

Report to the Future Melbourne (Environment) Committee

Agenda item 6.7

Draft Domain Parklands Master Plan phase three community engagement update

4 December 2018

Presenter: Claire Ferres Miles, Director City Strategy and Place

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to table the feedback received on the draft Domain Parklands Master Plan.
2. Council approved the release of the draft master plan for engagement on 21 August 2018. This phase of engagement was planned to give people the opportunity to provide informed responses. People were encouraged to familiarise themselves with the draft master plan by reading the document, reviewing area plans or joining scheduled engagement walks in the parklands with the park planners. The engagement was held from 24 August to 28 October 2018.
3. The community engagement was promoted through a range of mediums including the distribution of 4500 postcards to South Yarra and Southbank properties, emails to stakeholders and people who had previously registered interest in the project and posters. The engagement was also promoted through the networks of the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne Gardens and Victorian Arts Centre. Hard copies of the draft master plan were available at three libraries.
4. Engagement with children was organised through the Junior Ranger program. Separate engagement activities were organised to seek the views of young people. Briefings with several interest groups who requested the opportunity to discuss the draft master plan were held, and Advisory Committees of Council were also consulted.
5. 126 people provided responses through Participate Melbourne. 20 organisations or clubs sent formal submissions. 11 people participated and gave feedback through walks in the park. Six groups provided feedback through meetings. 102 children and 20 young people were consulted. A summary of the feedback is provided in the report (Attachment 2).

Key issues

6. Engagement findings reiterate the value of the Domain Parklands. There was strong support for the need and value of a master plan to guide future management of the parklands, with particular recognition of the need to plan for the challenges of climate change and population growth.
7. There was broad community acceptance and support for three of the five master plan directions in the themes of 'Nurture a diverse landscape and parkland ecology', 'Acknowledge history and cultural Heritage' and 'Management and partnerships to build resilience'.
8. The theme of 'Support exceptional visitor experience' invited more detailed feedback, particularly around the organised activity areas. These included the rowing precinct in Alexandra Gardens, the Edmund Herring oval and La Trobe's cottage. Divergent views were received to proposals for picnic areas and fitness equipment in Kings Domain South. There were good levels of support for improvements to amenities in the parklands.
9. The theme of 'Improve people movement and access' received the most diversity of responses. The responses ranged from enthusiastic support to complete opposition on proposals relating to future changes to the road network. This diversity of opinion was also expressed about proposed changes to car parking and creation of bike lanes. What was not questioned was that access is very important. The current disruption with the Metro rail project influenced many responses on this topic.
10. The community feedback will inform the final master plan.

Recommendation from management

11. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 11.1 Notes the summary report from the draft Domain Parklands Master Plan community engagement.
 - 11.2 Requests Management to finalise the Master Plan taking into consideration feedback from the community, and report back to Council by March 2019.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 19)
2. Draft Domain Parklands Master Plan phase three community engagement update (Page 3 of 19)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations made in this report.

Finance

2. There are no financial implications arising from recommendations in this report.

Conflict of interest

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

Occupational Health and Safety

4. In developing this report, no Occupational Health and Safety issues or opportunities have been identified, as this is a report on the results from public consultation only. The masterplan does address OHS issues for example, lighting and appropriate path alignment, these will be reported on separately.

Stakeholder consultation

5. Extensive Stakeholder consultation has been undertaken since 2015. Please refer to the attached report for further detail.

Relation to Council policy

6. The draft master plan is consistent with Council's broader policy objectives particularly those aimed at enhancing the current urban environment, preparing the parklands for the major challenges of climate change and supporting all people to visit the parklands. Major strategies include the Urban Forest Strategy (2012), Open Space Strategy (2012), Nature in the City Strategy (2017) and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2017).

Environmental sustainability

7. This draft master plan provides the framework to strengthen the environmental service function of the Domain Parklands.

