer than a 'do-er', and I observe most relevant and varied programs being carried out by a never-resting EcoCentre always 'keeping a finger on the pulse' of the Port Phillip area and generally facing the challenges brought about by this world experiencing climate change. I sincerely hope that in these challenging times the current and future budgets will continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment.
CBR-233	[REDACTED]	Preston	Hello, I have worked with City of Voices for the past 5 years. As a worker and community member I am immensely grateful for the support the council gives. Especially during this time of Covid, I feel as though, even though we are only communicating over Zoom and social media it is bringing the group closer than ever It is always a beautiful thing to check in with city of voices, each Wednesday night. I truly believe we are making a beautiful difference in these peoples lives. Thankyou once again,
CBR-234	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	I'm not sure if I've already done this (not great with computers). I am a ratepayer as is my mother, she is 84 and lives on the aged pension, she has very little savings after years spent raising three children on her own. Any increase in rates would profoundly affect her, she is too proud to complain so I will speak on her behalf. We are strongly opposed to any increase in council rates, thank you.
CBR-235	[REDACTED]	A bert Park	I am grateful to the City of Port Phillip for its support of the EcoCentre and its important education, research and volunteering programs, particularly having regard to climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because I consider we should all be concerned about climate change and the environment and the EcoCentre helps to inform people regarding these matters. I have lived in the CoPP for 30 years and would ask that you please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre in this and future budgets.
CBR-236	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	I was @ the official Opg of the Eco Centre as a new CoPP resident. We need the Eco Centre now, more than ever. PI continue to prioritise the Eco Centre programs & redevelopment in this & future budgets. Thanks VERY much.
CBR-237	[REDACTED]	Middle Park	Thank you to the City of Port Phillip for supporting the EcoCentre and education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world so challenged by climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it provides an essential service in these troubled times, and gives me comfort that someone is trying. . Climate change is real, and here to stay. The Ecocentre makes a major contribution for us all. As a long term resident of the CoPP I ask you to please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-238	██████████ Vice-Chair SouthPort Community Centre	St Kilda	<p>Dear Port Phillip Council,</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support of SPCC and our many council funded programs. This funding and the programs it provides has made a hugely positive impact on many lives each week.</p> <p>There are currently 12 SPCC council funded programs that serve more than 300 participants each week. Many of these programs actively support the most disadvantaged and isolated residents in our community, who are significantly affected by COVID19. Our workers and programs are actively involved in keeping our isolated and vulnerable residents/participants supported, informed, safe and connected during these challenging times.</p> <p>Hopefully as this COVID crisis begins to pass in the coming months, and thanks to your support, SPCC will be in a position to continue to support our community towards recovery.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
CBR-239	██████████	A bert Park	<p>Thank you to the City of Port Phillip for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world so challenged by climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it provides me with a sense of hope that someone in our community is thinking about and planning for the impact of climate change and als considering the power of the environment in city contexts.</p> <p>As a long term resident of the CoPP I ask you to please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-249	██████████	Balaclava	<p>Thirty years ago I sat in a room at what is now our EcoCentre as members of Earthcare discussed ways of protecting fairy penquins that were, incredibly, making the St Kilda breakwater their home. From a group of committed environmental volunteers and individuals sprang a multitude sustainable ideas, programs and then 20 years ago and bona fide EcoCentre. Over these many years, I, with tens of thousands of others, have flowed through this building and gardens, learning, sharing, connecting, researching, making community. This place, in my personal history, has housed our organic food co-op, was where I learnt to make my house more sustainable, to grow veggies, to compost, host public information sessions and is now a place where I learn and teach about indigenous plants (and this is a far from complete list!). The Ecocentre continues to expand in its influence, gravitas, function and value through its research, expertise and affiliates. It is very widely recognised and esteemed as a place that educates and serves its local and broader community on the most urgent issues of our time. It truly operates from micro to macro levels; from informing State legislation on plastic pollution in water, to individual online or telephone support to vulnerable volunteers during covid lockdown. It is a very successful model and now that we've 'returned to the village' during covid, its existence is more vital than ever, particularly dare I say, in a multi-pandemic world.</p>
CBR-250	██████████	St Kilda West	<p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because, as a health professional and active member of our community, I appreciate something of the vital importance of the physical environment on our wellbeing. This has been even more striking whilst trapped in our "liveable city" during Covid and realising how few green spaces we have available and how, whilst the media sphere is dominated by Covid, our impact on the environment is continuing unabated and out of the spotlight. I think we should all be focusing on planting trees under which we never plan to sit but instead we just focus on our lives now. Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-251	[REDACTED]	A bert Park	I have found the EcoCentre programs very educational and useful. The online sessions have been particularly inspiring when things have seemed quite bleak. Being able to create sensory gardens & gardens for wildlife helps local plants& animals & creates cooler suburbs & reduces emissions.Thank you for continuing to support the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially as the climate disaster intensifies.
