



**COUNCIL MEETING OF
THE HUME CITY COUNCIL**

TUESDAY, 12 MARCH 2024

7.00PM

HUME GLOBAL LEARNING CENTRE CRAIGIEBURN

OUR VISION:

Hume City Council will be recognised as a leader in achieving social, environmental and economic outcomes with a common goal of connecting our proud community and celebrating the diversity of Hume.

An audio and video recording of this meeting of the Hume City Council will be published to Council's website within two (2) working days.

HUME CITY COUNCIL

**Notice of a
COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HUME CITY COUNCIL**
to be held on Tuesday, 12 March 2024
at 7.00pm
at the Hume Global Learning Centre Craigieburn

Attendees:	a: Council	Cr Naim Kurt Cr Karen Sherry Cr Jarrod Bell Cr Trevor Dance Cr Joseph Haweil Cr Chris Hollow Cr Jodi Jackson Cr Jack Medcraft Cr Sam Misho Cr Carly Moore Cr Jim Overend	Mayor Deputy Mayor
	b: Officers	Ms Sheena Frost Ms Megan Taylor Mr Hector Gaston Mr Adam McSwain Mr Carl Muller Ms Fiona Shanks Mr Fadi Srour	Chief Executive Officer Act. Director City Planning and Places Director City Services & Living Director Infrastructure and Assets Director Customer & Strategy Chief People Officer Chief Financial Officer

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Hume City Council would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on Country for which the members and Elders of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and their forebears have been custodians for many thousands of years. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, which includes the Gunung-Willam-Balluk clan, are the Traditional Custodians of this land. Hume City Council would also like to pay its respects to their Elders, past and present, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who may be here today.

2. PRAYER

Hume City's religious diversity strengthens and enriches community life and supports the well-being of the citizens of Hume City. Hume City Council acknowledges the importance of spiritual life and the leadership offered by the Hume Interfaith Network (HIN). In recognition of the religious diversity of residents in Hume City Council has invited the HIN to take responsibility for the opening prayer at Council meetings. This evening's prayer will be led by Nilupa Jayawickrema, from the Australian Buddhist Temple - Craigieburn, on behalf of the HIN.

3. APOLOGIES**4. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Councillors' attention is drawn to the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules in relation to the disclosure of conflicts of interests. Councillors are required to disclose any conflict of interest immediately before consideration or discussion of the relevant item. Councillors are then required to leave the Chamber during discussion and not vote on the relevant item.

5. CONGRATULATIONS AND CONDOLENCES**6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 February 2024, including Confidential Minutes.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 February 2024, including Confidential Minutes, be confirmed.

7. SUMMARY OF COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS**7.1 Summary of Council Briefing Sessions - 5 February 2024 and 19 February 2024****1. COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSIONS**

Council Briefing Sessions which was held on the following dates:

1.1 Monday 5th February 2024

1.2 Monday 19th February 2024

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the Summary of Matters Discussed at the Council Briefing Sessions held on 5th February and 19th February 2024.



Summary of matters discussed at a COUNCIL BRIEFING MEETING

MEETING TITLE: COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSION

Date of Meeting: 5 February 2024 **Time of Meeting:** 6:30pm

Place of Meeting: In Person and Online via Zoom

The ground or grounds for any matter discussed at this meeting which was considered to be confidential is recorded in this meeting summary.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT	
Cr Naim Kurt (Mayor)	In person
Cr Karen Sherry (Deputy Mayor)	In person
Cr Jarrod Bell	In person
Cr Trevor Dance	Online
Cr Joseph Haweil	In person
Cr Chris Hollow	In person
Cr Jodi Jackson	Online
Cr Jack Medcraft	In person
Cr Sam Misho	In person
Cr Carly Moore	Online
Cr Jim Overend	In person

OFFICERS PRESENT		MATTERS DISCUSSED
Ms Sheena Frost, Chief Executive Officer	In person	All
Mr Hector Gaston, Director City Services and Living	In person	All
Mr Carl Muller, Director Customer and Strategy	In person	All
Mr Adam McSwain, Director Infrastructure and Assets	In person	All
Ms Rachel Dapiran, Director City Planning and Places	In person	All
Mr Fadi Srour, Chief Financial Officer	In person	All
Ms Fiona Shanks,	In person	All

Chief People Officer		
Ruth Robles-McColl	In person	1.1
Danielle Prentice	In person	1.2
Megan Taylor	In person	3.1, 3.2
Joel Kimber	In person	3.4, 3.5, 3.6
George Osborne	Online	3.8

MATTERS CONSIDERED:

Order	Description	Names of Councillors who disclosed conflict of interest	Did the Councillor leave the meeting?	Confidential ground of grounds
Items Discussed				
1.1	Internal Presentation: Jacksons Hill Community Engagement and Progress Update	Nil		
1.2	Internal Presentation: Update on Keep Hume Clean/Waste Response Teams and initial results	Nil		
3.1	Planning Scheme Amendment C267 - 45 Donnybrook Road, Mickleham - Consideration of Submissions	Nil		
3.2	Hume Heritage Overlay Review – Planning Scheme Amendment C266 – Adoption of Amendment	Nil		
3.3	Sustainability Taskforce New Members and TOR update	Nil		
3.4	Civic Events Schedule 2024	Nil		
3.5	Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meetings of the Hume City Council held on 27 May 2022, 29 August 2022, 25 November 2022, 24 February 2023, 26 May 2023, 28 September 2023 and 24 November 2023	Nil		
3.6	Summary of Council Briefing Session – 18 December 2023	Nil		
3.7	Contract No. 30 23 3504 – Municipal Association of Victoria Procurement – Provision of Storage and Imaging Services – RFT No RM7813-2023 (Confidential Report – Private commercial matters)	Nil		Private commercial matters
3.8	Request for Financial Incentive - AFL Max	Nil		Proposed developments

	(Confidential Report – Proposed developments)			
3.9	Contract 30 20 3088 - End User Computing Panel Contract (COGE296) (Confidential Report – Private commercial matters)	Nil		Private commercial matters
Other matters dealt with:				
	Notices of Motion x 4	Nil		
	Palestinian Conflict – business discussion	Nil		
	Conduct Reforms	Nil		
	- Commencing a big 2024 in a positive way and having a community first approach - Meeting etiquette - ALGA Conference - Local Government Reforms submission discussion	Nil		
Items not dealt with:				

Meeting Closed at: 10 PM

RECORDED BY:

Sheena Frost
Chief Executive Officer



Summary of matters discussed at a COUNCIL BRIEFING MEETING

MEETING TITLE: COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSION

Date of Meeting: 19 February 2024 **Time of Meeting:** 6:30pm

Place of Meeting: In Person and Online via Zoom

The ground or grounds for any matter discussed at this meeting which was considered to be confidential is recorded in this meeting summary.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT		
Cr Naim Kurt (Mayor)		In person
Cr Jarrod Bell		In person
Cr Trevor Dance		Online
Cr Joseph Haweil		In person
Cr Chris Hollow		In person
Cr Jodi Jackson		Online
Cr Jack Medcraft		In person
Cr Sam Misho		In person
Cr Carly Moore		Online
Cr Jim Overend		In person
Cr Karen Sherry (Deputy Mayor)		In person
OFFICERS PRESENT		MATTERS DISCUSSED
Ms Sheena Frost	In person	All
Mr Hector Gaston	In person	All
Mr Carl Muller	In person	All
Mr Adam McSwain	In person	All
Ms Rachel Dapiran	In person	All
Mr Fadi Srour	In person	All
Ms Fiona Shanks	In person	All
Ms Cathy Marshal	In person	1.1
Mr Robert Costa	Online	1.3, 3.1
Ms Danielle Prentice	Online	1.3
Ms Sasha Lord	Online	2.1
Mr Joel Kimber	Online	2.2, 3.2
Ms Megan Taylor	Online	3.3
Mr Joel Farrell	Online	3.4
Ms Astrid Hartono	Online	3.7, 3.9

MATTERS CONSIDERED:

Order	Description	Names of Councillors who disclosed conflict of interest	Did the Councillor leave the meeting?	Confidential ground of grounds
Items Discussed				
1.1	Cost of Living Package Update	Nil		
1.2	Capital Works 24/25 Update – Craigieburn Basketball/ Yirrangana/ Arts Centre	Nil		
1.3	EPA levy / landfill capping update	Nil		
2.1	Digital Transformation Program Update (regular six weekly update)	Nil		
2.2	Review Council Minutes prior to confirmation (Standing Report)	Nil		
3.1	Quarterly Budget Report - December 2023	Nil		
3.2	Annual Assessment against Audit and Risk Committee Charter	Nil		
3.3	Draft Hume Transport Choices Strategy	Nil		
3.4	Council Plan 2021-2025 (2023/24 Actions) Second Quarter Progress Report	Nil		
3.5	Statutory Planning Quarterly Report October to December 2023	Nil		
3.6	Quarterly Capital Works Report - December 2023	Nil		
3.7	Monthly Capital Project Update	Nil		
3.8	Correspondence received from or sent to Government Ministers or	Nil		

	Members of Parliament – December			
3.9	Aitken Blvd Road Duplication project – additional funding requirement	Nil		
Other matters dealt with:				
	Councillor Reform process Update and submission	Nil		
Items not dealt with:				
	Nil			

Meeting Closed at: 9:37 PM

RECORDED BY:

Sheena Frost
Chief Executive Officer

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**9. OFFICER'S REPORTS**

The Mayor will ask the Councillors and gallery at the commencement of this section, which reports they wish to speak to. These reports will then be discussed in the order they appear on the notice paper.

<u>Item No</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
9.1	Amendment C249 - Hi Quality Bulla Spoil Processing Facility - Response to Minister for Planning	11
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10. NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1	NOM24/08 - Cr Joseph Haweil.....	137
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10.4	NOM24/11 - Cr Sam Misho	143

11. ITEMS TO BE TABLED**12. URGENT BUSINESS****13. DELEGATES REPORTS****14. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

The Meeting may be closed to members of the public to consider confidential items.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council close the meeting to the public pursuant to section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* to consider the following items:

- 9.9 **Monthly Capital Works Update**
- **Confidential Attachment 1: *Capital Project Awarding Risk and Tender Forecast Report***

CLOSURE OF MEETING

**SHEENA FROST
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

6/03/2024

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REPORT NO:	9.1
REPORT TITLE:	Amendment C249 - Hi Quality Bulla Spoil Processing Facility - Response to Minister for Planning
SOURCE:	Andrea Taylor, Coordinator Strategic Planning Projects Stan Lai, Principal Strategic Planner
DIVISION:	City Planning & Places
FILE NO:	HCC23/1142
POLICY:	-
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	2.1: Facilitate appropriate urban development and enhance natural environment, heritage, landscapes and rural places
ATTACHMENTS:	1. <i>Draft response to the Minister for Planning</i> 2. <i>Letter from Minister for Planning, 6 February 2024</i>

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 On 6 February 2024, the Minister for Planning wrote to Council seeking its views on a request from Hi-Quality Quarry Products Pty Ltd (**Hi-Quality**) for the Minister for Planning to prepare, adopt and approve an amendment to the Hume Planning Scheme to allow the Bulla Spoil Processing Facility (**BSPF**) at 570-650 Sunbury Road, Bulla to process and dispose of spoil from Big Build projects and other infrastructure projects.
- 1.2 In 2021, Amendment C248hume (a Ministerial amendment) facilitated the development and use of the BSPF to treat spoil exclusively from the Westgate Tunnel Project (**WGT**) as a temporary activity to 2024. The proposed amendment (Amendment C249) now seeks to remove this project restriction and extend operations of the facility to 2048.
- 1.3 The Minister is consulting with Council as the responsible authority under Section 20(5) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act)* on the proposed Amendment and the use of Section 20(4) of the Act to exempt the Amendment from public notice and exhibition requirements. A response is sought from Council by 15 March 2024.
- 1.4 Officers have assessed the proposed Amendment and have identified several concerns with the Amendment in its current form. It is recommended that Council writes to the Minister seeking changes be made to the Amendment to address these concerns and objects to the use of Section 20(4) to advance the amendment request on the grounds of public interest and fairness to the community.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 2.1 **notes the reasons for seeking changes to Amendment C249 outlined in this report.**
- 2.2 **forwards the draft response at Attachment 1 to the Minister for Planning, which:**
 - 2.2.1 **outlines the concerns identified with the proposed Amendment;**
 - 2.2.2 **requests changes be made to the Amendment to address these concerns;**
 - 2.2.3 **requests that Hi-Quality make infrastructure contributions towards ameliorating any traffic impacts generated by the Amendment, including a financial contribution towards the delivery of the Bulla Bypass or any other project that would ease pressure on the Bulla Bridge;**
 - 2.2.4 **requests that Hi-Quality make a financial contributions towards a fund administered by the Victorian Government similar to the ‘Sunbury & Bulla**

REPORT NO: 9.1 (cont.)

Neighbourhood Fund’ as a provision of community benefit for the Amendment, noting the delay in transition to future employment uses;

2.2.5 objects to the use of Section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to advance the amendment request; and

2.2.6 seeks commitment from the Minister for Planning for the timing and delivery of the Bulla Bypass should the Amendment be approved.

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS:

Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act).

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications in providing a response to the Minister for Planning.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

In 2021, two Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) were prepared as part of Amendment C248hume to facilitate the construction and operation of the BSPF, including an Environment EMP (approved by the EPA) and a Planning EMP (approved by the Minister for Planning). The proposed Amendment seeks to replace the Planning EMP with a new EMP (Hi Quality Group, August 2023) which removes a significant amount of information and technical detail, particularly regarding monitoring and reporting requirements. The draft response (**Attachment 1**) identifies these inadequacies and gaps and requests that the EMP be updated to address these concerns if the Amendment is to be approved.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no specific climate change adaptation considerations.

7. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS APPLICATION:

There are no known human rights application matters beyond concerns regarding the extent to which the community concerns with the amendment request will be adequately considered by a Section 20(4) amendment process.

8. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

The amendment request seeks the Minister for Planning (**the Minister**) to utilise Section 20(4) of the Act to exempt the proposed amendment from public notice and exhibition requirements. This removes all community consultation from the process. The draft response (**Attachment 1**) objects to the use of Section 20(4) to advance the amendment request.

9. DISCUSSION:

Background

9.1 On 29 March 2021, the Minister approved Amendment C248hume to the Hume Planning Scheme to facilitate the development and use of the Bulla Spoil Processing Facility (BSPF) at 570-650 Sunbury Road, Bulla to process and dispose of spoil from the West Gate Tunnel (WGT) project.

REPORT NO: 9.1 (cont.)

- 9.2 The amendment was fast tracked on the basis that it was an urgent and temporary activity, and has a sunset date of 1 April 2024 that is expected to end with the completion of the WGT project. The Explanatory Report highlighted its temporary nature, noting the BSPF was exempted from paying contributions because it was a *temporary use* and the VPA did not object to the amendment on the basis that the *temporary activity* would not affect the rollout of the approved Sunbury South Precinct Structure Plan (PSP).
- 9.3 Amendment C248hume attracted significant community opposition and was the subject of an unsuccessful Supreme Court challenge by Council in 2021.
- 9.4 On 6 February 2024, the Minister wrote to Council seeking its views on a request from Hi-Quality Quarry Products Pty Ltd (**Hi-Quality**) for the Minister for Planning to prepare, adopt and approve an amendment (Amendment C249) to the Hume Planning Scheme under Section 20(4) of the Act. The Amendment would allow the BSPF to process and dispose of spoil from Big Build projects and other infrastructure projects.
- 9.5 The letter (**Attachment 2**) seeks Council’s views, under Section 20(5) of the Act, on:
- 9.5.1 Proposed amendment documentation, technical reports and other information that has been submitted in support of the amendment request, and;
- 9.5.2 Proposed use of Section 20(4) of the Act to advance the amendment request.
- 9.6 The Minister requested that Council to provide a response within 21 days of the date of the letter. Given the letter was received by Council on 23 February, the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) have confirmed on behalf of the Minister that a response by 15 March 2024 is satisfactory.

Proposed Amendment C249

- 9.7 The proposed Amendment and amendment request specifically seeks to:
- 9.7.1 Remove the existing limitation that spoil accepted at the BSPF must come from the WGT project;
- 9.7.2 Extend the lifespan of operations for a further 24 years to 2048;
- 9.7.3 Increase the area of operations on the site by expanding the Specific Controls Overlay – Schedule 12 (SCO12) closer to Emu Creek (refer Figure 1 below);
- 9.7.4 Replace the existing *Bulla Spoil Processing Facility Incorporated Document* (March 2021) with a new version (August 2023) that no longer references the WGT project;
- 9.7.5 Replace the existing Planning EMP for the site with a new version, as discussed in Section 5 of this report;
- 9.7.6 Continue existing exemptions for the site to pay infrastructure contributions;
- 9.7.7 Make the Minister for Planning the responsible authority (RA) for administering and enforcing the Hume Planning Scheme as it relates to the site;
- 9.7.8 Exempt the site from any provision in the Planning Scheme that would regulate or restrict the use and development of the land for the purpose of the operations; and;
- 9.7.9 Exempt the Amendment from public notice, exhibition and review through a Ministerial amendment process under Section 20(4) of the Act.

REPORT NO: 9.1 (cont.)

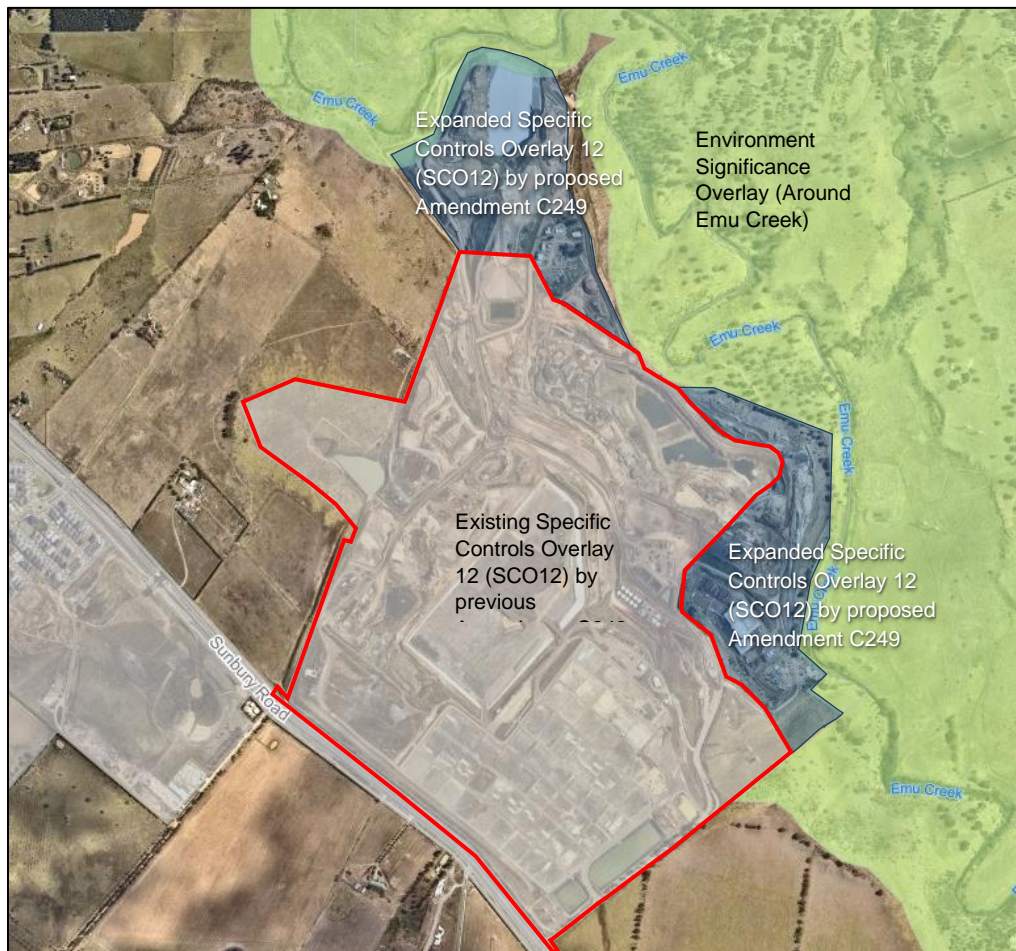


Figure 1: The site and existing and proposed SCO12

Officer Assessment of proposed Amendment

- 9.8 Whilst Council strongly objected to Amendment C248hume on the grounds that the development and use of the BSPF was not appropriate and lacked strategic merit, Amendment C248hume was approved. Because of the previous approval, this proposal becomes an expansion of existing use rights and has been assessed as such.
- 9.9 Council has experienced a significant increase in the number of enquiries and planning permit applications from landowners in various locations across Hume to use their land for fill and earthworks-related uses in recent years. This demand comes from increased development activity (production of more fill) and an increase in the cost of fill. As a result, Council has also seen an increase in illegal fill activity, which carries a financial, environmental, and safety cost to Council and the community if not managed correctly.
- 9.10 As such, there are practical benefits to the wider Hume community of centralising these sorts of operations to a single, purpose-built facility like the BSPF, particularly with regards to the effective monitoring of operations. It is on this basis, council does not object to the strategic intent of the proposed Amendment, contingent on the Amendment implementing a planning framework that appropriately assesses, considers and manages any potential off-site environmental and amenity impacts that may arise from the expansion and extension of the use.
- 9.11 Officers have assessed the proposed amendment documents and do not consider that the Amendment in its current form achieves this outcome for the following reasons:
- 9.11.1 Removal of the WGT limitation and expansion of existing operations
- (a) Restricting use of the BSPF to the WGT project provided Council and the community certainty around the scale of operation and nature of any associated off-site environmental and amenity impacts. Removing this

REPORT NO: 9.1 (cont.)

limitation allows operations to expand to an un-limited number of projects, from anywhere in the State at any time.

- (b) To quantify future operations, the Amendment has only referred to the anticipated volume of spoil that may receive from the North East Link (NEL). Based on this example, the Transport Engineering Assessment Report estimates that spoil transported to the BSPF could be up to 14,000 tonnes per day, which is greater than the current Environment EMP for the WGT project that anticipated maximum daily spoil volumes of 11,000 tonnes and average daily spoil volumes of 8,400 tonnes. This analysis is fraught as the proposed Amendment enables the BSPF to accept spoil from multiple and overlapping projects at any one time.
- (c) The removal of the WGT limitation creates significant uncertainty around the future volume and nature of the spoil that could be received at the BSPF, such as the type of contaminates the spoil contains, that has not been fully assessed in the supporting technical documents.
- (d) The submitted technical documents also include little analysis of potential negative impacts generated by the proposed Amendment, and therefore the need for any timing and/or volume caps on operations to appropriately manage any potential impacts is unknown.

9.11.2 Extension of the lifespan of BSPF operations to 2048

- (a) Since Amendment 248hume was approved, Sunbury has grown significantly and will continue to do so with the rollout of the Sunbury South and Lancefield Road PSPs, which are bringing more residents closer to the BSPF. Given the nature of any potential off-site environmental and amenity impacts as the result of the Amendment are currently unknown, there are risks with allowing the growing community of Sunbury to be subjected to potential ongoing negative impacts for such a long period of time without review.
- (b) Further, The BSPF land is designated in the Sunbury South PSP for future employment (a mix of light industrial and restricted retail), recreation, and WSUD/drainage uses. Whilst the proposed Amendment makes general claims about providing opportunities for local jobs, extending the lifespan of BSPF operations to 2048 would compromise the anticipated rollout of the PSP and delay the delivery of important employment land in Sunbury and the provision of 900 jobs.

The proposed time extension will also delay the collection of infrastructure contributions, which is around \$12.6 million dollars in today’s value, until the land is redeveloped.

9.11.3 Rigor of proposed amendment documents

- (a) The Incorporated Document, EMP, Traffic Engineering Assessment and other technical documents underpinning the Amendment have significant gaps and omissions, and generally do not provide the same level of detail and/or monitoring and enforcement measures as those approved through Amendment C248hume. These inadequacies are outlined in detail in the draft response (at Table 1) at **Attachment 1**.
- (b) The apparent decrease in rigor to the technical framework is particularly concerning given the Amendment allows Hi-Quality to ‘scale up’ operations over a significant length of time, with little analysis of potential negative impacts.

REPORT NO: 9.1 (cont.)

9.11.4 Expansion of the area covered by the SCO12

- (a) As shown in Figure 1 above, the Amendment proposes to expand the area of operations to the north and northeast of the existing SCO12 into pockets of land adjacent to Emu Creek located in the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) and the Environment Significance Overlay – Schedule 10 (ESO10).
- (b) The proposed expansion of operations towards the creek is problematic as it will expose Emu Creek to a higher risk of potential contamination, pose greater risk to disturbing the ecological and biodiversity values of the creek environs (which includes Growling Grass Frog (GGF) habitat), and complicate future public ownership and management of the corridor if contamination were to occur.
- (c) Further, the area is in a known area of cultural sensitivity and Hi-Quality has not consulted with the local Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) or prepared a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) on the basis that the land has been heavily disturbed from quarrying activity. This is inconsistent with what is happening in the Sunbury South PSP more generally and consultation with the RAP is considered essential.

9.11.5 Traffic concerns and impact to Bulla Bridge

- (a) State government carried out extensive planning over a decade ago to explore options for a bypass road link between Sunbury Road/Bulla-Diggers Rest Road and Somerton Road. At that time, the need for the immediate delivery of a Bulla Bypass was acknowledged by DTP (then VicRoads) and resulted in the preparation of Amendment C190 which sought to apply a Public Acquisition Overlay for the road in 2015. Amendment C190 was not approved, but it is noted that an independent Planning Panel concluded “*there is no doubting VicRoads’ traffic analyses strongly supports the need for the Bulla Bypass and Melbourne Airport Rail Link and that building of these should be expedited*”.
- (b) Since then, in 2021 the State government undertook community consultation on the Bulla Bypass as part of Victoria’s Big Build, and a business case has now been prepared. With the Sunbury South and Lancefield Road PSPs now approved, and Sunbury’s population forecasted to double within the next 20 years, approval of the business case and the delivery of the Bulla Bypass is becoming increasingly urgent.
- (c) Council’s most recent traffic data from 2021 indicates that traffic volumes on Sunbury Road within the Bulla Bypass study area already exceed the accepted capacity of 20,000 vehicles per day (with more than 24,000 vehicles, including over 1600 heavy vehicles). Allowing the BSPF to ‘scale-up’ existing operations is likely to generate even higher traffic volumes along Sunbury Road, particularly the number of large trucks crossing the Bulla Bridge over Deep Creek and travelling through the residential community in the Bulla township.
- (d) The submitted technical documents have not modelled the cumulative traffic impacts the proposed Amendment will have on the wider road network or on the heritage Bulla bridge. It is also noted that traffic modelling undertaken during the preparation of the Sunbury South and Lancefield Road PSPs did not consider the increased truck volumes that would occur as a result of the proposed Amendment.
- (e) The State government’s commitment to the timely delivery of the Bulla Bypass is considered a necessary component in mitigating the traffic impacts generated from the Amendment if it is to be approved.

REPORT NO: 9.1 (cont.)

- (f) In considering requirements for integrated decision making under the Act and the objectives in Section 4, it would be fair to request that Hi-Quality make a financial contribution towards the delivery of the Bulla Bypass or any other project that would ease pressure on the Bulla Bridge.
- 9.11.6 Enforcement concerns
- (a) The proposed Amendment seeks to make the Minister for Planning the RA for the site, which may have planning and environment enforcement implications on operations separate to the BSPF.
 - (b) An additional complication is introduced by allowing the BSPF to accept spoil from any project. In the case of Amendment C248hume, the roles and responsibilities of the waste producer (CPBJH JV) and the waste receiver (Hi-Quality) to monitor and report environment incidents, respond to community complaints and address off-site impacts were well established. No such framework has been included in the proposed Amendment, which further impacts monitoring and enforcement outcomes.
- 9.11.7 Other concerns
- (a) Whilst the proposed Amendment does not mention the extraction of water from Emu Creek, given the proposed expansion of the SCO12, application for future water rights is noted as a potential risk. Hi-Quality would need to apply for a licence from Greater Western Water under the Water Act to extract water from the creek, and any consideration of a licence must consider the environmental and community impacts of such an activity.
- 9.12 To address the issues and concerns outlined above, it is recommended that Council request the following changes be made to the Amendment:
- 9.12.1 Revise the proposed extension of the lifespan of operations to a maximum of 10 years from the approval date of the Amendment to minimise impacts to implementation of the Sunbury South PSP and manage any unknown off-site environmental and amenity impacts.
 - 9.12.2 Reduce the expansion of the SCO12 to avoid areas affected by ESO10 and address any related technical requirements as outlined in the draft response at **Attachment 1**.
 - 9.12.3 Address the inadequacies and gaps identified in the technical framework as outlined in the draft response (Table 1) at **Attachment 1** to provide further information and analysis on the amendment’s impacts and incorporate the appropriate monitoring and enforcement frameworks of similar or higher rigour than that approved by Amendment C248hume.
 - 9.12.4 Require Hi-Quality to ameliorate any traffic impacts generated by the Amendment and make a financial contribution towards the delivery of the Bulla Bypass or any other any other project that would ease pressure on the Bulla Bridge as a provision of community benefit for the Amendment.
 - 9.12.5 Require Hi-Quality to propose a framework of roles and responsibilities for all on-site operations (if the Minister is made the RA).

Sunbury & Bulla Neighbourhood Fund

- 9.13 Following Amendment C248hume, a \$2 million ‘Sunbury & Bulla Neighbourhood Fund’ (SBNF) was established by the Victorian Government to support the Sunbury and Bulla communities during the construction of the WGT project to acknowledge the temporary disruption to the local area while spoil is being transported from the WGT to the BSPF.
- 9.14 The SBNF included both partnerships and grants for incorporated not-for-profit community organisations, groups auspised by not-for-profit organisations, and those in

REPORT NO: 9.1 (cont.)

partnerships with Hume City Council. In all, more than 50 projects benefited from the SBNF including community events and festivals, sporting and recreation projects and initiatives supporting the environment.

- 9.15 Given the significant expansion of operations sought for the BSPF under the proposed Amendment and the delay to future employment uses under the PSP, it is considered appropriate that Hi-Quality provide financial contributions to a similar fund administered by the Victorian Government to support the community and acknowledge potential long-term disruptions caused to the local area as a provision of community benefit for the Amendment.

Use of Section 20(4)

- 9.16 Section 20(4) (**s 20(4)**) of the Act refers to the ability of the Minister for Planning to amend a Planning Scheme without public notice or exhibition if the Minister considers that it is not warranted or that the interests of Victoria or any part of Victoria make such an exemption appropriate.
- 9.17 The planning practice note ‘*Ministerial Powers of Intervention in Planning and Heritage Matters (2004)*’ provides the following criteria to be considered by the Minister for Planning in making a decision on whether to use this power:
- 9.17.1 The matter will be one of genuine State or regional significance.
 - 9.17.2 The matter will give effect to an outcome where the issues have been reasonably considered and the views of affected parties are known.
 - 9.17.3 The matter will be the introduction of an interim provision or requirement and substantially the same provision or requirement is also subject to a separate process of review (such as the introduction of permanent controls in a planning scheme).
 - 9.17.4 The matter will raise issues of fairness or public interest.
 - 9.17.5 The matter requires co-ordination to facilitate decision-making by more than one agency.
- 9.18 Under s 20(4), because there is no public exhibition, there will be no opportunity for the community to make submissions and therefore no process for the proposed Amendment and submissions to be considered by an independent Planning Panel, as is normally the case for planning scheme amendments.
- 9.19 Hi Quality has not yet engaged with the community on the proposed Amendment in any detailed way. Given the level of community objection to Amendment C248hume and the continued community concern with Hi-Quality’s wider operations, it would be reasonable to assume that the community would not consider it to be fair or within their interest to progress the amendment request under s 20(4) of the Act.
- 9.20 This, coupled with the concerns outlined above in officer’s assessment of the proposed Amendment, it is recommended that Council object to the use of s20(4) to progress the amendment request for the following reasons:
- 9.20.1 Unlike the justification provided for the WGT project, allowing the BSPF to continue operations to receive spoil from any project in Victoria for a further 24 years is not one of genuine State or regional significance;
 - 9.20.2 The proposed Amendment does not adequately assess or quantify future operations (volume/type of spoil likely to be accepted) or consider and manage all potential cumulative environmental and off-site amenity impacts so there is strong merit in having the technical framework underpinning the Amendment tested by expert witnesses through an independent Planning Panel, particularly given the Amendment proposes to expand the temporary use by 24 years;

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- 9.20.3 Hi-Quality has not provided sufficient justification and assessment of relevant State and local policies to justify the Minister fast-tracking the Amendment and there is no urgency that justifies Ministerial intervention; and
- 9.20.4 Public interests need to be considered holistically and tested through the usual independent panel process and would not be served by the Minister exercising her s 20(4) powers in this instance.

Recommended response

- 9.21 In recognition of the concerns discussed above it is recommended that Council forward the draft response at **Attachment 1** to the Minister for Planning, which:
 - 9.21.1 Outlines the concerns identified with the proposed Amendment;
 - 9.21.2 Requests changes be made to the Amendment to address these concerns;
 - 9.21.3 Requests that Hi-Quality ameliorates any traffic impacts generated by the Amendment and makes a financial contribution towards the delivery of the Bulla Bypass or any other project that would ease pressure on the Bulla Bridge to satisfy integrated decision-making and Section 4 of the Act;
 - 9.21.4 Requests that Hi-Quality make financial contributions to a fund administered by the Victorian Government similar to the ‘Sunbury & Bulla Neighbourhood Fund’ to support the community and acknowledge potential long-term disruptions caused to the local area, as provision of community benefit for the Amendment;
 - 9.21.5 Objects to the use of Section 20(4) of Act to advance the amendment request on the grounds of public interest and fairness to the community; and
 - 9.21.6 Seeks commitment from the Minister for Planning for the timing and delivery of the Bulla Bypass should the Amendment be approved.
- 9.22 It is noted that the Minister has sought the views of Council under Section 20(5) of the Act, which enables her to consult with the responsible authority before exercising her powers under Section 20(4). In this regard, the Minister is not required to respond any request from Council to make changes to the Amendment, as is normally the case when Council seeks submissions to a planning scheme amendment under Section 19.

Next steps

- 9.23 Due to the possible use of Section 20(4) to progress the proposed Amendment, the next steps in the process are unknown. Given the level of community interest in Amendment C248hume and Hi-Quality’s wider operations, the draft response (**Attachment 1**) requests that Council be informed of any advancement to the amendment request.

10. CONCLUSION:

The Minister for Planning has sought Council’s views on a proposed Amendment to the Hume Planning Scheme under Section 20(4) of the Act to process and dispose of spoil from Big Build projects and other infrastructure projects. It is recommended that Council writes to the Minister seeking changes to the Amendment and objects to the use of Section 20(4) to advance the amendment request.

Our File: HCC23/1142
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X March 2024

The Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Minister for Planning
Department of Transport and Planning
Level 20, 1 Spring Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Sent via email: sonya.kilkenny@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister

RE: PROPOSED HUME PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C249 – BULLA SPOIL PROCESSING FACILITY, 570-650 SUNBURY ROAD, BULLA

Thank you for seeking Council's views on the request from Hi Quality Quarry Products Pty Ltd (**Hi-Quality**) to prepare, adopt and approve an amendment to the Hume Planning Scheme under Section 20(4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987 (the Act)*.

Council understands that the proposed Amendment (C249hume) applies to land owned by Hi-Quality at 570-650 Sunbury Road, Bulla and seeks to expand existing operations at the Bulla Spoil Processing Facility (**BSPF**), which was established in 2021 by Amendment C248hume.

Amendment C248hume was a Ministerial amendment to facilitate the removal, processing, and storage of spoil excavated from the West Gate Tunnel (**WGT**) project. It was fast tracked on the basis that it was an urgent and temporary activity and has a sunset date of 2024 and is expected to end with the completion of the WGT project.

The proposed Amendment now seeks to extend the lifespan of BSPF operations to 2048 and expand the area of operations to the north, closer to Emu Creek. It also seeks to remove the limitation established by Amendment C248hume that spoil accepted at BSPF must be from the WGT project and make the Minister for Planning the responsible authority of the site.

Council considered the proposal at its meeting on 12 March 2024 and resolved to provide you with this response, which:

- Does not object to the strategic intent of the proposed Amendment but outlines our concerns with the proposed Amendment as currently drafted.
- Requests changes be made to the proposed Amendment to address these concerns.
- Requests that Hi-Quality make infrastructure contributions towards ameliorating any traffic impacts generated by the Amendment, including a financial contribution towards the delivery of the Bulla Bypass or any other project that would ease pressure on the Bulla Bridge.
- Requests that Hi-Quality make financial contributions towards a fund administered by the Victorian Government that is similar to the 'Sunbury & Bulla Neighbourhood Fund' as a provision of community benefit for the Amendment and to acknowledge the delay in transition to employment uses.
- Objects to the use of Section 20(4) of the Act to advance the amendment request.

