



CEO Report JUL 2021

Volume 78

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-

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land. We pay our respect to their Elders, both past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

Welcome to our refreshed CEO Report



Peter Smith
CEO - City of Port Phillip

We hope you enjoy this updated report format, designed to bring clearer monthly updates to you, our community. I'll still be updating you with the main things Council has focused on each month, but in a shorter, sharper way – with an extended performance report available quarterly.

I look forward to keeping you up-to-date with all the things we've been doing, together with your support, to keep this beautiful City of ours inclusive, liveable, sustainable, vibrant and well-governed.

New Council Plan 2021–2031

Council has released its new plan, developed with lots of community input. It outlines, over three volumes, what Council and our community want to our City and how we plan to achieve it. In particular, it sets out five key **Strategic Directions** to guide and deliver on priorities and actions over the next 10 years. They are for our City to **be Inclusive, Liveable, Sustainable, Vibrant and Well-Governed**. We are looking forward to delivering on the Council and community vision and plan. Read the Council Plan 2021–2031.

Proudly Port Phillip

At the heart of our new plan is a new **Community Vision** informed by consultation with our community. It is that we are **Proudly Port Phillip – A liveable and vibrant City that enhances the wellbeing of our community**. With brilliant opportunities but also complex challenges ahead of us at this time in our history, we hope this shared aspiration will help us continue to work together as we bring it to life. Read more about the new Port Phillip Community Vision.

A faster, simpler and better customer experience

You may have read lately that we're improving our technology and your experience through our new **Customer Experience Program**. This will mean faster, simpler and better systems



Local family spending time outdoors

to help Council staff and our community get things done. It also means reduced paper forms and manual processes, and improved communications and collaboration. As part of the program, we've expanded our **OneCouncil** processes and systems and launched our new online service, **My Port Phillip**.

The updated OneCouncil processes cover areas including customer request management, rates and billing, debtor management, cash receipting, property and lease management, planning and building, animal management, permits, infringements, enforcement and records management. Within this, My Port Phillip is a secure online self-service for you to make and see your Council service requests, applications, payments, and progress updates, in one place, anytime and anywhere. Go to My Port Phillip.

The experience so far

On day 1 of implementing the new systems, we processed our first customer receipt at the St Kilda Town Hall before 9 am. Since then, we've seen 7,000 customer requests and 3,700 applications lodged. At the end of week three, we already have 2,479 registered users of My Port Phillip. We will continue to promote and engage with the community through rates notices, social media, libraries, our website, on the phones and at our service counters on the benefits of being a registered user of My Port Phillip.

Issue resolution, improvements and optimisation

As more of us start to use these new systems, there'll potentially be things we need to fine-tune. For example, while our staff have done an incredible amount of training, they'll also be doing some learning on the job. So things might take a little longer at first. This might also be true for you.

We know it'll be a learning curve, but also that we have the right people and processes in place to support this and resolve issues that might arise.

Over the coming six weeks, we will be heavily supporting our people and community to help make this as seamless as possible. Support for the community includes ASSIST, responding to customers to help them find their way around the system and complete transactions. We will also be actively implementing the remaining work and resolving any bugs that may come up. After that, the next six to nine

months will see us implementing upgrades, enhancements and continuous improvements that respond to staff and customer feedback on how we can make things even better. This also ensures we continue to optimise the world-class processes and systems we've been implementing.

We thank you for your patience, and can't wait for you to experience the results.

COVID update

Relief and response

We are continuing to work with our community sector partners to support people during COVID, especially during lockdowns. This has included additional funding for the Port Phillip Community Group's **Share the Food** program, which provides food parcels, personal care packs and prepared meals for people in isolation and needing assistance. The group has also responded to many direct requests for food relief, including through other support services helping the more vulnerable within our community. Council has contributed \$180,000 to support food relief across the 2020/21 – 2022/21 financial years to date.

We've also worked with Star Health on the **High Risk Accommodation Response Project** to prevent and prepare for COVID-19 outbreaks in places such as our public housing estates and rooming houses. This included providing daily food relief and personal care items for residents of a Community Housing facility in St Kilda who were required to isolate for 14 days. Council staff participated in daily incident management meetings to help manage the site and to reduce COVID risks to the wider St Kilda area.