CBR-252	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>Hello,</p> <p>As a home owner in St Kilda I would like to share my thanks for all your hard work especially quickly adapting to a COVID-19 world.</p> <p>I read the Updated Plan 17-27. Things I'm thrilled about and congratulate you on in the plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the mandatory affordable housing contributions as part of new private developments, - partnering with DHHS to deliver permanent supported housing to transition from 'pop-up' options to reduce rough sleeping, - leasing former backpacker accommodation in St Kilda to keep rough sleepers in supported housing. <p>These are fantastic initiatives but could I please stress the need for a 24/7 security presence who will follow strict policy in supported housing options to ensure that they are safe and drug/alcohol free accommodation options so people who choose social housing over sleeping rough will be safe which is a big deterrent currently facing the choice of accepting social housing.</p> <p>If substance affected, then rough sleepers are very vulnerable and not of sound mind. They need to be taken to a facility to detox to be able to recover and make an informed decision, hopefully feeling confident to choose a safe supported housing option.</p> <p>It still feels incredibly unsafe in St Kilda, especially on unsightly Fitzroy Street. I try to avoid it whenever possible which is such a shame.</p> <p>To bring Fitzroy Street back to life and help small businesses we cannot rely on landlords to "potentially lower their rents so that creative businesses can come in" as per Port Phillip Mayor Bernadene Voss's aspirations in 2017. It was fantastic to try this tactic but things have not changed so now I would suggest a vacancy levy for shops in Fitzroy Street as a pilot initiative if it's vacant for six or more months. An empty shop levy exists in Darwin's CBD. It is also being considered by Stonnington Council who also has this issue (at a drastically smaller scale) to get landlords to meet the market.</p> <p>I believe implementing these three actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 24/7 security enforcing safe and drug/alcohol-free supported housing options 2.enforced medical treatment for substance affected rough sleepers 3 a shop vacancy tax pilot starting in Fitzroy Street, St Kilda <p>will make a world of difference. It will revive St Kilda in preparation for the opening of the architectural masterpiece: Australia's first Pride Centre whose opening will be tainted by being surrounded by a slew of empty shopfronts/restaurants and people in desperate need of medical help who are not in sound mind to seek it.</p> <p>If you could also prioritise the planting of trees that will grow very big I would love it. You're doing an amazing job, all the best.</p>
CBR-253	[REDACTED]	Balaclava	Thank you for continuing to support the EcoCentre in the next council budget. The EcoCentre is a leading Port Phillip organisation that promotes health, community and environmental sustainability in both our council area and beyond. In the time of COVID-19, ongoing financial support for the EcoCentre and its proposed development will create jobs in the short term, as well as improved resilience to this pandemic, and future challenges such as climate change. We need to safeguard and strengthen our community, and the EcoCentre is doing just that.

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-254	██████████ Stop Adani Macnamara	Elwood	I have been affiliated with the Port Phillip EcoCentre for the past three years. During that time I have been constantly impressed by the EcoCentre's many achievements in the areas of volunteerism, teaching and research. Much of this has been achieved through the establishment of long lasting partnerships, which reflect the imagination and quality of leadership within the EcoCentre. For example, I had no idea that a partnership with the Boy Scouts would result in the creation of a new Scout badge, achieved through environmental work, which has been awarded throughout Victoria! At the same time, the EcoCentre holds itself to the highest standards of professionalism, as seen through their impressive evaluation and monitoring program. On a personal level, I have valued the EcoCentre as a home base where it is possible to bring people together for discussion, receive advice and source material on critical environmental questions, make connections with like-minded people and their networks, and receive support and encouragement for new undertakings. In short, the EcoCentre acts as a fertile home base for the many diverse strands of the local environmental movement in Port Phillip.
