



12.1 FISHERMANS BEND: SUBURB NAME CHANGE MOTION AND FISHERMANS BEND COMMUNITY FORUM

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider the review of the Fishermans Bend Community Forum, and the Council motion of 6 June 2018 to commence the suburb naming processes for Montague, Sandridge and Wirraway; and
- 1.2 To note the public engagement undertaken by the Fishermans Bend Taskforce.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fishermans Bend Community Forum

- 2.1 The Fishermans Bend Community Forum (the Forum) has been in operation since May 2015. On 12 December 2018, Council passed a resolution in which it:

Notes that the Fishermans Bend Community Forum is extended until 30 June 2019 and that a further review of this Forum will be conducted prior to that date.

- 2.2 Council officers have conducted a review of the Forum. The review found that:
 - 2.2.1 the Forum has been an avenue for Council to connect with the community; and
 - 2.2.2 the development of Precinct Plans and delivery of infrastructure at Fishermans Bend provides an ongoing need to engage with the growing community.
- 2.3 The review recommended continuing the Forum but changing the Forum's Terms of Reference to encourage greater public engagement and to provide more flexibility around when Forum meetings are held. (Attachment 1: Amended Terms of Reference).
- 2.4 Council will continue to engage with the State Government (formerly the Fishermans Bend Taskforce and now the Department of Jobs, Precinct and Regions (DJPR)) on the Forum.

Suburb Name Change Resolution

- 2.5 On 6 June 2018, Council passed a suburb naming resolution "to respond to the extraordinary population growth and development" in Fishermans Bend by formally identifying the boundaries for Montague, Sandridge, Wirraway; initiating the community consultation process outlined in the Naming Rules and applying to the Office of Geographic Names for registration of the new suburbs. (Attachment 2: Suburb Naming Resolution).
- 2.6 The suburb name change process is resource intensive and requires a significant community engagement process.
- 2.7 The Office of Geographic Names (OGN) has expressed concerns about Council's current proposal and the Taskforce had expressed concerns about the timing of Council's proposal. The Taskforce suggested that the suburb naming motion be



deferred until the Precinct Plans are in place, at which time they could work with Council on suburb naming.

Fishermans Bend Taskforce – Public engagement – From Plan to Place

- 2.8 The State Government has undertaken the first phase of community engagement as part of the development of four Capital City Zone Precinct Plans (Montague, Lorimer, Sandridge and Wirraway). A comprehensive public engagement report will be released later in the year.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Defers implementation of the motion passed at the meeting of 6 June 2018: "...to commence the naming and community consultation processes for the naming of three new suburbs, being Montague, Sandridge and Wirraway..." until after finalisation of the Fishermans Bend Precinct Plans.
- 3.2 Endorses amendments to the Fishermans Bend Community Forum Terms of Reference as detailed in attachment 1.
- 3.3 Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the Terms of Reference to correct any minor drafting errors that do not materially alter the intent.

4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

Fishermans Bend Taskforce – Public engagement – From Plan to Place

- 4.1 The Taskforce has undertaken the first phase of community engagement as part of the development of four Capital City Zone Precinct Plans (Montague, Lorimer, Sandridge and Wirraway).
- 4.2 Engagement ran between May and June 2019. The City of Port Phillip's Fishermans Bend Community Forum, held on 14 May with 30 participants, was part of the engagement process.
- 4.3 A comprehensive public engagement report will be released later in the year. Draft Precinct Implementation Plans will be released by the State Government for public consultation during 2019/20.

Fishermans Bend Community Forum review

- 4.4 The Fishermans Bend Community Forum (the 'Forum') was established in May 2015.
- 4.5 On 12 December 2018 Council agreed to review the Forum. The review was to be completed by 30 June 2019.
- 4.6 The review considered the need for and role of the Forum and included the views of the Taskforce and Forum members. The Taskforce supported the Forum having an ongoing role to provide direct community engagement.

Forum agenda

- 4.7 The Forum's Terms of Reference provide that the purpose of the Forum is to update the community on statutory planning applications and inform the community on key projects being undertaken by Council or State agencies. The outcomes of Forum



discussions are to contribute to Council's input to the State Government review process on Fishermans Bend.