We've also made available tailored information on COVID vaccinations for various groups, including our multicultural communities.

I want to thank our staff and partners for their dedication in supporting and responding to the community at this challenging time.

Support for residents at 181 Fitzroy Street - Tier 1 site in lockdown

We arranged for twice-daily dog walking for residents at 181 Fitzroy Street, a property classified as a Tier 1 site and in lockdown for a period of time. Council staff also took part in resident forums and daily incident management team meetings to monitor the situation, respond to residents' needs and

support the Department of Health teams on site. After extensive COVID testing, the property was downgraded to Tier 2, allowing residents to leave the building.

Recent COVID incidents

South Melbourne Market was declared a Tier 1 exposure site. We were able to have it deep-cleaned in 10 hours, so that traders and the community could access this important market again quickly.

We've also recently responded to COVID outbreaks and growing concern with transmission risks across Port Phillip, and in particular, St Kilda. Our Emergency Management Team and other staff have helped the Victorian Government and community agencies keep our community safe, and our communications and media teams have worked hard to keep the community informed on our website. Read our Port Phillip COVID-19 page for the latest updates.

New COVID testing and vaccination sites

After requests from the Department of Health, the South East Public Health Unit (Monash Health) and Star Health, we gave logistics support and quick approvals to set up new COVID testing and vaccination sites.

This included a testing site outside the St Kilda Town Hall to respond to the East St Kilda outbreak, with testing staff having strictly controlled access to one set of dedicated toilets in the hall only. We've also had drive-through and walk-up testing on the Triangle site next to the Palais Theatre, a walk-up vaccination site at Peanut Farm Reserve, and smaller pop-up testing sites at each end of Grey Street. Finally, there's been mobile testing in car parks near Acland Street and Fitzroy Street to make it easier for traders to be tested, and testing of clients and staff at the Grey Street support services attended by a person who was a known positive case.



Covid testing at the Palais Theatre

A city that is a place for all members of our community, where people feel supported and comfortable being themselves and expressing their identities.

Annual Community Grants Program

We opened our **Annual Community Grants Program** for applications, inviting projects and programs that enhance community connections and support.

In July, we ran two grant information sessions online to give an overview of eligibility and assessment criteria, program objectives, and the Council Plan 2021–31 priorities. We also ran two grant-writing workshops, offering an interactive space for participants to up-skill and strengthen their proposals and applications.

Council recycles decommissioned computers to Suai in Covalima, East Timor

Since 2000, we've had a formal commitment to support our friendship between communities in Port Phillip and the city of Suai in the Covalima district of East Timor. So, as part of Council's computer disposal program, decommissioned computer equipment is shipped to Suai. In July, 20 computers reached Suai, and a further 85 computers will be sent in August.

Coordinated through the **Friends of Suai/Covalima**, the equipment is sent by shipping container to Dili, through the Rotary Donations in Kind program, then transported to the Covalima Community Centre. The Centre operates an IT social enterprise that delivers IT training and sells the second-hand computers. It generates income to employ four staff and is the main supplier of second-hand computers and IT training in the district.

Community engagement for Accessibility Action Plan

Through the Accessibility Action Plan, Council supports actions that foster access for and inclusion of people with disability. We work for equitable participation in the City of Port Phillip and the community.

Community consultation for the new Accessibility Action Plan (2022 – 2024) has now closed (three online chat forum sessions were held during this community consultation). The new plan will be a three-year plan, 2022 – 2024. It will cover multiple actions for different areas, developed in close collaboration with stakeholders across the organisation. A draft plan will be developed and the community will be invited to provide feedback on this late January/February 2022.

The Access and Inclusion Plan 2019–2021 Status Report is available on the Council website. Read the Access and Inclusion Plan, or read the Easy English version of the Access and Inclusion Plan.

Reconciliation Action Plan

Council is finalising the evaluation of its second **Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)**. The RAP is made up of 20 actions across reconciliation themes of relationships, respect, opportunities and tracking progress and reporting.

This work coincides with our partnership with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, which is investigating models that support self-determination, program planning and cultural gathering in the inner urban south. The findings of this research will provide strong foundations for Council's third Reconciliation Action Plan.

