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*

Name: * Bernadene Voss

Email address: *

[REDACTED]

Phone number *

[REDACTED]

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 20 September 2022

Agenda item title: 6.1 Neighbourhood key issues and City of Melbourne Projects for Fishermans Bend

*

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit **by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.** Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

FBBF purpose is to advocate on behalf of Fishermans Bend businesses and also create opportunities for Business connections.

Over the past couple of months the FBBF has regained significant traction and engagement with events and community connections after a period of hiatus due to the pandemic.

Generally within the precincts, business activity is starting to feel like BAU, but there is also a sense of waiting for further transformation. Businesses are seeking out insights and early intel into the next steps from Governments at all levels.

I want to thank the City of Melbourne, staff and Councillor for keeping FB on their radar.

FB needs leadership from us all. This means continually showing up and being present, it means keeping it front and centre in conversations and influencing priorities when it comes to spending.

Fishermans Bend now deserves its time in the Spot light.

In relation to the report at agenda item 6.1, point 24 & 25 are the 2 most important points in this briefing paper and need highlighting as critical steps in the success and long term outcomes for Fishermans Bend.

24. We're joining forces with the Victorian Government and City of Port Phillip to propose new governance and funding arrangements across Fishermans Bend, including Development Contributions Plans.

25. We're also advocating to the Victorian Government for more public transport investment.

Attachment 2 – states that Fishermans Bend is home to 20 residents – this is certainly incorrect, even at the point of re-zoning Fishermans Bend had more than 20 residents. The census data states 1907 people residing in FB and since this census was completed there are 2 new towers in Normanby road, so invariably a good deal more.

2021 Port Melbourne Industrial, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)

<https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/206051511>

My one request is that the City of Melbourne uses its status and voice in the upcoming election period to amplify its advocacy for the implementation of the Tram to Fishermans Bend. Public transport will be catalytic and deliver the early infrastructure that we all know is critical for the success of the whole precinct. Without it, we will not see the framework come to fruition to deliver the parks, schools, population, liveability, community facilities and economic uplift due.

Yours Sincerely

Bernadene Voss

President Fishermans Bend Business Forum

Please indicate No
whether you
would like to
verbally address
the Future
Melbourne in
support of your
submission: *

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: *

Adam Blandford

Email address: *

[REDACTED]

Phone number *

[REDACTED]

Date of meeting: *

Tuesday 20 September 2022

Agenda item title: *

6.1 Neighbourhood key issues and City of Melbourne Projects for Fishermans Bend

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.

Please refer to my attached written submission

Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[202209_futute_melbourne_committee_submission__blandford.pdf](#)

290.77 KB · PDF

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: *

No

Future Melbourne Committee Submission, Meeting No. 43

Topic: 6.1 Neighbourhood key issues and City of Melbourne Projects for Fishermans Bend

20th September 2022

To the MCC councillors

I write this submission to query plans for development and improvement of transport infrastructure throughout the National Employment and Innovation Centre (NEIC).

I am a 15+ year resident of St Kilda East and have a daily commute to DSTG in Fishermans Bend where I have worked for 20+ years. Due to lack of effective public transport options I either have to drive my car, or when weather permits, I try to ride my bike. However, I am increasingly hesitant to ride due to safety issues particularly through the Fishermans Bend precinct section of my journey.

The report for topic 6.1 to the Future Melbourne Committee meeting no. 43, contains no plans to address either of the following two significant transport infrastructure gaps.

1. Cycling connection from Sandridge Beach to the NEIC and Yarra River

The lack of any designated / effective **separated** bike lanes on the northern section of Todd Rd as it curves into Lorimer St in Fishermans Bend results in a serious safety hazard for cyclists with speeding trucks, especially around the Todd Rd / Wharf Rd roundabout. Compounding this issue is the poor road surface quality with damaged asphalt, particularly on the road shoulders / curb where cyclists ride. There do not appear to be any plans to address this significant gap in cycling infrastructure and promote environmentally friendly transport options from St Kilda into the Fishermans Bend precinct. This will be increasingly important given the growths plans for the NEIC and as the University of Melbourne campus is developed and other precinct occupants move in. While I note the City of Melbourne website indicates there are partially existing bike lanes in this area, this is an exaggeration that does not align with reality, as described in Annex A.

