

**Report to the Special Future Melbourne Committee****Agenda item 3.1****Consideration of public feedback and matters arising on the draft Annual Plan and draft Budget 2023–24****20 June 2023****Presenter:** Alison Leighton, Acting Chief Executive Officer**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the public feedback received in response to the draft Annual Plan and draft Budget 2023–24.
2. The draft Annual Plan and draft Budget 2023–24 were approved by the Future Melbourne Committee on 16 May 2023, for public display and comment, consistent with Council's Community Engagement Policy.
3. The draft Annual Plan and draft Budget 2023–24 were promoted through Council's corporate media channels and the documents made available to the public in hard copy and through the Participate Melbourne website.
4. The public feedback period ran from 16 May to 8 June. The public had the opportunity to submit feedback through Participate Melbourne and via email.

**Key issues**

5. The draft Annual Plan and draft Budget 2023–24 are the result of many months of preparation including detailed officer planning and review, and consideration by Councillors.
6. A key input to the development of the draft Annual Plan and draft Budget 2023–24 was drawing upon recent community feedback through the Neighbourhood Model. In 2021, Council commenced work on a [Neighbourhood Model](#) to strengthen how the understanding of the strengths, needs and priorities of people across the municipality and use this knowledge to guide Council's work and investment. Over the last 18 months Council consulted with more than 7,000 people, including residents, businesses, students and visitors, to understand their priorities, reaching a representative population in each neighbourhood, with 82 per cent of participants engaging with Council for the first time.
7. Through this process, Council identified up to 27 priorities across each of the 10 neighbourhoods, with the most common themes relating to improving safety and amenity across the city and supporting wellbeing, addressing the impacts of climate change and protecting open spaces and supporting small businesses, among others. These community priorities have been a key input into the annual planning and budget process for 2023–24. Council is already delivering significant work on 80 per cent of community identified priorities, with work commencing or planned for the remaining areas.
8. This is reflected in the draft Budget 2023–24, committing \$60.9 million to make the city cleaner, safer and fairer, \$51.5 million investment for a greener, more sustainable city, and \$12.1 million to help boost the economy and make it easier to do business. Council's commitment to delivering on these priorities is also reflected in the Neighbourhood Statements in the draft Annual Plan, which provide information on the services, capital works and investments in each neighbourhood.
9. This approach has strengthened Council's ability to embed community priorities through the development of the draft budget and annual plan activities. This is complemented by community engagement and enables the delivery of a budget and annual plan aligned to community expectations.
10. At the conclusion of the public feedback period a total of 108 submissions were made, comprising:
  - 10.1. 17 responses on the draft Annual Plan
  - 10.2. 91 responses on the draft Budget.
11. A summary of the individual feedback, management's advice to Councillors on the submission and a proposed response from Council are provided in Attachment 2. The summary document separates the responses to the draft Annual Plan from those to the draft Budget.

12. Submissions on two main areas for the draft Budget – Docklands Neighbourhood House (34 submissions) and Busking Permit Fees (19 submissions) – have also been separated at the end of Attachment 2. Management's advice to Councillors and the proposed responses to submitters are the same for each of these two topics, except where a submitter has raised another matter.
13. Submitters indicating that they wish to address the Special Future Melbourne Committee on their submissions comprises:
  - 13.1. draft Annual Plan (3 in person, 4 via Zoom)
  - 13.2. draft Budget (24 in person, 12 via Zoom).

#### **Recommendation from management**

14. That the Future Melbourne Committee, after having considered all written submissions in response to the draft Annual Plan and draft Budget 2023–24 and having heard from anyone wishing to be heard in support of their feedback, recommends that Council:
  - 14.1. Adopts the Annual Plan 2023–24.
  - 14.2. Adopts the Budget 2023–24 incorporating recommended changes outlined in Attachment 5 of the report from management.
  - 14.3. Advises each of the members of the public who provided feedback on the Council's decision in relation to these matters and the reasons for the decision.

#### **Attachments:**

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 3 of 237)
2. Summary of feedback, management advice to Councillors and proposed response to submitters on the draft Annual Plan and draft Budget 2023–24 (Page 4 of 237)
3. Public feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2023–24 (Page 69 of 237)
4. Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24 (Page 94 of 237)
5. Recommended Budget changes (Page 236 of 237)

## Supporting Attachment

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### Legal

1. The process detailed in the report accords with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

### Finance

2. There are no direct financial implications for Council in the hearing of submissions on the draft Annual Plan and draft Budget. The costs associated with the community engagement process are captured within existing budgets.
3. Final adoption and delivery of the draft Annual Plan and draft Budget 2023–24 on 27 June 2023 does require budget considerations contained in this report.

### Conflict of interest

4. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

### Health and Safety

5. In developing this proposal, no occupational health and safety issues or opportunities have been identified.

### Stakeholder consultation

6. The draft Annual Plan and draft Budget 2023–24 were developed in accordance with the Act.
7. From 16 May to 8 June 2023, the public were invited to provide feedback on the draft Annual Plan and draft Budget 2023–24.

### Relation to Council policy

8. The draft Annual Plan and draft Budget 2023–24 will enable the delivery of a wide range of Council policies and strategies.

### Environmental sustainability

9. Environmental sustainability issues and opportunities have been considered in the development of the draft Annual Plan and draft Budget 2023–24. The Climate and Biodiversity Emergency is one of six strategic objectives that underpin Council's strategic direction over the Council Plan term, and commit the Council to urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and waste in order to strengthen public health, strengthen the economy and create a city that mitigates and adapts to climate change.

### Summary of feedback, management advice to Councillors and proposed response to submitters the draft Annual Plan 2023–24

#	Name	Request to speak	Summary of feedback	Management advice to Councillors	Proposed Council response to submitter
1	[REDACTED]	No	<p>Support for the Graffiti Management Plan</p> <p>The Annual Plan over emphasises Aboriginal Melbourne and should be about all Melbournians and not defined by race.</p>	<p>We've allocated \$2.4 million to graffiti management and prevention in the next financial year, which is crucial to maintaining a clean city.</p> <p>Council is also continuing our Clean City Auditors Program which means quicker response times for cleaning and graffiti removal so our city is well presented during busy periods.</p> <p>Council has expressed a public commitment through the Council Plan, adopted at the commencement of the term. The Council Plan articulates five main priorities relating to Aboriginal Melbourne.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Council has adopted a Declaration of Recognition and Commitment together with a Reconciliation Action Plan that articulates areas of priorities for Council.</li> <li>· The Council Plan and Reconciliation Action Plan included public engagement in which strong support was received.</li> <li>· The Annual Plan and Budget articulate Council's continued commitment and implementation of these public commitments.</li> <li>· Recent public engagement undertaken by the City of Melbourne on projects such as Greenline, highlight expectations from the community that Traditional Owner history, culture and knowledge should be embedded components in Melbourne's identity.</li> <li>· The City of Melbourne includes approximately 800 Aboriginal residents, as a municipality we also are home to over 100 Aboriginal businesses and welcome an even greater number of Aboriginal people who come to our municipality everyday. Additionally as a capital city we have</li> </ul>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking time to provide a submission on City of Melbourne's draft Budget and 2023–24 and Annual Plan.</p> <p>We're pleased to hear that you're supportive of our graffiti prevention plan, particularly our student education program. We've allocated \$2.4 million to graffiti management and prevention in the next financial year, which is crucial to maintaining a clean city.</p> <p>Council is also continuing our Clean City Auditors Program which means quicker response times for cleaning and graffiti removal so our city is well presented during busy periods.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne has a public commitment to the Aboriginal community, expressed within the Council Plan 2021-25, which Council adopted at the beginning of its term. The Plan articulates five main priorities relating to Aboriginal Melbourne.</p> <p>City of Melbourne has also adopted a Declaration of Recognition and Commitment to Aboriginal Peoples and a Reconciliation Action Plan, where we have identified priority areas to address disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal peoples.</p> <p>There has been strong support for policies during community engagement, from people of all backgrounds who live, work, and visit the City of Melbourne.</p> <p>To honour our public commitments, not just to our Aboriginal community, but to everyone who expressed their support, our draft Budget 2023–24 and Annual</p>

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				<p>places of Aboriginal cultural and historical importance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We know that on balance, our residents, businesses and visitors (including international visitors) are seeking to learn more about Aboriginal history and culture.</li> </ul>	<p>Plan outlines how we plan to tangibly implement these commitments throughout the next financial year.</p> <p>There is an overwhelming sentiment in our community that Aboriginal history and cultures should sit at the centre of our city's identity.</p> <p>Recent community engagement on the Greenline Project revealed our community's expectation that we work closely with Traditional Owners to ensure the project reflects Aboriginal history and knowledge.</p> <p>We are proud to have approximately 800 Aboriginal residents in the City of Melbourne, more than 100 Aboriginal businesses, and an even greater number of Aboriginal people who come to the city to work, study and visit.</p> <p>We work hard to make our city a place where everyone feels safe, supported and valued, and we invite you to join us in creating a more inclusive community.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
2		In person	Better connectivity needed for Docklands from West Melbourne and North Melbourne	A pedestrian bridge over the railway line and other State Government land from North and West Melbourne to Docklands is not currently in work plans. However, in the long-term visioning for that area Council has contemplated potential renewal of the land, often referred to as E-Gate (south west of the rail line). Should the land be redeveloped for mixed uses, an opportunity to connect it to both West Melbourne and Docklands has been identified, which would achieve this goal. This would only be achievable when the E-Gate land becomes surplus to current state government requirements, however Council does not this authority and continues to monitor state government decisions.	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Annual Plan 2023–24.</p> <p>A pedestrian bridge over the railway line and other Victorian Government land from North and West Melbourne to Docklands is not included as part of our 2023-24 program of capital works.</p> <p>As development continues in these areas, we recognise that improving these connections, and creating new ones, will be increasingly important.</p> <p>New walkable routes between North and West Melbourne to Docklands are included as</p>

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					<p>recommendations in our West Melbourne Structure Plan (Planning Scheme Amendment C385).</p> <p>Our structure plan recommends partnering with the Victorian Government to develop high quality and feasible options to connect West Melbourne with Docklands via pedestrian and cycling bridges.</p> <p>As part of our long-term vision for that area we will consider the potential renewal of the land south west of the rail line, often referred to as E-Gate.</p> <p>Should the land be redeveloped for mixed uses, an opportunity to connect it to both West Melbourne and Docklands has been identified, which would achieve your desired outcome.</p> <p>This would only be achievable when the E-Gate land becomes surplus to current Victorian Government requirements, however, Council does not have any control over that decision.</p> <p>We thank you for your suggestion and will continue to look at ways we can partner with the Victorian Government to make the city more accessible and walkable and to continue to explore ways to activate Docklands.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
3	[REDACTED]	No	Electrify buses and provide electric infrastructure including solar panels on bus stops	The City of Melbourne's Transport Strategy 2030 supports all modes of transport, including the transition of the entire public transport system to clean, renewable electric power. All public transport in Melbourne, including buses, is managed by the Victorian Government, not by the City of Melbourne. Management has advocated, via the Lord Mayor, for bus routes in the central city to be a high priority for early deployment of clean electric buses given the higher concentration of people in	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Annual Plan 2023–24.</p> <p>Council's Transport Strategy 2030 supports the transition of public transport, to renewable electricity.</p> <p>All public transport in Melbourne, including buses, is managed by the Victorian Government.</p>

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				the central city and the benefits to health of reducing diesel emissions. We will continue to work with the Victorian Government on this.	<p>Council has advocated for electric buses to be prioritised on bus routes in the central city, to improve the environmental and health impacts of diesel fuel emissions. We will continue to work with the Victorian Government on this.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
4		No	I strongly support prioritising walking and cycling in city of Melbourne.	The City of Melbourne Transport Strategy 2030 strongly supports walking, riding, public transport, and making the city more accessible for all modes of transport. One of the major initiatives in the draft budget is to continue to deliver the network of protected bike lanes. The draft budget allocates \$4million cycle infrastructure for the year to 30 June 2024 and \$500,000 for pedestrian safety initiatives. Many of the capital works projects, including streetscape upgrades, involve improving walking facilities.	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget and Annual Plan 2023–24.</p> <p>Council's Transport Strategy 2030 supports all modes of transport, and encourages active transport modes like walking, bike and scooter riding, and public transport.</p> <p>Our draft Budget 2023–24 includes \$4 million funding for cycle infrastructure and \$500,000 for pedestrian safety initiatives.</p> <p>Many of our capital works projects, including streetscape upgrades, are designed to make streets safer and improve pedestrian access.</p> <p>We've slowed traffic to 20km/h in Flinders Lane, Little Collins, Little Bourke and Little Lonsdale Streets to make it easier for all forms of transport to move around the city and have created more space for pedestrians by transforming some on-street car parks.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
5		No	Street performers should regulate themselves and should not be required to audition.	Council is considering the re-introduction of busking fees from 1 July 2023 after a long period of free permits. Busking permit fees have been waived since October 2020 as a response to the pandemic	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for your submission requesting Council to reconsider the proposed increase in busking fees and the introduction of a \$207 busking application fee for</p>

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				<p>to support the economic recovery of the city and Melbourne's creative community.</p> <p>General area buskers are not required to audition to obtain a permit. The process for applying is simple and automated by applying on-line and watching an educational video about busking in Melbourne.</p> <p>The proposed application fee (\$207) only applies to buskers applying for premium permits requiring an assessment which involves an audition in front of a panel and administrative tasks associated with this. The new application fee does not apply for renewing a premium busking permit, however the fee for re-auditioning is required after more than 3 years has elapsed since the original assessment took place. Existing premium permit holders need only apply every 3 years for a premium busking permit to ensure we have a diverse mix of quality performers in high profile areas such as the Bourke Street Mall.</p> <p>The new proposed application fee for circle acts with dangerous goods (\$207) is designed for 'new' circle act applicants (using dangerous goods) who are required to undertake a risk and safety assessment. The fee does not apply to Circle Act performers who are not using dangerous goods or for renewing a Circle Act permit (with dangerous goods). The fee partially covers the administration cost of undertaking the risk and safety assessment which Council currently funds. Circle acts with dangerous goods have an elevated risk to public safety and an assessment to ensure the act is safe is required. Street Performance Australia Ltd (SPA) administers the assessment process on behalf of Council in order to minimize the public safety risks of street performance acts through an accredited peer assessment process, and to limit the City of</p>	<p>Street Entertainment, Premium Permit and Circle Act Assessments with Dangerous Goods.</p> <p>City of Melbourne is proud of its reputation in supporting a vibrant street culture and values the diversity of entertainment buskers bring to the public. We are also committed to providing an accessible and affordable permit system for the busking and street entertainment community.</p> <p>On this basis Council has decided that busking fees will not be increased in the proposed Council Budget for 2023-2024, when busking fees are re-introduced on 1 July 2023 (after the fee waiver period has come to an end). The proposed \$207 busking application fee for Street Entertainment, Premium Permit and Circle Act Assessments with Dangerous Goods will also not be introduced at this time.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>



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				<p>Melbourne's exposure to public liability. Street Performance Australia Ltd charges the City of Melbourne administrative costs and assessment fees of \$300 per standard 2 hour assessment which applies for assessing a performance.</p> <p>Existing circle act performers with dangerous goods (current permit holders) only need to apply every 5 years to undertake a risk and safety assessment to ensure risk and safety of the act is still acceptable. The application fee does not apply to Circle act performers without dangerous goods.</p> <p>City of Melbourne busking permit fees have been traditionally low in comparison to other Councils that charge fees. The general permit fee for busking proposed at \$50 per annum (\$20 increase) is comparable and in most cases lower than other municipal districts and capital cities. The fee covers busking in public areas for 365 days per year which equates to less than \$1 a week. As a comparison, for a busking permit the City of Yarra charges \$15.50 per month, City of Sydney charges \$47 for 12 months, and the City of Port Phillip require \$55 for 6 months. The City of Stonnington charges \$27 for 6 months for a busking permit. The City of Sydney charges \$115 assessment fee for high impact acts and is not just limited to circle acts with dangerous goods</p>	
6		No	<p>Summary (see separate Attachment for long submissions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Street Cleaning - gas blowers should be phased out</li> <li>· Cycling routes need better connections and gaps filled.</li> </ul>	<p>The City of Melbourne's Transport Strategy 2030 is the overarching document that guides transport policy across the municipality. The Strategy focuses on making our streets safer and more efficient for all road users through the reallocation of space to pedestrians, cyclists and other sustainable transport modes. It also seeks to reduce the number of vehicles travelling to and through the municipality, reducing regulatory speed limits on all roads in City of Melbourne and supporting</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Annual Plan 2023–24.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne works closely with our service partners on leaf fall, particularly throughout the busy months of autumn and winter, and we note your feedback.</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Educate delivery riders on road rules</li> <li>· Pedestrian safety - work out the worst intersections and improve them.</li> <li>· Inner-urban street congestion needs improvement, get rid of large cars that aren't needed in these areas and look at reduced speed limits.</li> <li>· Rough sleepers - encourage retrofit of buildings for safe boarding houses, hand out support kits.</li> <li>· Advocate for better police presence in Carlton.</li> <li>· Small creative businesses in CBD need fixing. e.g. small office leases with a certainty of tenure</li> <li>· Digital grants given should be used for local products not multinationals</li> </ul>	<p>sustainable transport modes in order to address traffic congestion and future growth of the city.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne does not condone unsafe or illegal behaviour from any road user. Some of the issues raised will be forwarded to Victoria Police and Department of Transport &amp; Planning for their action.</p> <p>Parklets are under ongoing review with regard to use and also functionality. City of Melbourne is working on design standards for some parklets being considered for permanent status</p> <p>City of Melbourne is concerned about the number of people sleeping rough in our City. Homelessness is a complex and sensitive issue.</p> <p>The Victorian State Government is responsible for funding the necessary services to end homelessness, while we act as a coordination hub that provides grants, research and information.</p> <p>In early 2022, we created a special entity of the City of Melbourne, Homes Melbourne. The aim of Homes Melbourne is to bring homelessness and policy experts together to innovate, advocate and collaborate with partners across the housing sector.</p> <p>One way we are aiming to address homelessness in the city is our Make Room project. We are currently converting a Council-owned building into secure, safe and supported accommodation for people experiencing homelessness and sleeping rough. This will provide 50 studio apartments alongside living areas and wraparound support services for residents.</p> <p>We also work closely with Salvation Army and Launch Housing to connect people sleeping rough</p>	<p>Council has a range of measures, including lowering speed limits, to make our city streets safer for all road users – pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. We are committed to delivering more protected bike lanes and these plans are set out in our Transport Strategy 2030 which seeks to make it easier for traffic to move about our municipality.</p> <p>More than 20km of protected bike lanes have been rolled out across the municipality, resulting in a 22 per cent increase in usage.</p> <p>We work closely with Victoria Police on crime prevention and identifying offenders through the Safe City Camera Program.</p> <p>We agree, homelessness is a sensitive and complex issue. Like you, the City of Melbourne is concerned about the number of people sleeping rough in our city.</p> <p>The Victorian Government is responsible for funding the necessary services to end homelessness, while we act as a coordination hub that provides grants, research and information.</p> <p>In early 2022, we created a special entity called Homes Melbourne. The aim of Homes Melbourne is to bring homelessness and policy experts together to innovate, advocate and collaborate with partners across the housing sector.</p> <p>One way we are aiming to address homelessness in the city is through our Make Room project. We are currently converting a Council-owned building into secure, safe and supported accommodation for people experiencing homelessness and sleeping rough. This will provide 50 studio apartments alongside living areas and wraparound support services for residents. You can read more about this project here:</p>

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				<p>with the support they need. The Salvation Army does provide blankets, clothing and food to those currently sleeping rough.</p> <p>In addition to this, we have a Daily Support Team which is an assertive outreach team that helps refer people sleeping rough to support services. This program is a partnership between Launch Housing and the City of Melbourne. This in-house assertive outreach team was the first of its kind in Victoria which started in 2017.</p> <p>While we do not have a policy on the public handing money to those asking for help while sleeping rough, there are a number of other ways the community can support those experiencing homelessness. To see how you can help, you can visit our website here:  <a href="http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/homes-melbourne/ending-homelessness/Pages/how-you-can-help.aspx">www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/homes-melbourne/ending-homelessness/Pages/how-you-can-help.aspx</a></p> <p>The way we work across the city has certainly changed in the past few years. We're embracing this new rhythm while supporting residents, businesses and city workers to enjoy all the city has to offer.</p> <p>While City of Melbourne doesn't manage co-working spaces, we recognise their value in encouraging collaboration and connection and as an attractive option for parts of our diverse working population. This style of working may not suit everyone, but as an example, start-ups are key users of co-working spaces. At last count, LaunchVic reported there's now more than 3,000 start-ups across the state creating 52,000 jobs, putting Melbourne's early-stage ecosystem at more</p>	<p><a href="http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/homes-melbourne/Pages/make-room.aspx">www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/homes-melbourne/Pages/make-room.aspx</a>.</p> <p>We also work closely with the Salvation Army and Launch Housing to connect people sleeping rough with the support they need. The Salvation Army provides blankets, clothing and food to those currently sleeping rough.</p> <p>In addition to this, we have a Daily Support Team which is an assertive outreach team that helps refer people sleeping rough to support services. This program is a partnership between Launch Housing and the City of Melbourne. This in-house assertive outreach team was the first of its kind in Victoria which started in 2017.</p> <p>Finally, parklets are under ongoing review with regard to use and functionality. City of Melbourne is working on design standards for some parklets being considered for permanent status.</p> <p>The way we work across the city has certainly changed in the past few years. We're embracing this new rhythm while supporting residents, businesses and city workers to enjoy all the city has to offer.</p> <p>While City of Melbourne doesn't manage co-working spaces, we recognise their value in encouraging collaboration and connection and as an attractive option for parts of our diverse working population. This style of working may not suit everyone, but as an example, start-ups are key users of co-working spaces. At last count, LaunchVic reported there's now more than 3,000 start-ups across the state creating 52,000 jobs, putting Melbourne's early-stage ecosystem at more than \$23 billion. That's 10 times bigger than it was 5 years ago. You can read more about coworking spaces in the city here:</p>

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				<p>than \$23 billion. That's 10 times bigger than it was 5 years ago.</p> <p>We recently opened expressions of interest for creative organisations to work in our new Collins Street Studios later this year. This is an exciting opportunity, delivered with the Victorian Government, to support our creative sector – by offering spaces at below-market rate. Like a lot of shared spaces, to remain affordable and sustainable, a building will not have lights and air-conditioning running 24/7, but we are considering this feedback ahead of the first tenants moving in later this year.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/business/start-a-business/Pages/co-working-spaces-in-melbourne.aspx">https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/business/start-a-business/Pages/co-working-spaces-in-melbourne.aspx</a></p> <p>We recently opened expressions of interest for creative organisations to work in our new Collins Street Studios later this year. This is an exciting opportunity, delivered with the Victorian Government, to support our creative sector – by offering spaces at below-market rate. Like a lot of shared spaces, to remain affordable and sustainable, a building will not have lights and air-conditioning running 24/7, but we are considering this feedback ahead of the first tenants moving in later this year.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
7	[REDACTED]	Zoom	<p>We live on Gatehouse St, Parkville and love the wildflower meadows at Royal Park. This is an important initiative.</p>	<p>Council is committed to improving biodiversity through several programs and activities including the implementation of wildflower meadows in Royal Park. Habitat improvement works will continue in Royal Park in 23/24.</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Annual Plan 2023–24. We're pleased to hear you love the Indigenous wildflower meadows in Royal Park.</p> <p>Council is committed to improving biodiversity through several programs and activities including the wildflower meadows.</p> <p>Habitat improvement works will continue in Royal Park in 2023-24.</p> <p>The wildflower meadows are another way the city is taking action in response to the climate and biodiversity emergency.</p> <p>Understorey plants – or those that grow low on the ground beneath trees – play an important role in supporting biodiversity and attracting insects and native birds.</p>

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					<p>Indigenous planting supports healthy ecosystems within our parks and gardens, and helps make our city more resilient to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>The initiative is part of our 10-year Nature in the City Strategy to support diverse, resilient, and healthy ecosystems that improve the environment and wellbeing of our community, providing the foundation for a liveable city.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
8	[REDACTED]	In person	<p>Suggestions on better ways to incorporate infrastructure products that meet the council's sustainability and climate change goals.</p>	<p>Traffic management measures such as bike lanes, pedestrian facilities and traffic lane delineation are designed in accordance with the relevant Australian and State Government standards and also the City of Melbourne (CoM) Design &amp; Construction Guidelines (Design and Construction Standards - City of Melbourne (<a href="http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/building-and-development/standards-specifications/Pages/design-standards.aspx">www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/building-and-development/standards-specifications/Pages/design-standards.aspx</a>)).</p> <p>Selection of the products used for these projects takes into account the above documents and are purchased in line with existing contractual arrangements and CoM's Sustainable Procurement Framework.</p> <p>The Procurement Policy details City of Melbourne's three sustainable procurement pillars, Environment, Social and Governance and the associated priorities</p> <p>The seven priorities are:</p> <p>ENVIRONMENTAL - Biodiversity and climate resilience</p> <p>ENVIRONMENTAL - Reduce Carbon</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to prepare a considered submission on City of Melbourne's draft Annual Plan and Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>Your response highlights the ambitious sustainability targets set out in our various strategies and the many challenges City of Melbourne faces from external factors, such as climate change.</p> <p>Your recommendations and offer of support are appreciated and will be considered as part of the Annual Plan and Budget delivery.</p> <p>In response to recommendation 1, Council conducted a review of all United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators in 2021.</p> <p>These were localised to suit a Melbourne context and aligned with Council Plan 2021–2025 objectives.</p> <p>City of Melbourne is the first municipality in Australia to endorse a Voluntary Local Review of progress against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, to create a better future for all.</p>

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			<p>ENVIRONMENTAL - Stimulate a circular economy</p> <p>SOCIAL - Increase opportunities for Aboriginal businesses and peoples</p> <p>SOCIAL - Increase opportunities for people experiencing social or economic exclusion or disadvantage</p> <p>GOVERNANCE - Safe Workplaces (OH&amp;S, Child Safe, Modern Slavery)</p> <p>GOVERNANCE - Fair Workplaces (Gender Equity, Equal Opportunity, National Employment Standards)</p> <p>An internal Sustainable Procurement Framework has been developed which provides support and guidance for the application of the 7 priorities, to increase understanding</p> <p>The framework provides guidance on how to embed sustainability considerations (including circular) into the entire procurement life cycle, tender / RFQ development, evaluations and contract management</p> <p>Team of internal experts has been established to provide guidance to staff undertaking procurement where sustainability outcomes have been identified</p> <p>All procurement templates have been recently updated to strengthen and encourage more sustainability outcomes from suppliers</p> <p>The 7 Sustainable Procurement priorities, align to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals</p>		<p>We conduct an internal annual review of the indicators and progress made against the targets in the Voluntary Local Review, and will produce an updated report every 4 years. Work is underway to embed the goals, targets and indicators across strategies, plans, projects and the annual planning cycle.</p> <p>In relation to your response to Council's Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Action Plan and Progress Report (section 4), your views on the most urgent priorities are welcomed.</p> <p>In 2023–24, Council will continue to make progress against these actions, particularly on measures to support commercial buildings transition to zero carbon.</p> <p>Noting your specific mention and support of Annual Plan Indicator '33 per cent reduction in municipal greenhouse gas emissions', Council is working to take bold action to rapidly reduce operational and embodied carbon emissions.</p> <p>In 2023–24, we plan to measure, report and reduce embodied carbon in our capital works. As well as expanding our use of low carbon and recycled materials.</p> <p>Thank you for making City of Melbourne aware of Polar Enviro's professional capabilities and services.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your submission. Thank you.</p>

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				<p>Recommendation 5: Continue and, where possible, accelerate internal and related entity understanding and practice of procurement decisions that embed lifecycle costing and circular economy outcomes. For example, using Australian recycled glass in coloured surface treatments on roads, reducing emissions and battery eWaste, and improving safety and reducing costs using photoluminescent exit sign technology.</p> <p>Stimulate a circular economy</p> <p>Recommendation 7: Utilise its built environment budgets and programs to significantly lift procurement of low emissions technologies and recycled content.</p> <p>Reduce carbon emissions</p> <p>There are two sustainable procurement priorities that address recycled content, Stimulate a Circular economy and Biodiversity and climate resilience</p> <p>City of Melbourne completed a review of all United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators in 2021; these were then localised to suit a Melbourne context and aligned with Council Plan 2021-2025 objectives. The City of Melbourne is the first local government in Australia and the Pacific develop and endorse a Voluntary Local Review of progress against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It enables all Melburnians to take stock of what is happening in our municipality, assess what we are doing, and how well and ask the question: "Are we pursuing a better future for all Melburnians?" Council is committed to an internal annual review of the</p>	

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				<p>indicators and progress made against the targets in the Voluntary Local Review, and will produce an updated report every 4 years. Further work is underway to embed the goals, targets and indicators across strategies, plans, projects and the annual planning cycle.</p> <p>In 2023/24 Council will continue to progress all of these action areas, with significant advances to be made on sustainable buildings through delivery of an Implementation Plan to support existing commercial buildings to become zero carbon.</p> <p>Council is committed to taking bold actions necessary to rapidly reduce both operational and embodied carbon emissions. City of Melbourne is seeking in 2023/24 to measure, report, and reduce embodied carbon of our capital works programs, utilising low carbon materials and ensuring procurement practices leverage opportunities to include recycled content, as you suggest.</p> <p>City of Melbourne will note Polar Enviro as a prospect should it require specialist advisory services in the course of delivering the Council Plan and Budget.</p>	
9	[REDACTED]	No	<p>It helps to interact the kids with community and playing with their friends.</p>	<p>Officers were unsuccessful in attempting to contact Archana to clarify the feedback.</p> <p>Considering this, Our ArtPlay program brings together children (from babies to 13 years of age) and artists to explore and create innovative arts experiences that encourage self-expression and playful exchange.</p> <p>We also encourage community members to speak with their local community and recreation centre that may have programs that could assist.</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Annual Plan 2023–24.</p> <p>Our ArtPlay program brings together children (from babies to 13 years of age) and artists to explore and create innovative arts experiences that encourage self-expression and playful exchange, this could be a good opportunity to look into <a href="http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/artplay/Pages/artplay.aspx">www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/artplay/Pages/artplay.aspx</a></p>



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					<p>We also encourage you to speak with your local community and recreation centre that may have programs that could assist.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
10		Zoom	<p>52 "Major" initiatives? None more important than blocking a CBD injection site that in itself would defeat most of the others.</p>	<p>Management understands this is a complex issue and City of Melbourne is committed to work with the Victorian Government towards an outcome that reduces drug harms in the CBD and supports safety and amenity for all members of the community.</p> <p>The majority of City of Melbourne councillors endorsed Council's continued support for a medically supervised injecting service in the City of Melbourne and Council has sought a commitment from the State Government to work with Council on an ideal location. Melbourne's economic recovery post-pandemic is critical and the location, timing and impact of a medically supervised injecting room must be carefully considered.</p> <p>The State Government appointed former Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, Ken Lay to lead an independent consultation on establishment of a second service. City of Melbourne has engaged directly with Mr Lay to support an evidence-based process that includes comprehensive impact assessments and community consultation in identifying an appropriate site.</p> <p>The report and recommendations from the recently concluded consultation is expected to be released in the coming months.</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Annual Plan 2023–24.</p> <p>In August 2022, Council confirmed its continued support for a Medically Supervised Injecting Service (MSIS) in the City of Melbourne – and sought a commitment from the Victorian Government to work with Council on a suitable location.</p> <p>Councillors noted Melbourne's economic recovery post-pandemic is critical and that the location, timing and impact of an MSIS must be carefully considered.</p> <p>The service must be integrated with health and support services and be in a location that causes minimal disruption to traders, residents, workers and visitors.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
11		No	<p>I submit Council needs to significantly strengthen its enforcement of the often trivialised and tolerated offence of dogs off leash in</p>	<p>The Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Act) provides the foundation for Council's animal management service and sets out infringement penalty amounts – this is State legislation. The animal management team enforces the requirements under the Act and</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Annual Plan 2023–24.</p>

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			<p>parks and on the street, to protect families, vulnerable people and also other dogs from serious injury, trauma and fear of using public parks. It should not take a life-changing injury or death of a child to lead to a strict enforcement approach.</p>	<p>Melbourne City Council's Activities Local Law 2019, which has a different mechanism for setting penalties.</p> <p>Our Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-25 outlines objectives to be completed over the next 3 years. The objectives include developing educational programs regarding dog behaviour, promoting leashing requirements and responsible pet ownership through media channels, reporting incidents and ensuring patrols of public places taking enforcement action – all of these aim to minimise the risk of dog attacks and nuisances caused by dogs in public places.</p> <p>Council is shortly bringing on an additional two animal management officers who will add to the team's capacity and capability, allowing us to patrol our public places more often.</p>	<p>It is regrettable to hear of your family's experience in our parks regarding dogs off-leash. Our Animal Management team takes these types of incidents very seriously and, where required, will prosecute repeat offenders. You can report an issue at <a href="http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/residents/pets/Pages/pets.aspx">www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/residents/pets/Pages/pets.aspx</a></p> <p>The Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Act) provides the foundation for Council's animal management service and sets out infringement penalty amounts. Our Animal Management Team enforces the requirements under the Act and Melbourne City Council's Activities Local Law 2019.</p> <p>Our Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-25 may also be of interest to you and can be accessed here: <a href="http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/domestic-animal-management-plan-2022-2025.pdf">www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/domestic-animal-management-plan-2022-2025.pdf</a></p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
12		No	<p>Consider making the city centre more pedestrian friendly as many European cities have done by restricting vehicle access in the afternoons and evenings, i.e. allowing delivery vehicles etc access until say 11am, and then only transport vehicles thereafter i.e. taxis, buses and trams.</p>	<p>The City of Melbourne Transport Strategy 2030 seeks to prioritise people and improve safety and amenity for everyone who travels to or lives in our City. Council's Future Streets Framework provides the next level of detail around how we can enhance our street designs to become more focused on activation. This also includes intermittent closures at times when pedestrian foot traffic is high. The draft Framework will soon be out for public consultation. In addition the draft budget allocates \$4million cycle infrastructure for the year to 30 June 2024 and \$500,000 for pedestrian safety initiatives. Many of the capital works projects, including streetscape upgrades, involve improving walking experiences.</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget and Annual Plan 2023–24.</p> <p>Council's Transport Strategy 2030 supports all modes of transport, and encourages active transport modes like walking, bike and scooter riding, and public transport.</p> <p>Our draft Budget 2023–24 includes \$4 million for cycle infrastructure and \$500,000 for pedestrian safety initiatives.</p> <p>Many of our capital works projects, including streetscape upgrades, improve pedestrian movement.</p>

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					<p>Council's Parking and Kerbside Management Plan aims to significantly improve parking management across the central city.</p> <p>This includes implementing consistent loading zone time limits for drivers to allow for deliveries, disabled parking and dedicated pick up/drop off zones in every street.</p> <p>We've also slowed traffic to 20km/h in Flinders Lane, Little Collins, Little Bourke and Little Lonsdale Streets to make it easier for all transport to move safely around our city and have created more space for pedestrians by transforming some on-street car parks.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
13		No	It is now 12 months since the pause on bike lane installation. Which of the CBD bike lanes will the council be commencing this week	City of Melbourne is continuing implementation of new bike lane projects in alignment with both its Transport Strategy 2030 and the commitment to responding to the Climate Emergency. Projects include in the coming financial year are new bike lanes on Arden Street, Macaulay Road, Grattan Street and Flinders Street. As yet, no final schedule for delivery has been confirmed, as we continue to work through final design and community consultation stages, as well as Department of Transport and Planning approval for these important projects.	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget and Annual Plan 2023–24.</p> <p>Council's Transport Strategy 2030 supports all modes of transport, and encourages active transport modes like walking, bike and scooter riding, and public transport.</p> <p>In June 2022, Council paused the installation of new protected bike lanes in the CBD for 12 months.</p> <p>Council chose to prioritise the delivery of key strategic cycling corridors into and out of the city – including Arden Street, Macaulay Road and Royal Parade.</p> <p>Our draft Budget 2023–24 includes \$4 million for cycle infrastructure and \$500,000 for pedestrian safety initiatives.</p> <p>Delivering protected bike lanes is just one of many</p>

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					<p>programs of work we're delivering along our city streets – from street furniture upgrades, to converting road space into new green, open spaces.</p> <p>Bike lanes not only provide a safer journey, but also support a cleaner, greener Melbourne.</p> <p>To date, more than 20km of new bike lanes have been delivered across our city – which has resulted in a 22 per cent increase in use.</p> <p>Providing bike lanes means more people are willing to cycle to the city – and makes it safer for those who already do.</p> <p>Council is progressing bike lanes design work on CBD projects for the next financial year, including Flinders Street.</p> <p>All bike lane projects require approval from the Department of Transport and Planning before works can commence.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
14	██████	No	Now the bike lane construction pause has ended, which project is going to be built next and when?	City of Melbourne is continuing implementation of new bike lane projects in alignment with both its Transport Strategy 2030 and the commitment to responding to the Climate Emergency. Projects include in the coming financial year are new bike lanes on Arden Street, Macaulay Road, Grattan Street and Flinders Street. As yet, no final schedule for delivery has been confirmed, as we continue to work through final design and community consultation stages, as well as Department of Transport and Planning approval for these important projects.	<p>Dear ██████</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget and Annual Plan 2023–24.</p> <p>Council's Transport Strategy 2030 supports all modes of transport, and encourages active transport modes like walking, bike and scooter riding, and public transport.</p> <p>In June 2022, Council paused the installation of new protected bike lanes in the CBD for 12 months.</p> <p>Council chose to prioritise the delivery of key strategic cycling corridors into and out of the city – including</p>
15	██████	Zoom	The rapid growth of platform-based food delivery has had a significant effect on traffic and kerbside management. The City of Melbourne's policies have less clarity, however, regarding the social, economic, and safety conditions faced by food delivery riders on a daily basis. I would like to work with Council to improve City		

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			<p>of Melbourne's understanding of, and support for, food delivery riders and their communities.</p> <p>Specifically, I seek the addition of the following activity in your Annual Plan 2023-24: "Support food delivery riders by implementing a safe and dedicated space in the central city for riders to rest, recharge and support each other."</p>		<p>Arden Street, Macaulay Road and Royal Parade.</p> <p>Our draft Budget 2023–24 includes \$4 million for cycle infrastructure and \$500,000 for pedestrian safety initiatives.</p> <p>Delivering protected bike lanes is just one of many programs of work we're delivering along our city streets – from street furniture upgrades, to converting road space into new green, open spaces.</p> <p>Bike lanes not only provide a safer journey, but also support a cleaner, greener Melbourne.</p>
16		In person	<p>"Major Initiative 45 in the Annual Plan is strongly supported. Regarding ""bicycling encouragement programs"", the best way of encouraging cycling is protected bike lanes, fewer motor vehicles and low speed streets. Proposed counter-flow for the Little Streets is supported,</p> <p>The ""pause"" in building CBD protected bike lanes is over as of July first. What projects will commence on that date? Are both Flinders St and Bourke/Spring St projects ready to start on July first?</p>		<p>To date, more than 20km of new bike lanes have been delivered across our city – which has resulted in a 22 per cent increase in use.</p> <p>Providing bike lanes means more people are willing to cycle to the city – and makes it safer for those who already do.</p> <p>Council is progressing design work on CBD projects for the next financial year, including Flinders Street.</p> <p>All bike lane projects require approval from the Department of Transport and Planning before works can commence.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
17	Victorian Pride Lobby	No	<p>Following consultation with the community, we recommend the following amendment to further strengthen the Annual Plan: under major initiative 46, in</p>	<p>As per the Councillor Briefing Paper posted on 7 June, City of Melbourne provided a response to the Victorian Pride Lobby on 5 June in relation to their request that CoM establish an LGBTIQ+ advisory committee. Consistent with that response, and to make clear that CoM will consider ongoing</p>	<p>Dear Victorian Pride Lobby</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget and Annual Plan 2023–24.</p>

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			<p>the list of activities for 2023-24, insert “Establish an LGBTIQA+ advisory committee to the City of Melbourne”. We believe that such a committee needs to be in place by June 2024, to guide the next Inclusive Melbourne Strategy - Two-Year Implementation Plan and Women’s Safety and Empowerment Action Plan.</p>	<p>engagement mechanisms for people with lived experience, it is recommended that the last activity in MI48 is revised to:</p> <p>“Review of inclusion-related strategies and plans, which will include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Inclusive Melbourne Strategy Implementation Plan 2022-24 and will consider the most effective mechanisms for ensuring that people with lived experience are heard and involved in Council decision making.</p>	<p>City of Melbourne acknowledges the important work the Pride Lobby does to advocate for the Victorian LGBTIQA+ community.</p> <p>The submission requests the following amendment to the Annual Plan;</p> <p>Under major initiative 46 in the list of activities for 2023-24, insert “Establish an LGBTIQA+ advisory committee to the City of Melbourne”.</p> <p>We have assumed this submission is instead referring to major initiative <b>48</b> “Adopt (2021–22) and then implement (2022–25) an Inclusive Melbourne Strategy”.</p> <p>In response, City of Melbourne is committed to ensuring the diverse voices of people in our community are heard, including those with lived experience, and that this informs Council’s priorities and decision-making.</p> <p>We engage with our diverse communities, including LGBTIQ+ stakeholders, through a range of approaches including targeted community engagement, co-creation opportunities, focus groups, pop-ups and surveys.</p> <p>In 2023–24 Council will review our approach to inclusion through stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>To better recognise this, we propose to amend one of the activities for 2023-24 under major initiative 48, from;</p> <p>‘Review of inclusion-related strategies and plans will include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Inclusive Melbourne Strategy.’</p> <p>Proposed change;</p>

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					<p>'Review of inclusion-related strategies and plans, which will include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Inclusive Melbourne Strategy Implementation Plan 2022-24 and will consider the most effective mechanisms for ensuring that people with lived experience are heard and involved in Council decision making.'</p> <p>An additional adjustment has also been proposed to make it clear that the two year Implementation Plan will be reviewed, and not the ten year Inclusive Melbourne Strategy.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.</p>

## Summary of feedback and management recommendations on the draft Budget 2023–24

#	Name	Feedback or request to speak	Summary of feedback	Management advice to Councillors	Proposed Council response to submitter and management recommendation/s
1	Anonymous	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maximum rate cap too high</li> <li>- The Arden Street and Macaulay Road Bike lanes unnecessary</li> <li>- 40km/h speed limits unnecessary</li> </ul>	<p>Rates are necessary to keep our city running. This year, the Victorian Government's 3.5 per cent rate cap will be applied to allow Council to provide essential services for the community now, while investing for future growth.</p> <p>The Arden Street and Macaulay Road protected bike lanes in North Melbourne and Kensington are part of our program to deliver a network of new, protected bike lanes across the municipality, providing a safer journey for all bike riders and road users. To date, more than 19km of bike lanes have been rolled out, resulting in a 22 per cent increase in usage. Bike lanes not only provide a safer journey, but also support a cleaner, greener Melbourne.</p> <p>Arden Street and Macaulay Road are two key routes identified in Council's Transport Strategy 2030, which was developed with extensive community consultation and has in its vision that Melbourne will be Australia's premier cycling city. The new bike lanes align with the Macaulay Structure Plan and Arden Precinct Structure Plan and what was heard from the community through consultation on these plans. The proposed bike lanes will run 1.5 km in each direction on Arden Street and 1.4 km in each direction on Macaulay Road. The bike lanes will be located next to the kerb and will be separated from traffic by separation kerbs and parking bays. The improvements will link the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail and Capital City Trail with existing protected bike lanes on Abbotsford Street.</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>Rates are necessary to keep our city running. This year, the Victorian Government's 3.5 per cent rate cap will be applied to allow Council to provide essential services for the community now, while investing for future growth.</p> <p>Arden Street and Macaulay Road are two key routes identified in Council's Transport Strategy 2030, which was developed following extensive community consultation.</p> <p>Protected bike lanes are designed to provide a safer journey for bike riders and all road users.</p> <p>The proposed bike lanes will run 1.5 km in each direction on Arden Street and 1.4 km in each direction on Macaulay Road and will link the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail and Capital City Trail with existing protected bike lanes on Abbotsford Street.</p> <p>More than 19km of protected bike lanes have been introduced across the municipality, resulting in a 22 per cent increase in usage.</p> <p>In 2019, Council endorsed a strategy to achieve consistent maximum speed of 40 km/h on local roads across inner Melbourne and some neighbourhoods.</p>



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				As part of Council's Transport Strategy 2030 to achieve a "consistent maximum speed limit of 40 km/h" on local roads across inner Melbourne and delivering changes at a neighbourhood scale. Road users who are not protected by a vehicle are extremely vulnerable in collisions. The risk of death or serious injury increases markedly over impact speeds of 30 km/h. Lower speed limits improve safety for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists as they reduce the likelihood of crashes by reducing the vehicle stopping distance, giving all road users more time to identify and react to hazards and reducing the likelihood of people losing control of their vehicles.	Lower speed limits reduce the risk of death or serious injuries and improve safety for all road users.  Once again, we appreciate your feedback.
2		No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maximum rate cap too high</li> <li>- Cut spending on expenses, staff costs, investments, Christmas lights, graffiti removal</li> <li>- Opposition to parking changes</li> <li>- Opposition to outdoor dining fee increases</li> <li>- Opposition to busking permit changes</li> </ul>	<p>1) Queen Victoria Market is a significant national heritage listed landmark with over 140 years of history and is a Victorian and Australian icon. Investment in the renewal and improvement of the QVM is one of the City of Melbourne's major initiatives through heritage restoration and the provision of essential services and facilities that enhance the customer, tourist and trader experience. Our investment includes important projects such as the completion of the Shed Restoration project, Trader Shed, Market Square, waste and logistics facility and future developments to the south of the market.</p> <p>2) The comparison is against the 2022-23 annual forecast. The 44 additional FTE is mainly attributed to filling vacant positions, additional resources to deliver customer services, childcare centres &amp; the Munro Community Hub.</p> <p>3) The Clean City Auditors Program was a new trial in 2022/23 financial year to improve the public amenity through performing inspections and reporting issues within the public realm. The aim</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>In response to the issues you have raised;</p> <p>1. Rates are necessary to keep our city running and this year the Victorian Government's 3.5 per cent rate cap will be applied, to ensure we can deliver the essential services our community needs. Melbourne is the fastest growing capital city in Australia and we are committed to delivering core projects to support our growing population, while investing in city-shaping infrastructure projects for our future.</p> <p>Queen Victoria Market is a significant national heritage listed landmark, with more than 140 years of history.</p>