Gender Equality Action Plan

Council is required to prepare a **Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP)** by March 2022. This includes an audit to inform the priority actions in the Plan. The audit has been progressed this month, with Councillors and staff to be consulted over the next two months.

A city that is a great place to live, where our community has access to high quality public spaces, development and growth are well-managed, and it is safer and easy to connect and travel within.

Public place strategy

Council is developing a new public space strategy that provides the vision for the future of our City's public spaces. We are expecting to present to Council by end of year.

The strategy outlines the challenges, outcomes and actions required to realise the full potential of Port Phillip's already enviable public space network of parks, gardens, streets, the foreshore, and urban plazas. It is one of Council's core strategies and informs our ongoing planning and investment in public spaces.

New outdoor fitness station in Elwood

We recently unveiled a new outdoor fitness station at the end of Elwood Beach. The fitness station includes static, dynamic, kinetic and weight-based fitness equipment.

Key features of the design include:

- seats
- lawn restoration
- floor exercise areas
- equipment to suit all abilities
- restored foreshore garden planting
- new bin enclosure, beach shower and a drinking fountain
- improved access to the footpath and equipment through accessible ramps

Elwood foreshore sports lighting

Construction has started on the Elwood foreshore lighting upgrade. The upgrade will use the latest high-performance, LED and dimming technology. This will use less power, eliminate upward light and increase lamp life. This then reduces maintenance.

The pole locations, motion sensors and centralised programming will allow for lighting to be focused directly on the sports ground area. This allows light distribution to be precisely controlled, eliminating light pollution to surrounding properties. A lighting plan has been developed to efficiently light the sportsground, meeting current needs and future standards.

The lights will also be angled to achieve the minimum 100 lux lighting average across the



Elwood Fitness station

sports grounds, which meets State Sporting Association minimum standards.



Elwood foreshore sports lighting

Sanitary bins at sporting pavilions

Council is continuing to encourage participation in sport for all people, with a range of initiatives. Unfortunately, 1 in 2 girls drop out of sports by the age of 15, with one contributing factor being feeling uncomfortable exercising once they get their period.

So, we have recently partnered with Adidas and TOM organics to launch a series of pad and tampon stations in sports facilities throughout our City. The dispensers are easy to set up, made of 100% recyclable fibres and placed in the bathrooms and removed and recycled when empty. Previously the sanitary bins had been provided in public toilets only, but we felt it was important they were in sport change room facilities too.

We hope that this trial of the bins is successful and well received, with ongoing costs becoming part of BAU.



RF Julier Reserve netball court lighting

New netball court lighting for RF Julier Reserve

Earlier in the year, outside of COVID lockdowns, the Port Melbourne Netball Club hosted a community event for local netballers to officially turn on the switch for the new netball court lighting at RF Julier Reserve. This new sports lighting means the netball club can safely host training sessions here, without needing to travel to other venues with lights.

Marlborough Street community housing

Council is committed to supporting the development of affordable housing in Port Phillip. We are pleased to be partnering with both HousingFirst and the Victorian Government to build this community housing complex, close to shops and public transport while retaining a public carpark.

Location

46 to 58 Marlborough Street, Balaclava

Cost

This project has been funded under the Victorian Government’s \$2.7 billion Building Works Package announced in July 2020 which includes nearly \$500 million for public and community housing initiatives to boost the economy and create thousands of jobs across the state. Council has donated Council-owned land at 46-58 Marlborough Street (including a public carpark), to HousingFirst, a community housing organisation, to develop this project.

Construction commencement

Construction began on 1 June and will run for approximately 18 months.

The project builder, Buxton Construction, shall minimise disruption to residents and businesses directly impacted throughout the construction period. This includes minimising noise and disturbance, maintaining safe access to residences, keeping the site clean and tidy, providing notices for any authority interruptions and temporary road closures.

Temporary carpark closure

The Marlborough Street carpark will be closed and operating as a construction site during the building construction period. This is a temporary loss of parking. Once the housing has been completed, a public carpark will again be available on this site, reinstated in the basement of the building. The carpark will incorporate environmental design factors, providing good lighting and access, and provide 39 spaces.

Sustainable

A city that has a sustainable future, where our environmentally aware and active community benefits from living in a bayside city that is greener, cooler, cleaner and climate resilient.