2. Public transport connection into the Fishermans Bend Employment Precinct

The rail alignment proposal through the Turner Street employment precinct, is a critical need that is well overdue. These have been described in the 2013 Fishermans Bend Metro Rail Feasibility Study¹, (which also references an earlier 2008 study), and the 2017 Fishermans Bend Integrated Transport Plan². An even better solution than linking the Mernda line, would be to connect this rail link from the Sandringham line which stagnates its connection in Flinders Street. Fourteen years on from the 2008 study, where are current concrete plans for rail or light rail into Fishermans Bend? Increases in the frequency of poorly connected bus services is grossly deficient and does not enable a connected NEIC.

I welcome any clarity on how to address the above glaring gaps in infrastructure, supported by tangible plans to implement. This is a fundamental enabler to delivering the NEIC 'Key Moves' for delivering connectivity and a green network.

Kind regards,

Adam Blandford

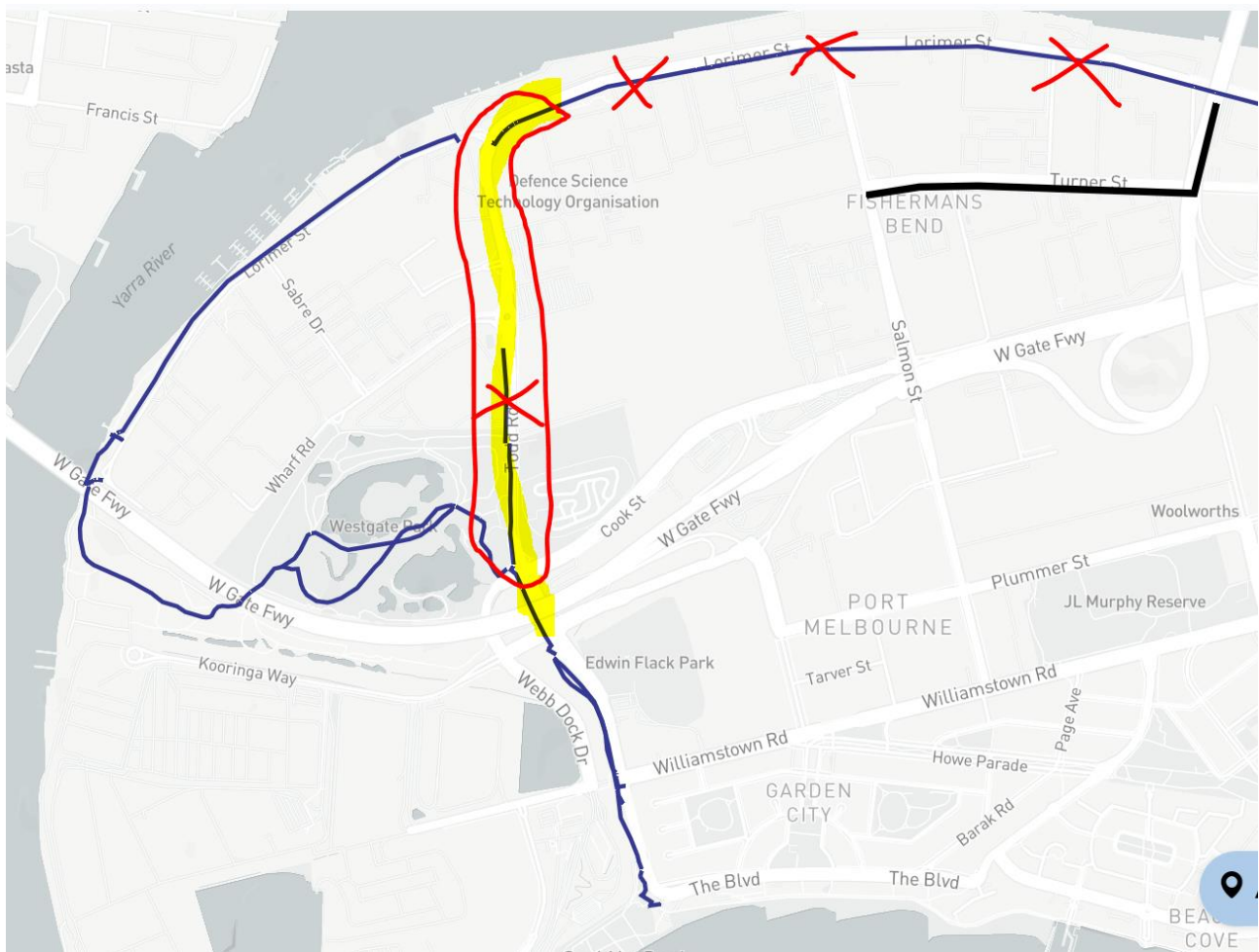
[REDACTED] Fishermans Bend, VIC 3207

¹ [01 Volume 3 Metro Rail Technical Feasibility Study](#)

² [Fishermans-Bend-Integrated-Transport-Plan-Final](#)

Annex A – Incorrect Marking of Existing Bike Lane Infrastructure

The City of Melbourne map on the [New protected bike lanes](#) website incorrectly indicates 'existing' protected bike lane / path as shown in the below image.



The indicated 'existing' bike lane along Todd Road is effectively unusable due to interrupted nature of this lane and the poor quality of the surface. This forces cyclists to share the road with Trucks, often travelling up to 80 km/h. This is compounded by the gap in connection to Lorimer St (east), where I also note the 'existing' bike lane is not correct. This is a narrow pedestrian footpath that is not suitable for sharing with cyclists due to lack of space and inappropriate surface quality.

Further compounding this issue is the poor road surface quality along Todd Road and Lorimer Street with significantly damaged asphalt, particularly on the road shoulders and curb where cyclists ride.

Privacy acknowledgement: *	I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
Name: *	Guillem Clemente
Email address: *	[REDACTED]
Phone number *	[REDACTED]
Date of meeting: *	Tuesday 20 September 2022
Agenda item title: *	Item 6.2 – 150–188 Turner Street, Port Melbourne
<p>Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit <u>by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.</u> Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.</p>	Verbal submission to be made by Acciona.
<p>Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: *</p>	Yes
<p>If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance will be limited in accordance with City of Melbourne security protocols and COVID–safe plans and be allocated on a first registered, first served basis. *</p>	I wish to make my submission in person

