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Surf Coast Shire Council Meeting

25 October 2022

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MAYOR STAPLETON: Welcome to our October council meeting. I'm Mayor Libby Stapleton and it's a pleasure to welcome members of the community into our chambers tonight. This meeting is also being livestreamed so a big welcome to those tuning in online and of course welcome to all my fellow Councillors and officers. Live captioning will accompany the livestream and the council chamber is fitted with a hearing loop, which transmits directly to hearing aids. So we hope that this assists those who may have hearing difficulties. The Surf Coast Shire local government area spans the traditional lands of the Wadawurrung people and the Gulidjan and Gadubanud peoples of the Maar Nation. I would like to acknowledge that here in Torquay at the main council offices we are gathered on Wadawurrung country and I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging. The Wadawurrung people have nurtured and protected these lands and waterways for thousands of generations and, as always, I'm just so grateful for the opportunity to live and work in such a beautiful part of the world. We also wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which each person is attending and acknowledge any Aboriginal people who may be viewing the meeting tonight. As most would be aware, over the past week our state has experienced significant rainfall and flooding, which has included areas of the Surf Coast. A large amount of rain hit our Shire, impacting many. With more rain forecast, I do encourage community members who are in flood-prone areas to please plan ahead. Of course, our thoughts are with everyone impacted across our Shire and more broadly across the state, and I would like to thank our staff here for their quick response and the support that they have provided to our community over the past week or two. There have been many activities and opportunities for engagement with the community over the past month but last weekend really captured a few that are close to my heart. On Saturday, I joined Councillors and officers at a drop-in session at in Aireys Inlet to talk with residents about a potential social and affordable housing project at Fraser Drive. I was heartened by the conversations and willingness of community to discuss the housing challenges that we face as a community across the Shire, as well as the risks and opportunities presented more locally by this particular project. There are additional ways for residents to have input into this important project so please check our website for more information on how you can be involved.

Then on Saturday night, I was lucky enough to see the latest performance by the Torquay Theatre Troupe called Harp on the Willow, which was really so entertaining. It's running until this weekend, so I encourage you all to do yourself a favour and get along to the MAC's Shoestring Theatre to enjoy this fabulous show and to immerse yourself in some quality local theatre. If you haven't had an opportunity to see the Shoestring Theatre in action yet, it's a great time to go along and have a look. Finally, it was so heart warming to open the Surf Coast Kite Festival on Sunday morning. They had a fortunate window between rain on Saturday and rain on Monday, but to get out there and see the kites flying, families and children out enjoying our local community, having simple, affordable fun and enjoying the great outdoors. There were colourful kites, smiling faces and lots of great entertainment, as well as a carbon-neutral event

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that was discussed by the Jan Juc preschool parents. So well done to all involved. It was a huge effort and I know how much effort goes into putting on events like this for our community. Especially as volunteers, it is very much appreciated. Now, on to our agenda tonight, there are a number of items of strong community interest, including the Annual Report, an update on the Karaaf project, our Communications and Community Engagement Strategy and a graffiti management policy, so let's get under way. In terms of process, council meetings operate according to our adopted Governance Rules, which include the following procedures. During the meeting, the mover to of a motion or an amendment may speak for a maximum of five minutes to open the debate and then a further two minutes to make any closing statements. Any other Councillor, including the seconder, may speak to a motion for no more than three minutes. Councillors are committed to our roles, accountable to the community and at all times aim to be respectful and ethical in all that we do. Our decisions and debate will adhere to these values and principles. With that in mind, and in line with our Governance Rules, I would like to recite the pledge as a sign of our commitment. As Councillors, we carry out our responsibilities with diligence and integrity and make fair decisions of lasting value for the wellbeing of our community and environment. I have not received any apologies for this evening, noting that Councillor Gazzard is still on a leave of absence. We have Councillor Allen joining us via Zoom and I believe that Councillor Wellington will also be via Zoom, so I won't take that as an apology and assume that she will be with us in a moment. Confirmation of minutes - can I please have a mover and seconder to confirm the minutes of the council meeting held on 27 September 2022? Moved by Councillor Bodsworth and seconded by Councillor Schonfelder. Thank you. And all those in favour? And the motion is carried unanimously. Thank you, Councillors. Are there any Councillors requesting a leave of absence? No, thank you. Any declaration of conflicts of interest? If a Councillor or an officer has a conflict of interest, please declare it now and do so again just prior to the item being discussed, in which case you will be required to leave the council chambers or, if you are joining us virtually, the host will place you in a virtual waiting room whilst the matter is being considered. Are there any declarations of conflicts of interest? No? Thank you. And if any conflicts arise during the meeting, please just make them known. I believe we have presentations from Councillor Schonfelder and potentially Councillor Wellington tonight. Councillor Schonfelder, would you like to start?

CR SCHONFELDER: Thank you. Last Saturday I had the pleasure of attending the 100th birthday of the Mount Moriac Primary School, accompanied by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Pattison. We met current and past students, teachers and parents and were impressed by all the photographic displays and went on a tour of the school. I would like to congratulate all those involved with the 100th birthday and, in particular, to the principal Mark Zara and there were hundreds of people who came and fortunately the rain held off. The vision of the school is creating students who become engaged citizens and can strengthen the wellbeing of their society, underpinned by the guiding principles: exceptional, responsible and respectful. I would just like to make one complaint, if I

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may. At 1 o'clock, all the cakes sold out! So there were no more cakes left! But everyone really enjoyed the day, so once again, congratulations on the centenary of the Moriac Primary School.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Schonfelder, and hopefully there are future Councillors amongst them as well. Cheers. And Councillor Wellington, thank you for joining us. I believe you have a presentation as well this evening?

CR WELLINGTON: Thank you, yes, Mayor Stapleton. I would like to inform Councillors that we have recently lost two very important and contributors to our community of Winchelsea, and I would like to just briefly recognise what those people have done for the community, the Winchelsea community more broadly. I would start with Trevor Brown, on 18 September, and Trevor had been in the Winchelsea community since 2000, I think having perhaps retired into Winchelsea. He had been a CFA volunteer for many, many years in both (inaudible) and also in Winchelsea and has attended many, many hundreds - I think since 2000 he attended more than 700 callouts for the CFA and obviously more since then, so he's done an incredible job for the CFA. He was a very quiet and well-liked man, always had a smile on his face. He volunteered in enormous ways throughout the community, not just with the CFA but he was very active with the Globe Theatre, along with his wife, Helen. He was also very active in the Winchelsea Festival, and that was a huge event that Winchelsea ran I think every year, and it actually raised \$100,000 for the community hub (inaudible). A massive contribution from a small community and Trevor was the Treasurer of the organisation that ran that. He also had been the Chief Executive of what was the Winchelsea and District Traders and Tourism Association, which has morphed over the years into the Growing Winchelsea Committee, which continues to be very, very active, so he was very active in that all the way through. He also volunteered his services - he was a former bank manager and he would also undertake audits, a lot of volunteer audits for not for profit organisations, which was really appreciated in the community. He was one of those people who was always there. He was at the sausage sizzle or he did a lot of work with the sound equipment at any event in Winchelsea. He would be helping with the sound. He was always smiling. He was quite ill for quite a long time but it never took the smile off his face and his engagement in the Winchelsea community. He was really loved and his wife is really loved and the community is very sad for her but very supportive as well and hope that they can help her to cope with this really difficult time. So I wanted to let council know, but also in particular with Trevor as well, in fact he was the Surf Coast citizen of the year in 2020. So he was recognised for his volunteer activities and he did a wonderful job. We will miss him very much. The second person that I would like to acknowledge is John Bumford. John was the convener or coordinator of the Uniting Church and John had been in Winchelsea for a little bit less time than Trevor but had made a huge contribution and John brought to Winchelsea not just his music but his music was an enormous part of what he brought to Winchelsea and it actually was a tool - it was something that he used to actually become known in the

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community and trusted in the community and that enabled him to do more things in the community other than music. So people loved and trusted John. He was a really well-known figure throughout the community. He was a past marathon runner and, in fact, I have only recently learnt he had won significant medals, including the Masters Games. He was often seen with his dog Hamish, walking or running around Winchelsea, very much a part of the community. He loved his football in Winchelsea. He would attend all the home football games and he would usually up there Thursday night at the club dinner, networking with people and seeing if anybody needed anything, and then quietly going about organising ways to support people in the community. He ran the food relief centre for the Uniting Church until they relocated it from Winchelsea. His music is what most people will probably remember him for, though, because he brought to Winchelsea an incredible talent of playing the piano and he was a really exceptional pianist and he knew a lot of people in the music world as well. He started Morning Melodies in Winchelsea and he would attract singers of great talent to come to Winchelsea and he would accompany them. Olive, his wife, would turn the pages. It would be held at the old Shire Hall where he donated the grand piano to be used, the baby grand, and a lot of people had a significant music experience that think never would have had in other circumstances in Winchelsea, and that will be remembered by Winchelsea forever. There's a famous photo of John with a trolley, a removalist trolley, wheeling his grand piano from the Shire Hall down across the bridge and up the road to the Globe Theatre and he was everywhere, accompanying events and concerts and people's special moments and he played at one of my birthday parties. The last time I heard him play was at the 50th wedding anniversary of a couple in Winchelsea. He brought his music to the church and also the community of Winchelsea and he used his music to support people. He was just a beautiful, humble and very kind man who helped an enormous number of people in the community. He will be very much missed. He was very involved in lots of events and clubs and things like the men's shed and the Growing Winchelsea organisation and what have you. He'll be very much missed by all of those and by the broader community for his contribution. So I did want to let council know that he had passed away and we will miss both John and Trevor very, very much indeed. Thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Wellington. We will now move on to public question time. As per our Governance Rules, members of the public who wish to ask a question to council are able to submit their written question to us. We've had two community members submit a total of three questions ahead of time, so we will answer those first, and then I know we have community members here tonight who have indicated they would also like to ask some questions. So Andy will follow up those written questions with you after that. So our first question - two questions are from Darren Noyes-Brown, and as Darren is not here with us at the meeting, I'll read them on Darren's behalf. The first part "the environmental assessment states the Karaaf wetlands have 91 introduced species and 88 Indigenous species. It says most of the Saltmarsh not affected by stormwater is relatively weed free. It also says if adverse

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hydrological conditions can be prevented, the Saltmarsh has a higher chance of recovery. Map 3 shows lots of red areas where there is an average of 95% of plants that are dead, some of those are species that would meet the requirements to be endangered. Aren't these all indications that preventing post development stormwater from entering the Karaaf is needed rather than just "reducing" the volume as stated in key consideration 7 of the officer report? As you would know, Darren, this item is on the agenda tonight for consideration by council, so I will refer to your question to the CEO to respond to.