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				<p>of the program was to improve the cleanliness and presentation of the City. The program achieved excellent results in reducing the number of reports for cleaning and graffiti related items requested by the community. The program will continue in 2023/24 financial year at the same level of service provided in 2022/23. The increase in service percentage is in relation to the program being budgeted for a full financial year instead of a three month period only.</p> <p>4) Our \$24.6m maintenance budget includes \$12m, funded through philanthropic donations and government grants for the maintenance and improvement of Council-owned 602 Little Bourke Street into secure, safe, supported accommodation for people experiencing homelessness and sleeping rough. As this is not a capital expense it is classified as 'maintenance'. The \$12.6m balance of the maintenance budget will be allocated to regular maintenance activities in our annual budgets, such as the maintenance of urban furniture, parks, lighting, signage and etcetera.</p> <p>5) The Christmas light program is a proven draw card for city visitation at this time of year which supports the retail sector by attracting visitors who in turn contribute to the city economy through retail and hospitality spend. The 2023/24 proposed IT Maintenance budget allocation of \$1.32m (which is a 20% reduction from 2022/23), provides for the continued improvement, uplift, management, performance and availability of platforms and applications. The City of Melbourne invests in the on-going maintenance and upkeep of its core Technology platforms and applications</p>	<p>We're investing in heritage restoration and improvements to enhance the experience for residents, tourists and traders.</p> <p>2. The 44 additional full-time staff is a comparison with the 2022 – 23 annual forecast and will primarily fill vacant positions. Others will be employed to provide additional support for customer services, childcare centres and the Munro Community Hub.</p> <p>3. The Clean City Auditors Program was trialled last year to improve city cleanliness and safety. The program made a real difference and led to quicker response times for cleaning and graffiti removal, meaning our city was well presented during our busy periods.</p> <p>The service will continue in 2023–24 at an additional cost due to the program budget extending from three months to one year.</p> <p>4. Council's \$24.6 million maintenance budget includes \$12 million in philanthropic donations and government grants for 602 Little Bourke Street, to provide safe and supported accommodation for people experiencing homelessness and sleeping rough.</p> <p>The \$12.6 million balance will be used for maintenance projects like parks and gardens, street furniture and lighting.</p> <p>5. Christmas decorations allow Melbourne to look its best at a busy time of celebrations. The Christmas lights program is a proven drawcard for visitors who support the city economy through retail and hospitality spend.</p>

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				<p>to ensure they are available to support our community, customers and staff.</p> <p>6) Council has committed in the draft budget an allocation of \$2.4 million for graffiti management and prevention. The graffiti management program has successfully removed over 60,000 m<sup>2</sup> of graffiti in the last 12 months alone and its fast removal is critical to maintaining a clean city. Council works closely with Victoria Police to minimise graffiti occurrences in our city and to identify and hold offenders accountable. CCTV cameras are a part of this initiative, however, managing graffiti requires multiple initiatives both to prevent graffiti and safely remove it. The graffiti management and prevention plan includes education for students within the municipality about the impacts of graffiti. Other initiatives to prevent graffiti which are a part of this plan include new murals and green walls to prevent graffiti in known hot spot areas. This graffiti management and prevention plan will be reviewed in early 2024 to determine its effectiveness in graffiti prevention.</p> <p>7). The 2023-24 Draft Budget proposes no increase to parking fees. Fees will not increase above the maximum \$7 per hour in the CBD or \$4 per hour outside the CBD. This rate has been unchanged for five years. A new fee structure is proposed to make parking in the CBD fairer. This will mean a reduction in the cost of parking for many people. For short parking stays in the CBD of up to 15 minutes, parking will be free. Off-peak rates will be introduced after 7pm on weeknights and all weekend – reducing the cost from \$7 per hour to \$4 per hour.</p>	<p>Maintaining technology systems is important and the investment of \$1.32 million in 2023–24 will allow Council to effectively provide services our community relies on. This represents a 20 per cent reduction in spend on the previous year.</p> <p>6. Council has allocated \$2.4 million for graffiti management and prevention in the next financial year which is critical to maintaining a clean city. More than 60,000m<sup>2</sup> of graffiti has been removed in the past year alone.</p> <p>City of Melbourne works closely with Victoria Police on crime prevention and identifying offenders through the Safe City Camera Program.</p> <p>7. Visitors to the City of Melbourne arrive by different modes of transport, and shoppers and diners who drive and use street parking account for only 15 per cent of all trips.</p> <p>Activity in the CBD has reached pre-COVID levels on Saturdays and Sundays and data shows there is high demand for our on-street parking spaces well into the evening and on weekends.</p> <p>On-street parking space is limited, with only 1800 available spaces in the CBD and we have adjusted planning controls (parking hours) to allow increased parking turnover to support our city traders and visitors.</p> <p>8. From July 2023, outdoor dining parklet fees will resume after they were discounted 50 per</p>

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				<p>8) One of the initiatives to support economic activation during and post pandemic was the construction of free outdoor dining parklets for hospitality venues as part of the Extended Outdoor Dining Program. This program commenced in October 2020. The program was delivered in partnership with the Victorian Government at the cost of many millions of dollars. The City of Melbourne also waived permit fees for outdoor dining at a cost of more than \$2M since the start of the program and absorbed an estimated \$256,000 per month in lost revenue from paid parking meters occupied by parklets. A survey of businesses at the time discovered the initiative has assisted 81 per cent of businesses to reopen and 76 per cent of businesses to maintain seating capacity through the density restrictions. It was also reported that the City of Melbourne's Extended Outdoor Dining Program resulted in keeping more than 80% of hospitality businesses afloat. In 2021, the Council decided to fund the purchase all parklet infrastructure and gift the parklets to permit holders and also extend fees waivers to 31 October 2022. Fees for parklets in the central city are intended to increase to \$555 per square meter to recover the cost of parking meter revenue forgone by having outdoor dining occupying parking spaces in the city.</p> <p>9) Council is considering the re-introduction of busking fees from 1 July 2023 after a long period of free permits. Busking permit fees have been waived since October 2020 as a response to the pandemic to support the economic recovery of the city and Melbourne's creative community. The new proposed application fee for circle acts with dangerous goods (\$207) is designed for 'new' circle act applicants (using dangerous goods) who are required to undertake a risk and safety</p>	<p>cent, and waived in Docklands. The decision has been made based on economic data which shows promising signs that the city is recovering. Melbourne's night time economy is booming and in March, the night-time spend was at 111 per cent of pre-pandemic levels.</p> <p>9. Busking permits encourage an organised and fair way for artists to perform in set allocated spaces and times. From June 30, buskers will pay \$50 for a one-year permit to perform in Melbourne's CBD, an increase of \$30.60, which allows them to perform in prime city space and accept payment from millions of Melburnians and visitors to the city.</p> <p>The permit fee structure is based on benchmarking with other local and capital city councils.</p> <p>Through continued disciplined financial management and prudent decision making, the City of Melbourne is forecasting a return to surplus in 2025–26.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>

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				<p>assessment. The fee does not apply to Circle Act performers who are not using dangerous goods or for renewing a Circle Act permit (with dangerous goods). The proposed fee partially covers the administration cost of undertaking the risk and safety assessment which Council currently funds. Circle acts with dangerous goods have an elevated risk to public safety and an assessment to ensure the act is safe is required. Street Performance Australia Ltd (SPA) administers the assessment process on behalf of Council in order to minimize the public safety risks of street performance acts through an accredited peer assessment process, and to limit the City of Melbourne's exposure to public liability. Street Performance Australia Ltd charges the City of Melbourne administrative costs and assessment fees of \$300 per standard 2 hour assessment which applies for assessing a performance. Additional time beyond 2 hours will be charged at \$300 per hour, as required. Assessments are usually held monthly (or as required), with additional assessments on request from City of Melbourne. There are currently 30 Circle Act performers using dangerous goods with permits and 18 Circle Act performers (without dangerous goods). The fee does not apply for renewing a Circle Act permit (with dangerous goods) unless more than 5 years has elapsed since the original assessment. Existing circle act performers with dangerous goods (current permit holders) only need to apply every 5 years to undertake a risk and safety assessment to ensure risk and safety of the act is still acceptable. The application fee does not apply to Circle act performers without dangerous goods. City of Melbourne busking permit fees have been traditionally low in comparison to other Councils that charge fees.</p>	

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				The general permit fee for busking proposed at \$50 per annum (\$20 increase) is comparable and in most cases lower than other municipal districts and capital cities.	
3	██████████	No	- Work on streetscape changes as part of level crossing removals in Brunswick, Parkville	<p>In September 2022, the Victorian Government announced plans to remove eight level crossings on the Upfield rail line between Park Street, Parkville and Albion Street, Brunswick by 2027. Beyond the public announcement, there has been no public consultation on the Project, including with City of Melbourne or Merri-bek City Council. The project scope, including project land boundary, the design, and construction methodology and timing of construction, and therefore the impact on Park Street, and what improvements can be sought via the Level Crossing Removal Project for Park Street, are unknown at this time.</p> <p>At this stage, there is no budget allocation for next year for works in Park Street. If there are any road, footpath or kerb and channel renewal works required after the completion of the Level Crossings Removal, funding can be allocated from renewal budgets as and when required.</p>	<p>Dear ██████████</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>In September 2022, the Victorian Government announced plans to remove eight level crossings on the Upfield rail line between Park Street, Parkville and Albion Street, Brunswick by 2027.</p> <p>The project scope, including land boundaries, design, construction, timings and impacts on Park Street, are unknown at this time.</p> <p>There is no funding allocation for works in Park Street in the draft Budget. If there are road, footpath or kerb and channel renewal works required after the completion of the Level Crossings Removal, funding would be considered as required.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
4	██████████	No	Questioning budget for protected bike lanes	The draft capital works program has \$4 million allocated for the installation of protected bike lanes. Locations include Flinders St, Arden St, Macaulay and many others.	<p>Dear ██████████</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on the City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>More than 20km of protected bike lanes have been rolled out across City of Melbourne, which has resulted in 22 per cent increased use.</p>

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					<p>A total of \$4 million has been allocated in the 2023– 24 draft Budget for bike lane infrastructure which will provide a safer journey for not only bike riders, but all road users.</p> <p>Council's Transport Strategy 2030 was adopted in 2019 following extensive community consultation.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
5	████████	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cost of living concerns</li> <li>- Reduce spending on NYE of fireworks</li> <li>- Catch and penalise graffiti offenders</li> </ul>	<p>The length of the fireworks display has been reduced by four minutes from 12 minutes to 8 minutes in recent years. The NYE event last year attracted 475,000 to the city along with \$22m economic impact benefiting hundreds of city businesses and providing entertainment for those that choose to be in the city at midnight.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne works closely with Victoria Police to identify and hold graffiti offenders accountable. It is Council's intention to seek restitution for the works associated with the cleaning and removal of graffiti. The challenge Council currently faces with gaining financial restitution, is the timely identification of offenders and Victoria Police bringing the offence before a Court to resolve the matter. The City of Melbourne is currently partnering with Victoria Police to improve the ability to catch graffiti offenders, including sharing information which aids in their identification.</p> <p>There is a State Government Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 which states it is an offence for retailers to sell a spray can to a minor for any purposes other than their employment. Under the Act, all Victorian retailers must adhere to these</p>	<p>Dear ██████████</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>We work closely with communities to understand and deliver on the specific needs of neighbourhoods across our municipality. Funding for neighbourhood houses is one of many ways we partner with organisations to connect and empower our local communities.</p> <p>Since 2019, the City of Melbourne has provided funding to The Centre in Docklands for its Pop-Up Neighbourhood House, through Social Innovation Partnership and Connected Community Grants and through the Councillor Discretionary Fund. This was one-off funding, supplemented by Development Victoria, which will not be offered in 2023–24.</p> <p>The Docklands community will continue to benefit from a diverse range of services, facilities and amenities – delivered by the City of Melbourne and in partnership with community organisations.</p>

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				<p>obligations when selling spray paint cans to the public. Councils are responsible for enforcing the requirements under this Act however, have no power to influence the pricing of their products. City of Melbourne has commenced this year and will continue to deliver a graffiti prevention plan in the next financial year which includes education for students within the municipality. The program will also focus on delivering new murals and green walls to prevent graffiti in known hot spot areas and including additional surveillance and cleaning to prevent future graffiti.</p>	<p>These include Library at the Dock, the Community Hub at the Dock, Gowrie at the Harbour and the Docklands Sports Hub.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne invests almost \$3 million in community services and social connection activities in Docklands and about \$3.6 million of further funding for events and activities to benefit residents and businesses.</p> <p>Council will also establish the Docklands Stakeholder Group to provide a forum for information sharing to improve community connections, identify stakeholder priorities and funding opportunities.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne works closely with Victoria Police to identify and hold graffiti offenders accountable. Council faces challenges with the timely identification of offenders and Victoria Police bringing the offence before a Court to resolve the matter. The City of Melbourne is currently partnering with Victoria Police to improve the ability to catch graffiti offenders, including sharing information which aids in their identification.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
16		No	<p>- Parking fees too high</p> <p>- Reduce spending on bike and e-scooter infrastructure</p>	<p>Providing access for people into the city is a core theme of our Transport Strategy 2030, the Economic Development Strategy 2031 and other important council strategies. People who live and work in the municipality use a variety of transport modes to access destinations.</p> <p>The increasing pressure on the city's on-street parking to accommodate the high demands for loading, deliveries and pick up and drop off of</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED],</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on the City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>Council's Transport Strategy 2030 supports all modes of transport, and encourages active transport modes like walking, bike and scooter riding, and public transport.</p>



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				<p>passengers in recent years has changed how our kerbside space in the CBD functions.</p> <p>In December 2022, a record \$1.1 billion was spent across the city – with the highest average daily spend and pedestrian activity on Saturdays. In March, pedestrian activity near Town Hall was at 105 per cent of pre-pandemic levels – with activity peaking on Saturday 11 March at 140 per cent of the pre-pandemic benchmark.</p> <p>There have been more than 4 million e-scooter trips in inner Melbourne since February 2022 when the e-scooter trial began.</p>	<p>Good parking management keeps our city moving and we're making parking simpler, fairer and more reliable for people who need to drive to the city.</p> <p>Melbourne residents and visitors have embraced the city's first shared e-scooter scheme, making it one of the most successful trials in the world.</p> <p>City of Melbourne works hard to ensure our assets are appropriately maintained for our growing population.</p> <p>Council's Transport Strategy 2030 supports research which shows the benefits of registering bicycles would be outweighed by the cost.</p> <p>Private e-scooter operators pay participating councils a 'per trip fee' as part of the trial.</p> <p>Motorcycles are permitted to park on footpaths in Victoria provided they don't block the path of other street users, and provided there is no signage indicating otherwise.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne will introduce measures to discourage through traffic in the busiest parts of the city, while maintaining options for those who need to drive.</p> <p>The most popular way to travel to central Melbourne is by public transport and this trend is expected to continue.</p>

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					<p>We are embracing Melbourne's new rhythm and are encouraged by data which is showing positive signs of recovery on many fronts.</p> <p>Melbourne's night time economy is booming and in March, the night-time spend was at 111 per cent of pre-pandemic levels.</p> <p>Community feedback is important and your submission on the draft Budget 2023–24 is appreciated.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
18		No	Increase protected bike lanes	Our draft Budget 2023–24 includes \$4 million funding for cycle infrastructure and \$500,000 for pedestrian safety initiatives. Projects planned for delivery include Flinders Street, Bourke Street, Royal Parade, Arden Street and Macaulay Road.	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>Council has allocated \$4 million in the draft Budget for bicycle infrastructure and to deliver new protected bike lanes.</p> <p>This is set out on page 89 of the draft Budget which can be accessed here:  <a href="http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/vision-goals/Pages/budget">www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/vision-goals/Pages/budget</a></p> <p>We are prioritising works on Arden Street, North Melbourne and Macaulay Road, Kensington, which will link the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail and Capital City Trail – with protected bike lanes on Abbotsford Street. Flinders and Grattan Streets are also priority projects.</p> <p>Our Transport Strategy 2030 sets out our plan to transform Melbourne into Australia's leading bicycle city by creating more than 50km of</p>

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					protected bicycle lanes. The 19km of protected bike lanes we have already delivered has resulted in a 22 per cent increase in usage.  Once again, we appreciate your feedback.
20		No	Reduce leaf blowing in East Melbourne	<p>The City of Melbourne are continually working with our service partner Spotless to design and manage a program for leaf fall, particularly throughout the busy months of autumn and winter. Due to the volume of leaf fall, this service at times needs to occur over several days. Blowers are not only used for the management of leaf fall. Blowers are also used to capture litter and rubbish underneath parked cars and gutters throughout East Melbourne, with our aim to prevent litter from entering the waterways.</p> <p>Council will continue to monitor the service requirements and volumes of leaf fall within the East Melbourne area and make service adjustments accordingly.</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on the City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne is continually working with our service partner Spotless to design and manage a program for leaf fall, particularly throughout the busy months of autumn and winter.</p> <p>Due to the volume of leaf fall, this service at times needs to occur over several days. Blowers also are used to capture litter and rubbish underneath parked cars and gutters throughout East Melbourne, to reduce the amount of litter from entering our waterways.</p> <p>Council will continue to monitor activities in East Melbourne area and make required adjustments.</p> <p>Once again, thank you for your feedback.</p>
33		In person	Fund a pedestrian overpass between North Melbourne Station and Docklands	A pedestrian bridge over the railway line and other State Government land from West Melbourne to Docklands is not in current work plans. However, in the long-term visioning for that area Council has contemplated potential renewal of the land, often referred to as E-Gate (south west of the rail line). Should the land be redeveloped for mixed uses, an opportunity to connect it to both West Melbourne and Docklands has been identified,	<p>Dear [REDACTED],</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>A pedestrian bridge over the railway line and other Victorian Government land from West Melbourne to Docklands is not in any current</p>

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				<p>which would achieve this goal. This would only be achievable when the E-Gate land becomes surplus to current state government requirements, however Council does not have this authority and continues to monitor state government decisions.</p>	<p>work plans. However Council has contemplated potential longer-term renewal of the land which is often referred to as E-Gate (south west of the rail line). Should the land be redeveloped for mixed use, there is an opportunity to connect it to both West Melbourne and Docklands, as you have identified.</p> <p>This would only be achievable when the E-Gate land becomes surplus to current state government requirements. Council does not have any control over that decision.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p>
35	[REDACTED]	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce protected Bike lanes and increase car parking spaces</li> <li>- Spend more on city cleaning and address rough sleepers and begging</li> </ul>	<p>The City of Melbourne Transport Strategy 2030 highlights that protected bicycle lanes are important for attracting people to ride bikes into and around the city. They are especially important to providing an opportunity for women to cycle in our city. Cycling is good for our health and the environment. It is cheap, enjoyable, flexible and extremely space efficient. Growth in cycling – and in the use of e-scooters and other forms of micro-mobility which also use cycle lanes - is expected to make an ever more important economic contribution to the city as their use grows in popularity.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne has about 217,000 parking spaces, almost 90 per cent of which are in off-street parking facilities. The off-street parking is not fully used and provides a significant opportunity for city visitors. Off-street parking facilities offer a range of discounts when pre-booked, used off-peak or when parking tickets are validated by local merchants. On-street parking is</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne's Transport Strategy 2030 which guides our policy on bike lanes, was adopted in 2019 after extensive community consultation. Protected bike lanes are designed to provide a safer journey not only for bike riders, but all road users.</p> <p>On-street parking space is limited, with only 1800 available spaces in the CBD. Council has recently announced changes to planning controls to allow increased parking turnover which will support city businesses, and those who choose to drive.</p> <p>Council is investing a record \$60.9 million as part of the draft Budget 2023–24 to make</p>

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				<p>a small portion (less than five per cent) of the overall parking capacity. There is limited kerbside space available and it is needed for a wide range of uses including parking, loading, bike lanes, wider footpaths and tree planting.</p> <p>City of Melbourne will continue to work with support agencies and Victoria Police in order to prevent and deter instances of begging. Begging is a criminal offence that is investigated by Victoria Police.</p>	<p>Melbourne a cleaner, safer and more inclusive place to support our growing population.</p> <p>We will continue to work closely with Victoria Police on crime prevention and identifying offenders through the Safe City Camera Program.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.</p>
37		No	<p>- Waste charge calculation unfair</p> <p>- Rates too high</p>	<p>The waste charge is required to cover the cost of providing waste and recycling services to each residential property. The waste charge applied to residential properties by councils in Victoria is typically a set cost for any household. City of Melbourne has designed the waste charge to include a discount for properties below the median house price, as a tool to minimise the impact of this charge on properties which are both the smallest properties in size, and who on average produce the least waste due to the number of residents within the household. A review of the waste charge design, including new incentives to reduce waste and increase recycling outcomes will be undertaken in the new financial year.</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>The Waste Charge allows Council to recover the cost of providing waste and recycling services to City of Melbourne residents. It is not designed to generate additional revenue.</p> <p>Unlike most other Victorian municipalities which have a set charge for each household, Council's Waste Charge includes a discount for properties valued below the median house price to minimise the impact on smaller households, which typically produce less waste.</p> <p>City of Melbourne plans to review the Waste Charge within the next year and we welcome all feedback during the community consultation period.</p> <p>Thank you again for your submission.</p>

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39	[REDACTED]	No	<p>- Rates too high - Speed humps in Parkville not needed</p>	<p>The new Zebra pedestrian crossings at the Kendall Avenue / The Avenue / Walker Street roundabout are designed to enhance the safety of both pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>Narrow road humps had been installed near the crossings, to ensure drivers approach at low speeds. The road humps are also designed to slow down drivers entering the roundabout, to improve the safety of cyclists using the roundabout.</p> <p>The existing road hump in The Avenue is located approximately 25 metres north of the new crossing. This would not have slowed drivers enough and therefore a second road hump was installed five meters from the crossing to maximise the safety of both pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>This project was funded under the Federal Blackspot Program.</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED],</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>The new zebra pedestrian crossings at the Kendall Avenue/The Avenue/Walker Street roundabout, are designed to enhance the safety for pedestrians, bike riders, and all road users.</p> <p>Narrow road humps were installed near the crossings to ensure drivers approach at low speed.</p> <p>The existing road hump in The Avenue, 25 metres north of the new crossing, was deemed an insufficient mechanism to slow drivers and as such, a second road hump was installed five meters from the crossing.</p> <p>This project was funded under the Federal Blackspot Program.</p> <p>Thank you, your feedback is appreciated.</p>
40	[REDACTED]	No	<p>-Invest more on safe access for pedestrians and cyclists</p>	<p>The City of Melbourne will continue to implement the Transport Strategy 2030, including delivery of a protected bike lane network, station precincts as key gateways, little streets as streets for people, safer speed limits, micro mobility trials, more efficient traffic signal timing, developing an approach to support electric vehicles, and bicycling encouragement programs.</p> <p>\$4 million has been allocated in the 2023-24 budget. Projects planned for delivery include Flinders Street, Bourke Street, Royal Parade, Arden Street and Macaulay Road.</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>Our Transport Strategy 2030 supports policies which reduce through traffic congestion in the busiest parts of the city and create more space for pedestrians and bike riders.</p> <p>The strategy, which was adopted in 2019, recommends consistent maximum speeds of 40 km/h on local roads across inner Melbourne</p>

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				In 2020, Council endorsed the decision to fast-track 44 kilometres of protected bike lanes in response to the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency. And further endorsed this commitment in May 2023, through endorsement of the implementation of the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Action Plan.	and some neighbourhoods to reduce the risk of death or serious injuries for vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists.  More than 19km of protected bike lanes have been introduced across the municipality to provide a safer journey for all road users and we've got more on the way.  Your feedback on this issue is appreciated.
41		No	- Congratulations - Remove cars, prioritise pedestrians	Our Transport Strategy 2030 seeks to prioritise safety and improve amenity for everyone who comes to or lives in our City. The draft budget allocates \$4million cycle infrastructure for the year to 30 June 2024 and \$500,000 for pedestrian safety initiatives. Many of the capital works projects, including streetscape upgrades, involve improving walking facilities.	Dear [REDACTED] Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.  Our Transport Strategy 2030 supports policies which create more space for pedestrians and bike riders, and which reduce through traffic congestion in the busiest parts of the city.  The strategy, which was adopted in 2019, recommends consistent maximum speeds of 40 km/h on local roads across inner Melbourne and some neighbourhoods to reduce the risk of death or serious injuries for vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists.  More than 19km of protected bike lanes have been introduced across the municipality to provide a safer journey for all road users and we've got more on the way.  Your feedback on this issue is appreciated.
47		In person	Westgate Biodiversity funding request	To enable works to be planned for Committee of Management transfer in 2026 and to demonstrate support for WBBNL in the interim it is recommended Council fund the development of	Dear [REDACTED] Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.

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				the site Master Plan between now and 2026. The cost of Master Planning would be approximately \$50k for 23/24 and \$50k for 24/25.	<p>We welcome your submission and agree in principle to the allocation of \$50,000 in the 2023–24 Budget and a further \$50,000 the following year, to allow for the completion of the Westgate Park Master Plan.</p> <p>We look forward to discussions about developing the Master Plan in collaboration with Westgate Biodiversity Bili Nursery and Landcare prior to the transfer of Committee of Management responsibilities for Westgate Park to City of Melbourne in 2026.</p>
53		In person	Nice to see such an event in docklands and will see more get together	The feedback is noted and welcomed.	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide a submission on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>Your feedback is appreciated.</p>
54		Zoom	- Increase funding for urban ecology and creation, reduce funding on Christmas decorations.	<p>The Christmas light program is a proven draw card for city visitation at this time of year which supports the retail sector by attracting visitors who in turn contribute to the city economy through retail and hospitality spend. The reduction in spend on urban ecology is not related to the spend on Christmas. The annual budget for Christmas Lights has not increased however the investment in the broader program of activity at Christmas has had a modest increase.</p> <p>Council is committed to improving biodiversity through several programs and activities including the 'Create Habitat to increase nature in the city' council works program. Habitat improvement works will continue in Royal Park in 23/24, however the budget that has been allocated is less than previous years and this will reduce the scale of planned interventions.</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>We're pleased to hear you love the Indigenous wildflower meadows in Royal Park.</p> <p>Council is committed to improving biodiversity through several programs and activities including the wildflower meadows.</p> <p>Habitat improvement works will continue in Royal Park in 2023-24.</p> <p>The wildflower meadows are another way the city is taking action in response to the climate and biodiversity emergency.</p> <p>Understorey plants – or those that grow low on the ground beneath trees – play a really important role in supporting biodiversity and attracting insects and native birds.</p>



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					<p>Indigenous planting supports healthy ecosystems within our parks and gardens, and helps make our city more resilient to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>The initiative is part of our 10-year Nature in the City Strategy to support diverse, resilient, and healthy ecosystems that improve the environment and wellbeing of our community, providing the foundation for a liveable city.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.</p>
59		Zoom	Allocate \$50k for Lower Moonee Ponds Creek	<p>The proposed trial provides CoM the chance to partner in a program that will provide a visual effort to disrupt the flow litter throughout our waterways. CoM supports this initiative in line with minimising the impact of litter on our amenity.</p> <p><b>Work Area recommendation:</b> Allocate \$50,000 budget to Lower Moonee Ponds Creek</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>Council supports the proposed trial you have outlined and agrees in principle to \$50,000 funding for a partnership program. We look forward to discussing the terms of this partnership so together, we can minimise the impact of litter in our city.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
65			<p>"Southbank3006 provided feedback on the draft Budget 2023-24 in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cleaning</li> <li>- Littering</li> <li>- City Road Master Plan</li> <li>- Open Space Reserve</li> </ul> <p>High level summary:</p>	<p>The allocation for graffiti management and prevention is approximately \$2.5m. This is inclusive of the Graffiti Prevention and Management Plan which focuses on eight key action items to prevent and reduce the amount graffiti occurrence within the City of Melbourne.</p> <p>As part of our commitment to continuous improvements and taking on board community input council will increase the service offerings in the Southbank precinct as part of our Clean City</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>We know clean streets matter to Melburnians, which is why we're spending almost \$37 million to remove illegal graffiti and increase sweeping and high-pressure cleaning of footpaths, roads</p>

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			<p>1) Cleaning - It is concerning that of a \$61m cleaning budget almost \$39m is earmarked for graffiti removal and control. This indicates that it is an issue to which alternative approaches to management and control needs to be investigated going forward</p> <p>2) Littering - We would urge the Council to explore behavioural research in altering behaviours and not relying on lecturing or shaming marketing campaigns with the State Government to develop a multi-pronged program over a 3-year period.</p> <p>3) Street Offences &amp; Expansion of Street Cameras - Behavioural intervention measurers need to be explored with the Victorian Government, and explore the potential to network in external cameras used around the City on private properties.</p> <p>4) Allocate funds from the \$3.5m budget to develop a City Road delivery plan to develop a Traffic management Plan for all of Southbank so the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods we have advocated for</p>	<p>Uplift Program and Melbourne Clean Team service. This will lead to a reduction in litter, reducing the occurrence of overflowing litter bins, improve the overall amenity and support our graffiti prevention program. The Melbourne Clean Team service will run 7 days a week within the precinct. The clean team will not only be providing a cleaning service, they will be reporting issues to have them rectified faster. Through this new program council will be able to gather more data than ever before which will be used to develop more target campaigns and improve how we provide and deliver our services. Furthermore council is in the process of conducting a public litter bin review with the aim of developing a more efficient litter collection and management system. This includes the review of infrastructure, bin types and locations to maximise litter collection.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne is a member of various international working groups that share learnings and operational knowledge on these topics. The City of Melbourne is currently working closely with its counter parts in the Netherlands who have made great in roads on behavioural change and council is looking into how best those learnings and successes can be applied to the City of Melbourne.</p> <p>City of Melbourne have recently opened up communications with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in order to discuss our littering enforcement strategies and campaigns or programs to deter or prevent littering. We will build on this relationship in the coming months and bring in other key relationships like Victoria Police to ensure we are well aligned. Once we have a</p>	<p>and street furniture through the targeted Clean Team workforce.</p> <p>The introduction of our QR code reporting system has seen residents and visitors play a greater role in reporting graffiti – and allowed us to allocate resourcing more effectively to keep our streets clean.</p> <p>More than \$28 million will be invested to collect waste from residents and businesses, while an additional \$1.5 million will bolster work to remove rubbish from our streets across the city, Docklands and Southbank.</p> <p>Council is always interested in exploring new ways of reducing the impact on the public amenity, understanding behavioural change is going to be a key driver to success. If you would like to share insights from the research that has been conducted overseas please reach out to Council's Manager Clean City who would be interested to engage on this topic.</p> <p>Council will expand the Safe City Camera Program to improve safety and reduce antisocial behaviour. CCTV cameras will be installed in seven key locations in Carlton, including along Lygon Street and at Argyle Square.</p> <p>Almost \$6 million will also be spent on critical safety infrastructure and resources, including upgrading lighting in key precincts such as Bourke Street between Exhibition and Spring streets.</p>

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			<p>previously can be progressed.</p> <p>5) Allocate funding from the \$75m budget to develop further open space reserves to include in Southbank in its Planning documents.</p> <p>6) Plus other topics in the attachment"</p>	<p>greater understanding of our current state, we will be able to determine what the future state might look like and how we may get there – this may sit in a policy, plan or similar.</p> <p>3) We are aware of the potential capability to take carriage of other camera networks (OCN) in areas and explore these opportunities when they are identified. This is an approach that takes a lot of consideration given technology and infrastructure capabilities and limitations, strategic location of the OCN and agreements between Council and the owner of the property.</p> <p>4) City of Melbourne has just completed consultation on a Pedestrian and Road Safety Improvement study in the Southbank area. A number of issues (including the Power St / Kavanagh St intersection) have been raised by the community. We have budget in 2023/24 to design and implement improvements identified as part of this study. We will work with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on potential improvements to the Power St / Kavanagh St intersection, noting that it is an arterial road and DTP are responsible for any changes to this intersection.</p> <p>5) A high-level concept design is under preparation to expand the size of Miles and Dodds Street Reserve in Southbank- to create new open space. To achieve this, it will be proposed that the northern side of Miles Street (eastbound lane) is converted to new open space, and landscaped with new trees, garden beds and lawn. This project falls under the Pocket Parks program, which is a key component of Council's Major Initiative 16 (increasing open space in areas of</p>	<p>The draft Budget invests \$16.5 million to secure new open space across the municipality, including two pocket parks for Chapman Street, North Melbourne and Miles and Dodds Street Reserve in Southbank.</p> <p>\$3.5 million has been allocated for the proposed multipurpose recreation area in the Northern Undercroft space at Kings Way as part of the City Road Master Plan.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.</p>

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				need). Any permanent road closure required to deliver the project would be subject to both a community engagement process and a statutory road discontinuance process. Community engagement on the concept is scheduled for late 2023.	
67		No	- Don't charge for Sunday parking	<p>As part of the delivery of our Parking and Kerbside Management Plan, a new fee structure is proposed to make parking in the CBD fairer. This will mean a reduction in the cost of parking for many people. For short parking stays in the CBD of up to 15 minutes, parking will be free. Off-peak rates will be introduced after 7pm on weeknights and all weekend – reducing the cost from \$7 per hour to \$4 per hour on weekday evenings and on Saturdays. All of these initiatives come at a cost but are considered appropriate to enable good parking management and improve the customer experience of parking in the CBD.</p> <p>The key change this year is the introduction of paid on-street parking on a Sunday. With only 1,800 on-street car parking spaces in the CBD – and city visitation on Sundays exceeding pre-COVID levels – a change to the parking controls on Sundays is needed to better manage demand for these spaces and achieve turnover for our city traders and visitors. When parking is not well managed, lack of availability and difficulty finding a space becomes a deterrent to visiting the city.</p> <p>The rate for parking on a Sunday will be at our newly introduced off-peak rate of \$4 per hour. There are also 70,000 off-street parking spaces in the city which have competitive rates – including flat rates as cheap as \$7 on weekends. The 2023-24 Draft Budget proposes no increase to parking fees. Fees will not increase above the maximum</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>As part of the delivery of our Parking and Kerbside Management Plan, a new fee structure is proposed to make parking in the CBD fairer. This will mean a reduction in the cost of parking for many people.</p> <p>Fees will not increase above the maximum \$7 per hour in the CBD or \$4 per hour outside the CBD. This rate has been unchanged for five years.</p> <p>Sunday parking will be provided at the new off-peak rate of \$4 per hour.</p> <p>There are also 70,000 off-street parking spaces in the city which have competitive rates, including \$7 flat rates on weekends.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.</p>

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				\$7 per hour in the CBD or \$4 per hour outside the CBD. This rate has been unchanged for five years.	
68	[REDACTED]	In person	Fund a dog park in Southbank	<p>The leaking bridge is a Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) asset. Council is advocating for DTP to fix the leaky overpass.</p> <p>Other minor site improvements to the dog off-leash area have been identified by CoM and will be actioned through existing Park Renewal and operational budgets.</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>Council is advocating for repairs to be made to the bridge, which is a Department of Transport and Planning asset.</p> <p>Improvements to the dog off-leash area at Southbank have been identified and will be actioned through existing budgets.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.</p>
70	[REDACTED]	No	- introduce a short stay accommodation levy  (Victorian Council of Social Services)	<p>City of Melbourne acknowledges the continued funding efforts needed to meet the significant needs of the community and has created Homes Melbourne, a team committed to finding pathways out of homelessness and also to advocate, facilitate and partner with the housing sector for affordable housing. In particular next year this team is delivering transitional housing (Make Room). Additionally City of Melbourne is leading service coordination of 18 agencies to find pathways for people sleeping rough. A key lever is continuing to review our fees and charges that reflect current trends and associated funding requirements, whether that be sourced through CoM or through other levels of government and/or other key industry bodies.</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne is aware of community concerns regarding short-term rental accommodation, including the impact of short-term accommodation on housing availability.</p> <p>That's why we will continue to consider new initiatives and policies as we adapt to meet the needs of our growing city.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne, its philanthropic partners and the Victorian Government continue to improve housing access and affordability through Homes Melbourne. This</p>

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					<p>includes \$12 million towards the landmark Make Room project, which will convert a Council-owned building into safe and supported accommodation.</p> <p>The draft Budget also includes more than \$1.1 million to ensure rough sleepers have access to food, healthcare and other support services – including partnerships with Melbourne City Mission and the Salvation Army.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback and look forward to sharing more news on these important matters soon. Thank you.</p>
71	--	No	Allocate more money to affordable housing and homeless shelters	In addition to the contracts mentioned in the budget totalling \$1.1 million, the City of Melbourne has also created Homes Melbourne, a team committed to finding pathways out of homelessness and also to advocate, facilitate and partner with the housing sector to deliver more affordable housing. In particular, next year, this team is delivering a transitional housing project (Make Room). Additionally, City of Melbourne is leading service coordination of 18 agencies to find pathways for people sleeping rough	<p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>Council is providing more safe and supported accommodation for some of Melbourne's most vulnerable people through Homes Melbourne.</p> <p>We're joining with philanthropic partners and the Victorian Government to convert a Council-owned building into safe and supported accommodation.</p> <p>We also provide support services to ensure rough sleepers have access to food and healthcare</p> <p>City of Melbourne also partners with the Salvation Army to deliver overnight outreach services.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.</p>

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73		No	Reduce labour costs	The City of Melbourne monitors and reviews its workforce rigorously through both the budget and workforce planning throughout the year to ensure labour and resource allocation are effectively managed. The reported increase in FTE this year relates to increased community services across customer service, libraries and childcare, which require additional staffing to ensure services can be effectively delivered, along with a number of vacancies being filled.	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>We are investing now and planning for future growth to ensure our community has access to the vital services and facilities it needs.</p> <p>Our staff work hard to deliver things that matter most to our community – making our city cleaner and safer, maintaining our world class parks and gardens, supporting young families and our older residents, and providing more events to attract people to the city to boost business.</p> <p>Additional staff will be required to support the new Munro Library, and in customer relations roles to assist residents and businesses.</p> <p>City of Melbourne is investing in digital technology to improve efficiencies, and there is a reduced spend on consultant and agency fees of \$4.2 million in 2023-24.</p> <p>Most fees and charges have increased in line with CPI, and following market comparisons with other municipalities.</p> <p>The increase in total revenue for fees and charges is mainly due to the expected post-pandemic increase in activity and visitation across the municipality.</p> <p>Fees and charges for more than 60 per cent of Council services will be modestly increased in</p>

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					<p>line with the rate cap of 3.5 per cent, which is well below inflation.</p> <p>Council has identified 115 fees to be simplified or consolidated as part of our draft Budget. This is in addition to 114 fewer fees and charges in last year's Budget.</p> <p>New policies such as our reformed Code of Practice for Building, Construction and Works and the Parking Kerbside Management Program continue to deliver a simpler, fairer way of paying for City of Melbourne services.</p> <p>We want to welcome as many people into the city as possible, and we're confident local businesses will benefit significantly when Victoria hosts the 2026 Commonwealth Games.</p> <p>Hosting the Games would further enhance Melbourne's reputation across the globe and be a welcome boost for businesses.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.</p>
76		Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce spending on marketing and consultants</li> <li>- Increase support for non-retail small businesses</li> <li>- Temporarily suspend ""Greenline"" and complete Little Streets project</li> <li>- Penalise underperforming contractors</li> <li>- Adopt transparent practices for grants and project contracts</li> </ul>	<p>The City of Melbourne is committed to marketing the city as a key visitor destination with the specific intention to drive additional visitation and spend to businesses in the city. It is critical to showcase the breadth of experiences, events and businesses within the City of Melbourne as the city continues to recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Research has proven that the marketing activity promoting Melbourne drove additional monthly spend of between \$14m and \$22m over the last 6 months alone. A strategic approach is taken to our marketing using insights</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>It is important our community stays connected and informed about the important services we provide, through ongoing communications.</p> <p>Marketing our city increases visitation and spending, which drives economic growth.</p>



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			<p>- Stop increasing rates</p>	<p>generated from research to ensure the marketing activity is targeted and impactful. Our marketing has also driven over 1.5m direct leads to businesses in the last 12 through direct business promotion on the What's On channels. The reach and engagement City of Melbourne can achieve through its marketing activity has resulted in improved outcomes for businesses which would otherwise not be possible. In relation to communications, the team is responsible for ensuring that information reaches the community and our stakeholders about City of Melbourne programs and services, including consultation opportunities, disruptions notices during construction projects, access to City of Melbourne events and community activities and information about neighbourhood programs.</p> <p>Council acknowledges that the COVID-19 period has been enormously challenging for businesses. While the city is recovering strongly in some respects, many businesses face ongoing challenges. Council's draft budget includes a number of measures designed to strengthen business conditions in the City of Melbourne. For example, the Business Concierge will receive a \$500,000 boost to provide free advice and mentoring to new and existing businesses. Business precinct associations across the city will receive a total of \$1.2 million to create more opportunities for business networking, education and training, and initiatives to encourage visitation and local spending. Council will make it easier to do business in the municipality, with \$2.4 million to complete the Digital Permits Project – fast-tracking permit approval timelines and cutting red tape for traders. We'll also continue to back the hospitality and retail sector with \$540,000 to</p>	<p>Marketing campaigns promoting Melbourne have driven an additional monthly spend in our city of between \$14 million and \$22 million in the past 6 months.</p> <p>Council acknowledges COVID-19 has been challenging for businesses and the Business Concierge service will continue to provide free advice and mentoring for new and existing businesses, including non-retail businesses.</p> <p>Business precinct associations across the city will receive a total of \$1.2 million to create more opportunities for business networking, education and training, and initiatives to encourage visitation and local spending.</p> <p>Council has also allocated \$1.5 million in the 2023–24 budget to continue the upgrade of little streets across the CBD.</p> <p>City of Melbourne continues to look for ways to improve efficiencies, and the budget for consultant and agency fees has been reduced by \$4.2 million.</p> <p>Inflation is currently at 7-8 per cent and Council considers the introduction of 3.5 per cent rate cap a fair and financially responsible measure. The Victorian Government set the municipal rate cap at 3.5 per cent for 2023–24.</p> <p>We are working to make Melbourne a safer and more inclusive place through the Homes Melbourne</p>

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				<p>continue efforts to reduce shopfront vacancies. The draft budget also includes \$28.2 million for events, to attract more people to the city and boost business, delivering on Council's commitment to a vibrant, thriving economy.</p> <p>The Council budget includes \$17 million for the 2023/24 year for the Greenline Project, a city shaping initiative which when completed is forecast deliver significant benefits with the highest economic impact from visitation and economic and commercial activity. Delivery of the full Greenline Project will achieve a net benefit to the City of Melbourne over a 20-year operation period estimated at \$740.10 million net present value. Council has also allocated \$1.5 million in the 2023/24 budget to continue the upgrade of the little streets across the CBD. The major works next year will continue with upgrades to Little Lonsdale Street between Russell Street and William Street. Works currently underway and extending into next year include the blocks between Swanston Street and Elizabeth Street and Elizabeth Street and Queen Street. The block between Swanston Street and Russell Street will also be upgraded in 2023/24. We will also be making adjustments to all the other little streets in the CBD to conform with requirements from the Department of Transport and Planning to improve pedestrian safety.</p> <p>Council relies heavily on our expert staff for all our projects. However in some instances we do need to call on very specific technical expertise that would not warrant creation of a specific position in the organisation. The other reason Council uses consultants from time to time is when there is a</p>	<p>project, which will provide more supported accommodation for some of our community's most vulnerable.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.</p>

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				<p>time imperative and Council resources are otherwise engaged.</p> <p>Council has contracts in place to ensure services be delivered in accordance with complex specifications. These contracts include a number of strict service levels and dedicated key performance indicators, of which the overall costs of the contracts are calculated and paid. If a service provider underperforms, the contracts include tools and levers to manage performance shortfalls, from instructing the works be completed, to reducing the overall costs appropriately.</p> <p>6) Inflation has increased between 7-8 per cent in the past 12 months. Therefore despite the rate increase of 3.5 per cent, City of Melbourne has absorbed over half of the inflationary pressures. "</p>	
78		No	- Congratulations on a budget to drive economic and social recovery, progress environmental projects, precinct development, and support for education innovation (RMIT)	Feedback noted and welcomed.	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to make a submission on the Draft Annual Plan and Draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>We appreciate your feedback and look forward to continuing our strong partnership in delivering the best outcomes for our city.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
79		No	Increase budget for Royal Park to increase nature in the city	<p>Planned habitat improvement works in Royal Park for 23/24 FY include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White's Skink habitat restoration – establishment maintenance of goat grazed sites, following direct seeding this FY.</li> <li>• Site preparation for future habitat understorey plantings and improvements,</li> </ul>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p>

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				<p>including between Poplar Road and Golf course and the Avenue, along Elliott Avenue, and adjoining West Coburg Tram.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing establishment maintenance of recently created habitat understorey plantings, including MacArthur Road and Elliott Avenue Swale.</li> <li>• Ongoing maintenance of established wildflower meadows along gatehouse street and Oak Street following direct seeding this FY.</li> <li>• Royal Park creek – weed control and revegetation by Narrap Rangers</li> <li>• Inner Circle Linear Park escarpment – ongoing weed control and site preparation"</li> </ul>	<p>Please see below summarised details of planned habitat improvement works in Royal Park;</p> <p>White's Skink habitat restoration – maintenance of goat grazed sites.</p> <p>Preparation for future habitat understorey plantings, including between Poplar Road and golf course and the Avenue, along Elliott Avenue, and adjoining West Coburg tram.</p> <p>Maintenance of habitat understorey plantings, including MacArthur Road and Elliott Avenue Swale.</p> <p>Maintenance of wildflower meadows along gatehouse street and Oak Street following direct seeding this FY.</p> <p>Royal Park Creek weed control and revegetation by Narrap Rangers.</p> <p>Weed control and site preparation works at Inner Circle Linear Park escarpment,</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.</p>
80		In person	Increase funding for The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614's Youth Street Teams program (Salvation Army)	The Salvation Army Street teams have been funded for \$100,000.00 in 2022/23, which allows a team of Salvation Army outreach workers to patrol the CBD and respond to the needs of vulnerable people who are unable for one reason or another fend for themselves as they have lost their phone, it has run out of batteries, they are impacted by alcohol and/or drugs, mental health etc. Referrals are made to Street Teams by CoM security	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for your submission requesting additional funding to expand the capacity and capability of Youth Street Teams.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne values the service and support Youth Street Teams provides vulnerable people in our city, and as such agrees in principle to additional funding in</p>

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				<p>services, Victoria Police and pubs and clubs directly.</p> <p>We receive monthly reports and meet to discuss what has occurred over the previous months, and what is common in all reports is the Street Teams are unable to attend to all requests unless it is a rainy night.</p> <p>The request points out 2 changes forthcoming, being the removal of the freeze on late night licenses from 1/7 and public drunkenness laws changing 1/11/23. Residents are concerned about both changes, but a direct impact, increasing the volume of people needing assistance will be the public drunkenness changes.</p> <p><b>Work area recommended action:</b> additional funding is supported, subject to further information to be supplied by Salvation Army.</p>	<p>order to expand this team, pending further discussions.</p> <p>As you noted in your submission, there are emerging issues which require additional resourcing and without such funding you and your team may not be able to keep up with the demand of the service, impacting the welfare and safety of vulnerable people.</p> <p>Over the next month, we would like to work with you and your team to better understand data and evidence which demonstrates that your team is currently at capacity. Further, we'd like to better understand how the additional funding will be used to tackle emerging trends identified by your team, the impact of these trends, and how an expanded team could help manage these issues.</p> <p>We appreciate and value our relationship and welcome ongoing discussions on trends your team is identifying, which impact the welfare and safety of people in our city.</p>
81	[REDACTED]		<p>Increase funding for The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614's Youth Street Teams program (International Students Couch program)</p>	<p>The City of Melbourne greatly values its partnership with the Salvation Army to deliver The Couch, which provides important services for international students.</p> <p>To ensure that rate payers funds are used in a responsible manner, delivery of The Couch is subject to a funding agreement between the Salvation Army and Council. Funding to the Salvation Army for The Couch in 2023-24 will first require full acquittal of previous funding and negotiation of a new funding agreement.</p>	<p>"The City of Melbourne greatly values its partnership with the Salvation Army to deliver The Couch, which provides important services for international students.</p> <p>To ensure that rate payers funds are used in a responsible manner, delivery of The Couch is subject to a funding agreement between the Salvation Army and Council. Funding to the Salvation Army for The Couch in 2023-24 will first require full acquittal of previous funding and negotiation of a new funding agreement.</p>

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				<p>With appropriate support from the Salvation Army, CoM management is optimistic that a new funding agreement can be resolved quickly.</p> <p>Council's draft budget provides for \$198,000 to support international students and attract new talent, with the aim of making Melbourne the world's best student city.</p>	<p>With appropriate support from the Salvation Army, COM management is optimistic that a new funding agreement can be resolved quickly.</p> <p>Council's draft budget provides for \$198,000 to support international students and attract new talent, with the aim of making Melbourne the world's best student city."</p>
82		In person	<p>1) City Road Masterplan - SRA ask that there be no further delays in the process, as upgrades to City Road East and West are long overdue</p> <p>2) Boyd Redevelopment Project - SRA acknowledges the allocation of \$270,000 for community engagement, design and consultancy on the Boyd Redevelopment Project</p> <p>3) Transform Southbank Boulevard - SRA supports the allocation of \$250,000 for Transform Southbank Boulevard Stage 6 Initiation, however the meaning isn't clear. What does 'initiation' mean? What outcomes can we expect here? SRA would also like to request further information on the Miles and Dodds Street pocket park proposal, but</p>	<p>City Road is a State Government road. City of Melbourne will continue to advocate for State to prioritise these works.</p> <p>Initiation is the second phase in the City of Melbourne's Project Management Framework methodology for delivering successful projects. Predominately this phase involves establishment of expected project objectives and outcomes. The Initiating phase builds a solid foundation with key Stakeholders and formally initiates the project. This phase aims to investigate the feasibility, begin concept design and estimate and evaluate the budget, schedule, scope and project risks. A high-level concept design is under preparation to expand the size of Miles and Dodds Street Reserve in Southbank- to create new open space. To achieve this, it will be proposed that the northern side of Miles Street (eastbound lane) is converted to new open space, and landscaped with new trees, garden beds and lawn. This project falls under the Pocket Parks program, which is a key component of Council's Major Initiative 16 (increasing open space in areas of need). Any permanent road closure required to deliver the project would be subject to both a community engagement process and a statutory road discontinuance process. Community</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>Southbank Residents' Association's acknowledgement of funding for the Boyd redevelopment, Southbank Promenade Stage 2 Planning, new open space in Southbank and \$120,000 for the Yarra River Business Association is noted.</p> <p>In terms of your question around the Transform Southbank Boulevard project, 'initiation' refers to feasibility studies, project scope, concept design, and budget estimates. Stage 6 works are being coordinated with adjacent developments to ensure disruption is minimised.</p> <p>City of Melbourne continues to invest in key events that benefit businesses across the city, including \$300,000 for this year's Moomba parade, marking the event's 70th anniversary. This investment will renew and maintain key attractions that make up the Moomba festival.</p>

#	Name	Feedback or request to speak	Summary of feedback	Management advice to Councillors	Proposed Council response to submitter and management recommendation/s
			<p>welcomes any new open space opportunities.</p> <p>4) Southbank Promenade - SRA acknowledges the allocation of \$250,000 for Southbank Promenade Stage 2 Planning, in the hope the project stays on track.</p> <p>5) Moomba Festival Parade Assets - Moomba is not held in Southbank, so SRA was surprised to see \$300,000 allocated for the purchase of new Moomba festival parade assets; a further \$100,000 to renew existing assets; and an additional \$200,000 for parade float maintenance.</p> <p>6) Burnley Tunnel Decking - SRA and the residents of Southbank look forward to the costing phase of the proposed decking project and our committee are volunteering to participate in early consultation to assist in identifying associated challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>7) Public Open Space - SRA supports the plans by City of Melbourne to deliver new public open space in Southbank.</p> <p>8) Business Precinct Program - SRA was thrilled</p>	<p>engagement on the concept is scheduled for late 2023.</p> <p>Moomba Parade Assets - the amount allocated to the Parade is an annual requirement to renew and maintain the key attractions within the parade.</p> <p>We acknowledge and thank the committee for the offer of assistance with the Burnley Decking Project.</p>	<p>Thank you again for your feedback.</p>

#	Name	Feedback or request to speak	Summary of feedback	Management advice to Councillors	Proposed Council response to submitter and management recommendation/s
			to see a commitment of up to \$120,000 in annual funding as part of the Business Precinct Program to the Yarra River Business Association Inc (YRBA) for business support and activation initiatives.		
83		In person	On behalf of Melbourne Zoo, regarding the proposed Zoo Parking Permit fee increase, and safety and liability concerns with traffic management and carpark operations within the Royal Park precinct.	From 2016 the Zoo parking fee increased annually by \$25 per annum. The fee increase proposed in 2023-24 is based on a smaller increase at CPI (3.4%). The permit fee proposed for 2023-24 is \$310, constituting an increase of only \$10. Zoo parking permits allow staff and volunteers to park at the Zoo every day and is valid for twelve months from the issue date. With regards car park operations within the Royal Park precinct, City of Melbourne will support a joint review of the resource allocation and rostering within current budget allocations.	Dear <b>[REDACTED]</b>  Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.  In 2016, Zoo parking fees increased by \$25 per year and Council plans to increase the fee by \$10 to \$310 annually.  Zoo parking permits allow staff and volunteers access to the Zoo car park every day for 12 months.  In response to the issues you raise about car parking operations in the Royal Park precinct, your views are noted and will be reviewed.  Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.
85		In person	Please confirm if the unspent budget for bicycle infrastructure will be carried forward to the new financial year (in addition to the \$4m budget in FY23/24)	The draft Budget 2023–24 includes \$4 million for cycling infrastructure.	Dear <b>[REDACTED]</b>  Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.  In June 2022, Council paused the installation of new protected bike lanes in the CBD for 12 months.