- Seeks commitment from the Minister for Planning for the timing and delivery of the Bulla Bypass should the Amendment be approved.

Requested changes to proposed Amendment

Council does not object to the strategic intent of the proposed Amendment, contingent on the Amendment implementing a planning framework that appropriately assesses, considers and manages any potential off-site environmental and amenity impacts that may arise from the expansion and extension of the use. Council does not consider that the Amendment in its current form achieves this for the reasons outlined in Attachment 1.

To address the concerns, Council requests the following changes be made to the proposed Amendment:

- Revise the proposed extension of the lifespan of operations to a maximum of 10 years from the approval date of the Amendment to minimise impacts to implementation of the Sunbury South PSP and manage any unknown off-site environmental and amenity impacts.
- Reduce the expansion of the SCO12 to avoid areas affected by ESO10.
- Address the inadequacies and gaps identified in the technical framework as detailed at Attachment 1 to provide further information and analysis on the Amendment’s impacts and incorporate the appropriate monitoring and enforcement frameworks of similar or higher rigour than that approved by Amendment C248hume.
- Require Hi-Quality to ameliorate any traffic impacts generated by the Amendment and make a financial contribution towards the delivery of the Bulla Bypass or any other project that would ease pressure on the Bulla Bridge to satisfy integrated decision-making and Section 4 of the Act.
- Request that Hi-Quality make financial contributions towards a fund administered by the Victorian Government that is similar to the ‘Sunbury & Bulla Neighbourhood Fund’ to support the community and acknowledge potential long-term disruptions caused to the local area and delay in transition to employment uses, as a provision of community benefit for the Amendment.
- Require Hi-Quality to propose a framework of roles and responsibilities for all on-site operations (if the Minister is made the RA).

Bulla Bypass

Work by the State government has well established the need for the Bulla Bypass. With Sunbury’s population forecasted to double within the next 20 years, approval of the business case and the delivery of the Bulla Bypass is becoming increasingly urgent.

The State government’s commitment to the timely delivery of the Bulla Bypass is considered a necessary component in mitigating the traffic impacts generated from the Amendment if it is to be approved.

In considering requirements for integrated decision making under the Act and the objectives in Section 4, it would be fair to seek a contribution from Hi-Quality towards the delivery of the Bulla Bypass or any other project that would ease pressure on the Bulla Bridge.

Objection to the use of Section 20(4)

Given the level of community interest to Amendment C248hume and Hi-Quality’s wider operations, Council does not consider it to be fair or within the public’s interest to progress the amendment request under s 20(4) of the Act for the following reasons:

3

- Unlike the justification provided for the WGT project, allowing the BSPF to continue operations to receive spoil from any project in Victoria for a further 24 years is not one of genuine State or regional significance.
- The proposed Amendment does not adequately assess or quantify future operations (volume/type of spoil likely to be accepted) or consider and manage all potential cumulative environmental and off-site amenity impacts so there is strong merit in having the technical framework underpinning the Amendment tested by expert witnesses through an independent Planning Panel, particularly given the Amendment proposes to expand the temporary use by 24 years.
- Hi-Quality has not provided sufficient justification and assessment of relevant State and local policies to justify the Minister fast-tracking the Amendment and there is no urgency that justifies Ministerial intervention.
- Public interests need to be considered holistically and tested through the usual independent panel process and would not be served by the Minister exercising her s 20(4) powers in this instance.

Council understands that you are consulting with us under Section 20(5) of the Act and are not required to respond to our request for changes to the Amendment. Given the concerns outlined in this letter we would strongly urge you to be satisfied that any Amendment approved for the site appropriately mitigates any negative impacts to the environment and community. We also wish to reserve the right to amend our response to the proposed Amendment if further information becomes available.

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please contact Rachel Dapiran, Director City Planning and Places, via email at rachelda@hume.vic.gov.au or on 9205 2200.

Yours faithfully,

**CR NAIM KURT
MAYOR**

cc: Stuart Menzies, Director State Planning Services, DTP

Attachment 1

Table 1. Officer assessment on proposed Amendment C249

No	Document (s)	Section if relevant	Page no. if relevant	Issue	Recommended solution	Category
1	Proposed Incorporated Document	Section 6.0	NA	<p>The proposed continuing of operations to 2048 will impact the implementation of the Sunbury South PSP by delaying the rehabilitation and development of the subject land for future industrial, commercial, recreational and environmental uses. These uses are designated in the PSP to support local employment and provide for 900 jobs to meet the needs of the future Sunbury South community.</p> <p>Furthermore, it will likely delay the development of surrounding land that fall within the subject site's Landfill, Quarry, and Composting buffer areas (as shown in the Sunbury South PSP and detailed in the UGZ9). The buffers must be maintained while operations continue and presents hurdles to development of the surrounding land.</p> <p>Lastly, given the land is currently exempted from the Sunbury South and Lancefield Road ICP, the extending of operations to 2048 will delay Council's collection of infrastructure contributions from the subject land.</p>	<p>The proposed extension to 2048 is too long and not supported given its impacts on the Sunbury South PSP and Sunbury South and Lancefield Road ICP. DTP should consider capping the extension to a maximum of 10 years if consideration is given to approving the amendment.</p> <p>VPA's position on the proposal is unknown. However, Council has noted that VPA's previous position in response to Amendment C248 was that it did not object to the amendment on the basis that "it is a temporary activity which will not compromise the ability of the area to develop in the manner anticipated by the PSP". (Source: Amendment C248 Explanatory Report) The proposed amendment will no longer make BSPF a temporary activity.</p>	PSP, ICP, lifespan of operations and amenity impacts

No	Document (s)	Section if relevant	Page no. if relevant	Issue	Recommended solution	Category
2	Proposed Incorporated Document	Section 6.0	NA	The proposed Amendment does not align with Melbourne Water's Development Services Scheme (DSS). A stormwater wetland with stormwater harvesting and other Water Sensitive Urban Design and Drainage features are planned within the site. As a result, part of the catchment in the Sunbury South PSP currently does not have adequate stormwater quality treatment and flow reduction. Temporary arrangements are planned within 670 Sunbury Road. However, extending the lifespan of the operations will further delay stormwater treatment and harvesting best practice standards within the catchment. This may have detrimental impacts on Emu Creek. This proposal also does not align with the Healthy Waterways Strategy and future Sunbury Integrated Water Management Plan.	It is recommended that DTP refers the application to Melbourne Water for comment. Clarification or an amendment to Melbourne Water's DSS should be sought with consideration given to impacts the extension of BSSPF operations may have on planned drainage and stormwater treatment projects. The proponent should provide a response to the impacts of the proposal on the Sunbury South PSP Integrated Water Management Plan.	Water
3	Not part of the package - Sunbury South PSP and the Schedule 9 to Clause 37.07 of the UGZ	NA	NA	A Landfill Buffer, Quarry Buffer and Composting Buffer (Organic Waste) are established in Plan 3 of the Sunbury South PSP and in the Planning Scheme's UGZ 9. There are referral and permit requirements for developments proposed within these buffer areas. It is unclear if these buffers will need to be revised given the proposed expansion of the SCO.	DTP should ask the proponent to advise Council, the VPA and EPA if the Landfill, Quarry and Composting buffers need to be revised given the proposed expansion of SCO12.	PSP, Quarry and landfill buffers
4	Cultural Heritage Advice (CHA)	Section 3, and Figure 5	Pg 2, and 10	The CHA report was prepared based on a desktop review and noted that a site inspection and consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) was not part of the consultant's scope of works. Nonetheless, the proponent's consultant was satisfied based on review of aerial photographs and documents that the northern and southern expansion areas (which are the 'net expansion areas' in the proposed SCO12) have been subject to "significant ground disturbance" due to quarrying activities. This made them no longer "areas of cultural heritage sensitivity". Therefore, the consultant recommended that a CHIMP is not required under existing legislation.	It is recommended that the Minister/DTP involve the RAP in any future consultation on the amendment.	Consultation, and quarrying activities

No	Document (s)	Section if relevant	Page no. if relevant	Issue	Recommended solution	Category
5	Expansion of the SCO12	SCO12		<p>Council considers consultation with the RAP to be an essential part of the Amendment process.</p> <p>The proposed SCO would expand into pockets of land adjacent to Emu Creek that is affected by Environmental Significance Overlay 10 (ESO10). According to ESO10's Statement of Significance, the overlay areas include "existing conservation reserves, areas of significant remnant native vegetation and a number of areas that provide habitat for threatened flora and fauna"; and according to the Sunbury South PSP, the creek corridor is a Growing Grass Frog conservation area (CA21). The expansion of the SCO is therefore against the environmental objectives of ESO10 and runs counter to a number of objectives and strategies in Clause 12.01-15 (Protection of Biodiversity) as well as requirements and guidelines in the Sunbury South PSP.</p> <p>The assertion made in the Explanatory Report that the objectives of Clause 12 (Environment and Landscape values) are addressed by assessments undertaken for the BSPF and ongoing operational requirements (established by the approved EMP in 2021) that protect Emu Creek, fails to acknowledge that the previous Amendment C248 created an SCO that is much further away from Emu Creek. In that regard, existing operational requirements and previous assessments provide insufficient justification for the proposed further encroachment into the creek's corridor.</p> <p>The expansion may pose an unacceptable risk to Emu Creek and the Growing Grass Frogs habitat from potential bund or containment cell failure, erosion, runoff, or leachate. This may not accord with the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors (DEPI, 2013), Condition 1 of the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>, final approval for urban development in three growth corridors under the</p>	<p>The proposed expansion into the ESO or BCS Conservation Area is not supported. The proposed SCO12 should be revised to exclude any areas affected by the ESO10 and avoid the 'conservation area' indicated in Plan 5 of the PSP.</p> <p>Alternatively, an Ecological Assessment should be prepared to demonstrate whether the expansion will impact native vegetation, and threatened flora or fauna. An assessment may be required under the EPBC Act for impacts to Growing Grass Frog and Golden Sun Moth.</p> <p>The application should be referred to DEECA for comment.</p> <p>A Geotechnical report should be provided to address risks to Emu Creek.</p>	ESO10 and protection of biodiversity

No	Document (s)	Section if relevant	Page no. if relevant	Issue	Recommended solution	Category
6	Expansion of the SCO12	SCO12		<p>Melbourne urban growth program strategic assessment 5 September 2013, or the Sub-regional Species Strategy for the Growing Grass Frog (DEPI, 2013).</p> <p>The proposed amendment should be subject to the same buffer considerations as the Sunbury South and Lancefield Road PSPs. These PSPs include landscape values and open space areas from the break of slope to the Growing Grass Frog conservation area. Consideration should be given to whether the same buffer is required from the Quarry to the GGF reserve given the environmental sensitivities, steep slopes, and highly erosive soils in the area.</p>	As above.	Landscape values
7	Expansion of the SCO12	SCO12		<p>Part of the expanded SCO overlaps with the BCS Conservation Area which is intended for public ownership and management. Placing contaminated fill in future public conservation areas is contrary to the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and may prejudice future use, ownership and management of the BCS Growing Grass Frog Conservation Area.</p>	Amend the land management plan to demonstrate how the land will be made suitable for public ownership and management.	Future management of the land
8	Both the proposed Incorporated Document, and the proposed EMP	Section 6.6 (proposed EMP)	NA	<p>The Explanatory Report and the Planning Amendment Report both reference an Operational Noise Management Plan (ONMP) approved in January 2022 by the Minister. According to the Explanatory Report and the Planning Amendment Report, the ONMP requires operational noise monitoring to be carried out every 6 months. The reference to this approved ONMP is not picked up in the Incorporated Document and the proposed EMP even though it's described in the Explanatory Report. The proposed EMP includes some noise management measures (Section 6.6) but it's unclear if they are the same ones as those in the approved ONMP given a copy was not provided to Council. It is noted that the proposed EMP only requires a noise survey following an administrative authority's request, instead of at 6 monthly intervals.</p>	<p>1) A copy of the ONMP 2022 should be provided to Council by DTP for our record.</p> <p>2) References to the ONMP 2022 should be added to the Incorporated Document and proposed EMP, consistent with discussion in the Explanatory Report.</p> <p>3) The proposed EMP should be revised to clearly indicate regular 6-monthly operational noise monitoring will be carried out.</p>	Noise

No	Document (s)	Section if relevant	Page no. if relevant	Issue	Recommended solution	Category
9	NA	NA	NA	<p>A \$2 million ‘Sunbury & Bulla Neighbourhood Fund’ (SBNF) was established by the Victorian Government (administered by the West Gate Tunnel Authority) to support the Sunbury and Bulla communities during the construction of the WGT project and acknowledge the temporary disruption to the local area while spoil is being transported from the WGT to the BSPF.</p> <p>In all, more than 50 projects benefited from the SBNF including community events and festivals, sporting and recreation projects and initiatives supporting the environment.</p> <p>Given the potential long-term off-site impacts of the proposed amendment, it is fair to request that a new fund be set up to support the community.</p>	<p>The Victorian Government should set up a new fund similar to the ‘SBNF’ and request Hi-Quality provide financial contributions to support the community and acknowledge disruptions caused to the local area as a provision of community benefit for the amendment and in recognition of the delay in transition to employment uses</p>	Community benefit
Issues arising from changes to reports/conditions						
10	1G Planning EMP vs. Endorsed EMP 2021	Appendix C	-	<p>The EMP that was endorsed in 2021 had included a Noise Assessment Report in Appendix C. The noise assessment was conducted from July 2020 to June 2021 and identified 15 sensitive noise receivers at the time. It found that for one of those receivers at R15, the project’s cumulative operational noise will exceed noise criteria during the night period (by 1 dB). To mitigate operational noise, it recommended periodical operational compliance monitoring and preparation of an Operational Noise Management Plan that include complaints handling procedures. Council considers the referencing of the ONMP 2022’s requirements in the proposed Incorporated Document and EMP essential to ensure those requirements are not forgotten. (As noted in the issue 1, the proposed EMP only requires a noise survey following an authority’s request)</p>	<p>As above</p>	Noise

No	Document (s)	Section if relevant	Page no. if relevant	Issue	Recommended solution	Category
11	1G Planning EMP vs. Endorsed EMP 2021	Section 6.2 Groundwater, Surface Water, and Wastewater	Pages 17-20	Comparing the relevant sections on Groundwater, Surface water and Wastewater management between the proposed Planning EMP and the endorsed EMP 2021, the proposed EMP has removed references to the endorsed Waste Management Plan 2021, and removed paragraphs discussing on-site leachate testing (including the range of contaminants that will be tested in addition to PFAS), water balance (expected leachate generation volumes and modelling), and risk assessment (pages 24-26 of the endorsed EMP 2021). Notably, it has also removed the paragraph under "Water impacts on Emu Creek" which committed <i>Hi Quality</i> to "undertake ecological surveys of Emu Creek to establish the health of the ecosystems and identify any impacts due to seepage during low flow periods." (page 26 of the endorsed EMP 2021). The relevant requirement to undertake ecological surveys of the creek, have also been removed from Table 5: "Monitoring Requirements"	The requirement to undertake regular ecological surveys of Emu Creek mandated under the endorsed EMP 2021 should be reinstated in the proposed Planning EMP. Additionally, if the endorsed Wastewater Management Plan 2021 is not referenced and made an attachment to the proposed Planning EMP, it should reinstate relevant discussions on on-site leachate testing, water balance, and risk assessment from the endorsed EMP 2021 and specify the appropriate testing requirements.	Water
12	Rehabilitation Plan Report (Attachment G to the EMP)	Sections 2 and 3	Pages 4 and 5	It's been noted that the previous Rehabilitation Plan prepared by GHD, June 2021 for (Amendment C248) included a requirement under Section 2, Rehabilitation Requirements, to revegetate the disturbed areas "with mixture of native grasses and shrubs or suitable crop species consistent with the previous use of the Site.", and under Section 3. Site Rehabilitation, to undertake seeding of grasses or crops over the disturbed land after decommissioning. The proposed Rehabilitation Plan prepared by BEC, August 2023 has removed this requirement.	The requirement to revegetate disturbed areas with grasses or crops should be re-added to Section 2 and Section 3 of the Rehabilitation Plan, per what was indicated in the GHD report. DEECA should be listed as an approving authority to approve any rehabilitation in the BCS conservation areas. Melbourne Water will also need to approve any rehabilitation in Creek areas and banks. The areas which the revised SCO seeks to expand into haven't been shown on the plan.	Rehabilitation

No	Document (s)	Section if relevant	Page no. if relevant	Issue	Recommended solution	Category
13	Conceptual Rehabilitation Plan - Available as 1D Drawing DEV-100-006 and shown as Appendix A in the Rehabilitation Plan Report (Attachment G to the EMP)	NA	NA	The Explanatory Report suggests that the Amendment would facilitate "the staged decommissioning of the BSPF that would allow for the land (in the area of the containment bays) to be progressively redeveloped for commercial and industrial land uses as part of a Precinct Structure Plan process". There is no writing or drawing that show how staging is planned. There is a vague reference to "staged decommissioning" but nothing to indicate which areas will be decommissioned first.	Include further detail in Drawing 1D (DEV-100-006) to show how the decommissioning and rehabilitation will be staged, or revise the Incorporated Document and the drawing to indicate that a future Staging Plan will be prepared to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning before decommissioning begins.	Rehabilitation
Transport and other issues						
14	1A Planning Scheme Amendment Report, and 1G Traffic Engineering Assessment	Section 3.4 (PSA report), Section 6 Deep Creek Bridge (Traffic report)	Pg 14, (PSA report), Pg 11 (Traffic report)	<p>The Amendment proposed reducing regular, structural inspection of the Bulla Bridge/Deep Creek Bridge from 6 monthly intervals, as required by existing approvals for the WGT project, to 12 monthly intervals because "all inspections undertaken to date have not found any deterioration of the bridge associated with spoil haulage activities".</p> <p>Bulla Bridge along Bulla Road is an important infrastructure and heritage asset between Sunbury and Melbourne.</p> <p>The Traffic Engineering Assessment report claimed that the "expected peak volume" of spoil haulage trucks accessing the Bulla facility in the future as part of the North East Link Project (which the Amendment will facilitate) is "generally consistent with peak truck volumes" of the WGT project. It also indicated that as part of existing approval for WGT, the facility has been designed for peak volumes of 429 truck</p>	<p>The regular 6 monthly structural inspection interval should be maintained given the proposed amendment enables Hi Quality to accept spoils from any project around the State. The Traffic Engineering Assessment has only considered expected truck volumes from the NEL project. It has not considered the possibility of two or more projects transporting spoil to the BSPF at the same time.</p> <p>To relieve transport pressure on the Bulla Bridge, it is recommended that State Government commit to expediting the delivery of the Bulla By-pass and seek appropriate contributions from Hi Quality towards its delivery or any other project that would ease</p>	Bulla Bridge

No	Document (s)	Section if relevant	Page no. if relevant	Issue	Recommended solution	Category
				<p>loads per day, while spoil haulage as part of the North East Link project is expected to peak at approximately 400 truck loads per day.</p> <p>The report neglects to consider the scenario where two or more projects overlap, given the proposed amendment does not restrict the number of projects BSPF could take spoil from. It also fails to discuss whether the types of trucks (and their weight) used in the WGT project and the North East Link project are the same. There is not enough information provided to justify reducing the inspection regime of the bridge owing to the number of unknowns.</p>	<p>pressure on the Bulla Bridge to satisfy integrated decision-making and Section 4 of the Act.</p>	
15	1G Traffic Engineering Assessment	NA	NA	<p>The speed limit on Sunbury Road near Bulla Bridge was lowered to 40km/hr for safety reasons following Amendment C248. It would be of interest to know how effective the speed limit is to determine if further actions must be taken to ensure safety around the bridge.</p>	<p>More information (e.g. Traffic counts and speed compliance data) should be provided to evaluate the effectiveness of lowering the speed limit on Sunbury Road around Bulla Bridge to 40km/hr following Amendment C248 in 2021.</p>	Bulla Bridge
16	1G Traffic Engineering Assessment	NA	NA	<p>Spoils from the WGT project are currently transported to the BSPF via Sunbury Road from the south given the location of the WGT project. The proposed amendment will allow the BSPF to accept spoils from all future Victorian projects which gives rise to the possibility of spoils being transported from the north of the site. The Traffic Engineering Assessment has not considered the various routes spoils might arrive at the facility and their potential impacts along the way. In contrast, the previous Incorporated Document for C248 had required routes to be specified for approval prior to the commencement of the project.</p>	<p>More information should be provided to facilitate a proper assessment of the Amendment’s network-wide impacts, particularly potential truck routes if future projects were located north, east, and west of the subject site.</p>	Traffic
17	1G Traffic Engineering Assessment	NA	NA	<p>Traffic Engineering Assessment has not taken into account cumulative traffic impacts arising from various operations that currently occur on site, such as truck traffic from quarrying activities, landfill activities, and the organic waste</p>	<p>Traffic Engineering Assessment must consider the cumulative traffic impacts that arise from operations that currently occur on site (such as truck traffic from the landfill, quarry, and the</p>	Traffic

No	Document (s)	Section if relevant	Page no. if relevant	Issue	Recommended solution	Category
18	1A Planning Scheme Amendment Report, and 1G Traffic Engineering Assessment	Section 3.11 (PSA report), Section 5.2 (Traffic report)	Pg 10 (PSA report), Pg 10 (Traffic report)	<p>processing facility which share the same access road as the BSPF. It has also not considered potential impacts from proposed activities, such as the proposed construction waste recycling operation as part of Hi-Quality's application (APP018022) to the EPA. The report must consider the cumulative traffic impacts from all known activities and not just from the BSPF.</p>	<p>Veolia site in addition to the BSPF); and any other known operations that are proposed (such as the licence application to EPA to accept Construction waste). Information such as the existing peak truck movements per hour (both entering and exiting the site) from current activities, and expected peak truck movements per hour from proposed activities are critical to enable a proper assessment of the traffic impacts.</p> <p>In addition, DTP should consider whether any timing and/or volume caps on operations would be required to appropriately manage traffic and other off-site impacts.</p> <p>More information must be provided to facilitate assessment of traffic impacts resulting from relocating the existing U-turn facility. Traffic modelling/analysis is needed to understand:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The queuing length and potential delays to right turning vehicles travelling south on Sunbury Road if a U-turn was added to the future intersection at SS-IN-01 (Plan 13 of the Sunbury South PSP); 2) The resulting change to travel patterns for residents in planned subdivisions in the PSP (given the local network was designed assuming there is a U-turn facility at its current location); 3) The impacts to local roads in planned subdivisions in the Sunbury South PSP (e.g. potentially higher usage of the local road directly south of the SS-IN-01 intersection). 	Traffic

No	Document (s)	Section if relevant	Page no. if relevant	Issue	Recommended solution	Category
19	1A Planning Scheme Amendment Report, 1D Site Entrance and Exit Plan, 1G Traffic Engineering Assessment, and 1E Signage Plan	Section 3.1.2 (PSA report), Appendix A - Amended Access Intersection Layout (Traffic report)	Pg 11	<p>The Amendment proposed a Business Identification Signage. The Planning Scheme Amendment report describes this to be a "double sided internally illuminated Panel Sign 6m in height and 2.1m wide", with the proposed location shown on Attachment D and its design illustrated in Attachment E.</p> <p>The design in Attachment E, however, showed a signage that is 5.1m high and 2.4m wide, with no indication of it being illuminated, which conflicts with the dimensions described in the PSA report.</p> <p>The location of the proposed Business Identification Signage is located on SUZ9 land. The schedule indicates that sign requirements are to follow those in Clause 52.05 and the zone is considered Category 1 (Commercial). The proposed signage is assessed under conditions of Clause 52.05.</p>	<p>DTP should satisfy itself that the impacts are acceptable and consult with Council on implications to the local network in the PSP.</p> <p>1) DTP should ask the proponent to clarify why the design of the proposed Business Identification Signage (BIS) shown in Attachment 1E differs from the dimensions described in the Section 3.1.2 of the Planning Scheme Amendment Report, and revise one of them for consistency. If the BIS is intended to be internally illuminated it should be clearly indicated on the plans.</p> <p>2) The BIS's dimensions shown on Attachment 1E, at 5.1m x 2.4m (or 12.2 sqm) is larger than the panel area allowed by the Planning Scheme under the "permit not required category" in Clause 52.05. The proponent is advised to reduce its panel area or submit a separate planning permit application to Council.</p> <p>3) Clause 52.05 of the Planning Scheme specifically requires internally illuminated signs "must be placed more than 30m from a residential zone or pedestrian or traffic lights". It also requires signs not to obstruct a driver's line of sight at an intersection, curve or point of egress. The location of the sign should take this into account.</p>	Signage
20	1D Drawing DEV-200-003 Contingency Access	NA	NA	<p>A Contingency Access plan is included in the pack of drawings. It is unclear what the purpose of this plan is, given it is not described in the Explanatory Report, the PSA report, or the Traffic Engineering Assessment report.</p>	<p>DTP should ask the proponent to clarify the purpose of the Contingency Access Plan, and describe if any changes are proposed.</p>	Miscellaneous

No	Document (s)	Section if relevant	Page no. if relevant	Issue	Recommended solution	Category
21	1A PSP Masterplan Concept and 1B Future Urban Structure Plan	NA	NA	<p>The proposed Amendment’s package included two attachments, ‘1A PSP Masterplan Concept’ and ‘1B Future Urban Structure Plan’. These attachments are referenced in the PSA report but not in the Incorporated Document or Explanatory Report. They are the proponent’s vision to maximise development on the Hi-Quality site, and it is noted that proposed land uses on those plans are inconsistent with the Sunbury South PSP. The proponent had submitted these plans as an “alternative proposal” for the Planning Panel to consider during panel hearings for Amendments C208 and C209 (Sunbury South PSP). The Panel had noted then that it “...agrees therefore with Council that there is no clear strategic imperative to increase the amount of net developable area on the Hi-Quality site and that any proposal to do so must be appropriate, and balanced with the other competing objectives that relate to this land.” (Section 5.11 of the Panel Report for Amendments C208 and C209)</p> <p>Council does not support including these two plans in the Amendment package given the land uses shown are inconsistent with the Sunbury South PSP and their inclusion could lead to expectations that, when the operations have ceased, the land will be redeveloped in the manner shown on the ‘Masterplan Concept’ and ‘Future Urban Structure Plan’. Future land use on the proponent’s site is not part of the amendment and the two attachments should not be included in the package.</p>	<p>The two attachments, ‘1A PSP Masterplan Concept’ and ‘1B Future Urban Structure Plan’ should be removed from the Amendment package to avoid confusion with land uses designated in the Sunbury South PSP and raising expectations that the PSP might be amended to accommodate significant development at the Hi Quality site.</p>	Future land uses

No	Document (s)	Section if relevant	Page no. if relevant	Issue	Recommended solution	Category
22	Proposed Explanatory Report	NA	Pg 7	The Explanatory Report cited clauses from the Hume Planning Scheme before the Planning Policy Framework translation to respond to the question "How does the amendment support or implement the LPPF, and specifically the MSS". The clauses from Clause 22 are no longer present.	The section of the Explanatory Report responding to LPPF and MSS should be revised to respond to the relevant Planning Scheme clauses after PPF translation.	Explanatory Report
Other issues						
23	NA	NA	NA	EPA has received Development Licence Application APP018022 from HI Quality to conduct prescribed development activity A13b (Waste and resource recovery-medium) for the processing of up to 100,000 tonnes per year of fill material and construction wastes. The application will generate traffic, environment and amenity impacts of its own even though it is not related to the proposed Amendment C249.	Rather than assess each application independently, DTP and the relevant authorities should consider the cumulative impacts of all existing and proposed operations may have on the surrounding environment and the community.	EPA Licence app
24	Proposed EMP	NA	NA	It is unclear from the proposed EMP if existing on-site facilities that were constructed to treat and store spoil with elevated levels of 'PFAS' from the WGT project are adequate in treating and storing other types of contaminated soil from other parts of Victoria.	The proposed amendment should be referred to EPA for comment specifically on: 1) Whether existing facilities are adequate in handling other types of contaminated soil. 2) If a dedicated Environment EMP needs to be prepared to deal with other types of contaminants since they have different risk profiles to PFAS.	Contamination
25	NA	NA	NA	The proposed Amendment does not mention the extraction of water from Emu Creek. However, given the proposed expansion of SCO12 towards the creek, there are concerns about water rights and the community and environment impacts if water were to be extracted from the creek.	Require HI-Quality to clarify if they intend to extract water from Emu Creek, and require them to apply for a licence from Greater Western Water under the Water Act and refer the application to the EPA and other relevant authorities for comment.	Water rights

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The Hon Sonya Kilkeny MP

Minister for Planning
Minister for the Suburbs

1 Spring Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia

Ref: BMIN-1-23-3881

Cr Naim Kurt
Mayor
Hume City Council
PO Box 119
DALLAS VIC 3047

Dear Mayor

Hi-Quality Quarry Products Pty Ltd has requested that I prepare, adopt and approve an amendment to the Hume Planning Scheme to allow the Bulla Spoil Processing Facility at 570-650 Sunbury Road, Bulla, to process and dispose of spoil from Big Build projects and other infrastructure projects.

Hi-Quality has requested that I exempt myself from any of the requirements of sections 17, 18 and 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the Regulations, if I consider that compliance with any of those requirements is not warranted or that the interests of Victoria or any part of Victoria make such an exemption appropriate.

I am consulting with council under section 20(5) of the Act to seek your views on the proposed amendment and the proposed use of section 20(4) of the Act to exempt myself from the notice requirements of the Act and Regulations, for the amendment. The documents that have been submitted in support of the amendment request will be provided separately in digital form by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP).

I seek your council’s comments within 21 days of the date of this letter.



If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Stuart Menzies, Director, State Planning Services, Department of Transport and Planning, on email stuart.menzies@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Minister for Planning

Date: / /

6/2/2024

REPORT NO:	9.2
REPORT TITLE:	Response to Notice of Motion 24/07
SOURCE:	Adam McSwain, Director Infrastructure and Assets
DIVISION:	Infrastructure & Assets
FILE NO:	-
POLICY:	-
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	2.1: Facilitate appropriate urban development and enhance natural environment, heritage, landscapes and rural places
ATTACHMENTS:	Nil

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 This report provides a response to item e in Notice of Motion (NOM) 24/07, specifically item e, that was passed at the 26 February 2024 Council meeting.
- 1.2 Item e requested that “A report comes back to Council with implementation *costings in relation to points a,b,c,d*”.
- 1.3 This report provides those costs and recommends proceeding with NOM 27/07.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 That Council notes the costings included in the report and adopt items a, b, c and d of NOM 24/07 as listed below:

- a) **Complete a Municipality wide mailout of an A5 Waste Information Card with a magnet back that can be stuck to residents’ fridges or other suitable locations within their home to inform residents and businesses specifically stating their options to dispose of waste and reduce dumped rubbish.**
- b) **To have a barcode on the A5 to direct rate payers to the council website for more information and also to arrange for a collection or pick up.**
- c) **providing a hotline number on the same A5 to report failures to satisfy the promises made by council or the respective contractor. A telephone line, rather than an online chat or form, to ensure that all members of the community can express their concerns promptly and are able to speak to a human rather than a machine. This approach is not to appointing blame but to ensure adequate supervision and flexibility in improving our services**
- d) **Investigate options to utilise a variety of media channels e.g. print, multicultural radio communication and online to inform the community and ensure a focus on multicultural communications are taken in support of point A.**

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS:

Local Government Act 2020.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 The costs to implement the mailout component (a and b) of the NOM are below:

REPORT NO: 9.2 (cont.)

Only A5 waste information card [mail-out]		
	Design	Print
Letter	\$1,650	\$5,232.48
Waste information card (with magnet)	\$2,200	\$10,052.95
Envelope	\$770	\$5,932.85
Sub total	\$4,620	\$21,218.28
Mailout - Addressed Mail	\$10,816.96	
Contingency - 10%	\$3,665.52	
Total (incl. GST)	\$40,320.76	

4.2 These costs are able to be included within the existing Waste and Sustainability operating budget. Including this mailout in an upcoming mailout already planned by Council Officers will further reduce this cost.

4.3 The other elements of the NOM, hotline and additional media promotion, can be completed through existing budgets or at no additional cost.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

Improved waste education and communication across the Municipality will assist to reduce waste to landfill and help to address dumping of rubbish across Hume.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONSIDERATIONS:

As above.

7. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS APPLICATION:

No human rights are impinged as a result of this report.

8. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

There is no community consultation that will be undertaken or planned as a result of this report.

9. DISCUSSION:

9.1 At the 26 February Council meeting NOM 24/07 was adopted:

That Council:

a) Complete a Municipality wide mailout of an A5 Waste Information Card with a magnet back that can be stuck to residents’ fridges or other suitable locations within their home to inform residents and businesses specifically stating their options to dispose of waste and reduce dumped rubbish.

b) To have a barcode on the A5 to direct rate payers to the council website for more information and also to arrange for a collection or pick up.

REPORT NO: 9.2 (cont.)

c) providing a hotline number on the same A5 to report failures to satisfy the promises made by council or the respective contractor. A telephone line, rather than an online chat or form, to ensure that all members of the community can express their concerns promptly and are able to speak to a human rather than a machine. This approach is not to appointing blame but to ensure adequate supervision and flexibility in improving our services

d) Investigate options to utilise a variety of media channels e.g. print, multicultural radio communication and online to inform the community and ensure a focus on multicultural communications are taken in support of point A.

e) A report comes back to Council with implementation costings in relation to points a,b,c,d.

A review of each element of this NOM is below:

- a) Complete a Municipality wide mailout of an A5 Waste Information Card with a magnet back that can be stuck to residents’ fridges or other suitable locations within their home to inform residents and businesses specifically stating their options to dispose of waste and reduce dumped rubbish.*
- b) To have a barcode on the A5 to direct rate payers to the council website for more information and also to arrange for a collection or pick up.*

A municipality-wide mail-out of a new Waste Services Pack is planned for June 2024. This pack will promote and encourage correct recycling and waste disposal behaviours through a suite of education collateral that will help ratepayers and renters learn about Council's waste services and the entitlements available to them, as a Hume resident.

The pack will include:

- c) Waste and recycling guide.** This will provide detailed information regarding Council's waste services, what items can be disposed of through each service, and the entitlements available to residents.
- d) Waste information card.** This will summarise Council's waste services, including bin collections, hard waste collections, Resource Recovery Centres and Hume Clean Days, to clearly outline the entitlements available to ratepayers and renters. This card will be implemented in line with this NOM and include QR codes to assist residents.
- e) Illegal dumping education flyer.** This will educate residents on illegal dumping and the impacts of dumped rubbish, the actions they can take to responsibly dispose of their waste and how to report dumped rubbish in Hume.
- f) Keep Hume Clean - responsibilities card.** This will promote how Council and residents can work together to Keep Hume Clean. It will outline the responsibilities residents have with disposing of their waste correctly, and what actions Council are taking to reduce instances of dumped rubbish.

This mailout can be completed within existing budgets as outlined in the financial implications section.

- c) providing a hotline number on the same A5 to report failures to satisfy the promises made by council or the respective contractor. A telephone line, rather than an online chat or form, to ensure that all members of the community can express their concerns promptly and are able to speak to a human rather than a machine. This approach is not to appointing blame but to ensure adequate supervision and flexibility in improving our services*

REPORT NO: 9.2 (cont.)

To maintain channel choice for residents, while ensuring clarity and transparency in accessing Council services regarding waste management enquiries, centralising all enquiry types and calls through the 9205 2200 contact number is the preferred approach of Officers and will facilitate appropriate routing to the relevant teams and prompt resolution of enquiries.

This approach particularly benefits our multilingual residents by reducing confusion and providing enhanced support from the Customer Service team, which offers translation services. Offering multiple contact numbers for customers to address their enquiries could potentially lead to confusion and heightened frustration with the Council, thus creating an additional obstacle for our customers to access assistance through a straightforward and efficient channel.

Officers will review Councils Interactive Voice Response (IVR) menu system to ensure the language promotes that residents can easily report waste enquiries via this channel and where required in multiple languages. This will help to streamline the reporting of issues, dumped rubbish, waste collection and any other resident enquiries. This phone number will be widely promoted in all material.

d) Investigate options to utilise a variety of media channels e.g. print, multicultural radio communication and online to inform the community and ensure a focus on multicultural communications are taken in support of point A.

The waste communications program utilises a comprehensive range of channels and tactics depending on the message and audience, including print collateral, the Hume website, social media, newsletter content, local media (print and radio), outdoor advertising, and more.

At present, the Mayor has two radio appearances scheduled with Local Radio outlets where waste topics will be communicated. The Communications team is also investigating options for proactive radio advertising that covers stations that are well utilized by the Hume community.

