

Ordinary Meeting of Council 5 August 2020

The following statements were submitted prior to the meeting. Submissions made live during the meeting include some variations and can be listened via our live stream webpage:

<http://webcast.portphillip.vic.gov.au/archive.php>

Terence Glenane - Item 7.1 Petition Response - Request to Access the St Kilda Peanut Farm Pavilion and Oval Lighting by the Dog Owners Group of St Kilda

On behalf of the Dog Owners Group of St Kilda I would like to thank all Councillors at the Ordinary Meeting of Council 22 July 2020 for unanimously accepting the Dog Owners Group of St Kilda's Petition requesting access to the St Kilda Peanut Farm Pavilion and oval lighting by the Dog Owners Group of St Kilda and Councillors directing an Officers Report on the Petition request. The Dog Owners Group of St Kilda accepts most of the Officers recommendations especially items 6 which is the crux of the petition. But item 2 and 7 have raised some new issues which cause concern for many. The recommendations in items 2 and 7 are built on incorrect information from unstated sources. If these recommendations are accepted by Council, it would be a huge retrograde step in the present conditions dog walkers now enjoy at the Peanut farm. This is explained more fully under the itemised recommendations below. The Dog Owners Group asks Councillors to:

Accept Officer Recommendations 6. That Peanut Farm oval lighting is permitted for community use Monday to Friday between the hours 6 pm to 8 pm for the Community whilst no sport is permitted. In addition, the Dog Owners Group request to be given the present light operating keys now used by sporting clubs to manually turn on and off the lights, until auto timers are designed approved and installed. The lights are needed now during the winter months and lighting at this oval should be utilised as a matter of urgency. The President and the Secretary of the Dog Owners Group would be responsible for the keys and their operation; and if required would be the only users of the lighting system.

Accept Officer Recommendations 1. Thanks the Community for their Petition and acknowledges the Community benefits and social connectiveness that dog walking groups provide.

Qualify Officer Recommendations 2. Primary purpose of the oval and pavilion is for sporting and Community groups. supporting their exclusive use when permitted by council. The group accept this statement on the condition it is not abused by indiscriminate blanket booking, the ground being booked and not used, small sporting groups occupying very small parts of a large oval, and non-Port Phillip sporting groups dominating the use of the oval. Officers should monitor the actual real use of the oval. Dog walkers have coexisted with sporting clubs using the Peanut Farm oval for many years. Both groups have cooperated together to use the oval in an efficient and cooperative and safe way. Dog walkers have been responsible users and the oval grounds have not suffered from their use. This has been clearly demonstrated by the oval grounds surface today being in better condition than ever, despite much greater number of dog walkers now using the oval.

Accept Officer Recommendations 3. Develop Outdoor Sports Lighting Guidelines.

Accept Officer Recommendations 4. The Dog Owners Group would have access to the Peanut Farm Pavilion through the normal booking processes.

Accept Officer Recommendations 5. Installs a timer for the lighting system with programmed times for on and off. But as previously requested the manual key system to operate until the automated light system is fully functioning.

Reject Officer Recommendations 7. The Ground traditionally is only available on a Monday night for non-sporting activity. The facts stated in this recommendation are challenged. During the 5 years I have exercised my dog on the Peanut Farm Oval I and other Dog Owner Group members have seldom seen the oval used by sporting clubs more than two days during the week; and never four days during the week. The officer states; The peanut farm is heavily utilised by sports clubs in winter months, Mon 4 pm to 6 pm and Tue-Fri 4 pm to 8 pm for training and all weekend for competition I don't know where the Council Officer obtained this information to base this statement. I suspect it was obtained from blanket bookings rather than actual use. Bookings don't represent the actual use as intended. I have been going to the Peanut farm for years and I, with confirmation from other members have rarely seen the oval used by sporting clubs more than two days during the week. Weekends are heavily used for matches and used by dog walkers after matches. Some weekends the oval is not used at all by sporting clubs when teams play away. As stated in the Dog Owners Group of St Kilda petition, the group is by far the biggest user of the oval. Total man hours of Dog Owners Group members using the oval per year, not including other dog walkers; far exceed the man hours spent on the Peanut Farm Oval per year than all the sporting clubs using the oval combined. The statement that the oval is used by sporting clubs every day during winter months is absurd It is simply not true. Dog walkers spend more time on the oval during the times stated than sporting clubs do. Most often the sport club training is a small number of participants not doing match training but being coached. The sports group occupy about one quarter of the oval space and have coexisted safely with the dog walkers at the other end of the oval. If match training is happening the dog walkers exit the oval completely when training begins. This system has functioned with consideration, respect, and in a cooperative manner utilising the oval to its fullest potential for years. Allowing dog walkers and other non-sporting users to only use the oval Monday nights as recommended would be a drastic retrograde step and change the status quo for dog walkers using the oval most nights of the week. The oval would be empty most nights. The local residents and other community members will strongly resist this situation. Officers should monitor the real use of the oval by all groups and users to determine its utilisation. The last thing we want is an oval unavailable to the community or non-sporting groups for no practical or factual reason.

Emily Fox – Item 7.1 Petition Response - Request to access the St Kilda Peanut Farm Pavilion and oval lighting by the Dog Owners Group of St Kilda

The St Kilda Sharks are comfortable with the accommodation of the Dog Owners Group of St Kilda (DOGS) at Peanut Farm Reserve dependent on the following conditions:

- St Kilda Sharks access to the ground and facilities during our allocated times of use are not impacted at all by DOGS presence at Peanut Farm Reserve.
- City of Port Phillip must undertake regular assessment and repairs to the Peanut Farm playing surface due to damage by dogs to the oval, in particular, holes dug by dogs that have resulted in injury to our playing group.
- All dog owners must be responsible for collecting any sticks, branches and dog faeces from the surface immediately, as such items create unacceptable health and safety risks to our playing group. Currently we feel the amount of dog faeces and green waste left on the oval prior to our training sessions and games is of concern.
- City of Port Phillip to provide improved waste disposal facilities, access to dog waste disposal bags and increased signage outlining expectations of responsibility to dog owners.