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks very much, Mayor Stapleton, and thanks, Darren, for your questions and also for your really strong commitment to the Karaaf and the health of the Karaaf. The reason the officer report is not definitive about the removal of all stormwater is that the environment is quite dynamic and so our approach we believe needs to be flexible to allow different conditions like both high and low rainfall and impacts of climate change. The stormwater assessment identifies the amount of pre-development flows that would have entered the system. However, we're also mindful that we have more to learn about how much water is needed by the Karaaf and I guess in relation to what water - from what sources, at what time of year and in what climatic conditions to ensure it's healthy. It is such a complex environment and making sure that we don't do anything that - in terms of our next steps - that we're protecting the Karaaf and we understand whatever those impacts might be is going to be really important. So having said that, we're not sure yet that it's as simple as saying that the Karaaf should not receive any freshwater from stormwater at any time.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Ms Seymour, and the second question from Darren: there appears to be a focus on keeping the mouth of the Thompsons Creek open, but this will have its own negative impacts on estuary species reliant on periodic freshwater. The salt wedge estuary ecological community of Thompsons Creek is listed under the EPBC Act. Why is keeping the Thompson Creek mouth open a focus, rather than adequately dealing with stormwater quality and volume issues when it is stated in the environment report that the impacts of stormwater inputs have occurred over a period of five years and the recent closure of the creek was over a period considerably shorter than that?

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Darren, for your second question. The environmental assessment has identified that prolonged inundation in the Karaaf occurs when the estuary mouth is closed. The report author has put forward the idea of artificially opening the mouth of the Thompson creek as an interim measure to assist with drainage whilst we understand our options for diverting water in the short term and develop long-term plans to reuse the water. You'll note in the council report that there are some reservations from agencies about this idea as it can have some other impacts as you rightly suggest. We would say that there needs to be more work done to really consider the merits and the issues associated with this.

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MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Ms Seymour. Our next question is from Swami Samadhijyoti Saraswati. This is in relation to council meeting agendas and minutes that are available for public viewing. Swami says there are a multitude of reasons why people like to stay up-to-date with council business. One of the ways this is achieved is by reading the official documentation, ie, agendas and minutes provided by council on the website. On 1 April 2022, correspondence was sent to Surf Coast Shire alerting staff to a discrepancy on the website. The council agenda was available and the minutes were not, and then the minutes were unavailable and the - sorry, and then the minutes were available and the agenda was not. Usually both the agendas and minutes are available for any time access on the website. The reply I received from Governance was that there was a technical glitch identified by the IT team. I was referred to the minutes and results of the decision making process and the discrepancy was dismissed. All agenda and minutes since that time have been subject to the same technical glitch. Given that the technical glitch was highlighted in April 2022, is it likely to persist? Will the Surf Coast Shire make all the information available for public viewing again? I'll refer that to our CEO for a response.

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Swami, and it's fabulous that you're so interested in council business. We love it when our community are engaged with the business of council and thanks for bringing this to our attention. In relation to the technical glitch, at first it did look like there was a technical glitch, as we transferred to our new system. However, following further investigation, what actually happens when the minutes are processed, it overrides where the agenda is uploaded on the website, and what that actually does is it ensures that our minutes include the full council report, as it appeared in the agenda, as well as retaining the original recommendation and it therefore makes all the public information available in the one document and in the one place for easy access. If you would like a copy of previous agendas without the council resolutions, please let us know because we're happy to provide those to you, and in the meantime, we'll look into the part of the website where we archive agendas and see how this can be sourced if required. Thanks again for your questions and also for your really strong interest in the business of our council meetings.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Ms Seymour. And Andy McCauley is here and would like to ask a couple of questions. So you can come up to the table, Andy, thank you.

ANDY: Thank you for the opportunity. The Design Flow report confirmed that the wetlands of north Torquay are substantially undersized --

MAYOR STAPLETON: Sorry, Andy, could I just get you to move the microphone a little closer so we can hear you properly.

ANDY: As a result, the water produced by them, the stormwater, is polluted. Most of

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them don't even reach 50% of the recommended size. It's a serious problem. Now, I don't believe the council should just accept that the systems which they've authorised should do that. I accept that there are difficulties and obviously to expand a wetland in an already-constructed estate is virtually impossible. I have talked about the Dunes forever. It is not a wetland. It has no macrophyte level so it's a serious problem there. So what I'm saying, I guess, or my main question is: there is one opportunity that I see for expanding these wetlands and that is between the Stretton wetland and the Dunes wetland and the Zeally Sands wetland down that reserve. There is an opportunity to make that one a lot more attractive, two, to treat the stormwater and not remove the kids' playgrounds or the other facilities that are there. I accept it's a cost. It's again a cost that's been passed on to the community or to the council but that is one opportunity and it's quite serious. So I guess my question is: can we include that as one of the things that is costed so that at least it's part of the choices that the council will at some stage hopefully soon make with regard to the treatment of the stormwater?

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Andy.

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Andy, and, Andy, again, as everyone would know, has a strong advocate for the work that we have been doing in relation to the Karaaf and we thank you for your commitment and work with us on this, particularly over the last 12 months. In terms of answering your question, I think the answer is yes, albeit that at the moment we need to focus initially on what is the work that we can do based on the current report and the priorities in that report and ensuring that the work that we're doing with our wetlands is maximising the effectiveness of our existing wetlands. What that means longer term around other opportunities, we're certainly open to that, but I guess the recommendation from the report is that in the first instance we need to absolutely make sure that our current wetlands are operating as effectively as they can. But we are keen to look at other options like the one you have put forward and we need to assess the feasibility and prioritise them in relation to our effort and also our funding.

ANDY: Thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Andy, you had a second question about the sediment basin.

ANDY: Of course. Sediment is the killer of our systems. I would say the sands has absorbed hundreds of thousands of tonnes of sediment and we have moved from a lake system to a wetland and we're on the way to being a flood plain. That's our whole system. If we got to a flood plain, it would be catastrophic for the Karaaf. Now, we are currently facing the development of Stretton. The Dunes was bad and there's a GHD report which the council has which confirmed the transfer of sediment which was massive. Now, I think the council has taken some steps to try to improve the performance of - it's mainly the builders, the construction of the roads at the moment in Stretton is quite sound. They've got limited amount of sediment that's flowed into

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the stormwater system, but once construction starts - and you can see it outside the Sands Hotel at the moment, you'll see that they've just cleared one of the lot shops at the hotel- you'll see they've just cleared one of the (inaudible) at the hotel and you'll see from the road from there up to Horseshoe Band Road is just a layer of dirt. Multiply that by 800. So what I'm concerned about at the moment is the risk to the system. Now, one of the biggest - well, where Stretton and the Dunes empties into, the Zeally Sands, that pit at the moment has been given a green - a light priority. It was half planned out the first time and that is fine. It is a sediment pit. At least it's an outlet where the sediment pit - there's many that don't have them. But my concern is once Stretton gets into full construction, we're going to have the same problems as we have had before. I went down today and checked the outflow from the sands into the Karaaf. It was clear. I checked the inlet into the sands from the system above us. It was completely opaque. So this happens every time - it is excessive rainfall at the moment but every time there is a massive amount of sediment moving through this system, so I think the sediment pit of the Zeally Sands, which is referred to in this report, the amenity lake they call it - I think they got that wrong, but anyway, that's beside the point - that needs to be cleared out properly. That's a prime defence for the sand system and it's going to absorb - I mean, at the moment - I mean, the sediment is meant to take 72 hours to get across the Stretton wetland. I put food dye in the sediment in the Stretton wetland. 15 minutes from woe to go, so from in to going straight down the pipe to the Zeally Sands. Now, there's some recommendations in the report to improve that but it's a big job. And that pit is a prime point of defence. So I really do believe that that needs to be increased from not very important to critical because at least that means that it's as big as it can be and, again, it's the same problem. It goes straight over the top and instead of going through the areas it's meant to go through, to slow down the flow, it goes straight into our first amenity lake. So I really do believe there's two things - it needs to be as deep as it can be and it needs to be cleaned out regularly, particularly during this construction phase, and that will last for three or four years. So it's a significant defence.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Andy. I'll just ask our CEO to respond.

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Andy. I think that's a really good question for you to ask our consultant at Thursday's community meeting, which I hope you'll be --

ANDY: I can assure you I will.

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: Good to hear, Andy, because we specifically ask the consultants as our appointed experts to prioritise those actions that would have the greatest impacts on the performance of the constructed wetlands and we're now using that information that's in those actions that are identified in that report to develop costings and an action plan to get moving on the highest priorities. The Amenity Lake sediment basin isn't at the moment one of those, and so we will focus our attention elsewhere in the short

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term; hence why I suggest you ask the consultant about it on Thursday.