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					<p>Council chose to prioritise the delivery of key city cycling corridors including Arden Street, Macaulay Road and Royal Parade.</p> <p>We planned to progress the delivery of these three bike lane projects in 2022–23, however, the Department of Transport and Planning has not yet provided approval.</p> <p>Council will continue to work closely with the State Government to progress approvals for bike lane and will keep the community informed.</p> <p>Our draft Budget 2023–24 includes \$4 million for cycling infrastructure and \$500,000 for pedestrian safety initiatives.</p> <p>Council is also progressing design work on CBD projects for the next financial year, including Flinders Street.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.</p>
86		No	<p>Appeal to provide long-term sustainable funding to Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL) in the sum of \$600,000 per annum to deliver free critical legal services for residents and individuals accessing services in the City of Melbourne.</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that the work of Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL) is important, particularly the work with youth in our community. IMCL have currently and previously accessed City of Melbourne grants to provide a range of necessary services to a broader scope of community members.</p> <p>However, this is not included as part of the budget process, and IMCL is invited to continue to apply through the community grants process.</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24</p> <p>Council acknowledges the important work of Inner Melbourne Community Legal (IMCL), particularly the work with youth in our community.</p> <p>We encourage IMCL to continue to access City of Melbourne grants to provide a range of necessary services for the broader community. Funding requests can be made outside the draft Budget process.</p>

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					<p>Please find a link to community grants: <a href="http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/strong-communities/funding-grants/Pages/community-funding-grants.aspx">www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/strong-communities/funding-grants/Pages/community-funding-grants.aspx</a></p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.</p>
87	[REDACTED]	Zoom	<p>Appeal to retain the city's bluestone heritage during forthcoming road reconstructions listed in the 2023-24 budget, and fund a new bluestone heritage policy that will bring its current policy into line with that of other Melbourne councils.</p>	<p>The current "Bluestone Operating Procedure" has been in use since January 2017. The aim of the document was to record existing procedures and practices in place at that time for managing bluestone laneways, kerb and channel. The document was prepared taking into consideration the heritage character of Melbourne Streets, heritage overlays in place, pedestrian safety requirements as per the intervention standards in Council's Road Management Plan, access requirements of all the road users including bicycles, wheelchairs, motorised scooters, prams, elderly and disabled people. Retaining the old bluestone pitcher laneways, wide pitcher channels the kerb while providing a safe surface to travel is a challenging task. Also upgrading asphalt footpaths to bluestone is not feasible without replacing the old kerb with uneven surfaces with new sawn bluestone. Council's intention is to preserve the old bluestone as much as possible while providing safe footpaths and laneways for everyone.</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>The current "Bluestone Operating Procedure" (<a href="http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/sitecollectiondocuments/operating-procedure-bluestone.pdf">www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/sitecollectiondocuments/operating-procedure-bluestone.pdf</a>) introduced in 2017, provides guidelines for managing bluestone laneways, kerbs and channels.</p> <p>In 2022, Council endorsed an updated Design and Construction Standards which guides planning, design, review, approval, delivery and handover of public realm spaces and infrastructure.</p> <p>This document acknowledges bluestone paving as the design standard footpath paving throughout the capital city zone, and other priority streets and spaces.</p> <p>It is used for designated high-use areas including primary streets, pedestrian-only streets, laneways and shared zones. The size and thickness of standard bluestone pavers are related to vehicle loading requirements.</p>

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					<p>Retaining the old bluestone pitcher laneways and wide pitcher channels to the kerb can be challenging while also providing a safe travel surface, can be challenging.</p> <p>It is our intention to preserve as much of the old bluestone as possible.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.</p>
88		Zoom	<p>1) There are many initiatives with ""green"" focus that are excessive in cost and scope. Many could be reduced</p> <p>2) E-scooters on footpath are dangerous, with no policing and realistic restrictions</p> <p>3) Graffiti prevention is getting worse is not being addressed</p>	<p>The provision of high quality public realm, green and open spaces makes an important contribution to city resilience and the economic, social and environmental vitality of the City of Melbourne. It also directly and indirectly benefits the health and wellbeing of the community. Economic analysis contained in the 2022 Business Case for Council's city shaping Greenline Project noted; 'Green Spaces' - Now more than ever, Melburnians appreciate the importance of spending time in the city's open space. The use of Green spaces in the City of Melbourne rose dramatically due to COVID-19, and the Council expects to see that demand continue. Greenspaces connect residents, tourists and visitors to nature, provides and variety of health and well-being benefits and builds the city's resilience to climate change'. Delivery of the Greenline Project, for example, by protecting and enhancing the environment will have a positive impact forecast at \$60 million (over twenty years) through improvements to the north bank of the Yarra River – Birrarung and its ecology, biodiversity and river health.</p> <p>Council is actively pursuing improvements to the operation of the shared e-scooter scheme during the trial. This includes exploration of Council's ability to regulate behaviour, especially footpath</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne's Transport Strategy 2030 which guides our policy on bike lanes, was adopted in 2019 after extensive community consultation. Protected bike lanes are designed to provide a safer journey not only for bike riders, but all road users.</p> <p>On-street parking space is limited, with only 1800 available spaces in the CBD. Council has recently announced changes to planning controls to allow increased parking turnover which will support city businesses, and those who choose to drive.</p> <p>Council is investing a record \$60.9 million as part of the draft Budget 2023–24 to make Melbourne a cleaner, safer and more inclusive place to support our growing population.</p> <p>Council has allocated \$2.4 million for graffiti management and prevention in the next</p>

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				<p>riding and parking scooters in locations that restrict safe access to and along our footpaths. We continue to work with Victoria Police to achieve compliance with road rules.</p> <p>Graffiti management within the city has significantly changed post Covid, due to the significant increase in occurrences of graffiti during the Covid lockdown period. A new approach was needed to manage this impact to the amenity of the City. Over the past year, CoM has made changes to significantly increase the speed, and amount of graffiti removed every month. More inspections are also undertaken every week to proactively identify and remove graffiti, reducing the need for the community to make reports. The time taken to remove reported graffiti has also more than halved over this period. City of Melbourne is always looking for efficiencies as to how graffiti is managed, and will continue to test and trial new ways to improve the customer experience and to prevent future graffiti.</p>	<p>financial year which is critical to maintaining a clean city.</p> <p>More than 60,000m2 of graffiti has been removed in the past year alone.</p> <p>City of Melbourne works closely with Victoria Police on crime prevention and identifying offenders through the Safe City Camera Program.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.</p>
89	[REDACTED]	In person	Request for additional funding towards innovative community projects that are co-funded and community-endorsed	<p>The City of Melbourne's Community Grants and Partnerships Framework was endorsed in October 2022. The framework sets out a clear purpose and principles that guide our investment in community initiatives in Melbourne up to 2025. It outlines several grant streams that provide funding for projects, programs and events run by and for the community.</p> <p>The Community Grants and Partnership Framework was developed less than 12 months ago, and endorsed in October 2022. This framework aligns community grants to Council's strategic objectives. In addition there is also significant funding available through the Events Partnership Program.</p>	<p>Dear [REDACTED],</p> <p>City of Melbourne's Community Grants and Partnerships Framework was endorsed in October 2022 (<a href="http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/strong-communities/funding-grants/Pages/community-grants-partnerships.aspx">www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/strong-communities/funding-grants/Pages/community-grants-partnerships.aspx</a>). The framework sets out a clear purpose and principles that guides our investment in community initiatives in Melbourne up to 2025. It outlines several grant streams that provide funding for projects and programs, including;</p>

#	Name	Feedback or request to speak	Summary of feedback	Management advice to Councillors	Proposed Council response to submitter and management recommendation/s
					<p>\$1.26 million for inclusive community grants to support community connection, social inclusion, access and participation.</p> <p>\$440,000 for collaborative partnerships with neighbourhood houses to deliver community development outcomes.</p> <p>\$300,000 for inclusive events grants to celebrate diversity and facilitate community connection through large and small events.</p> <p>\$100,000 for neighbourhood grants to support individuals and organisations to facilitate social connection and take action at a neighbourhood level.</p> <p>In addition, there are several community events that are funded through the City of Melbourne's Events Partnership Program, which will provide \$2.5 million in grants in the 2023–24 financial year. There are also seven not for profit and education organisations that have been funded \$350,000 for 2023–24 through the Dusk till Dawn Activation Grants Program.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.</p>
90		No	"1) The strategy of deliberately increasing the population of Melbourne to make it the biggest city in Australia is not sustainable. It should not be necessary to borrow hundreds of millions of dollars if population growth were a	According to the ABS the 'Significant Urban Area' of Melbourne is now the biggest city in Australia. This is an area governed by some 31 local councils, including the City of Melbourne. Population growth is principally a consequence of migration policy, which is the lead responsibility of the Commonwealth government. The City of Melbourne is determined to grow its economy. The Economic Development strategy and Annual	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>Melbourne is now the biggest city in Australia and the city's greater urban area is governed</p>

#	Name	Feedback or request to speak	Summary of feedback	Management advice to Councillors	Proposed Council response to submitter and management recommendation/s
			<p>successful economic strategy</p> <p>2) I would like to see the City of Melbourne use its powers and position to clean up the university sector with regards to wage theft and universities that claimed themselves to be charities</p> <p>3) Most other Councils include at least one line item for parking infringements/offences that are 0.5 penalty unit, I cannot find this in the draft Fees and Charges schedule. Does it mean that the Council cannot validly issue infringement notices?</p> <p>4) It would be helpful if the Fees and Charges Schedule had a table of contents, similar to the format that the City of Yarra"</p>	<p>Plan outline plans to do so, and focus on growth in the knowledge economy, visitor economy and cultural economy. In particular, we aim to position the city to realise the economic benefits of the zero carbon transition, and to leverage the strengths of Melbourne's diverse population.</p> <p>Universities are a vitally important part of the City of Melbourne. Universities such as the University of Melbourne, RMIT and Monash University have substantial campuses in the city that teach thousands of students and engage in world-leading research. Students (including international students) that study at these institutions contribute to the city in a myriad of ways – as workers, residents, customers, volunteers and artists. Universities also play a critical part in underpinning Melbourne's knowledge and technology sectors. According to QS World Rankings, Melbourne is the #1 student city in Australia and one of the great student cities in the world. The City of Melbourne works closely with the universities in pursuit of a range of priorities aligned with the Council Plan. Note that the lead responsibility for wage theft and for the determination of charity status sits with the Victorian and Commonwealth governments.</p> <p>In releasing the fees and charges schedule for Parking, we have been consistent with other capital cities who do not include parking penalty fees in their fees schedule, Please note that these penalty rates are not set by the council, but are set by the state government.</p>	<p>by 31 local councils, including City of Melbourne.</p> <p>Council is committed to growing our city's economy and we draw on the strengths of Melbourne's diverse population to help it thrive.</p> <p>Universities are vitally important to the City of Melbourne, and operate independently of Council.</p> <p>The draft Budget 2023–24 sets out the schedule of parking fees in Appendix F (page 120) but as you note, does not include a breakdown of parking infringements. We note your suggestion.</p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

#	Name	Feedback or request to speak	Summary of feedback	Management advice to Councillors	Proposed Council response to submitter and management recommendation/s
91		In person	Introduction and endorsement of SarasCare, a community organisation based in Docklands	The Community Grants and Partnership Framework was developed less than 12 months ago, and endorsed in October 2022. This framework aligns community grants to Council's strategic objectives. In addition there is also significant funding available through the Events Partnership Program. Therefore no additional funding is recommended however officers are happy to reach out to Sarascare to connect and further understand the work they are doing and to identify opportunities to work together.	<p>Dear [REDACTED]</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p> <p>City of Melbourne's Community Grants and Partnerships framework guides our investment in community initiatives in Melbourne up to 2025.</p> <p>It outlines several grant streams that provide funding for projects and programs and we encourage community organisations such as SarasCare to make funding submissions: <a href="http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/strong-communities/funding-grants/Pages/community-grants-partnerships.aspx">www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/strong-communities/funding-grants/Pages/community-grants-partnerships.aspx</a></p> <p>Once again, we appreciate your feedback.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

### Summary of feedback and management recommendations on the draft Budget 2023–24 – Neighbourhood house

#	Name	Feedback or request to speak	Summary of feedback	Management advice to Councillors	Proposed Council response to submitter and management recommendation/s
6		In person	Fund Docklands Neighbourhood House	The Inclusive Melbourne Strategy and the Neighbourhood Planning Framework guide the City of Melbourne's approach to community connection and inclusion in the municipality, applying both a local neighbourhood and whole of city lens.	<p>Dear,</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on City of Melbourne's draft Budget 2023–24.</p>
7		In person	Fund Docklands Neighbourhood House		

#	Name	Feedback or request to speak	Summary of feedback	Management advice to Councillors	Proposed Council response to submitter and management recommendation/s
8		In person		<p>Fostering community connections is a key priority for the City of Melbourne and it has emerged as a common priority across most neighbourhoods, including Docklands, through recent neighbourhood planning. The City of Melbourne applies a holistic approach to understand existing support and investment across the municipality and to guide future initiatives to respond to this priority. An initial review of community connection services across the municipality found more programs and places for connection in Docklands in comparison to similar neighbourhoods with high-rise living and large residential populations, such as Southbank.</p> <p>Funding for neighbourhood houses is one of many ways we partner with organisations to connect and empower our local communities. The City of Melbourne invests \$3M in a diverse number of community services and social connection activities in Docklands – both delivered by internal staff and through contracted partners (e.g. The Huddle and YMCA). An additional \$3.6M is provided for events and activities to benefit residents and businesses. Collectively, these provide many opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to participate in free or low-cost social, educational, recreational and support activities.</p> <p>The 2022 Docklands Summit led to actions endorsed by the Future Melbourne Committee on 8 November 2022, which included a commitment from City of Melbourne to continue working with community to understand and identify the right approach to drive more community connection in</p>	<p>We work closely with communities to understand and deliver on the specific needs of neighbourhoods across our municipality. Funding for neighbourhood houses is one of many ways we partner with organisations to connect and empower our local communities.</p> <p>Since 2019, the City of Melbourne has provided funding to The Centre in Docklands for its Pop-Up Neighbourhood House, through Social Innovation Partnership and Connected Community Grants and through the Councillor Discretionary Fund. This was one-off funding, supplemented by Development Victoria, which will not be offered in 2023–24.</p> <p>The Docklands community will continue to benefit from a diverse range of services, facilities and amenities – delivered by the City of Melbourne and in partnership with community organisations. These include Library at the Dock, the Community Hub at the Dock, Gowrie at the Harbour and the Docklands Sports Hub.</p> <p>The City of Melbourne invests almost \$3 million in community services and social connection activities in Docklands and about \$3.6 million of further funding for events and activities to benefit residents and businesses.</p> <p>Council will also establish the Docklands Stakeholder Group to provide a forum for information sharing to improve community connections, identify stakeholder priorities and funding opportunities.</p>
9		Zoom	Fund Docklands Neighbourhood House		
25		No	Fund Docklands Neighbourhood House		
26		No	- Fund Docklands Neighbourhood House - Retain Docklands Repair Cafe		
28		Zoom	- Fund Docklands Neighbourhood House - Fund Toy Library		
29		In person	Fund Docklands Neighbourhood House		
30		Zoom	Fund Docklands Neighbourhood House		
42		In person	Fund Docklands Neighbourhood House		
43		In person	Fund Docklands Neighbourhood House		
44		In person	Fund Docklands Neighbourhood House		
45		No			
46		Zoom			
48		No			



#	Name	Feedback or request to speak	Summary of feedback	Management advice to Councillors	Proposed Council response to submitter and management recommendation/s
49	[REDACTED]	No		<p>Docklands. A stakeholder group will be convened in Docklands including key community and business groups and other representatives identified through an Expression of Interest process (which concluded on 8 June) to identify opportunities to activate this priority.</p> <p>Traditionally, neighbourhood houses are funded by a combination of state, local government and philanthropic organisations. Since 2019, City of Melbourne has provided \$196,000 of one-off funding to The Centre to deliver the Docklands Pop-up Neighbourhood House (Docklands Pop-up). This funding was supplemented by Development Victoria. During this period Docklands Pop-up has not identified a sustainable operating model or demonstrated the level of reach and engagement that would be expected for a Neighbourhood House with this level of funding.</p> <p>It is also worth noting that City of Melbourne has not conducted an open procurement process to provide ongoing funding for a neighbourhood house in Docklands.</p> <p>Given the above considerations, no funding has been allocated to the Docklands Pop-up in the draft budget 2023-34. Council's consideration to fund any additional investment in Docklands for community connection should consider proposals that may emerge from the work of the Docklands Stakeholder Group to be established by July 2023.</p>	Once again, we appreciate your feedback. Thank you.
50	[REDACTED]	No			
51	[REDACTED]	No			
52	[REDACTED]	No			
55	[REDACTED]	In person			
56	[REDACTED]	No			
57	[REDACTED]	In person			
58	[REDACTED]	No			
60	[REDACTED]	No			
61	[REDACTED]	In person			
62	[REDACTED]	Zoom			
63	[REDACTED]	No			
64	[REDACTED]	No			

#	Name	Feedback or request to speak	Summary of feedback	Management advice to Councillors	Proposed Council response to submitter and management recommendation/s
66	[REDACTED]	No			
69	[REDACTED]	No			
72	[REDACTED]	Zoom			
74	[REDACTED]	No			
75	[REDACTED]	No			
77	[REDACTED]	No			
84	[REDACTED]	In person			
92	[REDACTED]	In person			

### Summary of feedback and management recommendations on the draft Budget 2023–24 – Busking

#	Name	Feedback or request to speak	Summary of feedback	Management advice to Councillors	Proposed Council response to submitter and management recommendation/s
10	[REDACTED]	No	Busking permit fees too high	Council is considering the re-introduction of busking fees from 1 July 2023 after a long period of free permits. Busking permit fees have been waived since October 2020 as a response to the pandemic to support the economic recovery of the city and Melbourne's creative community. The new proposed application fee for circle acts with dangerous goods (\$207) is designed for 'new' circle act applicants (using dangerous goods) who are required to undertake a risk and safety assessment. The fee does not apply to Circle Act	Thank you for your submission requesting Council to reconsider the proposed increase in busking fees and the introduction of a \$207 busking application fee for Street Entertainment, Premium Permit and Circle Act Assessments with Dangerous Goods.  City of Melbourne is proud of its reputation in supporting a vibrant street culture and values the diversity of entertainment buskers bring to
11	[REDACTED]	No	Busking permit fees too high		
12	[REDACTED]	No	Busking permit fees too high		
13	[REDACTED]	No	Busking permit fees too high		

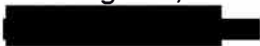
#	Name	Feedback or request to speak	Summary of feedback	Management advice to Councillors	Proposed Council response to submitter and management recommendation/s
14	[REDACTED]	No	Busking permit fees too high	<p>performers who are not using dangerous goods or for renewing a Circle Act permit (with dangerous goods).</p> <p>The proposed fee partially covers the administration cost of undertaking the risk and safety assessment which Council currently funds. Circle acts with dangerous goods have an elevated risk to public safety and an assessment to ensure the act is safe is required. Street Performance Australia Ltd (SPA) administers the assessment process on behalf of Council in order to minimize the public safety risks of street performance acts through an accredited peer assessment process, and to limit the City of Melbourne's exposure to public liability.</p> <p>Street Performance Australia Ltd charges the City of Melbourne administrative costs and assessment fees of \$300 per standard 2 hour assessment which applies for assessing a performance. Additional time beyond 2 hours will be charged at \$300 per hour, as required. Assessments are usually held monthly (or as required), with additional assessments on request from City of Melbourne.</p> <p>There are currently 30 Circle Act performers using dangerous goods with permits and 18 Circle Act performers (without dangerous goods). The fee does not apply for renewing a Circle Act permit (with dangerous goods) unless more than 5 years has elapsed since the original assessment. Existing circle act performers with dangerous goods (current permit holders) only need to apply every 5 years to undertake a risk and safety assessment to ensure risk and safety of the act is</p>	<p>the public. We are also committed to providing an accessible and affordable permit system for the busking and street entertainment community.</p> <p>On this basis Council has decided that busking fees will not be increased in the proposed Council Budget for 2023-2024, when busking fees are re-introduced on 1 July 2023 (after the fee waiver period has come to an end). The proposed \$207 busking application fee for Street Entertainment, Premium Permit and Circle Act Assessments with Dangerous Goods will also not be introduced at this time.</p>
15	[REDACTED]	No	Busking permit fees too high		
17	[REDACTED]	No	Busking permit fees too high		
19	[REDACTED]	No	Busking permit fees too high		
21	[REDACTED]	No	Busking permit fees too high		
22	[REDACTED]	No	Busking permit fees too high		
23	[REDACTED]	No	Busking permit fees too high		
24	[REDACTED]	No	Busking permit fees too high		
27	[REDACTED]	No	Busking permit fees too high		
31	[REDACTED]	In person	Busking permit fees too high		
32	[REDACTED]	No	Busking permit fees too high		
34	[REDACTED]	Zoom	Busking permit fees too high		
36	[REDACTED]	No	Busking permit fees too high		
38	[REDACTED]	In person	Busking permit fees too high		

#	Name	Feedback or request to speak	Summary of feedback	Management advice to Councillors	Proposed Council response to submitter and management recommendation/s
				<p>still acceptable. The application fee does not apply to Circle act performers without dangerous goods.</p> <p>City of Melbourne busking permit fees have been traditionally low in comparison to other Councils that charge fees. The general permit fee for busking proposed at \$50 per annum (\$20 increase) is comparable and in most cases lower than other municipal districts and capital cities. The fee covers busking in public areas for 365 days per year which equates to less than \$1 a week. As a comparison, for a busking permit the City of Yarra charges \$15.50 per month, City of Sydney charges \$47 for 12 months, and the City of Port Phillip require \$55 for 6 months. The City of Stonnington charges \$27 for 6 months for a busking permit. The City of Sydney charges \$115 assessment fee for high impact acts and is not just limited to circle acts with dangerous goods.</p>	

**Public feedback on the draft Annual Plan 2023-24**

<b>Feedback number</b>	<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Request to Speak</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
1	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	2
2	[REDACTED]	Speak In Person	2
3	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	2
4	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	2
5	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	2
6	[REDACTED]	Speak via Zoom	2
7	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	2
8	[REDACTED]	Speak via Zoom	3
9	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	3
10	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	3
11	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	3
12	[REDACTED]	Speak via Zoom	3
13	[REDACTED]	Speak In Person	4
14	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	5
15	[REDACTED]	Speak In Person	9
16	[REDACTED]	Speak via Zoom	18
17	Victorian Pride Lobby	Feedback only	21

Feedback Number	Feedback
1	<p>I like the annual plan. I particularly like educating school children about graffiti. (What are other cities worldwide doing, many cities oversea don't have a Graffiti problem to know this may provide us with further ideas) I do not like what I see as the plans over emphasis on aboriginals. This is because there are less than 800 so why does such a minority have such an influence and also because it is decisive focusing on race we are all part of the Melbourne community and we want it to be an Australian Melbourne community not one fractured by minorities, race or preferences.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
2	<p>Very disappointing to see no funds allocated for a pedestrian connection between North Melbourne Station and Docklands. I live near the station, lots of apartments are going in with heaps of future residents moving in soon. We live SO close to Docklands but its next to impossible to get there via PT or by walking so I never visit. Surely Council would like to activate Docklands and increase visits to the area to spend money on local businesses. I have lived in West Melbourne for nearly three years and been to Docklands ONCE because it's so difficult to get too. Please consider progressing a pedestrian overpass as soon as possible.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
3	<p>If there's no plan to electrify buses, that's high on my list. The 401 bus loop buses idle for (cumulative) hours every day - ideal to replace that with a charging dock for electric ones. And probably free as the shelter is large enough for a bunch of solar panels. Cheers.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
4	<p>I strongly support prioritising walking and cycling in city of Melbourne.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
5	<p>Street performers should regulate themselves and should not be required to audition.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
6	<p>We live on Gatehouse St, Parkville and love the wildflower meadows at Royal Park. This is an important initiative.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak via Zoom*</p>
7	<p>Its help to interact the kids with community and playing with their friends.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>

8	<p>52 "Major" initiatives? None more important than blocking a CBD injection site that in itself would defeat most of the others.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak via Zoom*</p>
9	<p>Consider making the city centre more pedestrian friendly as many European cities have done by restricting vehicle access in the afternoons and evenings, i.e. allowing delivery vehicles etc access until say 11am, and then only transport vehicles thereafter i.e. taxis, buses and trams. Would you like to address?: No</p>
10	<p>Your website reads, "On 7 June 2022, the Council resolved to pause the further installation of new protected bike lanes in the CBD for 12 months". It is now 12 months later. Which of the CBD bike lanes will council be commencing this week?</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
11	<p>Now the bike lane construction pause has ended, which project is going to be built next and when?</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
12	<p>Dear City of Melbourne,  I note the following priorities in your Council Plan:  "Increased economic participation, with a city economy that is more inclusive and fair..."  "All people feel safe and included when participating in Melbourne's economic, visitor and community life."  "An efficient and safe transport network where our streets are safer for all users."</p> <p>The rapid growth of platform-based food delivery has had a significant effect on traffic and kerbside management. The City of Melbourne's policies have less clarity, however, regarding the social, economic, and safety conditions faced by food delivery riders on a daily basis. I would like to work with Council to improve City of Melbourne's understanding of, and support for, food delivery riders and their communities.</p> <p>Specifically, I seek the addition of the following activity in your Annual Plan 2023-24: "Support food delivery riders by implementing a safe and dedicated space in the central city for riders to rest, recharge and support each other."</p> <p>I would be delighted to talk through specific ideas with you at the earliest convenient opportunity.</p> <p>Kind regards,  </p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak via Zoom*</p>

13	<p>Major Initiative 45 in the Annual Plan is strongly supported. Regarding "bicycling encouragement programs", the best way of encouraging cycling is protected bike lanes, fewer motor vehicles and low speed streets. Proposed counter-flow for the Little Streets is supported, see our data-rich analysis of Flinders Lane <a href="https://bikemelbourne.org/2019/01/flinders-lane/">https://bikemelbourne.org/2019/01/flinders-lane/</a>The "pause" in building CBD protected bike lanes is over as of July first. What projects will commence on that date? Initiative 45 "Governance and milestones" section is silent on any bicycle projects. Are both Flinders St and Bourke/Spring St projects ready to start on July first? Including carry over of 22/23 amount not spent, what is the total budget available for bicycle projects in 23/24? Is there a costing for each of the projects to be carried out in 23/24? Does the funding match the promises? Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
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14	Hi, please find some thoughts attached. Regards, [REDACTED] Would you like to address?: No
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## Memo

to| CoM  
addr| via email  
from| [REDACTED]  
date| 4/6/23  
project| -  
pages| 3  
subject| Draft report response

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To whom it may concern,

There is a much that is great about Melbourne, but some things aren't. I've read through your report draft, and support much of it, but there are strange omissions.

I realise that some of these suggestions might be a bit "micro" but include them anyway as don't know where else to put them. This is my first response to a draft plan.

Most of these are "could do better" suggestions, but overall I think you're doing pretty well!

### STREET CLEANING

- phase out council street-cleaning gas-powered leaf blowers. Noise and air pollution (particulates), bad carbon impact (ref Californian studies) and frequently occurring before 8am in residential areas, contravening EPA restrictions. Main advantage of blowers is to blow under cars?
- private leaf blowers are often used without care, kicking up dust and just moving leaves to the neighbour's frontage. No masks, no ear muffs, and little consideration for passersby. They should at least be forced to use electric blowers, preferably brooms.

TRAFFIC, STREETS, CYCLING, WALKING

- east west cycling connections across city seem to be getting worse. Greenline is not going to help. Southbank is now too congested to use as a cycle route. I can't think of a half decent east-west route between LaTrobe Street and Southbank Blvd.
- work to fill gaps in cycling routes - in all directions.
- main Lygon street cycling / walking route adjacent to cemetery is dangerous, with low branches and root-broken footpaths. Use absorbent materials instead of impermeable asphalt, consider night lighting or motion activated lighting.
- train delivery riders in the road rules - I see them regularly go through red lights, pedestrian crossings, zip past trams with passengers alighting, use their apps while riding, either go too fast or too slow to be compatible with cyclists in Copenhagen lanes. They should be paid per hour and not per delivery.
- phase out gas-powered food delivery motorbikes with taxes
- improve and make safer pedestrian access to Princes Park & cemetery across Cemetery Road.
- I'd like to see a study into pedestrian safety at intersections and crossings in CoM, working out the worst intersections and working to them. Situations seem to have deteriorated since I moved to CoM in 1997, despite millions spent on bollards elsewhere.
- Lygon Street north of Queensberry - one lane of traffic each way. Traffic regularly exceeds the 40kph limit and the lanes are narrow, making it dicey to cross the street.
- Make parklets permanent, but they should be footpath extensions not rotting timber & concrete lumps. Charge rent on them if used by restaurants, even if peppercorn.
- reduce speed on all 60kph inner-urban streets in pedestrian areas (eg Swanston north of Elgin). If these are Vicroads "highways", then they should not be.
- some sort of policy to deter current fashion for using jacked-up monster trucks as private vehicles in tight inner city streets. They are dangerous for everyone around them.
- Copenhagen lanes are great but they make crossing the road or driving into the road more difficult where there are parked cars. There is often no buffer zone and oncoming traffic is often invisible due to the increased height of modern SUVs, as well as their dark glass. (Swanston Street north of Elgin is particularly dangerous as 60kph).
- improve and make safer pedestrian access to Princes Park & cemetery across Cemetery Road
- I see many very sick people camped on the streets around Carlton and the city, with inadequate clothing and sleeping bags, and open sores. Encourage refit of buildings as safe boarding houses to accommodate homeless and improve health and social worker support. Otherwise

[REDACTED]

hand out support kits to them (thermals!) - this isn't condoning or encouraging people to sleep rough, just keeping them alive.

- I have seen no advice about whether or not to hand money to people sleeping rough on the street. What is council policy? Who has responsibility?
- Advocate for small ongoing police presence in central Carlton - Wrecklyn Street is too far away. Encourage unarmed community beat cops. I only see them in Lygon Street about 10 minutes after something has gone wrong, armed to the teeth.

## WORKING IN THE CITY

- get serious about maintaining spaces for small creative businesses in the CBD. Co-working, hot-desking "hub" spaces, and their tiny "carrel" offices don't work for many - I have tried them. I know tens of people who have been forced out of the city in the past 10 years by landlords repurposing space (changing to whole-of-floor-plate leases), or jacking up prices. Pushing everyone to work from home in the suburbs in isolation killed what had been quite a creative economy.
- highly regulated spaces like Collins Street Studios are not the answer for many - no air after 6pm, \$20M Public Liability insurance! Vale Nicholas Building, Bourke House, and so on - all we need are small office leases and some certainty of tenure.
- stop offering small businesses digital grants that force them to use products from multinational companies instead of local ones. This weird recurring policy has lost me work as a CoM web developer ("why pay you money when the council will give me money to shift to Shopify (etc).")

15	Please see the attached submission and attachment from [REDACTED]. Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*
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## SUBMISSION

# City of Melbourne Draft 2023-24 Budget & Annual Plan

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Polar Enviro appreciates the opportunity to make this submission to the Council regarding its Draft 2023-24 Budget and Annual Plan.

Setting a Budget and Annual Plan can be difficult at any time. So, it is essential to recognise up front several external factors that have affected the Council's ability to balance and meet a range of expectations and policy commitments, including:

- Melbourne City Council is the most heavily impacted capital city due to Covid lockdowns
- Interest rates, higher material and labour costs
- Requiring approvals from the State Government
- Falling government grants and rate capping.

In response to these external factors, the City of Melbourne is using its respected voice as well as membership of the M9 group of Councils to advocate for safety and sustainability, and in particular, the following objectives:

- Active transport
- Community resilience
- Waste and Circular Economy.

Turning back to the 2023-24 Budget and Annual Plan, Polar Enviro offers its help and expertise to assist Council in delivering its budget & goals.

Polar Enviro appreciates that when prioritising projects for its Capital Works Budget, Council must juggle external and internal factors. Likewise, policy commitments can often conflict depending on external and internal priorities.

Despite these challenges, the Draft Budget and Annual Plan should be supported, and we particularly welcome several activities and programs, as outlined in Section 7 of this submission.

While many submissions may call for more allocations to specific programs, our focus in this submission is on ways Polar Enviro can provide our help and expertise within the draft budget parameters.

Council has opportunities to deliver its footpaths, cycleways, parks, open space, and streetscape programs and we have outlined some suggestions in this submission. Polar Enviro would also welcome ongoing discussions with Council on how it can meet the unique demands placed on Melbourne.

Noting Council's leadership on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Climate Emergency and Council's commitment to delivering safer and more sustainable footpaths,

## City of Melbourne Draft 2023-24 Budget & Annual Plan

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cycleways, parks, open spaces and streetscapes, we believe the following aspirations will receive a significant boost through this and subsequent budgets:

- Increase in proportion of trips made by public transport, bicycle or on foot
- 33% reduction in municipal greenhouse gas emissions (from 2015 baseline)
- 50% increase in municipal waste diverted from landfill.

Turning next to Melbourne's built environment, Polar Enviro submits that there are significant opportunities to scale up the Council's procurement of low-emissions technologies and recycled content within its expanded Buildings and Building Improvements programs.

In summary, we are confident that Melbourne City Council will lead by example, and that it will respond to changes in how Melbourne functions. As workers, visitors and residents change the shape of Melbourne, their changing preferences around travel, entertainment, infrastructure and amenities will rely on such leadership.

Polar Enviro offers our help and expertise to assist Council with these changing functions and preferences.

In the meantime, we have provided further information in Attachment 1, which outlines some of the future challenges and solutions relevant to the Council.

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## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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We make seven recommendations in response to Council's Draft Budget and Annual Plan.

**Recommendation 1:** Conduct an internal review regarding ways to better integrate Council's commitments to UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Climate Emergency and its Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan with its footpaths, cycleways, parks, open spaces and streetscapes programs.

**Recommendation 2:** Formally adopt and enforce VicRoads Standard 431 for Coloured Surface Treatments (bike and bus lanes and pedestrian crossings) to ensure its surfaces are compliant and, as a result, reduce lifecycle costs through reduced maintenance and repair.

**Recommendation 3:** Continue focusing on the cost, safety and compliance (including skid resistance, longevity and aesthetics) of bike and bus lanes and pedestrian crossings.

**Recommendation 4:** Mandate Australian recycled content for Coloured Surface Treatments to address compliance and climate change and divert waste from landfill.

## City of Melbourne Draft 2023-24 Budget & Annual Plan

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**Recommendation 5:** Implement affordable, effective and easily implemented technologies to improve safety for vulnerable road users on Council roads. For example, as is done in London, the use of High Friction Surface Treatments in advance of pedestrian and bicycle crossings ensures vehicles stop faster and reduces the impact and speed of crashes involving pedestrians and riders. Council can also use yellow recycled-glass surface treatments and solar-battery in-ground LED lights to make crossings more visible in low-light conditions.

**Recommendation 5:** Continue and, where possible, accelerate internal and related entity understanding and practice of procurement decisions that embed lifecycle costing and circular economy outcomes. For example, using Australian recycled glass in coloured surface treatments on roads, reducing emissions and battery eWaste, and improving safety and reducing costs using photoluminescent exit sign technology.

**Recommendation 6:** Continue and, where possible, accelerate its advocacy strategies with the State Government and others to:

- Ensure faster approvals for active transport projects
- Ensure alignment of these with climate-related goals
- Advocate for, investigate and adopt alternative funding models.

**Recommendation 7:** Utilise its built environment budgets and programs to significantly lift procurement of low emissions technologies and recycled content.

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### 3. ABOUT POLAR ENVIRO

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Polar Enviro is a local, Melbourne-owned and operated integrated safety and environmental solutions company incorporating long-standing businesses Smarterlite, Safety Path, OmniGrip Direct and Vivacity.

Working with governments, businesses and communities, Polar Enviro:

- Reduces the stress and trauma associated with road crashes, particularly for vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists
- Provides low emissions access and egress solutions, including National Construction Code approved and circular Photo Luminescent Exit Signs
- Uses recycled glass from Australian waste streams to improve skid resistance in bike and bus lanes and pedestrian crossings
- Provides renewable lighting and other wayfinding and safety lighting solutions for public spaces.

Polar Enviro businesses have provided safety and environmental solutions within the City of Melbourne for many years. Examples include:

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## City of Melbourne Draft 2023-24 Budget & Annual Plan

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- Melbourne was also the first location for our high-profile LED Tactiles across from the Town Hall that assist pedestrians walking onto pedestrian crossings that rely on drivers giving way to them
- Coloured Surface Treatments where we use colour and recycled glass to:
  - define the use or purpose of spaces such as green for bike lanes, red for bus lanes and yellow for pedestrian crossings, and
  - provide skid-resistance, texture depth and colour retention
- In-ground smart stud lights used as bicycle and scooter-activated lights to alert road and path users to approaching riders (recent sites include the entry to Melbourne Central Carpark on Latrobe Street and the corner of Queensberry and Berkeley Streets in Carlton).

As mentioned, we've included solutions we think are relevant to Council in the future in Attachment 1.

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#### **4. CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

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The recent progress report to Council's Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan, noted by Council on 2 May 2023, includes several priorities for accelerated action and increased ambition. Polar Enviro applauds the Council on the activities it proposes in the Draft Budget and Annual Plan to support this plan.

We submit that the six priorities we believe are most likely to make the most significant contribution to Council's aspirations include:

- Transition Council assets from fossil fuels
- Fast track delivery of 44 kilometres of bike lanes
- Stimulate end market circular economy solutions
- Embed climate change and biodiversity into Council processes, programs and design and construction of assets
- Zero Carbon Buildings – zero emissions, climate-adapted new buildings and precinct by 2030 and regulation and incentives for existing mid-tier commercial buildings to achieve zero carbon by 2040 (state and federal)
- Undertake bold advocacy on behalf of our community.

The Implementation Update for this action plan, dated January 2023, notes some progress against the action to accelerate the delivery of 44km of protected bike lanes and strong progress to accelerate changes to purchasing practices to use recycled materials.

Polar Enviro acknowledges that various factors have affected the rollout of protected bike lanes, and we strongly support Council's intent to deliver on this commitment. Council is uniquely positioned to make a difference in this area by using recycled-glass surfaces on its roads, bicycle lanes and bus lanes and for placemaking projects.

## City of Melbourne Draft 2023-24 Budget & Annual Plan

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This will reduce the Council's consumption of imported asphalt/bitumen products, use of quarried materials and short-lived coatings (microplastics) on road and path surfaces.

Polar Enviro submits that the rollout of the protected bike lanes and the increased uptake of recycled content from local waste streams underpin Melbourne's safe, liveable, sustainable and visitable reputation, and we offer our help and expertise in contributing to these aspirations.

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### 5. FOOTPATHS, CYCLEWAYS, PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND STREETSCAPES

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#### **Introduction**

The importance of these programs cannot be understated, as Melbourne residents, visitors, and businesses will benefit from reduced emissions, improved air quality, lower congestion, and better physical and mental health.

People understand there are no overnight or easy solutions. They also understand that safety is linked to the condition of assets and human behaviour.

The City, its assets and its people are still recovering from the impacts of the Covid lockdowns. Polar Enviro provides ways for Council to catch up on its maintenance programs and renewal within the budget parameters Council has set.

We also note that a number of our safety technologies also address human behaviour, particularly driver behaviour which is important to address given the increasing number and severity of incidents.

#### **Council leveraging its leadership role**

As we are close to halfway towards 2030, Council's policy aspirations for a safe, liveable, sustainable and visitable Melbourne will come into even greater focus.

Polar Enviro, therefore, applauds Council for its strong advocacy in these program areas.

We also submit that Council could consider using its unique leadership role to spearhead greater efforts by the M9 group of Councils to collaborate with the Department of Transport and Planning, as well as the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, to investigate and adopt innovative active transport and open space infrastructure funding models.

Queensland's Transport and Main Road (TMR) Councils, bicycle groups, and active transport advocates and professionals led one collaboration worth considering.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Leung A., Burke M., James B., Brotherton A. (2019). *Innovative Cycling Infrastructure Funding and their potential in Queensland - Final Report*. Cities Research Institute, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia.



## SUBMISSION

# City of Melbourne Draft 2023-24 Budget & Annual Plan

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TMR commissioned Griffith University to investigate innovative funding models that could help Councils, and others find additional funding sources to accelerate the delivery of the bicycle network in Queensland. The goal of this collaboration was not to find alternative funding streams but to find sources that could be used in addition to those already being made available.

Polar Enviro would therefore support Council in leading a similar collaboration in Melbourne, alongside other advocacy efforts as outlined in Recommendation 5 above.

As well as leading through advocacy, Polar Enviro submits that the Council could also consider working with M9 to embed sustainable procurement and improved lifecycle costing, driving best practices for Councils across Melbourne.

### **Commonwealth Games**

Looking ahead to the upcoming Commonwealth Games, the Council may be called upon to undertake a significant revitalisation initiative to ensure the city is highly presentable to the world.

While the primary funding responsibility for this should rest with the State Government, combined efforts may lead to increased costs as the availability of contractors becomes limited, potentially resulting in higher prices for new contractors working in the City of Melbourne.

Polar Enviro offers our help and expertise on how revitalisation works can be delivered sustainably and affordably, for example, by using our ReSurface range that enables Councils to apply a durable thin coating to existing surfaces to lift the appearance of public spaces. Recycled glass or natural aggregates can be used overnight to dramatically improve public spaces while minimising the disruption of removing and relaying asphalts and concretes and reducing embodied emissions.

Polar Enviro also looks forward to opportunities to celebrate Melbourne's Indigenous and cultural groups through infrastructure and placemaking projects, ensuring a legacy remains after the games.

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## **6. BUILDINGS AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS**

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As mentioned previously, Polar Enviro submits that there are significant opportunities to scale up the Council's procurement of low-emissions technologies and recycled content in these programs.

Polar Enviro has participated in many sustainability, zero carbon and related industry forums and events led by Council over the last year.

## City of Melbourne Draft 2023-24 Budget & Annual Plan

We applaud Council for its efforts to focus building owners, facility managers and others on the challenge we all share and the urgent need to increase the procurement of low-emissions technologies and recycled content, given that buildings contribute up to 66% of Melbourne's carbon emissions.