Climate Emergency Steering Committee & climate risk management

In September 2019, the City of Port Phillip declared a **climate emergency**. We stated that climate change poses a serious risk to Australians – including those living in Port Phillip – and should be treated as an emergency.

Council officers are now focused on embedding the declaration in all relevant policies and strategies, ensuring the impact of climate change is considered when planning and making decisions. It is also seeking opportunities to highlight the emergency with governments and supporting the community to take their own actions.

Council's Climate Emergency Steering Committee is a whole-of-organisation group that leads the organisation's response to the climate emergency. Its purpose is to guide and oversee our actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change and transform water management.

The committee oversees delivery of the Sustainable Port Phillip strategic direction of the Council Plan and Council's Act and Adapt, Sustainable Environment Strategy. These outline Council's commitments to environmental sustainability in the short-term and over the next ten years.

The **Climate Emergency Steering Committee** meets monthly to:

- Provide co-ordination of strategic priorities related to sustainability
- share information and identify opportunities across the organisation to help us and our

community mitigate and adapt to climate change

- increase the capability of the organisation to address climate change risk and embed sustainability into organisational culture and practice.

Partnerships

Small businesses in the City will have an opportunity to save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the Victorian Government's Small Business Energy Saver Program.

The program will provide small businesses (fewer than 20 employees) with rebates covering 85–95% of the cost of upgrading to energy efficient appliances. This includes upgrading hot water systems, air conditioners, ventilation, fridges, freezers, and water-efficient appliances.

This grant program will be facilitated by the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) who received grant funding to roll out the program in Port Phillip and other member-council areas. SECCCA officers will proactively engage with small businesses between October 2021 and May 2022, and will support them to identify energy and cost saving initiatives and assist in submitting applications for Victorian Government funding.

Installing these upgrades will result in Port Phillip businesses reducing emissions, increasing resilience to the changing climate and save money on utility bills. Reducing upfront costs also provides small business owners with the opportunity to use the savings to invest in their business.

More information about this program can be found on SECCCA's website, where business owners can also contact a SECCCA officer directly.

'Don't Waste It!' strategy

The 'Don't Waste It!': Waste Management Strategy 2018–2028 aims to reduce waste going to landfill through:

- kerbside and public place recycling
- hard waste and green waste collection



Don't Waste It Bins

- operating the Resource Recovery Centre and waste education
- providing additional waste management services through kerbside refuse services and removal of waste from street litter bins.

Review of waste management strategy

Council is reviewing its waste strategy. The intent of the Waste Strategy is to outline steps Council will take to adapt and evolve these services to meet economic, environmental, financial and social challenges, achieve legislative compliance and better meet the community's expectations.

COVID-19 and accompanying restrictions have had a big impact on waste and recycling in the City. Many have had to work or study from home, or have unfortunately lost their job. More people at home saw an increase in kerbside garbage and recycling, as well as contamination in recycling bins. This is potentially due to increased online shopping and takeaway food, as well as just needing to prepare more food and drink at home.

These changes, coupled with the new Waste Act 2021, present a timely opportunity to evaluate and refresh Council's waste management strategy, to set out a pathway to confront challenges and realise opportunities in the waste and recycling sector. We'll keep you informed of the review's progress.

Strategic Direction 4

Vibrant

A city that has a flourishing economy, where our community and local businesses thrive, and we maintain and enhance our reputation as one of Melbourne’s cultural and creative hubs.

Cultural Development Fund

The **2021/22 Cultural Development Fund** provides grants to support local artists, groups and arts organisations to develop creative projects that engage and support our arts and creative community through our COVID-19 recovery.

This latest grand round, for which applications have now closed, was open to all art forms and cultural heritage projects. It will assist to develop new work, reconnect with our communities, and celebrate the creative life of the City. The grants will help artists continue to create, maintain connections to the City

and each other, and share work with the community.

Applicants could apply for up to \$12,000 per project, with projects able to occur in public space, venues or online.