To your point regarding the high sediment run-off during construction phases of the land within the catchment, you're right, we've been doing quite a lot of work in this space lately, and actually I think the work we're doing has meant that we're addressing issues before they're raised through community on the most part, and very recently we've appointed a litter prevention officer who started I think 10 days ago who will also strengthen our capacity to be working closely with our builders to ensure those sites are managed effectively to try and reduce any impact that those building sites are having in terms of the stormwater and down through the sands and into the Karaaf.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you. Andy, I believe you're generously going to ask a question on behalf of Rob Bullim because he can't be here tonight.

ANDY: Yes, Rob unfortunately has got COVID and is over in Maffra so he's unable to attend. Look, Rob's concern is, I guess, saying there's a lot of learnings that the council has taken through this process and his question asks: how that is being applied to future planning and how it is being applied to other wetlands that are yet to be built, I guess, or managed? I should read his question out. Firstly, congratulations on completing and releasing the assessment. It is clear that there has been some systemic under-estimation of both capacity and imperviousness and design required of the wetlands. Would the council consider adopting a policy complying any existing or new development to comply - that's interesting language - to comply with the appropriate standards, which as he points out have been adopted by the Geelong City Council, but really they're being driven by Melbourne - I think Melbourne City Council is seen as one of the leaders in Australia now in dealing with the stormwater issues, which are an issue everywhere. So Rob's question is: is the council going to use those standards for its own planning?

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Andy, and thanks, Rob. I hope you make a speedy recovery and can return back to the Surf Coast.

ANDY: He's talking.

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: That's good. Council is required under the Planning Scheme to ensure that new developments comply with Melbourne water guidelines regarding stormwater management. So yes, we do need to consider how we can best represent this as a requirement for all new developments, whether that's through a policy or some other form of documentation. And he's right, we have learnt a lot in this space. This requirement cannot be applied retrospectively to developers that have been - where wetlands have been completed and where council has accepted the design and delivery of constructed wetlands. One of the considerations in this instance is that it's the volume of water that appears to be having the biggest impact on the Karaaf, so the

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report helps us understand that future developments should make careful consideration of the sensitivities of receiving water body beyond the requirements of the Planning Scheme, which the development will be subject to.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Andy, and Rob, for your questions. Clearly and understandably, there is significant community interest in the Karaaf reports, which are on council's agenda tonight, as item 4.3. And I do encourage the community to attend our Karaaf information session here on Thursday night from 6 till 8pm or you can join online and it's a great opportunity to meet the authors of both those reports and obviously direct any additional questions you have for them or for our council officers. So we look forward to seeing you there. Thank you.

I do not believe we have any petitions to be tabled tonight and there are no notices of motion, so we will move straight into our first report, which is the Surf Coast Shire Council Annual Report for 2021/22, and this Annual Report highlights council's performance against the council plan and the annual budget. It details the breadth of council's services and operations, financial performance, governance and management processes and the responsibilities fulfilled by Councillors, the executive management team and employees. We have a recommendation to note the report and do I have a mover for that? Councillor Hodge, thank you. And seconded by Councillor Barker, thank you. As per the recommendation. Thank you, Councillor Hodge.

CR HODGE: Thank you, Mayor Stapleton. As you read into that introduction, it is an easy to read snapshot of the Surf Coast Shire. Its contents include our organisation, our performance, our governance and our financial statements. These financial statements have already been to the Victorian Auditor-General's office and have since been audited. Outlining of the document presents fairly with relevant legislation. But it's a terrific read for the community on our organisation - of Councillors, our structure, and of course it also involves all the information about our staff and we know that they're great community people that spend a lot of time working at their best for this organisation. It talks about our performance and incorporates our 7 themes of our council plan. It talks about our governance in legislation, in democratic and corporate governance, and there's interesting facts on each topic that are boxed, and just some of them - our operation now has gone to 37,694, our median age is 42, so I'm well above the average on that one, but I've been here for a long time. Our dwellings now are up to over 20,630 rateable properties, so we are growing at a rate, and I think later on in the report it says we have had 375 new homes built in the last year alone. So we welcome those people to this community.

It also describes our capital works, and this is so important to our community because it's the buildings and the services that we do and we are delivering over \$21 million in capital works, which is quite a large part of our budget, to make sure we've got the infrastructure for this growing community. And it's all about services throughout this.

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It's not just about rates, roads and rubbish that many people believe it is, but all the services that we provide - the libraries, the maternal child care. But one that's really interesting is the waste services. We've seen over the last couple of years the fourth bin introduced and this has really improved the waste being diverted from our landfill. In 2019, 52% was diverted and now it's up to 71%. So that's fantastic. And I know the feedback that I get a lot is that people are really appreciative of the app on their phone and there's been over 10,000 downloads of our Scrap app, so that's absolutely fantastic and the officers from IT that have done that, I congratulate them. In our customer service, our girls out the front have had to deal with 39,000 requests through email and calls, so that's just a phenomenal amount of work and I congratulate them too.

It goes in this - what we do with the public, 77,000 in small grants, which was also - and these small grants to these communities, they spend the money so well that it actually makes their group better, quicker or more available to bring more people in, and our volunteering is up as well, so that's terrific. We also did \$2,500 grants to IDAHOBIT Day, which was fantastic for our community. And in our environmental leadership, it talks about, and the events and our information centres had over 60,000 visitor inquiries so not only are we a growing population, we've also got such a big group of people coming down, tourism is great for our economy, and now with COVID, well, we're learning to live with it probably better, we're seeing the return of all the events. Bells Beach is coming back and we're seeing more productivity in arts, planning. It's listed in this Annual Report as well. So I would like to thank the officers for putting it all together, especially the easy read of it and also - and that's in our engagement policy later on, to make clear, genuine plain speak, and this document does it, and I really look forward to the community, if they have feedback, but I know online it doesn't suit everyone. Perhaps we can do some hard copies and pop them in at community houses, so people if they're sitting down can actually read it, but it is really interesting to see where their rates go and all the services we provide. So I recommend the Annual Report and I hope I get support from all the Councillors.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Hodge, and Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. Councillor Hodge mentioned roads, rates and rubbish. I tend to think that as an organisation we should be focused on making and maintaining roads well, reducing rates every year, managing rubbish really well and running a really transparent planning Department so that landowners and residents can have a clear understanding of where we're heading as a community. There are several metrics that show individual elements of our spending are decreasing and our spending on loans continues to dwindle, as we pay down our debts, and for these I share my praise for sound fiscal management. But in the real world, many of us are facing costs of living pressures. While we continue to provide a broad range of services, many of which I think are superfluous and not what anyone could call core services, the forecast

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spending per property continues to rise in coming years. We as an organisation and a council have a lot of power. We have a lot of power to control the incoming rates and how those rates are spent. This report outlines these increasing costs and I encourage anyone who wants us to rein in spending to share their views with Councillors and the organisation more broadly because failing to do so will facilitate the continued high levels of rates being charged and the related spending.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Barker. Would anyone else like to speak to this item? Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. I've got a long list of things that I would like to highlight from it and it's a big report so I'm going to skip most of them, avoid them, but a few generalisations that I'd like to make to start, which is I think we're two years - we're halfway through our term as a council. At this halfway point, and I think a conclusion that I take from this report is that we have a clear principled progressive and community-minded council plan. I think that that's reflected really strongly in the report and I think that it's been a great foundation for the work that we've done as Councillors and the organisation staff.

We have a relatively new CEO - in the lifetime of the council plan, we have a new CEO and a new organisational structure to implement the council plan, which again I think has been an essential part of the successes that are talked about in the report. We have a highly expert and committed staff and, again, I think the staff - the degree to which the staff has embraced the council plan and also embraced I guess the new key areas of focus of the council has been really outstanding and I thank the staff for their dedication. We also have an evolving, continuous improvement capability and I think that that's important to all of us as Councillors and one of the things that I think stands out in this council is a high degree of non-defensiveness, and I think there's nothing worse for a responsible authority than being defensive and closing your ears to criticism and closing your minds to criticism, and I think the Karaaf item - we have heard a couple of questions on and we're discussing in a minute - is a really good example of that where I think we've got failures from the past which related partly to a defensiveness, and I think that's one of the things that's shifted under this council.

So I'm going to very quickly highlight a very specific things. Anglesea River - I'm delighted that we made a submission to Southern Rural Water on the Anglesea River and our reflecting community concerns about the groundwater extraction and the effect that's had on the river's ecology, and that is an example of something where we didn't have a direct management responsibility in that issue and we have undertaken that out of solidarity with the community and a desire to speak up on what we think is the right thing to do.

Waste to landfill, Cr Hodge has mentioned, down 30%. We have had fantastic events.

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I would just like to specifically mention one, which is the Aireys Inlet Dark Sky event. A great one. Coogera Park playground - much better than the old one, I've heard from the kids using it. (Inaudible) Creek Flood Mitigation Working Group, including community representation from Liz Wood, so I would like to commend Liz. A bunch of others I'm going to have to skip. So without wanting to sound self-congratulatory, I think it's a really good report and we should be proud of it.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Bodsworth. Any other Councillors? Councillor Wellington?

CR WELLINGTON: Thank you, Mayor Stapleton. So just a few things that I would like to point out. The Winchelsea Leisure Time Centre Joint Youth Agreement - we had at one point sort of five major pieces of community infrastructure close in Winchelsea, including the Leisure Time Centre. We had the shut of the (inaudible) mud hut, the Leisure Time Centre and something else I can't think of just at the moment. But it looked as though we might not continue to have a joint use agreement with the Leisure Time Centre but I think there has been a change in approach and I think - I'm really pleased to see that that agreement has been executed and the works are progressing with the Education Department and hopefully that facility will eventually be reopened to the community after many, many years being closed. The sale of land (inaudible) for the provision of accessible and affordable dwellings is great. It continues to (inaudible) a few planning issues which we need to get on to but it is going to be a good development when we get through it. Rezoning land at Cape Otway Road in Mount Moriac, so there is growth in that community, which is welcomed. The Memorial Keys project was completed. At an overarching level there, are fewer decisions being made at meetings closed to the public. And that's really good. That's about transparency.