Council adopting our low emission and low (or no) eWaste exit sign technology will substantially help the Council address its climate action targets. If advocated within the business community, progress would be amplified.

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### 7. ANNUAL PLAN INDICATORS OF SUCCESS, OUTCOMES, ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

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While all activities will strongly support Melbourne's reputation as one of the world's most sustainable, safe, liveable and visitable cities, some are worthy of specific mention and support as outlined below.

#### **Increase in proportion of trips made by public transport, bicycle or on foot**

- Develop a prioritisation and delivery plan for two new pedestrian and bicycle crossings of the Moonee Ponds Creek
- Deliver new bike infrastructure, including separated bike lanes on Flinders Street and Bourke Street (subject to State Government agreement)
- Work with the Victorian Government to progress the Royal Parade bike lanes
- Plan and deliver neighbourhood pedestrian and road safety improvements (including in Carlton and West Melbourne)
- Conduct a pedestrian improvement study for Carlton
- Install pedestrian safety infrastructure as recommended through the pedestrian improvement study conducted in 2022 for East Melbourne
- Investigate opportunities for neighbourhood pedestrian improvements for West Melbourne
- Advocate for the City of Melbourne's public and active transport objectives via relevant strategic and statutory planning processes.

#### **33% reduction in municipal greenhouse gas emissions (from 2015 baseline).**

- Progress adoption and implementation of the Zero-Carbon Buildings Plan with a focus on existing commercial office buildings
- Measure the embodied carbon of City of Melbourne's capital works program, introduce low-carbon materials in key capital projects and work towards ongoing monitoring and reporting of embodied carbon
- One to two Council capital projects using low-carbon materials, and outcomes shared publically.



## City of Melbourne Draft 2023-24 Budget & Annual Plan

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### **50% increase in municipal waste diverted from landfill**

- Raised awareness of waste generation and methods of reduction across City of Melbourne commercial businesses
- Visitors are attracted to the precinct due to alignment with personal sustainability values (green dollar spending)
- Circular Economy principles instilled in current City of Melbourne processes, with raised employee awareness
- Collaborative partnerships (M9 Joint Venture) – develop partnership options and opportunities with neighbouring councils, aimed at driving innovation within the recycling market, and circular economy outcomes (M9 is an alliance of nine inner Melbourne councils)
- Eliminate waste through circular economies
- Design potential suitable glass collection and processing service options that maximise circular economy outcomes, inclusive of the container deposit scheme and collaborative procurement options.

16	Please see my attached submission Would you like to address?: No
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## **Submission to City of Melbourne on Annual Plan and Budget 2023-24**

I have been a resident and ratepayer of East Melbourne for over 20 years. I am concerned about the lack of specific actions in the Annual Plan and East Melbourne Neighbourhood Statement to address the rise in illegally off-leash dogs, and dog attacks. I would like to propose 3 areas of action for Council's consideration.

### ***The issue***

The increasing incidence of illegally off-leash dogs and dog attacks is a serious issue confronting my community. In the words of Council's *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025*: "*Dog attacks are serious, common and need to be prevented as best as possible*". It states there were 137 reported dog attacks last year, 11 of which were serious (including loss of bodily function). These 137 reported attacks would represent the tip of the iceberg of a much larger number of unreported attacks, rushing incidents, trauma to people and other dogs and loss of amenity of our shared public spaces.

My young daughter was born and raised in East Melbourne and has had to face rushing dogs in our local parks (Darling Square, Powlett Reserve and Fitzroy Gardens) since she started to walk. Last month she was rushed by an off-leash dog in the Fitzroy Gardens, while the owner looked on and smiled. My husband took photos of the incident and sent them to Council's Animal Management team. It is our understanding that the Animal Management team has identified the owner and taken action against him. Apparently he is a repeated offender, well known to Council. We commend the officer's responsiveness and support, but we have no confidence another \$185 fine will deter the offender.

I submit Council needs to significantly strengthen its enforcement of this often trivialised and tolerated offence, to protect families, vulnerable people and dogs themselves from serious injury, trauma and fear of using public parks. It should not take a life-changing injury or death of a child to lead to a strict enforcement approach. According to the *Domestic Animal Management Plan*, 33% of people surveyed said they very often or always observe dogs off-leash where they shouldn't be. Off-leash regulations are analogous to parking regulations. If it is known that patrols are infrequent and the few who are caught are generally warned or "educated", a culture of non-compliance sets in and becomes the norm. This is the state of off-leash regulations in the City of Melbourne today.

### ***Proposed areas of action***

First, Council should make it clear that dogs being illegally off-leash and dogs rushing people are serious offences, with significant consequences. The fines for both offences (currently \$185) should be increased substantially. I note the fine for failure to pick up dog waste is \$250 – surely the fine for a potentially dangerous offence should be higher than a nuisance offence. In addition, there should be more on-the-spot fines (rather than warnings), and escalated fines or other actions to deter repeat offenders.

Secondly, Council should initiate a strong public messaging campaign to promote public sentiment against these offences, along the lines of anti-smoking and seat belt campaigns. People should be encouraged and empowered to report incidents to the Animal Management team whenever they

notice them. In addition to signage that dogs should be on leash, Council could include contact details for the Animal Management team.

Thirdly, Council should ramp up enforcement by increasing the budget and expanding the personnel of the Animal Management Team. The *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022* states there is currently no plan to expand the team of 3 officers. This tiny team is clearly inadequate when the plan reports the number of dogs in the City of Melbourne, and dog attacks, are on the rise. There are 16 public parks and 3 playgrounds to patrol in East Melbourne alone. In contrast, your parking services team is over 20 times larger. I note the employment costs can be offset by increased revenue, while providing a benefit for the community. There has to be a *quid pro quo* for all the new off-leash areas which Council has established to assist dog owners.

I look to discussing my submission with the Future Melbourne Committee.



8 June 2023



17	<p>Please find attached a submission from the Victorian Pride Lobby on the draft Annual Plan 2023-24. We believe that, whilst an LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee is not the preferred model of the City of Melbourne when it comes to ensuring that LGBTIQ+ voices inform your policy-making processes, there is strong support for this model amongst Councillors, LGBTIQ+ community organisations, and local Melburnians - some of whose voices are included in this submission. We hope that you will consider this submission and would welcome any opportunity to work together to ensure the needs of LGBTIQ+ people who live, work and recreate in Melbourne continue to be addressed in all the work that the City of Melbourne does, and build on the strong commitment that the City already has to our community.</p>
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8 June 2023

[REDACTED]

Dear Ms Leighton,

**Re: Melbourne Draft Annual Plan 2023-24**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the community consultation on the draft Annual Plan 2023-24.

The Victorian Pride Lobby is a community-based advocacy group that works towards equality, social justice and advancing human rights for the Victorian LGBTIQ+ community. To do this, we work constructively with trans and gender diverse, intersex, asexual and other community organisations that support our mission and vision.

In 2020, we launched the Rainbow Local Government campaign to recruit and support LGBTIQ+ candidates and allies to increase diversity and champion change on LGBTIQ+ issues in local government.

Following consultation with the community, we recommend the following amendment to further strengthen the Annual Plan: **under major initiative 46, in the list of activities for 2023-24, insert “Establish an LGBTIQ+ advisory committee to the City of Melbourne”**. We believe that such a committee needs to be in place by June 2024, to guide the next Inclusive Melbourne Strategy - Two-Year Implementation Plan and Women’s Safety and Empowerment Action Plan.

Whilst we understand that this is not the preferred model of the City of Melbourne when it comes to ensuring that LGBTIQ+ voices inform your policy-making processes, we believe that there is strong support for this model amongst Councillors, LGBTIQ+ community organisations, and local Melburnians.

**The Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and 7 out of 9 Councillors have pledged to establish an LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee for the City of Melbourne.**

**LGBTIQ+ community organisations have urged the City of Melbourne to establish an LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee, including:**

- Zoe Belle Gender Centre
- Thorne Harbour Health
- Aleph
- Transgender Victoria
- Transcend Australia



- Trans Sisters United
- Equality Australia
- Victorian Pride Lobby

**Local Melburnians support an LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee for the City of Melbourne, and here are some of the reasons why:**

- “It is crucial to have a committee that can input on changes that are relating to LGBTQIA+ issues and concerns, to be able to have insight on what the community actually wants and would best benefit from.” -
- “I am an ally and believe that everyone should feel as comfortable and as accepted in our community as possible, and this is a step in the right direction.” -
- “As I am a part of the queer community, I want a voice in government to advocate for my rights and others who are in more vulnerable positions.” -
- “I believe in equality and justice for all.” -
- “Everyone’s voice should be heard.” -
- “To respond to issues within the community an outlook from all positionalities within a community is required.” -
- “I advocate for the rights of those in the LGBTIQ+ community. They need to have adequate representation and the government has a responsibility to respond to the voice of the people.” -
- “I want to ensure my LGBTIQ+ friends are represented within the Melbourne City Council and feel a greater sense of belonging within Melbourne.” -
- “It is needed.” -
- “Advisory committees provide councils with both regular and quick access to experts that can help them to create a better environment for their community, and improve other consultation processes through promoting it in their community.” -
- “It’s very important for queer people to have a voice that accurately represents the community, as the queer community knows themselves better than anyone outside the community will.” -
- “it will help the city of Melbourne learn how they can be more inclusive to the LGBTQIA+ community by hearing from the community directly.” - Charlotte, Parkville
- “I believe in equality and justice for all.” - lle
- “I am and LGBTIQ+ ally, who believes in queer rights. LGBTIQ+ people deserve to feel heard and welcome in Melbourne and I want to support anything that makes it so!” -
- “The complexities of gay issues can’t fully be understood from the outside, and the nuances of community issues are often missed. Even simple details, for example the inclusion of pronouns, or no gendered language go a long way towards a more cohesive and inclusive society.” -



- “It is important that LGBTQIA+ voices are heard in local governance, especially to represent the large student LGBTQIA+ population at colleges and the university in the area.” -
- “A voice to the LGBTQ community in Melbourne, acknowledging them and welcoming their input to Melbourne as a whole.” -
- “Input from the LGBTQIA+ community can be valuable when considering the impact of council decisions on people from the LGBTQIA+ community.” -
- “I’m an aromantic asexual and have many other queer friends and would like our experiences and differences heard when making decisions that will have an impact, just like any member of the public should be afforded.” -
- “So we can hear the opinions of a diverse group of people and ensure inclusiveness in Melbourne.” -
- “We all deserve to feel loved and safe.” -
- “It would provide an important support system for necessary causes for LGBTQIA+ people.” -
- “We need people who are actually affected to help solve the issues.” -
  
- “As a community we need to recognise and support LGBTQIA+ issues and foster a space where it is safe and okay to be different.” -
- “I want all my friends and the people I love who identify as LGBTQIA+ to feel supported and as though they can completely be themselves with no fear of judgement or violence!!” -
- “It’s pride month and a more inclusive community!!” -
- “The City of Melbourne has repeatedly shown that LGBTQ+ and particularly trans people are an afterthought at best. This needs to change.” -
- “Everyone deserves to have a say. Everyone.” -
- “Because everyone deserves the right to feel safe and loved!” -
- “As someone part of the LGBTQIA+ community, I want a committee to ensure or work towards a community where my community is no longer discriminated against.” -
  
- “I am part of the LGBTQIA+ and would love to see this committee become more prevalent in the community.” -
- “I want to feel represented in the law for the safety of myself and my community.” -  
Lucy, Parkville
- “Everyone deserves representation!” -
- “We want to hear their voices LOUDER!!” -
- “It’s weird that this isn’t already a thing.” -
- “LGBTQIA+ representation is important in policy and decision making in Melbourne.” -
  
- “Why not?” -

The City of Melbourne has acknowledged that, “through the development of the Inclusive Melbourne Strategy 2022-32, members of the LGBTQ+ community told us that they want



to be consulted and included, be visibly represented, and see their lived experience incorporated into how and what Council delivers in the workplace and in community.”<sup>1</sup>

In this regard, we are also delighted that the proposed Women’s Safety and Empowerment Action Plan - Year Three Action Plan includes a specific action to raise community awareness on the prevalence and impacts of harassment against trans and gender diverse people in public spaces. We also appreciate your commitment to directly engage with members of the LGBTIQ+ community to identify and prioritise issues and actions required to address the different forms of violence and discrimination experienced by trans and gender diverse people in our public spaces. This further underscores the need for an LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee to guide this important work.

It was fabulous to see more than 200 City of Melbourne staff and their families at Pride March earlier this year and we truly value your commitment and support for the LGBTIQ+ community. We welcome any opportunity to work together to ensure the needs of LGBTIQ+ people who live, work and recreate in Melbourne continue to be addressed in all the work that the City of Melbourne does, and build on the strong commitment that the City already has to our community.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Co-Convenors, Victorian Pride Lobby

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<sup>1</sup> City of Melbourne, ‘For LGBTIQ+ communities’  
<<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/health-support-services/Pages/lgbtiq.aspx>>.

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023-24**

<b>Feedback number</b>	<b>Account Name</b>	<b>Request to Speak</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
1	Why do you need my name Names for feedback shouldn't be required	Feedback only	5
2	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	5
3	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	6
4	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	6
5	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	6
6	[REDACTED]	Speak in person	7
7	[REDACTED]	Speak in person	34
8	[REDACTED]	Speak in person	9
9	[REDACTED]	Speak via Zoom	9
10	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	9
11	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	9
12	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	9
13	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	9
14	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	10
15	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	10
16	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	10
17	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	11
18	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	11
19	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	11
20	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	12
21	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	12
22	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	12
23	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	12

24	██████████	Feedback only	13
25	██████████	Feedback only	13
26	██████████	Feedback only	13
27	██████████	Feedback only	13
28	██████████	Speak via Zoom	13
29	██████████	Speak in person	13
30	██████████	Speak via Zoom	14
31	██████████	Speak in person	14
32	██████████	Feedback only	15
33	██████████	Speak in person	15
34	██████████	Speak via Zoom	15
35	██████████	Feedback only	16
36	██████████	Feedback only	17
37	██████████	Feedback only	17
38	██ ██	Speak in person	18
39	██████████	Feedback only	19
40	██████████	Feedback only	19
41	██████████	Feedback only	20
42	██████████	Speak in person	20
43	██████████	Speak in person	20
44	██████████	Speak in person	20
45	██████████	Feedback only	20
46	██████████	Speak via Zoom	21
47	██████████ (on behalf of Westgate Biodiversity: Bili Nursery & Landcare)	Speak in person	58
48	██████████	Feedback only	21

49	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	21
50	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	21
51	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	21
52	[REDACTED] (on behalf of The District)	Feedback only	61
53	[REDACTED]	Speak in person	22
54	[REDACTED]	Speak via Zoom	22
55	[REDACTED]	Speak in person	22
56	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	22
57	[REDACTED]	Speak in person	23
58	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	23
59	[REDACTED] (on behalf of Chain of Ponds)	Speak via Zoom	63
60	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	23
61	[REDACTED]	Speak in person	23
62	[REDACTED]	Speak via Zoom	23
63	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	24
64	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	24
65	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	65
66	[REDACTED] (on behalf of MAB Corporation Pty Ltd)	Feedback only	70
67	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	24
68	[REDACTED]	Speak in person	24
69	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	24
70	[REDACTED] (on behalf of Victorian Council of Social Service)	Feedback only	72
71	--	Feedback only	25
72	[REDACTED]	Speak via Zoom	25
73	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	75



74	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	26
75	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	26
76	[REDACTED]	Speak via Zoom	26
77	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	27
78	[REDACTED] (on behalf of RMIT)	Feedback only	78
79	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	27
80	[REDACTED] (on behalf of The Salvation Army)	Speak in person	81
81	[REDACTED] (on behalf of The Salvation Army)	Speak in person	84
82	[REDACTED] (on behalf of Southbank Residents Association)	Speak in person	86
83	[REDACTED] (on behalf of Melbourne Zoo)	Speak in person	83
84	[REDACTED]	Speak in person	93
85	[REDACTED]	Speak in person	27
86	[REDACTED] (Inner Melbourne Community Legal)	Feedback only	140
87	[REDACTED]	Speak via Zoom	28
88	[REDACTED]	Speak via Zoom	31
89	[REDACTED] (on behalf of Sarascare)	Speak in person	145
90	[REDACTED]	Feedback only	31
91	[REDACTED]	Speak in person	32
92	[REDACTED]	Speak in person	33

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Case Number	Feedback
1	<p>Don't slug residential rate payers with a max increase in already hefty rates while you're also proposing to spend buckets on money on ridiculous and unnecessary things like the proposals around bike lanes/changes which will have a marginal impact on some and for most people will make Arden St and Macaulay Rd worse. Arden St in particular is already super wide with very generous bike lanes. The real risk for cyclists is when cars and bikes cross paths and putting in all that new infrastructure will not stop that (ie predominantly at cross streets/intersections/where there is car parking. Or changing all the roads to 40km/hr without any clear need. If you didn't spend all this money on ridiculous knee jerk proposals like that, you wouldn't need to raise residential rates so much.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
2	<p>Whoever set and draft the budget, who will spend more when you are already in deficit.</p> <p>In revealing ratepayers would be subjected to the maximum 3.5 per cent rate increase, Capp said the council had done "everything we can limit the amount of increased costs that we pass on to our ratepayers" and that the council had "absorbed as many financial pressures as we possibly can".</p> <p>Capp is not spending her own money, if she does, why when the council has already recorded a \$17.1 million deficit and it will not return to surplus for another two years. But the council is not cutting back on its expenses, but</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. pushing on with \$60 million for the Queen Victoria Market renewal project; \$17 million for the first stage of the Greenline Project.</li> <li>2. Hire more staff, with 44 full-time staff to be added, lifting the total number of full-time staff to 1522. You are overstaffed. They always walk around in the city and coffee. If you are hiring, you should hire the people who live in the electorate.</li> <li>3. Why council budget for external audit fees has increased by 360 per cent from \$57,000 for the year to \$263,000. If it increased by 360 per cent, you should change the firm who performs the external audit.</li> <li>4. council's maintenance budget, which is pitched to jump 50 per cent from \$16.3 million last year to \$24.6 million this year. What are the maintenance for? Look around the CBD, it looks like trash, so dirty.</li> <li>5. If deficit, you should cut the spending in Christmas lights in. Do not spend \$2.1 million dedicated to Christmas lights – more than the \$1.3 million dedicated to IT systems maintenance. Who own the company and which company is responsible for the IT systems maintenance? Was there any transparent tendering process?</li> <li>6. Spend \$61 million for getting rid of graffiti, you are throwing good money after the bad money. Fix the problem at the root-cause. Aren't they so many CCTVs in the city? Arrest the people who consistently vandalise the city.</li> <li>7. You remove free CBD parking on Sundays and increase operating parking meters until 10pm instead of 8.30pm. Who is coming to the city to spend?</li> </ol>

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	<p>8. Increase the outdoor dining parklet fees in the city centre are set to double, from \$278 per square metre to \$555 per square metre.</p> <p>9. Buskers will also be slugged \$207 for a busking application fee. Busking permit fees are doubling from \$30 a year to \$60 a year. No more buskers on the street, no life in City of Melbourne.</p> <p>For points 7 to 9, how are you plan to return to surplus when no one come to the city?</p> <p>I am a City of Melbourne Resident and rate payer but I am not sharing personal information due to any possibility of repercussions.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
3	<p>The council should urgently incorporate additional funding to appropriately plan, design and respond to the LXP in Park St, Brunswick/Parkville which was reported to the FMC on 16/5/23. As the project was announced by the Victorian Government late last year, the City of Melbourne hasn't factored the significant impacts of the project and necessary streetscape changes that will be required to take advantage of this investment. It is important CoM works alongside Merri-bek and Yarra Council's given the shared road reserves of Park St. It is recommended \$1 million of funding is allocated to prepare a streetscape design of park st including curb and channeling upgrades, tree planting, bicycle lanes and work with DTP on fixing the very unsafe intersection of Royal Parade and Park Street and LXP to ensure integration with these works. A similar design response to the recently endorsed Hawke St Linear park as there will be increased traffic, walking and bicycle usage in this precinct due to the upgraded upfield bike path and connection to the Park St capital city trail.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
4	<p>How much money is budgeted for protected bike lanes?</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
5	<p>I strongly oppose to the draft budget with increases in council rate. For the last few months, people are struggling to make ends meet due to sharp increase in cost of living, e.g., energy bills, interest rates, rental market, etc. There are simply too many problems for families and retirees. The increase will simply push city dwellers and businesses to other suburbs. A good leader should be caring and compassionate working towards the welfare of the public,</p> <p>Suggestions to save some funds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decrease the length &amp; numbers of firework for the New Year.</li> </ul>

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	<p>- Work with police to catch and penalise those graffiti culprits. Make them do and pay for the cleaning</p> <p>- Encourage local businesses to charge more on spray paints (except tradies) so that culprits will be discouraged. Thanks for listening</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
6	<p>This submission is an appeal for the City of Melbourne to provide funding for the Docklands Neighbourhood House on behalf of Docklands Primary School parents and as well as other Docklands residents.</p> <p>The approach that the Council is taking in the community development planning field seems to be contrary to any community development theories that I am aware of as the decision for Docklands to be left without a neighbourhood house might indicate that the Executive Leadership Team does not understand the unique and irreplaceable niche of neighbourhood houses in the social fabrics of Australia.</p> <p>I will use a practical example to illustrate my point. I am asking the Councillors and the Executive Leadership Team to read the email attached to this submission.</p> <p>I learned about a person that lives in Docklands and have incredible talent in knitting. The person is retired.</p> <p>Retirement is a challenging time when life slows down and you find yourself isolated from the life that you previously had. Some people keep themselves busy, but many just stay at home and eventually fade from the bright colours of social prints, well before their time. This is a loss. Loss to you and me, to themselves and to future generations. We all will be them when our time comes.</p> <p>Knitting will soon become a lost art as lots of other crafts that once have been enjoyed by so many. There is a beauty in seeing the humanity's heritage skill to be transferred to new generations. Neighbourhood houses are places that make this happen.</p> <p>Many people from immigrant families, or those living in medium/high density housing can lack exposure to older generations, and vice versa for those downsizing to apartment living later in life. My child sees his grandparents only once every several years. Neighbourhood Houses provide that opportunity to bring together generations.</p> <p>Why do we need neighbourhood houses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They help to share the wisdom of older generations with the youngsters.</li> <li>• They help elderly to live independently longer and they are doing it better than any virtual assistant or a vacuum robot.</li> <li>• They help people not to feel lonely and isolated at a minimal or no cost.</li> </ul>

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- Neighbourhood houses are a very cost-effective alternative to many mental health services as it is a preventive measure that is agile to the needs of the community right there and right now.
- They are a place where people are not numbers.
- They are a place that can welcome people that fall through the cracks of multiple government systems.

The unique and irreplaceable role of neighbourhood houses is in being the community startup incubators in their local area. Government is a large and slow to move institution. It thinks in strategies and plans that nowadays do not work well. We now live in a very fast changing environment when you can't effectively plan for longer than a year ahead.

Neighbourhood Houses incubate and support the ideas coming from the community quickly, cheaply and while they are still fresh. Like with business startups many new community ideas fail, but the right environment keeps brewing them constantly and the most effective and in demand will stay. This is a function of a neighbourhood house – to give an environment for community ideas to brew and to connect ideas with social investors quickly.

Neighbourhood houses are the best Council's Community Development Team friends as they correct the deformities of the local and state government planning. They respond with agility and flexibility to the real demand that exists in the community. They are the meeting point of supply and demand tailored precisely to the local environment and local people.

Many years ago, a neighbourhood house changed my life, life of a new immigrant, a student and an exhausted mother all in one cup. That's why I am here in front of you instead of cooking dinner at home for my family. However, this is a story for another time.

Councils often run neighbourhood houses successfully. Advantage of neighbourhood houses being run by a specific-purpose organisation like The Centre is in the real time connections with networks and instant access to experience of other community centres and neighbourhood houses.

We are asking Council to use the highest-level expertise in the community development and a bit of common sense to make decisions that affect our communities. To be an engineer of human lives is a completely different level of responsibility. We hope that the Council is ready to take on this responsibility.

We also hoped to run recess and lunch clubs for Docklands Primary School students of the temporary campus at the Docklands Neighbourhood House with the neighbourhood house's assistance, which would give our children more space and more learning opportunities. We would dream to have elderly community members to run the clubs through the Docklands Neighbourhood House. Please make this happen!

Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person\*

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8	<p>I have found the docklands neighbourhood house to be immensely helpful to the community and a great place to bring our children too. There is great need for a common community hangout so please do extend the funding for the place. thank you</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
9	<p>We would like to retain our Neighbourhood House in Docklands which is very essential part of life now. Which has helps us to connect with in communities and have very physical connections in the city.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak via Zoom*</p>
10	<p>I'm a circle act busker in Melbourne - with the new \$207 assessment fee and the \$20 permit price increase I wouldn't be able to afford to apply for a busking permit in Melbourne.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
11	<p>The proposed fee for circle shows is incredibly high and will deter established and new talent from performing in Melbourne. Most circle acts move around and this high cost means most acts will simply cut Melbourne from their tour. The pitch will suffer and only a couple of local performers will remain. They wont be able to experiment or try new things if a fee must be paid every time your show changes. Art should have the freedom to play and evolve this is better for thr audiences and performers. This high fee will make it harder for new shows to start. I strongly hope you will reconsider so Melbourne can stay an inclusive and welcoming place for artists.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
12	<p>Adding a \$207 fee for dangerous goods assessments I think is very detrimental to the city. Buskers who are coming to melb for the first time will need to front \$257 for a permit. This will mean most buskers especially the exciting ones will just skip melbounre, and also prevent new buskers from even trying. I believe this is so sad as I really enjoy circle shows especially along the Yarra River. They make my day and brighten up life in the City. Please reconsider!</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
13	<p>Hello, my name [REDACTED] I am a regular busker in Southbank as a circle act. I notice the permit fees are going up for us. I am a magician and see my fee will be going from \$30-\$50 I feel that is fair as Melbourne City support buskers better than any city I have performed in ( I been doing this for 40yrs and performed in many cities worldwide ) well done Melbourne :). I do feel the fee for buskers who use dangerous items i.e. fire jugglers / sword swallowers etc.. which now has a \$207 assessment fee added to it means that a travelling act who may</p>

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	<p>only be in town for a week or two will have to pay \$257 In my experience having seen this happen in other places will mean a lot of international buskers acts will skip Melbourne and frequent other cities during their summer Antipodean tours. I ask you to review this fee so we can all enjoy international acts performing in our wonderful city.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>██████████</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
14	<p>Circle act busking fee increase is a bad idea.</p> <p>If you increase the price for danger permits, out of town performers and new performers will perform without a safety inspection.</p> <p>This will lead to unsafe performances on the St.</p> <p>And discourage new performers to try street shows.</p> <p>Aswell as create a barrier for international performers.</p> <p>Its should be no more than 50 to keep performers up to a safe standard</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
15	<p>I am concerned visiting performers won't pay the \$200+ inspection fee and will busk without a safety inspection. This could lead to an unnecessary accident. I suggest having the performer forward a deposit that they receive back once they have done the safety inspection.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
16	<p>Increasing fees to people who use cars by way of increased parking fees and fines are only going to move people out to the suburbs for dining and shopping. The City of Melbourne has spent an enormous amount of money developing infrastructure for bikes and e-scooters for people who usually, don't even live in the council district. People who live and work in the CBD, who come to work in a suit, do not usually get on an e-scooter or bike. This infrastructure has been set-up and not properly maintained, at the expense of rate payers, by putting up our rates.</p> <p>It's time to adopt a user pay system for bikes and e-scooters. Cyclists and e-scooter riders should be required to pay fees for the use of e-Scooters, maintenance for bikes, insurances, registration and parking. Why are bikes and e-scooters allowed to be dumped on the pavement, but motorcycles cannot?</p> <p>I know, that ██████████ Sally Capp will just ignore these avenues of revenue. It's ridiculous to ignore it though, because the people who do use those modes of transport are usually students or people who cannot afford to own a car, which</p>

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	<p>means they have surplus cash. People who own cars, spend at least \$2,000 per annum to service, register, insure and pay for petrol.</p> <p>If the City of Melbourne is successful in removing most of the cars from the CBD, which is your plan, then you need to realistically think about where else you are going to recover revenues from lowered rents, lowered tenancies, less parking fees and infringement fees.</p> <p>Your budget is unsustainable and unrealistic, trading off what Melbourne used to be like 10 years ago. A hub of activity. Everyone knows now, not to enter the CBD. Too expensive and it takes too long to go anywhere. Who wants to spend 1 hour in traffic along Collins Street or Latrobe Street?</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
17	<p>250 bucks for a busking permit is ridiculous. I knew something like this would happen. The second we start "professionalising" busking, it's no longer busking. The whole point of street shows is that if I'm in the shit, I can use street shows to get out. Broke? Homeless? Do a street show and that can turn your life around. Not if I have to fawk out 250 for a permit. This whole thing will turn busking into a middle class pursuit for those who already have the social and fiscal capital/mental faculties to afford it, rather than an avenue for breaking the poverty cycle. I knew as soon as the council started "giving" us things like the box, it would come with strings attached.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
18	<p>There is no mention of any bike lane infrastructure plans in the budget. I would hope there is more protected bike lanes rolled out throughout the city of Melbourne area</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
19	<p>I am writing to request that you make all busking licenses free.</p> <p>There is a proposal to increase busking license fees in the next budget and I urge you to examine this proposal before it is implemented. I believe after further examination the decision will be to revoke all fees for busking licenses.</p> <p>The Street Activities department of the City of Melbourne do a great job managing the many and varied buskers and busking activities. It would be detrimental to the relationship between the buskers and the Street Activities department to increase fees. The City of Melbourne have been trying to support buskers throughout the city precinct. The hard work of Elizabeth Russel and the team at Street Performance Australia has meant Melbourne has a thriving busking scene. Increasing fees will only discourage artists from applying for permits. I don't think that is the intention of the increase but I fear it will be the result.</p> <p>The street performance community around the world is made up of very professional highly trained performers. This group share information on a number of forums. At the moment, Melbourne is on a list of cities that encourage busking. If a permit in Melbourne becomes more expensive Melbourne will see less world class performers coming through the city and that will be a sad day.</p> <p>The opportunity to busk should be available to everyone, busking represents the diversity of a city, Melbourne is a multicultural city and at the moment the busking policy reflects that. If the price of a permit were to increase I fear we would see a decrease in the variety of buskers. It could easily become a situation where only</p>




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	<p>those who can afford the permit can busk on the streets of Melbourne. This may exclude young artists and musicians who struggle to meet daily expenses and would like to busk not only to work on their performance skills but to help them pay their bills.</p> <p>Lastly the total revenue bought in to the council budget from busking fees could not possibly cover the amount of hours the Street Activities team put in to manage it. An increase of fees will do very little to solve that imbalance. Busking should not be viewed through a budgetary lens. It should be seen as a cultural investment. The City of Melbourne should be proud of its buskers, it should encourage them, it should celebrate them. Many famous comedians and buskers have started as buskers and that's only because they were able to walk onto the streets of their city and perform for free. I urge you to celebrate our diverse busking culture, please don't stifle it by increasing fees.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
20	<p>I suggest you reduce leaf blowing activities in East Melbourne significantly in winter months: there are no leaves, and its VERY noisy. Suggest once a week in autumn, and much less frequently in months where leaves don't fall.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
21	<p>I am a street performer from Melbourne and believe that street performing should be encouraged and accessible for everyone. I learnt how to perform on the streets in Melbourne. This increase in fees is going to discourage international performers from visiting for a short time and make it difficult for new artists to try it out. I think it will have a negative effect on Melbournes great busking scene</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
22	<p>The proposed \$207 fee for new busking safety checks is ridiculous.</p> <p>The council street trading team waved all fees for nearly 2 years to try and encourage, revitalise and welcome buskers back into Melbourne. This new fee will undo all that work.</p> <p>New buskers can't afford that fee, and will perform without the proper safety checks, or simply perform elsewhere. Older, more experienced buskers won't pay that fee and will instead take their World class acts elsewhere. Please, talk to the SPA representatives and negotiate a better way to move forward.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
23	<p>I disapprove of the new busking fee structure. While specifically the new fee for circlce/danger acts is absurd, I am of the opinion that no fee should be paid by anyone to have the right to perform on the street. While personally I do believe a certain quality of performance is preferred, this is more specifically aimed at performers who use amplification, street is and always has been the place for certain performers to cut their teeth. It is a place where performers can be free to express themselves as they see fit and the fewer restrictions a government entity places on them the better.</p>

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	Would you like to address?: No
<b>24</b>	<p>I am an international circle act street performer who visits Melbourne a lot and I am really not happy with the new \$207 application fee introduced for Entertainment and Circle Act safety assessment. This is going to hurt street performing in Melbourne a lot and not accessible for a lot of people, Including internationals visiting for a short period of time or new performers that want to get into street performing. \$207 + the fee for a circle act permit is a lot of money up front and this will definitely make a lot of performers not want to return to Melbourne (Including myself) and that would be a shame because Melbourne is one of the best places for street performing for many of us.</p> <p>Street art is the most socially accessible form of arts participation that exists, But with introductions of high fees like this it ruins it especially for a city like Melbourne where it is known to be a culturally vibrant city of arts.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
<b>25</b>	<p>Disappointed Docklands Neighborhood House hasn't been considered in this budget</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
<b>26</b>	<p>Please keep the docklands repair cafe alive this is positive, community activation.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
<b>27</b>	<p>I am an internationally touring busker from the United States. The newly proposed fee for a safety assessment for buskers with "dangerous acts" will be a deterrent for me returning to Melbourne to busk.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
<b>28</b>	<p>If Neighbourhood house &amp; Toy library both are closed,where should we go for kids play session, for community service &amp; events. Such a shame two popular community service groups are at verge of closing because of lack of support</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak via Zoom*</p>
<b>29</b>	<p>RE: Funding Cut to Docklands Neighbourhood House.</p> <p>Docklands is an area hard-hit by COVID: Bars, restaurants, shops and community services were all adversely affected by the lock-downs and the restrictions.</p> <p>However, many families are continuing to move into the area drawn by the proximity to the CBD, the water, the convenient arterial roads, and the excellent local schooling (Docklands Primary has made an incredible start, and University High continues to provide an excellent secondary education).</p> <p>These families from diverse backgrounds are supporting the local supermarkets and restaurants at a time of difficulty; and they are also encouraging the opening of new shops to service their culinary habits (at least 5 Asian groceries that I</p>


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	<p>know of). But sometimes these new proud Australians, revelling in the economic, political and social opportunities here, need some support: the grandparents who look after children, the children themselves, and the parents who juggle everything, need a little support - and want to feel a sense of belonging in this new strange but welcoming land.</p> <p>The funding for the Docklands Neighbourhood House is essential to maintain its services, its neighbourhood care, and our sense of community as we, the local residents, get to know each other, build a community where children, grandparents and busy CBD workers slowly create a place where we are confident and well-educated and .... go on to help others in our burgeoning community.</p> <p>Respectfully  </p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
30	<p>Docklands Neighborhood House is the only community centre in the area, providing a wide range of programs that have been instrumental in supporting me as an international student residing in Docklands. Recognizing the centre's valuable initiatives, I approached them with a request to address the cultural needs of women in my community. They graciously established a women's advocacy group dedicated to fulfilling these needs, focusing on creating spaces for women to engage in sports and various activities. As a result, we engaged with the city council, initiating discussions on unmet cultural needs and undertaking a study within the Docklands and CBD community to further explore these areas.</p> <p>Moreover, my children regularly attend a weekly gathering where they meet boys of similar ages, fostering a sense of belonging, particularly since our families are overseas. This has significantly contributed to creating a supportive community environment. Additionally, I have actively participated in cultural events organized by the centre, which have successfully brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds to celebrate traditions, arts, and cuisines.</p> <p>In its relatively brief existence, Docklands Neighbourhood House has effectively forged connections within the Docklands community, promoting unity and serving as a reliable resource for our needs. Given the absence of comparable alternatives, its absence would be deeply felt, considering the community's growth and the essential role it plays.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak via Zoom*</p>
31	<p>I would like to address the raise in busking permit fees. During the amp ban and the council refusing to reinstate safety assessments we lost almost all circle act performers. Once the council started negotiating with Street Performance Australia (SPA) to reinstate safety assessments we were able to assess over 50 performers. Not all passed but those who did not have received mentoring to help them become better and safer. Two years ago we had no international performers. We had 30 international acts perform in Melbourne this summer because we made it easy for them to be assessed and to start working. If the new fee structure is implemented that will stop. No performer will pay 5 times the old permit price to work. These are performers who live on tips. They aren't rich and</p>

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	<p>the economy has taken a downturn which means that our dollar is worth less in the world. This fee rank's Melbourne in the top three highest prices for a permit in the world and the return isn't that great. Performers come in before and after Adelaide Fringe because it is convenient. Raising this permit fee removes that convenience.</p> <p>The council agreed to provide the circle permit pitch with a kiosk and lighting to make a better more attractive space which worked beautifully, this rate increase will see it left fallow. Please work with SPA to create a proposal that works for all parties. If it is a concern for people not showing up for assessments may I suggest that a fee of \$100.00 be paid upfront. When the performers pass \$50.00 of the fee pays for the permit and \$50.00 be paid for the assessment. If the performers fail to show the fee is non refundable. For acts that fail an additional \$50.00 shall be required per each additional assessment and the original fee will pay for the permit once they have passed.</p> <p>This will assure that people take this process seriously.</p> <p>It is important to remember that there are not many circle act permits and a price hike would not make the city any noticeable revenue.</p> <p>I also believe it is inconsistent with busking to have artists show quality of work for a permit. You will just remove those artists who are up and coming. Remember people hated Picasso until after he was dead. A lot of people disliked Ed Sheeran when he started. Let's not stifle great talent by stopping them in the beginning of their career. That's unconscionable. Let's work together to keep the city vibrant.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
32	<p>As an international street performer, I was shocked to hear about the proposed increase of FIVE TIMES the original fee for performing. I began my street performance career on Southbank, and I've been deeply looking forward to returning in the future after nearly a decade of traveling and performing. This fee increase and mandatory audition would take one of the most vibrant destinations to bring our freely given art and kill it, both for locals and international talent. Please take the SPA's concerns into account before this vote!</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
33	<p>Very disappointing to see no funds allocated for a pedestrian connection between North Melbourne Station and Docklands. I live near the station, lots of apartments are going in with heaps of future residents moving in soon. We live SO close to Docklands but its next to impossible to get there via PT or by walking so I never visit. Surely Council would like to activate Docklands and increase visits to the area to spend money on local businesses. I have lived in West Melbourne for nearly three years and been to Docklands ONCE because it's so difficult to get too. Please consider progressing a pedestrian overpass as soon as possible.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
34	Hello!

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	<p>I just wanted to mention something about the proposed changes to the Melbourne street performance fees. It's about your Return on Investment.</p> <p>Research has shown that people are willing to shop at malls that are further away, even passing other malls, if it means they can watch street performers when they arrive.</p> <p>Other research shows buskers improve TripAdvisor review scores (which has been shown to increase the amount that local businesses can charge).</p> <p>Yet more research has shown that street performers make places feel more inviting and welcoming, meaning people are more likely to return and hang out.</p> <p>In other words, for relatively little investment (the time and cost of managing the busking license), you'll be doing a great service to your tourism, local businesses and city walkability.</p> <p>Dampening that by charging buskers \$257 to perform in your city makes no financial sense.</p> <p>It's also unwise from a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion perspective. To explain, we need to look at historical and current street situations.</p> <p>The blues was invented by sharecroppers in the Mississippi Delta. These farmers—who, on paper, were free men, but who in practice were indentured slaves—escaped farm life by busking. Nineteen of the first twenty musicians inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame were street performers.</p> <p>Once in Chicago, it was these displaced black farmers who congregated at the Maxwell Street Market, busking while trying to make a name for themselves on the blues circuit. The market was so busy the buskers had to plug into amplifiers to be heard, which is where 'electric blues' comes from, the direct ancestor of Rock and Roll.</p> <p>Skip forwards to the 1970s and 1980s, and again it was some of the USA's poorest communities who invented the four elements of hip hop: breakdance, deejaying, graffiti and rapping. All four elements were originally and primarily street activities, done by majority black and latino populations in the Bronx and Harlem.</p> <p>You could focus on the earnings of your most profitable street performers in order to excuse these price hikes. But, by pricing your least-affluent performers out of the busking scene, you're going against your own stated "Inclusive Melbourne Strategy" for 2022-3.</p> <p>There are significant economic, socio-economic and cultural arguments to be made against such a change.</p> <p>There are also real opportunities for positive news stories that I'm sure your local street performers would get behind, encouraging tourism, city wellbeing and city rejuvenation—if only you were to work *with* your local buskers, rather than charging them for the right to exist in public spaces.</p> <p>Thank you,  </p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak via Zoom*</p>
35	<p>The City Of Melbourne requires fewer cycling protection lanes and more car parking spaces. Also, a lot more money needs to be spent on cleaning up the city and policing professional beggars and rough sleepers.</p>

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	Would you like to address?: No
<b>36</b>	<p>Dear City of Melbourne Team,</p> <p>I write to make submission to the Draft Budget 2023/24.</p> <p>As an Award Winning Musician, and holder of a Busking Permit, I am disappointed at the recommendations included within the Draft Budget relating to Busking.</p> <p>My concerns are as follows;</p> <p>Reinstatement of Busking Permit fees - It appears that little consideration has been given to the fact that there are two tiers of Buskers. Professional (those deriving their income from Busking), and other Buskers. Fees for Busking for non-professionals will act as a deterrent and a block from young musicians, and those willing to commit their time to improving the vibrancy of the City.</p> <p>My secondary employment is as a professional Musician. I am an award winning Songwriter, and have achieved considerable Chart success.</p> <p>As a Busking Permit holder, I occasionally Busk in the designated areas, and see first hand the joy this brings to people, and the energy and connection that comes with this.</p> <p>Cost of Permits - For Non-professional Busking Permit holders, the fee asked appears disproportionate to the level of support received. Many of the 'designated' areas for performance are now unusable due to the lack of active management of the loud music emanating from restaurants and the like, particularly on Southbank.</p> <p>Music Industry - There is no doubt that COVID, and economic changes have directly impacted the opportunities available for aspiring and current musicians. With the closure of many venues, cancellation and reduction in the number of events, and the absence of a focus of utilising local musicians (rather than Interstate acts), there is a danger that the position of Melbourne as the home of Australian music, and importantly the place where grassroots acts can flourish may be lost.</p> <p>I respectfully request that, given the minor financial implications for the City of Melbourne, further consideration be given to supporting grassroots musicians by withdrawing the proposed permit fees.</p>
<b>37</b>	<p>Method of charging waste charge on residential properties with a higher amount for properties with CIV over \$500,00 is extremely unfair on people with properties with CIV only marginally above \$500,00. Last year this resulted in very steep, unaffordable increase in rates. The charge should be a % of CIV or the \$500,000 should be significantly increased so people with low value properties are not hit with unaffordable increases. Also % increase for residential rates is too high, most of the budget expenditure is solely for the benefit of businesses not resident and business rates should be much higher to reflect this.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>

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38	<p>Street Performance Australia is the peak body representing circle act buskers in Australia. The below submission is on behalf of our members.</p> <p>The 2023-24 budget sees a reintroduction of busking permit fees, after having been waived during the pandemic. The waiver had a significant, substantial positive impact on buskers, with many new performers trying busking for the first time, and a large number of international and interstate performers returning to Melbourne for the first time since the pandemic began. While we would argue first and foremost that the best price for a busking permit is Free, we understand the reintroduction of the \$30 permit fee, and will accept the almost doubling to \$50 for circle acts.</p> <p>However, there is a new fee included in the draft budget, for a service that has, up until now, been both required by the City, and free to access. Street Activity: Busking - Application Fee for Street Entertainment, Premium Permit and CA Safety Assessment (Per application) \$207.</p> <p>Safety assessments are required for all circle acts wanting to use Dangerous Goods in their performances – such as fire, juggling knives or whip cracking. Street Performance Australia delivers these assessments for the City as a contractor, and up until now they have been free for performers to access.</p> <p>We disagree with the introduction of this new fee on the basis that it will stifle the flow of international artists into our city, and will create barriers to access for emerging and low-socioeconomic artists.</p> <p>Buskers travel around the world, chasing good weather and great audiences, often traveling from one busking festival to another. Many world class international circle acts travel to Australia for the Adelaide Fringe– the biggest busking event in the country- and stop off in Melbourne on their way. This influx of high level performers is part of what makes Melbourne’s street performing community so vibrant. Artists have the opportunity to learn from masters of their craft, and Audiences are treated to new and exciting acts regularly. Often, these acts are only in town for a number of weeks, and while paying \$30 or even \$50 for a permit is acceptable, requiring them to pay \$257 before they even begin is simply not viable. What if you’re only here for one weekend, and it rains? Introducing this fee will mean that those buskers simply skip Melbourne, and head to Sydney or New Zealand instead. This summer, Melbourne hosted 16 International Circle Acts, more than half of whom had never travelled to Australia before, and made Melbourne a key part of their tours.</p> <p>Locally, this fee creates a barrier to access for emerging artists and those coming from less advantaged backgrounds. Street performing is the ultimate in accessible performance – anyone can become a performer, and the shows are accessible for anyone to watch, regardless of age, education, cultural background or socioeconomic status. The fee-waiver period has seen 11 new circle acts artists begin working for the first time, three of which are female (an impressive statistic in a male dominated industry). If these acts had been faced with a \$257 fee before their first show, they simply would not have begun, and our city would</p>
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	<p>be worse off for it. Fostering new talent and creating professional pathways is fundamental to any industry, and the Arts is no different.</p> <p>Around 15% of applicants fail their first safety assessment. Mentoring and skills development is an important part of any artists journey to professionalism, and those artists are encouraged to try again when they have improved their skills. If a young artist has to pay \$207 to fail an assessment, why would they ever try again?</p> <p>The issue of applicants booking in for an assessment but then not turning up, is acknowledged as a significant drain on resources for both the City and the assessors, and a waste of time and money for all involved. We see the need for some form of commitment to attend, and suggest the following:</p> <p>Instead of a flat \$207 assessment fee, we suggest charging the applicants a deposit equal in value to their busking permit application (ie, \$30/\$50), and rolling this deposit over into their permit once an assessment has been completed. In this way, applicants still have a significant financial incentive to attend the assessment, but are not being charged an excessive and prohibitive fee.</p> <p>Melbourne is famous for its live busking culture. In a study published by The Busking Project and Tullamore Dew, Melbourne was ranked as the Best Busking City in the World. This is largely due to the equitable busking policy, and the great work of the Street Trading Team. The introduction of this fee will jeopardize this position, and Melbourne will be come a city to avoid. We want to preserve and celebrate the diverse, accessible and talented busking professionals who work within the city of Melbourne, and we ask the Future Melbourne Committee to weight the minute fiscal benefit of this fee against the vast loss of talent and entertainment value that it's introduction will herald.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
<p><b>39</b></p>	<p>I am against the budget deficit when you could easily cut wasting taxpayers money instead of an increase in rates of 3.5%</p> <p>For example, you have installed road humps after the roundabout at corner of Walker St and The Avenue Parkville. There's a second hump within 10 meters on The Avenue - wasted money! If you don't have enough in your budget then don't spend. You insult us with the rates rise and then putting us in more debt.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
<p><b>40</b></p>	<p>I strongly support more investment in making walking and cycling easier and safer.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>