Lighting up Ripponlea and Acland St Plaza

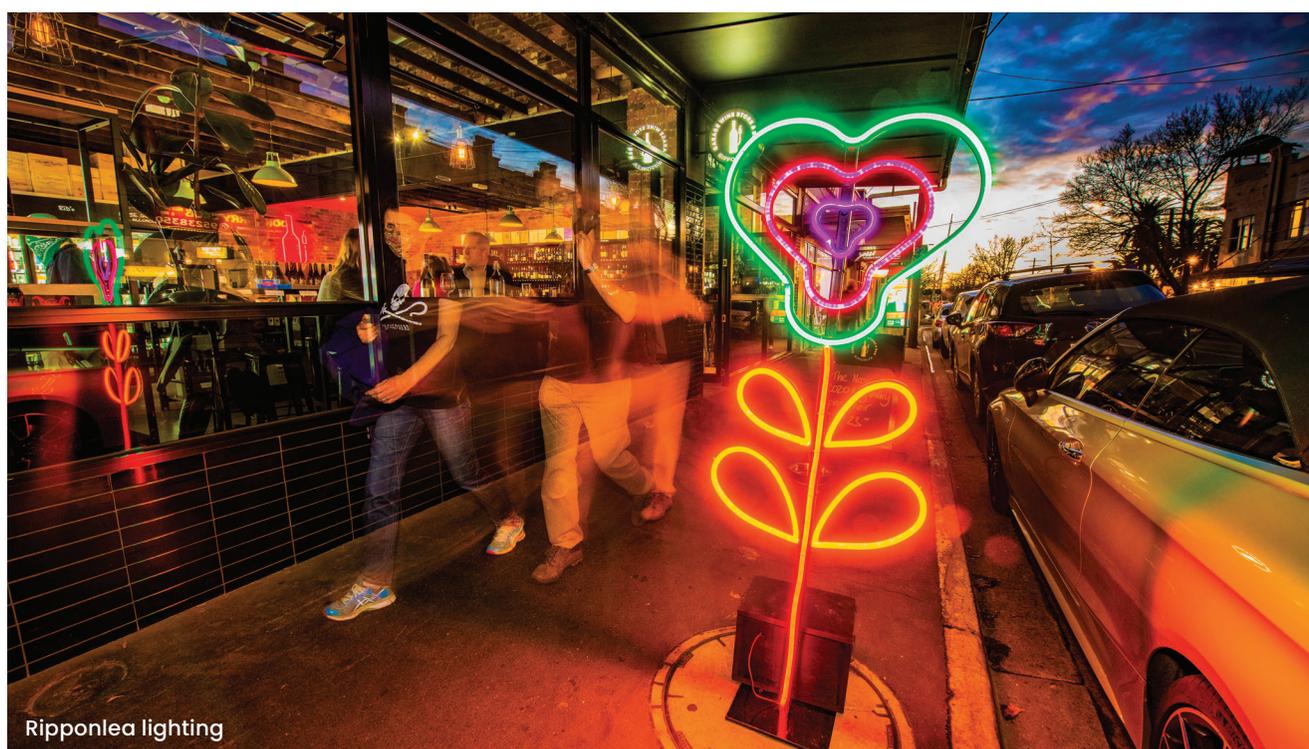
We recently started a program to light up Acland Street and Ripponlea with light sculptures. Unfortunately, the program had to be stopped short due to lockdown, but will be restarting for another two weekends on Acland Street when it is allowed to do so.

The lighting installations were really well received by the community, with comments including:

“Really unexpected, colourful and lifted my spirits coming out of lockdown 4. I SO appreciated it and go out of my way to see it again and again.”

“A beautiful experience for my whole family.”

“Added a bit of joy, colour and vibrancy. Great to see in the street. A good buzz.”



Ripponlea lighting

Business Parklet Program Guidelines

One of the more popular outcomes of the pandemic has been **Parklets**, or parking bays outside of businesses that have been re-purposed to increase footpath trading and provide a safe, physically distanced environment for diners.

Due to the success of Council’s initial trial, we are now developing a **Business Parklet Policy** to guide how we manage Business Parklets in Port Phillip and support local businesses through recovery and beyond. The policy will ensure our streets are vibrant and contribute to the overall wellbeing of the City, while also balancing activation of public spaces with the needs of surrounding businesses and the community.

The policy was open for community consultation throughout the month, and will be presented to Councillors in October.

Small Business Friendly Council Charter

On 18 August, Councillors unanimously voted to sign the Victorian Small Business Commission’s Small Business Friendly Council Charter. The City of Port Phillip becomes the 62nd Victorian Council to do so.