Table of Contents:

Executive Summary

- 1. Background and methodology**
- 2. Engagement findings**
- 3. Consultation Details**
 - 3.1 Children's Consultation**
 - 3.2 Young People's Consultation**
 - 3.3 Feedback from walks in the park**
 - 3.4 Feedback from specific committee / organisation consultation**
 - 3.5 Responses through the Participate Melbourne page**
 - 3.6 Specific feedback on the rowing precinct proposals, Alexandra Gardens**
 - 3.7 Summary of key points from submissions provided by organisations**

Submissions provided by:

- Historic Heritage Section, Department of Environment and Energy
- Aboriginal Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Shrine of Remembrance Trustees
- Australian Garden History Society
- National Trust
- Rotary Club of Melbourne
- Melbourne Grammar School
- Melbourne South Yarra Group
- Southbank Residents Association
- Protectors of Public Lands
- Astronomical Society of Victoria
- City of Port Phillip

NB Submissions from Rowing Victoria, individual clubs and rowing community is reported on in section 8.

Executive summary

Overview

The third phase of community engagement sought feedback on the draft Domain Parklands Master Plan and was held from 24 August to 28 October 2018.

The draft master plan has five themes. Respondents were encouraged to provide feedback through these themes, in addition to any general comments.

1. Nurture a diverse landscape and parkland ecology
2. Acknowledge history and cultural heritage
3. Support exceptional visitor experience
4. Improve people movement and access
5. Management and partnerships to build resilience

126 people provided responses through Participate Melbourne. 20 organisations or clubs sent formal submissions. 11 people participated and gave feedback through walks in the park. Six groups provided feedback through meetings. 102 children and 20 young people were consulted.

The engagement findings support how highly valued the Domain Parklands are. There was strong support for the need for and value of a master plan to guide future management of the parklands, with particular recognition of the need to plan for the challenges of climate change and population growth.

There was broad community acceptance and support for the master plan directions in the themes of “Nurture a diverse landscape and parkland ecology”, “Acknowledge history and cultural Heritage” and “Management and partnerships to build resilience”. Any concerns or suggestions are described in this report.

The theme of “Support exceptional visitor experience” invited more detailed feedback, particularly around the organised activity areas. These included the rowing precinct in Alexandra Gardens, the Edmund Herring oval and La Trobe’s cottage. Excellent feedback has been provided and a working group established by the rowing community to work on the detail for improvements to management of the precinct. There were diverse responses to proposals for picnic areas and fitness equipment in Kings Domain South. There were good levels of support for improvements to amenities in the parklands.

The theme of “Improve people movement and access” received the most diversity of responses. The responses ranged from enthusiastic support to complete opposition on proposals relating to future changes to the road network. This diversity of opinion was also expressed about proposed changes to car parking and creation of bike lanes. What was not questioned was that access is very important. The current disruption with the Metro rail project influenced many responses on this topic.

1. Background and methodology

The draft master plan has been prepared over three years, reflecting the importance, multiple layers and complexity of the place. The process to prepare the draft master plan has included collecting and examining technical information about the parklands and at the same time gathering and discussing the future of the parklands with the community.

During 2015 and 2016 two phases of community consultation obtained community input and ideas for the Domain Parklands.

Phase 1 – Share your memories of Domain Parklands

The first phase was conducted in September to November, 2015. It gathered information about what people value about the Domain Parklands by inviting them to share memories to stimulate conversations about the themes and aspirations for the future of the parklands.

Phase 2 – Discussion Paper

The second phase in July – August 2016 involved the release of a discussion paper seeking public comment on key themes to set the direction for the future of the Domain Parklands.

Phase 3 – Draft Domain Parklands Master Plan

The third phase of community engagement was held from 24 August to 28 October 2018.

The engagement sought feedback on the draft Domain Parklands Master Plan. The engagement process provided opportunities for people to become familiar with the draft master plan by

- reading the draft plan;
- reviewing the five precinct plans which summarised physical proposals across the parklands; and /or
- participating in parklands walks with park planners where all aspects of the master plan were described.

Responses were encouraged through the Participate Melbourne website, while some preferred to provide a submission.

The invitation to participate in the community engagement was promoted by the City of Melbourne through a range of mediums and sought a broad audience. This included:

- Postcards were distributed to 4500 households in adjacent areas of South Yarra and Southbank
- Posters, postcards and hard copies of the master plan were provided at three libraries.
- Posters were erected through the parklands.
- The City of Melbourne website directed people to the Participate Melbourne website.
- Emails to stakeholders, agencies and people who had registered interest in the project;
- The engagement was also promoted through the networks of the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne Gardens and Victorian Arts Centre.

Several groups also requested briefings and the opportunity to discuss the draft master plan. Advisory Committees of Council were consulted.

