



## 12.1 COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON THE ALBERT PARK DRAFT MASTER PLAN

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### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To endorse a written submission that establishes Council's position on the Albert Park Draft Master Plan.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Parks Victoria released the Albert Park Draft Master Plan (the draft master plan) for public consultation on 20 November 2017.
- 2.2 Parks Victoria will consider submissions made on the draft master plan to prepare a final master plan for Albert Park Reserve (the Reserve).
- 2.3 Council officers have made a written submission to Parks Victoria on the draft master plan, that is subject to Council endorsement in February 2018.
- 2.4 The Reserve provides 225 hectares of parkland, including a 45 hectare lake, forming nearly 60 per cent of public open space in the City of Port Phillip.
- 2.5 Key facilities in the Reserve include Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC), Junction Oval, Lakeside Stadium, Albert Park Golf Course and Albert Park Driving Range.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Endorses the submission to Parks Victoria on the Albert Park Draft Master Plan (Attachment 1).

### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 Parks Victoria is developing a new master plan to set a 25 year vision for the Reserve and guide it through the next stage of its history.
- 4.2 The draft master plan aims to improve the casual recreation and amenity values of the Reserve to meet the needs of a more diverse community, with a range of abilities and interests.



- 4.3 Council's submission addresses a range of themes and initiatives from the draft master plan to ensure the Reserve can continue to provide open space and recreation opportunities for the Port Phillip community.
- 4.4 Initiatives in the draft master plan that may be of particular interest to Council include:
- 4.4.1 Parks Victoria have proposed to reduce the size of the existing 18 hole golf course, and relocate the driving range to the golf course to create a consolidated golf precinct. Council's submission highlights the importance of:
- Increasing public open space and improving pedestrian access to the Reserve from Queens Road, while also supporting the community to remain active and healthy.
  - Parks Victoria working collaboratively with Council, Golf Australia, Golf Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in relation to the proposal to reduce the size of the existing golf course.
- 4.4.2 Parks Victoria have proposed to program a criterium circuit for cycling within the Reserve. Council's submission highlights support for this initiative, and suggests that this could become a new home base for the St Kilda Cycling Club given the increase growth in construction activity, residents, pedestrians and associated traffic at their current location in Fishermans Bend.
- 4.4.3 Parks Victoria have proposed to provide a shared pedestrian and cyclist bridge across the Albert Park Lake to improve east-west connections through the Reserve. Council's submission is supportive of this proposal, provided the impacts on water-based activities have been adequately assessed.
- 4.5 Council officers are aware of the community interest in response to the proposed changes to the programming and car parking fees at MSAC. MSAC is governed by the State Sports Centre Trust and these issues are being managed by Council officers separate to the draft master plan.
- 4.6 The Grand Prix is managed under the Australian Grands Prix Act 1994 and is not part of the draft master plan. Council's position is to oppose the staging of the Grand Prix event at the Reserve. Council continues to work closely with the Australian Grand Prix Corporation to ensure the impacts of the Grand Prix are minimised on residents and businesses.



## **5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- 5.1 Parks Victoria met with Council officers on 6 December 2017 to discuss the draft master plan.
- 5.2 Parks Victoria undertook a public consultation period which commenced on 20 November 2017 and concluded on 19 January 2018. The public consultation period included:
- Online survey
  - Information forums for sporting clubs, tenants and community groups held on 28 and 30 November 2017
  - Appointments with Parks Victoria officers held on 29 November, 6 and 8 December 2017
  - Drop-in session held at the South Melbourne Market on 1 December 2017
  - Drop-in sessions at the Reserve held on 9 and 10 December 2017
  - Promotion through social media.
- 5.3 The submission was prepared with input from Open Space and Recreation Services, Sustainability and Transport, Place and Design, Future Communities, Cultural and Economic Development, Strategy and Growth and Project Services.