I'll just stop the clock for a second and ask for clarification that (inaudible) to ask at the beginning, but in the meeting (inaudible), let me just ask - it says renewable power resulted in significant savings I think to the environment and to costs. I was just wondering about that, whether it is actually accurate? I thought it was costing us more. I certainly agree that it results in significant savings for the environment but isn't it costing us more as a council to use renewable energy? That was my question. It says we marked our (inaudible) year using renewable power for council buildings and street lights, meaning significant savings in emissions and costs. Obviously it's savings in emissions but is it really savings in costs?

MAYOR STAPLETON: My understanding is it is definitely savings in costs but just to clarify I will refer to one of our General Managers or via the CEO.

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: Councillor Wellington, it is savings in costs. I don't know if our General Manager of Place Making and Environment wants to speak to it more specifically, but there are savings in costs.

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OFFICER: Yes. Through you, Mayor Stapleton, I think the key factor here is the council's inclusion in the power purchasing agreement that was established across the sector and it's that bulk purchasing that's actually realised those cost savings in the purchasing of power.

CR WELLINGTON: That's all renewable now, is it?

MAYOR STAPLETON: Yes, that's correct.

CR WELLINGTON: Thank you. I just wanted to clarify that. It's an important statement. There's a couple of things I wanted to comment on. We've got terrible ongoing problems with our unsealed roads. There's a lot of performance indicators in the report on sealed roads. But unsealed roads, for whatever reason, don't hit the performance indicator table. I know that's set by - it's set externally, it's not set by council, but I believe we need performance indicators for unsealed roads. It's the biggest source of complaint that I get. And after these recent rains, we're going to have major ongoing problems, and I think inadequate resource is allocated to deal with them. I'm very - I think people in the community - a number of people - a lot of people remain disappointed about council's decision not to participate in celebratory events in relation to Australia Day. I know there's a lot of controversy about the date, but there is a view that that decision was made without consultation with the broader community and a lot of people remain very disappointed about it. I did notice there's a lot of interest, a lot of gender inequity between the full-time and part-time workplace. I presume we'll be looking at that and seeking to address that over time, but there's a huge distinction in gender, depending on which part of the work force people come from, which is interesting and shown up - really highlighted in this. And I just wanted also to note that on page 65 there's the inevitable attendance at meetings by Councillors. There's a huge number of meetings that council runs. Many more than actually - council meetings, mainly briefings, and I don't go to them for reasons that are well-known, but really the fundamental one being I prefer to interact with council in a public forum. So I believe that it would be clear from those who watch council that I do - I am across the subject matter and I read my papers thoroughly and I am well briefed before meetings, so I would just like to explain that statistic because it has me attending 1 meeting and others attending 50. I like to think I spend that time in the community rather than sitting in council meetings and it's not --

MAYOR STAPLETON: Cr Wellington, you're well and truly over your time allocation so I'll just ask you to wrap up.

CR WELLINGTON: Thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Wellington. Did anyone else want to speak to

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this item? No. We'll put the motion to a vote. All those in favour? And the motion is carried unanimously. Thank you, Councillors. Next report is to determine the planning permit application the 21/0465 for the construction of buildings associated with the existing art and craft centre known as Ashmore Arts. We do have a detailed recommendation before us in the agenda, Councillors. Does anyone wish to move a motion? Is that a question, Councillor Wellington, or are you wanting to move?

CR WELLINGTON: It's a question. Thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Please go ahead.

CR WELLINGTON: I was just wondering about the planning (inaudible) - it refers to the development of 10 studios when on the site there are 14 studios, two workshops and a shed and a house, which presumably you need a planning permit, but I just wondered about the difference between - there's four studios and two workshops but don't seem to be included in the planning history.

MAYOR STAPLETON: I'll just refer that through our CEO, Councillor Wellington.

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: And, Mayor Stapleton, I'll refer that to our General Manager of Place Making and Environment.

OFFICER: I'm sorry, Councillor Wellington, I'm not in a position to provide an accurate answer to that particular question. Apologies.

CR WELLINGTON: I just wonder if I could have that - in response - perhaps in the minutes as to why - it might be that they were built - I don't know, they might be hundreds of years old or something or whatever, but I just wondered - I thought it was unusual there was a discrepancy in the number of buildings on the site versus the number of planning permits issued.

OFFICER: Happy to take that on notice and provide a response.

CR WELLINGTON: Thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you. So going back to the motion and the recommendation before us, would anyone like to move that item as per the recommendation? Thanks, Councillor Barker. And a seconder? Councillor Schonfelder, thank you. And would you like to speak to the item, Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Very briefly, thanks, Mayor. It's great to see landowners wanting to use their land the way they see fit. Surprising, given this development is west of Duffields Road, since the position council has previously had on the issue indicated we were

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opposed to development in this area. It will be good to see this sets a precedent so that others in the area can do the same.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Barker. Councillor Schonfelder? Councillor Schonfelder

CR SCHONFELDER: Thank you, Mayor Stapleton, and I would like to congratulate the applicant on wanting to develop this land for the purposes of those in the arts industry, which I think is very important and I know that with COVID, that a lot of businesses, particularly very small businesses, have been struggling. So I feel as though we have to be mindful of that and I know that Spring Creek has been talked to at great length but my understanding is that there's opposition to residential development west of Duffields Road and an encouragement to have agricultural pursuits in the spring valley but we do also have the ability under the Planning Scheme to allow development as far as one workshop and eight craft sheds and two art pods and I was very impressed when I visited the site, along with other fellow Councillors, how the landscaping is sympathetic to the great visual impacts and also the fact that there was no objection, it should be noted, Mayor, from the EPA and the CFA - so from the Environmental Protection Authority and the Country Fire Authority. The council has looked at relevant Planning Scheme provisions pertaining to the Great Ocean Road region, protection of biodiversity. There is a commitment to plant more trees, including the yellow gums, and it would be my understanding that, prior to European settlement, there would have been more of those trees locally in this area. So that also includes native vegetation management, river corridors, waterways, lakes and wetlands, bushfire planning, land use capability, protection of agricultural land, sustainable agricultural land and environmental landscapes and values, and I know that in the agricultural industry, there is actually a move - and as a former policy analyst at the Victorian Farmers Federation, Mayor, there is a move to have more shedding and have more protection for livestock, given that the weather we have had recently with the storms and the like. So I feel as though this development complements our local area and I wish them well in their pursuits. Thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Schonfelder. Would any other Councillors like to speak? Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. Firstly in relation to Councillor Barker's comments, I think it is important to differentiate between this kind of rural creative industry development and residential development, and also to point out that the footprint of the proposal at Ashmore Arts is, by my guesstimation, about 1/800th of the footprint of the proposed residential development in Spring Creek. So vastly different in scale and also completely different in land use. So I'm comfortable with the recommendation as per the report.

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There's two issues that I would like to talk about. One is that I think, as the report talks about, there is scope to disperse some of the proposed buildings into the rest of the site, which I think is a really sensible proposal, in recognition of one of the objections on the potential visual impact of the clustered buildings viewed in that fairly sort of open valley landscape, I think that would be a really worthwhile alteration to the plans, and also an issue that was raised during objections, which I think is a really important one, which was basically a question: where are the limits when it comes to this kind of development? So it's had a fairly strong level of support here from the Councillors but I think it's important for us to recognise that while this application might get through, we also need to be mindful of what would happen if there was an incremental increase in these small add-ons because obviously there's a point where the small add-ons become too much and that concept of limits is an important one for us to explore, if future planning permit applications arise. But otherwise I'm comfortable with this.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Bodsworth. And Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: Thank you, Chair. As is often the case when we're faced with potential competing objectives, to nurture the innovative and creative industry is one of the 10 principles contained in the council plan, and on the other hand, there's the amenity of surrounding residents and overlay protections. As has been mentioned, we visited recently the existing Ashmore Arts Centre and I was greatly impressed by the facility that provides studio and workshop space to one of the 20 artists and designers in really what is a beautiful setting, providing a strong community identity and, therefore, (inaudible) - the officers refer to the granting of the permit to the council and we held a Special Council Meeting on 11th of this month for the Hearing of Submissions. I think the work of the planning officers and the applicant over the past few months has resulted in, I believe, an excellent outcome. The conditions that are listed in the notice of decision to grant a permit contained in the report provide a workable solution to the objections raised, including five buildings to be relocated or deleted and the landscape in the screening proposal makes the new development less likely to cause an adverse visual impact; detailed parking and accessways, waste water management systems and bushfire emergency management plans that are reviewed annually. So I intend to support the recommendation for the granting of a permit and I congratulate all those concerned with achieving this outcome. Thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Allen. Are there any other Councillors who would like to speak? Councillor Wellington?

CR WELLINGTON: Just a couple of questions before I start, if you don't mind. Sorry, can we stop the clock because I'm asking a question? Thanks. The report refers to the proposed significant landscape overlay in the area and that this would trigger a permit under that. I wondered what the permit triggers were under the significant landscape overlay?

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MAYOR STAPLETON: I'll refer that to the CEO, Councillor Wellington, but I am not sure that is a question that can be answered without notice.

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: Councillor Wellington, I suspect we'll need to take that on notice because we don't have a planning representative at the meeting tonight to be able to answer those kind of technical answers unless --

OFFICER: No.

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: We'll need to take that on notice, Councillor Wellington.

CR WELLINGTON: Sorry. That's a shame. I thought you had a planning person --

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: No, we don't tend to bring council officers other than our General Managers to council meetings.