- 4.8 Initially, Forum meetings focussed on statutory planning matters of interest to developers considering the draft planning controls. Once the Fishermans Bend Framework and Planning Controls were finalised, the focus of the forum shifted to the Precinct Implementation Plans.
- 4.9 Community interest has remained and their input through the Forum informed Council's submission on the draft Fishermans Bend Framework and Planning Controls. In addition, the Forum has provided an avenue for engagement on projects like Kirrup Park. More recently, the Forum provided an opportunity for local community engagement on the development of the draft Precinct Implementation Plans.
- 4.10 Over the next 18-24 months, the Forum will continue to provide Council with opportunities to connect with the community on the Precinct Plans (due mid to late 2020) and catalyst projects like the new tram line.
- 4.11 In summary, the Forum has played a role to inform and engage the community as anticipated in the Terms of Reference and is likely to help shape Council's position as the Precinct Plans are drafted.

Forum membership

- 4.12 The Terms of Reference provide that the Forum's membership is a mix of 15 named community organisations (e.g. Beacon Cove Neighbourhood Association) and more generic representatives nominated by Council (e.g. business representatives, landowners) as well as State Government representatives. Council can nominate additional members "from any groups/sectors not represented in the original membership." The "general" public can attend the Forum as observers and participate by asking questions, through the Chair, during the Question and Answer session provided for in the Meeting Agenda.
- 4.13 There are 30 registered Forum members, including residents, people who work in the area, representatives of community groups and developers. In practice Forum meetings are advertised and open to the public.
- 4.14 Since the Forum was established four years ago, new residents and businesses have moved to the area. A challenge for the Forum is to connect with the new members of the Fishermans Bend community.
- 4.15 As the Forum has evolved it has developed a less formal approach to the conduct of its meetings. Community members have been encouraged to attend and participate in a less formal setting. There are opportunities to amend the Terms of Reference to reflect a more open, welcoming process. There is also a need to ensure the Forum is representative of the changing and growing community in Fishermans Bend. This could include, where relevant, promoting Forum events through partner channels.

Forum meetings

- 4.16 The Forum's Terms of Reference states that bi-monthly meetings are "anticipated". This frequency reflected the volume of information around the draft Framework. After the release of the finalised Framework and Planning Controls, the number of meetings decreased. The most recent Forum meeting was in May 2019, when the Forum hosted the launch of the Taskforce's engagement around Precinct Planning.
- 4.17 The opportunities for Forum meetings over the next 18-24 months could include:



- 4.17.1 the State Government's next community consultation around the draft Precinct Implementation Plans. The Taskforce had indicated that they may ask Council to hold another Forum this year.
- 4.17.2 the Victorian Schools Building Authority release of the new Wirraway (Fishermans Bend) Secondary School detailed designs.
- 4.17.3 the Victorian Health and Human Services Building Authority release of the scope, location and timing of a new Fishermans Bend Community Hospital.
- 4.17.4 Department of Transport consideration of a business case for tram connections between Fishermans Bend and the CBD.
- 4.18 In May 2019, as part of the State budget, the State Government announced a significant change to the Governance arrangements for Fishermans Bend. Specifically, the role of the Taskforce would be subsumed into the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR). The Forum Terms of Reference will be amended to reflect this change. The ongoing role of the Fishermans Bend Community Forum may be influenced by changes to the direction of the State Government following the changed governance arrangements.
- 4.19 In summary, several issues could be considered by the Forum over the next two years. However, instead of the bi-monthly meetings anticipated in the Terms of Reference, meetings could be scheduled around events or decision-making points. A program-driven agenda around the draft Precinct Plans or significant projects will avoid Forum meetings with limited content. To retain an ongoing connection with the community there could be a minimum of bi-annual meetings with additional Forums scheduled as needed to consider project milestones. This approach would encourage a theming/grouping of forums around topics. This would require amendments to the Terms of Reference.
- 4.20 Amendment 1 is the Forum's Terms of Reference. Proposed changes to the Terms of Reference have been "marked up".