The team is currently investigating or implementing a number of strategies, including:

- Integrating the Multicultural Communications Advisory Group into communications development activities where possible.
- Professionally translated web pages in each priority language outlining Council's services, including an overview of waste services
- Translated material to support the Waste Response Team's work on the ground
- Translated versions of the printed waste guide and other collateral, distributed at key locations around Hume.
- Supporting the waste/resource recovery education team in promoting and delivering information sessions targeted to specific multicultural communities
- Translated outdoor advertising in shopping centres, on buses etc.
- Distribution of materials (in English and translation, print and digital) directly to multicultural leaders for them to share online or in community spaces.

These strategies and any additional promotion and advertising are able to form part of the existing Waste and Sustainability budget.

REPORT NO: 9.2 (cont.)

10. CONCLUSION:

The implementation of NOM 24/07 can be integrated within existing work and budgets that is being completed by Council Officers. Continuing to improve our waste communications across the Municipality is crucial to addressing dumped rubbish and supporting the Hume community.

REPORT NO: 9.2 (cont.)

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REPORT NO:	9.3
REPORT TITLE:	Residential Nature Strip Policy
SOURCE:	Mark Doyle, Manager City Parks & Open Spaces
DIVISION:	Infrastructure & Assets
FILE NO:	HCC15/190
POLICY:	- Residential Nature Strip
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	2.2: Design and maintain our City with accessible spaces and a strong sense of place
ATTACHMENTS:	1. <i>Residential Nature Strip Policy</i> 2. <i>Nature Strip Policy Consultation Data 2023</i>

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 This report recommends that Council approve the revised Residential Nature Strip Policy following community consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 That Council adopt the Residential Nature Strip Policy 2024 (Attachment 1).**

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS:

- 3.1 Council has powers under the Road Management Act 2004 and Local law to regulate works within a Road Reserve.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 The current budget for Nature Strip works is \$122,000 for the 2023/24 financial year.
4.2 This budget includes intervention mowing for hazardous nature strips and for make safe repairs as required to reduce the risk to the community.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

- 5.1 The policy provides opportunities for residents to improve their nature strips with plantings (grass or shrubs) that will improve biodiversity throughout the municipality.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONSIDERATIONS:

- 6.1 Climate change is likely to see Hume City become drier and hotter. Having green spaces in public places such as nature strips helps reduce the urban heat island effect.

7. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS APPLICATION:

- 7.1 The recommendations in this report do not limit any of the protected rights under the Victoria Charter of Human Rights.

REPORT NO: 9.3 (cont.)

8. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

- 8.1 At the Council meeting on 23 October 2023, Council approved the Draft Nature Strip Policy to go to Community Consultation via the Participate Hume Process
- 8.2 The consultation ran from 24 October to 21 November.
- 8.3 The consultation was advertised on Councils Social Media platforms.
- 8.4 Through the Community Consultation period, a total of 24 responses were received. Of the 24 responses, 12 of these related to narrow streets and lack of parking opportunities, which results in residents parking on nature strips. These responses have been provided to the relevant Council Department for consideration (Attachment 2).
- 8.5 Of the remaining 12 responses, three were of a positive nature (Policy is clear to understand) and one was relating to protection of trees in Nature Strips. The eight remaining responses were of a nature where the respondent was seeking Council to maintain the Nature Strip as it is deemed Crown Land and not legally the property of the land owner.
- 8.6 Based on the responses of the consultation, some minor amendments have been made to the draft policy. These changes relate to protection of Nature Strip trees when undertaking landscaping on the Nature Strip.

9. DISCUSSION:

- 9.1 Council adopted the current Residential Nature Strip Policy at the meeting on 15 June 2021.
- 9.2 The draft Residential Nature Strip Policy seeks to further clarify the maintenance responsibilities for nature strips, which is the responsibility of the resident. This will include corner properties which have nature strips on the front and the side of the property.
- 9.3 Maintenance of nature strips includes activities such as mowing, edging, weeding, litter removal etc.
- 9.4 Council will only undertake slashing works on residential nature strips where it is deemed to be a hazard (e.g.: Fire hazard, line of sight for vehicles, restricts pedestrian access etc.). Poor amenity will not be a reason alone for intervention.
- 9.5 Council will undertake remedial works on nature strips where it has been identified that there is a significant hazard for the community (e.g.: tripping hazard). This will involve topping up the hazard with soil and spreading seed and will only apply to the area where the hazard has been identified.

10. CONCLUSION:

- 10.1 The updated draft Residential Nature Strip Policy looks to clarify maintenance responsibilities for residential nature strips.
- 10.2 It is recommended that Council adopt the revised Residential Nature Strip Policy.



RESIDENTIAL NATURE STRIP POLICY

Policy Reference No.	POL/194
File No.	HCC15/190
Strategic Objective	4.2 Create community pride through a well-designed and maintained City.
Adopted by Council	15 June 2021
Re-Adopted	12 March 2024
Date for Review	June 2028
Responsible Officer	Manager City Parks and Open Spaces
Department	City Parks and Open Spaces

RESIDENTIAL NATURE STRIP POLICY

1. POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 Council is committed to taking pride in the appearance of Hume City through shared responsibility for maintenance and enhancement of nature strips on roadsides.
- 1.2 Council supports residents enhancing and maintaining nature strips when done in a manner that is safe, is not detrimental the local amenity, sustainable and compliant with relevant legislation.
- 1.3 It is the responsibility of residents/property owners to maintain the nature strip abutting their property (on all sides of the property) in a manner that provides for safe and unhindered movement, and this normally entails activities such as regular mowing, edging, weeding and the removal of litter.
- 1.4 Council will only undertake works on nature strips to make safe following evidence of damage to the nature strip by a Council vehicle or in cases where there is a significant risk to the community e.g. Sink hole, or the nature strip is in such a condition that it cannot be maintained by the resident.
- 1.5 It is illegal to park a vehicle on a nature strip anywhere in Victoria and offenders may be issued an infringement notice under Road Safety Road Rules 2009, rule no 197.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of the Policy is to provide guidance to residents wishing to undertake personalised landscape works on Council Residential Nature Strips.
- 2.2 The Policy provides guidance on how Council will address non-compliant landscape works on Nature Strips.
- 2.3 The Policy provides clarity that Residents and property owners are expected to maintain the nature strip abutting their property.

3. SCOPE

- 3.1 The Policy applies to landscape works on Council Residential Nature Strips.
- 3.2 The Policy does not apply to rural roads or roads where Council is not the Responsible Road Authority including Arterial Roads and Freeways.
- 3.3 It also does not apply to works undertaken by Council, utility authorities and Victorian and Federal Governments.

Policy Reference No:	POL/194	Responsible Officer:	Manger Parks
Date of Re/Adoption:	15 June 2021	Department:	Parks
Review Date:	June 2022		

RESIDENTIAL NATURE STRIP POLICY

4. OBJECTIVES:

- 4.1 To ensure a safe, sustainable, and consistent approach to the design, maintenance and selection of materials used on residential nature strips throughout the City with reference to current Council guidelines.
- 4.2 Provide clarity to Hume residents about the management, maintenance and governance of Residential Nature Strips in the municipality.
- 4.3 To provide separate guidelines to residents on suitable landscape treatments, public safety and asset protection.

5. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Maintenance requirements of Nature Strips

- 5.1.1 Required maintenance includes regular mowing, edging, weeding and the removal of litter.

5.2 Consent to undertake landscape works on Council Nature Strips

- 5.2.1 A person undertaking landscape works on a Council Nature Strip as the property owner, or on behalf of the property owner is required to apply for a *Consent to Works Within a Hume Road Reserve* permit under the Road Management Act.
- 5.2.2 Council will consider applications for landscape works on Council Nature Strips in accordance with Council’s Residential Nature Strip Guidelines.

5.3 Non-compliant landscape works on Council Nature Strips

- 5.3.1 Where Council becomes aware of non-compliant and/or unsafe landscape works on a Council Nature Strip and where the works do not comply with the Residential Nature Strip Guidelines, Council may:
 - a) invite the resident/property owner to bring the works into compliance with the Guidelines. This will involve sending a letter to the resident requesting they maintain their nature strip within 14 days of the date on the letter;
 - b) Where this is unsuccessful Council will undertake enforcement action. This will include assessment of and rectification of hazards (mowing, vegetation removal etc); and,
 - c) Where Council cannot identify the responsible person or, the identified person fails to bring the landscape works into compliance with the Guidelines, Council shall remove the landscape works and topsoil and seed or apply a mulch layer to the area as appropriate and shall seek costs from the property owner.

Policy Reference No:	POL/194	Responsible Officer:	Manger Parks
Date of Re/Adoption:	15 June 2021	Department:	Parks
Review Date:	June 2022		

RESIDENTIAL NATURE STRIP POLICY

5.4 Damage to a nature strip

- 5.4.1 If the nature strip has been damaged because of building or other work at their property, the property owner, contractor or builder is responsible for repairs.
- 5.4.2 Utility companies that supply water, gas, electricity, and telecommunications may require access to a nature strip to perform maintenance work. The utility company is responsible for reinstating the nature strip but are only required to backfill with soil and seed with grass. There is no guarantee that these utility companies will replace landscaping such as plants, gravel and mulch to match the condition prior to maintenance work. Council will not be responsible for reinstatement.
- 5.4.3 Where Council undertake projects that involve work on nature strips a requirement in the Contract for clean-up and reinstatement of any damage by the Contractor will be included.
- 5.4.4 The property owner is ultimately responsible maintaining the nature strip abutting their property in a manner that provides for safe and unhindered movement.

6. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Nature Strip - is the land that is within the boundaries of a road (other than the shoulders of the road) which is not a roadway or pathway as stated in the Road Management Act 2004.

Council Residential Nature Strip – is Nature Strip on a road listed on Council’s Register of Public Roads adjacent to residential land use.

Personalised Landscape Works – landscape works on a Council Residential Nature Strip that comply with Council’s Residential Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines

Other terms shown in capitals are defined by the Road Management Act 2004.

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

7.1 Legislative requirements

- a) Road Management Act 2004.
- b) Local Government Act 2020

7.2 Hume City Council:

- a) Local Law Number 1
- b) Road Management Plan
- c) Register of Public Roads
- d) Residential Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines
- e) Sustainable Gardening Handbook
- f) Nature Strip Landscaping and Planting Information Sheet

Policy Reference No:	POL/194	Responsible Officer:	Manger Parks
Date of Re/Adoption:	15 June 2021	Department:	Parks
Review Date:	June 2022		

Contribution type	Date Submitted	Theme/s	Verbatim feedback	Gender	Age	What suburb do you live in?
Survey / online	Nov 21, 2023, 08:32	Maintenance of nature strips - applying consistent and fair policies and measures	<p>Council wants residents to maintain the nature strip at their own cost. Which is fine. I have 50sqm nature strip which I maintain regularly. My neighbor, Comer lot, around 4 times as big as my nature strip, never mow their nature strip pretending I do it for them, and they got it done for free from the council twice in the last year because of my complains. Council doesn't care about it until its deemed hazardous, which there are not standards but is up to council officers. Neighbor doesn't care about it because he is not legally liable.</p> <p>Does council understand that this whole process doesn't make any sense? This is a twisted mechanism which makes me think it was created exclusively to avoid any responsibility in keeping council land.</p> <p>What I think is</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The council should be clear about who MUST maintain the nature strip. MUST. It should be mandatory for someone to maintain the nature strip. 2. The council should fine people who doesn't keep their nature strip, because being in front of the property, it should be considered part of the unsightly property. 3. If the above cannot be done, the council should come up with clear and detailed guides on council nature strips standards, stating exactly when they are deemed to be hazardous. Now its up to the officers. So it is subjective, there is no standard at all. One week the officer doesn't believe there is an hazard, next week they run because there is hazard. 4. If the council does not come up with a clear and fair nature strip policy, to protect residents that "do the right thing" by maintaining council land, I will refuse to do my adjoining nature strip too. <p>I am over in doing complaints for this matter and be laughed at by hume officers for weeks and weeks with no sights of solving this issue once and for all.</p> <p>Next time, when in a few months my neighbor nature strip will be a mess again. I will not lose anymore time in complains and follow ups with hume council. I will simply tell my gardner to stop mowing the nature strip, which will save me hundreds of dollars that I can use for council rates.</p> <p>All the best Andrea Brunetti An angry resident in regards nature strips in meadow heights.</p>	Man or male	35-44 years	Meadow Heights
Survey / online	Nov 20, 2023, 02:44	Feedback on policy - protection of street trees	<p>The proposed policy does not afford sufficient protection to existing (or future) street trees! The Australian Standard AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites should be applied to all n/s landscaping applicants to ensure that the excavation for and the compaction of alternative toppings such as granitic sand do not damage existing roots or impede potential or future root growth. The current proposal only limits excavation and compaction to the 'drip line' of the existing tree canopy (presuming that an existing tree exists), this is out of step with the Australian Standard which Council ought to be supporters of if they are to ensure meaningful growth of the urban forest. Furthermore if no current street tree exists then residents are within their rights (and encouraged by the guidelines) to compact the granitic sand toppings of the entire n/s thereby making it extremely difficult to ever establish a tree on that naturestrip. Residents then treat the naturestrip as their private carpark. Hume needs more shade in streets and less cars parked on naturestrips!</p>	Prefer not to say	Prefer not to say	Coolaroo
Survey / online	Nov 17, 2023, 11:24	Feedback on policy - general positive comment	The draft policy is fair and clear to understand.	Woman or female	35-44 years	Kalkallo
Survey / online	Nov 14, 2023, 10:37	Feedback on policy - residents planting on nature strips	We have a neighbour who has planted trees all along his corner block and we cannot see to reverse our cars out of our drive way, it's an accident waiting to happen so I look forward to seeing some improvements via this new policy.	Woman or female	55-64 years	Sunbury
Survey / online	Nov 13, 2023, 08:36	Issue with nature strips - parking (accessibility of street) and footpaths	We need indented parking bays in streets that are narrow. When cars are parked on both sides it is impossible for emergency vehicles, garbage trucks and also cars to get through. The nature strip we have is grass all the way down. why cant we all have a footpath? Sick of bikes riding across our front lawn cause of no footpath and destroying our plants and grass!	Woman or female	55-64 years	Roxburgh Park
Survey / online	Nov 13, 2023, 07:24	Issue with nature strips - parking (accessibility of street)	While it is illegal to park your car on the nature strip the council has to consider the increase in population within the Hume community within the past decade. For many years now we have tried to get council to undergo indented parking in our street to no avail. These leaves many of the people in our street no option but to park on the nature strip. This not only causes damage to the newly planted trees but also damages grass and leaves the nature strip in a dismal state.	Woman or female	45-54 years	Roxburgh Park

Survey / online	Nov 13, 2023, 06:39	<p>Issue with nature strips - parking (accessibility and vision along street)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Feedback on policy - permits to landscape nature strip 	<p>Yes. It is illegal to park vehicles on nature strips, but the powers to be, whether council or State Government designed the sub-divisions with such narrow roads in the suburban streets that you cannot park vehicles on the street or else the road is blocked because they're too narrow. With the shortage of housing and the ever increasing cost of housing more and more family members are having to live at their parents house, which does not have enough off street parking spaces at their residences.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan sub-divisions with wide enough roads so vehicles can be parked on each side of a street. 2. Retro fit existing nature strips with parking provisions so that roadways are not blocked and its safer for all. 3. Include in the Residential Nature Strip Policy provision for a resident or a number of residents within a street to apply for changing their existing landscaped nature strip (at Councils expense as they gave the permit for the sub-divisions in the first place which was inadequately designed) into a usable space. <p>In regards to 'Parking on Nature Strips' Vehicles parked on nature strips also obstruct the view of drivers and pedestrians entering and exiting driveways. There is no difference between doing this than parking on the street as they are still an obstacle. But you don't put don't park on the street as it is an obstacle.</p>	Man or male	55-64 years	Sunbury (Ashfield estate)
Survey / online	Nov 13, 2023, 05:19	Feedback on policy - general positive comment	<p>I have never seen the council maintain any nature strips. This has always been the responsibility of the resident. All I have seen is the sneaky council workers drive past and take photos of the vehicles parked so they can issue fines. I have a paved area outside my house which fits 1 vehicle. My household has 4 vehicles. There is insufficient parking on Marathon boulevard opposite Anzac Park and the council has a field day issuing fines if the vehicles are parked on nature strips that have no grass just dirt and gravel and absolutely not maintained. How about you remove the useless trees that are not maintained by the council and take up the front area of our homes and hinder our vision when reversing from our driveways?</p>	Woman or female	55-64 years	Craigieburn
Survey / online	Nov 13, 2023, 01:24	Feedback on policy - general positive comment	Good	Prefer not to say	55-64 years	Broadmeadows
Survey / online	Nov 13, 2023, 10:49	Feedback on policy - permits to landscape nature strip	<p>Looks good its just sad people don't follow the rules</p> <p>A permit shouldn't be required, it delays are works, creates unnecessary paperwork, and addition cost that is not necessary. A outline should be provided of acceptable landscapes and as long as the works meet those guidelines it's permitted. Anything outside that would be removed.</p>	Woman or female	35-44 years	Craigieburn
Survey / online	Oct 30, 2023, 08:35	Issue with nature strips - parking (accessibility of nature strip)	<p>Stop fining residents who park on their nature strip due to narrow roads built in this municipality. Reveal raising is not helpful during the cost of living crisis</p>	Woman or female	25-34 years	Sunbury
Survey / online	Oct 29, 2023, 07:23	Issue with nature strips - maintenance	<p>Its absurd. If its council land and so important then you should maintain it. Also, how often do utilities ever need to be accessed? - hardly ever. Not allowing people to park on land that they already pay council for is bull dung. We have more and more multi generational families due to the messed up level of housing affordability who will be lined for parking near their house on land they already pay to maintain. This is completely out of touch and government overreach. The excuse of policy alignment is a cop out. You approve ghetto developments and force people to park on streets and you cant drive down the street safely let alone get a fire truck or ambulance down them. You are going to kill people with your negligence. And get a permit to manage the land that we already need to pay to maintain?? WTF? You know what works, glyphosate the whole nature strip, wouldn't that look pretty you dickhead bureaucrats</p>	Prefer not to say	35-44 years	Sunbury
Survey / online	Oct 28, 2023, 01:33	Issue with nature strips - parking (accessibility of street)	<p>The council should be maintaining it</p>	Woman or female	25-34 years	Kalkallo
Survey / online	Oct 28, 2023, 07:02	Issue with nature strips - maintenance	<p>I do not agree that council residents and property owners should be expected to maintain the nature strip abutting their property. It should be responsibility of council under the huge amount of council rates residents pay. What do we get for that just the bin collection nothing else is being done by the council. We have been charged separately for parks maintenance etc under the water bills which should be part of council rates, so how is it fair that residents should be looking after the nature strips after paying all council rates.</p>	Prefer not to say	35-44 years	Kalkallo
Survey / online	Oct 27, 2023, 11:15	Feedback on policy - maintenance where resident unable to do so	<p>Does the policy cover how nature strips will be addressed if a resident cannot maintain it vs will not maintain it? Some people ie elderly may not be able to maintain, what assistance is there... I do not believe fines are suitable however people choosing not also need to be addressed.</p>	Woman or female	35-44 years	Kalkallo
Survey / online	Oct 27, 2023, 10:23	Issue with nature strips - parking (accessibility of street)	<p>As I just want to have two wheels up in the nature strip to allow more access in my street</p>	Woman or female	25-34 years	Kalkallo

Survey / online	Oct 27, 2023, 10:15 PM	Issue with nature strips - parking (accessibility of street) and maintenance * Issue with nature strips - parking (accessibility of street) * Feedback on policy - limitations on nature strip landscaping * Feedback on policy - inconsistent application of policy * Feedback on Council permits to landscape nature strip	If council want residents to keep nature strips under control what about cheaper rates then. If we can't put the car anywhere in the nature strip maybe allow larger side streets for parking to allow for emergency vehicles. The ability to park on nature strips, or where possible replace them with dedicated parking spots, is an absolute requirement in Roxburgh Park. Where we live, streets are roughly 1.5 lanes wide but go both directions. People that park on the street block the road for everybody. Additionally it should be perfectly acceptable to landscape with fake turf or gravel to reduce the impact on the environment of regular watering and emissions from mowing, plus ease the load on those that can't maintain due to impairment.	Woman or female	45-54 years	Kalkallo
Survey / online	Oct 27, 2023, 06:31 PM	* Feedback on policy - inconsistent application of policy * Feedback on Council permits to landscape nature strip	Under clause 5.4.2 it states that utilities will reinstatement nature strip with soil and grass seed, and yet when council contractors cut down the trees and ground the stump, they backfilled with rock and rubbish when clearly there was soil and now it is hard to maintain because of crappy workmanship. Maybe council needs to take a bit of pride in their work.	Man or male	35-44 years	Roxburgh Park
Survey / online	Oct 27, 2023, 04:12 PM	* Feedback on policy - permits to landscape nature strip	If you want us to maintain the nature strip, then why do we need a permit to landscape it? That's just another bullshit money grab by a weak as piss council.	Man or male	45-54 years	Kalkallo
Survey / online	Oct 27, 2023, 01:53 PM	* Issue with nature strips - parking (accessibility of street) and maintenance * Issue with nature strips - parking (accessibility of street) * Feedback on policy - guidelines for planting	With the narrow streets legislation should change to allow parking on nature strips. I also believe as the nature strip is not owned by the residents and council owned responsibility falls for council to maintain what do we pay our rates for otherwise overseas junkets for climate change?	Man or male	55-64 years	Kalkallo
Survey / online	Oct 27, 2023, 01:50 PM	* Issue with nature strips - parking (accessibility of street) * Feedback on policy - guidelines for planting	Some of the narrow roads it would be good for cars to be parked in a nature strip, but to be clear of the foot path I would like to be able to plant on my nature strip - not trees but native shrubs - maybe the council could have a list of local native plants that are acceptable to plant.	Man or male	35-44 years	3064
Survey / online	Oct 27, 2023, 01:05 PM	* Issue with nature strips - parking (accessibility of street)	Whilst it is illegal to park a vehicle on a nature strip anywhere in Victoria under Victoria's Road Safety Rule 197, there needs to be more space on the streets for parked cars. You have made such narrow streets that when cars are parked correctly it's generally impossible for cars to get through in a safe manner. Take a look at Royal Terrace once you turn in from Grand Blvd. If you let people park on nature strips residents might actually be able to drive safely drive through the streets.	Woman or female	55-64 years	Sunbury
Survey / online	Oct 27, 2023, 09:33 AM	N/A - forwarded to Mark's team for response	Hi there We'll will the nature strip at revival place be landscaped and how do we stop the builders next door from driving all over it? Hello Hume council.	Woman or female	35-44 years	Craigieburn
Email	27/10/2023	* Feedback on Council service - more enforcement measures	Just wanted to add feedback in regards to nature strip policy. I think council should be active giving out warnings and fines for people who park on nature strips and households who do not maintain nature strips. "Nearly every street on Kalkallo/Cloverton estate" have unsafe and overgrown nature strips. It's embarrassing to live in this estate. Family members have tripped over them or can't walk on the path because overgrown nature strips. I would be more than happy paying extra council fees if council took over the nature strips.			

	<p>Good afternoon, Reading the RESIDENTIAL NATURE STRIP POLICY today, I was very confused as to whether the Draft Residential Nature Strip Policy provides clarity to Hume residents about the management, maintenance and governance of residential nature strips in Hume City Hume City Council???</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The property owner is ultimately responsible maintaining the nature strip abutting their property in today a manner that provides for safe and unhindered movement. 2. It is the responsibility of residents/property owners to maintain the nature strip abutting their property (on all sides of the property) in a manner that provides for safe and unhindered movement, and this normally entails activities such as regular mowing, weeding and the removal of litter. <p>To me the policy does not support residents and the safe and unhindered movement of our Nature Strips. Explain to me why then, after my complaint was assessed by the Arborist and told, not by him but the receptionist, after waiting weeks for the outcome, all is fine???</p> <p>End of Story???</p> <p>Could he NOT see the roots protruding out and it important to be worthy of attention???</p> <p>Please read and view the attachments enclosed of which I emailed 02.04.2023 to Hume Council providing images of my nature strip and the concern I have for not only myself, family and the public. Please note, as of today, The root system has worsened and urgently needs to be re-assessed ASAP. I have documented all required as proof if person / s should injure oneself due to this issue and to no fault of my own.</p> <p>Feedback when time permits would be greatly appreciated.</p>	<p>* Feedback on policy - inconsistent application of policy</p> <p>* Feedback on Council service</p> <p>* (email also forwarded to Mark's team for follow up)</p>	<p>28/10/2023</p>	<p>Email</p>
	<p>Blair st & Phillip st corner +1 years never been clean. See the picture</p> <p>I think more needs to be done to enforce maintenance of nature strips. I live in the Maples, Greenvale and often walk around Maples and Greenvale Gardens. Many nature strips have tall prickles and grass growing on them, not to mention their front gardens in some cases are the same.</p> <p>This devalues other properties and causes more weeds/ prickles to grow.</p> <p>Maybe they should be given a warning letter and if they don't maintain fine them or levy their rates and employ a contractor to clean up.</p> <p>This is what happens in rural areas such as Mansfield Shire Council.</p>	<p>N/A - forwarded to Mark's team for response</p>	<p>1/11/2023</p>	<p>Email</p>
		<p>* Feedback on Council service - more enforcement measures</p>	<p>14/11/2023</p>	<p>Email</p>

REPORT NO:	9.4
REPORT TITLE:	Stormwater Offsets Scheme: Summary of Community Consultation
SOURCE:	Angela Ganley, Senior Sustainable Environment Officer
DIVISION:	Infrastructure & Assets
FILE NO:	HCC19/709
POLICY:	Integrated Water Management Plan 2020-2025
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	2.1: Facilitate appropriate urban development and enhance natural environment, heritage, landscapes and rural places
ATTACHMENTS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Stormwater Offsets: A Guide for Residential Planning Applicants</i>2. <i>Stormwater Offsets: A Guide for Industrial/Commercial Planning Applicants</i>

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 This report summarizes feedback from the public exhibition period for the draft Stormwater Offsets Scheme and seeks endorsement of the scheme.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 That Council endorses the stormwater offsets scheme outlined in this report and attached guidelines. This scheme will commence once Council endorsement is received.**

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS:

- 3.1 The planning scheme allows for the development of a voluntary stormwater offset scheme and gives Council broad discretion over when and where the funds are used. The decision guidelines in clauses 55.03-4 and 53.18-7 and 55.07-5 require the responsible authority to consider “whether the owner has entered into an agreement to contribute to off-site stormwater management in lieu of providing an on-site stormwater management system.”
- 3.2 In May 2023, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action released its urban stormwater offsets guidance for councils developing urban stormwater offsets schemes in Victoria. They also released a stormwater quality in-lieu calculator which Councils can use to determine the offset price.

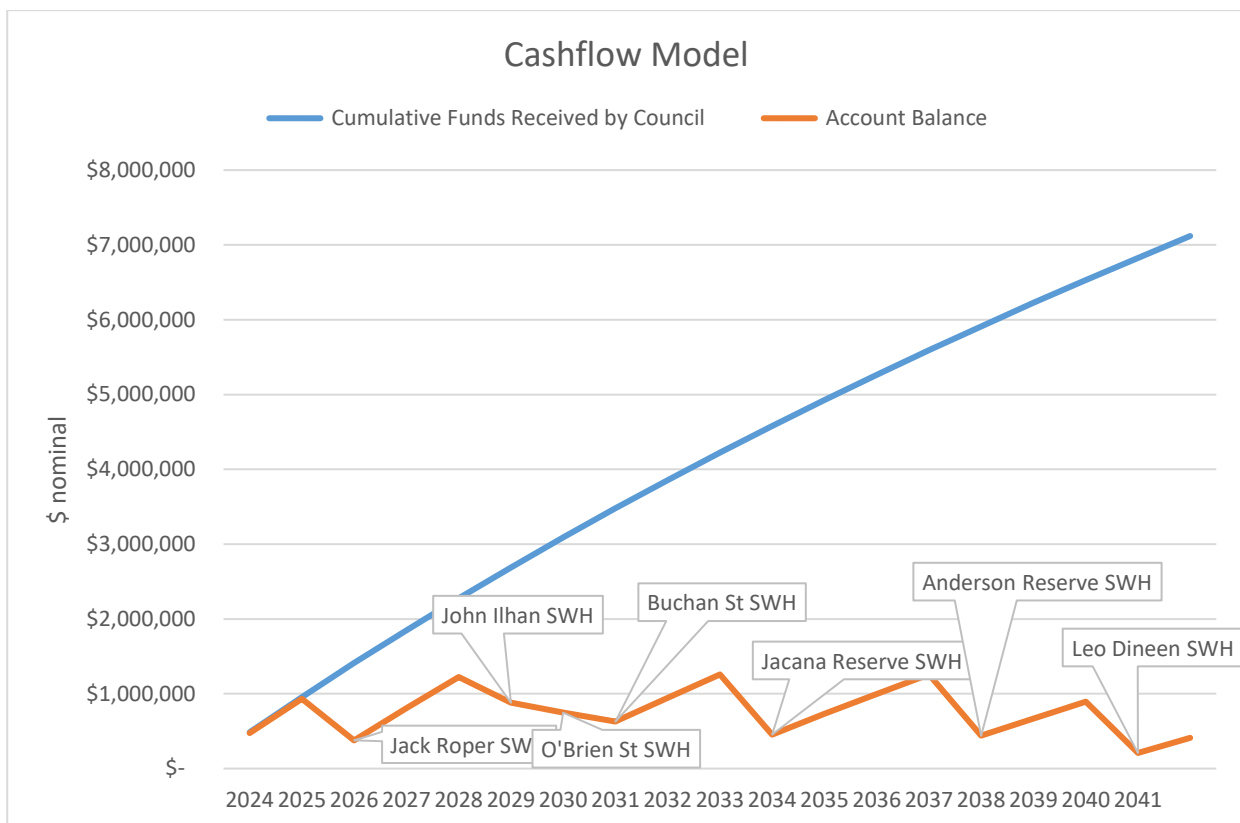
4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 The scheme forecast cash flow is shown in *Figure 1* below. The forecast indicates that all the identified stormwater harvesting opportunities that depend on external funding sources in Council’s *Integrated Water Management Plan 2020-2025* could be funded by 2041.

REPORT NO: 9.4 (cont.)

- 4.2 The offset price includes full cost recovery for the stormwater harvesting schemes. This includes:
 - 4.2.1 All project development, design and construction costs incurred by Council.
 - 4.2.2 All ongoing maintenance and operational costs.
 - 4.2.3 All additional costs to Council associated with running the stormwater offset funding mechanism.
 - 4.2.4 Asset renewal works.

Figure 1: Cashflow model showing funds received by Council, the drawdown of funds for projects and account balance.



5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

5.1 The stormwater offset scheme aims to improve the quality of local waterways through the delivery of medium to large scale stormwater treatment projects, and to assist developers to meet their stormwater planning requirements. Off-setting is particularly beneficial for smaller, more constrained developments, where developers find it difficult to achieve compliance. This will create a better overall outcome for the environment.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONSIDERATIONS:

6.1 A stormwater offset scheme will provide funding for stormwater harvesting schemes, which will build resilience to climate change impacts by providing an alternative water source for open space irrigation.

REPORT NO: 9.4 (cont.)

7. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS APPLICATION:

- 7.1 The stormwater offsets scheme aligns with Council’s equity and fairness principles in the Social Justice Charter. The projects that the offsets will fund are stormwater harvesting schemes located in areas of Hume that do not have an alternative (recycled) water supply. This will help maintain a consistent servicing level for playing sports across the municipality if drinking water restrictions are applied in the future.

8. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

- 8.1 Following Council endorsement for release for public exhibition on 27 November 2023, the draft stormwater offsets guidelines were made available on the Participate Hume website from 22 January to 12 February 2024. Developers and Hume based environmental groups were notified of the public exhibition period. The opportunity to comment on the draft stormwater offsets scheme was also promoted through Hume’s social media networks.
- 8.2 Eighty-three separate individuals visited the site during the public exhibition period. Twenty-two of these downloaded the supporting documents on the site. The feedback gathered and submitted is summarized in the discussion session below.

9. DISCUSSION:

Public exhibition

- 9.1 Two submissions were received, one each from the Merri Creek Management Committee and the Jacksons Creek EcoNetwork.
- 9.2 The Participate Hume site recorded that 28.7 per cent of people spent more than one minute actively engaged in the page, further informing themselves about the project, which is longer than average for Participate Hume visits. Given the small amount of feedback received, it is reasonable to assume that people looked at the information and weren’t concerned by the proposal, so they didn’t provide any feedback.
- 9.3 The Jacksons Creek EcoNetwork submission included concerns about the protection of environmentally sensitive areas, and the potential for offset funds to be spent in a different catchment from where they were incurred.
- 9.4 The Merri Creek Management Committee submission raised similar concerns to the Jacksons Creek EcoNetwork.
- 9.5 The recommended response to this feedback is the inclusion of the following sentence in the guidelines:
- 9.5.1 *Where possible, Council will allocate offset funds to projects in the catchments where the funds were generated.*
- 9.6 While there are significant opportunities to do this within the Jacksons Creek catchment, it may not always be possible in the Merri Creek catchment.
- 9.7 The Merri Creek catchment presents a challenge due to the large industrial areas. These areas are anticipated to generate a large proportion of the offset funds, but the industrial pollution makes storm water harvesting less practical due to constraints on reuse of polluted water and the costs of disposing of contaminated sediment from wetland and raingarden assets.

REPORT NO: 9.4 (cont.)

- 9.8 This will be addressed by identifying stormwater treatment opportunities in the residential catchments of Merri Creek, which includes the tributaries of Merri Creek: Merlynston Creek, Aitken Creek and Malcolm Creek.
- 9.9 No further change is recommended for the protection of environmentally sensitive areas because the proposed process includes Planning Officers seeking input from Environment Planning Officers to assess the appropriateness of any on-site stormwater treatment. The policy gives officers the discretion to impose conditions where required, i.e. whether to offer offsets or not with consideration of environmentally sensitive areas.

10. CONCLUSION:

- 10.1 A stormwater offsets scheme will provide planning applicants with an option to meet the planning scheme requirements for stormwater quality. It will also provide funds for Council to deliver projects in the *Integrated Water Management Plan 2020-2025*. The public exhibition period allowed the community to express its support for the scheme and for funds to be expended in the local catchment. The public exhibition also supported awareness of the scheme’s planned introduction.



A Guide for Residential Planning Applicants

Protecting our Waterways

Hume’s waterways include the Jacksons, Deep and Emu creeks in the west and Merri and Moonee Ponds creeks in the east. Each are connected to a network of smaller streams. Waterways support abundant native vegetation that plays an essential role in supporting wildlife habitat and movement across corridors. Hume’s waterways vary in their degree of health, which has implications for healthy wildlife. Natural waterways are essential for the spiritual, cultural, mental and physical wellbeing of people, and have been central to the wellbeing of local Aboriginal people for thousands of years.

Urban development increases the volume and decreases the quality of stormwater run-off, which if discharged directly into waterways can erode the banks and change the natural flow pattern, which leads to biodiversity loss. Land uses within the municipality are diverse and include established residential areas, large industrial areas and areas committed for future urban growth. The majority of the municipality remains rural in nature.

Planning applicants in Hume must meet stormwater quality targets on-site to reduce the amount of pollutants entering local waterways and Port Phillip Bay.

The Stormwater Voluntary Offset Scheme (the Scheme) lets planning applicants offset up to 20% (subject to approval) of their on-site stormwater requirements by paying a contribution to Council. Council will use these funds to build large scale stormwater quality treatment assets. These assets will deliver the same stormwater quality benefits to our waterways that would have previously been achieved by individual developments. Where possible, Council will allocate offset funds to projects in the catchments where the funds were generated.

Benefits of the Scheme

- Simplifying the approval process
- Flexible options for developers
- More cost effective compared to on-site works
- Deliver local community and environmental benefit.

Moving to a Council-run scheme is:

- recommended by the Victorian Stormwater Ministerial Advisory Council and
- supported by the Victorian Government.

Subject to approval, planning applicants may be able to offset up to 20% of their on-site stormwater treatment requirements. The funds from the offset will deliver stormwater treatment projects. These works ‘offset’ stormwater impacts not treated within the development.

What Developments are eligible to use the Scheme?

Most small and medium urban development and subdivisions:

- Multi-dwelling residential and mixed-use developments
- Commercial and industrial developments
- Residential and industrial subdivisions



Refer to Clauses 53.18, 55.07 and 56.07 of the Hume Planning Scheme for more details.

❖ Stormwater Quality requirements do not apply to Single Dwellings or alterations and additions to dwellings.

What Developments may not be eligible to use the Scheme?

Not all sites will be able to make use of the Scheme. The use of the Scheme will be at Council’s discretion.