Privacy acknowledgement: *	I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
Name: *	Patrick Brennan
Email address: *	[REDACTED]
Phone number *	[REDACTED]
Date of meeting: *	Tuesday 20 September 2022
Agenda item title: *	Item 6.2 – 150–188 Turner Street, Port Melbourne
<p>Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit <u>by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.</u> Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.</p>	Verbal submission to be made
<p>Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: *</p>	Yes
<p>If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance will be limited in accordance with City of Melbourne security protocols and COVID–safe plans and be allocated on a first registered, first served basis. *</p>	I wish to make my submission in person

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: * Ariel Valent

Email address: * [REDACTED]

Phone number * [REDACTED]

Date of meeting: * Tuesday 20 September 2022

Agenda item title: * 6.5 Community Grants and Partnerships Framework

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:  [the centre submission re cgpf docklands neighbourhood house.pdf](#)
530.65 KB · PDF

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: * Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance will be limited in accordance with City of Melbourne security protocols and COVID-safe plans and be allocated on a first registered, first served basis. * I wish to make my submission in person

Docklands Neighbourhood House

Overall, The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne supports the Community Grants & Partnerships Framework.

This submission addresses one element which we believe is missing.

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. We rejuvenated a Community Garden, ran Bollywood classes, hosted walking clubs, ran the “Live Like a Local” program of events with international students, hosted a photography competition and a digital gardening club. It was not an easy task and was difficult to sustain enthusiasm; Docklands at times seemed like a ghost town. Lockdowns and restrictions forced us to cancel almost as many programs as we ran.

City of Melbourne funding finished in October 2021. We were fortunate to receive a 2022 Connected Communities grant, but our main operations in Docklands have been funded with the generous support of Development Victoria. However, Development Victoria have made it clear to us that this is not ongoing funding, and they expect Docklands Neighbourhood House (we dropped the “Pop-Up” earlier this year) to be funded like all other Neighbourhood Houses – a mix of local and state government, alongside earned income and other philanthropic contributions.