CBR-255	██████████	St Kilda	I really want to thank the Council for supporting Friends of Suai/Covalima, Timor Leste. I appreciate their support and trust that it will be able to continue to do this in future budgets so that vital programs can be continued. I am a long time resident of St Kilda and having hosted a number of East Timorese from Suai over the last twenty years I can say that this relationship between CoPP and the people of Suai is remarkable and special.
CBR-256	██████████	Balaclava	Thank you to the City of Port Phillip for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world so challenged by climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because [write 1-2 sentences on the value of an environmental centre and anything you know about the EcoCentre and our programs]. As a long term resident of the CoPP I ask you to please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.
CBR-257	██████████	Port Melbourne	Forecast 2019/2020 - I notice \$ 22,500,000 has been removed from Term Deposits leaving balance on hand \$ 60,500,000, but it difficult for me to find any reference in the comprehensive income statement. BUDGET 2020/21 I am happy with council's desire to make a small profit however, I do not agree with your movement of profit into rate payers term deposit account. I firmly believe any profit in a year should be carried forward to the next year as a credit effectively reducing the next year budget amount. Based on previous years figures this could reduce budget amount for ratepayers by 5% to 6%. The rates split adopted 57 / 43 I believe should be 54 / 46 . NAV is based on CIV (home + land) net rental less expenses or 5% of CIV. This is a very expensive rate for a charge of rental for land the property stands on and has appearance of being a tax on land for all property owners. I have often heard it said that NAV is the fairest way to allocate rate payments, but find this hard to believe when this year, the dearest general rate will be approx. \$2384 and lowest \$1278. (based on 2020% rates). Covid costs of \$ 22,500,000 taken up in 2020 figures suggests balance of \$ 10,000,000 less any offsets should be taken up this year , again from term deposits account. Many \$ assistance being provided to others by ratepayers , but no word of, say a 10% discount to ratepayers to be paid from TERM DEPOSIT account which would still have \$ 30,000,000 plus earning 2% pa.

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-259	██████████ The Prince Hotel	St Kilda West	<p>Partnering with Renew to lead the revitalisation of Fitzroy Street was a powerful initiative that stemmed from council's Place Making program. Council proposed paying half the annual funding (\$75K) and requested the State Government pay the other half. Unfortunately the state did not agree to contribute however the Fitzroy Street Business Association (FSBA) has agreed to match the council contribution and fund the other half.</p> <p>The current proposed council budget has now removed this promised contribution for Renew. I request council reconsider its position to take advantage of this co-funded initiative and take the opportunity to reinvigorate what is now one of the City of Port Phillips most depressing, and frankly at times, quite frightening commercial strips.</p>
CBR-260	██████████ Secretary Fitzroy St Traders Association	St Kilda	<p>RE: Renew Australia initiative for vacant spaces in Fitzroy Street. I believe the Renew strategy is a powerful initiative coming out of the council's Place Making program. Council proposed paying half the annual funding (\$75K) and requested the State Government pay the other half. The state did not agree to contribute. FSBA (Fitzroy Street Business Association) have agreed to contribute the required \$75K to bring the Renew project to fruition. The current proposed council budget removes this promised contribution for Renew. I request council reconsider its position to take advantage of this co-funded initiative.</p>
CBR-286	██████████ Port Phillip EcoCentre	St Kilda	<p>Dear Councillors,</p> <p>Thank you for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change.</p> <p>As a mum of a toddler and a volunteer member of the EcoCentre committee of management, the EcoCentre is important to me because it has a positive vision for the future and is working to make that a reality.</p> <p>Me, my family and the people of Port Phillip care about the air we breathe, the sea we swim in, the beaches and streets we walk on. Last year, an Ipsos poll showed that the environment was the top concern for Australians (Ipsos 2019), and over the last ten years the EcoCentre has helped translate that care into action. Since 2010 we have seen a 500-fold increase in young people engaging with our programs; a 660% increase in people taking action to restore their local environment; and our volunteer hours have increased to a record 20,000 per year in 2019. We do this work in service of the places we love: Port Phillip Bay, the Yarra River, Elster Creek, our beaches, from St Kilda to King's Cross and beyond. These special places belong to us all – we are their stewards. The EcoCentre is a place where ordinary people come together to care for the places we all love, and our local government can and should join us in this stewardship.</p> <p>Please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p> <p>Thank you so much for partnering with the EcoCentre to make a better world together</p>