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41	<p>Looks good to me. Keep up the work to remove cars and prioritise people.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
42	<p>I am a Docklands resident and have always been grateful to The Neighbourhood House for organising community events and listening to the needs of our community. I got to know that they are not included in the 2023-24 budget which can lead them to shut down. It's a humble request to grant funding for the same so the Docklands Community have them to look forward to many social events.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
43	<p>We have very positive impact from Docklands neighbourhood house So I will like to support them</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
44	<p>I am writing to earnestly request your consideration for the inclusion of Docklands Neighbourhood House in the budget plan for the City of Melbourne, taking into account the significant impact it has on our vibrant community.</p> <p>With a residential population of 16,422, a thriving business community consisting of 1,009 establishments, and a remarkable number of 72,356 local jobs, Docklands stands as a dynamic neighborhood. What truly defines Docklands is its rich cultural diversity, with 62% of residents being born overseas.</p> <p>In this context, the Docklands Neighbourhood House has played a vital role over the past three-and-a-half years. It has served as a beacon of support, advocacy, and collaboration, nurturing an inclusive and active environment that residents and community groups deeply appreciate. Regrettably, it has come to my attention that funding for Docklands Neighbourhood House has been omitted from the draft budget.</p> <p>The potential closure of Docklands Neighbourhood House due to the lack of funding would deprive our diverse community of an invaluable resource. It would hamper our collective efforts to create an environment we are proud to call our own. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to demonstrate to the City of Melbourne Council the widespread support and value of Docklands Neighbourhood Households within our community.</p> <p>Check out the outcome of Various Events</p> <p><a href="https://youtu.be/rbAjuuawzIM">https://youtu.be/rbAjuuawzIM</a></p> <p><a href="https://youtu.be/ncSTzTvupwM">https://youtu.be/ncSTzTvupwM</a></p> <p><a href="https://youtu.be/ncSTzTvupwM">https://youtu.be/ncSTzTvupwM</a></p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
45	<p>Kindly retain the Docklands neighborhood house as creates a vibrant environment for the Docklanders by arranging numerous events for bringing joy to the people and creating sense of belonging.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>

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<p><b>46</b></p>	<p>Keep the show running.. Many need it.. Thank you for coming up with these activities at Docklands Neighborhood House. Absolutely love your initiative in helping the community and bringing them together... According to my suggestion activities for kids should be age specific so more like minded kids can be together.. I was new to the country.. Docklands Neighborhood House welcomed us wholeheartedly and their activities helped me and my 4 year old to know more people and grow in community.. Thank you..</p> <p>Many of my friends are looking forward to get their children/ family for your programs and activities..</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak via Zoom*</p>
<p><b>48</b></p>	<p>@Docklands Neighbourhood House . Being a new comer to the country this program helps me to gain confidence that there are lot of things to do and lot to explore. It improved my mental health by meeting more new people. Thanks for running this.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
<p><b>49</b></p>	<p>Docklands Neighbourhoods helps sharing our custom and cultural with the local community and gaining confidence in interacting with people and developing new skills. After participating in Neighbourhood community, I feel I am not alone, I got many friends to share my time and have fun with them. I can also learn from others and can participate in many activities e.g, cooking, sports, culture events etc. I can also develop new skills. I think Neighbourhood House is important for our community to provide various workshops and organise different events and cultural programs, so it should be open for all 5 days to engage community in daily basis.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
<p><b>50</b></p>	<p>Please include funding for the much needed docklands neighbourhood house. This is an important resource for the community and has helped me especially after the lockdowns with my anxiety and being able to communicate and spend time with others in the community. This is a safe place where I feel important and this place needs to continue to be able to assist the community in a variety of areas (welcoming new families/people to area, group activities in numerous disciplines). My daughter and I will be extremely disappointed if this place does not continue.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
<p><b>51</b></p>	<p>Docklands neighborhood house and Melbourne toy library (MCTL), both being needed &amp; popular places for community services are getting closed , WHY? It's very much needed here</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>

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53	<p>Nice to see such an event in docklands and will see more get together</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
54	<p>I am a very unhappy you are reducing the budget for urban ecology and creation, whilst increasing spending on ? Christmas decorations.</p> <p>As a resident in Parkville we are so fortunate to have Royal Park nearby, and it has been tremendously exciting to see the creation of wild flower meadows on gatehouse street - indeed the whole of greater Melbourne should be celebrating this area and in particular the efforts to create wild flower meadows. A green space that is more than a “park” has the potential to bring back native insects, birds and reptiles, and quite frankly would attract more people during all seasons (and for ever after) eg bird watchers, conservation and scientific groups, school groups, and everyday people like me and my family.</p> <p>I don't know if you can read a room but I feel like most people are happy to celebrate Christmas but would not be impressed with the cost and waste involved with extra agent decorations and lights.</p> <p>The urban wild flower meadows are making our city a better place. Christmas decorations won't.</p> <p>Please don't waste our ratepayer money on Christmas decorations but I wish you are a merry Xmas anyway! Thanks for listening.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak via Zoom*</p>
55	<p>There's a drastic budget cut on community-related activities &amp; spaces.</p> <p>Community (not business community) should be one of the priorities for Council.</p> <p>City of Melbourne hardly focuses on supporting local communities by offering services through neighbouring houses &amp; community housing.</p> <p>There is decline in neighbouring houses, Council run childcare facilities and so on. Stop being commercially focused &amp; support the vulnerable community.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
56	<p>" Docklands pop-up Neighbourhood House since 2019 provided the community of Docklands a defined structure to a scattered community of diverse groups. Docklands being a multicultural community, it was always very difficult to bring everyone together and the Holi event in 2022 makes it successful in every way.</p> <p>With its location at District Docklands, having proximity to public transport makes it accessible for every generation and diverse class of people.</p> <p>They always have their presence at Docklands flea markets to Docklands Repair cafes every month, community people are making most of it to connect. These small initiatives also provide a platform for people to connect with larger groups within the community.</p> <p>Docklands Neighbourhood House have made their presence visible. And now</p>

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	<p>they are a vital part of Docklands Communities."</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
<b>57</b>	<p>Docklands Neighbour House is my go to place for all community related activities, my son enjoys playing at the neighbours hood house and the participants of Docklands Neighbour HoOd House is phenomenal be it be any cultural fest or any gatherings I have always seen Docklands Neighbour HoOd House having a stall and presence</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
<b>58</b>	<p>Docklands residents need the Neighbourhood House as an integral part of our community support. It's the only thing Melbourne City Council are doing right with Docklands and now they want to cut it out! The Neighbourhood House repair café helped _____ and being part of the social fishing club has been a great way to spend time in Docklands and meet other residents.</p>
<b>60</b>	<p>Can you also put some more budget for community activity like "Docklands Neighbourhood". This is the good community hub we meet new people, making friends and helping each. Me and my daughter enjoy their fishing activities, school holiday program which also give opportunity to meet new neighbourhood.</p> <p>Docklands is neglected in terms of family activities. Even our main Ron Barrasi Snr park is not upgraded for long time. Our main iconic attraction Melbourne Eyes is also closed for long term.</p> <p>Kindly help the families which is living here to put some more budget.</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
<b>61</b>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>My name is _____ I live in Docklands and have participated in lot of events organised by Neighbourhood Docklands house. They have been doing great work for our community by organising public events which nourish people living here. I fully support this to be continued, therefore request the authorities to include Docklands Neighbourhood House in the budget for 2023-24.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
<b>62</b>	<p>Please keep funding Docklands Neighbourhood House! We are local and we have been used this facilities during the last 2 years. My daughter _____ and _____</p>

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	<p>they helped us go through the most difficult time. We need them to be there for young kids and woman also the new immigrants!</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak via Zoom*</p>
<b>63</b>	<p>Funding for Docklands Neighbourhood House is important as it provides an important meeting place for the community and many interesting activities for this pocket of the city. Although I do not live in Docklands, I have really enjoyed attending their events especially the Bollywood dancing classes they ran in 2021</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
<b>64</b>	<p>Dear City of Melbourne,</p> <p>This submission is made on behalf of the members and participants of the Docklands Safety Group that advocates for improved road safety in Docklands. The group members participate in many other local projects and activities as well. We would like to ask the City of Melbourne to make sure that the funding is secured for the Docklands Neighbourhood House in the 2023-2024 budget.</p> <p>The Docklands community is actively developing. We see a lot of signs that- the community is at the stage when it is growing to become a vibrant inclusive supportive environment for residents and we can not lose this momentum. Docklands Neighbourhood House is a vitally important milestone for the community activation, it is a support of community needs and activities, a connector between people, groups and businesses. It helps the local community by flexibly and quickly addressing ideas and projects. We need a Neighbourhood House and can't lose already established connections.</p> <p>We are asking our Council to support the community and find resources to continue the current level of the Docklands Neighbourhood House activities.</p>
<b>67</b>	<p>The changes to city parking looks like a cash grab. When Sunday parking is changed from free to ticketed, cost of living pressures mean I will stop coming into the city on Sundays and shop in my own area or order online with many businesses offering free delivery over a certain price. Can't be good for CBD based business.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
<b>68</b>	<p>We're a strong dog community of Southbank &amp; we've been wanting to be heard seriously by the council to make changes to our ongoing issues of a decent to use dog park, which would involve making infrastructural amendments to the leaking bridge, etc. and we are keen to submit this petition supported by a significant number of community members (in hundreds) to allocate budgets to address our concerns.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
<b>69</b>	<p>Dear City of Melbourne Councillors,</p> <p>I humbly request you to please include Docklands Neighbourhood House in the Budget 2023-24 of City of Melbourne.</p>

## Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24

	<p>I live and work here in Docklands, and my children go to the primary school and kindergarten. Today, I want to share my thoughts as a Docklands resident-</p> <p>I believe that Docklands Neighbourhood House is beneficial to our communities here for the following reasons-</p> <p>&gt;For the children- Docklands needs regular opportunities for its community to interact with each other. It helps children from migrant families, like mine, to feel a greater sense of belonging.</p> <p>&gt;For older adults- It gives older adults a place, closer to their homes, for meeting new people, and learning new skills.</p> <p>Such opportunities help create the best version of a person and helps a community to flourish. Living in apartments may also lead to isolation, loneliness and longing for a sense of community. The neighbourhood house activities open up more possibilities and have a positive effect on people.</p> <p>In my role working part time, as a community facilitator for Docklands Neighbourhood House, I have understood from my interactions with the community that there is a need for neighbourhood house activities and services, to keep going, in this community.</p> <p>Thanking you, Warm regards, ██████████</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
71	<p>The budget plans to spend \$37million to "spruce up the city" and keep it clean from graffiti. But only \$1.1million to help rough sleepers. This is cruel. I would rather live in a "dirty" and graffiti filled city where people can live in homes rather than a "clean" city where people are homeless. I think you folks need to reconsider some parts of the budget and allocate more money to affordable housing and homeless shelter. The least we can do is ensure there's support for people who live in the city but cannot afford a house or apartment. Seems morally repugnant to me.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
72	<p>Hi,</p> <p>My name is ██████████ and I am a City of Melbourne resident since 2020.</p> <p>I am frustrated about the fact that Docklands Neighborhood House is not considered in the draft budget.</p> <p>Since I moved to Docklands, I've joined a couple of the Neighborhood House sessions. In particular, the social fishing session helped me bond with other neighbors and I saw many families with young kids spend meaningful time with these activities.</p> <p>I believe the Neighborhood House is ESSENTIAL for all Docklands residents and can also benefit people live in cbd who are just a few team stops away. We definitely need this funding to keep it going and I would regret to see it go.</p>

## Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24

	<p>Hope you would take my feedback into consideration. Thank you do much for your time.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>■</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak via Zoom*</p>
74	<p>On behalf of the Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY), please accept this letter of support for Docklands Neighbourhood House (DHN) to be included in the City of Melbourne's 2023-24 Budget.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
75	<p>Without this support from local government, Docklands Neighbourhood House will need to close. Kindly support and include</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
76	<p>We request that the Melbourne City Council (MCC) acknowledges the pressing economic conditions and prioritises cost reductions in non-essential areas. These include marketing and communications, and business event promotions. It is crucial to realise that these costs should not fall on the shoulders of ratepayers, a stance supported by budgeting practices in other areas.</p> <p>For instance, Independent Councillor Stephen Jolly suggested that the initial \$100,000 to establish a relief fund could be sourced from the council's media, branding, and marketing allocation. This budget has escalated to \$3.9 million in this year's draft, marking an increase of over 15% from the previous year.</p> <p>We propose that the MCC make a concerted effort to support businesses that did not receive adequate assistance during the COVID-19 crisis, particularly non-retail small businesses. These businesses are integral to Melbourne's diverse economic landscape and deserve equitable support.</p> <p>In terms of urban development, we suggest suspending the "Greenline" project temporarily to focus resources on completing the "Little Streets" and other central area projects. These have been significantly delayed since the onset of the pandemic.</p> <p>The council should also reconsider the routine engagement of expensive consultancy firms like KPMG and PWC. Instead, tapping into internal expertise and encouraging innovative thinking can significantly enhance cost-effectiveness and operational efficiency.</p> <p>We recommend imposing an efficiency dividend on large contractors like Citywide, suggesting a reduction in payments by 5%. This would help address the considerable waste and clean-up costs incurred due to underperforming services by various MCC contractors.</p> <p>A pressing need exists for the MCC to adopt transparency and best practices in allocating "Projects, Grants and Commission Funds". We propose a "Lottery Method" for all eligible applications/submissions, ensuring a fair and transparent</p>

## Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24

	<p>process. The council should also strive to eliminate costs associated with "Peer Assessments" and other ancillary areas.</p> <p>Furthermore, the MCC should halt any Rate increases and put forth efforts to control inflation. This should align with the Reserve Bank's recommendation of increased productivity for the Council and its contractors.</p> <p>Reserve Bank Governor Philip Lowe suggested that by reducing spending and enhancing productivity, people (and similarly councils) could return to a cashflow positive position. This is a cornerstone of fiscal responsibility and illustrates our commitment to social responsibility and equity for all ratepayers.</p> <p>In conclusion, we advocate for spending that reflects a deep-seated commitment to social responsibility, equity, and fairness, fostering a thriving and equitable Melbourne for all.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak via Zoom*</p>
77	<p>The Docklands Neighbourhood house is an irreplaceable institution in our community. It provides a safe and welcoming space for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together, build connections, and find support. The programs and services offered at the Neighbourhood house help strengthen the social fabric of our community and foster a sense of belonging and mutual care that cannot be found elsewhere. Losing the Neighbourhood house would leave a hole in the heart of our community that could not easily be filled. The friendships, relationships, and support networks that have formed within its walls over the years are invaluable and irreplaceable. The Neighbourhood house has become woven into the very identity and character of our community - it is an institution we could not imagine living without.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
79	<p>The Council needs to continue to build on its parkland assets - on the natural assets, such as biodiversity and habitat, and in particular for its large native park, Royal Park. Royal Park has seen significant enhancement in its natural values, since revegetation commenced in the 1980/90s, creating habitat and enhancing biodiversity. But we need to continue to build Royal Park's ecological systems in keeping with Council's strategies: Open Space Strategy, Urban Forest Strategy, Nature in the City, Royal Park Master Plan, etc. This requires ongoing research and collaboration, in-house or with external expert organisations. The 2023-24 Budget sets aside a relatively small sum of \$200,000 "to create habitat to increase nature in the city" (item 23B1425R) ... covering the whole city, all parks and open spaces as well as buildings. This would appear to threaten/cut existing Royal Park projects that are advancing biodiversity and habitat: such as the White's Skink Habitat; Superb City Wren, Invertebrate Reintroduction .... with no options for new projects, such as reintroduction of pre-European settlement species; including threatened species.</p> <p>Please can the budget allowance be increased to continue the work to enhance Royal Park's ecology and its role as a significant environmental asset of the City.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
85	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the budget and annual plan.</p> <p>Last year we submitted regarding the budget for bicycle infrastructure and we are pleased to see the amount foreshadowed then is confirmed in this year's budget.</p>



## Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24

	<p>The problem is spending it. We are concerned that last year's unspent budget isn't explicitly carried forward, although the projects that were to be carried out were "paused" for reasons which are still unclear.</p> <p>Please show in the budget the amount to be carried forward as additional to the \$4M 23/24 budget.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
87	<p>Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,</p> <p>My submission deals with the Capital Works section of the 2023/2024 draft budget.</p> <p>By way of background, I would like to commence my submission by stating that the City of Melbourne is made up of a number of areas with distinctive urban character.</p> <p>Much of this distinctive urban character can be attributed to the heritage bluestone infrastructure assets maintained by Council.</p> <p>A major feature of the integrity, character and appearance of the City of Melbourne was the past use of bluestone for kerbs, channels and laneways throughout both Central Melbourne and its suburbs, throughout the Nineteenth Century, with much remaining in situ to this day.</p> <p>The significance of the bluestone kerbs of Central Melbourne and its suburbs sustains the unique character of the City of Melbourne and is essential to the heritage value of the City's streetscape that extends to the characterisation of the Municipality, generally.</p> <p>For example, the painting 'Melbourne Town Hall and Swanston Street 1889' by Jacques Carabain, shows the streetscape of Melbourne in the late Nineteenth Century, including the existence wide pitcher Kerb and Channel which can be found in central Melbourne to this day.</p> <p>The first part of my budget submission asks that in any streets within areas of the City of Melbourne, which contain historic bluestone pitcher kerb and channels earmarked for reconstruction, that the original heritage style bluestone pitchers be retained, due to the remaining early bluestone kerb and channelling of Melbourne being intrinsic to the character of the City.</p> <p>Unfortunately, under Council's 'Operating procedure: bluestone in Melbourne's street and lane's' policy, this is currently not the case, with original bluestone being replaced with new sawn bluestone, as shown by this extract from Council's 2022 Bluestone Policy shows:</p> <p>[Section] 9.3.1. Central City</p> <p>In the central city, when we are replacing an existing asphalt footpath with new asphalt, if there is an original bluestone kerb and channel abutting the footpath which needs replacing, we use new sawn bluestone and gutterstone. '</p> <p>As the historic bluestone kerb and channels of the city of Melbourne are a heritage feature of the city's streetscape, it is most important that Council ensure their preservation for the future, a sentiment held by both many members of the community and many heritage organisations in Melbourne.</p>

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

Below is a list of streets which had early original bluestone kerb and channel removed during road reconstructions in the recent past:

- Victoria Street – between Swanston Street and Rathdowne Street
- Rathdowne Street - between Victoria Street and La Trobe Street
- Russel Street – between Vicvtoriz Street and La Trobe Street
- Exhibition Street – between Victoria SDtreet and La Trobe Street
- Victoria Parade – between Nicholson Street and Spring Street
- Spring Street – between Victoria Parade and Lonsdale Street
- Albert Street – between Gisborne Street and Clarendon Street
- Godfrey Street – between Bourke Street and Little Collins Street
- Swanston Street – between Victoria Street and A’Beckett Street

What makes it even more disappointing for residents wishing to preserve the integrity, character and appearance of the City of Melbourne. through the continued retention of original bluestone for kerbs and channelling, is the pointlessness of some of the removal of the aforementioned historic bluestone guttering.

For example, a section of early bluestone kerb and channel that lined Swanston Street, fronting the Melbourne Baths, and a remanent of the wide channel styling shown in Jacques Carabain 1889 painting, was removed when Council was constructing the bicycle lane in Swanston Street.

But then, after the heritage bluestone channel was taken out, the bicycle lane was routed away from the kerb, meaning the original lane could have remained in place, and this part of the City’s bluestone heritage could have been retained.

The second part of my budget submission, calls on Melbourne City Council to include funding for a new bluestone heritage policy in its 2023/2024 budget.

The reason for my request relates to the fact, that the City of Melbourne’s current ‘Operating procedure: bluestone in Melbourne’s streets and lanes’ policy, released in February 2023, is a flawed document in its approach to how it attempts to protect the City’s bluestone heritage.

This can only be rectified by its replacement with a new policy, for the reasons that I list below:

#### Community Consultation

The first challenge that the current bluestone policy faces is that it was drafted and implemented without any community consolation.

Section 6 of the policy, found on page 6 of the document, titled ‘Developnent of the document’ , clearly shows this:

‘An initial draft was compiled from the collective knowledge of the City of Melbourne’s infrastructure engineers in their role as custodians and managers of our city’s streets. This initial draft was then discussed with key City of Melbourne staff with an interest in issues pertaining to bluestone assets (including staff of our Design Branch, Urban Strategy Branch and Social Investment Branch). The internal feedback we received has informed this Operating Procedure’.


## Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24

	<p>Despite being funded through the rates paid by Melbourne residents, the bluestone policy was passed, without involvement or input from ratepayers, local historical societies or state heritage bodies such as the National Trust., as distinct from what has happened in other local government jurisdictions, when similar bluestone heritage policies have been developed.</p> <p><b>Heritage Consultants</b></p> <p>The second challenge presented by the current bluestone policy is that it was developed without the input of heritage consultants; again, a deviation from standard Melbourne City Council practice when it comes to the development of heritage policies within the Municipality.</p> <p>In contrast, in the development of bluestone policies by other Melbourne councils where the existence of heritage bluestone infrastructure has required the development of a policy, the heritage studies and assessments were prepared by qualified heritage experts.</p> <p>For example, the City of Whitehorse's bluestone policy was successfully drafted by Heritage consultant Helen Lardner Conservation &amp; Design Pty Ltd.</p> <p><b>Lack of thought given to alternatives to removal of heritage bluestone</b></p> <p>The third challenge presented by Melbourne City Council's current bluestone policy is the lack of detailed alternatives contained within, regarding the retention of heritage bluestone kerb and channels, in relation to disability and bicycle safety issues discussed in the policy.</p> <p>For example, the uneven surface created by Nineteenth Century bluestone pitcher kerb and channels in the Twenty First Century, for those with mobility issues and for cyclists, is a valid concern that has vexed many who also want to see the City's bluestone heritage remain unchanged, but there are viable options that already exist that offer solutions.</p> <p>The first is already in existence in Rathdowne Street, outside the Exhibition Buildings, where the cycle lanes is constructed on the outside of the existing original heritage bluestone kerbs, allowing for safe cycling, whilst also retaining the historic bluestone streetscape of our City.</p> <p>Another alternative comes from the pages of the Port Phillip 'Heritage kerbs, channels &amp; laneways' policy, from page 15 of the Port Phillip policy, which covers the bluestone in asphalt, as 'this allows the later covering to be removed in the future without damage to the historic fabric if circumstances changes'.</p> <p>There is no reason why Council cannot successfully adopt a policy that has been successfully implemented in a neighbouring municipality, to similarly deal with issues of accessibility and safety as Port Phillip has done, offering a long-term solution to preserving our precious heritage bluestone kerb and channels.</p> <p><b>Heritage and Non-Heritage Overlay Areas</b></p> <p>The last challenge presented by Council's current bluestone policy, is the distinction made between bluestone heritage infrastructure in Heritage Overlay Areas, and that in Non-Heritage Overlay Areas.</p> <p>Whilst once a popular approach to heritage preservation in the past, increasingly more and more local councils are viewing all bluestone heritage within their boundaries as being of equal historic value that is worthy of preservation.</p> <p>In 2013, Meri-Bek Council extended their protection of bluestone infrastructure from just heritage overlay areas, to also include that existing in non-heritage overlay areas, in the revision of their bluestone policy:</p>
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## Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24

	<p>There is no reason why Melbourne City Council cannot follow heritage best practice and do the same with the City's bluestone heritage.</p> <p>In summary, for the reasons I have listed, I hope Melbourne City Council will take the opportunity to retain the City's bluestone heritage during forthcoming road reconstructions listed in the 2023/2024 budget, and I also urge Council to fund a new bluestone heritage policy in the forthcoming 2023/2024 budget, that will bring its current policy into line with that of other Melbourne councils.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak via Zoom*</p>
88	<p>The decision to spend in excess of revenue and to again run a deficit is very disappointing. There are many initiatives with "green" focus that are excessive in cost and scope. Many could be reduced. At the same time we suffer with crazy e-scooters on every footpath and risk our lives just walking, still no Policing and realistic restrictions. The Graffiti prevention which plagues us and is getting worse is not addressed. Good management means looking after the basics, and spending within your limits, not constantly catering to special interest group whims.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak via Zoom*</p>
90	<p>I would like to make a submission about 4 aspects of the Draft Budget:</p> <p>(a) On page 12 it says that the "Council will borrow \$234.8 million in 2023–24 to build a better Melbourne, create jobs and continue growing our economy."</p> <p>In my opinion it is obvious that the strategy of deliberately increasing the population of Melbourne to make it the biggest city in Australia is not sustainable. It should not be necessary to borrow hundreds of millions of dollars, if population growth were a successful economic strategy.</p> <p>I disagree with this Budget.</p> <p>(b) On page 25 of the Draft Annual Plan 2023-24 it says that one of the priorities is "Melbourne is a university city and aspires to be the number one knowledge city in the world by 2030.</p> <p>I would like to draw to the attention of Councillors that numerous universities have been taken to the Fair Work Commission on alleged wage theft, which has been proven in a number of cases.</p> <p>Universities such as the University of Melbourne, are registered as charities, and yet the Vice Chancellor is paid in excess of one million dollars per year.</p> <p>In my opinion these universities are not charities, and they are not fulfilling their basic purpose which is to provide a tertiary education to Australian citizens.</p>

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

	<p>I would like to see the City of Melbourne use it’s powers and position to clean up the university sector, which has become corporatised and makes a mockery of the word “charity”.</p> <p>(c) Regarding the Draft Fees and Charges Schedule, I cannot find any line item(s) about parking infringements. Most other local Councils include at least one line item for parking infringements/offences that are 0.5 penalty unit – or various other wording.</p> <p>If the City of Melbourne Fees and Charges Schedule does not actually list parking infringements and offences, then does it mean that the Council cannot validly issue infringement notices?</p> <p>(d) It would be helpful if the Fees and Charges Schedule had a table of contents, similar to the format that the City of Yarra uses.</p> <p>Thank-you for the opportunity to make a submission.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
<p><b>91</b></p>	<p>Subject: Introduction to SarasCare's Work and Its Potential for Greater Impact</p> <p>I trust this message finds you in good health and spirits. I've been actively involved with SarasCare for over three years as a volunteer. During this period, I have had the incredible opportunity to design and lead global projects that not only save lives but also foster engagement with local businesses.</p> <p>Our team's tireless efforts were recognised last year when we received the Telstra Community Foundation Award. SarasCare is committed to creating meaningful changes within our community and consistently seeks opportunities to amplify its impact.</p> <p>I would be honoured to present the commendable work of SarasCare to the Council and engage in a discussion about how we could collaborate to provide even greater value to our community.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p></p>

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

	<p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
<p><b>92</b></p>	<p>I am a resident Docklander from the past six years. My child attends Docklands Primary School. I wish to convey my support to request the honourable members of the Melbourne council to offer continuous, ongoing support to the Docklands Neighbourhood House. Though I am unable to attend in person I take this opportunity to convey my request with utmost importance that the Docklands Neighbourhood House has brought about a very impactful, positive change in our community. Especially considering my kid the programs offered by them (Art and craft camp) plus the fishing camp brought a positive feeling to my child. Therefore, it is my request to keep the funding active. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss further. Thank you.</p>

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

7	Docklands Neighbourhood House Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*
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Submission to Future Melbourne Committee

██████████ The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne

Tuesday 16 May 2023

## **Agenda Item 6.2 – Draft Council Budget**

### **Docklands Neighbourhood House**

At the time of writing, the draft budget has not been released, so I can't respond to anything specific that is included in the budget.

However, we have been made aware by City of Melbourne management that there is no provision for the funding of a Neighbourhood House in Docklands from July 2023.

It is understood that Councillors have not had an opportunity to make a decision about Docklands Neighbourhood House and whether and how City of Melbourne would support this entity beyond the current one-off funding that runs expires in June 2023.

This submission is designed to give you another perspective from information you may have received from management.

### **Background**

In 2019, City of Melbourne funded The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne to develop and operate a Docklands Pop Up Neighbourhood House. This was initially funded through the (then) Social Innovation Partnerships for two years.

The Pop Up opened in December 2019 in a shopfront in District Docklands and was building momentum when the pandemic shut everything down in March 2020. Through and between lockdowns, the Neighbourhood House did its best to bring the Docklands community together in very challenging circumstances.

City of Melbourne funding finished in October 2021. From October 2021 to December 2022 Docklands Neighbourhood House (no longer a "Pop Up") was funded by Development Victoria. When that tranche of funding came to a close, City of Melbourne and Development Victoria combined to provide one-off special funding that would keep Docklands Neighbourhood House in operation until June 2023.

### **What's Taken Place?**

Through 2022 and the early part of 2023, Docklands Neighbourhood House has applied the principles of community development to a wide range of programs and initiatives.



Our focus has been on providing opportunities for community connection and improving wellbeing. Our goals for the Docklands community are social cohesion and community empowerment. Docklands Neighbourhood House elevates the quiet voices of Docklands residents, with a particular focus on residents who have just recently arrived in Docklands (and indeed Australia).

Our approach is “bottom up”, community-driven and local-scale.

The range of programs and initiatives have included:

- Four Hindu celebration public events: Holi (March 2022); Navratri (October 2022); Diwali (October 2022) and Vasant (February 2023). Total attendances across four events was 4 000.
- Community Sports Day and BBQ (December 2022) which saw 250 Docklands residents engage in cricket, table tennis, soccer and fishing
- A picnic for international students
- Cirque Culinaire (October 2022) showcasing local cooks across a variety of cultures
- A weekly (now bi-weekly) social fishing program
- Regular health and wellbeing classes in Pilates, yoga and meditation
- Weekly playgroup sessions focusing on newly arrived young migrant families
- School holiday visual art programs for pre-schoolers and primary school children
- Repair Cafes in which local volunteer repairers help fix broken household items
- Weekly Homework Club, focusing on literacy support for needy local primary school students
- Multicultural Womens Advocacy Network

Most of our programs are offered in partnership. The projects above have been delivered in partnership with:

- Department of Health
- SarasCare
- Docklands Sports Clubs
- B-Friend
- The Village Festival
- Melbourne Community Toy Library
- Premium Fitness
- Docklands Residents Group
- Docklands Chamber of Commerce
- District Docklands
- Australian Communities Foundation
- YMCA; and
  
- City of Melbourne, through the following areas:
  - International Students
  - City of Melbourne Marina
  - Library @ The Dock

- Community Events program
- Connected Communities
- Additionally, Docklands Neighbourhood House has worked closely with City of Melbourne's Neighbourhood Partner for Docklands.

Additionally Docklands Neighbourhood House has been an **open access community centre** and drop-in facility, operating 18 hours per week. During this time, staff and volunteers provide community members with a range of assistance, such as referrals to specialist services, information

### **Assessment for Continued Funding**

City of Melbourne funds four neighbourhood houses through partnerships under the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework 2022-25.

When FMC endorsed this framework on 20 September 2022, it included a motion:

"notes the potential additional need to reconsider the total quantum of funds allocated to Neighbourhood Houses if it is found during assessment processes that there is an increase in the number of eligible recipients worthy of funding."

Under the Framework, Neighbourhood House partnership agreements are to commence from July 1, 2023. Now is the time for that assessment process to be made.

We have been clear with management that we want Docklands Neighbourhood House to be assessed under the provisions of this motion. Our discussions with City of Melbourne management have led us to the conclusion that the assessment of Docklands Neighbourhood House as a potential "eligible recipient worthy of funding" has been **ill-defined, inadequate and incomplete**. For example, none of the executive staff who have made the "assessment" has visited Docklands Neighbourhood House or participated in (or observed) any of its programs. We understand that there have been many staff changes and acting arrangements in this part of Council, so perhaps that is understandable.

We hold at the very least that Future Melbourne Committee is owed a report from management about its assessment of Docklands Neighbourhood House (and any other potential new Neighbourhood Houses) so that there is transparency for Councillors, the Docklands community and the Docklands Neighbourhood House team.

### **Worthiness of Funding**

I present to Councillors two pieces of evidence that have been supplied to management. At the conclusion of this submission, please find:

- A Strategic Development Group independent Community Needs Analysis of Docklands that we commissioned last year. [Executive Summary is included. Please let me know if you want the full report]
- A mid-term report that we provided for the interim funding for the current City of Melbourne funding from January to June 2023.

Regarding the mid-term report, please keep in mind that this refers only to January to April 2023, and does not refer to the achievements of the previous 2022 year, during which we had a higher level of funding.

Our report is an honest internal assessment of the successes and challenges of establishing a Neighbourhood House in Docklands. **Docklands Neighbourhood House is not yet an unqualified success; however, it is a qualified success, and deeply valued by the Docklands community.** We believe that Docklands Neighbourhood House has sufficiently proved that it is worthy of continued existence, and therefore funding under City of Melbourne's Community Grants and Partnerships Framework.

In the absence of a documented assessment, this is what we can glean about why management has not recommended funding Docklands Neighbourhood House beyond June 2023.

- The level of reported community engagement is lower than desired/expected
- Needs in Docklands must be considered against needs in other neighbourhoods, such as Southbank.
- Issues that we self-reported in having a sub-standard temporary venue and challenges in reaching some isolated cohorts in the community
- There are limited financial resources at City of Melbourne
- The absence of other funders for Docklands Neighbourhood House

To address each one of these in turn:

#### *Level of Community Engagement*

As per our mid-term report, these are the existing programs run by Docklands Neighbourhood House and the participation levels:

Activity	Hours / week	Average attendance / session
<b>Regular Programming</b>		
Social Fishing Club (2 sessions / week)	4.5	12
Friday Afternoon Play Session	2	15
Docklands Homework Club	1.5	13
Yoga and Pilates at the Marina (2 sessions)	2	6
Meditation and Wellbeing classes	1	6
Casual Conversation Club	1	<i>Just started</i>
<b>Irregular Programming and Activities</b>		
Event Management Course	5 x 4 hours	9
Vasant Celebration	3 hours	600
Community BBQs	3 hours ~monthly	8 – 50
School Holiday Art Programs	4 x 2.5 hours ~quarterly	6 - 25

Repair Café	2 ~quarterly	First one for 2023 this weekend
Advocacy & Engagement		
"Open Door" Neighbourhood House Access		18 hours / week
Hindu Celebrations Planning Group	Varies	
The Centre Docklands Subcommittee		
Soul of Docklands		
Multicultural Women's Advocacy Group		

Management has questioned some of these numbers. I have explained that the numbers given are typical figures when a program is in its mature phase under normal circumstances. So for example, social fishing took some time to build to the standard numbers, and are significantly less than stated if it's rainy and blowing a gale. Conversely, the yoga and Pilates classes programs were pretty consistent at about 6 attendees, but in recent weeks it has fallen to 2 or 3. Having tried a number of strategies, we will be winding up these classes and investing our energies in other emerging programs.

Overall, we agree with management that these numbers are lower than ideal for a thriving Neighbourhood House.

It must be remembered that Docklands Neighbourhood House has had 18 months post-COVID lockdowns to get established, and with a lot less funding than a typical Neighbourhood House. Comparing it to an established Neighbourhood House is unfair. For example, The Centre in Errol St. North Melbourne has engagement roughly four times the above, but it has the benefit of 40 years history, an established community and a broad funding base.

The community development approach is not linear; it can be slow and messy at times. Not everything we try takes off.

It is also important to note that smaller attendances also have their distinct advantages in terms of the ability for participants to make meaningful social connections. If you visit our Errol St. Neighbourhood House, you are likely to see 6 to 12 people gathered for a social or educational program.

Our agreement with City of Melbourne for the six month funding steered us towards weekly programs located at the Neighbourhood House. For most program types, our practical capacity is 15 people, so that should also be kept in mind.

Docklands Neighbourhood House has shown that it is capable of drawing very large numbers to other types of programs. In 2022, we presented Holi attended by 1300 people, and co-presented with SarasCare Diwali which was attended by 2000 people.

*Docklands versus Other Neighbourhoods*

I am not in favour of pitting one neighbourhood against another. However, Docklands is different in both positive and negative ways. The historical development process and the predominant built form has made community life in the suburb particularly challenging.

The importance of community-focused goals in Docklands has been highlighted time and time again in City of Melbourne (and other) research such as the Neighbourhood consultation process and the Docklands Summit.

I think there is near-universal agreement that creating community connection, improving community empowerment and social cohesion are vital goals to pursue to ensure Docklands thrives.

Every community needs structures to pursue these goals that make sense in the context of the neighbourhood. A Neighbourhood House is one structure that has proven to be very effective in meeting these goals. Perhaps other structures will have greater impact in some neighbourhoods, but in Docklands, there is community support for a Neighbourhood House.

#### *Sub-standard temporary venue*

It is true that our facility in a shopfront in District Docklands is less than ideal for a Neighbourhood House. However, we do what we can within these constraints and use other facilities when appropriate.

If Docklands Neighbourhood House is to thrive into the long-term future, we will need a different facility, but this is no reason to discount the *concept* of a Neighbourhood House, which remains strong.

#### *Challenges in reaching some isolated cohorts in the community*

This is a perennial challenge in community development and neighbourhood development. Docklands Neighbourhood House has not had sufficient resources to reach into all cohorts of Docklands community, but we are mid-way in this journey, and together with City of Melbourne and other partners, can continue to try and reach and engage isolated cohorts.

#### *There are limited financial resources at City of Melbourne*

Not having seen the draft budget, it is difficult for us to see where Council has prioritised its spending. However, we definitely acknowledge the challenge of delivering a balanced budget that meets the many demands of City of Melbourne. It is appropriate that all expenditure is assessed for maximum impact.

However, City of Melbourne has a fund of in excess of \$2 million from developer contributions that is specifically earmarked for community in Docklands. If City of Melbourne cannot find \$100 000 for Docklands Neighbourhood House in its standard budget, it could use this pool.

#### *The absence of other funders for Docklands Neighbourhood House*

Key to the financial success of Neighbourhood Houses is a mix of funding sources. Almost all Neighbourhood Houses receive state government ongoing funding through the Neighbourhood Houses Co-ordination Program. Docklands Neighbourhood House has not been able to access this fund because it last opened for new funding in 2018. The next opportunity for new Neighbourhood House funding under this scheme is likely to be 2024-25, one year from now.

But without local government support, Docklands Neighbourhood House won't exist when that opportunity presents.

Otherwise, Docklands Neighbourhood House has been successful in getting a \$20 000 philanthropic grant to establish the Docklands Homework Club.

We are also in advanced discussions with MAB, LendLease and Mirvac to contribute financially (~\$40 000) to a unique *Soul of Docklands* project that we will run in association with Docklands Chamber of Commerce.

There is additional significant support from both corporate and philanthropic entities in negotiation. Letters of support will follow at a later stage. These contributions are contingent upon there being a base level of support for Docklands Neighbourhood House (ie local government funding).

Despite the various shortcomings identified by management, they actually said that they would be prepared to fund Docklands Neighbourhood House, but with an additional quantum of funding as per the September 2022 resolution. Rather, they suggested splitting The Centre's partnership allocation between North Melbourne, West Melbourne and Docklands. If Docklands Neighbourhood House is eligible and worthy of funding, the motion of September 2022 should be invoked and additional funding be considered.

### **Alternatives to Neighbourhood House in Docklands**

If City of Melbourne proposed a viable alternative to Docklands Neighbourhood House addressing community development in the neighbourhood, then perhaps this recommendation would be valid.

We heard that:

- The Connected Neighbourhoods small grants are working well. [We fully support this grants model]
- There is a plan to form a stakeholder working group to look at the issue starting from July 2023
- They are looking to new groups such as Owners Corporation Network and the anti-ATET Residents of Docklands to guide their initiatives
- There are plans for an extended functionality for the Multicultural Hub in welcoming newly arrived residents from across the municipality.

The formation of a stakeholder working group is particularly galling. This is a recommendation coming out of Docklands Summit which has not yet been actioned. This stakeholder working group is a good idea and we are happy to participate in it if invited. However, the likelihood that this will result in any meaningful community development in Docklands in the short to medium term is extremely low.

The other proposals do not amount to anything substantive.

### **Conclusion and Next Steps**

We do not suppose that a Neighbourhood House in Docklands will solve all of the issues in this neighbourhood. Not any one program ever can.

However, we believe that Docklands Neighbourhood House has done enough to justify its ongoing existence.

To be clear, **City of Melbourne not funding Docklands Neighbourhood House beyond June 2023 will mean its closure.** The Board of The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne under whom Docklands Neighbourhood House has been set up, cannot fund it ongoingly.

To close now would mean that community development in Docklands would take a massive step backwards. All of the hard-won gains will be lost, and there will be a vacuum into which a Stakeholder Working Group will be sucked. I wouldn't be surprised if in 18 months, the group recommends a grass roots community-led organisation to help the local community meet its needs and fulfil its aspirations. And two years after that, it might be established, and we will be about six years behind where we could be, if we maintain consistency and continuity, building on momentum, rather than stopping it in its tracks.

Our understanding is that Councillors are looking for a demonstration that there is a will, the support and demand for Docklands Neighbourhood House from the local community. It is our job to show that to you between now and when budget submissions close in 8 June.

If there are other questions that Councillors have about Docklands Neighbourhood House, I am more than happy to answer them. You are all welcome to the Repair Café at Library @ The Dock this coming Sunday, 1pm to 3pm. Or please let me know if you would like to visit Docklands Neighbourhood House at any time.

City of Melbourne Funding Agreement  
Docklands Neighbourhood House Jan – Jun 2023  
Mid-Term Report

Project Details

Title

Docklands Neighbourhood House interim funding agreement Jan – Jun 2023

Funding Allocation

\$50,000

*What activities have taken place and what outcomes have been achieved to date?*

Docklands Neighbourhood House has established a suite of both regular and irregular programming in collaboration with Docklands community members and organisations, in addition to engaging in community development and advocacy projects.



### Weekly Programs

As of April 2023, Docklands Neighbourhood House has established approximately 132 regular weekly engagement hours spread between 50-60 people who participate in our programs on a weekly basis.

Current Weekly Programming				
Activity	Location	Neighbourhood Priority Addressed	Hours / week	Average attendance / session
Social Fishing Club (Wednesday afternoon and weekend)  (2 sessions)	New Quay Promenade / Victoria Harbour Promenade	Place-based initiatives and activations,  Local scale events,  community connection  + Docklands as a distinct water precinct	4.5	12
Friday Afternoon Play Session	Docklands Neighbourhood house	Community focused venues and facilities, community connection  + access & affordability	2	20
Docklands Homework Club	Library at the Dock	Community focused venues and facilities	1.5	13
Yoga and Pilates at the Marina  (2 sessions)	Melbourne City Marina	Community focused venues and facilities, community connection  + Sport & Recreation Spaces and Programs	2	6
Meditation and Wellbeing classes	Docklands Neighbourhood House  (Outside hours)	community connection  + Sport & Recreation Spaces and Programs	1	6
Casual Conversation Club	Docklands Neighbourhood House	Community focused venues and facilities, community connection	1	<i>Just started</i>

A brief description of each weekly program is provided below. The principal demographics of those participating in Docklands Neighbourhood House programs are **recent immigrants and young families**. However, each program attracts a different sector of the Docklands demographic, as noted in the descriptions.

- *Social Fishing Club*: started on Wednesday afternoons in 2022. This weekly program gets people fishing in the waters of Docklands. Experience is not necessary. The benefits of this program include building community connections, improved mental health, connection to place, increased food security. Normally run by a Docklands resident with fishing and

outdoor education experience. Attendees are mostly male; intergenerational family groups; recent arrivals, Docklands Primary School students, international students.

- *Friday Afternoon Play Sessions*: started towards the end of 2022 and have continued to be very popular. Parents attend with their children who get to play with a selection of toys and other activities provided by Melbourne Community Toy Library and Docklands Neighbourhood House. The informal sessions have benefits of building community connections, building language skills (both children and parents), socialisation skills & developmental skills (for children). Attendees are mostly recent arrivals (Indian, plus Middle Eastern, Chinese, and Malaysian); mostly mothers (but also fathers) with pre-school children.
- *Homework Club*: started in Term 1, in partnership with Docklands Primary School, Library @ The Dock and with funding from Australian Communities Foundation. Volunteer tutors (mostly Docklands residents) support students from the local primary school with learning support in a club-like atmosphere. The benefits include better academic advancement, better socialisation, fostering volunteering, connection to place. Attendees are upper primary school students, selected by Docklands Primary School according to need, very recently arrived in Australia.
- *Yoga & Pilates*: Started in late 2021, two weekly classes conducted by a professional practitioner. Benefits include improved physical and mental health, community connection. Attendees are overwhelmingly female, wide age range including seniors. Mixed cultural backgrounds.
- *Meditation and Wellbeing classes*: Commencing with two trial sessions in March 2023 in direct response to community feedback, these sessions are run by a Docklands local who is a qualified yoga and Reiki instructor. Sessions concentrate on breath, relaxation, meditation and mindfulness. Benefits include improved mental and physical health and community connection. Participants are mostly females 25-40. Indian background, plus mixed

- *Casual Conversation Club*: A new program in April 2023, this is run as a morning tea. This program has the specific purpose of bringing new arrivals and established Docklands residents together to build community connection and provide opportunity for those who wish to practice and improve English skills in a welcoming and casual environment.

### Other Programs

In addition to our regular weekly programming, since January 2023 Docklands Neighbourhood House has also offered one-off or recurring irregular programming:

Irregular Courses and Programming			
Activity	Neighbourhood Priority Addressed	Hours	Attendance
Event Management Course	Community connection	5 x 4 hours	9
Vasant Celebration	Local scale events,  Place-based initiatives and activations,  community connection	3 hours	600
Community BBQs	Place-based initiatives and activations, Local scale events,  community connection	3 hours ~monthly	20 – 50
School Holiday Art Programs	Community focused venues and facilities,	4 x 2.5 hours ~quarterly	6 - 25
Meditation and Wellbeing workshops (trials)	Community focused venues and facilities	2 x 1 hours	24

A brief description of each irregular program is provided below:

- *Event Management Course:* Responding to The Centre's Docklands Community Needs Analysis this course guided participants through all stages of the event production process, using forthcoming community festivals as a template with hands-on, practical learning experience. Most participants volunteered for the organisation of Vasant.
- *Vasant Celebration:* Held at Buluk Park in February, the Vasant Festival ushered in Holi celebrations and featured performances by community members, dance workshops, children's art and Holi coloured powder making activities, and a special English and Hindi bilingual storytime at Library at the Dock. Produced by the Docklands Neighbourhood House Hindu Celebrations Planning Group, Vasant also gave opportunities to volunteer graduates of the Event Management course provided by The Centre.
- *Community BBQs:* These free monthly events are open to all and built around weekend sessions of the Social Fishing Club. Held at Victoria Harbour Dock and Melbourne City Marina (when available), the community BBQs provide an opportunity for community to connect with each other in a casual, friendly environment.

- *School Holiday Art Activities:* These activities are facilitated by a qualified art therapist. During the Term 1 school break, there were two sessions; one for 0–4-year-olds and another for 5 years and up. The popular sessions provide a range of art and craft activities for children and their parents/carers.
- *Meditation and Wellbeing workshops:* These workshops were free to attend and held as trial sessions of the upcoming Meditation and Wellbeing regular program mentioned above.

“Kids are having fun, learning new skills, and growing a new interest. Parents are also meeting new people and good little community growing”

### Community Engagement, Capacity Building, Volunteering and Advocacy

An important part of a Neighbourhood House is to provide a welcoming space for community members. Currently, Docklands Neighbourhood House is open three days per week (Wednesday to Friday), 12 noon – 6pm, and continues to provide open door access and referral, and to build community capacity through advocacy and engagement.