- DOGS as an organisation needs to accept responsibility for any injury caused to our members and playing group as a result of the actions of their dogs. This includes direct injury such as dog bites (one player suffered puncture wounds and lacerations to their left hand after a dog attacked a football they were holding in March 2019), and indirect injury due to holes, sticks, branches etc.

The health and safety of our members and playing group is of the utmost importance to the St Kilda Sharks and our concerns will always be centred on maintaining as safe an environment as possible.

Brenda Forbath - Item 9.1 Children's Services Policy Implementation – Report on Public Interest regarding Council-operated Services

I speak on behalf of the Community Alliance of Port Phillip (CAPP). My name is Brenda Forbath and I live in Elwood (post code 3204) We support the finding that it is in the public interest for council to continue operating early education and care services at Bubup Nairn Family and Childrens Centre, North St Kilda Childrens Centre, Clark Street Childrens Centre and Coventry Street Childrens Centre. Families and educators at these Centres will be relieved to have this matter resolved. We thank Council officers for their work on this important issue and strongly urge Councillors to support the recommendation. However, we ask that Council consider some changes to the wording at paragraph 3.2.

It is our view that an annual review should be focused on whether these Centres are continuing to provide places for vulnerable children and that Councils investment in this essential service is being efficiently managed not a focus on minimizing Councils direct financial input. Given that Council intends to continue to provide for and focus on the needs of vulnerable families and their children through providing high quality early education and care, it will be important not to put this goal at risk by focusing on minimizing Council financial input.

We therefore respectfully propose revised wording of paragraph 3.2: Note that this finding will be reviewed annually, to ensure that the ongoing operation of council provided early education and care services continues to provide places for children whose families are experiencing factors associated with vulnerability; that councils financial investment in its own Centres is efficiently managed; and that childcare service delivery (Council provided, Community managed and privately operated) continue to work effectively in the City
Thankyou

Susanne Provis – Item 9.1 Children's Services Policy Implementation – Report on Public Interest regarding Council-operated Services

I congratulate Council on the thorough public interest test which lead to the logical conclusion that CoPP to continue to operate early childhood education and care services. It recognises the crucial role local government can play in the provision of services for families and children. As well as influencing through policy, service provision provides council with the means to deliver Every child, our future objectives, to make a direct and real difference to people's lives. It also requires Council to be informed about state and federal government policy that effect families with young children in the municipality and thus be better able to advocate for and plan to meet families and Childrens needs. Being required to implement policy will better enable council to interpret policy and identify potential consequences and share these with other service providers in the municipality and support them to meet family and Childrens needs. Being a service provider makes it easier for Council to support a thriving ECEC sector in the municipality. Early childhood education and care services are essential for the economy and crucial to improving Childrens life chances, I am proud that the municipality I live in is committed to ensuring that residents will continue to have access to public, community, not-for-profit and

for-profit managed services. However, I find it hard to understand the rationale for recommendation 3.2, that the finding will be reviewed annually, at a minimum. Surely CoPP has more effective mechanisms to ensure efficient operation of services that meet family and community needs and interests.

Rhonda Small – Item 9.1 Children’s Services Policy Implementation – Report on Public Interest regarding Council-operated Services

I am a member of three local organisations, Save Childcare in Port Phillip, the Community Alliance of Port Phillip and the newly formed community campaign Progressive Port Phillip. But I also speak as a parent and a grandparent with involvement in Council childcare over many years, to welcome the recommendation before you tonight, that Council continue to operate and manage its four childcare centres because it is in the public interest to do so. I urge you to support the recommendation. It has been a long and challenging process arriving at this point, but I want to say that, especially in these tough times, the public, not-for-profit provision of childcare is critical to our sense of a community that cares for each other, and for those among us who are least advantaged.

The Report before you should cast aside any doubt you may have had that our Council-run centres indeed are doing the job of providing care for vulnerable children in our community within a universal care model. The addition of an outreach officer as is proposed in the Draft Budget is also welcome, as this role will be focused on reaching and connecting vulnerable families with early years education and care services to improve access to an integrated model of service provision that starts from the time a newborn infant and their family is embraced by our universal Maternal and Child Health service and includes also the additional support where needed through the enhanced MCH service for families with additional needs or vulnerabilities. What I hope is that tonight’s vote will demonstrate Councils commitment to ongoing investment in early childhood education and care, both through its own direct service provision and through the support it provides to our community managed childcare services. This is what the community wants. And I hope you can all feel proud as councillors when that is what you deliver for us.

Finally, the wording at 3.2 is a little confusing. I would like to ask, first: Is the wording at 3.2 about reviewing the public interest test finding annually at a minimum, intended to provide Council with the capacity to adjust its investment in childcare provision, here called the subsidy, up or down as deemed necessary in order to continue to meet the public interest test? And second: If this is the case, and as efficient management of all service provision requires ongoing monitoring of council’s investment, surely minimising the Council subsidy is an unnecessary addition here?

Graeme Lockwood – Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

Regarding the funding of \$22,000 to complete the construction of the garden of remembrance in the railway reserve, Port Melbourne. Dear Mayor and Councillors, I don’t propose tonight to reiterate my submission for the funding of \$22,000 for the necessary works needed to complete the garden of remembrance as per the agreed brief for it in 2018 but, rather to remind you what it was like for many of the citizens of this city who suffered the dreadful experience of war. Some of our forefathers were probably in a room in this town hall nearby, or in other town halls of this city in 1914-18 to farewell soldiers, sailors and nurses who left our shores to fight for us in world war 1 and who made a valuable contribution to our community and our nation. We see their faces captured in the photos of the many send-off suppers at these halls, the faces of sons, brothers, sisters, lovers and friends. We see the faces of those who were willing to sacrifice their youth, their health and often their life for us. Nearly 1,000 of our citizens in world war 1 and the

many more who returned traumatised and wounded who died shortly thereafter. When our community held those suppers all those years ago, we did so to thank those men and women to honour their courage and conviction. I want to tell you a true story about one such soldier, Private. Ernst Alfred Hall who had been in a pioneer battalion on the western front in ww1 for some 18 months and set the scene at the battle of Broodseinde in Belgium in 4th October 1917. He was standing next to his mate who had taken off his helmet to wipe the sweat off his brow.

