



- 8.1** **FISHERMANS BEND COMMUNITY FORUM - RENEWAL AND REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**
- WARD:** **GATEWAY**
- GENERAL MANAGER:** **CLAIRE FERRES MILES, PLACE STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT**
- PREPARED BY:** **HARRY POLYDOROU, SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER**
CAT MCCONKEY, SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER
- TRIM FILE NO:** **66/18/11**
- ATTACHMENTS:**
- 1. DRAFT Revised Terms of Reference**
 - 2. Fishermans Bend Community Forum member survey results (May 2016)**

PURPOSE

- To consider extending the Fishermans Bend Community Forum until 30 June 2018 and the approval of a revised Terms of Reference for the Fishermans Bend Community Forum.
- To thank and acknowledge the valuable input and contribution of Forum members over the last two years.



I. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1.1 Approves the Terms of Reference provided in Attachment 1; and extend the Fishermans Bend Community Forum until 30 June 2018.
- 1.2 Makes the appointments of the following Councillors as representatives to the Fishermans Bend Community Forum for the next term in the capacity of alternating Chairpersons, unless otherwise determined by Council:
 - Cr David Brand
 - Cr Ogy Simic
 - Cr Bernadene Voss
- 1.3 Renews the current membership of the following representatives to the Fishermans Bend Community Forum:
 - Alex Njoo on behalf of Older Persons Consultative Committee
 - Andrew Willis on behalf of Toyota as a business representative
 - Chris Schwarze as a business representative
 - Bill Fisher on behalf of Beacon Cove Neighbourhood Association
 - Greg Hansen on behalf of the Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society
 - Geoffrey Love on behalf of the Sustainability Community Action Network
 - George Kompos as a Port Melbourne local resident
 - Graham Brawn as an architect and design professional
 - Helen Halliday on behalf of the Fishermans Bend Network
 - Ian Gould on behalf of the Social Health Inclusion Port Project (SHIP)
 - Janet Bolitho on behalf of Port Places
 - Karl Slotboom as a land owner and development industry representative
 - Neil Smith on behalf of Planetshakers Church
 - Richard Roberts on behalf of unChain Inc.
 - Rowan Groves on behalf of Port People Inc.
 - Trisha Avery on behalf of the Montague Community Alliance
 - A selected South Melbourne Primary School representative when in operation.
- 1.4 Appoints the following new members to the Fishermans Bend Community Forum:
 - Alysia Nenna on behalf of Goodman as a land owner and development industry representative
 - Anne Laing on behalf of the City of Melbourne (or other nominated representative)
 - Lucas Riley on behalf of R. Corporation as a land owner and development industry representative
 - Roger Joyce as part of Beacon Cove Neighbourhood Association
- 1.5 Acknowledges that members may be added or removed to the Fishermans Bend Community Forum membership in line with the Terms of Reference for this Forum.
- 1.6 Invites the general public to attend the Fishermans Bend Community Forum as registered observers, in line with the requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference.



- 1.7 Formally thanks and acknowledges the valuable input, contribution and dedicated attendance of Fishermans Bend Community Forum members over the last two years.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 14 October 2014 Council considered a report on Fishermans Bend Development Assessment and Future Community Engagement Process which recommended the establishment of a Community Forum to enhance community engagement. It was noted at the time that a similar Forum operated successfully in the Docklands Precinct.
- 2.2 On 12 May 2015 Council formally recommended that the Fishermans Bend Community Forum (FBCF) be established and appointed members and approved the Terms of Reference for the Forum. This Council Report provides further background on the history of Fishermans Bend and why the FBCF was established at the time.
- 2.3 The FBCF has been in operation for two years, with the first formal Forum commencing on 20 May 2015. A total of fifteen Forums have been held to date, with the last meeting held on 16 March 2017.
- 2.4 On 22 November 2016, Council appointed Councillors as representatives to special committees until the end of the 2017 calendar year. The nominated Councillors for this Forum may be either carried over to complete the term or subject to review in the new calendar year.
- 2.5 During May 2016 officers undertook a survey of the FBCF members to evaluate the performance of the Forum. Positive feedback was received (Attachment 2) and discussed further in section 5.3 of this report.
- 2.6 At the Forum of 16 March 2017 the renewal of the Forum and review of Terms of Reference was outlined.