Engagement with children was organised through the Junior Ranger program. Separate engagement activities were organised to seek the views of young people. The Family and Children's Advisory Committee provided advice and suggestions to assist with the design of the engagement program with children and young people.

The focus of the engagement was to seek feedback on the draft master plan. It was recognised that there were two previous comprehensive engagement processes to inform the development of the master plan. This phase of engagement was planned to give people the opportunity to provide informed responses, by providing different ways for people to familiarise themselves with a detailed document proposing long term management aspirations for a complex area.

The draft master plan has five themes. Respondents were encouraged to provide feedback through these themes, in addition to any general comments.

1. Nurture a diverse landscape and parkland ecology
2. Acknowledge history and cultural heritage
3. Support exceptional visitor experience
4. Improve people movement and access
5. Management and partnerships to build resilience

2. Engagement findings

The consultation approach was qualitative. With this approach, attention was given to creating additional opportunities for feedback from segments of the community who might not provide feedback through Participate Melbourne, for example, children and young people. This was to ensure voices who heard from a cross section of community.

Overall, 126 people provided responses through Participate Melbourne. 20 organisations or clubs sent formal submissions. 11 people participated and gave feedback through walks in the park. Six groups provided feedback through meetings. 102 children and 20 young people were consulted.

The Participate Melbourne Domain Parklands master plan website was viewed by 1747 people, indicating a good awareness of the project consultation.

The engagement findings support how highly valued the Domain Parklands are. There was strong support for the need for and value of a master plan to guide future management of the parklands, with particular recognition of the need to plan for the challenges of climate change and population growth.

There was broad community acceptance and support for the master plan directions in the themes of "Nurture a diverse landscape and parkland ecology", "Acknowledge history and cultural Heritage" and "Management and partnerships to build resilience". Any concerns or suggestions are described in this report.

The theme of "Support exceptional visitor experience" invited more detailed feedback, particularly around the organised activity areas. These included the rowing precinct in

Alexandra Gardens, the Edmund Herring oval and La Trobe's cottage. Excellent feedback has been provided and a working group established by the rowing community to work on the detail for improvements to management of the precinct. There were diverse responses to proposals for picnic areas and fitness equipment in Kings Domain South. There were good levels of support for improvements to amenities in the parklands.

The theme of "Improve people movement and access" received the most diversity of responses. The responses ranged from enthusiastic support to complete opposition on proposals relating to future changes to the road network. This diversity of opinion was also expressed about proposed changes to car parking and creation of bike lanes. What was not questioned was that access is very important. The current disruption with the Metro rail project influenced many responses on this topic.

A summary of information gathered is presented in the following report.

3. Consultation Details

3.1 Children's consultation

Children's engagement for Domain Parklands Master Plan was embedded in the Junior Ranger school holiday program *What's the Time Bunya Pine*. 90 children attended the program. These sessions were set up to firstly educate children about the parklands and then teased out ideas on how we can manage them into the future.

A separate Junior Ranger session was held with the Bubup Wilam Aboriginal Child and Family Centre on 10 October, which was attended by 12 children. These were pre-school aged children and the session was modified for the younger group.

- The children thought it was very important to look after the parklands environment for the future
- Children understood and appreciated the parklands being the 'lungs of the city', the importance of looking after the trees and parklands, and how people and wildlife need the park to be healthy.
- When asked what it would be like if Linlithgow Road was removed they said they would hear birds, would not hear cars, it would be quiet, more space to play, there could be more trees, it would be cooler, and that trees wouldn't need to be cut (for trucks).

3.2 Young person's consultation

Five young people (aged between 18 and 22) participated in a two hour consultation session. From the discussion it was clear that they saw and understood the issues and opportunities the parklands presented and subsequently made informed suggestions.

- Wanting a feeling of safety, welcome and permission to be in the parklands
- Prompts for play for all ages
- Better amenity – with comments from a lack of bins, to BBQs, toilets and seating to wayfinding signage
- The need to consult with Aboriginal people. Use an Aboriginal artist. Include Aboriginal artwork.
- Better cycling and pedestrian path networks to provide a variety of commuter and leisure experiences.

In addition 15 students from Melbourne's Girls Grammar (geography class and boarders) participated in a separate consultation session.

- Improved access to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl and the boat sheds.
- Improved wayfinding signage for pedestrians.
- Safety concerns around the speed of cyclists.
- Activate the parklands with more cafes and restaurants

3.3 Feedback from walks in the parklands

11 people attended walks in the parklands. The walks were held on 1 September, 5 September, and 5 October. Each walk was for approximately two hours.