In 2022, Docklands Neighbourhood House has had much greater success and has been able to build greater momentum. We have run very successful art programs for local children, hosted Pilates and yoga classes at City of Melbourne Marina and recently started a social fishing program.

Two highlights were:

- Holi Festival - The Indian Festival of Colours was held in Ron Barassi Snr. Park and welcomed 1200 people, mostly Hindu, mostly Docklands residents for a day of fun and cultural celebration. Created with the local Indian community in Docklands, many people commented how impressed – and surprised - they were to participate in a festival that was truly theirs.



- Docklands Repair Café – In February we teamed up with the Sustainable Living Festival and ran the first ever Docklands Repair Café at the YMCA Hub. Skilled residents trained up to be volunteers supervised tables offering to repair electronics, mechanical items, textiles, almost anything. Other residents came in with all manner of broken items and the vast majority of them got fixed on the day. We diverted more than 50 kilograms from landfill. Since then, we've run two more, the most recent with a focus on toys.



Community Need in Docklands

City of Melbourne's own research shows:

79% of Docklands residents believe it is important to be connected to the local community (39% strongly); but:
51% feel connected to my local community (15% strongly).

There is a big gap between the desired and actual sense of community in Docklands.

Further, a Docklands community infrastructure study by City of Melbourne and Development Victoria revealed a need for four additional community facilities in the suburb. In particular, New Quay, where Docklands Neighbourhood House is located, is under-serviced, keeping in mind that Library at the Dock is up to 30 minutes walk away.

Why a Neighbourhood House in Docklands?

As City of Melbourne is committing to funding Neighbourhood Houses across the municipality, I don't feel the need to justify Neighbourhood Houses in general. However, for those not too familiar with the value of a Neighbourhood House:

- Neighbourhood Houses are the heart of our communities. They bring people together to connect, learn and contribute to their local community through social, educational, recreational and support activities.
- There are more than 10 million visits to Neighbourhood Houses across more than 400 sites around Victoria
- Neighbourhood Houses produce \$4.27 of value for every \$1 of income
- Neighbourhood Houses work in partnership with other service organisations and local government, and are often the agency most connected to the local community.

City of Melbourne do deliver services directly to the Docklands community, with Library at the Dock a standout community facility. Plus the new Neighbourhood Model has seen more active engagement between City of Melbourne and Docklands residents. The Docklands Neighbourhood House complements and mutually supports these initiatives.

And there some things that a Neighbourhood House can do that direct local government service delivery doesn't do, or doesn't do that well:

- Volunteering opportunities: Docklands Neighbourhood House provides a range of opportunities that allow Docklands residents to contribute to their community; to shape the form of their neighbourhood; examples include the community committee that is busily developing the Navaratri Festival to be held in Buluk Park on Sunday 2 October; helping with our forthcoming Homework Club in partnership with Docklands Primary School or assisting at the Repair Café

"I've been given an opportunity as a volunteer-based worker, to use my skills to run a program with community. I've benefited by meeting and working with all

the staff at [Docklands Neighbourhood House] and also community members. Mainly the benefit for me is a more positive and balanced self-esteem."

Lucas Hanger, Volunteer Social Fishing Program

- Represent the seldom heard voices: More so than other neighbourhoods, Docklands is populated by people born overseas, non-Australian citizens, and those with few ties to Melbourne. 62% of all Docklands residents were born overseas and half of them (31%) arrived from overseas within the last five years. Too often we hear from such Docklands resident that they didn't feel like they could speak up; to have a say in their neighbourhood; they feel like Docklands is being done to them. City of Melbourne's community consultation in Docklands was impressive, talking to 801 people from diverse backgrounds, although it was noticeable that culturally diverse voices were largely absent from the recent Docklands Summit. A Neighbourhood House is ideally placed to elevate the voices of Indian, Chinese, and other migrant groups that make up Docklands' population

"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."