Suburb name change

- 4.21 On 6 June 2018, Council passed a suburb naming resolution for Fishermans Bend. (Attachment 2: Suburb Naming Resolution). The motion was "to respond to the extraordinary population growth and development" at Fishermans Bend by:
 - 4.21.1 formally defining the boundaries for Montague, Sandridge, Wirraway; and
 - 4.21.2 initiating the community consultation process outlined in the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria and applying to the Office of Geographic Names (OGN) for registration of the three new suburbs.
- 4.22 The statutory engagement process required as part of any name change proposal will focus on Port Melbourne and South Melbourne residents, ratepayers and businesses. This could include a letterbox distribution and promotion across print and digital media, surveys to the impacted community, public meetings, online consultation, information sessions, presentations and "one on one" meetings. Council would need to consider any objections and alternative proposals. (Attachment 3: the OGN's "Steps required for a name review").
- 4.23 The name change proposal will require a formal engagement process with the Traditional Owners to obtain consent to use "Wirraway" as a suburb name. This will involve clarifying consultation requirements with the Victorian Aboriginal Centre for



Languages (VACL), establishing the language origins and ownership of “Wirraway”, engaging with the Boon Wurrung Foundation and, potentially, other Traditional Owner groups.

The Taskforce and OGN’s concerns about Council’s proposal

4.23.1 OGN is concerned that the name may create confusion for Emergency Services because “Montague” already exists in Tasmania.

4.23.2 OGN is concerned that the proposed suburb of Montague is not large enough to meet OGN requirements. Council officers have met with OGN and have drafted amended boundaries that address the needs of the OGN. As the current boundaries are set out in the Fishermans Bend Framework, the changes will need to be considered by the State Government. The Taskforce’s priority was the Precinct Plans and they did not formally evaluate the proposed boundary changes.

4.23.3 The Taskforce raised concerns about the timing of the Council’s suburb name change proposal. The Taskforce stated that suburb naming sequentially follows the draft Precinct Implementation Plans which will define the characteristics of the new neighbourhoods, creating a new suburb identity which will inform community engagement on the suburb name. In addition, the Taskforce advised that as part of their engagement, businesses and residents in South Melbourne indicated that their current suburb name “resonates”, is well known and is supported in their community. They stated that any change may cause unnecessary confusion.

4.24 Local Government Victoria will need to survey and confirm the municipal boundaries. The current Gazettal was made in 1994. Since then there has been significant growth and infrastructure development (predominantly the West Gate Freeway). Local Government Victoria will likely require the support of the State Government and OGN to undertake this process. Once approved, OGN will Gazette the new boundaries.

4.25 The suburb name change could occur once the Precinct Plans are in place and there have been further discussions with the State Government and the OGN on suburb boundary changes and other related matters.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

5.1 Contributors to the Fishermans Bend Community Forum review included the Taskforce and Forum members who were sent an email invitation to complete a survey.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The statutory requirements for the suburb name change will require legal advice.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 The community engagement process required for the suburb name change will require additional Council resources due to the scale of the community engagement required.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 There are no known environmental impacts.

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9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 9.1 The proposed changes to the Fishermans Bend Community Forum Terms of Reference could enhance Council's capacity to engage with the community.

10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 10.1 Strategic Direction 4 – We are growing and keeping our character.

11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

11.1 TIMELINE

- 11.2 Subject to Council endorsement, Council officers will take the next steps:

11.2.1 notify Forum members of the amended Terms of Reference

11.2.2 work with the Fishermans Bend Forum/State Government to establish the next forum meeting date and agenda; and

11.2.3 update the Council Actions Report to reflect Council's decision on the suburb name change motion.

11.3 COMMUNICATION

- 11.4 Subject to Council endorsement, Council officers will take the next steps:

11.4.1 notify Community Forum members of the Council Report and amendments to the Terms of Reference.

11.4.2 publish the amended Terms of Reference on Council's website.

11.4.3 promote the next Community Forum and through Council channels.

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. Attachment 1 - Amended Terms of Reference Fishermans Bend Community Forum August 2019**
- 2. Attachment 2 - Suburb naming resolution**
- 3. Attachment 3 - "Steps required for a name review"**