Key feedback included:

- Supportive of the proposals to provide alternative routes to commuter cyclists currently using the Capital City Trail, and that these should be protected bike lanes
- Better amenity – with requests including provision of basic exercise equipment, drinking fountains, more bike parking at venues and event location
- Providing greater understanding on how does having (or not having) green space impact on stress /cortisol / mental health.
- Observation that when the road is closed for events such as ANZAC Day, the feel of the place is completely different and ‘wonderful’.

3.4 Feedback from specific committee / organisation consultation

3.4.1 Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)

The DAC noted the importance of DDA compliant river path access being incorporated within future plans and fully supported the proposal of an accessible and clearer marked route from Anzac Station to Birdwood Avenue. The safe transition from the park pathways to the grassed areas was also raised as a key equity of access issues with most people using mobility aids are unable to enjoy the grassed areas of the park. They were supportive of the Visitor experience improvements as proposed in the draft master plan, including visitor centre, changing facilities and charging stations.

3.4.2 Victoria Police

A meeting was held on the 6 September 2018 which included briefing on the overall master plan, and then discussion of specific recommendations relating to public safety (lighting, security) and the Police Memorial. Council Officers have had a number of meetings with Victoria Police Community Safety Officers regarding specific improvements to safety in the boathouse and skate park areas in the Alexandra Gardens. All the recommendations in the draft master plan are consistent with these discussions.

3.4.3 Metro Community Reference Group

A presentation to the Metro Community Reference group was made, with particular focus on the proposals associated with the new Anzac station. Questions and discussion centred around timing of works, parking in the precinct, access and movement in the parklands for ageing visitors and events management .

3.4.4 Traditional Owners

Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

The submission included a number of corrections, and a statement that the draft master plan was weak regarding Aboriginal history of the site (section 2.1). There was a view that given the thousands of years of history, this should be better recognised in the document. The

submission also suggested that there is recorded history of Aboriginal presence that should be included, as well as more information about Tromgin.

Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Aboriginal Corporation
A number of Elders met with Council Officers at the Wurundjeri Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council offices on 22 October to discuss the master plan. Feedback included:

- Would like to see gardens with native species with education about traditional uses and interpretive signage.
- Requested the planting of Manna Gums as they are used in ceremonies.
- All agreed with a suggested change to Key Action 2 'Acknowledge history and cultural heritage' to 'Celebrate history and cultural heritage'.
- Expressed support for better wayfinding, seating and shade.
- There was a view that the parklands need to be peaceful and have less noisy events.
- Discussion about archaeological surveys included caution on any physical disturbance and the use of thermal imaging.
- Discussion about landscaping around the Kings Domain Resting Place included suggestions to make the area beautiful, the planting to stop people climbing on it

3.5. Responses through Participate Melbourne page

The Domain Parklands feedback page received over 1,700 visitors during the consultation period with 133 contributions from collected from 126 individuals.

Feedback via a star rating system (participants could assign each statement between 1 and 5 stars) was sought on the five key actions of the master plan help to achieve the themes of the Domain Parklands Master Plan. These are as follows:

1. Nurture a diverse landscape and parkland ecology

Elevate horticultural complexity and management; support a healthy ecosystem; manage a city arboretum; and manage soil and water.

- 1 star =15
- 2 star = 6
- 3 star = 19
- 4 star = 30
- 5 Star = 48

2. Acknowledge history and cultural heritage

Respect and reveal the Aboriginal cultural heritage; reflect cultural values and historical significance; and manage memorials in the Domain Parklands (areas managed by City of Melbourne).

- 1 star =19
- 2 star = 9
- 3 star =22

4 star =21

5 star =45

3. Support exceptional visitor experience

Provide facilities (amenities) to meet future needs; enhance visitor experience; manage organised activity spaces; and manage events.

1 star = 21

2 star = 11

3 star =16

4 star =19

5 star =48

4. Improve pedestrian movement and access

Improve parklands entrances; improve internal pathway networks; reduce barriers and improve access over roads; support access by public transport; network approaches to improve cycling routes; contemporary wayfinding in the Domain Parklands; create journeys in the Domain Parklands; rethink the use of existing road space; and support visitor access while adapting to the future trends of car parking.