One vital aspect of Docklands Neighbourhood House is providing opportunities for Docklands residents to volunteer. Many of the existing programs, such as Social Fishing Club and Docklands Homework Club are volunteer-driven, and all the groups mentioned below are volunteer projects. Volunteerism is a key component of community empowerment. The Community Needs Analysis revealed a strong desire for many people to volunteer, and harnessing this will become a focus area in coming months.

Advocacy & Engagement	
"Open Door" Neighbourhood House Access	18 hours / week
Multicultural Women's Advocacy Group	Varies
Hindu Celebrations Planning Group	
The Centre Docklands Subcommittee	
Soul of Docklands	

- The *Multicultural Women's Advocacy Group* is a culturally diverse group of Docklands women residents. The group is concerned with advocating for culturally safe options for women in sport and recreation. This work is ongoing.
- The *Hindu Celebrations Planning Group* started in early 2022 and helped guide Holi, Navratri and Diwali celebrations last year. In 2023, they created Vasant and are working towards a celebration later in 2023.

- *The Centre Docklands Subcommittee* was formed in March as a subcommittee of The Centre Board. This committee comprises two Docklands residents, a Centre Board member and key staff. The Docklands Subcommittee advocates for the Docklands community and Docklands Neighbourhood House, both internally and externally. The Subcommittee met for the first time in April and will be providing recommendations on Docklands matters to The Centre's Board. This Subcommittee is viewed as an interim step in providing a more independence governance structure to oversee Docklands Neighbourhood House.
- *Soul of Docklands* is a portrait photography public art project still in the negotiation phase. A partnership between MAB, Lend Lease, Mirvac, Docklands Chamber of Commerce and Docklands Neighbourhood House, Soul of Docklands proposes to place large format photographs of Docklands residents on building hoardings and empty shopfronts, with a website for further interpretation.

*What activities have been planned for the next two months?*

In addition to continuing established programming as listed above (only with the exception of Events Management which will next be offered in August-September), the following new regular activities will be launched by DNH through May – June:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Priority Addressed</b>	<b>Hours / week</b>
Men's Group	Docklands Neighbourhood House  (Outside hours)	Community focused venues and facilities, community connection	2
Lunchtime School Hobby Clubs  (For Docklands Primary students using the District facilities)	Docklands Neighbourhood House	Community focused venues and facilities, community connection	3
<i>Additional Regular Weekly Programming</i>			7
<i>Total Weekly Regular Programming</i>			21

- *Men's Group*: A weekly group led by a qualified counsellor and psychotherapist, exploring ideas of negative and constructive masculinity, with particular emphasis on developing positive male role models in parenting.
- *Lunchtime School Hobby Clubs*: Docklands Neighbourhood House will engage with Docklands Primary School to host these hobby clubs for students using the District facilities to engage in a range of creative- and interest-based activities. This program reflects feedback from members of the DPS Parents' Council.

DNH will also continue to build engagement and participation through upcoming irregular programming.

Irregular Courses and Programming		
Activity	Neighbourhood Priorities Addressed	Hours
Digital Storytelling: Podcasting Course	Community connection + Access & Affordability	2 x 4 hours
Personal & Family Finances	+ Access & Affordability	6 x 2 hours
Docklands Repair Café	Community focused venues and facilities, Place-based initiatives and activations, community connection	3 hours every second month

#### Children's Arts Activity

- *Digital Storytelling: Podcasting course:* A two-part course teaching participants the fundamentals of podcasting from episode planning, research, and interview skills and presentation through to audio production and editing. This program is planned to lead to the establishment of a 'Docklands Radio' style monthly podcast, featuring street interviews with residents, local businesses and visitors to the area and providing Docklands residents a forum to discuss issues important to the community.
- *Personal and Family Finances course:* A 6-session course building the capacity of community members to plan and administer finances amid these times of increasing financial pressures, discussing family and personal budgeting, understanding the taxation and superannuation systems, and planning for financial security in the future.
- *Docklands Repair Café:* Re-established at Library @ The Dock in partnership with Docklands Representative Group and the Library Makerspace, the Repair Café will promote community connection through skill-sharing, and sustainability through building community capacity to maintain and fix items rather than dispose of them.

*Have there been any problems that have come up so far and how have you addressed them?*

*Facility Limitations:* Currently Docklands Neighbourhood House operates from a single-room shopfront on the ground floor of The District Docklands shopping centre. These premises are not fit-for-purpose for a Neighbourhood House, which restricts the nature and number of programs that can be delivered from the premises. The location also limits the range of cohorts that visit and engage with the Neighbourhood House. The specific issues faced are:

- *Lack of readily accessible amenities.* The nearest toilet facilities available to participants engaged in activities at DNH are a minimum of 5 minutes' walk away. Adding to this challenge, our duty of care under child safety regulations means all minors must be always accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- *Noise and distraction from The District:* Pedestrian noise, music, and distraction from outside DNH premises have also influenced the nature and timing of the programs run from our premises.
- *DNH physical space:* The need to facilitate programs as well as work from the single-room DNH premises has led to challenges in both activity scheduling and staff time-management.

The Docklands Neighbourhood House team has dealt with these issues by working around them as best as possible. Activities at Docklands Neighbourhood House generally are limited to 1.5 hours; noise-sensitive programs are scheduled when The District is quiet and staff not trying to do planning / administration work, and; programs are scheduled at alternative venues to fit the requirements of particular programs and participants.

One other issue is that many of our free activities are fully subscribed through online bookings. However, not everyone who books actually attends the program, meaning some programs are under-capacity while others who wanted to attend miss out. This issue is not unique to Docklands Neighbourhood House. We are attempting to deal with this issue by making personalised contact with those who booked in the 24 hours before the program and maintaining a waiting list.

*Have you spent all or part of the first instalment of the grant funding?*

Yes, partially spent.

*Approximately how much of the funding has been spent?*

\$34,000

The vast majority of funding allocated has been spent on wages, specifically Community Development Coordinator and Community Outreach Facilitator. Remaining expenditure has been on program (e.g., facilitator fees and materials) and facilities costs.

Staffing for Docklands Neighbourhood House is:



Beyond the City of Melbourne interim funding, Docklands Neighbourhood House is funded by Australian Communities Foundation which supports the Docklands Homework Club program and through fees and charges for yoga, Pilates and meditation classes. We are also receiving a small wage subsidy through the Victorian Government Digital Jobs initiative. The Centre meets the shortfall from its reserves.

#### Friday Afternoon Play Sessions

*What steps will be taken to ensure that the project is completed successfully?*

Docklands Neighbourhood House and The Centre are committed to seeing this project through to completion by June, with the hope that Docklands Neighbourhood House will continue beyond this period.

The following strategies will be pursued which have both short-term and longer-term benefits:

- Follow the key recommendations of the recently completed Docklands Community Needs Analysis conducted by The Centre.
- Empowerment of the newly formed Docklands Subcommittee (of The Centre Board) to provide governance oversight of, and advocacy for, Docklands Neighbourhood House.
- Staff are contracted and committed through to end of June and willing to be extended
- Positive external relationships and partnerships have been developed and will be maintained.
- A volunteering program will be developed to engage more community members in Docklands Neighbourhood House operations, increasing community ownership and participation in the organisation.

### Comments

*Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the progress of the project?*

The operation of Docklands Neighbourhood House has been very successful from January to April. Most programs have provided tangible benefits for the participants and the longevity of the programs are indicators of their community value. Whilst not everything we have tried has flourished, this is not a fundamental problem, as the Neighbourhood House context allows for small-scale experimentation to assess community interest and feedback.

While the overwhelming majority of our participants are from Docklands, we are also drawing participants from CBD and Southbank. These neighbouring suburbs have some similarities to Docklands in terms of lifestyle, demographics and minimal community infrastructure. We have identified a future growth opportunity for Docklands Neighbourhood House to service these populations.

The staffing and resources of Docklands Neighbourhood House are small. Maximising impact through **collaboration** is both a deliberate community development strategy and a financial necessity. Our partnerships include the following:

<i>Docklands Homework Club</i>	Docklands Primary School Library @ The Dock
<i>Docklands Repair Café</i>	YMCA Docklands Representative Group Library @ The Dock
<i>New Quay Yoga and Pilates</i>	Premium Fitness Melbourne City Marina
<i>Friday Afternoon Play Sessions</i>	Melbourne Community Toy Library
<i>Social Fishing Club</i>	Melbourne City Marina Victorian Fisheries Authority
<i>Social and Cultural Events</i>	Docklands Chamber of Commerce Docklands Sports Clubs Sarascare Library at the Dock

Docklands Neighbourhood House has strong connections to different parts of City of Melbourne. We particularly value our relationship with Fadi Qunqar, Neighbourhood Partner for Docklands. There is a shared understanding of the Neighbourhood Priorities, and a willingness to share information and collaborate. We also have a positive and developing relationship with Library @ The Dock, with Vasant, Docklands Homework Club and Docklands Repair Café (proposed) taking place at the venue. The relationship with the Waterways team is also a strength which we look forward to building on more in the future.



# strategic



## development group

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The Centre, Docklands Neighbourhood House

# Community Needs Analysis

Final Version April 2023

## Executive Summary

The Docklands Neighbourhood House (DNH) was established in 2019 with an initial grant through the City of Melbourne's Social Innovation Partnerships program. A further tranche of funding was received from Development Victoria that expired at the end of December 2022. Both City of Melbourne and Development Victoria are funding DNH through to June 2023.

The DNH started operations just as the extended COVID-19 the lockdown period commenced. However, the DNH managed throughout the two-year period to implement activities as restrictions allowed, and since they have eased, great strides in engagement and delivering activities with the community have been made.

[Strategic Development Group](#) (Strategic) was engaged to work cooperatively with DNH on the **design of and delivery of an *action-research* based community needs analysis (CNA)**. The *action-research* approach was used to allow data for the purpose of the CNA to be collected through integrating processes with existing scheduled activities, and then iteratively apply the findings to inform ongoing planning of activities. The methodology employed consisted of E Survey, interviews and small groups discussions and a document review.

**The key objectives set for the CNA** were to connect with the community and seek advice and ideas on their preferences and interests in engaging with the DNH. It was anticipated that the evidence generated would measure the impact of the DNH's existing programs and inform recommendations for future strategies. **Certain limitations** impacted on the extent that the methodology was able to be effectively applied and the objectives set were fulfilled.

**The framework applied to present findings and recommendations** of the CNA consisted of three areas that are about the:

- **Organisation** - capacity and coordination and collaboration with others
- **Community** – empowerment and social cohesion
- **People** – individual connections to place and people, and their health and well-being

These outcome areas are also the elements being measured in the monitoring evaluation and learning framework that was also designed by Strategic and the DNH as part of this project.

**The key findings and recommendations** are:

### Organisation

Partnership with community organisations has been central to the delivery of DNH's activities. While extensive work has been undertaken by DNH to build partnerships with community organisations, there is still a lack of visibility of the neighbourhood house within the community and there is

potential for DNH to increase the breadth and depth of collaboration with other organisations (public and private) in Docklands.

### Recommendations

- i. **Continue to actively connect and coordinate with other community organisations and agencies** to share information and seek areas for collaboration; and explore opportunities with other community stakeholders to improve suburb-wide coordination and communication between organisations and with the community.
- ii. **Prioritise engagement with the local primary school** in line with City of Melbourne and the Docklands Summit's focus on responding to the increase in families living in the area.
- iii. **Dedicate resources** (staff and budget) to support ongoing meaningful community development, recognising it is an ongoing process that requires investment of time and dedicated resources to genuinely implement cooperative design and delivery of activities and events with community members and community located organisations.
- iv. **Explore options to increase visibility of the DNH** that may include moving to new premises with street frontage, improving signage, continuing mobile 'community located' engagement (DNH bicycle) and promote through engagement with other organisations
- v. **Continue to draw on the organisational strengths of The Centre**, whilst simultaneously developing a long-term plan for a model of more independent operation of DNH.

### Community

The multicultural makeup of the Docklands community is both a challenge and strength of the precinct. The research showed strong support for continuing and increasing culturally aware engagement and events. There is strong interest and expressed commitment from community members to contribute in different ways in a volunteer capacity which will assist the DNH to expand its work and will foster greater levels of community empowerment and cohesion.

### Recommendations

- i. **Continue to host and facilitate cultural festivals** by utilising the existing working groups and mobilising the interest of many volunteers offering support.
- ii. **Continue engagement with members of the CALD community** in culturally safe and accessible ways through working with and through community members and established channels of communication; providing interpreters and translation of information as needed. The recruitment of more locally based bicultural workers to the staff is encouraged.
- iii. **Empower community advocacy groups** to identify priorities within the community and support the activities to address them.

### People

The Docklands community has highlighted the need to focus on social and recreational events. Participants in the DNH activities clearly articulate the positive multiple benefits they have gained, and they are keen to continue to participate more in the future. A lack of awareness among the wider community members about DNH and limited engagement of DNH with certain segments of the community hinders the reach and benefit of existing events and activities.

### Recommendations

- i. **Continue to increase awareness of the DNH and its activities** through different channels including open day / open house, connecting with the school community (parents association, newsletter,

school assembly) and through social media, and 'word of mouth' generated through other community groups and organisation and volunteers.

- ii. **Prioritise social and recreational aspects in future programming** such as sporting groups and social conversations groups, with particular focus on children, families, CALD groups and new arrivals.
- iii. **Seek out less visible members of the community** for example the hidden less affluent, homeless people and young single professional people. Through participatory strengths-based engagement, seek to better understand their perspectives and aspirations as Docklands residents and explore ways that DNH may best contribute.

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

47	<p>Westgate Biodiversity: Bili Nursery &amp; Landcare submission in relation to the management of Westgate Park.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
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## Management of Westgate Park

2.6.2023

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**Option 1.** Wait until 2026 for CoM to take over management of Westgate Park (in 2-3 years)

This is our least preferred option. Westgate Biodiversity and before that the Friends of Westgate Park, have for more than 20 years taken on the load of revegetating this 40ha park and of dealing with litter, feral animals, fallen trees, paths and roads, major projects, overbearing bureaucracy, rave parties, raising money for projects (\$3.4m in the last decade) and, more recently, the overwhelming presence of weeds.

Our volunteer work crews are exhausted and getting older.

The compound needs to be more centrally located so people, cars and wheelbarrows are closer to work sites. The current compound/shelter consists of a roof over a space between three rusty containers. The amenity is primitive.

**Option 2.** It is our preferred option that the City of Melbourne takes on the Committee of Management immediately with the support of WBBNL. WBBNL agrees to maintain vegetation and complete revegetation of the Wharf Road Triangle, provide plants, conduct community events and park tours, support initiatives such as Garden Guides and citizen science.

We suggest the City of Melbourne would take on committee of management responsible for bringing existing infrastructure to a safe standard and fund:

1. Mowing of grassed areas
2. Toilet cleaning and removal of graffiti.
3. Assistance with weed spraying
4. Secure vehicle entry points to stop rave parties

In this option, work could proceed on:

1. Planning and development of the proposed compound and relocation of the nursery in Williamstown Road to the Wharf Road Triangle, just north of Westgate Bridge, funded by the \$2.5m
2. Establishment of a small City of Melbourne depot in the Triangle
3. A master plan addressing entries, signage, destinations and facilities such as a nature playground, boardwalks, bird hides
4. A crossover at the end of Wharf Road for vehicular and public entry to the Triangle.

This proposal is consistent with the State Government intention that the \$2.5m would fund works associated with the land newly incorporated into the Park which includes the Wharf Road Triangle. (The other section of newly incorporated land on the edge of the Yarra River has now been developed by WBBNL into garden beds, paths, rockwall planting, lawns, seating and a drinking fountain - not funded by the \$2.5m.)

Agreement was reached some years ago between WBBNL and Parks Vic on priority projects to be funded with what remained of the \$2.5m. It is our understanding that the toilet block and fixing fallen bollards in the carpark entry were the only projects to proceed.





**Option 3.** City of Melbourne to lease the Wharf Road Triangle from Parks Victoria to allow the development of the nursery/compound and the City of Melbourne Depot to proceed and request that the State Government release funds to WBBNL by way of a grant from the \$2.5m for development of the nursery/compound and the entry from Wharf Road.

WBBNL has commenced revegetation of the Triangle and it will be publicly accessible once work is complete.

### **Appendix 1 Motion agreed by City of Melbourne Council, December 2021**

9. That Council writes to the State Government to request Committee of Management for Westgate Park under the following arrangements:

9.1. that the State Government provide funding for operating costs at Westgate Park for five years (\$900,000 annually); or

9.2. If funding is not available for operating costs, Council requests that Committee of Management arrangements commence in 2026; and

9.3. Council requests a new funding arrangement is established for the balance of the existing Ministerial funding, such funding proposed to be used for asset renewal and site improvements aligned with the Master Plan including the construction of a depot and nursery facility to support Westgate Biodiversity: Bili Nursery and Landcare Incorporated.

### **Appendix 2 Agreed priorities agreed with Parks Victoria in Nov 2018 and Jun 2021**

Draft priorities for \$2.5m

New works compound and nursery on Wharf Road triangle (\$650-\$800,000)

Playground

River visitor node/s (partially done, consider picnic area upstream of punt)

Sense of Arrival

- Wharf Road
- Lorimer Street
- Todd Road north entry

Park Furniture (drinking fountains in river section and ss. seat done)

Boardwalk/bird hide on freshwater lake edge north

Rationalisation of path network hierarchy

Revegetation of compound/carparking at crossroads

By others/Master Plan

Bay Trail upgrade

Remediation of old toilet block

Todd Road visitor parking

Salt lakes boardwalk and pond infill

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

52	<p>Subject - Docklands Neighbourhood House Funding</p> <p>See attached letter</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
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**THE DISTRICT**  
DOCKLANDS

5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

City of Melbourne  
Management & Councillors  
Email: <https://services.melbourne.vic.gov.au/ask/annualbudget>

It has been brought to our attention that the City of Melbourne has not included funding for Docklands Pop-Up Neighbourhood House in the 2023/2024 draft budget.

The District Docklands would advocate for Councillors to reconsider this decision and include Docklands Neighbourhood House in the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework as the fifth Neighbourhood House funded under the scheme.

We understand Council intends to establish a new stakeholder group to drive community engagement in the Docklands – a working group will take time to become operational.

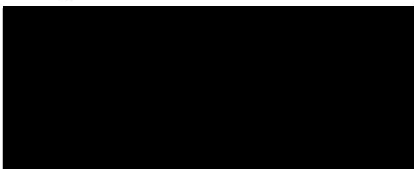
Our concern is that the programs, networks and community initiatives that are currently led by the team at Docklands Neighbourhood House will be lost.

The Docklands is a unique community – it is young, it is dynamic, its population has been recovering and it is very diverse. It is not a community that has “established roots” and it therefore it relies on more formalised community support to be “always on” to ensure there are activities that help to lead and build the local Docklands community from the ground up.

The new Stakeholder Group is a mid to long term option, and we look forward to being able to work with this group in the future as we have done with Docklands Neighbourhood House. Our concern is that discontinuing funding to Docklands Neighbourhood House now, will result in downtime that will impact the growing positivity around the local Docklands community.

The team at the Docklands Neighbourhood House are a key stakeholder of The District, we have provided them with support for community sport days and celebrations for the local Indian community. They are also our go-to when we wish to connect more broadly with the local community, in addition they also provide front-line services and have become that trusted local hub that is now a key part of the Docklands lifestyle, it would be sad if this was lost.

Regards



GM – Customer and Precinct Experience

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

59

Dear Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillors,

Please find a letter attached detailing a request for \$50K to support litter removal, education and awareness raising in the Lower Moonee Ponds Creek.

This is a new and unique request. After speaking with Councillor Rohan Leppert, Environment Portfolio Lead Councillor, we understand there is no dedicated grants scheme for this project, and therefore a budget request is the most suitable way forward.

We hope that City of Melbourne can support this very important work to raise awareness around this critical issue.

Yours sincerely,



Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak via Zoom\*



# CHAIN OF PONDS

*Transforming the Moonee Ponds Creek*

1 June 2023

Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillors  
City of Melbourne  
GPO BOX 1603  
Melbourne VIC 3001

Dear Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Councillors,

**Request for \$50K to support litter removal, education and awareness raising in the Lower Moonee Ponds Creek through the 2023-24 Budget.**

This is a new and unique request. After speaking with Councillor Rohan Leppert, Environment Portfolio Lead Councillor, we understand there is no dedicated grants scheme for this project, and therefore a budget request is the most suitable way forward.

## **The Project**

The [Chain of Ponds Collaboration](#) in partnership with Ocean Crusaders would like to trial 'Geoff', the Ocean Crusaders Automatic River Cleaner (ARC), on the lower reaches of the Moonee Ponds Creek, within the City of Melbourne jurisdiction. 'Geoff' is currently being trialled on the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers only, with the support of Parks Victoria.

To build community engagement around the ARC and to build awareness around the litter problem, the trial will be supported with a host of community education and clean-up events in the area. To not only clean up the creek, resulting in improvements to amenity, economic, and environmental values in the area, but provide the data and broader awareness we need to justify and support systemic changes to how litter is managed across the catchment by consumers and producers.

## The Request & Planned Spend

It is proposed that the 50K will be spent in the following way:

- 30K to support the management of the ARC in the creek for 6 months
- 20K to support 2 to 3 separate community clean-up events. These are currently proposed as (1) Ocean Crusader *Hard Core Clean*, (2) Ocean Crusader *Paddle against Plastic*, and potentially a 3<sup>rd</sup> event, a *Plogging* event which ends down by the location of the ARC

The proposed timing for the project is October 2023 – April 2024.

## Background / Chain of Ponds

The Chain of Ponds is an ambitious collaboration working to transform the Moonee Ponds Creek into an iconic Melbourne waterway that provides high social, cultural and environmental benefits. The City of Melbourne is one of 13 partners in the Collaboration which includes representatives from local and state government, water authorities, research organisations, community groups and not-for-profits, who are committed to improving the Moonee Ponds Creek. Since its inception, a key priority of the Collaboration has been to work with local community, councils, businesses and waterway managers to reduce litter in the creek and its surrounding open space.

## The Problem

The Moonee Ponds Creek runs for approx. 35km with a catchment of over 145 sq.km. With an ever-increasing density of housing, commercial and construction activity occurring within the catchment, litter flowing into the catchment is exponentially increasing. This increasing litter volume is exerting additional stress upon the current litter-trapping infrastructure, and unfortunately, this means that large volumes of plastic litter are making their way into the Yarra and Port Phillip Bay. Addressing the creek's litter issues serves to protect and enhance the ecosystem of the Bay's natural environment. The lower reaches of the Moonee Ponds Creek are subjected to litter flowing from the entire catchment, and hence the volumes of litter are extremely high (e.g. previous Ocean Crusaders cleans, <https://oceancrusaders.org/mooneepap/>).

## Project Outcomes

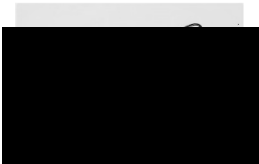
The 50K will add value to City of Melbourne residents in the following ways:

- Meet the key objectives of City of Melbourne Environmental Portfolio through improvements to: (1) ecosystem health through habitat improvement, (2) Integrated Water Management through awareness around the stormwater sourced litter, (3) waste and resource recovery through the recycling of plastics found in the waterway.

- Support the Chain of Ponds' key strategic priority to reduce litter in the Moonee Ponds Creek and surrounding areas (Prospectus 2022).
- Reduce the amount of litter entering Port Phillip Bay from the Moonee Ponds Creek via the Yarra.
- Engage community in litter clean-up and education events such as Ocean Crusaders 'Hard Core Cleans', and 'Paddle Against Plastic' events.
- Inform the Chain of Ponds' clean-up strategies and investment currently being made by Councils and Water Authorities in the upper catchments of the Moonee Ponds Creek.
- Reduce the clean-up investment made across the Bay on beaches and within the Bay itself by waterway managers, non-for-profit community groups and volunteers.
- Lead to positive ecological, social, economic and wider environmental outcomes that a cleaner Bay will provide for coastal and marine habitats and biota, local communities and businesses.

We appreciate the City of Melbourne's continued support of the key objectives of the Chain of Ponds Collaboration. We're excited about this project and hope that the City of Melbourne can help to amplify its impact, and in doing so, provide value to residents in the area and across the bay and Greater Melbourne for years to come.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.A black rectangular redaction box covering the name of the signatory.

**Chain of Ponds Collaboration Lead**

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

65	Please find attached the submission prepared by Southbank3006 Inc on the FY23 Budget for the City of Melbourne
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7 June 2023

**Submission to City of Melbourne on FY24 Budget**

**FOM Meeting 20 June 2023**

1. SB3006 supports the broad thrust of the budget including the fiscal parameters the Council has set in this process within the constraints of the ESC's residential rate cap following on from a period of COVID relief measures. This is particularly important in a City where 85% of the housing stock are flats and apartments in which 82% of the population of the City reside either as owners or renters. This cohort are likely to be exposed to fiscal pressures in the past 12 months. So, containing rate rises is an important social benefit that Council can deliver to this group of residents to minimise direct rate rise impacts or the pass-through impact into higher residential rents.
2. SB3006 supports the continued deficit funding for the Council budget in FY24 as a fiscally responsible approach by the City of Melbourne given the continued slow recovery from the period of COVID measures especially during the daytime economy right across the entire City not just the CBD precinct.
3. SB3006 notes that the Council continues to expand its commitment to core Council services relating to local roads, garbage, graffiti, and parks and gardens (open spaces). It is concerning that of a \$61m cleaning budget almost \$39m is earmarked for graffiti removal and control. This indicates that it is an issue to which alternative approaches to management and control needs to be investigated going forward.
4. Similarly, as a community we need to rethink the approach to littering we have societally. This is broader than the Council as it involves the wider Victorian community's behaviour. In Southbank we become a focal point with the destination locations (e.g., Crown and the Southbank Promenade) and the routes leading to and from them which suffer from visitors littering and using the streets and doorways as public toilets particularly on weekends and late at night. Internationally there has been some interesting behavioural research in altering behaviours and not relying on lecturing or shaming marketing campaigns. We would urge the Council to explore these with the State Government to develop a multi-pronged program over a 3-year period. As its recent Parking Plan/Policy demonstrated where new comprehensive evidenced based policy was required it is possible, so a similar approach policy needs to be applied to graffiti and littering.
5. SB3006 supports the expansion of the Council's Street Cameras to the Carlton Lygon street destination area. We do believe that this Camera network provides a layer of comfort to residents and visitors with the potential for speedy intervention in an emergency. Such cameras serve as a useful deterrent to some street offences, but again behavioural intervention measures need to be explored with the Victorian Government. Separately we would suggest that the Council can also explore the potential to network in external cameras used around the City on private properties, assuming that appropriate security and data protocols can be developed. This would maximise the coverage in difficult to reach locations such as laneways etc.

In terms of Southbank:

1. We are extremely pleased to see the commitment to funding the ACCA forecourt development in FY24 to provide a family friendly open space linking into the Dodds Street linear park. This has the potential to link the Arts Precinct, Southbank Village Precinct, Kavanagh St Precinct, and Wells St residents. This will take pressure off the Boyd open space in particular, but more importantly provide a more central locale where residents can meet up from all over Southbank and make the ACCA a part of the neighbourhood in which it resides 7 days a week. This will create a major new open space park for Southbank residents.
2. We endorse the new Neighbourhood reporting model contained in the budget papers. We would support additional staffing for the Neighbourhood program particularly in areas such as Docklands and Southbank to provide outreach community development into Strata Buildings to foster community and social development within the communities that live in these buildings. These buildings typically have resident populations from 300 to 2,000 people and no mechanisms to support their social development. Since 82% of the residents of the City live in such accommodation as opposed to signal unit dwellings pivoting the program to meet the needs of these residents in this way should become a priority in FY24.
3. We support the allocation of \$3.5m to develop a City Road delivery plan with which to advocate to the Victorian Government. This is critical to making CitiLink working as it was designed when approved in the 1990's and thus enable City Road/Yarra Highway to be managed better. This is key to actually addressing the principal issues with City Road that the old City Road Masterplan ignored. The issues associated with the dysfunctional state of City Road actually are in the ambit of the State Govt, but it will require the Council to take leadership on this issue to drive change. Included in that should be a review with the State Government of the Kavanagh St and Power Street intersection given the number of accidents and illegal vehicle movements at and near that intersection including vehicles making U-turns across the separator just after the freeway off ramp.
4. Related to this is the need that some of these funds are directed to developing a Traffic management Plan for all of Southbank so the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods we have advocated for previously can be progressed. This would enable the Council to meet the demands for enhanced pedestrian safety across Southbank as its recent Participation Survey revealed is the number one priority in this neighbourhood. It aligns with the Council's commitment to a risk minimising approach to Transport prioritising pedestrians and cyclists over cars in local roads.
5. We would again urge that as part of the *Council's \$75 million to develop further open space reserves, including in Southbank* in its Planning documents, that funds are directed in FY24 to reclaiming on street parking space in Southbank and converting it to open green space and community gardens now that the Parking and Kerbside Policy allows for that reuse.

  
**President**  
**Southbank 3006 Inc**

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

66	<p>Please find attached a Draft Budget 2023-24 Submission concerning funding for Docklands Neighbourhood House.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Community &amp; Stakeholder Engagement, MAB Corporation</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
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**MAB Corporation Pty Ltd**

ABN 78 917 049 883

ACN 065 207 230

Level 5, 441 St Kilda Road  
MELBOURNE VIC 3004

PO Box 7657  
ST KILDA ROAD VIC 8004

Phone 03 8681 2222

Fax 03 8681 2100

mab.com.au

7 June 2023

Lord Mayor and Councillors  
City of Melbourne  
GPO Box 1603  
Melbourne VIC 3001

(Submitted via Participate Melbourne)

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,

**Re: Draft Budget 2023-24 Submission – Docklands Neighbourhood House**

As the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Lead for MAB Corporation I would like to provide this letter as a submission to the Draft Budget 2023-24.

Recently we have been advised by Docklands Neighbourhood House that they have not received funding allocation in the Draft Budget 2023-24.

Docklands Neighbourhood House has been providing a valuable service to the Docklands community since late 2019 undertaking numerous community building activities that have impacted thousands of local people. The Docklands Neighbourhood House is one of very few organisations in the local area that provides programs and spaces for the local community to access, particularly the more vulnerable.

MAB are part of a local developer working group that has formed to support community based initiatives in the Docklands precinct and one such project, 'Soul of Docklands', was set to commence in the coming month to be led by the Docklands Neighbourhood House and funded by the developer working group.

We believe that not providing funding to this organisation will have a negative impact on the local community. Our experience in this community indicates a strong need for organisations such as this, and we believe that Docklands residents more broadly would benefit greatly from a continued presence of the Docklands Neighbourhood House office located in close proximity.

Further, given the projected growth in the NewQuay and Docklands area, the importance of this service will become even more significant in years to come.

We request the City of Melbourne Councillors to consider funding Docklands Neighbourhood House through its Community Grants and Partnerships Framework from 1 July, 2023.

Should you require any further information please contact me on the details below.

Kind Regards

  
**Community and Stakeholder Engagement Lead**



**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

70	<p>Attached is a submission to Council from the Victorian Council of Social Service.</p> <p>Submitted on behalf of</p> <p>This submission is also available at [<a href="https://vcoss.org.au/housing-and-homelessness/2023/06/a-fairer-melbourne">https://vcoss.org.au/housing-and-homelessness/2023/06/a-fairer-melbourne</a>]</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
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8 JUNE 2023

## SUBMISSION TO CITY OF MELBOURNE 2023-24 DRAFT BUDGET

The Victorian Council of Social Service welcomes the opportunity to provide the City of Melbourne with feedback on Council's draft budget for 2023-24.

We make this brief submission in the context of our role as Victoria's peak body for social and community services and the state's premier social advocacy body—and as a commercial tenant in the Melbourne CBD.

Overall, VCOSS is pleased the draft Budget retains a strong focus on advancing a more sustainable and equitable future for Melbourne.

There is strong alignment between City of Melbourne budget measures and VCOSS's policy and investment priorities to:

- Support social and economic equality, safety and wellbeing (for example, commitments around prevention of violence against women, disability access and inclusion, support for ageing in place, and food security)
- Tackle the climate emergency (for example, the development of battery storage and renewable energy in the municipality through the Power Melbourne initiative, strategic use of Council levers to create and promote green jobs, and city greening.)

We wish to particularly highlight VCOSS's support for Council's continued commitment to Homes Melbourne, which facilitates investment in initiatives that reduce homelessness and increase safe, secure and affordable housing in our city.

VCOSS encourages Council to build on these strong foundations and **increase Homes Melbourne's capacity by introducing a new targeted revenue measure in the 2023-24 Budget, specifically: a 'short stay' accommodation levy on AirBnB-type properties in the City of Melbourne.**

In the immediate term, this new levy or charge would produce an additional revenue stream for Council that could be quarantined and directed into Homes Melbourne, to supplement Council's existing investment in homelessness and affordable housing initiatives.

It could also provide impetus for the City of Melbourne to consider other levers it has at its disposal to encourage the use of investment properties for long-term rentals, rather than as short-stay accommodation. It would also create a foundation to engage with other councils, the Victorian Government and property investors to identify and advance multi-faceted systemic solutions to tackle the shortage of affordable private rental properties.

In providing this feedback to the City of Melbourne, VCOSS recognises it is difficult for Council to introduce new charges or fees during a cost-of-living crisis. However, we note short-stay accommodation owners are investors in the provision of a fundamental human right: *a home*.

Given the scale and impact of the housing challenges confronting the City of Melbourne, VCOSS feels it is fair and reasonable to introduce a modest and targeted levy on these investors as they continue to make sizable gains on their property assets.

In closing, we would also urge the City of Melbourne to **include – and prioritise – community services workers as ‘key workers’ in the context of new affordable housing projects that have Council backing.**

The City of Melbourne is a hub for community services provision, but the majority of workers in this sector – typically, women in low-paid and insecure jobs, who are also juggling unpaid care responsibilities – cannot afford to live in the communities in which they work, and have lengthy commute times.

Community services organisations located in the CBD are struggling to meet community demand for assistance because of workforce shortages. Consequently, VCOSS is keen to see community services workers prioritised for affordable housing projects in the City of Melbourne.

VCOSS is the peak body for Victoria’s social and community sector, and the state’s premier social advocacy body. We work towards a Victoria free from poverty and disadvantage, where every person and community experiences genuine wellbeing.

We welcome the opportunity to provide this input.

This submission is authorised by



VCOSS acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and to emerging leaders. Our business is conducted on sovereign, unceded Aboriginal land.

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

73

Why doesn't the MCC, simply do what almost all other major businesses and institutions in the world do when revenue falls, or economic conditions indicate??



# Melbourne City Council 2023 Budget Submission

## International Best Practise

Why doesn't the MCC, simply do what almost all other major businesses and institutions in the world do when revenue falls, or economic conditions indicate??

All other Business and Institutions across the world, Media, Information Technology, social media, Mining, Hospitality Tourism, Education etc, etc Even State and Federal Governments. All Downsize.

Yes, every other employer large or small, across the world downsizes.

## Melbourne City Council should implement best practice

Nowhere else in the world behaves like Councils. Currently, the Australian economy can't find enough staff. Now is the perfect time.

Melbourne City Council shouldn't always default to simply raising Rates, Fees, Charges, Fines, additional day parking charges.

No other business or institution can simply increase revenue by decree.

The justification for the remuneration levels of the CEO's and Managers is to attract the right people with high level skills etc. Skills that can operate comparable organisations to Worlds Best Practise.

Then like other CEO's around the World they should act like other CEO's. The management should now act comparable, as conditions slow, they downsize staff.

They manage the downsize as not to affect the core operation of the organisation, and not have customers notice or suffer. The test of true experienced, skilled management.

Again, if the CEO's and Managers have to be paid, sometimes more than the Premier of the State. They should be better and Managing the Council to international organisational best practises. They should manage like other CEO's and Downsize the Labour Force.

If they can't then they should resign.

A reduction across all Departments of all non-customer facing non-customer interacting staff should be a priority. The State Government is in this process. SO should the Council.

Job Creation and Job Retention is not a current problem for the Australia or Victorian economy.

Those schemes are temporarily conducted, and the funding is limited. We do not need to provide never-ending jobs, jobs growth and staff number retention at The Melbourne City Council.

No other Institutions across the World operate this way

## After the Melbourne Commonwealth 2006

The last, and only time found the Melbourne City Council Downsized, was after the Financial Failure of the Melbourne Commonwealth Games. Yes, the revenue expected simply did not materialised. No matter the Spin put on those Games. The Revenue that was in the Budgets was never achieved.

One line item of Commonwealth Games Budget was \$50 million in Parking Fines that simply never happened. Unlike the predictions, most people left town. The only time Melbourne has been quieter was during Covid Lockdowns. Chefs, of Collins Street Restaurant were seen sitting outside as they

# Melbourne City Council 2023 Budget Submission

had no customers. As a Business operator in the CBD through the Commonwealth Games. We couldn't get Tradespeople to come

## Previous MCC Downsize

Melbourne City Council downsized 33 % across all Departments, All non-customer facings / customer service staff. Back-room people, managers, planners, inventors of work etc. Yes, some very fine people unfortunately. Save the Council a fortune.

Same should be done now. Especially as unemployment is not an issue. As the rel economy is desperate for personnel. Now is the best time to Downsize the Council.

## Greatest Success and Outcome

The Melbourne City Council's greatest success of the 2007-2008 Downsizing was, no-one noticed.

Yes, that's correct, none of the public noticed. The Council had shed 33% of the staff. It had no discernible effect to the public.

The outcome was excellent. Lower payroll, no need to raise rates, fees, and charges, and indirectly less mindless intrusion and disruption to Rate Payer via frivolous, unnecessary projects or bureaucratic hurdles put in people's way.

Lower you Budget needs,

Lower fees and charge

Downsize the Council

You've done it before

All other Business, Institutions and entities Worldwide do it.

It's World Best Practice

Come on Downsize now

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Rate & Taxpayer

[Redacted]

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

78	RMIT submission
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**Office of the  
Vice-Chancellor  
and President**GPO Box 2476  
Melbourne VIC 3001  
Australia+61 3 9925 1999  
vc@rmit.edu.au  
[rmit.edu.au](http://rmit.edu.au)

8 June 2023

Ms Alison Leighton  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
City of Melbourne  
GPO Box 1603  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001By email: [Alison.Leighton@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:Alison.Leighton@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

Dear Ms Leighton

Thank you for sharing a draft of the City of Melbourne's 2023-24 Budget, with RMIT.

Congratulations on a significant budget directly driven by economic and social recovery, and full of partnerships to progress important environmental sustainability projects, precinct development, and support for education innovation, in which RMIT shares a strong interest.

RMIT is particularly pleased to see:

- \$5million allocation for City North Urban Realm improvements;
- continuation of Power Melbourne and Zero Carbon Jobs Clusters;
- consolidation of Knowledge Week into the new Now or Never Festival;
- programs to deliver digital literacy skills and capabilities (through the MelVan, increased access to wi-fi, and advocacy for digital inclusion);
- prioritisation of educating the community on the City's Aboriginal heritage (with the Mapping Aboriginal Melbourne project); and
- the desire to build Melbourne as the world's best student city through international student investments.

We particularly note the establishment of Homes Melbourne to coordinate and facilitate more affordable housing for key workers and people on low incomes. Through the development of the Social Innovation Precinct in RMIT's City North masterplan proposal (due to be submitted to the Victorian Government in June), we will explore partnership opportunities to provide key worker housing in the City's north, and would be interested in further developing this element of the precinct, with both the City and the Victorian Government.

RMIT agrees with and fully supports the *Economy of the Future* strategic objective in the draft Budget, particularly as it calls out close collaboration with industry and universities, development of globally competitive innovation districts (especially in our renewal areas), strengthening the creative sector, facilitating digital and technology innovation, supporting the re-establishment of international education, and efforts to unlock climate capital.

It is through this collaboration — with the Melbourne Innovation District and City North effort as a central facilitator — that RMIT continues to work with the City of Melbourne. I look forward to extending and

deepening our partnership through these shared endeavours, and urge that we continue building practical, ambitious, activities and shared capabilities, to drive the implementation of these initiatives and attract wider support from the business, public, and community sectors.

We look forward to the implementation of the Municipal Planning Strategy in 2022–23 with RMIT and City North an essential part of realising the place and investment conditions to support a globally competitive innovation district in Melbourne.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Alec Cameron**

Vice-Chancellor and President

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

80	<p>Please refer attachment for submission from The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614 regarding funding for the Youth Street Teams program</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
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## The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614



**69 Bourke Street  
Melbourne**

**Tel:** (03) 9653 3299  
**Fax:** (03) 9654 8186

**P.O. Box 18260  
Collins Street East  
Melbourne 8003**

8<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Participate Melbourne  
The City of Melbourne

Dear Participate Melbourne team,

### **Additional funding request for Youth Street Teams program**

Thank you for your continued support of The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614's Youth Street Teams program in the City of Melbourne and for the opportunity to submit a request for additional funding for the program in financial year 2024. We have outlined below more information about our Youth Street Teams program and our request for additional funding from The City of Melbourne.

### **Youth Street Teams**

Our Youth Street Teams program was originally established in the City of Melbourne to work alongside a suite of responses aimed at making the City of Melbourne a safe place for all.

The model was developed from discussions between The City of Melbourne, Victoria Police and Melbourne Project 614 in response to concerns over the vulnerability, safety and excessive drinking of young people late at night. Local knowledge, backed up by statistics collected by Ambulance Victoria, hospital admissions and Victoria Police, identified an increase in alcohol-affected incidents for young people on Friday and Saturday nights and nights preceding a public holiday.

Youth Street Teams engage intoxicated or drug affected young people who are vulnerable to potential assault, abuse or are at risk of incurring some other form of injury.

Youth Street Teams offer support, comfort or assistance to anyone who needs it. This can include arranging transportation home, contacting loved ones, diffusing antisocial behaviour and just making sure that everyone is having a safe and enjoyable night out.

They receive referrals from patrons, late night venues, Ambulance Victoria and Victoria Police.

### **Funding request**

The Youth Street Teams program is currently funded to receive \$100,000 for financial year 2024 from The City of Melbourne. We are deeply appreciative of the support that Melbourne Project 614 receives from The City of Melbourne. Without this support Youth Street Teams would not be able to function.

However, we are concerned about the current program's capacity to respond to what we see as three significant and emerging issues:

### 1. The decriminalisation of public drunkenness laws from 7th November 2023

Melbourne Project 614 has been engaged in high level discussions with Victoria Police in relation to the potential impacts that may occur due to the new arrangements in relation to public drunkenness. The concern that has been raised is that Victoria Police will have limited capacity to respond to matters of public drunkenness. The brunt of responsibility for dealing with such matters will fall on Ambulance Victoria. Our experience with Youth Street Teams is that, for a range of reasons, demand for Ambulance Victoria services, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights, seems to frequently outweigh the availability of Ambulances to respond. With the introduction of these changes from 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023, we are concerned that this will place further stress on an already overburdened service. We believe that we need to further resource Youth Street Teams to have capacity to be available to meet what we believe will be unmet demand. Youth Street Teams partnership with Monash paramedicine course has given Youth Street Teams not only additional capacity, but more expertise to be able to deal with complex health matters that seem to occur on Friday and Saturday nights. We are currently in discussion with Monash paramedicine course staff to increase the number of students that will be on Youth Street Teams. This will enable Youth Street Teams to be able to respond to a perceived increase in demand come 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023. However, we will need to make sure that we have adequate supervision of those students to respond.

### 2. Lift on the 15-year freeze on new licences for serving alcohol after 1am from 1 July 2023

In the ten years' experience of operating Youth Street Teams in the City of Melbourne, evaluation of the program has found that the power of the program is its ability to connect with and support young people who find themselves in vulnerable situations and to provide practical support to those people to ensure that they arrive home safely. With the impending lifting of the freeze, we are concerned that there will be more young people requiring our support for a longer period of time each Friday and Saturday night. With additional resources we will be able to provide that extra support.

### 3. Increase in activity on Thursday nights

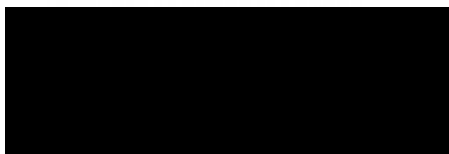
Through the work that we are currently doing around the City of Melbourne we have become aware that rather than Friday and Saturday nights being the traditional going out nights, Thursday nights are becoming an increasingly popular night for young people to visit clubs and night-time entertainment venues. Our observations of Thursday evenings are that they are becoming as busy as Friday and Saturday nights.

Our referral number has been provided to emergency services and licensed venues in the City of Melbourne, however we are concerned that we will not always be able to respond to these requests in an efficient manner due to a lack of resources.

Melbourne Project 614 would like to request funding of an additional \$100,000 from The City of Melbourne to expand the capabilities of the Youth Street Teams Program in financial year 2024. If any form of additional funding was to eventuate, we would be more than happy to provide any additional findings and data in our monthly reports submitted to The City of Melbourne.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this request with you further.

Yours sincerely



The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614



Level 1, 69 Bourke Street Melbourne VIC 3000



**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

81	<p>Please refer attachment for The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614's submission regarding The International Students Couch</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
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## The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614



**69 Bourke Street  
Melbourne**

**Tel: (03) 9653 3299  
Fax: (03) 9654 8186**

**P.O. Box 18260  
Collins Street East  
Melbourne 8003**

8<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Participate Melbourne  
The City of Melbourne

Dear Participate Melbourne team,

### **Request for additional funding for International Students Couch program**

Thank you for your continued support of The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614's International Students Couch program in the City of Melbourne.

Launched on 3 August 2009, The Couch is a drop-in centre for international students. The Couch provides a safe space for international students to meet; an opportunity to connect with support services and information on a range of issues including housing, employment, counselling, student services, legal support and representation; a meal provision; an environment to engage, socialise and interact, contributing to personal safety and positive experiences while studying in Melbourne; and the facilitation of cultural exchanges between local young people and international students through social activities.

Responding to a number of for-profit private colleges in Melbourne and community awareness of the precarious living situation of many international students, Melbourne Project 614 established The Couch to provide practical support that could both respond to the social, welfare and personal needs of students while building their capacity to survive and thrive in the community while studying.

The Couch ran successfully until 2016, picking up awards including Council of International Students Australia 2014 award for Most Active International Student Association and

With the support of The City of Melbourne the program was relaunched in April 2021 in response to the impact of COVID19 on international students, including social isolation and a loss of employment.

### **Funding request**

Since its relaunch The Couch has received funding of \$180,000 per financial year from The City of Melbourne. We are deeply appreciative of the support that Melbourne Project 614 receives from The City of Melbourne. Without this support The Couch would not be able to function. The proposed budget for financial year 2024 includes \$150,000 of funding for The Couch.

Melbourne Project 614 would like to request funding of an additional \$30,000 from The City of Melbourne to ensure funding received in financial year 2024 is in line with prior years, preventing cuts to program hours / offerings.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this request with you further.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614  
[Redacted]

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

82	<p>Please see attached Southbank Residents Association Submission for both the Draft Budget and Annual Plan for 2023-24</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
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PO Box 1195 South Melbourne VIC 3205  
Phone: 03 9028 2774  
ABN 58 986 783 321 Cert. of Inc. A0036364B  
info@southbankresidents.org.au  
www.southbankresidents.org.au

## **Submission to Future Melbourne Committee**

### **Draft budget 2023-24 and Draft Annual Plan 2023-24**

Our committee has reviewed the City of Melbourne Draft Budget 2023-24 and the Draft Annual Plan 2023-24 and would like to make the following submission.