That is when a German shell landed in front of him, the shrapnel taking the top of his head off killing him instantly. Ernest was standing next to him in a wet and bloody muddy field, he was 22years old. He would be 22 years old forever. We wonder if he had time to think of his family or of his mates on the ridge at Broondseinde before he closed his eyes for the last time. A similar story would probably be true of soldiers from our community. We have a duty not to fail these sons and daughters of ours who lost their lives in wars for us and those left behind. We have a duty to ensure they are all memorialised properly by completing our garden of remembrance without further delay providing for the necessary funding of \$22,000 in the 2021 budget.

If the \$22000 is not included in the revised budget for 2020/21, is it possible that any underspend on any other capital projects be allotted to the 22,000?

Thank you for your consideration

Georgina Tsolidis -Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

Members of ethnic minority communities are some of the hardest hit in the current crisis. Those newly arrived, international students, refugees and asylum seekers are often in underpaid and dangerous front line work. Many cannot access government payments. Some experience exacerbated health issues due to lack of English and isolation.

Currently there is very little expenditure dedicated to multicultural issues by the COPP and the amount drawn on by these communities through mainstream funding is very small.

Communities would welcome an on-going commitment to funding multicultural activities and programmes through a clearly delineated and adequate budget line.

In line with MAC priorities we make the following suggestions;

- A coherent communication strategy needs to be developed for migrant communities. Diverse forms of communication are vital at a time when understanding the current crisis can save lives.
- Emphasis needs to be given to employment and retraining opportunities for those who have lost jobs, many of whom are migrants and international students.
- Supporting migrant businesses needs to be a priority, particularly given many provide employment opportunities for otherwise vulnerable people within our community.
- Housing and homelessness is a critical issue for minority communities whose members can often remain invisible in related discussions. Any Council plan needs to be culturally inclusive.
- We would like to highlight that members of minority communities have additional digital literacy needs. Many, particularly older people, are cut off because of lack of access. We seek assurances that strategies in this area will take account of those with specific cultural and linguistic needs.
- The current health crisis is exacerbating a number of existing problems including social isolation. Those with limited digital literacy, international students, newly arrived migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are likely to become increasingly isolated. These groups are vulnerable to physical and mental health problems.

Strategies designed to overcome social isolation must cater for the needs of particular communities through inclusive approaches.

- There needs to be a 'watch and see' brief on any possible threats to social cohesion within Port Phillip. There have been examples of divisive discourses including with reference to visible minorities. The Council needs to provide positive messages about our diverse community, in a range of ways, especially if the *Diversity* magazine moves to an on-line only format.
- In line with our charter to provide advice to Council, the MAC should be one of the groups with which the Council needs to consult regarding priorities for the next 4 years. In the current budget document, no reference is made to the MAC (see page 55).
- We seek assurances that staff who currently support the work of the MAC and support members of ethnic communities, including for purposes of applying for various grants, will continue to provide this support.
- MAC seeks confirmation that any rearrangement of the grant schemes will not have a deleterious impact on the capacity for ethnic minority community groups to apply for and receive funding for their community activities.
- We welcome a review of the proposed cuts to ASSIST Counter Services in Port Melbourne and South Melbourne. Both these areas have large percentages of minority residents, many of whom are older, have limited English language skills and access to technology.
- We seek assurance that library resources available in languages other than English will not be affected by proposed cuts to library funding.
- We are concerned that cuts to the Youth Leadership and Engagement programme may have a disproportionate impact on minority groups within our community with limited access to support and opportunity. We seek information on the cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds and length of residency in Australia, of those who are supported through this programme. There may be a need to consider ways of engaging particularly marginalised young people in the future when the programme resumes.
- We seek further information regarding which groups of children are most likely to be disengaged from early education and whether the decision to suspend the Early Education Partnership will have a disproportionate impact on migrant children. We seek clarification regarding how this change sits with the City of Port Phillip's Children's Policy which emphasises reaching the most vulnerable children.
- Star Health supports some of the most vulnerable groups in our city. It is highly likely that migrant children will be some of those most affected by the decision to cease dental checks. We ask that the Council monitor the outcomes of this decision for further consideration into the future.

Kate Kelly – Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

On behalf of many, we thank Council for resourcing a wide range of SPCC programs that support and connect our most vulnerable & isolated residents, who are significantly impacted by COVID19.

Council support is vital, allowing SPCC to provide a range of crucial well-being, inclusion, engagement, training and family support programs to more than 300 vulnerable participants each week.

Your support allows us to continue to provide a nimble, practical and adaptive program responsive to changing community impacts of COVID. Programs such as Port Phillip Welcomers, helping vulnerable and isolated residents stay aware, safe, supported, and connected.

- Port Phillip Welcomers volunteers have pivoted from tourism to supporting isolated older residents and connecting neighbours.
- Our recreation and activity programs for vulnerable people and families are getting tailored flexible and responsive one on one support for those in crisis and providing safe online communities, providing over 1200 one on one contacts, and over 60 online classes and activities since lockdown.
- All our health and wellbeing programs are online and most now free, accessible to all in isolation and have never been more popular with over 60 free online classes in the past 3 months.
- We will continue to provide practical support and emergency relief food and hygiene parcels to our vulnerable participants by contactless pickup appointment during stage 4 restrictions

Research shows that healthier, connected, resilient communities recover more quickly from disaster. Port Phillip has existing challenges with high numbers of people living alone and feeling less connected to neighbours. However, with councils continued support, SPCC will be able to continue to play a key role in assisting vulnerable and isolated communities both during the pandemic and recovery, and Council support makes that possible.