CBR-289	██████████	St Kilda	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I am the owner of a commercial property on Fitzroy St, St Kilda.</p> <p>Things that would help in this current climate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rates relief (I already have a very discounted lease and my tenant still cannot make the payments) - greater amount of free parking

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CBR-291	[REDACTED]	St Kilda East	<p>Thank you for your on going support to The Friends of Suai/Covalima who help to provide vital programs to our Timorese friends. My interest in the Friends of Suai/Covalima stems from my fathers involvement in the army during WW2. He survived the war with help from the Timorese people. I have made friends in The City of Port Phillip and in East Timor because of this important connection.</p> <p>Please continue to support The Friends of Suai/Covalima.</p>
CBR-292	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>To Whom it May Concern.</p> <p>I am a rates payer in port phillip, I own a hospitality business and we have been hit unbveiveably hard by the covid 19 pandemic. Our trade is less than 20% of what it usually is. I would like rates waived for businesses, and small business grants available to small businesses that are struggling right now. This virus and the subsequent collapse of the economy isn't going to go away and redeem themselves any time soon. Experts are saying it could take 30 years for the economy to recover from this.</p> <p>Please help us.</p>
CBR-293	[REDACTED]	St Kilda	<p>Thank you to the City of Port Phillip for supporting the EcoCentre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world so challenged by climate change. The EcoCentre is important to me because it supports and brings together many people from different walks of life to work on a worthwhile cause. I often wa k past on a Friday morning to hear the chat and laughter as volunteers work in the vegetable garden, and sit together eating lunch. It also teaches young children about the importance of caring for our helpless animals and our environment. Our children as primary students, (now adults) planted Noon plants from the Eco Centre at the St Kilda Pier for the penguins to nest in. As a long term resident of the CoPP I ask you to please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets.</p>
CBR-294	[REDACTED]	South Melbourne	<p>As a long term resident of the CoPP I ask you to please continue to prioritise the EcoCentre programs and redevelopment in this and future budgets. This initiative is excellent and will be of great environmental and social value t the CoPP and more broadly.</p>

Submission No.	Submitter name	Suburb	Submission
CBR-295	[REDACTED]	Elwood	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the budget. I note the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am shocked that the Council will be raising rates. This is a challenging time financially for many rate payers and to increase rates puts further pressure on already stretched household budgets. Council notes that on average this will equate to \$32 for average resident rate payers. I currently pay \$7280 for my rates and assuming valuations remain stable I will be paying \$7426, which is significantly more than a \$32 increase. Rates are already excessive and should not be increased. 2. When I compare the rates I pay with people in houses of similar value who reside in other council areas it always shows that I pay significantly higher rates. The increase will only make the gap bigger. 3. Council attempt to justify the increase by noting it will be used to assist those most impacted by the pandemic. A better outcome would be not to increase rates and allow people to decide whether they can afford to help others. Taking money from rate payers, who already may be having financial difficulties, to redistribute as Council sees fit displays a disturbing belief that Council knows better than individuals how their money should be spent on assisting others. 4. I was staggered to read that Council provides funds to East Timor (Suai/Covalima). International donations/support is not a local government responsibility and is an inappropriate use of rates. 5. There is many areas Council could reduce costs. As an example festival expenditure could be reduced, What benefit does the St Kilda festival bring to residential rate payers? It seems to bring road closures, congestion and litter which are of no benefit to residential rate payers. If it is positive for businesses then they should pay for it via a levy. <p>Once again thank you for the opportunity to submit my views.</p>