Aditi Rawal, Indian celebrations community committee volunteer

- Foster a sense of belonging at the granular level: The Neighbourhoods Model and Inclusive Melbourne are excellent documents, but what does this mean for an individual resident? A Neighbourhood House in Docklands can help where "the rubber hits the road". Some of our programs only have 5 or 10 participants, but we do them because they are highly valuable for the participants. We know individuals; we can connect individuals and we can help build community.

"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.

In the view of the DRG [Docklands Residents Group], Docklands Neighbourhood House and particularly the Manager, Jason Butcher, plays a key role in helping residents (especially from non-English speaking backgrounds) find ways of connecting with others within the community."

Janette Corcoran, Docklands Residents Group

Docklands Neighbourhood House was proud to participate in the recent Docklands Summit. Although the full feedback is not yet available, it was notable that Docklands Neighbourhood House was mentioned by several independent parties as an important and vibrant part of the fabric of Docklands. We take some credit for the fact that half of

Docklands residents do feel connected to their community. By no means is Docklands Neighbourhood House the only solution, but it is definitely part of the solution.

Delivering on Council goals

We want City of Melbourne to view Docklands Neighbourhood House as a partner for delivering on Council priorities and goals. Our visions are very much aligned. In particular, we envision Docklands as a neighbourhood with DRIVE: Diverse, Resilient, Inclusive, Vibrant and Empowered.

We already enjoy excellent working relationships with the Docklands Neighbourhood Partner and more recently the Community Activator at Library at the Dock.

Docklands Neighbourhood House is ideally placed to deliver on one key initiative identified in the **Docklands Summit**:

“a need for smaller-scale, community-based initiatives.”

We have also heard this from community members. City of Melbourne has had great success with Firelight Festival and Playground, but these events are focused on bringing outsiders to Docklands. Some residents love them, some residents hate them; almost everyone believes that Docklands needs its own events specifically for Docklands residents. Docklands Neighbourhood House led the Holi at Docklands event as a direct response to this call; now we are working with the Indian community to bring to life Navaratri and Diwali over the next two months.

City of Melbourne’s **draft neighbourhood priorities** for Docklands include:

- *Greater opportunities for people, especially families and children, to connect through community spaces and activities.*
- *Local events, unique attractions and art for residents, families, children and tourists.*
- *Increase options and opportunities for recreation and connection through sport and wellbeing programs.*
- *More programs, spaces and tools to enhance local community connection.*

Reading through the “What We’re Doing” City of Melbourne responses to these, beyond the excellent facility and program at Library at the Dock, one finds a range of municipality-wide programs. While not taking away from the value of these initiatives, and also recognising that City of Melbourne’s Neighbourhood Model is still emerging, Docklands Neighbourhood House is solely focused on Docklands-based programs and initiatives.

Docklands Neighbourhood House is an ideal, and dare I say obvious, avenue through which to deliver on these priorities, in partnership with City of Melbourne.

Regarding **Inclusive Melbourne**, the goal of “empowered, participatory communities” where participation from all community members is encouraged is exactly what Neighbourhood Houses are set up to do. As noted above, providing volunteer opportunities is a key element.

“I believe the continued presence of the neighbourhood house is beneficial and essential to have a thriving community here in Docklands. There are a lot of activities, programs and events, like social sports, programs for young children, events for families, large scale public events that the community wants to see happening in Docklands. The Docklands Neighbourhood House can be instrumental in meeting the requirements of the community and making Docklands a great neighbourhood.”

Dhanya Nair, Community Facilitator

City of Melbourne’s **Neighbourhood Model** is tightly aligned with the way a Neighbourhood House operates. In particular, a Neighbourhood House is the epitome of “a safe space for community to connect and get support when needed”. Additionally, “working in a place based way with communities to build a vision for their locality” and “ensuring participation and visibility of diverse voices, views and people” are shared between Docklands Neighbourhood House and City of Melbourne. With a Neighbourhood House having that granular level of community interaction, Council benefits from having a Neighbourhood House as a partner to help manifest these goals.

“The [Docklands Residents Group] believes that Neighbourhood House has great potential to help grassroots community groups develop their own capacity for local impact and as well as delivering bespoke programs for the benefit of isolated individuals.”