#### **City Road Masterplan**

The lack of progress on the City Road Masterplan continues to disappoint. CoM will remember that the City Road Masterplan was a 7-year plan and implementation was supposed to commence in 2016. It's now 2023, and instead of nearing completion, we have barely started. Why has it taken so long and why are we only now talking about committing to a City Road Delivery Plan in the Draft Annual Plan 2023-24?

SRA certainly welcomes the development of a City Road Delivery Plan, and the intention to use it to progress advocacy with the Victorian Government. We ask that there be no further delays in the process, as upgrades to City Road East and West are long overdue.

It is promising to see a commitment in the Draft Annual Plan 2023-24 for the City Road Northern Undercroft component. However, given \$3.5M is allocated in the budget for City Road Masterplan when only a delivery plan will be produced, we are left to assume the remainder of the funds will be earmarked for the Northern Undercroft works. We welcome any consultation on this project.

#### **Boyd Redevelopment Project**

SRA acknowledges the allocation of \$270,000 for community engagement, design and consultancy on the Boyd Redevelopment Project. SRA has a long history with Boyd advocacy and look forward to learning more about the project and is available for consultation if required.

#### **Transform Southbank Boulevard**

SRA supports the allocation of \$250,000 for Transform Southbank Boulevard Stage 6 Initiation, however the meaning isn't clear. What does 'initiation' mean? What outcomes can we expect here?

SRA would also like to request further information on the Miles and Dodds Street pocket park proposal, but welcomes any new open space opportunities.



### **Southbank Promenade**

SRA acknowledges the allocation of \$250,000 for Southbank Promenade Stage 2 Planning, in the hope the project stays on track.

### **Moomba Festival Parade Assets**

Moomba is not held in Southbank, so SRA was surprised to see \$300,000 allocated for the purchase of new Moomba festival parade assets; a further \$100,000 to renew existing assets; and finally an additional \$200,000 for parade float maintenance. We don't argue the amounts befit their purpose, however we believe it's a stretch to consider these capital works are an investment in Southbank.

### **Burnley Tunnel Decking**

SRA was overjoyed to see the plan in the Draft Annual Plan 2023-24 to prepare a statement of costings and challenges associated with the concept of decking over CityLink (Burnley Tunnel) to provide new open space in Southbank. SRA has been lobbying for this project for the last 10 years, and would like to know why this is only happening now with our critical public open space challenges, some 13 years after the Southbank Structure Plan 2010.

SRA and the residents of Southbank look forward to the costing phase of the proposed decking project and our committee are volunteering to participate in early consultation to assist in identifying associated challenges and opportunities.

### **Public Open Space**

SRA supports plans by City of Melbourne to deliver 1.1ha of new public open space in Southbank and increase the proportion of residents that reside within 300m of public open space. This would go a significant way to providing the much-needed open space in our heavily populated suburb.

We also support plans by City of Melbourne to 'continue to scan the market for new open space acquisition opportunities' and 'create additional open space in Southbank and urban renewal areas to address the open space needs of current and future populations'.

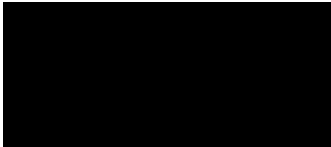
SRA noted the allocation of \$250,000 for Queensbridge Square initiation and planning and a further \$1.5M for a new forecourt at ACCA. Both locations are of significant importance to all who live, work and visit Southbank and SRA would like to make a case for open community consultation given the magnitude of the spaces being redeveloped.



**Business Precinct Program**

Finally, SRA was thrilled to see a commitment of up to \$120,000 in annual funding as part of the Business Precinct Program to the Yarra River Business Association Inc (YRBA) for business support and activation initiatives. SRA has an ongoing relationship with the YRBA, and understands the value of this commitment to these Southbank business owners. We commend this budget allocation.

In conclusion, it's great to finally see some movement on projects that have been long neglected in Southbank and we welcome the progress and will continue to lobby for the residents of Southbank.



President  
Southbank Residents Association

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

83

Dear City of Melbourne,

Please find letter attached

Warm regards,



Melbourne Zoo

Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person\*

A world of wildlife in  
the heart of Melbourne.

MELBOURNE  
ZOO

Melbourne Zoo  
Elliott Avenue, Parkville  
Victoria 3052, Australia

June 8, 2023

City of Melbourne  
GPO Box 1603  
Melbourne, VIC 3001  
Australia

Dear City of Melbourne,

**Subject: Feedback on FY2324 Draft Budget**

- **Zoo Parking Permit Fee (Staff and Volunteer Parking Permits)**
- **Zoo Carpark Operations (Resource Allocation for Carpark Operations)**

I am writing to you on behalf of Melbourne Zoo regarding the proposed Zoo Parking Permit fee as outlined in Appendix F – Fees and Charges, on page 109 of the FY2324 Draft City of Melbourne Budget. Our feedback also pertains to a significant safety and liability concern with traffic management and carpark operations within the Royal Park precinct.

We express our gratitude for the Parking Permit Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with its various iterations, that has been in place since 2016. This initiated parking permits at \$75 and has seen an annual increment of \$25 since. We appreciate Council's recent decision to link the FY23/24 MOU to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rather than the usual \$25 increase. Nevertheless, we propose the Council consider applying the CPI retrospectively to the fees from 2016. Such a modification would accurately echo the evolving economic climate and cost of living. Additionally, this approach, we believe, would have a minimal impact on Council revenues (approximately \$35Kpa if CPI retrospectively applied on 200 permits), while acknowledging the substantial economic contribution Melbourne Zoo and our 1.45 million annual visitors (and growing) bring to current and future carpark revenue and further financial and social benefits to the precinct. Our calculations suggest that Melbourne Zoo Visitor parking fees contribute over \$1 million per annum of the forecasted \$47 million for this financial year. This contribution not only boosts revenue but also elevates the awareness and appreciation of the Royal Park Precinct.

From the vantage point of Melbourne Zoo staff health and wellbeing, and from a liability perspective, we have serious concerns about the perceived resource currently allocated to Serco for management of traffic and carpark operations around Melbourne Zoo and Royal Park precinct. As per ongoing communication with officers within the Parks and City Greening Department and the City Safety, Security and Amenity Department, Melbourne Zoo staff are frequently supporting carpark operations. Their support ensures the efficient use of limited parking available, the opening and closing of overflow areas, managing, and





absorbing community behaviour, and consequently, supports the revenue generated in this area. However, in conjunction with our concerns about safety and liability, it's important to inform Council we are re-evaluating our resource to support carpark operations. This cost is approx. \$100,000 in salary and wages to support carpark operations, along with an extra \$20,000 in delivery of targeted Aggressive Visitor Behaviour training, which prepares Melbourne Zoo staff in dealing with disputes, harassment. and conflict while working in carpark areas. Reviews and direct feedback suggest the root cause of these issues is insufficient parking available during high traffic times and a deficiency in professional traffic management. This is a significant current and future risk for Melbourne Zoo and City of Melbourne that will continue to compound.

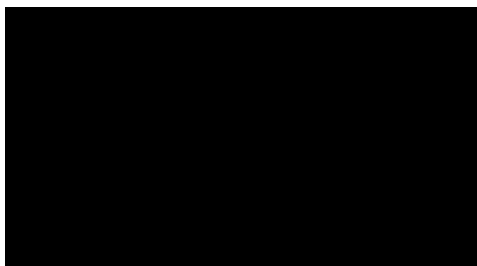
We are confident that a comprehensive review of these figures and information, in conjunction with our historical support for Serco, as well as our contributions and expenses, will substantiate our plea for a reassessment of the Zoo Parking Permit Fee and future mutual agreements or MOUs.

As quoted in the City of Melbourne Annual Plan, "we are committed to continuing to listen to our traders, residents, workers, students and visitors, and to delivering on our commitments...to ensure Melbourne remains a welcoming, inclusive, liveable and prosperous city for all." We trust this commitment extends to reconsidering the reduction in Zoo Parking Permit fees to match the CPI from 2016 and/or to align more closely with local resident parking permit fees.

We respectfully request the City of Melbourne Council to consider our perspective. We remain open to discussing potential alternatives or strategies that may better serve both the interests of Melbourne Zoo and the wider community.

We thank you for considering our viewpoint. We value the opportunity to participate in this crucial community consultation process and anticipate further dialogue on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Senior Manager  
Melbourne Zoo



**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

84	<p>Please see submission attached regarding Docklands Neighbourhood House.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
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## **Submission to City of Melbourne's Draft Budget 2023-24**

The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne made a submission to the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) on 16 June. Our understanding is that the written and verbal submission made to that meeting have already been included as a submission to the 2023-24 Budget process.

This submission is in addition to that submission and tries not to repeat content from that submission.

### **Background**

In September 2022, FMC adopted the Communities Grants and Partnerships Framework and noted:

“the potential additional need to reconsider the total quantum of funds allocated to Neighborhood Houses if it is found during assessment processes that there is an increase in the number of eligible recipients worthy of funding.”

In trying to understand how Docklands Neighbourhood House could be considered under the above motion, management told us that the assessment would be evidence-based.

We maintain that the “assessment processes” in relation to Docklands Neighbourhood House never took place, or if they did, they were ill-defined, inadequate, incomplete and certainly not evidence-based.

City of Melbourne management and officers have very rarely been in attendance at Docklands Neighbourhood House programs over the last 18 months.

In this submission, we present further evidence of the value of Docklands Neighbourhood House. When considering this submission, I encourage you to hold two questions in mind:

1. What counter-evidence has been supplied to FMC?
2. What evidence supporting alternative proposals has been supplied to FMC?

### **Why a Neighbourhood House?**

Neighbourhood Houses create \$4.27 of community value for every \$1 of income received.

City of Melbourne has already demonstrated its support for Neighbourhood Houses as a vital way to build community connections. Through the Community Grants & Partnerships Framework, four neighbourhood houses across the municipality receive multi-year funding.

City of Melbourne understands that Neighbourhood Houses are community-driven powerhouses that complement local government services. Neighbourhood Houses combat loneliness and isolation and help communities address their own needs and fulfil their aspirations.

When COVID started, Neighbourhood Houses were key organisations that helped City of Melbourne understand how communities were being impacted, and helped get important messages out to communities, particularly those that are hard-to-reach.

Now, with the Neighbourhood Model in place, Neighbourhood Houses are working closely with City of Melbourne's neighbourhood partners to deliver on the Neighbourhood Priorities for each area. It is a mutually beneficial partnership.

We also note with some interest that City of Melbourne's Neighbourhood Partner for Southbank has in the last week sought advice of Docklands Neighbourhood House staff regarding how to set up a Neighbourhood House from scratch.

It is encouraging to see that City of Melbourne is evaluating a Neighbourhood House in Southbank, an area of the municipality that would very much benefit from additional community facilities. Nonetheless it is perplexing that City of Melbourne is considering this course at the same time that there is significant uncertainty over the future of Docklands Neighbourhood House.

Docklands Neighbourhood House could be used as a test case for seeding and developing neighbourhood-based community infrastructure in high growth areas within City of Melbourne. The lessons learnt in Docklands have great potential to benefit future neighbourhood development in Fisherman's Bend and Arden, for example.

### **A Neighbourhood House in Docklands and Community Connection**

City of Melbourne saw the potential for a Neighbourhood House in Docklands when it was initially proposed by The Centre in 2018. City of Melbourne funded the Docklands "Pop Up" from July 2019 until September 2021 through its Social Innovations Partnerships program. Unfortunately, this period coincided with COVID and the results were unsurprisingly inconsistent. But the seeds were sown for a Neighbourhood House in Docklands that could provide enduring community value for its local community.

Since then, research conducted by multiple parties has identified Docklands as a special case, where community connection is both lacking and vitally important. Research findings include:

- Identifying the need for an *additional four community facilities* within Docklands (City of Melbourne and Development Victoria Community Infrastructure research, 2021. Daniel Boden can provide further information)
- Docklands people wanted *greater community cohesion* for Docklands in future. People aspired to be part of *strong, connected communities* that are family friendly and that support the vulnerable members of society. (City of Melbourne Neighbourhood Research, 2022)
- 79% of respondents said it was important that they are connected to the local community (39% strongly); but only 51% of respondents said they felt connected to the local community (15% strongly). (City of Melbourne Neighbourhood Research, 2022)
- The following were identified as Docklands Neighbourhood Priorities (City of Melbourne Participate Melbourne website)
  - Community Connection
  - Community focused venues and facilities; and
  - Place-based initiatives and activations, local scale events
- City of Melbourne findings from Docklands Summit include to "deliver high quality community facilities" and to plan for future community infrastructure as part of addressing short-term demand. (Nov22 FMC1 Agenda 6.3)
- Strategic Development Group's independent research commissioned by The Centre found that "Docklands is an emerging community and is experiencing growing pains in terms of forging an identity. In addition, as a new precinct, Docklands lacks many of the traditional

engagement channels / amenities that are critical for developing a sense of belonging.”  
(Community Needs Analysis, 2023)

In short, there is near universal agreement that community connection and related goals are incredibly important for Docklands, and that City of Melbourne has a key role to play in pursuing these goals.

### **Community Value of Docklands Neighbourhood House**

As the peak body for Neighbourhood Houses in Victoria, NHVic provides a community value report for each neighbourhood house member. This report was developed using methodology provided by Deloitte and accepted (and widely used) by Department of Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH). The report only describes the community value that can be measured, so the figures below are under-statements.

Whilst Docklands Neighbourhood House is not its own Neighbourhood House entity at the moment, NHVic has generously created a report specifically for Docklands Neighbourhood House activities for the period March 2022 to February 2023. This report is provided as Attachment 1 to this submission.

What the report shows is that Docklands Neighbourhood House produced \$160,561 of community value over this 12-month period. This includes more than \$117,000 of improved quality of life through social connection.

The community value of Docklands Neighbourhood House equates to \$2.21 for every \$1 of income and \$6.88 for every \$1 of income from City of Melbourne.

For every hour that Docklands Neighbourhood House was open, it produced \$136.53 in community value.

These figures are approximately half the return per dollar of income of City of Melbourne’s other Neighbourhood Houses. Achieving half the return of established Neighbourhood Houses should be commended for a facility that has only been operating for 18 months post-COVID lockdowns.

Rather than highlighting the shortcomings of this fledgling Neighbourhood House facility, City of Melbourne should be recognising this level of achievement and working with Docklands Neighbourhood House to extend its reach and impact.

Undoubtedly there is some way to go before Docklands Neighbourhood House reaches the return of other Neighbourhood Houses with established communities, 40+ years of history, secure state government funding, longer opening hours, more staffing and resources, fit-for-purpose facilities and a host of other advantages.

Interestingly, NHVic advise that the rate of return of Council-run Neighbourhood Centres without State Government NHCP funding statewide is \$2.29 community value per \$1 of income. This figure is virtually identical to the community value that Docklands Neighbourhood House is currently producing, even considering the minimal staffing and basic facilities with which Docklands Neighbourhood House has been operating.

The City of Melbourne’s funding of Neighbourhood Houses through the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework is based on a partnership agreement. Through such an agreement, City of Melbourne can shape the focus and activities of Docklands Neighbourhood House, including how Docklands Neighbourhood House can support City of Melbourne consultations, community engagement and place-based initiatives. Most notably, such an agreement could help City of

Melbourne deliver on its Neighbourhood Priorities for Docklands, and we expect to deliver on a set of clearly documented outcomes with agreed metrics.

### **Neighbourhood Houses and Other Models**

As City of Melbourne management has noted, Neighbourhood Houses are not the only way to achieve increased community connection.

City of Melbourne has noted in the Docklands Neighbourhood Priorities section of Participate Melbourne a number of other strategies it has been pursuing to achieve “more programs, spaces and tools to enhance community connection”

- *Events Partnerships Program*  
This was a pre-existing program that in recent years has actually become much less feasible for creating community connections, given the minimum attendance is now 5000
- *Connected Communities / Inclusive Communities grants*  
Docklands Neighbourhood House benefited from a 2022 Connected Communities grant to help run Indian cultural festivals, social sports programs and Repair Cafes, and in 2023 also received funding to run two community events. In 2023, we are aware that Docklands Residents Group and Dragons Abreast Melbourne Pink Phoenix (DAMPP) received operational funding, and that Docklands Residents Group received a significant grant to establish Docklands Owners Corporation Network. It is possible other grants will have outcomes in Docklands, but we’re not aware of any.
- *Connected Neighbourhoods Small Grants*  
We think this is a fantastic initiative of City of Melbourne. Whilst The Centre doesn’t know of the recipients, we are aware of one Docklands program that benefited from these grants. Celebrate @ Yarra’s Edge was an excellent event in which Docklands Neighbourhood House participated. Indeed, The Centre auspiced the event for public liability insurance at the request of the unincorporated body who received the grant. Small grants can have a great impact, but there are nevertheless key organisational requirements for many types of activities. Auspicing unincorporated community groups and contributing to their empowerment is a key function of Neighbourhood Houses.
- *Business Precincts Program*  
Docklands Neighbourhood House has an excellent relationship with Docklands Chamber of Commerce. We collaborated on a Community Sports Day in December 2022. However, outside of their collaborations with Docklands Neighbourhood House, Docklands Chamber of Commerce is rightly focussed on servicing businesses in Docklands, not creating community connections.
- *International Students programs*  
There are fewer international students in Docklands post-COVID, but this is still a key cohort. International students have been regular attendees at the Social Fishing Club, BBQs and Conversations programs. In 2022, Docklands Neighbourhood House co-produced with City of Melbourne’s international students team a picnic for international students in Docklands. We are not aware of any other Docklands-specific international student programs since then.

On a municipality-wide basis, all of the above programs have significant impact. However, to what degree has each of them delivered “Community Connection” specifically in Docklands (beyond that done through, or in collaboration with, Docklands Neighbourhood House)? Councillors are encouraged to have another look at the Docklands update management provided to FMC on 16 May and critically appraise what tangible results have been achieved in the domain of “community connection” and related goals.

We hope that in the future City of Melbourne is open to working with Docklands Neighbourhood House and other Docklands stakeholders to maximise the impact of the programs listed above, and other programs, for the benefit of the Docklands community.

I am sure that there are other City of Melbourne initiatives in Docklands that have contributed to community connection. Undoubtedly Library @ The Dock is a first-rate facility, and a highly valued community resource and runs a range of excellent programs. The Docklands Neighbourhood Partner works very productively behind the scenes and we have an excellent relationship with him (and his leave replacement).

*What evidence is City of Melbourne management relying on in its belief that a different approach will provide better community value returns than the current model of Docklands Neighbourhood House?*

#### Docklands Stakeholder Group

The key alternative to a Docklands Neighbourhood House that City of Melbourne has proposed is a stakeholder group, which was a recommendation from the Docklands Summit.

Docklands Neighbourhood House is supportive of the Stakeholder Working Group if it reflects the local community, and we are very hopeful it will.

However, it's not really an alternative. At this stage, it is not clear how the group will work and what power it will have. Community connection is just one of a number of goals for the group to tackle.

It took nine months after the Docklands Summit to get to the point of calling for Expressions of Interest for this group.

Even if the Stakeholder Working Group is an unmitigated success it will take time, and there will be a lot of talking done before any action is taken.

Docklands community groups, whose representatives are likely to form the Stakeholder Working Group membership, have strongly backed the Docklands Neighbourhood House (see letters of support below). Therefore it stands to reason that the Stakeholder Working Group will recommend something similar to Docklands Neighbourhood House. However, if the existing Docklands Neighbourhood House ceases to exist after June 2023, the momentum will be lost, intellectual property gone to waste and the community demoralised.

The sensible alternative is to facilitate the continued existence of Docklands Neighbourhood House, and over a period (perhaps two years), the current Docklands Neighbourhood House management works with the Stakeholder Working Group, City of Melbourne and other stakeholders to together create the community facility that is going to provide the optimal benefits for the Docklands community.

#### **Why The Centre?**

The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne is a neighbourhood house that has traditionally serviced North & West Melbourne. City of Melbourne and The Centre have a long-term, valuable and trusting partnership for the operation of The Centre's neighbourhood house in Errol St. North Melbourne, and regarding community development more generally in North & West Melbourne. The partnership and funding arrangements are in the process of being renewed as part of the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework.

As Docklands developed over the last 15 years, The Centre recognised a need for community development principles to be applied in the developing community of Docklands. This was done in an ad hoc method up until late 2019 when a “Pop Up” Neighbourhood House was established in District Docklands.

The Centre is the nearest Neighbourhood House to Docklands, but the neighbourhoods are very different, and Docklands residents do not utilise the neighbourhood house in Errol St, nor do they participate in its programs.

The Centre believes that each neighbourhood house should be under local governance, whereby local residents are ultimately determining its strategic direction. In early 2023, we created a Docklands subcommittee which includes residents of Docklands to guide The Centre’s Board on Docklands Neighbourhood House and Docklands-related issues.

This is a step in the process to create a Neighbourhood House in Docklands that is under local governance. The Centre is open to different structures and arrangements of how such a community facility operates in the future.

Whilst there have been undoubted strengths in having an established Neighbourhood House birth a new Neighbourhood House, and there are economies of scale and scope, The Centre, both Board and management, is very open to it NOT being the responsible entity for Docklands Neighbourhood House in the future.

Our main interest is that the Docklands community gets its own community-driven neighbourhood facility that it can proudly call its own. If the Stakeholder Working Group truly represents the local community and recommends a different structure, ownership or approach for a local Neighbourhood House, then The Centre would be open and willing to transferring our Docklands-related intellectual property and contracts to it, and to work with all stakeholders towards a smooth transition to that body.

### **Docklands Community Support for Docklands Neighbourhood House**

Docklands Neighbourhood House enjoys very strong support amongst the local Docklands community. This has only become more solid in recent weeks when it became apparent that Docklands Neighbourhood House is facing imminent closure.

This community support is evidenced through:

- 1) A list of more than 700 people who have participated in Docklands Neighbourhood House programs over the last 15 months. This list is included as Attachment 2 to this submission. Also keep in mind that for many of these names, they booked for multiple people.
- 2) A [community petition](#) that commenced on 19 May. As of this submission, 456 people have signed the petition that calls on City of Melbourne Councillors to fund Docklands Neighbourhood House through its Community Grants and Partnerships Framework, starting from 1 July 2023. This petition has only been promoted within Docklands. Of course, there are people from beyond the local area that have signed. However, our analysis shows that 68% signatories are resident of City of Melbourne and the same percentage have a direct connection to Docklands. Given the adult population of Docklands is 14 000, this petition has been signed by in the order of one in every 50 Docklanders, in less than three weeks. Selected comments garnered through the petition process are provided in Attachment 3.
- 3) Community Submissions to Participate Melbourne Draft Budget process. We don’t have oversight of the submissions, but our understanding is that a significant number of



community members have made a submission in support of Docklands Neighbourhood House. We encourage you to take the time to read these submissions to get a flavour for the strength of support for Docklands Neighbourhood House.

- 4) Organisational Letters of support. The following organisations have provided a letter of support. Excerpts from each letter are provided here. Full support letters are included as Attachment 4 to this submission. Please feel free to contact those organisations who have provided a letter.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Excerpt</b>
Docklands Residents Group	Docklands is a new and fast emerging precinct. It, however, lacks many community facilities and services that are essential in helping transform a precinct into a neighbourhood. In the absence of such groups, Docklands Neighbourhood House has become a sole beacon for such community-based support services.
YMCA (The Hub)	[Docklands] went from housing majority of international students to young families, especially from multicultural backgrounds (69.4% of the population have both parents born overseas, with strong Indian and Chinese communities)... There is clearly a want and a need from the residents of Docklands to grow and foster this sense of community – crucial to wellbeing, especially with most residents living in high-density, high-rise accommodation
Melbourne Community Toy Library	Many of the Docklands families are new to Australia and are eager to establish connections in the community. We are often their first point of contact, as they seek somewhere to take their children. As a limited service, we have valued the presence of the neighbourhood house to refer them to for support and advice. The results have been evident in these individuals gaining confidence, connecting with others, becoming leaders in the community and giving back to others. The DNH has given strength and a place of belonging to vulnerable members of our community, from the young to their parents and grandparents.
Federal MP for Melbourne Adam Bandt	It is imperative that the Docklands community has access to a locally-led, inclusive organisation that works with residents and community groups to advocate for the needs of their community. Unlike other suburbs in Melbourne, Docklands has limited community infrastructure and grassroots spaces like DNH are critical for creating social pathways and connection within the community.
Docklands Chamber of Commerce	The Docklands Neighbourhood House has been a steadfast advocate for the residents and businesses of Docklands, tirelessly working to address the diverse needs of our community...The Docklands Neighbourhood House has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by our community.
Docklands Sports Clubs	Throughout 2022-2023 we have witnessed their passion and dedication to ensure Docklands remains a thriving community. They have always been willing and ready to collaborate with us and have supported key local events from community sporting days to family bbq's.
Victorian Fisheries Authority	We appreciate your efforts to improve the knowledge and understanding of the fishing community in your area and I look forward to the positive outcomes these types of projects have not only on the community but also for our Fisheries.
MAB	...given the projected growth in the NewQuay and Docklands area, the importance of this service will become even more significant in years to come....

	MAB are part of a local developer working group that has formed to support community-based initiatives in the Docklands precinct and one such project, 'Soul of Docklands', was set to commence in the coming month to be led by the Docklands Neighbourhood House and funded by the developer working group.
Neighbourhood Houses Victoria	NHVIC's own data, which is extensive and has been shared with council officers, shows that the most effective model is a neighbourhood house that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Has a local committee of management;</li> <li>- Is connected to the community through a local volunteer base;</li> <li>- Is well connected with other community organisations in the local area;</li> <li>- Has an MOU with local government with clear outcomes documented and metrics agreed.</li> </ul> Docklands Neighbourhood House, which is currently operated out of the Centre in North Melbourne, is committed to this model and is working towards achieving it fully.
The District Docklands	The new Stakeholder Group is a mid to long term option, and we look forward to being able to work with this group in the future as we have done with Docklands Neighbourhood House. Our concern is that discontinuing funding to Docklands Neighbourhood House now, will result in downtime that will impact the growing positivity around the local Docklands community.
Gowrie Childcare Centre	Without the presence of Docklands Neighbourhood House, we stand to lose a vital hub of connectivity within the Docklands Precinct. In addition, our kindergarten would lose a strong ally in our collective efforts for advocating for the visibility of children and early learning within the community.
State MP for Melbourne Ellen Sandell	Over the past two years the neighbourhood house has become an important community space for Docklands, which has few community organisations, however they are at risk of closing in June 2023 if no further funding is provided. I urge the City of Melbourne to do everything in your power to ensure that we don't lose this important community resource.
The Bowden Marstan Trust	The Bowden Marstan Foundation [is] a \$60m private ancillary fund... Bowden Marstan Foundation's trustees...voted in December 2022 to fund Docklands Neighbourhood House. Any future program or project funding from Bowden Marstan would be conditional upon Docklands Neighbourhood House having core operating funding from the City of Melbourne. Many other charitable foundations would also want to see this sort of commitment by the City before making their own grants.
Docklands Primary School	[sent as a submission through Participate Melbourne]

### Critical Success Factors for a Neighbourhood House

There are a number of critical success factors for a new neighbourhood house to become successful in the long term.

- 1) Community Support: hopefully the section above demonstrates that there is community support for Docklands Neighbourhood House.
- 2) Local Government Support: City of Melbourne has the potential to provide this in its 2023-24 budget through the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework and an accompanying partnership agreement.
- 3) State Government Support: DFFH funding for Neighbourhood Houses is provided through the Neighbourhood Houses Co-ordination Program (NHCP). The Minister has recently advised us that NHCP is currently fully subscribed. However, Docklands Neighbourhood

House will be assessed as part of the NHCP funding review in the lead up to the program renewal in 2026. To be considered in this review, Docklands Neighbourhood House will need to be in operation, and the more years of continuous operation the better.

- 4) **Satisfactory Facility:** The current home of Docklands Neighbourhood House is functional, but not fit for purpose for an ongoing Neighbourhood House. Without long-term local government backing, solving this issue has not been possible. However, if City of Melbourne funds Docklands Neighbourhood House with an extended timeframe, within two years, we propose to work with City of Melbourne, Development Victoria and other stakeholders to solve the facility issue for the benefit of the Docklands community. There are many possible solutions including an existing shopfront, a designated community space in a forthcoming development build, re-working an existing City of Melbourne facility, or even the purchase of a Neighbourhood House Boat.
- 5) **Community Governance:** The section *Why The Centre?* above outlines our proposals for a transition to Docklands community governance.

## Conclusion

This submission has attempted to address any concerns that Council may have regarding Docklands Neighbourhood House. In particular, it has demonstrated:

- The Docklands community has the will, the support and demand for Docklands Neighbourhood House.
- Docklands Neighbourhood House provides a strong return in community value for its financial investment.
- The community value return of Docklands Neighbourhood House has significant upside
- The Centre is open to community-led governance for Docklands Neighbourhood House, and is keen to work with stakeholders including City of Melbourne, to bring to fruition the Neighbourhood House that Docklands deserves
- Docklands Neighbourhood House is an eligible recipient worthy of funding under the Community Grants and Partnerships framework.

I therefore request the Future Melbourne Committee to increase the quantum of funding for Neighbourhood Houses and to fund Docklands Neighbourhood House, commencing 1 July 2023.

## Attachments

**Attachment 1:** Neighbourhood Houses Victoria Community Value Report for Docklands Neighbourhood House

**Attachment 2:** List of 700+ names of people who have participated in Docklands programs since March 2022.

**Attachment 3:** Selected Comments from the online petition to Save Docklands Neighbourhood House.

**Attachment 4:** Various letters of support (13)

# Docklands Neighbourhood House

Real Impact. Real Value.

**INCOME** \$72,692

**VALUE** \$160,561

## This figure includes the value of:

Improved quality of life through social connection:  
**\$117,048**

Volunteer contributions: **\$35,398**

Services provided: **\$4,352**

Adult Community Education: **\$3,763**

## Services value includes:

- Facilities use or hire: **\$1,320**
- Fee for service activities: **\$3,032**

## This community value equates to:

**\$2.21** for every \$1 of income

**\$6.88** for every \$1 of income  
from City of Melbourne

Over **\$136.53** for every hour the  
neighbourhood house is in use

## Employment value 2.9 FTE jobs

including 2.1 direct and 0.8 indirect  
Full Time Equivalent positions



These values are produced by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria based on data provided by Docklands Neighbourhood House in the Neighbourhood Houses Survey for the period March 2022 to February 2023. Only a limited range of activities where a determinable valuation method exists are included.

## Just some of the value to communities from selected Neighbourhood House activities

### Basis of calculation

The Docklands Neighbourhood House provided in excess of \$160,561 of value to the community for 2022. This is based on data provided through the Neighbourhood House Survey 2022.

This figure includes the value of:

- Improved quality of life through social connection: based on **73** participants in programmed activities per week (on average)
- Volunteer contributions: based on **15** volunteer hrs per week
- Food and groceries: based on **0 kgs** of food relief provided in 2022
- Food vouchers: based on an average of **\$0** of vouchers provided per month
- Cash/prepaid or gift card: based on **\$0** cash/card value provided per month
- Bill payments: based on **\$0** of participant bills paid for per month
- Fuel Vouchers: based on an average of **\$0** of vouchers provided per month
- Public transport cards: based on average **\$0** of travel cards value per month
- Clothing: based on **\$0** of clothing provided per month
- Personal care & hygiene items: based on **\$0** of items provided per month
- Internet usage: based on **0 hrs** of individual computer/internet use per month
- Facilities use or hire: based on **3** hours per month valued at **\$44/hr**
- Resume assistance: based on assisting with **0** resume's/ month
- Tax help: based on completing **\$0** tax returns for 2022
- Auspicing other organisations: based on auspicing **0** organisations or groups in 2022
- Community lunch, frozen or other meals: based on providing **0** meals/ month
- School aged breakfast programs: based on providing **0** breakfasts/month
- Fee for service activities: based on **\$3,032** fees paid for unsubsidised activities in the period covered by the applicable annual report
- Power Saving Bonus based on **0** \$250 payments claimed for community members
- Government subsidised Adult Community Education: based on **\$218** of ACE funding from ACFE and or DET
- Childcare provided: based on **\$0** total annual childcare income
- 4-year-old kindergarten: based on **\$0** total annual kindergarten income
- Social enterprise goods & services: based on **\$0** enterprise sales income in the latest annual report

Additionally:

- Community value for every \$1 of income based on **72,692** annual income
- Community value for every hour the Neighbourhood House is in use based on Neighbourhood House buildings in use for **24** hrs per week

Direct and indirect full-time equivalent employment positions created based on **78** hrs total weekly paid hours of employment.

### Notes

These valuations are based on volume of activity, so the outcomes are affected by organisational income and population size, with Neighbourhood Houses in localities with smaller populations generally expected to generate lower total community value. Variations in organisations and communities make these measures unsuitable for comparisons between Neighbourhood Houses.

We use the term 'community value' because the valuations above incorporate a range of methods depending on the available evidence. These include methods such as social return on investment (SROI), return on investment (ROI) and replacement cost.

All valuations are conservative and based on existing research by reputable organisations using widely used and/or well documented methods as well as benchmarked market values for replacement cost valuations.

The report does not include many community benefits that are not within the scope of the Neighbourhood House Annual Survey to reasonably value including:

- all services and activities not listed above or their flow on economic or social benefits (except social connection) including referral, counselling or social support, community transport etc
- agencies or brokered in services such as Centrelink, maternal child and health etc.
- social enterprise or the economic multipliers from indirect or induced economic activity
- intangible benefits such as community pride and sense of belonging, leadership development, community voice through advocacy, increased personal independence etc.

The total community benefit is significantly greater than what has been valued here.

## Calculation methods

### Social Connection

In 2018, Deloitte Access Economics produced a report<sup>1</sup> that determined a monetary value for the community connection work of Morwell Neighbourhood House. The method, detailed in the report, uses existing research to calculate the contribution of community connection to a Quality-Adjusted-Life-Years (QALYs). Quality-Adjusted-Life-Years is the most widely used approach for estimating quality of life benefits in economic evaluations<sup>2</sup>.

Different methods have been used to estimate the number of people who may potentially obtain social connection benefits. The 2018 report assumed that 50% of the annual unique visitors to the neighbourhood house were one off or infrequent for the purpose of their calculations. Appendix C of their report outlines the detail on their method.

A subsequent Deloitte report<sup>3</sup> assumed that only new participants obtained social connection benefits. This assumption effectively discounts the importance of maintaining connections over the life course. Analysis from the Neighbourhood House Participants Survey<sup>4</sup> and the broader social isolation and loneliness literature<sup>5</sup> identify the value of maintaining social connections.

The 2017 Neighbourhood House Participants Survey respondents clearly distinguished between the two distinct benefits used by Deloitte; "meet new people/make friends" and "spend time with other people as benefits". The first benefit implies creating or expanding social networks through the Neighbourhood House whereas the latter implies maintaining existing social connections within the Neighbourhood House. Where both benefits were selected, the implication is that relationships are in a formative or expansion stage, or they have connection in the Neighbourhood House but want to make more.

NHVIC uses the number of people attending programmed activities to calculate social connection benefit because:

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.morwellnh.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/MNH\\_Social-Impact-Analysis\\_May-2018\\_.pdf](http://www.morwellnh.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/MNH_Social-Impact-Analysis_May-2018_.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/publications/publishing.nsf/Content/illicit-pubs-needle-return-1-rep-toc~illicit-pubs-needle-return-1-rep-5~illicit-pubs-needle-return-1-rep-5-2>

<sup>3</sup> <https://mannagumcommunity.files.wordpress.com/2020/08/nhg-sroi-2020.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> See [Social isolation and loneliness - a neighbourhood house perspective](#)

<sup>5</sup> See [https://www.beyondblue.org.au/docs/default-source/resources/408362\\_0318\\_bl1366\\_hrnt.pdf](https://www.beyondblue.org.au/docs/default-source/resources/408362_0318_bl1366_hrnt.pdf)

- Programmed activities are group activities run over a period of time and therefore not attended in a one-off or infrequent way,
- People maintaining existing relationships are not excluded
- The figure is conservative as it may exclude regular service users such as drop-in, food relief or other regular informal visitors that could potentially obtain a social connection benefit<sup>6</sup> but are not participating in programmed activities.

Volunteers are also included for the above reasons, consistent with their inclusion in the 2017 participant survey.

The number of weekly participants in programmed activity plus volunteers is multiplied by the percentage of participants that identified “meeting new people/making friends” and/or “spending time with others” as benefits of attending their neighbourhood house based on each Neighbourhood House’s 2017 Participants Survey<sup>7</sup>. These two reported benefits are used in the Deloitte calculations and are most strongly associated with participants who identified attending for various programmed activities including, social and support groups, job training and support and other courses and classes.

The \$ Values are expressed in 2022 equivalents i.e. Quality Adjusted Life Year value of \$227,000<sup>8</sup>, which is consistent with Deloitte’s method.

The value of your Neighbourhood Houses increased social connection is calculated using this formula:

**Number of participants in activities X 1 QALY (\$227,000) X percentage of people identifying a social connection benefit X contribution of social connection to a QALY (3.84%) X the extent to which contribution of social connection to a QALY can be attributed to attending the Neighbourhood House (28.57%).**

The use of the participants in programmed activities as the basis for the calculation is conservative as it excludes regular attendees that receive a connection benefit through drop in, food relief or other non-program activities.

Deloitte further calculate the value of increased connection through increased participation in the broader community due to participation at the Neighbourhood House using the formula above for 10% of the participants.

## Volunteering

Volunteering value is based on the replacement cost of volunteers’ labour. This is valued at \$48.16 per hour derived from the “State of Volunteering” replacement cost calculator<sup>9</sup> for volunteers aged 55 -64 .

The formula for calculating the community value of volunteering is:

Number of volunteer hours undertaken X volunteer hourly replacement rate

This is a conservative valuation. Replacement cost figure allows for some aging of Neighbourhood House volunteer population which averaged 50 years of age in 2012. The replacement cost for a 50-year-old is 11% greater (\$53.82) than the figure used here.

In addition, the valuation does not include the value of the services provided as a result of volunteering or the contribution to the economy and taxation from participating in volunteering, e.g. cost of travel to the place of volunteering.

<sup>6</sup> 2% of all participants in the 2017 participant survey attended solely to use a service and identified a social connection benefit

<sup>7</sup> Where A Neighbourhood House’s participant data are absent or unreliable due to sample size, an average of Neighbourhood Houses in similar sized communities with similar incomes is used. Income is a proxy for volume of activities delivered through a Neighbourhood House.

<sup>8</sup> <https://oia.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-09/value-statistical-life-guidance-note.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> [Volunteer Replacement Cost Calculator - State of Volunteering](#)

## Emergency relief

### Food and groceries

The value to community of emergency food relief is based on work undertaken by Foodbank in Australia<sup>10</sup>. Their social return on investment analysis determined that food relief was valued at an average \$20.05 per kilogram of food in 2014 dollars. This valuation included the value of:

- Improved physical health (children)
- Better performance at school (students)
- Better social relationships
- Increased sense of self-worth
- Improved standard of living
- Improved physical health
- Increased emotional wellbeing
- Reduced waste and greenhouse emissions

While the cost of food has increased since 2014, the change in value of the social benefits is unclear. For this reason, we have retained the \$20.05 figure making this a conservative evaluation.

The formula for calculating the community value of food and groceries is:

**Number of Kgs distributed for an average month X 12 (months) X \$20.05**

### Food vouchers

The community value of providing food vouchers is based on the dollar value of vouchers given out. This is a conservative valuation as it does not include the benefit derived from accessing food such as improved health and wellbeing, improved school performance for children etc.

The formula for calculating the community value of food vouchers is:

**Total \$ value of food vouchers distributed in an average month X 12 (months)**

### Cash/prepaid or gift cards

The community value of providing cash/prepaid or gift cards is based on the dollar value of cash or gift cards given out. This is a conservative valuation as it does not include the benefit derived from items purchased such as improved health and wellbeing, improved school performance for children, added value to the economy etc.

The formula used for calculating the community value of cash/prepaid or gift cards is:

**Total \$ value of cash/prepaid or gift cards distributed in an average month X 12 (months)**

### Fuel Vouchers

The community value of providing fuel vouchers is based on the dollar value of vouchers given out. This is a conservative valuation as it does not include the benefit derived from increased access to transport or the alternative use of funds that would otherwise have been used for transport such as improved health and wellbeing, improved school performance for children etc. It also does not include benefits to the local economy.

The formula used for calculating the community value of fuel vouchers is:

**Total \$ value of fuel vouchers distributed in an average month X 12 (months)**

### Bill payments

The community value of providing bill payments is based on the dollar value of bills paid by the Neighbourhood House for individuals in need. This is a conservative valuation as it does not include the benefit derived from increased access to services for which bills were paid or the alternative use of funds

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.foodbank.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Foodbank-Hunger-Report-2014.pdf>



that would otherwise have been used for transport such as improved health and wellbeing, improved school performance for children etc. It also does not include benefits to the broader economy.

The formula used for calculating the community value of bill payments is:

**Total \$ value of participants' bills paid in an average month X 12 (months)**

### Public transport cards

The community value of providing public transport cards is based on the dollar value of public transport cards given out. This is a conservative valuation as it does not include the benefit derived from increased access to transport or the alternative use of funds that would otherwise have been used for transport such as improved health and wellbeing, improved school performance for children etc.

The formula used for calculating the community value of public transport cards is:

**Total \$ value of public transport cards distributed in an average month X 12 (months)**

### Clothing

The community value of providing clothing is based on the dollar value of clothing cards given out. New clothing is valued at replacement cost whereas second-hand clothing is based on resale value such as in an opportunity shop. This is a conservative valuation as it does not include the benefit derived from increased access to clothing such as improved confidence and sense of wellbeing or the alternative use of funds that would otherwise have been used for clothing such as improved health and wellbeing, improved school performance for children etc.

The formula used for calculating the community value of clothing is:

**Total \$ value of clothing distributed in an average month X 12 (months)**

### Personal hygiene items

The community value of providing personal hygiene items is based on the dollar value of personal hygiene items cards given out. New personal hygiene items is valued at replacement cost whereas second-hand personal hygiene items is based on resale value such as in an opportunity shop. This is a conservative valuation as it does not include the benefit derived from increased access to personal hygiene items such as improved confidence and sense of wellbeing or the alternative use of funds that would otherwise have been used for personal hygiene items such as improved health and wellbeing, improved school performance for children etc.

The formula used for calculating the community value of personal hygiene items is:

**Total \$ value of personal hygiene items distributed in an average month X 12 (months)**

### Services

Except for school breakfast clubs, service valuations in this section do not include additional benefits from the service such as improved health, job prospects or employment nor the auspiced community groups' outcomes. This is due to the absence of appropriate research that quantifies these benefits.

### Facilities Usage

The community value of facilities usage is based on the number of hours of facilities use by external groups and organisations per month and the cost of hiring an equivalent space locally as determined by each Neighbourhood House. This figure reflects value provided to the community rather than income received as rooms and facilities are often made available to community groups at heavily discounted rates or gratis. The value also does not include the benefits to community of the room use activity e.g., improved health, improved access to information or services, reduced cost of services etc., relative to the activity type provided.

The formula used for calculating the community value of facilities usage is:

**Total number of hours of room hire in an average month x 12 months X cost per hour of local equivalent (either supplied or \$30).**

### Internet/computer usage

The community value of internet/ computer usage is based on the number of hours of internet or computer use by individuals in an average month. This is benchmarked to the cost of a commercially available equivalent i.e. internet kiosk regardless of whether a commercial alternative is available. Note that free wifi is not an equivalent as there is no support or equipment made available. Commercial rates from \$3-\$5<sup>11</sup> have been benchmarked. A \$2 lower rate has been used to account for the variation in the equipment and software provided. The rate does not include non-market benefits such as family connection, benefits from accessing or managing government services etc.

The formula used for calculating the community value of internet/computer use is:

**Total number of hours of internet/computer in average month x 12 months X \$2**

### Resume assistance

The community value of resume assistance is based on the cost of a resume service for a fee. The fee was benchmarked at the median price of \$50 on airtasker.com<sup>12</sup>. The value was discounted to \$30 to account for the fact that Neighbourhood Houses may provide a participant with assistance in developing a resume rather than creating a full resume as a service.

The formula used for calculating the community value of resume assistance is:

**Total number of resumes assisted with in an average month X 12 (months) x \$30**

### Tax help

The community value of Tax Help usage is based on the cost of the cheapest commercial tax service found online<sup>13</sup> at \$100 per tax return. This is a conservative valuation as many tax help clients have multiple and/or complex returns which attract additional fees at commercial tax service providers.

The formula used for calculating the community value of Tax Help is:

**Total number of tax returns lodged in 2022 x \$100**

### Auspicing other organisations

The community value of auspicing other organisations is based on the cost of purchasing public liability cover which groups would have to take out if they were not covered by the Neighbourhood House under auspicing arrangements. The price is benchmarked at \$632.46 for annual cover provided by Local Community Insurance Services<sup>14</sup>

The formula used for calculating the community value of auspicing other organisations is:

**Total number of organisations auspiced in 2022 x \$632.46**

### Community lunch, frozen or other meals

The community value of offering community lunch, frozen or other meals is based on the cost of purchasing a meal commercially, this has been benchmarked at \$10 per meal. This is benchmarked based on the prices quoted by ING, and numbeo.com<sup>15</sup> ranging from \$13 to \$25. It is discounted to \$10 per meal to account for regional price variation.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/dsinternet512/?rf=710935435612179> <https://www.facebook.com/galaxysonicgaming>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.airtasker.com/writing/resume-writing/>

<sup>13</sup> [www.taxtoday.com.au/information/fees/](http://www.taxtoday.com.au/information/fees/)

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.localcommunityinsurance.com.au/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Melbourne> , <https://blog.ing.com.au/money-matters/saving/dust-off-your-lunch-boxes/#article-1811>,

While many meals provided at community lunches are likely to be a form of emergency relief, participants may attend community lunches for other reasons such as for company or a lack of cooking skills. Because we are unable to distinguish between the two, meals provided are not valued as emergency relief.

The formula used for calculating the community value of community lunches, frozen or other meals is:

**Total number of individual meals served/provided in an average month x 12 months x \$10**

### School aged breakfast clubs

The value to community of food provided through school breakfast clubs is based on work undertaken by Foodbank in Australia<sup>16</sup>. Their social return on investment analysis determined that school breakfast clubs were valued at an average \$110 per kilogram of food in 2014 dollars. This valuation included the value of:

- Improved physical health (children)
- Better performance at school (students)

Based on data from their report, the average breakfast is valued at \$31.40 in 2014 dollars. While the cost of food has increased since 2014, the change in value of the social benefits is unclear. For this reason, we have retained the \$31.40 figure making this a conservative evaluation.

The formula used for calculating the community value of school aged breakfast programs is:

**Total number of individual breakfasts served/provided in an average month x 10 months x \$31.40**

### Fee for service activities

The value to community of fee for service activities is based on the actual fees paid for activities undertaken by community members where the activity was not subsidised by grants or third parties other than NDIS.

Many Neighbourhood House activities are provided at low cost and therefore the value is conservative as it is likely less than the replacement value if the activity was undertaken with a commercial or for-profit provider.

The formula used for calculating the fee for service activities is:

**Total value of fee for service activities from the period covered by the applicable annual report**

### Power Saving Bonus

The Victorian State Government's Power Saving Bonus (PSB) provided a one-off \$250 payment for Victorian households to help ease cost-of-living pressures and encourage them to compare energy offers and save money. Neighbourhood Houses Victoria and Good Shepherd partnered to help community members who experience barriers to accessing the PSB apply for the State Government's \$250 Power Saving Bonus.

This valuation does not include ongoing savings from finding cheaper energy deals or the value of being linked to other services and opportunities through the Neighbourhood House and its networks. It also does not include value from the alternative use of funds that would otherwise have been used for power bills such as improved health and wellbeing etc.