Examples of possible ineligibility to use the Scheme are:

- Site where there is a sensitive interface, such as draining directly to a creek
- Large sites capable of managing their own stormwater quality
- Sites or discharge locations that are susceptible to erosion or instability
- Where additional stormwater run-off will add to existing drainage issues

If a development falls within a Melbourne Water Drainage Scheme area, then it will be subject to the conditions of that scheme.

Meeting Best Practice Stormwater Quality Requirements

Under the Scheme, applicants can meet their stormwater quality requirements in one of the following ways:

- Option 1 – Install stormwater quality treatment measures on-site in accordance with an approved STORM report or MUSIC model to fully meet the development’s stormwater quality provisions (a business-as-usual option currently available).
- Option 2 – Install some WSUD (water sensitive urban design) treatment measures on-site in accordance with an approved STORM report or MUSIC model to partially meet the stormwater quality provisions. Additionally, provide a payment to Council’s Scheme to make up the balance of the development’s stormwater quality provisions.

Most small developments will achieve approximately 80% of their stormwater quality requirements with rainwater tanks plumbed for toilet flushing.

The application pathway will be subject to Council approval because it will be entirely appropriate for some developments to meet their stormwater quality provisions within the development.

The level of compliance will be measured by Melbourne Water’s STORM calculator or equivalent software, e.g. MUSIC, acceptable to Council.

All other stormwater requirements, such as those to reduce the risk of flooding, will remain as per the conditions within the planning permit and must be met.

Stormwater Quality in Lieu Contribution Scheme Rate

- The voluntary payment rate is \$45 per square metre of developed untreated impervious area for residential developments.



- This rate has been estimated by industry experts based on the average on-lot cost of treatment assets to meet stormwater quality obligations and the cost to Council to implement stormwater quality offsets.
- The calculated contribution is non-negotiable as applicants have the option to meet their obligation by installing stormwater quality treatment measures and achieving full stormwater quality compliance on-site.
- Subject to Council approval, the contribution can be applied to up to 20% of your stormwater quality compliance obligations.
- The rate may be adjusted as part of Council’s annual review of its fees and charges.

The Planning Approval Process

The start date for the Scheme is 26th March 2024. All relevant applications lodged after this date will be subject to this new Scheme. This scheme also applies to subdivision applications lodged after the scheme commencement date that relate to development applications lodged before this date.

Step 1 – Pre-application consultation

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposed stormwater quality treatment approach at an early stage as Council requirements may influence the proposed site layout and configuration. The site coverage and impervious areas should be minimised as much as practicable to reduce stormwater runoff.

Applicants wishing to provide a Stormwater Offset Scheme payment as part of their application should consider this early in the process so that plans may be adjusted as required. The planner may indicate that there is an expectation that 100% of the treatment will be achieved on-site.

Step 2 – Submit a Planning Application

It is important for applicants to seek appropriate advice and refer to the relevant clauses within the Hume Planning Scheme and these Guidelines to ensure the correct information is submitted as part of the application.

An application must include a stormwater quality report or statement of intention including:

1. The extent of stormwater quality works proposed (100% works; some works and part offset; or 100% payment of offset which is applicable for industrial sites only).
2. Justification of the proposed stormwater quality approach, including a STORM or MUSIC Report, if applicable.
3. The concept plan of the WSUD stormwater treatment measures in relation to buildings, sealed surfaces, neighbouring properties, and vegetation areas.

Council’s Statutory Planning and Environmental Planning teams will assess the application, taking into consideration a range of stormwater management requirements as part of the overall planning considerations.

Council may still require an applicant to achieve full or a revised proportion of treatment on-site.

Step 3 – Permit Conditions

If Council issues a permit, it will include several conditions relating to stormwater management.

The Planning Permit conditions will be written to allow flexibility in meeting the stormwater quality requirements if the method may need to change, where appropriate.



All other stormwater requirements, such as those to reduce the risk of flooding, will remain as per the conditions within the planning permit and must be met.

Step 4 – Approval of Stormwater Quality Offset Contribution and Payment

If Council has indicated that a partial or full offset would be acceptable, it will typically be required prior to issue of endorsed engineering plans. The Planning and Development department will manage the final approval process, in conjunction with approval of the endorsed plans.

Regardless of whether the applicant is proposing to pay an offset payment, or they are proposing to meet 100% of their treatment requirements on-site, the size and details of the impervious area and any proposed stormwater quality treatments are to be provided. This information must include a STORM Report or MUSIC. This information will usually be submitted along with the engineering plans. Any subsequent changes to the impervious area will require a contribution recalculation and it may require an application to amend endorsed plans.

Following the assessment, the applicant will be provided with:

- Details of any modifications required to the treatment measures or requests for additional information.
- When the stormwater treatment proposals are approved, the applicant will be advised of any offset payment amount and a letter of offer will be issued.
- Once the offset payment is made, the approved engineering plans can be issued.

Transition Arrangements

Once the start date for the offset scheme is set, all relevant applications lodged after this date will be subject to the new scheme.

Scheme Payment Calculation for Residential Developments:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Total impervious area of the site} \\ & \quad \times \\ & \quad \text{Percentage variance (100\% - STORM Rating \%)} \\ & \quad \quad \times \\ & \quad \quad \$45 \text{ (Stormwater In Lieu Contribution Scheme Voluntary contribution rate)} \\ & \quad \quad \quad = \\ & \quad \quad \quad \$ \text{ Stormwater In Lieu Contribution Scheme payment amount} \end{aligned}$$

Scheme Payment Calculation for Land Subdivisions:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Total area of the site} \\ & \quad \times \\ & \quad \text{Imperviousness Ratio} \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} & \times \\ & \text{Relative Density Ratio (as published by Melbourne Water)} \\ & \times \\ & \text{Percentage variance (100\% - STORM Rating \%)} \\ & \times \\ & \$45 \text{ (Stormwater In Lieu Contribution Scheme Voluntary contribution rate)} \\ & = \\ & \$ \text{ Stormwater In Lieu Contribution Scheme payment amount} \end{aligned}$$

Extra Information about the Calculations

Impervious areas typically include:

- Roofs
- Roads
- Driveways
- Sealed paths & patios
- Swimming pools and sealed surrounds, and
- Other sealed surfaces such as tennis courts etc

The STORM Rating is calculated using Melbourne Water’s STORM Calculator, available here: [STORM Calculator \(melbournewater.com.au\)](https://stormcalculator.melbournewater.com.au)

For sites that are required to use Model for Urban Stormwater Improvement Conceptualization (MUSIC) outputs to assess stormwater quality compliance, the Scheme payment shall be reduced by the same percentage as the ratio of Total Nitrogen (TN) removal to the Best Practice target of 45% reduction.

For example, a site that achieves a TN removal of 18% shall, subject to Council approval, have the Stormwater In Lieu Contribution Scheme payment reduced by 40% (i.e. 18 divided by 45). So, in this example, 40% replaces the STORM Rating in the above formulae.

The Land Subdivision calculation is different because the impervious surface areas are not known at the time the land is subdivided. However, there are standard run-off coefficients for different development types that can be used to adjust the total area to an estimated impervious surface area. The same coefficients are used for designing drainage in new subdivisions. Firstly, the total area is converted (by the multiplier 0.6) to the likely impervious surface area assuming the site is a standard residential subdivision. Secondly, a Relative Density Ratio is applied that adjusts the typical density of a standard residential subdivision to the density of the actual subdivision type. The current Relative Density Ratios are available here: [Contributions 1.6 | Melbourne Water](#)

Some areas of a subdivision should be excluded from the Voluntary Stormwater Offset calculation. For example:

- Open space being transferred to Hume City Council, including Tree Reserves;



- Land set aside on plans of subdivision as drainage reserves or easement for public waterways, open channels, low flow pipelines with grassed overflow channels;
- Reserves in residential subdivisions which are un-developable as a result of encumbrance (e.g. electricity reserves, State school sites)
- Stage or 'super' lots on greenfield subdivisions

A list of areas that must be included in the Subdivision Area include:

- Lots
- Common property areas
- Most easements
- Roads including road reserves

Development Examples Utilising the Scheme

Example A – Two Unit Residential Development:

- Two Unit Residential Development
- Total site area: 750m²
- Three bedrooms per unit
- 200m² roof area per unit
- 40m² driveway area per unit
- Only the roof area of each development is being treated through use of 2,000l rainwater retention tanks, plumbed internally.
- Approximate cost of rainwater tanks works: \$8,400 capital + \$2,800 land value
- \$11,200 total cost of on-site works
- STORM result:



STORM Rating Report

TransactionID: 0
 Municipality: HUME
 Rainfall Station: HUME
 Address: 1 Example Street

 Broadmeadows
 VIC 3047
 Assessor: Applicant
 Development Type: Residential - Multiunit
 Allotment Site (m2): 750.00
 STORM Rating %: 67

Description	Impervious Area (m2)	Treatment Type	Treatment Area/Volume (m2 or L)	Occupants / Number Of Bedrooms	Treatment %	Tank Water Supply Reliability (%)
Unit 1 Roof	200.00	Rainwater Tank	2,000.00	3	80.20	93.00
Unit 1 Driveway	40.00	None	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Unit 2 Roof	200.00	Rainwater Tank	2,000.00	3	80.20	93.00
Unit 2 Driveway	40.00	None	0.00	0	0.00	0.00

Offset payment calculation:

$$\text{Impervious Area} \times (100\% - \text{STORM Rating \%}) \times \text{Scheme Rate} = \text{Amount payable}$$

$$480 \times (100\% - 67\%) \times 45 = \$7,128$$

$$\text{Total cost to meet Stormwater Quality Requirements: } \$11,200 + \$7,128 = \$18,328$$

Example B – Standard Residential 12 Lot Subdivision:

- Total site area: 5,000m2
- 417m2 average lot size
- Relative Density Ratio: 1.0
- No Stormwater Quality Treatment Works

Offset payment calculation:


$$\text{Total Site Area} \times \text{Relative Density Ratio} \times \text{Imperviousness Ratio} \times (100\% - \text{STORM Rating \%}) \times \text{Scheme Rate} = \text{Amount payable}$$

$$5000 \times 1 \times 0.6 \times (100\% - 0\%) \times 45 = \$1,350,000$$

Example C – Standard Residential Two Lot Subdivision with Existing Dwelling Retained:



- Total site area: 2,000m²
- Average lot size: 1,000m²
- Relative Density Ratio: 0.9
- Imperviousness Ratio: 0.6
- Calculated Impervious area of each lot: 540m²
- Existing dwelling has a 2,000l rainwater tank
- STORM result:

 **STORM Rating Report**

TransactionID: 0
 Municipality: HUME
 Rainfall Station: HUME
 Address: 1 Example Street

 Broadmeadows
 VIC 3047
 Assessor: Applicant
 Development Type: Residential - Subdivision
 Allotment Site (m²): 2,000.00
 STORM Rating %: 18

Description	Impervious Area (m ²)	Treatment Type	Treatment Area/Volume (m ² or L)	Occupants / Number Of Bedrooms	Treatment %	Tank Water Supply Reliability (%)
Dwelling 1	540.00	Rainwater Tank	2,000.00	3	36.40	70.00
Vacant Lot	540.00	None	0.00	0	0.00	0.00

Offset payment calculation:

Total Site Area × Relative Density Ratio × Imperviousness Ratio × (100% - STORM Rating%) × Scheme Rate = Amount payable

$$2,000 \times 0.6 \times 0.9 \times (100\% - 18\%) \times 45 = \$39,852$$



A Guide for Industrial/Commercial Planning Applicants

Protecting our Waterways

Hume’s waterways include the Jacksons, Deep and Emu creeks in the west and Merri and Moonee Ponds creeks in the east. Each are connected to a network of smaller streams. Waterways support abundant native vegetation that plays an essential role in supporting wildlife habitat and movement across corridors. Hume’s waterways vary in their degree of health, which has implications for healthy wildlife. Natural waterways are essential for the spiritual, cultural, mental and physical wellbeing of people, and have been central to the wellbeing of local Aboriginal people for thousands of years.

Urban development increases the volume and decreases the quality of stormwater run-off, which if discharged directly into waterways can erode the banks and change the natural flow pattern, which leads to biodiversity loss. Land uses within the municipality are diverse and include established residential areas, large industrial areas and areas committed for future urban growth. The majority of the municipality remains rural in nature.

Planning applicants in Hume must meet stormwater quality targets onsite to reduce the amount of pollutants entering local waterways and Port Phillip Bay.

The Stormwater Voluntary Offset Scheme (the Scheme) lets planning applicants offset up to 100% (subject to approval) of their onsite stormwater requirements by paying a contribution to Council. Council will use these funds to build large scale stormwater quality treatment assets. These assets will deliver the same stormwater quality benefits to our waterways that would have previously been achieved by individual developments. Where possible, Council will allocate offset funds to projects in the catchments where the funds were generated.

Benefits of the Scheme

- Simplifying the approval process
- Flexible options for developers
- More cost effective compared to on-site works
- Deliver local community and environmental benefit.

Moving to a Council-run scheme is:

- recommended by the Victorian Stormwater Ministerial Advisory Council and
- supported by the Victorian Government.

Subject to approval, planning applicants may be able to offset up to 100% of their on-site stormwater treatment requirements. The funds from the offset will deliver stormwater treatment projects. These works ‘offset’ stormwater impacts not treated within the development.

What Developments are eligible to use the Scheme?

Most small and medium urban development and subdivisions:

- Multi-dwelling residential and mixed-use developments
- Commercial and industrial developments



- Residential and industrial subdivisions

Refer to Clauses 53.18, 55.07 and 56.07 of the Hume Planning Scheme for more details.

- ❖ Stormwater Quality requirements do not apply to Single Dwellings or alterations and additions to dwellings.

What Developments may not be eligible to use the Scheme?

Not all sites will be able to make use of the Scheme. The use of the Scheme will be at Council’s discretion.

Example of possible ineligibility to use the Scheme are:

- Site where there is a sensitive interface, such as draining directly to a creek
- Large sites capable of managing their own stormwater quality
- Sites or discharge locations that are susceptible to erosion or instability
- Where additional stormwater run-off will add to existing drainage issues

If a development falls within a Melbourne Water Drainage Scheme area, then it will be subject to the conditions of that scheme.

Meeting Best Practice Stormwater Quality Requirements

Under the Scheme, applicants can meet their stormwater quality requirements in one of the following ways:

- Option 1 – Install stormwater quality treatment measures on-site in accordance with an approved STORM report or MUSIC model to fully meet the development’s stormwater quality provisions (a business-as-usual option currently available).
- Option 2 – Install some WSUD (water sensitive urban design) treatment measures on-site in accordance with an approved STORM report or MUSIC model to partially meet the stormwater quality provisions. Additionally, provide a payment to Council’s Scheme to make up the balance of the development’s stormwater quality provisions.
- Option 3 – Make a 100% payment to the Scheme. This payment is in lieu of doing any water quality-related works on site.

The application pathway will be subject to Council approval because it will be entirely appropriate for some developments to meet their stormwater quality provisions within the development.

The level of compliance will be measured by Melbourne Water’s STORM calculator or equivalent software acceptable to Council.

All other stormwater requirements, such as those to reduce the risk of flooding, will remain as per the conditions within the planning permit and must be met.



Stormwater Quality in Lieu Contribution Scheme Rate

- The voluntary payment rate is \$24 per square metre of developed untreated impervious area.
- This rate has been estimated by industry experts based on the average on-lot cost of treatment assets to meet stormwater quality obligations and the cost to Council to implement stormwater quality offsets.
- The calculated contribution is non-negotiable as applicants have the option to meet their obligation by installing WSUD treatment measures and achieving full stormwater quality compliance on-site.
- Subject to Council approval, the contribution can be applied to up to 100% of your stormwater quality compliance obligations.
- The rate may be adjusted as part of Council’s annual review of its fees and charges.

The Planning Approval Process

The start date for the Scheme is 26th March 2024. All relevant applications lodged after this date will be subject to this new Scheme. This scheme also applies to subdivision applications lodged after the scheme commencement date that relate to development applications lodged before this date.

Step 1 – Pre-application consultation

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their proposed stormwater quality treatment approach at an early stage as Council requirements may influence the proposed site layout and configuration. The site coverage and impervious areas should be minimised as much as practicable to reduce stormwater runoff.

Applicants wishing to provide a Stormwater Offset Scheme payment as part of their application should consider this early in the process so that plans may be adjusted as required. The planner may indicate that there is an expectation that 100% of the treatment will be achieved onsite.

Step 2 – Submit a Planning Application

It is important for applicants to seek appropriate advice and refer to the relevant clauses within the Hume Planning Scheme and these Guidelines to ensure the correct information is submitted as part of the application.

An application must include a stormwater quality report or statement of intention including:

1. The extent of stormwater quality works proposed (100% works; some works and part offset; or 100% payment of offset which is applicable for industrial sites only).
2. Justification of the proposed stormwater quality approach, including a STORM or MUSIC Report, if applicable.
3. The concept plan of the WSUD stormwater treatment measures in relation to buildings, sealed surfaces, neighbouring properties, and vegetation areas.

Council’s Statutory Planning and Environmental Planning teams will assess the application, taking into consideration a range of stormwater management requirements as part of the overall planning considerations.

Council may still require an applicant to achieve full or a revised proportion of treatment on-site.



Step 3 – Permit Conditions

If Council issues a permit, it will include several conditions relating to stormwater management.

The Planning Permit conditions will be written to allow flexibility in meeting the stormwater quality requirements if the method may need to change, where appropriate.

All other stormwater requirements, such as those to reduce the risk of flooding, will remain as per the conditions within the planning permit and must be met.

Step 4 – Approval of Stormwater Quality Offset Contribution and Payment

If Council has indicated that a partial or full offset would be acceptable, it will typically be required prior to issue of endorsed engineering plans. The Planning & Development department will manage the final approval process, in conjunction with approval of the endorsed plans.

Regardless of whether the applicant is proposing to pay an offset payment, or where they are proposing to meet 100% of their treatment requirements on site, the size and details of the impervious area and any proposed stormwater quality treatments are to be provided. This information must include a STORM Report or MUSIC. This information will usually be submitted along with the engineering plans. Any subsequent changes to the impervious area will require a contribution recalculation and it may require an application to amend endorsed plans.

Following the assessment, the applicant will be provided with:

- Details of any modifications required to the treatment measures or requests for additional information.
- When the stormwater treatment proposals are approved, the applicant will be advised of any offset payment amount and a letter of offer will be issued.
- Once the offset payment is made, the approved engineering plans can be issued.

Transition Arrangements

Once the start date for the offset scheme is set, all relevant applications lodged after this date will be subject to the new scheme.

Scheme Payment Calculation for Industrial/Commercial Developments:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Total impervious area of the site} \\ & \quad \times \\ & \text{Percentage variance (100\% - STORM Rating \%)} \\ & \quad \times \\ & \$24 \text{ (Stormwater In Lieu Contribution Scheme Voluntary contribution rate)} \\ & \quad = \\ & \$ \text{ Stormwater In Lieu Contribution Scheme payment amount} \end{aligned}$$

Scheme Payment Calculation for Land Subdivisions:

Total area of the site



$$\begin{aligned}
 & X \\
 & \text{Imperviousness Ratio} \\
 & X \\
 & \text{Relative Density Ratio (as published by Melbourne Water)} \\
 & X \\
 & \text{Percentage variance (100\% - STORM Rating \%)} \\
 & X \\
 & \$24 \text{ (Stormwater In Lieu Contribution Scheme Voluntary contribution rate)} \\
 & = \\
 & \$ \text{ Stormwater In Lieu Contribution Scheme payment amount}
 \end{aligned}$$

Extra Information about the Calculations

Impervious areas typically include:

- Roofs
- Roads
- Driveways
- Sealed paths & patios
- Swimming pools and sealed surrounds, and
- Other sealed surfaces such as tennis courts etc

The STORM Rating is calculated using Melbourne Water’s STORM Calculator, available here: [STORM Calculator \(melbournewater.com.au\)](https://melbournewater.com.au)

For sites that are required to use Model for Urban Stormwater Improvement Conceptualization (MUSIC) outputs to assess stormwater quality compliance, the Scheme payment shall be reduced by the same percentage as the ratio of Total Nitrogen (TN) removal to the Best Practice target of 45% reduction.

For example, a site that achieves a TN removal of 18% shall, subject to Council approval, have the Stormwater In Lieu Contribution Scheme payment reduced by 40% (i.e. 18 divided by 45). So, in this example, 40% replaces the STORM Rating in the above formulae.

The Land Subdivision calculation is different because the impervious surface areas are not known at the time the land is subdivided. However, there are standard run-off coefficients for different development types that can be used to adjust the total area to an estimated impervious surface area. The same coefficients are used for designing drainage in new subdivisions. Firstly, the total area is converted (by the multiplier 0.6) to the likely impervious surface area assuming the site is a standard residential subdivision. Secondly, a Relative Density Ratio is applied that adjusts the typical density of a standard



residential subdivision to the density of the actual subdivision type. The current Relative Density Ratios are available here: [Contributions 1.6 | Melbourne Water](#)

Some areas of a subdivision should be excluded from the WSUD Voluntary Contribution calculation. For example:

- Open space being transferred to Hume City Council, including Tree Reserves;
- Land set aside on plans of subdivision as drainage reserves or easement for public waterways, open channels, low flow pipelines with grassed overflow channels;
- Reserves in residential subdivisions which are un-developable as a result of encumbrance (e.g. electricity reserves, State school sites)
- Stage or 'super' lots on greenfield subdivisions

A list of areas that must be included in the Subdivision Area include:

- Lots
- Common property areas
- Most easements
- Roads including road reserves

Development Examples Utilising the Scheme

Example A – Four Warehouse Development:

- Total site area: 2,000m²
- 250m² roof area per warehouse
- 680m² carpark area
- All roofs and carpark to a 10m² raingarden with 100mm freeboard
- Approximate cost of raingarden works: \$10,000 capital + \$7,000 land value
- \$17,000 total cost of on-site works
- STORM result:



 **STORM Rating Report**

TransactionID: 0
 Municipality: HUME
 Rainfall Station: HUME
 Address: 1 Example Street

Broadmeadows
 VIC 3047

Assessor: Applicant
 Development Type: Industrial
 Allotment Site (m2): 2,000.00
 STORM Rating %: 100


Description	Impervious Area (m2)	Treatment Type	Treatment Area/Volume (m2 or L)	Occupants / Number Of Bedrooms	Treatment %	Tank Water Supply Reliability (%)
Roof 1	250.00	Raingarden 100mm	2.00	0	104.50	0.00
Roof 2	250.00	Raingarden 100mm	2.00	0	104.50	0.00
Roof 3	250.00	Raingarden 100mm	2.00	0	104.50	0.00
Roof 4	250.00	Raingarden 100mm	2.00	0	104.50	0.00
Carpark	680.00	Raingarden 100mm	4.00	0	92.40	0.00

As the works achieve $\geq 100\%$ STORM Rating, no offset payment is required.

Example B – Childcare Centre:

- Total site area: 1,200m2
- 400m2 roof area
- 400m2 carpark
- Roof to be directed to 10,000l tank
- Approximate cost of rainwater tanks works: \$10,000 capital + \$1,400 land value
- \$11,400 total cost of on-site works
- STORM result:



 **STORM Rating Report**

TransactionID: 0
 Municipality: HUME
 Rainfall Station: HUME
 Address: 1 Example Street

 Broadmeadows
 VIC 3047
 Assessor: Applicant
 Development Type: Commercial/Retail
 Allotment Site (m2): 800.00
 STORM Rating %: 83

Description	Impervious Area (m2)	Treatment Type	Treatment Area/Volume (m2 or L)	Occupants / Number Of Bedrooms	Treatment %	Tank Water Supply Reliability (%)
Building Roof	400.00	Rainwater Tank	10,000.00	20	166.80	82.00
Carpark	400.00	None	0.00	0	0.00	0.00

Offset payment calculation:

$$\text{Impervious Area} \times (100\% - \text{STORM Rating \%}) \times \text{Scheme Rate} = \text{Amount payable}$$

$$800 \times (100\% - 83\%) \times 24 = \$3,264$$

$$\text{Total cost to meet Stormwater Quality Requirements: } \$11,400 + \$3,264 = \$14,664$$

REPORT NO:	9.5
REPORT TITLE:	Proposed Council Meeting Schedule 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
SOURCE:	Joel Kimber, Acting Manager Governance Peter Faull, Coordinator Governance and Council Business
DIVISION:	Finance & Governance
FILE NO:	HCC04/13
POLICY:	-
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	3.2: Deliver responsible and transparent governance, services and sustainable assets that respond to community needs
ATTACHMENTS:	Nil

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

1.1 As per section 9 of Chapter 2 of Council’s Governance Rules, this report proposes a Council meeting schedule for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 for Council consideration.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 THAT Council:

2.1.1 adopts the following Council meeting schedule for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025:

DATE	VENUE
Monday 8 July 2024	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows
Monday, 22 July 2024	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows
Monday, 12 August 2024	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows
Monday, 26 August 2024	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows
Monday, 9 September 2024	Hume Global Learning Centre – Craigieburn
Monday, 23 September 2024	Hume Global Learning Centre – Sunbury
Monday, 14 October 2024	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows
Wednesday, 20 November 2024	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre - Broadmeadows (Statutory Meeting)
Monday, 9 December 2024	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows

REPORT NO: 9.5 (cont.)

DATE	VENUE
Monday, 10 February 2025	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows
Monday, 24 February 2025	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows
Tuesday, 11 March 2025	Hume Global Learning Centre – Craigieburn
Monday, 24 March 2025	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows
Monday, 14 April 2025	Hume Global Learning Centre – Sunbury
Monday, 28 April 2025	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows
Monday, 12 May 2025	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows
Monday, 26 May 2025	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows
Tuesday, 10 June 2025	Hume Global Learning Centre – Craigieburn
Monday, 23 June 2025	Council Chamber, Hume Global Learning Centre – Broadmeadows

2.1.2 Notes that other meeting dates may be added, subject to the future schedule of Council business.

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS:

Council has the power to adopt a meeting schedule under its Governance Rules, which are made under the *Local Government Act 2020*.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Costs associated with the holding of Council meetings are included in Council’s annual budget.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no environmental sustainability implications in respect to this report.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no climate change adaptation implications in respect to this report.

7. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS APPLICATION:

The rights protected in The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* were considered and it was determined that no rights are engaged in the recommendations made to Council in this report.

8. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

Community consultation is not required prior to Council setting a Council meeting schedule for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

REPORT NO: 9.5 (cont.)

9. DISCUSSION:

- 9.1 The meeting schedule that is proposed to Council in this report for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 continues Council’s current format of scheduling a Council meeting on the second and fourth Monday of each month, with all meetings scheduled to start at 7pm. If the second or fourth Monday of a month falls on a public holiday, the Council meeting for that week is instead proposed to be scheduled on a Tuesday.
- 9.2 The proposed meeting schedule also continues the practice of rotating the first Council meeting of each month between venues in Broadmeadows, Craigieburn and Sunbury. The second Council meeting of each month is proposed to continue to be held in Broadmeadows.
- 9.3 Council Briefings are held on the first and third Monday of each month, however these do not require a Council resolution to be scheduled. Council Briefings are scheduled to be held the week before a Council meeting.
- 9.4 No Council meetings or briefings are proposed to be scheduled for January 2024.
- 9.5 Local government elections will be held on Saturday 26 October 2024. Whilst it is unknown when the Victoria Electoral Commission will declare final election results, it is anticipated that this will be done by mid-November. Council’s annual Statutory Meeting is therefore proposed to be held on Wednesday 20 November 2024. Venue bookings have also been made on alternative dates, if needed, for the Statutory Meeting.
- 9.6 Because the Statutory Meeting is proposed to be held in late November, and this date is dependent on the timing of final election results, it is proposed that there is only one Council meeting held the following month on 9 December 2024, with a Council Briefing held the week before on 2 December.
- 9.7 Please note that the meeting proposed for 14 October 2024 is scheduled to take place during the caretaker period that will be in place prior to local government elections on 26 October 2024.

10. CONCLUSION:

This report presents Council with a proposed Council meeting schedule for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 for its consideration and adoption.

REPORT NO: 9.5 (cont.)

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REPORT NO:	9.6
REPORT TITLE:	Historical Street Name Signs - Proposed Locations and Text
SOURCE:	Joel Kimber, Acting Manager Governance
DIVISION:	Finance & Governance
FILE NO:	-
POLICY:	-
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	3.2: Deliver responsible and transparent governance, services and sustainable assets that respond to community needs
ATTACHMENTS:	1. <i>Suggested Streets and Historical Street Sign Text</i> 2. <i>Maps of the Suggested Streets</i>

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 9 October 2023, Council approved the commencement of a six-week community consultation period to allow members of the public and historical and heritage associations the opportunity to make suggestions for streets on which historical street signs could be installed.
- 1.2 This report:
 - 1.2.1 provides Council with the results of the community consultation period;
 - 1.2.2 recommends streets on which historical street signs can be installed, and provides the suggested text for each sign (Attachment 1);
 - 1.2.3 recommends that the streets and historical sign text provided in Attachment 1 are placed on public exhibition to provide community members with the opportunity to provide feedback on, or object to, the location and information proposed for each historical sign.
- 1.3 If a period of public exhibition is approved, it is recommended that Council makes a final decision on the historical street signs that it approves for installation at the conclusion of this exhibition period.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 **That Council approves placing on public exhibition the streets and suggested text for historical street signs, as detailed in Attachment 1 of this report, to give community members the opportunity to provide feedback on, or object to, the location and information proposed for each historical sign.**
- 2.2 **That Council notes that if this period of public exhibition is approved, a report will providing any feedback received will be presented to Council following the conclusion of the exhibition period.**

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS:

Local Government Act 2020

REPORT NO: 9.6 (cont.)

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Expenditure associated with the community consultation will include administration costs, which will be funded from Council’s operational budget. If the assistance of a historian (or other suitably qualified individual) is needed to assess any of the suggestions received, this would also be funded from Council’s operational budget. The cost to make new street signs, if any are approved by Council, is estimated to be approximately \$75 per sign.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no environmental sustainability implications in respect to this report.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no climate change adaptation implications in respect to this report.

7. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS APPLICATION:

The rights protected in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* were considered and it was determined that no rights are engaged in the recommendations made to Council in this report.

8. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

8.1 It is proposed that Council will promote the public exhibition period recommended in this report, if approved, by sending correspondence directly to properties in streets at which historical street signs have been proposed, and by promoting the exhibition period on the Participate page of Council’s website and through Council’s regular communication channels.

8.2 A map showing the streets at which historical street signs have been proposed is provided as Attachment 2 of this report. Most of these streets are located in residential areas, and it is therefore considered appropriate that the owners and occupiers of properties in these streets be corresponded to directly so that they have the opportunity to provide feedback on the historical street sign that is proposed for their street.

9. DISCUSSION:

9.1 At its meeting held on 26 August 2019 Council approved the installation of historical street signage in historical areas of the municipality, and invited members of the public and historical and heritage associations to provide submissions requesting that historical street signs be installed on nominated streets.

9.2 Following this meeting, the Sunbury and District Heritage Association made a submission for historical street signs to be installed for 28 streets in Sunbury. Council subsequently considered report number GE622 on this matter at its meeting held on 14 June 2022 (Attachment 1) and approved installing historical signage for these 28 streets. Following this approval, the signs were manufactured and installed.

9.3 Following the adoption of NOM23/010 on 14 March 2023, which sought to extend the historical street sign project into other historical areas of the Hume municipality, Council officers wrote to the following historical and heritage associations to gauge their interest in participating in this project:

9.3.1 Craigieburn Historical Interest Group;

9.3.2 Sunbury Family History and Heritage Society Inc;

9.3.3 Broadmeadows Historical Society Inc;

9.3.4 Friends of Will Will Rook Pioneer Cemetery Inc.

9.4 Written and verbal responses expressing an interest in participating in the project were received from all of the above groups.

REPORT NO: 9.6 (cont.)

- 9.5 At its meeting held on 9 October 2023, Council approved the commencement of a six-week community consultation period to allow members of the public and historical and heritage associations the opportunity to make suggestions for streets on which historical street signs could be installed.
- 9.6 Suggestions made were asked to include proposed wording for the sign and verifiable reference information. The information that can be included on a sign will be limited to approximately 15 to 20 words, and the length of individual signs will vary according to the length of the street name and the historical information that would be printed on it. It is proposed that any new signs continue to use the same design that was used for existing signs that have been installed in Sunbury.
- 9.7 This period of community consultation is now complete. Suggestions were received from the Sunbury Family History and Heritage Society, and the Friends of Will Will Rook Pioneer Cemetery Inc. No suggestions were received by individuals.
- 9.8 Of the suggestions received, those that are recommended to proceed to the next stage of public exhibition are included in Attachment 1 of this report. The information provided includes the proposed street, and the text proposed for the historical street sign.
- 9.9 Some suggestions received are not proposed to proceed to the next stage. These include suggestions where there may be some uncertainty as to the origin of the name (which could be considered in future phases of this project) or for streets which are not located in the Hume municipality. Some suggested text has also been amended based on research conducted by Council officers, or for some streets officers have drafted the suggested text in full.
- 9.10 If Council approves a period of public exhibition for the names proposed in Attachment 1, a report providing any feedback received will be presented to Council following the conclusion of the exhibition period. Following Council’s consideration of that report, installation and a commemorative event will then occur for any approved historical signs.
- 9.11 Throughout history, it is widely acknowledged that places and spaces have been named after more men than women. At the outset of this project, it was anticipated that the submissions provided would further confirm this.
- 9.12 A gender impact assessment was conducted for this project. As predicted, all of the suggestions received for historical street signs were for streets that are named after males, so this project has not contributed to closing the gender inequity gap that exists in the naming of places and spaces in Hume City. It in fact highlights there is much to do in addressing this inequity.
- 9.13 The development of the Name Bank, to be undertaken through community engagement in the coming months, will help address this inequity.

10. CONCLUSION:

Following the conclusion of a six-week community consultation period to allow members of the public and historical and heritage associations the opportunity to make suggestions for streets on which historical street signs could be installed, this report presents Council with information on the suggestions received and recommendations for future actions.

REPORT NO: 9.6 (cont.)

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ATTWOOD / WESTMEADOWSARDLIE STREET

John M. Ardlie, acquired 225 acres of land, c1850, along the western bank of the Moonee Ponds Creek.

BROADMEADOWS / WESTMEADOWSJOHNSTONE STREET

John Johnstone acquired Greenhill at Yuroke and was a Roads Board representative until 1863.

WESTMEADOWSBLACK STREET

Niel Black, pioneer landholder, acquired 777 acres of land, in part of what has become Gladstone Park.

BENT STREET

Sir Thomas Bent, member of the Victorian parliament, and land speculator, who purchased much land across Melbourne’ suburbs.

CAMPBELL STREET

John David Lyon Campbell migrated from Scotland and acquired land across the district.

COGHILL STREET

Donald Coghill built Cumberland in 1849, now a part of Woodlands and operated boiling – down works on Deep Creek.

EYRE STREET

Eyre Evans Kenny, acquired land at Camp Hill, later known as Gowan Brae, now part of Tullamarine.

FAWKNER STREET

John Pascoe Fawkner, a businessman and politician, acquired land along Moonee Ponds Creek, near Oak Park and other lots throughout the area.

FORMAN STREET

Peter Foreman was an early settler in the local area, who arrived in the Colony in 1839.

KENNY STREET

Eyre Evans Kenny, acquired land at Camp Hill, later known as Gowan Brae, now part of Tullamarine.

PASCOE STREET

John Pascoe Fawkner, a businessman and politician, acquired land along Moonee Ponds Creek, near Oak Park and other lots throughout the area.

RALEIGH STREET

Joseph Raleigh acquired land on the west side of the Maribyrnong River.

RIDDELL STREET

John Carre Riddell, settled at Riddells Creek, acquired land west of Broadmeadows Road, along the Moonee Ponds Creek.

WILLS STREET

Thomas Wills acquired a section of land upstream from Broadmeadows Township on the Moonee Ponds Creek, that later became part of Cumberland.

BULLA

BOURKE STREET

In 1835, Sir Richard Bourke, was Governor of the Colony of New South Wales and Port Phillip District.

CAHILL STREET

Early farmers in the district, Thomas and Malachi Cahill acquired land in Wildwood Road in Bulla.

COGHILL STREET

Donald Coghill built Cumberland in 1849, now a part of Woodlands and operated boiling – down works on Deep Creek.

GREEN STREET

William and Anne Greene settled at Woodlands in 1843. The Bulla Church of England was originally built on the Woodlands property.

QUARTZ STREET

Quartz, a mineral deposit discovered and mined at the Bulla mine on Woodlands near Moonee Ponds Creek.

RAWDON STREET

Rawdon Foster Greene was the son of William and Anne Greene. He attended the Bulla Bulla National School.