Janette Corcoran, Docklands Residents Group

Further, Docklands Neighbourhood House works in partnership with other community organisations and groups. We have had fruitful collaborations with Love Our Streets 3008, Docklands Residents Group, Melbourne Community Toy Library, Saras.Care, District Docklands, Docklands Sports Club and others. We are currently developing a Homework Club partnership with Docklands Primary School.

Emerging Research

Docklands has been the focus of a lot of research recently, and we too have been doing our own Participatory Action Research project, in partnership with Strategic Development Group. Whereas the Participate Melbourne research has been powerful in identifying neighbourhood priorities, a Neighbourhood House is ideal for working with community to develop detailed plans and drive the delivery of projects within these priorities in the real world. When the community call for more connection through sport and recreation, for example, the Neighbourhood House research goes to the next level to determine whether it should be yoga, cricket or basketball, and the all-important who-what-

when-where. We can try out programs, offered on a small scale, test and adapt and respond to emerging needs and opportunities.

Our research is only part-way complete. We have spoken with more than 30 adult Docklands residents and held focus group discussions with more than 40 children. These discussions are informing the development and prioritisation of new community activities, as well as the improvement of existing activities. We are hearing that the majority of people are keen to roll up their sleeves and use their skills for the benefit of their community. As a result our volunteer base is expanding rapidly.

Why now?

This submission is written now because Council is considering the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework.

Ideally, we would be presenting this argument in a couple of months time when our research is finished.

However, the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework is the right place for a Docklands Neighbourhood House to be included, and so this is a once-in-four-years opportunity.

If this submission does not give enough detail or sufficient evidence base for Council to endorse funding to a fifth Neighbourhood House in Docklands in this Framework, then I ask Council to keep this possibility open. Council could perhaps re-visit this submission when both the findings of Phase Two of the Docklands Community Consultations and our own research are complete, and to be considered at a Future Melbourne Committee meeting later in 2022.

Privacy acknowledgement: *

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: *

Karl Hessian

Email address: *

[REDACTED]

Phone number *

[REDACTED]

Date of meeting: *

Tuesday 20 September 2022

Agenda item title: *

6.5 Community Grants and Partnerships Framework 2022–25

Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.

Please refer to the attachment

Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[submission to city of melbourne 20 september 2022.pdf](#)

180.85 KB · PDF

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: *

No

Submission to City of Melbourne

Future Melbourne Committee 20 September 2022

6.5 Community Grants and Partnerships Framework 2022-25

Dear Councillors,

I write as the Chair of The Centre: Connecting Communities in North & West Melbourne, one of four Neighbourhood Houses receiving City of Melbourne funding and support through the existing Community Grants and Partnerships Framework.

Positive Developments

Overall, I commend Council for the advances in this document. In particular, I welcome:

- The strategic alignment to both Inclusive Melbourne Strategy and Neighbourhood Model. In particular the Neighbourhood Model is a radical improvement to the former way of working, and is already bearing fruit in the development of Neighbourhood Plans.
- The Connected Neighbourhood Grants is an excellent program that allows locally-led ambitions to be realised through the investment of a relatively small amount of money. That it can be accessed by unincorporated groups is a sensible and powerful widening of the eligibility criteria.
- Removing \$100 000 funds from Community Use of Town Hall schemes as it currently stands and re-allocating to the Connected Neighbourhood Grants is also a welcome move, given the consistent underspend against this allocation, including pre-COVID.
- The implementation of a Community Events grant is a direct response to the decision earlier this year to change Events Partnerships Program criteria to effectively cut out community events.
- Changes to frequency, decision-making processes and communication timelines also go some way towards removing some key pain points for community organisations that make applications to the various grant programs.
- The seeking of CPI increase for community grants and neighbourhood house agreements in the next budget is also an improvement on the previous version of this report.

Missed Opportunities

Whilst the overall intent of this new framework is positive, I do think there are some missed opportunities.

Overall Funding Parameters

Most of my other suggestions below seek an increase in overall funding into the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework.

The proposed Community Grants and Partnerships Framework (CG&PF) is presented to Council as having zero overall budget implications. Some funds are shifted internally from one program to another and \$50 000 has been excised from Events and added to the CG&PF.