The Small Business Friendly Charter outlines shared goals for the Victorian Small Business Commission (VSBC) and participating local councils in working together to create a fair and competitive trading environment for small businesses. When signing the Charter, local councils are making important commitments, including to:

- pay small business supplier invoices within 14 days
- support local businesses in managing the disruption caused by infrastructure projects
- streamline approval processes for people looking to start a business in the area
- help set up and support local business networks.

Working with event organisers

With the current COVID restrictions, the event team is assisting event producers to move event dates where possible. We are also not requesting payments until we know events can operate.

Once the **Victorian Event Roadmap** is released by the relevant government departments, we will have a better understanding of which events will be able to operate before Christmas.

Expressions of interest for our major events will open in September this year for events held from July 2022 to June 2023.

Live Music Action Plan

Last year, we committed to delivering a four-year Live Music Action Plan. Since then, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused unique and unexpected challenges for our live music sector. As such, we needed to revise the plan to address these challenges and outline what Council will do to future-proof and support live music in our City.

We launched the updated **Live Music Action Plan 2021–2024** in August, with a range of



Local Musician playing electric guitar



Local Musician playing violin



Local Musician playing drum and acoustic guitar

initiatives to support local musicians and music venues impacted by lockdowns.

Also, approval has been given for the Palace Foreshore series of concerts, presented by Live Nation and to be held in the St Kilda Triangle carpark in February/March 2022.

Locals Playing Locals

The Live Music Action Plan also includes a **Locals Playing Locals** database of local musicians. Council will pay the artist fees for eligible venues engaging musicians from the database until 31 December. Port Phillip artists are encouraged to register for the database, which opens after September 2, when current restrictions are due to be lifted. A standard rate of \$250 per musician is available for each performance. For more information, including how to register, go to the List your act page on the Live N Local website.

Please Don't Stop the Music

Council is offering up to \$5000 a week until the end of 2021 to local live music venues and promoters who must cancel gigs due to lockdowns. The support can be used to pay artists and crew who had been booked or for rescheduling costs from now until 31 December. The **Please Don't Stop the Music** lockdown assistance scheme is funded by savings from the cancellation of the 2021 St Kilda Festival, and is part of our Live Music Action Plan. Read more about Please Don't Stop the Music.

Public art contributions

The **Art Planning Scheme** directly contributes to our **Vibrant Port Phillip** strategic direction. Since 2014, 86 developers have funded \$5m worth of public art projects across the City. This is the result of planning permit conditions based on local policy, which in turn is based on the 2002 art strategy.

A great example is the public art being created for the iconic St Kilda development **Saint Moritz**, with installation planned for November 2021 if all goes to schedule. The brief was to develop an artwork concept that was playful and recognised the history of the site and its importance to generations of Melburnians. As commissioned artists Dean Colls and Louise Skacej reflected:

"The site's history as the Saint Moritz ice rink is legendary and everyone that we have mentioned the project to has a story to tell or a memory to share. These considerations resonated with us, our own family histories, and our desire to produce a major public artwork for the site that is optimistic and uplifting. Having been distantly involved in the restoration of Mr Moon at Luna Park, we are keenly aware of St Kilda's reputation as 'The Playground of Melbourne'. It's a place and lifestyle that appeals across all socioeconomic backgrounds. If ever there was a stage on which we might make a grand and playful gesture this is it!"



Installation plan

Well-Governed

A City that is a leading local government authority, where our community and our organisation are in a better place as a result of our collective efforts.

Gold annual report award

For the fourth year in a row, Council’s Annual Report 2019/20 achieved a gold Australasian Reporting Award. The Annual Report is an essential mechanism of accountability, and a vital element in the governance process.

The gold award is the highest level and shows Council’s commitment to achieve and improve on standards in effectively communicating to our Community. The award program is supported by volunteer professionals and professional bodies to recognise excellence in annual reporting. Read the Annual Report 2019/20.

