

Public Question Time and Submissions

Question from Helen Halliday:

Has the Council spent the \$740,000 it allocated for tree planting in the budget, and can Council provide information by neighbourhood of where this money has been spent? Given the acknowledged imbalance in spending across the neighbourhoods identified in last year's budget, what steps will be taken to address this issue in the projected budget for 2022-23? What steps have been taken to fulfill Council's resolution from 8 December to identify properties for acquisition in South Melbourne, Balaclava and St Kilda East? Can Council officers advise why it has not considered the green line as a priority project? How can the small projects agreed in advance be brought forward to start immediately as a matter of priority, separating those for trial against those for action?

Response:

\$740k was allocated to the Greening Port Phillip budget this year. This program of works includes a variety of greening projects along with tree planting including - planning/design, community consultation/engagement and Urban Forest Strategy Planning.

In 2021/22 the project by suburb was broken down as follows:

- Tree and Garden Projects Balaclava/East St Kilda – Gibbs/Bothwell, Woodstock, Inkerman Streets
- Port Melbourne – Danks St and Cruikshank Reserve
- St Kilda – Baluk Wilam Court
- Sth Melb – Bank Street
- Elwood – Point Ormond

Further trees are planted through our Parks Services budget, the target for this year is to plant 500-700 in-fill trees through this program. These trees are planted as replacement for our current trees or as other infill requirements are identified. As the program is in response to needs identified throughout the year there is not a set program of work.

The actions in Council's recently adopted *Places for People: Public Space Strategy 2022 – 2032* were selected through a strategic alignment, funding and deliverability assessment process. Actions were selected to be fundable, and deliverable based on available resources to 2032 and consideration was given to ensuring a spread of projects across all neighbourhoods. The short-term priority action for the Green Line from the *Places for People: Public Space Strategy 2022 – 2032* has been included in the draft Council Budget for 2022/23. If adopted by Council, \$120,000 will be allocated for the delivery of this action by 2024. There are a number of Green Line projects outlined in the *Places for People: Public Space Strategy 2022 – 2032* as requiring further investigation, because additional work is required to understand the scope, feasibility and deliverability of these actions.

The short-term priority action for a new small local open space in Lansdowne Road in St Kilda East has been included in the draft Council Budget for 2022/23. If adopted by Council, \$100,000 will be allocated to trial this action with a further \$1,376,000 allocated for the permanent delivery of the new public open space. The temporary closure of Dickens Street is also in the draft Council Budget for 2022/23, along with the designs for a temporary new park in the Balaclava Coles car park.

Additionally, Council will be preparing a Land Acquisition and Road Discontinuance Strategy by 2025 to inform the medium and long-term priority actions relating to land acquisition for new public open space.

**Please note answers to any questions in Public Question Time and Councillor Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*