No budget increase makes adoption of the CG&PF straight-forward. However, the question in my mind is: Can the new ambitions contained within Inclusive Melbourne and the Neighbourhoods Model, both Major Initiatives in the 2021-25 Council Plan be delivered from within the same budget envelope?

If City of Melbourne is to deliver on the Inclusive Melbourne aims of:

- A diverse and resilient community at the centre of a liveable city.
- Participation from all community members, ensuring that people feel heard, and their needs are addressed

And the Neighbourhood Model's aims to:

- develop a deeper understanding of community needs, strengths and aspirations
- enable community-led action

Then I would urge councillors ensure appropriate support is allocated in the budget to meet these aims.

The number of people resident within City of Melbourne grew by more than 13 000, or 10%, between 2016 and 2021 census, despite the census being held in the middle of the pandemic. Since the previous Framework was developed, our communities have become more complex, and community needs and aspirations across the municipality has grown. I do note and welcome that there is significant other expenditure, including more City of Melbourne staffing resources in the Community Development branch and works for North Melbourne Community Centre.

I respectfully request Councillors to consider whether a static investment in the City of Melbourne communities through CG&PF over a period of eight years is the best course of action. I suggest that measures requiring an increase in overall investment through CG&PF should be considered on their merits. The consideration of this report is the once-in-four-years opportunity to make a statement about how City of Melbourne values its communities.

CPI Adjustments to Funding for Neighbourhood Houses

The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne is one of four Neighbourhood Houses receiving annual funding of \$100 000 through City of Melbourne's CG&PF.

This amount applied from July 2019 and there was no CPI adjustment built in. With inflation, this means that Neighbourhood House funding has decreased in real terms. This was manageable in a low inflationary environment but recently has begun to have an impact.

All costs have been rising. The majority of Neighbourhood House expenditure is in wages, and there was a mandated 5% increase in wages under our enterprise agreement as of July 1 this year. Neighbourhood Houses have had to absorb this increase.

By contrast, the state government Neighbourhood House Community Funding program is indexed to CPI.

Neighbourhood Houses and the communities we serve welcome the addition of clause 6 of the report: "Management will seek to include a CPI increase for community grants and neighbourhood house agreements as part of the next budget cycle."

This is a big step forward and I thank councillors and management for including it. I should also like to point out that beyond next year we will be on a trajectory of needing to make annual budget submissions to have ongoing CPI increases considered. I respectfully request the Council consider retaining this year's funding next year, and thereafter, in real terms. This report is a once-in-four-years opportunity for Council to lock in CPI increases in the agreement from the outset.

As noted earlier, the last four years has seen no CPI adjustments, so that the starting point of \$100 000 investment in 2019 is worth approximately \$90 000 in real terms in 2023.

By way of summary, my request to Council today is:

- Commence funding to Neighbourhood Houses at July 2023 at \$105 000 to recognise the dramatic change in CPI over the calendar year to date
- Add "plus CPI" to each of the community grants categories and neighbourhood house agreements to allow Council to retain its commitment in real terms.

Community Events Grants

Previously the Director of The Centre made a submission to Council regarding changes to the Events Partnerships Program. At that time several Councillors made a commitment that community events would not be disadvantaged by changes to the EPP criteria, raising the minimum number of people at an event from 1000 to 5000.

The Community Events Grants program is a direct response to that and I thank Council and management for making this change.

I would only observe that the \$50 000 moved from EPP to Community Grants was benchmarked in a year when only very brave communities would propose running an event. In this late-pandemic, soon hopefully post-COVID environment, there are likely to be a much greater number of community groups and organisations keen to create events.

I expect that this new fund will be very appealing to community groups across the municipality. I wouldn't be surprised to find that there are many disappointed applicants whose worthy submissions are rejected because the funding pool is exhausted.

The proposed cap of \$10 000 is entirely sensible in a pool of \$50 000, but for an event of 3000 or 4000 people, presumably in a public space, it does not go very far. The Centre's highly successful Spanish Language Fiesta received \$10 000 in EPP funding for 2022 and attracted 2500 people. Total event cost was \$26 000, not including in-kind volunteer contributions. We had hoped to increase our EPP funding to \$15 000 for 2023 to move to a larger venue, but we don't see that attendance will double to 5000 people for next year. Under the proposed CG&PF, an event like this becomes constrained in terms of City of Melbourne funding support.