## **6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no known legal implications.
- 6.2 The submission provides Council with the opportunity to influence the final master plan for the Reserve.
- 6.3 Parks Victoria's proposal to reduce the size of the existing 18 hole golf course may present a reputational risk to Council.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 7.1 The final master plan will include a cost plan and implementation strategy.
- 7.2 Council officers have requested that Parks Victoria advise which projects will require a partnership with Council.
- 7.3 Parks Victoria have proposed to reduce vehicle parking areas within the Reserve, which may impact parking on surrounding Council roads.



Council's submission requests that Parks Victoria undertakes a parking and traffic assessment to further understand the implications to Council.

## **8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 8.1 Parks Victoria intends for the Reserve to be a green precinct and a showcase for environmental sustainability.
- 8.2 In addition to the initiatives in the draft master plan, Council's submission advocates for the final master plan to include:
  - 8.2.1 A commitment to net zero emissions from all lighting within the Reserve
  - 8.2.2 Sustainable design standards for the construction of new, and upgrades to existing, buildings
  - 8.2.3 Detailed plans regarding how the Reserve will respond to the conditions of climate change and extreme weather events
  - 8.2.4 Additional planting and inclusion of strategies in relation to vegetation types for biodiversity and habitat in the Reserve
  - 8.2.5 Protection for the area designated for the future Albert Park Lake Stormwater Harvesting project.
- 8.3 Council's submission is supportive of the emphasis on sustainable transport in the draft master plan.

## **9. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

- 9.1 Council's submission highlights the importance of the Reserve in providing open space and recreation opportunities for the Port Phillip community, particularly as the Reserve forms nearly 60 per cent of public open space in the City of Port Phillip.
- 9.2 The Reserve is home to numerous local sporting clubs, providing summer and winter offerings for a diversity of recreation opportunities including AFL, cricket, rugby, soccer, hockey, tennis, softball, baseball, sailing and rowing.
- 9.3 Council's submission recognises the importance of the initiatives in the master plan to meet the current and future needs of the Port Phillip community, particularly:
  - Improving sustainable transport and pedestrian connectivity within and to the Reserve



- Increasing public open space, and activating the Reserve by providing additional event spaces, play spaces and fitness stations
- Improving sport and recreation infrastructure and opportunities.

9.4 If adopted in the final master plan, the proposal to reduce the size of the existing golf course will impact users of the golf course.

## **10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

10.1 Strategic Direction 4 – We are growing and keeping our character of the *Council Plan 2017 – 27* identifies an engagement and partnership priority to work with Parks Victoria on key projects, including the use of Port Phillip Bay and Albert Park.

10.2 The following outcomes in the *Council Plan 2017 – 27* are relevant to Council's submission on the draft master plan:

- 1.1 A - Providing access to flexible, multi-purpose facilities that support participation in community life through sport, recreation and life-long learning.
- 1.4 C - Protecting and promoting Aboriginal culture and heritage, and continuing reconciliation with our Indigenous community.
- 2.1 B - Improving the connectivity, safety and amenity of walking and bike riding networks.
- 3.1 A - Increasing canopy cover and diversity of tree species across our streets and open spaces.
- 3.4 A - Reducing potable water consumption by encouraging more efficient water use and establishing alternative water sources.
- 4.1 B - Designing, activating and managing public spaces that are safe and inviting places for people to enjoy.
- 4.1 C - Extending, connecting and diversifying our open space network to cater for increased demand.
- 4.2 B - Protecting heritage places that represent our historic, social, cultural and architectural identity.

## **11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

### **11.1 TIMELINE**

11.1.1 Any feedback on the submission or the draft master plan from Councillors will be provided to Parks Victoria by 23 February 2018.



11.1.2 Parks Victoria anticipate a final master plan will be completed by late 2018.

## 11.2 COMMUNICATION

11.2.1 Council will continue to work collaboratively with Parks Victoria to ensure the best outcomes for the Port Phillip community are represented in the preparation and implementation of the final master plan.

## 12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

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

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**ATTACHMENTS 1. Council submission on the Albert Park Draft Master Plan**  
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