SCHOOL LANE

In 1976 tenders were accepted for building a new school house and school No. 46 at the end of School Lane.

TRAPP STREET

Trapp, a dark, fine-grained non-granite igneous rock found in the district near the Moonee Ponds Creek,

BROADMEADOWS

STEVENSON STREET

Robert Stevenson first Chairman of the District Road Board of Broadmeadows, elected 1858, and remained on the board until 1862.

CRAIGIEBURN

PATULLO LANE

William and James Patullo, district pioneers, owned several acres of land from the early 1850 to 1909.

MEADOW HEIGHTS

SHANKLAND BOULEVARD

Robert Shankland, Chairman of the District Road Board of Broadmeadows and son William, Councillor Shire of Broadmeadows.

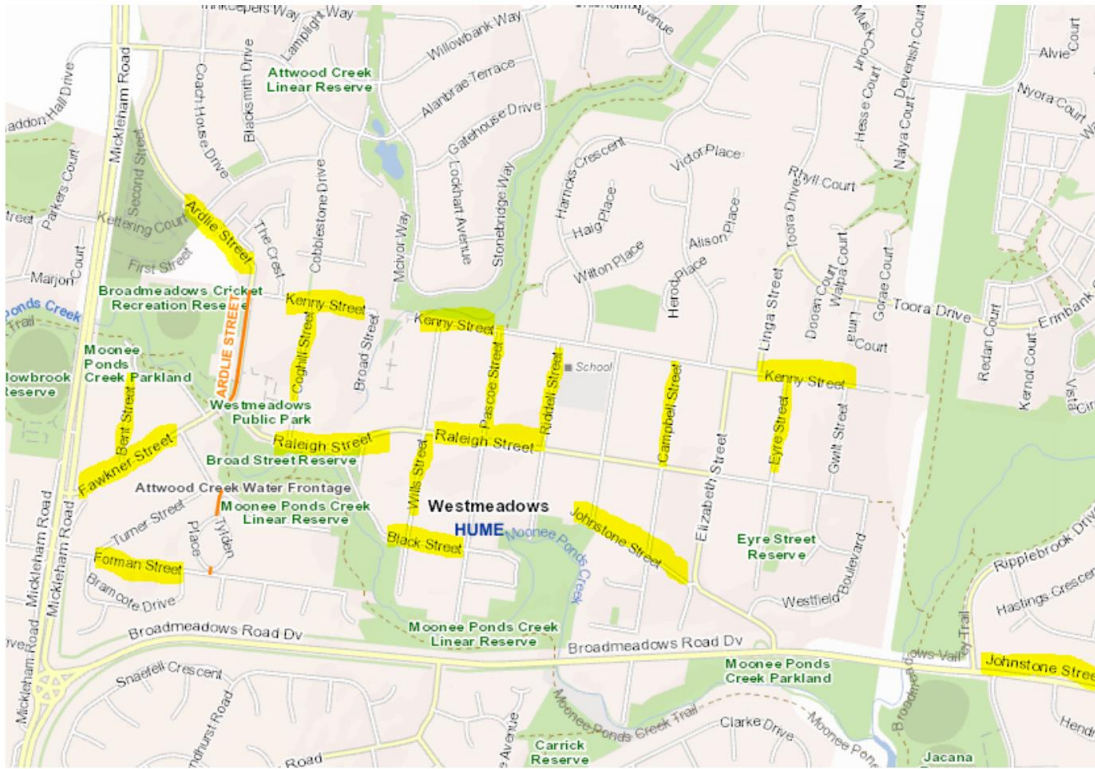
CAMPBELLFIELD

HATTY COURT

John Hatty, local land owner and Member of the District Road Board of Broadmeadows from 1858-1868 and 1870-1873.

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ATTWOOD / WESTMEADOWS / BROADMEADOWS



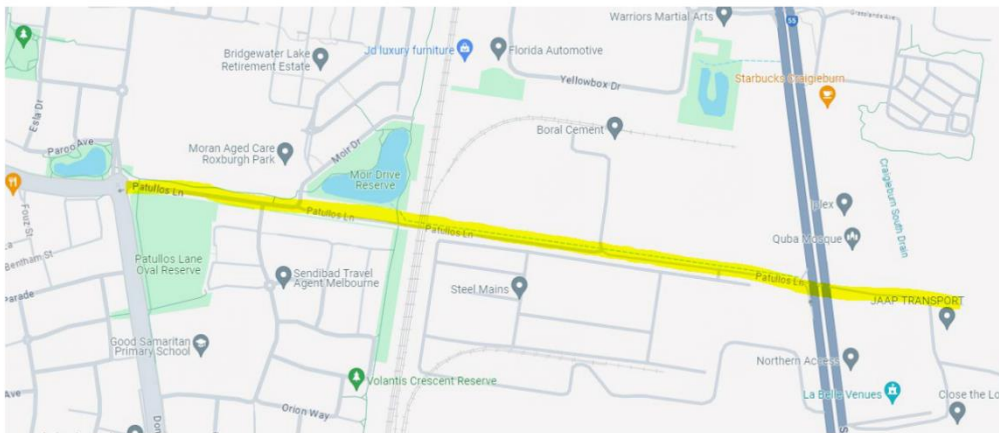
BULLA



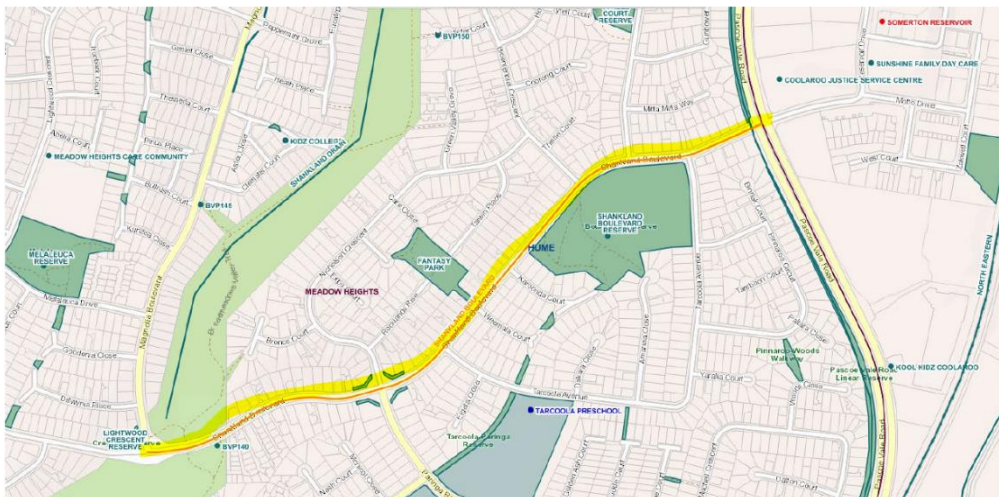
BROADMEADOWS



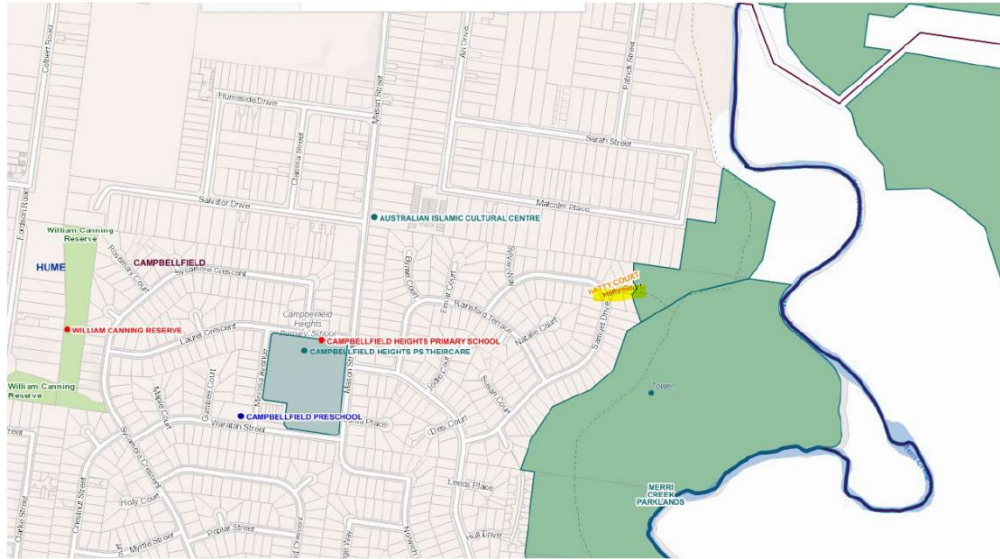
CRAIGIEBURN



MEADOW HEIGHTS



CAMPBELLFIELD



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REPORT NO:	9.7
REPORT TITLE:	Local Government Performance Reporting Framework - Six Monthly Report 2023/24
SOURCE:	Karen Curson, Senior Lead Integrated Planning & Reporting
DIVISION:	Customer & Strategy
FILE NO:	HCC13/306
POLICY:	-
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	3.2: Deliver responsible and transparent governance, services and sustainable assets that respond to community needs
ATTACHMENTS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Attachment 1 - LGPRF benchmark analysis 2022-23</i>2. <i>Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022-23</i>3. <i>Attachment 3 - Comparative Data 2023-24 and 2022-23</i>

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report is to provide update to the Council on information for the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework (LGPRF) including data published by Local Government Victoria for the 2022/23 Financial Year and indicators collected for the six months to 31 December 2023. This report also provides information regarding the LGPRF Technical Working Groups 2024.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council notes the 2022/23 financial year LGPRF results across Council type (Attachment One), the last nine financial years comparative graphs (Attachment Two) and the 2022/23 LGPRF data (Attachment Three) provided for the six months to 31 December 2023.

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS:

Local Government Act 2020

Local Government (Planning and Reporting and Accountability) Regulations 2022

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no environmental sustainability considerations.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no climate change adaptation considerations.

7. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS APPLICATION:

The collection and provision of information for the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework is conducted within the policy context of the *Hume City Council Social Justice Charter (2014)* and the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

8. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

Nil.

REPORT NO: 9.7 (cont.)

9. DISCUSSION:

- 9.1 This report provides information for the ninth reporting period of the LGPRF being 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, and provides year to date (2023/24) data for the six months to 31 December 2023.
- 9.2 Council submitted 2022/23 data to Local Government Victoria as per the requirements of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework. This information was:
- Used to prepare Council’s Performance Statement and Report of Operations as part of preparing the 2022/23 Annual Report.
 - Provided to the Audit Committee on 28 September 2023.
 - Provided to Council on 9 October 2023.
- 9.3 In the week of 6 November 2023, Local Government Victoria (LGV) released 2022/23 LGPRF indicator data (from the 79 Victorian Councils) to the public, which is now available via the Local Government Victoria website at <https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/strengthening-councils/performance-reporting>.
- 9.4 With this year’s release there was a significant number of councils who were unable to meet their reporting obligations within the timeframes set by Local Government Victoria. This has a significant impact on the benchmarks and comparability of benchmark results from previous years. In total 22 councils did not make a submission by the deadline. This included three metro councils, one interface council, and the remainder being rural councils and regional cities. A further four councils were unable to report on one or more indicators due to changes to their reporting systems.
- 9.5 Comparative analysis of results for 2022/23 show:
- Results of 40 Service Performance Indicators shows that 13 indicators were performing better than the average of Interface councils.
 - Key highlights:
 - As in previous years, Food safety measures (FS1, FS2 and FS4) performed better than benchmarks.
 - Animal rehoming has returned to pre-COVID levels.
 - Participation in the Maternal and Child Health Service has remained constant and better than interface benchmark which continues to decrease.
 - Opportunity for improvement / further focus:
 - Results of all Statutory Planning indicators are lower than all benchmarks.
 - Results for Animals reclaimed from council and Animals rehomed are significantly lower than the results of benchmarked councils.

The expansion of, and improved access to Council’s cat trapping program for residents resulted in higher number of cats being collected in 2022/23. Feedback from community and Council Officers also suggests that cost of living pressures are also contributing to the decrease in the number of animals being reclaimed by owners. Council continues to offer discounted desexing, microchipping and registration programs to increase cat registration, and by extension, reunification of animals with their owner.
- 9.6 Whilst this data is not reported externally, Council has committed to collecting and reviewing the information quarterly as part of Council Plan progress reporting and providing six monthly updates to the Audit Committee.

REPORT NO: 9.7 (cont.)

- 9.6.1 A brief comparative analysis of the first six months of 2023/24, compared to the previous reporting year have highlighted:
- Cost of aquatic facilities in 2023/24 continues to improve. During this period in 2021/22 the leisure facilities had extended periods of closure and reduced capacity limits with permanent staff redeployed in other areas of the Council. In 2022/23, the visitation figures reflect the normal operation and growth of the swimming program and membership base, 2023/24 shows a growth in visitations.
 - There has been an increase in number of Food Act inspections undertaken at Class1 and Class 2 premises.
 - The 2024 gazetted annual target for food samples has increased slightly following exceeding the 2023 target by 20 samples.
 - The number of sealed local road requests is more in line with longer term trends. In 2022/23 increases in traffic due to newly developed areas and roads damaged by flooding in late 2022 contributed to the significant increase in sealed local roads requests.
 - A number of cost indicators have shown increase this is mainly attributed to the increases in the cost of services, resources and material costs.
- 9.7 Attachment One details 2022/23 LGPRF Results, with results from Hume City Council in comparison to averages for all Growth Councils (7), Interface Councils (8), Metropolitan Councils (27) and Victorian Councils (57).
- 9.8 Attachment Two provides graphs of Hume City Council's LGPRF Results from the last eight financial years (2014/15 to 2022/23) in comparison to the averages provided for the Growth Councils (7).
- 9.9 Attachment Three provides 2023/24 LGPRF Service Indicator data for the period 1 July to 31 December 2023 and data for the same period in 2022/23.
- 9.10 The next round of formal reporting for the LGPRF including Service Indicators, Financial Performance, Sustainable Capacity and Governance and Management Checklist, will be undertaken following the end of the 2023/24 financial year. At this time, information will be reported to both the Audit Committee and Council.
- 9.11 On 16 December 2022 Local Government Victoria (LGV) released changes to the LGPRF indicators resulting from the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Amendment Regulations 2022.
- The changes took effect from 1 January 2023 and apply to the data captured and reported for the 2023/24 financial year onwards. Changes include:
 - For the 2023-24 financial year, councils are required to set targets for eight of the performance measures as part of the Council's budget.
 - The Performance Statement for 2023-24 onwards will be updated to include three replacement measures and one new measure.
 - Several measures have been changed and these changes took effect from 1 July 2023 and apply to the data captured and reported for the 2023/24 financial year onwards.
- 9.12 In January 2024, LGV announced the LGPRF Steering Committee have develop a triennial review process, for the 2024 review, the Minister for Local Government has endorsed four topics which will be led by Technical Working Groups these are: Service and financial indicator review, governance and accountability measures review, conduct and use of the Community Satisfaction Survey and target setting phase 2. Karen Curson, Senior Lead Integrated Planning & Reporting has submitted a request to be included on the Service and Financial Indicator Technical Working Group.

REPORT NO: 9.7 (cont.)

10. CONCLUSION:

Council continues to collect information for the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework as part of quarterly progress reporting for the Council Plan and provides six monthly updates to the Audit Committee. This process ensures Council is able to identify issues and accurately report data prior to the next LGPRF formal reporting period at the end of the 2023/24 financial year.

The 2022/23 results on the indicators of the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework were publicly released in November 2023. These results are now available via the Local Government Victoria website at <https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/strengthening-councils/performance-reporting>.

Attachment 1: LGPRF 2022/23 Results - Growth, Interface, Metro and Victorian Council Averages.

MEASURE DESCRIPTION	Type	Hume	Growth (Incl. Hume, n=7) ¹	Interface (Incl. Hume, n=8) ²	Metro (Incl. Interface, n=27) ³	Victoria (n=57, out of 79)	Hume Comments (for material variation)
Animal Management							
<i>Provision of animal management and responsible pet ownership services to the community including monitoring, registration, enforcement and education</i>							
Time taken to action animal management requests	Days	4.80	3.81	3.15	1.81	1.84	There was an overall increase in the number of animal management requests received by Council in 2022/23 when compared to previous years. This has contributed to the increased time taken to action requests. It should be noted that the 2021/22 results were impacted by the transition to a new Customer Management System. Comparing performance between the 2020/21 (3.72) and 2022/23 (4.80) may provide a more accurate time series analysis.
Animals reclaimed from council	Percent	25.2%	34.0%	42.2%	52.1%	44.8%	The expansion of, and improved access to Council's cat trapping program for residents resulted in higher number of cats being collected in 2022/23. Feedback from community and Council Officers also suggests that cost of living pressures are also contributing to the decrease in the number of animals being reclaimed by owners.
Animals rehomed	Percent	35.3%	36.5%	32.2%	36.9%	34.4%	Council continues to offer discounted desexing, microchipping and registration programs to increase cat registration, and by extension, reunification of animals with their owner.
Cost of animal management service per population	Dollar	\$6.51	\$8.15	\$8.94	\$7.22	\$12.68	This year's result is more in line with longer term trends, with the 2020/21 to 2021/22 years being significantly impacted to COVID. Council continues to work with pet adoption agencies to increase the rehoming of pets.
Successful animal management prosecutions	Number	100.0%	97.2%	97.9%	94.7%	70.7%	There has been an increase to fees/charges paid by Council for animal shelter services. This includes a 199% increase to dog pound fees paid by Council and a 54% increase to daily housing fees. Increased shelter fees are expected to be the main driver of overall increases to animal management service costs.
							Successfully prosecuted all animal management cases referred to court.
Aquatic Facilities							
<i>Provision of indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities to the community and visitors for wellbeing, water safety, sport and recreation</i>							
Health inspections at aquatic facilities	Number	2.00	3.96	3.22	1.89	1.59	Each Aquatic Facility received two health inspections, consistent with previous years.
Number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of municipal population	Number	4.94	4.00	4.76	5.83	4.56	The increase in utilisation is due to a full year of operation (without closures related to COVID), and increases in attendance, memberships and swim school enrolments.
Cost of aquatic facilities per visit	Dollar	\$2.60	\$1.45	\$1.70	\$2.16	\$11.37	The cost has been reduced due to an increase in revenue from casual visitations, memberships and swim school enrolments and implementation of environmental initiatives to reduce utility expenditure.
Food Safety							
<i>Provision of food safety services to the community including registrations, education, monitoring, inspections and compliance</i>							
Time taken to action food complaints	Days	1.17	1.40	1.75	1.81	1.82	Time taken to action food complaints has remained consistent with previous years.
Percentage of required food safety assessments undertaken	Percent	100.0%	91.8%	86.1%	96.9%	86.9%	100% of food premises received a mandatory inspection pursuant to the Food Act 1984 prior to renewal of registration.
Cost of food safety service per premises	Dollar	\$343.43	\$360.16	\$323.55	\$527.97	\$532.76	The cost of food safety service remained consistent with previous year's results, and slightly below CPI increases.
Percentage of critical and major non-compliance outcome notifications followed up by council	Percent	99.4%	82.8%	86.3%	99.2%	86.7%	Council's response to major-critical non-compliances has remained consistent in 2022/23, with a continued focus to ensure that staff actively respond to critical and major non-compliance notifications in a timely manner.

Attachment 1: LGPRF 2022/23 Results - Growth, Interface, Metro and Victorian Council Averages.

MEASURE DESCRIPTION	Type	Hume	Growth (Incl. Hume, n=7) ¹	Interface (Incl. Hume, n=8) ²	Metro (Incl. Interface, n=27) ³	Victoria (n=57, out of 79)	Hume Comments (for material variation)
Governance							
<i>Provision of good governance to the community including making and implementing decisions with reference to community engagement, policy frameworks and agreed practice</i>							
Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public	Percent	14.1%	9.8%	7.7%	6.4%	8.3%	The 2022/23 financial year saw a record capital works program which resulted in an increased number of confidential reports regarding the awarding of contracts during the reporting period.
Community satisfaction with community consultation and engagement	/ 100	53	59	59	58	55	Feedback from community highlights a desire for targeted engagement, and that when feedback is sought, that Council communicates how this information was considered and influenced decisions. By June 2023, Council had undertaken a record number of 84 consultation and engagement activities, and saw a 32% increase in the number of people accessing Council's engagement platform.
Councillor attendance at council meetings	Percent	88.1%	92.0%	90.9%	92.0%	92.8%	There has been a reduction in Councillor attendance due to a combination of travel, illness and personal commitments among the Councillors. There were no Councillors on approved leave during 2022/23.
Cost of elected representation	Dollar	\$74,268.99	\$112,963.29	\$97,912.73	\$60,575.79	\$60,642.99	The variance is reflective of a reduction in legal and consultant costs compared to 2021/22.
Community satisfaction with council decisions	/ 100	55	59	59	58	54	Feedback indicates some in the community want more information about local issues affecting their local areas and to see that their input has influenced Council decisions. This is consistent with feedback on satisfaction with community consultation and engagement. Providing more information about key issues and how community feedback has informed decision-making may improve satisfaction.
Libraries							
<i>Provision of print and digital based resources to the community in a variety of formats including collection services, e-services, research tools and interactive learning programs</i>							
Physical library collection usage	# Items	5.31	5.31	5.73	4.89	4.01	This increase is due to a full year of normal library services resuming from COVID, results from the 2019/20 through to the 2021/22 having been impacted by COVID restrictions and service closures.
Proportion of library resources less than 5 years old	Percent	80.7%	77.3%	78.8%	68.1%	64.8%	Slight increase on last year's figure, mostly due to shipping schedules returning to normal. Council aims to maintain a collection target of 80% items purchased in the last 5 years.
Active library borrowers in municipality	Percent	6.7%	7.6%	10.0%	13.3%	12.6%	The total number of active library members for this year has increased on previous years. This indicator is an average of three years of active membership, therefore this measure still remains impacted by COVID. Active membership numbers are trending upwards towards pre-COVID levels.
Cost of library service per population	Dollar	\$25.92	\$20.70	\$23.50	\$41.77	\$35.29	Costs for last year were higher than usual due to the increased staff costs related to the reopening after covid lockdowns. This year's figure is closer to the expected figure in a normal year of operating.

Attachment 1: LGPRF 2022/23 Results - Growth, Interface, Metro and Victorian Council Averages.

MEASURE DESCRIPTION	Type	Hume	Growth (Incl. Hume, n=7) ¹	Interface (Incl. Hume, n=8) ²	Metro (Incl. Interface, n=27) ³	Victoria (n=57, out of 79)	Hume Comments (for material variation)
Maternal and Child Health							
<i>Provision of universal access to health services for children from birth to school age and their families including early detection, referral, monitoring and recording child health and development</i>							
Infant enrolments in MCH service	Percent	101.2%	101.2%	101.3%	100.9%	93.7%	This result is greater than 100% due to the number of babies where Hume City Council do not receive a birth notice, yet the baby is enrolled in the service following notification by domiciliary services and families contacting MCH to advise they have relocated to Hume on discharge from maternity services outside the Hume catchment.
Cost of MCH service	Dollar	\$91.75	\$85.28	\$83.04	\$85.27	\$83.19	MCH cost of service reflects a resumption of full standard service delivery post-COVID and response to growing community and demand for MCH services and support in both Enhanced and Universal MCH services. Recruitment to permanent vacant positions has also been achieved.
Participation in MCH service	Percent	74.1%	62.8%	66.5%	76.9%	71.2%	MCH participation rates have remained steady with a slight increase despite COVID challenges and workforce pressures statewide. Hume continues to drive workforce planning and service innovations to address these challenges and maintain participation by the community in MCH services.
Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children	Percent	78.6%	77.5%	77.1%	81.9%	74.4%	MCH participation rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have continued to increase with targeted work to support engagement. Hume's Aboriginal Engagement Team continue to provide a multidisciplinary approach to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit	Percent	102.0%	97.0%	96.9%	95.1%	90.6%	Participation rates and engagement in Maternal and Child Health Key Age and Stages visits has remained a key focus as MCH services have adapted innovatively in the recovery from COVID.
Roads							
<i>Provision of a network of sealed local roads under the control of the municipal council to all road users</i>							
Sealed local road requests per 100km of sealed local roads	# requests	78.09	80.67	85.38	118.52	80.31	While there has been a significant increase in the number of requests, many of these requests relate to a small proportion of the overall network. A number of major State Government projects (Craigieburn Road and Sunbury Road upgrades and Gap Road level crossing removal) and associated road closures, plus a lack of arterial road capacity, and increased growth in the northern corridor have resulted in unforeseen deterioration to local roads. Furthermore, significant deterioration of the condition of many Council roads occurred due to a number of extreme weather events.
Sealed local roads maintained to condition standards	Percent	98.7%	96.8%	96.7%	96.3%	97.1%	Resurfacing work that has occurred through the year has ensured that the proportion of roads outside intervention levels has remained unchanged.
Cost of sealed local road reconstruction per square metre	Dollar	\$199.34	\$110.82	\$124.80	\$176.02	\$118.80	Urban road reconstruction is generally higher in cost/m ² as due to the requirements of thicker pavement, kerbs & channel and other associated ancillary works to be constructed. The high variance is due to a higher proportion (97.5%) of rural roads being reconstructed in 2021/22.
Cost of sealed local road resealing per square metre	Dollar	\$29.64	\$32.90	\$29.71	\$35.19	\$20.29	Resealing program was a higher proportion of asphalt resurfacing compared to (2021/22) spray sealing/liquid roads, a greater number of roads requiring 100mm (thicker pavement) overlays. There was also an increase in asphalt unit price.
Community satisfaction with sealed local roads	/ 100	54	57	57	63	53	Consistent with statewide results, there was a drop in satisfaction with local roads in 2022/23 - with Council's result being comparable to other interface councils. Wet weather conditions and number of significant storm events along with a number of State Government major road projects have impacted overall satisfaction of local roads and increases in sealed local road requests (see R1). The condition of sealed local roads is just one factor in this indicator result. Community members who provided a poor satisfaction rating with sealed local roads identified concerns about holes, cracks and uneven road surfaces, narrow streets and the impacts of heavy traffic and large vehicles on those streets.

Attachment 1: LGPRF 2022/23 Results - Growth, Interface, Metro and Victorian Council Averages.

MEASURE DESCRIPTION	Type	Hume	Growth (Incl. Hume, n=7) ¹	Interface (Incl. Hume, n=8) ²	Metro (Incl. Interface, n=27) ³	Victoria (n=57, out of 79)	Hume Comments (for material variation)
Statutory Planning							
<i>Provision of land use and development assessment services to applicants and the community including advice and determination of applications</i>							
Time taken to decide planning applications	# days	154.00	117.83	115.25	87.87	91.20	A number of long-standing applications have been completed and the accumulated days for these applications have increased the total processing days across all application types. It is expected that this number will drop next year as the long-standing applications have now been substantially decreased.
Planning applications decided within required timeframes	Percent	44.7%	56.8%	56.0%	69.9%	60.7%	The increased percentage demonstrates the effectiveness of the improvement projects which have been undertaken in the department across the last 12-24 months.
Cost of statutory planning service per planning application	Dollar	\$4,105.28	\$3,836.88	\$3,569.91	\$3,374.96	\$3,132.80	The slight increase is due to the lower number of new applications being received this financial year whilst staffing costs remain the same due to the permanent nature of the roles within the department.
Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT	Percent	14.3%	45.3%	47.6%	65.9%	53.6%	One Council decision has been upheld at VCAT in the last 12 months. Only seven applications were decided by VCAT over the reporting period out of an overall number of 939 planning decisions made by Hume. This represents a very small percentage of decisions and indicates that in general the vast majority of decisions being made by Council were in line with relevant planning considerations.
Waste Collection							
<i>Provision of kerbside waste collection service to the community including garbage and recyclables</i>							
Kerbside bin collection requests per 1,000 households	# requests	248.34	212.24	191.06	152.34	147.80	Bin collection requests include missed bins, missing/stolen bins, complaints, and damaged bins. The reduction of requests during 2022/23 can be attributed to a reduction in missed bin requests.
Kerbside collection bins missed per 10,000 households	# bins	13.01	7.39	6.91	9.70	6.77	The decrease in 2022/23 can be attributed to improved levels of service delivery, including updating mapping and use of digital technology.
Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service per bin	Dollar	\$166.04	\$143.33	\$141.95	\$138.89	\$135.52	The increase in cost of kerbside garbage bin collection in 2022/23 is largely due to the increase in gate fees, predominately through an increase to the Victorian Government's Waste Levy.
Cost of kerbside recyclables collection service per bin	Dollar	\$64.45	\$60.67	\$67.24	\$59.00	\$71.99	The increase in costs of recyclables collection is a combination of increased costs in the delivery of the service and processing of materials in 2022/23.
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill	Percent	34.1%	43.1%	47.9%	#N/A	50.9%	The number of properties with Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) bins has continued to increase, this supports Hume City's drive to divert away from landfill. However, over the 2022/23 year, there has been a decrease of tonnes of FOGO collected. Collected tonnage is very dependent on a variety of factors, including the weather, which can lead to subsequent changes in the diversion rate.

Attachment 1: LGPRF 2022/23 Results - Growth, Interface, Metro and Victorian Council Averages.

MEASURE DESCRIPTION	Type	Hume	Growth (Incl. Hume, n=7) ¹	Interface (Incl. Hume, n=8) ²	Metro (Incl. Interface, n=27) ³	Victoria (n=57, out of 79)	Hume Comments (for material variation)
<i>Provision of relevant information about the effectiveness of financial management in local government including efficiency, liquidity, obligations, operating position and stability</i>							
Financial Performance							
Expenses per property assessment	Dollar	\$3,959.69	\$3,277.83	\$3,447.96	\$3,073.29	\$3,737.45	The expense increase was caused by: 1. increased expenditure was directed towards the landfill management including the additional EPA levy paid for the clean soil brought to the sites that utilized for the daily cover and associated cost incurred for the containment of wastewater within the landfill sites to address leachate-related issues; 2. an extra \$25 million has been included into the "Materials and Services" category, resulting from the increase in the landfill provision attributed to aftercare expenses related to a closed landfill site located at Bolinda Road Campbellfield. This adjustment follows a comprehensive assessment of projected future tasks essential for remedial efforts aimed at resolving leachate and gas level concerns, all in alignment with the stipulated requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 3. the cost of agency staff used as temporary resources to backfill vacant positions during the recruitment process; 4. price escalations in materials and services; 5. higher depreciation expenses due to an increase in the total value of infrastructure assets as a result of the 2021/22 revaluation and new assets brought on from the 2021/22 capital works program and contributed assets.
Average rate per property assessment	Dollar	\$1,990.82	\$1,786.03	\$1,905.10	\$1,839.39	\$1,832.39	The drop in the ratio is due to the expansion of new properties occurring later in the year. As a result, the rates income for these properties has been apportioned for the current year, rather than reflecting the full-year rates income.
Current assets as a percentage of current liabilities	Percent	461.8%	348.6%	298.3%	209.6%	264.8%	The drop in the working capital ratio can be attributed to the increase in accrued expenditure, primarily driven by an influx of invoices received after June 30th, which are related to the 2022/23 financial year.
Unrestricted cash as a percentage of current liabilities	Percent	-155.1%	-98.6%	-69.9%	18.3%	20.2%	As \$325m of cash is in term deposit as at 30 June 2023 (\$205m as at 30 June 2022) and the original term of those deposits is more than 90 days, hence, they are classified under other financial assets rather than cash balance. If include those term deposits, Council has over \$394m cash and term deposits as at 30 June 2023. This ratio is expected to increase substantially in 2024 as the total cash and investments are aggregated for the purpose of the calculation and gradually reduces thereafter due to the substantial capital works program which is projected to result in a notable reduction in the cash balance.
Loans and borrowings compared to rates	Percent	0.0%	6.5%	7.4%	20.0%	13.7%	Council is currently debt free.
Loans and borrowings as a percentage of rates	Percent	0.0%	1.7%	2.2%	3.8%	3.0%	Council is currently debt free.
Non-current liabilities as a percentage of own source revenue	Percent	31.1%	16.6%	16.2%	17.9%	18.1%	The primary reason for the surge is predominantly attributed to an increase in the non-current portion of the landfill provision subsequent to the revaluation undertaken in 2022/23. In the current provision, additional post-maintenance components relating to leachate and gas management have been included. These additions were required in order to comply with the rigorous standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), thus driving the increase of the provision.

Attachment 1: LGPRF 2022/23 Results - Growth, Interface, Metro and Victorian Council Averages.

MEASURE DESCRIPTION	Type	Hume	Growth (Incl. Hume, n=7) ¹	Interface (Incl. Hume, n=8) ²	Metro (Incl. Interface, n=27) ³	Victoria (n=57, out of 79)	Hume Comments (for material variation)
Asset renewal and asset upgrade as a percentage of depreciation	Percent	84.1%	72.2%	82.8%	129.0%	109.7%	Following the organizational restructuring in 2022/23, the Council has allocated additional resources towards the delivery of the Capital Works program. This strategic decision led to a substantial 41% upsurge in capital expenditure on infrastructure projects, consequently influencing the ratio between asset renewal and upgrade in comparison to depreciation. The decrease in the adjusted underlying surplus mainly due to the increase in council total expenses in 2022/23 compared to 2021/22. The expense increase was caused by: 1. increased expenditure was directed towards the landfill management including the additional EPA levy paid for the clean soil brought to the sites that utilized for the daily cover and associated cost incurred for the containment of wastewater within the landfill sites to address leachate-related issues; 2. an extra \$25 million has been included into the "Materials and Services" category, resulting from the increase in the landfill provision attributed to aftercare expenses related to a closed landfill site located at Bolinda Road Campbellfield. This adjustment follows a comprehensive assessment of projected future tasks essential for remedial efforts aimed at resolving leachate and gas level concerns, all in alignment with the stipulated requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The cost of agency staff used as temporary resources to backfill vacant positions during the recruitment process; 3. price escalations in materials and services; 4. higher depreciation expenses due to an increase in the total value of infrastructure assets as a result of the 2021/22 revaluation and new assets brought on from the 2021/22 capital works program and contributed assets. The adjusted underlying surplus will improve over the next 4-year forecast period primarily due to 1. Revenue increase from Municipality growth: anticipated growth within the municipality is expected to fuel an increase in revenue. This growth is projected to lead to higher income streams derived from various sources such as Rates, developer monetary contributions, user fee and statutory fee income. The expanding population and economic activity within the municipality will contribute to these enhanced revenue streams. 2. Efficient expenditure management: the rate of expenditure escalation is forecasted to be lower than the pace of revenue growth. This is due to diligent cost control measures implemented through efficient management practices. By optimizing the allocation of resources and enhancing the efficiency of operational processes and workflows, expenses are expected to be managed more effectively. The proactive approach to cost management, encompassing efficient practices, technology integration, and process refinement, is projected to curb the growth of non-monetary costs. This prudent financial discipline will ensure non-monetary assets, non-recurrent capital grants and capital cash contributions.
Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) as a percentage of underlying revenue	Percent	-2.3%	2.4%	1.3%	2.9%	-0.9%	
Rates as a percentage of adjusted underlying revenue	Percent	56.1%	62.4%	64.5%	67.9%	60.3%	Adjusted underlying revenue is improving, primarily driven by an increase in operating grants received during 2022/23 compared to 2021/22. This growth is attributable to the advanced payment of the 2023/24 VGC grant in 2022/23, in addition to a new government grant allocated to support the free 3-year kinder program. Furthermore, more interest income has been realized due to increased term deposit rates and more user fees generated from the Leisure centre fitness and swimming program.
Rates as a percentage of property values in municipality	Percent	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	A full revaluation was undertaken and approved by Valuer-General Victoria in 2022/23, revealing an average of 5.48% increase in the property value across the municipality, consequently influencing the Rate effort ratio.

Attachment 1: LGPRF 2022/23 Results - Growth, Interface, Metro and Victorian Council Averages.

