

## Report to the Future Melbourne Committee

Agenda item 6.4

### Seafarers Rest Park Design March 2021

Presenter: Mark Allan, Acting Director City Design Studio

20 April 2021

#### Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the updated Seafarers Rest Park design, following Stage 2 community engagement.
2. The City of Melbourne (CoM) is working with the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) and adjacent landowner Asset 1 Pty. Ltd. (Asset 1) and developer Riverlee, on the design of the Seafarers Rest Park.
3. The contract of sale and planning permit for the new mixed use development on the adjoining site, requires the landowner to design and construct a park in line with the CoM's design brief.
4. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between CoM, DTF, and Asset 1 is currently being finalised, in order to formally set out the agreed financial and non-financial obligations of the three parties related to the wharf structural remediation works.
5. Future Melbourne Committee at its meeting of 2 June 2020 endorsed the release of concept designs and commencement of Stage 2 community engagement, this was undertaken from 3 June to 15 July 2020.
6. Separately management is working on a Maritime Heritage feasibility study, which is also considering future potential uses of the Mission to Seafarers building.
7. The park forms part of the planned Greenline program to create improved public realm linkages and experiences that connect the north bank of the Yarra River Birrarung.

#### Key issues

8. Council officers facilitated multiple workshops and design reviews with members of the design team and internal and external stakeholders.
9. Community and stakeholder feedback was largely positive and included suggestions to extend play elements and planting together with enhancement of heritage elements and further mitigation of noise and safety.
10. The Project Steering Committee comprising representatives from Riverlee, DTF and CoM management have endorsed the response to stakeholder feedback and updated park design included as Attachment 2.
11. Engagement with the three Traditional Custodian groups took place during 2020 with further engagement planned during 2021 as part of finalisation of the detailed design issues and contract documentation.
12. Riverlee is intending to issue a tender for the construction works for the project in mid-2021.

#### Recommendation from management

13. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
  - 13.1. Endorses the design for Seafarers Rest Park (attachment 2 to the report from management).
  - 13.2. Authorises the General Manager Infrastructure and Design to make any further minor changes to the design to enable implementation.

#### Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 5)
2. Seafarers Rest Park Design March 2021 (Page 4 of 5)

## Supporting Attachment

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### Legal

1. No direct legal issues arise from the recommendation from management. Legal advice has and will continue to be provided on the MoU.

### Finance

2. Council had allocated \$952,141 in the 2020-21 budget, including a \$750,000 contribution towards structural remediation works, as per the draft Memorandum of Understanding. The contribution towards structural remediation works is not required until the 2022-23 financial year. A change request to reduce the 2020-21 budget to \$60,000 was submitted and approved. The revised 2020-21 budget is allocated to project management, design review and consultant fees. A budget allocation is required in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial year for ongoing project management, design review and consultant fees. Council funding of \$750,000 for structural remediation works is required in FY22-23.
3. The developer (Riverlee) and land owner (Asset 1) are funding the park's design and construction, along with contributing to costs associated with structural remediation works, as per the draft MoU.
4. DTF is contributing to costs associated with structural remediation works, as per the draft MoU, and is contributing the land for the park.
5. The Planning Permit states 'The full practical completion by the permit holder of the Seafarers Rest Park open space, at the agreed cost with the State Government (Department of Treasury and Finance), in accordance with the park design brief to the satisfaction of the council.'

### Conflict of interest

6. 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

7. In developing this specific proposal, no Occupational Health and Safety issues or opportunities have been identified. Occupational Health and Safety issues or opportunities relating to other aspects of the project have been dealt with by the procurement process and consultants directly as part of deliverables.

### Stakeholder consultation

8. A Communications and Engagement Plan has been endorsed by the Project Steering Committee.
9. The Communications and Engagement Plan is based on a three-stage process;
  - 9.1 Stage 1: Engage the community and stakeholders to ensure their feedback is incorporated into the Design Brief.

Stage 1 community engagement took place between 19 November and 14 December 2018 and included a survey via the Participate Melbourne online engagement tool. The survey was promoted via postcards to surrounding residents and businesses, on-site signage, CoM web pages and social media and a pop-up desk at the Docklands Community Forum (5 December 2018). Stage 1 has been documented in the Engagement Summary Report & Analysis 14 March 2019.
  - 9.2 Stage 2: Display draft design to the community and stakeholders for consultation and to close the loop on stage 1 consultation.

Stage 2 community engagement took place between 3 June and 15 July 2020, with consultation taking place primarily online due to COVID-19 restrictions. Stage 2 consultation process and outcomes has been documented in the Councillor Briefing Paper dated 23 December 2020.

As part of the stage 2 engagement, key stakeholders were provided the park drawings and/or provided feedback, including:

- Mission to Seafarers Victoria
- Naval Association of Australia
- Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network
- Yarra Riverkeeper Association
- Flinders Wharf Apartment Owners Corporation Committee
- Traditional Custodian groups
- Disability Advisory Committee

Engagement with three Traditional Custodian groups (Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Bunurong, and Boon Wurrung) took place in October 2020, with core design principles identified. Ongoing stakeholder engagement is planned to take place with Traditional Custodians, and is expected to take place in 2021.

9.3 Stage 3: Keep the community and stakeholders informed with regular updates at key stages of the project including further design development and construction in 2023.

#### **Relation to Council policy**

10. The project is in line with the CoM Open Space Strategy and Docklands Public Realm Plan. It also aligns with Council Goal 2: A city for people.

#### **Environmental sustainability**

11. In developing this proposal, environmental sustainability issues or opportunities have been considered throughout the entire design process.
12. The proposal will decrease the amount of stormwater run-off from the site via water sensitive urban design (garden beds and permeable surfaces). This will prevent potentially contaminated water running directly into the Yarra River and in turn, improves water quality and catchment for irrigation.
13. The proposal will introduce a variety of new plants and tree species increasing biodiversity in the city and reducing urban heat island effect through the reduction of hard surfaces.

**Seafarers Rest Park Design March 2021**  
Updated design for Seafarers Rest Park, following Stage 2 community and stakeholder consultation



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