Jane Metlikovec on behalf of Upstride Agency - Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

A proposal for City of Port Phillip by Up stride Agency + Andiamo Projects. Helping Port Phillip businesses and tourism thrive this festive season.

- Port Phillip communications agency based in South Melbourne. Founder Jane Metlikovec lives with her family on Fitzroy St, St Kilda
- Experience:
 - 2020 SIDS campaign manager, leader of strategic, content and digital communication teams and projects for a range of Victorian Government agencies including the Department of Education and Training, the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission, the Department of Transport and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Digital Director at Think HQ, former chair of the Communications Committee for Victoria's Institute of Public Administration Australia, Herald Sun journalist

Andiamo Projects

- Specialist event project management consultancy run by Melbourne-based expert, Jenna Dalton.
- Experience:
 - Event project management on many award-winning major events including Australian Open, Australian Grand Prix, Taste of Melbourne, Margaret River Gourmet Escape, Good Food and Wine Show, Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, MasterChef and Channel 10 national tour and many more
 - Background in major construction project management, risk management and experiential activations

Proposal

- **Community Christmas Tree Festival**
 - Designed to bring delight to visitors and exposure and dollars to local businesses, heavily impacted by COVID-19
 - 4-week activation leading into Christmas 2020, running for 5 hours, Thursday – Sunday each week

- Christmas trees decorated by 100 local businesses in creative ways by the business, e.g. local plumbing business using taps and pipes, local café using cups etc.
- Visitors will be asked to pay a \$2 donation upon entry, and vote on their favourite tree as they leave. Proceeds will be paid to the participating businesses pro-rata according to votes
- **Support to local businesses**
 - EOI open to Port Phillip businesses to decorate a Christmas tree – 100 opportunities available
 - On-site business branding exposure opportunity to visitors along with potential to leverage council website/social platforms
 - Financial benefit with visitor entry donations paid to the participating businesses based on the visitor “best Christmas tree” votes
- **Support to local community**
 - Engage with local community in a COVID safe way
 - Foster moral around Christmastime, especially when many Port Phillip residents originally from the UK and other international locations are currently unlikely to be able to fulfil plans to return home this Christmas
 - Will be strictly inclusive and agnostic, with businesses involved instructed that religious messages or decorations cannot be displayed
- **COVID considerations**
 - We are very conscious of ensuring this event follows very strict Covid-safe procedures, safety is the number 1 priority for us. Procedures will include:
 - We will follow the government guidelines and restrictions including number of people allowed in the space – i.e will restrict venue capacity to 4 square meters of accessible space per person
 - Ensure social distancing with the slow trickle of visitor groups into the venue
 - Maintaining distancing in the queue outside the front of the venue and groups moving within the venue, with staff
 - Ensure one-way flow of foot traffic is established
 - Signage advising patrons of appropriate social distancing behaviour and avoiding entering if feeling unwell
 - Sanitisation of touch surfaces
 - Can take visitor temperature, postcodes and details if appropriate
- **Budget**
 - Total cost \$66,950 ex GST
 - Does not include venue hire of a council venue or associated duty officer/security and electricity, internal AV system costs
 - Options to scale cost down listed in the proposal
- **Environmental considerations**
 - 100 real Christmas trees purchased in line with WWF environmental best practice, purchased from a nearby Melbourne tree farm and chipped upon return
- **Case study:** popular annual community event in the rural Murrindindi Shire

We can create an end-to-end festival with you, including arranging all associated processes, logistics, staffing, venue management, creative and promotional services. We truly look forward to bringing this to life.

Simon Strickland - Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

1. The club understands that this is a difficult time for CoPP but we believe our proposal deserves Favourable consideration even so.
2. its implementation will both enhance an existing facility and provide post COVID-19 work.
3. We are one of the oldest continuously running sports club in Albert Park/South Melbourne. (147 years old)
4. We have one of the highest female membership per overall membership in the Victorian bowls community.
5. We do not have a secure female only change room facility which makes us shamefully unique in the Victorian bowling community.
6. We have a male facility that has been identified in a Council audit some years ago as being inadequate and having a health problem with the urinal.
7. The present lease on the facility is half way through its term with 4 more years to run.
8. The club has just invested \$200k in a new synthetic green without any financial support from any level of government
9. We have been in discussion with Council officers for more than 5 years regarding our proposed clubroom remediation work
10. Even if the council is determined not to proceed in the near term, we seek Council's continued support for this project - facilitation of planning and permit approvals and for a new lease arrangement that provides security of tenure sufficient to make the planned investment in facilitates by the club worthwhile.

Mary Anne Noone - Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

Thank you, Mayor. My name is Mary Anne Noone, I've lived in South Melbourne for forty years. I speak tonight as chairperson of the South Port Community Housing Group.

In our submission, number 290, we strongly support the Council's leadership role in advocating for increased social housing in the municipality

However tonight I wish to highlight three concerning aspects of the Updated Council Plan and draft Budget 2020/21 relating to:

- 1. Council's *In Our Backyard* policy
- 2. Council's proposal to establish a Common Ground project.
- 3. Council's resolution of 6 March 2019

As you know, South Port Community Housing Group operates exclusively in the City of Port Phillip, managing 283 tenancies across 27 distinct properties in Port Melbourne, South Melbourne, Albert Park and St. Kilda.

We have a long and successful association working with the City of Port Phillip.

Over the years, we've assisted in the development of Council Housing Strategies, including the '*In Our Backyard – Growing Affordable Housing in Port Phillip 2015-2025*' strategy which remains listed as a priority in the Draft Council Plan.

However, we are disappointed, that five years on, the Strategy has not delivered one additional unit of social housing in the City of Port Phillip.

More disappointingly, there is no discussion in this year's draft budget of how the related budget allocation is to be spent in order to facilitate the implementation of *In Our Backyard*.

There is no mention of the promised packaging of Council properties with supporting cash contributions to assist local registered community housing organisations to leverage finance for the delivery of projects (page 26 *In Our Backyard*) nor the Expression of Interest process that was to give “preference to the three-local registered community housing organisations” (p 27).