MEASURE DESCRIPTION	Type	Hume	Growth (Incl. Hume, n=7) ¹	Interface (Incl. Hume, n=8) ²	Metro (Incl. Interface, n=27) ³	Victoria (n=57, out of 79)	Hume Comments (for material variation)
Sustainable Capacity							
<i>Provision of relevant information about whether local governments have the capacity to meet the agreed service and infrastructure needs of their community</i>							
Expenses per head of municipal population	Dollar	\$1,580.54	\$1,316.11	\$1,383.81	\$1,554.34	\$2,200.41	The expense increase was caused by: 1. increased expenditure was directed towards the landfill management including the additional EPA levy paid for the clean soil brought to the sites that utilized for the daily cover and associated cost incurred for the containment of wastewater within the landfill sites to address leachate-related issues; 2. an extra \$25 million has been included into the "Materials and Services" category, resulting from the increase in the landfill provision attributed to aftercare expenses related to a closed landfill site located at Bolinda Road Campbellfield. This adjustment follows a comprehensive assessment of projected future tasks essential for remedial efforts aimed at resolving leachate and gas level concerns, all in alignment with the stipulated requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 3. the cost of agency staff used as temporary resources to backfill vacant positions during the recruitment process; 4. price escalations in materials and services; 5. higher depreciation expenses due to an increase in the total value of infrastructure assets as a result of the 2021/22 revaluation and new assets brought on from the 2021/22 capital works program and contributed assets.
Infrastructure per head of municipal population	Dollar	\$11,001.61	\$12,169.48	\$10,748.63	\$7,908.65	\$15,850.80	The rise in value is attributed to the substantial revaluation increases in infrastructure assets, assets contributed by developers, and investments in capital works.
Population density per length of road	# people	171.80	153.03	135.95	273.56	124.34	This measure remains consistent with previous years in line with population growth.
Own-source revenue per head of municipal population	Dollar	\$1,127.46	\$1,055.33	\$1,119.13	\$1,401.84	\$1,584.91	Own-source revenue grows at a faster pace than the population due to the predominant influence of the rise in interest income, increased user fee from the leisure centres and higher rates revenue from growth and rates cap increase.
Recurrent grants per head of municipal population	Dollar	\$308.32	\$212.19	\$203.11	\$154.66	\$465.56	The increase is primarily attributed to the advanced payment of the VGC grant funding received in 2022/23 and new grant received for the 3-year free kinder program.
Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of the municipality	Decile	1.00	4.67	5.75	7.68	5.77	This index score is a decile score and is calculated once every 5 years with the most recent being conducted during the COVID pandemic in 2021. This indicator combines census data from income, education, employment, occupation, housing and family structure. The COVID pandemic had a significant impact on the Hume community that resulted in an increase in disadvantage compared with the 2016 result.
Percentage of workforce turnover	Percent	11.8%	16.0%	16.7%	16.0%	18.1%	The Organisation commenced major reform across its Leadership structure in this reporting period. This has resulted in some turnover, but the result remains well within our expected range.

1 - Mitchell Shire Council did not submit data within the required timeframe, 7 out of 8 Growth Councils are included.
2 - Mornington Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframe, 8 out of 9 Interface Councils are included.
3 - Knox, Mairbymong, Port Phillip and Mornington Peninsula councils did not submit data within the required timeframe, 27 of 31 Metro Councils are included.

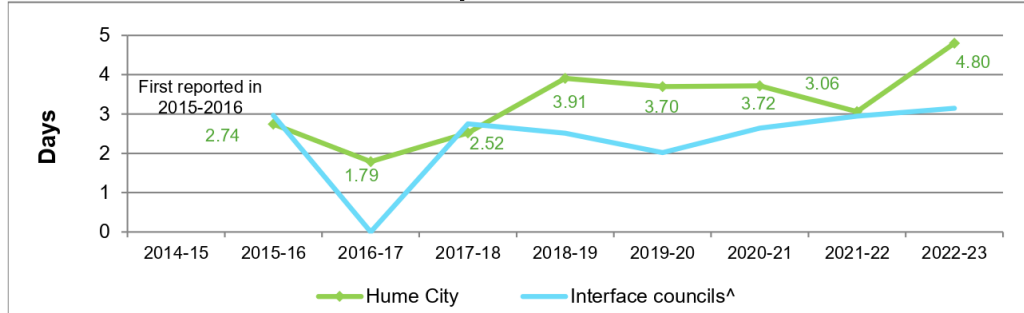
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Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022/23

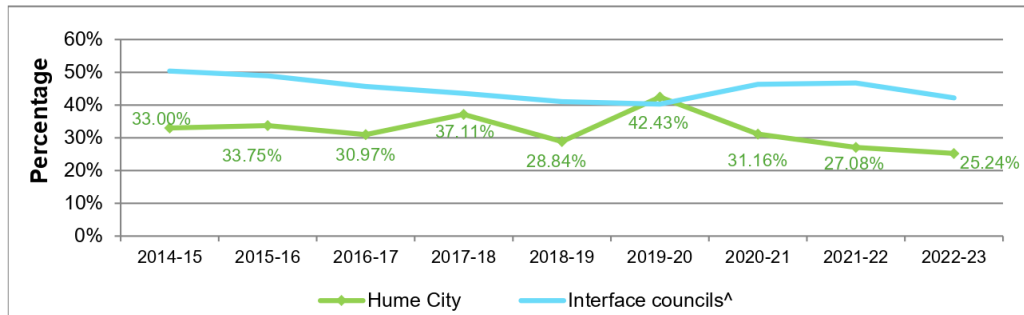
Service Indicators

Animal Management (AM)

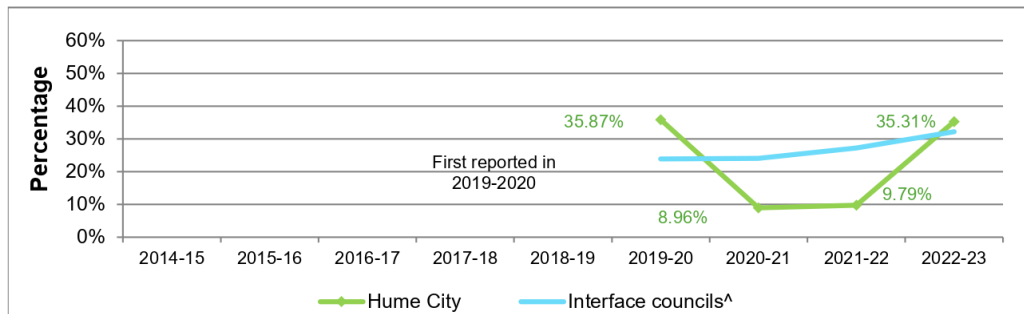
AM1 - Time taken to action requests



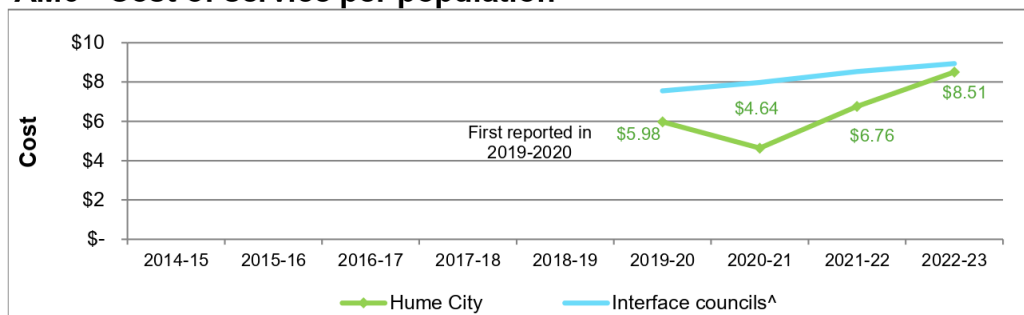
AM2 - Animals reclaimed from council



AM5 - Animals rehomed from council



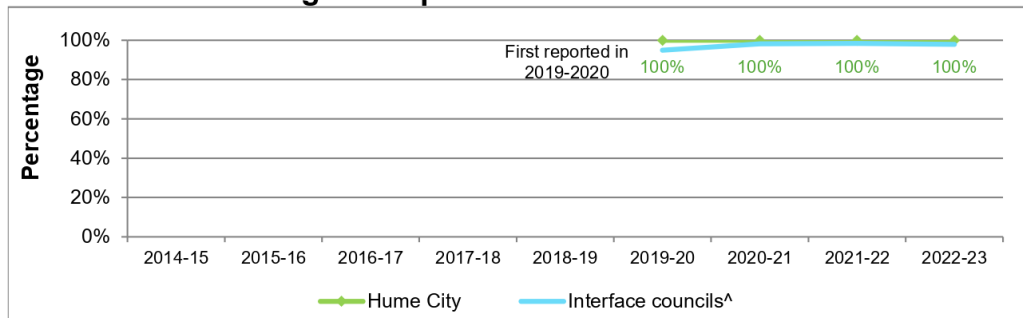
AM6 - Cost of service per population



^ 2022/23 Morning Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframes, data for 8 out of 9 Interface councils are included

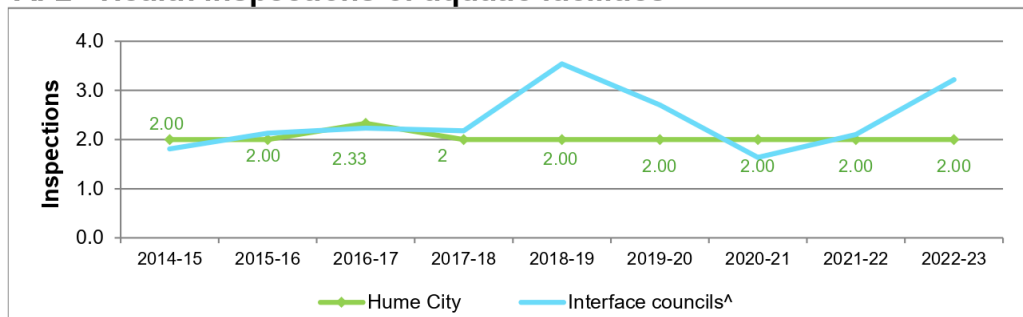
Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022/23

AM7 - Animal management prosecutions

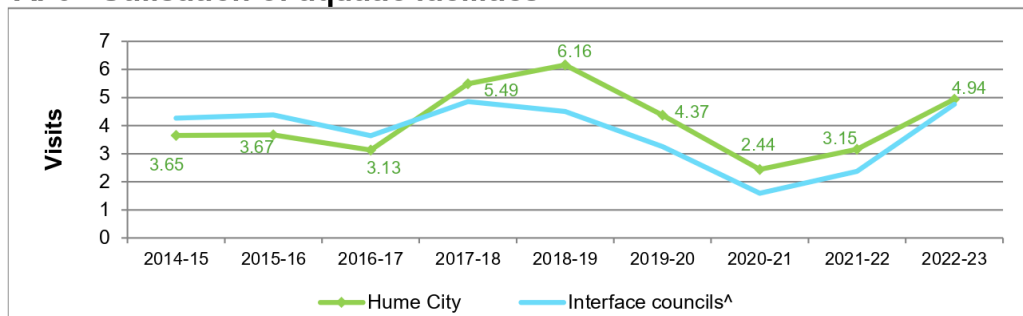


Aquatic Facilities (AF)

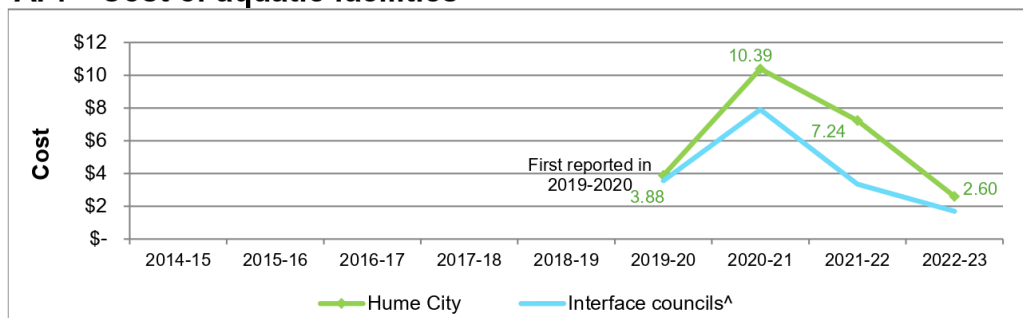
AF2 - Health inspections of aquatic facilities



AF6 - Utilisation of aquatic facilities



AF7 - Cost of aquatic facilities

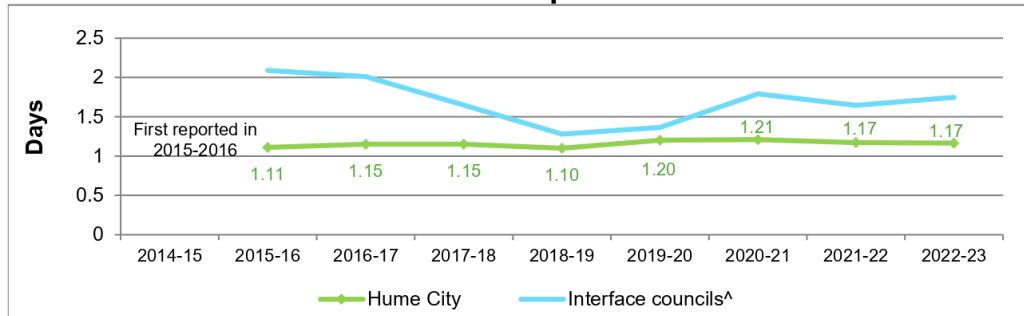


^ 2022/23 Morning Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframes, data for 8 out of 9 Interface councils are included

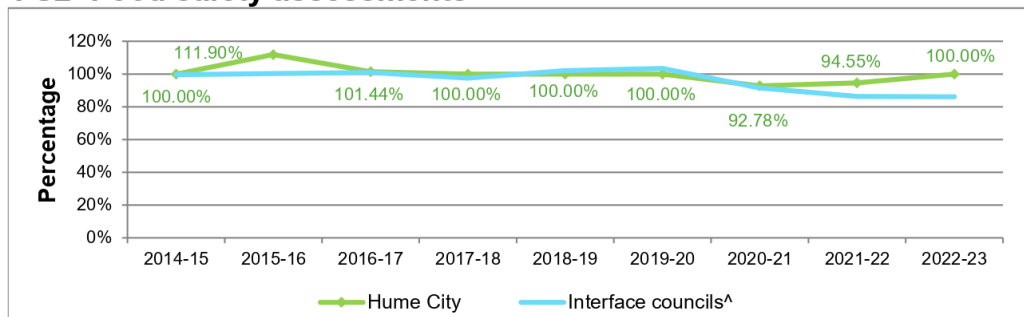
Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022/23

Food Safety (FS)

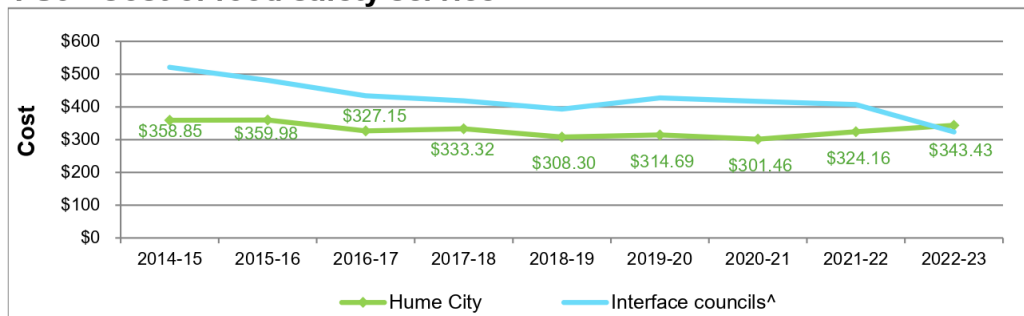
FS1 - Time taken to action food complaints



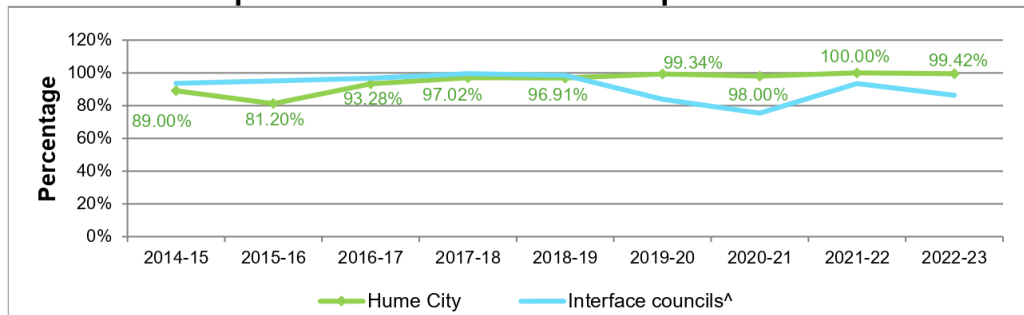
FS2- Food safety assessments



FS3 - Cost of food safety service



FS4 - Non-compliance outcomes followed up

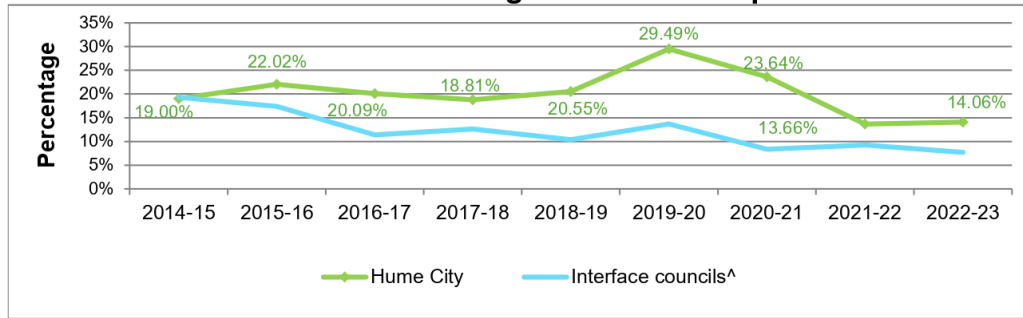


^ 2022/23 Morning Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframes, data for 8 out of 9 Interface councils are included

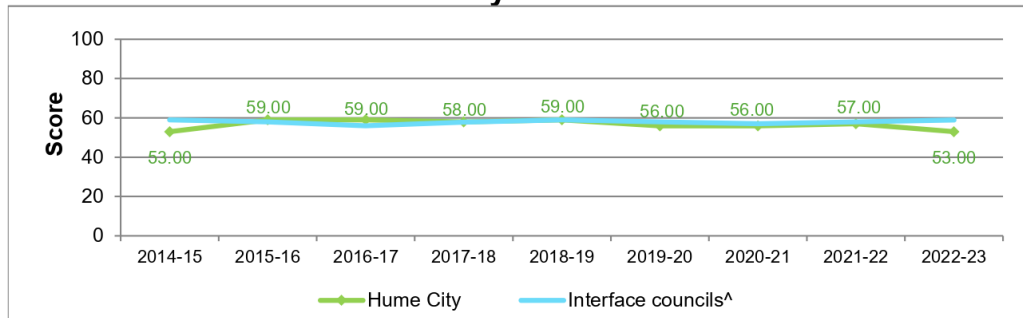
Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022/23

Governance (G)

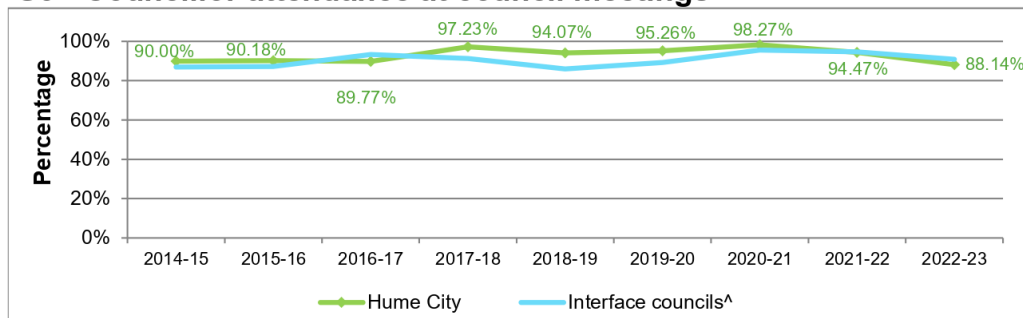
G1 - Council decisions at meetings closed to the public



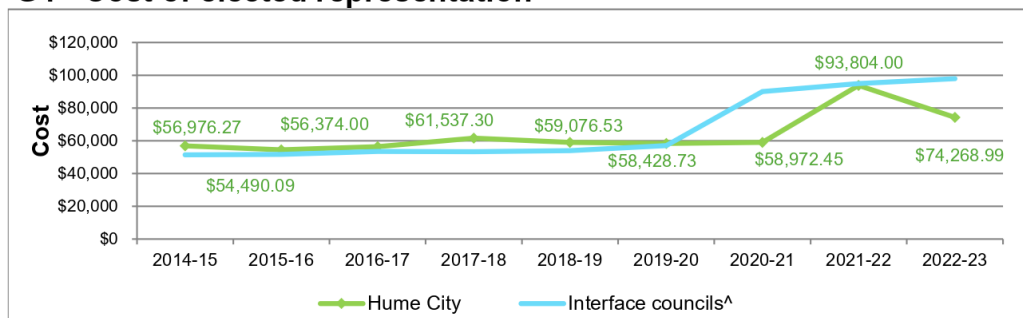
G2 - Satisfaction with community consultation



G3 - Councillor attendance at council meetings



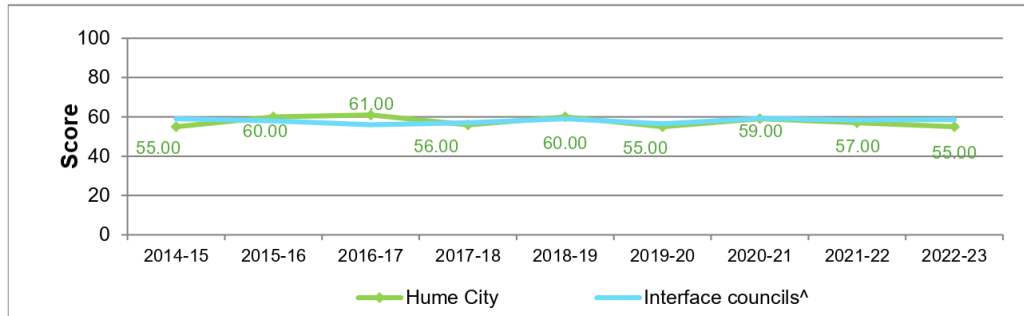
G4 - Cost of elected representation



^ 2022/23 Morning Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframes, data for 8 out of 9 Interface councils are included

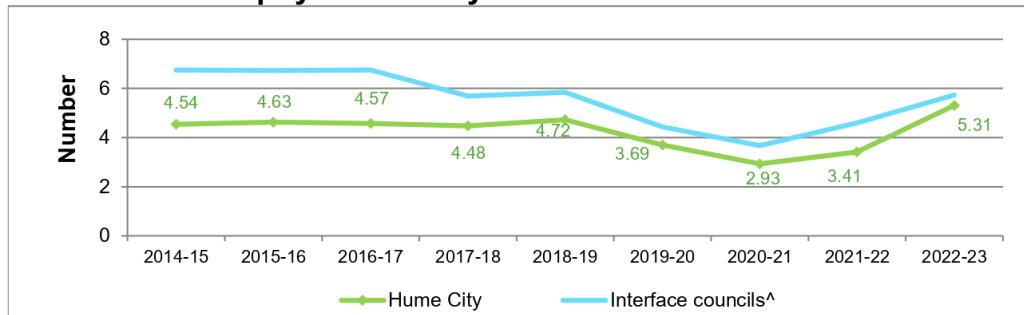
Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022/23

G5 - Satisfaction with council decisions

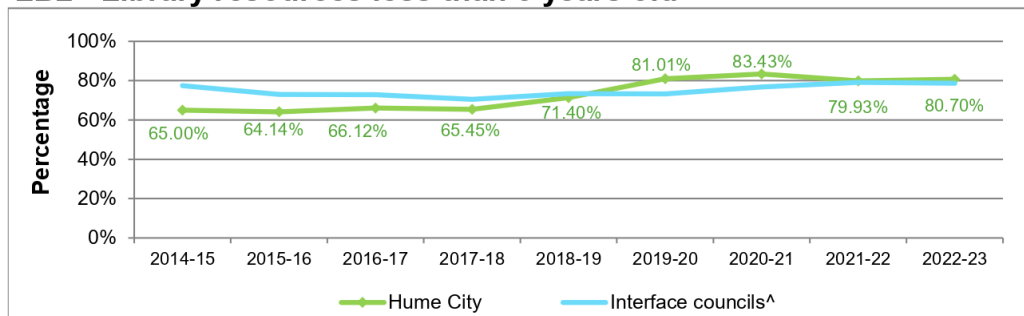


Libraries (LB)

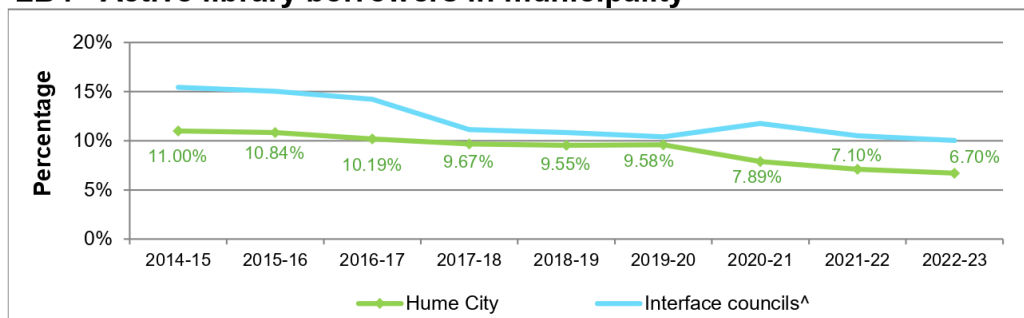
LB1- Number of physical library item loans



LB2 - Library resources less than 5 years old



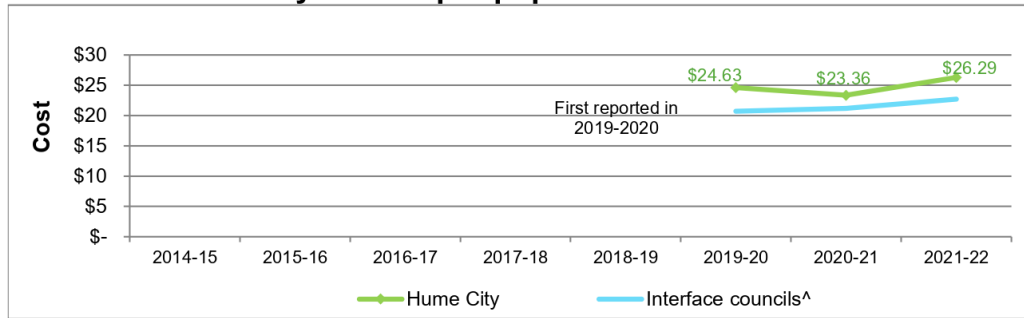
LB4 - Active library borrowers in municipality



^ 2022/23 Morning Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframes, data for 8 out of 9 Interface councils are included

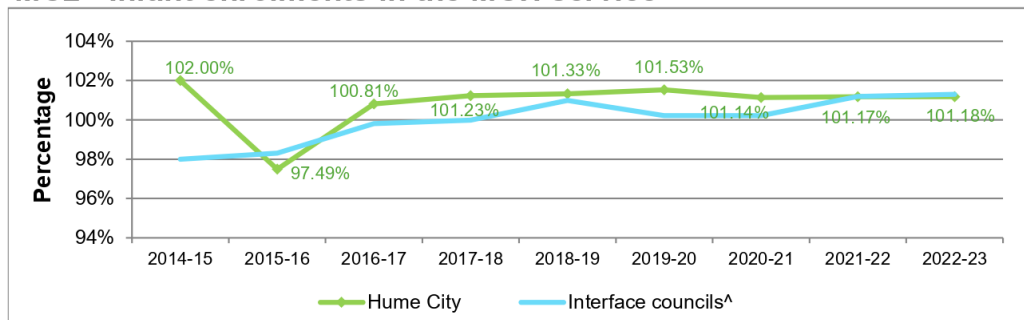
Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022/23

LB5 - Cost of library service per population

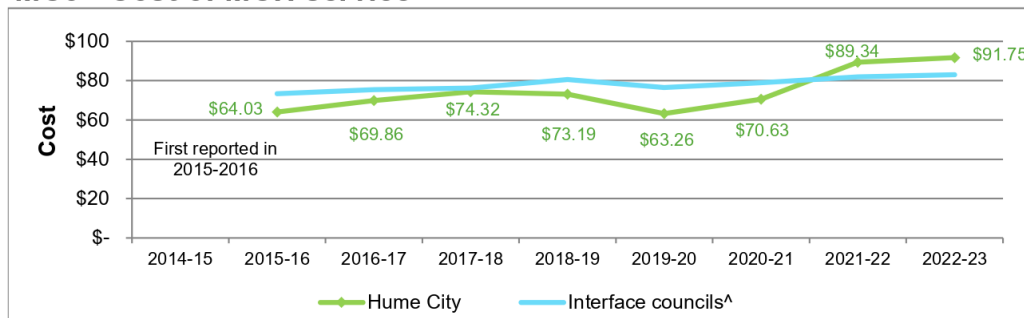


Maternal and Child Health (MC)

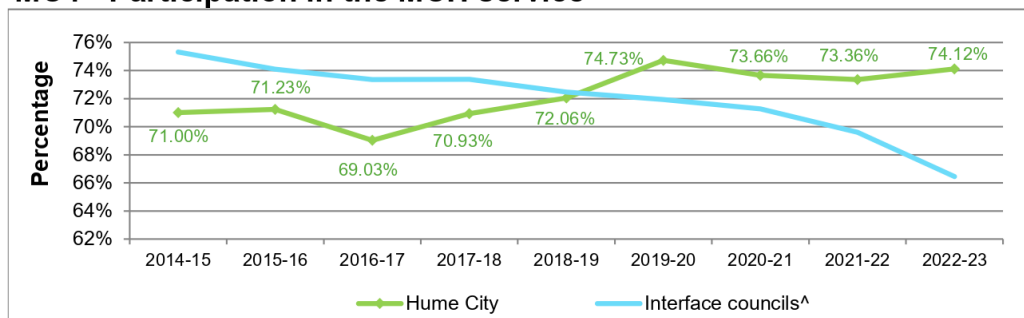
MC2 - Infant enrolments in the MCH service



MC3 - Cost of MCH service



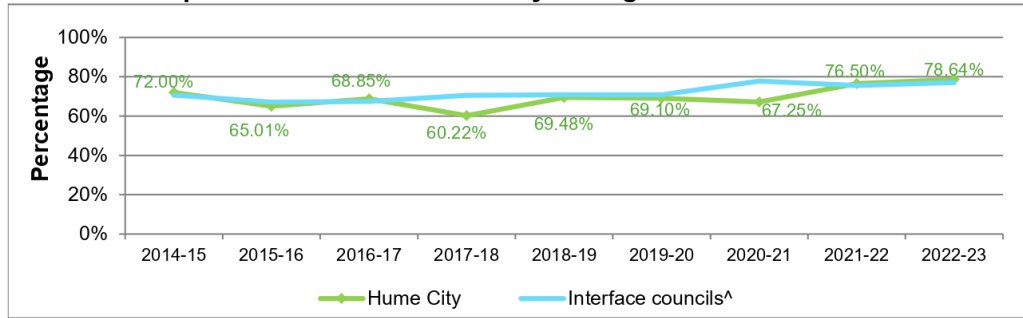
MC4 - Participation in the MCH service



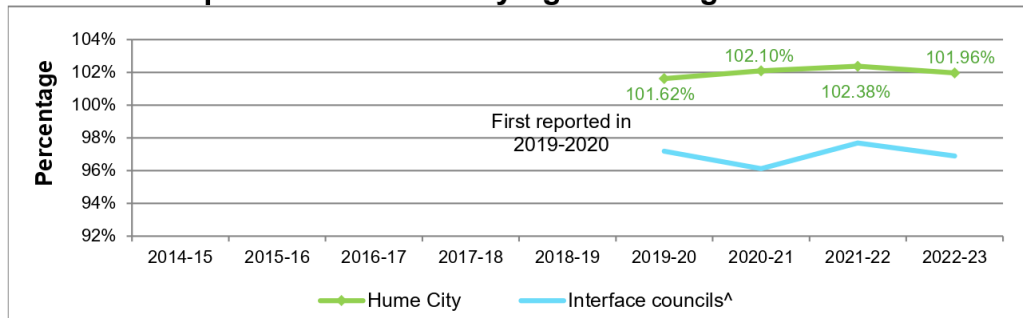
^ 2022/23 Morning Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframes, data for 8 out of 9 Interface councils are included

Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022/23

MC 5 - Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children

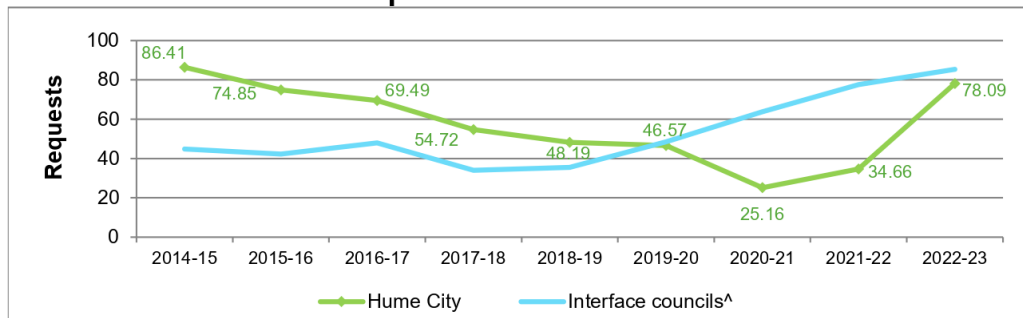


MC6 - Participation in 4-week Key Age and Stage visit

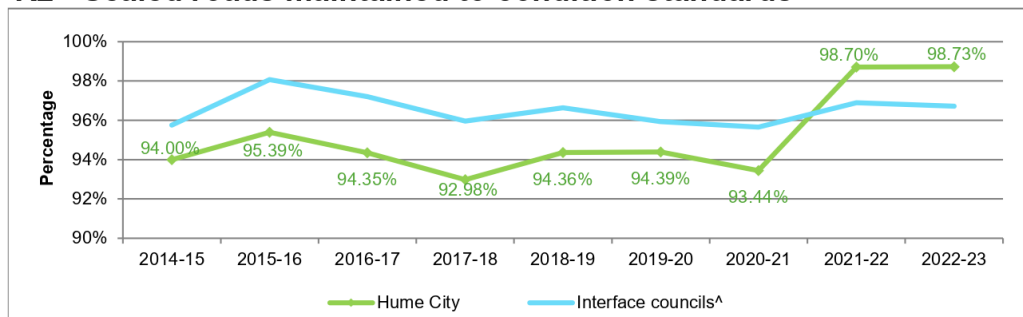


Roads (R)

R1 - Sealed local road requests



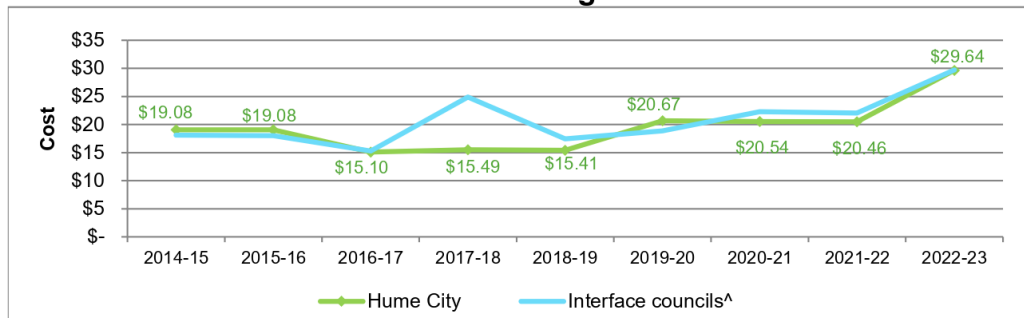
R2 - Sealed roads maintained to condition standards



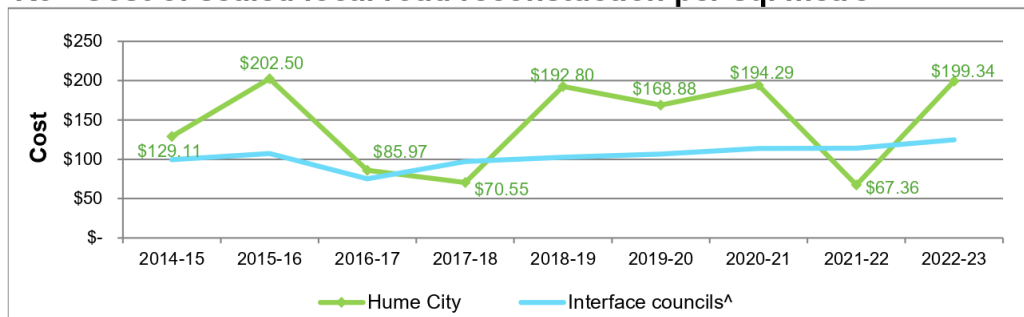
^ 2022/23 Morning Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframes, data for 8 out of 9 Interface councils are included

Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022/23

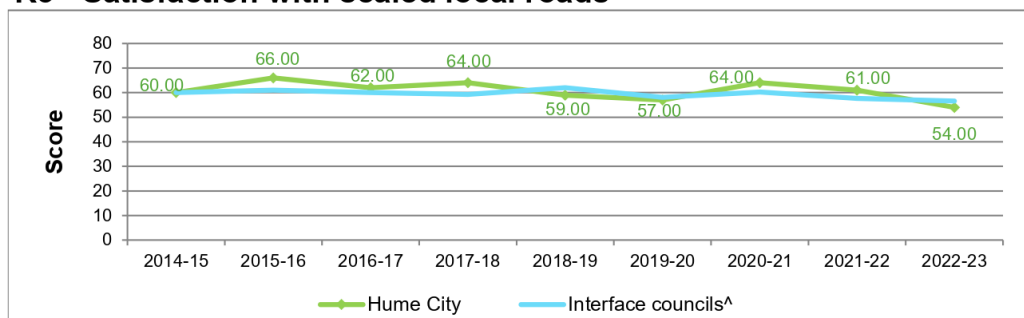
R4 - Cost of sealed local road resealing



R3 - Cost of sealed local road reconstruction per sq. metre

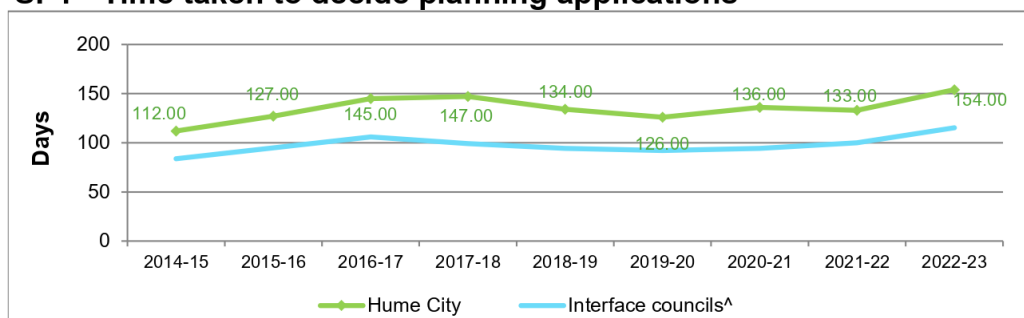


R5 - Satisfaction with sealed local roads



Statutory Planning (SP)

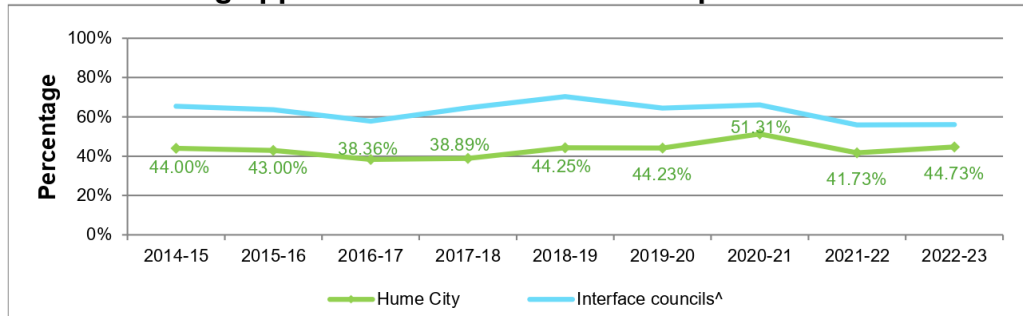
SP1 - Time taken to decide planning applications



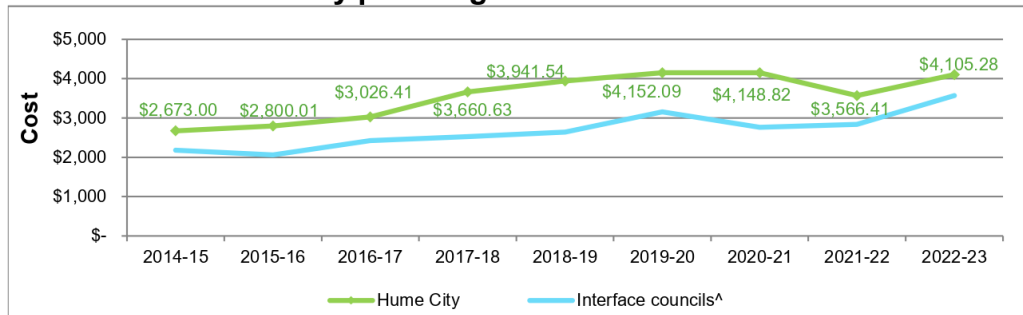
^ 2022/23 Morning Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframes, data for 8 out of 9 Interface councils are included

Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022/23

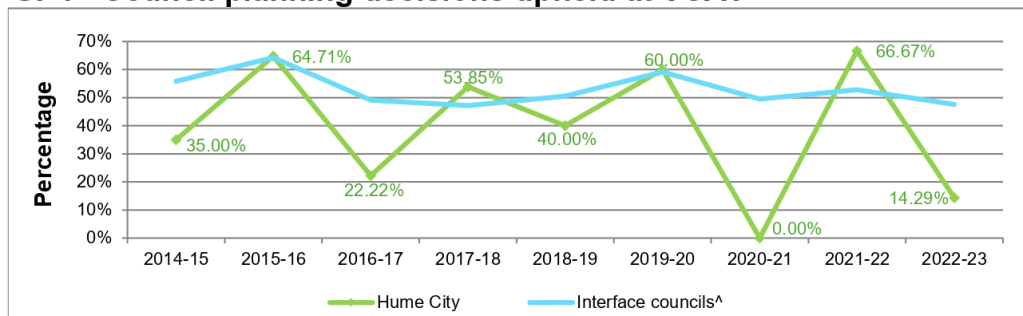
SP2 - Planning applications decided within required time



SP3 - Cost of statutory planning service

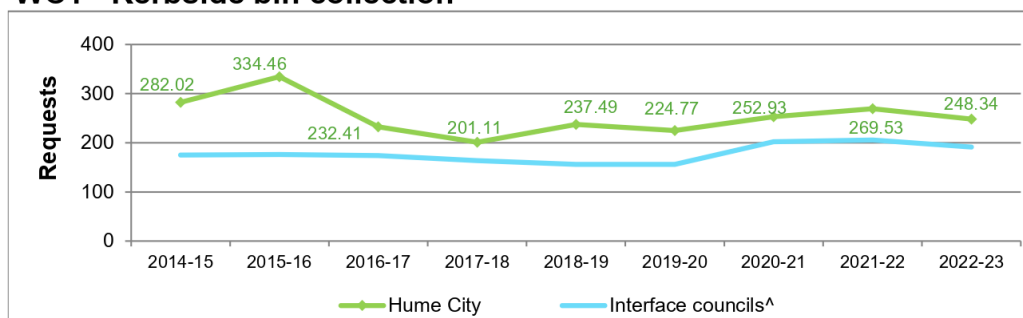


SP4 - Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT



Waste Collection (WC)

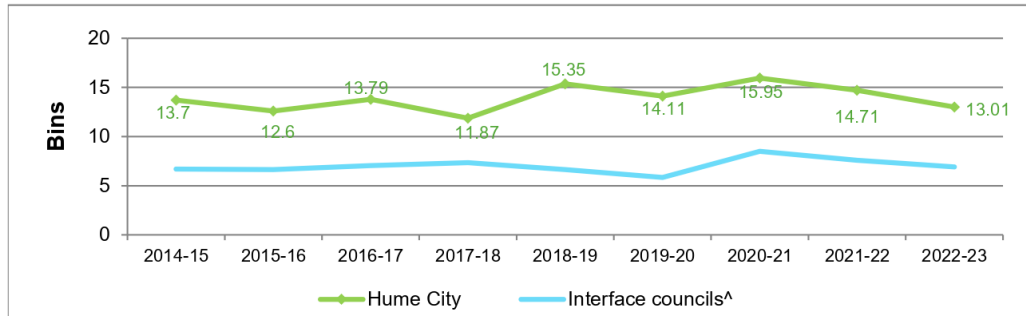
WC1 - Kerbside bin collection



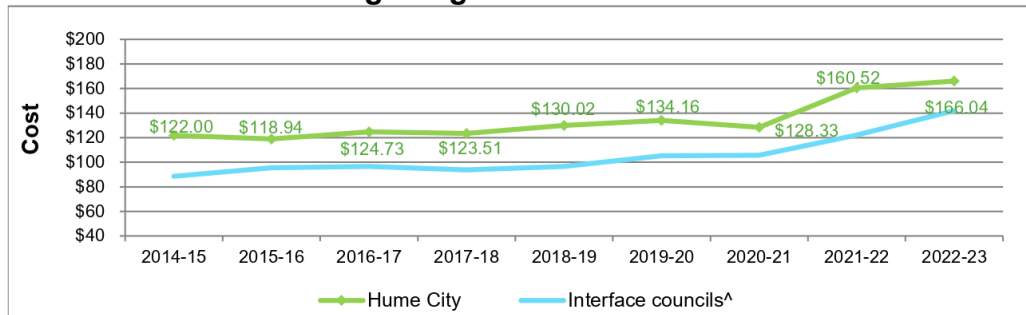
^ 2022/23 Morning Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframes, data for 8 out of 9 Interface councils are included

Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022/23

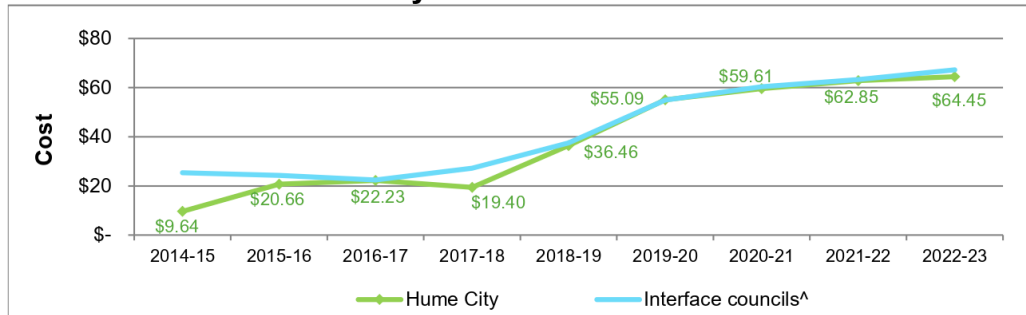
WC2 - Kerbside bins missed



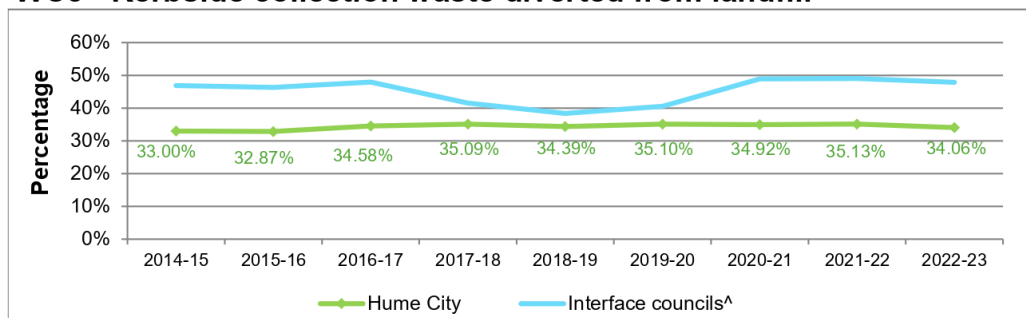
WC3 - Cost of kerbside garbage bin collection service



WC4 - Cost of kerbside recyclables bin collection service



WC5 - Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill

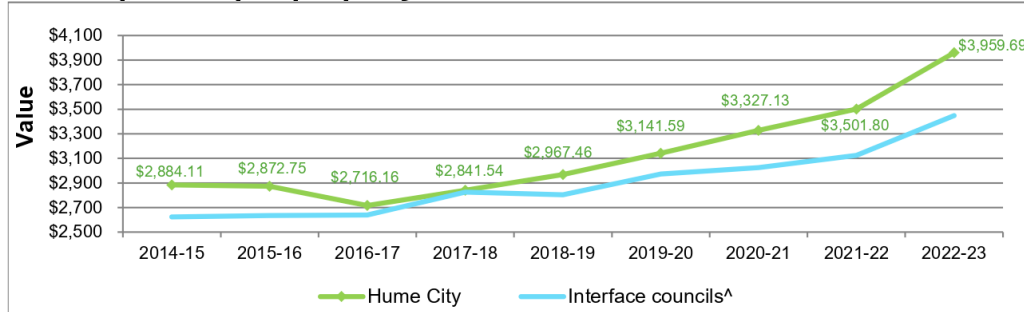


^ 2022/23 Morning Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframes, data for 8 out of 9 Interface councils are included

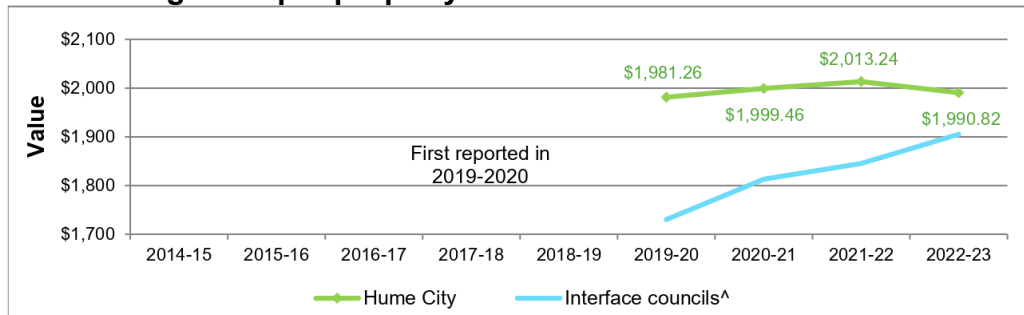
Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022/23

Financial Performance

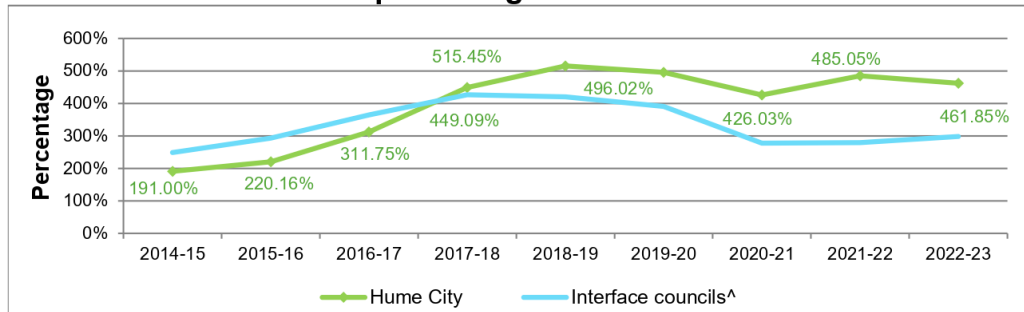
E2 - Expenses per property assessment



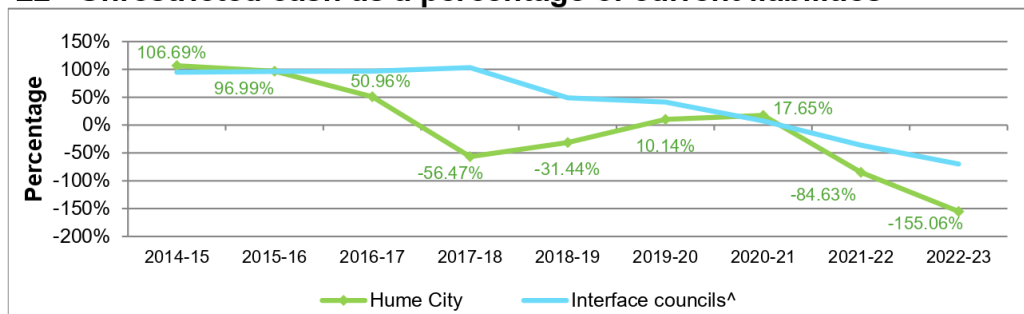
E4 - Average rate per property assessment



L1 - Current assets as a percentage of current liabilities



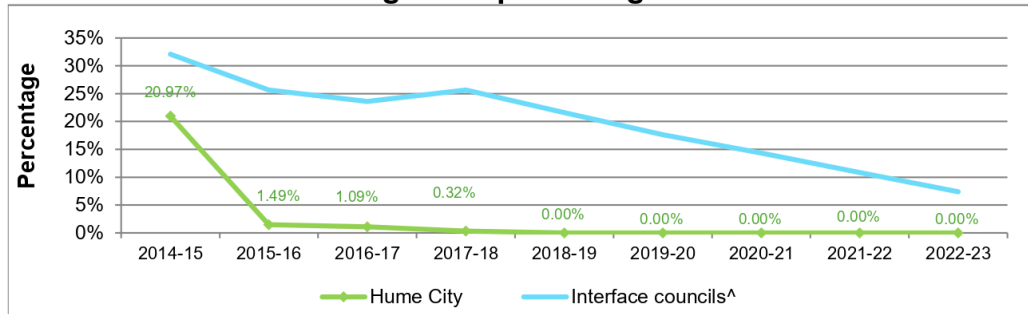
L2 - Unrestricted cash as a percentage of current liabilities



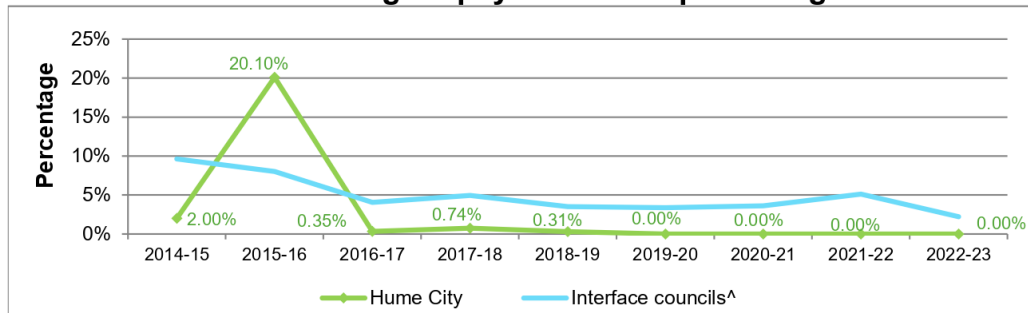
^ 2022/23 Morning Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframes, data for 8 out of 9 Interface councils are included

Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022/23

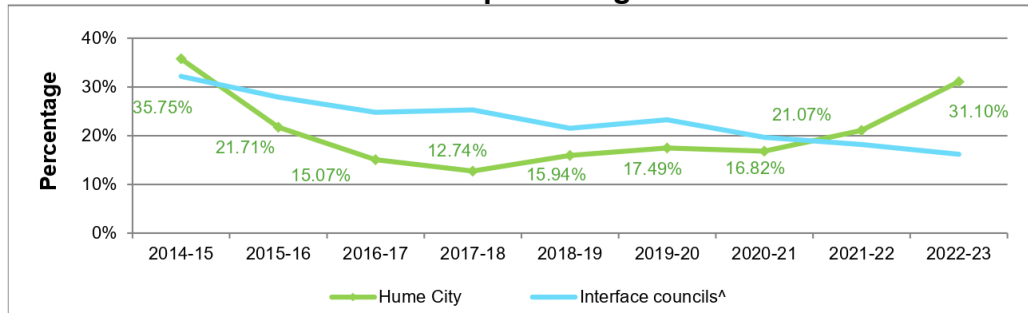
O2 - Loans and borrowings as a percentage of rates



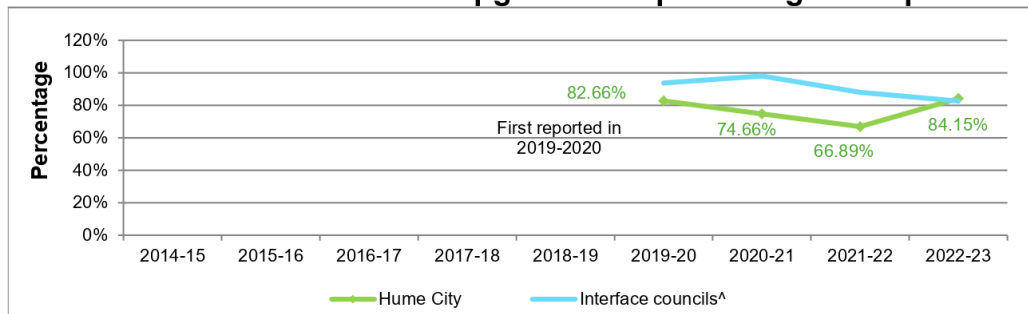
O3 - Loans and borrowings repayments as a percentage of rates



O4 - Non-current liabilities as a percentage of own source revenue



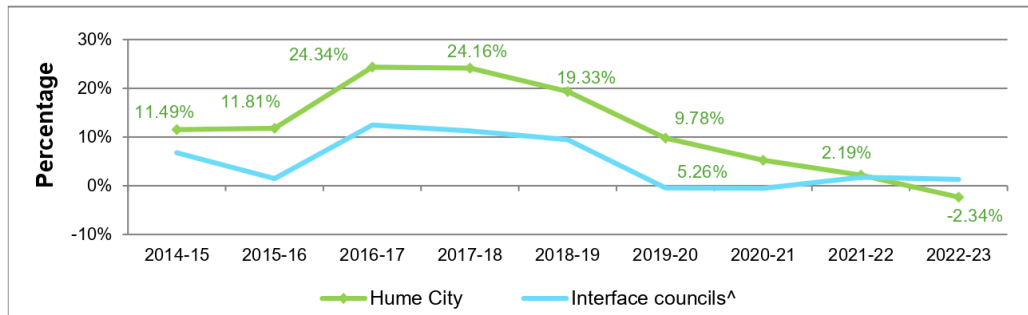
O5 - Asset renewal and asset upgrade as a percentage of depreciation



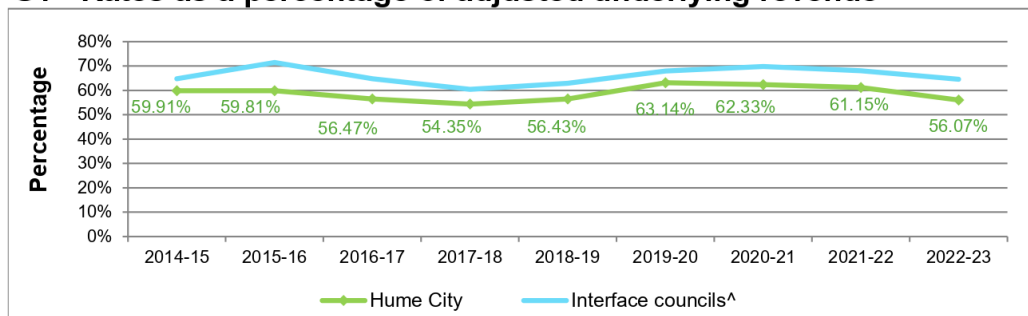
^ 2022/23 Morning Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframes, data for 8 out of 9 Interface councils are included

Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022/23

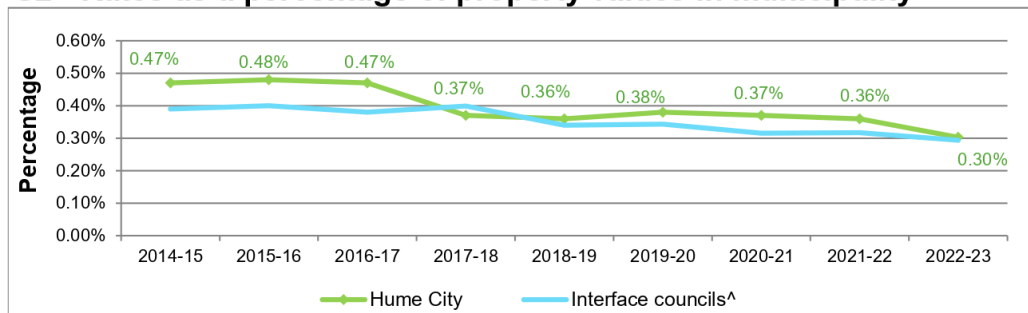
OP1 - Adjusted underlying surplus as a percentage of underlying revenue



S1 - Rates as a percentage of adjusted underlying revenue

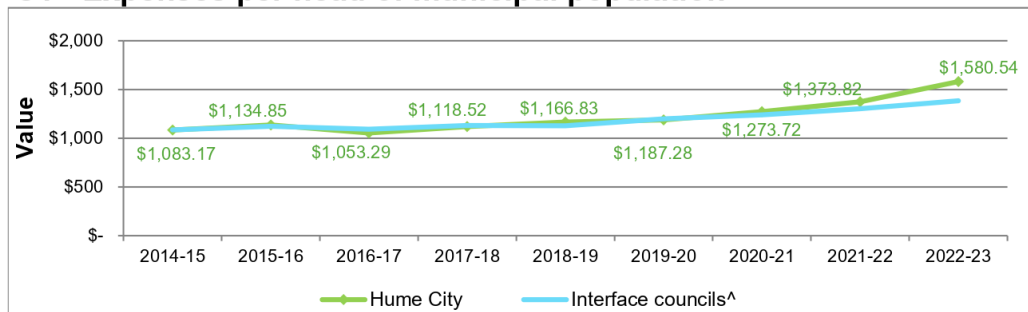


S2 - Rates as a percentage of property values in municipality



Sustainable Capacity

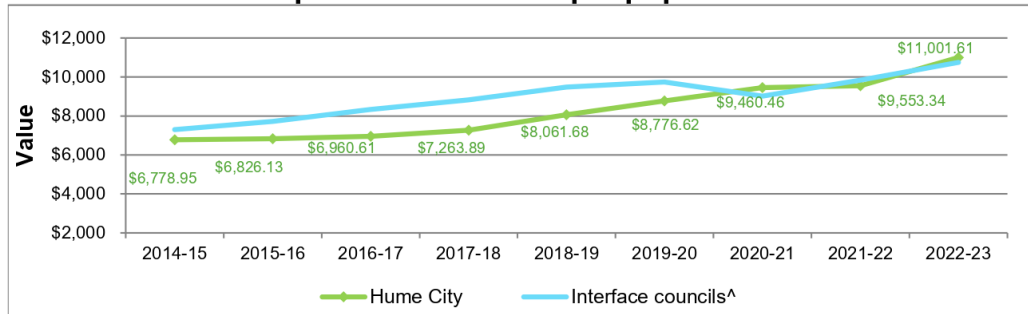
C1 - Expenses per head of municipal population



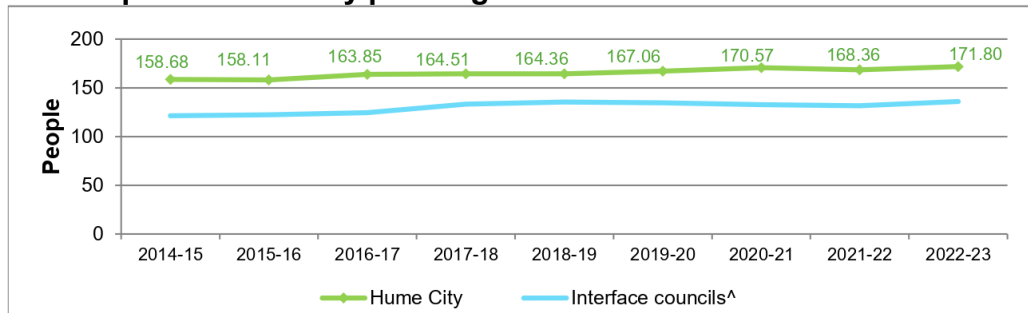
^ 2022/23 Morning Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframes, data for 8 out of 9 Interface councils are included

Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022/23

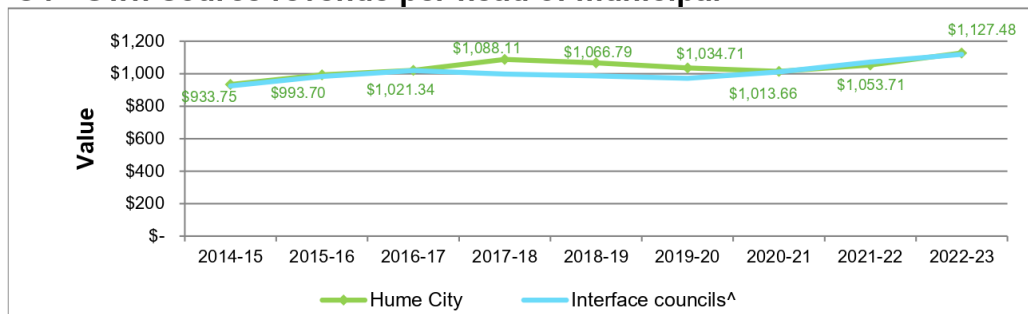
C2 - Infrastructure per head of municipal population



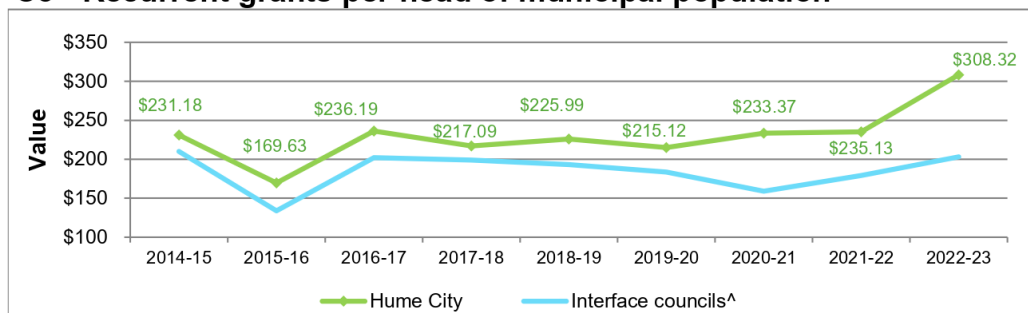
C3 - Population density per length of road



C4 - Own-source revenue per head of municipal



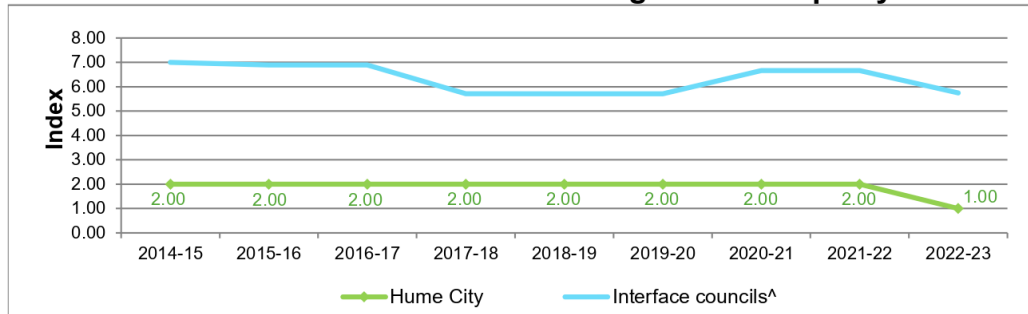
C5 - Recurrent grants per head of municipal population



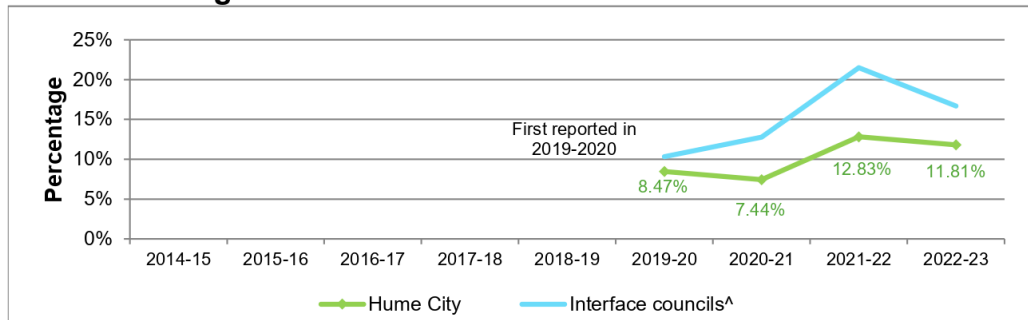
^ 2022/23 Morning Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframes, data for 8 out of 9 Interface councils are included

Attachment 2 - LGPRF Comparative Graphs 2022/23

C6 - Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of municipality



C7 - Percentage of staff turnover



^ 2022/23 Morning Peninsula Shire did not submit data within the required timeframes, data for 8 out of 9 Interface councils are included

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LGPRF Six Monthly Data 2023/24 and Comparison to 2022/23

SERVICE PERFORMANCE DATA				
Service/Data element	Data Type	Q1 & Q2 2022/23	Q1 & Q2 2023/24	Q1 & Q2 Comments 2023/24
General				
Tenth year of reporting	Year	2022/23	2023/24	
Number of months in reporting period	Months	6	6	
Municipal population	People	252,723	N/A	Population figure is provided by the ABS - data due for release in late March 2024.
Animal Management				
Number of days between receipt and first response action for all animal management requests	Days	-	4,793	Figures for the previous period (Q1&2 2022/2023) not able to be provided due to data limitations of the Hume Connect service request management system. This figure should be interpreted with caution due to ongoing system challenges – including the inability to accurately capture the first action date, and the inability to delineate between domestic animal and livestock related service requests.
Number of animal management requests	Requests	2,076	3,464	The service continues to experience rising demand for animal management services. This is likely to be driven by continued community growth and related service needs. Further analysis would be necessary to ascertain specific trends – i.e. whether there has been increases in specific areas such as registration enquiries, wandering animal reports, dog attack reports, surrender requests etc.
Number of animals reclaimed	Animals	526	320	The decrease in the number of animals reclaimed could be explained by current economic conditions – i.e. current cost of living pressures may mean that people have less capacity to meet costs associated with pet ownership and/or to pay shelter release fees.
Number of animals collected	Animals	1,319	1,161	The decrease in the number of animals collected is likely, in part, explained by Council’s temporary cessation of cat trapping services due to cat vaccination supply shortages. In November 2024, Council was asked by its shelter operator to cease cat trapping activities to ensure supply of cat vaccine for cats already in shelter environment/surrenders/those requiring urgent medical attention.
Direct cost of the animal management service	\$	\$841,120	\$913,797	Increased costs associated with inflationary pressures including shelter increases in shelter service costs, staff salaries, service-related equipment, and consumables.
Number of successful animal management prosecutions	Prosecutions	7	6	
Total Number of animal management prosecutions	Prosecutions	7	6	
Number of unclaimed collected animals rehomed	Animals	419	153	It is likely that the significant variance in this figure when compared to previous period has resulted from a change in reporting criteria. I.e. previous year included animals reclaimed by owner. It is possible that the decline in the number of animals rehomed is also explained by current cat vaccination shortage. It is a requirement under the Domestic Animals Act and associated codes of practice that cats are fully vaccinated prior to being rehomed. An exemption from this requirement is now in effect, enabling the rehoming of unvaccinated cats until supply improves.
Number of unclaimed collected animals	Animals	N/A	841	This is a new measure for 2023/24.
Aquatic Facilities				
Number of authorised officer inspections of Council aquatic facilities	Inspections	3	3	All Leisure Centre facilities were inspected for water quality and complied with requirements.
Number of Council aquatic facilities	Facilities	3	3	
Cost of aquatic facilities	\$	-\$1,760,209	-\$703,211	The Leisure Centres have increased attendances and experienced growth in the core products of memberships and swim school enrolments.
Number of visits to the aquatic facilities	Visits	620,192	645,570	The attendances reflect normal operations, without the closures of the previous years. The SALC indoor pool was closed from mid May 2023 until mid Jan 2024, due to repairs for a burst pipe underneath the indoor pool shell. The outdoor pool were re-opened during this period. The outdoor season usually commences in November. Attendances are reaching levels similar to pre COVID when 1.2 million visits were recorded annually.