Privacy acknowledgement: * I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

Name: * Aditi Rawal

Email address: *



Phone number *



Date of meeting: * Tuesday 20 September 2022

Agenda item title: * Supporting presence of Docklands Neighbourhood House

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[submission_supporting_docklands_neighbourhood_house_as_community_representative.docx](#)

16.88 KB · DOCX

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: *

No

Supporting presence of Docklands Neighbourhood House:

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.

In 2022, Docklands Neighbourhood House has had much greater success and has been able to build momentum. We have run very successful art programs for local children, hosted Pilates and yoga classes at City of Melbourne Marina and recently started a social fishing program.

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[Link to Docklands News Article](#)
- Docklands Repair Café – In February we teamed up with the Sustainable Living Festival and ran the first ever Docklands Repair Café at the YMCA Hub. Residents were trained up to be volunteers manned tables offering to repair electronics, mechanical items, textiles, almost anything. Other residents came in with all manner of broken items and the vast majority of them got fixed on the day. We diverted more than 50 kilograms from landfill. Since then, we've run two more, the most recent with a focus on toys.

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51% feel connected to my local community (15% strongly).

There is a big gap between the desired and actual sense of community in Docklands.

Further, a Docklands community infrastructure study by City of Melbourne and Development Victoria revealed a need for four additional community facilities in the suburb. In particular, New Quay, where Docklands Neighbourhood House is located, is under-serviced, keeping in mind that Library at the Dock is up to 30 minutes walk away.

Why a Neighbourhood House in Docklands?

As City of Melbourne is committing to funding Neighbourhood Houses across the municipality, I don't feel the need to justify Neighbourhood Houses in general. However, for those not too familiar with the value of a Neighbourhood House:

- Neighbourhood Houses are the heart of our communities. They bring people together to connect, learn and contribute to their local community through social, educational, recreational and support activities.
- There are more than 10 million visits to Neighbourhood Houses across more than 400 sites around Victoria
- Neighbourhood Houses produce \$4.27 of value for every \$1 of income
- Neighbourhood Houses work in partnership with other service organisations and local government, and are often the agency most connected to the local community

City of Melbourne do deliver services directly to the Docklands community, with Library at the Dock a standout community facility. Plus the new Neighbourhood Model has seen more active engagement between City of Melbourne and Docklands residents. The Docklands Neighbourhood House complements and mutually supports these initiatives.

And there some things that a Neighbourhood House can do that direct local government service delivery doesn't do, or doesn't do that well:

- Volunteering opportunities: Docklands Neighbourhood House provides a range of opportunities that allow Docklands residents to contribute to their community; to shape the form of their neighbourhood; examples include the community committee that is busily developing the Navaratri Festival to be held in Buluk Park on Sunday 2 October; helping with our forthcoming Homework Club in partnership with Docklands Primary School or assisting at the Repair Café
- Represent the seldom heard voices: More so than other neighbourhoods, Docklands is populated by people born overseas, non-Australian citizens, and those with few ties to Melbourne. 62% of all Docklands residents were born overseas and half of them (31%) arrived from overseas within the last five years. Too often we hear from such Docklands resident that they didn't feel like they could speak up; to have a say in their neighbourhood; they feel like Docklands is being done to them. City of Melbourne's community consultation in Docklands was impressive, talking to 801 people from diverse backgrounds, although it was noticeable that culturally diverse voices were largely absent from the recent Docklands Summit. A Neighbourhood House is ideally placed to elevate the voices of Indian, Chinese, and other migrant groups that make up Docklands' population
- Foster a sense of belonging at the granular level: The Neighbourhoods Model and Inclusive Melbourne are excellent documents, but what does this mean for an individual resident? A Neighbourhood House in Docklands can help where "the rubber hits the road". Some of our programs only have 5 or 10 participants, but we do them because they are highly valuable for the participants. We know individuals; we can connect individuals and we can help build community.