The formula used for calculating the fee for service activities is:

**Total number of people assisted to obtain the Power Saving Bonus in 2022 X \$250**

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.foodbank.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Foodbank-Hunger-in-the-Classroom-Report-May-2015.pdf>

## Government subsidised Adult Community Education (ACE)

Based on analysis of the Allen Consulting's 2008 report, The Economic Benefit of Investment in Adult and Community Education in Victoria<sup>17</sup> commissioned by the ACFE Board. While there have been significant subsequent structural changes that have occurred in the VET sector, the work is most relevant because it examines the Victorian ACE sector specifically and includes pre-accredited as well as accredited training. The analysis discounts the value of pre-accredited compared to accredited training by estimating a proportional certificate equivalence.

Its use to estimate community value is also adopted because it is conservative in that it does not;

- include the significant known non-market benefits such as improved health, reduced criminality and welfare dependency etc. estimated to be equal in value to the market benefits
- include 36.3% of student contact hours to account for those with no market benefit
- include the direct contribution of ACE provision to the economy (direct and induced economic impact of provider expenditure and wages)
- include the benefits provided to community from \$10.09 additional tax revenues from increased income and gross state product for each dollar invested by the Victorian government in ACE
- account for the increased focus on delivery of pre-accredited training with market benefits since 2008
- account for tighter targeting of vocational training to industry demand

This report effectively values two principle community benefits at \$17.23 for each dollar of government funding. It is the value created over a 25-year timeframe from the learning provided. This rate is comparable with other work conducted locally and internationally. From a single year of state government investment of \$36.7 million, the report models:

Future income – \$202 million

Increased gross state product – 2.13 times the income effect - \$202 million x 2.13 = \$ 430.26 million

Total \$632.26 million / \$36.7 million state government funding = \$17.23

By comparison, a 2017 study from the University of Adelaide's South Australian Centre for Economic Studies<sup>18</sup> showed a return on investment for Cert I foundation courses averaging just 34 student contact hours at \$6.50 for each dollar of funding. However, the average SCH rate of \$43.70 was about 4.8 times the value of \$9.10 ACFE rate so equates to over \$31 return on investment for the same volume of activity if conducted as pre-accredited in Victoria. The study also only included the benefit of increased income and Victorian transition rates to Cert III and above for Learn Local students, with the corresponding higher income earning potential, are much higher<sup>19</sup> than those in the South Australian study.

Work that includes a more comprehensive range of non-market benefits values Government subsidised Adult Community Education at much higher rates. A New Zealand analysis from Price Waterhouse Coopers<sup>20</sup> valued ACE returns, including a range of non-market benefits, up to \$72 for each \$1 invested. While the comparisons differ substantially in many ways, all add significant value because they focus on disadvantaged learners.

Any potential overstatement of community value due to the changes in the structure of ACE since 2008 are more than compensated for by the value of other benefits not included in the calculation.

<sup>17</sup> [https://melbourneinstitute.unimelb.edu.au/assets/documents/hilda-bibliography/other-publications/pre2010/ACG\\_economic\\_benefit\\_of\\_investment\\_adult\\_education.pdf](https://melbourneinstitute.unimelb.edu.au/assets/documents/hilda-bibliography/other-publications/pre2010/ACG_economic_benefit_of_investment_adult_education.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> South Australian Centre for Economic Studies. The Economic and Social Impact of the Adult Community Education (ACE) Sector. University of Adelaide; 2016.

<sup>19</sup>

[https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/research/acfepublications/Participation%20training%20outcomes%20and%20patterns%20report\\_FINAL\\_Nov%202017.pdf](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/research/acfepublications/Participation%20training%20outcomes%20and%20patterns%20report_FINAL_Nov%202017.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.crystaladventures.co.nz/ACE/ACE%20Price%20Waterhouse%20Coopers%20Research%20Summary%20V4.pdf>

The formula used for calculating the community value of Government subsidised Adult Community Education programs is:

**Total \$ value of government student contact hour subsidies in 2022 X 17.23**

### Childcare

While there is research that suggests significant benefit from childcare for some cohorts within the community<sup>21</sup>, there is inadequate research to determine the value to community of occasional childcare beyond the actual value of the service for the broader population.

The formula used for calculating the community value of childcare is:

**Total \$ value of government subsidies + parent fees in 2022 X 1**

### Four-year-old Kinder

The community value of four-year-old Kinder is based on a 2019 Price Water House Coopers study<sup>22</sup> which valued early childhood education in the year-before-school. It calculated a \$2 benefit for each dollar of costs.

The formula used for calculating the community value of four-year-old kinder is:

**Total \$ value of government subsidies + parent fees in 2022 X 2**

### Social enterprises

The community value of running social enterprises is based on the value of sales from goods and services through Neighbourhood House run community enterprises in the most recent applicable financial reporting period. This reflects the market value of the goods and services provided. It does not include additional value generated such as avoided landfill, value of training and work experience, economic multipliers or the value of services or activities any profits support.

**Total \$ value of social enterprise sales from the period covered by the applicable annual report**

## Community value relative to inputs

### Community value for every \$1 of Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP)

Shows the total calculable community value from the organisation for each dollar of NHCP funding received. The NHCP provides the platform to develop and attract funding for the various activities the organisation undertakes.

The formula used for calculating the community value for each dollar of NHCP is:

**Total community value/ total NHCP for the reported year**

### Community value for every \$1 of income

Shows the total calculable community value from the organisation for each dollar of income received.

The formula used for calculating the community value for each dollar of NHCP is:

**Total community value/ total annual income for the 2022 year**

### Community value for every hour the Neighbourhood House is in use

Shows the total calculable community value as an average for each hour the Neighbourhood House is in use. 'In use' includes any time of the week or day when activities are occurring, regardless of whether the organisation is staffed or open to the broader public. It does not reflect concurrent usage i.e. multiple activities occurring simultaneously for one hour are counted as 1 hour of use, even if these activities occur

<sup>21</sup> [Literature review of the impact of early childhood education and care on learning and development: working paper \(full report; 30 Sep 2015\) \(AIHW\)](#)

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.thefrontproject.org.au/images/downloads/ECO%20ANALYSIS%20Full%20Report.pdf>

at different sites operated by the organisation. It is essentially an expression of community value from a building utilisation perspective.

The calculation assumes activities take place over 50 weeks in the year.

The formula used for calculating the community value for every hour the Neighbourhood House is in use is:

$$\text{Total community value} / (\text{hours per week the building/s is in use} \times 50)$$

## Employment

Employment is calculated using the total hours of paid employment response combined with multipliers derived from 2017 analysis by Deloitte ACCESS Economics on the Economic contribution of the Australian charity sector for the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission<sup>23</sup>. The multipliers are based on employment data for the development and housing sector classification. This classification covers much of the work done by Neighbourhood Houses including community development and training (multiplier = 1.39). This means that for every full-time equivalent employee, a further 0.39 full-time equivalent jobs are supported elsewhere in the economy due to the economic activity created by wage spending.

Neighbourhood Houses engage in activities that fit in other classifications e.g. emergency relief, referral etc which fit within the social services classification (multiplier = 1.46) or recreational activities that fit within the culture and recreation (multiplier = 1.35). These classifications' multipliers are marginally higher and lower than the development and housing multiplier respectively, further supporting the use of a 1.39 employment multiplier for the sector.

The formula used for calculating the total employment effect is:

$$\text{Total reported hours of paid employment} / 38 \times 1.39$$

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.acnc.gov.au/2Ftools%2Freports%2Feconomic-contribution-australian-charity-sector&usg=AOvVaw2R-20vVOybpm8ctvW5xsCY>

## Attachment 2

First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name	First Name	Last Name
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## Attachment 3

### **Selected Comments from signatories to the [petition](#) calling for the funding of Docklands Neighbourhood House**

The Docklands neighbourhood office has been instrumental in helping organize and coordinate community events. By providing resources like meeting spaces, equipment, and volunteer support, they have made it possible for residents to come together and build connections. Whether it's an annual block party, a fundraiser for a local cause, or a community clean-up day, the neighbourhood office staff has been there to provide guidance, answer questions, and remove barriers so residents can focus on planning a successful and enjoyable event for all. Their assistance demonstrates how a little government support can go a long way in fostering a sense of community and civic pride within our neighbourhood.

Students at my school participate in programs at the community house and is an important part of our community.

me, my family and friends regularly use this facility. I have been living in this area from past 5yrs. It helps to connect with community living in and around this area through various programs.

I realise the importance of community in so many facets. People out and about in the community leads to it being a happier, safer community. Please don't be short sighted City of Melbourne

Docklands has very few community services and organisations that consistently provide help to Docklanders, specially if you take into account the amount of money we pay for council rates per square meter.

Docklands has very few community services and organisations that consistently provide help to Docklanders, specially if you take into account the amount of money we pay for council rates per square meter.



This neighbourhood house enhances community connection. This is so important for residents' health and well-being.

Human connection and sense of community is one of the greatest basic human needs & connection and community also helps with maintaining good mental health.

Take away Docklands Neighbourhood House & it will cost the Council and Government in other ways. Migrants especially need support services such as these & all cultures benefit by experiencing events of different cultures.

The Neighbourhood House builds a strong community and solves so many problems before they even start. The City of Melbourne needs to stop being so short sighted & think of the long term benefits of this facility.

And surely the rates they collect from all the developments & businesses in the Docklands area could fund such a valuable program/resource.

here, I attended many programs at docklands neighbourhood house which really helpfull for daughter development, to be become social with other child.After attending drawing workshop my daughter started interest in drawing colouring.And after seen her photos on docklands neighbourhood house ,she feel motivated. We attended and apticipated Vasant festival program which was very good,well organized. My daughter participated in that program and she got much appreciated which gave us more and more energy to perform in public platform. So, for my child development ,dockland neighbourhood house is perfect space. And from parent point of view dockland neighbourhood house program is play vital role in our community. As I was new here,so it gives new friends. so,We need docklands neighbourhood house for our development.

I signed because ... as the local and state governments try to develop the Docklands area, as the governments try to encourage families to move here, as they try to foster a sense of community and as they try to support young families, new families, and migrant families then the funding that supports the Docklands Neighbourhood House is also funding that directly support the governments aims and objectives.

The funding previously provided to the Community Boating Hub (such a great success) and the Docklands library (another great local resource, has helped develop the area - and so funding for the Neighbourhood House is essential to let it grow and flourish.

Docklands neighbourhood house is essential in area. It provides opportunities to connect with society through various programs they organise. multi cultural programs, kids activities ,play session many more. Team is fabulous. it's a platform for new migrants to connect with society.

This is a much needed facility in Docklands especially as there is so much High rise living and this facility provides a place for so many to participate in programs and meetings.

I live in Docklands and know how beneficial it is to have DHN here

Docklands is limping after Covid. We need the Neighbourhood House!

I live at the docklands and love this venture.  
this makes docklands more inclusive and family friendly.

## Attachment 4

8 June 2023  
PO Box 23120  
Docklands VIC 8012

### City of Melbourne Docklands Neighbourhood House – Letter of Support

The Docklands Representative Group (DRG) writes in support of the continued operation of Docklands Neighbourhood House.

The DRG and Docklands Neighbourhood House have a close association, with the DRG having initially been auspiced by Docklands Neighbourhood House, and subsequently engaged in several joint projects. The most recent of these is the Docklands Repair Café, which is an example of a greatly needed community initiative, which would not have eventuated if not for the involvement of Docklands Neighbourhood House.

Having seen first-hand the work of Docklands Neighbourhood House, most especially the commitment of \_\_\_\_\_, we can attest to their drive in building bridges within our community to reduce perceptions of isolation and foster social cohesion. Docklands Neighbourhood House offers services and programs which promote the principles of community participation and empowerment and that give people increased opportunity for ongoing engagement.

This is an important role and the DRG is concerned that without the type of on-the-ground and embedded services that Docklands Neighbourhood House provides, that Docklands will be slowed in its development.

Docklands is a new and fast emerging precinct. It, however, lacks many community facilities and services that are essential in helping transform a precinct into a neighbourhood. In the absence of such groups, Docklands Neighbourhood House has become a sole beacon for such community-based support services.

The DRG remains committed to continuing to work with Docklands Neighbourhood House and requests the City of Melbourne support their role and operations in Docklands.

Yours Faithfully

Dear City of Melbourne,

We would like to highlight all the great work Docklands Neighborhood House does for Docklands as a whole and its residents. We believe they play a massive role in connecting with the Docklands community.

**The need for more community organisations in Docklands, not less, and particularly the role that a Neighbourhood House can play.**

- Shift in demographics due to effects of COVID 19 pandemic – area went from housing majority of international students to young families, especially from multicultural backgrounds (69.4% of the population have both parents born overseas, with strong Indian and Chinese communities)
- Majority of households (59.6%) speak a language other than English at home
- 35% of households have at least one child + 1-2 parents, 51.4% family households
- Almost entirely flat/apartment style housing, high rise
- Population increased from 5789 people in 2011 Census to 15495 people in 2021 Census

**Demographics mean that there are important areas of the community that need to be engaged (families with young children, Indian and Chinese communities)**

- Key benefit of DNH, great work done organising Holi (over 1200 participants), Vasant festivals, afternoon tea play sessions, Kids Free Art Play, school holiday programs etc.
- Conversation Club, Community Sports Days, Social Fishing Club all bring the community together
- A monthly Repair Café collaboration with the Hub @ Docklands has been incredibly successful, and has led to further collaborations with organisations hosted at the Hub such as a Toy Library

There is clearly a want and a need from the residents of Docklands to grow and foster this sense of community – crucial to wellbeing, especially with most residents living in high-density, high-rise accommodation

**The importance of organisations that focus on and support the community, working to create and foster grassroots connections directly with community members.**

- DNH is currently the only organisation in the Docklands which is focused solely on community programming (Hub @ Docklands provides facility hire, Library at the Dock provides library and health services)

- Having a dedicated community organisation helps to strengthen other community services – we are often able to provide the space and resourcing for programs
- DNH promote other community programs and organisations (Toy Library, Docklands Community Garden, Huddle programs)

**Noting the challenges, operating in a space like Docklands.**

- Bouncing back after covid 19
- Low foot traffic
- Spaces historically catered towards corporate groups

Kind regards,

X

The Hub Docklands

@ymca.org.au





Dear Lord Mayor and City of Melbourne Councillors,

We are writing in support of Docklands Neighbourhood House (DNH). For several years the Melbourne Community Toy Library has jointly run programs with the DNH and our members have also benefited from engaging with its programs. We believe it is an essential service that meets the needs of the Docklands community.

As of July 1st, the Melbourne Community Toy Library's Docklands branch will be closed and a limited service will be running from the Library at the Dock. The 15 - 20 families that attend each of our two sessions per week will be left without a local place to play and socialise together. We had hoped to continue to work with the DNH, whom we have worked with to run Friday afternoon play sessions for the past nine months. The demand at these sessions, as well as our own, have often exceeded expectations and Docklands families are often asking for more play sessions and wanting to know where they may meet with others.

To remove the DNH from the community will leave an irreplaceable void.

\_\_\_\_\_ has demonstrated his passion and commitment to the people of Docklands. We have enjoyed a collaborative partnership with play sessions, community surveys and a combined repair cafe and toy library session. \_\_\_\_\_ has generously shared his knowledge and experience to support our programs and has also supported us in our search for permanent funding, so that we may continue to meet the needs of those within the community.

Many of the Docklands families are new to Australia and are eager to establish connections in the community. We are often their first point of contact, as they seek somewhere to take their children. As a limited service, we have valued the presence of the neighbourhood house to refer them to for support and advice. The results have been evident in these individuals gaining confidence, connecting with others, becoming leaders in the community and giving back to others. The DNH has given strength and a place of belonging to vulnerable members of our community, from the young to their parents and grandparents.

Please include Docklands Neighbourhood House in your budget for 2023/2024 and ongoing to ensure the people of Docklands can continue to have a place to go to for connection, community, support, advice and fun.

On behalf of the Melbourne Community Toy Library,

Melbourne Community Toy Library

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:

**ADAM BANDT MP**FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MELBOURNE  
LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN GREENS

City of Melbourne

7 June 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

**Re: Support for Funding for Docklands Neighbourhood House**

I write as the Federal representatives for Melbourne, in support of a funding allocation for the Docklands Neighbourhood House (DNH) in the City of Melbourne's 2023/2024 budget.

I understand that DNH was initially established in 2019 with a two year Social Innovation Partnerships grant from the City of Melbourne and that their ongoing operations have been supported by the City of Melbourne and Development Victoria. Unfortunately this money has now run out and I, along with many other members of the community, were disappointed to hear that DNH was not included in the City of Melbourne's Draft 2023/24 budget.

DNH provides a number of vital programs and activities for community members as well as offering advocacy and engagement services. Largely, the DNH services newly arrived migrants and young families. I understand that as of April 2023, 131 hours of activities are spread between 50-60 people who participate in DNH programs on a weekly basis and include diverse activities such as a homework club, health and wellbeing classes, and social programs including a newly created men's group, repair service and afternoon tea and play sessions.

Neighbourhood houses provide so much more than just their scheduled programs and I understand that in addition to the above programs, DNH works hard to support residents by providing informal support and referral services. They also provide information and training sessions as well 18 hours per week of advocacy through their open access drop-in program. While some of this work is much harder to quantify, it is no less important.

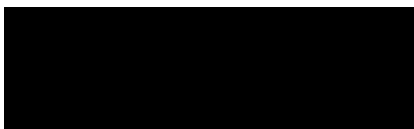
The population of Docklands is set to continue growing over the next decade, with increasing numbers of families in the area and an expanding need for community services. With Docklands primary school already overenrolled and numbers continuing to rise, I expect a continued increase in the number of families moving into the area.

DNH is not supported by the State Government's Neighbourhood House Coordination Program and I understand that without financial support from the City of Melbourne, the neighbourhood house will be forced to close. It would be a devastating loss to the Docklands community to lose this important service.

It is imperative that the Docklands community has access to a locally-led, inclusive organisation that works with residents and community groups to advocate for the needs of their community. Unlike other suburbs in Melbourne, Docklands has limited community infrastructure and grassroots spaces like DNH are critical for creating social pathways and connection within the community.

Given the essential role the DNH plays in the Docklands community, I urge you to include funding for the DNH in the City of Melbourne's Draft 2023/24 budget.

Yours faithfully,

**Adam Bandt MP**  
Federal Member for Melbourne





Docklands Chamber of Commerce  
750 Bourke Street, Docklands 3008  
admin@docklandsc.com.au  
www.docklandsc.com.au  
ABN: 41 820 455 932

25 May 2023

City of Melbourne  
90 – 120 Swanston Street  
Melbourne 3000

Subject: Support for the Docklands Neighbourhood House

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Docklands Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for the inclusion of the Docklands Neighbourhood House in the Community Grants and Partnerships Frameworks. We believe that their involvement would greatly benefit our community and contribute to building a stronger and more connected Docklands precinct.

The Docklands Neighbourhood House has been a steadfast advocate for the residents and businesses of Docklands, tirelessly working to address the diverse needs of our community. We have had the pleasure of collaborating with them on several occasions, most notably during the successful Sports Day and Community BBQ held last December. We are also planning future collaboration on programs to continue a more inclusive and connected Docklands precinct.

These events provided an invaluable platform for fostering meaningful connections between residents, local businesses, and community organizations. By bringing people together in a relaxed and enjoyable setting, the Docklands Neighbourhood House played a key role in promoting social interaction, which is essential for building a strong sense of unity and belonging in our vibrant community.

In addition to organising large-scale events, the Docklands Neighbourhood House actively supports the community through their front-line services. Their drop-in sessions provide a welcoming and safe space for community members to seek guidance, support, and referrals to specialist organizations. These services ensure that our residents have access to the resources they need to thrive.

The Docklands Neighbourhood House has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by our community. Through their innovative strategies and unwavering dedication, they have made a positive impact on the social fabric of our neighbourhood. By supporting the Docklands Neighbourhood House, we can empower them to continue their excellent work and make an even greater difference.

We have great confidence that the Docklands Neighbourhood House will continue to be a beacon of hope, support, and community engagement in the Docklands precinct.



**D O C K L A N D S   S P O R T S   C L U B**

**To:**  
**City of Melbourne**

June 6 2023

Dear City of Melbourne team,

We are writing to express our support for the Docklands Neighbourhood House and the vital role they play in our Docklands community.

Throughout 2022-2023 we have witnessed their passion and dedication to ensure Docklands remains a thriving community. They have always been willing and ready to collaborate with us and have supported key local events from community sporting days to family bbq's.

We hope City of Melbourne will be able to continue to support Docklands Neighbourhood house and the important role it plays in connecting locals to our beloved community.

Sincerely,

P. | E. |

Docklands Neighbourhood House

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

On behalf of the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA), I would like to express our support for the Docklands Community House.

Our fishing community is important to us, especially those from cultural and linguistically diverse communities. We are excited to work with you and the people involved in your fishing program. We are also looking forward to developing a fishing event later in the year

We appreciate your efforts to improve the knowledge and understanding of the fishing community in your area and I look forward to the positive outcomes these types of projects have not only on the community but also for our Fisheries.

Please contact me directly on [REDACTED] or [@vfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:@vfa.vic.gov.au) if you would like to discuss further

Sincerely,

**Victorian Fisheries Authority**

**31/05/2023**



**MAB Corporation Pty Ltd**  
ABN 78 917 049 883  
ACN 065 207 230

Level 5, 441 St Kilda Road  
MELBOURNE VIC 3004

PO Box 7657  
ST KILDA ROAD VIC 8004

Phone 03 8681 2222  
Fax 03 8681 2100  
mab.com.au

7 June 2023

Lord Mayor and Councillors  
City of Melbourne  
GPO Box 1603  
Melbourne VIC 3001

(Submitted via Participate Melbourne)

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,

**Re: Draft Budget 2023-24 Submission – Docklands Neighbourhood House**

As the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Lead for MAB Corporation I would like to provide this letter as a submission to the Draft Budget 2023-24.

Recently we have been advised by Docklands Neighbourhood House that they have not received funding allocation in the Draft Budget 2023-24.

Docklands Neighbourhood House has been providing a valuable service to the Docklands community since late 2019 undertaking numerous community building activities that have impacted thousands of local people. The Docklands Neighbourhood House is one of very few organisations in the local area that provides programs and spaces for the local community to access, particularly the more vulnerable.

MAB are part of a local developer working group that has formed to support community based initiatives in the Docklands precinct and one such project, 'Soul of Docklands', was set to commence in the coming month to be led by the Docklands Neighbourhood House and funded by the developer working group.

We believe that not providing funding to this organisation will have a negative impact on the local community. Our experience in this community indicates a strong need for organisations such as this, and we believe that Docklands residents more broadly would benefit greatly from a continued presence of the Docklands Neighbourhood House office located in close proximity.

Further, given the projected growth in the NewQuay and Docklands area, the importance of this service will become even more significant in years to come.

We request the City of Melbourne Councillors to consider funding Docklands Neighbourhood House through its Community Grants and Partnerships Framework from 1 July, 2023.

Should you require any further information please contact me on the details below.

Kind Regards

██████████  
**Community and Stakeholder Engagement Lead**

████████████████████  
████████████████████



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Shop B41, Level 4 744 Bourke Street, Docklands • (03) 9602 1228 • nhvic.org.au • info@nhvic.org.au

The Councillors, Deputy Lord Mayor and Lord Mayor  
City of Melbourne

**Subject: Support for Docklands Neighbourhood House**

As the peak body for the 420 neighbourhood houses and community centres across Victoria, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHVic) strongly encourages the City of Melbourne to provide the funding requested by Docklands Neighbourhood House (DNH) in its budget submission.

Neighbourhood Houses are at the heart of their communities, providing the essential community infrastructure and programs for communities to thrive. Because they respond to the needs of local communities through a community development process, all neighbourhood houses offer a slightly different mix of services. However, at the heart is always connection.

As a relatively new residential area with predominantly high rise accommodation, Docklands is in significant need of community infrastructure. Councils across Melbourne have different models for establishing neighbourhood houses in growth areas. NHVic's own data, which is extensive and has been shared with council officers, shows that the most effective model is a neighbourhood house that:

- Has a local committee of management;
- Is connected to the community through a local volunteer base;
- Is well connected with other community organisations in the local area;
- Has an MOU with local government with clear outcomes documented and metrics agreed.

Docklands Neighbourhood House, which is currently operated out of the Centre in North Melbourne, is committed to this model and is working towards achieving it fully.

In order to achieve the above, NHVic strongly recommends funding the ongoing operations of Docklands Neighbourhood House to a sustainable level while working with the House, local community and NHVic as the peak body to assess the feasibility of a permanent home for DNH and ongoing funding arrangement in future years. NHVic will also advocate for including DNH in the state government's \$40M p.a. Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP), which is due for review in 2026. If there is not a neighbourhood house in Docklands it will not be possible to attract this funding.

I would welcome a further discussion with Council officers or Councillors on how to move to a sustainable neighbourhood house model for Docklands.

Yours sincerely,



**THE DISTRICT**  
DOCKLANDS

5<sup>th</sup> June 2023

City of Melbourne

Management & Councillors

Email: <https://services.melbourne.vic.gov.au/ask/annualbudget>

It has been brought to our attention that the City of Melbourne has not included funding for Docklands Pop-Up Neighbourhood House in the 2023/2024 draft budget.

The District Docklands would advocate for Councillors to reconsider this decision and include Docklands Neighbourhood House in the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework as the fifth Neighbourhood House funded under the scheme.

We understand Council intends to establish a new stakeholder group to drive community engagement in the Docklands – a working group will take time to become operational.

Our concern is that the programs, networks and community initiatives that are currently led by the team at Docklands Neighbourhood House will be lost.

The Docklands is a unique community – it is young, it is dynamic, its population has been recovering and it is very diverse. It is not a community that has “established roots” and it therefore it relies on more formalised community support to be “always on” to ensure there are activities that help to lead and build the local Docklands community from the ground up.

The new Stakeholder Group is a mid to long term option, and we look forward to being able to work with this group in the future as we have done with Docklands Neighbourhood House. Our concern is that discontinuing funding to Docklands Neighbourhood House now, will result in downtime that will impact the growing positivity around the local Docklands community.

The team at the Docklands Neighbourhood House are a key stakeholder of The District, we have provided them with support for community sport days and celebrations for the local Indian community. They are also our go-to when we wish to connect more broadly with the local community, in addition they also provide front-line services and have become that trusted local hub that is now a key part of the Docklands lifestyle, it would be sad if this was lost.

Regards



GM – Customer and Precinct Experience



7 June 2023

City of Melbourne

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is in support of the Docklands Neighbourhood House.

As a vital educational institution situated in the Docklands precinct area, Gowrie Docklands Kindergarten have had the privilege of referring newly arrived families in Australia to the invaluable services provided by Docklands Neighbourhood House. Notably, these services encompass Friday Afternoon Play Sessions and Kids' Art Play, which serve as crucial stepping stones for our families to forge connections and foster a sense of belonging within the Docklands Precinct.

We see firsthand the impact that Docklands Neighbourhood House has on the community, particularly for families embarking on new lives in Australia. A notable example is the Holi celebrations organised by Docklands Neighbourhood House, which offered our families the opportunity to share their cultural heritage in a secure and familiar environment, extending beyond our kindergarten space within the Docklands Precinct.

We were disheartened to learn that the Docklands Neighbourhood House will cease operations under the new budget. We had eagerly anticipated collaborating with Docklands Neighbourhood House on a road safety inquiry project in conjunction with the Traffic Accident Commission (TAC) and Early Learning Association Australia (ELAA). This project aims to address pedestrian safety concerns within the Docklands Precinct, providing a platform for kindergarten-aged children to actively contribute as responsible citizens, effecting positive change within their local community.

Without the presence of Docklands Neighbourhood House, we stand to lose a vital hub of connectivity within the Docklands Precinct. In addition, our kindergarten would lose a strong ally in our collective efforts for advocating for the visibility of children and early learning within the community.

Gowrie Victoria Docklands Kindergarten supports the inclusion of funding for the Docklands Neighbourhood House in the 2023/2024 budget.

28 April 2023



**ELLEN  
SANDELL MP**  
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Rushda Halith  
Executive Director,  
Community and City Services  
City of Melbourne  
via email: [Rushda.Halith@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:Rushda.Halith@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

Elliot Anderson  
Director  
Community Development  
City of Melbourne  
via email: [Elliot.Anderson@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:Elliot.Anderson@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### Re: Funding for Docklands Neighbourhood house

Dear Rushda and Elliot,

I write on behalf of Docklands Neighbourhood house to escalate their urgent funding needs. Over the past two years the neighbourhood house has become an important community space for Docklands, which has few community organisations, however they are at risk of closing in June 2023 if no further funding is provided.

I understand that DNH is seeking to be included in the next round of the City of Melbourne's Neighbourhood House Funding agreements which would provide them with secure funding from July 2023 through to June 2027, noting that an increase in funding across the program to ensure that the addition of DNH would not negatively impact prior agreements.

Docklands Neighbourhood House (DNH) was established in 2019 with an initial two year grant through the City of Melbourne's Social Innovation Partnerships program. I am aware that they received further financial support from Development Victoria which expired in December 2022 and are currently surviving on \$50,000 of interim funding that will allow them to continue operations until the end of June 2023. I am informed that this funding was provided jointly by the City of Melbourne and Development Victoria and financial support from The Centre (North and West Melbourne) which subsidises the shortfall, however this is not sustainable.

**ELLEN SANDELL**  
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE  
t: (03) 9328 4637 e: [office@ellensandell.com](mailto:office@ellensandell.com)  
146-148 Peel St, North Melbourne VIC 3051

MADE WITH 100% RECYCLED  
POST-CONSUMER WASTE 



28 April 2023



**ELLEN  
SANDELL MP**  
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE

Unlike other Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria, Docklands Neighbourhood House is not supported by the State Government's Neighbourhood House Co-ordination Program (NHCP) and unfortunately there has been no opportunity for new Neighbourhood Houses like DNH to apply to be part of this program since 2018.

The neighbourhood house was established with the aim of "provid[ing] opportunities that welcome newly arrived residents and to build understanding, cohesion, belonging and resilience through intercultural and intergenerational connections." The population of Docklands is set to continue growing over the next decade, and with a high number of residents being new arrivals and young families, community organisations like DNH provide important social pathways to connect with the community. It would be an incredible shame to lose this important service.

DNH is also in need of a more suitable permanent home. While they have been operating out of a donated space in the District Docklands, the space was designed as a shopfront and receives limited and sporadic foot traffic. The space is not typical for a neighbourhood house and is not suitable for the growing activities of DNH. Unfortunately the size and layout of their current space limits the range of programs and types of activities that can take place at DNH.

Docklands Neighbourhood House would welcome the opportunity to host you both for a visit and I would be happy to facilitate a connection with their Director, Mr Ariel Valent.

I urge the City of Melbourne to do everything in your power to ensure that we don't lose this important community resource.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important matter.

Kind Regards,



ELLEN SANDELL  
STATE MP FOR MELBOURNE



146-148 Peel St, North Melbourne VIC 3051

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POST-CONSUMER WASTE 

15 May 2023

Future Melbourne Committee  
The City of Melbourne

Dear Committee Members,

### **Docklands Neighbourhood House**

Although I am a member of the Centre's board I write today as managing director of The Bowden Marstan Foundation, a \$60m private ancillary fund, **in support of City of Melbourne funding of Docklands Neighbourhood House.**

The Centre was established half a century ago by North Melbourne residents and North Melbourne library to create a local generator of community development programs and activities. At the City's instigation, the Centre was separately incorporated in the '80's but remained almost fully funded by the City until Kensington joined the City: after 2010 the funds formerly allocated to the Centre were divided among four "neighbourhood houses" in Kensington, North Melbourne and Carlton (North). The Centre today relies on the City for about a fifth of its revenue.

The Centre has for decades included West Melbourne in its programming. For a dozen years it has also sought to generate community development programs and activities in Docklands, in the absence of any community development organisation being based there.

With City of Melbourne pilot funding, the Centre opened a Dockland's branch in late 2019. Funds from Development Victoria extended the pilot through December 2022. Development Victoria and the City of Melbourne then each provided funds to keep the Docklands Neighbourhood House open through June 2023 when a multi-year funding agreement between the City and its neighbourhood houses was to be renewed.

Bowden Marstan Foundation's trustees (for obvious reasons I took no part in the decision) voted in December 2022 to fund Docklands Neighbourhood House through June 2023 enough to keep the doors open and staff employed if such funds were needed AND if the City of Melbourne also contributed. As it happened Development Victoria's unexpected further contribution made our offer redundant. Any future program or project funding from Bowden Marstan would be conditional upon Docklands Neighbourhood House having core operating funding from the City of Melbourne. Many other charitable foundations would also want to see this sort of commitment by the City before making their own grants.

Docklands Neighbourhood House has kept itself busy: local festivals, repair cafes, community gardens and much more. It has been embraced by a cross-section of locals, and local demand for community development activities and programs is not seriously disputable.

The Centre is in no position to keep the Docklands Neighbourhood House open without assured operations funding from 1 July 2023. We can all hope that the state government opens the neighbourhood house support scheme to new applicants in the next couple of years, but unless the City acts now to keep Docklands Neighbourhood House open after 30 June, there would not be a neighbourhood house in Docklands to make the application.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

86	<p>Please find attached a submission into the City of Melbourne's Draft Budget 2023-24 by Inner Melbourne Community Legal</p> <p>Would you like to address?: No</p>
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## City of Melbourne Draft Budget Submission June 2023: Inner Melbourne Community Legal

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

### City of Melbourne Draft Budget Submission June 2023: Inner Melbourne Community Legal

As Co-CEOs of Inner Melbourne Community Legal (**IMCL**), we write to provide a submission in support of our organisation and its role as the dedicated community legal centre (**CLC**) serving the residents and individuals accessing services in the City of Melbourne. We urge you to consider and allocate ongoing funding to IMCL in the 2023-24 and future budgets as a core service delivery partner to ensure the provision of critical free legal help. The secure and ongoing provision of free legal assistance will support the Council to achieve a range of core objectives as set out in the Council Plan 2021-25, Annual Plan 2023-24 and Budget 2023-24, particularly with respect to safety and wellbeing and access and affordability outcomes.

### Background to IMCL

IMCL has been a longstanding and invaluable resource in our municipality, offering free legal assistance, advice, and representation to socially disadvantaged and marginalised individuals for over 40-years. Our organisation plays a vital role in addressing common life problems with a legal solution that directly impact the well-being and social determinants of residents and local service users. We prioritise assisting people experiencing financial and other forms of chronic disadvantage to reduce the impact of legal problems, and also those in an acutely vulnerable position due to adverse life events to prevent them from failing into longer term, entrenched disadvantage.

Key to our effectiveness is our service delivery model centered around local partnerships. Understanding that people do not turn to lawyers for assistance and can experience other barriers to receiving legal help, for many years IMCL has partnered with other local community organisations - such as the major metropolitan hospitals, homelessness and housing services and schools - to integrate legal assistance. We currently have numerous [outreach advice services](#) across the municipality, and multiple other community partnerships to generate referrals to our practice.

### Partnerships with City of Melbourne

To equip us to deliver these integrated services, IMCL has been a recipient of a number of City of Melbourne grants, including those connected to our work with young people disengaged from mainstream education, engagement initiatives to support young people of colour to challenge racialised and discriminatory policing, education programs aimed to helping international students to understand their legal rights, as well as legal help for new parents and professional legal education to staff in

maternal and child health centres. We thank the City of Melbourne for recognising the importance of our work with at-risk communities and supporting its delivery.

While these grants have been critical to getting a number of initiatives off the ground as pilots, supporting us to evaluate and demonstrate the effectiveness of the approaches, the short-term funding cycles have made it difficult to sustain service delivery and meet the ongoing need for legal help among residents and visitors. Legal problems within our community are widespread and continuous, connected to life experiences and stages and thus evolve over time. Population growth, changing demographics and economic conditions can influence legal need, meaning it is not static and requires flexibility and agility to address. Many individuals and families need help to address complex, multifaceted issues, often over several years. Demand too is always higher than what can be met with unstable short-term funding. Short-term funding limits our ability to provide sustained support for people living and working in the City of Melbourne, leading to gaps in service provision and disruption in the progress achieved by those we help. It also causes disruption among other local professionals and council services we work with, who tell us time and time again that we relieve pressure from them and help them to achieve better holistic outcomes for shared clients.

### **What we need**

Through robust evaluations, we know what is needed to reach and assist our target clients and support the City of Melbourne to achieve key health, wellbeing and access targets: long-term, sustainable funding to enable us to maintain and grow critical integrated legal services within local health, education and homelessness services. Investing in a team of four dedicated City of Melbourne Integrated Community Lawyers in the sum of \$600,000.00 per annum to deliver these integrated services would not only contribute to the wellbeing and empowerment of residents and visitors, but also yield cost-effective positive economic and social outcomes for the city as a whole. It would position the City of Melbourne as a leader in promoting access to justice, equality and social inclusion, and significantly strengthen access to services and community partnerships.

### **Alignment of IMCL work with Council Plan Strategic Objectives**

#### ***Safety and Wellbeing***

IMCL can support the City of Melbourne to ensure the safety and wellbeing of those who live, visit, work and do business in Melbourne, regardless of their background. The Council's priorities in this domain mirror the safety and wellbeing outcomes achieved by us through our work:

- Our individual legal interventions in the areas of family violence and family law help keep women and children safe, and supports their long-term social participation and inclusion, further strengthened by our provision of legal education on gender equality
- Our community engagement activities – especially those delivered by our Legal Concierges who are young women from African backgrounds who live in local public housing estates – strengthen bonds, social connections and sense of belonging among people of diverse backgrounds, and also enable us to address individual and systemic discrimination (including racial and gender discrimination)

- Our legal help has been shown to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for people in hospital, as they are able to focus on their recovery rather than their unresolved legal issues.

### ***Access and Affordability***

IMCL can support the City of Melbourne to reduce economic and social inequality through our participation in Council activities aimed at ensuring universal access to housing, core services and information.

The Council's priorities in this domain also mirror the access and affordability outcomes achieved by us through our work:

- We have strong capability in housing and homelessness law reform and advocacy, informed by the experiences of our casework clients. We are able to provide authoritative advice to the City of Melbourne on these issues, as well as provide individual instances of legal assistance to people experiencing or at risk of housing insecurity to reduce homelessness through embedded legal service delivery models in partnership with homelessness support organisations (such as the mooted homelessness hubs)
- Our work with young people, especially through our embedded School Lawyer Program, has been shown to help keep them educated with their education, contributing to an increased learning rates across the municipality
- Our free outreach and integrated practice model makes our legal assistance – a core service – accessible and affordable to everyone, including cohorts identified as council priorities, such as people experiencing mental ill-health or those living with a disability.

### ***Assisting with major initiatives***

Specifically, we can assist with major initiatives outlined in the Annual Plan 2023-24 to deliver the City of Melbourne's strategic objectives.

#### ***Major Initiative 41: Ensure our core services remain accessible and affordable***

Funding of IMCL will assist the Council ensure its core services remain accessible and affordable. IMCL provides support for programs run by the City of Melbourne across multiple 'service families', including:

- Assistance and care to enable vulnerable people, particularly those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, mental illness, or experiencing family violence, to live safely and independently
- Early years development services assisting new mums and their children receive legal assistance to ensure safe homes and reduce stress to allow mum-baby bonding and development
- Welcome and Connection activities that build social cohesion and support through our work in public housing estates.

#### ***Major Initiative 42: Construction of the North Melbourne Community Centre***

IMCL currently provides outreach at the Drum and North Melbourne Language and Learning Centre within the North Melbourne Community Centre. We would see the need to embed social and

community services alongside recreational needs crucial to meeting Goal 3 Good health and wellbeing and Goal 10 Reduced inequalities, as outlined in the Council's Annual Plan.

***Major Initiative 44: Create a new entity called Homes Melbourne***

IMCL supports the creation of Homes Melbourne as hub for essential services and support. Early findings from our Housing Justice Project being trialed in Melbourne CBD and North Melbourne, demonstrate that integrated service delivery where legal services sit with homeless services can assist people to address barriers to gaining and retaining a home. We would welcome the opportunity to brief the City of Melbourne on our final report once it is completed.

***Major Initiative 49: to be a leading organisation on equality and inclusion, and deliver programs in communities that will reduce physical and psychological harm to all people.***

The Women's Safety and Employer Action Plan provides a framework for the City of Melbourne to address harm against women in the City of Melbourne. IMCL supports the focus on prevention of violence and the stopping of harm. Early and holistic legal support can assist women escape family violence, this work is not limited to family law, but includes financial support, addressing fines, tenancy and other legal barriers. Early support is a critical role City of Melbourne can play to stop and prevent violence.

***Major Initiative 50: Work with Victoria Police and other agencies to deliver a range of initiatives that improve safety on the streets of Melbourne***

IMCL believes this initiative could be strengthened through focusing on community-led safety prevention and expanding the network of services available to intervene during the proactive patrol. We would support the City of Melbourne developing this initiative to include the creation of safe injecting venue in the CBD to provide a health and wellbeing response to people in Melbourne with substance abuse and addiction.

We strongly urge you to consider the long-term funding of a team of dedicated City of Melbourne Integrated Community Lawyers, a strong investment initiative that aligns with the city's values and priorities over the short and long-term.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Acting Co-CEO**



**Public feedback on the draft Budget 2023–24**

89	<p>Hi,</p> <p>Please check a small presentation of our Impact showcase. <a href="https://www.canva.com/design/DAFf-jyTzp4/yrlqNec1wgTXqRIPB4WZXQ/view">https://www.canva.com/design/DAFf-jyTzp4/yrlqNec1wgTXqRIPB4WZXQ/view</a></p> <p>Detailed submission is attached.</p> <p>Would you like to address?: Yes I will speak in person*</p>
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8th June 2023

City of Melbourne

Subject: Request for Increased Funding for Innovative Community Projects

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,

I hope this message finds you well. We are a community organisation based in Docklands, dedicated to creating meaningful social impact through a variety of innovative initiatives and community events.

At SarasCare, we believe that our work speaks volumes about our commitment and drive to uplift our community. We design, develop, and deliver our programs with the central objective of supporting local communities and businesses.

We have launched and successfully managed several impactful programs. Our Lego and Coding Club has become an innovative platform for young minds to learn digital skills. Our KarmalImpact initiative fosters a culture of giving and volunteering, strengthening community bonds. Furthermore, our Circular Economy project promotes sustainable consumption habits, reflecting our commitment to sustainability.

Our training program equips individuals with practical skills that open new avenues for employment and entrepreneurship. Our annual Diwali event, a co-funded community-supported festival, celebrates cultural diversity and supports local businesses and artists. It's worth noting that we have maintained an average of over \$2M in social impact annually, demonstrating our concrete contribution to the community.



**SARASCARE**

SUITE G14  
111 STUDIO LANE  
DOCKLANDS 3008  
VIC  
AUSTRALIA





However, to continue and expand our work, we urgently need increased financial support. We greatly appreciate the Council's support this year, including the \$30K funding for the Dawn to Dusk event. Still, given the rising costs, we are committed to raising an additional \$50K from businesses to ensure we deliver another unforgettable event.

We advocate for more funding directed towards projects that are co-funded and community-endorsed. Such initiatives foster a stronger sense of community involvement and shared responsibility, ensuring their sustainability and financial viability. We believe in engaging with the Council constructively to further these causes, rather than creating artificial scarcities that instill a sense of despair within the community.

Supporting community groups that leverage co-funding and implement innovative solutions is an investment with substantial social dividends. We kindly request your consideration of our appeal and look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further.

Should you require any additional information about our initiatives and their impact, please do not hesitate to ask. We appreciate your unwavering support of our community.

Best Regards,

[Redacted Signature]

Director

[Redacted Name]



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## Agenda item 3.1 – Attachment 5 Committee’s recommended changes to the draft Budget 2023–24

#	Change	Rationale	Existing Reference (Page Number)
1	<p>Increase Council Works Budget by \$6.86m to include the three Pocket Parks and Urban Renewal Open Spaces, utilising existing budgeted balance sheet funding set aside for public open space development and acquisitions.</p> <p>There is no net funding / borrowing change associated with this reclassification.</p>	To provide transparency of the three Pocket Parks and Urban Renewal Open Spaces as standalone projects in the council works program (previously set aside under the existing balance sheet funding).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lord Mayor Foreword (6)</li> <li>• Acting CEO Foreword (7)</li> <li>• 1 Introduction (8)</li> <li>• 3 Highlights (20)</li> <li>• 6 Analysis of Budgeted Cash Position (44, 46)</li> <li>• 7 Analysis of Council Works (Including Maintenance) (47-49)</li> <li>• 8 Analysis of Budgeted Financial Position (51)</li> <li>• 9 Draft Budget Four-Year Projects (54)</li> <li>• Appendix A – Budget Statements (66-68)</li> <li>• Appendix C – Budget Four-Year Projections (83-86)</li> <li>• Appendix E – Council Works Program Projects (88-98)</li> </ul>
2	Commentary amendments to clarify that contributions from philanthropic donations will be received directly by Unison and the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation for the Make Room project.	To provide clarification of funding source (Unison and the Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation), and the recipient (Make Room project).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Introduction (10)</li> <li>• 5 Analysis of Operating Budget (39, 41-42)</li> <li>• 7 Analysis of Council Works (Including Maintenance) (47)</li> </ul>
3	Minor changes to the estimated total value of each type or class of land, and the estimated total value of land, compared with the previous financial year (see table below).	Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) audited the City of Melbourne General Valuation and advised a change in values to seven non-rateable assessments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix B – Statutory Disclosures (73)</li> </ul>
4	Increase in contract payments Budget by \$50,000 to support litter removal, education and awareness raising in the Lower Moonee Ponds Creek.	Consideration of public feedback by ██████████ on behalf of Chain of Ponds (Case 59 in Attachment 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council will amend the final Budget under contract payments within the Materials and Services category.</li> </ul>
5	Increase consultants Budget by \$50,000 per annum for two years for the completion of Westgate Park Masterplan.	Consideration of public feedback by ██████████ on behalf of Westgate Biodiversity: Bili Nursery & Landcare (Case 47 in Attachment 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council will amend the final Budget under consultant within the Materials and Services category.</li> </ul>

6	<p>Remove the new \$207 Busking - Application Fee for Street Entertainment, Premium Permit &amp; CA Safety Assessment in the Fees &amp; Charges schedule.</p> <p>All other busking permit fees will remain at 2022–23 rates.</p> <p>This will reduce the permits and registrations revenue Budget by \$100,000.</p>	<p>Consideration of public feedback by multiple respondents (Attachment 4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council will amend the final Budget under permits and registrations within the Fees and Charges category.</li> </ul>
7	<p>Increase grants expenditure Budget by \$100,000 to support The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614's Youth Street Teams program.</p>	<p>Consideration of public feedback by [REDACTED] on behalf of The Salvation Army Melbourne Project 614 (Case 80 &amp; 81 in Attachment 4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council will amend the final Budget under Grants &amp; Contributions.</li> </ul>

### Recommended Changes #3

The estimated total value of each type or class of land, and the estimated total value of land, compared with the previous financial year.

Type or class of land	2022-23 \$	2023-24 \$	Change
Residential	3,506,217,115	3,613,016,085	3.0%
Non-Residential	4,017,041,885	4,210,662,155	4.8%
Exempt	1,072,858,090	1,091,383,790	1.7%
Cultural and recreational	81,280,150	85,520,650	5.2%
<b>Total value of land</b>	<b>8,677,397,240</b>	<b>9,000,582,680</b>	<b>3.7%</b>