

**Report to the Future Melbourne (Finance and Governance)
Committee**

Agenda item 6.6

Early public release of draft 2015–16 Annual Plan actions

14 April 2015

Presenter: Ben Rimmer, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to recommend the Council release for public comment a list of proposed 2015–16 actions intended to progress the vision and goals outlined in Council Plan 2013–17.
2. The proposed actions on the list would form the basis of the Council's next Annual Plan, which is a component of the Annual Plan and Budget.
3. Formal public consultation on the Annual Plan and Budget, including a closer-to-final list of these actions, is scheduled to begin on Tuesday 5 May. The early release of these proposed actions would allow the public extra time to consider them in the context of the outcomes the Council aims to achieve for Melbourne, prior to the release of the fine-grain detail within the budget.
4. The proposed actions comprise the third year of progress against Council Plan. A list of the Council's Year 1 and Year 2 actions can be found in the goal sections of last year's Annual Report. The current Year 2 Annual Plan actions can also be found under the 2014–15 Annual Plan and Budget's Section 4.
5. The recommendation to release the actions at the earliest opportunity before Friday 17 April is a minor variation of the 24 February 2015 Council resolution to release the actions on 14 April. The slight delay is to allow for potential late changes to the list arising from budget considerations.

Key issues

6. To avoid confusion, it is proposed the methods available to the public for commenting on the proposed actions be the same as the statutory process. This includes an on-line form, email or letter and in person. All submissions, whether for the actions alone or for the Annual Plan and Budget as a whole, will be summarised in a report to the Council in June.
7. Traditionally, verbal submissions on the Annual Plan and Budget are heard at a Future Melbourne Committee meeting in June. Given that under this proposal the actions would be made public much earlier, our communications would remind the public that verbal submissions on any topic, including the proposed actions and the forthcoming budget, can be made at any of the Council's Future Melbourne Committees. There are four such meetings between now and the close of submissions on 4 June.
8. The views of the community already have helped shape the proposed actions to be included on the list. The administration and Councillors took as their starting point the vision and goals expressed in the long-term community plan Future Melbourne, which in turn informed the four-year Council Plan, which was informed by, and led to the creation of, a series of Council strategies, which in turn involved widespread community engagement. A large number of the actions proposed arise from these strategies.

Recommendation from management

9. That the Future Melbourne Committee asks management to release to the public at the earliest opportunity prior to Friday 17 April 2015 a list of proposed 2015–16 Annual Plan actions.

Attachment:

1. Supporting Attachment

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. The early release is in addition to the statutory public notice and submission process, which will be carried out in accordance with the requirements in the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Finance

2. There are no significant financial implications associated with the recommendation to release the proposed 2015–16 Annual Plan actions prior to Friday 17 April 2015.

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.

Stakeholder consultation

4. No external consultation was required for this report.

Relation to Council policy

5. The recommendation is consistent with the Council's goal to be an accessible, transparent and responsive organisation.

Environmental sustainability

6. There is no significant impact on environmental sustainability.