

# CONFIDENTIAL MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL

## 3 DECEMBER 2025



### 17.1 EILDON ROAD CHILDCARE CENTRE - APPOINTMENT OF BUILDER

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** **PAUL WOOD, ACTING GENERAL MANAGER, CITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

**PREPARED BY:** **TERRENCE LE, PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE  
ANTHONY SAVENKOV, HEAD OF REAL ESTATE PORTFOLIO  
(DEVELOPMENT & TRANSACTIONS)**

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To recommend awarding the tender for construction works at 17 Eildon Road St, Kilda (occupied by Eildon Road Childcare and Kindergarten) to builder 2|Morro Group Pty Ltd.

#### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Over the next four years Council is upgrading six children's centres it owns. This is to improve the functionality of those facilities and to ensure ongoing delivery of quality children's centres, and is in accordance with Council's resolution of 17 August 2022, and *Plan for Port Phillip 2025-35*.
- 2.2 The first of the developments scheduled for construction is 17 Eildon Road, St Kilda – occupied by Eildon Road Childcare and Kindergarten.
- 2.3 The construction work comprises partial demolition of the existing building, maintenance of the existing heritage façade during construction, and refurbishment and construction of a new childcare building, including all associated landscaping and services connections.
- 2.4 To procure the construction works, officers have undertaken a comprehensive, open market request for tender process, in accordance with Council's procurement policies, and supported by a specialist probity advisor.
- 2.5 The Request for Tender (000377, Eildon Road Childcare) opened on 18 September 2025 and closed on 23 October 2025. It was advertised on Council's Tenders webpage, and on its procurement portal Tenderlink.
- 2.6 Eight tenders were received and evaluated.
- 2.7 The Tender Evaluation Panel (TEP) determined that, following a comprehensive assessment as outlined in this report and detailed in Confidential Attachment 1, that the tender of 2|Morro Group Pty Ltd represents best value.
- 2.8 The works are to predominantly be delivered as a lump sum within the contract sum.

#### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Enters into Contract AS-2025 General conditions of contract in connection with a Childcare Centre at 17 Eildon Road, St Kilda with 2|Morro Group Pty Ltd for the amount of \$3,371,779 inclusive of GST. This contract sum includes provisional sums of \$198,853 inclusive of GST.

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- 3.2 Notes that additionally, the contract includes a performance linked financial incentive, detailed in Confidential Attachment 1.
- 3.3 Notes the provisional sum on-costs and the contingency sum outlined in Confidential Attachment 1.
- 3.4 Approves the performance linked incentive, the provisional sum on-costs and the proposed contingency, which are not part of the award sum, but are included in the contract record internally for efficient delegated approvals of payment.
- 3.5 Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or their delegate, to execute the Contract Document on behalf of Council.
- 3.6 Authorises the release of this report (without its attachments) following execution of the contract.

### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

- 4.1 The Request for Tender 000377 Eildon Road Childcare was advertised on Tenderlink from 18 September 2025 and closed on 23 October 2025. The following is a summary of the procurement process with the detailed Tender Evaluation Report provided as Confidential Attachment 1.
- 4.2 The conditions of contract are based on the AS400-2025 Construct Only Contract published by Standards Australia and modified by City of Port Phillip.
- 4.3 The request for tender process has been conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic) (the Act) and Council's Procurement Policy and is part of broader program of governance that includes the Children's Facilities Project Control Group (PCG).
- 4.4 In accordance with the Procurement Policy, City of Port Phillip appointed an independent probity advisor for the procurement. Council has abided by the ethics and probity requirements of the Procurement Policy, including implementing an Evaluation Plan and Probity Plan.
- 4.5 As part of preparations for the release of tender, a comprehensive technical review was carried out of the tender documentation.
- 4.6 A Tender Evaluation Panel (TEP) was convened to undertake the evaluation of the tenders against the established evaluation criteria. The composition of the TEP is included in Confidential Attachment 1.
- 4.7 All TEP members signed the declaration forms and confirmed that they would keep the tender information confidential. Any potential conflicts were reviewed by the probity advisor who undertook a risk assessment and provided agreed mitigations.
- 4.8 Prior to the tenders being advertised, the evaluation criteria and weightings were established. The details are shown in Table 1 (below).