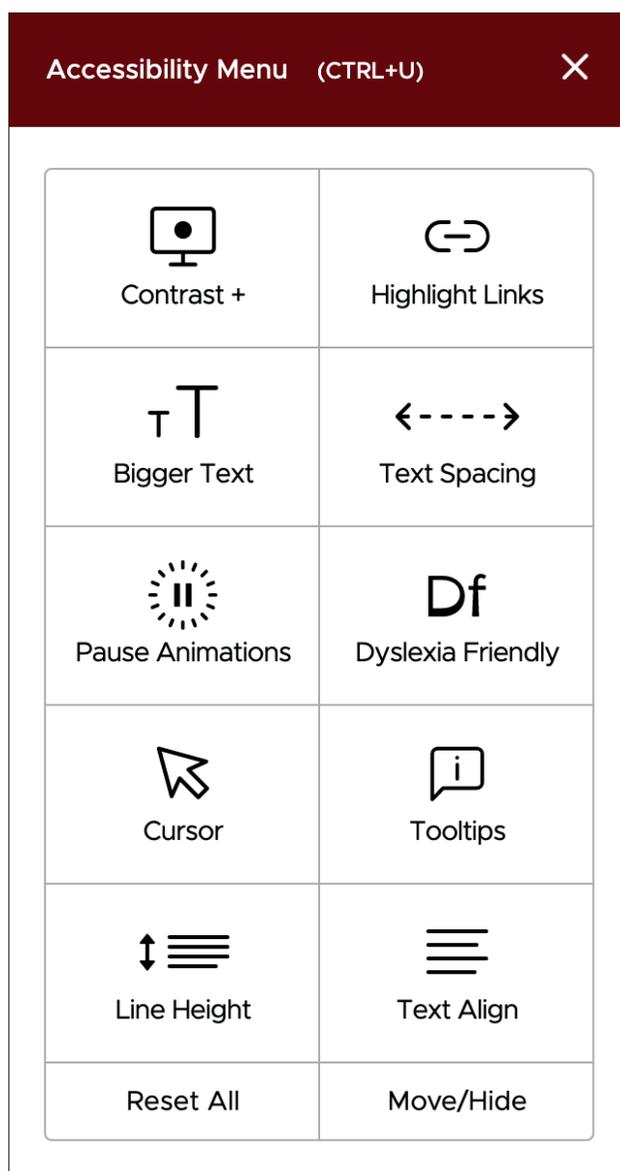
Neighbourhood Engagement Program

In August, we delivered our Neighbourhood Engagement Program online. We asked our community for feedback on our draft **Domestic Animal Management Plan** and draft **Business Parklet Policy**. We also asked for input to help develop a new **Accessibility Action Plan**, and for submissions on our **Procurement Policy**, to guide a new policy to be adopted by Council by the end of this year.

Feedback received will be presented to Council prior to final documents being considered for adoption.



Neighbourhood Engagement Program



UserWay accessibility menu

UserWay and Have Your Say

We are trialling the **UserWay accessibility widget** on our Have Your Say website.

UserWay is a tool that helps increase the accessibility of a website. It allows website visitors to use a menu to change features such as colour contrast or text size and spacing. This helps address barriers to online participation for those in our community with accessibility requirements, to improve their access to information and ability to participate in online engagement activities on Have Your Say.

The trial means UserWay is available on all pages on Have Your Say for one month. Once the trial ends, we'll evaluate its contribution and potentially look to making it an ongoing feature.

While just being great for accessibility, the trial is also in line with our Customer Engagement Policy outcomes and promise to our community. That is, that when engaging with community and stakeholders, Council promises to the best of its ability to:

- explore and implement new and emerging technologies that support greater, more interactive and engaging ways to contribute through different channels
- provide a variety of appropriate and accessible ways for people to have their say and speak honestly.

Online meetings



In line with recent Victorian State Government COVID-19 restrictions, **Council Meetings will be held virtually via WebEx until further notice.** Meetings will be live-streamed to allow our community to watch the meeting online. Members of the public can [access the live-stream via our live stream website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

Corporate Social Responsibility

Council is committed to optimising environmental, social and economic outcomes through procurement.

Corporate and social responsibility (CSR) is embedded throughout Council's procurement activities and is most recently demonstrated in the delivery of one of Council's largest service contracts – the Provision of Civil Infrastructure Maintenance Services.