1 star = 22

2 star =8

3 star = 22

4 star =27

5 star =36

5. Management and partnerships to build resilience

Make one parkland of many unique destinations; create a framework for priorities and decision-making; commitment to future management and collaboration; manage uses in the areas managed by the City of Melbourne; and reduce the impact of services.

1 star =23

2 star =13

3 star =25

4 star =18

5 star =39

In addition an open ended request for comments on what people like, think is missing or could be improved was provided. The following themes were identified:

- Rethinking the roads
- Re-purposing car parking
- Kings Domain South
- Separate cycle paths
- Events
- Aboriginal history

- Colonial history

Additional feedback and consideration included but is not limited to:

- Mixed support for understorey planting in Tom's Block (or Kings Domain South)
- Requests for play equipment for children in Kings Domain South or more generally in the parklands
- A number of responses which were strongly opposed to the installation of any picnic tables, BBQs, or any fitness equipment in Kings Domain South east of Dallas Brooks Drive. This was tempered by other respondents who were supportive of the proposals in this location, in particular the provision of fitness equipment
- That the creation of a path from Anzac Station presented an opportunity to bring people closer to the cottage and Domain House
- Some proposals suggesting the redevelopment of the pavilion to support multi-use sports and supported the provision of a synthetic surface sports field. Other responses strongly opposed any synthetic surface.
- The Kings Domain soccer club advocating for the opportunity to partner with community sporting groups to improve facilities.
- A number of respondents requested that no changes be made to the road network until completion of the Metro project, or no changes at all be made.
- Negative responses to any future investigation into closure of part of Birdwood Avenue.
- That the horse and carriage operators continue to be permitted to operate along Linlithgow and Birdwood Avenues
- A response proposed that a cost benefit assessment of the plan would be helpful for local residents
- A suggestion to provide more reliable improved telecommunications into the precinct by incorporating this into other infrastructure upgrades such as lighting or the skate park was made.
- The creation of a community garden for growing fruit and vegetables, which would create friendships among local residents.
- That there must be consideration of amenity of local residents who continue to cope with pressures put on the area by visitors and associated events in the vicinity.
- Concern about light pollution and heat affecting the operation of the Great Melbourne Telescope (when returned to the site) were raised
- Views were divided with regards to the future of Edmund Herring Oval with some supportive of redevelopment of the pavilion to support multi-use sports and supported the provision of a synthetic surface sports field and others strongly opposed.
- A number of responses focused on the proposal for a path between the new Anzac station and Birdwood Avenue entries to the Melbourne Gardens and the Shrine of Remembrance. There was strong support for provision of a path. There were a number of responses that did not support a path or the alignment suggested on the plans across the Shrine Reserve.

3.6 Specific feedback on the rowing precinct proposals, Alexandra Gardens

Rowing Victoria Melbourne

A number of responses were received from rowing clubs located in the Alexandra Gardens boathouses, individual rowers and the organisers of the winter sculling season. Additional information was gathered at a meeting of rowing clubs on 17 September 2018. Rowing Victoria coordinated a detailed submission from all clubs.

Feedback and consideration included but is not limited to:

- Suggestions to improve management of vehicle access and parking areas in and around the boat houses
- Support for the proposed drop off / pick up area in St Kilda Road.
- Concern and lack of clarity about 'promenade' space in front of boathouses as the area is required for manoeuvring boats.
- Support for improving lighting and security around the boathouses and in the precinct. Public toilet location as suggested was not supported.
- Linlithgow Avenue slip lane closure was not supported
- The proposal for a new boat landing was well supported.
- Alternative solution to reconfiguring the exit from the Main Yarra Trail where it crosses Boathouse Drive
- Any river bank planting needs to be low to ensure good visibility for rowers.
- That the master plan does not give sufficient weight to the significance and health of the Yarra River to its aspirations.

While in some instances the broad recommendations were agreed, specific concerns were raised regarding a number of proposals shown on the plans in the draft master plan. The submission from Rowing Victoria outlined all the recommendations, provided detailed comments and questions on each, and then outlined a proposed response or solution.

3.7 Summary of key points from submissions provided by organisations

3.7.1 Historic Heritage Section, Department of Environment and Energy

Feedback and consideration received at an officer level included:

- That overall draft master plan is consistent with the National Heritage values of the Domain Parklands and Memorial Precinct.
- That master plans to help manage cumulative impacts on heritage values.
- The suggestion to include an action to have a Heritage Management Plan for the Domain Parklands, noting that consideration would be needed to determine if this should be an action for all Land Managers.