Mandatory Criteria	
Building Practitioner Registration, either: • Commercial Builder (Unlimited); or	Pass/Fail

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial Builder (Limited to the construction of medium rise building work); or</li> <li>Commercial Builder (Limited to the construction of low-rise building work).</li> </ul>	
Carried out or managed the building of a childcare or early education facility in Victoria within the past ten years.	Pass/Fail
An established Occupational Health & Safety Management system.	Pass/Fail
Weighted Criteria	% Weighting
Financial Offer	40%
Other Commercial Terms	15%
Capacity & Resourcing	15%
Relevant Experience	15%
Methodology	15%

*Table 1 – Mandatory and Weighted Criteria*

4.9 In accordance with Council's Procurement Procedures, additional Commercial Criteria were included to manage risk associated with tender submissions.

4.10 The Commercial Criterion were evaluated through the evaluation process, as per the Procedures and as outlined in the tender Conditions of Participation. These are detailed in Table 2 (below).

Criterion	Assessment
Insurance in accordance with the Response Schedules	Acceptable or Not Acceptable
Corporate Social Responsibility	Acceptable or Not Acceptable
Third-Party Financial Assessment	Acceptable or Not Acceptable

*Table 2 – Commercial Criteria*

4.11 Eight tenders were received in response to RFT000377. Each tender met the mandatory criteria and were evaluated.

4.12 Following an initial review, each tenderer achieved a rating of acceptable in relation to each commercial criterion.

4.13 Following detailed evaluation, the TEP shortlisted four tenderers. There was a clear break between their scores and those of the other tenderers.

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- 4.14 Following more detailed review, the TEP determined that the third-party financial assessment for one of the shortlisted tenderers was not acceptable, and they were excluded from further assessment.
- 4.15 The TEP then sought further clarification from the remaining shortlisted tenderers. Following this, the TEP did not revise their scores.
- 4.16 The consensus score for the remaining shortlisted tenderers was as follows:

<i>Tenderer (overall score – highest to lowest)</i>	<i>Financial offer score (out of 40)</i>	<i>Qualitative score (out of 60)</i>	<i>Overall score (out of 100)</i>
A	40.0	42.3	82.3
B	34.5	41.7	76.2
C	33.3	41.5	74.8

- 4.17 The tenderer with the highest overall score was Tenderer A, 2|Morro Group Pty Ltd.
- 4.18 Following further clarification and a Best and Final Offer, the TEP recommended the selection of 2|Morro Group Pty Ltd as the preferred tenderer.

## 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 Relevant Council departments were consulted in the development of specifications and evaluation criteria, and preparation of the procurement plan, and evaluation and probity plan.
- 5.2 In reviewing the specification and contract, Council officers engaged subject matter experts to provide documentation review.
- 5.3 Officers will continue to engage and collaborate with relevant internal and external stakeholders throughout the construction process.

## 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 In accordance with the Act and Council's Policy, opportunities for collaborative procurement for this Request for Tender were considered but deemed not practicable due to the specific nature of the works being procured coupled with the priority to release the tender to the market.
- 6.2 The Procurement Policy allows for a total 15% maximum variation delegation for foreseeable events. Any variations above this would require further Council approval.
- 6.3 A performance security is required to the value of two bank guarantees 5% of contract value covering defaults by the contractor. The recommended tenderer has agreed to provide the required surety.
- 6.4 As part of the procurement process, tenderers' compliance or degree of acceptance of Council's draft contract conditions was factored into the assessment. The recommended tenderer has no proposed departures from Council's proposed contract conditions.
- 6.5 The tendering process was conducted according to the provisions of the Act and Council's Procurement Policy and was overseen by probity specialist Brian Ambler

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from HWL Ebsworth. A copy of the probity report is appended to this report as Confidential Attachment 2.