LGPRF Six Monthly Data 2023/24 and Comparison to 2022/23

Service/Data element	Data Type	Q1 & Q2 2022/23	Q1 & Q2 2023/24	Q1 & Q2 Comments 2023/24
Food Safety				
Number of days between receipt and first response action for all food complaints	Days	76	100	The indicator measures the cumulative total number of days taken to handle all food complaints within the period. To calculate the average time taken to action each complaint the total days needs to be divided by the number of individual food complaints received within the period. Therefore, the average time to action has increased from 1.1 days in 2022/23 to 1.3 days in 2023/24. It should be noted that while there is a 30% increase in the number of total days taken to handle all food requests there has been a minimal impact on the average number of days to action each request increasing from 1.1 to 1.3 days, which would represent less than 2 work hours. All incoming requests are triaged for the risk and actioned accordingly. The 2022/23 six-month figure was slightly lower than long term averages.
Number of food complaints	Complaints	69	77	The number of food complaints received increased marginally compared with the first half of 2022/23.
Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that received an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984	Premises	709	782	The 10% increase in the number of Food Act inspections undertaken at Class 1 and Class 2 premises is consistent with the increase of new applications received within the municipality.
Number of registered class 1 food premises and class 2 food premises that require an annual food safety assessment in accordance with the Food Act 1984	Premises	1,256	1,261	The small increase in food premises registrations is not consistent with municipal population growth. Although the volume of new business applications was consistent with previous years, the current economic climate may have contributed to a higher-than-expected number of business closures.
Direct cost of the food safety service	\$	\$508,145	\$523,999	The increased cost in 2023/2024 are primarily related to legal advisory costs associated with the service.
Number of food premises registered or notified in accordance with the Food Act 1984	Premises	2,978	3,074	The increase in the total number of food premises registered or notified is consistent with municipal growth and in line with previous years.
Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up	Notifications	97	111	The number of follow up inspections following a major or critical non-compliance increased in first half of 23/24 because of an increase in the number of inspections with a major or critical non-compliant outcome.
Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about food premises	Notifications	106	114	The number of food premises inspections that resulted in a major or critical non-conformance outcome increased marginally compared with inspection outcomes in 22/23.
Number of food samples obtained	Samples	N/A	167	A total of 297 food samples were procured from food premises in 2023 calendar year, therefore Council exceeded the Gazetted statutory calendar year target of 277.
Required number of food samples	Samples	N/A	277	Councils Gazetted annual target for 2024 increased slightly to 282 samples.
Governance				
Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council, or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors, closed to the public	Resolutions	19	30	
Number of Council resolutions made at meetings of Council or at meetings of a delegated committee consisting only of Councillors	Resolutions	132	113	
Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on community consultation and engagement	Rating	51	56	
The sum of the number of councillors who attended each council meeting	Councillors	128	127	
Number of council meetings	Meetings	13	13	
Direct cost of the governance service	\$	\$761,292	\$329,115	The 2022/23 figure reported for Q1 and Q2 last year was reported incorrectly – the direct cost of governance services reported for the full 2022/23 period was \$816,959. For Q1 and Q2 in 2021/22 the result was \$486,827.
Number of councillors elected at the last council general election	Councillors	11	11	
Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the performance of council in making decisions in the interest of the community	Rating	54	57	

LGPRF Six Monthly Data 2023/24 and Comparison to 2022/23

Service/Data element	Data Type	Q1 & Q2 2022/23	Q1 & Q2 2023/24	Q1 & Q2 Comments 2023/24
Libraries				
Number of physical library collection item loans	Loans	512,520	N/A	Retired indicator
Number of physical library collection items	Items	190,545	N/A	Retired indicator
Number of library collection items purchased in the last 5 years	Items	176,057	176,387	Our collection management guidelines aim for 80% of the collection to be purchased within the last 5 years, this figure represents 80.9% of the total collection. This is very close to our target figure given our current budget and holding capacity.
Number of library collection items	Items	218,286	217,520	Very close to last years' figure, which represents a return to status quo after the disruption of the covid years. As above, this is an acceptable figure given our budget and capacity.
Direct cost to Council of the library service	\$	\$ 3,355,318	\$ 3,676,945	The increase related to new guidance for calculating the measure, which now included books that were previously excluded as capital purchases.
Number of active library borrowers (last three financial years)	Borrowers	11,946	N/A	Retired indicator
Municipal population (last three financial years)	People	N/A	N/A	Retired indicator
Number of collection item loans	Items	N/A	508,602	LGPRF indicator has changed slightly for this measure, however the total loans on our physical materials is consistent with the number at this time last year.
The number of registered library members	Members	N/A	44,260	This is a new measure for 2023/24. The figure supplied include members from 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2023.
Number of library visits	Visits	N/A	384,748	This is a new measure for 2023/24. Figure is compiled by collecting figures from people counters at all branches.
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)				
Number of birth notifications received	Notifications	1,713	1,844	Birth notifications received has increased on previous year where there was a state-wide decrease in birth notifications. Data reflects typical increases and trends on previous years birth notifications.
Number of infants enrolled in the MCH service	Infants	1,729	1,859	This result is greater than the number of birth notifications received due to Hume City Council not receive birth notice, how following notification by domiciliary services and families contacting MCH to advise they have relocated to Hume and the baby is enrolled in the service.
Cost to Council of the MCH service	\$	\$3,353,969	\$3,365,725	
Hours worked by MCH nurses	Hours	38,738	41,955	The reduction of number of hours worked in 2022/23 reflects the unfilled maternity leave vacancies in the MCH area and unfilled back fill for annual leave, long service leave and sick leave. Figure for 2023/24 is similar to 2021/22 figure (44,306).
Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in a year)	Children	8,787	8,744	
Number of children enrolled in the MCH service	Children	13,322	13,533	
Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in a year)	Children	129	133	The positive increase is due to ongoing targeted work to increase engagement and service availability and reflective of increased Boorais birth notifications and the recruitment of an additional staff member for an Aboriginal Engagement role in 2021/22 in recognition of the needs of this vulnerable community.
Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service	Children	189	206	The positive increase is due to ongoing targeted work to increase engagement and service availability and reflective of increased Boorais birth notifications and the recruitment of an additional staff member for an Aboriginal Engagement role in 2021/22 in recognition of the needs of this vulnerable community.
Number of 4-week key age and stage visits	Visits	1,781	1,921	The positive increase is due to ongoing targeted work to increase Key Ages and Stages visit engagement and service availability and reflective of increased birth notifications. This result is greater than the number of birth notifications received due to circumstances where Hume City Council do not receive a birth notice, yet the baby is enrolled in the service following notification by domiciliary services and families contacting MCH to advise they have relocated to Hume.

LGPRF Six Monthly Data 2023/24 and Comparison to 2022/23

Service/Data element	Data Type	Q1 & Q2 2022/23	Q1 & Q2 2023/24	Q1 & Q2 Comments 2023/24
Roads				
Number of sealed local road requests	Requests	1,080	391	The figures for 2022/23 were skewed, due to the floods in October 2022, resulting in an unusually high figure, the results for 2023/24 are more in line with longer term trends. This measure is trending upwards, due to significant increases in traffic from newly developed areas and high levels of traffic being concentrated onto roads not designed for heavy traffic due major road upgrades around the municipality.
Kilometres of sealed local roads	Kilometres	1,428	1,439	
Number of kilometres of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council	Kilometres	1,410	1,421	
Direct cost of sealed local road reconstruction	\$	\$0	\$1,537,830	Due to the sequencing and timing of projects, no road reconstruction projects reached completion in the July 2022 – December 2022 period. All road reconstruction projects were still under construction during this period. Figures are only reported when projects reach completion. For comparison, figures for July 2021 December 2021 were \$2,384,409 and 35,400 square metres respectively.
Square metres of sealed local roads reconstructed	Square metres	0	7,040	Due to the sequencing and timing of projects, no road reconstruction projects reached completion in the July 2022 – December 2022 period. All road reconstruction projects were still under construction during this period. Figures are only reported when projects reach completion. For comparison, figures for July 2021 December 2021 were \$2,384,409 and 35,400 square metres respectively.
Direct cost of sealed local road resealing	\$	\$5,606,898	\$4,284,303	The decrease is due to a difference in the scheduling of spray seals between 22/23 and 23/24, with no local road spray seals having yet been done in Q1 and Q2 this year.
Square metres of sealed local roads resealed	Square metres	194,396	77,857	The decrease is due to no local road spray seals being completed to date compared to the previous year.
Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how Council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads	Rating	54	53	
Statutory Planning				
The median number of days between receipt of a planning application and a decision on the application	Days	162	119	The department was able to appoint staff into key vacancies allowing newer staff to focus on newer applications and more senior staff to focus on older more complex cases.
Number of planning application decisions made within 60 days for regular permits and 10 days for VicSmart permits	Decisions	207	219	Proportional improvement from 2022/23 of applications decided in desired timeframes (46% of standard apps and 30% of VicSmart in 22/23 versus 51% and 52% respectively in 23/24).
Number of planning application decisions made	Decisions	471	425	Volume of open decisions fell during the reporting period and the department focussed on older more complex cases often requiring additional time/effort.
Direct cost of the statutory planning service	\$	\$1,629,643	\$1,927,856	Salary increases inline with indexation expectations and filling vacancies within the department.
Number of planning applications received	Applications	444	472	Applications increasing as external conditions stabilise post-COVID and in line with increased demand for housing.
Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application	Decisions	0	1	Two orders were set aside the decisions of HCC whilst one order was issued with a variation to the HCC decision.
Number of VCAT Council decisions in relation to planning applications	Decisions	5	3	Three orders from VCAT were received during the reporting period based on hearings that had already occurred.
Waste Collection				
Number of kerbside garbage and recycling bin collection requests	Requests	11,133	N/A	Retired indicator
Number of kerbside bin collection households	Households	87,682	N/A	Retired indicator
Number of kerbside garbage and recycling collection bins missed	Bins	4,816	4,153	
Number of scheduled kerbside garbage and recycling collection bin lifts	Lifts	3,446,443	3,543,872	
Direct cost of the kerbside garbage bin collection service	\$	\$7,433,082	\$7,881,588	
Number of kerbside garbage collection bins	Bins	88,250	91,109	
Direct cost of the kerbside recyclables bin collection service	\$	\$2,845,355	\$3,598,766	The key contributor to the increase in costs was an 18.6% increase to the collection contract with JJ Richards who submitted a variation to the collection rates based on increased costs associated with vehicle repairs and maintenance, labour shortage crisis and growth of collections. Other contribution factors were changes to the rise and fall variation payments moving from annually to quarterly, growth in service and the correction of an underpayment (incorrect invoicing from contractor) from previous years.
Number of kerbside recyclables collection bins	Bins	89,056	91,555	
Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins	Tonnes	16,762	13,304	
Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins	Tonnes	43,685	41,444	

REPORT NO:	9.8
REPORT TITLE:	Election Caretaker Period Policy 2024
SOURCE:	Joel Kimber, Acting Manager Governance
DIVISION:	Finance & Governance
FILE NO:	HCC19/802
POLICY:	-
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	3.2: Deliver responsible and transparent governance, services and sustainable assets that respond to community needs
ATTACHMENT:	1. <i>Election Caretaker Period Policy 2024</i>

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 All Victorian Councils are required, under Section 69 of the Local Government Act 2020, to develop an Election Period Policy.
- 1.2 Previous policies for the 2016 and 2020 elections were endorsed by Council.
- 1.3 The *Election Caretaker Period Policy 2024* is presented for Council endorsement.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 2.1 **adopts the Election Caretaker Period Policy 2024 (Attachment 1).**
- 2.2 **replaces the Election Caretaker Period Policy 2020 with the Election Caretaker Period Policy 2024 in Council’s Governance Rules.**
- 2.3 **notes that training will occur with Councillors from June 2024 to provide further information on the policy.**

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS:

Local Government Act s69

4. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

As this policy is a review of the 2020 policy and there are only administrative changes being made, no community engagement will be undertaken.

5. DISCUSSION:

- 5.1 The Local Government Act 2020 states that a Council “must include an election period policy in its Governance Rules.”
- 5.2 An election period policy must:
 - 5.2.1 prohibit any Council decision during the election period for a general election that;
 - (a) relates to the appointment or remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer but not to the appointment or remuneration of an Acting Chief Executive Officer; or

REPORT NO: 9.8 (cont.)

- (b) commits the Council to expenditure exceeding one per cent of the Council's income from general rates, municipal charges and service rates and charges in the preceding financial year; or
 - (c) the Council considers could be reasonably deferred until the next Council is in place; or
 - (d) the Council considers should not be made during an election period.
- 5.2.2 prohibit any Council decision during the election period for a general election or a by-election that would enable the use of Council's resources in a way that is intended to influence, or is likely to influence, voting at the election.
- 5.3 A Council decision made in contravention of subsection (2)(a) or (b) is invalid.
- 5.4 Any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of acting in good faith on a Council decision that is invalid by virtue of subsection (4) is entitled to compensation from the Council for that loss or damage.
- 5.5 The *Election Caretaker Period Policy 2024* is an update on the previous policy, which was adopted before the 2020 election.
- 5.6 In keeping with previous practice, a communications plan will be drafted and training provided to guide and inform staff and Councillors of the requirements of the Local Government Act as included in this policy and to provide clear understanding of the parameters that the organisation must operate within during caretaker period.

6. CONCLUSION:

- 6.1 An election period policy is now essential under Section 69 of the Local Government Act 2020.
- 6.2 The attached *Election Caretaker Period Policy 2024* covers all requirements as stated under the Act.



ELECTION CARETAKER PERIOD POLICY 2024

Policy Reference No.	POL/163
File No.	HCC19/802
Strategic Objective	5.3 Provide responsible and transparent governance, services and infrastructure which responds to and supports community needs
Adopted by Council	29 March 2016
Re-Adopted Date for Review	28 October 2019 12 March 2028
Responsible Officer	Manager Governance
Department	Governance

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Hume City Council is committed to the principle of fair and democratic elections and will therefore adopt the practices within this policy and relevant legislative requirements as outlined in the Local Government Act 2020 (also referred to as ‘the Act’).

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 The Election Caretaker Period Policy 2024 has been developed to ensure that the general elections of Hume City Council to be held on Saturday 26 October 2024 are conducted in a manner that is ethical, fair and equitable and is publicly perceived as such.
- 2.2 This policy addresses the requirements as outlined in the Local Government Act 2020 in relation to the caretaker period and activities that are impacted during this time including decision-making, council resources public consultation and events, information and communications.
- 2.3 This policy also addresses the requirements as outlined in the Local Government Act 2020 in relation to Councillor conduct and misuse of position during the caretaker period.
- 2.4 In addition to this policy, Council reinforces the importance of adhering to these requirements through its Code of Conduct for Councillors, which is about adopting good governance and leadership practices when representing Council and in dealings with the community, Council staff and other Councillors.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to Councillors, the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Leadership Team, the Senior Leadership Team and all Council staff.

4. OBJECTIVE

- 4.1 The objective of this policy is to develop a clear understanding and agreement on procedures for Councillors and all staff in relation to the caretaker period.
- 4.2 The policy is in accordance with section 69 of the Local Government Act 2020 which states that a Council must include an election period policy in its Governance Rules.
- 4.3 Hume City Council has certain provisions in place before, during and after the election period (also known as the caretaker period) to ensure the orderly and proper conduct of the election process and to avoid actions and decisions that may be interpreted as influencing voters or binding an incoming Council.

5. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 The caretaker period commences 32 days before the election, when nominations close, and ends at 6pm on election day.
- 5.2 As such, the following policy actions must be complied with during the 2024 general election period, which will run from midnight on Tuesday 24 September 2024 to 6pm on Election Day, Saturday 26 October 2024.
- 5.3 Decision-making
- 5.3.1 As per the requirements of section 69(2) of the Local Government Act 2020, Council is prohibited from making any decisions during the election period for a general election that—
- a) relates to the appointment or remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer but not to the appointment or remuneration of an Acting Chief Executive Officer; or
 - b) commits the Council to expenditure exceeding one per cent of the Council's income from general rates, municipal charges and service rates and charges in the preceding financial year; or
 - c) the Council considers could be reasonably deferred until the next Council is in place; or
 - d) the Council considers should not be made during an election period.
- 5.3.2 As per the requirements of section 69(3) of the Local Government Act 2020, Council is prohibited from making any decisions during the election period for a general election or a by-election that would enable the use of Council's resources in a way that is intended to influence, or is likely to influence, voting at the election.
- 5.3.3 The Chief Executive Officer and Executive Leadership Team will assess all papers prepared for council or special committee meetings during the election period to ensure that no agenda item is included that could potentially influence voters' intentions at the forthcoming election or could encourage Councillor candidates to use the item as part of their electioneering.
- 5.3.4 Council will refrain from making major decisions such as (but not limited to) the allocation of community grants and other significant direct funding to community organisations, major planning scheme amendments and changes to strategic objectives and strategies in the council plan. Any other decision will be considered only if absolutely necessary for Council operational purposes or pursuant to a statutory requirement.
- 5.3.5 Council will not make any decisions during the election period that will be binding on an incoming Council save for decisions which are part of the normal operating function of Council which includes most statutory planning matters.
- 5.3.6 Applications and proceedings made and conducted under Division 7 of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2020, being Councillor Conduct

Panels and VCAT, must be suspended during the election period for a general election.

5.4 Misuse of Council resources

5.4.1 As per the requirements of section 304(1) of the Local Government Act 2020, a Councillor or member of Council staff must not use Council resources in a way that—

- a) is intended to; or
- b) is likely to—

affect the result of an election under this Act.

5.4.2 As per the requirements of section 304(2) of the Local Government Act 2020, a Councillor or member of Council staff must not use Council resources to intentionally or recklessly print, publish or distribute or cause, permit or authorise to be printed, published or distributed any electoral material during the election period on behalf of, or purporting to be on behalf of, the Council unless the electoral material only contains information about the election process or is otherwise required in accordance with, or under, any Act or regulation.

5.4.3 Council will ensure that Council resources are not used inappropriately during an election period in ways that may influence voting in an election or provide undue advantage for a candidate. In any circumstances where the use of Council resources might be construed as being related to a candidate’s election campaign, advice will be sought from the Chief Executive Officer.

5.4.4 Council Staff will not authorise, use or allocate a Council resource for any purpose that may influence voting in the election, except where it only relates to the election process and is authorised by the Chief Executive Officer.

5.4.5 Council resources, including office or meeting facilities, support staff, hospitality services, equipment, stationery, printing, photographs/graphics/videos and branding, will be used exclusively for normal Council business during the election period and will not be used in connection with any election campaign or in a manner that may be construed as supporting an election campaign.

5.4.6 No Council logos, letterheads or other expressions of Hume City Council’s brand (such as photographs/graphics, corporate colours, font and “H-symbol” key line) will be used for, or be linked in any way to, a candidate’s election campaign.

5.4.7 In any circumstances where the use of Council resources might be construed as being related to a candidate’s election campaign, advice will be sought from the Chief Executive Officer.

5.4.8 Reimbursements of Councillors’ out-of-pocket expenses during the election period will only apply to costs that have been incurred in performance of normal duties as a Councillor and not for expenses

that could be perceived as supporting or being connected with the election.

- 5.4.9 Equipment and facilities such as phones, laptops, facsimile machines, etc., provided to Councillors for the purpose of conducting normal Council business will not be used for campaigning purposes. Where it is impractical for Councillors to discontinue their use of these facilities during the election period, Councillors will reimburse Council for the usage of those services in accordance with Council’s Expenses Policy.
- 5.4.10 Council email addresses, facsimile numbers and telephone numbers will not be used as contact points in campaign material.
- 5.4.11 The Chief Executive Officer or any staff should not be asked to, or proactively undertake any tasks connected directly or indirectly with electioneering.

5.5 Misuse of position

In accordance with Sections 123 and 124 of the Act, being Misuse of position and Directing a member of Council staff respectively, a Councillor will not intentionally misuse or intentionally direct, or seek to direct, a member of Council staff. A breach of either section attracts serious penalties including possible imprisonment (refer to Attachment 1).

5.6 Public consultation

- 5.6.1 For the purposes of this section of the policy, public consultation means a process which involves inviting (formally or informally) individuals, groups, organisations, businesses or the community generally to provide comment or feedback on an issue, proposed action, policy, plan or strategy of Council.
- 5.6.2 Public consultations will not continue or commence during the Election Period.
- 5.6.3 Prior to the commencement of the Election Period, public consultation which is likely to become contentious or politically sensitive during the course of the Election Period should be postponed where possible and practicable until after the election has been completed.
- 5.6.4 Any public consultations continuing into or commencing from Saturday 1 August 2024 to the commencement of the Election Period at midnight Tuesday 24 September 2024, requires approval from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and should avoid contentious or politically sensitive issues. This would only be approved in exceptional circumstances.
- 5.6.5 Where public consultation has occurred prior to the Election Period but a report on the consultation has not yet proceeded to a Council meeting, results of the consultation will also not be provided to Council until the Election Period has concluded.
- 5.6.6 Consultation for Permit Applications under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 are exempt from this section of the Policy and can be conducted in accordance with statutory requirements.

5.7 Council events

- 5.7.1 It is preferable that no Council-run events and functions are held during the election period. If any are proposed to be held during the election period, they must have prior approval from the Chief Executive Officer and be considered essential to the operation of Council.
- 5.7.2 Public events and functions during the election period will only be organised and run by Council’s administration if they are part of Council’s normal business activities. Officers will avoid staging any functions, public events or the launch of publications during the election period. No election material or active campaigning, including within the context of speeches by Councillors, is to be conducted at Council run and sponsored events.
- 5.7.3 Councillors can attend events and functions hosted by either Council or external parties during the election period. The Mayor can officially welcome guests at Council organised events and functions, however the Mayor and Councillors cannot give official speeches during the election period. During this time the Chief Executive Officer or Director is to give the speech. The speech should not contain any comment that could be considered as Council pushing an election issue and must be approved by the Chief Executive Officer or Manager Strategic Communications and Advocacy. In addition, no copies of the speech are to be handed out to the community or media at the event.

5.8 Information

- 5.8.1 Council affirms that all candidates for the Council election will be treated equally in terms of assistance and advice relating to the conduct of the Council election. All election related enquiries will be directed to the Returning Officer or, where the matter is outside the responsibilities of the Returning Officer, to the Chief Executive Officer.
- 5.8.2 Information and briefing material prepared by Council staff for Councillors during the election period will relate only to factual matters, existing Council services, or information that would normally be available to the public. All such requests for information or action are to be issued through the Mayor and Councillor Support Officer who will keep a record of requests made and advice provided.
- 5.8.3 No information will be provided which relates to new policy development, new projects or matters that are the subject of public or election debate or might be perceived to be connected with a candidate’s election campaign.
- 5.8.4 All requests for information or action are to be issued through the offices of the responsible Council Director and the Mayor and Councillor Support Officer who will keep a record of requests made and advice provided. In the interests of ensuring equal access to all candidates, if information is sent to one candidate or Councillor, it should be sent to all.

5.9 Communications

5.9.1 Council will not print, publish or distribute or cause, permit or authorise to be printed published or distributed, any advertisement, handbill, pamphlet or notice during the election period unless it has been certified in writing by the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate.

5.9.2 The Chief Executive Officer or their delegate will not certify a publication in either electronic or hard copy format that contains electoral matter. This includes social media activities and online/digital communications. Electoral matter is defined broadly as any matter which is intended, or likely to affect voting in an election. It includes any material that refers to the election or candidates in the election or issues submitted to or otherwise before the voters in connection with the election. It excludes material produced for the purpose of conducting the election or informing the community about the election process.

6. DEFINITIONS

6.1 Election Caretaker Period – refers to the time in which the activities of Council and Councillors are restricted as outlined in this policy. The 2024 Election Caretaker Period will run from midnight on Tuesday 24 September to 6pm on Election Day, Saturday 26 October 2024.

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Local Government Act 2020

Hume City Council Code of Conduct for Councillors

Hume City Council Employee Code of Conduct

Social Media Guidelines

Use of Council’s Internet, Email and Electronic Communications Policy

8. ATTACHMENT ONE

Relevant sections of the Local Government Act 2020

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Local Government Act 2020
No. 9 of 2020

Part 3—Council decision making

-
- (4) Subject to complying with any requirements under any other Act, if a Council is unable to use an alternative manner, the Council must decide to establish a delegated committee to make the decision in regard to the matter consisting of—
- (a) all the Councillors who have not disclosed a conflict of interest in regard to the matter; and
 - (b) any other person or persons that the Council considers suitable.
- (5) Section 63(2) applies to a delegated committee established under subsection (4) to the extent possible after excluding all the Councillors who have disclosed a conflict of interest in regard to the matter.

68 Validity of proceedings

Proceedings of a Council or a delegated committee are not invalidated because of—

- (a) any vacancy in the number of Councillors or members; or
- (b) any defect in the election or appointment of a Councillor or member; or
- (c) a Councillor or member not being qualified or having ceased to be a Councillor or member; or
- (d) any failure to keep a Council meeting open to the public.

69 Governance Rules to include election period policy

- (1) A Council must include an election period policy in its Governance Rules.
- (2) An election period policy must prohibit any Council decision during the election period for a general election that—

Authorised by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel

81

Local Government Act 2020
No. 9 of 2020

Part 3—Council decision making

-
- (a) relates to the appointment or remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer but not to the appointment or remuneration of an Acting Chief Executive Officer; or
 - (b) commits the Council to expenditure exceeding one per cent of the Council's income from general rates, municipal charges and service rates and charges in the preceding financial year; or
 - (c) the Council considers could be reasonably deferred until the next Council is in place; or
 - (d) the Council considers should not be made during an election period.
- (3) An election period policy must prohibit any Council decision during the election period for a general election or a by-election that would enable the use of Council's resources in a way that is intended to influence, or is likely to influence, voting at the election.
- (4) A Council decision made in contravention of subsection (2)(a) or (b) is invalid.
- (5) Any person who suffers any loss or damage as a result of acting in good faith on a Council decision that is invalid by virtue of subsection (4) is entitled to compensation from the Council for that loss or damage.

Note

See section 59 in relation to a resolution of the Council.

70 Prohibition of Councillor discretionary funds

A Council must not adopt or implement a policy under which a Councillor is allocated a fixed or other amount of funds for the purpose of enabling the Councillor to nominate—

- (a) a particular person, body or organisation to whom the funds are to be paid; or

Authorised by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel

REPORT NO:	9.9
REPORT TITLE:	Monthly Capital Works Update
SOURCE:	Astrid Hartono, Manager Infrastructure Delivery
DIVISION:	Infrastructure & Assets
FILE NO:	-
POLICY:	-
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	3.2: Deliver responsible and transparent governance, services and sustainable assets that respond to community needs
ATTACHMENT:	1. <i>CONFIDENTIAL - Capital Project Awarding Risk and Tender Forecast Report</i>

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

1.1 This monthly report responds to Notice of Motion 23/021.

Provide any over budget costs for all capital works, and that these details are then presented at the next council open public meeting immediately after the cost increases have been confirmed and bearing in mind the agenda preparation lead times.

1.2 The report provides data from the month of January 2024.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 That Council receive and note the report.

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS:

3.1 Not applicable.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

4.1 Year to date \$74,652,263 has been spent on the 23/24 capital program.

4.2 This represents 61% of the allocated budget (\$122,131,138).

4.3 This is an increase of \$8,521,118 from last month.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

5.1 Environmental sustainability is considered in the planning and delivery of the capital works program.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONSIDERATIONS:

6.1 There are no impacts on climate change adaptation as a result of this report.

REPORT NO: 9.9 (cont.)

7. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS APPLICATION:

7.1 The charter has been reviewed in relation to this report and there are no issues to be considered in this regard.

8. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

8.1 Community consultation is undertaken on individual projects as appropriate.

9. DISCUSSION:

9.1 The table below provides the capital projects that have received finalised costing for construction (contract awarded) in the month of October. Projects highlighted as red have been awarded as over budget (including contingency), projects highlighted as green have been awarded within the available budget (including contingency).

9.2 Confidential Attachment 1 provides additional financial information and upcoming Tenders that can't be publicly disclosed until the projects are progressed.

Description	Budget (GST Excl.)	Under (green)/Over (red)
Supply & Resurface 12 Tennis Courts at Hume Tennis & Community Centre (multi-year budget)	\$727,645.00	
Broadmeadows Town Hall Level 2 Amenities	\$360,000.00	
Merrifield Sports Hub Design & Consultancy Services	\$18,200,002.00	
Principal Design Services - Jackson's Creek Community Centre, Sunbury South	\$10,760,149.00	
Quantity Surveying Services - Merrifield Sports Hub	\$18,200,002.00	
Principal Consultant Services - Lakeside Drive Reserve Pavilion Refurbishment	\$148,500	

9.3 There were no projects reaching completion this month.

10. CONCLUSION:

10.1 The delivery of the 2023/24 capital works program is progressing well with 61% of the programs value already expended. There are still significant cost pressures being faced across projects. These are both projects that are already under construction and facing cost increases and new projects as they are being tendered. Officers are working to minimise these wherever possible and manage across the overall Capital Program to balance cost increases and decrease

REPORT NO:	10.1
REPORT TITLE:	NOM24/08 - Cr Joseph Haweil
SOURCE:	Adam McSwain, Director Infrastructure and Assets Jeni Jackson, Coordinator Waste Response Joanne Grindrod, Senior Governance Officer
DIVISION:	Infrastructure & Assets
FILE NO:	HCC22/688

I hereby request that pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Code of Conduct for Councillors that the following motion be included in the Agenda of the next Council Meeting.

1. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes:

- 1. During its 2020-2024 term, Hume City Council has paid approximately \$48 million in Waste Levy fees to the Victorian State Government.**
- 2. The Municipal and Industrial Landfill Levy Trust now contains \$456.8 million (page 147, 2023-24 Service Delivery Budget Paper No 3 refers) in funds and continues to be severely underutilised as a means to fund and support Councils to manage landfills and waste more broadly.**
- 3. Most recently Council has been required to pay a further \$6.8 million in levy costs to import fill to the Sunbury Landfill to act as intermediate cover for the site and assist with the first stages of site remediation.**
- 4. While there is an exemption to the Levy for fill imported for a final cap, there is no such exemption for daily or intermediate cover.**

And writes to the Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP, Minister for the Environment and Mr Josh Bull MP, State Member for Sunbury:

- 1. Expressing Council's view that the \$456.8 million in funding in the 'Municipal and Industrial Landfill Levy Trust' should be more actively utilised to support Councils to manage landfills, reduce dumped rubbish and to implement the Recycling Victoria Policy.**
- 2. Seeking the granting of an exemption to Hume City Council in relation to the payment of \$6.8 million in Waste Levy fees relating to the import of fill to the Sunbury Landfill to act as intermediate cover for the site and assist with the first stages of site remediation.**
- 3. Requesting an explanation of the rationale for the application of the Levy to fill imported to a landfill that serves as 'daily cover' and 'intermediate cover' given this is utilised to manage the site and is not municipal or industrial waste.**
- 4. Advocating for an amendment to the Waste Levy guidelines to establish an exemption to be applied to the existing requirements highlighted in point 3 above.**

REPORT NO: 10.1 (cont.)

2. OFFICER COMMENTS

The Landfill Levy has increased significantly over recent years and these costs have led to increases in Councils budget and increases in the costs to our community. As Council has both active (noting a decision has been made to cease the operation of the Sunbury Landfill) and closed landfills these increases in costs impact Hume in a number of ways.

The Municipal and Industrial Landfill Levy Trust has significant funding within it and any increased availability of that funding to support Councils to manage waste, comply with the Recycling Victoria Policy and to tackle dumped rubbish would be of great benefit.

REPORT NO:	10.2
REPORT TITLE:	NOM24/09 - Cr Joseph Haweil
SOURCE:	Kristen Cherry, Manager City Life David Henry, Team Leader Arts and Cultural Development
DIVISION:	City Services & Living
FILE NO:	HCC22/688

I hereby request that pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Code of Conduct for Councillors that the following motion be included in the Agenda of the next Council Meeting.

Background Information:

For nearly 60 years, Melbourne Youth Orchestras (MYO) has been Victoria's leading provider of ensemble music education for young people aged 8 to 25 years of age.

The program is open to students across Victoria and has provided performance and training opportunities for Hume musicians, including most recently students at Hume Central Secondary College.

In addition to this, for the past 14 years, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra (MSO) has run a separate, complementary program of music tuition specifically for young people in Hume called the Pizzicato Effect.

This program has provided music tuition free-of-charge for approximately 60 Hume students each year.

In 2023, the State Government funding allocated to both of these programs was removed. The Melbourne Youth Orchestra's \$200,000 grant was discontinued, and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra discontinued funding to the Pizzicato Effect entirely.

It is recognised that the MSO have established a new program in place of the Pizzicato Effect, called 'Jams in Schools'. This program seeks to reach more students across Victoria, engaging them in interactive performance sessions, however it will no longer offer dedicated music tuition programs, leaving a significant gap in creative pathways for young people in Hume.

A group of community volunteers and parents are working to continue some version of the Pizzicato Effect in Hume; however they have no public funding confirmed at this stage.

The impact of losing funding for dedicated youth orchestras, and dedicated tuition programs such as the Pizzicato Effect, means that young musicians in Hume lose access to important pathways to further their education and pursue creative development.

1. RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council notes:

- a. In its Creative Community Strategy 2020-2025 Hume City Council aspires to be a natural home for creative practitioners, and to support pathways to careers in the arts, particularly for people who face barriers to participation.**

REPORT NO: 10.2 (cont.)

- b. The classical music programs, previously funded by the State Government, have provided essential pathways for aspiring musicians from Hume, especially those from disadvantaged and vulnerable backgrounds.
 - c. The Victorian Government's decision in December to discontinue \$200,000 in funding for Melbourne Youth Orchestras limits both the opportunity for young people to participate in targeted musical education, it also limits pathways for disadvantaged young people to pursue careers in music and performance.
 - d. Likewise, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's decision to defund the Pizzicato Effect will impact negatively on local creative development and opportunity.
 - e. Without publicly-funded classical music programs, like Melbourne Youth Orchestras and Pizzicato Effect, aspiring musicians from Hume whose families are not in a position to pay for private tuition face greater challenges in pursuing their musical education.
2. Directs officers to write to the Minister for the Creative Industries, the State Members for Broadmeadows, Greenvale, Kalkallo and Sunbury and the CEO of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra to:
- a. highlight the importance of both programs for Hume community.
 - b. call on the Victorian Government to reinstate the \$200,000 of funding recently removed from Melbourne Youth Orchestras.
 - c. advocate for funding and support for the Pizzicato Effect to be reinstated in Hume given its immense proven benefit to Hume, and Broadmeadows students in particular.

2. OFFICER COMMENTS

Council has received correspondence from multiple community representatives regarding the significant impact that the funding loss has had on the Pizzicato Effect.

Officers will prepare a letter to the Minister for the Creative Industries, the State Members for Broadmeadows, Greenvale, Kalkallo and Sunbury and the CEO of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, as outlined above, highlighting the importance of these programs.

REPORT NO: 10.3
REPORT TITLE: NOM24/10 - Cr Jim Overend
SOURCE: Adam McSwain, Director Infrastructure and Assets
Jeni Jackson, Coordinator Waste Response
DIVISION: Infrastructure & Assets
FILE NO: HCC22/688

I hereby request that pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Code of Conduct for Councillors that the following motion be included in the Agenda of the next Council Meeting.

1. RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council:

1. Notes its ongoing concern and frustration at the continued proliferation of industrial volumes of dumped rubbish at the Mt Ridley Road water filling station (opposite Highview Place, Craigieburn).
2. Recalls the numerous occasions it has written to relevant authorities requesting the area be cleaned and permanently fenced off (most recent correspondence in June 2023 from former Mayor Haweil).
3. Writes to the Minister for Roads and Road Safety and relevant officials in the Department of Transport and Planning to stress again the need to urgently implement a permanent solution to address this issue.

2. OFFICER COMMENTS

The Mt Ridley Road water filling station site is frequently used as a site for dumped rubbish. Councillors and Council Officers have written to the relevant Minister and Department multiple times on this matter and while this has led to the site being cleaned occasionally no permanent solution has been put in place and the site currently has significant amounts of dumped rubbish located on it. A further letter to the Minister about this issue was sent by the Mayor on 4 March 2024.

REPORT NO: 10.3 (cont.)

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REPORT NO:	10.4
REPORT TITLE:	NOM24/11 - Cr Sam Misho
SOURCE:	Fadi Srour, Chief Financial Officer Joanne Grindrod, Senior Governance Officer
DIVISION:	Finance & Governance
FILE NO:	HCC22/688

I hereby request that pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Code of Conduct for Councillors that the following motion be included in the Agenda of the next Council Meeting.

Australia is currently facing high inflation which is making it hard for our community and everyday Australian families to make ends meet.

The fuel excise is a flat sales tax levied by the Australian Federal Government on petrol and diesel and from 5 February 2024 the rate has increased from 48.8 cents per litre to 49.6 cents per litre for every litre of fuel purchased.

While 0.8 cents is by no means a dramatic rise, the latest increase will mean close to \$40 in total excise costs per tank for a large SUV with an 80-litre fuel tank.

Australian motorists will pay \$67.6 billion over the next four years (2023-24 to 2026-27), as forecasted in the October 2023 Federal budget. For a typical household, this year's fuel excise bill will be over \$1,000. For Hume City Council, it is estimated that we pay approximately \$500k per annum in fuel excise to support our fleet of vehicles to provide essential services such as rubbish collection.

In 2022 the coalition government temporarily halved the fuel excise, providing a 24.2 cent per litre (GST inclusive) cut to petrol over a period of six months as part of their pre-election cost of living package. We call on the Australian Government to reduce the excise to better support our community.

1. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council writes to the Australian Federal Government seeking a 50% reduction in the fuel excise tax.

2. OFFICER COMMENTS

Officers agree that a reduction in the fuel excise will save motorists money on what is an essential item for a lot of people.

Officers will prepare a letter to the appropriate Federal Minister to advocate for a reduction in the fuel excise.