3. KEY INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Forum is not a decision making body nor has any decision making power, however, decisions made by Council or by officers under delegation are informed by an analysis of community views.
- 3.2 The purpose of the Fishermans Bend Community Forum is to:
- 3.2.1 Provide a regular, scheduled opportunity for two-way dialogue between our community and Council. This includes the mutual sharing of information, ideas and perspectives relevant to Fishermans Bend with a commitment to:
- 3.2.1.1 draw on the expertise and knowledge of the community in their various capacities;
- 3.2.1.2 facilitate meaningful dialogue between Councillors/officers and constituents;
- 3.2.1.3 engage with the community to maximise feedback to achieve open and inclusive decision making; and



- 3.2.1.4 use feedback from the community to help inform Council decision making.
- 3.2.2 Inform the community on key projects and initiatives undertaken in the Fishermans Bend either by Council and/or State agencies.
- 3.2.3 Provide regular updates to the community on statutory planning applications and decisions in Fishermans Bend, particularly where Council is the Responsible Authority.
- 3.3 The outcomes of Forum discussions will be considered:
 - 3.3.1 by Council officers as feedback and will not be noted as formal recommendations; and
 - 3.3.2 as the views of representatives of the community that contributes to Council's input to the Fishermans Bend Taskforce and/or other State Government Agencies.
- 3.4 The FBCF is proposed to be renewed until 30 June 2018. At the end of this term, Council will review the need for and purpose of the Forum and may choose to renew the Forum for a further term.
- 3.5 The FBCF is proposed to meet bi-monthly. Any alteration of this frequency will involve consultation with Councillors representing the Forum and Forum members.
- 3.6 Conduct principles for Forum members are outlined in the Terms of Reference.
- 3.7 With the Fishermans Bend Recast process well underway, there may need to be a review of the operation of the Forum during its term particularly if the Fishermans Bend Taskforce is disbanded and the project moves towards an implementation phase. This flexibility has been included in the Terms of Reference in order to evolve and adapt the Forum to remain functional and relevant over time.
- 3.8 During the life of the Forum membership may alter. New members may be added or removed in line with the Terms of Reference.
- 3.9 Representatives from the Fishermans Bend Taskforce and other relevant organisations and agencies may be invited to attend Forum meetings for the purposes of providing information or updates.
- 3.10 The FBCF will provide a defined membership group rather than open membership in order to effectively coordinate the meeting and disseminate information to the nominated representative's community networks.
- 3.11 A new change to the Forum arrangements will involve the general public being invited to attend the FBCF as registered observers. A question and answer time for the general public will be made available during the Forum through the Chair.
- 3.12 The venue location for the FBCF (currently held at the North Port Oval in Fishermans Bend) could be potentially altered during the term, after consultation with Forum members, with the option to host the event at the new community rooms available at the new South Melbourne Primary School site in the Montague precinct (if and when available and operational).



FURTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 4.1 The establishment of the Forum fulfils objectives under “Engaged - A Well Governed City”. The specific objectives achieved by the Forum are:
- 1.1 Provide clear and open communication and engagement that is valued by the community.
 - 1.2 Value transparent processes in Council decision making.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Engagement with the community on Fishermans Bend has been ongoing since it was rezoned in 2012.
- 5.2 The relevant areas across Council who have been involved in the Fishermans Bend Community Forum have been advised of this report which proposes to renew the Forum for a further term.
- 5.3 A survey of Forum members was undertaken in May 2016 to evaluate the performance of the Forum and to understand any opportunities for improvement. The results from this survey were generally positive and several suggestions for improvement provided. The result of this survey are provided in **Attachment I**.
- 5.4 FBCF members and new interested parties were contacted on 21 and 31 March 2017 to inform them of this report and to notify that unless Council was advised otherwise, their membership to the Forum would be rolled-over to the proposed new term. Nominations and suggestions from existing members to expand the Forum was invited until 11 April 2017. The following new members have been recruited to the Forum:
- 5.4.1 Alysia Nenna (Senior Manager Urban Renewal) from Goodman as a major land owner and development industry representative. Goodman are the land owners of approximately 35 hectares of land within Fishermans Bend.
 - 5.4.2 Anne Laing on behalf of the City of Melbourne.
 - 5.4.3 Lucas Riley on behalf of R. Corporation as a land owner and development industry representative. R. Corporation currently hold a large potential re-development site on Normanby Road.
 - 5.4.4 Roger Joyce as part of the Beacon Cove Neighbourhood Association. Bill Fisher will remain as the formal representative on behalf of the Association.
- 5.5 As the City of Melbourne has been re-engaged to attend the Forum as a member, they will provide updates (when relevant) in relation to the Lorimer and Employment Precinct.
- 5.6 Feedback on the draft Terms of Reference for the new term of the FBCF was sought from 31 March 2017 to 11 April 2017 from all involved. Further feedback may be received and tabled at the Ordinary Meeting of Council which considers this item. The following feedback was received:



- 5.6.1 Presentations could be sent in advance to enable more feedback at meetings.
- 5.6.2 Recommend and support opening up the Forum for the general public to attend with the opportunity for a Question and Answer time to be provided.
- 5.6.3 Opening up the Forum for the general public to attend seems to duplicate the format of a Council Meeting.
- 5.6.4 The current arrangements regarding attendance (rather than an open format) is considered to be effective and manageable, and enables a cross section of local community members to participate. Members report back to the broader groups they represent.
- 5.6.5 Opening up the Forum to the general public may create a town hall format and could place Forum members in a position of having to field a number of questions, potentially on broader issues.
- 5.6.6 Due to concerns raised regarding the open format (outlined in 5.6.3 to 5.6.5) invited attendees such as those from State agencies may review their attendance on a meeting by meeting basis.
- 5.6.7 Associations find the Forum to be of great value.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The FBCF provides the opportunity to engage with the community regarding Fishermans Bend in an open and transparent manner. This delivers Council's engagement commitments outlined in the Council Plan.
- 6.2 As there are limited notice requirements or third party appeal rights as part of the development assessment process, Council is able to gauge community input as part of the decision making process and planning outcomes via the FBCF.
- 6.3 Council has the option to discontinue the Forum as part of this renewal and review period should it feel the Forum's purpose has been served over the past two years. Furthermore, it has the opportunity to alter the Terms of Reference at this stage.

7. SUSTAINABILITY – Triple Bottom Line

7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1.1 Environmental information is shared and discussed at the FBCF including the dissemination of ideas and feedback when received. On occasion the community input and knowledge is requested to inform environmental studies undertaken in Fishermans Bend.

7.2 SOCIAL & CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.2.1 The Forum seeks to engage with a wide section of the community to represent a variety of interests associated with a renewal precinct of State and National significance.

7.3 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

- 7.3.1 Business representatives form part of the Forum and share their experience, including the impacts of Fishermans Bend undergoing renewal.



7.3.2 Since the Forum was originally created two years ago, the Employment Precinct has been formally added to the renewal area and the implications of this are of interest to the Forum and the broader community. Furthermore, the Government has announced during this time the purchase of the GM Holden site at 241 Salmon Street Port Melbourne.

7.4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.4.1 The Fishermans Bend Program has a budget and resource capacity to operate the FBCF until the end of June 2017.

7.4.2 Budget to continue the operation of the Forum has been included in the Draft 17/18 Budget as part of Community Engagement within the Fishermans Bend Program. This budget allocation will support the operation of the Forum for the next term (until end of June 2018).

7.4.3 Each Forum meeting is estimated to cost \$1k to host. These costs may increase to meet the requirements of opening up the Forum for the general public to attend.

8. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

8.1 TIMELINE

8.1.1 The Forum will continue to operate bi-monthly unless otherwise determined in consultation with Forum members.

8.1.2 Should the Forum be renewed, the approved Terms of Reference will be circulated to Members.

8.1.3 The next Forum is currently scheduled for Thursday 1 June 2017.

8.2 COMMUNICATION

8.2.1 Council officers communicate with Forum members via email and telephone to provide agenda's and copies of presentations for upcoming meetings.

8.2.2 Council's website will provide provision for the FBCF in order to keep the general public up to date on the next Forum meeting, including a copy of the agenda when available.

8.2.3 The Forum provides a means for relevant information to be disseminated and shared within the networks of groups represented by members.

8.2.4 Meeting summaries will be prepared and sent to Forum members only, in accordance with the Terms of Reference.

8.2.5 Upon registration, any observers attending the Forum will be asked if they wish to be kept up to date on Fishermans Bend and if they consent to their details being passed to the Fishermans Bend Taskforce for E-newsletter updates etc.



9. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

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