6.6 The contractor is only paid for the work completed to the contracted standard. Any non-conformances identified by the third-party superintendent will result in the contractor not being paid for the work until it is completed to the service standards outlined in the contract. This process mitigates the risk of contractors not performing works to the contracted standards.

### 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 The proposed Contract Sum is \$3,371,779 inclusive of GST.

7.2 The contract value is within budget for the Eildon Road Childcare project.

### 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 The contractor is required to perform its obligations under the contract in a manner to support the project objectives, including to minimise any negative impact on the environment, and to minimise the carbon footprint, both in construction and for its operation.

8.2 Tenderers' compliance or degree of acceptance of such contractual requirements were factored into the assessment.

8.3 The preferred tenderer has no proposed departures from these proposed contract conditions.

### 9. COMMUNITY IMPACT

9.1 Following a comprehensive review of childcare facilities in 2019 and subsequent community consultation in 2021, Council took onboard feedback from the community and committed to partnering with the Victorian Government to redevelop six children's centres it owns to make them fit for purpose now and for future generations of children.

9.2 Aided by the Victorian Government's pledge to provide funding support to assist Council in bringing these facilities up to standard, Port Phillip is investing in substantial upgrades to these facilities.

9.3 The redevelopment supports the Best Start Best Life reforms that will see an increase in demand for kindergarten places that will increase to 30 hours of free kindergarten education in the year before school for all 4-year-old children.

9.4 The award of this tender will deliver an upgrade to the Eildon Road Childcare and Kindergarten for the ongoing provision of childcare and kindergarten.

9.5 To support the ongoing operation of the service during the upgrade, from 2026 it will be relocating its programs from 17 Eildon Road, St Kilda to the North St Kilda Children's Centre at 71 Argyle Street, St Kilda.

9.6 Eildon Road Childcare and Kindergarten will continue to operate independently during this time, offering education and care to all their families.

9.7 The Committee of Management at Eildon Road Childcare and Kindergarten are working with Council to ensure all families are supported in this relocation.

9.8 The contractor is required to perform its obligations under the contract in a manner to support the project objectives, including to conduct the project in a manner that is respectful of neighbours and others in the vicinity, to ensure all conduct on and around

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the project is professional, courteous and respectful, and to minimise any negative impact on the amenity of the surrounding area.

- 9.9 As with environmental impact, tenderers' compliance or degree of acceptance of such contractual requirements were factored into the assessment.
- 9.10 The preferred tenderer has no proposed departures from these proposed contract conditions.
- 9.11 Additionally, tenderers were required to disclose their dealings with and involvement in specific industries – including tobacco, gambling, offshore detention, armaments, and entertainment involving animals, including horse and greyhound racing. The acceptability of responses was assessed for their lack of involvement with such industries.

## 10. GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 No gender assessment was conducted for this procurement project.

## 11. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 11.1 The proposal to award this tender aligns to the following Council Plan Strategic Directions and Council Policy:
  - 11.1.1 *A healthy and connected community*: this tender supports Council's priority to upgrade six children's services centres to improve functionality and ensure ongoing delivery of quality services.
  - 11.1.2 *A trusted and high-performing organisation*: this tender enhances the condition, functionality, sustainability, accessibility, and safety of a Council building to meet customer and compliance requirements.
  - 11.1.3 *Every Child, Our Future Children's Services Policy (2020)*: this tender supports the delivery of and investment in children's services.

## 12. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### Timeline

- 12.1 City of Port Phillip has appointed a project manager and superintendent to manage the works contract.
- 12.2 Key milestone timelines for the works project are as follows:

Date	Activity
December 2025	Contract execution
February 2026	Construction commencement
November 2026	Practical completion
18 months after practical completion	Defects liability period complete

### COMMUNICATION

- 12.3 All tenderers have been informed that this matter is being considered by Council. Subject to the decision of Council, all tenderers will be informed of the outcome and, as

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per Council's procurement practice, those that are unsuccessful will be granted the opportunity to debrief with the panel.

### 13. OFFICER MATERIAL OR GENERAL INTEREST

13.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report has declared a material or general interest in the matter.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. *Confidential:* Tender Evaluation Report
2. *Confidential:* Probity Confirmation