3.7.2 Aboriginal Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet

Officers from Aboriginal Victoria provided technical advice during finalisation of the draft master plan.

Additional feedback was received during the consultation period with suggestions to implement a coordinated parklands approach to Cultural Heritage Management Plans.

It was further suggested that the management plan could explore the research potential to collect archaeo-botanical / palynological (pollen) samples, particularly in waterlogged deposits to reconstruct an environmental history of the area. A geophysical survey on the site of the Yarra Mission, as a way of attempting to identify Contact-period remains of structures could also be considered.

3.7.3 Shrine of Remembrance Trustees

The Shrine of Remembrance Trustees acknowledged the professionalism and respect for the Shrine demonstrated by Council throughout the development of the draft master plan. Their detailed submission spoke to matters of specific concern, clarification or amendment as it relates to the Shrine and its reserve.

3.7.4 Australian Garden History Society

Given the important heritage significance of the parklands the organisation has a great interest in this complex space. Feedback and consideration included but is not limited to:

- Requesting all aspects of cultural heritage significance from the Victorian Heritage registration be cited, not just a summary.
- Suggesting the use of digital strategy to provide information about the heritage information and interpretation.
- Recognise the original Government house boundary on one of the plans.
- Suggesting more defined landscape characters.
- The original layout, paths and design intent including view lines should be retained and respected as much as possible,
- Would like to see detail of management plan to elevate horticultural complexity and management and are supportive of the Arboretum.
- Strongly agree with recommendations about memorials
- Agree with proposals to upgrade visitor facilities.
- Strongly oppose tree top walk.
- Generally agree with traffic, pedestrian and bicycle improvements as long as don't detract from design intent of parklands. Pedestrian and bicycle access should be a priority.
- Agree with importance of shared vision of management to ensure better experience, resource management and environmental services

3.7.5 National Trust

The National Trust has an interest in ensuring that the wide range of natural, cultural, social and Indigenous heritage values of the Domain Parklands are protected and respected. Feedback and consideration included but is not limited to:

- The suggestion that the aim of the Masterplan should be focused toward increasing parkland and the associated greenspace within rather than maintain the status quo.
- Supporting any plan that ensured the continued presence of significant, rare and unusual trees in the Domain.
- That any tree with recognised heritage or commemorative significance be replaced like for like.
- Supports the engagement approach with Traditional Owners for proposals for management, interpretation and access.
- The role of the parklands as a setting for St Kilda Road and the La Trobe's Cottage should added
- Supporting the proposal that no further large memorials are to be placed in the Kings Domain and that horticultural memorials are more consistent with the landscape character of the Domain Parklands.
- The new ANZAC Station presents the opportunity to create a new entrance to the parklands.
- That La Trobe's Cottage be added to the list of actions to the improve entrances.
- Prior to possible installation of sports lighting at Edmund Herring Oval any impacts of this on the heritage values of the overall site, especially in relation to the use of the Melbourne Observatory site, should be considered.
- Any changes to the established heritage path system should only be made if completely unavoidable.
- Any consideration of future bridges across the Yarra River should be undertaken in consultation with the Birrarung Council.
- Support consideration of measures to reduce the impact of traffic and car parking within the Domain Parklands, especially with regard to the landscape character of the site.
- Support the development of an implementation plan
- Support further community consultation on detailed plans

3.7.6 Rotary Club of Melbourne

The Club acknowledges the importance of the Domain Parklands and the broad scope of future actions that are needed to maintain this area as an important focus both environmentally and socially.

The Club considers it may be premature to include the proposal "Continue to contain plaques for Rotary commemoration within the current Rotary corner area". The Club notes that there are upcoming centennial celebrations and it is likely that more tree dedications will be sought at these times.

3.7.7 Melbourne Grammar School

The submission noted concern at the proposal to establish bus parking in Dallas Brooks Drive and the potential loss of car parking to create it.

The restoration of Edmund Herring oval as a turf oval is strongly supported by the school.

The school provided input to the feedback on the rowing precinct through the process with Rowing Victoria.