All respondents, including the successful contractor, were required to commit to a broad range of CSR commitments which formed a substantial part of the evaluation criteria – providing measurable CSR outcomes as part of the future delivery of these critical services.

A detailed break-down of these benefits was provided to Council as part of the award of tender, however specific highlights include:

- Commitments to partnering with social enterprises in the delivery of services

- Target contract spends with Victorian social enterprises
- Commitments to partnering and use of indigenous businesses in the delivery of the services
- Employment targets including a broad cohort of Victorian Aboriginal people, people experiencing disengagement and disadvantage, and people with disability.
- Targeted commitments to source materials locally within 500km (20%), 1,000km (30%) and 5,000km (25%)
- The ongoing purchase of 100% energy from renewable sources
- Continued investment in Power Purchase Agreements that will save 7,000t of carbon each year
- Minimising operational waste by diverting waste from landfill at the following rates – metal (99%), paper & cardboard (99%), soil & biomass (100%), asphalt (100%), soft plastics & polystyrene (100% of clean waste), concrete and all other categories (90%)
- Targets to increase the use of warm-mix asphalt and recycled material in asphalt mixes such as Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP), plastics and rubber
- Associated tracking, monitoring and reporting of all CSR commitments to Council as part of the contractor's regular review process

City of Port Phillip looks forward to continuing similar achievements in this space with future procurement tender processes.

Partnerships and funding

The Strategic Partnerships team seeks to resolve complex issues that affect our City through relationships with community, government and other organisations. Officers support the Mayor, CEO and Councillors in engagement and advocacy to progress delivery of the Council Plan 2021–31. They also identify, advocate and apply for funding opportunities that are crucial to the City of Port Phillip's recovery from COVID-19.

In August, the Strategic Partnerships team has:

- advocated for better supports for industries severely impacted by COVID-lockdowns – including local hospitality, events and tourism businesses
- applied for funding for key infrastructure projects that will create additional jobs and deliver shared outcomes in priority areas

such as safer roads, the arts, sports, and tourism

- continued to manage the delivery of the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure projects
- supported Council's participation in the newly established M9 council forum, a group of inner-city councils established for the purpose of shared advocacy.

Asset management policy

The Asset Management Policy 2021 was endorsed unanimously by Council at a meeting on 18 August. It replaces the 2017 version and reflects our significant growth and maturity in managing our \$3.6B portfolio of assets over the past 4 years.

The policy is informed by the International Standards Organisation ISO 55000 and National Asset Management Framework (NAMAF). It is designed to ensure sustainable management and development of Council's infrastructure and assets to meet current and future community needs.

The Mayor and Councillors took the time to recognise the significant steps that we have made to achieving the Asset Management Vision over the past 4 years.

Changes to key projects

Council has obtained external funding for four pedestrian safety projects and has also applied for funding for a fifth project, that will require matched funding. Additionally, Council has failed to attract funding for two blackspot projects that had been included in the program and allocated resources for delivery.

Funding and resourcing that were allocated to the projects within the 2021/22 Budget will be reallocated between the externally funded projects as set out below.

- Two safety projects at the intersections of Fitzroy Street and Loch Street, St Kilda and Alma Street and Alexandra Street, St Kilda East were unsuccessful in attracting Federal Blackspot funding as the number and severity of crashes at these locations did not meet the funding criteria. These will be removed from the 2021/22 program.
- Four projects were successful in receiving a total of \$901,000 in external funding through the Department of Transport Pedestrian Safety Program:

- installation of wombat crossings and kerb extensions to support improved pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Iffla Street and Tribe Street, South Melbourne, lighting in 2021/22 and pavement works 2022/23
- installation of zebra crossings and speed cushions at the Iffla Street and Mountain Street, South Melbourne roundabout in 2021/22
- a trial median closure on Pickles Street at the intersection with Bridge Street, South Melbourne in 2021/22
- installation of a 40kmh speed limit and line marking improvements at 17 intersections to make it safer for pedestrians and bike riders along Chapel Street, St Kilda East, with construction commencing in 2020/21 and due to complete in 2021/22.
- In response to a community petition for a safer crossing, and following studies of pedestrian movements at the intersection of Liardet Street and Cruikshank Street, a submission has been made to the TAC for match funding with design this year and, if successful, construction in 2022/23.



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City of Port Phillip

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