CR WELLINGTON: So the others can't be answered but I'll ask them anyway and if I could get responses, that would be good. I just wondered there's an estimated square metreage of development on the site and I just wondered if the existing house and any other developments are included in that estimated square metreage or whether that is just, if you like, the purpose-built arts centre development?

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Wellington. We'll take both those questions on notice and officers will get back to you.

CR WELLINGTON: And then my third question was how broadly was this advertised? Was it advertised to the population on the other side of the creek or just to the neighbouring property owners?

OFFICER: I haven't got that one either.

CR WELLINGTON: I think that --

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: Councillor Wellington, I'm sorry that we can't answer your questions tonight. But we'd be really happy ahead of consideration if you have questions to be able to do that to help you make an informed decision, but we'll certainly get back to you with the answers after tonight.

CR WELLINGTON: Thank you. I mean, one of my issues is that people in the community are limited to the access to these reports and so from my perspective, the reports should be sufficiently comprehensive so that people in the community can ask those - I mean, they seem to be pretty obvious questions. You know, if you look at - so

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I did ask previously at the briefing I think - at the Hearing of Submissions what the square metreage was of the existing buildings and there's a table in the report which says they're 2095 square metres. And they talk about building approved by the various planning permits but they don't talk about the house or any other sheds that might have been on an existing property so I'm not sure whether this encompasses all of the building or not. And I just was looking at some figures around it. So there's already site coverage on the site of 2096 square metres is what this table says and so the existing footprint was 1572 square metres and the additional would add another 322, which makes it over 2,000 square meters. Now, the average Australian house is - I looked that up - and it is just about 200 square metres. So we're actually talking about development on this property, as I see it, as the equivalent of about 10 Australian houses and we've got 41 acres. So you're talking about the intensity of development which is like a rural residential development and whether it's costed or it is spread out, I think there is a lot of development on this site. I know it's a tremendously fantastic facility. I know that. And I'm just concerned that we've had a decision that we're not having development west of Duffields Road and yet we can develop something to the equivalent of a rural residential development on a site of 41 acres in terms of site coverage, not of use, with a permit. So I feel really uncomfortable about it and I feel that I'm not going to support it. And I don't feel that obviously the whole future of Spring Creek remains still to be sorted out in one way or another, and I just feel that at this point we should not be approving more development that would bring this level of intensity to this size property. I know as Councillor Bodsworth said, it's very low intensity if you look it in different ways but if you look at it in terms of the development of this size property, it's actually - it's reasonably equivalent to what you would have in a rural residential development on a 41 acre property. And I don't - I'm hoping I've got those figures right but I feel really uncomfortable and it and I'm not going to support it on that basis.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Wellington. Any other Councillors wanting to speak to this item? Councillor Pattison?

CR PATTISON: Thank you. I just wanted to mention quickly that when we look at this proposal before us, we're talking about an additional 522 square metres and we're - the coverage is 1.2% building coverage of the site. I know that at Ashmore Arts, we're looking at this just as these art pods and the like but there's extensive replanting, revegetation that's been done on the site, and I just wanted to echo Councillor Bodsworth's sentiments around this is very different to residential development and that's why I'll be supporting it tonight.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Pattison. Any other Councillors? And Councillor Barker, do you have any closing statements?

CR BARKER: No, thanks, Mayor.

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MAYOR STAPLETON: We'll put the motion to a vote. All those in favour? And against? And the motion is carried 7-1. Thank you, Councillors. Item 4.3 is the Karaaf project update. This report presents the final reports and outcomes of two projects within council's Karaaf wetlands program and recommends that council continues its commitment to improving the health of the Karaaf wetlands and our community's future water security. We do have a detailed recommendation in the report. Would anyone like to move that motion? Councillor Pattison as per the recommendation?

CR PATTISON: Yes, as per the recommendation.

MAYOR STAPLETON: And is there a seconder for that? Councillor Bodsworth, thank you. And Councillor Pattison, would you like to speak to the item?

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Through the reports presented as part of the agenda tonight, council acknowledges that stormwater is having an adverse impact on the Karaaf wetlands and that the constructed wetlands are too small to deliver best practice treatment of the stormwater. These are significant findings and they enable council to move forward with solutions to address these issues. I'm very grateful for our dedicated community that have worked tirelessly advocating for the Karaaf. Thanks, Andy, for being here tonight and all those that are watching online. There are two key reports that are being presented - the environmental assessment of the Karaaf wetlands as well as the north Torquay constructed wetlands assessment. Both of these assessments have gone into a lot of detail and it's really important work and I know the community and others have worked really hard over a number of years to get these assessments undertaken so we can have a starting point to move forward on resolving what's been happening with the Karaaf. It's important from the environmental assessments that demonstrate the importance of the Karaaf. We know that it's so important and it has a lot of cultural value for the Wadawurrung and the like and these environmental assessments are another report demonstrating the significance of the Karaaf Saltmarsh, with a broad range of plants that exist there, and many of them are endangered and there's important work needed to protect and restore these. So it's already been mentioned many times but council is holding an information session on Thursday and I really encourage our community that are interested, passionate about what's happening at the Karaaf, come along because that's a great opportunity to ask questions, really understand and have a good discussion around the Karaaf, what's been done, and to understand the commitment that council has to addressing these issues and also answer questions that the community has because the authors of the reports will be there answering questions as well as other stakeholders.

So I also thought it worth noting some of the work that's already been done. There's always - there's a lot of work to do but I'm happy that council is doing work. There's been extensive weed removal of typha at the esplanade wetlands. That was massive.

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I don't know if anyone saw the quantum of typha that was removed. It was enormous. And I think that was a really important learning for our council around the level of invasive weeds in the wetlands, and then there's also - there's shorter term projects. I know when we talk about more reports that need to be done, people can feel like there's this spin of reports. The reports are really important but council is committed to doing the short-term actions, looking to optimise the existing wetlands through further weed removal, new plantings to improve the water filtration and remove sediment. Council is committed to making the wetlands - the constructed wetlands that are there as effective as they possibly can be so there can be the best treatment of the stormwater before it moves through the sands, lakes and into the Karaaf. And then when we look at some of the medium term actions, there's further projects, further reports. Identification and costing of infrastructure options to improve water quality and to divert or reuse stormwater, and the exciting one I think is the Barwon Water's concept for the Thompson Valley because that really solves everything. The water, A, is used beneficially and there is good outcomes for the community with the green break and the Thompson Valley agricultural reuse and the like, but also the water is not going into the Karaaf and it's not causing damage, and then there's less concern around the level of treatment that's achieved in the undersized wetlands, constructed wetlands, because we're using that water elsewhere. That's a really important piece of work but it's sort of medium term, longer term.

Then really importantly there's the Wadawurrung assessment of the Karaaf wetlands, listening to Country and learning what it needs, as well as the hydrological study - how water moves within the wetlands and relationships to the wider Thompson Creek catchment. So I think I'm running out of time but the recommendation really affirms council's commitment to delivering on the Karaaf wetlands program and continuing to further develop our understanding of factors that are influencing the health of the Karaaf wetlands and the options available to council as well as other agencies to improve the health because it is more than just council. Obviously the stormwater is coming from council but when we get to managing the Karaaf, it needs to be working with Wadawurrung, with the CCMA and Parks Victoria and the like to have a wholistic management of the system.

So when deciding to move the option before us, there is an alternate option around just accepting all of the recommendations but I think it's important - it's a very complicated system and there's lots going on and it's important that we note the reports are committed to delivering on outcomes for the Karaaf and then balance up what is the right way forward based on a number of factors. So that is why I'm moving the recommendation that has been put forward tonight.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Pattison. And Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor Stapleton. I agree that the recommendation, and

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not the alternate recommendation, is the way that we should go. I think the alternative recommendation warrants a careful thought and I gave it some careful thought, but I see a bit of a blank cheque factor in the alternative option and I just don't think that we're in a position to sign up and commit to full implementation of the report, given what we know now and given the things that we still need to establish.

And also in talking about this item tonight, I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners, being the Wadawurrung people, and to acknowledge that the area, the Karaaf wetlands and Pt Impossible, is an area of huge significance to the Wadawurrung.

So in talking about the Annual Report, I talked about our halfway point as a council, and to me the first half of our term - in the first half of our term, I see this Karaaf, the progress made on Karaaf, as one of the most - one of the things that I'm most proud of in this half term, which is not to suggest that we've completely nailed it. We all know that we haven't, and we all know that we've got a lot of work to do, both to fill in the gaps to decide what we can afford to do, how we can use partnerships that Robyn, the CEO, and senior staff and the project staff have been so good at developing, use those partnerships to help us implement the report's recommendations. So there is a pledge that was made for a large amount of money. Tonight's budget should reveal whether that pledge comes through and obviously that will add a lot of horse power to what we can achieve. So all in all, I think that we were behind before. We dropped the ball, I think. We weren't the good neighbour that we want to be and that's had downstream impacts which I think we've all acknowledged we're sorry for and I think this is part of making that right and the job is not done but I think we're heading in the great direction and I would also like to thank Andy and the others, Glenda Shemali, Darren Noyes-Brown, and others who have been fighting for better treatment of the Karaaf for many years. Thanks.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Bodsworth. Would any other Councillors like to speak to this item? Councillor Wellington?