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

A related matter is the proposed establishment of temporary and permanent Common Ground facilities which appear as new initiatives in the Council's Draft Plan and proposed Budget.

From our participation in Council's *In Our Backyard Action Plan Community Forum*, we became aware of Council plans to dispose of some Council sites identified in the *In Our Backyard pipeline*, and to consolidate these funds to acquire a larger site suitable for the Common Ground initiative, however, there has been no consultation about this process.

We are unclear why Council has chosen a Common Ground model.

While we support Council taking an active interest in local homelessness, the draft plan and budget documents provide no clear justification or rationale for Council to spend significant funds on Common Ground initiatives instead of supporting local housing agencies.

We assert that the desired outcomes from a Common Ground approach could equally, and we think even better, be provided via a dispersed model with scattered housing and support and health services in particular localities. We believe there are advantages to this model not operating in a single, high-density residential building.

For example, our model of supported tenancy management provides similar outcomes to those sought under a common ground approach.

We submit that Council should, in the spirit of Council's *In Our Backyard* strategy, explore if local housing organisations may be more able and appropriate to manage this housing and provide these services.

Finally, we call on Council to honour its commitment made in a motion passed on 6 March 2019 to provide grants to any Registered Housing Agency applying to build and operate social housing in Port Philip.

South Port Community Housing Group has obtained financial support from the State's Social Housing Growth Fund to redevelop 15 Emerald Street, South Melbourne, and provide 45 long term units for people aged over 55 years on very low incomes. Council's promised funds would ensure these new units are sustainable and enable South Port to be competitive for future funding.

Summarising, we call on Council to implement its commitments in the *In Our Backyard Strategy*, to honour its motion of March 2019 and to undertake consultation, including with local housing organisations and health and welfare services, about the most appropriate response to homelessness in the municipality.

Geoffrey Love - Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

Thank Council for endorsing Bayside Council Master plan for Elsternwick Park North Nature Reserve. Benefits of inter Council cooperation include: -

- Provision of habitat or native flora and fauna;
- Reduced nitrogen and pollutant loads into the bay improving habitat for marine life including human bay users;

- Water harvesting and the cost saving from using less potable water;
- Flood mitigation for the residents of Elwood; and
- Connecting residents to nature with its' recreational and mental health benefits.

This is a remarkable project and a beacon for a better and more sustainable future

David MacGowan speaking to item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

My name is David MacGowan and I am a resident of Gateway Ward.

My full submission can be found on pages 260-262 of attachment 2 - part 2. The majority of my submission is summarised in Attachment 1; however, I would like to read to you the last two paragraphs, which are not included in the summary:

‘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 applaud the Council for being bold in its vision and setting long term strategic directions, but these must be tempered by financial realities. As stated in the Council papers, a business as usual approach will not be sufficient, deferment rather than removal of projects will not suffice.

Thank you.

Anne Byrne – Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the CAPP Budget submission. CAPP is concerned by Council’s austerity response to the revenue hit 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. Rather than defer major projects to subsequent years, Council would do well to support expenditure on them in 2020/21. CAPP requests 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. In addition, we request 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. CAPP request that the proposed service level reductions be rethought, in particular to ensure that younger citizens are not disadvantaged.

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. CAPP recommends 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. In addition, we would like the Council to be transparent on all the costs within the Economic and Social Recovery Program and provide guidance on how the Community can monitor the success or otherwise of these programs. As you are aware Arts, music 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 was largely funded from savings in the 2019-2020 Creative Industries and Creative Prosperous City Strategy budget. 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.

Housing The Council Plan states that it “Builds on the successful partnership with Housing First 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 and recommends The existing Social Housing Fund (SHF), be increased to provide for the added initiatives aimed at homelessness. Council honour its commitment to provide grants from the SHF to any Registered Housing Agency applying to build and operate social housing in Port Phillip. 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. 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.

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 achieve the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations as well as the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the City including the mitigation and planning for climate change. CAPP recommends that Council consider the projects listed in our Submission, particularly to continue to support and advocate for the rebuilding of the Eco Centre. CAPP recognises that the Council will soon consider the Library Action Plan, however we request that Council does not decrease the library purchases by \$200,000 in 2020/21.

Janet Rosenberg - Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

I am Janet Rosenberg, president of the Acland Street Village Business Association.

I am here to appeal directly to you for more support for small business than is proposed in the current draft budget and economic recovery plan. I am asking for help for our businesses in two ways: Financially and in the setting, up of a Business Advisory Group that can liaise with Council directly.

As you are aware traders in St Kilda have been suffering for some time and now with Covid-19 are being absolutely devastated by this new wave of lockdowns and mounting debts.

We need urgent help for our struggling businesses to stay afloat and then to revive.

We are requesting financial help in the following three areas:

- 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 Job keeper or similar test
- 2) The removal of parking fees for at least six months to allow easy access to our streets
 - 3) A continuation of the freeze on footpath trading permits until next year
 - 4) and an expansion of the areas used for outside dining to allow social distancing restrictions at no extra charge.

We are also asking council for help in providing an easier pathway to liaise with Council.

Firstly, thru a dedicated CoPP Precinct contact or representative responsible for Acland Street, as Alex is for the Fitzroy St Traders; ideally having Alex for both precincts.

Lastly I am asking for the setting up of a Business Advisory Group that comprises representatives from all the trader's groups that have a special rate such as Port Melbourne, Fitzroy St and Acland St and to also include representatives from the traders of the wider municipality. For example, from Balaclava, Elwood, South Melbourne, Middle Park and Albert Park and of course with representatives from Council.

Such a group, could then suggest initiatives that will promote business within the whole municipality that will be of benefit to everyone.

Initiatives that the Business Advisory Group could work on may include "shop local" campaigns, social media marketing, digitalisation assistance or even infrastructure suggestions.