3.7.8 Melbourne South Yarra Group

A detailed submission was provided by the Melbourne South Yarra Group. Key topics of concern for the Melbourne South Yarra Group are summarised below. They requested that those parts of the plan that they strongly object to are removed altogether. Feedback and consideration included but is not limited to:

- Request that no road closures be implemented until the completion of the Metro Rail Project as it is impossible predict what the traffic and parking requirements will be.
- The character and history of the Domain Parklands is of wide open grassed areas and trees and this must not be changed. Understorey of native species are incompatible with the character and history of parklands should not be introduced.
- Edmund Herring Oval is a small community playing field is completely unsuited to become a significant sporting venue
- Agree it is important to provide bicycle paths to encourage commuters but more work is required before finalizing proposals for the area between Morrell Bridge and Princes Bridge.
- Agree there should be no all-day parking in Linlithgow Avenue, Birdwood Avenue and Alexandra Avenue or Anderson Street and Domain Road. But do not agree with a significant reduction in spaces on these roads and suggest additional restrictions to visitor parking in surrounding residential streets will be required.
- Request the moving some events to the north of the river event precinct which is well serviced with toilet facilities.
- There should be restraint in provision of paths, signs, barbecues, fitness equipment which divide, clutter and diminish the essential character of the Domain Parklands.
- Proposals to improve the visual and physical impact of the Sidney Myer Music Bowl is supported
- Strongly oppose another bridge over the river.
- A footbridge over Alexandra Avenue is unnecessary as St Kilda Road and the existing pedestrian crossing at Linlithgow Avenue are adequate.
- Construction of another river landing for the purpose of access to the Botanic Gardens is completely unnecessary as the existing ones are adequate.

3.7.9 Southbank Residents Association (SRA)

The association note that the masterplan is very positive with a clear commitment to improving the amenity which is vitally important to the physical and mental health of the growing population of Southbank. As the Domain parklands are critical as the major source of open space within walking distance to many of Southbank's residents.

Feedback and consideration included but is not limited to:

- The request for greater amenity and safety through provision of more bins, toilet facilities, exercise equipment (near The Tan track) and lighting
- Provision of pedestrian connections over City Road for greater connection of Southbank to the parklands
- That Domain Parklands be protected and nurtured for the benefit of the whole community now and into the future.
- That current green-space must be retained and sustainably managed
- Many of the identified improvements in the master plan are essential for making these areas accessible and enjoyable for all people, which currently is not the case.
- We believe that the recommendations of the report should be prioritised in future budgets.

3.7.10 Protectors of Public Lands Victoria (PPLVic)

The PPLVic support the acknowledgement of the role of the Domain Parklands for passive recreation, relief from the urban environment, recognition of the environmental service function and the parklands as 'lungs for the city'. They also support t no net loss of parkland and any future change would have positive benefits to the Domain Parklands. They agree that the highest use of the parklands is unstructured recreation and hope the emphasis will be on this for the next 20 years. Feedback and consideration included but is not limited to:

- No support for synthetic surface at Edmund Herring Oval
- What building development is proposed with the Visitor Centre would there be the potential loss of recreation space?
- Lighting improvements need to consider light spill impacting on wildlife, birds and activities at the Observatory.

3.7.11 Astronomical Society of Victoria

A comprehensive submission from the ASV and a number of its members was received. In addition to concerns about current building conditions, the submission articulated concern about light pollution and "inappropriate" uses of the Melbourne Observatory grounds.

3.7.12 City of Port Phillip

Officers from the City of Port Phillip were supportive of the master plan. Their feedback and consideration included but is not limited to:

- Highlighting the importance of preserving significant view lines
- Supporting the 20 year approach with a review and update required after 10 years
- Supporting planning improvements to the landscape succession, urban ecology and biodiversity
- the important role of the parklands play in providing a setting for many state significant locations and buildings as well as civic, ceremonial, recreational and landscape experiences
- Include reference to the important St Kilda Rd interface with the parklands, the St Kilda Rd bike corridor and connections to the existing and proposed bike paths in the precinct.
- The pedestrian and cycling connections to St Kilda Rd and beyond are important and should be mentioned.
- The importance of working relationships with other Councils should be referenced, in particular the importance for a shared vision and consistency along St Kilda Rd.
- Council support repurposing car parks for improved public realm benefits, to prioritise space for pedestrians, cyclists and trialling temporary road closures for events. The closure of Linlithgow Avenue is a great example and approach of prioritising pedestrians in the parkland setting by changing the language and appearance of roads.