CR WELLINGTON: Thank you. Look, the recommendation is to note it and I think that is significant in the sense that it does - council has acknowledged the problem and has recognised its contribution to it and its need to do something. I just don't think there's a sense of an emergency around this. And I know we need to know more but this has been - I think Andy first approached us as councillors maybe two years ago. I know he's in the gallery. I can't see him. But it's been a very long time ago. We've got some really, really good information now. We need more. We've got a climate emergency and this is a carbon sink. I mean, we've said there is a climate emergency. I didn't support that because I thought it was virtue signalling, to be honest, rather than getting on and doing something. We've got a carbon sink that we've actually almost destroyed. And if you look at the reports, they talk about questioning whether - how many years it will take for this to recover, even if we got best practice in tomorrow. The potential

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recovery of the vegetation of the highly impacted area towards the western end is unclear. It is not known whether we've past the tipping point. Andy has come forward tonight and said there are more things we can do with the infrastructure that we own or that we control and we should be doing that and we shouldn't be talking about what can we afford for the Karaaf. We should be looking at what does the Karaaf need and then how do we get the resources to do it, and that might mean we don't do some other things we would like to do. But I am with Councillor Barker absolutely, that the range of things that we like to do is very, very broad and I don't believe we can afford to do that. We're the ones who said we've got a climate emergency. This council said it. We've got an emergency right on our doorstep with a carbon sink that is dying in front of us.

So I will support the recommendation but I would like to see a sense of emergency around this, rather than a broad declaration of emergency. This is truly urgent. We have to get on really quickly and do this, and we ought to be doing things in the short term, immediate term, as quickly we can, about river management, about getting rid of gravel nature strips in the northern parts of Torquay, about managing the drainage system in the wetlands that we've got. It cost us \$250,000 to get rid of the typha that's at the esplanade. There is massive cost involved. I know there's money around the corner but we need to look at these costs and say: Well, what's more important? The carbon sink we've got or delivering community education about the environment? I would say I know exactly what's more important. It's the carbon sink that we've got that's dying. Thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Wellington. Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor, I'll support this but I'm not convinced that it does enough in a quick enough timeframe to prevent irreparable damage to the wetlands. I also thank all Australian taxpayers for their 12 cent contribution, should that \$1.9 million commitment be realised to resolve our local issue. I'm actually perplexed at how an organisation that claims to help our environment to thrive could let the typha build up to the levels that they got to and presided over the significant degradation of the Karaaf. This sort of maintenance is what I would consider a core service. For every dollar we spend on non-core services, it takes away a dollar from managing this element of our core services. What is concerning to me is that by the time the next report is due, it is uncertain whether or not endangered plant species in the Karaaf will survive. Based on what I have heard during public question time, I now have a few questions of my own. You can leave the clock running. I will finish what I'm going to say. First question, what was the process council decided and what expert information was sought to support the decision to implement only some of the actions recommended in the assessment?

MAYOR STAPLETON: Sorry, Councillor Barker, are you asking that question now? So

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you're seeking an answer on that.

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: Can you ask the question again, Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: What was the process council decided and what expert information was sought to support the decision to implement only some of the actions recommended in the assessment?

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: We haven't made any decisions about how - what we're talking about doing is actually looking at the recommendations and prioritising the action. We haven't said that we won't implement all of the actions. We're saying we need to look at them, prioritise which one also have the biggest impact and which ones we should do first in order to do that as we work through and understand - and as we build our better understanding and test and trial. Our view is that this is likely to need to be quite a dynamic environment where we learn, adjust, act and do that in a continual way but we haven't said we won't be implementing some of them yet. We need to work through them specifically and look at how we prioritise them to make sure we're doing the things that are going to make the biggest difference.

CR BODSWORTH: Excellent. Second one. What can be done to ensure the sediment doesn't cause catastrophic downstream effects and why aren't we doing that now?

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: So in terms of the sediment, we are - we've got a whole lot of work that is being done now in terms of working with our builders and with our litter management and we've been doing enforcement and education in the last six months or more in that space to actually ensure that our building sites are being managed effectively. And then to the sediment, there's a whole process that we need to go through in terms of our construct a wetlands, around cleaning out sediment ponds and managing that so that we are ensuring that those wetlands are working to optimum capacity and I think this report is really helpful in helping identify exactly what are the actions that are required and what can we do to Councillor Wellington's point around what do we need to do straightaway, what is the further work that we need to do in terms of prioritising action and where are we heading in the longer term? So that's what we're focused on.

CR BARKER: Excellent. Thanks, and the last one: are we going to ensure that construction companies manage the cost of sediment inflows to the wetland system if the construction sites in the future are not managed effectively? I know you've got the plan to manage them effectively but what happens if they aren't managed effectively?

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: So I guess that's why we're doing the enforcement of science in that space. In terms of our capacity to require them to clean out the sediment ponds, I don't think we have capacity to do that but we are very proactively - both with our

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new Litter Enforcement Officer and the broader work we're doing with the EPA around the management of those work sites, proactively looking to try and minimise sediment and rubbish that's going into our constructed wetlands and through the system, and catch it before it goes into the Karaaf.

CR BARKER: Thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Barker. Any other Councillors wanting to speak to this item? And Councillor Pattison, did you have any closing comments? We'll now put the motion to a vote. Sorry, Councillor Wellington, did you have a question?

CR WELLINGTON: Can I ask a question? Just when the CEO said something there, it raised a question with me. We don't have capacity to require the cleaning out of the wetlands - I guess the question is whose ownership they are under because certainly a lot of the infrastructure is under council ownership? But also it raises questions for me about what we require of developers. If developers have continuing ownership of wetlands, it should be within our planning control, and maybe it hasn't been in the past, but we have looked at the planning scheme to see what we're doing with upcoming developments to ensure that we do have capacity, to make sure, first of all, that the systems are adequate and, secondly, that they're maintained either by us when they're handed over to us or by the developers if they're retained in somebody else's control. So, to me, this is a critical public interest issue, and if it's not in our plan - and it probably can't be answered tonight because we haven't got a planner present - but if it's not within our planning - if we're not using the Planning Scheme to the maximum capability now, that should be done immediately so that we stop this getting worse from a planning perspective while we sort out what we can do with the damage that's been created.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Wellington. I think we probably can answer some of those questions for you now. I'll just refer that to the CEO.

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: Councillor Wellington, sorry, let me clarify. My response to Councillor Barker was in relation to individual builders as opposed to broader developers. So I was talking specifically around a building site as opposed to a broader developer response around their obligations to a constructed wetland that's under their control. So I was saying that in terms of forcing individual builders to clean out our sediment ponds, we don't have capacity to do that, but in terms of developers and the wetlands that are under developer control, then there's work that we are doing with our developers in terms of what needs to be done around ensuring that they are maintained effectively and one of the things that is highlighted in this report is that because of the under-sizing of our wetlands, the importance of more regular cleaning out of the sediment ponds and so that is going to be an important part of the work that we look at and we work with our developers on.

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MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you. Thanks, guys. And just to double check, Councillor Pattison, any closing comments?

CR PATTISON: No, that's fine.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you. We'll put the motion to a vote. All those in favour? And the motion is carried unanimously. Thank you, Councillors. Moving on, our next report is requesting council to adopt the Communications and Community Engagement Strategy 2022-2025. We have a recommendation to note the community engagement findings report and to adopt the strategy. Do I have a mover for that recommendation? Councillor Pattison, thank you. And a seconder? Councillor Barker. Thank you. And Councillor Pattison, would you like to speak to this item?

CR PATTISON: Yes, please. So the recommendation before us is for adopting the Communications and Community Engagement Strategy for 2022 to 2025 and this sets out the principles and processes for communicating and engaging with community for the next three years. Some of the key - the strategy's key directions focus on working with First Nations people, improving accessibility and inclusion, and representation of diverse views and reducing barriers to participation, building relationships and trust, working together with community and stakeholders, sharing information, creating opportunities and improving understanding, pursuing more opportunities for community and stakeholder input into council's decision making processes, and that also includes influencing and deliberative engagement, growing council-wide understanding of the role around importance of good engagement and communications and seeking continuous improvement. So this is the new strategy and it replaces the one from 2019 to 2021, and it's been an opportunity to review the priorities and seek fresh community input and set new goals. It builds on the existing work providing communications and engagement that are transparent, genuine, relevant and accessible for all parts of our community, and we need to ensure that our community members feel included, informed and able to contribute to the decisions that are affecting them, and I think this strategy reflects the views of our council and it's something that as a Councillor group, we are often stressing the importance of good communication and ensuring that our community feels engaged and enabled to do more, and I think this strategy is a great framework for that.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Pattison. Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: My main concern about this strategy is that some key elements of the strategy are currently unfunded and would require council adoption of future budget bids before they could be implemented. We need to be really clear on what the trade-offs for this direction will be. This will increase the cost of business of council. I think it will deliver better communication between residents and ratepayers and our

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organisation.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Barker. Would any Councillors like to speak to this item? Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: Thanks, Chair. I recognise that this is a very comprehensive strategy and that we are mandated under the Local Government Act 2020 to undertake community engagement and that it obviously is desirable to seek feedback, to use our limited resources more effectively. However, I do have a concern that the pressing needs identified in this process often do not have sufficient resources to address the issues, and that's been highlighted previously, in previous debates. Some revenue spent on engaging should be redirected to solving.

I have often said over the past two years that I do not think that we engage with a proper cross-section of the community. For example, those who serve on advisory committees must complete a written application or take part in an interview. Now, not all people are comfortable with one of these elements, let alone both. Therefore, our engagement in this area was skewed. Now, I do not want to give the impression that I do not value the commitment of those who serve. Far from it. And mind you, I do not have the answers to address the problem, but it still concerns me. I will support the recommendation but I do so with reservation. Thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Allen. Would any other councillors like to speak? Councillor Wellington?