We have some businesses without any online presence at all and they need support to move to online engagement, a now necessary massive shift because of COVID-19

Aiden McGartland – Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

The Catani Gardens Storm Water Harvesting Project: St Kilda Water and Trees (SKWAT) proposes this storm water harvesting project for the following reasons: - capture storm water that naturally runs off the hill and through the gardens into the bay - keep the grass green - important to reduce urban heat island effect and to keep the space usable for recreation - saves water and the associated costs - help water the heritage trees - help preserve this spectacular Victorian era heritage garden located next to Victoria's première foreshore - strong local support - the upkeep of parks is very important for local residents during the pandemic - help address the CoPP's Climate Emergency - directly addresses a number of key council goals - cheap and simple project - no more than \$25,000 is estimated Thank you for listening and SKWAT looks forward to hearing from CoPP.

David, President of Fitzroy Street Business Association – Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

Part One

With the second harder hitting lockdown arising after the draft budget was formulated, the FSBA calls for the following actions from the CoPP.

- 1/ A rates free period for the next quarter for businesses in Port Phillip, subject to a financial test around Job keeper test or like.
- 2/ The continuation of a freeze on outdoor trading fees.
- 3/ Free parking or heavenly discounted parking to encourage people to shop local. currency in its dealings with local business.

Part Two

The FSBA wishes for the CoPP to jointly fund RENEW AUSTRALIA with ourselves. To help Fitzroy Street repopulate the empty shops on the strip.

It would be great to capitalise on the last two years of good will and hard work of Placemaking with a long term positive outcome for Fitzroy Street.

Helen Halliday - Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

The CoPP has been Planning for a Water Sensitive City since 2010 with key elements being landscape planning and water planning as the essential elements for a progressive city. Most of these elements in the CoPP draft Budget have been either delayed or there is no budget for action.

Storm water reduction and water recycling requires all sub-catchments to be identified for appropriate action to be taken. Initial work was done in 2008 on these matters.

Since then, opportunities for water capture and recycling have been explored but only two led to action including most recently Alma Park. They make up a very small part of the city in marked contrast with over 22 areas of the City of Melbourne which either use recycled water or have in place an implementation plan for its use in its parks and gardens

Acting with Bayside CC and Melbourne Water in the Elster Creek catchment, there are opportunities for amenity and water management, including reducing flooding risk in large parts of Elwood. The budget allocation proposed seems small in contrast to the considerable identified benefits in the Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve Masterplan.

The COPP could also act alone in the Shakespeare Grove Main Drain area and the area around the Catani Gardens using water from surrounding streets. A budget allocation is needed so that work can start on these opportunities.

Existing evidence shows that most of the pollution load carried from the City of Port Phillip comes from our streets via waterways and drains to the Bay. This should be another reason why the City takes up its responsibility for effective action. It has the opportunity to act in collaboration with Bayside and MW in ways which would facilitate meeting many of the targets for integrated water management.

All previous policies including the current Council's overarching Act and Adapt policy have reinforced the need for action on these matters. Progress however is slow and the current budget will further reduce action in many areas despite on-going community support.

Providing opportunities for good tree canopy cover is another matter requiring attention if we are to mitigate against some of the worst impacts of climate change in the city. Pecan has continued to argue for much more ambitious canopy targets and a bigger budget for tree planting in parks and on streets.

It is therefore inexcusable for the Council to reduce this budget to a minimal level (Covid or not).

Some areas of the city have incorporated additional tree planting and WSUD street design whilst other areas in the city such as Balaclava and East St Kilda, are observably deficient in open space and trees in streets.

The proposed Public Spaces policy aimed at assessing and reviewing our public spaces and needs urgent action. It should be accompanied by a financial and policy statement from the Council prioritizing the use of roads and open spaces to shade our streets and encourage pedestrian and cycling movement.

Action is needed which includes an understanding and commitment to community engagement.

Jack Halliday – Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

Of the 300 Budget submissions, 40% were concerned with Sustainability, the highest number in all the categories.

Following the public meeting PECAN had just over 5 months ago, we have held two public webinars in conjunction with Council, and our two major Budget priorities are improved Green-Blue Infrastructure and reducing community greenhouse emissions. These emissions are generated from residential, commercial and transport users, and are approaching two million tonnes annually. The Council established a program to tackle community emissions 3 years ago, but for a variety of reasons, it hasn't had the impact that was sought.

Recently a working group was established between Council and PECAN, and it is now meeting on a weekly basis with a view towards the development of two Power Purchase Agreements in Port Phillip, one aimed at commercial and another for residential users. As you're aware Melbourne City Council has completed two PPAs – Port Phillip is a founding member of the first of these, and as a result it can proudly say that its own operations are zero net emissions. Melbourne is now thinking about a third, and Yarra Council is also starting work on a PPA for commercial users. The opportunity is now present to work towards the development of the first PPA in the form of a Port Phillip Energy Cooperative, which could provide renewable energy at reduced tariffs for house and apartment dwellers. However, the draft Budget shows significant cuts for community emissions programs, from 300K to 125K this year, and we know more staff resourcing will be required if these projects are to be progressed.

We ask Council to review Sustainability's capacity to facilitate these important projects.

Dr Josephine Samuel-King – Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

I am Jo Samuel-King, president of the Elsternwick Park Association and an Elwood resident whose property was flooded in both the 2011 and 2016 floods.

On behalf of the Elsternwick Park Association I would like to thank you and your staff for your ongoing support of the Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve development.

There are two key reasons why it is absolutely-vital for COPP to be co-funding this project.

1. "Elwood's playground":

To quote Cr Dick Gross, the reserve is "Our Elwood Playground. During the coronavirus lockdown, we have all rediscovered the joy and necessity of our precious local open spaces". The Nature Reserve has been and continues to be an absolute God-send for City of Port Phillip residents and needs to be acknowledged as such.

2. Flooding:

Again, to quote Cr Dick Gross- "Elwood is valuable and vulnerable" from a flooding and climate change perspective. The future of Elwood, especially the future of the most flood prone parts of Elwood, is entirely dependent on flood management. I am on the Elsternwick Park Nature Reserve Community Reference panel and we regularly are updated on Melbourne Water's progress in this regard. Melbourne Water have found two technically feasible options for effective flood mitigation works in and around the reserve. The decision regarding flood mitigation will, in the end, however, be made by treasury. It is really clear, that unless CoPP shows that you are serious about finding solutions for flood prone residents in Elwood, unless you show that you care,

there is no way the State Government will be interested in spending the kind of money that is needed.

So, I say, on behalf of not only the Elsternwick Park Association but also, all of us incredibly flood-prone residents. THANK YOU. Thank you for sticking by us. Thank you for caring enough to actually commit to this incredibly important project.

April Seymore on behalf of the Eco Centre - Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

- 1. Thank you, City of Port Phillip, for co-founding and now co-funding the Eco Centre.**
- 2. The Eco Centre is deeply valued by community.** 113 budget submissions this year **shared** testimonies of the Eco Centre's personal, professional, environmental action and community connectedness benefits.
- 3. Despite many circumstances beyond our control, the Eco Centre has been nimble, adaptive and has expanded many community benefits this year due to our new Funding Agreement.** At the time of submission, the Eco Centre had developed and delivered 45 online programs as well as a range of independent citizen science and volunteering adaptations, phone trees and weekly virtual community lunches. Due to the focus shift to sustainable actions possible independently, 93% of participants surveyed reported sustainable behaviour changes as a result of workshops. 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.
- 4. The Eco Centre delivers for the Council Plan.** In particular Direction 1, Direction 3 and Direction 5 -- with 22 activity examples provided in our written submission. In a budget-challenged year, the Eco Centre'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's in-house services.
- 5. Thank you, Councillors and Officers, for commitment to the Eco Centre redevelopment, and for our effective Funding Agreement --** so that along with other environmental, community and educational outcomes, we may continue to build our responsive, creative adaptations of a diverse portfolio of programming during the coronavirus pandemic.
- 6. In this difficult year, the Eco Centre 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.**

Craig Schloeffel – Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

I note that the average wage (acknowledging reduction in FTE) across all areas of the council have increased but more specifically I am interested in how the office of the CEO can justify an average wage increase of 3% as well as no reduction in staff during this time? So many people and businesses living in Port Phillip have had to rationalise staff to save on costs and there appears to be no consideration or hard changes made here? in a council which is reducing services and showing a much-reduced income stream how can staff numbers not be reduced? I am also interested in how this wage increase can be justified when rates are increasing in a time when surrounding councils are lowering rates, services are being reduced or reviewed and costs (e.g. permits etc.) are going up? Many businesses

in Australia and more particularly in Melbourne are taking pay cuts or no pay increases and i cannot see how this is justified in a council who is going to deliver a loss next financial year.

Thank you

Carl Forrest - Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

We are an independent 206 room Hotel with 80 staff located at 562 St Kilda Road in the Gateway Ward and have been in operation since 1985 known formerly as the Park royal and Melbourne Parkview.

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.

We are writing to request that Council provide 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 waiver of rates and charges over the pandemic period with the remainder to be deferred and repayable by equal monthly instalments 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.

We provide a service to the community as an employer of up to 80 staff many who live in COPP.....a place of business for many organisations and in addition we actively market to drive visitation to the region from interstate and Intrastate. Under normal conditions this exceeds \$350k per annum. These people provide significant discretionary spend to many businesses in the COPP region so we add significant value.

To survive we require Federal, State and Local government support to survive. Please don't forget us.

Carey Rohrlach - Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

On behalf of the Port Phillip Multifaith Network (PPMN), thank you for the opportunity to address Council tonight and please show me confirmed to attend virtually.

Enclosed is the full 2pp submission, of which the salient points are:

“

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 these 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.

Judy Gunson – Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

Power Purchase Agreements: a response to community emissions the urgent reduction in community emissions is the cornerstone of any Climate Emergency response. It is a goal supported vigorously by PECAN as well as by the Port Phillip community, as shown in the recent Climate Emergency Community Forums. In an urban setting where apartments predominate, the current uptake of solar panels is not enough to offset more than a small proportion of community emissions. We need to be creative. With the assistance of Sustainability staff PECAN has begun an investigation into what is available in the energy sector that could help us to solve our emissions problem. We want to reach net zero emissions as soon as possible. Our investigations suggest the need for Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), one of which would be in the form of a Port Phillip Energy Cooperative to provide renewable energy at reduced tariffs to house and apartment dwellers. These options would seem to have the potential to dramatically reduce community reliance on fossil fuels. There is a lot of work to be done to get community PPAs off the ground but not necessarily a large dollar investment. PECAN estimates that with the assistance of 1.5 Sustainability officers over the course of the next year we could develop one or both of these options and make great progress in reducing Port Phillip's community emissions. PECAN believes that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Council, and something that can easily be done during a time when budgetary restraints exist due to Coronavirus.

John Spierings- Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

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.

Now is the time to step up further.

It is time to both act on the needs of the community right now and to plan for the future. We know this is not easy when the pandemic and a deep recession are upon us and when the future seems so uncertain.

Council must be flexible and responsive to the circumstances.

As immediate steps, we suggest prioritising:

- Giving further consideration to targeted rate relief for residents and businesses in receipt of Job Keeper and Jobseeker payments, especially as these programs are stepped down in coming months
- Working closely with trader organisations to ensure that retail shopping strips in the municipality pull through this crisis. We strongly support the proposal of the Fitzroy Street Traders Association for co-investment to start a true revival of the street
- Reversing proposed cuts to the library book vote, Council assist services, early childhood services, streetscaping and tree planting and other services. And pulling forward the capital works that are slated for delay

- Investing in local jobs and addressing ageing social and physical infrastructure through the fast-track, easily doable and necessary small project and maintenance work we have suggested.

As well, Council should take on larger projects that will provide new social infrastructure and help prepare residents and the community for the impact of dangerous climate change.