CR WELLINGTON: Yes, thanks very much. I see engagement as being predominantly cultural but it also requires a systems basis. So engagement stems from a the interaction of a person who never has anything to do with council but suddenly has a problem right through to community groups that are really developed in order to interact mainly with council and to promote the purposes and the wellbeing of their community, and they need to have very regularly online communication with council, and then, of course, there's all sorts of minority groups. Everyone's got different needs. Basically, people - to me, good engagement - at the end there's an outcome, and the outcome is that people feel that they've been heard. They've got access to information when they need it and they feel that they've been heard when they've got something to say. I don't know, I guess we'll wait and see what comes out of the community satisfaction survey as to whether people feel they've been heard. I have had massive issues with getting access to information over the years through FOI. That's been resolved pretty much completely now. I get all the information I need and I really appreciate that with the new administration. But I do hear a lot from people particularly around planning issues where they just don't seem to be able to get through and they don't seem to be able to get information when they need it. They don't seem to feel that they really understand what's required of them and they don't necessarily feel that

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they're heard. So I see all of these words on paper about engagement and it seems that engagement has become an outcome in itself - tick, we've engaged. You know, we've done the survey. We've done the group forum. We've done this and that. I feel with some of the group forums, we kind of - we don't get a good cross-section. We don't get the people who disagree with it. We only often get the people who agree with it. And we come out with what we might have had in our head in the beginning. So we're not necessarily really listening to the community. And, look, the fact that - the first strategy in this - I don't know whether yes really know what the engagement problem is in the community, and who feels they're disengaged and why. So we hear from some small groups but we have done some survey work with this but I'm not sure that we've got a really clear view of the person in the street in Winchelsea or the person on the street in Lorne or the person in the street in Anglesea, what is that they want from engagement with council and are we listening to what they want? We shape a council plan and then we direct the strategy within that council plan, and I don't think it's necessarily the strategy that the ratepayer generally or any ratepayer - you know, that the ratepayers actually genuinely look for. I mean, I'm not going to vote against it. I'll support it for the work gone in it, it's very nicely presented, but is it going to help us - at the end of the day, customer satisfaction - the community satisfaction with community that will tell me whether or not we've managed to engage with people.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Wellington. Would any other Councillors like to speak in Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Just briefly. I kind of echo Councillor Wellington's comments in a way, in that reading through the report, it's obvious that even to the communications and engagement experts that we have on staff running this, the results can be baffling. I sympathise with them trying to get the balance right because the data that's presented in the report shows that people have wildly different expectations from engagement. They're looking for different things and, as Councillor Wellington said, some have very specific preferences and others have these general hard to pin down preferences that are really hard for us as an organisation to address really well. So I think this is a case where we have to accept that it's a really tricky business and you're damned if you do, damned if you don't, in a way. You're going to disenfranchise people if you don't engage and then you're going to disenfranchise some people if you do. And I just think that we need to continue to undertake this kind of survey work and sort of careful thinking but to imagine that we're going to nail it and have all people satisfied with engagement all the time would be a fantasy and I think that this strategy does a really good job of acknowledging that and still going ahead and presenting some really useful strategies. So I support it and I think it's a tricky business.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Bodsworth. Any other Councillors? Councillor Hodge?

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CR HODGE: Just very quickly, what I found interesting in this is the way engagement and how people engage has changed over the years from them reading newspapers or getting newsletters. We've seen a huge growth in the council Facebook page and website, which is really good, and hopefully the education in the community, especially for the older generation, are getting on to websites now so we can hear more from them. But we talked before about the success of the app on our phones with our waste. Wouldn't it be terrific if we were able to have an app - and it's mentioned in the strategy - a council app which needs to be budgeted of course for but access feasibility, and I think that could be a really big - if we could get 10,000 people online to when their rubbish is getting picked up, imagine if we had that continual education out there and then feeding back. So that's a terrific thing that I can see in the future. But thanks, it is tricky but we've got to be innovative and we've got to put resources to it, which no doubt will be a discussion at the next budget, but I think a council app, which is mentioned in here, would be a really great way of stepping up innovation to the community and getting their feedback.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Hodge. And any other Councillors? Any closing comments, Councillor Pattison? Thank you. We'll put the motion to a vote. All those in favour? And the motion is carried unanimously. Thank you, Councillors.

Our next report is for endorsement to undertake the process to rename a number of streets within the new development at 51 Main Street, Winchelsea, following advice from Geographic Names Victoria. We do have a recommendation detailing which streets are to be renamed. Do I have a mover? Councillor Schonfelder. Is that as per the recommendation? And anyone to second that? Councillor Wellington, thank you. And Councillor Schonfelder, would you like to speak to that item?

CR SCHONFELDER: Thank you, Mayor. The recommendation is that council declare its intention to rename 1.1 Davidson Street from house numbers 11 to 16 to Riverview Drive to Warner Street, then 1.2, Riverview Drive from 24 Riverview Drive to Wiltshire Rise to Smith Street, 1.3, Sinclair Close and Moran Way to Sinclair Circuit. Secondly, that council issues a public notice and invites submissions in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989. Now, what has happened in the past, Mayor - and I have been contacted about this - we have a development in Winchelsea along the river and west of - well, east, actually, of the existing residential area that comprises Smith Street and Warner Street and what happened was these new streets were earmarked to eventually meet up with existing streets but because of emergency services, I believe the council was recommended to have different names for these roads but I was thinking that in Melbourne, there's Toorak Road that has City of Stonnington part of it and then City of Melbourne, and in the City of Melbourne part, it has Toorak Road west, and I felt in hindsight - and I know we've talked tonight about the Karaaf and we've talked about different issues - and in hindsight, it might have been better to have simply said Smith Street west or even Warner Street west until the

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streets connected together. Like, it was a fairly tricky issue. I'd like to thank Chris Riley, who went around and got signatures for a petition about this issue, and I know that we've had COVID and we've had a few problems I think communicating with some of the locals in the area because of COVID and we had lock date downs during this period, but the fact that the advice that we've received from Geographic Names Victoria that they have recommended that we now rename these roads, I think it's a sensible outcome that has now been achieved. So I recommend this item for the council. Thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Schonfelder, and Councillor Wellington?

CR WELLINGTON: Thanks. It happened really because of different developments happening at different times and then one of them speeding up a bit and (inaudible). Obviously it's preferable to - and we certainly need to meet the guidelines, but for simplicity, it's obviously better for this to be done as soon as possible. It's always difficult for people who are (inaudible) properties and have an existing addresses to have to change - if they purchase anything - but this hopefully won't find too much inconvenience to too many people and what we're agreeing tonight is just to put it out for consultation and no doubt we'll hear back from the community about what it thinks, and we will effectively take it from there. I think naming of streets is always of interest to community and there's often suggestions also put forward about naming a street on past identities in communities as well. See what we get back on it but at the moment I think it's fine for it to go for consultation. Thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Wellington. Are there any other Councillors? Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Just a question. Point number 2, is there any reason why we're not using reference to Local Government Act 2020?

MAYOR STAPLETON: Some particular items are still relevant to the 1989 Local Government Act, so I assume that's why but I'll just get the CEO to confirm.

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: Yes, that is my understanding.

CR BARKER: Do you have a type of activity?

CR ROBYN SEYMOUR: Yes. There's some things that are - the bulk of things are now covered off by the 2020 Act but there's still some carryover from the former --

CR BARKER: OK. Thanks.

MAYOR STAPLETON: And did you have anything you wanted to say or was it just the

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question? OK. We'll put the motion to a vote. All those in favour? And the motion is carried unanimously. Thank you, Councillors. So item 4.6 is for the Graffiti Management Policy. And this item is requesting council to endorse the policy for community consultation and the development of the graffiti management policy is a guide for council and the community in the management of graffiti within the Surf Coast Shire. Do I have a mover? Councillor Allen, is that as per the recommendation?

CR ALLEN: As per the recommendation, thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you. And a seconder for that? Councillor Schonfelder, thank you. And Councillor Allen, would you like to speak to this item?

CR ALLEN: Thank you, Chair. I have long had a personal dislike for illegal graffiti. In my view it shows disrespect towards our communities and their citizens, communities that rely on natural beauty and neighbourhood character. It may be seen as a harsh judgment but I also believe that as a council, we also show disrespect towards our communities by allowing graffiti to remain.

I'm very pleased that we have begun the journey to include a draft policy, and after community consultation and necessary adjustment, to bring the final policy back to council. As a school principal, I held the view that graffiti, once it appears, must be removed as quickly as practicable, and that policy was successful. Tagging is a modern form of marking territory and can be quickly removed in a cost-effective way, because if it remains, it spreads and then becomes an resource-intensive issue to remove. When joining the Council, I was (inaudible) to see what other local government authorities do. Most councils have a Graffiti Management Policy and tonight again I'm pleased that we've begun the process. However, I believe that many of the statements in the draft need further detail. For example, the reporting of graffiti is the first and a vital step. I would like more detail in the policy as to how this might be addressed and managed.

The draft recognises that some forms of graffiti should be rightly removed within 24 hours, but I note that when this is done, it must be recorded and forwarded to the police. But then we moved to a 20 business days removal. Now, a month is too long, in my view. Many of the LGA policies are five working days removal. I accept that this is a complicated matter, but so are many issues that we deal with, and the draft recognises that we must engage with the authority, other government Departments, public utilities, local businesses and residents, all with different policies and expectations. So we have already started a coordinating role in the space, which is terrific. And there's no one profile for people who vandalise our assets. Looking at those apprehended and charged, they mainly come from outside our towns and often outside our municipality, and this highlights to me the importance of removing tags as quickly as possible, as visitors with intent will add to the tag. The draft policy highlights the importance of education and involvement, and I agree - graffiti quickly reported

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and removed is an essential step in managing the issue. Previous council policy provided some of the victims with the materials to remove the graffiti, and with the proper controls this is an action that I believe we should revisit. This is a highly complex social issue. Some communities use harsh deterrents that are not acceptable in our context, but I do think that the perpetrators must be held accountable for their actions and (inaudible) fines imposed upon those who are found guilty. I also believe that we should through our advocacy (inaudible) be lobbying the State Government to support state-wide educational programs and to finance LGAs for the cost of removal. We should also attempt to education suppliers of materials commonly used for graffiti - not to sell without asking questions. I thank the officers who prepared the draft and I support it as the first step in a complex journey. Thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Allen. And Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: Thank you, Mayor. I echo the sentiments expressed from Councillor Allen and note that theme 4 of our council plan is sustainable growth and strategy 11 is to protect heritage and township character. Council is committed to the removal of graffiti from council assets, rapid removal increases town amenity and helps the community feel safe and well cared for. I would like to emphasise the fact that our municipality comprises coastal townships and rural villages and I would not consider any of the settlements to be suburban and when it comes to graffiti, there seems to be a connotation that it is something that happens in the suburbs and also in the downtown of many larger cities, for instance. We are not opposed to street art, and I think it's very important to distinguish between legal activities of people who have sought permission from either private - a private property owner or a non-private property owner such as a council, to have street art displayed because I know that many examples of them are quite impressive and that's something in one way I think should be encouraged and, in particular, when it comes to reconciliation with First Nations people as well, more street art, acknowledging the history of our ancient continent, that would be something that I would welcome. I know that there seems to be - when it comes to graffiti, I'm not a criminologist, but I know we have a Councillor who has a policing background and I know that some people - and I know - I was going to say some young people but Councillor Allen has very correctly said that people who do commit graffiti vary. It's not always the stereotype of teenagers or younger people, but I think there's a part of a rebellious streak with people doing it, so whether they're anti social, but I look forward to the findings comes back from our engagement. But I know in songs - I'm a big Paul Simon fan and there's a song that has the lyric "Words of the prophets are written on the subway wall". In a way, graffiti has been glamorised too in our popular culture, so we have a challenge of encouraging street art but deterring illegal and anti-social conduct. Thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Cr Schnofelder. Would any other councillors like to speak? Cr Bodsworth.

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CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. I've got nothing to add to that, except that - and it's a little bit outside the scope of this but I'm also bothered by - when it comes to can, there's some great content to here about advocating to owners of other public infrastructure, utility companies and that kind of thing. I'm also bothered, and I know the people who - in the Anglesea ward have contacted me about infrastructure compounds and the standard of presentation of public infrastructure and utility boxes and particularly the larger compounds that I can think of at the top of Harvey Street in Anglesea, in an otherwise exquisite natural landscape, horribly presented, in terrible condition with a portable outside toilet that neighbours have to look into in Aireys Inlet on Bambra Road. We've got a super-ugly utility compound. I mean, these are utilitarian things but there's no need for them to be as ugly as they are so I hope that we can accept submissions that relate to that, although it's slightly off topic, it's still - hopefully, if we go forward with our advocacy and negotiations and partnerships with other agencies, I hope that that can be on the agenda as well. But I enjoyed seeing the policy and I commend Councillor Allen for his strong advocacy on this and getting to this point.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Bodsworth. Any other Councillors? Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Just really quickly, this definitely falls within what I believe is core services. However, every dollar we spend on graffiti management is a dollar that we can't spend on other services, so it's important that any sort of education on this articulates that it costs community even more so when we have to resolve the issue.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Barker. Councillor Wellington?

CR WELLINGTON: Thanks. I just wanted to say I agree with Councillor Allen absolutely. I think graffiti should be removed as quickly as possible and certainly in more than a week I think is too long. It will be interesting to see what the community says about that, and by definition, graffiti is illegal, so street art is not graffiti, and we need to be clear that - we need to be really clear about what graffiti is and we really need to crack down on it in my view, and street art is not graffiti and I don't think there's any distinction to be made. Street art is made with permission and often would require planning permission, I suspect.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Wellington. Councillor Allen, did you have any closing comments?

CR ALLEN: Yes, thanks, Mayor. The officers have done a great job with dealing with the different utilities and it is a very complex issue. Look, Telstra are fantastic. They come down, they clean off the graffiti on the telephone boxes. (Inaudible) terrible, and so there a - it is a complex issue and I agree with Councillor Barker and I meant to say

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within our advocacy, we should be asking the State Government to recompense councils for the cost of cleaning graffiti. And it also flows over into our operations. I was delighted that today in fact some officers go it in touch with me and they're going to remove some bins in Lorne that are surplus to requirements in the off period and they've been kept there and stored there and they've been graffitied. Now, there's no point in them staying there in Lorne. They should be removed. And I am delighted that the officers are working with the contractors to have them removed. So there are things that we can proactively do to support the policy. Thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Allen. And we'll now put the motion to a vote. All those in favour? And the motion is carried unanimously. Thank you, Councillors. Next up we have item 4.7, and this report is to consider a request for support from the Stribling Reserve community asset committee for the provision of new furniture to assist with the sustainable operation of the reserve. Do we have a mover? Councillor Allen, is that as per the recommendation?

CR ALLEN: Thank you, Chair.

MAYOR STAPLETON: And a seconder for that item? Councillor Bodsworth, thank you. And Councillor Allen, would you like to speak to this item?

CR ALLEN: Yes, thank you, Chair. Councillors, the recently opened Stribling Pavilion in Lorne is a magnificent council facility that is ideally positioned to fill an unexpected reduction in the number of facilities in Lorne capable of hosting large functions, including weddings, conferences and special community events.

Over the past two years, three major conference and function facilities in Lorne (inaudible) to provide these opportunities. This is an unexpected market opportunity for the Stribling Reserve to help fill this gap in Lorne and, at the same time, help secure the sustainable operation of the reserve. The existing premises is perfectly adequate for the use of the Lorne (inaudible) College, which has exclusive use during term and school hours and for school community meetings, dinners and user group needs. This furniture will remain. However, that's if the motion is accepted - however, if the community asset committee and the successful operator are to properly market the reserve for larger functions catering for up to 200 people, which it has the capacity to do, it needs (inaudible) fit for purpose that can be used and then properly stored. The community asset committee has over the past four years undertaken a mammoth task to raise over \$600,000 to equip the reserve with state-of-the-art) facilities. It would be very difficult - it would find it very difficult to go back to the community and ask for more, and it is by regulation unable to borrow the money. So the proposal before us for consideration is both creative and opportune. It is proposed to purchase the furniture from the unallocated cash reserve with the undertaking by the asset committee that the funds will be returned in full over two years. The proposal enables

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the committee to (inaudible) operator to conduct functions over the coming season rather than wait 12 months before generating income from the source, with the revenue opportunity that from this year would be lost. The income generated from all sources enables the community asset committee to meet all operational and maintenance costs without drawing upon ratepayer income. Thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Allen. And Councillor Bodsworth, did you have any comments?

CR BODSWORTH: No, I don't, thanks, Mayor.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Bodsworth. Any other Councillors wanting to speak in Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Just quickly, thanks, Mayor, normally I wouldn't support the expenditure of this but given the repayment schedule and the fact that it will make the operation able to fund the ongoing maintenance of its area, I'm very happy to support the motion.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Barker. And Councillor Allen, did you have any closing comments?

CR ALLEN: No, thanks.

MAYOR STAPLETON: I'll put the motion to a vote. All those in favour? And the motion is carried unanimously. Thank you, Councillors. And our next report is the project budget adjustments and cash reserve transfers for October 2022, and this report contains proposed project budget assessments and cash reserve transfers for council ratification and approval relating to the 2022-23 financial year. We do have a recommendation detailing what that is. Do I have a mover for this item? Councillor Bodsworth, is that as per the recommendation?

CR BODSWORTH: Yes.

MAYOR STAPLETON: And a seconder? Councillor Barker, thank you. And would you like to speak to this item?

CR BODSWORTH: No, I don't.

CR BARKER: Just very briefly. I would strongly urge interested people to read where the funding sources of many of the projects listed in the report come from and how that impacts their income.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Barker. And any other Councillors wanting

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to speak? And we'll put the motion to a vote. All those in favour? And the motion is carried unanimously. Thank you, Councillors.

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I commend you on your efficiency because it's 8 o'clock right now and I was about to ask for a break, please.

MAYOR STAPLETON: We've just got one more item before we move into close. Can you hold on for --

CR SCHONFELDER: I can.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Sorry, two very -- you can hold on?

CR SCHONFELDER: I can.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Item 4.9 is requesting council to note the Councillor expenses paid and attendance at meetings for the September quarter. We do have a recommendation. Do I have a mover and a seconder? Councillor Pattison as per the recommendation?

CR PATTISON: That's right, yes.

MAYOR STAPLETON: And is there a seconder? Councillor Barker. And would you like to speak to the item, Councillor Pattison? Councillor Barker? Anyone else? And we put the motion to a vote. All those in favour? And the motion is carried unanimously. Thank you, Councillors. And item 4.10 is recommendation requesting council to note the previous conflict of interest records, which are detailed there. Do we have a mover and a seconder? As per the recommendation, Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, Mayor.

MAYOR STAPLETON: And seconded by Councillor Barker. And did you want to speak to the item?

CR SCHONFELDER: I shall reserve my right, thank you.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Schonfelder. Councillor Barker? Any other Councillors? And all those in favour? And the motion is carried unanimously. Thank you, Councillors. We have one confidential item to consider tonight, which is actually now two I believe because we have some urgent business which is confidential as well. So we will now say goodbye to everyone watching from home and thank you for joining us this evening. Can I please have Councillors to move and second a motion to moved into confidential? Councillor Bodsworth, seconded by Councillor Hodge. And all those



National Disability Award winner
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in favour? And the motion is carried unanimously. And --

CR HODGE: Chair, can I just say at the next council meeting, we have a Mayoral vote in between and we don't know what's going to happen at that time but I would like to thank you for the two years that you've certainly put into the Chair. As a new Councillor you've done an exceptional job and congratulations.

MAYOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Councillor Hodge. That's very much appreciated. And we'll now say good night to our viewers on the livestream. Thank you.