The community rightly expects Council to be financially prudent and these measures can be delivered through a combination of savings, borrowings and strategic and judicious use of reserves as we have outlined.

Such a package is affordable and responsible and will make a tangible difference to the local economy and local jobs. It will build assets for the future.

We must come out of this crisis in a way that leaves no-one behind, and that ensures our children have a future to look forward to, rather than to fear.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you this evening.

The following statements were submitted prior to the meeting and a summary of the statements were read out during the meeting by the Coordinator Governance.

Steve Grapsas - Public Question Time

It is my understanding our Port Phillip CEO currently still resided in South Australia. If this is the case can council, please advise me how the CEO of our City can manage the all activities in relations to our City by living in another state

Toni Auld Public Question Time

Since living in Port Melbourne (9 years) Bay Street has been sadly neglected by council. The gateway to Melbourne via Port Melbourne must give the cruise liner passengers the impression of a less than average third world country. Vast sums of council funds have been squandered elsewhere on inconsequential projects while Bay Street has been sadly neglected. Our beaches are groomed on a regular basis while rubbish is left strewn on our footpaths and gutters. Council must improve our footpaths and implement a far more regular rubbish removal and clean-up process.

Kay McKenzie – Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

1a. Port Phillip Eco Centre - continued funding.

The Port Phillip Eco Centre ticks all the boxes in CoPP's Strategic Plan - creativity, sustainability, diversity and more. Thank you for supporting the Eco Centre and their essential education, research and volunteering programs, especially in a world experiencing climate change. The Port Phillip Eco Centre supports our community by sharing with young and old valuable information about our ecosystems on land, in the bay and in the rivers of Port Phillip (and beyond), by empowering us with the tools to interact with them sustainably and take action to effect positive, meaningful change, and support others who want to live sustainably. In addition to the programmes run by and at the Eco Centre, such as working bees, information and film nights, Open House days, AGMs, festivals, planting bees, etc., and all its online activities, videos and information, the Eco Centre is also an umbrella

organisation supporting many smaller community groups in our municipality, including Bili nursery, Veg Out, Friends of Westgate Park, Earth care, Penguins, Elster Creek, Elsternwick Park, Project Burrunan, etc. The Port Phillip Eco Centre has also given me opportunities to learn from our local First Nations - the Boon Wurrung - their ancient knowledge systems and approaches.

The school's programmes run by the Eco centre's education team are world class, enthusing, informing and empowering the next generations. What I've seen firsthand at schools and even kindergartens and child care centres in my neighbourhood is joyful and deeply inspiring.

Please continue to prioritise the Eco Centre programs in this and future budgets.

1b. The Port Phillip Eco Centre redevelopment

The Eco centre has outgrown its tiny Eco House, and requires a larger centre to continue to fully support the growing demand for education in and connection to sustainability and environmental concepts and practice.

Please make good on Council's initial commitments to support the redevelopment in this and future budgets.

2. Proposed Increases in COPP Rates

On top of this already disastrous year, I was appalled to read that the Council is once again considering raising our rates multiple times, over the next few years. Our rates are amongst the highest in the state. The economy itself has gone backwards this year. there is no justification for such an increase and it will add untold pressure to ratepayers.

Please do not raise our rates.

3. Proposed pay increases for Council staff, including CEO

I request that the Council not push forward with pay increases for COPP staff, while the rest of the community (particularly in Port Phillip) is struggling with unemployment, reduced wages, or the threat of business stress or failure. It may be timely to address the 42% of our rates that are currently paid to staff, and investigate whether this can be done more effectively - and cheaply. Are there too many high-paid staff?

4. Additional costs for bins

The council has been promising us a greener, more sustainable municipality for years, but the waste removal and disposal strategy does not appear to have changed. Work with community groups - like the Eco Centre - to introduce, like so many other municipalities have already done - green waste bins, so the council can do composting for us, and provide us with high grade compost, and reduce the waste to landfill.

Trevor White - Item 14.4 Council Plan and Budget 2020/21 Hearing of Submissions

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft 2020-21 budget. COVID- 19 has affected us all. It has created new needs and expectations of the community which, in turn, has required a transformation of the provision and delivery of services by Council. Across the community, the last 10 weeks have seen more transformation in thinking and practices than has occurred in the last 10 years. Council has begun to change the way it provides services which will continue as the new way to work and operate into the future. New ways of working will occur under the new Local Government Act, which could include the use of Citizens Assemblies and Juries to gain direct input from the community. The community is

an amazing resource and consultancy, employ and buy locally. This COVID period will be seen as a change ratchet, not a slippery dip back to the past. The 2020-21 budget needs to reflect these changes and not just assume that past services and practices will return. Our unchain submission states that: "it's good to see the commencement of the CEO's restructuring of the waistline of the staff structure, roles and cost. We strongly recommend that Council implements a targeted rate relief policy to assist those who are on social support, Job keeper, Job seeker and business Owners and Landlords who have lost income & we urge the Audit Committee to undertake a "Root and Branch" efficiency, effectiveness and capacity independent review of all aspects of the governance and operations of Council, in particular of the changing community needs and priorities and hence the method of delivery of the required services of all procurement, consultancy and contact practices, of the design and compliance management of the financial and non-financial aspects of leases and licenses to review of all revenue streams, borrowing limits, all overhead costs and establish a waste watch process to review all commercial operations and maintenance of infrastructure programs to review the success rate of applications for state and federal government grant programs and other sources of funding to review the implementation of the climate change mitigation and adaption programs, as presented by PECAN etc. We all have changed over the last few months, what we need, how we work, what job can I get now and in the future, how will my business change and will it survive, and what we expect Council to do and provide. Council is part of these changes; it needs to rethink and realign its services and refresh operations. Our detailed policy on the budget and proposed targeted rate relief policy and The Triangle have been submitted in our submissions which you would have read. My specific questions, will Council develop a targeted rate relief policy and fund The Triangle Business case and will Council ask the Audit committee to undertake an efficiency, effectiveness and capacity review and be more available to the Community. Thank you